Supporting Industrial Heritage: Context

‘Public Access to England’s Preserved Industrial Heritage’ (Ayris 1998) & ‘Sustaining England’s Industrial Heritage: A Future for Preserved Sites in England’ (Cossons 2008) have shown:

• Pressing concern that many industrial heritage sites are operating on an increasingly **unsustainable** basis

• **Key resources** such as visitors, grant aid and volunteers seem to be getting harder to attract and retain

• Industrial heritage sites typically extensive, big and **complex** historic buildings- additional issues include caring for and operating historic machinery
Supporting Industrial Heritage: Context

• Particular pressures on sites wholly or partly run by smaller charitable trusts and volunteers (60% of c.650 sites)

• Adapting to the modern world - funding, visitor engagement, conservation, best practice, governance, health and safety

• ‘Heritage at Risk’ programme has emphasised pressures on industrial heritage in a wide range of public, private, commercial and development related contexts

• Potentially negative consequences for the future of nationally and internationally important industrial heritage
Industrial Heritage Support Officer Project:
Background

• England wide (initially funded by Heritage at Risk Programme September 2012)

• Now funded via Historic England’s National Capacity Building programme until March 2020

• **Recognised need** that smaller volunteer groups needed access to a source of focussed professional help beyond what was already available

• Managed by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT) and supported by key partners the Association of Independent Museums (AIM) and the Association for Industrial Archaeology (AIA)

• The project is directed by a **Steering Group** consisting of Sir Neil Cossons, Historic England, AIM, AIA, IGMT, The European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) and The Prince’s Regeneration Trust. Invites to HLF and AHF
Industrial Heritage Support Officer:

**Key Work Areas**

- Information *clearing house* / advice
- Training
- Mentoring
- Developing national funding bids
- Developing new **partnerships** within and beyond the sector
- **Advocacy** and celebration of best practice
Industrial Heritage Support Officer: Information ‘clearing house’

100+ groups supported with advice ranging from:

• Fundraising
• Practical historic building management
• Crisis Management
• Governance
• Asset Transfer
• Marketing
• Volunteer development

Asset Transfer Training Day, October 2014
Keeping you up to date with all the latest information, training and support to help you run, manage and fund industrial heritage sites.

Scrap Metal and How to Avoid it! An Introduction to Caring for Industrial and Transport Collections, British Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire 16/03/17

Supported by Arts Council England Museum Resilience Funding, the British Motor Museum is running a FREE training day for museum professionals and volunteers caring for industrial and transport collections. The course will cover issues around collecting, conservation and storage, and is the first of a series of events run by the British Motor Museum. Topics covered: 

Partner Organisations
- Association for Industrial Archaeology
- Association of Independent Museums
- Historic England
- Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust
Industrial Heritage Support Officer Project: Information Hub

Information Hub

The purpose of the Information Hub is to signpost information on funding, training, support and information, which will help you sustain and develop your industrial heritage site. This will be updated and added to on a regular basis.

Sources of Funding

RELEVANT HLF FUNDING PROGRAMMES

The Heritage Lottery Fund remains a key funding source for industrial heritage, and notwithstanding an increasingly competitive application process as other funding sources are squeezed, the suite of current and recently introduced programmes (operating under the new 2013-2018 HLF...
Industrial Heritage Support Officer Project: Social Media - Twitter
Industrial Heritage Support Officer Project:
Social Media - Facebook
Industrial Heritage Support Officer Project:
Link with www.gooseygoo.co.uk
Industrial Heritage Support Officer:

Training and Mentoring

**Training** delivered to 250+ organisations around the country via 30+ events

Bespoke training events or working in partnership with other organisations (e.g. ERIH, PRT BRICK, IoF GTH, Museum Development Programmes)

**Topics included:**
- Fundraising
- Marketing
- Volunteering
- Governance
- Organisational development
- Asset transfer

[Image of a training event with text: Asset Transfer Training Day, October 2014]
Industrial Heritage Support Officer:

Developing National Funding Bids

Range of regional and national partnership and funding projects in the pipeline including:

• Skills development for stationary engine groups in the North West (with HE and Canal & River Trust)

• National virtual pumping station network
Industrial Heritage Support Officer Project

Partnership and Network Development

• Creating and/or supporting network development—North West, Hampshire, Cornwall, North East, West Midlands (launched March 2017). Discussions about London and elsewhere.

• Supporting and reinforcing existing networks (e.g. ERIH, AIA, Heritage Alliance, Maritime Heritage Trust, ABTEM).

• Partnership set up with the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.
Industrial Heritage Support Officer: Advocacy and Best Practice

Represent and be a voice for the sector at:

• Historic England’s *Industry and Infrastructure Network* Meetings
• HLF’s *Industry, Maritime and Transport* Group Meetings
• The *All Party Parliamentary Group* for Industrial Heritage Meetings
• *AIA* Council Meetings
• *ERIH* UK Meetings

• Attend and present papers at conferences/seminars
• Heritage ‘expert’ at Giving to Heritage events
• Lecture at BCU and elsewhere
• AIM Success Guide
Supporting Industrial Heritage - Recurring Issues

- Skills development and transfer
- Health and Safety/Competence
- Governance
- Insurance ('We exist to pay the insurance')
- Marketing
- Coping with changing funding and volunteering environment
- Heritage management, including conservation planning and wider best practice awareness
- Responding to sites under threat (development, local authority transfer etc.)
- ‘What can we do?’
Regional Industrial Heritage Networks

- One of the key roles of the IHSO Project is to develop, facilitate and organise Regional Industrial Heritage Support or ‘Self Help’ Networks

- Inspired by the East Anglia Heritage Engineering Network
  - Established in 2012 and supported by SHARE Museums East
  - Meetings and workshops for volunteers and staff with interest in the use of heritage machinery
Regional Industrial Heritage Networks

- **Regional Industrial Heritage Networks** weren’t originally part of the Industrial Heritage Support Officer Business Plan.

- However, they have been found to be invaluable in helping build **resilience** within the sector through ‘**peer to peer**’ support, targeted **training**, shared **expertise**.
Regional Industrial Heritage Networks

Benefits of regional ‘self help’ networks

• Setting up industrial heritage networks is a good way to improve capacity among industrial heritage sites and groups within a given locality/region

• Cost effective, typically meet 2 to 3 times per year, with different host site for each meeting

• Meetings can be combined with a specific theme/training session and a site tour

• Positive face to face information exchange and sharing of best practice

• Popular with participating groups and museums, overcomes isolation

• Can be a focus for developing further collaboration – e.g. regional marketing, training and fundraising initiatives

• Main costs are catering/travel

• Can tie into other forms of information sharing such as internet based forums etc.
Regional Industrial Heritage Networks

- **Hampshire**
  - Hampshire BPT
- **North West**
  - Museum Development NW
- **Cornwall**
  - South West Lakes Trust
- **Yorkshire**
  - Museum Development Yorkshire
- **North East**
  - Tyne and Wear Heritage Forum
- **West Midlands**
  - IHSO (for now...)

**In the pipeline**
- London
- East Midlands
- South West
Regional Industrial Heritage Networks

**Hampshire**

- Hampshire Industrial Attractions Support Network

  - Set up in 2013 and supported by the IHSO

  - Run by Hampshire BPT from Bursledon Brickworks Industrial Museum

  - Various regular events and workshops

  - Helped develop the Hampshire Industrial Heritage Centre at Burslec
Regional Industrial Heritage Networks

North West

• North West Industrial Heritage Network. Set up in 2014

• Run by Museum Development NW with support from the IHSO

• Three events a year on a range of themes including volunteering, organisational development, health and safety, and fundraising and resilience

• Virtual network

• Looking to develop a joint project which could include a regional route
Cornwall
• Set up in 2015 and supported by the IHSO
• Run by the South West Lakes Trust utilising Arts Council England Major Partner Organisation funding
• Subject Specialist Network for industrial heritage sites in Cornwall and wider south west region
• Annual conference- 2017 on the Cornish Mining Diaspora
• Regular workshops- e.g. Big Stuff in Bristol
Yorkshire Industrial Collections Network - run by Museum Development Yorkshire and supported by the IHSO

Launched 2016 - two meetings so far - first focused on developing the network, sources of support and knowledge and sharing of case studies, and another on rationalising industrial collections.
Regional Industrial Heritage Networks

**North East**
- Tyne and Wear Heritage Forum - pre-existing partnership organisation supported by the IHSO
- Annual conference
- Run various projects under the Heritage Act! banner an Historic England supported initiative launched in 2016
- Case studies and toolkits
Regional Industrial Heritage Networks

West Midlands
• Launched in March 2017 by the IHSO at Coalbrookdale

• Theme of first meeting was ‘Funding, Resilience and Support’

• 26 groups/sites/museums represented

• Plans for a virtual network and future meetings

• Link to a proposed West Midlands Route of Industrial Heritage?
Regional Industrial Heritage Networks

Example: North West England Industrial Heritage Network

- IHSO working with Museum Development Officers in the North West to set up a network of industrial heritage groups

- With Museum Development Officer project seed funding, ran a programme of three day long events in 2015 and 2016 (further events in pipeline for 2017)

- Each day hosted by an industrial heritage site/group and included professional training session (themes included volunteering, Health and Safety and marketing), a site tour (drawing issues, problems and best practice experience), and the opportunity for informal networking

- Process will explore the potential to sustain the network beyond the 2016/17 meetings, and look at possibilities for future development including collective marketing and funding bids

- Linking with other existing initiatives including IHSO/Historic England support for stationary steam engine groups in the North West
• IHSO-supported Industrial Heritage Support Networks are about building resilience within the sector through ‘peer to peer’ support, targeted training, shared expertise

• Strong synergy between these and ERIH regional routes- potential to bring these together or map on to each other (already being explored in the North West and the West Midlands)

• Such a link would strengthen the networks by working in partnership to improve publicity, raise awareness, attract tourism, improve site presentation, and build resilience across the region
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