

Sarah halliwell.

1703769.

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BMSP4005. Distinctiveness and Regeneration.

Learning report log - Assignment one.

Introduction.

Llanelli: an area transformed by the coal industry and the industrial revolution, although the lack of capital investment in new technologies potentially stunted a larger and more significant economic growth for the Llanelli area. (Hannam, J. 2019).

The first most significant changes occurred between 1700-1750, where Llanelli had an established sea trade (with France in particular), and gained huge demand of coal due to developments in steam engines and other related machinery. (Hannam, J. 2019).

Distinctiveness and Regeneration: Llanelli.

Llanelli before the coal industry:

Before the boom in the coal mining industry, Llanelli was largely Arable Land, with large estates and smaller family farms Hannam, J. (2019), families made money through farming and didn't travel out of town due to lack of transport.

In 1750, Wales was still very rural, however gaining an expanding industrial base.

What is distinctive about the area of Llanelli?

Llanelli is the largest town in the county of Carmarthenshire, that was mainly made up of family owned farms and small coal mines, they were a point of export and some families did small amounts of smelting but this was not very profitable. Hannam, J. (2019).

Llanelli grew significantly during the coal mining industry.

Coal mining was the initial stage in industrialization of the Llanelli district, coal mining on to a small extent was carried out in Llanelli (there was a pit opened in the early 16th century) but the pit was abandoned a few years later due to flooding. It was during the last half of the 17th century that Llanelli began to grow importance hugely due to its coal as it was at this time that they carried an important trade in coal and large quantities were being shipped out to places such as Ireland. Lloyd, Sir John, E. (N.D.).

Llanelli grew further in the coal mining industry in the 18th and 19th century and later went on the tinplate industry and steel works. Llanelli significantly grew in the tinplate

industry that it was referred to as “Tinopolis” by the latter part of the 19th century. Jones, B: Lewis, R L. (May 2007).

In the mid 20th century, Llanelli was the largest town in the world that had over half the population speaking a celtic language University of wales press. (2008).

How Llanelli developed during to industrial revolution.

The 18th century saw the start of the industrial revolution, bringing change in working conditions, skills and environment to the people of Great Britain. The industrial revolution started for Llanelli when Englishman Alexander Raby came to Llanelli around 1796 to gamble his fortune in the coal and iron industries.

Llanelli was already known in the coal mining industry, this could have been the reason that Raby relocated from Cobham, He had worked in a number of coal mines on the Stradey Estate, and it was on the Stradey estate that he centered his industrial operations. After taking over the ironworks in 1796, Raby pushed them to maximum output during the time of the French wars, producing armaments for the war effort. John, L. (2018).

By the beginning of the 19th century Raby's empire was rapidly expanding, he had constructed a new forge at Sandy, where pig iron was converted into wrought iron to be rolled into bars and rails. He constructed Carmarthenshire dock then known locally as Squire Raby's dock, he installed one of Trevithick's new high-pressure steam engines at Caebad colliery and he set up tram links to all his sites, from furnaces to his dock and Llanelli experienced a population boom, as the small town went from a population of under 500 in 1795 to just under 3000 by 1801. John, L. (2018).

The decline of Llanelli through the 20th century.

The 1980's saw a recession that was the worst in Britain since the great depression of the 1930's, where unemployment tripled, government support for the industry was cut, productivity declined and pits were commonly encountering coal seams that were difficult to exploit and collieries began to close down. IISD. (2017).

The end of world war II marked the rapid decline of the welsh coal mining industry due to economic factors such as foreign coal being cheaper than welsh coal and it was becoming increasingly necessary to mine very deep in order to reach good quality coal, health and safety issues were increasingly closing down remaining mines, Mines were being nationalized and reclaimed by the government. Essays, UK. (november 2018).

Once the pits were closed down, families lost their main source of income and without trade the miners brought in businesses were going bankrupt, many were forced to leave rural areas in search of work and it was very difficult for those who stayed to remain in work due to lack of qualifications. Whole communities broke down. Essays, Uk. (november 2018).

Tata Steel Llanelli and Port Talbot.

Tata steel imports coal, iron ore and limestone all over the world and also recycles the steel that the council collect across wales, Tata steel recycle energy from the steelmaking process to heat their offices. Jones, N. (2019).

The steelmaking process starts with making pig iron by using coal to heat the furnaces and iron ore to smelt into pig iron, limestone powder is used to remove impurities during this process, the pig iron is then put into torpedo tubes of upto 300 tonnes, which is then taken by train to the Port Talbot plant, where it is turned into steel coils. Coils are then shipped by train to Torstre to be made into tinplate for the steel canning industry. Jones, N. (2019).

The Wetlands centre.

WWT Wetlands centre Llanelli, is one of nine wetland nature reserves in the UK, The wetland centre has played a huge part of the regeneration of Llanelli, it brings in visitors and capital and preserves the wildlife/land.

Llanelli wetland nature reserve is set over 500 acres site on the burry inlet estuary, this includes walks, visitor centre and bird hides. Seearoundbritian (n.d.).

The wetlands centre is home to birds and wildlife from all around the world, rare birds are breed to protect the species.

Conclusion.

Llanelli grew importance and saw a boom in their population during the coal mining industry in Wales, but then it declined dramatically through the 20th century as mines were closed down.

Since there have been some regeneration to llanelli through businesses such as Tata steel and organisations such as the wetlands centre.

Although the coal mining industry in some ways made Llanelli it was not sustainable and had to come to an end, leaving families devastated and unable to find work in their hometowns.

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