



Scot Meats – Boom and Bust

Bletchley



The factory floor after closure, 1981



Food mixer



The original factory premises

Scot Meats was founded by business partners Michael Katz (from a family of successful butchers business) and Herman Van Vlyman (with wide interests in European meat trade). The business, with 12 staff, set out to manufacture high quality meat products in January 1960 at a small 6000 square foot factory in Denbigh. Within five years, the staff had increased to 220, as demand doubled every year. By 1970 the small factory had become a complex of buildings, including one that was the most advanced of its type in Europe, and an extensive distribution network had been developed.

By 1980, the business employed over 1000 people in Bletchley but this had followed mergers and take-overs. The following year, the news of closure was devastating for both the workforce and the wider population of Bletchley. Strong campaigns by locals and national union leaders failed to save the day and it closed at the end of October.



Distribution centre

