

What is the title of your project?

In no more than 15 words, please choose a title which you think best describes your project.

Hafod-Morfa Copperworks Phase 1

1a. Name and address of your organisation

City and County of Swansea, Oystermouth Road, Swansea
SA1 3SN

1b. Details of main contact person

Paul Relf

1c. Are you a not-for-profit organisation?

Yes – local authority.

1d. Where did you hear about the Heritage Lottery Fund?

Website, previous projects.

2a. What is the heritage that your project will focus on?

The project will focus on the remains of the internationally significant Hafod-Morfa Copperworks, which is one of the most important collections of industrial heritage in Great Britain. The site is the last remaining major monument to Swansea's central and leading role in the development of the global copper Industry which was located in the Lower Swansea Valley.

The site was originally developed by Vivian & Sons, consisting of a of core Grade II listed buildings and additional Grade II listed structures on a 12 acres (4.9 ha) site, on the banks of the River Tawe in Hafod, Swansea. The Hafod works was founded in 1810 by the Cornishman John Vivian. During the nineteenth century, this was the largest copper works in the world, employing over 1,000 people. The rival Morfa works was established in 1835 by Williams, Foster & Co., and the two adjacent sites combined in 1924 under Yorkshire Imperial Metals.

Swansea was at the heart of the global copper industry, and by 1823 around 10,000 of Swansea's 15,000 residents were supported by the copper industry. By 1883 there were 124 works including 12 copper works in the Lower Swansea Valley. In 1971 the Lower Swansea Valley Project had started to transform the most derelict industrial landscape in Britain, resulting in the closure of the Hafod rolling mills in 1980.

The story of the Hafod –Morfa Copperworks (1810-1980) is inextricably linked to the topography of the Lower Swansea Valley (LSV) and the strong communities for whom these buildings once provided a livelihood. As the home to some of the last copperworks buildings in the LSV they offer key physical evidence of wider-reaching global connections.

First-stage regeneration work through the £1.1m Cu@Swansea project, a very successful partnership between Swansea University and Swansea Council, has delivered a programme of physical works to reclaim the site from dereliction and enable people to visit and better understand their industrial past. The works have included consolidation of the most at-risk structures, improved access, landscaping, pathways and picnic areas, vegetation management, art features and basic interpretation of buildings and features. The project has also generated massive interest in the site from local people as both visitors and volunteers, and this has led to the formation of an active ‘Friends’ group. The project has succeeded in uncovering peoples’ existing knowledge of the site, reconnected them to the it, and demonstrated the importance of industrial heritage to diverse communities.

3a. Is the address of your project the same as the address of your organisation?

Different address - the Hafod-Morfa Copperworks site is located at: Cross Valley Link Road, Landore, Swansea, SA1 2JT SS659953

3b. Describe what your project will do.

Revitalisation of the Hafod-Morfa Copperworks, which is located in a deprived area, provides a unique opportunity to reinstate the site into the wider context of modern Wales and act as a driver of regeneration in Swansea. The site is already frequented by a diverse population of walkers, cyclists, learners, sports fans, and shoppers amongst others. Even in its current largely un-regenerated state we know it attracts thousands of visitors a year, and the project seeks to capitalise on the interest and enthusiasm that saw 7,128 people attend an on-site heritage festival in June 2014.

The collaborative project will thus undertake the next phase of the revitalisation of the site, building on the physical works and extensive community engagement generated through the Cu@Swansea project. Based on the options set out in the recently published comprehensive site Masterplan, the initial focus would be on the heart of the site to include the Grade II listed laboratory, powerhouse/canteen, rolling mill (Collections Centre) buildings and gateway area, which would combine:

- The creation of a living history laboratory – a state-of-the-art education, training, and commercial facility in the power house and laboratory

buildings which facilitates the engagement of the public, schools, community groups, training companies, City Council, and universities with this unique resource.

- The construction of new-build facilities including spaces for commercial ventures which seek alignment with the identity of a site and build on the traditions of innovation, world leadership, and wealth creation.
- Developing a connection between the existing Swansea Museum Collection Centre and the site in order to develop a high- quality visitor destination.

This approach will bring several grade II listed buildings back into productive use through a mixture of social/community and private sector commercial activity, linked to a wider redevelopment of the surrounding site, with a focus on enterprise and innovation that echoes the origins and initial significance of the site. The proposed works will both safeguard the heritage assets, and create a vibrant setting to ensure their longer term viability. They will do this by providing opportunities for the development of digital and research applications; the creation of business incubation units; the realisation of property assets to re-invest in heritage elements; and the potential enabling of commercial end use of other parts of the site.

Such an approach also creates a strong on-going mechanism for involving people in the development of the site whilst offering skills, education, entertainment, and social opportunities. The concept of a digital living history laboratory brings groups together to produce a constantly evolving, highly innovative interpretation programme which celebrates the stories of the past and connects them with ideas and skills that will define their world in the future.

The project will tap into the widespread interest generated through the successful Cu@Swansea project, the 15-year partnership agreement between Swansea University and Swansea Council for preservation and development of the site, and engagement with an active Friends Group with a mailing list of over 400 members, scores of local history groups, and other community partners, several of which work with young people and hard-to-reach social groups.

4a. When do you expect your project to start and finish?

January 2016 – Dec 2020

5a. How much is your project likely to cost? If you know, tell us what the major costs are likely to be.

Based on Masterplan estimated £8.1m for this phase