



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Northcot Brick Industrial Heat Recovery Support Case Study

Industrial Heat Recovery Support (IHRS)
Programme

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Context

Northcot Brick is a traditional, Cotswolds-based brickworks in operation since the early 1900's. With specialisms in handmade and machine-made bricks, plus its own clay quarry, the question was where the best efficiencies could be placed to yield the highest results..

How IHRS has supported the project

Much of the equipment on our site is original, and although a newer dryer heat recovery scheme had been installed some years previously, it needed an upgrade. The Dry Heat Recovery Scheme seemed to be just the ticket, so we made an application to the Industrial Heat Recovery Support (IHRS) programme.

The process was initially new to us and difficult to navigate, but with the help and encouragement of the IHRS team, we were successful in our application. Together with the assistance of funding, it was helpful to have a structured process to work through, and this has given us the confidence to bid for further suitable grants as and when they become available.

Benefits and added value

Despite issues with navigating the payment process – a lot of the costs were incorporated together in our project – the project has run relatively smoothly. The majority of the work has been undertaken by our in-house maintenance team together with Jon Nettell of NTech and BMD Fabrications, and the project has resulted in a number of positive outcomes besides the savings on energy and carbon as listed below:-

- Reduction of the drying time
- Enhanced quality of bricks produced
- Automated systems for efficiency.

Lessons learned

There were no major technical challenges, only ensuring the correct calibration of the programme to ensure the most effective use of recovered heat. It was also very helpful to have the deadlines to work to which encouraged us to complete the project in a timely manner.

“Without the help of the IHRS team, we would have struggled to obtain our grant. They have been patient and supportive.”

Judith Brazier, Compliance and Energy Co-ordinator



Men dismantling and removing the old machinery



Men receiving new Centrifugal Fans



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