



Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Buildings Archaeology Group (BAG) Newsletter. This edition has attempted to focus on a theme of Industrial Buildings, in light of the relatively recent publication of the English Heritage Industrial Buildings at Risk Survey, and the publication of the CBA's new Practical Handbook No21: 'Industrial Archaeology: A Handbook' (2012), which is co-authored, with Mike Sissons, by two current members of the BAG Committee; Professor Marilyn Palmer of the University of Leicester, and Dr Mike Nevell of the University of Salford.

Palmer, M, Nevell, M & Sissons, M (2012) *Industrial Archaeology: A Handbook*. York: Council for British Archaeology.

## Introduction from the Chair

Considering the hiatus in activity from BAG, our Chairman considered it was probably time to look again at what the Buildings Archaeology Group was originally set up for, and what its aims are:

*"The Buildings Archaeology Group was founded in 1990. Its area of interest lies in the use of archaeological techniques for the recording, study, presentation and curatorial management of all built structures, irrespective of their date, function, material or state of preservation. The group aims to promote the analysis of the built environment and to raise awareness of a variety of approaches and methodologies to building recording. This is in order to address the wider role of buildings archaeology with other professionals in the built heritage sector, particularly within the construction industry and local government. As part of this remit the group encourages debate through IfA conference sessions and occasional articles in The Archaeologist, runs training seminars on the latest techniques and methodologies, and since the 1990s has published a regular newsletter."*

Dr Mike Nevell, Chairman.

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The Industrial Heritage of North Wales at Lechweidd Slate Caverns Museum, Blaenau Ffestiniog. Photo: Ed James.

*Committee:*

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**Treasurer:**

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## *2012 AGM*

The Buildings Archaeology AGM was held during lunch-time on Thursday 19 April at the IfA Conference in Oxford. The current committee introduced themselves and their roles, and the future activities of the group were discussed. It was good to see a number of group members turn up, interested in the restarted group's activities, and we hope to see more in due course.

## *New Committee Members*

There are three new committee members, who were all co-opted at the AGM in Oxford. They are: Rachel Cruse, Mark Collard and Helen Robertson. The current committee is grateful for their willingness to get involved, and we look forward to their input at our next committee meeting in July.

## *Ways to get involved*

BAG is keen to offer its services for consultations and book reviews. As always, it would be very much appreciated if members of the group who are interested in making themselves available for answering consultations or for writing book reviews for this newsletter could please get in contact with the group at [groups@archaeologists.net](mailto:groups@archaeologists.net)

## *Thank you*

*Thank you to those who have contributed to this 'summer' edition of the BAG Newsletter. There are some excellent contributions, and I hope you enjoy reading them. Let us hope that Industrial Heritage stays high on the agenda in the future, and that more ways are found to study, conserve and make use of these important 'Heritage Assets'.*

*Edward James—Editor*

## Ditherington Flax Mill has secured initial Lottery Funding Support for regeneration.

A bid for £12.1m of support from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been given initial support from the HLF. Much has been written elsewhere about Ditherington Flax Mill and its significance relating to modern building design and construction, and also about the challenges that English Heritage face in trying to conserve and re-use this building. It is understood that English Heritage, in partnership with Shropshire Council and the Friends of the Flax Mill Maltings, are now submitting a detailed planning application, and will be publishing a comprehensive document pertaining to the building in due course. This is great news for those of us who were concerned at its dilapidation, and were hoping for a positive outcome for the building popularly known as the 'Father of the Skyscraper' .

More information about the lottery bid, and current research can be found [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

Edward James.



Ditherington Flax Mill at night. Credit: Paul Belford

## VAT exemption for listed buildings

In terms of the conservation of listed buildings, one of the most disappointing inclusions on George Osborne's 2012 Budget was the removal, starting in October 2012, of the exemption from paying VAT on approved alterations listed buildings currently enjoy, thus removing an incentive to repair and protect historic buildings, and endangering England's built heritage. This has been criticised publicly by a number of heritage organisations, including [The Heritage Alliance](#), [English Heritage](#), and the [Historic Towns Forum](#) amongst others. The IfA's own response to this can be found [here](#). The Buildings Archaeology Group would encourage its members to visit the Heritage Alliance's [campaign page](#) and get involved from there in trying to have this decision reversed.

# policy and standards

## Added Value in Commercial Practice

*This is the second in a series of articles that considers business management and professionalism for those working within the historic built environment sector.*

### External Comparisons

Within the UK's construction professions there have been several reviews in recent years that have looked at improving standards of service and work delivery across the industry with the aim of increasing overall efficiency. The various institutions and professions across the property and development sector have responded to these initiatives in various ways, resulting in major shifts in working practices and philosophy that have changed the character of how they work and think. No matter how significant these changes have been, they have generally passed archaeology by and so it continues to languish on the margins of the industry that employs it.

Amongst other construction industry professionals the archaeologist, whether acting as consultant or contractor, is largely seen as a 'one trick pony' as it is seldom perceived that we bring any additional value to the process. Additional value usually comes from a full understanding of what the project involves and what the client is trying to achieve, and that requires the archaeologist to think beyond the scope of what our work normally involves. Our expertise, properly applied, has the potential to provide an extra dimension to a project that even the client could not have foreseen.

### What Archaeologists can Deliver

Such added value can include making fuller use of drawn surveys, simplifying designs and easing the construction process by helping to 'design out' archaeology and similar intervention, providing well-directed advertising and public relations material, and many other ancillary products and services. To be aware of the extra benefits we can provide requires a greater understanding of how the property and development sector works, but, more importantly, how it thinks. As professional archaeologists we need to expand our thinking beyond the normal range of our work.

Probably the most important aspect is to be able to make suggestions that are viable both in terms of preserving our historic fabric whilst still assisting with the objectives that our clients are trying to achieve. Building archaeologists should be prepared, as required by the IFA'S code of conduct, to act proactively to advise and assist other professionals and developers when they encounter proposals that are damaging to the built heritage. To do so they need not only to be confident in their abilities, but be able to demonstrate that in a professional manner.

### Skilling Up and Moving On

To fully realise the services and products that archaeologists, and more specifically those working with the built environment, can provide requires additional and somewhat parallel skills to be developed. These skills need to start with an in depth understanding of historic building construction, technology and the materials that have been employed over the last two thousand years. They are then enhanced with an understanding of modern building usage, planning and building regulation matters and development economics. Without these, an archaeologist who is working with other construction professionals is at a



distinct disadvantage and is considered to be out of touch with commercial reality.

Marketing skills will be important both to the individual and organisations in the new professional arenas in which we find ourselves to promote our skills and achieve the right level of credibility. For many archaeologists, this new method of working will take them outside their comfort zones, but at the same time it will open up a wider range of potential employers. It will introduce them to organisations outside of the established archaeological sector that are encroaching on our work. It is potentially a case of, if you cannot beat them, join them.

BAG realises that there is a potential demand for training to be provided that is more specifically directed towards our own sector. If members of BAG or IFA in general are able to identify what professional and business skills are lacking and where targeted training should be developed, we will be glad to hear from you. To contact please send your comments to the BAG address at the IFA.

[Bob Hill—Historic Building Advisory Service](#)

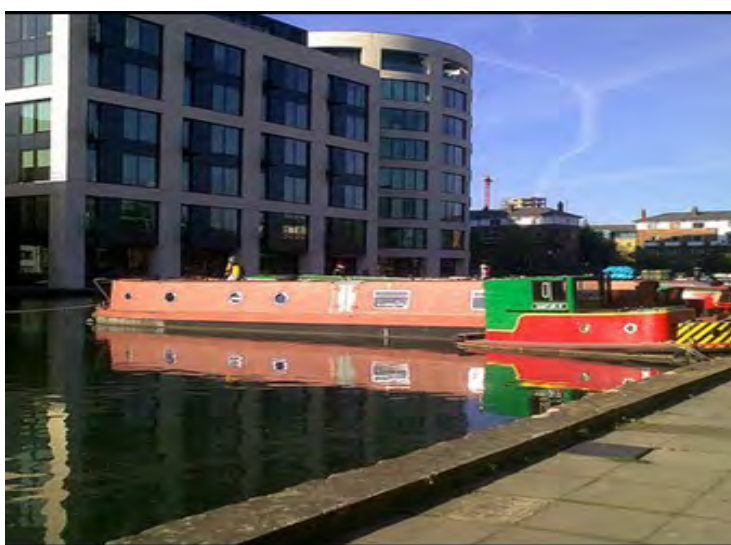
# features

For this edition of the newsletter we have three excellent contributions which are related to Industrial Heritage. First, in an adapted version of a blog post, **Tehmina Goskar** examines the changing ways Education dealing with Industrial Heritage is provided, and whether the subject is under threat. **Kerry Massheder** of Liverpool University introduces her PhD research into industrial workers' housing, illustrating that our industrial heritage encompasses much more than just the archetypal 'industrial buildings' we are familiar with, and that there are always new avenues for research to follow. Last but not least, the AIA's Endangered Sites Officer **Amber Patrick** looks at the fate of the impressive Beeston Maltings. Thank you all very much for your time and effort.

*Edward James.*

## Industrial Heritage Education at Risk?

In this article I outline some of my ideas for better education in industrial history, archaeology and heritage. There are currently no dedicated Masters-level programmes in industrial heritage/history/archaeology in the UK and I believe it is important to find out why (with no agenda either way as to whether or not they ought to exist as specialist programmes). In the first section I discuss English Heritage's major study on Industrial Heritage at Risk as it has important implications for education. In the second I share my findings after a brief and informal survey of industrial heritage courses taught at postgraduate level, and discuss how the two could come together to improve levels of the knowledge and understanding of heritage practitioners, scholars and public.



London Canal Boat Museum. Credit: Tehmina Goskar

My conclusions are given at the end and are at present ideas and thoughts based on my observations and experience. I hope to develop some of these based on more rigorous research. If you would like to contribute ideas of your own please get in touch via my website: <http://tehmينا.goskar.com/>

## Industrial Heritage at Risk

[Industrial Heritage at Risk](#) was a major project undertaken by [English Heritage](#) in 2011 to quantify and assess the condition of England's industrial heritage, particularly in the light of the considerable development seen at brownfield sites over the last two decades.

It is apparent that the overwhelming majority of the English public surveyed think that it is just as important to preserve our industrial heritage as other types of heritage such as castles and country houses (80%).

(From [survey](#) of 2000 respondents conducted by English Heritage as part of the Industrial Heritage at Risk project.)

Some of the findings that stood out for me are:

- 4% of listed buildings and 4% of scheduled monuments are industrial in origin.
- The average estimated conservation deficit (cost of repair in excess of the end value) of industrial buildings at risk is twice that of non-industrial buildings at risk.
- Approximately 40% of industrial buildings at risk are capable of beneficial use, compared to 44% of non-industrial buildings at risk.
- Only 40% of listed industrial buildings at risk could be put to sustainable and economic new uses. The remainder are reliant on voluntary effort, public funding and philanthropy to survive.
- Lead, tin, copper and coal mines are the industrial sites most at risk on Register.
- 52% would like more opportunity to give their opinion about which industrial sites they think should be protected, while 44% are interested in getting involved with helping to protect the industrial heritage in their local area.
- Younger people are less interested in industrial heritage than those aged 55 and over.

The criteria for assessing risk are outlined in the [Heritage at Risk Methodology Statement](#) (opens a PDF) that is applied to all types of heritage, not just industrial.

English Heritage has pledged to undertake a number of [measures](#) to help ensure the future viability of industrial heritage sites and areas. The measures mainly concern offering advice, encouraging local groups to take on industrial sites and providing handbooks and guides. English Heritage obviously does not have the resources to be more hands-on with its assistance and it is right that organisations and groups in the localities in which industrial sites are based should take some responsibility for them if they are the same people who are worried about their future survival.

## English or British industrial heritage?

English Heritage is only mandated to oversee historic sites within the political unit of England and as such the Industrial Heritage at Risk report does not make connections with sites elsewhere. This is a point of frustration because so much of English industrial heritage is intimately linked with that of Wales and Scotland, notably in coal and metals, and textiles. Comparable research data does not exist (at least publicly) for EH's sister bodies in Wales (Cadw and RCAHMW—but see [Cadw Buildings at Risk document](#)), Scotland (Historic Scotland—but see [Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland](#)) and Northern Ireland (Northern Ireland Environment Agency).

## Industrial heritage without borders

The history of industrialisation in Britain is a story without borders. Businesses, entrepreneurs and scientists paid scant notice to national or regional identity within the UK when making profits and pioneering new technologies. The rapid success of British businesses engaged in mass industry relied on fast networks that first globalised these isles and then rapidly globalised much of the planet by its domination of maritime trade and nascent empire building. This is much more evident in the thousands of [business archives](#) held in public, private and corporate collections than in the vestiges of industrial heritage sites.

[My current project](#) reconstructing historical information about the supply chain of the copper industry from business archive collections and museum collections aims to better integrate the information we have from documentation with that of archaeological and built remains. It is a material-driven approach that intends to provide a context for the quantifiable inputs and outputs that is the traditional fare of economic and industrial historians. Teaching industrial history using this approach may well attract a wider range of students who are increasingly interested in the cultural impact of economic change, both locally and globally.

## Industry and regional identity

Industries were undeniably regionally specific due to their locations near raw materials, their role as hubs in national and international transport systems, and the development of specialist factory workforces that percolated down the generations, often defining entire places, whether hard rock mining in Cornwall or cotton manufacture in Lancashire. Copperopolis (Swansea), Tinopolis (Llanelli), Jutopolis (Dundee), Cottonopolis (Manchester), and so on, are epithets that are testament to the huge impact of regionally-specific industry on perceptions of place. The capacity for industry to bestow regional distinctiveness on a locality has strongly influenced the way in which many sites and areas have been interpreted, much more so than the global story and interconnectivity of which they were once part.

## What about education?

The Industrial Heritage at Risk project has identified the need for better educational resources and to this end has provided a set of [teacher's kits](#) to help teach school children about industrial sites in their area. The topic range is broad and I am particularly glad that the creators of these packs urge teachers to address issues of [why we preserve industrial heritage sites and their value to society](#). We don't know how much having debate like this will affect the views of children when they become adults but I am pleased that attempts are being made to introduce industrial heritage to the younger generation. Of all the fields of history and heritage, the interest in industry has been the preserve of (mainly male) enthusiasts, economic historians and historians of science and technology. The average age profile of these groups is currently much higher than other sectors such as art and social history. But I digress.

Having set some of the scene of industrial heritage in the UK today I want to continue by exploring how industrial history and heritage is taught. While the English Heritage Teacher's Kits go a long way to providing high quality resources for schools I am naturally led to question the level of knowledge and understanding of teachers, trainers and lecturers themselves, and where you might go as a prospective learner to 'up-skill' in the area of industrial heritage. There are four main areas I would like to investigate:

- Key Stage 5 (A-level / Baccalaureate etc)
- Tertiary / Higher Education (Diplomas, First Degrees, Vocational)
- Postgraduate Taught courses (Master's Degree)
- Adult Learning / Continuing Professional Development / Lifelong Learning courses

## Postgraduate education in industrial heritage/history/archaeology

It is at postgraduate level that many students have the opportunity to pursue the advanced study of a subject and it is at this level that my exploration of the current state of industrial heritage education begins. This follows an email enquiry to a number of mailing lists, followed up by correspondence, about where



people have taken industrial heritage courses and what forms they have taken.

I was keen to find out why there are currently no dedicated taught Masters courses in industrial heritage/history/archaeology in UK universities. My underlying motive is to find out how collaborative resources created through research, particularly those from heritage-led knowledge exchange initiatives (e.g. the ESRC funded Global and Local Worlds of [Welsh Copper project](#)) could be developed into modules, courses and entire programmes whether taught through distance learning, traditional lecture and class sessions, work-based training and blended learning (combining any of these).

My enquiry received over 35 responses via email and a few via Twitter. Responses came from those teaching industrial heritage/history/archaeology, or who had taught it in the past, and from those who had taken courses. A small number of responses came from the USA and I have included these for comparative purposes, although my main interest is in what is happening here in the UK.

## Where courses are/have been taught and taken

I am including responses from those who have taken courses in the past that are now defunct (marked ceased). This list is response-driven and is not an exhaustive search for industrial heritage modules within other programmes.

- MA Historical Archaeology, Sheffield, 1997, taught by David Crossley. Included industrial heritage, **ceased**.
- MA Heritage Management, Ironbridge Institute (University of Birmingham), 1989-current (distance learning option since 2004).
- MA Historic Environment Conservation, Ironbridge Institute, 2005-present.
- MS and PhD, Industrial Heritage and Archaeology, Michigan Tech University, Prof. Patrick Martin.
- MA Archaeology, University of Nevada, Reno, led by Dr Don Hardesty, American mining archaeology.
- Department of the History of Science and Technology, John Hopkins University.
- MA Industrial Archaeology, Ironbridge Institute, 1985-6, taught by Barrie Trinder and late Michael Stratton, ceased 2007/8 (est. 1981), relaunched by Roger White 2001, last modules taught 2005/7, **ceased**.
- MA Industrial Heritage, Ironbridge Institute, 1994-1999, **ceased**.
- MA Archaeology of Buildings, University of York, one module Industrial Buildings.
- MA Historical Archaeology, University of York taught by John Schofield, John Finch, Kate Giles.
- MA Historical Archaeology, University of Leicester (distance learning option).
- Postgrad Diploma Industrial Archaeology, Wroclaw Polytechnic, Poland, 2001.
- MLitt Lead Mining industry in North Pennines, Newcastle University.
- Undergraduate course in Industrial Archaeology, Newcastle University, 1990s/early 2000s taught by Stafford Linsey, **ceased after retirement**.
- MSc Mining and Industrial Heritage Management, Camborne School of Mines (University of Exeter), taught by Tony Brooks, head of Mining, **ceased after retirement**.
- MSc Heritage Science and Professional Archaeology, Queen's University Belfast.
- Ordinary Degree Industrial Archaeology module for English, History, Geography, Geology and other

subjects, College of Higher Education, Liverpool, validated by Lancaster University, 1980s.

- Industrial Archaeology topics taught at Bristol University.

### Motivations

Why did people choose to take a course or programme in industrial heritage/history/archaeology?

- Course near to where student lived.
- Had already done first degree at the same institution.
- Ability to do degree part time while working in cognate profession (commercial archaeology)
- To aid their career prospects or prior to undertaking further research, i.e. a PhD.
- Personal interest in subject
- To formalise existing independent private research.

### Positive points

What do people like about learning and teaching industrial heritage?

- Inclusion of work placement.
- Practical surveying techniques.
- Learnt applied skills for use in architecture.
- Course based on an industrial site.
- Using industrial site visits and projects to teach broader issues of sustainability, conservation practice.
- Skills-based learning including desk-based and field work, photography, surveying, documentary study.
- Wealth of material on British industry 1650-1939 materials and practices.
- Interpretation of sites and monuments including conservation of buildings and artefacts.

### Negative points.

What people did not like about learning and teaching industrial heritage?

- Topics out of date.
- No introduction of new ideas.
- Disinterested lecturers/End of course malaise.
- Dwindling student numbers making it financially unviable.
- Too much emphasis on museums.
- Can be conservative.
- Courses are expensive to run.
- Career opportunities limited in UK.
- Cost cutting and need to take on more students lowering standards.
- Recruitment low because career prospects poor/cannot see benefits.

- Industrial sites need to engage with community's history as much as technology.
- Local politics.

### Other issues arising

- Vocational courses like Heritage Management recruit better, into 20s and 30s FTE. Teach industrial heritage as part of that.
- Disciplinary differences in the US: industrial history thought in History of Science and Tech programmes or Science, Technology and Society (STS) programmes.
- Heritage is considered 'public history' in US.
- History of science has emphasis on written record rather than material culture—industrial archaeology offers this pathway (but not a major field in US).
- Many courses heavily reliant on subject specialism of tutor/lecturer, when they retire or leave course does not continue.
- There remains a disparity between what is required by archaeological profession and what is taught in universities.
- Growth of historical and contemporary archaeology as a field of study on a par with prehistory.

### Conclusions of the survey: Is industrial heritage education at risk?

The main conclusions reached by this survey of opinion are:

After the heyday of dedicated industrial heritage/archaeology programmes in the 1980s and 1990s, particularly those offered by the Ironbridge Institute and the University of Leicester, the subject is now taught mainly through historical archaeology and heritage management modules and programmes. The courses that are available are often more heavily dependent on resident research expertise present in a university department or institution than is the case in other subject areas, and replacement expertise is not necessarily sought once a person leaves or retires.

Postgraduate courses have also had to adapt to the changing professional needs of prospective students, often focusing on developing broader based skills in archaeology, heritage and the historic environment. There is also a skills gap between what is taught to students, and what is needed by the commercial heritage sector. This is especially true of field archaeologists (see '[Archaeology degrees stuck in the \(far distant\) past](#)' by Matthew Reisz, 6 Oct 2011, Times Higher Education, including response by [Prof. Marilyn Palmer](#)).

Finally, there is also a divide between those who learn industrial heritage through history of science and technology programmes (documentary based study) and archaeology programmes (site and landscape based study).

### My conclusions

Industrial heritage/history/archaeology is still a minority subject in spite of a clear public interest in the subject indicated by English Heritage's Industrial Heritage at Risk research and a general increase in participation in humanities programmes. There is also a lack of research interest in industrial heritage/history/archaeology within universities as a direct result of its absence in many postgraduate curricula. Linked to this is a lack of

intellectual engagement with the subject area contributing to a near absence of theory and ideology applied. The decline in interest in industrial heritage as a subject of study or research also seems to parallel the decline in economic history.

The growth in knowledge exchange/knowledge transfer/community participation projects is, however, generating unprecedented amounts of high-quality research material in the public domain that can be repurposed to provide teaching and learning materials beyond the life of the project. The increasing number of high-profile industrial heritage sites provides ready opportunity for academic collaboration, not just for public engagement but for course development.

Future development of new industrial heritage courses needs to embrace documentary and archaeological aspects, particularly business archives and site-specific or desk-based field study. The subject also has the potential to fulfil several employability needs for students including research, analytical and scientific techniques. There is huge potential for studying industrial heritage/history/archaeology as part of global history as several industrial case-studies are international by their very nature (e.g. global copper industry), and there is also similar potential for studying industrial heritage/history/archaeology with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects.

If you have any comments, please get in touch via Twitter on @tehm or via my website <http://tehmina.goskar.com/>.

*Tehmina Goskar - Heritage Consultant*

#### Comments received:

*"Thanks for all the work you have done. As you know from my piece in the EH Conservation Bulletin No 67 about new blood in industrial archaeology, and from my interview with Matthew Reisz in the THES in November 2011 you referred to, I remain concerned about the increasing dichotomy between what is taught in universities, especially in archaeology departments, and the needs of the archaeology profession in the 21st century. I agree with all the points you have made in your list of conclusions and wish there was more global cooperation in matters such as technology transfer and the impact of international trade on both industrial artefacts and structures. This would be a good topic for TICCIH to pursue rather than concentrating on the industrial heritage of individual countries. I think that industrial archaeology does now have more of a theoretical base but has been slow to make use of such a structure, as I argued in 'Constructing a Framework of Inference' in Casella and Symonds (ed) 'Industrial Archaeology :Future Directions (2005). In the UK, it is indeed a pity that the English Heritage Industrial Heritage at Risk Initiative could not have been linked to similar strategies in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, given the interlinking of their economies in the past. We tried to overcome this in our recent CBA Practical Handbook on Industrial Archaeology ( Palmer, Nevell and Sissons 2012) but even here the focus had to be British, given the funding stream for the book. Global comparisons are certainly needed."*

Professor Marilyn Palmer



# There's no place like home: Researching the working-class industrial housing experience—Kerry Massheder

I am currently studying a PhD in Archaeology at the University of Liverpool Department of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology, conducting research into the 'housing experience' of the working-class during the 'Industrial Period' in the North of England.

My interest in Industrial Period domestic dwellings was set in motion when I worked for HAPCA, a [joint venture](#) comprising Headland Archaeology and Pre-Construct Archaeology, on the Govan Ironworks site in Glasgow, also referred to as 'Dixon's Blazes', in 2007-2008. The Govan Ironworks site comprised both a 'Foundry' and workers housing known as the 'Lower English Buildings'. A public archaeology programme ran alongside the excavations and encouraged the current and historic community to be involved in the archaeology of the site. The theory of using oral history testimonies to further investigate the archaeology of domestic properties and the housing experience of inhabitants intrigued me and led to my current research.

My research is investigating the various types of domestic properties available to the working-class during the Industrial Period to establish ways that domestic dwellings can be studied to reveal the 'housing experience' of inhabitants. I am making use of excavation reports, building surveys and oral history testimonies to determine if the combined investigative approach of archaeology and oral history can aid our understanding of the industrial housing experience.

I expect to carry out research into company built housing and 'model villages', private and rented accommodation, houses provided by housing associations and buildings occupied as domestic dwellings. This will enable me to investigate features that potentially survive in both the archaeological record and in 'memories' in order to determine conclusions about the housing experience of inhabitants. Domestic features to be considered include the building materials of the property, the existence, type and condition of plumbing and drainage, heating and cooking facilities, the number and size of rooms, the number of inhabitants per house, the presence of yards and the access to community provisions. I aim to identify whether domestic properties varied depending on the area they were constructed in, who constructed or owned the building and who lived in the building, for example if the grade or trade of the



Kerry Massheder on site at Govan Ironworks (2008) Photo taken by Rupert Lotherington courtesy of HAPCA: Headland Archaeology/Pre-Construct Archaeology.

inhabitant had any impact. My research objectives include identifying whether the date of construction had any influence on the housing experience and I will consider the development of working-class domestic properties architecturally. To achieve a greater understanding of the housing experience I aim to establish how long a property needed to stand for, or what characteristics it needed to develop or display to be considered a 'slum'. I will attempt to develop a series of terms to refer to various housing types based on the specific characteristics that are present in each type of property so to avoid negative assumptions with words such as 'slum' or 'back-to-back'.

Another research aim is to investigate how oral history can be utilised to make an informative contribution to the construction of a place history by focussing on the industrial housing experience as a theme. I am keen to investigate how the memories of a community, both modern and contemporary, compare with the physical evidence from excavation or built heritage, and to what extent oral history testimonies are able to enhance our understanding of the housing experience. I hope the research will demonstrate that community involvement in archaeology in the form of oral history testimonies at sites investigating the recent or modern past can prevent valid and useful data from going unrecorded and allow the community to both collaborate and contribute to the research agenda of British archaeology.

I am aware that in order for the combined investigative approach of archaeology and oral history to be applied with any purpose or value, guidelines and best practice policies should continue to be discussed by commercial and research archaeologists and community heritage groups. I encourage formal and informal conversations regarding public archaeology and community involvement in archaeology to take place as often as possible. I hope my research can contribute to ongoing discussions regarding how archaeology can provide opportunities for the community to investigate and take ownership of their neighbourhood.

The Industrial Heritage at Risk project, launched by English Heritage in 2011, suggests that the public support the study and protection of our built industrial heritage and are willing to engage in action to protect industrial buildings at risk. I hope my research will generate an increased interest in industrial buildings of a domestic nature which frequently go unrecorded in favour of buildings of industrial processes. It is important to record domestic properties from any period prior to their decay or destruction in order to contribute to our understanding of the housing experience. I look forward to the review of workers housing by English Heritage under the National Heritage Protection Plan 4B2 'Traditional Industry, Modern Industry, Mining and Associated Housing'.

I welcome any comments regarding my research on Twitter @livuniMassheder or by e-mail K.Massheder@liv.ac.uk

Kerry Massheder

PIFA 5695

# Industrial Heritage at Risk: the case of Beeston

## Maltings

The old PPG15 stated as part of its policy (at 3.10) that “The best use will often be the use for which the building was designed, and the continuation or reinstatement of that use should certainly be the first option when the future of a building is considered.” This was qualified elsewhere and was not carried over to PPS5 nor to the NPPF. Where industrial buildings and sites are concerned it is now rarely a practicable solution to continued survival.



The south and east elevations of Beeston Maltings, taken in 2000 just before closure. Credit: Amber Patrick.

Beeston Maltings, Dovecote Lane, Beeston, Nottingham ceased to produce malt in December 2000. The maltings is on the northern side of and parallel with the railway line between Derby and Nottingham and immediately to the west of Beeston station. Therefore it is aligned east - west.

It was built in 1878 for the Beeston Brewery. The building was a maltings with a slightly later integral brewery at its western end. The maltings part, at the eastern end, was unusual because it was a pneumatic maltings and was the first one in England. It was not however mechanical - the germinating grain still had to be moved by hand. There were later extensions, notably according to the plans in 1898 when the buildings were still noted as “pneumatic maltings”. Quite when malting ceased is not known but it would certainly have done so at World War 1. The Beeston Brewery was bought by Shipstone’s Brewery in 1922 and in the mid 1920s the whole building, brewery and maltings, was converted to a traditional floor maltings, becoming Shipstone’s No 4 Maltings. It remained as such until 1990. In 1991 it was taken over by Moray First who in turn became part of Bairds Malt. They operated it until closure in 2000.



Beeston Maltings, entrance and north elevations. Source: Wikimedia Commons

Externally, by 2000, the building was not immediately recognisable as a maltings as it lacked the typical pyramidal kiln roof structure and the windows, although not in every bay, are large and less typical of a maltings. In fact the building is more typical, apart from the relatively few windows, of a textile mill. Internally, there are the typical cast iron columns but they are not evenly spaced. There are four rows north to south, but the two centre rows are more closely spaced than those on either side to take account of the pneumatic boxes of the original construction. Also, the ceiling height, often low in a maltings, is high. This has often been attributed to the fact that the building was formerly a brewery but is again the result of the building’s pneumatic malting phase.



The bottom germination floor with malt on it, facing north east.  
Credit: Amber Patrick

The building and the whole site has been empty and unused since 2001. The maltings are on the council's Local List and on the Historic Environment Record (HER), however they are not in a conservation area nor are they listed despite two concerted efforts by the Beeston Civic Society. Now they are shortly to be demolished. Technically no notification of demolition was necessary because they are neither listed nor in a conservation area. The only reason the imminent demolition was picked up was the submission of a notification of intention to demolish - a plan on how the demolition is to be carried out.

What this case highlights is the vulnerability of industrial buildings, in particular, although it would apply to any buildings, which are on a local list/HER but are not listed nor in a conservation area. These buildings can be demolished easily because there is no need for permission to demolish. The normal planning process does not provide any opportunity to address the matter. This is despite that fact that the NPPF recognises heritage assets as an irreplaceable resource. Also, not only do we lose the building and a part of the local and maybe national heritage but also the opportunity to record the building or site.

In the case of Beeston there is at least some record (1) and providing funding can be found the owners have agreed to further recording.

Amber Patrick, BA, MPhil, AlFA.

Endangered Sites Officer for the Association for Industrial Archaeology;

Buildings type specialist on malthouses and maltkilns.

Note (1): A history of the maltings appeared in the Journal of the Brewery History Society: Patrick, A. (2010) Beeston maltings, Dovecote Lane, Beeston, Nottinghamshire, *Brewery History, the Journal of the Brewery History Society*, No 136, pages 29 - 63. Unfortunately at this date deposited plans of the maltings (not indexed as such) had not come to light. These plans revealed how the pneumatic plant was installed in the buildings.



## *Book Reviews*

The BAG Committee would like to thank those who responded to the last Newsletter's request for potential book reviewers. If we didn't get back to you, never fear, your response was very gratefully received, and you are now firmly on the list.

The Committee is always keen to hear from people who would be interested in providing reviews of books which would then appear in print. If you are interested please get in touch with us at our email address or the IfA postal address, and we can add you to our database. If you could please provide a bit of background information about yourself and your areas of expertise it would be very useful in selecting the best candidates for material to be reviewed by. We look forward to hearing from you!

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Given the theme of this edition of the newsletter, it seemed only appropriate to seek a review of the CBA's new publication; 'Industrial Archaeology: A Handbook', which was launched in April at Ironbridge. The occasion also marked the retirement of English Heritage's Head of Industrial Archaeology: Keith Falconer.

Arguably perhaps the first\*\* book attempting to provide a really comprehensive overview of British Industrial Archaeology since Neil Cossons' 'The BP Book of Industrial Archaeology' (1975), this is a welcome and enjoyable addition to literature on the subject, and a full review is published below.



Dr Mike Nevell, Mark Sissons, Catrina Appleby (CBA Publications Officer), Keith Falconer, and Professor Marilyn Palmer at the launch of the handbook. (Courtesy: Marilyn Palmer)

\*\*Editor is happy to be corrected on this!

## *INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY: A HANDBOOK*

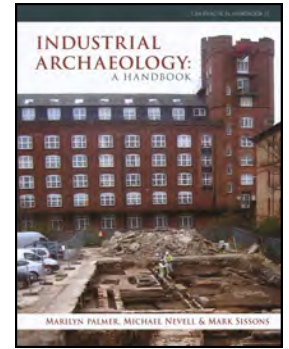
Marilyn Palmer, Michael Nevell & Mark Sissons

CBA Practical Handbook 21

ISBN 978-1-902771-92-2: 326pp

CBA (York) 2012: price £20

(Image courtesy Marilyn Palmer)



The archaeological study of the physical evidence of recent industrial activity has arguably been one of the most important developments in archaeology, at least in Britain, in the second half of the 20th century. As an undergraduate in the 1970s expressing an interest in this field, I remember having met with mild amusement from staff in a department where archaeological studies began with the Palaeolithic and ended at the Norman Conquest. How times have changed!

As with previous CBA handbooks, this publication sets out to provide a background to the study of industrial archaeology, and to provide “an essential handbook for professionals, academics, students and anyone with an interest” in the subject. Simon Thurley’s foreword emphasises the key role played by the CBA in promoting the study of our industrial heritage, a theme taken up in greater detail in the first chapter, which provides an overview of the development of industrial archaeology, its scope, methodologies, related legislation, and a section on the adaptive re-use of industrial structures, with case studies, and on industrial landscapes and conservation. A list of useful web addresses is provided, and a comprehensive bibliography appears at the end of the chapter.

Subsequent chapters of the handbook provide a convenient framework to present the vast range of study areas covered by industrial archaeology, dividing them into eight major headings. Each chapter follows broadly the same format, with a general introduction followed by a section on each industry or group of industries falling within the chapter. Headings within each section cover the historical development, key elements and plan forms for each industry, with notes on key sites and suggestions for further reading. Each chapter is illustrated with a range of good-quality photographs and line drawings, with detailed captions. The final chapter examines the future for the study and practise of industrial archaeology, and for the industrial heritage.

Inevitably, in a book attempting to cover such a broad subject there are a few omissions and errors. Cress beds, with their related water management and processing structures, once a common feature of the agricultural landscape of the Chilterns, are not mentioned. Narrow-gauge railways, mentioned only in the context of stone quarrying, were also constructed for agricultural, industrial or military use in a wide range of locations. The earliest post mills were constructed on trestles, though these were initially set into the ground, often leaving a characteristic mound with a cross-shaped trench at its centre. Other readers with different interests and experience might have similar issues. These, however, are minor points: for the reviewer, the one major omission is that of paper making, first recorded in England in 1495 and subsequently established in several areas of the country, perhaps most notably in north Kent and south-west Hertfordshire.

Despite these issues, all of which could be easily addressed, this publication provides a comprehensive overview of the background, methodologies and areas of study that fall within the general description of ‘industrial archaeology’. Moreover, unlike a seemingly increasing number of archaeological publications nowadays, it is readable, and should be of interest to anyone with an interest in the subject.

Bob Zeepvat—[Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd](#)

# Events

- 14 July 2012—[Archaeology in Hertfordshire: Recent Research](#). Welwyn Archaeological Society
- 14 July 2012—[Archaeology as a Career: The Way Forward](#). Mansion House, York
- 14-19 July 2012— CBA [Festival of British Archaeology](#)
- 10 August 2012—AIA Seminar: [Archaeological Work on 20th Century Sites](#), Writtle Agricultural College, Chelmsford
- 10-16 August 2012—[AIA Essex Conference](#), Writtle Agricultural College, Chelmsford
- 18-19 August 2012—Festival of Steam, Weald & Downland Open Air Museum
- 7-9 September 2012—[SPMA Conference: Routine and Ritual in the Post-Medieval Home](#). York
- 14-16 September 2012—[Buxton CBA Weekend Event](#)
- 22-23 September 2012—‘Raising the Frame’ of Tindall’s Cottage and 10th Anniversary Weekend at Weald and Downland Museum
- 6 October 2012—[Historical Metallurgy Society Annual Conference ‘Not so much Gold, Silver & Bronze—more Copper, Zinc and Brass’](#). SS Great Britain, Bristol.

# Correspondence

Please feel free to write to us concerning any issues or ideas regarding the archaeology of buildings, the conservation of the built environment or any other relevant matter. Our postal and email addresses are:

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## *The next issue—Autumn 2012*

The next issue of the BAG Newsletter will be the Autumn 2012 issue. This issue will have Military Buildings and Heritage as a theme for its contents, to coincide serendipitously perhaps with the ‘Modern Conflict Archaeology: Postgraduate Conference’ in Bristol on 20 October 2012. If you would like to contribute a feature, some news, or a relevant book review, you would be very welcome, so please send them to the IfA at the address above. The deadline for submissions will be 7 October 2012.