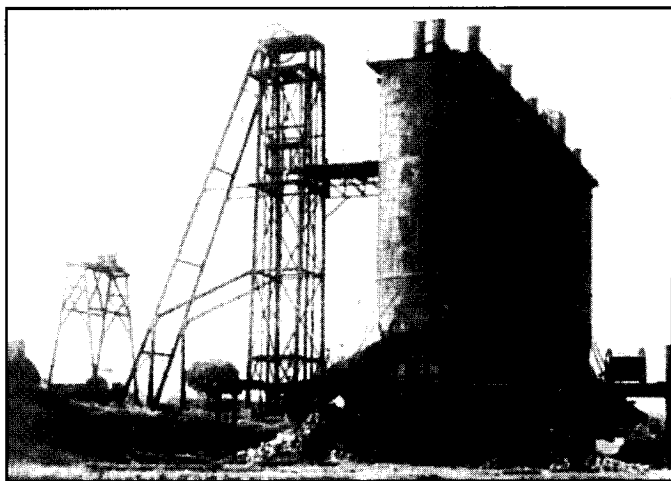


As a result of Alfred Hickman Ltd obtaining leases for large tracts of land served by the Oxfordshire Ironstone Co Ltd, in which company Hickman had a fifty percent interest, Sydenham quarries were shut down in June 1925, whilst the Oxfordshire Ironstone Co. Ltd. carried on working until 1967.² Indeed, when Stewarts and Lloyds, who took over Alfred Hickman Ltd., were looking for a site to build their new steel works in 1930, both Banbury and Corby were considered because of their adjacent ironstone fields, but of course Corby was chosen. The first steam navvy went to Oxfordshire Ironstone Co. Ltd., where, because they already had a digger called 'Jimmy', the new arrival, presumably because it came from Sydenham, was christened 'Syd'. The track was lifted at this time, although the kilns and various sheds were left standing and were dismantled, primarily for the metalwork, by James Friswell & Sons Ltd of Banbury, about 1932.



Friswell's took this photo (7) during demolition of the kilns at Sydenham Quarries in 1932. After World War Two part of the site was taken over by Portable Concrete Buildings Ltd., better known as Banbury Buildings, and when this company closed, the site became Banbury Business Park, mainly occupied by Vodafone. Traces of the quarry and tramway can be seen at the back of Vodafone and in the adjacent fields. The quarry on the west side of the Adderbury-Aynho road has been filled in and made into a golf-course.

² See *C&CH*, 3.12, pp.224-5 (1968).