



The chimney © Ainsley Cocks



Trevanny Dry

Bedrock of Industry



The Trevanny China Clay Dry, also known as the Central Cornwall Dry, was built in 1920 by the Central Cornwall China Clay Company.

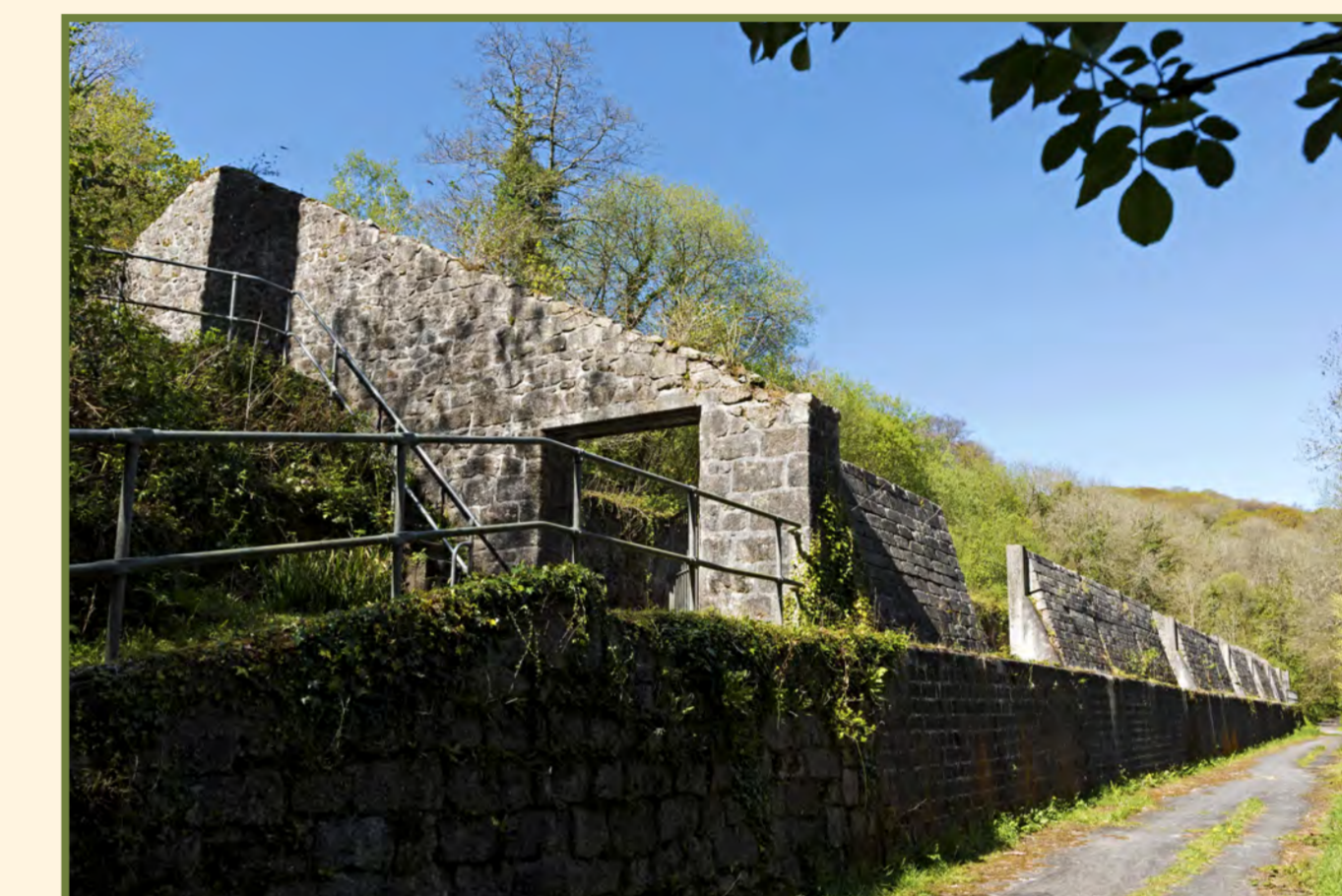
China clay has many uses including the manufacture of ceramics, paint, paper and medicines.

China clay slurry (a mix of clay and water) was piped to the works from the clay pit at Starrick Moor, to the west of the Valley, to be dried ready for sale.

The Trevanny Dry is typical of many across Cornwall in the later 19th and early 20th centuries, with a number of settling tanks positioned alongside a linear pan kiln, to dry the clay, and a storage shed, known as a 'linhay'.

Water is drained from the clay slurry, and the clay is then spread by hand on the floor of the Dry, known as the 'pan kiln', where heat from a coal-fired furnace would remove the remaining moisture. Once dry, the clay was shovelled into the adjoining linhay before being transported along the Valley floor to the railway at Pons Mill, originally by a petrol driven locomotive and later by lorry.

The Trevanny Dry was closed in 1965, by its then owners English Clays Lovering Pochin & Co. Ltd (ECLP). It was conserved by Cornwall County Council in 1992.



Pan kiln and linhay



The furnace

Clayworkers emptying a clay settling tank at Pons Mill in the early twentieth century; this arduous task was a common occurrence until the development of the clay filter press which dramatically sped the clay dewatering process



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Further information

Visit Wheal Martyn Museum, at Carthew near St Austell, for a fascinating insight into the metal mining and china clay history of both the Valley and mid Cornwall

www.wheal-martyn.com

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The following websites also provide further information on the history of the Luxulyan Valley:

The Friends of Luxulyan Valley - www.luxulyanvalley.co.uk

Cornwall Heritage Trust - www.cornwallheritagetrust.org

Cornish Mining World Heritage Site - www.cornishmining.org.uk

The Luxulyan Valley is managed by Cornwall Council (www.cornwall.gov.uk)



The Hidden Kingdom of Treffry – where nature and industry merge