

EAST OF ENGLAND INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE NETWORK MEETING	Friday 25th November 2022, 11:00-12:30 Zoom
SESSION 1 A brief introduction and update from Mike	
Dr Mike Nevell, Industrial Heritage Support Officer for England	<p>Historic England has extended the funding for the Industrial Heritage Support Officer post, which will now run until March 2025</p> <p>The project aims have been updated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support and promote best practice • Promote partnership working across the different industrial sites • Provide strategic leadership, post pandemic • Gather data on all the different sites across the country • To develop and implement sustainability for the project beyond 2025 <p>All ten regional industrial heritage networks are now up and running and it is hoped that for next year's meetings, some will be held in person/on site as well as continuing online</p> <p>Mike has been expanding the online presence of the project – it now includes: Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, websites and a e-news bulletin every 2-3 months. Mike is planning on merging the two websites into one (https://industrialheritagesupport.com/the-industrial-heritage-support-officer) in the near future</p> <p>The last review of the industrial sites was carried out in 2008, building on the original 1998 report. A new review is planned next year which will aim to capture what has happened to all the sites since 2008, to explore which sites have opened or closed since then</p> <p>The Covid survey carried out by Mike in 2021 provided data on how sites coped during the lockdowns. The results indicate that the larger sites coped better and were able to gain more emergency funding during this period than the smaller sites. As of March 2022, there have been no permanent closures, but the cost of living crisis poses a larger threat</p> <p>The recent AIM survey of independent museums (including industrial sites) has indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 museums are at risk of insolvency • Reduce visitor numbers are a concern but the largest worry are the increasing energy costs • Many sites have had to scale back on activities to reduce costs • Some sites are exploring restructuring models and possible redundancies • Lower income and visitor numbers are expected for 2023 <p>There is still an intention to hold more face to face meetings in 2023, the online meetings will also continue</p> <p>Mike reminded everyone that he is happy to provide advice and guidance, and that they should get in touch if they need any help</p> <p>Mike's presentation will be distributed with these notes</p>

SESSION 2	
The attendees each gave an update on their sites and any challenges they are facing	
Mike Nevell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed the meeting that HE were looking to resume the DLB consultant's survey of 1998 in order to get fresh data on the types of sites and the way they are managed and owned, as well as the current issues they face, this should be completed in 2023 and will be done mostly online • Mike mentioned that he was the Secretariat for Industrial Heritage on the All-Party Parliamentary Group • Told the group that sadly, all challenges faced by sites seem to be generic in nature
Catherine Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site was closed during the whole of 2020, they reopened a bit in 2021 and in 2022 they were open all the first Sunday's from May to October. They don't charge an admission fee but rely on donations. It has been a good year with over 100 visitors a day and have increased the volunteer pool by a couple of new ones. Considering the remoteness of the site, number visitors are really encouraging. • The only problem in the area is the lack of millwrights to repair and maintain the windmills in Lincolnshire
Paul Chaplin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mills Weekend in May was very successful, and the Heritage Weekend saw really good visitor numbers • Have recently purchased a "sum up" machine for entrance fees which is proving successful, it also prints receipts if required • Said that they were lucky to have a long lease with Essex CC who are responsible for the upkeep and all repairs to the site
Paul Nash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The John Jarrold Printing Museum closed in September and the trust have moved the collection to Blickling Hall
William Marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lockdown had impacted visitor numbers to the centre but as the canal was the only recreation option in the area, there was a good addition of numbers to the area • Activities and hybrid meetings have started again but pre-registration is impacting on numbers attending • They have had to raise the price of subscription for the first time and this is having a slight impact of numbers, but they are OK at the moment • Asked the group for ideas on how to maintain engagement with members • The next e-bulletin is due out in the next week or so and anyone can sign up for their website subscription and notifications
Anthony Crosby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are now back to all meetings and talks face to face • Are working behind the scenes to produce a discussion on wind and water mills in Essex • Also, the 4th Industrial Heritage Fair was held, they are usually every 2 years. 20-24 different site stands usually but only had half this year. It was well attended by the members of the public, nonetheless • Next year, Essex will be hosting the East of England Archaeology Conference
Robin Chandler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are holding lectures until December and then they will have a break until January/February. It is hoped that the next East of England meeting will be held at the Cambridgeshire Museum of Science and Technology

ATTENDEES:	
Mike Nevell	Industrial Heritage Support Officer
Anthony Crosby	Essex Industrial Archaeology Group
Catherine Wilson	Dogdyke Pumping Station
Paul Chaplin	Beeleigh Steam Mills Restoration Group
Paul Nash	Norwich Print Museum
Robin Chandler	Cambridge Industrial Archaeology Group
William Marriage	Chelmer Canal Trust