

YORKS INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE NETWORK MEETING	Friday 10th December 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 10 that are now up and running across the country in the following regions: Cornwall, & Devon, North West, East Midlands, London, South East, West Midlands, North East, South West, East of England, and now Yorkshire</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 three social media channels for industrial heritage support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website https://industrialheritagesupport.com/ (for stories) • Facebook https://www.facebook.com/IHSOengland/ (for news) • Twitter @IHSOEngland (for immediate support) <p>Of the 600 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 are textile mills and mining sites, which are all listed or scheduled. They are often part of larger organisations such as the English Heritage and National Trusts. Many are 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 50% and increased vandalism found when the sites reopened. <p>When sites could reopen in the summer, 46 confirmed that they have closed permanently. 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 way of reducing costs. This could lead to very few industrial heritage sites being managed by LA funding in the future.</p>

SESSION 2

The attendees each introduced themselves and the organisations they represented. They described the challenges they have faced this year

Margaret Tylee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The South Yorks IHSoc. look after Wortley Top Forge, Rockley Blast Furnace and Hoylandswaine Nail Forge• They have been running lectures and events during the lockdown periods• They have received some funding for interpretation boards at Rockley• Hope to re-establish the network meetings, which cover Sheffield and Barnsley• Wortley Forge is open to the public for a small charge but free to members• Have not had too bad a time with Covid as the sites are mostly outdoors, although Rockley has suffered some graffiti damage. Have about 30 volunteers, some of those think it has been easier to work on site and get together with other volunteers without the visitors!• Have been re-opened since May and the numbers haven't been too bad• Have received a small business grant from Barnsley Council
Mike Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the Business Development Manager for Calderdale Industrial Museum, starting just 1 week ago• The museum is set in the Cultural Quarter and is set over 4 storeys• It is a large site which takes in the area's mining, textiles, ceramics and confectionary industries – it is also the site of Quality Street. The museum also considers the social history of the area• The museum had been closed by the council a number of years ago but became a charitable trust around 5 years ago• The recent focus has been on restoration and conservation. Currently the museum is only open on Saturdays but also opens a second day of the week during school holidays, they are hoping to increase this• The main volunteer base is older men who worked in engineering, therefore there has been some reticence in coming to work at the museum and so they are exploring how to transition into a commercial business with possibly take on some paid "volunteers"
Richard Butterfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Works in the York office of HE and has joined the meeting to get a feel for what is going on in the area and at the sites represented here• Has been working on the CRF and MEND Funding• Is an Alumni member for Ironbridge after completing an archaeology course there
Jane Jackson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the Programme Manager for Elsecar and is involved in promoting the importance of Elsecar Village• The research done had reached its pinnacle when Covid happened• Sadly, Elsecar Heritage Railway has now closed, the council are looking at the site and how they can develop it• Was previously a member of the World Heritage Organisation for Ironbridge• Involved with Heritage at Risk alongside Brian and Richard
Brian Davies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is an architect at HE and has come along today to get a feel for what is happening in this Sector• Has missed the lack of ability to visit sites and meet with volunteers

Charles Milner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the chair of Middleton Colliery Railway Trust. Charles gave a brief history of the site, opened as an act of Parliament in 1758. Became part of the Leeds Locomotive Agency to commemorate that industry. In 1960, it became the first volunteer operated standard gauge railway • Covid has had quite an impact but managed to keep going through the 1st lockdown, especially with track walking and security of the site • Kept open after lockdown but with strict numbers of visitors, although they did lose some of the older volunteers due to them being nervous of being in close contact • They do have an active younger volunteer group and they are hoping to develop this further through education etc. • Finances have been affected but have received some monies from the NLHF, this was used to build an addition to the site in order to hold small exhibitions and they are bringing in professional museum designers in order to make the best use of the site • Although volunteer numbers are not an issue, volunteers with leadership skills are and they may have to take on paid staff to deal with this • Need to look at commercial business versus what volunteers want to do as they need to look at being self-sustainable but also attract volunteers/enthusiasts • The biggest disappointment they have had is that 2020 would have been the diamond jubilee. They were able to run a train but only with the volunteers. On the flip side, they have had the best “Santa Train” bookings ever
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AOB	
Margaret Tylee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked if the network had any links to the All Parliamentary Group for Industrial Heritage? Mike responded that the APG are in the process of reorganisation and it will be a couple of months before they are accessible again

Any Other Comments	
<u>Shane Gould</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Told the group that he didn't think there would be any live meetings before 2022 and then it is hoped there would be one meeting for each network • If there were any topics or issues that the Network members would like to raise at the next meeting, let Shane or Mike know • If any of the Network would like to host a live meeting, let Shane or Mike know • Although there has not been a fact to face meeting with this particular Network, it has been inspiring on how all the members have coped through the pandemic • There will be a short paragraph to add to the website as an introduction to this Network • It is hoped that a monthly e-bulletin can be produced • Mike agreed to circulate his presentation as a PDF (Action = Mike Nevell) 	

ATTENDEES:	
Charles Milner	Middleton Colliery Railway
Richard Butterfield	HE Regional Office (Yorkshire)
Philip Morton	South Yorkshire Transport Museum
Margaret Tylee	South Yorkshire Industrial Heritage Society
Stephanie Thompson	
Mike Ward	Calderdale Industrial Museum
Jane Jackson	HE Regional Office (Yorkshire)
Brian Davies	HE Regional Office (Yorkshire)