



The Salt Works re-opened June 2015 which marks the end of a four-year, £10.23m project by Cheshire West and Chester Council to restore the crumbling 19th century buildings – one of the last three historic open-pan salt-making sites in the world. The site's unique industrial heritage and the fact that it presents the survival of salt practices passed hand-to-hand back to the Romans is recognised by the Museum. It has also been granted Scheduled Ancient Monument status.

This new 'living museum' gives a fascinating and fresh insight into the story of salt, explaining the national significance of Cheshire's salt industry and how it shaped the local people, economy and landscape.

This is brought to life in the Museum with fun, interactive and imaginative educational exhibits, including a walk-in 'subsiding house'. Theatrical lighting, sound and film also evoke the giant clouds of steam once produced by the site's huge salt-boiling pans.

The extensive Museum comprises two restored pan houses and three restored stove houses. The Red Lion Pub at the entrance to the site (and for which the salt works is named) has also been incorporated as an education centre.

To appeal to a wide range of audiences, the Museum also contains an established Butterfly Garden, imaginatively-designed play area and café. Visitors to the site have free access to these areas. A conference centre, located in one of the historic Stove Houses has already been the subject of pre-bookings from a wide range of local, business and specialist interest groups. Adjacent to the Trent & Mersey Canal, visitors arriving by canal can moor adjacent to the site, entering via a gate directly from the towpath.

The Museum will feature a regular programme of year-round events, including 'salt boiling days', themed play provision and an evolving calendar of events and activities.

