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A cannabis factory of "Amazonian proportions", believed to be the largest ever discovered in Britain, was among a series of discoveries by anti-drugs police.

Chinese-born Bo Xing He, 31, was jailed for nine years after being described by a judge as "head of an absolutely enormous conspiracy".

He was one of 16 Asians, mainly Chinese, who were jailed after the discovery of nearly 18,000 cannabis plants allegedly worth £13.8 million at several drugs factories across North Wales.

Caernarfon Crown Court heard that one of the cannabis factories, at an former builders' merchant's shop in Bangor High Street, was of "Amazonian proportions", with 11,000 plants in what was said to be the largest found in Britain.

He had lived at a rented large six-bedroom house in an exclusive part of Llandudno, and police found £130,000 in cash and a Jaguar S type car at the property.

Other men and women involved in the plot got prison sentences of between two years and five-and-a-half years.

Recorder Nic Parry said : "This has been an extremely important police operation in North Wales. It has ensured that potentially devastating harm has been avoided."