Cornwall Industrial Settlements Initiative
POOL
(Camborne/Redruth Area)

March 2002
CORNWALL INDUSTRIAL SETTLEMENTS INITIATIVE
Conservation Area Partnership

Name: POOL
Council: Kerrier District Council
Location: Mid-west Cornwall, between Camborne and Redruth on the A3047

Study Area: Camborne/Redruth
NGR: SW 6641
Existing CA?: No (Carn Brea adjoining to the south is a CA)

Main period of industrial settlement growth: 18th century - 1910
Main industry: Mining

Industrial history and significance
Pool was one of the earliest and greatest of the copper mining areas, turning to tin in the later 19th century. It has also been shaped by both early and 19th century tin streaming works. It is, therefore, particularly interesting because its townscape is not only constrained but also intruded on by the mining industry. It was home to some of the greatest of Cornwall’s engineers and was the birthplace of Richard Trevithick. It also enjoys an unusually high survival rate of all phases of its development.

Other comments
The settlement’s individual identity from Illogan Highway and Tuckingmill requires protection with measures to control the extension of built development between the settlements and into the surrounding countryside, and to reinforce its historic core by re-thinking any future traffic management and/redevelopment schemes.

This settlement will either form part of the proposed Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Bid, or will be considered an important part of the context for the Bid.

Recommendations
Historic areas
• Designate conservation area (CA) (include adjoining mine sites)
• Prepare a full CA appraisal

Historic buildings
• Review Statutory List
• Prepare list of locally significant buildings

Policy and management
• Article 4 Direction to control permitted development on single dwelling houses and alteration and partial demolition of small buildings and walls in CA
• Limit development in the open countryside adjacent to Pool
• Protection and management of the area of grass to the front and side of Cornwall College
• A scheme of street lighting/furniture to enhance Pool's individual identity

• Derelict land management and development to be based on a thorough understanding of unique historical and archaeological importance of the sites and value to the setting of Pool

• Expand and develop the existing series of town and industrial heritage trails; promote the links with major historical figures, especially Trevithick

• Clarify the status of back lanes, footpaths and alleys as part of the promotion of town trails, guides and walks

• Further study to cover adjoining areas, especially the area of smallholdings and industrial hamlets to the south of Pool
Conservation Area Partnership

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The Cahill Partnership
and
Cornwall Archaeological Unit

March 2002
Acknowledgements

This report presents the results of an assessment carried out by Mary Cahill for The Cahill Partnership following desktop research by Cornwall Archaeological Unit (John Smith and Bryn Perry Tapper). Assistance was also provided by Andrew Richards, Kerrier District Council. The report text was prepared by Mary Cahill, with additional material by Nick Cahill, for The Cahill Partnership and edited by Jeanette Ratcliffe (CAU Senior Archaeologist and CISI Project Manager). The report maps were produced by John Brinkhoff and Martin Bunt (CCC Planning Directorate Technical Services Section) from roughs prepared by The Cahill Partnership.

Front cover illustration

Pool, looking north, with Bickford’s and Palmer’s shafts of South Crofty mine in the foreground, East Pool and Taylor’s shaft to right and right background

(CAU ABP/56/98 SW 66 41)

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<td>Listed Building</td>
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<td>OS</td>
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[1] Site number on Figure 4 and in the gazetteer (Appendix 2)
1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Cornwall's industrial settlements are the subject of a Conservation Area Partnership under the heading Cornwall Industrial Settlements Initiative (CISI). This partnership between English Heritage (with the Heritage Lottery Fund), Cornwall County Council, and the District Councils is intended to assess the character and significance of the County's 112 industrial settlements. These include villages, ports and towns associated with Cornwall’s 19th century industrial revolution, based on metalliferous mining, slate and granite quarrying, and china clay extraction. The historic importance and distinctive character of such settlements has previously been undervalued, and their existing status does not adequately represent the industrial history of the county. CISI is aimed at redressing this imbalance.

1.2 Project aims

The aim of CISI is to produce a settlement by settlement analysis in order to obtain an overview of the history, present character and importance of Cornwall's industrial settlements. This will help determine where, for example, new Conservation Areas should be designated (and existing ones revised), and could provide the basis for Conservation Area Statements (to be drawn up subsequently by District Conservation Officers).

A bid is being prepared for submission to UNESCO by February 2004 (for inscription in June 2005). The bid areas will include the full range of 18th-20th century mining landscape components, including the settlements that were created or rapidly expanded as a result of mining and its associated industries. All mining settlements are of significance to the World Heritage Site Bid – those that fall within the final Bid areas will be covered by the WHS Management Plan, while those that fall outside these areas will form part of the context for the World Heritage Site and will need to be sensitively managed in the light of this.

1.3 Project methodology

The methodology involved historical research, followed by a site visit(s). For the historical research, a date range of 1750 to 1945 was chosen, as this represented the period of industrial growth and decline in Cornwall. Archaeological and historical sources housed at CCC (see Appendix 2) were consulted, together with Listed Building data supplied by the District Councils. Using this information, Ordnance Survey base maps were hand coloured to show: the different phases of historical development; surviving historic components from each development phase; archaeological sites, key historic buildings, and statutory designations. These maps (which formed the basis for Figures 2-4), together with copies of the primary sources consulted, were bound into a folder for each settlement, for use during site visits.

The focus of the site visits was to assess settlement character and consider ways in which this could be protected and enhanced in the future. This was achieved using a checklist drawn from Conservation Area Practice: English Heritage’s guidance on the management of Conservation Areas (1995) and Conservation Area Management - A Practical Guide (published by the English Towns Forum, 1998). The maps compiled during the historical phase were enhanced during the site visits, particularly with information relating to the survival and significance of historic buildings, and a general record was made of each settlement. Meetings on site were arranged with the District Conservation Officers in order to discuss current initiatives and recommendations for future management.

1.4 Date of Assessment

Pool was assessed and a draft report produced as part of CISI during autumn 2000
2 Location and setting

2.1 Geographical location
Pool is located in mid-west Cornwall approximately one mile to the north-west of Carn Brea between Tuckingmill and Illogan Highway on the A3047. It lies within Carn Brea Parish in Kerrier District; see Figure 1.

2.2 Landscape setting
The Camborne-Redruth conurbation spreads along the relatively narrow mineralised shelf sloping northwards to the sea, on the northern side of the Carnmenellis/Carn Brea granite upland. The settlements here are strung out along the old cross-county road (now the A3047), turnpiked in 1839, which follows a slight ridgeline within the plateau. Cutting north-south across this relatively gently sloping landscape are a number of narrow, deeply-cut river valleys, their sides made even more steep by centuries of exploitation for tin streaming and tailing and various other industrial processes. Pool stands in the upper reaches of one of these valleys; not as deep or as steeply sloping as some adjacent valley settlements (Tuckingmill or Tolgus, for instance), the valley is nevertheless an overriding topographical feature.

The Carn forms an imposing backdrop to the settlement but is separated from it by the railway that forms a physical barrier to further development in that direction. The moor is characterised by typical upland small fields and areas of impenetrable scrub. To the north the A30, which is raised at this point, constitutes the other man-made barrier. There has also been a significant amount of land reclamation, sweeping away large mine dumps. The landscape is rich in remains of the mining landscape with the chimneys of Tin Croft and Carn Brea Mines forming a backdrop to the village, as well as the industrial estates that have been developed on redundant sites.

3 History and physical development (Fig 2)
This section should be read in conjunction with the mapped historical development in Fig 2.

3.1 Pre-1809
3.1.1 Mining
From at least the Middle Ages there was tin streaming activity in this area. In the late 17th century, though, the scale of the local mining industry changed with the advent of copper mining. Due to the depth of the ore, this necessitated the sinking of deep shafts and adits, which also stimulated the local development of engineering skills. Copper mining was undertaken on a much larger scale than tin extraction had ever been in this area, and a far greater number of people was needed to raise and process the equivalent volume of copper than for tin. Pool was one of the earliest areas in this rapid expansion of copper production with a number of large producers already well established by the 1720s, at which time Pool Mine was recorded as being one of three principal copper producers in Cornwall. Between 1710 and 1720 an adit was cut from the Red River valley at Tuckingmill east to Pool Mine, stimulating production at a number of other important mines, including Trevenson. Profits from this adit alone are said to have financed the re-building of Tehidy Mansion. In the 1740s Borlase said that Pool was 'one of the first and greatest copper mines, which has turned out considerable profits this 40 years'. Between 1740 and 1778 Cook's Kitchen, Dudnance, Longclose, Trevenson, Old Pool, Pool Adit, Old Penhellick and Penhellick (later known as Tin Croft) mines were all profitable copper producers. However, unable to compete with the newly developed Parys Mountain copper works in Anglesey, the Pool mines had all closed by the late 1780s. By 1809, therefore, deep copper mining in Pool had been in abeyance for over 20 years. While this must have caused some retrenchment in the local population and settlement, other factors seem in part to have compensated, in particular tin streaming continued apace all along the course of the stream and valley, and Nicholas Holman...
set up a foundry in 1801, soon associated with Richard Trevithick’s experimental high-pressure engines.

3.1.2 Extent of settlement
The 1809 OS Survey drawings show Pool as a nucleated settlement concentrated around the central cross-roads, bounded by the sites of mines to the west (Old Penhellick); the south-west (Tin Croft); and the east (East Pool and Agar). Trevenson House, the home of the Bassets’ estate steward, was being rebuilt on an enlarged plan at approximately this time and its extensive grounds account for the lack of development to the north-west of Pool. Although the mines were effectively out of use in 1809, with only small-scale production, for instance at Wheal Fortune (Wheal Agar), their workings still permeated and dominated the settlement itself as well as surrounding it. For example, there is evidence for mine shafts in the present day yards of the Plume of Feathers Inn and the Basset Arms. Tin streaming was active all along the valley bottom throughout the period. This immediate presence of the mines and streaming works was the biggest single factor in the emerging morphology of the settlement, acting as a constraint on the spread of development. Outside the village core there was a mix of farms such as Treloweth Farm and Lower Tregajorran and miners’ smallholdings, including Trevithick’s birthplace just off Station Road.

3.1.3 Settlement function and characteristics
At the beginning of the study period Pool was already a small but flourishing village at the centre of an established copper industry. Despite the setbacks in the copper industry in the late 18th century, it was still relatively thriving by 1809, with two inns, two blacksmiths, a well-known foundry and a malt house. Its location on the ‘great Western Road’ (1791 British Directory) explains its character as much more than a simple miners’ settlement, including the existence, still, of a number of large 18th century houses in the core area. Trevenson Church, a chapel of ease to Illogan Church, can also be dated to 1806-09, suggesting that there was a need to accommodate an expanding population at that time. The house and church are reminders of the Bassets’ role in promoting both the mines and settlement.

3.2 1809-41
3.2.1 Mining
Recovery in the local copper mines began in the 1820s. The old mines west of Pool combined in 1823 to create East Wheal Crofty, which had become a major producer by about 1830, employing over 1000 people by 1838. In 1835 East Pool was opened on the Old Pool sett, although the old mine site west of Carn Brea Lane was abandoned and a new complex built to the east, almost immediately profitable. Wheal Agar to the north-east of Pool was re-developed in 1836, employing some 55 people. Other, more distant and larger mines, such as Tincroft, Cook’s Kitchen and Carn Brea, were also experiencing a boom in the 1820s and 1830s that may have given employment in Pool. Building on early associations with Holman and Trevithick, the Pool area seems to have become something of a centre of excellence in engineering terms; other major figures associated with the village in the early/mid 19th century included Arthur Woolfe, William Brunton and the Tangye family.

3.2.2 Extent of settlement
The rapid and much increased scale of copper mining in and around Pool created an almost immediate need for workers in large numbers and concentrated in a small area – the traditional pattern of scattered hamlets and smallholdings proving inadequate - development was concentrated around the old centre. There was both informal minor expansion along the main roads and into the northern end of Carn Brea Lane, contained there by the dumps from the East Pool mine, and a formally laid-out development - the Pumpfield Rows. These are shown as substantially complete, although still being built, on the 1841 Tithe Award Map, and made use of
the only land available to the north of Pool that wasn’t being mined or in the grounds of Trevenson House, including the site of some old tin-streaming works.

3.2.3 Settlement function and characteristics
The central core of Pool continued to be an important staging and service centre on the main road and for the surrounding mines, with inns, shops, smithies and some good quality houses. Infilling this core, and being added to the outskirts, was a new element of relatively large numbers of workers’ housing. Unusually for this part of Cornwall, there was still no Methodist chapel in Pool by 1841, perhaps a measure of the control exercised by the Anglican Basset interests.

3.3 1841-1877
3.3.1 Mining
This was to be a time of mixed fortunes with continued development in the first half of this period (with East Pool for instance employing 300 workers in 1843), and mergers, consolidation and some expansion in the second. Mining concerns bought up struggling neighbouring mines in order to keep the pumps running and thus ensure the survival of their own mines. In such a case, in 1854, South Crofty was formed out of Dudnance, Longelose and Cook’s Kitchen mines. (This should not be confused with South Crofty, as we know it today, which is on the site of New Cook’s Kitchen Mine.) Although their histories are very poorly recorded, it appears that there was a resurgence in the period up to 1877 in the tin streaming works in the area to the north of Lower Tregajorran and also from the north-west of Treloweth Farm to Trevenson Church. This mirrored a shift in focus from copper to tin mining in the area, particularly in the 1860s. Local mines continued to develop and sink new shafts, providing employment and merchanting opportunities for the local population. In 1862 a new shaft was sunk at East Pool. Despite the discovery of tin in Australia and the resulting county-wide slump in tin production South Crofty continued to expand with new arsenic flues, stacks and a tramway and, in 1877, four new engine houses.

Apart from the small engineering workshops and smithies in and around Pool, the only significant mining-related industry locally was the small fuse works in Carn Brea Avenue founded by William Brunton, also noteworthy (with his son of the same name) as an inventor and engineer.

3.3.2 Extent of development
During this period the village spread to the south along the east side of Carn Brea Lane (the west side still being used for tin streaming and tailings works), bringing the formerly separated hamlets around Lower Tregajorran into the settlement area. Development also took place along the main east-west road, still constrained by the working mines, while more infilling took place in the core area. By the end of the period, apart from the area of Trevithick Road in the north-east end of the village, Pool had largely reached its fullest extent.

3.3.3 Settlement function and characteristics
Pool’s population expansion and increased status is reflected with the opening of two Methodist chapels in 1862 in Carn Brea Lane and Fore Street, the latter being further expanded in 1865. The 18th century charitable school founded by the Bassets for Illogan parish had been using the stables and vestry to Trevenson Church since 1844, a measure of the relative increase in importance of Pool over the churchtown at Illogan. By 1877, two new schools had been built in Church Road. The expanding mining settlement, with its problems of drunkenness on pay day, had required the building of a lock-up in 1843, later replaced by a police station on the corner of Carn Brea Lane and Station Road. The central area continued to be a local service and retailing centre with an increasing number of shops, including grocers, drapery stores and a post office.
Alongside the increase in public facilities and functions in Pool, the new mining and commercial middle classes were being accommodated in larger houses, while the miners’ cottages themselves reflected increasing standards of pay and conditions. For example, in both Fore Street and Carn Brea Lane the houses were larger half-houses and even the row in Fore Street was on a grander scale than those in Pumpfield Rows.

3.4 1877-1908

3.4.1 Mining
In 1882, East Pool was said to be the richest tin mine in Cornwall, and the Wheal Crofty group was also experiencing boom years, with new shafts and buildings, especially around Palmer’s Shaft on the west side of Station Road. Little copper was raised in the area by now, and tin production was increasingly reliant on new techniques and tools, especially rock drills, which were introduced to the area around 1880. The slump in tin prices after 1893 led to severe local problems, made worse by the closure of the ailing Wheal Agar in 1895/6 which caused flooding in most neighbouring mines. Mergers, buy-outs and joint action to prevent further flooding enabled South Crofty and East Pool to ride out the unprofitable years at the end of the century, with major re-investment programmes around 1900. Robinson’s Shaft was sunk at Crofty, and both mines re-organised their above-ground complexes, turning to arsenic and wolfram to supplement tin production, with East Pool/Agar by now second only to Dolcoath in mineral production.

3.4.2 Extent of settlement
The increasing dependency on tin, technical innovations and the decreasing numbers of local mines led to unemployment and a renewed round of emigration of skilled workers from the area. The decline in numbers employed in the mines is reflected in the limited development in Pool in the late 19th century – the few houses built along Agar Road date from the 1870s, and The Institute in Station Road from 1878. There was a significant lull in expansion until the construction of the enlarged Board School in Church Road in 1896, and of a terrace of cottages in Trevithick Road, part of the investment in Wheal Agar after East Pool bought it in 1898 with what seemed at the time prospects of great success. Pool was at this time still highly constrained by the mines and particularly by their waste dumps. Contemporary photographs show the present site of Carn Brea Leisure Centre to the south as a towering pile of slag, prohibiting development in that direction.

3.4.3 Settlement function and characteristics
Such limited development as did take place in Pool at this period continued existing trends – the houses along Agar Road were a continuation of those already built in the 1860s; the Basset Institute marked the final element in the mid century development of the facilities in the village; the 1896 Board School was as much a reorganisation of existing facilities and a response to new legislation as a reflection of new population pressures. It was built as a continuation of the existing group of educational buildings in Church Road. The development of the terrace in Trevithick Road was part of the new phenomenon of company-sponsored terraced housing associated with the revival of mining in the early 20th century, and it marked a return to the smaller workers’ housing that had characterised the early/mid 19th century booms, such as the Pumpfield Rows. From 1902 Pool was served by the Camborne-Redruth Tramway that ran along Fore Street and Agar Road.

3.5 1908-1946

3.5.1 Mining
South Crofty maintained production and continuously invested in new plant and shafts throughout the period, surviving temporary closure in 1921-4 (during which time there were no mines at work in the Camborne-Redruth area for the first time in centuries), and another period of suspension in the depression of the 1930s. About 100 men were employed at this time, and
the mine continued throughout the Second World War. East Pool and Agar was the only other major local mine to re-open after the 1920-1 crisis, with good results in 1933 but a loss in 1936 and subsequent local hardship. In 1939 there were pitched battles between pickets and police in Pool Village as a result of strike. The war prolonged the mine’s life, but, hit hard by labour shortages and financial problems, in 1945 East Pool and Agar finally closed.

3.5.2 Extent of settlement
The easternmost part of Agar Road was developed in around 1906 with a series of larger houses, probably linked to the same investment programme that had already created the newly built Trevithick Road cottages. A few houses and short terraces also appeared at this time in the west of the village – the first significant developments here for over 50 years, and related to the westward expansion of the South Crofty works. In the late 1930s, the Treloweth Road estate was begun (and not completed until after World War Two); it was as much part of the public house-building programme that helped bring Britain out of the recession of the 1930s as a response to the industrial pressures of the area. The estate took up a significant amount of greenfield land and spread Pool's extent considerably. Again, this may be a reflection of there being little other opportunity in the village for development because of the mines and their waste.

3.5.3 Settlement function and characteristics
From this time the added element of estate houses changes the character of Pool and it embarks on a transitional period towards becoming a dormitory settlement to a wider area. In 1927, the Camborne-Redruth Tramway closed although parts of the line in Pool continued to be used for mineral traffic throughout the period. Little evidence survives of the system.

3.6 Post 1946

3.6.1 Mining
Pool is one of the few mining areas in Cornwall where the industry continued after the Second World War. Indeed, at the time of writing (2000), although no mines are working, the possible re-use of South Crofty Mine is still under discussion. While the latter is now restricted to the site at New Cook’s Kitchen shaft (Tuckingmill), the Pool shafts and the surface works at Robinson’s shaft continued in operation as recently as 1996. A diversification into new light industries and distribution warehouses has been located in the Pool area as part of national and local programmes to combat unemployment, while the educational complex at Camborne College/School of Mines has expanded considerably.

3.6.2 Extent of settlement
The pattern of housing estate development initiated by the Treloweth estate has continued, using up both greenfield areas and, for the first time on a significant scale, cleared and levelled mine dumps. Little of this development can be related to the survival of mining, since greater employment related to the industrial estates and Camborne College complex, and much of the housing was built as dormitory housing for Camborne and Redruth.

4 Surviving historical components (Fig 3)

1.1 General
This section summarises those surviving historical components which still show the way in which Pool developed from a roadside halt with localised tin streaming to a fully fledged industrial settlement surrounded by mines and smallholdings.

1.2 Pre-1809
At the centre of Pool there is scattered survival of early cottages and plots in Fore Street and Carn Brea Lane, some of them of relatively substantial houses, and the small row in Station Road at Tin Croft. The Plume of Feathers, Trevenson House and Trevenson Church all survive.
The row that used to stand at the junction of Fore Street and Church Road has been lost, as has the building line that it followed.

1.3 1809-41
The Pumpfield Rows and their long gardens have survived as a set piece together with the group of larger houses on the south side of Fore Street at its junction with Station Road. One barn survives of the original yard at Treloweth Farm.

1.4 1841-77
In Trevenson Road the limited expansion to the west at this time is marked by the row on its south side and the rebuilt/re-fronted Basset Arms, while in Fore Street to the east the larger half-houses and the Methodist Chapel all survive with their plots and back lane. On the north side of Fore Street this pattern of half houses also survives together with the infill elements of Pumpfield Rows. Treloweth Farmhouse dates from this period. In Church Road the schools survive today in different uses together with the houses and workshop on the line of the stream works. In Carn Brea Lane the houses on the east side are intact as is the Methodist Chapel and the terrace immediately adjacent to it, which is unusually set at right angles to the road. At Lower Tregajorran the two cottages set back behind long front gardens and the larger houses fronting the road are all from this period, as are the small development of four houses along the west side of Station Road.

The three significant elements that have been lost from this period are the police station in Station Road, the fuse works in Carn Brea Lane and the tin streaming works, the latter being notable for the way that they penetrated the village and were an integral component of the settlement rather than part of the general mining backdrop.

1.5 1877-1908
Pool’s eastern extent survives intact in the form of the large houses onto Agar Road and the row in Trevithick Road. In Church Road the large board school stands in a different use, in Station Road the Pool Institute survives, as does the late 19th century house that stands on the site of Trevithick’s birthplace. The rear extension to the Methodist Chapel in Carn Brea Lane survives, as does the Sunday school adjacent to the other, larger, chapel in Fore Street. The two pairs of houses on the north side of Fore Street and the pair in Church Road are also extant.

1.6 1908-46
The Treloweth Road estate survives, as do the extensions to the rows in Fore Street and Church Road.

5 Character
Pool’s character is a varied one for such a small settlement and this relates to its associations with Trevenson House, its mining history and the approaches taken to redevelop its heart and fringes in the latter part of the 20th century.

5.1 Buildings and streetscape (Fig 4)
5.1.1 Church Road
Church Road presents the most rural of approaches to the village. Trevenson Church [1], set among its trees and churchyard, is an attractive contrast to the block development of Cornwall College opposite. Hidden behind the unpromising entrance of the latter, however, are the former grounds of Trevenson House [2]. The house and outbuildings [3] survive intact and largely unaltered, but much of the grounds have been laid to car park and the remnant areas of greenery and planting are made even more precious as a result.
The beginning of the village proper is marked by the former board school’s [4] imposing façade that towers over its older neighbour, the former school for girls [5] and the even smaller school and institute opposite [10]. These, together with the pair of houses opposite [9] form an important group in the townscape. On the north-east side of the street buildings of disparate character are strung out along the narrow strip that survives from the tin streaming works [10-12]. What pulls them together is their age (the 1850s), their two storey scale and the importance of the gaps between them that give glimpses through to Lower Pumpfield Road beyond. On the south-west side an imposing group is presented by the early 20th century 17-23 Church Road [6] that stand on slightly rising ground with front gardens set behind granite front walls, only one of which has been removed for car parking. Adjacent is a small contemporary bungalow [7] which is worthy of note. Next to this there is a pair of houses [8] that are only slightly later than 17-23 and are similarly set back but have unfortunately lost their front walls. Beyond the entrance of the yard to the Plume of Feathers is what appears to be a small stone stile [13] that may mark the line of an old thoroughfare through to Fore Street. While the end of Church Road and one of the four corners of the central area in Pool is given a strong sense of enclosure on the original line of the road on one side with a tight two storey row dating from the 1830s [15], this is not mirrored on the other side which has been redeveloped as a large block of flats in grey render and the line of the road disregarded.

5.1.2 Fore Street
Fore Street is best described as Pool’s spine. As the main thoroughfare between Camborne and Redruth it is subjected to heavy traffic use. This has not only meant road-widening and demolition at the central cross-roads in the heart of the settlement which has adversely affected the historic fabric, streetscene, sense of enclosure and historical continuity, but also has led to the whole of the route through the village being treated as a main highway, with no variation in scale or detail of the street furniture, lighting, marking, road verges and so-on, so that there is little recognition of the transition of the road from settlement to more open surroundings, to industrial estate, and the real differences and breaks between the settlements along the road are thus blurred. Residential Pool begins immediately to the east of the open and rather formless roadside areas around Camborne Retail Park and Cornwall College. The site of Old Penhellick Mine [21] marks the boundary of development on this side of Pool; the raised ground of its waste dumps is still apparent and is an important reminder of one of the most productive of the older Cornish mines to which Pool at least partly owes its origins.

From this point the road starts to descend eastwards into the valley that forms Pool’s heart and is well defined by the mid-19th century row on the south side [24] and early 20th century pairs on the north [19]. There is an important break at the two pub yards that acts as a punctuation mark before entering the older heart of the village. East of the junction the road rises again towards what were East Pool and Agar Mines. Here the sense of enclosure is restored with two storey buildings on either side of the road. On the south side these take the form of dwellings [47-49] of quite a grand nature for their age (early 19th century or earlier). On the other side of the road the row of shops [59], although not all original to the mid 19th century, nevertheless remains a good group in townscape terms. Further to the east there is a change both in slope and type of building with the grander half houses set back behind front gardens and with good size rear gardens. The Methodist Chapel [52] acts as focal point and also signifies the end of the village on this side of the road in historical terms.

5.1.3 The North Area
While it has been altered in terms of inappropriate window and door details, the row in Trevithick Road [74] is a good example of workers’ housing erected at the turn of the 20th century when there was significant re-investment in the mines. Although partly redeveloped as a supermarket the remains of East Pool and Agar Mine can be seen in the high bank of the dump line that survives behind the houses and, together with the engine house and chimney beyond
(now an interpretation centre for the surrounding industrial sites), is a constant reminder of their reason for having been built. The high density of this type of workers' housing is in contrast to the Treloweth Road estate opposite [75] with its bungalow 'lodges' and green landscaping; it is a prime example of the new way of spacious thinking that characterised 1940s/1950s estate developments. This is an interesting instance of a planned estate from this time and retains much of interest.

5.1.4 Higher and Lower Pumpfield Rows
These two rows of two storey workers' housing [78 & 79] are separated by a narrow road from their long gardens which are at a lower level, and which in the case of Lower Pumpfield Row, form the bed of the former tin streaming works. Some of the gardens have been raised at their top ends to accommodate car parking. There is a secluded feel to the rows that is a welcome contrast to the bustle of Fore Street. Many of the cottages’ original features have been retained.

5.1.5 The South Area
Approaching Pool from the south is a very different experience to the trees and soft landscape of Church Road. The legacy of the mines and the extensive tin streaming works is a disparate, partially derelict landscape, although the quality of the surviving structures is reflected in recent additions to the statutory list of historic buildings. Despite this, Station Road has some good groups of buildings and the direct relationship with the mining landscape is an interesting and important characteristic in itself. At its southern end there is a very early row [39] set at right angles to the road that may be the remains of a miner's smallholding. This is now part of a slightly larger group, one of which dates from the 1830s [39] and some probably from the 1850s [38 & 40] and all undoubtedly connected to the presence of the adjacent mines. Further down Station Road the former South Crofty mine buildings come right up to the road [35]; these and the adjacent chimney [36] of Bickford's Shaft show how the mine intruded into the townscape that moulded itself around the mine workings. It is not surprising, therefore, that the row that marks the northern end of Station Road on this side [33] is very late 19th/early 20th century and that its back gardens were not formed until at least the 1920s. Similarly, the row opposite [45] was not built until the tin streaming works were disused in the mid-late 19th century.

Carn Brea Lane and the east side of Station Road are very much of a piece in that the topography here can be directly attributed to the former presence of the Old Pool Mine and the tin streaming works. Of these there is now no physical trace but they left a large area for many years barren until being redeveloped in the late 20th century for a small housing estate. While the estate itself bears little relationship to the historic grain or character of surrounding area, there is good use of Cornish hedges to address the road frontages. The rectangle of grass to the southeast of the housing directly relates to the 1877 OS map evidence of the tin streaming works and is likely to be of archaeological interest [83].

To the north of the estate there is a large piece of waste ground, the site of a shaft [92] now used as a car park. There are also the fragmented remains of the former police station [43]. The Pool Basset Institute [42] stands as an isolated small-scale building of interest, the setting of which needs to be respected in any future development proposals. Carn Brea Lane is characterised by the small scale of its development and the constraints historically placed on it by the tin streaming works on one side and the rising land of the mine dumps of East Pool on the other. The remains of the early village are to found here in the cottages [63-65] that are set almost to the back of pavement with only small plots behind, whereas the later mid 19th century housing [66-69] is set back behind front walls and has longer rear gardens. The chapel [67], being less grand than the one in Fore Street, is indicative of the street’s smaller scale as is the little row [68] adjacent to it that is a peculiarity, reached by footpath and with an air of seclusion to it, impaired by glimpses of the industrial estate beyond.
5.2 Materials and local details

Granite interspersed with the darker brown to red hues of the local country stone (killas) are the almost universal building materials – the use of large granite stones for lintels is a marked feature of some of the earlier rows. Granite rubble garden walls, mixed with mineralised blocks produced from the local mines, are an important local feature.

Almost always roughly coursed, better dressed stone is used for the principal buildings (the inns, the chapels, and larger houses, especially Trevenson [2], and some of the early, grander houses in Fore Street [48][49].

Render and painting has been applied to some 19th century buildings, but for the most part is confined to rear elevations (where it has been used to help blend in modern block-built and rendered extensions).

Roofing was traditionally slate, and remains the predominant roofing material, although much has been cement-slurried, and there is some replacement with artificial roofing materials. The roofscape remains a surprisingly important and relatively unchanged element in the appearance of the village. The local topography combined with the good permeability of lanes, path and roads, means that most rear elevations are visible if not prominent within the settlement and loss of character by use of inappropriate and non-traditional materials and details can be particularly damaging in this context.

5.3 Spaces views and panoramas

The grassed area of the former grounds of Trevenson House falls away from Trevenson Road and Fore Street towards Church Road and this provides views through to the former schools and other buildings of interest. The space also has a townscape value in its own right as a green area that enhances the setting of the village.

The space that has been created within the village centre by the double roundabout and road widening has potential for improvement. This also applies to the car park in Carn Brea Lane/Station Road.

There are many other intimate spaces in the village worthy of note; these include the yards in the centre of the village to the rear of Fore Street; the gardens and lanes of the Pumpfield Rows; the area around Trevenson Church and the lane at its rear.

The pattern of small lanes, paths and minor roads means that, despite its apparent focus on the main road, most of the village is inward-looking, enclosed, with good permeability, and the opportunity to walk around and explore reveals an often surprisingly attractive streetscape. There is often some confusion as to what is private and what is public access, however, and this might be addressed as part of a programme of town-trails.

The views out of the village are dominated by its mining history in the form of waste dumps and engine house chimneys, particularly Robinson’s and Bickford’s Shafts in Station Road and the impressive East Pool and Agar chimney to the north-east. To the south, though, what impress most are the views of Carn Brea. Conversely, Pool is clearly visible from both Carn Brea and the A30.

5.4 Landscape

Pool’s intimate relationship to mining is reflected in its surrounding landscape that is almost wholly the legacy of the mines that once operated there. Now that these have closed industrial estates have replaced much of them and there is also a retail park to the west. While some of the mines’ features have been lost it is arguably fitting that the village remains in an essentially industrial setting. The interplay of the village, its outlying buildings, and the surviving mining
buildings and landscape to the south of Pool, especially given the quality of the remaining buildings and landscape, is now a rare scene in Cornwall.

The site of Cornwall College, which tells of a long relationship between Pool and the Basset family, provides a contrasting landscape to the north of the settlement. It is because of Trevenson House that there is such a significant grassed and treed area on Pool’s doorstep, and this should be conserved, and while the presence of Camborne College ensures the survival and management of the open, green area, this should not be at the expense of demolition of good buildings as has happened in the recent past.

6 Designations (Fig 4)

6.1 Scheduled monuments

There are no scheduled monuments in Pool

6.2 Listed Buildings

Pool has the following listed buildings (within the study area), all at Grade II:

Church Road, Trevenson Church [1]

Church Road, Trevenson Conservative Club & School House [10]

Church Road, nos. 20 & 22 [9]

Fore Street, Pool Methodist Church [52]

Station Road, Pool Basset Institute [42]

Station Road, Miners’ Dry, Bickford’s and Palmer’s Shafts [35 part]

Treloweth Road, former stable block forming north part of farmyard at Treloweth Farm [77]

The following structures around Bickford’s Shaft, Palmer’s Shaft & Robinson’s Shaft are also listed:

- Pump engine house, Robinson’s Shaft, Grade II*
- Boiler House, Robinson’s Shaft, Grade II*
- Compresssor House, Robinson’s Shaft, Grade II*
- Carpenters’ workshops etc., Robinson’s Shaft, Grade II*

6.3 Conservation Areas

There are no conservation areas within the study area, although Carn Brea is a CA.

6.4 Other designations

Policies have been taken from various sources, particularly the Cornwall Structure Plan (SP) and the relevant District Local Plan (LP); only those policies or allocations directly relevant to the preservation and enhancement of the historic environment or character of the settlement have been selected.

The sites of Tin Croft and the old South Wheal Crofty are proposed as Derelict Land (D 286) and therefore subject to Policy ENV24 of the Kerrier District Local Plan Deposit Draft.

The north of Trevenson House has been proposed as a site for higher education and associated science park (Policy E4).

7 Current uses and forces for change

Pool village is almost entirely residential with pressure for more housing on its outskirts, although it also forms a focus for the wider conglomeration with a community school, health centre, and nearby leisure centre and colleges. It is surrounded by industrial estates and nearby supermarkets providing some local employment, as does Cornwall College.
The proposal to develop large tracts of open countryside (Treloweth) or relict farmland and mining land (South Crofty) for strategic housing or other major developments could potentially have negative implications for Pool’s distinctiveness. Proposals for strategic developments on the surrounding derelict mining lands, whether it be for a Cornish university or a regional science park, are under continuing discussion, and could also have radical implications for Pool.

Much depends on what proposals are received for the regeneration of these relict sites. The draft Urban Framework Plan for Camborne-Redruth sponsored by the Regional Development Agency is being produced over the lifetime of this report, so that its findings cannot be incorporated here. The CISI reports for this area should anyway stand as independent and objective studies relating largely to heritage, conservation and archaeological issues, which must necessarily be balanced against other planning and regeneration objectives as identified in the Urban Framework Plan.

As a matter of principle, however, it should be accepted that large-scale developments that swamp the historic core are not appropriate in delicately balanced historical environments like that of Pool. Much better for the enhancement of local distinctiveness would be a whole series of smaller infill schemes, fully integrated into the wider objectives by building on the intimate, often small-scale character of the area and its unique historic legacy.

This includes the surviving smallholding field pattern, farmsteads, mine sites and surface earthworks, which now form one of the best, if not the only, recognisable historic mining landscape in this area not subject to major clearance, resurfacing, landscaping or redevelopment – a vital resource in the heart of a proposed World Heritage Site. The area including Palmer’s and Bickford’s Shafts to the south along Station Road has been subject to recent listings. The importance of this area is in the progression of a mining site from the early workings in the Palmer’s Shaft area, through to the later workings around Robinson’s Shaft to the recent workings at South Crofty. Palmer’s Shaft has seen recent conversions and consolidation work to ruined structures. The Robinson’s Shaft site includes a fine complex of industrial structures but has been subject to recent vandalism and arson.

Redevelopment strategies should take the opportunity to change the perception of the surrounding fields and industrial areas simply as clearance sites and development opportunities, an approach which in the past has allowed local settlements to spread formlessly, damaging their historic context and setting.

8 Industrial significance

Pool was one of the first and greatest copper mining areas, developing from 1700 in an area of already ancient tin streaming and mining. The local mines turned successfully from copper to tin in the 19th century to become one of the major tin producing areas, with the last working mine in Cornwall. The stimulus of this mining activity meant that Pool was home to a remarkable number of Cornwall’s greatest engineers, including Richard Trevithick, who was born in the village; other great names of Cornish industrial history associated with Pool include the Tangye family, Arthur Woolfe, the Holmans and William Brunton.

The settlement’s surviving historic fabric and form reflect this industrial past to a remarkable degree – the older farms and smallholdings around the village edges are still recognisable, as are the rows of workers’ cottages of varying dates, the better housing of the rising industrial middle classes in the mid 19th century, and the various public buildings built to serve the expanding village. The mining sites remain as recognisable elements in the townscape and wider landscape, (even those more recently redeveloped), with some of the best preserved complexes of mining buildings and earthworks in the area.
The major losses have been the removal of virtually any evidence of the important tin-streaming industry in the area, and the disastrous loss of the very core of the settlement to road-junction widening.

9 Recommendations

9.1 Historic areas

The designation of a conservation area is recommended to encompass the area of architectural and historic significance in the settlement of Pool as summarised in the character section (5) above. A special designation recognising the importance of the mining and smallholding landscape outside the scope of this present study immediately to the south and west of Pool would be a logical extension of this proposed conservation area, and that proposed to the west for Tuckingmill. This would encompass Robinson’s Shaft/South Crofty and other structures and houses between Dudnance Lane (Tuckingmill) and Station Road (Pool). Conservation area designation would also be appropriate for the two main sites of East Pool Mine (National Trust site on Agar Road and Taylor’s Shaft), both outside the settlement study area.

9.2 Historic buildings

9.2.1 Listed buildings

Trevenson House is almost entirely intact and, together with its kitchen garden wall, should be considered for listing.

The following buildings are at least 18th century and should also be considered for listing:

9-15 (odd) Carn Brea Lane [63]
Former vestry and stables to rear of Trevenson Church, Church Road [14]
Plume of Feathers PH, Fore Street [17]
No. 17 Fore Street [49]
Nos. 23-23a Fore Street [48]
No.43 Fore Street [30]
No. 49 Fore Street [28]
No. 53 Fore Street [26]
Nos.28-32 Station Road [37]

9.2.2 Local list

A list of locally significant structures which contribute substantially to the character of the settlement would be a significant additional management tool, based on the combined criteria of both listing and Article 4 Directions, and backed up by a Buildings-at-Risk survey, detailed Article 4 Directions and substantive and enforceable policies in the local plan. This could also back up applications for grant aid.

9.3 Policy and management

1. Article 4 Directions to control the demolition of walls for the creation of hard standings and alterations to individual houses, with particular reference to the Pumpfield Rows and the Treleweth Road Estate.
   
   Reason: To protect the character of Pool against inappropriate incremental alterations and demolition.

2. Limited development on the settlement outskirts, particularly in the open countryside to the north of Pool.
Reason: To retain the discrete identity of Pool and protect both its setting and the open countryside.

3. Protection against further development of the area of grass to the front and side of Cornwall College; management agreements for future use and maintenance.
   Reason: To protect the setting of the village and its (proposed) conservation area, and to retain Pool's separate identity.

2. Any future road improvements and/or provision of street lighting and furniture to respect the historical building line and reflect differences in the local townscape, and to restore the sense of ‘street’ rather than ‘road’, particularly in Fore Street.
   Reason: To address Pool’s individuality as a settlement distinct from Illogan Highway and Tuckingmill.

3. Any proposals affecting the areas of mining and smallholding land that surround and permeate Pool to be based on a thorough understanding, not only of the unique historical and archaeological importance of the sites themselves, but also of their value to the setting of Pool. Designation (statutory and local) of the surviving structures and landscapes; management and development proposals to fully integrate this area with the historic core, and with initiatives to interpret and promote this unique historical relationship.
   Reason: To ensure that the sites retain both their historical relevance to Pool and Cornwall, and their own archaeological and historical integrity.

4. Expand and develop the existing series of town and industrial heritage trails describing Pool’s history and integrate with existing publications and initiatives e.g. the National Trust/Trevithick Trust at East Pool and Agar; the Mineral Tramways Project; promote the links with major historical figures, especially Trevithick (again in conjunction with the National Trust, viz. Trevithick’s Cottage at Penponds).
   Reason: To present Pool’s unique heritage to a wider audience and residents alike and to attract new visitors and associated regeneration initiatives.

5. Clarify the status of back lanes, footpaths and alleys as part of the promotion of town trails, guides and walks and to promote the sense of importance of back areas and rear elevations.
   Reason: To protect the character of Pool against inappropriate incremental alterations and demolition, and help present Pool's unique heritage to visitors and residents alike.

6. Further study to cover adjoining areas outside the existing CISI programme, especially the area of smallholdings and industrial hamlets to the south interspersed amongst the mine remains.
   Reason: To ensure a full and accurate record of, and understanding of, the industrial settlements in this area and Cornwall as a whole.
10 References

10.1 Primary Sources
1809 OS drawings
1841 Tithe Map
1877 OS 25 inch map
1908 OS 25 inch map
1946 RAF air photographs
Cornwall Sites and Monuments Record (computerised database of archaeological sites maintained by HES)

10.2 Publications
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Kerrier District Local Plan Deposit Draft, 1999, Kerrier District Council
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Sharpe, A, 1999, Robinson’s Shaft, South Wheal Crofty, CAU, CCC publication
Thomas, J, 1990, Illogan More than a Village, Dyllansow Truran
Barton, D B, 1978 edn., A history of Copper Mining in Cornwall and Devon, D. Bradford Barton
Barton, D B, 1989 edn., Tin Mining and Smelting in Cornwall, D. Bradford Barton
Appendix: Gazetteer of archaeological sites and key historic buildings

Codes: PRN: Primary Record Number in Cornwall Sites & Monuments Record. NGR: National Grid Reference. LB: Listed Building. SM: Scheduled Monument. Date: PA = palaeolithic, ME = mesolithic, NE = neolithic, BA = bronze age, IA = iron age, RB = romano-british, EM = early medieval, MD = medieval, PM = post-medieval, PX = prehistoric undated, HX = historic undated, UX = unknown, C = century, c = approximately.

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<td>Stone In front wall to no. 35</td>
<td>Stone In front wall to no. 35</td>
<td>Stone marking Trevithick's birthplace</td>
<td>Late C19</td>
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<td>1841-77</td>
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<td>(including outbuildings)</td>
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<td>SW 64 SE 5/146</td>
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<td>Stone inscribed TBV on one side, B fragment 89 on the other</td>
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<td>58 &amp; 60</td>
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Figure 5  The heart of Pool looking west towards the Robinson’s Shaft complex. The
dominance of traffic and the road belies the age and quality of the settlement
core.

Figure 6  Public buildings were gradually added to the growing centre – not all survive, but
those that do are of quality - the school [4] Church Road, not listed.
Figure 7 Carn Brea Lane – late 18th/early 19th century cottages [63] from the old core of the village before mining and the turnpike road (1839) shifted the focus onto the main road. Tin streamworks formerly occupied the ground where the camera stands.

Figure 8 Mid 20th century housing (Treloweth Road Estate [75]), contrasting in scale and intimacy with the older cottages, but still reflecting the local tradition of rows and terraces focussing on the mines (still flourishing at the time of building) – a late example of industrial housing in the area.
Looking beyond the intrusive traffic and road management in Pool, a range of 18th and 19th century domestic and commercial buildings of really good quality and detailing is revealed – Agar Road [50].

Scattered around the settlement are old farms and smallholdings [23], as much part of the story of industrial settlement here as the more obvious cottage rows and chapels, also helping to retain a green setting to the road-dominated core.