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*Between memory and oblivion.
A comparison of methods of transforming post-mining areas
based on selected post-industrial regions in Germany and England*

Abstract

This article addresses the issue of the regeneration of post-mining areas in the context of contemporary strategies for the revitalisation of post-industrial areas. The starting point is the assumption that post-mining areas represent not only a spatial and environmental challenge, but also a significant vehicle for cultural and social heritage. The aim of the article is to assess whether regions with seemingly similar characteristics – in terms of the scale of industrialisation, spatial structure and historical significance – have developed similar models for the transformation of post-mining areas, which may also constitute an element of regional identity.

The research was based on a comparative analysis of the regeneration processes of former hard coal mining areas in two European post-industrial regions: the Ruhr Area in Germany and the regions of West and South Yorkshire in England. The time frame covers the period from the late 1980s to the present day, with particular emphasis on initiatives implemented after 1990. The analysis examined trends in spatial transformation, methods of adapting post-mining infrastructure and descriptions of new functions.

The research findings indicate a marked diversity in approaches to the regeneration of post-mining areas across the regions analysed. Despite similar initial conditions, the strategies adopted differ both in terms of development forms and in the ways in which mining heritage is interpreted. The analysis confirmed that there is no universal model for the transformation of post-mining areas and that effective regeneration requires a bespoke approach in each case, taking into account the local historical, social and spatial context.

Key words: industrial heritage, the Ruhr region, Yorkshire, regeneration, heritage policy

Introduction

European regions that were once major centres of the mining industry have, since the mid-20th century, undergone intensive processes of transformation at several levels and to varying degrees. The unprofitability of mines and fierce competition from mining companies in other parts of the world triggered the decline of the mining industry in Western Europe.

In Germany, the crisis in hard coal mining began in the late 1950s. The largest mining region, the Ruhr, underwent major changes. As recently as 1958, coal production stood at almost 150 million tonnes per year. The sharpest decline in production – by more than half – was recorded by 1968.

Consequently, the restructuring company Ruhrkohle AG (RAG) was established to assist with the transition and prevent rising unemployment (Oei, Brauers and Herpich 2020, 963–979). This marked the beginning of major changes in the German mining sector. Mines were gradually closed, while programmes were introduced to prevent unemployment and support the retraining of workers. This process was accelerated by the crisis of the 1970s, the challenges associated with German reunification in the 1990s, and subsequent European Union regulations in the 21st century. The last mines in the Ruhr region were closed in 2018 (Oei, Brauers and Herpich 2020, 963–979).

The second half of the 1950s also marked the beginning of a decline in coal production in the United Kingdom. Production fell from over 220 million tonnes a year to around 150 million tonnes a year within a dozen or so years (Ritchie 2019). West and South Yorkshire were major coal-min-

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ing regions. The decline of the mining industry brought with it numerous problems and challenges. In 1993, the gross domestic product (GDP) of West Yorkshire was 7 percentage points below the European Union average at the time, while for South Yorkshire it was almost 20 percentage points lower (Parry 1996, 124). The last coal mine in England – Kellington Colliery – closed in 2015.

The scale of the transformations in these regions was immense, which had a negative impact on public sentiment and created tensions. Strikes broke out, particularly in England. The economic situation deteriorated, unemployment rose rapidly, and, as a result, the number of social problems also increased. The unfavourable situation was exacerbated by the closure of other industrial facilities closely linked to the mines, such as steelworks, coking plants and power stations (Waddington 2023, 432–464). In an attempt to mitigate the negative effects of the transition, the authorities sought to implement revitalisation programmes, many of which are still ongoing today. Now, after years of experience, it is clear that these measures have yielded mixed results.

The first comprehensive attempts to mitigate the effects of industrial transition were undertaken in the Ruhr region in 1968. At that time, a course of action was set out aimed at transforming the region, with a focus on improving residents' quality of life, enhancing transport and developing the education system. For example, a very large-scale regeneration programme with a strong environmental focus was the Internationale Bauausstellung Emscher Park, implemented between 1989 and 1999.

In England, comprehensive regeneration programmes began to be implemented in the 1990s. Government-funded organisations were established for this purpose, including the Coalfields Regeneration Trust. In 1990, the Environmental Protection Act was enacted, imposing a duty on local authorities to identify and remediate contaminated land (Burke et al. 2015, 321–331).

However, the regeneration of post-industrial areas in England involved not only spatial, environmental and economic interventions, but also issues relating to the local community. This was of particular significance in the case of mining areas, where the history of these places and the

way they functioned had shaped the identity of their inhabitants over a very long period. Indeed, one of several key criteria for regeneration is the social sphere (Gasidło et al. 2010, 233–245). This includes a sense of attachment to the region's heritage, traditions and history, which can influence the methods of transformation chosen and their outcomes. The spatial aspect of these transformations is equally important. The sites of closed mines have become problematic in terms of how they should be redeveloped. A large number of buildings, many of them listed, as well as roads, railway lines, undeveloped land and sites covered with waste, much of it hazardous, are among the main elements remaining from hard coal mining operations. These elements are significant in the context of identity, as defined through the prism of residents' attachment to the post-mining heritage and the associated landscapes (Opania 2012). The methods used to transform these areas may differ between regions, even where the areas themselves appear to be similar in many respects.

This article focuses on regeneration, including the reclamation and restoration of post-industrial sites and structures in post-mining areas, as well as the related issue of preserving post-industrial mining heritage. The research covers the period from the late 1980s to the present day. It forms part of a wider study analysing trends in urban policymaking in the context of the transformation and creation of sustainable neighbourhoods in post-industrial cities with a polycentric structure.

Representative mining centres in Germany and England – countries that pioneered Europe's industrial development – were selected for the study. In Germany, the main mining area under investigation was the Ruhr region. In England, the study focused on the two regions of West and South Yorkshire, which together form a larger area in which the boundaries between individual mining centres are often blurred (Table 1). Both regions are characterised by a polycentric structure – an amorphous spatial arrangement resulting from industrial development and the distribution of hard coal deposits. Each has a long history of development associated with this industrial sector.

The aim of this study was to attempt to determine whether two seemingly similar post-industrial regions, both with a rich history of hard coal mining, are characterised by similar policies for the regeneration of post-mining areas.

Given the size of these regions, South and West Yorkshire account for around 75 per cent of the population and 81 per cent of the area of the Ruhr region. Individual regions in England could not be compared with a single German region, which further justifies grouping them together in this comparison.

State of research

An analysis of the current state of research indicates that the literature on this subject is dominated by an approach that involves a general comparison of the transformation processes of post-industrial areas in Europe, without clearly distinguishing post-mining areas – either at regional or national level. This perspective is adopted, among others, by Marta Chmielewska (Chmielewska 2015, 133–145) and

Table 1. Summary of figures relating to the centres under comparison in the mining regions of Germany and England (elaborated by K. Pieter, based on Referat Bildung... 2021; Office for National Statistics n.d.)
Tabela 1. Zestawienie danych liczbowych dotyczących porównywanych ośrodków w regionach górniczych Niemiec i Anglii (oprac. K. Pieter, na podstawie Referat Bildung... 2021; Office for National Statistics n.d.)

Region name	Population [mln]	Area [km ²]	Population density [persons/km ²]
Ruhr metropolitan area (Germany)	~ 5.1	~ 4439	~ 2100 in the central zone (value varies depending on the definition)
West Yorkshire	~ 2.4	~ 2029	~ 1182
South Yorkshire	~ 1.4	~ 1552	~ 902
West Yorkshire + South Yorkshire	~ 3.8	~ 3581	~ 1061

by Kean Birch, Danny MacKinnon and Andrew Cumbers (Birch, MacKinnon and Cumbers 2010, 35–53).

In contrast, in-depth studies most often narrow the scope of their analysis to a single region. Examples include Jay Emery's monograph (Emery 2020, 38), which focuses on community identity in former mining settlements, and Szymon Opania's work, which provides a comprehensive discussion of issues relating to post-mining areas in Upper Silesia (Opania 2012).

Studies directly focused on comparing the Ruhr region with South and West Yorkshire, as presented by Chas Critcher, Dave Parry and Dave Waddington, have largely become outdated today, as they fail to take into account significant spatial changes that have occurred in subsequent years (Critcher, Parry and Waddington 1999). Conversely, the authors of more recent studies on these regions do not undertake a direct comparison, focusing instead on other European industrial areas. An example is the article by Maciej Sołtysik and Katarzyna Mazur (Sołtysik, Mazur 2022, 45–49).

The findings cited above point to a clear research gap in the current comparative analysis of the processes of land transformation following former hard coal mining in the regions under study.

Methods

The research was carried out between October and December 2025 (including fieldwork between November and December 2024) and covered selected areas in two large post-industrial regions of Europe: in Germany (the Ruhr) and in England (West and South Yorkshire). The key criterion for selecting the sites was the presence of regeneration initiatives carried out from 1990 to the end of 2025, which enabled an analysis of transformation processes over a longer time horizon.

The analysis was conducted at two spatial scales: regional and local. At the regional scale, covering cities and metropolitan areas, a review of the relevant literature and planning documentation was carried out, alongside expert and community interviews, which enabled the identification of specific sites for further analysis. At the local level – concerning neighbourhoods, housing estates and industrial areas – an in-depth review of the literature and empirical research, including on-site observations, was carried out. Particular attention was paid to post-mining areas, which are strategically important for urban development, enabling a precise assessment of their functional and spatial transformations.

The research was based on three types of data: measurable data, qualitative data from on-site observations, and data obtained from community interviews. The measurable data included indicators such as site area, the number of structures and project completion dates, as well as other quantitative indicators. The qualitative data concerned the condition of the built environment, spatial functions and preserved elements of the industrial landscape, while community interviews enabled an analysis of public perceptions of the transformations, local experiences and views on changes in the urban landscape, and they also helped to narrow down the search for the sites under study.

The analysis also took into account the historical context of the sites under study, including their original industrial function, the duration of their operation and the course of the regeneration activities. Particular emphasis was placed on the chronology of the transformation – from the commencement of regeneration activities to the attainment of the current spatial form.

The selection of case studies for the research was based on three criteria. The first was the aforementioned period of the regeneration programme, covering the years 1990–2025. The second criterion concerned the size of the area being redeveloped, which was classified into three groups: up to 30 hectares (ha) (Group A), up to 100 ha (Group B) and over 100 ha (Group C). The final criterion was the nature of the site – former industrial areas were selected for analysis, where the buildings remained intact until the closure of the mine or industrial plant.

For each region (the Ruhr Area and West/South Yorkshire), three example sites were identified and described in the form of site profiles covering:

- the area of the site undergoing regeneration,
- the duration of the regeneration activities,
- post-transformation functions,
- the current spatial form and ownership of the site,
- the number of preserved buildings and infrastructure elements.

At the conclusion of the research, a comparison was made of the sites within each group, which enabled the identification of trends and differences in the approach to the regeneration of post-mining areas in both regions.

The regeneration of mines in the Ruhr region of Germany

The Osterfeld Mine in Oberhausen

The former Osterfeld mine and coking plant is classified as Group A. The site ceased operations in 1988 (Emscher-genossenschaft 2021), and in the 1990s work began on its conversion into OLGA Park in Oberhausen (Table 2). The project was carried out as part of the preparations for the 1999 Landesgartenschau exhibition (Oberhausen Tourismus n.d.; Stadt Oberhausen n.d.) and involved the conversion of post-industrial sites into a landscape park. During this process, selected elements of technical heritage were preserved, such as the administrative and social building for mining staff (Steigerhaus), the headframe (Förderturm) and the gatehouse (Pfortnerhaus). These elements, integrated into the park's layout, serve as spatial landmarks and physical testimonies to the region's industrial history (Fig. 1).

The process of revitalising brownfield sites, as exemplified by OLGA Park in Oberhausen, illustrates the regeneration of a former hard coal mine site, including the conversion of some of the existing buildings to new recreational, commercial and residential uses.

The Zollverein Coal Mine in Essen

The Zeche Zollverein industrial complex in Essen is classified as Group B in terms of area. It is one of the most

Table 2. Site profile for the Osterfeld mine
(elaborated by K. Pieter based on Oberhausen Tourismus n.d.)
Tabela 2. Karta obiektu dla kopalni Osterfeld
(oprac. K. Pieter na podstawie Oberhausen Tourismus n.d.)

Example	Zeche Osterfeld Olga Park, Oberhausen, Germany
Year of closure	1998
Transformation period	1992 – ongoing (as of the end of 2025)
Area undergoing transformation	26 ha
Functions after transformation	– recreational park (dominant function) – offices – housing – event venue
Spatial form	A distinctive shaft structure serving as a landmark visible from a considerable distance; mixed residential development – single-storey detached houses, - several-storey multi-family buildings; a park layout structured along two axes
Ownership, capital	Predominantly public and private
Preserved buildings	Headframe (mine shaft) with historic ancillary buildings (2 buildings); coal blending facility



Fig. 1. Redeveloped Osterfeld mine in Oberhausen, Germany
(photo by K. Pieter)

Il. 1. Przekształcona kopalnia Osterfeld, Oberhausen, Niemcy
(fot. K. Pieter)

representative examples of comprehensive regeneration and adaptation of post-mining sites on a European scale (Table 3). The hard coal mine, which operated from 1847 to 1986 and employed over 8,000 workers at the height of its development, was a vital economic pillar of the Ruhr region. The transformation process began immediately after mining operations ceased and involved systematic changes both in the mining area and within the coking works (Stiftung Zollverein n.d.) (Fig. 2).

The conservation strategy adopted for this area was based on preserving the integrity of the physical structure, including such architectural landmarks as the Tower of Shaft XII, the engine house buildings and the coking plant chimneys. The site's international cultural significance and the success

Table 3. Site profile for the Zollverein Colliery (elaborated by K. Pieter based on Stiftung Zollverein n.d.; Stadtplan Ruhr n.d.)
Tabela 3. Karta obiektu dla kopalni Zollverein (oprac. K. Pieter na podstawie Stiftung Zollverein n.d.; Stadtplan Ruhr n.d.)

Example	Zeche Zollverein Essen, Germany
Year of closure	1986
Transformation period	1990–2019
Area undergoing transformation	approx. 55 ha (excluding the coking plant site)
Functions after transformation	– museum (primary function), – shops, – offices, – park, – event venue
Spatial form	preserved layout of the former mine with its distinctive hoist shaft as the dominant feature
Ownership, capital	public
Preserved buildings	96 buildings (including the coking plant), including shaft towers, coking batteries, a coal washing plant and a coal sorting plant



Fig. 2. Redeveloped Zollverein mine in Essen, Germany
(photo by K. Pieter)

Il. 2. Przekształcona kopalnia Zollverein, Essen, Niemcy
(fot. K. Pieter)

of the adaptation measures undertaken were recognised in 2001 when the complex was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. These measures enabled the implementation of a model for assigning new and diversified socio-economic functions to historic industrial buildings.

Cultural and design institutions housed in the former industrial facilities have taken centre stage in the functional structure of the revitalised complex. The Zeche Zollverein Foundation, established by an institutional consortium comprising the city of Essen, the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia and the Regional Association of the Ruhr (RVR), was responsible for coordinating and managing the regeneration process.

The Nordstern Colliery in Gelsenkirchen

The site of the former Nordstern hard coal mine is classified as Group C. The mine operated until 1993. It became one of the sites where the IBA Emscherpark programme was implemented between 1989 and 1999 (Table 4). The site is situated alongside the Rhein-Herne Canal and the River Emscher. As part of the site's regeneration in 1991, an area of 4,000 m² was set aside for the BUGA horticultural exhibition (Stadt Gelsenkirchen 2017). The site opened in 1997, and over one million visitors attended the exhibition within 170 days (Stadt Gelsenkirchen n.d.). Two city districts were also linked, enabling the creation of a network of footpaths and cycle routes forming part of a comprehensive plan for the entire metropolitan area (Fig. 3).

In the years that followed, further measures were undertaken to improve the quality of the natural environment, including those aimed at the renaturalisation of the River Emscher. The park was expanded to include further attractions, the historic mine shaft was restored, and commercial premises were created in the former industrial buildings. In addition, new commercial buildings were constructed in the area. These changes also contributed to the gentrification of the historic workers' housing estate located near the central part of the mine site.

Revitalisation of mines in West and South Yorkshire, England

The Prince of Wales Mine in Pontefract, West Yorkshire

Due to its surface area, this mine was classified as Group A (Table 5). The mine commenced operations in the 1870s and was closed in 2002 due to geological problems preventing the further extraction of the remaining coal seams. Following the cessation of mining operations, the mine site, covering a total area of approximately 47 ha, was designated for regeneration. This process began in 2013 (Pedley 2025).

The site in question has been divided into two main zones: the area of the former mine (pit yard), covering 18.2 ha and designated for residential development, and the remaining areas designated for commercial development in the form of a logistics centre. The mine spoil tip has also been reclaimed (Fig. 4).

Table 4. Site profile for the Nordstern mine (elaborated by K. Pieter based on Stadt Gelsenkirchen n.d.; Stadtplan Ruhr n.d.)

Tabela 4. Karta obiektu dla kopalni Nordstern (oprac. K. Pieter na podstawie Stadt Gelsenkirchen n.d.; Stadtplan Ruhr n.d.)

Example	Zeche Nordstern Nordstern Park, Gelsenkirchen
Year of closure	1993
Transformation period	1991 – ongoing (as of the end of 2025)
Area undergoing transformation	~100 ha
Functions after transformation	– offices (dominant function) – park – event venue
Spatial form	A mine shaft serving as a spatial landmark; an extensive park area along the Emscher River and canal; a distinctive landmark element in the form of a bridge connecting the areas on opposite banks of the river
Ownership, capital	predominantly public and private
Preserved buildings	7, including a coal bunker and blending facility, 2 headframes, and workshop and administrative buildings



Fig. 3. Redeveloped Nordstern mine in Gelsenkirchen, Germany (photo by K. Pieter)

Il. 3. Przekształcona kopalnia Nordstern, Gelsenkirchen, Niemcy (fot. K. Pieter)

Table 5. Site profile for the Prince of Wales Mine (elaborated by K. Pieter based on Pedley 2025)
Tabela 5. Karta obiektu dla kopalni Prince of Wales (oprac. K. Pieter na podstawie Pedley 2025)

Example	Prince of Wales Colliery Pontefract, West Yorkshire, England
Year of closure	2002
Transformation period	2013 – ongoing (as of the end of 2025)
Area undergoing transformation	18.2 ha (47 ha including subsequent phases)
Functions after transformation	– housing (dominant function) – recreational areas
Spatial form	low-rise terraced housing, lack of clearly defined communal areas; the spatial form of a logistics centre characteristic of warehouse facilities, together with road infrastructure
Ownership, capital	private
Preserved buildings	none



Fig. 4. Redeveloped Prince of Wales Colliery, Pontefract, England (photo by Derek Dye, source: www.geograph.org.uk/p/5652321, CC-BY-SA/2.0; accessed: September 5, 2026)

II. 4. Przekształcona kopalnia Prince of Wales, Pontefract, Anglia (fot. Derek Dye, źródło: www.geograph.org.uk/p/5652321, CC-BY-SA/2.0; data dostępu: 5 września 2026)

The Harworth Colliery in Harworth

This colliery was classified as Group B. Coal mining began there in the 1920s, and the site was closed in 2006. Following the cessation of mining operations, the site, covering an area of approximately 70 ha, was earmarked for regeneration (Table 6). In 2011, planning permission was granted for the development of the site, including residential and commercial buildings as well as public spaces. The regeneration process began in 2013, when work commenced on the construction of terraced housing estates (NHBC 2024) (Fig. 5).

The site of the former mine required comprehensive reclamation work, including the removal of industrial infrastructure and soil decontamination. Work was also carried out to remove two deep mine shafts and to remediate

Table 6. Site profile for the Harworth mine (elaborated by K. Pieter based on WYG Environment Planning Transport 2020)
Tabela 6. Karta obiektu dla kopalni Harworth (oprac. K. Pieter na podstawie WYG Environment Planning Transport 2020)

Example	Harworth Colliery Simpson Park, Bircotes, Doncaster, Anglia
Year of closure	2006
Transformation period	2011 – ongoing (as of the end of 2025)
Area undergoing transformation	43.28 ha
Functions after transformation	– housing (predominant use) – recreational areas – shops
Spatial form	low-rise terraced housing, communal areas in the form of squares in front of retail spaces, a main axis serving as a landmark, recreational space comprising a park and a pond
Ownership, capital	private
Preserved buildings	none



Fig. 5. Redeveloped Harworth colliery, Bircotes, England (photo by Bill Boaden, source: www.geograph.org.uk/p/6268157, CC-BY-SA/2.0; accessed: September 5, 2026)

II. 5. Przekształcona kopalnia Harworth, Bircotes, Anglia (fot. Bill Boaden, źródło: www.geograph.org.uk/p/6268157, CC-BY-SA/2.0; data dostępu: 5 września 2026)

the site of the former coking plant (WYG Environment Planning Transport 2020).

The Ogreave Colliery in Waverley, Rotherham

This is a Group C colliery. It closed in 2002, but regeneration programmes had already begun to be implemented here in the mid-1990s (Table 7). The area has undergone a transformation, becoming primarily a residential neighbourhood. The regeneration processes are being carried out in phases by the Harworth Group across an area of approximately 300 ha (NHBC 2024) (Fig. 6).

By 2025, over 1,800 flats had been completed (Harworth Group n.d.) along with a primary school, while plans envisage the construction of over 3,800 flats in total (We Are Waverley n.d.).

Conclusions

Comparing the above examples, two distinct trends can be observed in the way post-mining areas are being transformed – each characteristic of one of the two regions (Table 8). The first of these, observed in the Ruhr region, focuses on the reuse of existing structures and a regeneration approach characterised by a greater emphasis on conservation, preservation of the existing landscape and the development of tourism potential. This is supported by numerous institutions and substantial financial contributions from central government and local authorities. Co-operation between the various stakeholders has enabled the regeneration of selected post-mining areas and the successful creation of valuable landmarks on the region's industrial heritage map.

The second trend, typical of the English regions under discussion, is not characterised by a focus on the protection and preservation of the tangible heritage of the mining industry. In South and West Yorkshire, few traces of the former mines remain today. The main outcomes of the redevelopment are residential properties and logistics centres. Extensive marketing campaigns are being carried out to facilitate the rapid sale of properties and maximise profits, with no reference to the region's heritage or industrial history of hard coal mining in the region. An example of this is a document setting out guidelines for development on the site of the former Hartworth Colliery (Simpson Park n.d.), in which no mention is made of the site's historical function. Furthermore, relatively few museums have been established as part of the regeneration of former English hard coal mines.

During discussions with experts and community interviews, the English interviewees highlighted important historical aspects. Attempts at restructuring led by the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, resulted in mass redundancies and protests. Demonstrations were often suppressed quite brutally. This may have contributed to a lack of trust in the authorities and a reluctance within the mining community to confront its difficult past. Furthermore, private entities focused on generating profits from the sale and trading of property are very active in England. This is demonstrated by the findings of the research – all the examples analysed are being redeveloped with the involvement of private

Table 7. Site profile for the Ogreave mine
(elaborated by K. Pieter based on Harworth Group n.d.)
Tabela 7. Karta obiektu dla kopalni Ogreave
(oprac. K. Pieter na podstawie Harworth Group n.d.)

Example	Ogreave Colliery Rotherham, Waverley, England
Year of closure	2002
Transformation period	1995 – ongoing (as of the end of 2025)
Area undergoing transformation	~300 ha
Functions after transformation	– housing (predominant use) – recreational areas – schools – shops – small businesses – warehouse and logistics park
Spatial form	low-rise terraced housing, low-rise multi-family housing, a small pedestrian-only high street, recreational areas in the form of a park, the spatial layout of the logistics centre characteristic of warehouse facilities, together with road infrastructure
Ownership, capital	private
Preserved buildings	none



Fig. 6. Redeveloped Ogreave colliery, Rotherham, England
(photo by John Jennings, source: www.geograph.org.uk/p/3046908, CC-BY-SA/2.0; accessed: September 5, 2026)

Il. 6. Przekształcona kopalnia Ogreave. Rotherham, Anglia
(fot. John Jennings, źródło: www.geograph.org.uk/p/3046908, CC-BY-SA/2.0; data dostępu: 5 września 2026)

Table 8. Summary table of site profiles for comparable post-mining areas (elaborated by K. Pieter)
Tabela 8. Podsumowanie kart obiektów porównywanych terenów poprzemysłowych (oprac. K. Pieter)

Name of the colliery	Region	Main use of the redeveloped site	Have the existing structures been preserved?	Developer
Zeche Osterfeld	Ruhr area	recreation	yes	public
Zeche Zollverein	Ruhr area	museum	yes	public
Zeche Nordstern	Ruhr area	offices	yes	public
Prince of Wales Colliery	West Yorkshire	residential areas	no	private
Harworth Colliery	South Yorkshire	residential areas	no	private
Ogreave Colliery	West Yorkshire	residential areas	no	private

capital. The policies adopted by the UK government may also have influenced the objectives of the redevelopment projects. In 1998, a national target was introduced stipulating that 60 per cent of new housing developments should be built on brownfield sites, i.e., areas previously used for industrial production in the context of industrial sites.

This does not mean that the examples cited above represent the only model for the redevelopment of former hard coal mining sites in Germany and England. In these regions, there are also sites that have been redeveloped in other ways, although these are in the minority. Examples include the artificially created lake Phoenix See on the site of the former Phoenix-Ost steelworks in Dortmund and the National Coal Mining Museum for England in Overton, Wakefield.

The comparative perspective employed in the research enables the identification of both the common challenges associated with the decline of the mining industry and the diversity of solutions developed in selected regions of Europe.

Summary

The research carried out indicates that the history and identity of post-mining areas are neither homogeneous nor universal, and cannot be directly applied in different regional contexts. Both the course of industrialisation and the social dimension of mining operations, as well as the process of their phasing out, have shaped distinct narratives of

place and forms of local identity. When devising strategies for the transformation of post-mining areas, it is essential to consider their tangible and intangible heritage on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region. At the same time, however, the need to restore the degraded environment and reintegrate these areas into social and spatial life is universal, regardless of location.

The research findings presented here have made it possible to expand existing knowledge by comparing the ways in which former hard coal mining sites have been redeveloped in two regions that had not previously been compared. A clear difference was also demonstrated in the treatment of mining heritage and history depending on the specific region.

However, it was not possible to determine the impact of the failure to preserve post-industrial sites and the methods of regeneration on the process of shaping residents' identity and awareness of the history of the regions in question, as this is a long-term process.

Two directions for future research can therefore be identified as particularly significant for the continuation of research on this topic. The first concerns the need for further research into the social perception of industrial heritage in different cultural contexts of post-industrial areas. The second involves an analysis of urban policy and the role of non-governmental organisations in heritage conservation processes, particularly in the context of preserving local identity and raising residents' awareness of their heritage.

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Streszczenie

Miedzy pamięcią a zapomnieniem. Porównanie sposobów przekształceń terenów pogórnich na podstawie wybranych przemysłowych regionów Niemiec i Anglii

W artykule podjęto problematykę przekształceń terenów pogórnich w kontekście współczesnych strategii rewitalizacji, obszarów przemysłowych. Punktem wyjścia jest założenie, że tereny poeksploatacyjne stanowią nie tylko wyzwanie przestrzenne i środowiskowe, lecz także istotny nośnik dziedzictwa kulturowego i społecznego. Celem artykułu jest ocena, czy regiony o podobnych uwarunkowaniach – pod względem skali industrializacji, struktury przestrzennej i znaczenia historycznego – wykształciły zbliżone modele transformacji terenów pogórnich, które mogą również stanowić element tożsamości regionalnej.

Badania oparto na analizie porównawczej procesów rewitalizacji dawnych terenów wydobywania węgla kamiennego w dwóch europejskich regionach przemysłowych: Zagłębiu Ruhry w Niemczech oraz regionach West i South Yorkshire w Anglii. Zakres czasowy obejmuje okres od końca lat osiemdziesiątych XX w. do współczesności, ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem działań realizowanych po 1990 r. Analizie poddano kierunki przekształceń przestrzennych, sposoby adaptacji infrastruktury pogórnich oraz opis nowych funkcji.

Wyniki badań wskazują na wyraźne zróżnicowanie sposobów podejścia do rewitalizacji terenów pogórnich w analizowanych regionach. Pomimo podobnych uwarunkowań wyjściowych, przyjęte strategie różnią się zarówno w zakresie form zagospodarowania, jak i sposobów interpretacji dziedzictwa górniczego. Dzięki analizie potwierdzono, że nie istnieje uniwersalny model przekształceń terenów pogórnich, a skuteczna rewitalizacja wymaga każdorazowo indywidualnego programu, uwzględniającego lokalny kontekst historyczny, społeczny i przestrzenny.

Słowa kluczowe: dziedzictwo przemysłowe, Zagłębie Ruhry, Yorkshire, rewitalizacja, polityka w zakresie dziedzictwa

