

TREWELLARD CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

DRAFT AUGUST 2009



Trewellard Conservation Area Appraisal

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Historic Environment Record**

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Title
**Trewellard
Conservation Area**

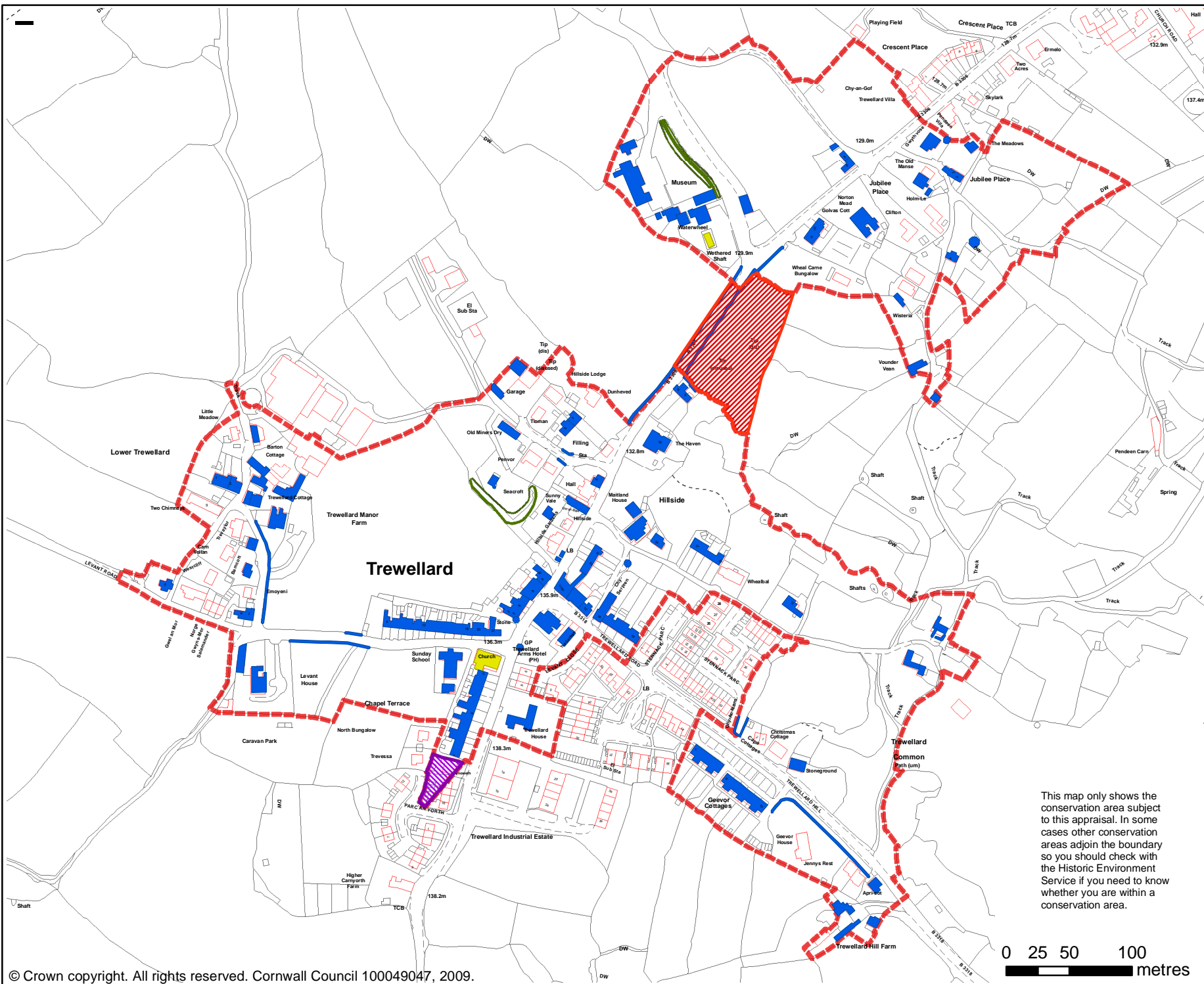
- Key**
-  Conservation Area
 -  Listed Building
 -  Significant Historic Building
 -  Proposed extension to CA
 -  Proposed deletion to CA

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.

Originator
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.

SUMMARY OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Trewellard lies on the narrow coastal plain west of the Penwith Moors and is made up of 3 places – Trewellard Cross, Lower Trewellard and Hillside with Jubilee Place. To the west side of the road the landscape consists of mostly of the large cleared fields of an improved agricultural landscape with only occasional remains of the once extensive areas of mine waste dumps, and less of the medieval field systems that were once here. Further out on the coastal zone, particularly visible from the high eastern ground, the line of stacks and winding heads set against the backdrop of the sea is still a prominent landscape feature. The landscape to the east is, in contrast, more enclosed and small-scale, dominated by small hillside enclosures set amongst the long lines of the old mine dumps semi-derelict smallholdings, thick stone walls and tracks up onto the moors.

Trewellard shows within a small area a range of differing responses to the mining boom which stretched over an unusually long period – the adaption of an old manorial centre and its reversion by 1900 to a mainly agricultural existence, the creation of a service orientated village centre with its attendant higher class houses and a scatter of cottages and smallholdings on old wasteland. It is the only settlement outside St Just to have something of an urban quality about it.

The approach over the moors and into Trewellard down Trewellard Hill is one of the main views of the conservation area and its setting - looking out across the disturbed ground and small fields of old moorland grazing and mine-working, over the relatively low huddle of roofs, past what is now green farmland, to the disused or ruinous mine buildings along the coast, and with the sea beyond. Few buildings stand out in this view - the chief one being the former Methodist Chapel, the other major impact being the large agricultural buildings at Lower Trewellard, reinforcing the current primarily agricultural character.

Farming and tin mining have been of equal importance in and around Trewellard from at least the 16th century, together with fishing from the small local coves. The surrounding area is one of the oldest continuously worked mining areas in Cornwall – the cliffs have indeed been worked since antiquity, while Trewellard Hill was renowned as one of the great mining areas of 16th - 18th century Cornwall. The local mines which had been important in creating settlement around Trewellard in the early years were gradually absorbed into the big, famous three that dominate the area, Botallack, Levant and Geevor. Despite the decline in mining in the early 20th century, the last of these only finally closed, after massive reinvestment and much re-working of old waste dumps in the local landscape, in the 1990s.

With the boom in mining in the 1820's at Levant Mine Trewellard began to develop as the main settlement in the area. In terms of its physical appearance, the core area at Trewellard Cross is almost urban in its density, in its focus around a central square and in the scale of some of the non-domestic buildings. However, it never reached its full potential as a local centre as Pendeen developed as a rival and the mines peaked in the mid 19th century and slowly declined. Even so, it is today a relatively large and expanding residential village with a large range of economic activities, employment and facilities.

The historical nature of Trewellard's dispersed and varied development is reflected in the present day townscape; there are several character areas all which interact with each other and should not be considered in isolation. However the recent housing programmes in Trewellard are amongst the most extensive in the whole of the coastal zone between St Just and St Ives. This has had a tremendous impact on the character and appearance of the historic townscape, not always for the good, giving a sense that the old village and the surrounding countryside are being overwhelmed by modern housing developments not always of an appropriate scale.

Historic buildings in the area are without exception built of granite, originally all with slate roofs. There is some variation on the basis of both date and status in the way the granite is cut and used and most roofs are now mineral slate, although some original wet laid slate roofs survive on cottages, and especially, and fortunately, on some of the more prominent houses. Because of the scale of 20th century house building off Trewellard Hill, the use of materials such as pebble-dash, and particularly granite chippings and inappropriate interlocking roof tiles have also become prevalent.