

SOUTH WEST INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE NETWORK MEETING	Friday 26th March 2021, 13:00-15:00 Zoom
SESSION 1 A brief introduction and update from Shane and Mike	
Introduction by Shane Gould, Head of Industrial Heritage Strategy, Historic England	<p>Shane is the Head of Industrial Heritage Strategy within Historic England, which funds the Industrial Heritage Support Officer post.</p> <p>This Network is one of 7 that are up and running across the country in the following regions: London, North East, North West, Cornwall & Devon, South West, South East and West Midlands. Three other Networks are also planned in Yorkshire, East of England and East Midlands.</p> <p>Shane mentioned that the Historic England draft Industrial Heritage Strategy is now out for public consultation and can be found via the HE website</p> <p>Any suggestions for speakers at future Network meetings should be sent to Mike and Shane (Action = ALL).</p>
Dr Mike Nevell, Industrial Heritage Support Officer for England	<p>The Industrial Heritage Support Officer was established in 2012 to provide support and advice to the 600 Industrial Heritage preserved/protected sites that are open to the public.</p> <p>Mike started his role in March 2020 and managed to visit a few sites before the lockdown started.</p> <p>There are four social media channels for industrial heritage support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website https://industrialheritagesupport.com/ (for stories) • Website https://industrialheritagenetworks.com/ (for support) • Facebook https://www.facebook.com/IHSOEngland/ (for news) • Twitter @IHSOEngland (for immediate support) <p>Of the 600 nationally designated industrial heritage sites that are open to the public – approximately 350 are water & windmills and preserved railways. The mills tend to be run by volunteers and aren't part of larger museums. The railways are more business orientated and better at lobbying and raising money.</p> <p>The remaining 250 sites include textile mills and mining sites. Some form part of larger organisations such as the English Heritage and National Trusts or are part of larger individual sites such as Ironbridge.</p>
Challenges	<p>In 2020 the Industrial Heritage sector has faced 2 major challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change (flooding) – industrial buildings needing maintenance and changes made to adapt to climate/environmental issues such as erosion and degradation • Covid-19 pandemic – many industrial heritage sites rely on visitors and volunteers to survive. The two periods of lockdown have seen annual visitor numbers reduce by 70% and increased vandalism found when the sites reopened. <p>When sites could reopen in the summer, 46 confirmed that they would not open during the year. In the end only 50% of industrial heritage sites opened to the public during 2020. Many of the small volunteer sites are struggling to stay open. The long-term effect of the pandemic on the volunteer is not yet known, there's a concern there might be less volunteers in the future.</p> <p>Another concern is that Local Authorities may have to transfer assets as a</p>

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		way of reducing costs. This could lead to very few industrial heritage sites being managed by LA funding in the future.
SESSION 2 The attendees each introduced themselves and the organisations they represented. They described the challenges they have faced this year		
Tony Coverdale – Salford Brass Mill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the volunteers are over 65 and so have been isolating. They are lucky not to have lost anyone and are all keen to get back to work • Have received a large legacy recently so financially ok and it also means that the link with the brass industry and trading with West Africa can be explored • Lucky that Bath & NE Somerset Council maintain the building so don't have that as an additional cost • Currently looking at conservation but they are not too worried about flooding as it happens regularly and have adapted to keep everything safe • Are looking at a big programme of re-pointing and so would welcome any assistance of expert help *Iain Miles mentioned that the Treasurer of the Westonzoyland Pumping Station is an architect and is a lime mortar worker so could help* • Are looking to reopen mid to late this year, hopefully for National Museums Week 	
Iain and Mary Miles – Westonzoyland Pumping Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have kept most of the volunteers but have lost a few • Have managed to keep going quite well and with the grants that have come through are slightly better off financially • Have put up a ready-made building for exhibits, this will be finished in the next few weeks, a bonus of the pandemic is that they have been able to get on with a few items of works • *to swap email address with Tony* 	
Keith Falconer Association for Industrial Archaeology (AIA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AIA run a restoration grant scheme and although they are pretty quiet at the moment, they are making steady progress. They do have more money than usual, £170k, and it is gratifying to see how much progress has been made • There will be no conference this year but will be holding Zoom meetings as well as virtual tours but are hoping to be back in the Autumn • Jonathon Lloyd has stepped down from European Route of Industrial Heritage and for England this responsibility has been transferred to Mike. 	
Peter Turvey Kennet & Avon Canal Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfortunately, have had to draw upon their capital reserves • Hoping to resume tripping boats fairly soon • The Crofton branch beam engines were able to open on reduced days on non-steaming days • There has been a lot of maintenance done and have driven through a lot of improvements and these seem to have paid off • The Crofton branch is hoping to open on the 22nd of May and it is hoped that the steaming routine can resume for the late May Bank Holiday • They are looking to recruit a new site manager • They have been using an online booking system • have seen a lot of challenges with the repairs on the engines 	

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Derrick Hunt Somersetshire Coal Canal / Claverton Pumping Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> currently not a society charging for entry, but this may change in the future Are mentioned on the UCL website regarding the Legacy of the British Slave Trade Have not been open to the public and have had various issues with numbers of wild swimmers, will be having a re-think 	<p>Commented [GS1]: Mike – If I recall all these references are for Claverton?</p>
Mark Sherrey Somersetshire Coal Canal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have been actively trying to restore the site but this is proving difficult due to the lack of volunteers but are managing to sort out two different locations with two different groups Have had a good social media campaign during lockdown and this have been a reason for a significant rise in numbers of members 	
Mel Barge Historic England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is an Inspector of Ancient Monuments, working in the South Western region, she joined the meeting to introduce herself 	
Richard Hentschke Jet Age Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have been cataloguing documents on the archive Have held lots of Zoom presentations instead of physical meetings 5 members have formed a Covid-19 response team in order to keep an eye on the site and manage any situations Had a loan for a large extension a couple of years ago and this money has been useful as a reserve fund In between lockdowns they were able to have a Covid-19 safe opening, using the Government advice Volunteers should start to return mid-April and then opening with Covid-19 safe regulations from mid-May; hoping to be back to normal by mid-June 	
Helena Jaeschek Museums Development Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works with the SW team and are on hand to help with any organisations Can extend Pest Partners to any sites, who can supply traps etc. contact them on pestpartner@gmail.com The SW Museums Development Grant can be used for recovery and/or sustainability You can contact Helena and her team by visiting their website at www.southwestmuseums.org.uk 	
Doug & Judith Roseaman, Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Society, Wiltshire Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning to hold the re-stoking online Most of the staff have been furloughed Are planning to reopen with limited numbers, booking online Have a good online presence with the schools programme and can now hold a lecture with 200+ people, this has generated some income Road presence groups have seen 30% increase in the size of the magazine There has been an underground quarry found but it is not open to the public as it is a commercially operated site although the collection of artefacts can be viewed on a request basis 	<p>Commented [GS2]: Mike – can you recall which site is represented?</p>
Any Other Comments		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's likely more meetings will be online in the future. This is difficult for people who aren't computer literate Blended forms of delivery would be beneficial, so no-one is knowingly or unknowingly 		

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excluded. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The online approach could help to encourage younger generations to engage• Online talks allow for worldwide access and international engagement• Mike agreed to circulate his presentation as a PDF (Action = Mike Nevell)• Any thoughts on how to structure future network meetings should be sent to Mike (Action = ALL)	