



Facility Upgrade at Two Vegetable Production Sites



Morrisons are the UK's 2nd largest fresh food manufacturer. To continue offering fresh food at great value, they sought to develop labour reducing, efficient facilities at their root vegetable production site in Flaxby.

The Challenge

To upgrade a former potato store to increase capacity and procure, install, and commission a new carrot washing, grading and sorting line, to fulfil requirements.

Delivering Success

Protolan have worked with Morrisons on several projects. To deliver these schemes, Protolan were recruited to supply Project Management, Project Engineering and Capacity Planning. We led both projects and worked closely with the management team involved to scope, procure, implement and commission the building and equipment through Workstream Management Project Process. Protolan managed the removal of all existing process equipment and the redevelopment of the buildings to higher specification (including strip out and installation).

The end to end replacement of all process equipment delivered:

- › Potato conditioning by individual load
- › Washing equipment with optional use of a potato polisher
- › Optical grading to remove 98% of rejects and size grade the raw material (using 4k camera technology)
- › Automated delivery and storage of graded, washed raw material with automated delivery to the packing process (this was the first of its kind in the UK)
- › Packing lines with grading, weighing and Vertical Form Fill Seal and bulk packing capabilities
- › Checkweighers (linked to weigher for automated control of weights)

The projects had their similarities, but specific differences included:

- › New Waste Water Treatment Plant at Gadbrook recycling 90% of all process water
- › Upgrade to existing Waste Water Treatment Plant at Rushden
- › Raw material grading of off-field material at Rushden
- › First pass optical grading to eliminate 95% of material defects ahead of secondary optical grading process of 98% Rushden to eliminate all manual grading operations



Both projects were a success, delivered to budget and on time to hit the site peak volume period of Christmas

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