



SAINT-ASTIER

LIME, LIFELONG EXCELLENCE

RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE UNESCO CORNISH MINING WORLD HERITAGE

While Cornwall and West Devon's mining heritage extends back to prehistoric times, the advent of more efficient steam engines in the early 1800's led to rapid expansion, with an estimated 3,000 engine houses built by the end of the 19th Century. In 2006 select mining landscapes across Cornwall and West Devon were granted UNESCO World Heritage Site status, recognising that industrial heritage as an essential part of the landscape. With over 200 engine houses remaining today, they provide one of the most distinctive displays of industrial buildings anywhere in the world.

The majority of Cornish Engine Houses were used for pumping water, allowing miners to tunnel below sea level or below the water table. Others were used for crushing ore for processing, or as calciners – roasting tin, copper or other metals to remove impurities. Due to the sheer size of the equipment they housed and the working loads they had to withstand the walls were truly massive, the main reason so many have survived to this day. However, they were also built as simply as possible, often using stone or waste taken directly from the mine, which lead to a number of challenges restoring or consolidating those still remaining.

Restoration work in the late 1990's as a result of initiatives by Historic England and Cornwall Council, and were led by various people from the conservation bodies to the owners of the buildings themselves.



While the majority of work has involved re-pointing, consolidating and rough-racking, other works have included full restoration, conversion to residential or commercial properties, some deconstruction and rebuilding of walls, to simply consolidating and capping remaining ruins.

Overall, many hundreds of tonnes of Natural Hydraulic Lime have been supplied for the works. SAINT-ASTIER PURE NHL 5 - TRADI 100® has been used predominantly, for capping and rough racking and as the most suitable binder for the granite stone and quoins. SAINT-ASTIER PURE NHL 3.5 - LC****® has also been used, typically on engine houses that were built from stone other than granite, and for internal pointing on those structures still supporting roofs or for void consolidation.



Client / Maître d'ouvrage: Cornwall Council (Heritage Lottery Funds)

Architect & Advisor / Maître d'œuvre: Various

Contractor / Entreprise: Various

BUDGET: Various, total works well in excess of €1 000 000

Date finished / Réception du chantier: ongoing from 2006



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