Industrial archaeology originated in Britain in the 1950s, after the post-war preoccupation with renewal had led to the destruction of much of the landscape associated with early industrialization. This article considers the dichotomy of industrial archaeology in being both an academic study of the ways in which people lived and worked in the past through the physical remains which survive into the present and at the same time a conservation movement to protect and interpret those remains. It is argued that the discipline has now developed from a purely amateur pastime into a more mature schol...