



**Annual Conference, Cardiff**  
**Friday 4th to Sunday 7th October 2024**  
**3 days, from £220 *Discount for AIA members***  
**Offer document**

The 2024 Annual Conference will be held at:

The Radisson Blu Hotel, Meridian Gate, Bute Terrace, Cardiff CF10 2FL

Tel: 02920 454777

Website: <https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-blu-cardiff>

The hotel is 0.2 miles about 7 minutes' walk from Cardiff Central Railway Station.

On the **Saturday** there will be sessions by four nationally recognised specialists, with the first three exploring elements of Welsh industrial heritage and the fourth sharing results of a wider survey of 600 publicly accessible industrial sites.

The speakers are: **Steph Mastoris**, former Head of Museums, National Museum Wales; **Dr Peter Wakelin**, former Secretary of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and now a heritage consultant; **Dr David Gwyn**, former editor of Industrial Archaeology Review and lead of the Govannon Consultancy; and **Dr Paul Belford**, CEO of Heritage Innovation.

Their one-hour sessions and the short AGM of the AIA will be streamed live, separated by a 30-minute lunch break, and the afternoon will end with presentations by this year's Award winners ahead of the Conference Dinner and prize giving.

On the **Friday afternoon** and **Sunday morning** there are optional tours.

## **ITINERARY**

### **Friday afternoon 4<sup>th</sup> October**

#### **Optional tours**

Choose either **TOUR A: National Waterfront Museum, Swansea**

Coach departing from the Radisson Blu Hotel in central Cardiff at 13:45, returning 18:15



Opened in 2005 at a cost of £33.5m, the National Waterfront Museum grew out of the much smaller Swansea Industrial & Maritime Museum that was in the old warehouse behind the new building. The museum houses a variety of interactive exhibits, multimedia and historic artefacts that narrate the stories of Welsh coal (steam coal in particular being currently in short supply), tinsplate rolling, Robin Goch's monoplane, and the 'Made in Wales' gallery. Pride of place is a working replica of Richard Trevithick's 4ft 4in gauge Pennydarren locomotive of 1804, which was developed in the Welsh Industrial & Maritime Museum, Cardiff, in the early 1980s.



Our visit coincides with a special exhibition on the RNLI in Wales, celebrating the Lifeboat Institutions' 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Outside, by the Marina, is a canal barge weighing machine and a couple of historic vessels in the water.

This is one of several industrial museums in the National Museums of Wales' portfolio, about which we will hear more on Saturday morning from Steph Mastoris as part of the Conference programme. He was the Waterfront Museum's first director and rose to become Head of Museums for the national group. On our arrival in the maritime quarter of Swansea we will be welcomed by the curator before exploring the site and exhibits.

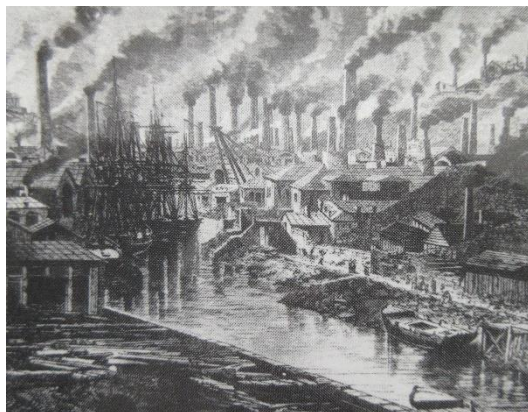
### **Or TOUR B: Industrial tour of the Lower Swansea Valley**

Coach departing from the Radisson Blu Hotel in central Cardiff at 13:45, returning 18:45



Due to the availability of abundant local coal reserves, by the 19<sup>th</sup> century 90% of Britain's copper smelting capacity could be found within a 20 mile radius of Swansea, using copper ore mined in Cornwall. Large amounts of coal were needed, so it was cheaper to bring the copper ore to the coalfield, with the ore carriers regularly returning to Cornwall with much-needed coal for the mine

pumping engines. The impurities in the copper ores resulted in arsenic-rich slagheaps around Swansea and dense clouds laden with sulphuric acid belching from the chimneys, causing significant health risks and polluting the landscape, while making the copper barons rich.



The area reached its heyday by 1870 and Swansea smelted its last copper in 1921. Land reclamation began in the 1960s, since when most of the works and massive slagheaps have been demolished and landscaped. The forest of chimneys is long gone, with just two surviving. Our coach tour takes in three of the sites of the early works, the White Rock Copper Works of 1736, and Hafod Copperworks of 1810 and the Morfa rolling mills of 1828. There are some standing remains, but the bulk of these works were knocked down. White Rock was designated as an Industrial Archaeology Park in the 1980s.

Nearby is the steel girder Landore Viaduct of 1889 that carries the railway across the Tawe valley. About five miles further west are the remains of the Quaker-owned Neath Abbey Ironworks, including two 1793 blast furnaces. Initially very successful, the ironworks closed in 1885, but among the elements to survive are the two blast furnaces, an engine works, the ironmaster' house and vestiges of the water system that powered the blast furnaces.

### **Friday Evening**

19:30 Group Dinner at the Radisson Blu Hotel

### **Saturday 5th October**

09:30 Introduction – Zoe Arthurs, Chair

*'Our Welsh industrial museums'*, Steph Mastoris, former Head of Museums, National Museum Wales

10.30 *'The Making of an Industrial Landscape: Blaenavon World Heritage Site'*, Dr Peter Wakelin, heritage consultant

11:30 Coffee break

12:00 AGM of the Association for Industrial Archaeology

- 12.30 Sandwich buffet lunch
- 13:00 *'Welsh Slate World Heritage Site'*, Dr David Gwyn, Govannon Consultancy
- 14.00 *'Results of the new Industrial Heritage Survey'*, Paul Belford and Zoe Arthurs, Heritage Innovation
- 15.00 Tea break
- 15.30 Presentations by AIA Award winners and members contributions
- 17.30 Session ends
- 18.00 Bar open
- 19:00 Annual Dinner and Award giving

## **Sunday 6th October**

### **Optional tours**

#### **Choose either TOUR C: Big Pit, the National Coal Museum of Wales**

Coach departing from the Radisson Blu Hotel in central Cardiff at 09:30, returning to Cardiff with drop off at the hotel at about 14:30 and then Cardiff Central Station a few minutes later.



The Big Pit mine in Blaenavon had closed in February 1980 but in 1983 it re-opened to visitors as an independent museum, with underground tours led by miners. Built on a hillside, the pit drains naturally via adits at the lower levels, so they are not reliant on pumping to keep the galleries dry. In 2001 it was taken into the family of Welsh national museums and received an injection of £7.2m to conserve the buildings and produce new interpretation, reopening in 2004. At its heart is the underground tour, the best in the UK, a 50-minute experience led by orange overall-clad miners. But there are also exhibitions in the colliery surface buildings including the Pithead Baths and in the Mining Galleries, with a new exhibition this year about the 1984-5 miners' strike. Our underground tour is booked for 11.00 and at 12.30 the museum's Coal Curator, Ceri Richards, will give us a talk about the restoration of the headgear, which had been aided by a £20,000 AIA Restoration Grant in 2019.

A packed lunch will be provided.

***The highlight of our visit will be a 300ft descent by mine cage for an underground tour, but because the ground is uneven stout footwear is essential. Ceiling heights vary, some low enough to require visitors to stoop. The museum provides visitors with the same equipment***

*the miners use – hard hat, miner’s cap lamp and belt battery, as well as ‘self rescuer’ breathing gear – but we also recommend warm clothing.*

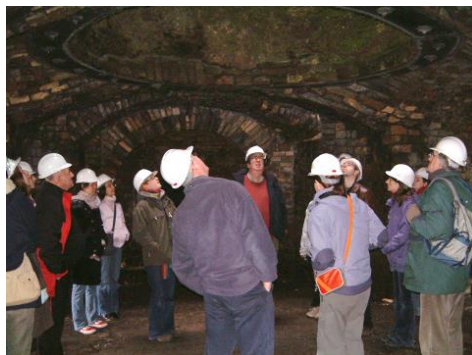
*The surface buildings are linked by steep paths and flights of steps.*

### **Or, TOUR D: Blaenavon Ironworks**

Coach departing from the Radisson Blu Hotel in central Cardiff at 09:30, returning to Cardiff with drop off at the hotel at about 14:30 and then Cardiff Central Station a few minutes later.



This 1789 ironworks relied on the minerals of the nearby Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons, now a National Park) which was rich in coal, limestone and iron ore. The coke-fired furnaces tower over the workers’ housing right in the middle of the works. The terraces line three sides of a square which originally had the main chimney in the centre – hence the name Stack Square – though the chimney has long gone. The furnaces made pig iron using steam to power the blast, and a hundred years later Sidney Gilchrist Thomas pioneered the process here which removed phosphorus from the melt to make high quality steel.



In December 2000 the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape was designated a World Heritage Site, with the Blaenavon Ironworks and Big Pit as two of the components. An iconic corporate identity was

developed for the WHS, an example of which is top left. Dr Peter Wakelin, one of our speakers on Saturday, was instrumental in conserving the blast furnaces and the adjacent workers’ housing in Stack Square under the banner of Cadw, and later he became the Secretary of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

A packed lunch will be provided.

### **COSTS**

The **Conference package** comprising:

- Friday evening 3-course buffet dinner (drinks at own expense)
- Saturday AIA annual conference (as shown above)
- Drinks reception
- Annual dinner, 3 courses with wines

**£220 per person, 10% discount for AIA members**

### The **Friday optional visits:**

- Either Tour A or Tour B (as shown above)  
**£40 per person, 10% discount for AIA members**

### The **Sunday optional visits:**

- Either Tour C or Tour D (as shown above) including packed lunch  
**£55 per person, 10% discount for AIA members**

### **Saturday day rate:**

- Attendance in person on the Saturday 09:30 – 17:30 only  
**£90 for non-members, 10% discount for AIA members**

### **Saturday online-only option:**

- Attendance via Zoom for the Saturday conference (as shown above) 09:30 – 17:30  
**£30 for non-members, £15 for AIA members**

**Note:** ‘AIA members’ includes members of our Affiliated Societies

### **Free places**

Thanks to the Patrick Nott bursary, there will be five free places for the entire event from Friday to Sunday, including the conference package, the study visits, accommodation and up to £100 for travel expenses. Applications by email should be sent to the Conference Secretary at [conference@industrial-archaeology.org](mailto:conference@industrial-archaeology.org) by **4<sup>th</sup> September at the latest**.

### **AGM only**

Members wishing to attend only the AGM, either in person or online, may do so at no charge, contact the Conference Administrator at least 7 days in advance for details: [confadmin@industrial-archaeology.org](mailto:confadmin@industrial-archaeology.org) Only fully paid up AIA members may vote at the AGM.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

*Overnight accommodation is not included in the Conference Package*, but rooms have been reserved at the Conference hotel on a first-come first-served basis at a discounted rate of:

**£125.00 per person per night, bed & breakfast, single**

**£67.50 per person per night, bed & breakfast, sharing**

Contact the hotel directly to make your reservations quoting reference: MB0000492192:

By email: [reservations.cardiff@radissonblu.com](mailto:reservations.cardiff@radissonblu.com)

By phone: 02920 454777

Make clear at the time of reservation that you are a delegate at the AIA Annual Conference to get the Conference rate.

### **BOOKING**

If you have access to an internet connected computer and use email please make your booking online via <https://industrial-archaeology.org/Conference>

If you give an email address on your application then confirmation and all subsequent communications with you will be by email. In the event that you are unable to use a computer then please fill in the attached form and post it to us at the address shown.

Bookings for attendance in person and for the tours will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to space availability. Book as soon as possible and by **4<sup>th</sup> September 2024** to ensure a place but please feel free to enquire after that date if a place is still available.

Please reserve your accommodation, if required, at the Conference hotel **by the same date** to be eligible for the discounted Conference Rate.

For online-only attendance booking may be made up to **1<sup>st</sup> October 2024**

Bookings can be made definite only when the booking information and payment are received and accepted in writing/email by the secretary. The AIA's standard terms and conditions apply.

All monies will be held in a customer protection account until the conference is complete so that your money is safe no matter what happens.

### **METHODS OF PAYMENT**

*At the present time (26 June 2024) we are having problems with our payment system. Please make your booking using the online form or on paper as normal. We will send an invoice as soon as possible for the full amount which will include details of how to pay by debit/credit card, electronic transfer or cheque.*

*Details of how to pay will be shown on your invoice.*

Enquiries about Conference should be directed to: [conference@industrial-archaeology.org](mailto:conference@industrial-archaeology.org)



## Annual Conference

### Terms and conditions of booking

1. The AIA undertakes tours on the basis of these terms and conditions, which, read with the booking form and the tour descriptions above, set out the full terms of your agreement with the AIA. No variation can be accepted unless made in writing and signed by the Secretary.
2. Should there be before or during the Conference any significant increases in or extensions to the scope of VAT or other new taxation or increases in coach costs due to increases in the cost of fuel, taxes imposed by the government, or other causes, the organisers reserve the right to increase the fees payable to cover the extra cost.
3. No contract shall exist between the applicant and the AIA until the issue of an acceptance letter/email by the Secretary.
4. An invoice for payment in full will be issued by the Conference Administrator as soon as possible after receipt of your booking form (electronic or on paper).
5. Acceptance of applications after 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024 is at the discretion of the Conference Secretary.
6. No refunds can be made for cancellations received after 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024. For cancellations made in writing prior to that date there will be a sliding scale of refunds based on any charges made by the host establishment. Delegates are strongly recommended to take out holiday cancellation insurance cover. The Secretary may waive or vary these conditions and may make refunds at his discretion provided written notice of cancellation has been received.
7. The published programme is subject to alteration. Should it prove necessary to change or cancel all or part of the conference the liability of the AIA is limited to returning any monies paid for the affected events or visits if any offered alternative is unacceptable.
8. All bookings will be on a first come first served basis.
9. Please note that it is the responsibility of all delegates to satisfy themselves that they are physically capable of undertaking the visits they select and to wear suitable clothing and footwear. The organisers reserve the right to exclude from any event or visit any delegate either who is not considered capable of safely completing any visit, or whose clothing or footwear is judged inadequate or unsuitable for the activities planned.
10. A separate booking form must be completed by each applicant. The completion of the booking form implies assent to these terms and conditions.
11. All monies received in advance of the conference will be held in a separate bank account under the control of an independent trustee who will not release the funds to the AIA until the conference has been successfully concluded.
12. Should there be any complaint against the AIA for failure to provide the conference as described then such complaint must be made to the secretary of the AIA within 14 (fourteen) days of the end of the conference. Any complaint or claim made thereafter may not be covered by the security of payment provisions.
13. These terms together with the booking form, and the itinerary above, comprise the package being offered by the AIA.



## Annual Conference, Cardiff, 4th - 6th October 2024

### Booking Form

To make a booking please read the Conference Offer document and complete the form below and send it to the Conference Administrator at the address shown at the bottom of the page

All delegates must register individually. **This booking does not include accommodation.**

Details of how to book accommodation at the Conference Hotel are given in the Conference Offer document.

Paid-up members of the AIA or its Affiliated Societies at the time of Conference and attending in person receive a 10% discount. Paid-up members attending the Zoom sessions only, receive a 50% discount.

**Conference bookings and reservations at the Hotel should be made by 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024** otherwise there may not be space.

If you only wish to attend via Zoom complete Sections 1, 3 and 5

If you wish to attend only the AGM (remotely or in person) please contact the Conference Administrator.

Items marked with a **red asterisk \*** are mandatory.

#### 1. Personal Details

Forename (not just initials) *:		Surname *:	
Address Line 1 *:			
Address Line 2 :			
Town / City *:		County / State :	
Post / Zip code *:		Country :	
Email address *:			
Phone (Day) :		Phone (Eve) :	
Mobile / Cell :			
Emergency Contact name :		Emergency Phone (Day)	
Emergency Phone (Eve) :			
Any medical condition, or physical or other requirements which might necessitate special arrangements or facilities ? Any dietary requirements ?			

If not already on the AIA emailing list, please add me: { Yes / No }

I would like my email address to be added to the delegate list: { Yes / No }

I am a paid-up AIA member: { Yes / No }

I am a member of an Affiliated Society: { Yes / No } If Yes, which one:

This is my first time at conference: { Yes / No }

*Continue overleaf...*



**I would like to book :**

## 2. Friday afternoon visits:

Read the Offer document before making your choices. Where spaces are limited, visits will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

For Choices, select 1 or 2 for first & second choice, 0 = I don't want to go on that tour at all

Only members choosing to attend In Person may join the visits.

*{ Delete as required }*

Choice	Visit	Non-member price	Member price
{ 0, 1, 2 }	Tour A - National Waterfront Museum Swansea	£40	£36
{ 0, 1, 2 }	Tour B - Lower Swansea Valley	£40	£36

## 3. Conference package:

**I wish to attend:** 'In Person' includes Dinner on Friday, all Saturday talks, AGM and Conference Dinner

'Via Zoom' includes remote attendance at all Saturday talks and AGM

	Package	Non-member price	Member price
{ Yes / No }	Conference Package - In person	£220	£198
{ Yes / No }	Saturday day rate	£90	£81
{ Yes / No }	Saturday online only	£30	£15

## 4. Sunday morning visits:

Choice	Visit	Non-member price	Member price
{ 0, 1, 2 }	Tour C - Big Pit	£55	£49.50
{ 0, 1, 2 }	Tour D - Blaenavon Ironworks	£55	£49.50

<b>Total:</b>		
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## 5. Payment

*At the present time (26 June 2024) please send your booking form to the Conference Administrator:*

AIA Conference Admin  
Hines Farm  
Forward Green  
Stowmarket  
Suffolk  
IP14 5HQ

The administrator will send an invoice as soon as possible.

Methods of payment will be shown on the invoice.

Your Signature:

Date: