

BLAENAVON WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Management Plan 2011-2016



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Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Management Plan 2011 -2016

Including Review Of Period 1999-2010





Blaenavon World Heritage Site Management Plan 2011 - 2016

Foreword

The process of seeking World Heritage Site status and the responsibility of protecting and promoting the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape has been a continuing challenge; however we are delighted with the progress that has been made. Everything the original World Heritage Site Management Plan set out to achieve in October 1999 and indeed much more has been realised and we have seen real change for the better in the fortune of the area. This has been made possible through effective partnership and the hard work of many individuals. This World Heritage Site Management Plan for the period 2011 - 2016 aims to build on what has been achieved and ensure Blaenavon continues to be an exemplar in heritage led regeneration.

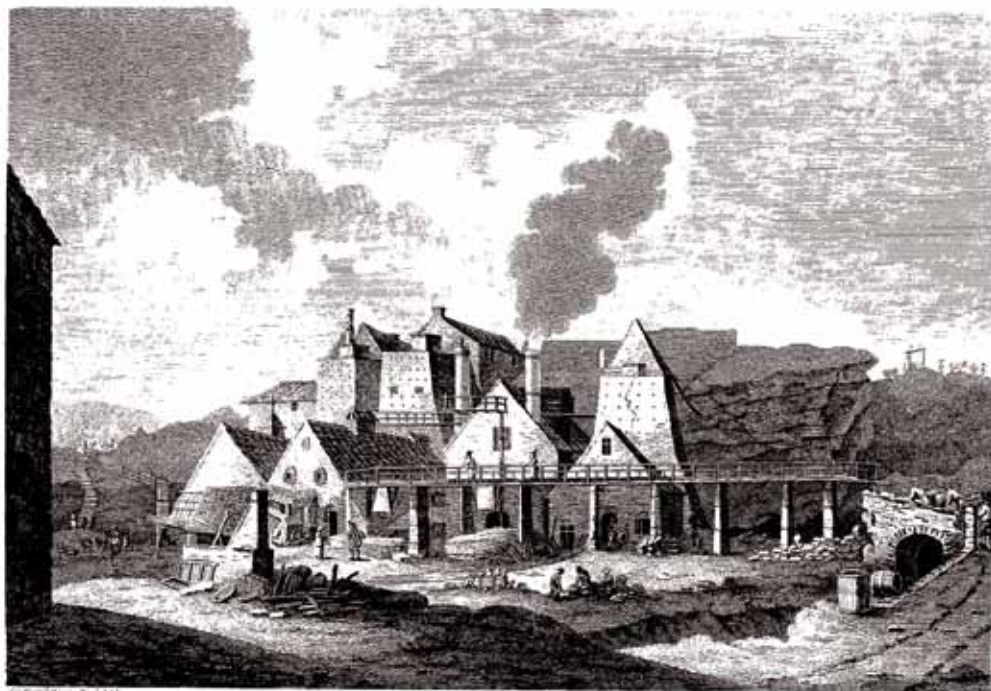


*Councillor Bob Wellington, Leader, Torfaen County Borough Council,
Chairman of Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership*

This Plan has been prepared by Torfaen County Borough Council on behalf of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership.

Vision Statement

“The prime aim of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership is to protect this cultural landscape so that future generations may understand the outstanding contribution South Wales made to the Industrial Revolution. By the presentation and promotion of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape, it is intended to increase cultural tourism, provide educational opportunities and change perceptions of the area to assist economic regeneration.”



IRON WORKS AT BLAENAVON.

Published Monthly & Five by Cadell & Davies, Bristol.

Blaenavon Ironworks August 1798 – the engraving was made from a drawing by Sir Richard Colt Hoare and appeared in William Coxe's 'An Historical Tour of Monmouthshire', (1801)

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Executive Summary

In December 2000 the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape was inscribed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as a World Heritage Site. World Heritage Sites are inscribed on the basis that they are of 'Outstanding Universal Value'.

It was recognised by UNESCO that:

"The area around Blaenavon bears eloquent and exceptional testimony to the pre-eminence of South Wales as the world's major producer of iron and coal in the nineteenth century. It is a remarkably complete example of a nineteenth century landscape".

Extract from ICOMOS report to the World Heritage Committee November 2000

The management of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site is undertaken by the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership comprised of the following organisations:

- Torfaen County Borough Council (Lead Authority)
- Monmouthshire County Council
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
- Blaenavon Town Council
- Cadw
- Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Wales
- Museums Wales
- Countryside Council for Wales
- Department of Economy & Transportation (Wales Government)
- British Waterways

The primary aim of the Partnership, as set out in this plan is:

"The prime aim of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership is to protect this cultural landscape so that future generations may understand the outstanding contribution South Wales made to the Industrial Revolution. By the presentation and promotion of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape, it is intended to increase cultural tourism, provide educational opportunities and change perceptions of the area to assist economic regeneration."

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee states that all World Heritage Sites must have an appropriate management system in place which should specify how the 'Outstanding Universal Value' (OUV), authenticity and integrity of the site should be maintained. To

this end, this Management Plan, for the period 2011-2016, has been prepared by the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership.

This Management Plan seeks to continue to build upon the success that has already been achieved through the implementation of the original Management Plan prepared as part of the nomination process for seeking World Heritage Site status in 1999. There has been notable success in implementing the original Management Plan. The majority of projects and initiatives included within it have been achieved and the project as a whole is widely recognised in the UK as an exemplar in the field of how heritage can drive forward economic regeneration.

The Plan sets out the key values and qualities of the Site and identifies and addresses the key issues that might affect them during the Plan period. An overall vision for the Site is identified together with key management objectives to be met to achieve effective management for the next five years. Specific projects and activities to be explored and delivered by all partners over the Plan period are identified, together with likely phasing and possible sources of funding. A review of the first ten years of World Heritage Site status has also been undertaken which considers success to date and reflects upon lessons learnt.

The Plan has been the subject of extensive partner and public consultation and will be kept under review by the Partnership and its members. The Plan is advisory in nature, aiming to set a strategy framework for management and to help co-ordinate the actions of all involved.

The Plan aims to ensure that the objectives and proposals identified apply the principles of sustainability to all aspects of the inscribed World Heritage Site.

The Plan aims to reinforce the broad vision of the quality, significance, condition and potential of the site and to ensure that this vision is widely accepted and acted upon to enhance the understanding and preservation of the values of the site.

Part 1

Management Responsibilities and Description of the Site



View from west, looking towards Blaenavon
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1. Management Responsibilities and Description of the Site

1.1 The Need for the Plan

A Management Plan is required in order to satisfy the United Kingdom's obligations under UNESCO World Heritage Convention which states that all World Heritage Sites must have an appropriate management system in place which should specify how the 'Outstanding Universal Value' (OUV), authenticity and integrity of the site should be maintained. To this end, this Management Plan, for the period 2011-2016, has been prepared by the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership. The Plan has been widely consulted upon and approved by all partners as the basis for the protection and promotion of the World Heritage Site for the next five years.

The land within the World Heritage Site is subject to a range of pressures from development and tourism, changing agricultural practices, natural decay, vandalism and other factors. If these pressures are not monitored and managed, they may irreversibly damage the archaeological monuments, historic buildings and landscape setting of Blaenavon.

In Blaenavon, there is a particular need for co-ordination between agencies and owners by way of a set of principles and policies to ensure continuity in the long term management of the area. However, the Plan relates to a dynamic, living landscape which contains many legitimate competing interests and values, and it is important that it should preserve and enhance the archaeological and cultural values of the landscape while accepting necessary change for those who have interest in or live within the area.

1.2 The Scope and Status of the Plan

The Management Plan offers an overall framework of objectives, but is not a statutory document. However it is intended that the main principles of the Management Plan can be encapsulated in relevant formal plans. It introduces no new powers, nor does it diminish the responsibility of any agency or individual. In advising and informing, the Plan will act as a catalyst for various management initiatives to be implemented. The Plan will continue to be enhanced, and will inform and respond to other policies and management proposals relating to the area.

1.3 Methodology and Data Sources

The Plan aims to continue and consolidate work carried out over a number of years by several different bodies, and drawn together within the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership since 1997. Since the original Management Plan was prepared, more than sixty separate studies have been carried out relating to research, protection, conservation, promotion and regeneration of the area. Consultations with public and private bodies and with the general public have taken place extensively over the last ten years and the Plan has been kept under regular review by the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership.

The Blaenavon Heritage and Regeneration Study commissioned by the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership in 1998 informed the basic strategy for the protection and promoting of the World Heritage Site and for heritage led regeneration. The strategy set out in that document (Appendix 1, Table 1) remains a sound basis of future planning and management. The purpose of the study was 'to provide an integrated strategic vision, action and management plan, based on the heritage potential for stimulating economic regeneration in the area'. It covered issues such as the socio economic profile of the area, its heritage value, the planning context, the tourism and property markets, and landscape quality, and it includes a management and action plan.

1.4 The Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership

The Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership was formed in August 1997 in order that a co-ordinated approach to the management of the heritage resource could be achieved. The Partnership agreed the original World Heritage Site Management Plan submitted with the nomination for World Heritage Site status in 1999.

This Management Plan seeks to continue to build upon the success that the Partnership has achieved through the delivery of the original Management Plan. There has been notable success in implementing the original Plan. The majority of projects and initiatives included within it have been achieved and the project as a whole is widely recognised in the UK as an exemplar in the field of how heritage can drive forward economic regeneration. The effective co-ordination of the Partnership has been a key factor in the success achieved to date.

The Partnership management arrangements, initiated in 1999, have been updated by this Plan to meet the changes which have occurred since then and to effectively deal with the widening challenges in adequately protecting and promoting the World Heritage Site in the future. These revised proposals are set out further in Section 5 of the Plan.

Similarly, the primary aim of the Partnership remains very similar to that set out in the original Plan in 1999 although the emphasis has been modified to include stronger reference to cultural tourism and educational opportunities.

The primary aim of the Partnership is to:

...protect this cultural landscape so that future generations may understand the outstanding contribution that South Wales made to the Industrial Revolution. By the presentation and promotion of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape it is intended to increase cultural tourism, provide educational opportunities and change perceptions of the area to assist the economic regeneration.

The Partnership is led by Torfaen County Borough Council who is responsible for the Co-ordination of the Site. Other partners include Monmouthshire County Council and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority which have direct management responsibilities.

The Partner organisations and their interest in the World Heritage Site are set out below:-

Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC): is the lead authority in the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership. Torfaen is the unitary authority for just over 50% of the site including the town of Blaenavon and has full local government powers and duties including Town and Country Planning and other environmental matters.

Monmouthshire County Council (MCC): covers just under 50% of the inscribed site. Monmouthshire is a unitary authority with full local government powers. However, planning responsibility for nearly all of this area resides with Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA): about 45% of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape falls within the Brecon Beacons National Park. The purposes of the National Park designation, as amended under the Environment Act 1995, are to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area

and to promote the understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities. Account must be taken of the economic and social interest of residents. The National Park is the local planning authority for the area within its boundary.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC): None of the inscribed site falls within the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council administrative area. However, as a near neighbour Blaenau Gwent has a close interest in the management of the World Heritage Site.

Blaenavon Town Council (BTC): represents the community council for the town of Blaenavon, the main settlement within the inscribed site. Both Torfaen Council and Blaenavon Town Council form the Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership which has an annual budget of £50,000 aimed at promoting the further economic, social and community regeneration of the World Heritage Site.

Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments (Cadw): Cadw can be translated as meaning 'to keep'. Cadw is the Welsh Assembly Government's historic environment division. It aims to protect and sustain, encourage community engagement in, and improve access to the historic environment of Wales. This includes historic buildings, ancient monuments, historic parks, gardens and landscapes, and underwater archaeology. Cadw also has direct responsibility as the guardian of Blaenavon Ironworks.

Visit Wales: Visit Wales is the Welsh Assembly Government's tourism team and is responsible for the promotion and development of tourism in Wales.

Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW): is the national body of survey and record. Its aim is to compile and make available an archive of Wales' historic buildings and ancient monuments for use by individuals and bodies concerned with understanding, conserving and managing the built environment.

National Museum Wales (AC - NMW): exists to preserve and promote the heritage and culture of Wales, within a world context. AC-NMW has a requirement from its Royal Charter to 'promote understanding and knowledge of the special industries of Wales through the collection and conservation of artefacts and their research, interpretation and display'. AC-NMW has specific responsibility for the management of the Big Pit National Coal Museum. Its special expertise in conservation and management of sites is available on a day-to-day basis to the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership.

The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW): is the Welsh Assembly Government's statutory advisor on sustaining natural beauty, wildlife and the opportunity for outdoor enjoyment in Wales and its inshore waters. CCW champions the environment and landscapes of Wales and its coastal waters as sources of natural and cultural riches, as a foundation for economic and social activity, and as a place for leisure and learning opportunities. CCW aims to make the environment a valued part of everyone's life in Wales.

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) Department for the Economy and Transport (DET): recently centralised the roles of the Welsh Development Agency (WDA). This department deals with economic development, regeneration and environmental improvements.

British Waterways (BW): has responsibility for the management and maintenance of British Waterways Canals, including in Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. One of the principal remits of the board is to respect industrial heritage.

The National Trust (NT): as the principal United Kingdom non-governmental organisation with experience in heritage management it is able to offer valuable management advice and assistance. While strongly associated with the original bid to bring Blaenavon Industrial Landscape forward for World Heritage Site status and in the nomination process, the National Trust has now withdrawn from formal membership of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership due to pressure of other work but will continue to maintain a 'working brief'.

UNESCO requires that responsible senior staff from concerned organisations should be identified and a list of the current members of the steering group and their positions is provided in Section Five of the Plan.

Part 2

Description of the Site and Values



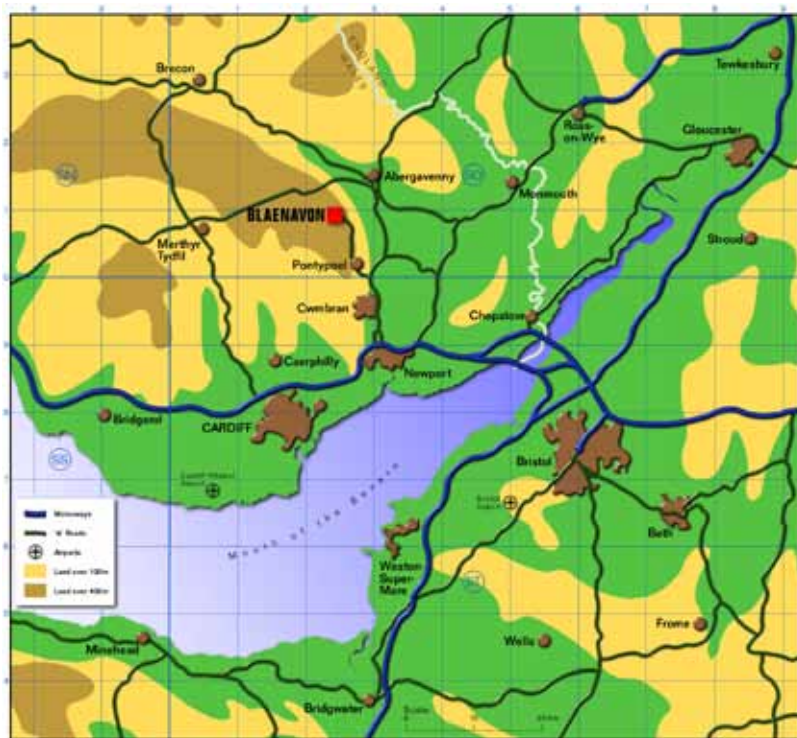
Blaenavon Ironworks, aerial view 1992
© Crown Copyright: RCAHMW

2. Description Of The Site And Values

2.1 Description of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape

2.1.1 Location

The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape lies on the north eastern rim of the historic South Wales Coalfield in the United Kingdom 40 km north east of Cardiff, the capital city of Wales. The site takes its name from the town of Blaenavon, the main settlement within the heritage landscape. The central historical component of the site, Blaenavon Ironworks, lies at National Grid Reference SO 249 093 (Latitude 51° (46' 35" and Longitude 3° (5' 17"). The site falls within the boundaries of two Unitary Councils: Torfaen County Borough Council (1804 ha) and Monmouthshire County Council (1486 ha) of which 1458ha falls within the administration of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.



2.1.2 Area

The site measures approximately 8 km from north to south and 6 km from east to west. Its area is 32.9 sq km. The site includes extensive areas of mountain land together with adjacent valleys and lies between the altitudes of 70 m and 581 m. Geologically, the site lies at the north east corner of the South Wales Coalfield, and extends from the Coal Measures across the Carboniferous Limestone to the Old Red Sandstone. All of the essential raw materials for iron making were available within this geological sequence. Exploitation of the area's mineral reserves is now almost at an end and the area is no longer dependent upon heavy industry.

2.1.3 Boundaries

The boundaries of the Site represent the full extent of the historic landscape associated with Blaenavon Ironworks. This is defined principally by the boundaries of land historically leased or purchased to provide the minerals, energy and infrastructure for the ironworks, and by additional land used in direct association with the ironworks or its communities. The boundary has been modified where appropriate to conform to identifiable landscape

features or to exclude areas of land which have suffered loss of authentic features or were not utilised by the ironworks. This fulfils the boundary criteria for a cultural landscape to be included on the World Heritage List that its extent should be large enough to represent the totality of the cultural landscape that it illustrates.

As this is a large landscape in which all main features can be viewed in context, no additional buffer zones were proposed at its nomination; however a suggestion to provide a buffer zone to the north and west is set out later in this plan.

The leasehold and freehold boundaries of the ironworks' properties are followed on the east of the site from Cwmavon to the Blorengge, with the addition of a narrow incursion at Carn-y-gorfydd. At the north-east the site extends to include a section of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, on which the Blaenavon ironmasters leased two wharves for the transportation of their goods, at Llanfoist and Govilon. The canal bank and the road from Govilon across Cwm Llanwenarth form the northern boundary, rising to meet the northern extent of land leased by the company at Gilwern Hill.

At the west the boundary continues southwards following the historic lease boundary then an access road to exclude Ryan's tip, which been subject to recent re-working. From here, the boundary follows the track past the Whistle Inn which was traditionally regarded as the normal working limits of the Blaenavon enterprise. The south-west, the boundary is the ridge-top of Coity Mountain, beyond which land leased by the company was not exploited for Blaenavon Ironworks.

2.2 Historical Development

From at least 1675, and probably earlier, iron ore was extracted on the mountains of Blaenavon. The mineral rights over the common lands of the lordship of Abergavenny were exercised by the Hanbury family, ironmasters and tinplate manufactures of Pontypool, to supply their charcoal fired furnaces. However, the area was virtually unsettled and used only for small scale iron mining and grazing.

In November 1789, Henry Nevill, Earl of Abergavenny, leased the common lands, known as 'Lord Abergavenny's Hills', to Thomas Hill, Thomas Hopkins and Benjamin Pratt. These three entrepreneurs saw the opportunity to build a major new ironworks at Blaenavon, putting into practice the latest technology and organisation of the Industrial Revolution in a new and resource-rich setting.



Blaenavon Ironworks

In 1789 the Ironworks consisted of three blast furnaces utilising steam power. It was immediately the second largest ironworks in Wales and one of the largest in the world. From within the company's own mineral properties were drawn iron ores, fireclay, coal and limestone. By 1796 the furnaces were producing 5,400 tons of

iron a year. Houses were built for key workers beside the company's ironworks, mines and quarries and a dense network of primitive railways was created to carry raw materials to the works and products towards markets. Blaenavon's population grew rapidly through the migration of workers from rural areas of Wales, from the industrial Midlands, Ireland, Scotland and rural England. A rapidly created industrial landscape grew up of iron ore patches, coal mines, limestone quarries, iron forges, brickworks, tram roads, watercourses and workers' houses all controlled by the Blaenavon Iron Company.

By 1812 there were five furnaces capable of making 14,000 tons of iron a year. New primitive railway connections were made with the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal through the 2.4 km long Pwll-Du tunnel, the longest ever built on a horse drawn railway. The Garn-Ddyrys Forge, to convert pig iron to wrought iron, was built on the mountain north of Blaenavon in 1817. Mining for iron ore and coal developed on a larger scale, replacing surface scouring, and shaft mines were introduced, with sophisticated drainage, haulage and ventilation arrangements. New sources of limestone were explored and larger quarries opened. During the 1840s and 1850s the scattered housing of the workers and the works' school, church and chapels were complemented by the evolution, on land outside the company's ownership, of a town with a variety of urban functions.

In the 1860s, following the arrival of the railway, the Company brought into production a new steelworks across the valley at Forge Side, making the old ironworks increasingly redundant and protecting it from redevelopment. In 1878, Sidney Gilchrist Thomas and Percy Gilchrist invented at Blaenavon the 'Basic' or 'Thomas' process, which was of world-wide importance in permitting phosphoric iron ores to be used in bulk steelmaking. The scale of production expanded, with consequent growth throughout the mineral operations of the company, and the iron products of Blaenavon and the skills of its workforce continued to be exported throughout the world. Big Pit was sunk to serve the new networks, and the new settlement of Forge Side was built by the company. Blaenavon parish had a population of 11,452 in 1891, which had grown from almost nothing since the ironworks was constructed. The social development of the area had by now created a thriving urban culture with many chapels, schools, pubs, and tradesmen, and a Workmen's Hall and Institute was built in 1894 to provide social and educational facilities.

Relative decline of steelmaking from around the turn of the century permitted the growth of coal production for export. Demand for the high quality steam coals of South Wales continued to grow, and the industry reached a peak in 1913, at which time coal mining employed directly 250,000 people in Wales, or one in four of the adult male population. Big Pit was enlarged, and after the Nationalisation of the British coal industry in 1947 it was further expanded. Nevertheless, employment in the area was falling, and the population has declined continuously since its peak in 1921 of 12,500. There are now about 6,000 inhabitants. Steel production ceased in 1938, and Big Pit, the last substantial working colliery, closed in 1980.

Economic and social decline has meant that much of the fabric of the town was in need of investment, but the development of new industries and the opening of Big Pit as a Mining Museum in 1983 contributed to economic regeneration.

The designation of the area as a World Heritage Site in December 2000 served as a catalyst to further and significant regeneration in the area and the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership formed in 1999 is implementing a Heritage and Regeneration

Strategy which will both conserve the historic assets of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape and contribute to its continued economic and social revival.

2.3 Outstanding Universal Value

2.3.1 The World Heritage Convention

In 1972 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) adopted a special convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage in order to provide international support and protection for important sites. The Convention aims to protect heritage sites which are of such Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and ensure that their conservation is of concern for all people. Individual nations sign the convention as “states parties”. State parties are responsible for the nomination of appropriate sites and protection and promotion of sites once listed by UNESCO. The UK Government as a states party has an obligation to protect and conserve the values of UK World Heritage Sites. The World Heritage List provides the highest level of international heritage recognition. The management of these sites must take into account the advice of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) issued on behalf of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

2.3.2 Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

Since 2007 all new World Heritage Sites must have a Statement of Outstanding Value (SoOUV). All 911 World Heritage Sites are required to have an approved Statement of Outstanding Value by 2012. The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should include a brief description of the site, a Statement of Significance, a Statement of Authenticity, a Statement of Integrity and a section describing how the World Heritage Site is protected and managed. A World Heritage Site's Outstanding Universal Value is non-negotiable and Statements of Outstanding Universal Value must accurately reflect the thinking of the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription. A Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SoOUV) for the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site has been drafted in consultation with the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership, English Heritage, Cadw and ICOMOS-UK. The draft SoOUV was submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in 2011 and is shown in Appendix 2. Following approval, the SoOUV will be added as an addendum to this plan.

2.3.3 Justification for Inscription

To be inscribed as a World Heritage Site and to be accepted as being of Outstanding Universal Value, a site must meet at least one of ten criteria set out in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape was inscribed for the following reasons:

Criterion C (iii): The Blaenavon Landscape constitutes an exceptional illustration in material form of the social and economic structure of 19th century industry.

Criterion C (iv): The components of the Blaenavon Landscape together make up an outstanding and remarkably complete example of a 19th century industrial landscape.

The significance, authenticity and integrity of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape was independently evaluated by experts from ICOMOS and the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH) in October 1999. Subsequently, in September 2000, ICOMOS recommended that the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape be inscribed as a World Heritage Site.

The ICOMOS report held that:

“The area around Blaenavon bears eloquent and exceptional testimony to the pre-eminence of South Wales as the world’s major producer of iron and coal in the 19th century. All the necessary elements can be seen in situ – coal and ore mines, quarries, a primitive railway system, furnaces, the homes of the workers, and the social infrastructure of their community.”

In terms of the site’s qualities, the report stated that

“The area around the Blaenavon ironworks provides an extraordinarily comprehensive picture of the South Wales coal and iron industry in its heyday in the 19th and early 20th century, when it was one of the world’s largest iron and steel producers.”

In terms of comparative analysis the ICOMOS report asserted that

“There are remains of ironworks built in the late 18th century or the early 19th century at various places in Britain but none is as complete as at Blaenavon, which encompasses in addition extraction of raw materials (coal, iron, limestone), an elaborate system of land and water transport, and human settlement. It may, moreover, be considered to complement the World Heritage site of Ironbridge Gorge, which developed gradually from the 16th century, reached a peak of activity between 1750 and 1800, and then settled into a period of decline. Similarly, it fills chronological and technological gaps between other early sites associated with ironmaking on the World Heritage List, such as Engelsberg (Sweden) and Völklingen (Germany).”

The ICOMOS report identified the key sites and features as follows:

Blaenavon Ironworks



Blaenavon Ironworks

The Ironworks is the focus of the industrial landscape of Blaenavon and the *raison d'être* of the mineral workings and settlement. The furnaces, in their completeness and diversity of form, provide a better impression of 18th and 19th century ironmaking technology and its development than any other group in Britain. The cast-house of furnace 2 is intact, demonstrating

the characteristic arched form of such structures, to provide shelter yet permit ventilation. Foundations of the blowing engine house have not yet been excavated, but the base of its massive chimney (from which Stack Square takes its name) is clearly visible, as are the cast-iron pillars and brackets which carried blast pipes to the furnaces.

The Blaenavon Company was reorganized as a joint stock company in 1836, when James Ashwell was appointed managing director. The most impressive monument to Ashwell's work at Blaenavon is the water-balance tower at its northern end, built in 1839. This is the best preserved example of this form of lift technology using water to counter-balance loads, used in the mine shafts of southeast Wales and at several ironworks. A foundry, well ventilated by open arches, was constructed on the site of the original Boulton & Watt blowing engine house, sometime after 1860. Above the furnaces is a range of ruined kilns in which iron ore was calcined, or roasted.

Big Pit



Big Pit

Big Pit is a museum of coal mining of international significance. The first shaft at Big Pit was sunk in 1860 or before and was linked below-ground to workings dating from the 1830s for iron ore and coal. It was the last deep mine to work in the Blaenavon area, and the surface buildings remain almost exactly as they were when coal production ceased in 1980. They date

from between the late 19th century and c 1970 and are characteristic of the surface structures of a modest-sized South Wales colliery, without architectural pretension but exceptional in their completeness.

The structures include the winding engine house (1952), the steel headgear (1921), in use until 1976, a fan house, a compressor house, a haulage engine house, a welding and fitting shop, a smithy, a stable block, an electricians' workshop, a sawmill for pit props, the offices of the manager and under-manager, and an isolated powder house. On the hillside above the main buildings are the miners' baths and canteen, opened in 1939, built in the International Modernist style favoured by the architects of the Miners' Welfare Committee. It is the only baths building in Wales from the inter-war years which retains its hot-air lockers for drying clothes, shower cubicles, automated boot brushes, canteen, and medical room.

Big Pit is one of only two mining museums in the United Kingdom where visitors can be taken underground. Visitors are taken in the cage down the shaft of 1860 to a range of workings, some dating from the 1830s, including the ventilation system, a large 20th century haulage engine, and 19th century stables.

The Landscape North of the Ironworks

The landscapes to the north of Blaenavon Ironworks comprise one of the area's most precious historical monuments. It is possible within this area to gain an understanding of the ways in which all the raw materials necessary for making iron were obtained - coal, iron ore, fireclay and limestone. The areas around Garn-yr-erw, Pwll-Du, and Pen-ffordd-goch appear at first sight to be wholly disordered, to be nothing more than random dumps

of spoil. However, closer examination reveals evidence of the earliest periods of mining and quarrying in the area, phased relationships, and patterns of mineral extraction over several generations.



Patching near Keepers Pond

One of the best preserved areas of coal measure workings, at Pen-fford-goch, covers some 40ha. There is much evidence of hushing or scouring, the process of impounding water with dams and then releasing it to expose veins by removing overburden, or to wash piles of ore extracted from adits. This was probably carried out before the 17th century and expanded in the first two decades of the Blaenavon Ironworks. To the south of Penffordd-goch are numerous bell pits, the most primitive form of shaft mine. The remnants of hushing ponds, leats which supplied them with water, crowsfoot-shaped tips of waste materials, the collapsed entrances to adits, the abandoned

earthworks of primitive railways, subsidences indicating the presence of pillar-and-stall mining systems beneath, and the site of a weighing machine can also be observed in the area.

Remains exist of the earliest shaft mine in Blaenavon, Engine Pit of c 1806. The substantial remains of Hill's Pits at Garn-yr-erw, sunk between 1839 and 1844 to provide both coal and iron ore for the Ironworks and operated until 1893, provide evidence of later, more advanced mining technology. The outstanding monument is the stone chimney which survives to a height of 6m and served the boilers of the winding engine.

The area also provides evidence of how limestone, used as a flux in the ironmaking process, was obtained. The main quarries were at Pwll-Du at the head of Cwm Llanwenarth, and at Tyla to the west. There were also other smaller, earlier, quarries on the Bloreng. The Pwll-Du quarry was operating in roughly its present shape by 1819, and is exceptionally well preserved. The open hillsides provide much other evidence of the industrial past, such as a mid 19th century rectangular powder house and brickmaking establishments.

In parts of the landscape, particularly near Pwll-Du, the late 18th and early 19th century workings are overlain by tips of waste from opencast workings for coal of the 1940s. These are believed to be the only early opencast workings in Britain to survive unrestored, enabling the process of overburden removal and the contrast in scale with earlier workings to be understood.

Transport Systems: Canals and Primitive Railways

The improvement of transport systems was a key component of the Industrial Revolution and was vital to the success of the coal and iron industries with their bulky goods and

requirement to exploit new regions. Much evidence remains in the landscape of the transport systems by which Blaenavon Ironworks was supplied with raw materials and its products were conveyed to the coast. These superseded a series of primitive trackways whose remains can still be seen, and continued to evolve over several generations.

The outstanding feature of the Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal, constructed between 1797 and 1812, is the basin at Llanfoist, situated on the side of the mountain and approached up a steep track. It was the terminus of the primitive railway built by Thomas Hill (Hill's Tramroad), completed in 1817. There is a substantial warehouse for storing iron semi-products before they were loaded on to canal boats. A tunnel under the canal, some 33.6m long, was constructed to accommodate the old parish road. The canal is crossed by a bridge built of cast-iron plates carried on cast-iron T-section girders which is of considerable historical significance.

The wharf built by Hill at Govlion, where the road from Blaenavon to Abergavenny crosses the canal, was the terminus of Bailey's Tramroad, a primitive railway built by the ironmaster Crawshay Bailey in 1821 to link his ironworks at Nantyglo with the canal.

The Ironworks was served by a dense network of railways which developed from the 1780s onwards. Hill's Tramroad provides many insights into an important period of technological development. On most stretches the stone blocks on which the rails were mounted remain in situ. A series of counterbalanced inclined planes take the railway down the mountain to Llanfoist. The 2400m long tunnel under the mountain at Pwll-Du was the longest ever constructed for a horse-operated railway in Britain. It is believed that most of the tunnel survives intact below ground and an exploration and survey is planned.

There are many other remains of primitive railway systems in the Blaenavon area. Stone blocks, cast-iron sleepers, and wrought-iron and cast-iron rails can still be observed from track beds and waste tips.

The Management of Water Resources

In an upland setting like that of Blaenavon, which lies high on the watershed, the careful management of water was vital to provide sufficient and reliable supply, even in drought, to operate water-balance lifts, carry out scouring, and feed steam engines. Surface and underground drainage was also of the utmost importance for mining operations. Watercourses and drains can be seen in many places on the hills above Blaenavon, often with relationships to one another which allow relative dates to be determined. Near all the mineshafts are small reservoirs for water-balance and steam-engine supply, fed by many kilometres of watercourses which also served to drain the surface.

Vertical integration: the forging side of the iron industry

The forge at Garn-Ddyrys, alongside Hill's Tramroad, came into operation in 1817. It stands on a bleak hillside at an altitude of some 400m. The principal features of the site are some blocks of solid ironworking waste, one of them 4m in height, remnants of the ponds which formed part of the forge's water-power system, the ruins of a manager's house and workers' cottages, and traces of the primitive railway connections to the site, including an intact tunnel built to carry Hill's Tramroad underneath slag tips. To the south of the town of Blaenavon is Cwmavon, where there was a forge which operated from about 1804. There are no remains above ground, but the site has remained undeveloped and the remnants of the water supply are intact.

In the late 1850s the Blaenavon Company established a new ironworks on the opposite side of the valley from its original furnaces at a site which became known as Forgeside. Forges and rolling mills were moved here from Garn-Ddyrys. The new works was able to make up to 500 tons a week of iron rails, tyres for railway wagons and carriages, and plates for boilers and ships. In 1880 the Company began to make mild steel by the Gilchrist Thomas process, which it was in the unique position of being able to use without royalty payments. The Forgeside works continues to operate on a modest scale.

Workers' Housing



Stack Square

A variety of workers' housing, some from the earliest years of ironworking, remain within the Blaenavon landscape. The Company had to provide housing for its workpeople in the early years of its operation, since the area was only sparsely inhabited before the 1780s. The Company usually built dwellings very close to its ironworks, mines, quarries, or transport routes.

Adjacent to the Ironworks stands Stack Square and Engine Row, a small group of solidly constructed stone cottages. They were probably erected in 1788 for the skilled workers who operated the furnaces from the time they were built. The houses form a square into which a 50m high chimney stack for a new engine house was placed in 1860, the base of which can still be seen.

The very primitive buildings contemporary with Stack Square, some of them single-room back-to-back houses, no longer survive, but in most cases their locations are clearly visible and archaeologically intact. Between 1817 and 1832 the Company constructed about 160 single-fronted, three-room, two-storey dwellings, which have been called Blaenavon Company Standard Houses. They were usually built in terraces, some with as many as thirty dwellings, but some with as few as five. The terrace at Cwmavon, probably built in the 1820s, is the best example of this type of house.

The Town of Blaenavon

The growth of population in the Heads of the Valleys region of South Wales, where most of the ironworks were located, was one of the most dramatic demographic movements of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Workers were initially housed by the iron companies where their labour was required, and the company shops were the main source of goods. Gradually a number of populous towns with centralized urban services and facilities developed. The characteristic form of these towns was chaotic, dictated by the axes of trackways and railways and the availability of land. Blaenavon is among the best examples of these emerging urban centres in South Wales.

Blaenavon is largely of mid 19th century date. Its buildings reflect powerfully the distinctive culture that had developed in ironworking and coal-mining areas of the South

Wales Valleys. The only significant link with preindustrial society in the area is the site of Capel Newydd, a tiny chapel first mentioned in documents in 1577 and demolished in 1863.



St Peter's School, now the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre

The town grew gradually, and did not follow a particular plan. In the 1840s there were three principal clusters of buildings in the area, one around the Ironworks, one along the east-west axis, now King Street, where any preindustrial settlement was probably concentrated, and one around St Peter's Church. The spaces between the three nuclei were

gradually filled with buildings which evolved into a recognizable town by the 1850s. A significant development was the naming of the streets in the 1860s.

One group of buildings is closely linked with the first generation of ironmasters - the ironmaster's mansion (Ty Mawr), and St Peter's church and school, built alongside the Blaenavon Railway between 1800 and 1816.

Blaenavon's many chapels – Bethlehem (1820), Horeb (1862), Moriah (1888) – provide much evidence of the town's culture in the 19th century. As in most industrial communities in South Wales the chapels were important educational as well as religious institutions, and also expressed the identity of Welsh-speakers working for English entrepreneurs.

Some of the social and educational roles of the chapels in the South Wales Valleys were taken over in the late 19th century by working men's institutes. Blaenavon's Workmen's Hall and Institute is the most imposing building in the town. Designed by E A Lansdowne of Newport and opened in 1895, it cost £10,000, which was raised by a halfpenny per week levy on the wages of miners and ironworkers, who reduced the cost of construction further by contributing voluntary labour.

Authenticity

In respect of the authenticity of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape the ICOMOS report (September 2000) stated:

The test of authenticity as set out in the Operational Guidelines lays stress, in respect of cultural landscapes, on "their distinctive character and components" (§24.b.i). The authenticity of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape is unquestionably very high in these terms. An equally appropriate measurement might be that of integrity, as in the case of natural properties nominated for the World Heritage List. In terms of the conditions of integrity set out in paragraph 44.b of the Operational Guidelines, such as "all or most of the key interrelated and interdependent elements in their natural relationships" (§44.b.i) and "the necessary elements to demonstrate the key aspects of processes that are necessary for long-term conservation" (§44.b.ii), the integrity of the Blaenavon landscape must be considered to be high.

2.4 Key Values and Qualities of the Site

Several values of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape have been identified.

- Archaeological Values
- Historical and Cultural Values
- Aesthetic and Visual Values
- Ecological and Nature Conservation Values
- Geological Values
- Amenity Values
- Community Values
- Agricultural Values
- Mineral Values
- Tourism Values
- Research and Education Values

These values are fully explained in the following paragraphs.

2.4.1 Archaeological Values

The significance and outstanding universal value of the archaeological monuments and relict landscape within the site have been set out above. The site has been extensively studied by archaeologists, landscape historians and others, and its archaeological potential has been clearly demonstrated. The development of a thorough database of monuments within the site has identified the large number of features of importance which remain. At the time of nomination there were twelve Scheduled Ancient Monuments identified, this has since been increased to twenty four.

The archaeological integrity of the landscape is high, and disturbance of the archaeology is mainly restricted to a few areas of ongoing development. The archaeology of the site offers many ongoing opportunities to develop understanding and appreciation of the industrialisation process, past technology, living conditions, and the development of the industries of the region in a crucial historical period.

The importance of the interrelations of the many components of the site into an archaeological palimpsest is recognised in its inclusion on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales, published by Cadw, the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and ICOMOS UK in 1998. Since inscription a valuable Landscape Categorisation Study has been completed by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust in consultation with Cadw, the Royal Commission for the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) and the CCW as well as the local authorities with interests in the area. This study has identified eighteen character areas within the 3,290 hectare World Heritage Site.

2.4.2 Historical and Cultural Values

The Outstanding Universal Value of the site in illustrating the early stages of the process of industrialisation and the development of industrial culture has been referred to in the criteria for inscription above. The site is looked to as an important surviving landscape

representative of these processes and of the exchange of human values connected with industrialisation.

Historical research has been undertaken which has drawn upon the documentary and physical remains of the site as primary sources for subjects such as technological and organisational development, living conditions, social history and the development of industrial culture. Monuments such as the Workmen's Hall and Institute, the housing at Stack Square and Engine Row, and the urban layout of Blaenavon have considerable cultural value in their own right, and are of continuing cultural relevance, while the broader landscape demonstrates important aspects of cultural relations and attitudes towards the environment. Considerable documentation in written and oral form is being continually gathered and is available at the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre including information on individuals' lives and the industrial society of this iron, steel and coal community. While the focus of the World Heritage Site is on the industrial period, pre-industrial history of the area is also of significant value.

2.4.3 Aesthetic and Visual Value

The visual conjunction of agrarian countryside, townscapes and areas of mineral exploitation at Blaenavon is a rare and important resource. In particular, unrestored areas of historic mining and quarrying are becoming rare, and they are increasingly being seen as having striking aesthetic qualities.

The landscape has been an inspiration to many artists, from Sir Richard Colt Hoare in the eighteenth century to international modern artists such as Graham Sutherland and several contemporary Welsh painters who have found the disturbed character of the land around Blaenavon to be an evocative and formally stimulating subject.

The aesthetic value of functional architecture has been increasingly appreciated since the 1950s and structures such as the Ironworks Balance Tower and the Big Pit headgear are seen as important symbols of industrial achievement. The public and domestic buildings within the townscape are also increasingly seen as providing a visual resource for understanding the development of industrial communities. The character of the built environment is typically characterised by the importance of rows of terraced housing, roofscapes, chimneys and slate roofs. The site contains eighty two listed buildings and two Conservation Areas.

2.4.4 Ecological and Nature Conservation Values

The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape exhibits a very special interrelationship between cultural and natural features. The importance of the site in ecological terms has been recognised by the designation within the area of six Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The Countryside Council for Wales considers the entire area of open moor within the area to be of considerable conservation interest. The area contains a diverse flora and fauna owing to its great variety of habitats, from dense deciduous woodland to moorland, areas of open water and mines, caves and quarries. There is special interest in the ecological regeneration of the landscape which has continued to take place following the exploitation and despoliation of the past, in this respect the site offers a unique educational resource. The landscape also includes the Garn Lakes, a former opencast site now reclaimed as a fishing lake and recreational area. The Garn Lakes area is now a nature reserve and demonstrates an important stage in the post-industrial story.

2.4.5 Geological Values

It was the presence of minerals at Blaenavon which resulted in the area becoming an iron and coal producing centre of world significance. These deposits were the result of hundreds of millions of years of pre-historic activity in the formation of the Earth's crust. Blaenavon World Heritage Site offers a unique opportunity to study the geological changes that took place in the formation of the Earth including the way these changes created the minerals and impinged on the exploitation of the mineral resources by man.

The layer of limestone under the site which provided a major component in iron-making is also significant in terms of natural heritage with the huge Ogaf Draenan network of caves. These run under and beyond the World Heritage Site and include many spectacular features.

The geological value of the area is so great that the British Geological Society is considering producing a 1:25,000 geological map for the Blaenavon World Heritage Site.

2.4.6 Amenity Values

The area is perceived as having considerable amenity value, containing open countryside and designated 'urban common' within reach of many settlements, including Blaenavon itself, and lying on the edge of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Access throughout a large proportion of the relict landscape is provided by public rights of way. The Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal is well used for boating and walking, and the upland areas of the site are regularly used by walkers, cavers, hang gliders, cyclists and others. While the area is not as fully used as some other parts of the National Park, use of the area for informal recreation is growing fast since the inception of the way marked Iron Mountain Trail in 2005 and other published footpaths. A national cycle route passes through the site and there is an emerging interest in cycle trails within the World Heritage Site.

Blaenavon is an attractive town with interesting street patterns and exciting views to the open mountain landscape with working buildings and townscape generally set on the northern side of the Afon Llwyd valley. The town and surrounding countryside contain a number of cafes, shops and public houses which also comprise amenity value. An important issue in the consideration of new development proposals will be the protection of key views that add to the qualities of the heritage environment and protect the visual values of the World Heritage Site. Examples include the long distance views down Broad Street (in Blaenavon Town Centre), High Street, from Blaenavon to Forgeside and across Coity mountain which also identifies the importance of the green space along the Afon Llwyd River.

2.4.7 Local Community Values

The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape is a working landscape containing living communities. Blaenavon itself retains a strong community committed to the town despite the economic decline of recent decades, and in Llanfoist, Govilon and Cwmavon there are many individuals strongly motivated towards the maintenance of their communities. The empathy of these communities with the historic environment and open countryside is one of their most striking qualities. Through the World Heritage Site Voluntary Ranger Service local people have become actively engaged in protecting and conserving the landscape and developed a programme of guided walks.

Understanding and responsiveness to the interests and wishes of local communities, who are among the chief custodians of the heritage resource, are important aspects of the Management Plan. Since inscription, a programme of events has been developed to involve the community and visitors in presenting the area's unique heritage. The most significant is the annual Blaenavon World Heritage Day held on the last Saturday of June. The use of World Heritage Status as an important tool in community regeneration must be continued.

Despite perceptions of the area changing for the better since inscription and the considerable improvements which have taken place in the community as a result, the Blaenavon area still suffers from social and economic deprivation.

An area within Blaenavon has been identified as a Communities First Area by the Welsh Assembly Government which means a partnership has been set up, with Government funding, to address the social and economic needs of this most deprived area of the town.

2.4.8 Agricultural Values

The majority of the site is in agricultural use for grazing, mainly of sheep with some horses and cattle. The value of enclosed land in the valleys is relatively high, while the potential of the 'common' land which comprises most of the upland within the site is relatively low. This is open land upon which families have historic grazing rights.

2.4.9 Mineral Values

There is deemed to be an economic potential for residual coal recovery in some parts of the site, although there are no proposals for new mining within the site. It is highly improbable that open cast coal extraction would be permitted given World Heritage Site status and other important environmental values and the designations and planning policies affecting the site. Existing small drift mines are still operating within the site and are able to continue without damage of any kind to archaeological or historic features and indeed contribute to the essential characteristics of the landscape.

2.4.10 Tourism Values

Visitor numbers have doubled since inscription without detriment to the heritage assets of the site. However, the need to review the capacity of the landscape to carry further growth will need to be addressed.

The main tourist attraction within the site is Big Pit National Coal Museum, which has approximately 170,000 visitors a year. Visitors also enjoy the town, Blaenavon Ironworks, the Monmouth and Brecon Canal and the Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway. The former St. Peter's School opened in March 2008 and is the first dedicated World Heritage Centre in the UK. This provides intellectual and physical access to the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape.

The number of visitors to the wider landscape has greatly increased following the development of a network of way-marked tracks, improved parking facilities and the guided walks programme. It is anticipated that visitor numbers will continue to increase in future as the tourism value of the site becomes increasingly appreciated. Tourism contributes directly to the local economy, and is an important force for enhancing general perceptions of the area. The potential for linking industrial heritage with outdoor recreational pursuits is seen as a particular advantage of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site.

2.4.11 Research and Educational Values

The unique nature of the educational and research resources of the site encompasses many subjects: including ecology, geology, history, archaeology, geography, architecture, technology and landscape management. The educational importance of the area is reflected in its regular use by educational groups from primary and secondary schools and further and higher education institutions, both locally based and from further afield. Many educational visits are made each year to the preserved and interpreted sites of Big Pit and Blaenavon Ironworks, which both have structured educational programmes. A number of institutions regularly undertake field studies exercises within the area.

The Blaenavon World Heritage Centre offers considerable potential for lifelong learning. In particular a teachers' resource pack, the 'Learning Box', has been devised by Torfaen County Borough Council in collaboration with Cadw. It consists of a range of educational resources suitable for all key stages covering the curriculum subjects of history, geography and design & technology that will provide structure for visits to key sites and support for preparatory and follow-up classroom studies.

Significant studies at postgraduate, doctoral and post doctoral level have been undertaken in subjects as diverse as soil erosion on tips, vegetation successions, the technology of primitive railways, the development of the historic landscape and the social and economic impacts of heritage led regeneration. Given the cultural importance and unique resources, the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape, offers significant potential for further study in accordance with the aims of UNESCO publication 'World Heritage, Today and Tomorrow with Young People'.

2.4.12 Interest and Ownerships

The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape extends to 3,290 hectares. Due to the nature of the site the ownerships are numerous and diverse in size and character. The Walters Group has co-operated in the protection of the relict industrial landscape and in increasing public access to the area. The owners of all the key areas and buildings within the site have been identified and discussions have taken place with them. An important part of the site around the former Garn Ddyrys Forge is owned by the private company Blaenavon Conservation. Contacts with owners and users are being widened and strengthened and positive progress has been made in the context of the original 1999 Management Plan.

The key monuments and buildings are held safely within responsible public ownership and managed in the interests of conservation. Blaenavon Ironworks extends to 1.75 hectares and is managed by Cadw on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government. Cadw is guardian of the site with statutory responsibility for care and maintenance under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Major conservation works have been undertaken since World Heritage Site inscription and levels of interpretation and education at the site have greatly improved.

Big Pit National Coal Museum extends to 22 hectares plus railway sidings of 5.6 hectares. Since World Heritage Site inscription ownership has been taken over by the National Museum Wales which has responsibility for care and maintenance of cultural features and the encouragement of public access and education under the provisions of their Royal Charter. Significant upgrading of the site was completed in 2005. Additional visitor facilities including a simulated multimedia mining experience and imaginative museum in the former pit head baths has made Big Pit a leading visitor attraction in Wales and visitor numbers have more than doubled since World Heritage Site inscription.

The town of Blaenavon contains hundreds of individual owners and tenants of residential, commercial and other properties, including churches and chapels. Several key listed buildings such as the Workmen's Hall and Institute, St Peter's School now restored as the UK's first dedicated World Heritage Centre and the former Town Council Offices now restored as the town library are in the ownership of Torfaen County Borough Council and are therefore the management responsibilities of the local authority.

The Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal is in the ownership of British Waterways, a public body which is responsible for the conservation and management of the waterways network and continues to make carefully controlled repairs and improvements to the canal structure and encourages interpretation of the unique industrial heritage.

2.5 Conservation Status & Statutory Responsibilities

Nearly half of the World Heritage Site is within the Brecon Beacons National Park and therefore has the highest level of landscape protection.

The Welsh Assembly Government is required to compile a Schedule of Ancient Monuments of national importance; this work is undertaken by Cadw. Damaging or carrying out unauthorised work to any of these is a criminal offence which may be punishable by a fine or period of imprisonment. Within the World Heritage Site there are 24 Scheduled Ancient Monuments of national importance afforded protection under Section 1 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The site continues to be studied to consider whether further areas or monuments should be scheduled.

Cwmavon and Blaenavon town centre were declared Conservation Areas in 1984 under Section 277 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, now replaced by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990. It is intended to proceed with the formal process of extending the Blaenavon Conservation Areas within the World Heritage Site and the designation of a new Conservation Area at Forge Side within 2011.

The Welsh Assembly Government is required to compile lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. The work is undertaken by Cadw. Damaging or carrying out unauthorised work to any of these is a criminal offence which may be punishable by a fine or period of imprisonment. There are 82 buildings within the World Heritage Site listed under the provisions of Section 1 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990, as being of special architectural or historic interest.

In and around the town of Blaenavon 54 buildings have been listed as being of special architectural or historic merit. There are also 28 listed buildings near the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.

Within the nominated site there are six Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). These have been declared by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended. CCW monitor these sites and have powers to ensure that their special conservation interest is being properly managed. CCW work with owners and other interested parties to ensure effective protection and management of these sites of geological or ecological significance. CCW has legal powers to enforce proper care. Damaging SSSIs is a criminal offence which may be punishable by a fine.

The archaeological integrity of the landscape is high, and disturbance of the archaeology is mainly restricted to a few areas of ongoing development. The archaeology of the site offers many ongoing opportunities to develop understanding and appreciation of the industrialisation process, past technology, living conditions, and the development of the industries of the region in a crucial historical period. The importance of the interrelations of the many components of the site into an archaeological palimpsest is recognised in its inclusion on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales, published by Cadw, CCW and ICOMOS UK in 1998.

Since inscription a valuable Landscape Categorisation Study has been completed by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust in consultation with Cadw, the Royal Commission for the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) and CCW as well as the local authorities with interests in the area. This study has identified eighteen character areas within the 3,290 hectare World Heritage Site. Further detailed survey of the archaeological features has been carried out as part of the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative.

Statutory Planning Control within the World Heritage Site is exercised through the respective local authorities through the development plan, development control and enforcement processes. The World Heritage Site designation is a material consideration in the planning process.

2.5.1 Planning Background

The site enjoys protection through planning policies set out in development plans, including the Gwent Structure Plan, the Torfaen Local Plan, the Monmouthshire Unitary Development Plan and the Brecon Beacons National Park Unitary Development Plan. The United Kingdom planning system operates on the basis of regulating the development and use of land in the public interest and protecting interests of acknowledged importance.

The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires that planning permission is generally required for any development in the town or open landscape aside from permitted development. Planning applications are determined by the relevant Local Planning Authorities against the relevant development Plan. Determination of applications will be considered in the light of government guidance and development plan policies. To back up these powers of development control, the Planning Authorities can take enforcement action against development which proceeds without planning permission. Enforcement action can be initiated against unauthorised development through legal proceedings with financial penalties against offenders where Enforcement Notices are upheld.

The Outstanding Universal Value of the site is a key material consideration to be taken into account by local planning authorities in determining planning applications and Listed Building Consent applications, and by the Secretary of State in determining cases on appeal and following call in.

The list of buildings of “special architectural and historic interest” is maintained by Cadw and was comprehensively reviewed in Blaenavon in 1995 and at Llanfoist in 1997. Photographs and written descriptions of each building at the time of listing are maintained by Cadw, and further monitoring is carried out by each of the relevant local authorities and the Brecon Beacons National Park.

The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust maintains an up to date Historic Environment Record of all archaeological sites in the area and acts as advisor to Torfaen County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority on archaeological matters relating to development proposals. The Trust shares information electronically with both Cadw and the RCAHMMW.

A Conservation Plan and Study of Big Pit by the Brooke Millar Partnership, completed in 1999, was accompanied by an Archaeological Desk Study of Big Pit by Archaeamedia. These studies provide a sound base of information about the site including full condition surveys of all structures, drawn and photographic. The studies were undertaken to ensure that the Development Plan prepared for Big Pit on behalf of National Museum Wales fully took into account the unique industrial heritage of the site.

A Preliminary Heritage Survey of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal was carried out by John van Laun Archaeologists of Hereford in December 1997, commissioned by the owners, British Waterways. This survey is an inventory of the main features of historical importance and ensures appropriate protection of these monuments can be taken into account in the management of the canal as a navigable waterway.

As part of the repairs and restoration of St. Peter's Church 1805, the Heritage Lottery Fund required the preparation of a Conservation Study undertaken by Hook Mason Architects.

Likewise a Conservation Strategy was required by the Heritage Lottery Fund to ensure the historic character of the St. Peter's Schools, which are Grade II and II* listed was fully respected in the redevelopment process making the buildings the UK's first dedicated World Heritage Centre. The Conservation Strategy was prepared by Torfaen County Borough Council's Building Conservation Officer and the architect for the building Niall Phillips

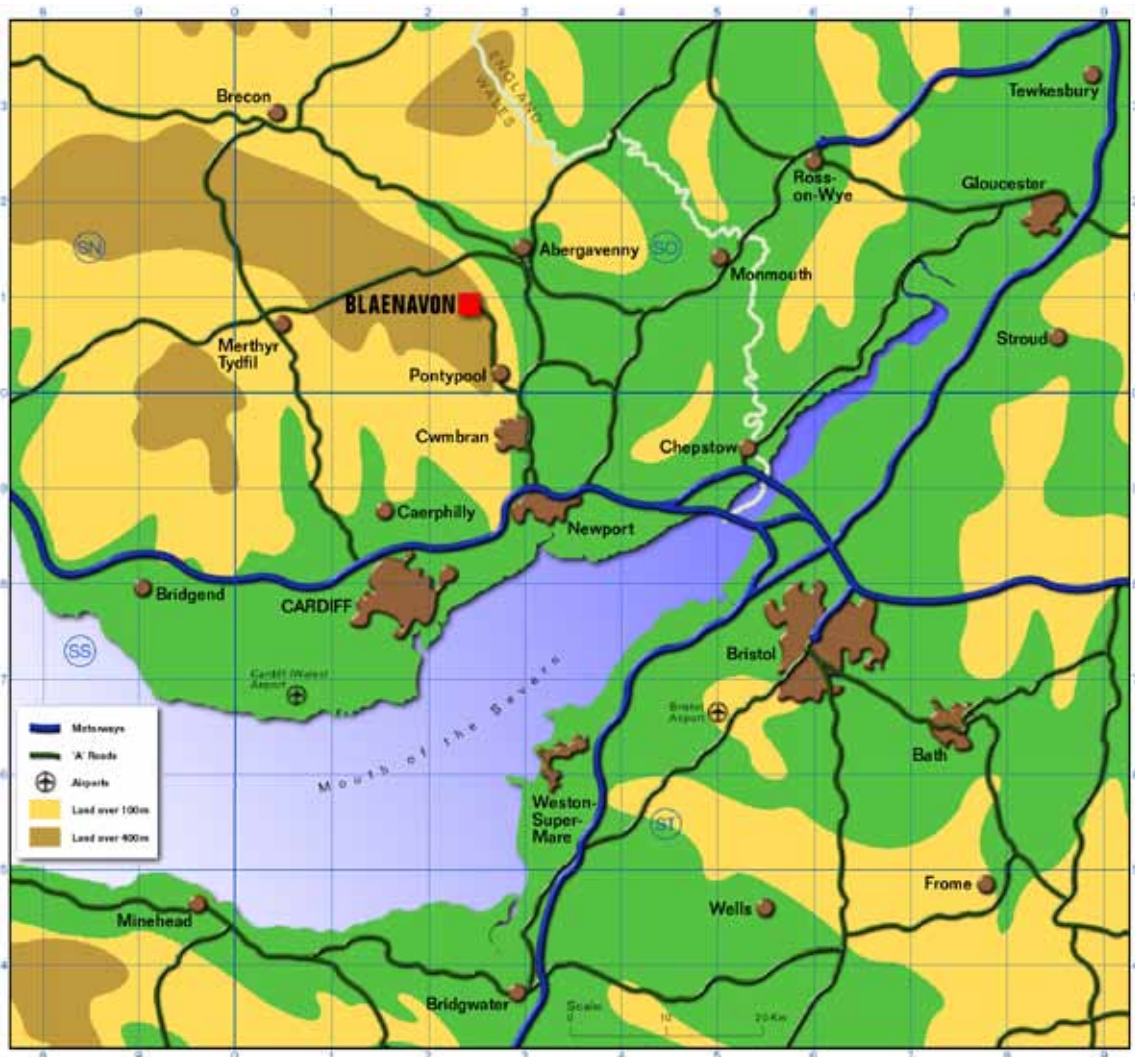
2.6 Maps Showing Main Features of the World Heritage Site

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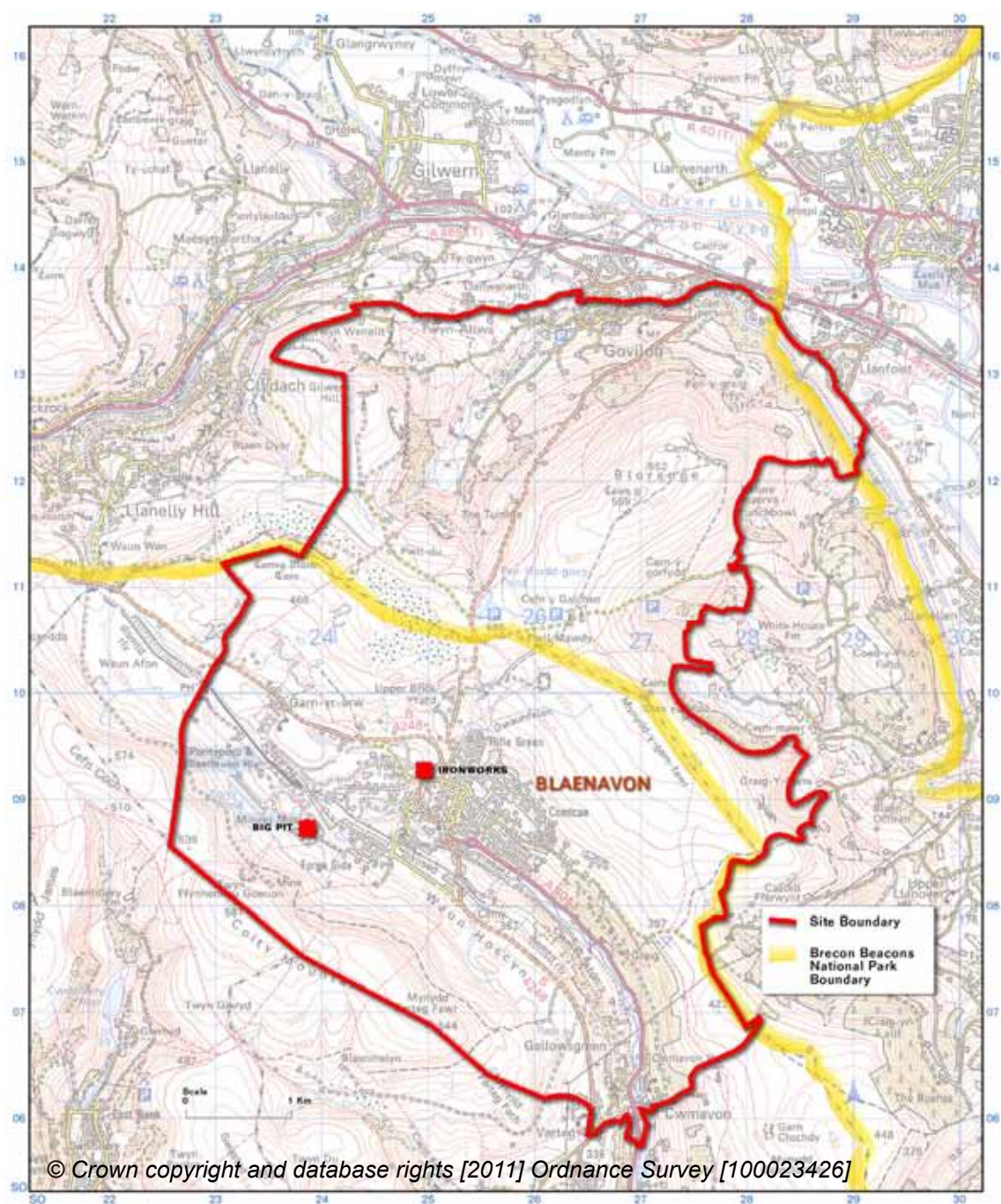


International and national setting

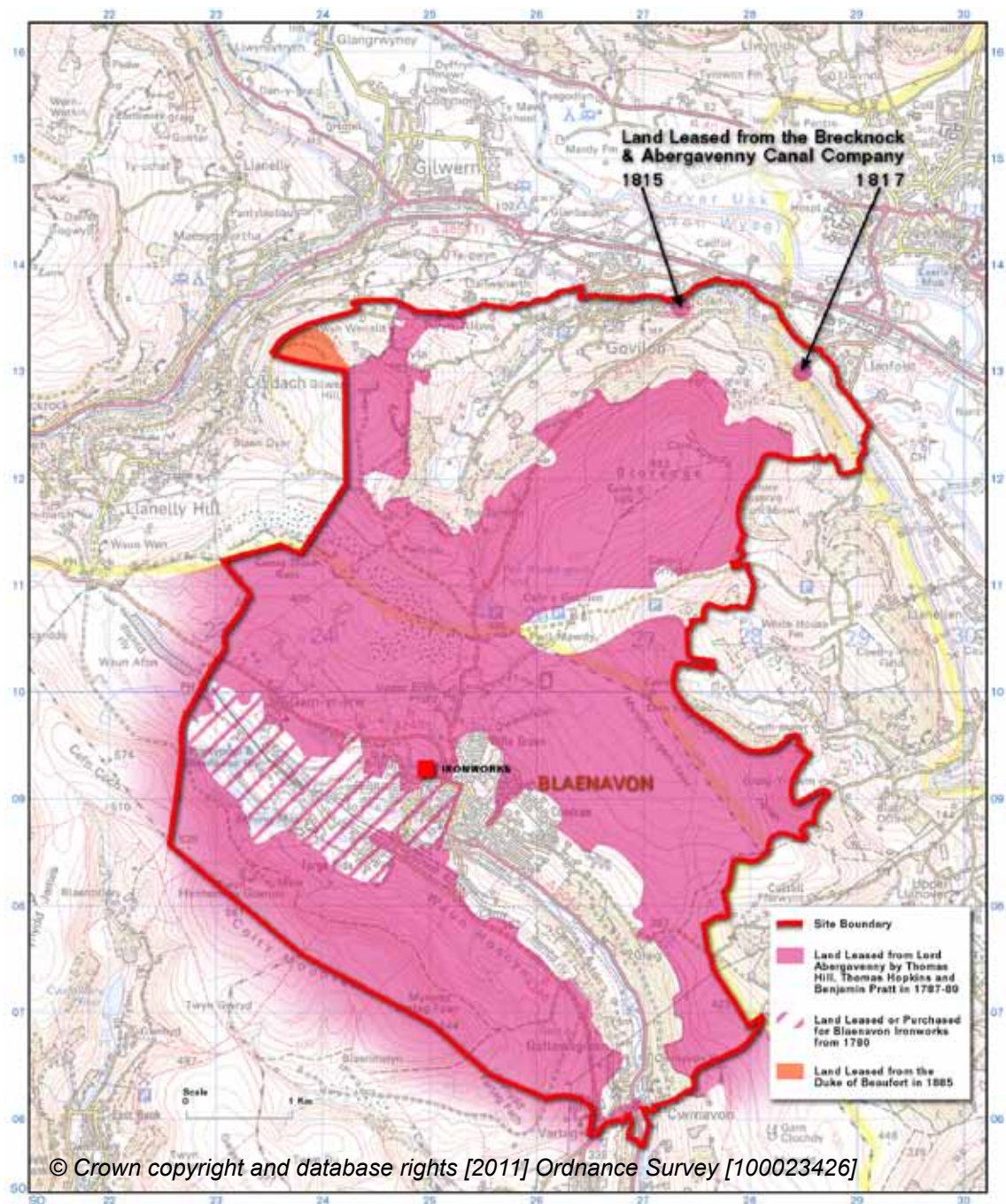


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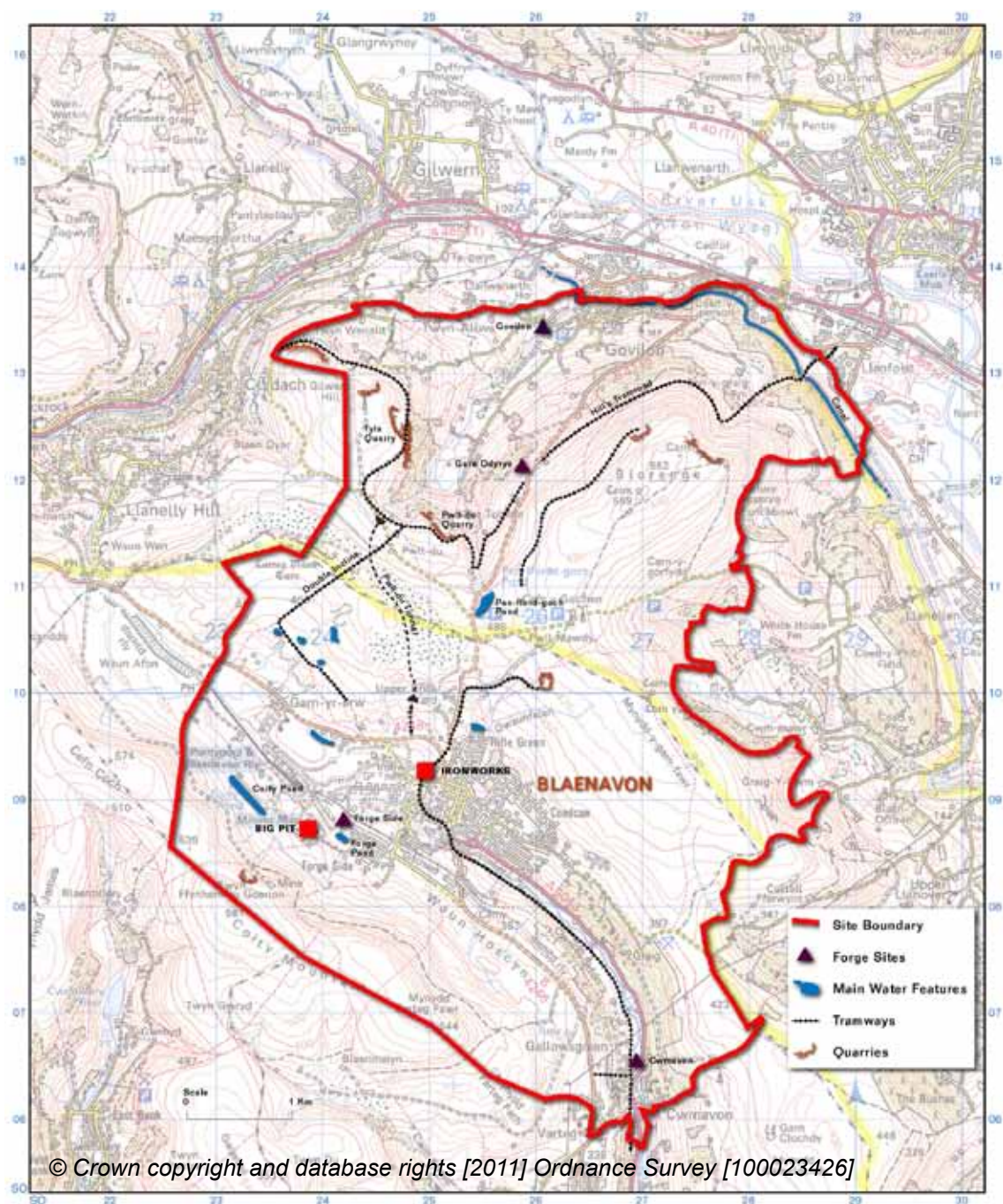
Blaenavon in regional context



Blaenavon World Heritage Site Boundary



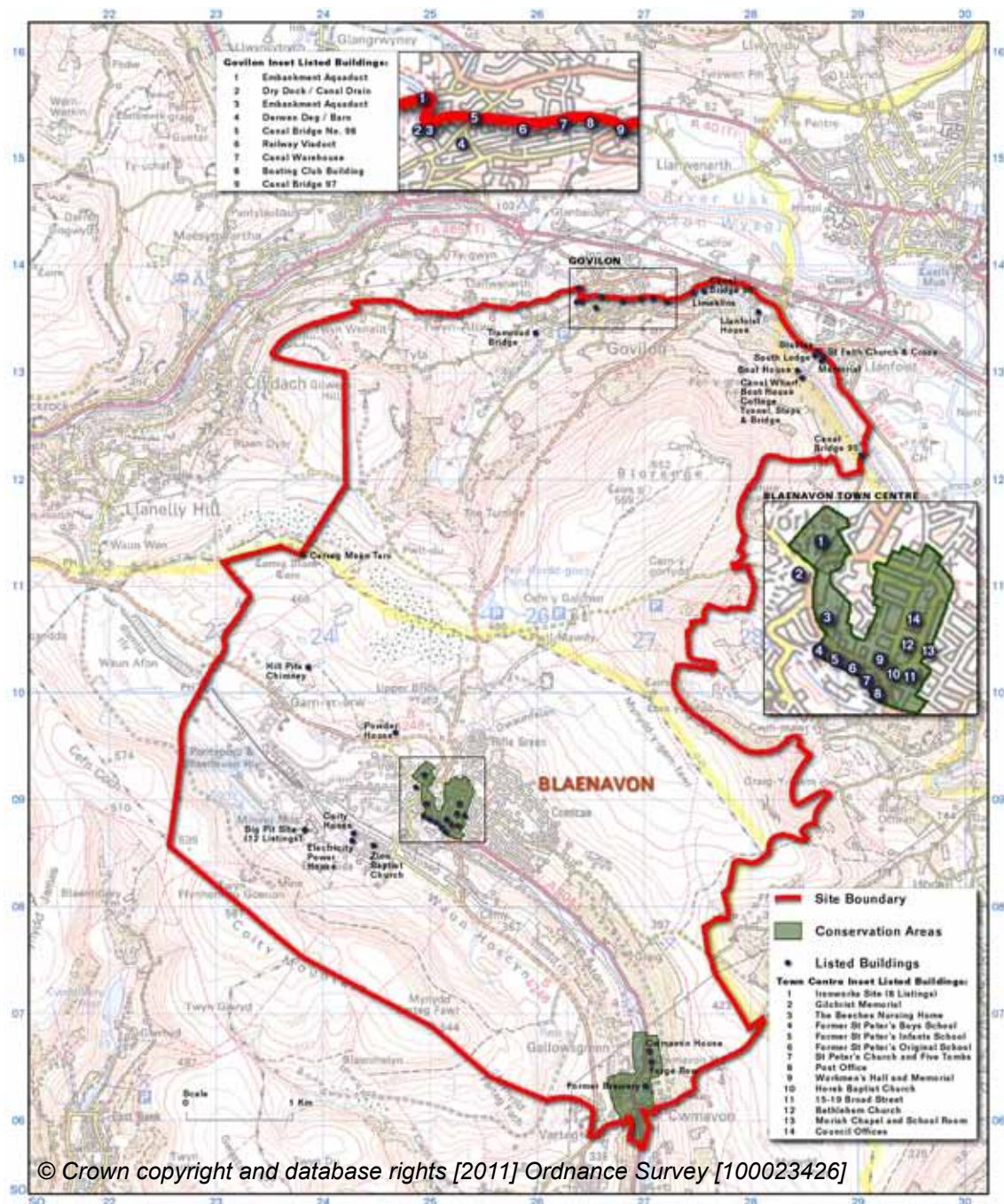
Plan showing the inscribed site boundary in relation to the historic land holdings of the Blaenavon Company. The Ironworks is the focus of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape



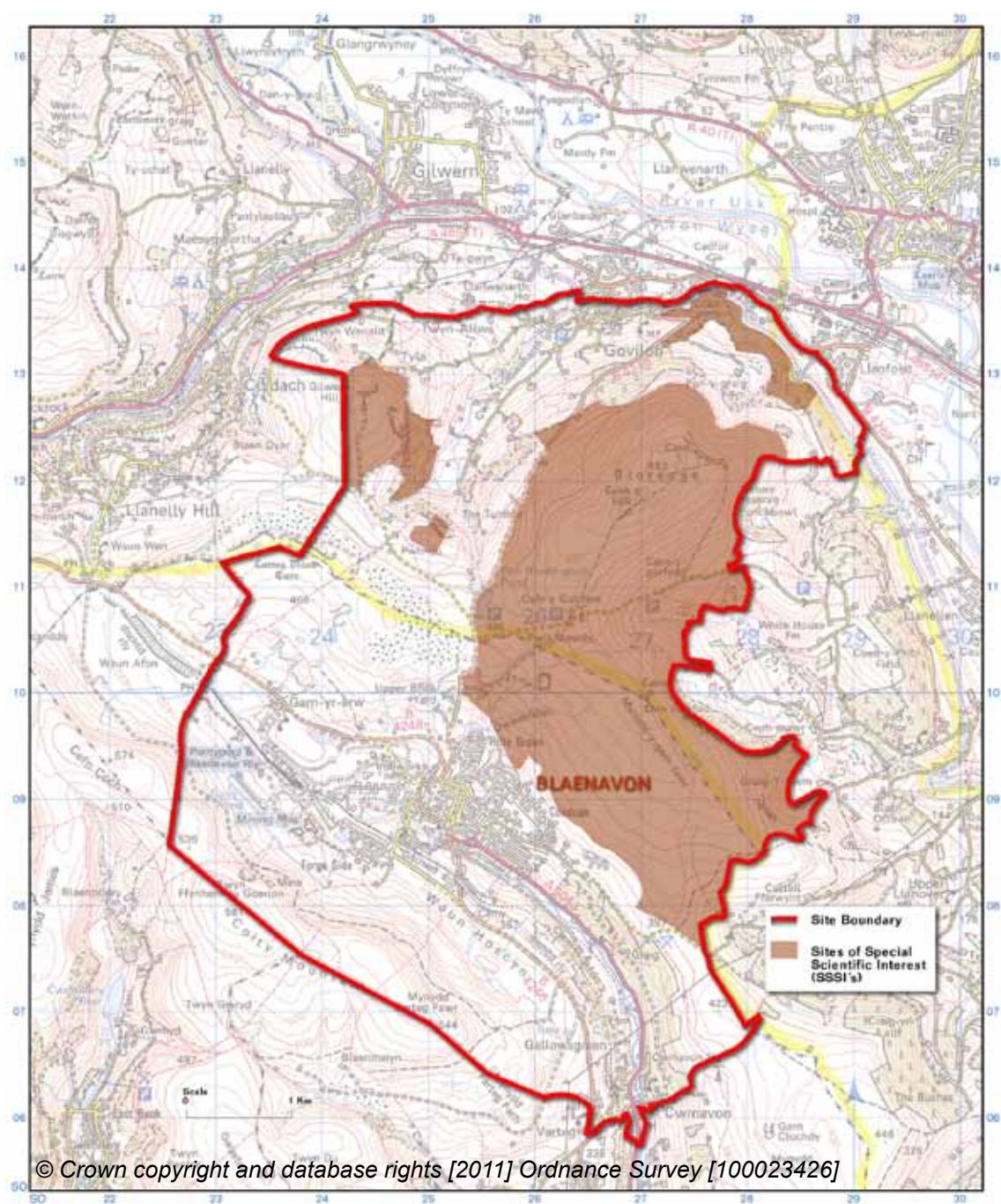
Locations of selected features of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape

Blaenavon Industrial Landscape: Scheduled Ancient Monuments of National Importance

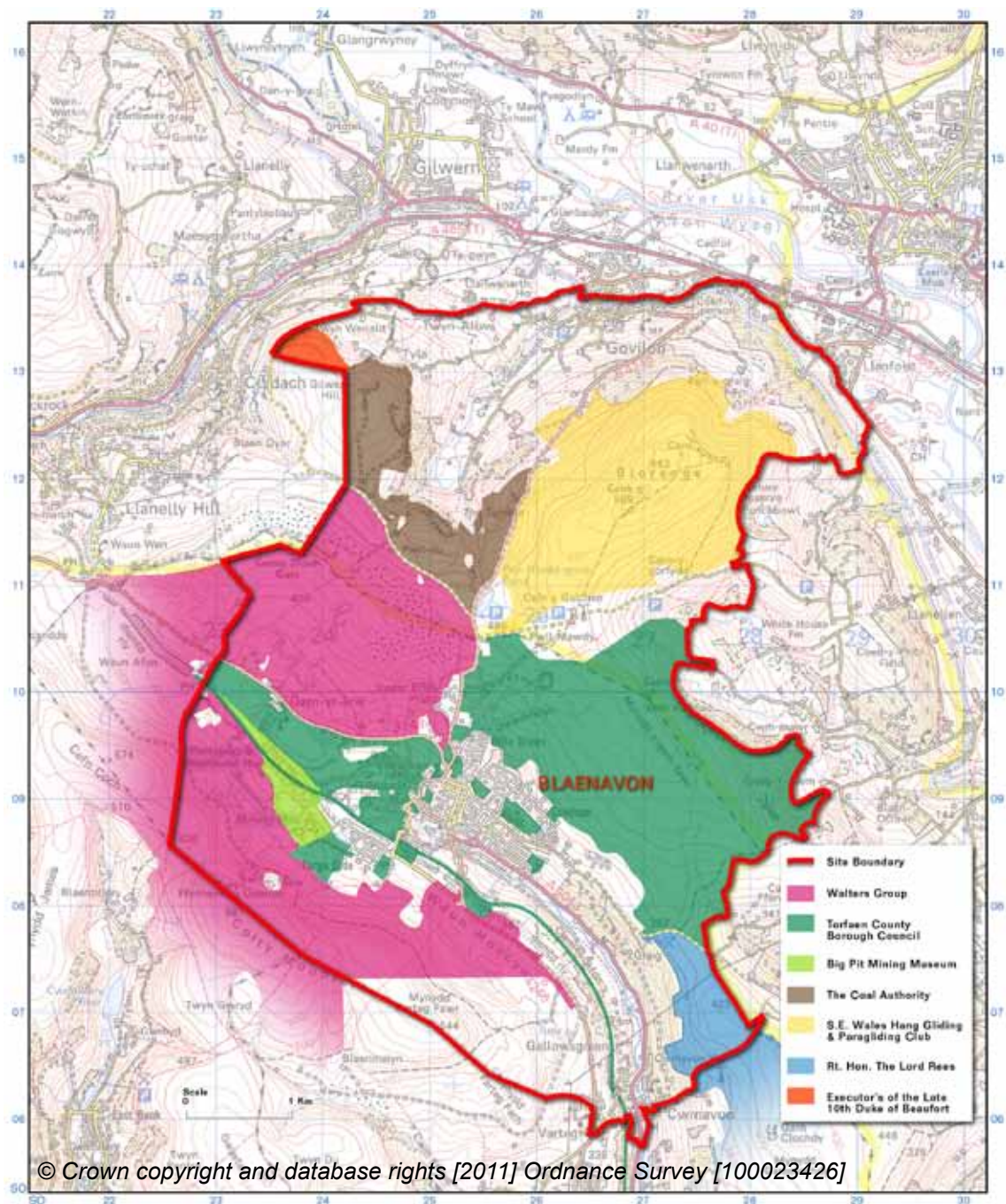
Name of Monument	National Grid Reference Number
Aaron Brute's Level and Iron Bridge	SO 248 088
Blaenavon Ironworks	SO 249 092
Brake Engine on Hill Pits Tramroad Incline	SO 242 098
Cairn on the Bloreng	SO 270 119
Capel Newydd (site of)	SO 270 077
Carn-y-Defaid Round Cairns	SO 270 099
Garnddyrys Ironworks and adjacent tramway	SO 258 118
Iron and Coal Patching, Pen-y-ffordd-goch	SO 257 107
Pwll Du Tramroad. Tunnel N. Entrances & Site of Lower Rank	SO 245 116
Pwll Du Tramroad. Tunnel, Southern Approach	SO 248 096
Tramroad bridge, Bailey's Tramroad, Govilon	SO 259 133
Pwll-du Limestone Quarry & Water Balance Lift	SO 251 114
Engine Pit, Blaenavon	SO 244 089
Dyne Steel Incline	SO 241 110
Coity Sandstone Quarry and Incline	SO 232 082
Ironstone Quarries at Carreg Maen Taro	SO 238 112
Upper Brickyard, Blaenavon	SO 251 096
Old Coal Pits	SO 243 095
Coal and iron working West of Abergavenny Road	SO 253 103
Bloreng Tunnel, Hill's Tramroad	SO 272 129
Hill's Tramroad Inclines, Llanfoist	SO 281 128
Limekilns and Quarries at Craig-yr-Hafod	SO 272 103
Bloreng Tramroad	SO 270 812 54
St. Faith's Churchyard Cross, Llanfoist	SO 286 401 3205



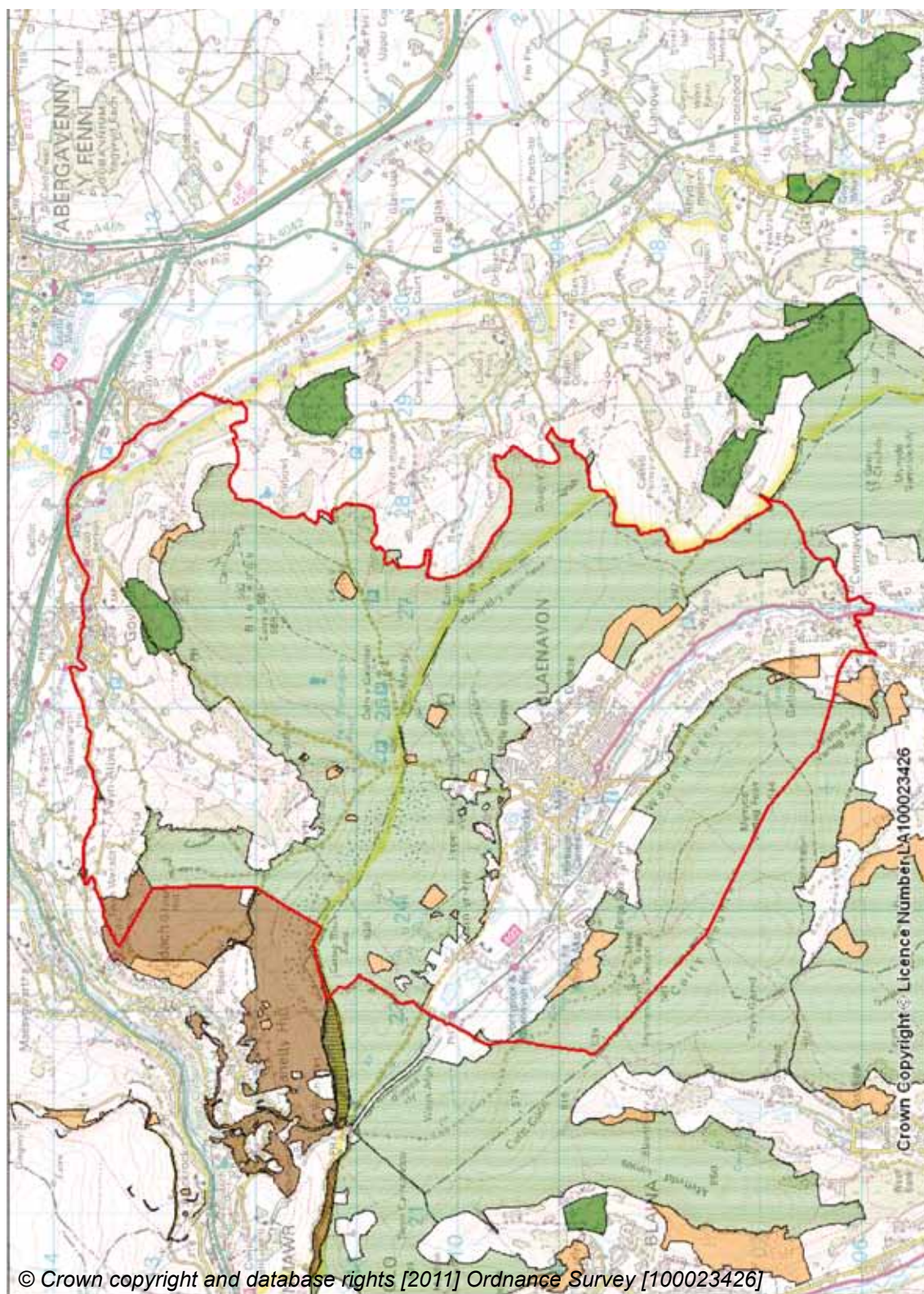
Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings of architectural or historic interest



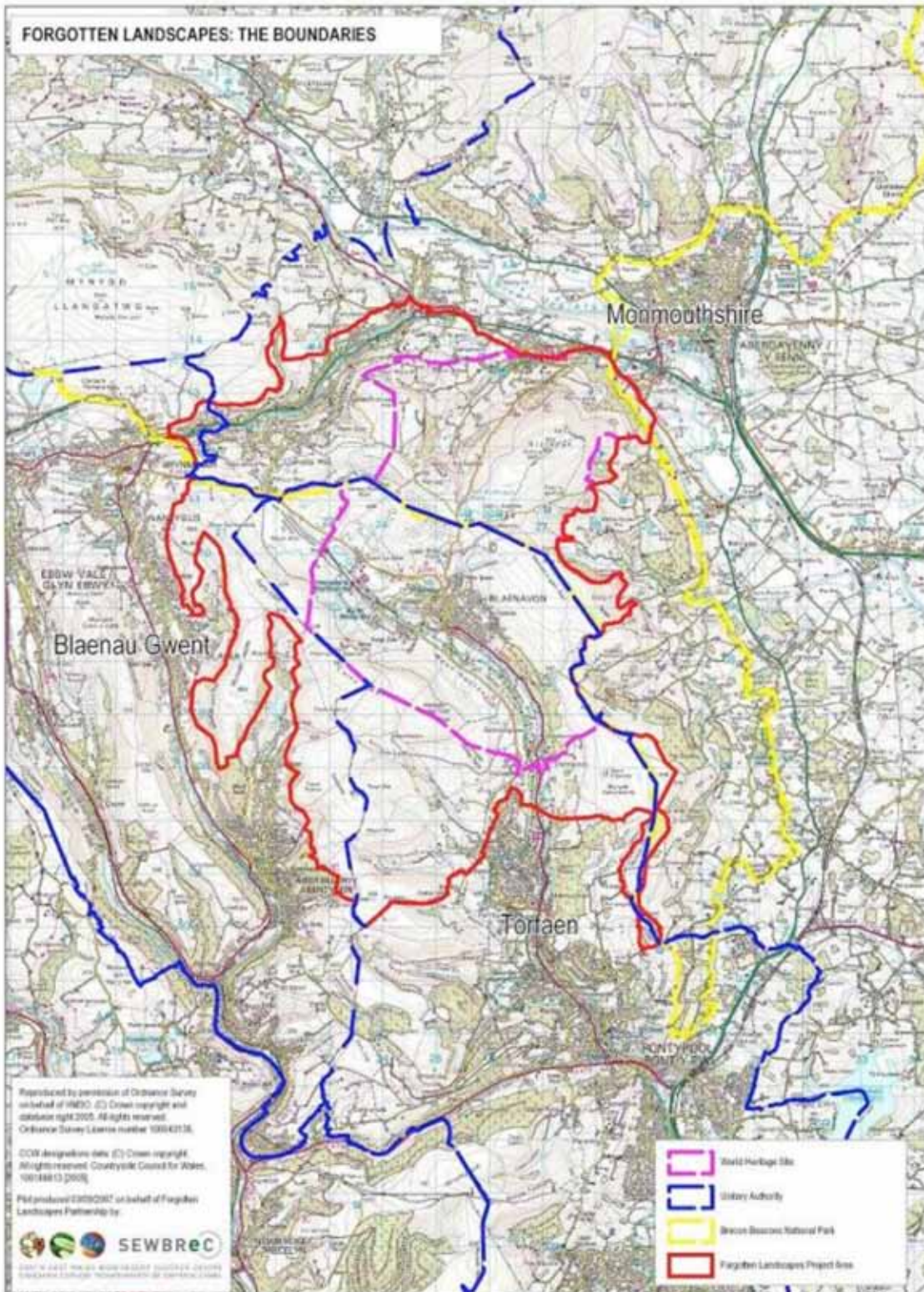
Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the inscribed site



Major land ownership within the inscribed site



Common Land within the inscribed area



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The Forgotten Landscapes boundary in relation to the World Heritage Site

Part 3

Issues



*Aerial view of Big Pit Mining Museum.
Pit head bats and canteen in the foreground
© Crown Copyright: RCAHMW*

3. Issues

3.1 Introduction

This section aims to set out the key issues which need to be addressed in the Management Plan if the essential values of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site are to continue to be successfully protected and presented.

Seven key issues have been identified by the Partnership as set out below; some of these are inevitably cross cutting.

From the analysis of these key issues, clear objectives have been developed and set out in Section Four and actual projects and work programmes set out in Section Five.

3.1.1 Pressures and Issues Identified in the Original Management Plan

The Management Plan offers an overall framework of objectives, but is not a statutory document. However it is intended that the main principles of the Management Plan can be encapsulated in relevant formal plans. It introduces no new powers, nor does it diminish the responsibility of any agency or individual. In advising and informing, the Plan will act as a catalyst for various management initiatives to be implemented. The Plan will continue to be enhanced, and will inform and respond to other policies and management proposals relating to the area.



Walking in the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape

Before addressing the present situation, consideration should be given to the issues identified in the original Management Plan. In 1999, the original Management Plan identified the main pressures affecting the site:-

- The protection and conservation of the key monuments.
- Continuing economic decline of the area.
- The use of the relict landscape for recreational and agricultural purposes.
- The presence of residual coal reserves and interest in further coal recovery by open casting.
- In addition, aspects of the site which present key management issues were:-
- The Planning Policy framework.
- The need for and desirability of public access and enjoyment.
- The opportunity for further research into the values and management of the site.

These identified pressures and management issues have all been addressed since the original plan was approved in 1999. However all of these areas of concern need ongoing attention, therefore the pressures and issues identified in the 1999 Management Plan have been incorporated in this review for further consideration.

3.1.2 Management Plan Review 2011 – 2016 Identified Issues

The following have been identified as key issues which need to be addressed in the Management Plan if the values of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site are to be properly protected and promoted.

There are obviously cross cutting factors which impinge on several of the identified issues:-

- Maintaining appropriate management arrangements for the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site.
- Preservation of the World Heritage Site's special character.
- Access and visitor management.
- Coal reserves and potential for recovery.
- Integration of the World Heritage Site Management Plan with other strategies, plans and policies.
- Information management and monitoring.
- Risk management

Each of these issues is addressed below.

3.2 Management Arrangements

3.2.1 Present Situation

The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site extends to 3,290 hectares and includes several diverse monuments, relic landscape features and the historic town of Blaenavon. The site reaches over administrative boundaries, includes several agency responsibilities and has a multitude of stakeholders including residents of the town of Blaenavon and other settlements, including Forge Side, Garn-Yr-Erw, Cwmavon, Govilon and Llanfoist. As such it presents a major challenge in co-ordination and management.

The key to effective protection and promotion of the universal values of the Site is good management. The successful work carried out since inscription in December 2000 is attributable to the effectiveness of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership. Torfaen County Borough Council has provided the effective leadership for the Partnership and all the partners have combined through various actions to the effective identification, protection, conservation, presentation and promotion of the World Heritage Site.

The effective co-ordination of the Partnership has been a key factor in the success to date. There is a need to provide adequate staff and financial resources to ensure that the considerable achievements of the last ten years are not dissipated and that strategic thinking and co-ordination of activities within the World Heritage Site is sustained and builds upon what has been achieved to date. This Plan has therefore been approved by all the partners as the basis for the protection and promotion of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site for the next five years.

While there has been very significant investment in the area over the last ten years and the potential for further capital expenditure, the issue of funding to maintain the features of the site and continue staffing levels for effective management is a real challenge.

The success of the Partnership in 'building' financial packages and attracting funding from diverse sources by various partners needs to be maintained if the effective stewardship of the site is to continue. However the funding secured through the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership initiative will provide a very substantial contribution to the funding of management over the next three years.

Effective management is vital and is under threat given the pressure on local authority and agency resources due to the international recession and other financial constraints. There is also a potential issue in the community concerning possible restrictions imposed through protection of heritage assets which could be seen as detrimental to necessary change and regeneration, in what was and still to a lesser degree is a deprived area. This can be addressed through the conservation studies for the World Heritage Site, now being completed.

The nature of the site with various attractions, means there is a great need for co-ordinated marketing and presentation.

Over the past ten years considerable public participation has taken place in the realisation of the original Management Plan. For example extensive contact has been maintained with home owners and traders in town centre renewal. Another example is the direct community involvement in events to promote the World Heritage Site. There is however no formal structure for regular input by private owners. This is now being addressed through the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership initiative and this could provide a suitable forum for incorporation in the World Heritage Site management arrangements.

3.2.2 Forgotten Landscape Partnership Initiative

The Forgotten Landscape Partnership Initiative was originated in 2007 with a clearly defined goal of ensuring the sustainable conservation of the heritage landscape of Blaenavon World Heritage Site and its adjoining areas. The Initiative was created as a result of the growing awareness of the historical and ecological significance of the 'cultural landscape' centred on the town of Blaenavon and the potential for their conservation and restoration at the landscape scale.

The Initiative will develop a holistic approach to landscape management of the core area of the World Heritage Site and the wider area totalling 70 square kilometres.

To date the Initiative, with support funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, has prepared firm proposals that not only focus on the conservation of the area's unique cultural and natural heritage but incorporate ways in which stakeholders and the wider community can become involved and benefit from the better management of the area.

Projects have been developed under four themed programme areas they are include:

1. The Landscape made by the people
2. Our sense of Place
3. Man and the Environment
4. Guardians of the Landscape

The Initiative will continue until 2013 therefore integration of the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership within the World Heritage Site Management structure and Plan is necessary and important. It is therefore intended that the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership will be fully integrated with the management of the World Heritage Site.

3.2.3 Buffer Zone

The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership deals with twice the area of the World Heritage Site (*please see map in section 2.6*) and this raises issues over identifying the wider area as a World Heritage Site 'Buffer Zone' or perhaps in the longer term as a possible extension of the World Heritage Site boundary.

By considering the adjoining areas as a buffer zone the whole Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative area can be considered as one unit – a core site and a buffer zone. This will enable it to be subject to similar standards of management supported by shared policy commitments between the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership and the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership initiative.

The creation of a buffer zone for the World Heritage Site is a significant proposal within the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative. The buffer zone areas concerned are the Clydach Gorge which lies to the north of the World Heritage Site boundary and the Milfraen Bog area at Waunavon which lies to the west of the present World Heritage Site boundary. If the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative area was included as a buffer zone, this would approximately double the area of the World Heritage Site.



Clydach Gorge

The Clydach Gorge area has considerable industrial heritage in its own right and is closely related through iron production and transportation with the World Heritage Site. It has been identified by ICOMOS, Cadw and CCW as a Landscape of Special Historic Interest. The significance of the Clydach Gorge is set out in more detail in the Clydach Gorge Study described in Appendix 3.

Although not included within the Forgotten Landscapes boundary, an area to the east of the World Heritage Site related to the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal as far as Goytre Wharf could well be included within this 'buffer zone' and should be given consideration when details of the proposed buffer zone are being finalised.

It is considered the holistic management proposals included in the Forgotten Landscape project will ensure a higher standard of management than would be otherwise possible and for this reason it is proposed in this Management Plan that this Buffer Zone should be added to the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site.

3.2.4 Wider Management

There is also a wider issue relating to World Heritage Site management, generally in the UK. There is a lack of appreciation by the public of the World Heritage Convention and the international importance of World Heritage Sites as compared with National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which are UK national designations.

The nature of World Heritage Site management requires that individual World Heritage Sites need to look outward as well as inward. Awareness is required of other World

Heritage Sites in the UK and elsewhere in the World. ICOMOS provides the link to the World Heritage Committee and calls quarterly meetings of UK World Heritage Co-ordinators. These meetings allow effective networking and knowledge of best practice. They also provide information on guidance in the management of World Heritage Sites.

The UK Local Authority World Heritage Forum (LAWHF) is also an important organisation lobbying for better funding and legislation to protect and promote World Heritage Sites. Representatives of LAWHF attend the UK Parliament All Party Working Party on World Heritage Sites. Raising national and international awareness of World Heritage Sites is important and being aware of emerging guidance and legislation is an important function of individual site management. It is important that Blaenavon maintains contact and is represented within these networks.

The Blaenavon World Heritage Site is also an effective 'gateway' to the wider heritage of South Wales. It is important to recognise regional strategies and initiatives within which the Management Plan can be implemented, in particular the recent Welsh Assembly Government Heads of the Valleys Programme and the Valleys Regional Park concept within that strategy.

Summary Issue 1 – Management

- Monitoring and review of Management Plan by all partners
- Ensure resources are provided for Co-ordinator and co-ordination arrangements.
- Renew and formalise the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Management structure including short and long term relationship with Forgotten Landscapes Partnership.
- Confirm the management structure and responsibilities.
- Establish structure for stakeholder involvement.
- Ensure co-ordination in marketing and presentation between all attractions within the World Heritage Site.
- Ensure consistency with Local Authority and other agency strategies, policies and plans.
- Consider the relationship with adjoining heritage areas in particular the Valleys Regional Park and possible buffer zone beyond the World Heritage Site boundary.
- Ensure ongoing contact on world heritage matters nationally and internationally.
- Secure future funding – capital and revenue, including for appropriate staffing levels
- Develop private sector partnership arrangements to help revenue costs
- Consider relationship between the core area of the World Heritage Site and the wider area of the Forgotten Landscape Project with a view to providing a World Heritage Site 'buffer zone'.

3.3 Preservation Of Character

A prime responsibility of the Management Plan is to protect the essential values and character of the World Heritage Site.

The size of the World Heritage Site and the diversity and the condition of the monuments, buildings and landscape present a substantial challenge. The challenge is increased by the fact that approximately 7,000 persons live within the site and that physical, social and economic change are inevitable and necessary if the area is to have a sustainable future.

A degree of balance therefore is necessary in the protection of the features of the site both built and natural. There has to be acceptance of some changes while the authenticity of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and listed buildings and Conservation Areas must be actively conserved. Some flexibility however needs to be allowed in planning and detailed design to allow communities within the World Heritage Site to enjoy 21st century standards and indeed to begin to grow again.

The landscape is also subject to inevitable change as re-vegetation of former mine working areas continues. The balance between re-vegetation and protection or restoration of original features needs to be carefully considered and the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership initiative is geared to address this issue.

Both buildings and landscape are subject to climate change which needs to be identified and addressed when considering protection of the character of the site.

The area has changed from an industrial community into a post industrial society. The former noise, dirt and tightly knit work and social patterns and activities of a monolithic industrial society have changed. New jobs, new homes including increasing use of motor vehicles, new shopping and leisure patterns all need to be accommodated in a sustainable manner while protecting the essential values of the site.

Tourism and visitors need to be encouraged to increase awareness of the area's great industrial heritage and how the events which took place in Blaenavon changed the world during the late 18th and 19th century. Cultural tourism is also seen as a major contributor to the local economy, however visitors have an impact and the capacity of the site to cater for visitors needs to be addressed as the essential character of the site must not be despoiled by modern tourism.

The international significance of the area's heritage was not generally appreciated by the local community for which it was the background to everyday living. Indeed, the failure of industry left a legacy of resentment against the past. There is a need to involve the community in appreciation of its history and for residents to enhance the site as 'ambassadors'. Lack of appreciation of the area's culture and natural heritage is also exhibited in such activities as illegal motor cycling on the mountain, tipping of waste and depositing of litter.

3.3.1 Criteria for Inscription

The criteria under which the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape was inscribed were:-

Criterion (iii) -The Blaenavon Landscape constitutes an exceptional illustration in material form of the social and economic structure of 19th century industry.

Criterion (iv) - The components of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape together make up an outstanding and remarkably complete example of 19th century industrial landscape.

Criterion (iv) means that as well as the physical features of monuments the town and the landscape the social history and 'intangible' values of the site need to be properly recognised protected and presented. These are the strands of tradition and culture which are an essential part of the Blaenavon story. It is important to protect the historic local character in the face of inevitable change. This means protecting such things as the activities of choirs, bands, clubs, chapels, churches and also the role of the Workmen's Hall within the community. The place of Welsh language in the history of the area needs to be recognised, protected and shown to present and future generations. Social history is vitally important and needs to be further captured and maintained. The Blaenavon World Heritage Centre offers the potential to further capture and present such history.

To achieve World Heritage Site status the Nomination Document had to demonstrate that considerable effort had been made to successfully identify, protect and conserve the authenticity of the site.

The criteria for inscription for the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape, accepted by the World Heritage Committee, encapsulate the essential values of the World Heritage Site. The most important protection of these values is expected to be delivered through the planning system. This matter has been addressed more fully in section 3.6 below.

3.3.2 Relevant Studies

Since inscription the following studies are worthy of mention in this context:-

Landscape categorisation study by Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT).

This sub-divided, the total World Heritage Site into 18 character areas. This has been used as a helpful tool in the assessment of planning applications as well as presentation of the site and areas for further research.

Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Design Guide and Blaenavon and Cwmavon Conservation Area Appraisal

The design guide was adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by Full Council on 12th April 2011 and will be used to inform all future development proposals within the area of the World Heritage Site covered by Torfaen County Borough Council. The Blaenavon and Cwmavon CAA were also approved and will be used as background documents to the Design Guide.

Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative

The aims of the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative in terms of more holistic management of the World Heritage Site have been set out in 3.2.2 above.

Proposals included as part of this project by the Ruthin Consultancy set out clear ideas for further protection of features and character within the heritage landscape and proposals to combat illegal motor vehicle activities and tipping. The Initiative will also provide an extensive and fully digitised record of all the cultural and natural features of the World Heritage Site. The project will also deliver a number of projects which will ensure the better conservation and presentation of the area's cultural and natural features.

These recent studies will therefore adequately inform and help advance the protection and restoration of the character of the World Heritage Site in the future and identify priorities.

Notwithstanding these recent studies all significant planning applications within the area are subject to the requirement of a design statement to justify proposals in terms of their impact on the character of the World Heritage Site.

Big Pit was subject to a conservation study in 2003/04 by Brooke Millar Architects. This study which assessed the essential character of the site informed the restoration proposals for the site; implemented by 2005. The conservation study continues to be a reference document to assist and gauge proposals for protecting, maintaining and developing the site.

The Blaenavon Ironworks, has been continually surveyed and assessed by Cadw and any proposals to conserve or develop on the site are rigorously assessed by Cadw's Ancient Monuments Inspectors.

St. Peter's Church was restored between 2003 and 2006. Cadw ensured that every repair was carried out to respect the historic character of the building.



The former St. Peter's Boys' and Girls' Schools were restored and upgraded as the first dedicated World Heritage Centre in the UK. A conservation strategy was also a pre-requisite of the Heritage Lottery support. Cadw again ensured that the work was carried out to the highest standard and respected the historic character of the listed buildings.

Former St Peter's School, Blaenavon World Heritage Centre

In the town centre over 500 properties; older residential and commercial properties and the former listed Council Office building have been restored and upgraded since December 2000 mainly with funding from the Welsh Assembly Government through a Housing Renewal Programme. All the work has been carried out with respect to the essential character of the World Heritage Site.

As far as commercial properties are concerned great care has been taken, to return several of the derelict and semi-derelict shop fronts to the original Victorian design based on the study of historical photographs. Where listed buildings are involved Cadw as the responsible government body has insisted on the highest quality to ensure integrity and respect authenticity.

The thoughtful, careful and prioritised approach to protecting and promoting the essential character over the last ten years needs to be continued into the future. Consideration may need to be given to further scheduling of features in the landscape; in particular some of the features relating to the use of water in industrial processes may require consideration.

Summary Issues 2 - Protection of World Heritage Site Character

- Utilise conservation plans and studies in place to provide guidance on repair, restoration and investment of existing building and any new development.
- Continue to prepare and deliver more detailed proposals for protection/use of historic and natural features.
- Ensure consistency in quality of protection throughout the World Heritage Site area.
- Consider “intangible heritage” further, including the collection of social history – written, audio and visual.
- Encourage community awareness of heritage and role in protection and promotion of the World Heritage Site values.
- Consider ongoing maintenance of historic assets.
- Combat illegal motor activities and fly tipping.
- Utilise IT to ensure quality database and identification of qualities of the site and for maintaining, monitoring and maintenance.
- To achieve quality design in new development ensuring it is sympathetic to the character of the local area.

3.4 Access and Visitor Management

3.4.1 Physical Access

The main features of the World Heritage Site are very accessible. The main monuments are free and open to the public all year with helpful trained staff in attendance. The importance of the link between industrial heritage and the traditional heritage attractions of the Brecon Beacons National Park is recognised and advantage should be taken of the National Park gateways at Brecon and Abergavenny.



Blaenavon World Heritage Centre

Promotion and presentation of World Heritage Sites is a primary responsibility under the 1972 World Heritage Convention. Since inscription, the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership has sought to vigorously promote the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape and maximise the economic benefits of cultural tourism to assist in changing perceptions of this former industrial area and assist in ensuring a sustainable economic future for the area.

In promoting the World Heritage Site a conscious effort has been made to present Blaenavon as an eastern gateway to the industrial heritage of south Wales so that the wider region can benefit from the site's World Heritage status.

The focus for access both actual and intellectual is the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre opened in March 2008. The town welcomes visitors. There is good signage and adequate parking and other facilities have been developed including new public toilets.

The landscape has a system of way-marked walks and 'gateway' parking areas have been greatly improved in the last ten years. The mountain landscape is largely "urban common" with public freedom of access for air and exercise.

A national cycle route passes through the site along the line of a former railway track which runs near to Big Pit from Pontypool and is part of the National Cycle-ways Routes Network. Improvements to the walking and cycling network in Blaenavon are safeguarded in the emerging Torfaen Local Development Plan. These are NCRN492 – Blaenavon to Brynmawr; NCRN492 to Blaenavon Ironworks and Town Centre; NCRN492 Varteg Road Bridge to Blaenavon.

Blaenavon is situated on the A4043 which is linked to the M4 at Newport 18 miles away to the south. To the north west, Blaenavon is linked to Brynmawr by the A4043 which connects to the A465 Heads of the Valleys road which in turn is linked to the M50.

There is a very regular bus service to and from Pontypool, Cwmbran and Newport to the south, Abergavenny and Brynmawr to the north and west. There are mainline railway stations at Pontypool and Abergavenny with easy links to London and Manchester.

3.4.2 Digital Access

In terms of digital access, Blaenavon has made considerable strides to incorporate digital technology. The original Blaenavon World Heritage Site website has recently been replaced by an upgraded site incorporating the new style guide and this enables all important information including the World Heritage Site Management Plan and key studies to be accessed. See www.visitblaenavon.co.uk

Information on local history is recorded both audio and visually and this record is continually



www.visitblaenavon.co.uk

being enlarged and is available through the Blaenavon World Heritage Site website www.visitblaenavon.co.uk.

Torfaen County Borough Council has put in place a high level of ICT provision and this should increase opportunities to develop links between other World Heritage Sites in the UK and abroad.

3.4.3 Heritage News

Another important document providing access to World Heritage Site matters is Heritage News, the Blaenavon World Heritage Site newsletter which is published twice per year and distributed to all households within the World Heritage Site. The newsletter aims to keep people informed about World Heritage Site events, activities and other related matters as well as to increase awareness and community pride. The newsletter has proved to be popular and is well received by the local community.

3.4.4 Visitor Numbers

The original World Heritage Site Management Plan identified that the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape had considerable capacity for increasing visitor numbers and at this time there is still considerable further capacity. A primary aim of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership is to increase the number of visitors to the World Heritage Site during the Plan period and to continue to present the history of the area to visitors and assist in the economic recovery of the area.

Year	Big Pit	Blaenavon Ironworks	P'pool & Blaenavon Railway	World Heritage Centre
1995	95,589	3,700	4,717	
1996	92,200	3,346	5,015	
1997	86,684	2,865	3,517	
1998	85,188	* 756	4,726	
1999	78,174	3,517	5,379	
2000	77,971	3,693	6,796	
2001	**120,133	6,112	8,710	
2002	119,015	6,866	6,631	
2003	112,045	9,897	3,678	
2004	141,127	7,845	4,234	
2005	156,977	8,668	4,594	
2006	158,109	7,460	5,434	
2007	155,629	10,714	7,398	
2008	165,121	**17,964	8,727	***14,455
2009	164,696	29,961	9,346	19,860
2010	155,631	23,135	12,577	29,181

* 1998 figure for Ironworks does not include guided tours – no information available from Torfaen Museum Trust, ** Free entry introduced, *** Figures March 2008 – 1st January 2009.

A break-down of visitor numbers for the period 1995-2010 is shown above. The number of visitors to the site overall has more than doubled over the ten years due to successful promotion and the upgrading of visitor facilities. Visitor numbers are now estimated to be well over 200,000 per annum. Big Pit National Coal Museum is by far the main attraction recording over 160,000 visitors in 2009 compared with 78,000 in 2000. This is mainly due to the restoration and upgrading of the site including provision of a new museum in the former pit head baths building and a multimedia simulated mining experience to augment the underground tours with ex-miners. The site previously closed between October and March but is now open all year.

At present there is no concern over the capacity of the World Heritage Site to accommodate further visitors. Assessments show that the town and landscape and all the features are capable of considerable increase in visitors without detriment to the heritage quality. The possible exception might be Big Pit National Coal Museum which is likely to attract more than 170,000 visitors per annum. However, the National Museum is catering for this further anticipated increase by extending the information and facilities on site.

The Blaenavon Ironworks has also substantially increased visitor numbers. There are four reasons for this. Firstly since World Heritage Site inscription there has been considerable conservation works carried out by Cadw.

Secondly, a visitor reception centre has been created in the former semi-derelict pay office which is manned by trained and helpful staff. Provision for visitors has been greatly improved including improved models of the site in its heyday, restored and refurbished workers cottages and 'listening posts' at key points to describe the history. A 'Truck Shop' has also been re-constructed and education programmes have been developed to particularly encourage young visitors.

Thirdly, opening has been extended so that the site is available all year and entry has been free to all since 2008.

Fourthly, a BBC television series in 2007 and its sequel in 2008 called *Coal House* featured the lives of miners in 1927 and in 1944. This was filmed on the site and attracted very wide public interest. Visitor numbers grew from less than 4,000 in 2000 to nearly 18,000 in 2008. By providing improved interpretation at the site, Cadw aim to increase visitor number to around 25,000 over the next three years.

In 2008, the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre was opened. This is the first dedicated World Heritage Centre in the UK. The building received a Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Award in the same year. The Centre was accommodated within the previously derelict St. Peter's School(s) (1816) with the assistance of substantial Heritage Lottery funding. The role of the Centre is to provide intellectual and physical access to the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape. The Centre provides multimedia information on the site and facilities for study and for exhibitions and events. Education is seen as a primary function of the Centre. The visitor numbers in the first year were 17,500 and the aim for future years is to achieve at least 25,000 visitors annually. The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative includes several proposals which will develop the effectiveness of the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre as the focus for intellectual and actual access to the World Heritage Site.



Blaenavon World Heritage Centre

In 2001 a small community heritage museum was established in the town. This facility is run by local volunteers. The museum attracts about 2,000 visitors per year and features the life of Alexander Cordell, a writer who popularised the story of industrial society in South Wales notably through his bestselling book *Rape of the Fair Country* published in 1959. The museum also collects and records information on local history.

The Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway is run by volunteers and provides maintenance of railway track originally created in 1866 and a heritage visitor experience to complement the other attractions of the World Heritage Site. The visitor numbers for 2009 were 9,346. Visitor figures increased to 12,577 in 2010 following the extension of the railway line to Blaenavon High Level Station. It is hoped with the extension of the track and other improvements this figure will rise to 20,000 within five years.

A short section of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal between Govilon and Llanfoist lies within the boundary of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site and includes both Govilon and Llanfoist Wharves. At both these locations there are facilities for the docking and hire of leisure boats and the number of people using the canal for cruising has been generally increasing in recent years. The canal tow-path is also increasingly used by walkers and cyclists. Goytre Wharf lies outside the World Heritage Site but because there are good parking facilities and services at the site and because it has an interesting industrial heritage, it is increasingly recognised as a gateway to the World Heritage Site.

The historic town of Blaenavon attracts a number of visitors and assessments of footfall are beginning to be recorded from footfall counters placed at three locations in the town. However, it remains a challenge to attract local residents and visitors to the town and footfall remains relatively low. Efforts have been made to offset the declining trading power of the town with niche market shops to attract visitors, for example with bookshops, art galleries and a specialist cheese shop. Consideration of customer demand against existing retail offer needs to be closely matched to assist in the development of a vibrant town.

New public toilets have been provided and many environmental improvements have been carried out including better car parking provision to encourage trade. While a number of new businesses have been established increasing facilities for visitors is still a challenge particularly in terms of accommodation providers.

New bed and breakfast facilities have been provided and local pubs and cafes have been improved. Recently, work on a small hotel has commenced within the town centre providing eleven en suite rooms to Visit Wales four star standard. The Lion Hotel building was previously vacant and semi-derelict. It is anticipated that the hotel will provide a significant contribution towards encouraging visitors to the town.

The high standard of works in the town has been recognised in a published document Public Realm Good Practice Guide, written by Powell Dobson Architects on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government Heads of the Valleys Programme. These works to the public realm and other high standards of work undertaken in and around the town since World Heritage Site inscription in December 2000 are widely appreciated and Blaenavon is regarded as an exemplar for the wider sub region of south Wales.

In the communities of Govilon and Llanfoist, which lie within the World Heritage Site boundary, there are pubs and shops which offer services to local people and visitors. Beyond the World Heritage Site boundary, in the Abergavenny and Gilwern areas in particular, there is a range of facilities including shops, pubs, restaurants, hotels, bed and breakfasts, caravan and picnic facilities, which are very convenient for visitors to the World Heritage Site.

The Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership has sought to combine interest in the cultural heritage i.e. industrial heritage with interest in the natural landscape and link with the well-known attractions of the Brecon Beacons National Park. The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative will explore and develop these links further.

Way-marked walks incorporating many of the heritage features have been developed including the 'Iron Mountain Trail' opened in May 2005. This is linked to a series of other related walks. A recording system is in place which has shown a threefold increase in walkers in the site to about 30,000 annually.

Guided walks in the town and the landscape have been organised by the World Heritage Site wardens and local Green Badge Guides since 2005 and these are proving to be increasingly popular.

A pilot scheme of hand-held GIS sets available from the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre has been developed with the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW) to provide information on part of the town of Blaenavon and this has potential for further development.

The Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership believes that a programme of events is an essential ingredient in promotion and in sustaining the intangible heritage of the area. These events are aimed at continually renewing awareness, experience and interest in the World Heritage Site.

As part of the promotion of the area a regular programme of events is held including the annual World Heritage Day. This event includes a heritage parade in which the local school children play a prominent part. It attracts many visitors as well as local people; an estimated 10,000 people attended World Heritage Day in 2010.

The most impressive event to date was 'Party in the Past', a major Son-et-Lumiere and concert, held at Blaenavon Ironworks in September 2010 to celebrate ten years of Blaenavon's World Heritage Site status. Other events include the annual Garn Lakes Fayre, Blaenavon Winter Wonderland and art exhibitions held at the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre and in local shops.

3.4.5 Promotion

The Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership has been very proactive in promoting the World Heritage Site. While several of the attractions within the site have their own promotional programmes it was agreed that all would achieve 'added value' by promoting the World Heritage Site as an overarching brand and highlighting the UNESCO and World Heritage logos as seals of recognised international quality.

A study Destination Blaenavon was accepted by the Partnership in May 2003. This stated that active promotion of the town should proceed slowly until such time as the facilities and condition in the town were upgraded. Now the town centre has been substantially improved and the main monuments better preserved and interpreted, marketing the World Heritage Site has intensified.

In 2004 a Marketing Sub Group of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership was formed and the concept of building the Blaenavon World Heritage Site brand was progressed. The difficulty of promoting a site comprising such a wide area and such diverse attractions was addressed and an overarching 'logo' established in consultation with local people.

The Blaenavon World Heritage Site logo aims to emphasise the combination of landscape and early industrial society representing the two criteria under which the World Heritage Site was inscribed. This was selected as Wales 'Brand of the Year' in 2005.

Following the acceptance of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site logo, the same design house was commissioned to prepare promotional leaflets, posters and postcards and to develop a style guide to establish design principles for all promotional material literature and interpretation in the future. This style guide has been consistently applied for the last six years for promotion, interpretation, posters for various events signage.

Efforts in positively promoting the Blaenavon World Heritage Site have been recognised nationally and internationally and the World Heritage Site Co-ordinator has presented papers on promoting Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site at seminars and conferences nationally and internationally.



Blaenavon World Heritage Site Logos

In May 2007 a study was prepared by consultants Red Kite Environment. The Visitor Experience and Interpretation Plan made two basic recommendations.

Firstly that presentation should feature first person interpretation and this has generally been accepted as the way forward. The second recommendation was to greatly increase the funding available for promotion and provide a strong independent marketing organisation. This is not practical given the limited funds available to the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership and it has been decided to maintain co-ordination through the present marketing sub-group.

In January 2009, a further study Planning the Visitor Experience – A Visitor Management Plan was prepared by the Can-Do Team which made recommendations for improving signage to and within the site and suggestions for increasing linkages between attractions.

Within South Wales, the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape is representative of the wider industrial heritage of South Wales and Blaenavon is seen as the “eastern gateway” to the region. Plans are being made to encourage linked walks leading to the wider area from Blaenavon also extending the cycle network. Blaenavon is seen as an exemplar in terms of promotion for the wider region.

‘Heart and Soul of Wales’ is a three year marketing campaign and is part of a three year Welsh Assembly Government project to raise the profile of the south Wales valleys. The campaign aims to build on investment in the region to date and help boost the local economy. It will focus on providing attractions to local people and visitors, building on a strong sense of ‘community’ and unique industrial past, which the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape represents.

Further international recognition has been achieved through the European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) www.erih.org. Industrial heritage is seen as a growing sector of cultural tourism and with this in mind Torfaen Council became a partner in the INTERREG 3 European Route of Industrial Heritage projects from 2007. The route includes several other industrial World Heritage Sites in the UK and sites in several other European countries notably Germany which has been a leader in the development of industrial heritage tourism. Such high quality international marketing is seen as important in widening access to the Blaenavon World Heritage Site.

Summary Issue 3 Access and Visitor Management

- How best to maintain and expand the marketing and promotion between the several features and attractions within the World Heritage Site boundary.
- To increase the visitor numbers to the World Heritage Site.
- To increase the length of stay and encourage return visits and combat seasonality.
- To continue to develop and build greater awareness of the World Heritage Site brand to increase its profile.
- Ensure quality standards befitting World Heritage Site inscription.
- Monitor visitor numbers, profile and impact of visitors on site.
- Develop site relationship with the wider heritage of south Wales.
- Further provision of visitor facilities and services.
- Extend effective use of digital technology within marketing interpretation and communications.
- Ensure adequate funding for promotion.
- Further community involvement/engagement.
- Improving links between the main tourist attractions and the town

3.5 Coal Reserves and the Potential for Recovery

3.5.1 Background

Appreciation of this issue needs an understanding of the historic background.

The great South Wales Coalfield which, at the end of the 19th century was probably the most important in the world, had been subject to near surface mining by pits, galleries and shallow mines from at least the mid-18th century and increasingly, by deep mining during the 19th century.

During the 20th century, the ability to use large machinery for digging huge trenches was developed, usually to recover considerable quantities of coal left by earlier more 'primitive' mining; this is called open-cast mining. A significant early open-cast operation actually took place at Blaenavon from 1944. This was carried out by the Canadian Army under a wartime directive from the British Ministry of Fuel and Power. This was a historic 'excavation' and indeed, forms an important part of the story of mineral extraction within the Blaenavon World Heritage Site.

Following the Aberfan Disaster in October 1966 when a coal waste tip moved and buried the nearby village school causing the death of 144 people, including 116 children, the Welsh Office saw the pressing need to remove the all too evident dereliction from past mining within the South Wales Coalfield area. Not only for reasons of health, safety and amenity but as a way of creating land suitable to accommodate much needed new development for the growth and economic restructuring of South Wales. Open-cast proposals frequently became part and parcel of this 'Land Reclamation Programme'.

In accordance with the national reclamation aims much of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape was actually scheduled by the Welsh Development Agency as 'Derelict Land' and as such was seen by the Coal Authority as an opportunity for a further massive open-cast coal recovery programme. A major planning application by the Coal Authority, which would have cut even deeper into the mountain than the 1944 Canadian Army open-cast, was refused by the Gwent County Council as the Mineral Planning Authority in 1991 and following an extensive and fiercely contested public inquiry lasting thirty three days, the County Council's refusal was upheld by the then Secretary of State for Wales.

In 1997 the Coal Authority, as landowner, disposed of the areas of land including most of the now Blaenavon World Heritage Site and chose to give ownership of the areas within which the best coal reserves remained to the Walters Mining Group, a South Wales Company specialising in the hire of heavy plant for earth moving and in opencast recovery. The Walters Mining Group had hoped at some stage to revive, at least in part, the 1992 proposals, although primarily interested in an area lying outside the World Heritage Site boundary.

3.5.2 Present Position

Since World Heritage Site inscription, occasional discussions have been held with the Walters Mining Group who have generally co-operated with proposals for managing and providing improved access within the World Heritage Site. The increasing appreciation of the 'Outstanding Universal Value' of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape coupled with the increasing awareness of the adjoining Waunavon Bog as a significant nature resource have resulted in the Walters Mining Group having reduced expectations in terms of open-casting which would in any event be contrary to agreed planning policy.

3.5.3 Summary

While the presence of such an important fuel resource and the potential for recovery needs to be recognised the present position does not threaten the effective management of the World Heritage Site. On-going constructive meetings will continue on matters relating to land ownership and management, bearing in mind the Walters Mining Group desire not to surrender the potential for coal extraction by whatever means should the national or international fuel supply situation justify extreme measures to maintain supplies. In this context, long term thinking on coal extraction without excavation needs to be borne in mind.

Open-cast operations within the World Heritage Site will clearly be detrimental to the internationally recognised values of the area. The position at this time and for the foreseeable future is arguably less problematic than it was at the time of nomination for World Heritage Site status.

The Welsh Assembly Government's Technical Advice Note 8 on renewable energy (updated 2005) urges the development of renewable energy. However, the note clearly sets out that the World Heritage Site should be excluded as a Strategic Search Area (SSA) for on-shore wind generation. This is a clear indication of the significance that the Welsh Assembly Government gives to the protection of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape.

Apart from the land within the ownership of the Walters Mining Group, there are other areas, particularly beside the Varteg Road within the World Heritage Site, where coal reserves still exist but no serious threat is perceived from open-casting in these areas at this time as it would clearly be against established planning policy.

Summary Issue 4 Coal Reserves and Potential for Recovery

- Continue discussions with Walters Mining Group and other landowners in respect of management proposals and land ownership

3.6 Integration of World Heritage Site Management Plan with other Strategies, Policies and Plans

3.6.1 Introduction

The UK has a wide ranging and complex system of legislation and guidance in respect of planning and development. In the case of Wales there are Spatial and Regional Plans as well as Local Development Plans. These are augmented at local level by Community Plans and a plethora of strategies, plans and studies which provide context and content relative to this Management Plan and its effective delivery.

The Town and Country Planning Act with Local Development Plans are designed to regulate the development and use of land in the public interest. Torfaen County Borough Council is currently consulting on its Deposit Plan which includes specific policies to ensure in delivering new development the continued protection and enhancement of the World Heritage Site is promoted.

Monmouthshire County Council is currently in the process of producing a Local Development Plan which will set out the vision and objectives for development and use of land over a ten year period. The Deposit Local Development Plan is due to be consulted upon later this year, and will set out the policies and proposals for the future use and development of land in the County.

Similarly, the Brecon Beacons National Park Committee is preparing a Local Development Plan for the National Park including that part of the World Heritage Site (approx 45%) within the Brecon Beacons National Park area. This has recently been consulted upon.

These Local Development Plans are being prepared to replace existing local plans which will remain in force until the replacements are adopted. The proposed Plans will strengthen policies to protect and promote the values of the World Heritage Site and form the legal basis for the Development Control system. The inclusion of appropriate policies to protect the values of the World Heritage Site is essential. This important issue is addressed more fully in Appendix 3.

These Local Development Plans are intended to be clear and concise, with specific relevance to issues of concern to the local area and in the context of national planning policy as set out by Planning Policy Wales 2011.

A further requirement of the Local Development Plans under the Planning Act (2004) is that a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) must inform the Local Development Plan, this together with Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), allows the planning system to focus on the promotion of sustainable development, and issues including climate change

The Welsh Assembly Government is a devolved administration from the National UK Government in Westminster. In 2007, 'One Wales' was published as the progressive agenda for the present term of government in Wales within which is set out an ambitious programme for government and its commitment to continue key regeneration programmes for the Heads of the Valleys area which includes much of the World Heritage Site and importantly the town of Blaenavon.

'Turning Heads' a strategic plan for the Heads of the Valleys area to 2020 was published in June 2006 and sets out a shared vision for the area for regeneration through combined efforts of the public, private and voluntary/community sectors.

'Heart and Soul of Wales' is a three year marketing campaign which aims to build on investment in the region to date and help boost the local economy.

The role of the World Heritage Site is seen as a key element in the production and implementation of that strategy. The role of Blaenavon as a 'gateway' to the wider south Wales heritage and as an exemplar of regeneration is likely to provide opportunities for future funding from the programme for protection, development and promotion of the World Heritage Site.

The Valleys Regional Park (VRP) Strategic Framework, Working Draft (July 2007) highlights the importance of the World Heritage Site within the context of the wider environment and heritage of the Valleys. The VRP Action Plan also identifies the World Heritage Site as a key strategic site in Torfaen, with a series of actions that form part of the management plan.

In 2008, Torfaen Council commissioned the preparation of a Holistic Area Regeneration Plan (HARP) for North Torfaen which includes the World Heritage Site area. The HARP will build upon the heritage led regeneration which has taken place since World Heritage Site to secure wider community benefits. The proposals in this Plan will impact upon the future development of the town and will provide a positive opportunity to improve links to the community which will assist management of the World Heritage Site, notably addressing issues in relation to social cohesion and 'intangible heritage'.

Blaenavon has been identified as a Communities First Area by the Welsh Assembly Government which means a partnership has been set up, with Government funding, to address the social and economic needs of the most deprived area of the town.

Blaenavon has also been designated as a rural ward and benefits from participation in the Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Wales. The RDP is a long-term programme which will develop rural communities. The programme is funded through the European Agricultural Rural Development Fund. The RDP runs until 2013 with the aims of improving the quality of life in rural communities, strengthening the farming and forestry industries, safeguarding and enhancing Torfaen's environment and rural heritage and fostering competitive, sustainable businesses and thriving rural communities.

Recently several other detailed studies have been completed within the World Heritage Site. The proposals set out in these studies should assist in funding the protection and promotion of the values of the World Heritage Site. These studies are described below:

The Blaenavon Retail Distinctiveness Study by Miller Research Evaluation Consultancy – April 2009. This study sets out proposals whereby authorities, together with local traders, can improve the town centre to better serve local people and visitors and to ensure its economic sustainability which is important to the character of the World Heritage Site.

Three related conservation documents have been prepared by Consultants Heritage and Regeneration Solutions Ltd., these are

- The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Design Guide
- Blaenavon Conservation Area Appraisal
- Cwmavon Conservation Area Appraisal

The Blaenavon and Cwmavon Conservation Area Appraisals consider the location and setting, historic development, character and appearance of the Conservation Area. It then identifies issues and positive and negative design features within the town. The Blaenavon Conservation Area Appraisal also proposes boundary amendments to the Conservation Area.

The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Design Guide provides guidance including and beyond the Conservation Area, dealing with improvements/ alterations to existing buildings throughout the area of the World Heritage Site covered by Torfaen as a Local Planning Authority. It provides principles for the design of new buildings, alterations to existing buildings, principles for the urban design of larger developments, as well as providing guidance on repairs and maintenance, the public realm, streetscape and energy efficiency

The Draft Design Concept Statements consider the potential development of particular sites for potential redevelopment within the town, makes an appraisal of their relevance to the World Heritage Site and prepares briefs to guide development so that the values of the World Heritage Site may be enhanced.

Planning the Visitor Experience – A Visitor Management Plan by Can Do Team in 2008. This study was commissioned to assist in the effective attraction of visitors to the World Heritage Site and management of movement between the various attractions of the site. It makes recommendations regarding signage from outside the area and within the site.

Much of the area beyond the World Heritage Site boundary is identified in the Outstanding Historic Landscapes of Wales in documents published by Cadw, Countryside Council for Wales and ICOMOS UK.

A major proposal of the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative is that areas outside the defined Blaenavon Industrial Landscape boundary, including the Clydach Gorge, should become a 'buffer zone' to the World Heritage Site. This is consistent with the vision set out in the Clydach Gorge Study developed by Monmouthshire County Council in co-operation with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership as part of the Clydach Gorge Working Group funded through the Welsh Assembly.

At UK level two papers of great relevance to the historic environment in the UK were published in July 2009 by the government. First is the Circular on the Protection of World Heritage Sites, launched jointly by Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) with accompanying guidance published jointly by CLG, DCMS and English Heritage.

The World Heritage Site Circular re-states the importance of World Heritage Sites and their outstanding universal value:

- Explains that World Heritage Sites are a key material consideration in planning decisions
- Recognises the relationship of the Planning System to the role of World Heritage Site Steering Groups and World Heritage Site Management Plan

The second is a consultation on the new Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 5: Planning for the Historic Environment. This PPS is one of the means by which Government is updating the policy used to make planning decisions affecting archaeology, historic sites, buildings and landscapes.

PPS 5 was published on behalf of DCMS in March 2010. PPS 5 sets out a series of principles which should guide the design of developments within the historic environment, and it gives increased importance to the protection of World Heritage Site values in planning decisions. This does not apply to Wales at this point of time although it is likely that the Welsh Assembly guidance will be altered in the foreseeable future to reflect this document. Currently PPW (2011) Chapter 6 and Circular 61/96 remain the principle documents guiding Planning decisions.

Together these represent important and significant raising in awareness and recognition of the World Heritage Sites as they impinge on the statutory planning process. While these documents do not apply to Wales at this time, it is likely legislation in Wales will follow on similar lines.

All the above studies and policies when taken together provide many ideas and define projects appropriate for inclusion in the schedule of projects set out in Part 5 of this Management Plan Review. All these reports are available online at www.visitblaenavon.co.uk.

Summary Issue 5 – Integration with other Strategies and Policies

- Ensure formal Local Development Plans include effective Policies to protect and promote the values of the World Heritage Site
- Integrate proposals from various studies notably the Forgotten Landscapes Project in this Management Plan review.

3.7 Information Management

3.7.1 Background

Since the inscription in December 2000, the use of the internet and digital technology generally has increased.

All documentation in respect of the World Heritage Site from the Nomination Document and the original Management Plan, including all planning studies, reports and strategies relevant to the World Heritage Site are available on line.

The Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership is well aware of UNESCO's intentions that World Heritage Sites should act as educational resources. The Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, the first of its kind in the UK, aims to provide actual and intellectual access to the World Heritage Site and promote awareness of World Heritage Sites in general. Significant investment has been made in IT equipment to ensure the increasing amount of material gathered in respect of the World Heritage Site and indeed, industrial heritage, can be available to students.

The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership initiative will ensure the further development of the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre as a study centre.

Over recent years efforts have been made to collect oral history as well as visual records including memoirs, photographs and films and this will continue in the Management Plan review period, bearing in mind that many memories of the industrial society are likely to be lost as the population ages and dies.

The World Heritage Site website has been developed - see www.visitblaenavon.co.uk. However the potential exists to use this further as an interactive tool and utilising it more fully as a digital platform.

Another use of IT has been the development of an e-trail using hand held sets to access information on specific sites and buildings. This has been developed for a limited area in the town but provides the basis for future expansion of the system.

Since inscription it is clear that international recognition through World Heritage status has become something of a 'self-fulfilling prophecy' in that inscription has led to increased interest and research providing a growing amount of information which can only be accessed efficiently by digital means.

Torfaen County Borough Council, which owns the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, is one of the most advanced local authorities in the UK in the use of digital technology.

In this context there is great opportunity for creating links with other World Heritage Sites across the world; including by video conferencing between schoolchildren. This is being actively explored at this time, initial linkage between schools in Blaenavon, Ironbridge and the Völklingen World Heritage Site in Germany are already being developed. All the digitised information from the World Heritage Site can be made available throughout the County Borough at schools, halls and Council buildings.

As all the partners will have their own digitised information relevant to the World Heritage Site, there is a need to ensure data is available to all the partners in an accessible way.

The Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership is committed to the increased use of digital technology to store information, to present information, to achieve increased understanding about the World Heritage Site and generally, to achieve communication between World Heritage Sites.

The potential for increased use of digital technology in relation to the World Heritage Site is enormous and needs to be developed over the plan period to protect, present and promote the site as effectively as possible.

Summary Issue 6 – Information Management and Handling

- Facilitate management of increasing volumes of material on World Heritage Sites both audio and visual
- Ensure maintenance and development of www.visitblaenavon.co.uk
- Develop educational programmes at Blaenavon World Heritage Centre based on digitised information
- Develop further digital connections with other World Heritage Sites
- Consider future development of e-trails.

3.8 Risk Management

3.8.1 Introduction

ICOMOS guidelines in respect of the management of World Heritage Sites requires consideration to be given to how the character of the site might be at risk and how such risks might be mitigated and emergencies might be dealt with. Generally speaking, all plans and proposals and contract management document by local authorities and agencies concerned with the World Heritage Site area are subject to risk assessment procedures which should satisfy ICOMOS requirements.

3.8.2 Main Monuments

Each of the main attractions has risk assessments in place as part of management of the site. The main monuments, the Ironworks and Big Pit Coal Museum are subject to Risk Management studies by Cadw and the National Museum of Wales respectively. Both sites are subject to degradation due to weathering and normal wear and tear however, both are subject to careful monitoring to ensure and untoward changes or damages can be effectively mitigated. At both sites great care is exercised to ensure public safety with clear warnings against any known hazards.

3.8.3 Blaenavon Town

The main monuments in the town, the Workmen's Hall and the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre are in the ownership of Torfaen County Borough Council and risk management is addressed by the Council as part of its statutory obligations. All contracts issued by Torfaen for work within the World Heritage Site are subject to risk management assessment which includes consideration being given to the essential heritage qualities.



Blaenavon Workmens Hall

Two significant structures, Ty Mawr, originally the residence of the ironmaster Samuel Hopkins, and the historic iron bridge over the Afon Llwyd and adjoining Brute's Level are important structures which are recognised by Cadw and by Torfaen County Borough Council as being at risk. Every effort is being made to secure funding to prevent

further damage to these neglected structures. In the case of Ty Mawr, the only truly effective protection will be when an appropriate re-use for the presently derelict building is found. In the meantime, Cadw and Torfaen County Borough Council are continuing to seek a solution to protect the building from further deterioration. In the case of the iron bridge over the Afon Llwyd, located just below the World Heritage Centre and the nearby Brute's level which was a site of early coal extraction, detailed plans have been made and costed for protection and restoration. Every effort will be made to secure the necessary funding which is estimated to be over £200,000 at this time.

3.8.4 The Canal

That part of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, including Llanfoist and Govilon Wharves is subject to regular inspection and risk assessment by British Waterways, the owner. At this time major repairs have been undertaken to the area to ensure the integrity of the canal structure and to prevent possible flooding of adjoining areas.

3.8.5 Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway



Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway

When the historic railway was discontinued in commercial use, the track was taken over by a heritage railway group of volunteers which has been in existence since 1983. The railway is an important part of the industrial transportation infrastructure within the World Heritage Site. Plans are in place to extend the track and

increase the use of the railway as a tourist attraction. Use of the track, bridges and other facilities has to meet stringent safety requirements authorised by a Railway Inspectorate within the UK Government.

3.8.6 The Relict Landscape

In the relict industrial landscape, there are several issues to be considered. Given that the area is largely 'urban common' with free access to the public for air and exercise, the most serious threat has been fires which have spread over the mountain and have been assumed to be lit by vandals.

There was a major fire in 2004. Torfaen County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority have in place risk assessments and emergency control procedures to deal with and effectively manage fires that break out in the landscape. Co-ordination of the emergency services in the event of fire is dealt with within this procedure.

The Forgotten Landscape Initiative is addressing other risks to important historic features caused by inappropriate re-vegetation, grazing regimes and by erosion and increased erosion caused by off road motor vehicles.

The threat of removal of further coal from the site and adjoining areas by inappropriate open-casting has diminished since nomination in 1999. Due to the increasing recognition by Welsh Assembly Government and others of the importance of World Heritage Status, it is not anticipated that the area within the World Heritage Site is at all at risk from coal extraction in the next five years although much of the land remains in the ownership of companies who carry out coal recovery.

During the last ten years, major proposals for a nationally important gas pipeline through the World Heritage Site and for a major wind farm immediately adjoining the site have been successfully resisted and it is not anticipated that such major proposals for energy supply renewable or otherwise will be a threat to the World Heritage Site.

Summary Issue 7 – Risk Management

- Ensure continuing analysis of risk
- Put in place procedures to alleviate risks
- Ensure disaster plans are in place where necessary

Part 4

Management Aims and Objectives



Aerial view of Blaenavon town centre from the east. The main street crosses the centre of the picture from left to right. The church, works school and ironmaster's house lie at the top left
© Crown Copyright: RCAHMW

4. Management Aims & Objectives

4.1 Introduction

Having described and evaluated the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site and its importance in Part 2 and identified the Issues to be addressed in Part 3, this Section sets out the overall vision for the Site and the objectives to be met to achieve the effective management of the Site for the next five years and beyond.

4.2 Primary Aim

The primary aim of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership remains very similar to that set out in the original Management Plan in 1999, although the wording has been slightly modified (see original stated aim in 'Review of the First Ten Years' / Appendix 3)

"The prime aim of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership is to protect this cultural landscape so that future generations may understand the outstanding contribution South Wales made to the Industrial Revolution. By the presentation and promotion of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape, it is intended to increase cultural tourism, provide educational opportunities and change perceptions of the area to assist economic regeneration."

4.3 Objectives

The following objectives have been identified in response to Issues set out in Part 3 of this Plan.

4.3.1 Objectives Relating to Management

M1	To revitalise the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership through formal acceptance of the management structure identifying the roles and responsibilities of the partners
M2	To ensure effective co-operation as the basis for securing adequate funding to effectively protect and promote the World Heritage Site
M3	To develop further arrangements for community involvement in the management process
M4	To maintain effective contact with the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the Local Authorities' World Heritage Forum (LAWHF). This will ensure management is carried out in accordance with UNESCO World Heritage Committee requirements and benefits from networking with other UK World Heritage Sites
M6	Integrate Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership and Forgotten Landscape Partnership management.
M7	Ensure Forgotten Landscapes plans for integration with the wider area beyond the World Heritage Site boundary are sustained and in particular explore the potential for providing a 'buffer-zone' to the World Heritage Site.

4.3.2 Objectives Relating To Protection of the World Heritage Site Character

C1	Continue to seek the best practical balance between protection of features and inevitable change.
C2	Increase emphasis on holistic management of the Site and linkage between cultural and natural heritage and continuing benefits through the Forgotten Landscape Partnership Initiative.
C3	Continue to identify, protect and conserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site and key features and qualities.
C4	Expand and engage with the community to identify and present 'intangible values' of the World Heritage Site.
C5	Monitor the condition of cultural and natural features and the effects of climate change on the World Heritage Site.
C6	Ensure risk assessment is part of the management process.
C7	Seek to protect the landscape setting of the World Heritage Site, through the designation of a buffer-zone.
C8	Ensure sympathetic development both in design and location and resist inappropriate development.

4.3.3 Objectives relating to Access and Visitor Management

V1	Ensure that promotion and presentation of the World Heritage Site is carried out without detriment to the character and values of the World Heritage Site
V2	Ensure that the individual attractions are presented within a comprehensive framework to emphasise their connectivity and effectively spread visitor activities throughout the World Heritage Site.
V3	Emphasise social history and the lives of individuals in the presentation of the Site through a mixture of interpretative methods.
V4	Ensure that the World Heritage Site serves as a 'gateway' to the wider South Wales cultural and natural heritage, with particular reference to the Valleys Regional Park.
V5	Encourage and support improvement to visitor accommodation and other services to high quality standards
V6	Increase community involvement in appropriate presentation and protection of the World Heritage Site
V7	Secure adequate funding for promotion
V8	Ensure education plays a central role in the presentation of the World Heritage Site in accordance with UNESCO aims and seek to secure wider intellectual access

4.3.4 Objectives Relating World Heritage Site Management Plan To Other National and Local Strategies, Policies and Plans

S1	Ensure the World Heritage Site Management Plan is taken into account in regional and local strategies, policies, plans and studies to ensure that international obligations in respect of the protection and promotion of the values of the World Heritage Site are respected and promoted.
S2	Ensure that the values and qualities of the World Heritage Site inform the development of emerging Local Development Plans and used as key material considerations in the development control process.

4.3.5 Objective relating to Coal Reserves and Potential Coal Recovery

CR1	Ensure that the essential values and qualities of the World Heritage Site are not prejudiced by any possible coal recovery operations
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4.3.6 Objectives Relating To Information Management and Monitoring

IT1	Seek to maximise opportunities for further enhancing the use of digital technology in the monitoring, presentation and promotion of the World Heritage Site
IT2	Develop linkages with other World Heritage Sites in the UK and the rest of the world to assist in cultural exchanges and education programmes.
IT3	Monitor outcomes of Management Plan
IT4	Ensure compatibility with other related databases

4.3.7 Objectives Relating to Risk Management

R1	Ensure that effective risk assessments plans are in place for the main monuments of the World Heritage Site and monitored on a regular basis.
R2	Ensure that any procurement contracts by responsible organisations for conservation or restoration projects are subject to appropriate risk management arrangements.



Part 5

Site Management Proposals



*Blaenavon Ironworks, view of furnace No 2
From interior of cast house
© Cadw*

5. Site Management Proposals

5.1 Introduction

The objectives set out in Part Four will need to be met over the next five years and beyond by the implementation of a wide range of activities and projects carried out by a variety of agencies, authorities, private investors and community groups.

Most will require collective actions, whilst others will fall to a single body to implement. This Management Plan is set out to ensure that these many activities fall within a co-ordinated overall framework and strategy.

Although projects may stand alone, each should contribute to the under-pinning of the primary aim of conservation of the World Heritage Site and the linked regeneration of the area to ensure a sustainable future for the community. Projects will be managed and monitored to ensure fiscal control and delivery of standards appropriate to the World Heritage Site.

Part Five is set out in three sections. The revised management structure is set out which has been updated from the original set out in 1999. Secondly, the terms of reference for the various activities set out within the management structure are identified. Thirdly, the identified proposals for the main features of the site, the Ironworks, Big Pit, the Canal and the Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway. These sections together inform the individual projects which are set out in schedules of projects in Section 5.5 below.

5.2 Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Structure

The Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership will provide a forum and a management network ensuring that the activities of all the member authorities and agencies in respect of the World Heritage Site are effectively co-ordinated.

The Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Management structure has been revised as set out in diagrams 1 and 2. Diagram 1 indicates the core management structure. Notable additions are working groups for the natural environment and education. The natural environment group reflects the growing awareness of the area's natural heritage and the important interrelationship between cultural and natural heritage. The education group recognises the strong emphasis which UNESCO places on using World Heritage Sites as an educational opportunity.

To avoid unnecessary duplication of time and effort, issues relating to the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative will be discussed at all working groups as appropriate during the period of the Forgotten Landscapes programme, 2010-13. During this period the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Management Board and Steering Group will also act as the Board and Steering Group for the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative in order to ensure co-ordination of the programme with this management plan. The project manager of the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative will be represented at the meetings.

Diagram 2 represents the way the core management structure connects to voluntary groups and other organisations in a wider network. The original structure has been modified to take account of changes in emphasis and circumstance which have arisen since 1999. Given the ever increasing complexity of management and demands on time and resources, it is important that the Partnership should be more formally recognised and adopted by all the contributing local authorities and agencies and the interface with the private sector and community groups be clearly defined and understood.

The nature of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership will remain as previously, with each partner retaining their right to individual action through confirmed administrative and financial powers. Where projects are to be delivered through financial packages involving two or more partners, each partner will still retain power over their individual budget contribution while agreeing to act jointly within the framework of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Project Board.

If the management arrangements for the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership and its effective co-ordination are not robust, the responsibility for protecting and promoting the World Heritage Site cannot be effectively delivered. Each partner is required to nominate a senior officer to join the Partnership Steering Group and the nominated officers are set out on paragraph 5.3.3.

Terms of reference for the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Management Board, the Steering Group and the six proposed Working Groups are set out below.

Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership: Core Management Structure

Diagram 1

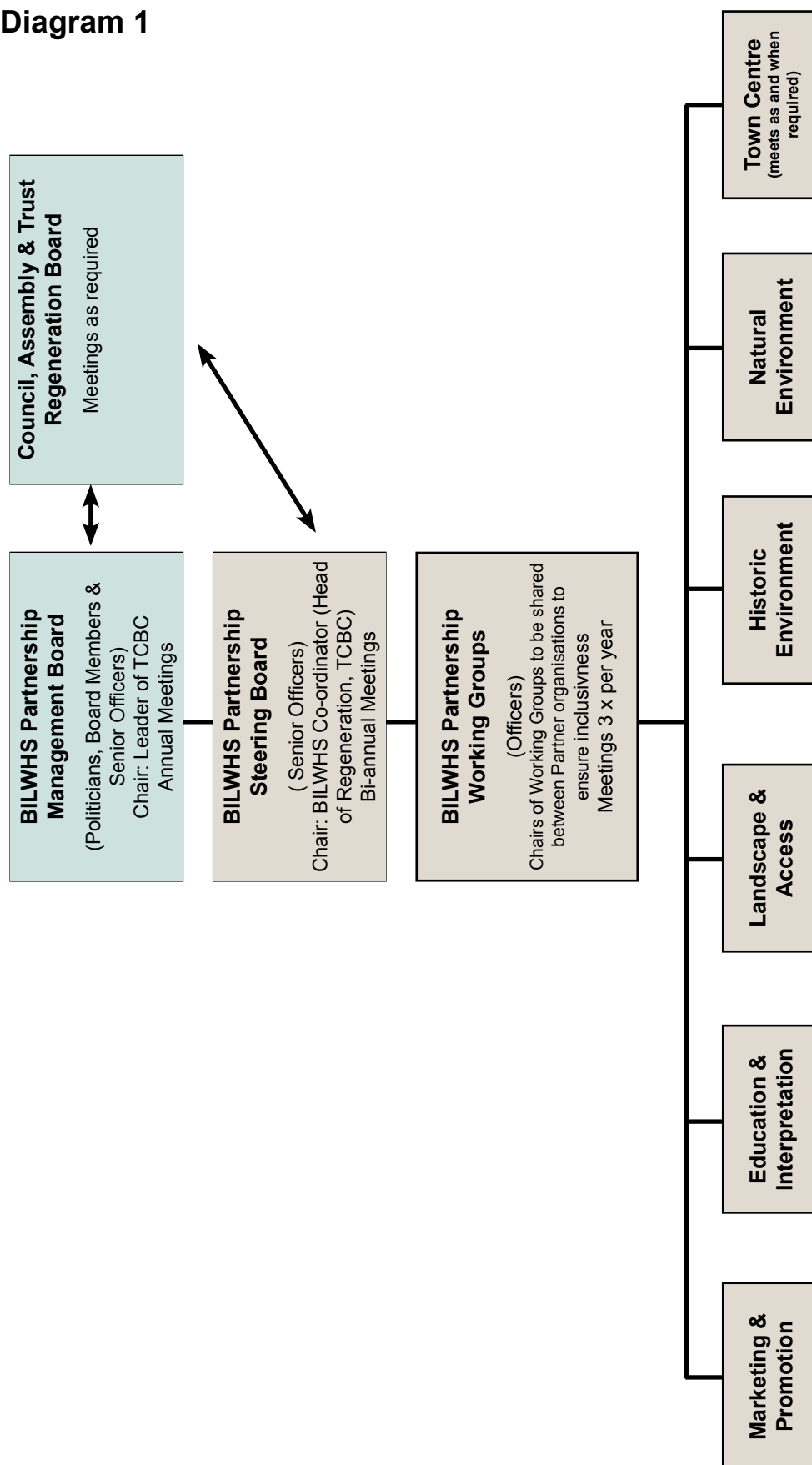
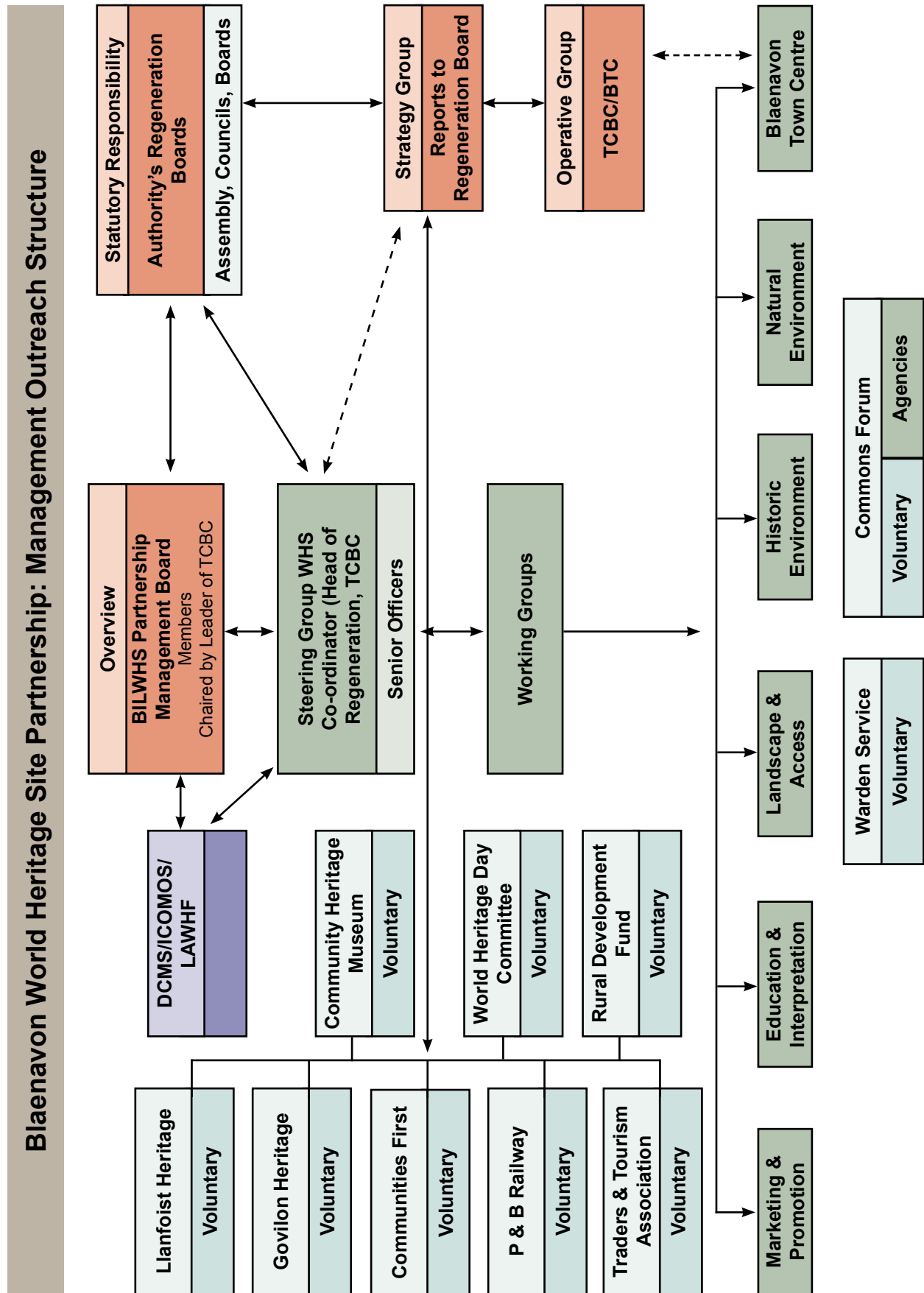


Diagram 2



5.3 Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership – Terms of Reference

5.3.1 World Heritage Site Co-ordinator

The Project Board is serviced by the Co-ordinating officer, who is charged with ensuring co-ordination and continuity of action between the various partners, promoting the World Heritage Site and liaising with ICOMOS UK, the Local Authority World Heritage Site Forum (LAWHF) and other bodies on World Heritage Site matters.

It is essential that effective arrangements are in place for the co-ordination of all the activities of the Partnership. UNESCO expects a named co-ordinator to carry out this function and for the role to be appropriately funded. Responsibility for the co-ordination of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site will fall to the Head of Regeneration, Torfaen County Borough Council. Without effective arrangement for co-ordination, the Partnership will disintegrate and fail to protect and present the World Heritage Site.

5.3.2 Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Management Board

All the partners will be represented on the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Board which will meet annually. The Board will be chaired by the Leader of Torfaen County Borough Council. The Board will comprise elected members of the local authorities, Torfaen County Borough Council, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Monmouthshire County Council, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and Blaenavon Town Council. The Board will also comprise a Minister of the Welsh Assembly Government, Board Members of the National Museum Wales, the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales and British Waterways or Officers nominated to deputise for them.

The Board will not be responsible for developing strategy but will be required to agree the Management Plan and endorse the work of the Partnership. The Management Plan will be developed through the Steering group in consultation with each partner organisations strategy boards. The Board will receive annual reports from the World Heritage Site Co-ordinator setting out progress that has been achieved over the current year, any proposals for the following year and identifying any clear issues for consideration. The Board will be required to agree the annual programme of work for the Steering Group and decide on any issues arising.

The Board will not control expenditure or be responsible for individual projects which will be referred for the approval of individual authorities or agencies through their normal, formal processes. However the Board will be expected to indicate their support in principle for the delivery of the agreed programme of work.

Expenditure on protection, conservation and promotion of the World Heritage Site is made by the partners of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership through allocations in their individual budgets to specific jointly agreed projects. Such expenditure is also used to attract further funding from the EU, Wales Assembly Government and the UK Heritage Lottery Fund. Partnership working has proved to be a success in the protection and promotion of the World Heritage Site and in achieving heritage led regeneration of the area.

5.3.3 The Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Steering Group

The Steering Group will be responsible for the strategic direction of the Management Plan, the setting of priorities and programmed delivery of projects on an annual basis. For the period of the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative, it will also ensure co-ordination with the work of the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Project Team.

The Steering Group will meet twice per year at meetings arranged by the World Heritage Site Co-ordinator. The Forgotten Landscapes Manager and the Valleys Regional Park Manager will be invited to attend and Officers of other organisations may be invited as appropriate. The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership will, however, continue with twice yearly meetings of its own Steering Group.

All the organisations represented on the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership will be required to nominate named senior officers to serve on the Steering Group. The organisation, agenda and minutes of the meetings will be the responsibility of the World Heritage Site Co-ordinator.

All members of this group and the working groups, set out below, will act as ambassadors for the World Heritage Site and its proposed 'buffer zone'. They will promote the project at every appropriate opportunity and disseminate information amongst their colleagues to ensure that the project retains a high profile amongst Partnership members and other associated groups and organisations. Partner organisations will provide regular updates on work they are conducting to help deliver the World Heritage Site Management Plan.

5.3.4 Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Working Groups

The development of projects, detailing technical work and funding arrangements will be carried out by a series of working groups (see Diagram 1) which will meet at least three times a year (with the exception of the Town Centre Working Group which will meet as and when required) to secure effective development and delivery of projects. Each working group will have a clear remit and understanding of the relationship within the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership.

For the period of the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site management will be merged with the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership. All the working groups meetings, with the exception of those of the Town Centre, will be joint meetings to avoid unnecessary duplication of time and effort and ensure that the benefit of the Forgotten Landscapes Project to the World Heritage Site can be maximised.

Each of these groups will have a nominated chair responsible for convening meetings and co-ordinating the activities of the group. The responsibility for chairing the groups will be shared between partners so that there will be corporate responsibility in honouring obligations under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

These working groups may well include members of the public, private developers, community groups or individuals by invitation.

The main working groups are –

5.3.5 Marketing and Promotion Working Group

The Marketing and Promotion Working Group will promote the World Heritage Site, in its landscape setting, as a key visitor attraction in south east Wales. With the aim of increasing visitor numbers to the area, via a co-ordinated marketing approach across all of the attractions in the site, with a consistent use of World Heritage Site branding.

This group will comprise officers and others with an interest in cultural tourism and marketing including local authority tourism officers.

- Torfaen County Borough Council
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
- Monmouthshire County Council
- Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative
- Visit Wales
- Cadw
- Big Pit: National Coal Museum
- Valleys Regional Park/ The Valleys: Heart and Soul of Wales
- Capital Region Tourism
- British Waterways
- Blaenavon Town Traders Association (BTTA)

This group may co-opt representatives of organisations or individuals with an interest in promotion from time to time such as local tourism organisations, Blaenavon Heritage Railway and Green Badge Guides.

The Group will be chaired by the Team Leader for Events and Marketing, Torfaen County Borough Council.

It is anticipated that the Marketing and Promotion Group will meet at least three times a year.

The remit of the Marketing and Promotion Working Group will be to

- Identify and agree target audiences
- Proactively promote the World Heritage Site to these audiences via the most appropriate and effective media
- Ensure all site marketing is linked to interpretation
- Ensure a comprehensive presentation of all the attractions in the site
- Share best practice and work collaboratively
- Ensure that the World Heritage Site branding is correctly and consistently applied to all marketing and interpretation activity
- Ensure marketing and interpretation is of the high quality relevant to World Heritage Site status
- Ensure the World Heritage Site continues to be an effective gateway to the wider heritage of south Wales
- Have input and comment upon the content of marketing material produced by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership
- Ensure that all new projects will be sustainable and will have a lifespan beyond the three year Forgotten Landscapes programme

5.3.6 The Historic Environment Working Group

This group will have a special remit to concentrate on the identification, protection, conservation and monitoring of the historic features of the Site including Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) and Listed Buildings. Monitoring will take place on a four-five yearly basis in line with Cadw best practice.

This group will also discuss matters arising from the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative. The protection of the identified “Character Area” and assessment of how any proposed development or other activities might impinge on the archaeological values of the Site may also be considered. The group will also be concerned with considering major development proposals within the Conservation Areas, new and existing, and monitoring their condition. It will also consider the proposal to create a buffer zone for the World Heritage Site.

The core membership:

- Cadw
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales
- Torfaen County Borough Council
- Monmouthshire County Council
- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
- Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative

Other specialists or interested private individuals and groups may be invited to attend as appropriate.

The Historic Environment Group will be chaired by Torfaen County Borough Council's Senior Building Conservation Officer.

It is anticipated that the Historic Environment Working Group will meet at least three times a year.

It will be the role of the Historic Environment Working Group to:

- Review and advise on plans for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and annual monitoring of the historic features of the site including Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) and Listed Buildings.
- discuss matters arising from:
 - the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative.
 - the protection of the identified 'Character Area'
 - assessment of how any proposed development or other activities might impinge on the archaeological values of the Site.
- The group will also be concerned with considering:
 - the Conservation Areas, new and existing, and monitoring their condition
 - the proposal to create a buffer zone for the World Heritage Site
- All members will report on significant planning applications being considered for their area and the group will consider any wider implications in respect of the World Heritage Site.
- Seek to ensure that activities of the Historic Environment Working Group can be sustained beyond the three year duration of the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative

5.3.7 The Landscape and Access Working Group

This group will focus on the link between cultural and natural heritage and the opportunities provided for stakeholders with an interest in the site and visitors to the heritage landscape.

The core membership of the Landscape and Access Group will be comprised of relevant officers from within the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership and the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership with a direct interest in management of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape and proposed buffer zone.

The core membership:

- Torfaen County Borough Council
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
- Monmouthshire County Council
- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
- Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative

- Big Pit: National Coal Museum
- Cadw
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales
- British Waterways
- Countryside Council for Wales
- Valleys Regional Park

Representatives of community groups, voluntary organisations, private landowners, commoners and other individuals with particular interest in the landscape will also be invited to attend the working group as and when considered appropriate, in particular in relation to the delivery of Forgotten Landscapes Projects

It is proposed that this group be chaired by a representative of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. Other specialists or interested private individuals and groups may be invited to attend as appropriate.

It is anticipated that the group will meet three times a year.

Its remit will be to:

- Co-ordinate plans for the holistic management and use of the World Heritage Site and its proposed buffer zone.
- Gather, review and advise on plans for access improvements and information / interpretation projects which have an impact on the landscape
- Ensure that all proposals promote the concept of least restrictive access (DDA)
- Advise on the design, technical merit and sustainability of landscape installations including gateway features and information / interpretation panels
- Liaise with the Marketing and Promotion and Education and Interpretation Working Groups on the branding of landscape installations including gateway features and information / interpretation panels
- Comment on the text and layout of new information / interpretation projects
- Review and advise on the development of the volunteer programme including induction and training
- Review and advise on the role of the seconded Police Officer and the impact on levels of landscape crime
- Assist landowners, commoners and land managers to deal with issues that may concern them
- Seek to ensure that all new projects will be sustainable and have a lifespan beyond the three year Forgotten Landscape programme
- Members will report on significant planning applications being considered for their area and the group will consider any wider implications in respect of the World Heritage Site.

5.3.8 Natural Environment Working Group

This group will concentrate on the protection and conservation of the area's natural heritage, including flora and fauna and the important interrelationship between natural and cultural heritage which is being promoted through the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative.

Core membership of the Natural Environment Working Group will comprise:

- Torfaen County Borough Council
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
- Monmouthshire County Council
- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
- Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative
- Countryside Council for Wales
- British Waterways
- Valleys Regional Park

Other organisations or individuals with a relevant interest in the natural environment will also be invited to attend the Working Group as and when considered appropriate, particularly in regards to the delivery of Forgotten Landscapes projects.

It is proposed that this group be chaired by the Senior Ecologist of Torfaen County Borough Council.

It is anticipated that the Natural Environment Working Group will meet at least three times a year.

Its remit will be to:

- Co-ordinate plans for the conservation management of habitats and species whilst taking into account sustainable land use.
- Gather, review and advise on plans for land management, habitat and species conservation, access provision and recreational activities.
- Review monitoring data and survey reports and advise on changes to management prescriptions
- Review and advise on the role of the seconded Police Officer and the impact on levels of landscape crime
- Assist landowners, commoners and land managers to deal with related issues
- Seek to ensure that all new projects will be sustainable and have a lifespan beyond the three year Forgotten Landscape programme
- Members will report on significant planning applications being considered for their area and the group will consider any wider implications in respect of the World Heritage Site

5.3.9 Education and Interpretation Working Group

A primary duty placed on World Heritage Sites by UNESCO is to provide educational opportunities, especially for young people (see World Heritage in Young Hands published by UNESCO in 2002). UNESCO sees education and interpretation as having a vital role in promoting understanding between diverse cultures and communities and ensuring that the protection and promotion of World Heritage Sites continues into the future. The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape presents a wide range of educational and interpretative opportunities for all ages of learners and visitors and offers many opportunities for training and development.

The core membership of the Education and Interpretation Working Group will be comprised of the relevant officers within the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership with a direct interest in educational and interpretative provision for the Blaenavon World Heritage Site and its proposed buffer zone.

The core membership:

- Torfaen County Borough Council (incl. Blaenavon World Heritage Centre and Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative),
- Big Pit: National Coal Museum,
- Cadw,
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority,
- Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales,
- British Waterways.

Representatives of educational institutions, schools, universities, community education and school development organisations will also be invited to attend the working group as and when considered appropriate, in particular in relation to the delivery of Forgotten Landscapes projects.

It is proposed that the group will be chaired by the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre Education & Interpretation Manager who will report to the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Co-ordinator through Steering Group meetings.

The Education and Interpretation Working Group will meet at least three times per year.

It will be the role of the Education and Interpretation Working Group to:

- Provide advice and review educational and interpretative projects within the World Heritage Site and its proposed buffer zone.
- Members will share best practice and provide updates to the working group regarding ongoing and planned educational and interpretative projects within the World Heritage Site and its proposed buffer zone.
- Provide advice and review educational and interpretative projects being delivered through the Forgotten Landscapes Initiative.
- Advise and review the text, images and design of new information panels and other landscape installations.
- Comment upon projects or plans for works at cultural, historical and sites

of natural interest in the landscape and identify any educational and interpretative opportunities.

- Comment upon the development of volunteer programmes and identify any educational and interpretative opportunities.
- Seek to ensure that all new educational and interpretative programmes are designed to be as sustainable as possible and are capable of being supported and delivered by core member organisations beyond the Forgotten Landscapes Initiative
- Encourage its membership to promote the work of the group by disseminating information and providing updates on educational and interpretative projects within their respective organisations and amongst other working groups.
- Seek funding for the development of integrated educational programmes, services and events which ensure that all learners derive the maximum benefits from visits to the World Heritage Site.
- Ensure that educational and interpretative opportunities are developed which are all-inclusive and non-discriminatory and accessible to learners of all ages regardless of physical and intellectual ability, gender, ethnic or social background.
- Liaise with the Marketing and Promotion Working Group to ensure that a co-ordinated approach is adopted with respect to the marketing of educational services to all learners including formal educational groups and lifelong learners.
- Liaise with the Marketing and Promotion Working Group to ensure that a co-ordinated approach is adopted with respect to the development and promotion of interpretative materials and initiatives including digital media and internet resources particularly in relation to lifelong learners and access for all.
- Emphasise social history and the lives of individuals in the presentation of the Site through a mixture of interpretative methods

5.3.10 Town Centre Working Group

The purpose of this group is to ensure a joined up approach to the planning and delivery of new developments, renewal and repair in the town of Blaenavon and at Forge Side. The group will be required to ensure that the historic character of the town is protected while accommodating necessary change and holistic community regeneration.

This group will primarily be comprised of Officers of Torfaen County Borough Council such as Forward Planning, Development Control, Highways and Transportation, Building Conservation, Regeneration and Licensing. The Blaenavon Town Traders Association will also be members of the group and it is also intended that other organisations or persons can attend from time to time.

It is proposed that this group will be chaired by the Team Leader, Blaenavon Project.

The Town Centre Working Group will meet as and when required.

It is the role of the Town Centre Working Group to:

- to develop plans and implement proposals for new developments, renewal and restoration within the town of Blaenavon and Forge Side
- to ensure a joined up approach between local authority departments and other agencies including service providers and the police
- to ensure that the residents and traders of the town are informed and involved in any proposed plans and development projects
- to ensure that detailed proposals are in accordance with the Management Plan objectives and in accordance with approved strategies and plans relating to the Blaenavon area
- to encourage private investment in providing improved facilities for residents and visitors
- to seek and secure funding to assist new developments, renewal and repair proposals
- to ensure that all works undertaken are of a quality commensurate with the area's World Heritage Site status and that materials and design are in accordance with existing agreed design guidance

5.3.11 Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership

The Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership is a significant partnership between Torfaen County Borough Council and Blaenavon Town Council which has been operating since 2003. It comprises representatives of Torfaen County Borough Council and all sixteen Blaenavon Town Council members. It has a separately established annual budget of £50,000. £25,000 provided by Torfaen County Borough Council and £25,000 by Blaenavon Town Council to carry out projects that deliver the continued economic, social and physical regeneration of the World Heritage Site. Although not formally within the management structure for the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership, there will be integration in that members of both Councils will be represented on the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Board. Meetings will be monthly and chaired by the Mayor of Blaenavon.

5.3.12 Blaenavon Strategy Group

The Blaenavon Strategy Group has been established to ensure that Blaenavon Borough Councillors, Blaenavon Town Councillors, representatives of the Blaenavon Town Traders Association, Torfaen Voluntary Alliance and other voluntary organisations can be updated of progress in respect of projects, proposals and progress in the World Heritage Site. Meetings would be attended by Officers of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Steering Group including the Museums Wales and Cadw. Meetings will be biannual and will be arranged by the World Heritage Site Co-ordinator who will be responsible for preparing the agenda.

Blaenavon Strategy Group Members

Chair – Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services

Members

Three Torfaen County Borough Council Blaenavon Ward Members

Mayor of Blaenavon Town Council

Big Pit: National Coal Museum

Cadw

Two representatives of the Blaenavon Town Traders Association

Torfaen Voluntary Alliance

Blaenavon Heritage Railway

Blaenavon Community Heritage and Cordell Museum

Future Blaenavon

Blaenavon Communities First

Officers

Head of Regeneration, Torfaen County Borough Council

Blaenavon Project Team Leader, Torfaen County Borough Council

Officers who will attend to update on Projects

Director of Technology Led Transformation, Torfaen County Borough Council

Project Manager, Blaenavon Community Campus, Torfaen County Borough Council

Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative Manager, Torfaen County Borough Council

Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Steering Group Members

Name	Role	Email Contact
Cath Thomas	Chair of WHS Partnership Steering Group, Co-ordinator & Head of Regeneration, Torfaen County Borough Council	cath.thomas@torfaen.gov.uk
Rebecca Hartley	Blaenavon Project Team Leader, Torfaen County Borough Council	rebecca.hartley@torfaen.gov.uk
Gareth Phillips	Countryside Team Leader, Torfaen County Borough Council	gareth.phillips@torfaen.gov.uk
Katie Gates	Tourism, Events & Marketing Team Leader Torfaen County Borough Council	katie.gates@torfaen.gov.uk
Emyr Morgan	Education and Interpretation Manager, Torfaen County Borough Council	emyr.morgan@torfaen.gov.uk
Steve Williams	Senior Ecologist, Torfaen County Borough Council	steve.williams@torfaen.gov.uk
Stephen Peel	Building Conservation Officer	stephen.peel@torfaen.gov.uk
Matthew Lewis	Countryside Manager, Monmouthshire County Council	matthewlewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Colette Bosley	Principal Landscape and Countryside Officer, Monmouthshire County Council	ColetteBosley@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Julian Atkins	Countryside Officer, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	julian.atkins@breconbeacons.org
Ruth Coulthard	Visitor Services Manager, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	ruth.coulthard@breconbeacons.org
Chris Engel	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	chris.engel@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
Richard Turner	Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings, Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, Welsh Assembly Government	richard.turner@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Gerwyn Evans	Visit Wales, Welsh Assembly Government	gerwyn.evans@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Steve Smith	Department for the Economy and Transport, Welsh Assembly Government	steve.smith@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Andrew Osborne	Valleys Regional Park Manager, Welsh Assembly Government	andrew.osborne@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Dr. Peter Wakelin	Secretary of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, RCAHMW	peter.wakelin@rcahmw.gov.uk
Peter Walker	Director of Big Pit: National Coal Museum, National Museum Wales	peter.walker@museumwales.ac.uk
Jill Bullen	LANDMAP Wales Coordinator, Countryside Council for Wales	j.bullen@ccw.gov.uk
David Morgan	Regeneration Manager, British Waterways	david.morgan@britishwaterways.co.uk
Steven Rogers	Project Manager, Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative	steven.rogers@torfaen.gov.uk

5.4 Individual Attractions - Management Proposals

The effective management of the World Heritage Site incorporates individual management plans for four of the key historic features and visitor attractions:

- The Blaenavon Ironworks
- The Big Pit National Coal Museum
- The Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal
- Blaenavon's Heritage Railway

These are summarised below:

Blaenavon Ironworks

Considerable work has been undertaken on the conservation of the ironworks over the past ten years. Most notably the stabilisation of the main retaining wall, the repair and restoration of the balance lift tower and the beginnings of excavations of the boiler areas.

Conservation works over the past ten years have totalled more than £2 million. There has also been considerable investment in providing

upgraded visitor car parking and improving the environs of the site, including boundary fencing. There has also been provision of a new visitor centre in the former pay office and the site is now available for visits throughout the year. A major upgrading of interpretation has taken place including provision of models, a Truck shop and reconstructed workers' cottages together with listening posts providing information in English and Welsh. Cadw's plans for the ironworks over the next five years are still emerging and await confirmation. In the short term, Cadw are



Blaenavon Ironworks

- Consolidating the calcining ovens with a view to making the charging area platform accessible.
- Re-ordering and re-siting the works yard to increase access to the site.
- Encouraging of events and other entertainments on site.

Longer term, there are a number of initiatives which are linked to the European Convergence funding Heritage Tourism Project. This would bring EU match funding that has to be subject to a Business Case being developed and accepted which will deliver the number of job equivalents required under the scheme.

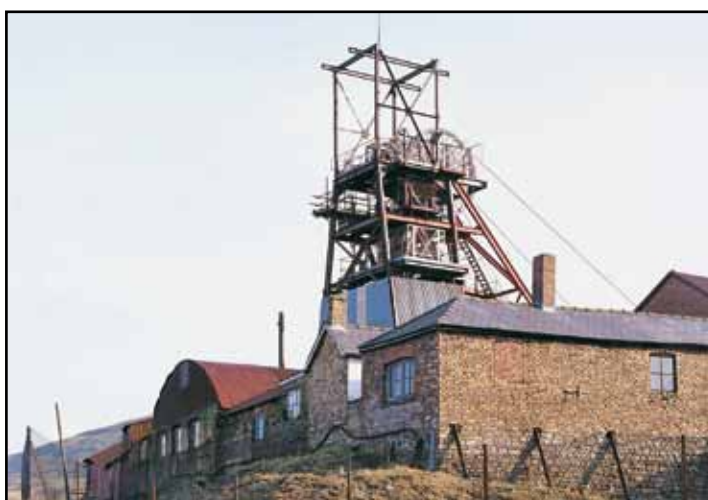
Among the ideas being discussed are:

- Replacement of the toilet block
- Improvements and possible extension of the current visitor centre
- Provision of a café on site
- Use of lighting to try and illustrate the casting process
- The erection of a cupola furnace to allow for smelting demonstrations to take place
- Beneficial re-use of the remaining Stack Square buildings
- Relaying of rails, an engine and possible operation of the water balance tower mechanism

While none of the proposals listed above are firm commitments, Cadw is confident that some of these will be progressed during the Management Plan review period 2011-2016, although others will take longer to deliver.

Big Pit National Coal Museum

Over the last eight years a number of development projects have been successfully completed at Big Pit. The most significant of these was the £7.2m redevelopment of the site completed in 2004. This project was originally estimated to cost £10m and so much



Big Pit

remains to be done on site in terms of infra-structural works, collections care and storage and visitor facilities.

The site was awarded the Gulbenkian Prize as UK Museum of the Year in 2005 and a new learning annex was opened to the public in April 2008 with the prize of £100,000. Since 2005 a number of small scale projects have been completed such as the reopening to the public of the Explosives Magazine and the Elled's Winder building.

An important element of Big Pit's ongoing development is an annual maintenance and repair programme that is primarily concerned with maintaining access to the underground workings, although considerable effort is also expended on maintaining the historic fabric of the site and its collections and improving the overall visitor experience by adding new interpretive elements to the site.

The development plan that follows focuses mainly on these same areas of work.

Maintaining Access to the Underground

- Engineering Works
 - Ongoing replacement and renewal of the operational equipment

associated with the shaft and underground is essential if Big Pit's underground operations are to continue as is future proofing the site against further contraction in the mining industry and its associated services. A number of projects are targeted for completion during the next five years, chief amongst these being the replacement of the current shaft signalling equipment and the provision of a permanently mounted emergency winding facility. The combined cost of such works is estimated as being in the region of £400,000.

- Succession Planning
 - The availability of a sufficient number of appropriately qualified technical staff is a prerequisite for operating the mine. The attraction can no longer rely on personnel who previously worked in operational collieries and efforts must shortly begin to train new staff by setting up apprenticeship schemes and employing apprentice mechanics and electricians. It takes a minimum of 4 years to train such staff. The potential cost of setting up an apprenticeship scheme is estimated £60,000 per annum for four years.

Improving the Visitor Experience

- Coity Pits Project
 - An archaeological investigation of the surface buildings of the Coity Pits (c.1840) will be carried out. Through partial restoration of the buildings and modest interpretation, this project would add a completely new archaeological dimension to the existing offer at Big Pit at a cost of around £150,000.
- Waddle Fan Building
 - The Waddle fan, designed by Mr J R Waddle of Llanelli, was one of the most widely adopted mine ventilation fans in Britain. The Waddle Fan in National Museum Wales collection is understood to be the most complete example left in Britain and is almost identical to the Waddle fan which was installed at Big Pit in 1895. The project envisages the installation of this fan and engine in a rebuilt fan house at a cost of some £150,000.
- New Permanent Displays
 - Draft plans are in place for new exhibitions on 'Mining Communities' and 'Sustainable Energy' both of which will focus of contemporary issues as well as those that will be faced in the future, rather than on the past. The combined cost of such exhibitions is thought to be in the region of £100,000.
- Conservation Workshop and Store Extension
 - Expanding the space available for storage and display of the collection would allow a number of objects that are currently displayed outdoors to be provided with the approved standard of care and would reunite the coal collection under one roof, thereby making it possible to use part of the collection that is currently unavailable to the public to extend the provision of the 'behind-the-scenes' experience that is currently on offer at Big Pit. A new extension would cost at least £350,000.

Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal

A short section of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal between Govilon and Llanfoist lies within the boundary of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site and includes both Govilon and Llanfoist Wharfs. Following a serious breach of the canal near Gilwern in 2007 British Waterways invested £7.5million in channel repairs throughout the whole canal including resealing joints in the Govilon and Llanfoist areas.



Llanfoist

Towpath improvements have also been made along the canal including the section between Govilon and Llanfoist. The upgrade of the British Waterways car park at Govilon and improved signage have provided easier access to the canal. The improvements have enabled the site to be developed and branded as a gateway point to the World Heritage Site.

The resurfacing of the former railway line (National Cycle Route 46) by Sustrans

as a multi-user pathway from Llanfoist car park has provided several links to the canal between Llanfoist and Govilon creating a circular route for walkers and cyclists.

British Waterways has developed an interpretation strategy for the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal. Elements of the interpretation plan for Llanfoist have been implemented including improved signage and interpretation panels highlighting the linkage between Hill's Tram Road and Llanfoist Wharf. Other elements are to be completed as part of future projects. The canal is also featured within the Govilon Historical Society leaflet.

Several events are held along the canal each year. The events use the section of the canal within the World Heritage Site. Other events such as the Cordell Festival have been held at Goytre Wharf which was linked to Blaenavon because of the limekilns. Interpretation of the site and its limekilns makes key references to Blaenavon and its linkages, acting as a point of information for visitors enabling them to discover the World Heritage Site.

British Waterways has revised its Heritage Management Direction. Comprehensive heritage and environment data relating to the canal corridor has been mapped on GIS. Several strategies have been developed for the Monmouthshire & Brecon canal - these include an Interpretation Strategy 2004, an Access Audit 2007, and an Engineering Survey 2008.

- Continued improvement to signage and towpath upgrade with Govilon/Llanfoist area as identified within the Access Audit also at Goytre and Gilwern Wharfs.

- Implementation of the Interpretation Strategy along the canal within the identified areas of Govilon, Llanfoist, Goytre and Gilwern.
- Canal Festival 2012 to celebrate the bicentenary of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.
- Encourage increased volunteer activity and events.
- Development of Goytre Wharf as a visitor destination. Increased information provision, events programme and educational resources. Lighting of the Limekilns.
- Potential to develop a trip boat facility linked to a hopper bus facility within the World Heritage Site.
- Repair and Interpretation of the limekilns along the canal.
- Encouragement of the canal as a green/blue wildlife corridor.
- Promotion of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal as a multi-user, multi-activity route-way encouraging walking, cycling, canoeing, boating, fishing and other canal related activities.

Blaenavon's Heritage Railway

This railway was extended from Brynmawr to Blaenavon in 1866, for the movement of minerals and includes former railway track including the site of Waunafon Station (1410 feet) then the highest standard gauge station in the UK. As such, the railway is an important and integral part of the history of industrial transportation which is a feature of the World Heritage Site. The original surviving track within the World Heritage Site is known as 'Blaenavon's Heritage Railway'.



Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway

After the railway closed, the Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway 1983 Ltd, was established and ran passenger trains along a limited length of track approximately 1km from August 1983 and is still responsible for the management of the Heritage Railway. The railway operates every weekend throughout the summer and on special occasions and is staffed entirely by volunteers who also restore old railway running stock. The visitor numbers for 2009 were 9,346, increasing to 12,577 in 2010.

Proposals for the next five years include:

- 2010 saw the completion of the track extension along the original track bed to former Blaenavon High Level Station. The previously demolished station is being replaced by a new station based on original designs of the railway company.

- During 2011, Torfaen County Borough Council replaced the Varteg road bridge while this is important in the short term it will open access immediate access to some 350m of line and pave the way to further southward expansion.
- By October 2011, the branch line to Big Pit will be completed including use of an original railway bridge.

When the above proposals are realised it is hoped that some 20,000 passengers per year will use the railway by 2015. The railway is a feature within the World Heritage Site and provides excellent opportunity for viewing the cultural landscape as such the likely increase in visitors will be a major contribution to the presentation and promotion of the World Heritage Site.

Longer term aspirations include extending the railway both to the north and south but this is subject to negotiation and funding. A phasing map is shown by way of the diagram which can be accessed on www.pontypool-and-blaenavon.co.uk/pages/development/overallplan.html.

5.5 Schedule of Projects

From all the plans and studies undertaken in recent years and from individual proposals from the various sites, it is possible to set out a register of projects which will effectively carry forward the protection and promotion of the World Heritage Site over the next five years and beyond. The realisation of these projects could build on the investment in time, effort and money which has taken place over the last ten years since inscription in December 2000.

The projects listed are essentially aspirational and no guarantee can be given that they will be implemented. However all of the projects identified are seen to have potential for delivery. Whilst the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership will use its best endeavours to realise them, the funding for most is not guaranteed and could be problematic, particularly during the present period of economic difficulty.

The register has been sub-divided into five sections.

- A- Administration
- B- Protection and Conservation
- C- Economic Regeneration
- D- Public Access and Enjoyment
- E- Community Engagement, Education and Training

It is difficult to separate the various strands identified above as the projects will have outcomes and overlap beyond their prescribed areas.

Schedule of Projects (A) - Administration Objectives

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
1	Formalise Revised Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership and Management Structure and identify Board Members	M1, M3, M6	TCBC	TCBC & all other partners	Staff time	N/A	2011	Structure proposed in Management Plan Review
2	Nominate Steering Group members from partner organizations.	M1	All partners	None	Nil	N/A	2010	Identified in Management Plan Review
3	Confirm representation on working groups and nominate Chairman	M1	All partners	None	Nil	N/A	2010	Proposed in Management Plan Review
4	Confirm terms of reference of Committee, Steering Group and Working Groups	M1, M3	All partners	None	Staff time	N/A	2010	Terms proposed in Management Plan Review
5	Convene Board, Steering Group and Working Group meetings	M1	TCBC/Cadw/BBNPA/ FLP	All partners	Staff time	N/A	2010 onwards	Ongoing

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
6	All partners to reflect Outstanding Universal Value and significance of World Heritage Site in their strategies, policies and plans	C2, C3, S1, S2	All partners	All Partners	Staff time	N/A	Ongoing	Ongoing
7	Attend ICOMOS World Heritage Site Co-ordinator meetings	M5	TCBC	TCBC	Staff time	TCBC & Cadw	2010 onwards	Ongoing, Co-ordinator attends
8	Confirm Membership of Local Authorities World Heritage Forum (LAWHF)	M5	TCBC, BBNP & MCC	TCBC, BBNP & MCC	£500 x 3 LA's	TCBC, BBNPA & MCC	2010 onwards	Confirmed by TCBC
9	Attend Govilon Heritage Group Meetings	M4, C4, V2, V4, V6	FLP	MCC, BBNPA, TCBC, BW	Staff time	N/A	2010 onwards	Ongoing
10	Attend Llanfoist 'Save Our Local Village Environment' (SOLVE) Meetings	M4, C4, V2, V4, V6	FLP	MCC, BBNPA, TCBC, BW	Staff time	N/A	2010 onwards	Ongoing

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
11	Integrate Forgotten Landscapes Partnership	M6	TCBC	FLP and partners	Nil	N/A	2010 onwards	Identified in Management Plan Review
12	Initiative (FLP) Integrate Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative staff with World Heritage Centre organisation	M6, C2, C5, C7, V2, V6, V8	TCBC	TCBC & FLP	Nil	N/A	2010 onwards	Officers appointed
13	Monitor progress of Management Plan	IT3	TCBC	All Partners	Staff time	N/A	Annually	Ongoing
14	Update Risk Assessment and Disaster Manual	R1, R2	TCBC	All Partners	Staff time	N/A	Annually	Draft manual prepared Man Plan Review

Schedule of Projects (B) - Protection and Conservation Objectives

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
1	Buffer Zone Identify and seek approval of Forgotten Landscapes area beyond World Heritage Boundary as a "buffer zone" and submit to DCMS for UNESCO/ ICOMOS approval.	C2, C7, S3, M5, M6, V4	TCBC	FLP/BBNPA/ MCC/CCW	Staff time	Covered by FLP Officer work plan	2011-12	Principle of buffer zone identified in Management Plan
2	Buffer Zone: Geological Sites Conservation of Cwm Nant Melyn and Llanelli Quarry	C1, C2, C3, V1 & V2	FLP	British Geological Survey, BGCBC, BBNPA	£11,890	Funding secured	2013	Work starts autumn 2010
3	Archaeological/cultural assets: comprehensive GIS based survey. See Birmingham Archaeology Brief 1: 'Man and the Environment – Archaeology' Aug 2009	C3, C5, IT1, IT4	FLP	Birmingham Archaeology	Staff time	FLP Partnership	2009	Completed
4	Survey and Monitor: systematic survey of species and habitats	C2, C3, C5, IT1, IT3	FLP	Volunteers	£7,150	Secured	2010-13	Commenced April 2008

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
5	Further review of statutory Scheduled Ancient Monuments, including annual monitoring report	C1, C3 C5, I1	Cadw	FLP, TCBC, MCC, BBNPA, BW	Staff time	Unknown	Ongoing	None
6	Undertake review of listed buildings and prepare monitoring report every 4 years.	C1, C3, C5 IT1	TCBC BBNPA	Cadw, BW	Staff time	N/A	Ongoing	To be considered
7	Consider extension to Blaenavon Town Centre Conservation Area	C1, C3, S2	TCBC	Cadw	Staff time	Nil	2010-11	Completed
8	Review Cwmavon Conservation Area	C1, C3, S2	TCBC	Cadw	Staff time	N/A	2010-11	Completed
9	Consider designation of new Conservation Area at Forge Side and Glantorfaen	C1, C3, S2	TCBC	Cadw	Staff time	N/A	2010-11	Proposed CA identified 2009.
10	Former St Peter's Infants' School (Ramfield Centre) Grade II Listed Window replacement to Church Road.	C3	Priory School		Unknown	Cadw HBG/ Priory School	2011 onwards	None
11	Hill Pit Cottages: Archaeological study, presentation and interpretation	C2, C3 V2, V3	FLP	Cadw	£3,000	Funding secured	2010-11	Commenced June 2010

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
12	Engine Brake Winding Wheel: Conservation and presentation	C1, C3	FLP	Cadw	£14,000	Funding secured	2010-11	Commenced June 2010
13	Pwll Du Tunnel: Southern Portal – limited excavation to reveal, conserve and present	C1, C2, C3	FLP	Cadw	£48,843	Funding secured	2010-11	Commenced June 2010
14	Dyne Steel Incline: essential drainage and other repairs	C1, C2, C3	FLP	Cadw	£4,900	Funding secured	2010-11	Commenced June 2010
15	Keeper's Pond: dam wall, repairs to stone work	C1, C2, C3	FLP	Cadw	£15,000	Funding secured	2010-11	Commenced June 2010
17	Commons boundary stone wall and fence repairs	C2, C3, C4	FLP		£24,700	Funding secured	2010-13	Ongoing
18	Wild Fire Strategy: Emergency arrangements in respect of fire in the landscape	M3, R1	FLP	SWF&RS	Staff time	Secured	2010-12	Proposals drafted 2010
19	Heather Moor land Management, fire breaks and burning plans	C1, C2, R1	FLP	Commoners, CCW, BBNPA, SWF&RS	£31,000	Funding secured	2012-13	Work planned for 2010
20	Bracken Management	M4, C1, C2, C3, V6	FLP	Commoners, CCW, BBNPA	£190,950	Funding secured	2010-2013	Commenced July 2010

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
21	Livestock Purchase Scheme	C1, C2, C4	FLP	Commoners, PONT	£19,620	Secured	2011-13	Work planned 2010
22	Garn Lakes Nature Reserve: Reed bed Creation, upgrade infrastructure	M4, C2, C5, V2, V4, V8	FLP		£39,270	Secured	2010-13	Work planned 2010
23	Coal Spoil Conservation: Coity Tip	C1, C2, V2	FLP	CCW, AC-NMW	£37,370	Secured	2010-13	Work commenced August 2010
24	Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal: Heritage Management	C2, C3	BW	FLP	Unknown	Unknown	2010-15	Ongoing
25	Aaron Brute's Level – implement protection measures and seek external funding to deliver repair/restoration works.	C3	TCBC	TCBC Cadw HLF	Unknown	TCBC/ CADW/ FLP/ HLF	2012 onwards	In progress
26	Iron bridge over Afon Lwyd - implement protection measures and seek external funding to deliver repair/restoration works.	C3	TCBC	TCBC, Cadw, HLF, HOV	£230K	TCBC, Cadw, FLP, HLF	2012+	Initial survey and engineer report 2004
27	Ty Mawr Iron Masters House – initial protection to prevent further deterioration.	C1, C3, S2	TCBC	Owners/ Cadw/ RCAHIMW	£100K	Cadw / Owners own resources.	2010/11	Meetings held with owner.

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
28	Ty Mawr Iron Masters House – Identify effective and sustainable re-use	C1, C3, S2	TCBC, CADW & Owners	Owners/Cadw	£3.5 million (estimated)	Cadw / Owners	2012+	Meetings held with owner
29	Blaenavon Ironworks Consolidation of calcining ovens	C3, V2	Cadw				2010-13	Underway
30	Blaenavon Ironworks - Replace boundary fencing	C3, V2	Cadw				2010	Completed
31	Blaenavon Ironworks - Re-site works yard to improve access to site	C3, V2	Cadw				2010-15	Underway
32	Big Pit – Engineering Works	C3	AC-NMW	AC-NMW	£300,000		2010-15	Ongoing
33	Big Pit – Apprenticeship Scheme	C3	AC-NMW	AC-NMW	£60,000pa		2010-15	Ongoing
34	Big Pit: new displays – 'Mining Communities' and Energy sustainability	C3, V2 V3	AC-NMW	AC-NMW	£100,000		2010-15	Ongoing
35	Big Pit: erect new building to house the Waddle Fan	C3, V2	AC-NMW	AC-NMW	£150,000		2010-15	Ongoing
36	Big Pit – Coity Pits archaeology project	C3, V2	AC-NMW	AC-NMW	£150,000		2010-15	Ongoing
37	Big Pit: conservation workshop and store extension	C3, V2	AC-NMW	AC-NMW	£350,000		2010-15	Ongoing

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
38	Increase audio-visual collection of social history – 'intangible heritage'	C4, V2 V3	TCBC	Other partners	£15,000		2012 onwards	Ongoing
39	Annual monitoring of cultural and natural features (other than SAMs and Listed Buildings)	C5	FLP	All other partners, GGAT, UWN	Staff time and volunteer effort	Secured	2011-13 onwards	FLP volunteer workforce following training
40	Ty Rheinalt and Coity enclosed landscape: conservation work and possible appropriate rebuilding	C1, C2, C3	TCBC	Cadw RCAHMMW CCW/ Property owner	Unknown	Possible FLP community archaeology project	2010-13	None
41	Powder House: recording and stabilisation	C1, C3	TCBC	Landowner FLP Cadw	Unknown	Nil	2011	None
42	Blaenavon Workmen's Hall: external repairs and maintenance and appropriate use of former librarian's house	C4, V2, V3	TCBC	Workmen's Hall Committee / Blaenavon Town Council/ Cadw/HLF	£250,000	Nil	2012 onwards	None
43	Increased use of Workmen's Hall as conference centre associated with Blaenavon World Heritage Centre	C4, V2, V3	TCBC	Workmen's Hall Committee BTC Cadw	£500K	Unknown	2012 onwards	None

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
44	Encourage programme of habitat management at St. Peter's Churchyard	C2, C3, V2, V3	TCBC	Church in Wales/ Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership/ FLP BTCV, FEI	£20,000		2010 onwards	Underway
45	Housing design guidance for identified in-fill sites	C1, S2 R2	TCBC	Cadw/ HOV	Staff time	N/A	2010-11	Draft studies
46	Former Company Shop on North Street	C1, C3, V3, S1	Owner	Cadw, TCBC, HOV	Unknown	Unknown	2011 onwards	None

Schedule of Projects (C) – Economic Regeneration Objectives

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
1	Lion Hotel B&B Guest House	C1, C3, V2, V5, S2	TCBC	HOV / Visit Wales / Owners own resources	£600k	HOV/ Visit Wales/ Owners own resources	2009/12	In progress
2	Railway Extension to Varteg Road	V2, V3, V4, V6 C3	Blaenavon Heritage Railway Company	HOV EU Convergence	£1.9M	HOV/ EU Convergence	2010 - 12	Completed
3	Rebuild High Level Station	V2, V4 V6	Blaenavon Heritage Railway Company	HOV EU Convergence			2010 - 12	In progress
4	Rebuild railway bridge over Varteg Road	V2, V4 V6	Blaenavon Heritage Railway Company	HOV EU Convergence			2010 - 12	In progress
5	Railway Extension to Big Pit	V2, V4 V6	Blaenavon Heritage Railway Company	HOV EU Convergence			2010-12	In progress
6	Extend railway to Waunavon Station	V2, V4 V6,C3	Blaenavon Heritage Railway Company	HOV		HOV	Beyond 2012	Ongoing

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
7	Dragon's Teeth Micro Hydro System: micro hydro electricity generation and sales proceeds used for ongoing management	C1, C2, V7	FLP		£162,299	Secured	2010-11	Contractors appointed
8	Engage community within the Cultural Olympiad of the London 2012 Olympics through working with the Legacy Trust	C4, V6 V8	Cadw	TCBC Head 4 Arts	£10k per annum over 3 years	Cadw Legacy Trust	2010-12	In progress
9	Containment of retail centre to create a focus and a viable range of shops and services for local residents and visitors	C1, V4 S1,S2	TCBC	HOV Private Sector Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership	N/A	N/A	2010 onwards	In progress
10	Encourage investment in appropriate new accommodation, increasing validation with key partners e.g. Visit Wales	V5, C1	TCBC	HOV Visit Wales Private sector MCC BBNPA	N/A	HOV	2010 onwards	In progress

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
11	Encourage and Support Blaenavon Traders & Tourism Association	M4, C1 V2, V5	TCBC	HOV/ Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership/ Private Sector	Staff time	N/A	2010 onwards	In progress
12	Encourage economically viable use of 'Common Land': work with commoners to agree land management, grazing and formation of Commons Management Group (Community Enterprise)	C1, C2	FLP	Commoners Association RDP Team ADVENTA	Staff time	Secured	2010-13	In progress
13	Support local producers: improve food offer, branding, exhibitions and promotion	C2, V5	FLP	RDP Team Private Sector	£8,800	Secured	2010-13	In progress
14	Development and Promotion of Beekeeping: promotion, training and support of new beekeepers. Sales of bee products		FLP	RDP Team	£7,225	Secured	2010-13	In progress

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
15	Lighting – World Heritage Centre, Ironworks and Big Pit	V2, V4	HOV	Cadw, AC-NMW, TCBC			2012 onwards	Aspiration
16	Appropriately designed housing on six underused sites within town envelope	C1, C3 S1, S2	TCBC	Private builders	Unknown	N/A	2011-15	Draft brief prepared
17	New signage at Blaenavon World Heritage Centre	V1, V2 V4	TCBC	HOV	£12K	HOV	2010-11	Ongoing
18	Trunk Road Signage	V1, V2, V4	TCBC	HOV	Unknown	HOV	Aspiration 2012 onwards	None
19	Blaenavon Community Campus	C1, S1 S2, V8	TCBC	Local Health Board Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust Gwent Police	£15 Million	HOV Health Board TCBC	2010-12	School construction in progress
20	Networked Employers	C1, V5 V6,S1	TCBC	Torfaen Training	Unknown	TCBC. Private Sector	2010-12	None
21	Pre-employment Routes	V5, S1	TCBC	Torfaen Training	Unknown	TCBC, HOV, WAG, EU Convergence, ESF	2010-12	None

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
22	Role Models	V6, V8, S1	TCBC		Unknown	Children & Young People's Partnership EU Convergence	2010-12	None
23	Awareness Raising	V4 V6 S1	TCBC	HOV, WAG	Unknown	WAG, TCBC, HOV	2010-12	None
24	Pathways to Training	S1 V6 V8	TCBC	Torfaen Training	Unknown	WAG	2010-12	None
25	Goytre Wharf as a 'gateway' site	C1, C2, C3, C4, V1, V2, V4, V8, S3	BW	MCC, BBNPA, VRP, VW	Unknown	Unknown	2010-15	None
26	Eco Lodge Accommodation at Goytre Wharf	C1, C3, V2, V5, S3	BW	FCW, BBNPA, MCC, VW, Private Sector	Unknown	Unknown	2013-15 – aspiration	Aspiration
27	Investigate and progress identification and delivery of sustainable end use for former Bethlehem Chapel, Broad Street.	C1, C3, C4, V2, V3, V6, V8	Congregational Federation	TCBC, Cadw, HLF	Unknown	Unknown	2011-2015	In progress

Schedule of Projects (D) - Public Access and Enjoyment

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
1	Extend National Cycle Route 492 to Brynmawr	C2, C6, V1, V2 V4, S1	TCBC	HOV Sustrans	£250,000	EU Convergence	2010-12	Surveys and feasibility work commenced
2	New cycle ways and links within World Heritage Site	C2, C6 V1, V2 V4, S1	TCBC	HOV				Ongoing
3	Visitor Communication: website and pre-visit information enhancements, pod cast training, online games, interactive trail map	C3, C4 V2, V3 V4, V6 V8, IT1 IT2	FLP	TCBC, RCAHMMW	£13,400	Secured	2010-11	Ongoing
4	Blaenavon World Heritage Centre Interior: enhancements, additional maps, trail leaflets, computer terminals, explorer rucksacks, AV presentations, interactive touch screen enhancements, interpretation panels	M3, C2, V2, V3, V4, V6, V8, IT1, IT2, IT3	FLP	TCBC	£128,570	Secured	2011-12	Ongoing
5	BWHC Exterior: Topographic map and storytelling chair	M3, C2, C4, V2, V3, V4, V6, V8	FLP	TCBC	£16,500	Secured	2011-12	Ongoing

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
6	Principal Gateways: enhancements including interpretation, information and orientation		FLP	TCBC	£7,100	Secured	2011-13	Ongoing
7	Commons Code of Conduct: design, production, printing and distribution of advice for visitors		FLP	None	£4,750	Secured	2010-11	Ongoing
8	Extend walks to surrounding areas of World Heritage Site/ Valleys Regional Park	C2, C6 V1, V2 V4, S1	HOV VRP	TCBC, MCC, BBNPA VW, FLP	Unknown	Unknown	2010-2015	Ongoing
9	Exploring the Heritage Landscape: Principal Gateways – signage schedules, access improvements, route-way marking	M3, V2, V3, V4, V8	FLP		£27,000	Secured	2010-12	Ongoing
10	Secondary Gateways & trails-interpretation: gateway features, trail guide leaflets and downloads, cycling trail downloads, geo-caching trail download, interpretive features on trails	M3, V2, V3, V4, V8	FLP	BBNPA	£66,500	Secured	2010-12	Ongoing
11	Mobile Media: development of 2 interpreted E - trails for use on hand held media (PDA)	V2, V3, V4, IT1	FLP	BBNPA, RCAHWW	£38,300	Secured	2010-13	Ongoing

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
12	Bluetooth Interpretation Downloads: Trails at Keeper's Pond and Big Pit	M3, V2, V3, V4, V8	FLP	BBNPA	£7,500	Secured	2011-13	Ongoing
13	Events Programme	M4, M6, C4, C6 V1, V2 V3, V4 V6, V7	TCBC	HOV	Unknown		2009 onwards	Ongoing
14	Develop genealogy service	M4, C4, V2, V3, V4, V6, I1	TCBC	Community Heritage Museum	Staff time		2010 onwards	Ongoing
15	Increase digitised information on the Blaenavon World Heritage Site and BWHC	C3, C4, V4, V8, I1, I2, I3	TCBC	FLP	Staff time	N/A	2010-15	Ongoing
16	Increase digitised information on other World Heritage Sites at BWHC	M5, I2	TCBC		Staff time	N/A	2010-15	Ongoing
17	Local Passport Scheme for visitors	V2, V3, V4	TCBC	HOV VW AC-NMW Cadw BTC, Private Sector	Unknown	TCBC, BTC, HOV, WAG, BTTA, AC-NMW	2010-2012	Ongoing
18	Ironworks: encouragement of events and entertainments on site	M3, C6, V1, V2, V3, V4, V6, V7	Cadw	TCBC Private Sector			2010 onwards	

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
19	Ironworks: replacement of toilet block	V5, S2	Cadw	EU Convergence			Long-term	
20	Ironworks: Improvement and possible extension to visitor centre	V2, V3, V4, V7, V8	Cadw	EU Convergence			Long-term	
21	Ironworks: Provision of café on site	V5, S2	Cadw	EU Convergence			Long-term	
22	Ironworks: Use of lighting to illustrate casting process	V2, V4	Cadw	EU Convergence			Long-term	
23	Ironworks: cupola furnace to allow for smelting demonstrations	C3, V1, V2, C1	Cadw	EU Convergence			Long-term	
24	Ironworks: Beneficial use of remaining Stack Square buildings	V1, V2, V3, I1, C3	Cadw	EU Convergence			Long-term	
25	Ironworks: Provide historic locomotive	V1, V2, V3	Cadw	EU Convergence			Long-term Aspiration	
26	Ironworks: Possible operation of the water balance tower mechanism	C1, C2, C3, V1, V2, V3	Cadw	EU Convergence			Long-term Aspiration	
27	Provide footbridge from ironworks car park to main entrance	C1, V2	TCBC	Cadw HOV	£150K		Long-term Aspiration	
28	Footpath Maintenance	C3, C6, V2	TCBC	BBNPA MCC FLP			2010-15	Ongoing

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
29	Guided Tours	M4, M6, V2, V3, V4, V6	TCBC	WOTGA FLP BBNPA MCC			2010-15	Ongoing
30	Guided walks programme: professional interpreters, English and Welsh. Volunteers trained and accredited		FLP	Govilon Heritage	£16,000	Secured	2010-13	Ongoing
31	Foraging Activities: guided walks and management costs		FLP		£3,000	Secured	2010-13	Ongoing
32	Routes and Roots Festival: community engagement project to develop canal festival	C4, V1, V2, V4, V6	FLP	BW, BBNPA, SOLVE, SUSTRANS, Govilon Heritage, Mon and Brecon Canal Trust	£21,650	Secured	2011-13	Ongoing
33	Extend way marked walks	V2, V3, V4	FLP	TCBC			2010-15	Ongoing
34	Enhance BWHC Interior Interpretation	M3, C2, C4, V2, V3, V4, V6, V8, I1, I2, I3	FLP	TCBC	£96,000	FLP	2010-2013	Ongoing
35	Enhance BWHC Exterior Interpretation	M3, C2, C4, V2, V3, V4, V6, V8	FLP	TCBC	£16,500	FLP	2010-13	Ongoing
36	Maintain TIC service for World Heritage Site and wider region	V2, V4, V5	TCBC	Visit Wales	Unknown		2010-2015	Ongoing

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
37	Maintain and widen circulation in other mediums of Heritage News	I1	TCBC		£6,000 per annum		2010-2015	Ongoing
38	Blaenavon Gateways: Enhancement work along approach roads	V1, V2, V4, V8	TCBC	HOV BRP Private Sector Communities First FLP	Unknown	TCBC, HOV, DE&T, Blaenavon Regeneration Partnership	2010-2015	Ongoing
39	Elgam Ravine Pocket Park Phase 2	C7, V2, C2	TCBC	Communities First	£200,000	CF, HOV	2010-2013	Aspiration
40	Blaenavon Public Art Initiative, connecting key spaces	V1, V2, V3, V6	TCBC	HOV	Unknown	HOV	2011-15	Aspiration
41	Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal Towpath access improvements	C1, C2, C3, V1, V2	BW	FLP, CCW	Unknown	Unknown	2011-12	None
42	Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal Heritage Interpretation	C2, C4, V1, V2, V4	BW	FLP, Cadw	Unknown	Unknown	2011-12	None
43	Investigate feasibility and cost of undertaking highway improvements to Church Road. Seek external funding to achieve this.	V2	TCBC	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Long term	Aspirational
44	Produce and sell WHSite guide book linked to exhibition at Blaenavon World Heritage Centre	V1, V2, V3, V8, C3	TCBC	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Long term	Aspirational

Schedule of Projects (E) - Community Engagement, Education and Training

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
1	'From Funeral to Festival': A History of Blaenavon 1901-1951 – written, researched and published by local community group	M4, V6	FLP	WEA, TCBC	£2,750	Secured	2010 - 11	Completed
2	Llanfoist Community Interpretation Community group to lead on production of artwork, interpretive panels, heritage walk, use of village hall as informal TIC & Gateway	M4, V6	FLP		£11,000		2010 - 12	Ongoing
3	Camel's Back Mountain Bike Project Youth groups will build and maintain a mountain bike course on coal spoil near Blaenavon	M4, V6	FLP	TCBC Youth Services	£15,000		2010 - 11	None
4	Coity Summit Community Artwork Local community group involved in design of landscape art installation	M4, V6	FLP	Cwmillery CF	£5,000		2012 - 13	Commenced
5	Community Outreach Travelling exhibition for events and talks	M4, V6	FLP	BBNPA	£12,000		2010 - 11	
6	End of Scheme Event Conference and showcasing of FLP projects		FLP	All other partners	£7,500		2013	None

No	Project	Objective Ref	Lead Agency	Other Partners	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding	Timescale	Progress
7	Volunteering programme-involving people Volunteer handbook Training – heritage conservation skills Training – sustainable commons management	C3, V2 V3, V4 V6, V8	FLP	BTCV / GGAT / Cadw	£148,000		2010 - 13	None
8	Explorer Programme for Schools Time zones (themed outdoor classrooms) Promotional literature and resources		FLP	BBNPA / WHC	£47,000		2010 - 13	Commenced
9	Dramatic Landscapes School's play, exhibition and book		FLP	GYT	£35,000		2011 - 13	None
10	Community Landscapes Community archaeology / history research led by specialists		FLP	GGAT / UWN	£43,000		2010 - 13	Ongoing
11	Learning Landscapes Lectures, talks, classes and resources		FLP	UWN / TCBC Countryside	£42,500	FLP	2010 - 13	Ongoing
12	Increase educational opportunities	M4, V3, V8, I1, I2	TCBC	AC-NMW Cadw Community Heritage Museum FLP	Unknown		2010 -13	Ongoing



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Part 6

Appendices



View from north west, looking towards Blaenavon
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Appendix 1

Review Of The First Ten Years And Lessons Learned

Review of the first ten years and lessons learned

Introduction

The original Blaenavon Industrial Landscape Management Plan was agreed by members of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership at the Heritage and Regeneration Conference held at the Parkway Hotel, Cwmbran on 8th October 1999.

The Plan was then forwarded to UNESCO as the key supporting document to be taken into account with the formal Nomination document in assessing the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape for inscription by the World Heritage Committee as a World Heritage Site.

In summary the reason for Nomination was that:-

“The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape presents a large number of individual monuments of outstanding value within the context of a rich and continuous landscape, powerfully evocative of the industrial revolution. It is one of the prime areas in the world where the full social, economic and technological process of industrialisation through iron and coal production can be studied and understood”.

Extract from UK Tentative List June 1999

The Nomination was successful and the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape was inscribed on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites in December 2000. The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape met two of the prescribed criteria for inscription of World Heritage Sites.

Criterion (iii) The Blaenavon Landscape constitutes an exceptional illustration in material form of the social and economic structure of 19th century industry.

Criterion (iv) The components of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape together make up an outstanding and remarkably complete example of a 19th century industrial landscape

The Management Plan was prepared in accordance with guidelines issued by ICOMOS and was accepted as an exemplar at that time when there was a growing awareness of the need for more effective management of World Heritage Sites. The Blaenavon Plan influenced the management proposals for several other sites which have subsequently been inscribed as World Heritage Sites.

The Management Plan became the agreed guiding document for project planning and implementation by the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership a unique partnership of Local Authority and Welsh Assembly Government Agencies and others established to achieve World Heritage Site status and manage the site.

The stated main aim of the Partnership -

“The prime aim of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership is to protect and conserve this landscape so that future generations may understand the contribution South Wales made to the Industrial Revolution. By the presentation and promotion of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape it is intended to increase tourism and assist the economic regeneration of the area”.

Blaenavon Industrial Landscape Management Plan October 1999

The Plan/Project Realisation

The original Management Plan was based on a strategy set out in the Blaenavon Heritage and Regeneration Study by DTZ Pida completed in March 1998 (see Table 1). This study was commissioned by the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership. The intention was to use the area's unique heritage as a driver for regeneration.

World Heritage Site status has indeed proved to be the catalyst for attracting funding from the European Union, Welsh Assembly Government and the Heritage Lottery Fund as well as from the local authorities and agencies comprising the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership.

Management and Action Plan

Vision	Strategic Aims	Objectives
The vision for Blaenavon is of a small town with a sustainable economy based upon the sensitive exploitation and management of a cultural heritage resource of world significance. Maintaining a strong community and surrounding area identity for the people of Blaenavon will have pride in their past and an active involvement in realising their hopes for the future.	To protect and conserve the key heritage assets which make up the Blaenavon Heritage Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To formalise the existing Blaenavon heritage and regeneration partnership to oversee the Management plan. • To secure the agreement of all key interests to the co-ordinated development and management of the Blaenavon Heritage Landscape as a potential World Heritage Site. • To identify and, if necessary, establish appropriate bodies to take responsibility for the delivery of the Action Plan.
	To identify, protect and conserve the key heritage assets which make up potential Blaenavon World Heritage Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To agree and implement a management plan for the potential World Heritage Site. • To secure more control over key heritage assets. • To ensure that the potential of the area as a World Heritage Site is reflected in relevant policies, resource allocation and decision making. • To secure long term sustainable users for vacant/derelict Listed Buildings.
	To increase understanding and awareness of the role which Blaenavon has played in industrial / technological processes, transportation and social/ cultural development in Industrial South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate physical access to key heritage assets and the wider heritage landscape. • To develop effective linkage between the town, the landscape and key heritage assets. • To promote knowledge and understanding of the industrial/technological processes and transportation methods associated with Blaenavon. • To explain the social/cultural changes associated with the process of industrialisation in Blaenavon.
	To establish Blaenavon Heritage landscape as a principal gateway for visitors in Industrial South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To seek World Heritage Site status for the Blaenavon Landscape of Historic importance. • To secure the commitment of key national heritage bodies to development of the potential Blaenavon World Heritage Site. • To strengthen management and visitor links with the Brecon Beacons National Park. • To increase the number, duration and quality of visits to the Blaenavon Heritage landscape. • To promote joint marketing of the area with other industrial heritage attractions in South Wales.
It will be an area/ place where people want to live, visit and invest attracted by the quality and character of an historic town set in a unique landscape with access to a wide range of employment and leisure opportunities.	To enhance the attractiveness of Blaenavon as a place to live, visit and invest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the environmental quality and siting of Blaenavon. • To tackle the physical dereliction and decay of the town centre. • To promote the safe and convenient access to pedestrians and vehicles into and within the town centre. • To ensure provision of good quality education and recreational provision for the town's young people. • To address actual and perceived problems of crime and vandalism. • To reduce the social exclusion of disadvantaged groups in the community.
	To maintain and improve Blaenavon's role as a centre serving residents and visitors to the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain and improve access to an appropriate range of social/community facilities. • To retain and support the development of the local retail/service base. • To improve the range and quality of visitor attractions/experience in and around Blaenavon. • To promote the provision of accommodation to secure visitors to the area. • To enhance the availability of information on things to do and see for both residents and visitors to the area.
	To maintain and improve the local employment base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help maintain and improve the competitiveness of local Blaenavon businesses. • To encourage the establishment and growth of new local businesses in Blaenavon. • To promote business opportunities arising from the anticipated growth in heritage conservation/management and increased visitor activity.
	To ensure that local people are able to benefit from opportunities arising from heritage-led regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the active involvement of local people in the development and implementation of heritage/regeneration plans and projects for Blaenavon. • To enhance the capacity and capabilities of existing and new community organisations. • To ensure that the local skills base is capable of meeting the anticipated changes in the local economy. • To make local people aware of business opportunities arising from heritage-led regeneration.
	To foster a positive image of Blaenavon amongst residents and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide evidence of early progress with the implementation of the strategy and Action Plan. • To maintain and enhance the existing programme of community based events.

Table one: Blaenavon Heritage and Regeneration Strategy (DTZ PIEDA Report 1998)

Table 2: Costs of Protection, Promotion and Regeneration

Project	Cost (figures at end of 2007)
Big Pit Repairs and Refurbishment	£7,300,000
Blaenavon Ironworks Conservation and Tourist Information	£1,400,000
Blaenavon World Heritage Centre	£3,100,000
New Library in derelict Listed Building	£750,000
New Public Toilets	£110,000
Housing and Commercial Property Renewal	£9,100,000
Urban Environmental Improvements including Car Parks	£3,100,000
Landscape Improvements including Car Parks	£2,900,000
Minor Improvement Works	£150,000
Events Organisation and Promotion	£150,000
Marketing and Brand Building	£150,000
Consultants' Studies	£900,000
World Heritage Nomination	£190,000
Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Management	£1,500,000
TOTAL	£30,800,000

Table 3: Protection, Promotion and Regeneration Benefits since Inscription

National monuments saved, conserved and interpreted
Outworn fabric of 500 properties made good
75 per cent of town centre dereliction made good
Significant improvements in environment and facilities, e.g. car parks
Over 100 jobs annually in construction
Conservation skills developed by local building companies
65 FTE jobs safeguarded and created in tourism
10 new businesses created
End of property stagnation and commencement of new developments

Values increased over 300 per cent in 5 years (above UK average)
Visitor numbers increased by 100 per cent: 100,000 to 200,000 in 5 Years
Destination Blaenavon brand established
Educational programmes developed
Way marked walks and cycle ways established
Annual events programme established
Community involvement secured
Firm base established for further regeneration

The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape Management Plan aimed to identify, protect, preserve, conserve, present and promote the World Heritage Site. The plan included a list of fifty nine projects which the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership agreed to deliver.

All the projects listed in the plan for delivery in the first five years have been completed and indeed several other effective projects have been realised including the UK's first dedicated World Heritage Centre.

A total in excess of £35 million expenditure has been achieved on protecting, conserving, upgrading, promoting and presenting the national monuments of Big Pit and the Ironworks, on renewal works and environmental improvements in the historic town and on gateways, way marked walks and environmental improvements in the relict landscape (see tables 2 & 3 setting out summary of total expenditure and benefits during the last ten years at the end of this section).

Since 1999 over sixty studies/reports have been undertaken to ensure the effective protection and presentation of the World Heritage Site all contributing to the regeneration of the area (Table 4 setting out these studies is included at the end of this section).

Considerable emphasis has been placed on presenting the World Heritage values in the most appropriate way to encourage cultural tourism. A Blaenavon Industrial Landscape brand has been established and is now widely recognised. A dedicated website (www.visitblaenavon.co.uk) has been created and acts as both a promotional and educational tool.

The importance of using the World Heritage Site as an educational opportunity has also been advanced at the three main sites within the World Heritage Site, including the Ironworks, Big Pit National Coal Museum and at the recently completed Blaenavon World Heritage Centre.

In order to promote the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape to fully appreciate the wider significance of the site and benefit from other national and international experience, Torfaen County Borough Council has been closely associated with the Local Authorities' World Heritage Forum (LAWHF) and the European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH).

Management

The Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership was formed in 1999 to implement the Management Plan. The Partnership is led and coordinated by Torfaen County Borough Council.

There were thirteen partners originally including:

- Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC)
- Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP)
- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC)
- Monmouthshire County Council (MCC)
- Blaenavon Town Council (BTC)
- Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments (Cadw)
- Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)
- National Museum Wales (AC-NMW)
- Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW)
- Welsh Development Agency (WDA) ¹
- Wales Tourist Board (WTB)¹
- British Waterways (BW)
- National Trust Wales (NTW) ²

The combined actions of the local authorities, government agencies and British Waterways and the National Trust proved to be a potent force in management of the World Heritage Site.

As the scale of activities has grown the management structure has adapted as an increased number of organisations and persons have contributed to the process, however the basic management structure set out in the original plan proved to be robust and effective.

As the Plan states, it is proposed that the management structure should be further modified, particularly until 2013, to achieve the maximum benefit from the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership initiative.

The Forgotten Landscape Partnership initiative (2009-2013) is a singularly important project which will ensure that the management of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site and associated adjoining landscapes is carried out in a holistic and exemplary way and ensures that the management of the site, which has been effectively carried out to date, is continued and extended in scope.

¹ It should be noted that the WDA and WTB are now part of the Welsh Assembly Government

² National Trust Wales have resigned as formal members but wish to be kept apprised of Partnership activities

The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership initiative was initiated in 2007 with a clearly defined goal of ensuring the sustainable conservation of the heritage landscape of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site and adjoining areas.

A major emphasis of the project is on the important inter-relationship between cultural and natural heritage and the project will take forward UNESCO thinking in terms of Blaenavon as a 'cultural landscape'.

The Initiative is a trend setting project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, for the holistic management of the World Heritage Site heritage landscape and adjoining areas of landscape sharing similar distinctiveness. The term 'Forgotten' springs from the fact that much of the area was disturbed by mineral extraction related to iron and coal production in the formative years of the Industrial Revolution. Indeed, large parts of the World Heritage Site had in fact been identified as 'derelict land' by the Welsh Development Agency before inscription in 2000.

The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership initiative provides the opportunity to take forward the protection and promotion of the cultural and natural values of the World Heritage Site in ways which would not otherwise be possible. It ensures an investment of approximately £3m by 2013.

For these reasons the initiative needs to be an integral part of management of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site structure. The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership will be incorporated within the management structure of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Partnership.

Four programme areas have been developed and include:

1. The Landscape made by the people
2. Our sense of Place
3. Man and the Environment
4. Guardians of the Landscape

These four themes are included in a Landscape Conversation Action Plan submitted to Heritage Lottery Fund in December 2009. Delivery of the project will be during the management plan period.

The delivery of both the Forgotten Landscape Partnership projects and the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership is achieved through effective goodwill of partners in accordance with the management structure which allows for effective co-ordination between the various partners participating in projects. A pragmatic approach is taken to individual projects to secure effective "joined up" management with agreed funds and technical input from appropriate agencies to realise specific projects. These are usually implemented in accordance with an agreed Project Initiation Document (PID).

Importantly there has been increasing community involvement in protecting and promoting the World Heritage Site and there has been considerable public involvement in the delivery of projects notably in the Blaenavon Town Centre. The establishment of the World Heritage Site Volunteer Ranger Service has been a particularly significant development.

Summary

The original World Heritage Site Management Plan has delivered success and the management systems of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership have proved to be effective and robust.

This success was recognised in the Price Waterhouse Cooper Study on the Costs and Benefits of World Heritage Site Inscription commissioned by the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) and published in 2008. This showed that benefits have been achieved in Blaenavon in partnership working, securing additional funding, conservation, tourism, regeneration, civic pride, social capital, education and learning.

The aim of the World Heritage Committee to identify, protect, preserve, conserve, present and promote the “Outstanding Universal Value” of World Heritage Sites have been honoured and substantially advanced by the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape Management Plan since inscription in December 2000.

The planned actions carried out since inscription has raised awareness of the unique industrial history of Blaenavon and South Wales. The combined efforts of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership have achieved significant regeneration in this deprived area of South Wales which suffered grievously from the demise of the iron, steel and coal industries during the 20th century. Perceptions of this run down mining valley community have been changed dramatically for the better, locally, nationally and internationally and a great deal of community pride has been restored in Blaenavon, South Wales.

Table 4: Studies/Reports undertaken in relation to Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site and Blaenavon Regeneration Project 1998-2011

Reference No.	Study/Report Title	Authors	Date Undertaken	Brief Description	Time Frame	Status	Progress
1	Blaenavon Heritage & Regeneration Study	DTZ Pleda Consulting	October 1998	An assessment of heritage quality of Blaenavon area and social economic condition leading to a strategy for regeneration of the area based on heritage quality.	10 year + with annual programming	Accepted by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Project Board. Adopted by TCBC.	Strategy identified nine main objectives which remain basics of ongoing strategy for regeneration. Also this document enforced the BIL WHS Management Plan.
2	Blaenavon Housing Renewal proposal.	Killick Architects TCBC	February 1999	A submission to the National Assembly Wales for Housing Renewal funding for an area of 900 houses in central Blaenavon.	Ten years with annual programming	Agreed by Wales Assembly 1999	Progress ongoing to date approx 300 houses in the centre of Blaenavon have been updated taking account of historic character of the town.
3	Blaenavon Industrial Landscape Nomination Document	TCBC/CADW/RCAHMW	June 1999	Description of international significance of Blaenavon Industrial Landscape and information on existing and proposed management.	Not Applicable	Submitted by state party Secretary of State for Wales.	Inscribed as World Heritage Site by UNESCO November 2000. Remains basic document identifying values and significance of Blaenavon Industrial Landscape.
4	Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Management Plan	The Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership led by TCBC	October 1999	Management Plan submitted as a requirement of UNESCO guidance for World Heritage Sites, sets out aims and objectives for BIL WHS together with schedule of identified projects to protect, preserve, conserve present and promote the BIL WHS.	1 year - 5 years up to 30 years	Adopted by WHS Management Committee at Conference October 1999.	Requires updating – satisfactory progress many identified projects achieved by April 2005. Further project will be added when BIL WHS Management Plan is updated.
5	Proposal for Community Heritage Museum with costed business plan	TCBC Tourism	2000	A submission for European funding to create a Community Heritage and Alexander Cordell Museum in Blaenavon Town Centre to be run by a local community group.	5 years	Project approved by EC and by TCBC.	Blaenavon Community Heritage and Cordell Museum now established in Blaenavon Library proving to be an attractive resource for local history and educational programmes for young children.
6	Big Pit Economic Impact Study (1) Economic Impact Study (2)	Welsh Economy Business Unit, Cardiff Business School	2000 January 2001	Studies undertaken to ascertain the potential economic impact of various proposals to upgrade Big Pit, Blaenavon town and the industrial landscape.	Completed	Agreed by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Project Board	Further evaluation may be required in due course.

Reference No.	Study/Report Title	Authors	Date Undertaken	Brief Description	Time Frame	Status	Progress
7	<p>Landscape and Heritage Study in two volumes</p> <p>i) Strategy & Proposals</p> <p>ii) Industrial Archaeology</p>	Gillespie's Landscape and John Van Laun Associates	July 2000	A costed strategy for ongoing protection of identified elements in the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape and strategy for development of cycle ways and for paths to help interpret the landscape.	Long term strategy document also identifying short term projects	Agreed by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Project Board. Approved by TCBC	Considerable progress has been made in turning this strategic document into reality with ongoing programme of monument repair, way marked walks, interpretation and WHS Warden Service remains basic landscape and heritage framework document.
8	St Peter's School(s) Heritage Centre Project Stage 1 bid to Heritage Lottery Fund including Conservation Plan.	Officers of Torfaen County Borough Council Consultation Plan. David Harvey Architects	August 2000	A proposal for restoring Grade II* and Grade II listed buildings as World Heritage Site Visitor Centre.	3 year	Approved as Stage 1. Document by HLF December 2000	Developed as Stage 2 bid see below.
9	"The lost viaduct of Blaenavon". An investigative study to try to establish location etc. of structure of structure previously identified by Time Team March 2000.	Atkins Engineering	2001	Desk study and site investigation by sonar to conclusively establish existence of possibly the first iron railed viaduct in the world.	Information	Accepted by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Project Board and TCBC.	Results not entirely conclusive retained as reference document for future consideration.
10	Engineering Study for repair of Ironbridge over Afon Lwyd (c 1805) Fully costed assessment.	Martin Peters Structural Engineers Hereford	2001	A public footpath crosses this bridge which is one of the historic cast iron features in the BIL WHS.		Plans accepted by TCBC.	Not progressed due to high cost. Bridge now closed to use and footpath diverted. Await funding opportunity.

Reference No.	Study/Report Title	Authors	Date Undertaken	Brief Description	Time Frame	Status	Progress
11	Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway Study into viability of extending existing track.	L & R Consulting in association with ARUP – Rob Shortland – Brook Millar Partnership.	November 2001	Identified technical and financial implications of extending the existing track north to Waunarch Halt and South to Blaenavon High Level.		Accepted as discussion document by TCBC, WDA, WTB, NMGW and Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway.	No funding yet identified. Stage 1 low cost option still being considered see (23) below.
12	BIL WHS Logo Design	'6721' Cardiff Graphic Design House	Nov 2001	To create a logo to assist enabling the BIL WHS in expressing the landscape and society of 19 th Century.	Ongoing	Accepted by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Project Board.	Established logo as basis for marketing BIL WHS and informing future 'style guide'.
13	Big Pit National Mining Museum of Wales upgraded. Submission to HLF for support funding.	Miller Architects	2002	Studies for repairs, conservation and development on improved visitor experiences.	Completed	Approved by HLF, WAG, NMGW & CADW etc.	Project approved and implemented at cost of £7.4 m World Class Industrial Heritage Tourist destination with 140,000 visitors 2004 season.
14	Study for repair of North Portals of Pwll Du Tunnels.	Gwent Consultancy	2002	Fully costed and detailed archaeological and engineering proposals for making good the two northern entrances to the Pwll Du Tunnel.		Approved by CADW, TCBC, MCC and others and Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Project Board.	Not progressed to date due to inconclusive discussions with local land owners.
15	South Wales Industrial Heritage Study.	L & R Consulting	2002	A report setting out the benefits of presenting South Wales Industrial Heritage to assist tourism, education, regeneration.	Formed basis of further study by PLB Consultants – see below	Agreed WTB and Partners.	Consistent with Blaenavon Industrial Landscape inscription as WHS this renews interest in South Wales great industrial heritage as a resource for improvement.

Reference No.	Study/Report Title	Authors	Date Undertaken	Brief Description	Time Frame	Status	Progress
16	Studies at Pwll Du, Garn Ddyrys and Llanfoist Wharf	John Van – Laun Associates Industrial Archaeologist and Michael Blackmore – artist.	2002	Research on Pwll Du & reconstructive drawings to show village c. 1850. Research on Garn – Ddyrys Forge and reconstructive drawings c. 1845. Research on Llanfoist Wharf and reconstructive drawings c. 1845.	Completed	Accepted by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership	Completed. Studies used to inform design of interpretive panels within the Industrial Landscape.
17	St. Peter's School(s) Blaenavon World Heritage Centre. Stage 2 bid to Heritage Lottery Fund.	Consultants i) Gardner & Theobald ii) Niall Phillips Architects iii) Locum Destination iv) Richard Fowler with Officers of TCBC	February 2002	A detailed proposal for conservation of St. Peter's schools as the first of its kind World Heritage Centre. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully costed Business Plan Architectural details Education Strategy Interpretation Strategy IT Strategy Car Parking i.e. access 	5 years	Approved by HLF March 2002	St. Peter's former Boys' and Girls' Schools converted into the UK's first World Heritage Centre and opened to the public in March 2008
18	Blaenavon Townscape Project	RCAHMW (Olwyn Jenkins)	March 2002	A detailed research study into the historical development of Blaenavon Town. Includes description, assessments and photographs of over 300 buildings.	Completed	Accepted by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership	Used as the basis for many other studies including the preparation of the Blaenavon Town Conservation Plan.
19	Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Style Guide	'6721' Cardiff Graphic Design House	November 2002	To create a style guide to provide the basis of marketing the BIL WHS and building a strong brand, for use in leaflets, publications, signage, advertisements, promotions, website etc.	Ongoing	Accepted by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Project Board.	Style guide now being successfully utilised in publications, signage, website, advertisements, exhibitions, promotions, posters, postcards etc. Widespread acceptance and appreciation of the graphic images.
20	Feasibility Study for figure of eight route through World Heritage Site.	Mackley Davies	2003	To assess structural engineering condition of Hill's Tramway and associated engineering structures with costs.	Ongoing	Accepted by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Project Board.	Used to inform Iron Mountain Trail. Building on information in Gillespie's Study Ref. 4. Identified repair and restore projects now being considered.
21	South Wales Heritage Report	PLB Consultants	2003	Developed on report out lined in '36 below. Recommended setting up Organisation etc.	Ongoing included in HERIAN – Heritage in Action Master Plan	Agreed WTB and Partners.	Consistent with Blaenavon Industrial Landscape inscription as WHS this renews interest in South Wales' great industrial heritage as a resource for improvement.

Reference No.	Study/Report Title	Authors	Date Undertaken	Brief Description	Time Frame	Status	Progress
22	European Route of Industrial Heritage Stage 1 Master Plan. Interreg IIC project.	ERIH Partners UK, Netherlands, Germany, Belgium.	2003	To show Europe's shared industrial heritage as a resource with the potential to assist the regeneration of former industrial areas. A master plan for a European Route of Industrial Heritage Board on a network of 66 high quality Industrial Heritage Sites in four countries called "Anchor Points". Big Pit Anchor Point representing BIL WHS.	Master Plan completed 2003	Agreed by European Commission as Master Plan.	Master Plan agreed by all partners and used as basis for Interreg IIC project bid to EC to implement the Master Plan.
23	Investigation for limited extension from Furnace Sidings to site opposite Big Pit.	Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway company	2003	Carefully costed least cost next step with support requested in terms of lease and Railway Works Order.	Completed	Information	Lease on land, supported funding for Railway worked order, track clearance assisted and car parking improved but funding for track extension Furnace Sidings to proposed Big Pit list yet identified.
24	Boundless Parks. Naturally Interreg IIB Project.	European BPN Partners Veluire (Belgium), Kempenen Maasland (Netherlands), BIL and BBNP (Wales)	2003/2007	A practical project investigating best practice for presenting and promoting countryside parks. Dealing especially with different "gateway" approaches in partner areas.	September 2003 to August 2006	Project Agreed European Commission.	Benefits have accrued to BIL WHS from EC funding associated with: i) Improved "gateways" – car parks ii) Interpretation iii) Development of Wales (iv) Provision of WHS Warden and Associated Voluntary Warden Service.
25	Destination Blaenavon	Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership (TCBC Tourism).	May 2003	A strategy for developing the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape as a "must do tourist destination". A programme for improving the product and building the BIL WHS brand. Aim 250,000 visitors per year by 2008	5 years	Accepted by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Project Board applied by TCBC as lead.	Considerable progress made in improving facilities and visitor experience at sites. Also in marketing through constant attention to design and style. Quality essential as befits a World Heritage Site.
26	Blaenavon Conservation Plan	Frans Nicholas and Partners Architects	July 2003	An assessment of the historic quality of Blaenavon Conservation Area and strategy for promoting the values and improving the condition of the town centre. Proposed Historic Town Scheme.	10 years	Accepted by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Project Board. Adopted by TCBC as Supplementary Planning Guidance	Has informed work on housing renewal area and environmental works. Proposal for Historic Town Scheme set aside providing completion of Housing Renewal Area as main feature of Town Centre Improvements.

Reference No.	Study/Report Title	Authors	Date Undertaken	Brief Description	Time Frame	Status	Progress
27	Ecological Evaluation of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site study area	ADAS Consulting Limited	September 2003	To assess the ecological impact of proposed walks and cycle ways in the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape.	Ongoing	Accepted by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Project Board.	Used to inform Iron Mountain Trail 16 km walk and other existing and proposed walks. Also input to education programmes at Blaenavon World Heritage Centre.
28	Review of existing ecological information for study area within the Blaenavon World Heritage Site	ADAS Consulting Limited	September 2003	Review of existing ecological information.	Completed	Accepted by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Project Board.	Information.
29	Blaenavon Town Centre Communications and Marketing Strategy for Blaenavon Town Traders and Booktown Blaenavon.	Cath Thomas Blaenavon Project and Marketing Manager.	October 2003	A plan to make the most of Blaenavon Town Centre for local people and visitors.	5 years	Accepted by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Project Board.	Document used in support of bid to attract £200,000 over 3 years to promote Blaenavon town for local people and visitors.
30	Objective 1 submission to Wales Assembly Government for Blaenavon Town Centre environmental improvements.	Brief by TCBC, Blaenavon Project work carried out by John Rodger.	2004	A series of fully costed proposals to improvements to the public realm including paving and improved access for the disabled.	Phased over 3 years	Bid unsuccessful	See 35.
31	Pwll Du ecological survey report	ADAS Consulting Limited	January 2004	Ecological assessment of Pwll Du.	Completed	Agreed by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Project Board.	Information

Reference No.	Study/Report Title	Authors	Date Undertaken	Brief Description	Time Frame	Status	Progress
32	Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Website Design. www.world-heritage-blaenavon.org.uk	Brief by Cath Thomas, Blaenavon Project and Marketing Manager. Implementation by TCBC Graphics	October 2004	To create an effective website for BIL WHS information to provide concrete and clear information on the significance of the site, visitor attractions and retail services.	To be branded June 2005	Agreed by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Project Board.	Website went 'live' in 2005 and was superseded by the Visit Blaenavon website in September 2009.
33	Renewal area Broad Street proposed Enveloping scheme. Phase I and Phase II (32 – 39 Broad Street) (77 – 87 Broad Street)	TCBC Environmental Health and Blaenavon Project Team	2005	A proposal to direct housing renewal funding at Broad Street properties in very poor condition including commercial ground floors. Incorporating high standards of conservation.	Phase 1 2004 Phase II 2004/05	Agreed TCBC	First phase completed satisfactorily second phase commenced April 2005.
34	Blaenavon Traffic and Transport Study. Brief by TCBC highways in consultation with Blaenavon Project Team.	Gwent Consultancy	2005	An assessment of existing highways, car parks and traffic in Blaenavon and proposals to meet changing needs and demands for next 15 years taking into account conservation objectives.	15 years	Not yet approved.	This is an essential study to inform the arrangements to pedestrians, cycle, cars, and other vehicles movement and parking in town centre. The results will have significant impact on the visual character of the town centre.
35	Following referral of Objective 1 funding TCBC invited to take proposals in 30 above to tender stage for consideration under Physical Regeneration Fund (PRF) by Wales Assembly Government.	Blaenavon Project Team	2005	Fully detailed and costed plans and schedules prepared for seven area of open space sites in the town centre.	Phased over 3 years	Approved by TCBC	Blaenavon Town Centre Regeneration Scheme delivered 2006-09.

Reference No.	Study/Report Title	Authors	Date Undertaken	Brief Description	Time Frame	Status	Progress
36	HERIAN (Heritage in Action) Master Plan and Area Interpretive plans.	By HERIAN Team and Consultants	2005	Blaenavon World Heritage Centre identified as Interpretation point or gateway to South Wales.	Ongoing.	Agreed HERIAN Board and Partnership organisations.	HERIAN has been of assistance to BIL WHS and the increased awareness of Industrial Heritage in South Wales is an ongoing benefit to Blaenavon.
37	European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) Interreg III B Stage II implementation of proposals in Stage I Master Plan.	ERIH 12 Partners in UK, Netherlands and Holland	2005/07	To implement ERIH to encourage, appreciate, understanding and creative protection and promotion of our shared European industrial heritage as a means of assisting economic growth and regional development. ERIH will be based on a system of:- 1) Anchor Points 2) Regional Routes 3) Transnational Themes Developers Promotional material Website Regional Routes and Theme Routes. Exhibition.	2004-2007	Proposed plans accepted by European Community.	Proposals for Style Guide, Promotional material, International Exhibition, Website, Pilot Regional Routes and International Theme Routes well underway. ERIH Regional Route for South Wales based on Anchor Points of Big Pit Blaenavon and National Waterfront Museum Swansea has an important role in promotion of Blaenavon and South Wales Industrial Heritage. Potential for expansion throughout Europe post 2006 welcomed.
38	Historic Landscape Characterisation: Blaenavon Part 1 & 2: Landscape Characterisation and Management	Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust	January 2005	A considered categorisation of the BIL into distinctive character areas with recommendations for protection and guidance for development/change.	Ongoing	Approved by CADW. Accepted by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Project Board.	Document complete will remain ongoing reference document to assist World Heritage Site projects and development control.
39	The Iron Mountain Trail and Pack of Associated Walks in the BIL WHS.	TCBC with BBNP/MCC/ WDA/British Waterways/ WTB	May 2005	A series of walks in the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape supported by Wales Tourist Board in context of making Blaenavon a major walking centre in Wales. (Iron Mountain Trail 16 km walk).	Ongoing	Approved by Wales Tourist Board TCBC. Accepted by Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Project Board.	Launched May 12 2005. Further promotion to follow including down loading from BIL WHS Website.
40	The Blaenavon Traffic and Transport Study	Capita Symonds	June 2006	The Study provides an assessment of existing highways, car parks and traffic in Blaenavon and sets out short, medium and long term recommendations to meet changing needs and demands for next 15 years taking into account conservation objectives.	15 Years	Approved by Executive Member for Operational Services & Regeneration.	Document complete will remain ongoing reference document to assist and inform future World Heritage Site projects and development control.

Reference No.	Study/Report Title	Authors	Date Undertaken	Brief Description	Time Frame	Status	Progress
41	Boundless Parks Naturally - 'Gateways to Outstanding Landscapes Study'	Ian Parkin	September 2005	Study provides guidelines for the design of 'Gateways to Outstanding Landscapes' which was used to guide the BPN decentralised gateways investment project in the Blaenavon WHS			
42	Boundless Parks Naturally - Review of Gateway schemes	Ian Parkin	September 2006	Review of completed investments of the BPN decentralised gateways investment project in the Blaenavon WHS			
43	Afon Lwyd – Access and Environment Study	Mackay Davies	March 2007	Study assesses the opportunity to create a walking route from Blaenavon to Pontypool and addresses several key environmental, informal recreation and access issues			
44	Torfaen Arts Strategy	Artworks Wales	April 2007	Assessment of Public Arts in Torfaen, assessment of procedure for commissioning public art and suggestions for several projects in the Blaenavon WHS			
45	Report of monitoring data in the landscape	TCBC	May 2007	Updated report on visitor figures to key car parks and the Iron Mountain Trail			
46	Loops and Links study	Hyder Consulting	May 2007	Strategy to assess access opportunities and links from the Torfaen part of the WHS to other local authority areas.			
47	Interpretation Strategy & Visitor Experience Plan	Red Kite	May 2007	Interpretation Strategy & Visitor Experience Plan for the WHS			Many of the interpretative elements of the Red Kite report have been accepted by the BILWHS Partnership particularly the people-focussed approach to heritage interpretation. The principles have been adapted and incorporated into a draft Interpretation Strategy for the World Heritage Site. The link between marketing and interpretation has also been accepted by both the partnership. However, the Marketing Action Plan suggested by Red Kite, however, remains financially unfeasible at the present time.
48	Coity Tip Trail leaflet	TCBC / National Museum Wales	June 2007	Leaflet outlining the importance of the historical, cultural and particularly the ecology of coal spoil tip.			Leaflet published as part of the Blaenavon WHS Walks pack and is available online at www.visitblaenavon.co.uk . Guided walks and ecology based events have taken place around Coity Tip.

Reference No.	Study/Report Title	Authors	Date Undertaken	Brief Description	Time Frame	Status	Progress
49	Boundless Parks Naturally - Transition of Land Study	Regenboorg Advises, Netherlands	September 2006	Transnational report assessing trends and processes which affect changes of land use.			
50	Boundless Parks Naturally - Ranger best practice report	Kempen en Massland, Belgium		Reporting assessing results of the ranger pilot in 3 regions of the BPN project including the Blaenavon WHS.			
51	Boundless Parks Naturally - Project - Review	Province of Gelderland, Netherlands		Report outlining the outputs of the BPN project. Blaenavon WHS was a key region in this project and the report outlines successes.			
52	Boundless Parks Naturally - Booklet containing orientation panels	TCBC	November 2006	Booklet containing all orientation panels installed in the BPN Decentralised Gateway project.			
53	Interpretation planning toolkit	Gareth Kiddie Associates	2006	Blaenavon IMT used as an example.			
54	Volunteer ranger manual	Gareth Kiddie Associates	November 2006	Comprehensive overview of many aspects relating to history, geology, ecology, tourism, volunteer ranger roles and training.	2006-2010	To be superseded by a revised manual in 2011	
55	Audience Development and Access Plan	Various - Forgotten landscapes Partnership	March 2008	Available on: http://www.forgottenlandscapes.org.uk	2008-2010	Proposals incorporated into the FLP Landscape Conservation Action Plan	Incorporated into the FLP Landscape Conservation Plan, which informs the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership's work 2010-2013.
56	Landscape Character Summary	Various - Forgotten landscapes Partnership	March 2008	Available on: http://www.forgottenlandscapes.org.uk	2008-2010	Proposals incorporated into the FLP Landscape Conservation Action Plan	Incorporated into the FLP Landscape Conservation Plan, which informs the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership's work 2010-2013.
57	Landscape Character Study	Various - Forgotten landscapes Partnership	March 2008	Available on: http://www.forgottenlandscapes.org.uk	2008-2010	Proposals incorporated into the FLP Landscape Conservation Action Plan	Incorporated into the FLP Landscape Conservation Plan, which informs the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership's work 2010-2013

Reference No.	Study/Report Title	Authors	Date Undertaken	Brief Description	Time Frame	Status	Progress
58	Landscape Strategy	Various -Forgotten landscapes Partnership	March 2008	Available on: http://www.forgottenlandscapes.org.uk/	2008-2010	Proposals incorporated into the FLP Landscape Conservation Action Plan	Incorporated into the FLP Landscape Conservation Plan, which informs the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership's work 2010-2013
59	Education and training Plan	Various -Forgotten landscapes Partnership	March 2008	Available on: http://www.forgottenlandscapes.org.uk	2008-2010	Proposals incorporated into the FLP Landscape Conservation Action Plan	Incorporated into the FLP Landscape Conservation Plan, which informs the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership's work 2010-2013
60	Pontypool and Blaenavon Ecological Surveys	Capita Symonds	Sept 2008	Phase 1 & Protected species surveys along the Railway line Big Pit - Forge Side			
61	Ecological survey of Coity Tip (Big Pit)	ADAS & TCBC	2006	Phase 1 & Protected species surveys			
62	Red Grouse Surveys to FLP project area	Chris Hatch	2007 & 2009	Field survey and Assessment			
63	North Torfaen Holistic Area Regeneration Plan (HARP), Vols. 1-3	Hyder Consulting	December 2008	Provides a strategy framework for regeneration up until 2020 supported by an action plan to guide the investment decisions of the main funding bodies at a national and local level in North Torfaen over a three year period, 2009-2012	2008-2020	Adopted by TCBC	Delivery in progress
64	Public Realm Design in the Heads of the Valleys: A Good Practice Guide	Powell Dobson	Draft, July 2008	The document serves as a guide to the design, management and maintenance of the public realm in the towns of the Heads of the Valleys. It sets out the basis for establishing a coherent framework for good policy and practice in response to socio-economic change in the Heads of the Valleys region. It incorporates thorough analysis and understanding of the increasing relevance of the quality of streets and public spaces, the "public realm", to the economic and social well-being of cities, towns and villages		Approved	Document is guiding design, management and maintenance of public realms within the HOV town centres

Reference No.	Study/Report Title	Authors	Date Undertaken	Brief Description	Time Frame	Status	Progress
65	Blaenavon Local Businesses Engagement Initiative: Final Report	Bob Manuel, Charter Solutions	Sept 2009	Report identifies ways in which Blaenavon town traders can improve their businesses. Proposals include retail marketing, selling skills and customer service.			Recommendations taken forward
66	Newport, Torfaen and Monmouthshire Local Housing Market Assessment	Opinion Research Services	Draft, June 2007	A local housing market assessment, including a comprehensive study of current and future housing requirements and housing need. The assessment was undertaken to inform local policies, in particular relating to the housing strategy and investment programme and planning policies surrounding affordable housing provision. It was primarily based on the analysis of 5,100 interviews conducted with households across the sub-region.			
67	The Economic Benefits of a Conservation Based Approach to Traditional Buildings and Streetscapes in the South Wales Valleys: A Report for the Heritage Lottery Fund	Arad Consulting in Association with Gareth Gregory and Cardiff Business School	March 2005	The report presents the results of research undertaken to investigate the Economic Benefits of a Conservation Based Approach to Traditional Buildings and Streetscapes in the South Wales Valleys. The research was based on consultations, a literature and policy review and developing case studies to address the terms of reference for the study, namely that the work should: review and analyse relevant published and unpublished literature review and analyse appropriate case studies identify measures of economic benefit which will be of value to individuals and agencies making decisions about the built environment with a view to producing results of particular relevance to the South Wales Valleys area, defined as encompassing the Unitary Authority areas of Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath Port Talbot, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Swansea (Swansea Valley, but excluding Swansea City and the Gower) and Torfaen.			

Reference No.	Study/Report Title	Authors	Date Undertaken	Brief Description	Time Frame	Status	Progress
68	Blaenavon Retail Distinctiveness Study: Final Report	Miller Research Evaluation Consulting	June 2009	The report identified ways in which distinctiveness and quality of service might be improved in Blaenavon town. The need to balance provision of local needs with 'niche' retail offer was a prime consideration. It was identified that a key objective of the programme should be to develop the town as one of the main attractions within the Blaenavon World Heritage Site.			Recommendations taken forward
69	Planning the Visitor Experience – A Visitor Management Plan: Principles for the BLWHS action plan for Blaenavon Town	Kim Colebrook, Can Do Team	2009	The report was commissioned following the completion of an audit of the Brown and White Tourism Signs across the Heads of the Valleys Area, commissioned by Capital Region Tourism in preparation for the development of a strategy to improve the signage. The report attempts to define and understand how visitors are intended to explore and link together the various visitor facilities across the town, in order that the signage supports and enhances this aim.	2009-2010		Recommendations taken forward
70	Learning Box: A Teacher's Resource	TCBC	2009	Details educational opportunities available in the Blaenavon World Heritage Site, particularly at the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre	Ongoing	Approved by TCBC	Educational opportunities detailed within the document are being implemented at school trips at Blaenavon WHC, e.g. storytelling sessions & object handling workshops.
71	Landscape Conservation Action Plan	Parkin Heritage and Tourism, Radnorshire Wildlife Services & Pico Energy	2009	The FLP consultation period (2007 – 08) identified a range of work to further enhance the BLWHS and surrounding landscape through: the conservation of industrial archaeology in the landscape; habitat management to improve circumstances for the area's many important species; access and interpretation improvements; effective community engagement, educational programmes and opportunities for volunteering and training. The Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) sets out how the Partnership intends to achieve the above objectives and provides the justification for, and means by which, the heritage landscape will be protected, enhanced, promoted and made accessible to the widest range of users for enjoyment and understanding.	2010-2013	Approved by Forgotten Landscapes Partnership	Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Scheme underway.

Reference No.	Study/Report Title	Authors	Date Undertaken	Brief Description	Time Frame	Status	Progress
72	Blaenavon Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan	TCBC	2011	The Blaenavon Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan was prepared to meet Torfaen County Borough Council's obligations and duties under the Planning (LBCA) Act 1990. The Appraisal forms the basis for the Conservation Area Management Plan recommendations and the review of the Conservation Area boundary. The complete document will subsequently form Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Adopted Local Plan and the emerging Local Development Plan (LDP) and will be a material consideration when considering applications for development within the Conservation Area. The document offers guidance on the important issues but does not provide detailed Action Plan recommendations.	Ongoing	Approved by TCBC 12 Apr 2011	The boundary amendments proposed as part of the Blaenavon CAA will be legally adopted in the near future.
73	Cwmavon Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan	TCBC	2011	The Cwmavon Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan has been prepared to meet Torfaen County Borough Council's obligations and duties under the Planning (LBCA) Act 1990. The Appraisal forms the basis for the Conservation Area Management Plan recommendations and the review of the Conservation Area boundary. The complete document will form a background document which supports the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Design Guide SPG and will be a material consideration when considering applications for development within the Conservation Area. This document offers guidance on the important issues but does not provide detailed Action Plan recommendations.	Ongoing	Approved by TCBC 12 Apr 2011	Ongoing
74	Blaenavon WHS Design Guide	TCBC	2011	The Blaenavon WHS Design Guide provides design and maintenance guidance for buildings throughout the World Heritage Site, including advice on improvements and repairs as well as new build and demolitions, to ensure that such works meet the required standards for each area. It sets out design principles but does not seek to dictate design solutions.	Ongoing	Approved by TCBC, 12 Apr 2011 as Supplementary Planning Guidance	The Design Guide will be used to inform all future development proposals within the area of the WHS covered by TCBC.

Reference No.	Study/Report Title	Authors	Date Undertaken	Brief Description	Time Frame	Status	Progress
75	World Heritage Status: Is there opportunity for economic gain? Research and analysis of the socio-economic impact potential of UNESCO World Heritage Site status	Rebanks Consulting Ltd and Trends Business Research Ltd on behalf of the Lake District World Heritage Project	2009	The report uses research and analysis to identify best practice from UNESCO World Heritage Sites that had been successful at converting socio-economic 'opportunity from designation into advantage'. Blaenavon Industrial Landscape WHS identified as case study 3, pp.48-50			

Lesson Learned

Partnership

The overwhelming lesson learned in delivering the first Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Management Plan has been realising the benefits which can be achieved through partnership working. The particular success of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership has been due to the 'discretionary' nature of the contributions by the various partners. Partners do not contribute unreservedly to a central pot of money but allocate funds as and when they see advantage in a particular action or project.

The Partnership has benefited by operating within such a flexible framework, with partners being involved to a greater or lesser degree at different stages and in different projects. However, with the increased complexity of management, there is now a need to revitalise management arrangements to ensure the longevity of the Partnership.

Lesson

Partnership works but a more formal structure is now required.

Co-ordination

Given the extensive area of the site, the large number of organisations and individuals involved and the considerable extent of community engagement, co-ordination for the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape is unavoidably difficult. The importance of effective co-ordination in forward thinking, strategic planning and the need for ongoing personal contact within the Partnership and the community cannot be overstressed.

The World Heritage Site Co-ordinator also needs to maintain contact with ICOMOS and other parties such as the Local Authorities World Heritage Forum (LAWHF) to ensure that management is being undertaken in accordance with the context of UNESCO guidance and with 'best practice' elsewhere in the UK and even the world.

Lesson

Leadership and co-ordination is essential for effective partnership and management must look outward as well as inward.

Management Structure

At Blaenavon the complexity of management has grown. The Steering Group, formerly the Project Board, was initially the effective management group however the increasing range of projects and depth of involvement has meant that the Working Groups below the Steering Group have become the main delivery mechanism. The Steering Group is now more a forum in which future ideas and strategy can be discussed, evaluated and developed with partners.

Lesson

Management needs to be flexible and to adapt to meet changing circumstance and increasing devolution of responsibility is necessary.

Heritage v Change

At Blaenavon there has been a need to find a balance between the need for the protection of the heritage character and the need for change.

Before World Heritage Status was achieved in December 2000, the heritage of the area had suffered neglect due to a lack of awareness and lack of investment as the area had become one of the most socially and economically depressed in Wales and indeed Europe.

As change is absolutely necessary to ensure a sustainable future for the area, care has been taken to deliver the message that heritage is not a bar to betterment. While the most rigorous standards have been applied in the protection and conservation of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings, less rigorous requirements have been prescribed in other situations. However all project work has been subject to very careful evaluation against the historic values and authenticity of the site.

Identifying a balance between necessary change through new development whilst ensuring the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site has been a key challenge. The need for good quality design in new development proposals, which is sympathetic to the local character, is important.

Lesson

Care is required to achieve a proper balance between preservation and necessary change.

Cultural/Natural Heritage

The nomination of the World Heritage Site was based on the significance of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape as a cultural asset. Emphasis was placed on the authenticity of the main monuments and other cultural heritage features in the landscape. However it has become increasingly clear that the term 'cultural landscape' implies a close link between cultural and natural features.

For example, the re-vegetation of the former mineral extraction areas is important in ensuring the structural integrity of the historic mineral workings.

The iron making and coal extraction which took place at Blaenavon was as a result of the geological structure of the area, the presence of ironstone, coal, limestone, fireclay and the plentiful water supply. Appreciation of geology is therefore of fundamental importance to understanding the area.

Lesson

Understanding the natural phenomena of the site is important as it is intrinsically interrelated with the cultural values of the site.

Social & Technical Connections

The technical processes of iron and steel making and of coal mining is important but understanding the emerging industrial society of the late 18th and early 19th centuries is also important.

Site interpretation has increasingly moved towards explaining the story through personal experience, with an emphasis on first person interpretation.

Lesson

The 'people's story' is as important as the technical processes. Both tangible and intangible heritage needs to be more fully recognised and protected and presented as well as the complex inter-relationship between the two.

The UK World Heritage Brand

World Heritage Site status is the highest accolade a site can attain internationally in heritage terms but within the UK, the significance of World Heritage inscription is not widely appreciated and compares unfavourably with many other countries such as Japan or Hungary.

Promoting Blaenavon as a cultural tourism destination is key to creating a sustainable future for the area. Raising the profile of all the World Heritage Sites in the UK is important.

Lesson

Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site should continue to work with other UK World Heritage Sites, ICOMOS and other UK heritage organisations to raise the profile of World Heritage for the benefit of local people and visitors.

Monitoring the World Heritage Site Management Plan

Regular monitoring of the World Heritage Site is extremely demanding. The extent of the site, the range of features, the diverse nature of projects and the number of people involved present a challenge. Likewise updating the management plan requires considerable time and effort.

To date monitoring has not been as effective as it should be. Systems and responsibility for aspects of monitoring need to be addressed and the use of digital technology needs to be more effectively used as a management tool.

Lesson

Monitoring of the site and projects needs to be strengthened and the use of digital technology in the management process needs to be further developed.

Plans Produce Results

The Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership was established to promote the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape as a World Heritage Site at a time when such an idea seemed extremely ambitious. Developing a clear strategy and setting out fully detailed and costed proposals resulted in not only achieving World Heritage status in record time but in achieving considerable investment in protection, development and presentation of the areas assets for the community and wider public.

Lesson

Time must be found to discuss and agree plans for the future to seek opportunities for funding through grants and other monies as and when they become available. We must always be thinking ahead, never regressing, in our ambitions for the World Heritage Site.

Tourism

The number of visitors to the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape has increased substantially since inscription. However, visitors are still not connecting visits between the various attractions and day visits are not being converted into overnight stays.

Lesson

Further work is required in the management of visitors to make the most of the range of attractions in the World Heritage Site. The development of more visitor facilities and accommodation in the area needs to be encouraged.

Co-ordinated Marketing

Given the range of attractions in the World Heritage Site, it is difficult to present the site as a whole. Marketing and promotion must seek to achieve 'value added' for each of the attractions by promotion under the heading of Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site.

Lesson

Branding and marketing the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site as an entity must offer added value to promotion of each individual element.

Education

The World Heritage Committee places great value on using World Heritage Sites for educational purposes. To date, the initiatives which have been put in place for using the World Heritage Site as educational resource have been successful and have shown that there is a considerable potential to extend education programmes in the future for all life learning.

Lesson

The potential for using the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site for education of all groups needs to be more fully developed.

Voluntary Sector Contribution

The nature and extent of the World Heritage Site which is accepted by UNESCO as a 'cultural landscape', makes it essential that the community is involved in its protection and promotion to a greater or lesser degree.

The contribution of voluntary organisations can assist the effective management of the World Heritage Site. This has been proven through existing organisations including the Community Heritage Museum, the Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway, the World Heritage Day Committee, the Blaenavon Traders and Tourism Association the Townswomen's Guild and voluntary rangers. All have assisted in promoting the values of the site. The establishment of the Govilon Heritage Group and the Llanfoist Heritage Group are also welcome community involvement.

Lesson

The voluntary sector has a vital and increasing role to play in the protection and promotion of the values of the World Heritage Site to augment the professional input. The best ambassadors for the area are local people.

Appendix 2

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

The following draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was submitted to the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organisation in January 2011. The final version, upon formal approval, will be inserted as an addendum to this document.

Blaenavon Industrial Landscape, UK

Date inscribed 2000

Date of SOUV 2011

Brief Synthesis 2011

The landscape of Blaenavon, at the upper end of the Avon Llwyd valley in South Wales, provides exceptional testimony to the area's international importance in iron making and coal mining in the late 18th and the early 19th century. The parallel development of these industries was one of the principal dynamic forces of the Industrial Revolution.

The major preserved sites of Blaenavon Ironworks and Big Pit, together with the outstanding relict landscape of mineral exploitation, manufacturing, transport, and settlement which surrounds them, provide an extraordinarily comprehensive picture of all the crucial elements of the industrialisation process: coal and ore mines, quarries, a primitive railway system and canal, furnaces, workers' homes, and the social infrastructure of the early industrial community. The area reflects the pre-eminence of South Wales in the production of iron, steel and coal in the 19th century.

The Blaenavon Ironworks (c.1789) provided the main impetus for mineral workings and settlement. The remains of the late 18th century furnaces, together with later nineteenth century furnaces, are the best preserved of its type and period in the UK. Beside the furnaces, two of the original casting houses can still be seen. Above the furnaces is a range of ruined kilns in which iron ore was calcined, or roasted. The remains of the original workers' housing provided on site can still be seen around the original base of the massive chimney to the blowing engine house, and the cast-iron pillars and brackets which carried blast pipes to the furnaces still survive. The iconic water balance tower of 1839 is an excellent example of lift technology using water to counter-balance loads.

The Big Pit was the last deep coal mine to work in the Blaenavon area, and the surface buildings, including the winding gear, remain almost exactly as they were when coal production ceased in 1980. The underground workings are still in excellent condition and can be seen on guided tours.

The Blaenavon landscape reflects ways in which all the raw materials necessary for making iron were obtained. The landscape includes coal, iron ore, fireclay and limestone workings and transport systems including a primitive iron-railed railway, leading to the canal and later steam railway tracks which were used for the import and export of materials.

The landscape also reflects the development of early industrial society. Close to the Ironworks and Big Pit is the town of Blaenavon. Here can be seen the terraced housing of the workers.' Overall the town reflects powerfully the distinctive culture that had developed in ironworking and coal-mining areas of the South Wales Valleys and provides a complete picture of patronage and the social structure of the community.

Notable buildings include St. Peter's Church, built by the ironmasters in 1804; the Blaenavon Workmen's Hall, built by workers' subscriptions in 1894; and St. Peter's School, built by the ironmaster's sister, Sarah Hopkins, in 1816. The school has been restored as the UK's first dedicated World Heritage Interpretation Centre.

Taking all these elements together, the site provides one of the prime areas in the world where the full social, economic and technological process of industrialisation through iron and coal production, can be studied and understood.

Criterion (iii): Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared.

The Blaenavon Landscape constitutes an exceptional illustration in material form of the social and economic structure of 19th century industry.

Criterion (iv): Be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history

The components of the Blaenavon Landscape together make up an outstanding and remarkably complete example of a 19th century industrial landscape.

Integrity 2011

The boundary of the property encompasses the major monuments, the mining settlement as well as the surrounding valley landscape with its extensive remains of coal and ore mining, quarrying, primitive iron railways, and canals and thus includes all the key attributes of this early industrial period during the formative years of the Industrial Revolution.

Many of the attributes were vulnerable as a result of the lack of conservation at the time of inscription. Extensive conservation work has since been undertaken at the Ironworks, Big Pit, the settlement of Blaenavon and in the landscape. All work has been undertaken with the benefit of research and in the context of conservation plans. A programme of continuing conservation of the wider landscape is now being undertaken.

The landscape includes new settlements surrounding the mining town and this is highly visible from higher ground surrounding the town. Therefore any further new development needs to be controlled so as to ensure that the essential values and the visual integrity of the property are not diminished. There is no buffer zone and the setting could be vulnerable to the re-use of spoil heaps, open-cast mining proposals, wind farms and other interventions. However, to date, such proposals have been successfully resisted in accordance with agreed planning policy. A buffer zone will be proposed as part of the Management Plan Review, presently underway.

Authenticity 2011

The key attributes are clearly visible. The relationship between the main monuments (the Blaenavon Ironworks and Big Pit), the historic transportation infrastructure, the settlement pattern and the extensive derelict mineral workings can be appreciated, studied and understood and the main heritage features remain in a remarkably

complete condition. These substantial and interrelated remains provide opportunities to comprehend the complex process of industrialisation through iron and coal production and the development of industrial society during the early formative years of the Industrial Revolution. Nevertheless the overall ensemble is vulnerable to development that might intrude upon its readability.

To ensure the effective after use and sustainable future for monuments and buildings and to make the presentation and interpretation of the site effective it has been necessary in some situations to provide additional structures or to make minor adaptation to the historic fabric. In such cases the work has been carried out in accordance with agreed conservation plans and the changes and additions can be clearly identified.

Requirements for Protection and Management 2011

There are 24 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) and 82 buildings or structures on the national List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest (Listed Buildings). There are two conservation areas within the property, the Blaenavon Town Centre and Cwmavon, and a further Conservation area is currently proposed for Forgeside and Glantorfaen. These provide local protection. The main monuments and buildings in the site are within public ownership.

A comprehensive system of statutory control operates under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act (1980) and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act (1990). A network of strategic policies is also in place to protect the property in the Local Development Plans of the Torfaen County Borough Council, The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and the Monmouthshire County Council. These are the Local Authorities with statutory planning responsibility for their respective areas within the property.

Property management is guided by a Management Plan. The original Plan (1999) has been completed (in terms of projects) and will be superseded by a revised Plan for the period 2010-2015.

Overall management responsibility for the property and for delivering the Plan is through the Blaenavon Partnership which brings together a number of local authorities, Welsh Assembly Government Agencies and other bodies under the leadership of Torfaen County Borough Council.

The partnership engages with the wider community, maintaining regular contact with Blaenavon Town Council, voluntary groups, business leaders, residents and the local tourist association. To ensure effective stakeholder participation within the open landscape, a Commons Forum has been established.

There is a need to ensure continuing effective development control within the property and its setting in order that any development does not impact adversely on the relationship between attributes and the surrounding landscape in terms of the integrity of the property and its ability, as a cultural landscape, to convey its Outstanding Universal Value.

Appendix 3

Wider Policy Context Relevant to the World Heritage Site Management Plan

Wider Policy Context Relevant to the World Heritage Site Management Plan

Several important studies and plans relating to Blaenavon have recently been published.

Many of the recommendations made in these plans and studies clearly address the issues and can take forward the objectives set out in Part four and Part five of this Plan. Specific projects identified in these studies provide up to date proposals which have been included in the schedule of projects set out in section 5.5 of the Plan. The identified projects will effectively take forward the protection and promotion of the World Heritage Site over the next five years and beyond. They are also aimed at providing a sustainable economic future for the Blaenavon area.

A list of key studies and plans relevant to this Plan are set out below. These were briefly referred to in Part three where issues were explored:

- Torfaen County Borough Council: Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021
- Torfaen Local Plan July 2000
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority: Unitary Development Plan (2007)
- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority: Deposit Local Development Plan 2010
- Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan (2010)
- Monmouthshire County Council: Local Development Plan 2011-21
- North Torfaen Holistic Area Regeneration Plan (HARP)
- Blaenavon World Heritage Site: Design Guide
- Blaenavon Retail Distinctiveness Study
- Planning the Visitor Experience – A Visitor Management Plan – Principles for the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site and action plan for Blaenavon Town
- Blaenavon Industrial Landscape: Visitor Experience and Interpretation Plan, Red Kite (2007)
- LANDMAP
- Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative
- Clydach Gorge Study
- Heart and Soul of Wales'

Torfaen County Borough Council: Deposit Local Development Plan 2011

Torfaen County Borough Council is required by statute to prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP) which sets out the Council's objectives and priorities for the development and use of land within Torfaen and its policies for implementing them. (The LDP is identified in 'Local Development Plans Wales', October 2005). The Council has recently consulted on its Deposit LDP between March – May 2011.

The Plan contains policies to protect the values of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site by:

- Restricting development in the landscape and within the built up area which could detract from the character of the WHS;
- Encouraging effective conservation of the historic features;
- Ensuring new development, repairs and restorations are carried out to appropriate design standards;
- Encouraging cultural tourism and access to the countryside in accordance with the aims of presentation and promotion of the World Heritage Site.
- Concentrating shopping to a limited area in the main street to allow the effective reuse of some vacant shops

The most relevant policy AS6 states

Development Proposals within Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:

- *The proposal promotes the highest standard of design in terms of siting, scale, massing and materials which is sympathetic to and enhances the character of the area*
- *That important views within the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site are not prejudiced*
- *They contribute to ensuring the preservation of the “outstanding universal value” of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site designation.*

The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Design Guidance is accepted as Supplementary Planning Guidance and should be used in conjunction with the Development Plan when considering development proposals.

Proposals which are of such a design or scale that they would adversely affect or visually impinge on the ‘Landscape of Outstanding Universal Value’ of the World Heritage Site and its setting will not be permitted.

Development control is part of the formal development planning process. Policies in the Torfaen Local Development Plan, the Monmouthshire Development Plan and the Brecon Beacons National Parks Plan will provide the basis for decisions on planning applications. However, applications have to be treated on their merits and can be contentious. Sometimes policies in approved plans can be used both in support of applications or against them.

Some planning applications within the World Heritage Site can be difficult to determine. It is important that the World Heritage Site Co-ordinator should be advised by development control officers of any planning applications within the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape which might be detrimental to the protection of the defined values of the World Heritage Site.

Since inscription, the Co-ordinator has presented the case for the protection of the World Heritage Site in relation to major planning applications including a wind farm proposal

on the Coity Mountain, a proposed major gas pipeline through the landscape and major residential applications. The Council have also referred applications to ICOMOS for comment because they were likely to have a significant Impact on the values of the World Heritage Site. In the case of the wind farm and major housing proposal for 100 houses by Persimmon Homes, the views of the World Heritage Site Co-ordinator and ICOMOS were a major influence on the subsequent planning refusals.

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Unitary Development Plan (2007)

Approximately 45% of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site lies within the boundaries of the Brecon Beacons National Park. There are two documents which guide the policy and work of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority in relation to planning and development – these are the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Unitary Development Plan (2007) and the Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan (2010) – see 4.4.3.

The Unitary Development Plan, approved by the National Park Authority in 2007, sets out policies and proposals to guide development in the National Park to 2016 and beyond. Generic Policies within this document which relate to the Blaenavon World Heritage Site are as follows:

Part 1 Policy 1: The Special Qualities of the National Park - In considering all proposals for development the NPA will give great weight to conserving and enhancing the Park's special qualities and its natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage which the designation is intended to protect.

Part 1 Policy 2: Biodiversity and Earth Heritage - Development will only be permitted where there is no unacceptable impact on the biodiversity and Earth heritage of the area. Wherever appropriate, development proposals will be required to demonstrate that provision has been made for the protection, enhancement and positive management of areas which incorporate:

- i) species, habitats and features of the landscape identified as priorities in Wales and in the United Kingdom;
- ii) species, habitats and features of the landscape identified as priorities in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan;
- iii) habitats and features which are important for the migration, dispersal and reproduction of wild species of flora and fauna; and/or
- iv) habitats or features that are otherwise of importance for wildlife.

Part 1 Policy 3: Cultural Heritage - Development will only be permitted where there is no unacceptable impact on the Park's cultural heritage. Wherever appropriate, development proposals will be required to demonstrate that provision has been made for the protection, enhancement and positive management of cultural heritage.

Part 1 Policy 4: Access to Opportunities for Enjoyment of the National Park -

Proposals which enable access to opportunities for enjoyment of the National Park will be permitted where:

- i) the proposal is sustainable in terms of its impact on both the environment and the community within which it is located; and
- ii) there are no unacceptable impacts on areas which are vulnerable to recreational pressure.

Part 1 Policy 11: Ensuring Access to Employment Opportunities -

i) Proposals for appropriate commercial development will be permitted where they:

- enable the creation and expansion of businesses which support and diversify the rural economy;
- retain existing employment uses;
- utilise redundant buildings or 'brown field' sites;
- use local skills, products or resources including natural resources in a sustainable way;
- use existing transport routes and facilitate the use of alternative modes of transport;
- are reasonably accessible to adequate services and utilities;
- facilitate mixed-use development; or
- support Welsh culture.

ii) Development proposals that cause unacceptable adverse impacts to the commercial vitality and viability of the area will not be permitted.

In relation specifically to the Blaenavon World Heritage Site the following text is incorporated within the plan:

... [UNESCO World Heritage Site] inscription creates a national obligation to protect, conserve and present the World Heritage values of the site for future generations. No additional statutory controls are imposed, but the inscription does highlight the outstanding international importance of the site as a key material consideration to be taken into account in determining planning applications.

The specific policy for this area is:

Development which directly or indirectly either alone or in combination affects the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site will only be permitted if the proposal maintains or enhances the visual, architectural, cultural and historic and natural character of the site and its setting and protects the integrity of the inscription.

The Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan (2010)

The Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan sets out a twenty year strategy and 5-year action plan for everyone delivering the National Park's purposes and duty, or involved in shaping the National Park's future. The plan promotes the co-ordinated implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities collectively across a wide range of partners and stakeholders, creating a framework from which park management and guiding principles can be taken.

Whilst there are no specific policies within the National Park Management Plan directly related to the Blaenavon World Heritage Site, the site is widely recognized and appreciated as one of the key assets in the National Park in relation to all the special qualities.

Within the context chapter, the plan states:

The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape was inscribed as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site (WHS) in November 2000. As noted by UNESCO, "the area around Blaenavon is evidence of the pre-eminence of South Wales as the world's major producer of iron and coal in the 19th century. All the necessary elements can still be seen - coal and ore mines, quarries, a primitive railway system, furnaces, workers' homes, and the social infrastructure of their community." The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape and its surrounding area is one of the most significant examples of industrial growth during and after the Industrial Revolution. For this reason, it serves as an exemplar and gateway to the wider Heads of the Valleys area, which collectively fuelled the fires of development for Great Britain and the international community during this reape. Not only does the Blaenavon World Heritage Site hold international significance but it is also listed in the register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales as described by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), CADW and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS UK).

The Brecon Beacons National Park has an obligation under the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention to assist proportionately in the management of the site through the oversight of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership.

Monmouthshire County Council Local Development Plan 2011-21

Monmouthshire County Council is currently in the process of producing a Local Development Plan (LDP) under Part 6 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 which will set out the vision and objectives for the development and use of land together with the policies to implement them over a 10 year period to 2021. When adopted the LDP will replace the current Unitary Development Plan and will form the basis for decisions in determining planning applications and appeals.

As part of this process it is intended that policies to protect landscapes of regional, national or international value will be identified. The Plan will therefore contain policy to protect the qualities and values Blaenavon Industrial World Heritage Site.

North Torfaen Holistic Area Regeneration Plan (HARP)

Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd was commissioned in 2008 by Torfaen County Borough Council to consider the holistic regeneration of the North Torfaen Area which includes Blaenavon and to provide a Holistic Area Regeneration Plan (HARP) which provides a strategy framework for regeneration to 2020.

The HARP requires a more integrated and co-ordinated approach to regeneration based on a commitment to pursue sustainable, holistic regeneration in which physical, economic, social as well as community aspirations are fully integrated. The resulting shared agenda will play a pivotal role in informing investment plans of the Welsh Assembly Government, local authority and community and voluntary organisations.

The projects and proposals for community regeneration will make a positive contribution to the health of the community. A healthier, educated, secure and stronger community will be better placed to protect and present the social and cultural values of the World Heritage Site and to ensure protection and promotion of those values to future generations.

Within the HARP, the Council has identified six key priority projects for North Torfaen, two of which relate to the World Heritage Site. These are the digitisation of North Torfaen and the Blaenavon Community Campus which will provide an up to date school, health, police and leisure facilities all on the one site this should greatly assist in improved opportunities for young people and the overall recovery of the town.

The HARP also includes a three year action Plan which identifies further projects for implementation over the Plan period, subject to funding being available. These include the Lion Hotel within the town centre which is presently in a poor condition. Refurbishment works to provide a good quality 11 bedroom hotel with en suite facilities commenced in January 2010 and will make a valuable addition to the visitor facilities in the town and conserving an important historic building.

The development of a Valleys Regional Park includes proposals to upgrade the environment including parts of the World Heritage Site and develop walks and cycle ways which will better link the Blaenavon Heritage landscape with the wider region.

Blaenavon World Heritage Site: Design Guide

The Blaenavon World Heritage Site Design Guide was approved by Torfaen Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance in April 2011. This guidance provides a very useful tool for development control and helps to ensure that the historic quality of the World Heritage Site is protected in respect of repairs, restoration and new build.

This design guide was commissioned by Torfaen County Borough Council and the Wales Assembly Government Department of Economy and Transport in 2009. It was prepared by specialist Consultants Heritage and Regeneration Solutions Ltd.

The aims of the World Heritage Site Design Guide are to protect the historic character of that part of the World Heritage Site under the jurisdiction of Torfaen County Borough Council as Local Planning authority and to ensure that all new developments, whether alterations, repairs or new development, respects the significance and values for which the area was inscribed. The report is promulgated on the need for conservation to play an active part in regeneration as heritage has economic value.

The report provides design guidance to all property owners, developers and to the development control authorities when considering plans and development applications.

It addresses:

- Design principles for new buildings and sites
- Repair, reinstatement to buildings of heritage value
- Alterations of extensions and repairs to buildings post 1914
- Building maintenance
- Public realm and landscape
- Energy and the environment

The full report can be accessed via www.visitblaenavon.co.uk

The report is augmented by a follow up document setting out design briefs for a number of housing development sites within the town, see www.visitblaenavon.co.uk

Blaenavon Retail Distinctiveness Study

Miller Research was commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government Department of Economy and Transport Heads of the Valleys Programme in 2009 to undertake a Retail Distinctiveness model developed for ONE North East by Miller, which had been run in fifteen towns throughout the UK

The rationale was to counter 'cloning' of town centres and to aid thinking in creating and preserving vibrant small communities, especially rural market towns.

The aim of the study is to increase the competitiveness of Blaenavon as a distinctive retail centre for residents and visitors alike, consistent with its importance as a vital component of the World Heritage Site both in terms of social history and as an attraction for cultural tourism.

The report identified shortcomings in the 'hospitality offer' and ways in which distinctiveness and quality of service might be improved. The need to balance provision of local needs with 'niche' marketing was a prime consideration. The full report can be accessed at www.visitblaenavon.co.uk

Planning the Visitor Experience – A Visitor Management Plan - Principles for the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site and action plan for Blaenavon Town

This study was commissioned in 2008 by Torfaen County Borough Council and the Welsh Assembly Government Department of Economy and Transport as part of the Heads of the Valleys Programme. The study was carried out by the 'Can Do Team', Abergavenny. The Visitor Management Plan aimed to build on previous studies into signage and visitor management.

The World Heritage Site area is a unique combination of urban and rural assets and facilities that are used by residents, people of South Wales and visitors from further afield. Therefore exploring the way that visitors should be encouraged to engage with the area and the needs of residents should be considered.

The aspects covered by the Visitor Management Plan are:

- Transport and access to and within the area
- Orientation and interpretation
- Welcome and visitor care
- Visitor facilities and attractions including the urban and rural landscape
- Gateways/Points of Arrival including pre-visit contact, marketing activity etc

Key matters addressed were:

- The need to build on work undertaken to date
- The opportunity to influence the visitors to Big Pit, the main visitor attraction to widen exploration of the World Heritage Site
- A thematic and first person approach to interpretation, joining together sites and elements of the World Heritage Site story
- Opportunities for public art
- The need to join urban and rural stories together
- The opportunities to exploit the opening of the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre in 2008
- Highway and other signage improvements

Red Kite Visitor Experience and Interpretation Plan (2007)

The Red Kite study proposed ways in which the World Heritage Site could be better promoted and interpreted and suggested that there should be a new and stronger marketing organisation. The study proposed that the emerging emphasis on first-person interpretation should be developed, there should be better integration with adjoining areas and there should be a determined effort to extend the length the visitor stay and encourage repeat visits. Finally, there should be a strategy to deliver visitors throughout the four seasons of the year.

While the findings of the Red Kite Study were accepted in principle, to date it has not been possible to implement them fully but many of the findings have been picked up through the work of the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative in its ideas for marketing and promoting the World Heritage Site.

LANDMAP

LANDMAP is a GIS based landscape information resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set.

LANDMAP comprises five spatially related datasets known as the Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Visual & Sensory, the Historic Landscape and the Cultural Landscape. Each of the five spatial layers is divided into discrete geographical units referred to as aspect areas. Each mapped aspect area is distinctly defined by its recognisable landscape elements, features, characteristics and qualities; these are described and evaluated in a unique survey form for each aspect area.

LANDMAP has been completed for Torfaen County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council, the Brecon Beacons National Park and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. LANDMAP therefore covers the whole of the World Heritage Site and the geographical area that may be considered as a buffer zone.

Visit the LANDMAP website <http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/protecting-our-landscape/landmap.aspx> to access the maps, surveys and for further information.

The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative (FLP) - 2010 – 2013

This is a singularly important project which will ensure that the management of the World Heritage Site and associated adjoining landscapes is carried out in a holistic and exemplary way and ensures that the management of the site, which has been effectively carried out to date, is continued and extended in scope.

The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative was started in 2007 with a clearly defined goal of ensuring the sustainable conservation of the heritage landscape of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site and adjoining areas.

A major emphasis of the project is on the important inter-relationship between cultural and natural heritage and the project will take forward UNESCO thinking in terms of Blaenavon as a 'cultural landscape'.

The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative is a trend setting project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the holistic management of the World Heritage Site heritage landscape and adjoining areas of landscape sharing similar distinctiveness. The term 'Forgotten' springs from the fact that much of the area was disturbed by mineral extraction related to iron and coal production in the formative years of the Industrial Revolution. Indeed, large parts of the World Heritage Site had in fact been identified as 'derelict land' by the Welsh Development Agency before inscription in 2000.

The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative provides the opportunity to take forward the protection and promotion of the cultural and natural values of the World Heritage Site in ways which would not otherwise be possible. It ensures an investment of approximately £3m by 2013.

The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative Manager can ensure the project is realised within the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Management Plan arrangements and will be a key member to the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership Steering Group.

Four programme areas are being developed within the approved Landscape Strategy submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

1. The Landscape made by the people
2. Our sense of Place
3. Man and the Environment
4. Guardians of the Landscape

These four themes are included in a Landscape Conversation Action Plan submitted to HLF in December 2009. Delivery of the project will be during the period 2010 – 2013.

Eleven projects are being progressed and three consultancies have been appointed to deliver these:

- Parkin Heritage and Tourism are dealing with gateways, visitor access and management, interpretation, education, volunteering and outreach
- Radnorshire Wildlife Services are developing implementation plans for the understanding and conservation of industrial heritage features, habitats and species, including commons management plans
- Pico Energy have been appointed to deliver the project on micro hydro electricity generation which will contribute to renewable energy and assist in future funding for management of the landscape

In summary the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative will deliver important outcomes to ensure the effective protection, conservation, presentation and promotion of the World Heritage Site. These outcomes may be summarised as follows:

- Up to date (Google based) GIS mapping of cultural and natural features
- A programme of prioritised management repair to heritage features
- Prioritised protection of mineral waste tips
- Development of visitor management and interpretation
- Enhancement of Blaenavon World Heritage Centre as focus for intellectual and actual access to the World Heritage Site
- Training in protection of the landscape features
- Development of walks and cycle ways
- Development of educational programmes
- Community involvement in decision making and implementation
- Provision of 'buffer zone' to World Heritage Site

Detailed projects to achieve the above outcomes of the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative have been included in this Management Plan Schedule in Part 4 .

Buffer Zone –

The Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative deals with twice the area of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site and this raises issues over identifying the wider area as a World Heritage Site 'Buffer Zone' or perhaps in the longer term as a possible extension of the World Heritage Site boundary.

By considering the adjoining areas as a buffer zone the whole Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative area can be considered as one unit – a core site and a buffer zone. This will enable it to be subject to similar standards of management supported by shared policy commitments between the World Heritage Site Partnership and the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative.

The creation of a buffer zone for the World Heritage Site is a significant proposal. The buffer zone areas concerned are the Clydach Gorge which lies to the north of the World Heritage Site boundary and the Milfraen Bog area at Waunavon which lies to the west of the present World Heritage Site boundary. Both areas have been identified by ICOMOS, Cadw and the Countryside Council for Wales as 'Outstanding Historic Landscapes of Wales'. If the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership Initiative area was included as a buffer zone, this would approximately double the area of the World Heritage Site.

The proposed buffer zone would include the Clydach Gorge area; this area has considerable industrial heritage in its own right and is closely related through the iron production and transportation with the World Heritage Site. The significance of the Clydach Gorge is set out in more detail in the Clydach Gorge Study described in part 3, section 3.2.3

Although not included within the Forgotten Landscapes boundary, an area to the east of the World Heritage Site related to the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal as far as Goytre Wharf could well be included within this 'buffer zone' and should be given consideration when details of the proposed buffer zone are being finalised.

It is considered the holistic management proposals included in the Forgotten Landscape project will ensure a higher standard of management than would be otherwise possible and for this reason it is proposed in this Management Plan that this Buffer Zone should be added to the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site.

Clydach Gorge Study

The Clydach Gorge Strategy was developed by Monmouthshire County Council in co-operation with Blaenau Gwent CBC, the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and the Forgotten Landscapes Partnership as part of the Clydach Gorge Working Group (funded through the Welsh Assembly).

Its vision is:

"to establish Clydach Gorge as a sustainable tourist destination acknowledged for its outstanding natural and industrial heritage which local people and visitors can enjoy through walking, cycling, riding, caving and other specialist activities supported by a quality visitor infrastructure.... which, at the same time, can provide essential visitor services and gateway facilities in relation to the surrounding area including Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site, Brecon Beacons National Park and the emerging Valleys Regional Park."

There are 6 key project strands:

- The revitalisation of Clydach South as a transit facility and gateway to the Clydach Gorge and wider area.
- Physical Improvements to the Countryside recreation infrastructure
- Interpretation and education provision to encourage intellectual access to the outstanding and cultural heritage.
- Physical Improvements and enhancement to the natural and cultural Heritage

- Associated development of gateway facilities
- Business development support to enhance the essential tourism infrastructure of food and drink, accommodation and other services e.g. tour guides, cycle hire etc.

Heart and Soul of Wales

'Heart and Soul of Wales' is a three year marketing campaign and is part of a three year Welsh Assembly Government project to raise the profile of the south Wales valleys.

The campaign aims to build on investment in the region to date and help boost the local economy. It will focus on providing attractions to local people and visitors, building on a strong sense of 'community' and unique industrial past, which the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape represents.

