HISTORY

GH, W 7.10.1959, 1f	Announced last night that Irvine Town Council are to acquire the former Royal Ordnance Factory, of c.120A. Agreement has also reached with Hyster Ltd., who will take some buildings and 15A of land, for a factory.
GH, Tu 3.11.1959, 8e	First construction work began yesterday.
GH, Tu 24.11.1959, 7f	Solano Air & Heat Systems have become the first company to begin production on the ROF site.
GH, Tu 21.7.1960, 10d	British Federal Welder & Machine Co Ltd., Dudley, yesterday decided to double their space here. Firms already in production: Hyster Ltd; William McCoard & Son, Whitevale Cotton Mills, Glasgow; Solano Air & Heat Systems. The ROF factory was taken over by ITC in November 1959 to counter unemployment.
GH, Tu 27.9.1960, 11	Formally opened yesterday. Reports - pictures - adverts.

NETHERMAINS

ACC, Roads Ctee 5.2.1968	Letter from Irvine Development Corporation. Their first industrial development will be on ground north of the Kilwinning Bypass, and between the Ayr/Glasgow and Kilwinning/Saltcoats railways. It involves the closure of part of the C55 (Ardeer/Nethermains), east from the junction with Cranberrymoss Road to the Ayr/Glasgow railway.

AILSA ROAD, 46

SITE TO WEST Of

NAC, Planning, 11/0531/PP	August 2011. 4 light industrial units, &c.. Cooper Cromar, for Irvine Bay Regeneration Company.

BEECHAMS, Shewalton Road

AP 5.3.1971	Beecham's factory approved.
SVR 1973-1974	16th May 1973

HISTORY OF FIRM

n.r.	Thomas Beecham, 1820-1907, Oxfordshire shepherd with a reputation for efficacious herbal cures, moved to Lancashire to begin a medicinal pill business. 1848.
web	Died Southport, buried St Helens

CALEDONIA PAPER MILL, Meadowhead

nr	Building began in Spring 1987.
G 24.1.1987	Almost 900 jobs will be created by the biggest single foreign investment in Scotland - a £215 million paper plant by a Finnish company at Irvine, Ayrshire - it was announced yesterday. Kymmene-Stromberg. Due for completion by 1989.
Carnegie photograph	Formally opened 6th July 1989 by Duke of Edinburgh

CONNER FACTORY

nr	c1990-91 glass box.

CUNNINGHAM, A, LTD

GH, Tu 31.10.1961, 4g	A Cunningham Ltd., knitwear manufacturers, Stewarton, are to build a new factory in Irvine, and close existing factories in Irvine and Stewarton.

GREENWOOD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

W T AVERY DEPOT

nr — **Miller and Black**, Glasgow, architects, nd.

HYSTERS

see History, above — First signed-up tenants for ITC's development of the Royal Ordnance Factory site.

IDEAL ENGINEERING CO LTD

GH, Th 21.9.1961, 10c — New factory, opened yesterday, is to be shared by Ideal Engineering Co Ltd, and D M Industrial Plastics Ltd.

IRVINE RUBBER & PLASTICS CO LTD

AP, F 21.10.1966, 4c — P D M Engineering Co Ltd are to close their factory at Upminster, Essex, and relocate to Irvine as Irvine Rubber & Plastics Co Ltd. They make golf clubs, and production is expected to begin before Christmas. The MD is Terence Brown, 42.

NETHERMAINS (Kilwinning)

See also HISTORY, above.

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SVR 1972/73 — 1.9.1972. Factory, Nethermains, British Manufactured Bearings Ltd

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SVR 1973/74 — 28.7.1973, Factory, Nethermains, IDC, precision Metal Fabrications (Glasgow) Ltd

KELVIN AVENUE

SVR 1970/71 — 1.11.1970. Factory, Kelvin Avenue, IDC, J H Fenner & Co Ltd.

LONGFORD AVENUE

SVR 1971/72 — 16.8.1971. Factory, Longford Avenue, Welch Margetson & Co Ltd

SIMPSON PLACE

SVR 1970/71 — 20.8.1970, Factory, 1 Simpson Place, IDC, Saltire Knitwear. (also 1.11.1970, store for them at 15 Simpson Place]

SVR 1970/71 — 20.12.1970, Factory, 3 Simpson Place, IDC, J M Engineering Co

SVR 1970/71 — 14.8.1970, Factory, 7 Simpson Place, IDC, J Smith Woods

SVR 1970/71 — 17.8.1970, Factory, 17 Simpson Place, IDC, Numacron Ltd

SVR 1973/74 — 28.8.1973, Factory, 2 Simpson Place, IDC

SVR 1972/73 — 1.1.1973, Factory, 4-8 Simpson Place, IDC, Beltex Ltd

SVR 1973/74 — 18.6.1973, Factory, 10 Simpson Place, IDC

SVR 1973/74 — 1.7.1973, Factory, 12 Simpson Place, IDC

SVR 1971/72 — 15.12.1971, Factory, 14 Simpson Place, IDC

SVR 1971/72 — 1.12.1971, Factory, 16 Simpson Place, IDC

SVR 1971/72 — 1.10.1971, Factory, 20 Simpson Place, IDC

SVR 1971/72 — 15.10.1971, Factory, 22 Simpson Place, IDC

OLDHALL EAST I.E., ADVANCED FACTORY

McKean — The first of a number of factories to be built on a new site, maintaining a good image. Speedily built in nine months, the building has a fully glazed gable to make it suitable for office accommodation at one end. It contains 216 sq.m, with space for expnsion up to one-third to the north. There is a clear span of 18 metres in two directions, and an average clear height to the other side of the trusses of 5 metres. There is an excellent use of colour, particularly yellow, and the building as a whole has a crisp and impressive appearance. **IDC Architects Department**. Project architects: **George Wren, David Hutchison and Douglas Stonelake**. Built by **Costain Construction Ltd** for IDC. Completion: June 1975.

AJ 17.11.1976 — Financial Times Industrial Architecture Award, 1976. Oldhall East, Block A. Job architects: **A M Dickson, David Hutchinson, G McL Wren and D W Stonelake**. Commended.

OLDHALL WEST

Prospect 28, Autumn 1986 — Ouside the built-up area, in the new housing and industrial estates, IDC architects have enjoyed somewhat more freedom. The latest round of industrial building began recently with the first of a new breed of 'hi-tech' units at Oldhall West. Due for completion in June, the 3000 sq.m. detached industrial unit is one of five scheduled for this high quality location, whither IDC hopes to attract hi-tech industries to complement those recently established in the new town. The unit includes 650 sq.m of office space on two floors, fully carpeted and air-conditioned, attached to a production area designed to be completely flexible and capable of accommodating any configuration of lighting, heating air conditioning and suspended ceilings tailored to any future tenant's requirements. Externally, the building comprises a double-glazed, silver reflective gasket glazing system throughout with a deep-section horizontal aluminium cladding system for the production area, all on a structural steel frame.

COCKBURN PLAXCE, 2, site to south-west of

NAC, Planning, 11/0546/PP — August 2011. 2-storey office building, &c., for Lowmac Alloys. D.M. Hall.

PRESTWICK CIRCUITS

George Wren — Job architect: **George Wren**.

SCOTBOARD

BI 79/925 April 1967 — Opened recently. Design by **George Wimpey & Co Ltd** in conjunction with **J Fyfe**, Burgh Architect.

SKEFCO

GH, Th 22.9.1960, 1d — Announced yesterday that Skefco Ball Bearing Co Ltd., Luton, are to build a factory at Irvine.

AA, Th 20.10.1960, 1a — Work is to begin before the end of the year on the Skefco Ball Bearing Factory at Drybridge.

GH, F 18.11.1960, 6c — A I Helm has been appointed manager it was announced yesterday. Born in Gosforth, and 25 years with Skefco.

GH, F 23.12.1960, 10c — Work on site is scheduled to begin February 1961.

AA, Th 5.1.1961, 11c — Plans for the factory are advancing, and staff are being recruited/

GH, W 21.6.1961, 1bc — Foundation stone laid yesterday. [16def: artist's impression]

BI 73/857 August 1961 — In course of erection, factory for Skefco Ball Bearing Co Ltd. **Elliott Cox & Partners**, London, architects.

SAC, ACC Housing Committee 5.9.1961 — Agree to make available 10 key worker houses, Dundonald, for the "new factory to be opened at Shewalton by Skefco Ltd."

CO3/8/7/4 Bldg Wrt BA5 — Proposed extension: **Elliott Cox & Partners**, London. Planning application C1150. 28.9.1964.

CO3/8/7/4 Bldg Wrt BA2192 — Erection of factory: **Elliott Cox & Partners**, London. Planning application C6259. 31.7.1969.

BI 80/956 November 1969 — Proposed extension: **Elliott Cox & Partners**, London.

AA, DHP — Plans of 1972, 1973, 1975, &c., Elliot Cox & Partners.

SRC, E&ID, 25.1.1979 — Proposed redundancies discussed/

SOLANO AIR & HEAT SYSTEMS

GH, Tu 24.11.1959, 7f — Have become the first company to begin production on R.O.F. site.

SOUTH NEWMOOR

AP 7.1.1972 — 2 more advance factories are to be built at South Newmoor. "Much of Nethermains and Meadowhead had been let".

SOUTH NEWMOOR 8

nr — Pyramidal white corrugated factories of 1989-91.

SUN NEWSPAPERS, 34 McIntosh Place, South Newmoor

McKean — The building is in two parts: a 6 metre high press hall, separated from a 4 metre high block of commercial accommodation by a specially constructed solid wall to reduce noise transfer. The sloping area of roof between press hall and commercial area incorporates air conditioning and other services. Care has been taken to minimise heat loss and wasteful use of fuel. Insulation was maximised, and there are reasonably sophisticated temperature controls. The resulting building, with its orange logo, black steel cladding above white roughcast walling provides a suitably streamlined image for a streamlined process. **IDC, Architects Department**. Project designers: **David Hutchison, Donald Ritchie**. Builder: **John Laing Construction Ltd**. Completion: July 1978.

AP, F 22.7.1977, 1a — £1,000,000 plant to be built for Scottish & Universal Newspapers Ltd. Will print Ayrshire Post, &c., from 1978.

AP, F 7.10.1977, 2g — Design by IDC architects. John Laing Construction Ltd., builders.

KS, 7.4.1978, p.23 — SUN Production Centre to open in the summer. It will print the Kilmarnock Standard, Ayrshire Post, Irvine Herald, Lennox Herald, Helensburgh Times, Johnstone Advertiser and Paisley Daily Express.

Carnegie Photograph (ex AP 1.12.1978?)

Formally opened 1st December 1978 by Edward Heath, former Prime Minister

VOLVO

McKean — Kilwinning Road. Transformation of an army camp. 1,000,000 sq ft of decaying asbestos skinned army vehicle and tank depot have been trasnformed to provide a centre for UK Volvo. Four (out of ten) blocks were stripped to the steel framework and reconstructed to house the UK distribution centre for commercial spares (with associated amenities, administration and computer suite). Other sheds were converted to house the truck and bus manufacturing, and space for pre-inspection and delivery. Volvo's crisp image is achieved by using blue steel sheeting for the gables and aluminium roof cladding from Sweden. Lower walls are in brown brick. The materials had to be carefully chosen so as not to overload the existing light steel framework and thus waste the advantage of reusing existing buildings.
Architect: **Alexander Dunlop**, Kilmarnock and Carluke. Cont; **Melville, Dundas & Whitson**, for Ailsa Trucks (latterly Volvo (GB) Ltd). Completed in 1978.

AP 30.8.1974 — The first unit at the Volvo/Ailsa plant was formally opened last week. It is a 100,000 sq ft warehouse, with an Ailsa Craig granite plaque.

WEST BOWHOUSE

SRC, W&S 10.4.1984, 395 — Reimburse. IDC - West Bowhouse Small Industries

WEST BYREHILL (Kilwinning)

SVR 1972/73 — 8.12.1972. Factory, Blue Bell Apparel Ltd

SVR 1973/74	8.9.1973, Warehouse, Warriner and Mason, Glasgow

WILSON SPORTING GOODS FACTORY

GH, F 14.4.1961, 1bcd	Announced that Wilson Sporting Goods Co Ltd are coming to Irvine.
GH, Th 27.4.1961, 1e	First sod cut yesterday. The factory is being built by Crudens Ltd., Musselburgh.
KS Annual 1962, p.97	Formally opened July 1962.
GH, M 9.7.1962, 7h	Formally opened yesterday, by Sam Snead. [The Open was being played at Troon, July 1962]

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