



Friends of Hemingfield Colliery (FOHC)

Forward Plan – Briefing for potential funders

Overview and progress to date

In 2014, with a director's loan and strong volunteer support, FOHC were able to purchase a large portion of the former Hemingfield Colliery near Elsecar, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (hemingfieldcolliery.org/history).

The initially secured site included three principal structures:

- The 1890s haulage engine house adapted c.1930 to contain electrical switchgear and controls for the mine pumps,
- The 1840s vertical winding engine house
- and the 1940 reinforced concrete headgear in between them.

Five years later, in 2019, with the help of a National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) grant, FOHC were able to purchase the remaining part of the colliery site, comprising the 1840s Cornish engine house converted c.1935 into a dwelling (Pump House Cottage – PHC hereafter) and its attached reinforced concrete headgear.



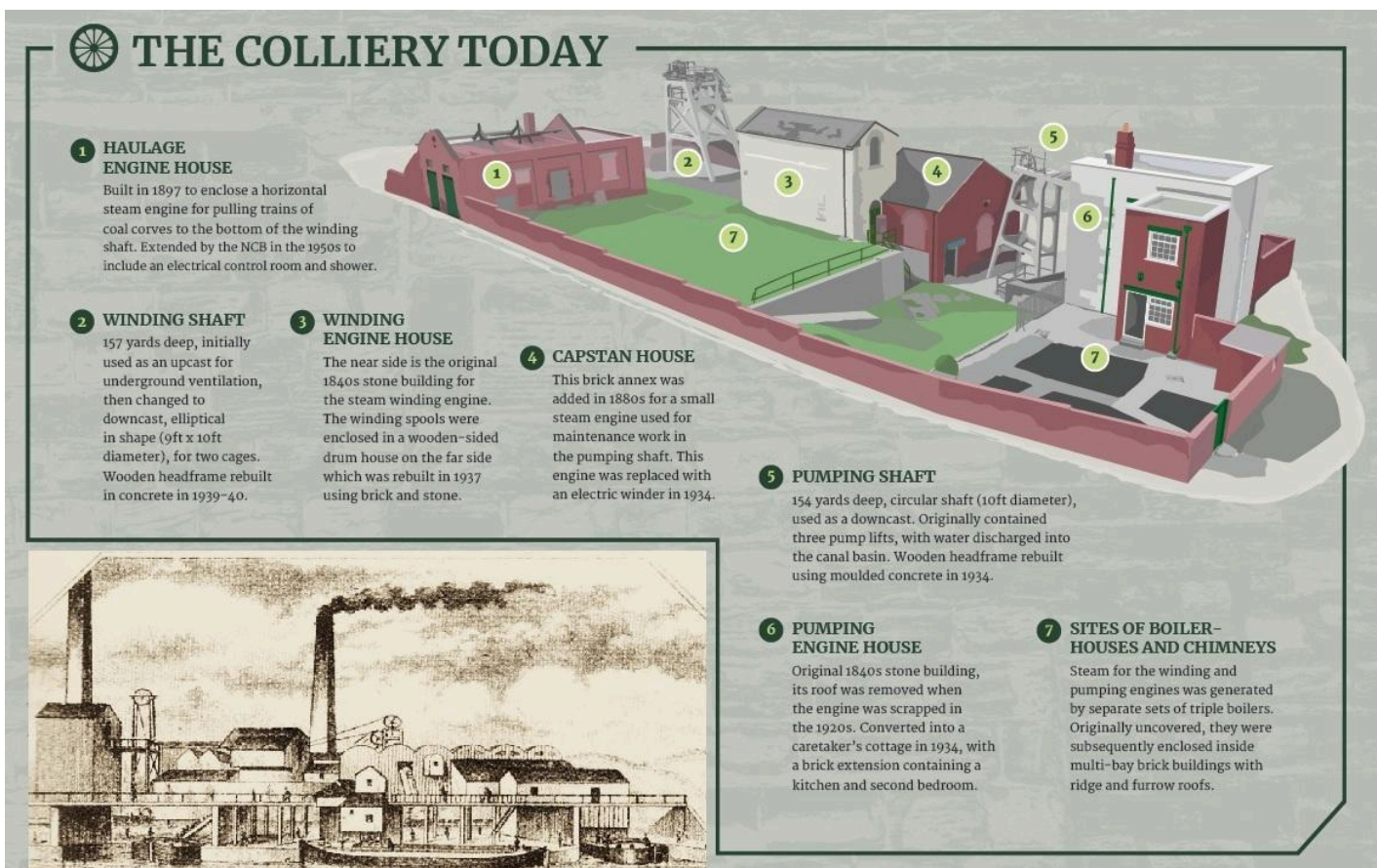
Hemingfield Colliery in 2024

In the intervening period, with large numbers of volunteer hours and expertise, we have cleared the site of intrusive trees and foliage, created an attractive paved garden area beside PHC and transformed much of the remaining area to maintainable greensward. In this process we have sustained a programme of well-attended open days and special events, and initiated projects to engage local schools and communities.

In addition to the hard work of our volunteers and supporters, progress has been greatly assisted by the following major grants for which we are most grateful:

- **Northern Mine Research Society (NMRS)** funded installation of security doors in 2015.
- **Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership (DVLP)** funded a conservation feasibility study and survey in 2015.
- Grants from the **Association for Industrial Archaeology (AIA)** and DVLP paid for the repair and reroofing of the Winding Engine House in 2016.
- The **National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)** supported us in 2019 with a grant to purchase Pump House Cottage and to undertake a wider programme of related work. This resulted in the original part of the site being granted Grade 2 listed status in 2020.

All this enables progress towards our objective of making the site more accessible to visitors and enabling revenue generation from reuse of some of the structures.



This ambition would have been further assisted by the planned construction of an intermediate station adjacent to our site by the Elsecar Heritage Railway (EHR). However, EHR's failure in 2021 and uncertainty around future plans for the railway means we need to accelerate restoration of the structures.

As described above, this will give a basis for potential income generation as, until then, we remain dependent on grants, gifts and the hard work of our volunteers and supporters.

Moving Forward

With the above in mind, we need to progress five major initiatives for which funding and grant support is sought – outlines of which are as follows:

1. Underpinning the walls of the 1935 extension to PHC.

Constructed to house the pump attendant, its foundations were poorly laid resulting in the upper part of the extension leaning away from the Cornish engine house and resulting in serious water ingress and damage. Estimated underpinning costs of c.£25K are less than the expected demolition and rebuilding charges of c.£40K. Completion of this work will enable adaption of the building to provide temporary accommodation for volunteers and unlock potential revenue streams from short term occupancies.

2. Reroofing the Haulage Engine House.

The roof was destroyed by a fire in 2009, with joists and wall tops exposed to the elements, the result is the gable ends are now showing signs of distress. Reroofing will ensure the interior is dry and the gables secure and is the first step to making the building usable. Costs of this are estimated at c.£25K.

3. Repair and conservation the reinforced concrete headgears.

Constructed around 1935 and 1940 respectively by the South Yorkshire Mines Drainage Committee (SYMDC), sections of the concrete are spalling, leaving the reinforcing steel exposed. Specialist repairs will cost c.£10K for each structure. Completing the repairs will ensure these unusual features, an integral part of the site's history, are safe for visitors and conserved for future generations.

4. Rebuilding of exterior walls.

Sections of walling at both front and rear need rebuilding – work at the rear requires scaffolding and is therefore outside volunteer capabilities. (A major reconstruction of the rear retaining wall has already been completed). The front walls can be rebuilt by volunteers with appropriate materials and support from professional bricklayers. Indicative costs of external bricklayers are around £5K.

5. Annual Insurance premium.

One of our ongoing challenges is funding the £1,700 annual fee (paid in monthly increments). Without this we cannot host visitors on site and a grant of £5,100 is sought to fund this for three years. This will enable us to fund additional work on rebuilding Pump House Cottage.

Steve Grudgings, Chair FOHC, 1/12/2025