

Experimental Strategies

(ADAA5003)

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Site: The site I have taken interest to is the Swansea railway station located at High St, Swansea SA1 1NE. It is a very accessible location being close to the city centre of Swansea and only a 10-minute walk away from the Dynevor campus, of course it is also accessible by train, car and bus with a station on the same road and a car park at the front entrance. My interest in using Swansea railway station stems from my frequent use of it, studying in Swansea but living in Cardiff means I see the station multiple times a week at a minimum and have been able to familiarise myself with it and think deeply while waiting on trains when leaving for the day, I have especially been drawn to the stations place in a larger area compared to the myriad of smaller stations I pass and sometimes stop at between Cardiff and Swansea drawing me to the interest of the history of railway in South Wales.

Research: Swansea railway station was the first and is the last of 7 passenger terminus stations that existed in Swansea, Swansea railway station opened in 1850, engineered by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. The station was enlarged in 1879, 1923 and 1932 by Great Western Railway. In 1992 Swansea council commissioned local artists to produce poems about a sense of place that still stand at Swansea railway station, The words "Ambition is critical" lies on the ground at the station entrance, this was poet David Hughes' riposte to an old saying that Swansea is the "Graveyard of ambition".

Research taken from <https://historypoints.org/index.php?page=swansea-rail-station>
<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/stories/step-into-swanseas-past>

Theme: The theme I have thought of the most for this site would be themes of history, past, present, change and progress. Taking the history and importance of rail in south Wales, I would like to use Swansea railway station as a canvas to explore the impact of Welsh rail and its boom in development and then eventual decline being abandoned by Westminster and the British government. This would entail heavy research and photographing of current railway stations and those that have been abandoned and replaced to create a coherent piece of work which includes the most significant stations of south Wales, along with this I would like to tie in the history of rail in Swansea as it would be fitting for the location and theme.



