



Joseph Thomas Treffry 1782-1850



Treffry Viaduct

People Power



This magnificent viaduct was built by Joseph Thomas Treffry from 1839-1842 to carry both a horse-drawn tramway and the water in the Carmears Leat across the Valley. It links Treffry's port at Par with his businesses to the north of Luxulyan.

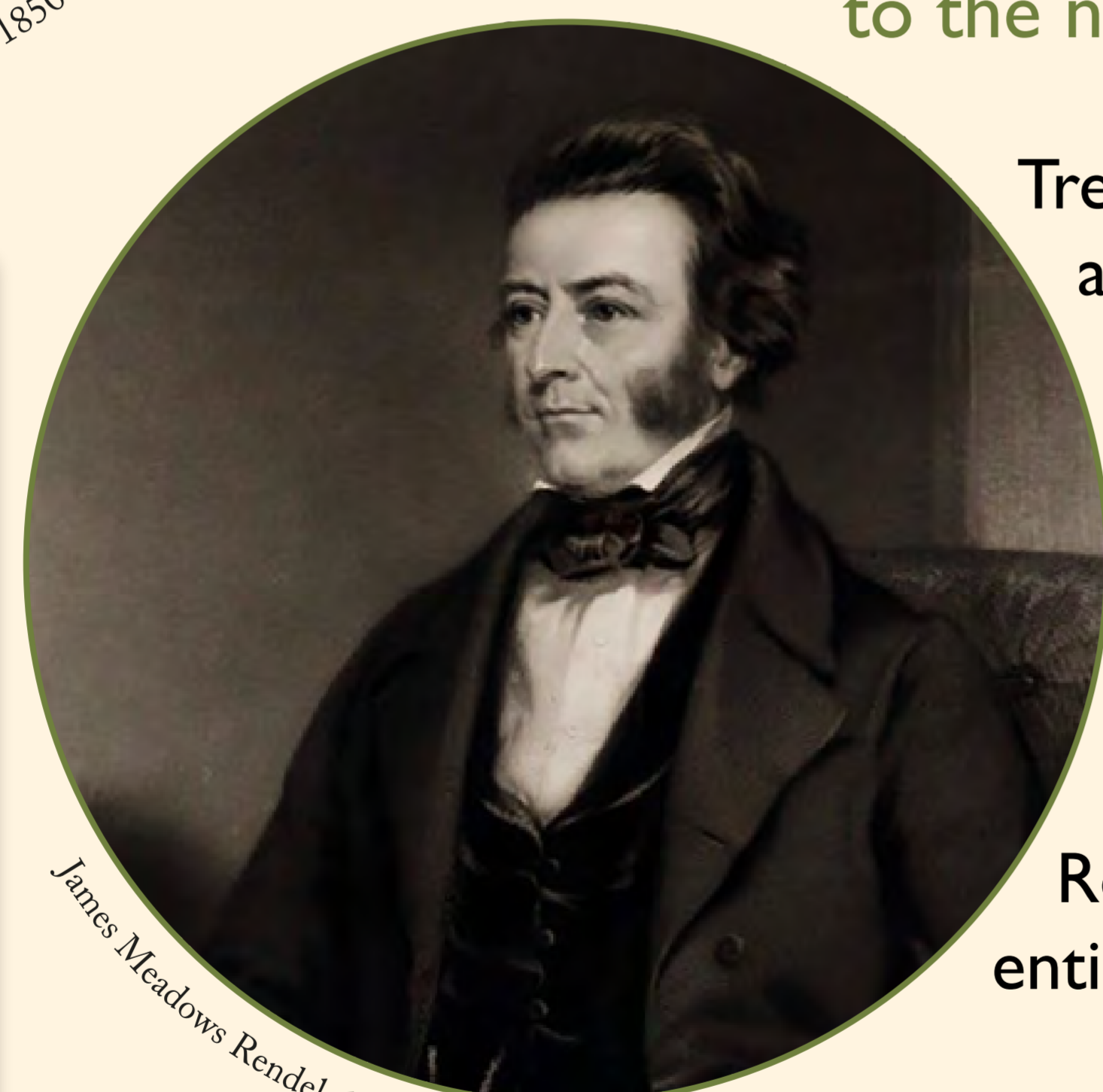
The water in the Carmears Leat powered the winding water wheel at the head of the Carmears Inclined Plane (site 3) before combining with the flow of the Fowey Consols Leat below.

Shipments of ore, china clay and china stone were transported down along the tramway from inland, across the viaduct and southwards on to Par. Loads of cut granite also came down from Treffry's quarries to the north-east and some of this stone can be seen alongside the remains of the Crib Hut at the southern end of the viaduct.

The final two miles of the journey to Par Harbour was completed by horse-drawn boat along Treffry's Par Canal. In the 1850s this was superseded by a horse-drawn tramway which ran parallel with the canal.

The Treffry Viaduct is owned and managed by Cornwall Heritage Trust, a registered charity, and is also a Scheduled Monument (www.cornwallheritagetrust.org).

Treffry was one of the greatest mine adventurers in Cornwall at the time and this imposing structure, designed by civil engineer James Meadows Rendel (1799-1856), was intended to impress. Treffry and Rendel worked alongside Treffry's Land Steward William Pease (1809-1881) and stonemason Henry Rowe (b.1798) to build the Viaduct, entirely of local granite.



James Meadows Rendel, 1799-1856 © National Portrait Gallery

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)



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Aerial view of Treffry Viaduct, built 1839-1842, to enable rail access to the china clay and stone reserves in the Hensbarrow district and to link with Treffry's harbour at Newquay. The Viaduct also carried water to power the Carmears Inclined Plane, after which it flowed into the Fowey Consols Mine leat to provide additional water essential for the mine's operations



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Austen's Engine House, overlooking the Valley. This is a prominent reminder of this once important copper producer



The Hidden Kingdom of Treffry – where nature and industry merge