

Industrial Archaeology e-News Bulletin July 2022

Welcome to the Association for Industrial Archaeology's regular e-news bulletin. Read on for updates on what we've been doing recently, and other industrial archaeology news from the UK and beyond. If you have a story you think we should feature in a future bulletin please get in touch.

Planning News



Great Musgrave railway bridge (image courtesy of HRE group)

The long-running saga of the infilled railway bridge at Great Musgrave in Cumbria's Eden Valley appears to have come to a close, with the local authority's refusal in June to grant retrospective planning consent. Following this decision National Highways must remove hundreds of tonnes of concrete underneath the bridge. They have confirmed that they are not planning to appeal. The importance of this decision lies not just in respect of just this case, but in the message it sends to National Highways and the Historic Railways

Estate: planning applications will need to be submitted before work begins and they may be refused, unless there is a very good reason for the work.

[BBC article about the Great Musgrave planning decision](#) (opens in new tab)



Marks and Spencer flagship store on Oxford Street (image courtesy of SAVE Britain's Heritage)

Meanwhile, AIA welcomes the Government's decision to call in plans to demolish and rebuild the landmark Marks and Spencer store on Oxford Street for examination at a public inquiry. M&S's controversial proposals to bulldoze its flagship 1929 art deco store on Oxford Street and replace it with a much larger 10-storey retail and office block have been the focus on a campaign led by SAVE and the Architects' Journal, who published an open letter calling on

the government to call in the scheme, signed by leading architects and heritage experts.

The AIA comments on dozens of planning applications involving listed industrial sites and buildings every year. If you know of a planning application that you think we should be aware of please let us know. For contact details, and to find out more, please visit the planning pages of our website.

[Planning casework on the AIA website](#) (opens in new tab)

Protection for weavers' cottages in Middleton



Weavers' cottages in Middleton (picture credit Manchester Evening News)

Historic England have announced that emergency Grade II listing has been given to a set of three weavers' cottages in Middleton, near Rochdale. The unique character of the cottages was threatened by plans to convert them into apartments. The listing recognises the cottages as rare survivals from the early

development of Middleton in the 18th century, as a nationally-significant centre for textile manufacturing, including silk and cotton weaving.

Closure of Belper Mill Museum



Belper North Mill (image courtesy of Belper North Mill Heritage Trust)

AIA was saddened to hear the recent announcement by the trustees of Belper North Mill that their museum and visitor centre are to close at the end of October 2022. This announcement follows the loss of the Trust's grant funding from Amber Valley District Council. The space currently occupied by the galleries will be let for commercial use. The town of Belper is a key feature of the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site and the loss of this facility, providing interpretation of the area's history and heritage, adds to the existing threats to the World Heritage Site's long-term sustainability.

[Belper North Mill Heritage Trust Position Statement April 2022](#) (opens in new tab)

Redevelopment of the Corah factory, Leicester



Corah's St Margaret's Works in 1966 (photo courtesy of Leicestershire Live)

Another threat to the East Midlands' textile industry heritage comes from plans to redevelop the site of N Corah and Son's factory in Leicester. The company was founded around the start of the 19th century as one of town's many stocking knitters, and expanded to become the largest knitwear manufacturer in Europe. The iconic St Margaret's factory closed in the early 1990s, since when it has been used by a variety of light industries. Current plans to create almost 1,200 homes on the site have been criticised by local campaigners and the city's Civic Society for failing to retain little of the original fabric beyond the façade of 1865 building and two chimneys. AIA considers that more parts of the site, including the Art Deco-style Shipping and Printing building could and should be retained.

[Local heritage groups oppose plans to redevelop Leicester's Corah Factory](#)

Big donation for Manchester's Science and Industry Museum



Museum of Science and Industry (courtesy of Visit Manchester)

The Science and Industry Museum in Manchester has received a £3m donation from The Law Family Charitable Foundation to secure the future of its iconic Power Hall. In recognition of the Foundation's generosity, the gallery will be known as the 'Power Hall: The Law Family Gallery' when it reopens to the public in 2024. The Grade II listed Power Hall building was built in 1855 as the transshipment shed for Liverpool Road Station, the world's first purpose-built intercity passenger railway station. It houses one of the UK's largest collections of working stationary steam engines, many of them built in Manchester.

Along with large grants from the Government, this donation will transform the whole museum's environmental sustainability and place zero-carbon technology at the heart of the museum's visitor experience, including water-source heat pumps to provide heating and power the historic engines sustainably.

[Press release on Museum of Science and Industry website](#) (opens in new tab).

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Industrial Heritage

The APPG on Industrial Heritage held its first in-person meeting since before the COVID pandemic in May 2022 under new Chair, Stephanie Peacock, MP

for Barnsley. A series of themed meetings are planned for 2022 around the subject of 'the role of industrial heritage in regeneration and place-shaping'. Secretariat support is being provided by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust through the Industrial Heritage Support Officer for England, Dr Michael Nevell.

Elsecar 1880 digital fly-through launched



Elsecar Heritage Centre, former industrial workshops (photo courtesy Barnsley Museums)

The team at Barnsley Museums, winners of AIA's award for Community Engagement in 2021, have produced a fantastic five-minute digital recreation of the Elsecar area of South Yorkshire. It shows what this unique collection of collieries, workshops, ironworks, housing and transport infrastructure would have looked like in 1880. Equally remarkable is the fact that the vast majority of the structures shown survive and can be visited.

[Watch the Elsecar fly-through on YouTube](#) (opens in new tab)

Cleveland Ironstone Museum to reopen after revamp



Cleveland Ironstone Mining Museum (image courtesy Land of Iron)

The Cleveland Ironstone Mining Museum at Skinningrove in North Yorkshire has been undergoing a £2.3million redevelopment, reopening this Autumn under the new name 'Land of Iron'. This independent museum celebrates the heritage of the ironstone mining industry and heritage of East Cleveland. The museum closed in 2018 following collapse of the roof of the museum's iconic Upcast building. As well as refurbishment of the existing buildings, a new extension is being constructed to create new exhibition and education spaces, retail area, toilets and archive store. The project received financial support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Coastal Communities Fund, the Tees Valley Combined Authority and private donors.

[Read more about the Land of Iron project](#) (opens in new tab)

New Stourbridge Glass Museum Opens

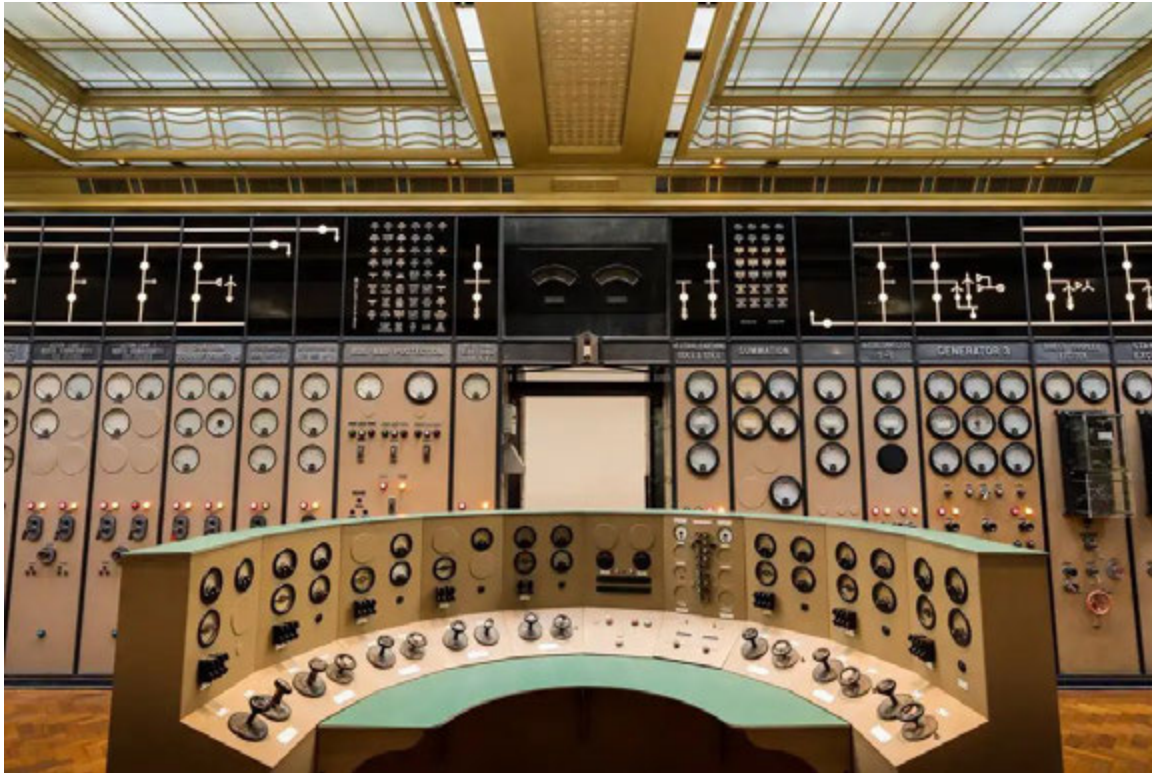


The new home of glass (image courtesy Stourbridge Glass Museum)

The efforts of the British Glass Foundation to create a new museum to celebrate 400 years of quality glass making in the West Midlands Region of the UK have finally come to fruition, with the opening in April of the new Stourbridge Glass Museum. This has seen the conversion of the former Grade II listed Stuart Crystal Glassworks in Wordsley into a world-class visitor attraction with exhibition and education spaces, a hot glass studio, and a home for the internationally renowned Stourbridge glass collection. This numbers over 10,000 glass items, ranging from ancient to contemporary glass, glassmaking machinery and extensive archive material. The creation of the museum has been made possible with help from the European Regional Development Fund, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Dudley Council.

[Visit the Stourbridge Glass Museum website](#) (opens in new tab)

Battersea Power Station Control Room Restored



Restored control room at Battersea Power Station (image courtesy James Patterson)

Pictures have been released of the beautifully restored Art Deco control room at the former Battersea Power Station. The Grade II listed building on London's South Bank is being converted for housing, retail and commercial use. The control room has retained some of its original control panels, teak parquet floor, marble wall tiles and a gold-painted glass ceiling, and will be used as a venue for functions.

Black Country Living Museum Expansion Back on Track



Artist's impression of the new 'Quarter' at the Black Country Living Museum (courtesy of BCLM)

Plans by the Black Country Living Museum, Dudley to extend their scope to include the 1940s, 50s and 60s were halted by unexpected clean-up costs for the site, but are now back on track with the promise of more funding from the West Midlands Combined Authority. The development will include new learning spaces and a visitor centre, and take their story up to the time of closure of the Baggeridge Coal Mine in 1968, which brought about the end of a unique era for the Black Country.

The expansion plan, called Forging Ahead, is the biggest development at the museum since it opened in 1978, and includes the creation or relocation of 22 buildings to provide a picture of life in the mid-20th century. The work is expected to be completed in 2023.

[Visit the Black Country Museum website](#) (opens in new tab)

Industrial Heritage Events

'Big Stuff' September 2022 (Portugal)

A group of international organisations, including TICCIH, are organising a conference on 28-29 September 2022 in Teixal, Portugal, and also on line, with

the title 'Big Stuff 2022', to explore collaborative working on the conservation and safeguarding of industrial and technology heritage.

[Big Stuff conference programme and call for papers](#) (opens in new tab)

England's Heritage Open Days 2022

The annual programme of Heritage Open Days, which is billed as "England's largest festival of history and culture" provides opportunities to visit sites and buildings that are not normally open to the public. This year it is celebrating 'inventions, innovations and discoveries', so promises to include many places associated with industry and technology. It runs 9-18 September.

[Online Heritage Open Days Programme](#) (opens in new tab)

Cultural Landscapes of Energy: constructing histories in the aftermath of energy production, Leipzig Neuseenland, Germany, 15–16 September 2022

All types of energy production have affected the ways people worked, resided and lived in the affected landscapes. This upcoming conference in Germany will explore different historical perspectives surrounding work, habitation and leisure in the aftermath of energy production. More information and a call for papers can be found on the [TICCIH website](#).

If there are other people in your organisation who might like to receive this in future, please contact communications@industrial-archaeology.org

The Association for Industrial Archaeology
Promoting the study, preservation and presentation of Industrial Heritage