Graham Whitlock

Operations and supply chain director. Now seeking non-executive and advisory roles.

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SUMMARY

Thirty-four years in manufacturing and distribution, the last twelve at board level. I have run networks of up to nine sites and 2,400 people, through two acquisitions, one carve-out and a pandemic. I am stepping back from executive work at the end of this year and would like to put that experience to use on boards in the North of England.

EXPERIENCE

Group Operations Director (board member) · Aireborough Foods Group — 2014 – 2026
Leeds

Responsible for manufacturing, distribution and procurement across nine sites. Led the integration of two acquired businesses (2016, 2021). Reduced lost-time injuries by 58% over five years. Member of the executive committee and attended audit committee.

Director of Supply Chain · Calder Home Products — 2006 – 2014
Wakefield

Built the company's first national distribution centre and moved fulfilment in-house from a third-party provider. Oversaw the carve-out of the garden furniture division in 2012.

Operations Manager, then General Manager · Pennine Packaging — 1997 – 2006
Bradford

Graduate trainee through to Shift Manager · Steel fabrication works — 1992 – 1997
Sheffield

EDUCATION

BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering — 1988 – 1992
University of the North Riding

MBA (part-time) — 2001 – 2004
Northern Business School

PROJECTS

Consolidation of three warehouses into one distribution centre — 2019

A £38m programme delivered on time and £1.2m under budget. Service levels maintained above 98.5% throughout the move. No compulsory redundancies.

Network design, Capital programme

Continuity through 2020–21 — 2020

Kept all food production sites open throughout the pandemic, with a revised shift model agreed with the unions in nine days.

Crisis management, Industrial relations

SKILLS

Supply chain strategy · Manufacturing operations · Mergers and integration · Health and safety leadership · Capital programmes · Procurement · Industrial relations · Risk