



## **Jane Pit** **Interpretation Plan**

### **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this plan is to identify and outline our plan to interpret our Heritage asset. The plan has been written by Workington Town Council (Chris Bagshaw, Town Clerk and Emma Chapman, Events Assistant), advice was sought from a number of external companies including Nature Sign Design, Fitzpatrick Woolmer, Border Signs & Graphics and Differentia.

The project has the main aim of commemorating the contribution of mining to the town's history and act as a memorial to the former mineworkers. Jane Pit is a 19<sup>th</sup> century coal pit (National Heritage List Entry: 1017559) and the remains are protected as a Scheduled Monument. The project is split in two halves: a development phase (now complete) and a delivery phase. This plan relates to the delivery phase of the project. The contribution from the National Lottery Heritage Fund covers all aspects of this project.

This plan was written in September 2018 and updated in February 2019.

### **2. Jane Pit Heritage / project background**

Workington's present-day fortunes are founded on the coal mining and iron industries of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Although mining of the Workington coalfields extends back to at least the seventeenth century, it was not until the eighteenth century that coal mining really took hold, culminating in 1802, when the coalfield was producing 65,309 tons of coal per annum. It was the availability of both coal and iron ore, coupled with the Workington port facility, that encouraged the development of the iron and steel industry in Workington. Throughout this period, the town of Workington was expanding rapidly to house the increasing workforce, and its development was closely tied to that of the coal and steel industries.

The discovery of a rich seam of coal at Jane Pit in 1846 was heralded with much celebration that included all the occupants of the town. Although the coal industry had been in a slow decline since the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the wealth of the new seam provided a period of optimism and hope for the future of the town. The working of the mine was relatively short lived, closing in 1875, but it was in production longer than many of the others in this part of the coalfield, such as Annie Pit and Buddle Pit.

The pit used both a horse gin and a steam engine, housed in an elaborate engine house, to lift the coal and overburden, but also to pump water from the mine. Subsequent to the abandonment of the mine, housing has encroached on the area and rugby and football pitches have been constructed. The latter resulted in the removal of a substantial spoil heap around the mining site; however, this process allowed the survival of the large engine house and two chimneys which are now scheduled monuments and provide the most visual representation of the mine. There are, however, less visual, but nevertheless significant components of the mine that have survived as either structures or earthworks. These include the former gin pit, a marshalling yard for a rail track, a former building associated with the western chimney and sections of retaining wall.



The project will educate the community on the Town's history and heritage, especially important to the people of Workington who had relatives and friends who worked at the mine or who were involved in some way.

The project will interest local and national historians as it is the only pit with remains left of the horse gin. It is also 1 of only approx. 5 left in the country, but the only one left in a good quality condition, compared to the others.

The initial excavation showed us a little of the life lived by the people working in the pit and living in the nearby cottages. It will be exciting to dig further on the next excavation to see what lies beneath and what this can tell us of our Town's history.

The project also provides the community the opportunity to learn about archaeology, something that isn't often conducted in the area. People can explore the various techniques that are involved through on-site tuition and spark an interest in this field.

### **3. Current Site**

Currently the site has no interpretative assistance and it was made clear during our feedback sessions conducted by our Community Engagement Officer that a lot of the community have no idea what the remains are. Therefore, to meet one of the main objectives of this project, we need to ensure we have very effective interpretation around our Heritage site to educate people and build on their interest in the site.

### **4. Objectives**

- Educate the community on the site – its history, the miners, the owners, the technology etc.
- Generate a sense of ownership in the site from the immediate and wider Workington community– there are reports of anti-social behaviour around the area of the site and although the buildings themselves don't suffer directly we feel that implementing signage and a landscaping plan will help deter this.
- Engage the local schools; encouraging them to become involved in their heritage and run a competition for them to design an area of a panel.
- Provide visitors with a satisfying experience, allowing them to learn all about the site and its history.

### **5. Equal Access**

When discussing and designing the interpretation panels we will consider not only the design of typeface and size of text we use, but also the language to ensure that technical terms are simplified and easy to understand.

The design will be clean and clear and easy to follow, and alternatives will be available such as accessing the information on our website or via the DigVentures micro-site.

We have also added into the activity plan several elements that will make the information accessible online and in different formats such as the virtual museum and the tales of the pit.

As part of our activity plan, we will organise tours of the pit area with an expert who will take bring the site to life, putting into context the detailed information we have collected.



Our main visitors will be from the local community and wider Cumbrian areas therefore allowing us to only develop the interpretation panels in English. After reviewing our website statistics, these showed us that our main visitors to the site are from the UK or USA.

See also appendix 22 – design and access statement

## 6. Media and Costs

We have considered several options relating to the materials we would like to use and in what form.

After researching several similar sites (such as Saltom Pit, Whitehaven Collieries, Caldbeck Bobbin Mills, St Monans Saltworks and the Somerset Coal Canal) and gaining feedback from the community on social media we feel that several lectern style panels would be the best option to communicate the information of Jane Pit in the most effective way.

At Whitehaven there had been some vandalism to the interpretive panels and they were also faded and discoloured. Signs installed by Cumbria County Council and Allerdale Borough to commemorate Workington's steel works were on stone plinths with stainless steel. Located just around the corner from Jane Pit, they remain in reasonable condition after 5 years.

When briefing suppliers, we highlighted the need to keep things simple. We reiterated the need for hard wearing materials given that the area is prone to anti-social behaviour. The panels also need to be long lasting and light sensitive.

We posted a number of options on Facebook and received favourable responses, suggesting we were on reasonably safe territory with some of the more vocal members of the community.

All four suppliers we approached suggested a stainless-steel option. Varying costs are shown below.

### Costs - Panels

| <b>Nature Sign Design</b> |                   |            |               |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|
| <b>Steel Signs</b>        |                   |            |               |
| <b>Size</b>               | <b>Unit Price</b> | <b>Qty</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
| Size A0                   | 1025              | 4          | £4,100        |
| Design                    | 300               | 4          | £1,200        |
| Delivery                  | 160               | 1          | £160          |
| Delivery & installation   | 795               | 1          | £795          |
| <b>TOTAL ON A0 SIZE</b>   |                   |            | <b>£6,095</b> |

| <b>Border Signs and Graphics</b> |             |            |              |
|----------------------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
|                                  | <b>Unit</b> | <b>Qty</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| Steel Lectern (707x1000mm)       | £780        | 4          | £3,120       |
| Steel upright                    | £865        | 4          | £3,460       |
| Design                           | £160        | 4          | £640         |



|                                |      |   |               |
|--------------------------------|------|---|---------------|
| Delivery                       | £90  | 1 | £90           |
| Installation                   | £520 | 1 | £520          |
| <b>TOTAL FOR STEEL LECTERN</b> |      |   | <b>£4,370</b> |

| <b>Fitzpatrick Woolmer</b>        | <b>Unit</b> | <b>Qty</b> | <b>Total</b>   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| Musketeer Steel (A0)              | £589        | 4          | £2,356         |
| Graphics panel                    | £338        | 4          | £1,352         |
| Delivery                          | £308        | 1          | £308           |
| Site survey                       | £910        | 1          | £910           |
| Installation                      | £2,880      | 1          | £2,880         |
| Design (A0)                       | £660        | 1          | £660           |
| Design (A0)                       | £495        | 3          | £1,485         |
| Proofs                            | £40         | 8          | £320           |
| <b>TOTAL WITH INSTALLATION</b>    |             |            | <b>£10,271</b> |
| <b>TOTAL WITHOUT INSTALLATION</b> |             |            | <b>£6,481</b>  |

| <b>Differentia</b> |             |            |               |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|---------------|
| <b>Desc.</b>       | <b>Unit</b> | <b>Qty</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
| Design & artwork   | 550         | 4          | 2200          |
| Copywriting        | 250         | 4          | 1000          |
| Lectern & panel    | 650         | 4          | 2600          |
| Delivery           | 250         | 1          | 250           |
| Installation       | 1600        | 1          | 1600          |
| Project management | 800         | 1          | 800           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       |             |            | <b>£8,450</b> |

All companies came recommended and can demonstrate previous work and projects where they have produced and installed the proposed panels.

Design ideas are:



The information and design of the panels will largely be dictated by the archaeology finds in dig 2 and from the school's competition we will run for them to design part of a panel.



## **7. Evaluation**

We will gather feedback from the community, businesses, schools etc. on how they feel about the displays by asking on questionnaires at events after installation, on our websites and social media.

See also appendix 2 – brief of works, interpretation panels.

*Whitehaven collieries was an eye opener in terms of what can happen when a maintenance plan has either not been implemented or has in fact failed. We are dedicated to our site, its heritage and what it means to the community for us to carry out this project and its conservation successfully.*