What Is a World Heritage Site?

UNESCO’s Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972

“cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity”
Cornish Mining WHS Outstanding Universal Value

- Principal producer of tin and copper
- Revolution in steam & mining technology
- World-wide transfer of technology, culture and its impacts
Principal producer of tin and copper

1810 first tin plated cans

1780 - HMS Victory’s hull below the waterline was sheathed with 3,923 sheets of copper to protect her against ship worm.
Engineering Innovation

Driven by need to increase efficiency and solve 3 key problems;

• **Depth** – eg Dolcoath William’s shaft 3000 feet by 1917, New Cook’s at South Crofty over 3,000 feet

• **Water** – improving pumping technology

• **Hardrock** – removing huge quantities of ground
Improvements in beam engine efficiency

Enabled mining at great depths
Technological step changes - Trevithick’s high pressure steam goes “mobile”

First Steam railway locomotive 1804

World’s first steam road locomotive 1801
Currently 175 international sites identified with Cornish connection

World-wide transfer of technology and associated landscape
World-wide replication of the Cornish Mining Landscape

Ireland
Australia
Spain
Wales
South Africa
New Zealand
Virgin Gorda
What is the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site?

Ten landscape areas
Mine Sites
Transport infrastructure
Settlements
smallholdings
Ancillary Industries
Great Houses and Gardens
Social Infrastructure
“Each State Party to this Convention recognises that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage belongs primarily to that State.” (WH Convention, Article 4)
Cornish Mining WHS =
Ten areas,
19,700 hectares,
across Cornwall & Devon
= multiple ownership
and management interests
The Vision for the World Heritage Site

“We believe that by protecting, conserving and enhancing the outstanding universal value of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site it will reinforce cultural distinctiveness, and become a significant driver for economic regeneration and social inclusion.”
Approach underpins the World Heritage Site Management Plan

Defines Vision, Mission and strategic objectives, resulting policies and strategic actions for meeting the obligations of the World Heritage Convention.
Current Plan covers the four Convention responsibilities:

• Protect (Planning)

• Conservation (inc heritage led regeneration, adaptive re-use)

• Transmit (Learning and Community engagement)

• Present (Visitor management, interpretation and tourism)

Each presents opportunities to generate social, environmental and economic benefits
Examples of sustainable benefits

- Supplementary Planning Document
- Cultural Tourism initiatives
- Education & cultural events
- Brand development
- Media engagement
- Embedding the WHS in communities
“Tinth” Anniversary 2016 events programme

7 cultural projects across Cornwall & west Devon

Total of 161,000 attendees
For WHS investment of £0.95 per head (£154k)

Media reach
Man Engine coverage:

35.9M radio listenership
35.6M TV viewers
13.4M newspaper circulation
48.6M online views

£2.9m uplift in town centre spend

7 projects education programmes 2016 directly involved over 1,500 young people
Example - Discover the Extraordinary - consolidated the destination offer in an integrated investment programme from 2010-2014, linking:

- product improvement (interpretation, orientation & facilities)
- training & tourism industry engagement
- promotional campaigns
Product improvement
Business engagement

400 businesses introduced to the CMWHS

Over 100 businesses carrying the WHS widget on their website

60 ‘WHS Champion’ businesses
Principal outputs of Discover the Extraordinary

• **increase of 5.5%** of visitors indicating World Heritage Site historic mining landscape has influenced their decision to visit

• Overall **increase of 24 jobs** created in a sample of heritage attractions (not including accommodation sector)

• An average percentage **increase in visitor spend/income of 138%** amongst a sample of 20 participating inland WHS related tourism businesses
Developed partnerships with Cornish producers to harness the brand for business and generate income for conservation = £28k to date
Example: Capital investment influenced by WHS status, 2006-17

A1: £4,464,900 7 projects
A2: £8,571,700 4 projects
A3: £850,000 3 projects
A4: £112,000 1 project
A5: £52,213,846 12 projects
A6: £6,246,000 5 projects
A7: £105,000 2 projects
A8: £5,424,218 5 projects
A9: £2,080,000 2 projects
A10: £11,365,556 10 projects

Total: £91,433,220 (A1 – A10: 51 projects)
Example – Wheal Busy

£270k capital (DEFRA/EU Higher Level Stewardship)
Priority setting exercise for remedial works – in an increasingly competitive environment

Challenges
Revenue has also become a key challenge

Addressing the reduction in vegetation management, often arising from austerity cuts
Future priorities

Transnational partnerships

Develop new destination offers for overseas tourists
Transnational business partnerships in other sectors – e.g. training, food & drink
Ecology and biodiversity

- Address health and wellbeing initiatives
- Support environmental growth strategies
- Contribute to ecosystem services, natural capital & climate change mitigation
CMWHS Management Plan policy on resumption of mining

**Policy C4**: Proposals for the resumption of mining will be supported where they do not adversely affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the Site.

- First adopted 2005 and submitted with the WHS bid
- Discussed by World Heritage Committee (WHC) 2006
- WHC asked to be kept informed of proposals
Other perspectives

International Council on Mining & Metals
Position Statement, September 2003

“In addition to existing commitments under the ICMM Sustainable Development Framework ICMM member companies commit to:

…Not explore or mine in World Heritage properties. All possible steps will be taken to ensure that existing operations in World Heritage properties as well as existing and future operations adjacent to World Heritage properties are not incompatible with the outstanding universal value for which these properties are listed and do not put the integrity of these properties at risk.”

Developed in discussion with International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), arising from concerns at natural WHS’s.

Not UNESCO’s cultural property advisory bodies

International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), or International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)
UNESCO World Heritage Committee

World Heritage Sites and the extractive industries, Stephen Turner, June 2012:

• focused on natural World Heritage Sites (not on cultural Sites or mining sites/mining landscapes).

• Pointed out that the World Heritage Committee itself had no formal policy statement regarding this issue.

More recently, the Word Heritage Centre has published information on its website, summarising its general position - [https://whc.unesco.org/en/extractive-industries/](https://whc.unesco.org/en/extractive-industries/)

WH Committee Decisions (2014, 2015, 2017) in relation to resumption of mining at South Crofty have sought design revisions, to be informed by Heritage Impact assessment that focusses on OUV, and to minimise landscape impacts.
The International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage (TICCIH) Memorandum (2013)

In some circumstances continuation or resumption of mining in a Site inscribed because of its historic mining significance may contribute to the re-invigoration of the cultural landscape… TICCIH recommended criteria to consider:

1. Understanding the criteria and justifications that underpin the Site’s OUV.

2. Understanding the historical, social and economic context within which past mineral working has taken place; especially if examples of recent working form part of the OUV.

3. Understanding of the role of mining as part of the cultural tradition of present populations in the World Heritage Site and its environs.

4. Access to full details of such new methods of mineral exploitation as may be proposed including specific information on technologies to be employed, their geographical extent within the World Heritage Site and its environs and anticipated environmental impact.

5. Protocols between the World Heritage Management agency and the mineral undertaking that guarantee the protection of the existing OUV.
Resumption of mining - a climate change mitigation issue?

Lithium: the Key to Electric Cars

Expanding perspectives - Supporting the preservation of all WHS’s through contribution to climate change reducing technologies
Questions