



Carmears Wheelpit and Inclined Plane

Water Power

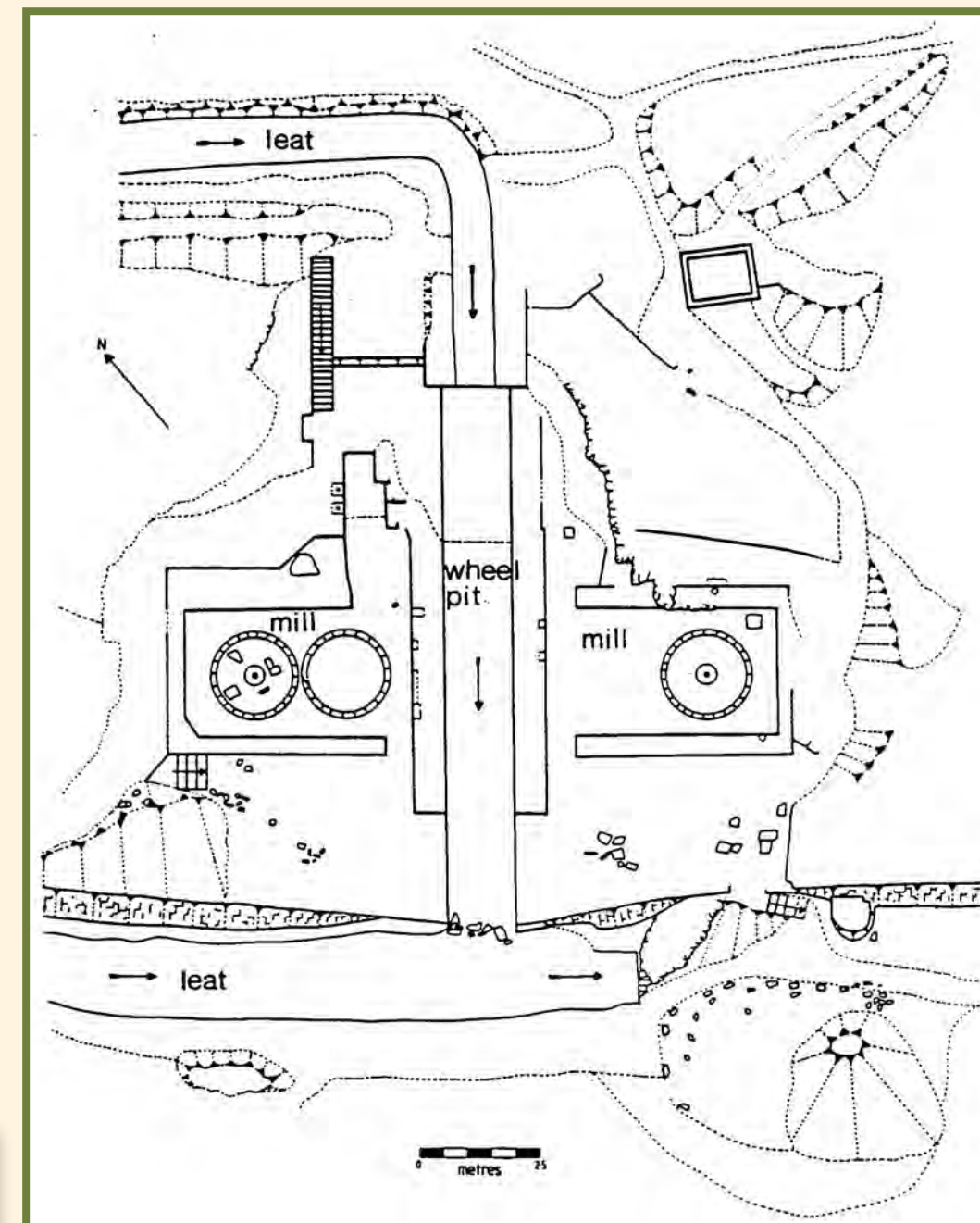


Luxulyan Great Wheel

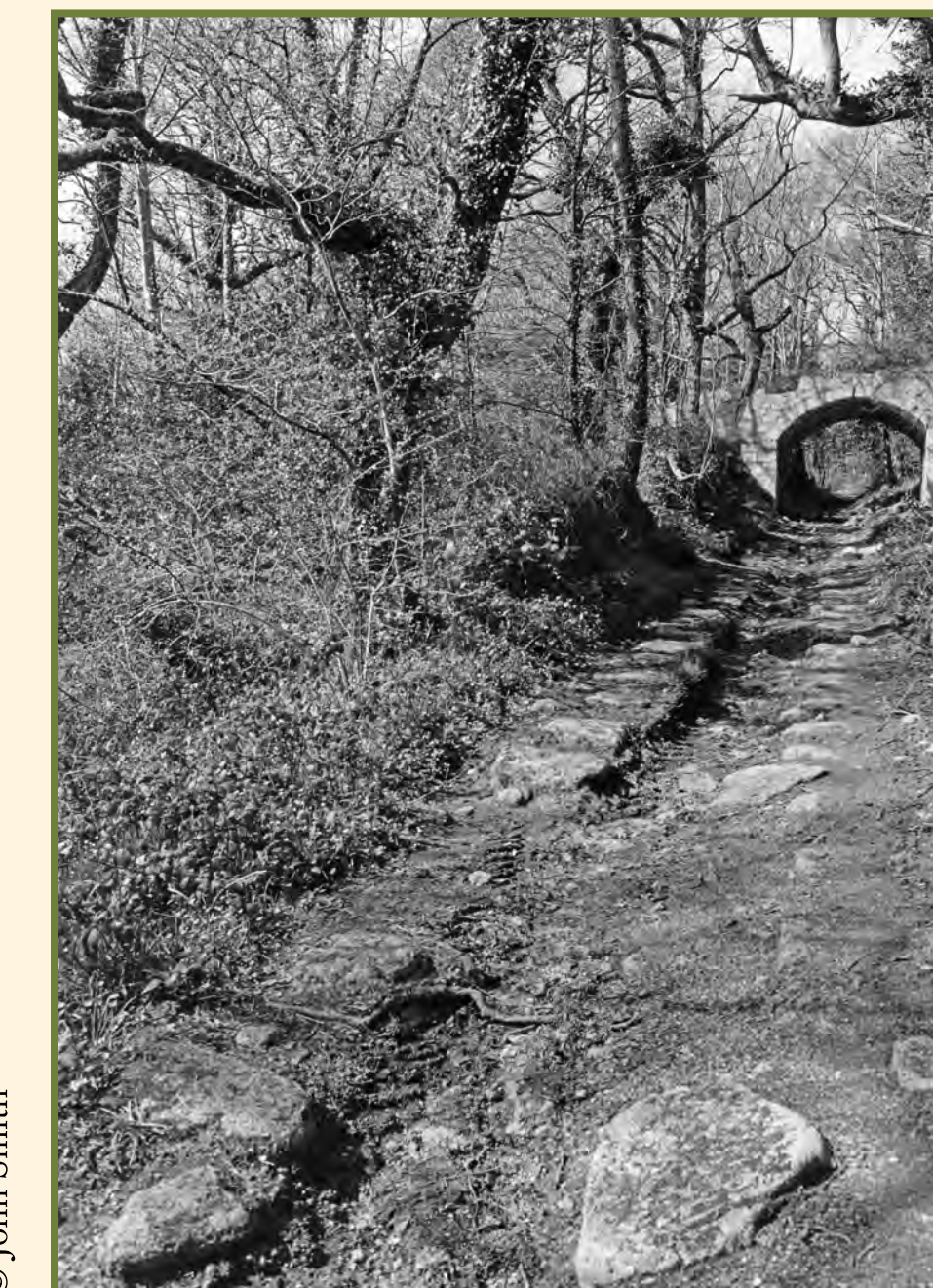
The Carmears Wheelpit was built in 1841 by Joseph Thomas Treffry to contain a water wheel which originally worked the winding machinery at the nearby Carmears Inclined Plane.

The wheel, fed by the Carmears Leat which flows across the Treffry Viaduct, hauled loaded wagons up the 700-metre-long slope of the incline by means of a wire rope, while wagons descended under their own weight.

A 'Checker' was employed to control traffic on the incline, and the remains of the Checker's Hut can be seen at the top. The other, larger, granite building nearby is thought to have been a forge or blacksmith's workshop for the granite quarry or the tramway.



Site plan



© John Smith

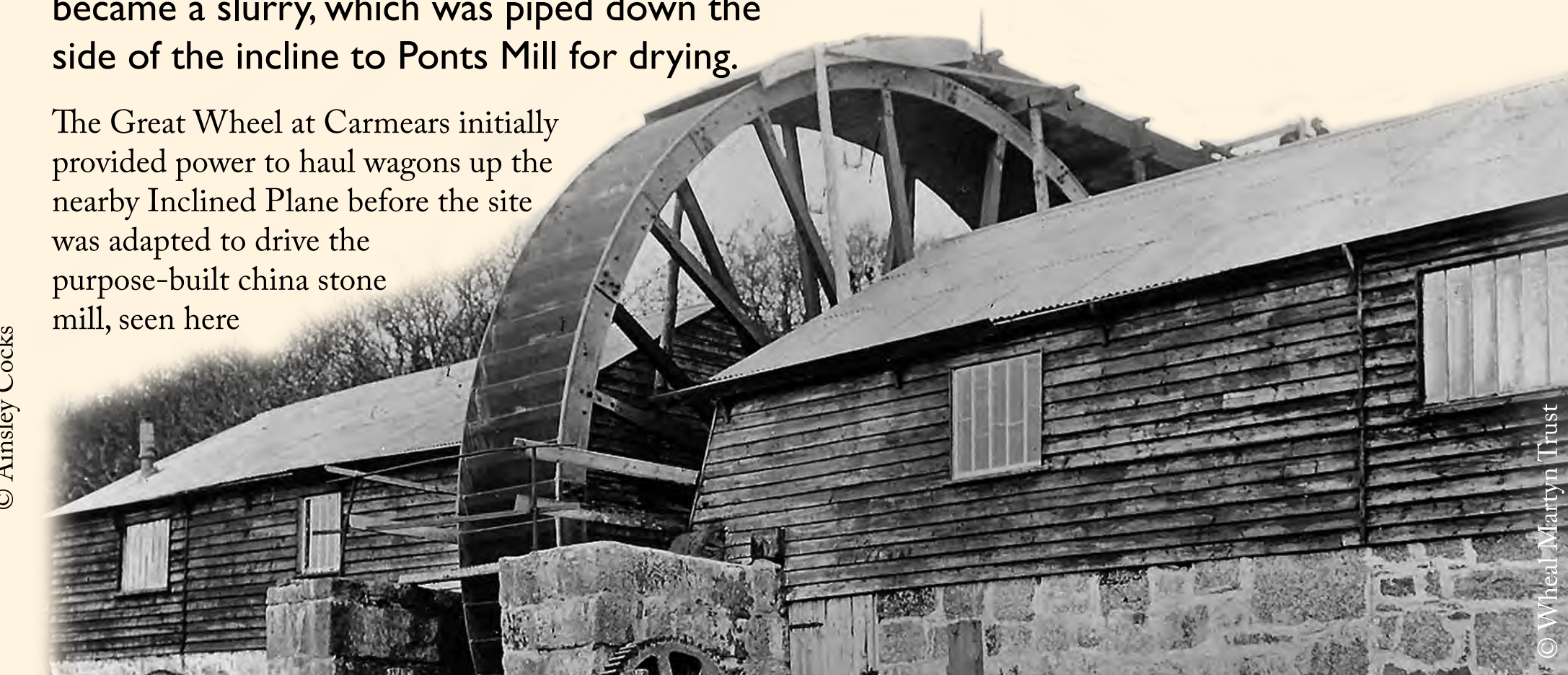
Inclined plane

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The Inclined Plane was no longer needed after the construction of the Cornwall Minerals Railway through the Valley in the 1870s (now the Par to Newquay branch line). From the 1890s the water in the leat was reused to drive a china stone grinding mill. The remains of this, with its round 'pans' and machinery, can be seen to the left and right of the wheelpit. After grinding with water, the china stone became a slurry, which was piped down the side of the incline to Pons Mill for drying.

The Great Wheel at Carmears initially provided power to haul wagons up the nearby Inclined Plane before the site was adapted to drive the purpose-built china stone mill, seen here

The china stone mills and water wheel are thought to have remained in use until 1908. The water wheel was removed in 1940 and recycled to provide metal during the Second World War. Broken fragments of the wheel rim can still be seen in the bottom of the pit.



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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
Wheal Martyn, St. Austell, Cornwall, PL26 8XG,
Tel: 01726 850362, info@wheal-martyn.com

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