

Nancherrow & Tregeseal Conservation Area Appraisal

DRAFT AUGUST 2009



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Title

**Nancherrow &
Tregeseal**

Key

-  Conservation Areas
-  Listed Building
-  Significant Historic Building

NB - This map cannot be used for the purposes of identifying whether or not a building is listed, as it is not a complete record. Buildings are added or removed from the list from time to time. Walls, outhouses and other structures in the curtilage of a principal listed building are also covered by listing designation, but are not shown here. Please consult the Historic Environment Service if you need to identify the listed status of a building or structure.

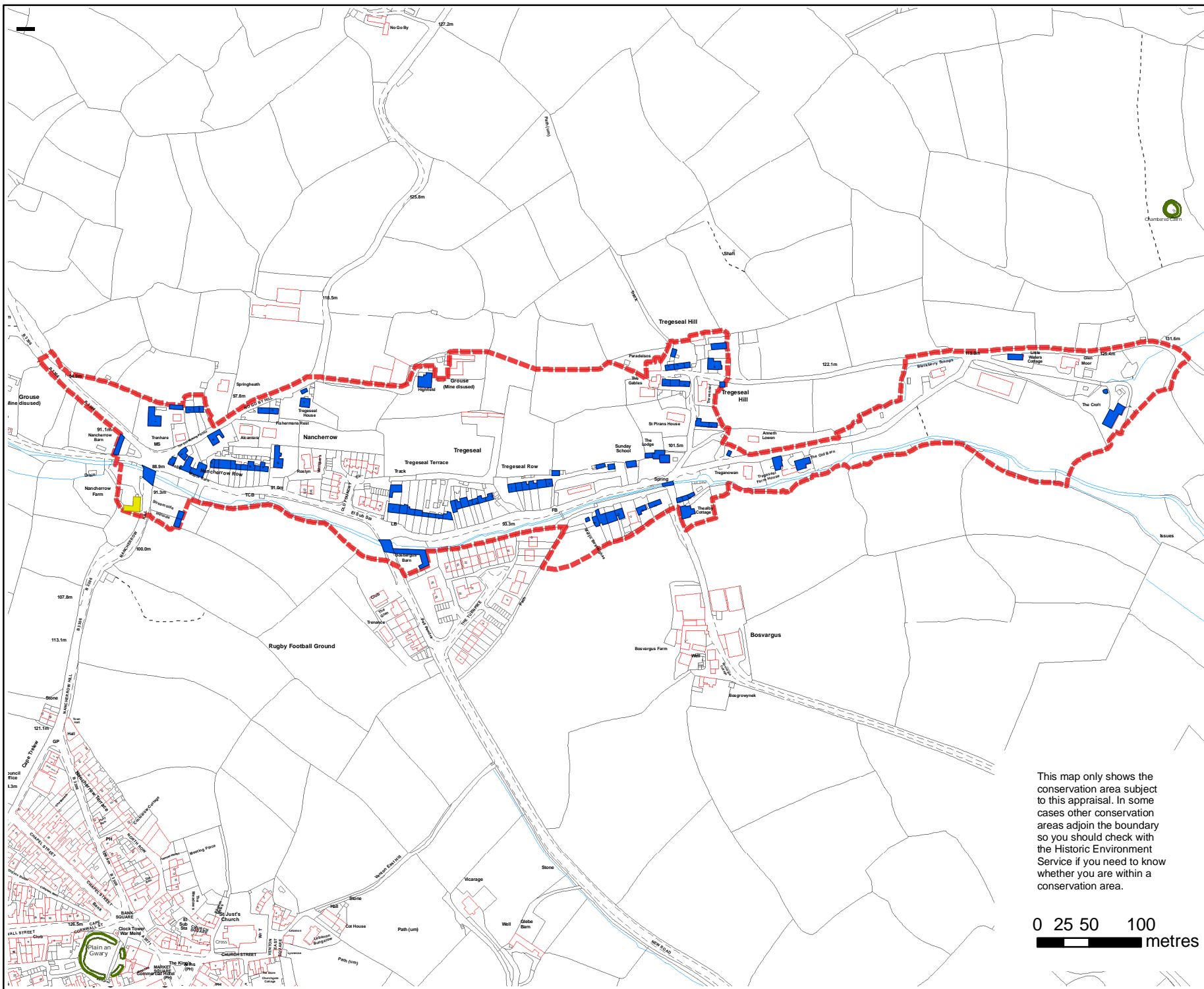
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Date

August 2009



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This map only shows the conservation area subject to this appraisal. In some cases other conservation areas adjoin the boundary so you should check with the Historic Environment Service if you need to know whether you are within a conservation area.

0 25 50 100
metres

SUMMARY OF SPECIAL INTEREST

The settlements of Nancherrow and Tregeseal lie in the extreme west of Cornwall, in the upper Kenidjack Valley, about a quarter of a mile north and north-east of St Just and about a mile from the valley's outfall into the sea at Cape Cornwall. It is the largest of a small number of deep, sheltered stream valleys that run from the moors over the coastal plain to the sea. Their historic cores developed where ancient routes crossed the valley and this is one of the best places in the area to see the interplay of changing and improving roads and tracks, industry and the expansion of settlement.

The valley slopes are an improved agricultural landscape and were relatively rich. The valley bottom itself was literally full of mills, leats, ponds, sluices, together with the later foundry. The earliest cottages were added to the old farming hamlets at Nancherrow and Tregeseal, and it was only with the needs of the Holman's foundry from 1834 on that houses really expanded amongst the mills in the valley floor.

The history of milling in the valley pre-dates the industrial activity in the area from around 1800. The source of water power meant that throughout the 19th century the valley continued to provide stamps and dressing floors for most of the mines in the area. Holman's Foundry was established in 1834. Today the foundry site has been cleared and re-developed, but its layout and walled enclosure still influences the valley's topography.

Below the Busvargus corn mill, the stream, leats and ponds are dominated by the feed system for the foundry. Holmans Foundry was quite small initially, but had doubled in size by 1880. The various mills only stayed working as long as the surrounding mines did, hence by the end of the 19th century, the mines and the mills had closed, and the foundry was left as the only major employer.

There is a wealth of archaeological remains within and around the conservation area - Blackberry Stamps and Tregeseal Crofts, and Busvargus Mill and mill house, the scanty remains of East Boscean, areas of waste dumps and old shafts in many places around the valley. The leats, launders, ponds and sluices can be seen. The outer wall of the Foundry, the couthouse and the early 20th century gates still survive and are important features within the conservation area.

The stream dominates the conservation area, flowing east to west. The settlements are largely linear following the watercourse and rarely are you far from the sound of running water and lush vegetation.

Both settlements contain an interesting mix of traditional vernacular terraces and larger grand houses. There are those that have developed from an agricultural and others that have clearly followed the industrial expansion in the area. Building materials granite and slate, some properties are rendered and probably always have been. Whilst many buildings have undergone a degree of alteration, not always positive, many retain important features and collectively form important groups within the conservation area. There are numerous outbuildings and boundary walls that contribute to the special character and appearance as well as other historic streetscape features.

There are impressive views out of the conservation area towards the surrounding landscape, for example buildings in St Just form an important skyline not only from elevated positions such as No Go By Hill but also from the road that follows the valley floor. From within the conservation area there are also particularly memorable views along the roads, especially in Tregeseal with long mature gardens and boundary walls on one side contrasting with the informal growth and space on the stream side.