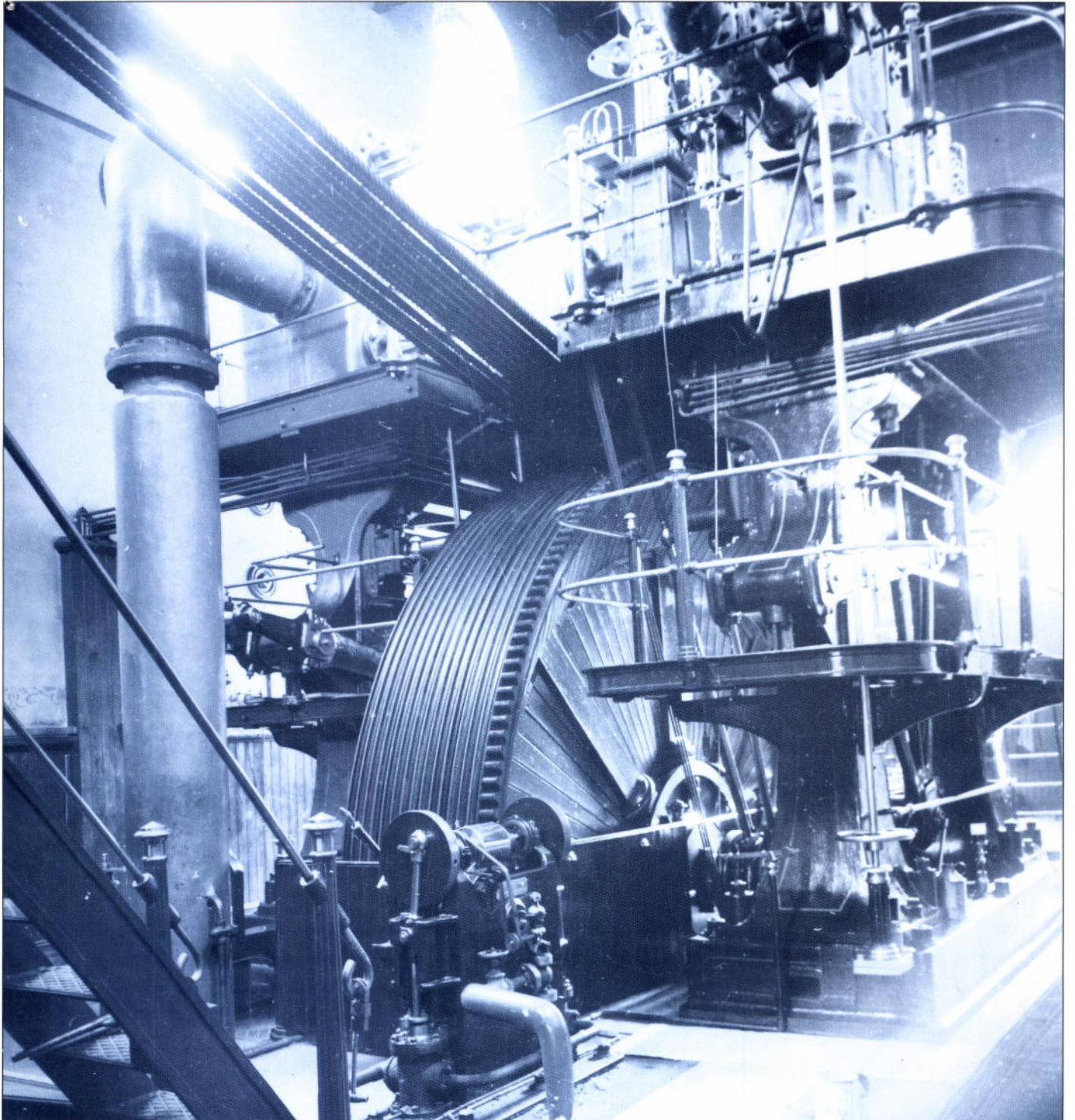


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e-mail: AIA@le.ac.uk

Website:

www.industrial-archaeology.org.uk

Protecting industrial sites – an Interim Report on the MPP

After a review of its background and procedures, this paper gives an Interim Report on progress with the Review of Industrial Sites under English Heritage's Monuments Protection Programme (MPP). The author is Manager Industrial MPP, for English Heritage.

David Stocker

Sites which preserve the remains of past industries have formed an important sub-category within the work of the MPP since it was established in 1986. Even so the archaeological remains of industry posed a number of intractable problems for the infant survey. Most difficult of all was the lack of any co-ordinated databases for the subject; on the whole Sites & Monuments Records (SMRs) did not contain much information on industrial archaeology, the AIA's IRIS programme had not yet begun, and the National Monuments Record (NMR) holdings were mostly restricted to pre nineteenth-century archaeology, and only structures which were already protected and lay under threat of drastic alteration or demolition were recorded by the (former) RCHME's building recording teams.

Fortunately things have improved in the last 10 to 15 years. Most SMRs do now collect information on sites of industrial significance as a matter of course. The IRIS programme has generated an important strategic index to data sources, and (prior to their merger with English Heritage) RCHME mounted an important series of thematic recording projects on industrial topics, such as textile mills in the North, the Midlands and South-West, the coal mining industry, workshops in Birmingham, Sheffield and the East

Midlands and the Furness iron industry. MPP, also, has been a part of this trend towards improvements in the way in which industrial sites and buildings in England are managed; indeed, in the case of SMRs, it has provided much of the core data for those industries which it has reviewed.

Because of the lack of data in some areas when we started, and because of the fractured and poorly co-ordinated nature of industrial archaeology as a topic, the MPP review was starting from a much lower base-line than was the case in most other areas of archaeology. We decided early on that, for each industry, we would need to go through a systematic procedure designed to lead, not only towards the identification of an appropriate management regime for each of the most important sites within each industry, but also one which would establish a basic record of each reviewed site within the appropriate SMR and within the NMR. We decided that it was best if the process were broken up into a number of 'Steps' for each industry; partly to make the work manageable, but also to allow for episodes of consultation with experts and institutions in the field. In some ways it has been these consultation exercises which have proved most valuable, as it has introduced a wide range of scholars and enthusiasts, who had been so active in the academic investigation of each topic, to the difficult infant subject of 'heritage management'.

The 'Step' procedure itself has been a taskmaster no less fearsome than some factory overseers, but it has served to keep us on track with our own work and it has allowed our progress through the various categories of



The Press House, Royal Gunpowder Factory, Waltham Abbey, Essex. Waltham Abbey was a model example of how detailed recording can inform co-ordinated statutory protection. The 71 hectare site contained over 300 structures and features and more than two thirds of it was designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument with 21 listed buildings. The gunpowder press house, which retains its waterwheel, hydraulic pumps and press, was built in the mid-1850s and is the sole standing example of its type in England.

Photo: © Crown copyright NMR

COVER PICTURE

Quadruple expansion steam engine made by John Musgrave & Sons of Bolton in 1892 for Spring Bank Mill, Nelson, Lancashire. Spring Bank ran for 70 years until electric drives were installed in 1962. One of hundreds of engines captured by the late George Watkins (see page 8).

Photo: © Crown copyright NMR

English Industry to be measured by paymasters and public alike. This note is a part of that process of measuring progress, and our progress through each group of industries is presented in Table 1. In order to make much sense of the table, however, it might be helpful to lay out what happens at the various 'Steps' in our process, which are designed to lead from the initial identification and characterisation of each industry, or group of industries, through a review of the documentation for its surviving sites, towards a series of recommendations for statutory designations (Listings, Schedulings, Conservation Areas etc) to be taken up by English Heritage, as well as towards the identification of sites where recording is urgently required as part of any actions under the control of the local authority development control process.

Step 1: First we need some agreement about such matters as the definition of the industry, the terminology used for its components, its regional variability and finally we need to know where any important collections of data on the industry might be housed, and whether they are available for inspection. These important documents also lay down a series of policy parameters which we intend to use when assisting the relative

importance of each site or the importance of each component within each site.

Step 2: The Step 1 Reports are of such importance to the industry involved, and to the attitude we propose to take to it, that we undertake a major public consultation (sometimes of up to 300 individuals and institutions known to be involved in the industry) and we revise our work accordingly. Each public consultation exercise is undertaken on English Heritage's behalf by a consultant (usually the same consultant who has produced the Step 1 Report) and the lessons learnt are deposited with the Step 3 Report (see below) in the form of a subsidiary report which becomes an annex to the Step 1 Report itself. The public consultation is often combined with the exercise of drawing up a short list of sites which will be visited. The short list is drawn up using the principles laid out in the Step 1 Report and incorporating the comments made by the consultees (who often respond with lists of sites which they believe match the criteria we have laid down). Sometimes this process of drawing up a short list of sites to be visited is organised as a separate project from the actual visiting programme, but sometimes it is run together with the visiting.

Step 3: In this phase of work, the sites identified as being of potential importance are usually visited by the consultant, and evaluated against the criteria in the Step 1 Report with the aim of documenting the relative importance of the sites or components in question. This is a very rapid process which results in a tick-box pro-forma report. The resulting Step 3 Report provides a uniform level of basic documentation for all the more important sites and components in the given industry, as well as a statement regarding their status in terms of National Importance. The number of sites reported on range from less than 50 in some small industries to over 500 in larger ones. These reports are, obviously, very large and it is not possible to circulate them very widely. Instead we have developed a system whereby the consultees in any given industry are sent a basic summary of the coverage of the report and they are invited to view the complete report at one of three centres. The NMRC in Swindon, The Library of the Ironbridge Institute (where the AIA copy is deposited) and the offices of the Council for British Archaeology in York. These reports do contain a preliminary recommendation for statutory protection, where that is thought to be appropriate, but this is a recommendation from

TABLE 1. Overall progress of MPP review of industrial categories by industry/group of industries (as at March 2000).

step process: LIST OF INDUSTRIES	STEP 1 (characterisation)	PUBLIC CONSULTATION	STEP 2 (short-listing)	STEP 3 (site assessments)	PUBLIC CONSULTATION	STEP 4 (policy decisions)	STEP 5 & 6 (implementation)
1 COAL	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	UNDERWAY
2 LEAD	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	UNDERWAY
3 ALUM	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	UNDERWAY
4 BRASS	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	UNDERWAY
5 GUNPOWDER	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	UNDERWAY
6 NON-FERROUS (+) pt 1: SW England	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	UNDERWAY
7 NON-FERROUS (+) pt 2 : the rest	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	UNDERWAY
8 GLASS	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	UNDERWAY
9 ELECTRICITY	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	
10 LIME & CEMENT	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	UNDERWAY (including some additional step 3 work)	
11 IRON MINING & PRODUCTION OF IRON/STEEL	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	UNDERWAY		
12 STONE QUARRYING	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	planned for 00/01		
13 WATER SUPPLY	DONE	DONE	DONE	DONE	planned for 00/01	planned for 00/01	
14 CLAY EXTRACTION	DONE	DONE	UNDERWAY				
15 GAS & OIL	DONE	DONE	DONE	UNDERWAY			
16 SALT	DONE	DONE	DONE				
17 UNDERGROUND EXTRACTION FEATURES	DONE						
18 BRIDGES	DONE						
19 CHEMICALS	UNDERWAY						
20 IRON FORGES & FACTORIES	UNDERWAY						
21 ICE HOUSES	DONE	—	DONE	DONE	(combined step 1/3)	DONE	UNDERWAY
22 DOVE FARMING	DONE	—	DONE	DONE	(combined step 1/3)	DONE	UNDERWAY

+ - 'NON-FERROUS' covers metals and minerals including tin, arsenic, copper, zinc, barytes, fluorspar, silver, aluminium, witherite and other minor minerals