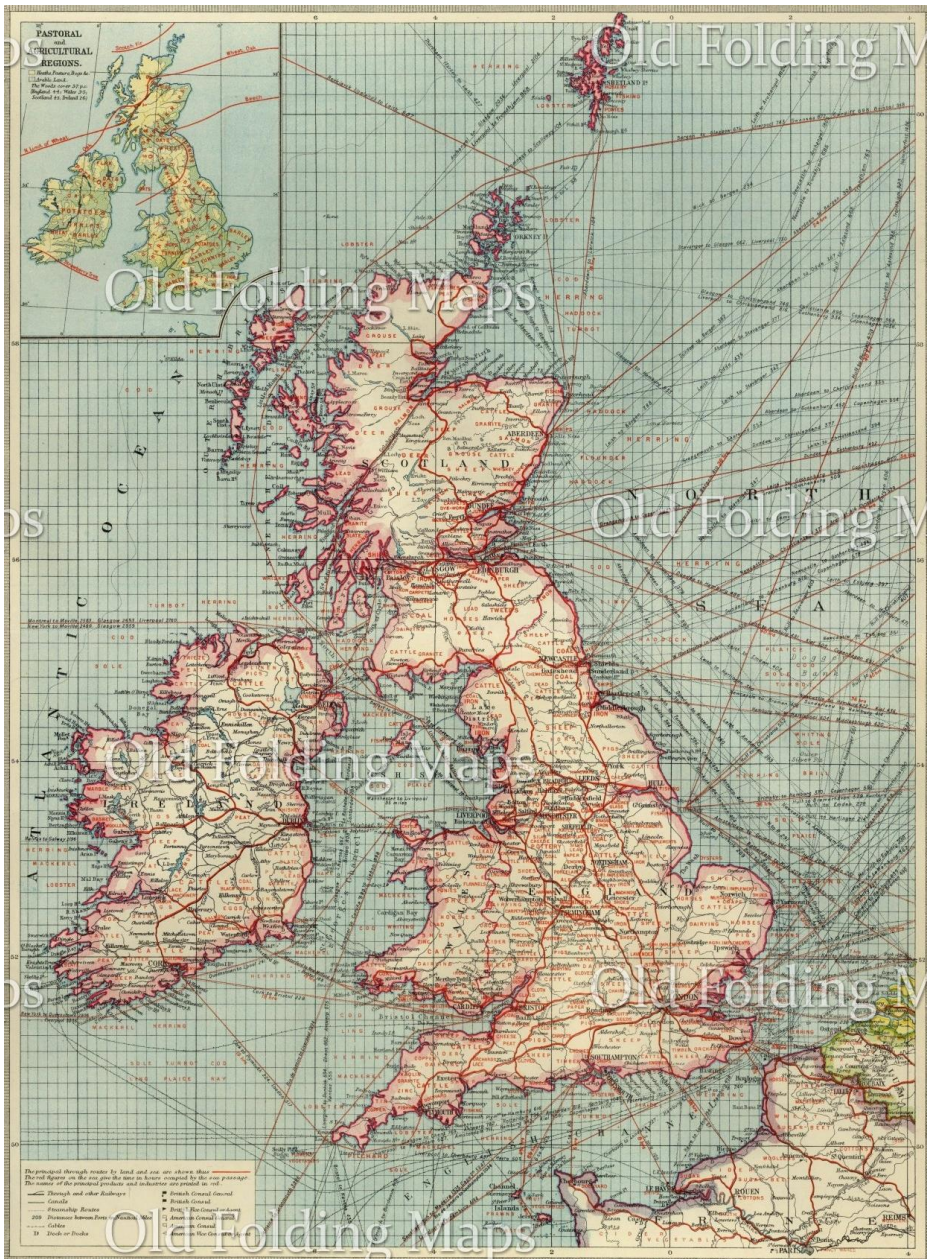




INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Presented by Mithuni Amarakoon-2516651



INTRODUCTION

- The Industrial Revolution (1760–1850) transformed Britain from a mainly agricultural society to an industrial and urban one.
- Factories powered by steam engines increased demand for coal and copper.
- The Lower Swansea Valley, including Hafod, became a major center of copper smelting.
- Swansea's success was due to its location near the South Wales Coalfield and access to trade through Swansea Bay.
- This presentation explores the people, industries, workers, environmental impacts, and economic importance of Swansea during the Industrial Revolution. (*Lower Swansea Valley - Swansea, 2025*)



❑ **HAFOD AND THE LOWER SWANSEA VALLEY**

Swansea is on the south coast of Wales along Swansea Bay.

=The Lower Swansea Valley runs north from Swansea along the River Tawe.

=Hafod is located just north of the city.

=Close to the South Wales coalfield and the sea, making it ideal for industry and trade.

(HAFOD AND THE LOWER SWANSEA VALLEY, N.D.)

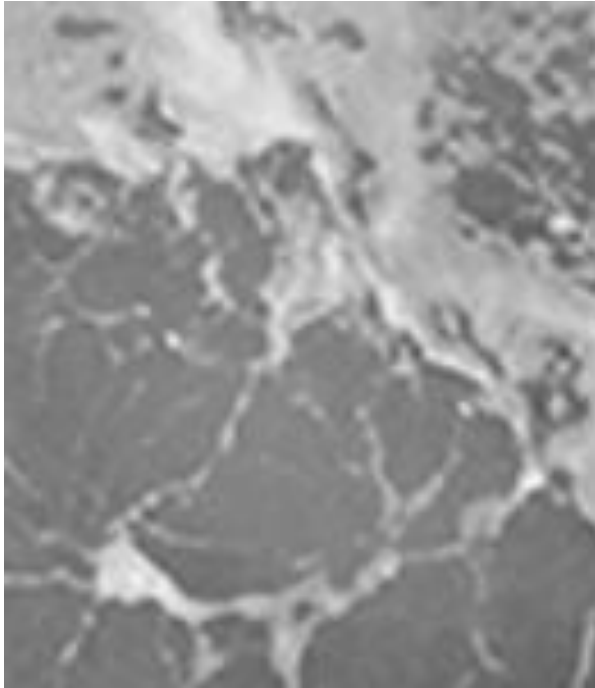
COPPER

- Cornwall became highly industrialised during the Industrial Revolution.
- Copper mining was the main industry in the 18th–early 19th centuries.
- Later, tin mining became more important.
- Mining led to new ports, railways and roads.
- Mining declined in the late 19th century due to overseas competition.
- Many Cornish miners emigrated abroad.

(Cornwall Heritage Trust, 2025)



COAL AND LIMESTONE



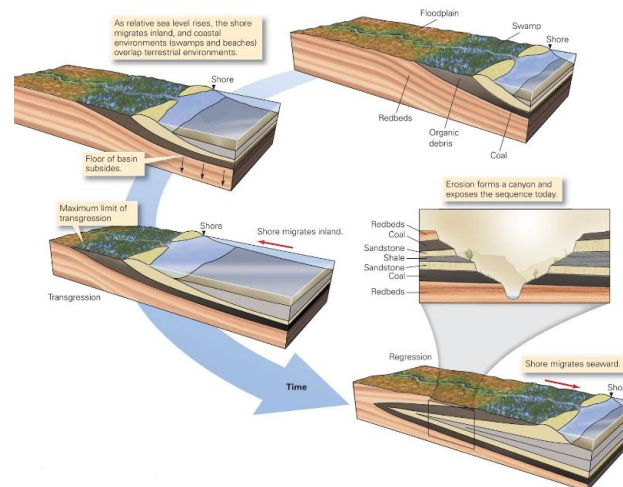
- South Wales had large supplies of coal, often called “black gold.”
- Coal powered steam engines and metal industries during the Industrial Revolution.
- It helped fuel industries in Swansea, especially copper smelting.
- Limestone was used in industrial processes to remove impurities from metal ores.
- These resources helped Swansea grow as a major industrial centre

(Industrial Wales / Cadw, n.d.)

WHAT IS COAL?

Coal is a black or brownish-black sedimentary rock that can be burned for fuel and used to generate electricity. It is composed mostly of carbon and hydrocarbons, which contain energy that can be released through combustion (burning).

(*Economy*, 2025)



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

Environmental Issues

- Heavy industries such as coal mining, steel and chemicals caused serious environmental damage.
- Landscapes were affected by coal tips, industrial waste and chemical pollution.
- Heavy metal contamination and polluted land were common in former industrial areas.
- Industrial activity damaged the natural environment and surrounding valleys.
- Governments later started land regeneration and clean-up programmes to restore these areas.
- The Aberfan disaster highlighted the dangers of coal waste and led to better safety measures.

(The Environmental and Economic Legacy of Wales' Industrial Past, n.d)

Social Issues

- Industrial workers often faced dangerous working conditions and poor health.
- Many workers developed long-term illnesses and physical disabilities.
- After industries closed, many communities faced unemployment and economic decline.
- Former industrial areas still experience higher poverty and poorer health than wealthier regions.
- Some communities have fewer job opportunities and rely more on benefits.
- Many young people moved away to find work, leaving aging populations in former mining areas.

(The Environmental and Economic Legacy of Wales' Industrial Past, n.d)

REFERENCES

Lower Swansea Valley – Swansea. (2025). Swansea. <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/LowerSwanseaValley?lang=en>

CBHC – RCAHMW. (2013, November 15). *Hafod Copper Works, Swansea – Royal Commission Animation.* YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Y8DAXaMihc>

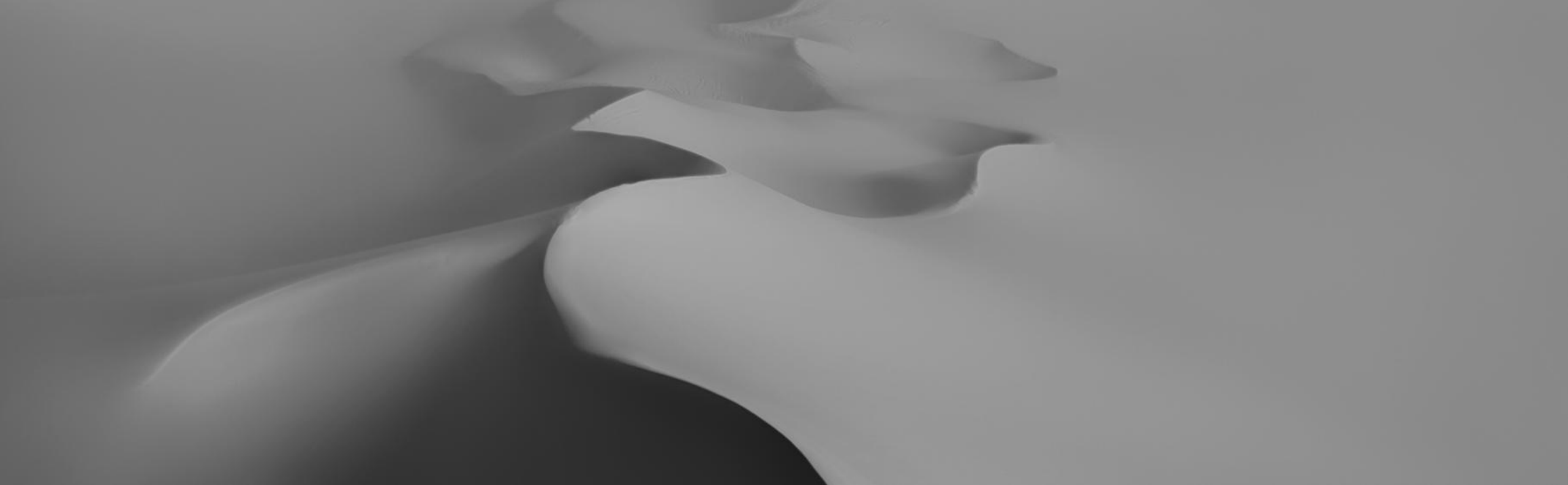
Hafod and the Lower Swansea Valley. (n.d.). https://cadw.gov.wales/sites/default/files/2019-05/Hafod%20and%20the%20Lower%20Swansea%20Valley-%20Understanding%20Urban%20Character_0.pdf

Cornwall Heritage Trust. (2025). *Industry in Cornwall.* Cornwall Heritage Trust. <https://www.cornwallheritagetrust.org/timeline/industry-in-cornwall/>

Economy. (2025). Agor.org.uk. <https://www.agor.org.uk/cwm/themes/Life/economy/>

The environmental and economic legacy of Wales’ industrial past. (n.d.). https://industrialcommunitiesalliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/WA-Committee-Submission-Legacy-of-Heavy-Industry-3nd-draft_.pdf

Aliena Harbon. (2024, September 21). *Wales and the Industrial Revolution: A Tale of Two Eras.* Today's Times. <https://www.todaystimes.co.uk/wales-and-the-industrial-revolution-a-tale-of-two-eras/>



THANK YOU

