

Treharris Conservation Area



Character Appraisal



A N DAVIES
Head of Town Planning

June 2009



Treharris Conservation Area

Character Appraisal

June 2009

This document is the adopted Treharris Conservation Area Character Appraisal and is a publicly agreed statement on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area

Following public consultation, this document was adopted by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's Planning and Regulatory Committee on the 24th June 2009.

Treharris was declared as a Conservation Area under s.69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 on the 1st July 2009.

All maps are © Crown Copyright. Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. Licence 100025302. 2009

Acknowledgement:

This document was compiled for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council by The Conservation Studio (1 Querns Lane, Cirencester, Glos GL7 1RL) in collaboration with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's Regeneration Department and Design, Heritage and Conservation Officer.



0	Summary Report	2
0.1	Background	2
0.2	The Purpose of the Character Appraisal	2
0.3	Public Consultation	2
0.4	Summary of the Character Appraisal's Findings	3
0.5	Next Steps	6
1	Introduction	7
1.1	The Treharris Conservation Area	7
1.2	Summary of key characteristics	9
1.3	The planning policy context	9
1.4	Community involvement	10
2	Location and Landscape Setting	12
2.1	Location and activities	12
2.3	Topography and geology	13
2.2	Relationship of the conservation area to its surroundings	13
2.4	Treharris' industrial heritage and the landscape setting	14
2.5	Biodiversity	15
3	Historic Evolution	16
3.1	Historic Development	16
4	Spatial Analysis	21
4.1	Layout and street pattern	21
4.2	Open spaces and trees	21
4.3	Focal points, focal buildings, views and vistas	22
4.5	Boundaries	24
4.6	Public realm	25
5	Conservation Area Buildings	27
5.1	Building types	27
5.2	Listed buildings	27
5.3	Locally listed buildings	29
5.4	Positive buildings	31
5.5	Building styles, materials and colours	32
5.6	Shopfronts	33
6	Issues	36
6.1	Introduction	36
6.2	Issues	36
-	Appendices	42
A	Sources	42
B	Public Consultation Report	44
C	Useful Addresses	48
D	Glossary of Architectural Terms	51
E	Conservation Area Boundary Map	57



0 Summary Report

0.1 Background

Section 69 of The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act imposes a statutory duty on local planning authorities to identify those parts of their areas that are of special historic or architectural interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance and to designate them as conservation areas. Furthermore it states that local planning authorities shall, from time to time, review the past exercise of this function within their area and identify whether any parts or any further parts of their areas should be designated as conservation areas. The Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Built Heritage Strategy and Action Plan provided a review of the management of built heritage in the County Borough. It identified the designation of the Treharris Conservation Area as a key priority to prevent ongoing erosion of the historic environment. The Built Heritage Strategy and Action Plan was endorsed by full Council on 12th December 2008.

0.2 The Purpose of the Character Appraisal

A character appraisal has been prepared to identify the appropriate boundary of the Treharris Conservation Area and to define the key positive characteristics that contribute to its special historic or architectural interest. It also identifies issues that detract from the character and appearance of the area. In future these should be addressed through proposals for preservation and enhancement of the conservation area as required under Section 71 of the Act.

0.3 Public Consultation

A draft of the character appraisal was made available for inspection by the public during a consultation period of twenty days from 4th to 23rd March 2009. Consultation included a letter sent to all properties within the proposed conservation area boundary informing them of the consultation process and inviting them to a launch event, the launch event was held at the Treharris Boys and Girls Club on 4th March from 3:30 to 7:00 pm and was attended by local residents, business owners representatives of the Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association, The Treharris Regeneration Committee, the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Access Group and representatives from the Communities First Taf Bargoed Partnership. Following the launch, copies of the draft appraisal were available at the Treharris Public Library as part of an exhibition throughout the consultation period. The draft appraisal was also uploaded to the Council's website. Feedback from the public was encouraged through a questionnaire which was available at the launch event, at the exhibition in the Public Library and from the Council's website. Briefly, the public consultation questionnaire asks the following questions:

- The desirability of designating a Treharris Conservation Area;
- Views on the historic interest of the area;
- Views on the key positive features of the area;
- Views on any negative features or issues that detracted from the area's character and appearance.

The consultation was also advertised in the local press. A report on the public consultation has

been prepared and forms an appendix to the character appraisal.

A number of amendments were made to the character appraisal to take into account comments received from the public during the consultation period, including changes to the proposed boundary and inclusion of a number of issues identified as detracting from the character and appearance of the conservation area.



Treharris Conservation Area aerial photograph

0.4 Summary of the Character Appraisal's Findings

In summary the character appraisal identifies that the following characteristics contribute to the special historic and architectural interest of the conservation area:

- The location in the heart of the South Wales coalfield;
- The mountainside setting overlooking the

steep sided Taff and Taf Bargoed valleys;

- A planned late 19th century 'model' industrial settlement, including civic, religious, commercial and residential buildings;

- High quality townscape resulting from late 19th century planning and the control of the Harris Navigation Colliery on the town's development;

- A cluster of historic buildings of

interest including the listed Treharris Library and Independent Tabernacle Chapel, the locally listed Navigation Hotel, Masonic Temple and Royal Hotel, St Matthias' Church, the former Bethel Baptist Chapel, the former Police Station (now the Royal Mail Receiving Office), Brynhyfryd Chapel and Treharris Community College;

- The industrial heritage of coal mining with some buildings in the conservation area which relate to this;



- The nearly universal use of local rock-faced 'snecked' sandstone masonry, with painted brick dressings in cheerful colours;
- A busy local shopping centre.

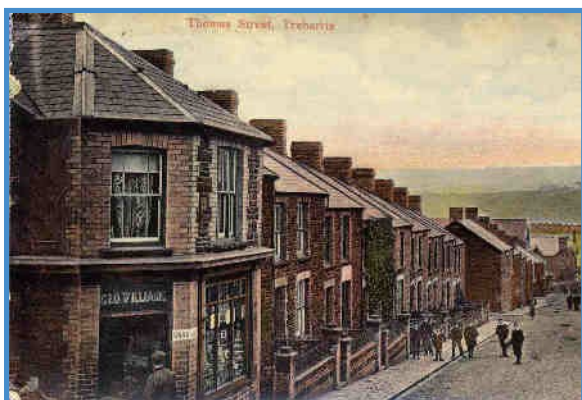
The following are considered to be the Key Issues in the proposed Treharris Conservation Area which will need to be addressed by the Council and its partners in the future.

- **Vacant buildings:** A number of properties within the conservation area are noted as vacant or underused.
- **Local listing:** A number of buildings identified as of local historic could be considered for addition to the local list.
- **The loss of architectural details on houses:** Many of the unlisted historic houses within the proposed conservation area have been adversely affected by the use of modern materials and details. The Council could consider the use of an Article 4 Direction, which would encourage the use of traditional materials and details.
- **The loss of historic shop fronts:** Historic shopfronts have been removed and new walls and windows built which do not match the building.
- **Concentration of fast-food takeaways on Fox Street:** The concentration of this type of use was identified as reducing the vitality of the shopping area during the day-time and encouraging large gatherings of teenagers in the evenings.



View of the Three former viaducts, Treharris

- **Littering:** Littering on Fox Street, particularly with waste food wrappers was identified as a particular problem.
- **Vacant and derelict sites:** A number of vacant sites have been identified which could be enhanced: the plot to the south of the Treharris Library; the plot to the west of No. 32 John Street; and the plot at the north eastern end of Fell Street.
- **Traffic and pedestrian movement in The Square:** Heavy traffic load and narrow pavements around The Square make this a potentially dangerous area for pedestrians.



Thomas Street, Treharris

- **Former Public Hall site:** This site could be enhanced in a variety of ways.
- **Security shutters in Fox Street:** These have a negative impact on the surrounding area.
- **Satellite dishes and wheelie bins:** Visible satellite dishes and wheelie bins on front pavements or in gardens detract from historic character and appearance of the

proposed conservation area.

- **On street parking:** The appearance of the proposed conservation area could be improved by following the example of the parking layout in Perrott Street, where parking bays and 'build-outs' have been used to define and break up areas of on street parking.
- **Disabled access:** Improved facilities for disabled parking in the town centre and dropped kerbs at Fox Street and the Bus Station at Cardiff Road should be provided.
- **Awareness:** Lack of awareness or publicity of the area's historic interest



The Police Station, Treharris

- **Encouragement of regeneration:** Support, including financial and professional, is needed to ensure that important historic buildings are restored and made suitable for new uses that will ensure their preservation and positive contribution to the town and community.



0.5 Next Steps

Following designation of the conservation area the Council may wish to prepare management proposals for the protection and enhancement of the conservation area. These may address all or some of the issues summarised above and described in more detail in the character appraisal. Management proposals may include development briefs for particular areas identified as opportunity sites for enhancement within the conservation area, proposals for schemes of enhancement for the public realm or guidance for property owners and developers, including a shopfront design guide, among other items.

The Council may also wish to apply for a Town Improvement Grant to help fund repairs to historic buildings and to improve the environment of Treharris. A suitably detailed management plan

demonstrating the Council's planning for issues affecting the conservation area would form part of such an application.

The Council will also need to monitor change within the conservation area and be prepared to take enforcement against unauthorised works deemed to be detrimental to its character and appearance.



Perrott Street, Treharris



1 Introduction

1.1 The Treharris Conservation Area

Treharris lies in the southern part of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough, approximately 22 kilometres to the north of central Cardiff. The town forms one of a group of settlements which were built during the South Wales coal mining boom of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and is located on a south facing mountainside overlooking the confluence of the rivers Taff and Taf Bargoed, which meet at Quaker's Yard, just to the south of Treharris. The land rises steeply to the north and falls away just as steeply to the east, south and west, before rising to form the facing sides of the surrounding valleys. The town's elevated location provides extensive and attractive views out to the surrounding mountainous landscape.

Treharris developed as a direct result of the foundation of the Harris Navigation Colliery, later

known as the Ocean Deep Navigation Colliery, the sinking of which was started in 1873. The town was built soon after extraction of coal from Pit No. 2 commenced in 1879, providing between 250 and 300 homes and replacing an earlier settlement of 32 wooden huts. By 1900 facilities within the town included Welsh and English Baptist Chapels, a Tabernacle Chapel, two further chapels (Calvinistic and Wesleyan Methodist), and an Anglican Church. Two hotels, a Board School, a Police Station and the Public Hall and Institute, as well as numerous shops, were also constructed as part of a 'planned' development which aimed to make the new settlement completely self reliant. Together, these provided a vibrant commercial centre, focused on The Square, which served the new town as well as the surrounding area. Of note are the rigidly defined street grid and the consistent architectural style which is used for the buildings that together make Treharris stand out from other local towns.



Perrott Street, Treharris



The alignment of these streets pays little attention to the underlying topography, requiring the houses to adapt to the falling ground, so the terraced properties vary in height. Interesting views along these terraces are enlivened by the brightly coloured paint on the window and door surrounds, whilst the narrow streets create a strong sense of enclosure which contrasts with the long, more open, views across and out of the



The Navigation Hotel at the entrance to Fox Street settlement.

Treharris is a good example of a ‘model’ industrial settlement which was built under the patronage of Frederick William Harris, the founder of the Navigation Colliery, after whom the town is named. It is believed that Harris’ Quaker beliefs played an important role in his support of the colliery workers’ self-help initiatives and in providing good quality, affordable accommodation. Similar ideals guided the development of Cadbury’s Bourneville in Warwickshire and Rowntree’s New Earswick in York. The first streets built were therefore named after prominent Quaker heroes: Fox Street (after George Fox founder of the Quaker movement); Penn Street (after William Penn, who founded

Pennsylvania as a haven for religious dissenters); and Fell Street (after Margaret Fell, owner of Swarthmore Hall Cumbria, or perhaps the local 17th century Quaker Lydia Fell). The houses on these streets were built by the colliery company which was owned by Harris and were rented at an affordable rate to the colliers and their families.

The boundary of the newly designated Treharris Conservation Area has been drawn to include the core of the historic settlement, including the colliers’ housing, and the town centre. This Character Appraisal seeks to define the special interest of this conservation area and to identify the issues which threaten its particular qualities. Subject to funding, a Management Plan, providing more specific guidance on future actions, may follow in due course.



Entrance to Treharris Free Library



1.2 Summary of key characteristics

The key characteristics of the Treharris Conservation Area are:

- The location in the heart of the South Wales coalfield;
- The mountainside setting overlooking the steep sided Taff and Taf Bargoed valleys;
- A planned late 19th century 'model' industrial settlement, including civic, religious, commercial and residential buildings;
- High quality townscape resulting from late 19th century planning and the control of the Harris Navigation Colliery on the town's development;
- A cluster of historic buildings of interest including the listed Treharris Library and Independent Tabernacle Chapel, the locally listed Navigation Hotel, Masonic Temple and Royal Hotel, St Matthias' Church, the former Bethel Baptist Chapel, the former Police Station (now the Royal Mail Receiving Office), Brynhfryd Chapel and Treharris Community College;
- The industrial heritage of coal mining with some buildings in the conservation area which relate to these;
- The nearly universal use of local rock-faced 'snecked' sandstone masonry, with painted brick dressings in cheerful colours;

- A busy local shopping centre.

1.3 The planning policy context

Conservation areas are designated under the provisions of Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Local planning authorities are required by the same legislation to routinely review their conservation areas, and to assess whether further areas need to be designated. This work was undertaken in the case of Treharris in 2008 when the Council produced a Built Heritage Strategy and Action Plan, adopted by the Council in December 2008.

A conservation area is defined as 'an area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. Section 71 of the 1990 Act also requires local planning authorities to formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of these conservation areas. Section 72 also specifies that, in making a decision on an application for development within a conservation area, special attention must be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area. The production of a 'Character Appraisal' therefore enables a local planning authority to identify what makes each conservation area unique, so that these features can be protected when applications for change are received. By also identifying 'negative' sites or buildings, where change would be actually be welcomed, a Character Appraisal also provides a framework for future actions which are usually considered in greater detail in the subsequent



Management Plan.

This document should be read in conjunction with Welsh planning policy guidance, particularly Circular 61/96 - Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas and Circular 1/98 - Planning and the Historic Environment: Directions by the Secretary of State for Wales. These documents provide advice on the designation of conservation areas, and the importance of assessing the special interest of each one in an up to date Character Appraisal.

The existing development plan framework in Merthyr Tydfil is provided by:-

- The adopted Mid Glamorgan (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough) Replacement Structure Plan 1991-2006
- The adopted Merthyr Tydfil Borough Local Plan 1994 - 2006
- The deposit Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan 2006-2021.

National Policy Guidance is reiterated under Policies EV9 and EV10 of the Structure Plan in stating that development of features of the built and historic environment or environmental improvement schemes will not be permitted where it is likely to damage the existing character of structures designated as being of special architectural or historic interest.

The Merthyr Tydfil Borough Local Plan was adopted in May 1999. The plan sets out the Council's aspirations for protecting and enhancing the historic environment and states how applications affecting Conservation Areas will be assessed.

Policy BH2 relates directly to the management of Conservation Areas. Additionally, Policies BH3 (Archaeology and Ancient Monuments), BH4 (Listed Buildings and Structures of Special Architectural and Historic Interest) and BH5 (Buildings and Structures of Local Architectural and Historic Merit) are important in determining applications relating to Conservation Areas.

Furthermore, the Draft Deposit Local Development Plan for Merthyr Tydfil considers the historic built environment as a precious resource that can be harnessed in a sustainable manner for the purposes of regeneration, and affords for its protection and safeguarding. Policy BW6 states that proposals must not have an unacceptable impact on historic and cultural features of acknowledged importance. The designation of Treharris as a Conservation Area strengthens the basis on which this policy is applied.

1.4 Community involvement

This Character Appraisal was commissioned by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council following the adoption of the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Built Heritage Strategy and Action Plan by full Council on 12 December 2008, which identified Treharris as an area of special historic interest and architectural interest. Public consultation was undertaken in March 2009 with an exhibition at Treharris Library, including a draft of this Character Appraisal, and a walk-in surgery event held on 4th March 2009. The draft Character Appraisal was also made available on the Council's website throughout the consultation period. In addition, a questionnaire was provided which invited comments on the following:



-
- The desirability of designating a Treharris Conservation Area;
 - Views on the historic interest of the area;
 - Views on the key positive features of the area;
 - Views on any negative features or issues that detracted from the area's character and appearance.

This consultation overlapped with a parallel initiative to develop a Building Enhancement, Public Realm and Town Centre Enhancement Scheme for Treharris. Following the completion of the public consultation period, a Public Consultations Report (see Appendix 2), was prepared and the text of both documents amended in response to comments from the public. A fully illustrated Character Appraisal was produced by the end of March 2009.



2 Location and Landscape Setting

2.1 Location and activities

Treharris is located in the Taff Bargoed Valley in South Wales at the southern end of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough. It lies approximately 22 kilometres north west of central Cardiff and approximately 10 kilometres south west of Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre. The historic road and the railway line, which run up the east side of the Taff Valley from Cardiff to Merthyr Tydfil pass just to the west of Treharris, at this point joining Quaker's Yard and Edwardsville. The historic route up the Taff Bargoed Valley also by-passed Treharris, following the southern bank of the river from its confluence with the Taff at Quaker's Yard, then joining the north south route which now runs between Nelson and Bedlinog (the modern B4255) in the vicinity of Trelewis. The modern A470 trunk road also runs the Taff valley, approximately one kilometre to the west of Treharris.



Fox Street remains a busy shopping area

According to the Census of 2001, the population of Treharris was then 6,252, which had risen by nearly 3 percent from the census of 1991. This included the populations of Quaker's Yard and Edwardsville, as well as Treharris itself. Until the

early 1990s, the Deep Navigation Mine provided an important source of local employment, both directly through mining, as well as a variety of supporting industries. Closure of the mine resulted in the loss of 2,000 local jobs and an estimated loss of £6,000,000 from the local economy. House prices fell to a third of their pre-closure value, although they have recovered significantly since, whilst many of the shops, banks and offices within the town centre were forced to close.

Fox Street continues to serve as a small local shopping centre, including a post office, a small Co-op supermarket, a hair dresser, a greengrocers, a newsagents, an estate agents and several fast-food outlets, as well as the Navigation Hotel. However, a number of shop premises on Fox Street remain vacant. Other shops, including a butchers, a chemists, an opticians and an antiques shop located on Perrott Street and Bargoed Terrace, Cardiff Road. The Treharris Library, a legacy of the Carnegie Foundation, stands on the west side of Perrott Street and is well used, providing local residents with computers with internet access, as well as other facilities. A Health Centre is located on the north side of Cardiff Road and a small Police Station on Perrott Street, while the former school on Perrott Street provides numerous functions as a Community Centre. The Boys (and Girls) Club at the east end of Fox Street was rebuilt in 2005 and provides activities for members of the community of all ages. The site of the Deep Navigation Colliery has now been redeveloped as sports pitches, as well as forming part of the extensive Taf Bargoed Community Park. A surface town car park is located to the rear of the Treharris Library.

2.2 Topography and geology

Treharris lies at the southern end of the Cefn Merthyr Ridge which divides the Taff and Taf Bargoed valleys and reaches a summit of 445 metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) above Troed-y-rhiw five kilometres to the north. Approximately one kilometre north of the town the land surface begins a rapid fall from just over 300 metres AOD, reaching 200 metres AOD just to the north of Webster Street and falling to 100 metres AOD on the south side of Perrott Street. The land falls away equally rapidly to the east and a little more gradually to the west.



Ground rises steeply in some parts of the Conservation Area

The local geological strata consists of sandstone and grit stone, overlying the carboniferous coal measures. These stones are readily worked but relatively brittle and do not favour coursed masonry, so brick is commonly used to create quoins and openings. The sandstone has a light grey colouring with a high micaceous content that gives a sparkling appearance where it is cleaned. Some iron content provides patches of darker red and orange tones, creating a brindled effect. Brickwork is often painted to provide a weather coating. Treharris was constructed at the zenith of

the Welsh slate industry's production in the late 19th century and several Welsh slate tiled roofs survive in the conservation area although the majority have been replaced with concrete tiles.

2.3 Relationship of the conservation area to its surroundings

The falling ground level from the northern limits of the town to the river valleys in the east, south, and south west, provides attractive views out of the conservation area over the roofs of surrounding streets from many points in Treharris. To the south west, the rocky outcrop at the base of Mynydd Goitre-Coed forms a pinch point with Cefn Merthyr, beyond which the valley widens in the area of Abercynon and Pontypridd, which are glimpsed in views from Treharris. Mynydd Goitre-Coed rises to over 200 metres AOD forming a long ridge, which effectively creates the skyline to the west.



View east from Webster Street to the Taf Bargoed Valley

Land to the south of the Taf Bargoed rises to only 171 metres AOD at Pentwyn Berthlwyd, allowing views across the ridge to the Cwm Mafon (Mafon Valley) beyond from many locations within

Treharris. The modern housing estate at Pentwyn Berthlwyd intrudes into these views to the south. Views to the east include the village of Trelewis, which was built at a similar time to Treharris, forming part of the wider historic landscape of coal

exploitation and workers' housing. The Taff Merthyr Garden Village lies on the ridge line above Trelewis. Views to the north east take in the green countryside of the Taf Bargoed Valley between Trelewis and Bedlinog. The

position of the town on the hillside, overlooked from the surrounding hills, provides views towards Treharris that allow an appreciation of its rigid street plan, including the positions of its significant buildings.

Narrow, sinuous lanes lead from Treharris to the main roads to the east and west. The wooded course of the Taf Bargoed creates a narrow green buffer to the south of the town, whilst further areas of housing extend from the conservation area to the north and west before giving way to farmland on the open mountainside. Parc Taf Bargoed lies immediately to the east of the town with direct access from Fox Street. The area between Fox Street and the Parc is currently

dominated by modern roads and pathways of no distinction.

2.4 Treharris' industrial heritage and the landscape setting



View to Treharris including Brynhyfryd Baptist Chapel

The industrial past of Treharris and the wider Taff and Taff Bargoed Valleys has had a decisive impact on their present appearance and their historic interest. The development of the coal industry in the

area in the late 19th century required not only the sinking of mine shafts and the driving of levels and adits, but a much wider infrastructure of transportation routes to processing areas, spoil tips and lagoons. In addition, facilities for the colliers were needed, including new homes, and new quarries were opened to provide stone for the many new buildings which were required. Today however, the remains of Deep Navigation Colliery have been effectively removed from the landscape through the creation of the Taf Bargoed Community Park. The position of Fox Street, running up to the former entrance to the colliery, is a legacy of the town's spatial interaction with the former colliery site.

The Great Western Railway (GWR) mineral railway ran along the southern edge of Treharris, historically defining its southern boundary and influencing the alignment streets within the town. It is now preserved as a public open space.

2.5 Biodiversity



Manmade cascade of waterfalls at Parc Taf Bargoed

Treharris is surrounded by areas of semi-natural deciduous woodlands, which are of high ecological value, as well as plantations of coniferous woodland, which have developed as more specialised habitat over the past century. It is hoped that the regeneration of the Taff Bargoed River, including the uncovering of its course through the former colliery site, will result in increased biodiversity in the immediate vicinity of Treharris. Within the town there are few green open spaces that would readily support wildlife, although the former quarry site west of The Park (a street not an open space) appears to have been colonised by a mixture of grassland and scrub species that may support a small but interesting habitat area. Historic buildings often provide nesting or roosting opportunities for birds and

bats, often with little impact on the structures or their occupants. The deposit LDP proposes that the Parc is given SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation) status.



Polypodium Vulgari on garden wall in Treharris



3 Historical Background

3.1 Historical development

Historic maps confirm that until the successful raising of coal from the Harris Navigation Colliery the area now covered by modern-day Treharris was part of the land associated with the three farms of Twyn-y-garreg, Pantannas and Cefn Fforest. It was divided into many small, irregularly shaped fields,

with hedgerows studded with small trees and areas of woodland.

Lanes following the routes of the modern streets of Cardiff Road, Commercial Terrace and The Park, towards Twynygarreg.

Other lanes ran between the fields connecting the

various small farms and leading out to the wider landscape.

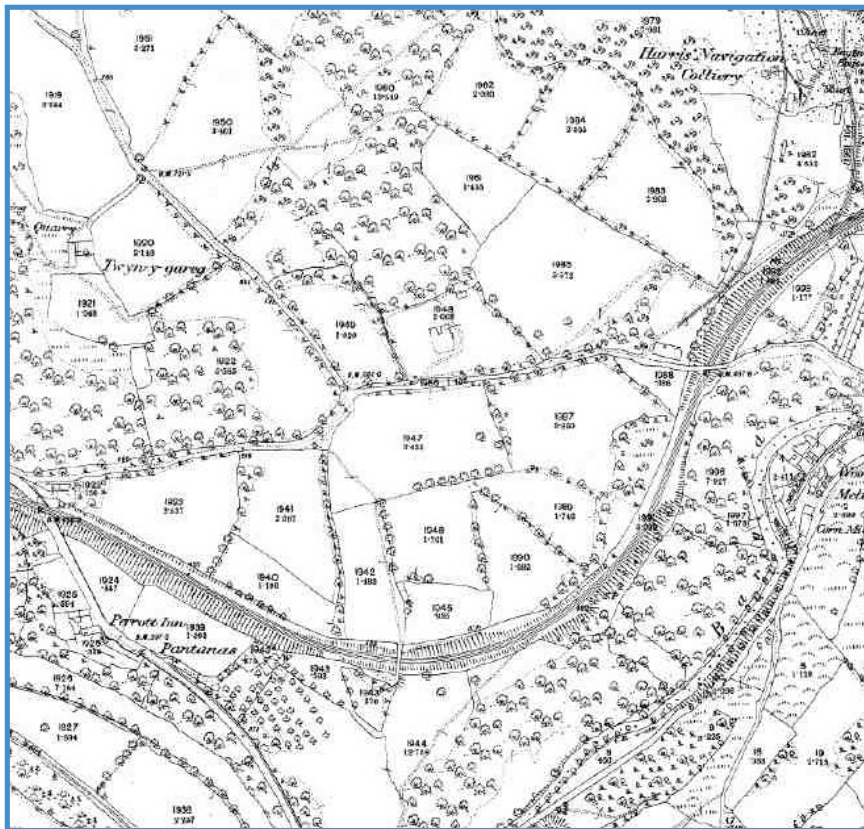
Until the construction of the GWR branch line between Aberdare and Cardiff Docks in 1864, the area would have had a very rural appearance, with settlement focused on the more historic village of Quaker's Yard which lay further down the valley. However, the opening of this railway line

encouraged the development of Treharris from the 1870s onwards, mainly at the instigation of Frederick William Harris (1833 - 1916), after whom Treharris was named. Harris was born into a London based Quaker family with interests in banking and coin factoring. At the age of 13 he was apprenticed into a company brokering marine insurance and coal factoring. At the age of 21 he

became a partner in the company which he developed into a ship brokering company and managing a fleet of tramp steamers. The company still exists as BWM Harris and Dixon. Harris was also a founder director of the Commercial Assurance Union Co. and

was an underwriter at Lloyds of London. In 1856 he was expelled from the Quakers as a consequence of marrying a non-Quaker. This may have been more a result of his taking part in a religious ceremony that diverged from Quaker practice rather than his choice of bride.

The high price of coal in the early 1870s and Harris' knowledge of the market for coal,



Treharris in 1875

particularly in shipping, encouraged him to explore the potential for a new mine in the Taff valley. In 1850 Harris' sister had married a fellow Quaker named Alfred Tylor, a noted geologist, who sank the Pendyrus Colliery in the neighbouring Rhondda Fach in 1872. The Merthyr Vale Colliery had also recently been sunk (starting in 1869) by Nixon, Taylor and Co., exploiting seams of high quality 'steam' coal.

An exploratory 'level' was excavated into the mountainside below Treharris in 1872, following which the first pit for the Harris Navigation Colliery was cut in February 1873. By 1879



Treharris square, c1930

Pit No.1 was producing coal for trade, whilst a second pit was commercially productive by 1881. Accommodation for the workmen involved in these early excavations was provided in two rows of wooden huts located just to the south of the colliery, which are shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1879. Several of these temporary dwellings survived until the 1950s.

For the commercial operation of the pit, a much larger workforce was required. Initially workers found accommodation in surrounding inns, farmhouses and barns. However, an inquest into

the granting of a license for a new public house in 1878 stated that the colliery company intended to build 250 -300 houses for workers. The first housing was built on Fox Street, a new road leading from the colliery gates to a junction with the old country lane that is now Cardiff Road. The Navigation Hotel, built in 1878 at this new road junction (costing an advertised sum of £4,000),

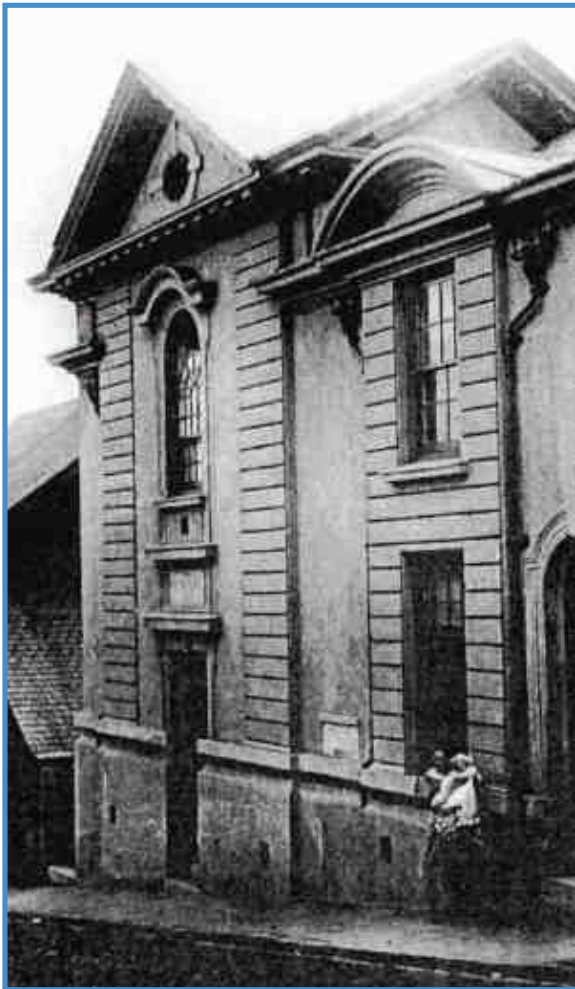
was constructed on land leased from the Harris Navigation Colliery and served as a pay office for the company's workers.

Following Fox Street, housing was built by the colliery company on a rigidly marked

out street grid, with the central line of Cross Street running up the hill from Fox Street, which was crossed by Penn Street, Fell Street and Webster Street. Work on constructing these houses appears to have continued into the early 1890s as part of modern Fell Street is not recorded in the Census of 1891. The houses were of good quality and leased to colliers and their families at an 'affordable' rate. Although not architecturally outstanding they were built to a single design. Whilst the street grid layout may have had benefits for building, it also incorporated ideals on the provision for public health and hygiene, including



good drains and sewerage, the lack of which had been notable in the early development of other industrial towns in the area. It is notable that rear alleyways are not present in the street plan as these were believed to create unhealthy areas by the late 19th century.



The Masonic Temple, soon after completion in 1910

It is understood that Harris' Quaker beliefs played an important role in the provision of such a good quality living environment for his workers. The new streets were named after heroes of the early Quaker movement: George Fox (1624 - 1691), William Penn (1644 - 1788) and Margaret Fell

(1614 - 1702). However, a Lydia Fell is also recorded among the early Quakers who met in the Quaker's Yard area in the 17th century and local wisdom records the street as named after her. Webster Street appears to have been named after one of Harris' fellow company directors. Whilst they may have satisfied a spirit of late Victorian philanthropy they also conformed with the requirements of the model byelaws for local sanitary boards (issued in 1877, 1879 and 1882). In addition, providing good quality housing and a pleasant living environment would have helped the colliery company to attract skilled workers and to keep this workforce healthy. Harris' own residence in the growing village appears to have been Bargoed House, which stood on land overlooking Cardiff Road with grounds including the later area of St Matthias' Church.



Fox Street

The early growth of the town was not limited to the colliery company's land. Perrott Street was laid out to provide a link from Fox Street and the central square outside the Navigation Hotel to the new railway station at the lower end of Thomas Street. Given the daily passage of over two thousand colliery workers, both streets soon



developed as the town's commercial focus. Further streets of housing were constructed between Perrott Street and the older alignment of Cardiff Road in the 1890s, including some larger villas at Commercial Terrace.

The looser development pattern along Perrot Street allowed development of many of the town's amenities on plots in this area. First amongst these was the English Baptist Chapel on John Street, built in 1880 and serving a congregation that had developed in the timber huts of the earlier settlement. The Brynhyfryd Welsh Baptist Chapel was built soon after (1882) on Thomas Street, overlooking the railway station. The large and impressive Local Board School was built between Perrott Street and Edward Street in 1882, with an adjacent house for the headmaster. A large Police Station with accommodation for five officers was built on Edward Street in 1886.

A hall and institute were built by public subscription and with a generous donation from Frederick William Harris overlooking 'The Square' in 1892. Amongst other resources it boasted a large library of books and periodicals and its founding constitution specified that the building must be available for public use without charge for 33 nights every year.

Despite the high price of coal in the early 1870s, its value had soon tumbled as a result of the recession begun by the 'Panic' of 1873. In addition, problems in extracting water from the pits and in digging through the hard Pennant sandstone strata saw the Harris Navigation Colliery's profits falling and by 1890 negotiations had begun with the Ocean Coal Company to sell

the colliery. In 1893 the negotiations were successful and with additional investment from the Ocean Coal Company the future of the colliery was secured for nearly a century. By 1902 the colliery employed up to 2,000 workers. Following the sale of the colliery Harris appears to have left Treharris, although he continued to support the construction of public buildings including the Anglican Church of St. Matthias (completed 1896), designed by the notable architect John Loughborough Pearson, who also designed St. Tydfil's Church in Merthyr Tydfil.

An Independent Tabernacle Chapel was built on the east side of Perrott Street in 1893, whilst a Primitive Methodist Church was built on Webster Street in 1900, although this has since been demolished. The Royal Hotel, on the south side of the station, is recorded in Kelly's Directory of 1901 as the principal hotel in the town. The town plan as shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1901 is largely that of the conservation area today and had been built almost entirely within the space of twenty years. Later additions included a number of buildings of particular architectural or historic interest including the Treharris Library, built in 1909 with support from the Carnegie Foundation, a Masonic Temple built in 1910 (now sadly much altered) and the Treharris Boy's Club (1923), built just inside the gates of the colliery. A memorial clock was added to the facade of the Treharris Library following the Great War of 1914 - 1918.

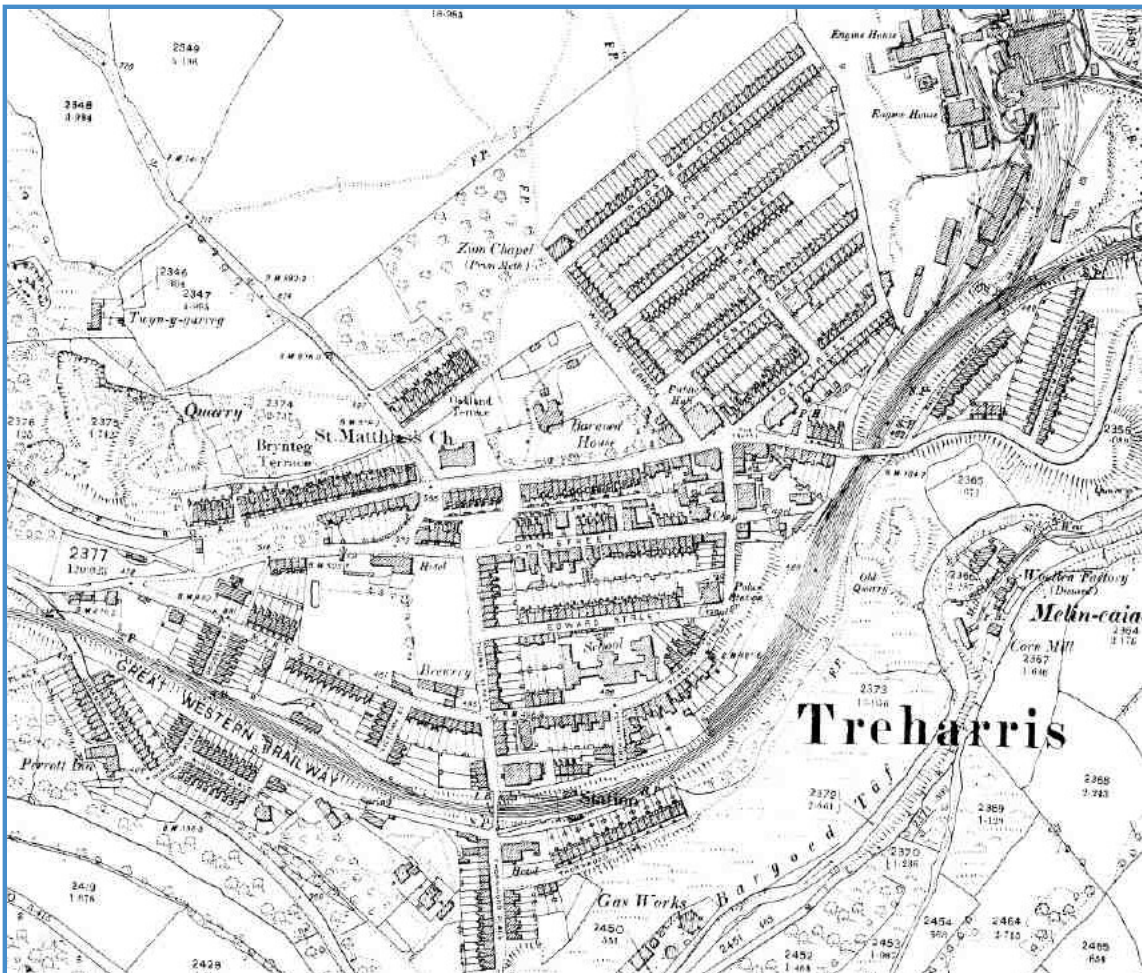
The social and industrial history of Treharris throughout the 20th century is of significant interest given the town's important role in the many industrial disputes between the mining trade unions and pit owners and, latterly, the British government in the form of the National Coal Board.



The town's cultural heritage, including musical, dramatic and sporting achievements are also of note and have been described elsewhere in some detail (Jones 2005). These add to the historic interest of the town and are resonant within its fabric but have had little impact on the form of its built environment, which has otherwise retained much of its late 19th century plan and appearance.

Following the closure of the pit on Good Friday (March 29th) 1991, the decline of the town centre as a commercial area resulted in the closure of shops and public houses and their conversion for residential accommodation. The focal area of The

Square lost the edifice of the former Public Hall and Institute, which had served as the Palace Cinema for many years. Buildings forming the south eastern corner of The Square were demolished in 2008 after several years of attempted renovation by the Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association, and the site has now been redeveloped for flats. The site of the colliery was redeveloped as a Millennium Park for the community, including sports pitches, with convenient links to Parc Taf Bargoed. The Treharris Boys Club has also received funding for improvement and was rebuilt, reopening as the Treharris Boys and Girls Club in May 2005.



Very little development had occurred in Treharris since 1901

4 Spatial Analysis



4.1 Layout and street pattern

The layout of modern-day Treharris is the result of a combination of influences including the course of the old country lanes now forming Commercial Terrace, Cardiff Road and The Park/Twynygarreg, and the course of the former GWR railway line to the south. Other factors include the position of the former Deep Navigation Colliery and, most significantly the late 19th century town planning of the Harris Navigation Colliery Company. The grid of streets formed by Fox, Penn, Fell, Webster and Cross Streets and Williams Terrace provides a virtually unbroken area of late 19th century town planning representing a single phase of development. As such they form an archetypal ‘company town’.

The slightly less formal development of Perrott/Mary Street, including the curving street line determined by the course of the railway line, provides a more mixed area. This is emphasised by the variety of building styles including many of the town’s current and former public buildings. Of note is the influence of the street’s curvature on the containment of views, producing a series of more intimate areas. However, the adjoining roads of John, Edward, Thomas and Victoria Street, which are also laid out in a grid pattern, bring back the formality of the late Victorian planned development. As such the conservation area forms two distinct areas – one in the north east, leading up the hillside from Fox Street, the other in the south west, leading off Perrott Street. These are connected by Cardiff Road and The Square.

The relatively narrow streets, with continuous frontages of terraced houses, provide a strong

sense of enclosure. The uniform alignment and widths of the houses provides a strong sense of rhythm, which is emphasised by the regular pattern of architectural features on each property, repeated along the entire street. Both factors combine to create distinctive views along each of the streets.



Part of the regimented plan of the company town



A gently curving line towards Cardiff Road

4.2 Open spaces and trees

Although a relatively small area, The Square plays an important role as a focal open space in the conservation area. However, it is currently dominated by traffic using the town’s one-way system. Demolition of the former Public Hall and Institute has left a large grassed area on the north



side of The Square, which currently lacks a clear identity or use.

The churchyard of Saint Matthias' Church provides an area of well maintained green open space at the western entry point to the conservation area, in addition to creating an attractive setting for the church. Just to the east is a less appealing large bus turning circle, which dominates the approach to The Square along Cardiff Road. This space interferes with pedestrian movement into the town centre and, being dominated by hard landscaping, has a negative impact.



View at Treharris FC towards the "Giant's Bite"

A large football ground is located in the west of the conservation area. Due to the sloping ground it is cut into the hill side as a large terrace, overlooked from Commercial Terrace on the north side, with a large revetment wall forming the north side of Mary Street to the south.

The former railway line running along the southern edge of the conservation area has been colonised in places for a mixture of uses, including a car park to the rear of the Treharris Library, a second car park next to the Royal Hotel, and a playground to the east. Areas of scrubby woodland lie

between these spaces, and to the west of the conservation area.

Other than the woodland mentioned above, there are few significant trees within the conservation area. Three good specimen trees surround St. Matthias' Church (shown on the Townscape Appraisal Map), whilst lines of more mature trees stand on the east side of Forest Road and along the edge of the car park at the Boys and Girls Club. However, the more dominant woodland in the river valley, to the south of the conservation area, makes an important contribution to the visual appeal of views southwards from Treharris.

4.3 Focal points, focal buildings, views and vistas

Focal points



The Square in Treharris

The Square forms the main focal point for the Town, although it is currently dominated by traffic. The narrow pavements and small traffic islands do not provide sufficient space for any public activity although in the past the space was used as a performance site for the Salvation Army band.



This is recorded in photographs from the early 1990s which show it in use as the rallying point for the parade to mark the closure of the colliery. The former site of the Public Hall could be used to expand this central space to provide a more functional and attractive town centre square.

A second focal point is formed at the junction of Perrott Street and Edward Street, which, although a narrow space, is given prominence by the surrounding focal buildings (see below). This junction defines the entrance to the town centre from the south. The meeting point of Thomas Street, Mary Street and Perrott Street, creates a third focal point, benefiting from views to focal buildings up and down Thomas Street.



Treharris Public Library and former Police Station

The Navigation Hotel provides the most important focal building in the town forming the angle between Fox Street and Cardiff Road. Other prominent buildings include:

- Corner shop buildings at No. 14 Fox Street, No. 15 Cardiff Road (Vantage Pharmacy), No. 21 Perrott; Street and No. 1 Mary Street;

- Bethel and Tabernacle Chapels, Perrott Street;
- Treharris Library, Perrott Street;
- Royal Mail Receiving Office (former Police Station), Perrott Street;
- Community College/Centre (former School), Perrott Street;
- Brynhyfryd Chapel, Thomas Street;
- Royal Hotel, Thomas Street;
- Saint Matthias Church;
- No. 6 Glenview Villas, Commercial Terrace;
- Valley Food Store, Williams Terrace;
- Hughes Jenkins Solicitors building, corner of Williams Terrace and Cardiff Road;
- The former Masonic Temple, Williams Terrace.

Views and vistas

Views within the conservation area benefit from the survival of the town's historic street plan and the dense nature of its urban form. As mentioned above, the views along each of the historic streets are strengthened by the uniformity of the building frontages and the strong vertical rhythm created by the repeated architectural detailing of doors, windows, rainwater goods and chimney stacks (where these survive). The view into Fox Street

from The Square is given particular prominence as a result of the good state of preservation of the Navigation Hotel. Views along Fell Street, Webster Street and Edward Street provide the best examples of the contribution of the town's terraced buildings to locally distinctive views. Fell Street is particularly notable for the use of the brightly coloured paint on the brickwork which surrounds the windows and doors. This detail accentuates the rhythm of the frontages and brightens the street scene, without detracting from its historic interest.

Although there are many views out of the conservation area, many of these have been marred by the intrusive impact of modern housing developments, or the detrimental impact of alterations to historic buildings in the immediate vicinity of the conservation area. The view of Treharris from the ridge of high ground to the south has been painted and photographed many times in the past century, making use of the vantage point to show the entire street plan of the town, as well as many of its prominent public buildings.



View south along Perrott Street to mountains

4.5 Boundaries



Roadside wall on Forest Road

Where property boundaries are not formed by buildings, boundaries are made up of walls of local sandstone in either uncoursed mortared rubble or snecked rock faced stone. The rubble walls in particular provide opportunities for Polypody ferns to colonise, which provide greenery and visual interest without damaging the masonry.

Boundaries of particular value Include:

- The churchyard walls around St Matthias' Church;
- The yard or garden walls at the south western ends of Webster Street, Fell Street and Penn Street, which form the foreground to views from the south;
- The boundary wall on the east side of Forest Road;
- The schoolyard walls on the north side of Perrott Street and the south side of Edward Street;

- The wall to the Football Ground on the north side of Mary Street;
- The wall marking the corner of Perrott Street and Edward Street.



Cast Iron rails at Tabernacle Chapel

The Tabernacle and Bethel Baptist Chapels both have boundaries of cast iron railings on dwarf walls of large sandstone blocks, with robust stone gate piers. An area in The Square, adjacent to the Navigation Hotel, is also marked by metal railings on a dwarf wall, divided by piers of local sandstone.

4.6 Public realm

Street lighting

The types of street lighting vary within the conservation area. A scheme of public realm improvements on Perrott Street and around the bus turning circle on Cardiff Road has provided black and silver painted lighting columns with drop-shaped lamps under circular shades, suspended on brackets just above the eaves of surrounding buildings. Lighting columns

elsewhere in the conservation area are of more standard design in cream or unpainted galvanised steel with angled heads and low pressure sodium lamps in unadorned grey housings. Unfortunately, these have a negative impact on the character and appearance of the conservation area. The remains of an historic gas lamp survive on top of the school yard wall on the south side of Edward Street, providing a feature of interest that should be preserved.

Paving

Footpaths within the conservation area are paved using good quality red-brown concrete setts along Perrott Street and around the bus turning circle on Cardiff Road, which are co-ordinated with setted parking bays in a smaller unit size. A contrasting grey concrete kerb, echoed in a flush concrete band defining parking bays from the highway, both add interest. Elsewhere footpaths are generally surfaced with concrete slab paving or black tarmacadam with narrow concrete kerbs. Road surfaces are of universally covered in tarmacadam. An area at the lower end of Williams Terrace has broad stone blocks marking drains at the edge of the road surface, which appear to be a rare example of surviving historic materials.

Wirescape

Overhead telephone and electricity cables can have an intrusive impact where they are poorly planned. Telephone wires are particularly visually intrusive along Webster Street, where the steep slope of the ground brings wires further down the street to eye level in views eastwards. Another poor area for wirescape is located next to the Tabernacle Chapel



on Perrott Street.

Street furniture

The public realm works on and around Perrott Street have provided litter bins, benches and traffic bollards in a co-ordinated green and red livery. Benches have a metal stand with wooden laths and are sympathetic to the late Victorian character of Treharris, although at least one has been badly vandalised. A more modern style of litter bin is located at the bottom of Williams Terrace in dark grey steel. An early 20th century Royal Mail wall-mounted cast iron post-box is preserved next to the Post Office in Fox Street, providing an element of historic street furniture.



Left: Gutter detail, Williams Terrace; Centre: Modern paving scheme on Perrott Street; Right: redundant gas lamp, Edward Street



5 Conservation Area Buildings

5.1 Building types

The majority of buildings in the conservation area are small terraced cottages of a type found in large numbers across the country and particularly within industrial settlements of the late 19th century. As such, they provide a significant part of the character and distinctiveness of the wider County Borough, as well as making an important contribution to the Treharris Conservation Area. Their architectural and historic interest stems from their social significance, their layout, and their use of local materials. A number of these buildings were converted for use as shops by insertion of ground floor shopfronts, many of which have now been converted back into dwelling houses. Buildings either built as commercial premises or converted for this purpose are focused on Fox Street, Cardiff Road and Perrott Street.



The former Headmasters' House, now Treharris Police Station

Buildings sponsored by, or built within the planned settlement of the Harris Navigation Colliery Company, include the following:

- The Navigation Hotel and the purpose built shops on Fox Street;
- The Local Board School on Perrott Street;
- The adjacent headmaster's house and St Matthias' Church;
- The former Police Station (now the Royal Mail's receiving office) on Edward Street.



The former Police Station, now a Royal Mail office

Other building types include the grand public buildings of the Non-conformist chapels, the Masonic Temple, and Treharris Library. Built by public subscription, they show some conformance with the planned street grid but emphasise their prestige through their scale, the use of a wider variety of materials, and their architectural detailing.

5.2 Listed buildings

There are two listed buildings in the conservation area; the Treharris Library and the Tabernacle Independent Chapel, both of which are listed Grade II.

The Treharris Library was built in 1909 to a design



by the Newport-based architect W. Dowdeswell, in an Edwardian Free Style. It is a single storey building with an exposed basement to the rear, and is faced with red brick and Bath stone detailing to the front and cement render to the sides and rear. The main facade has projected gable returns to either end, which are lit by Palladian-style windows. A central bay has a monumental doorway with pillars either side supporting a curved hood over which a shield and motto divide the words 'Treharris Library'. The hipped roof of Welsh slate with buff fired clay ridge tiles is topped by the leaded base of a former cupola, sadly now removed. A clock, supported on a bracket over the front door, was added to the building in 1926 as a memorial to the fallen of the First World War and is Treharris' official War Memorial. The construction of the building was supported by a grant from the fund set up by Andrew Carnegie, commemorated by a mosaic in the lobby depicting the initials 'CL' (Carnegie Library) within a wreath.



Treharris Library

The Independent Tabernacle Chapel has a relatively plane frontage of cement render onto Perrott Street, pierced by two tiers of four windows, the upper row of which have rounded heads. The northern facing elevation, set within a narrow courtyard, has more interest with ornamental pilasters, window and door mouldings, string course, pediment detail and date plaque, all formed in render. The building's interior is very well preserved including galleries, pews, pillars, panelling and cornices, which are all highly ornamented.



Tabernacle Chapel

5.3 Locally listed buildings

‘Locally Listed’ buildings are buildings which are of local rather than national interest, perhaps due to their connection with local people or particular historical events, or because they demonstrate the use of local materials or details. At present only three buildings in the conservation area have been locally listed:



A gable detail of the Navigation Hotel

- The Navigation Hotel, The Square;
- The Royal Hotel, Thomas Street;
- The former Masonic Temple, Williams Terrace.

The Navigation Hotel played an important part in the life of both colliery and town, acting as both a meeting place for the colliery workers and as a pay centre. It retains many architectural details, including scrolled brackets, with acanthus leaf decoration, which supports the cornice. The roofline is punctuated by three large dormers facing onto Fox Street, the second of which bears

a name plaque, with the legend “Hotel” and a date of 1878. It is constructed in ‘snecked’ courses of rock-faced sandstone and retains a roof of Welsh slate. Window and door openings are outlined in buff-coloured brick. Part of the ground floor is covered by panelled timber cladding of uncertain date but not detrimental to the character of the building. The building’s multi-angular south west end, which wraps around the corner of Fox Street and Cardiff Road, has particular value as a landmark.



The former Masonic Temple has lost much of its detailing

The Royal Hotel stands at the southern end of Thomas Street, separated from the rest of the conservation area by the former line of the former GWR railway. It is two storeys high (plus attics), built from coursed rock-faced sandstone, and has flat stone arches to the window heads. The roofline and spacing of windows suggests that it originally had a five bay frontage, with a chamfered corner to the right, and a hipped roof. At a later stage it was extended eastwards with a two-storey range of three bays with two attic dormer windows above, whilst a third dormer window was added to the original structure. The



extension and dormers retain their traditional timber-framed sash windows, and the building is roofed in Welsh slate roof with terracotta ridge tiles and finials. A glass canopy with a red painted frame is a recent addition to the front of the building. Originally, the building was located directly adjacent to Treharris' railway station.

The former Masonic Temple, built in 1910, has lost much of the architectural detailing which is well recorded in historic photographs. Originally the building had applied pilasters of rusticated render work, a dentil cornice to an impressive pediment, and prominent surrounds to the windows and doors which lay on the main frontage facing Williams Terrace. The majority of the building's windows and doors have now been blocked up and all ornament replaced with smooth buff painted render.

The local list does not currently represent a complete list of buildings that would qualify as of local interest. Other buildings that might be

added to the local list include:

- Saint Matthias' Church, Cardiff Road;
- Bethel Baptist Chapel, John Street;
- The Royal Mail Receiving Officer (former Police Station), Edward Street;
- Treharris Community Centre/College, Perrott Street;
- Brynhyfryd Welsh Baptist Chapel, Thomas Street.



St Matthias Church, Cardiff Road



Brynhyfryd Chapel, Thomas Street

5.4 Positive buildings

In addition to the Listed and Locally Listed buildings, a further number of unlisted buildings have been identified on the Designations Map as being positive buildings of townscape merit. Buildings identified as being positive will vary, but commonly they will be good examples of relatively unaltered historic buildings where their style, detailing and building materials provides the streetscape with interest and variety. Most importantly, they make a positive contribution to the special interest of the conservation area. Where a building has been heavily altered, and restoration would be impractical, they are excluded. In Treharris, most of these buildings form part of the late 19th century planned development of streets of terraced houses connected with the Harris Navigation Colliery Company.



Part of Fell Street

'Positive' buildings include:

- Houses on Thomas, Webster, Fell and Penn Streets;
- The office building at the junction of Cardiff Road and Williams Terrace (west side);
- Valley Foods, Williams Terrace (west side);
- Vacant building between Valley Foods and the former Masonic Temple, Williams Terrace (west side);
- Houses and shops in Fox Street;
- Houses and commercial premises at Nos. 1 - 22 Bargoed Terrace (Cardiff Road) with No. 15 Cardiff Road;
- Nos. 1- 6 Glenview Villas, Commercial Terrace;
- Nos. 1 - 19, 22 - 26 and 32 - 35 John Street;
- HSBC Bank, Perrott Street;
- Nos. 4 and 5, 10 - 32, 33 - 37 and 38 Perrott Street;
- Nos. 1 -25a and 26 - 29 Thomas Street (including the St John's Ambulance Hall);
- Nos. 1 - 10 and 11 - 23 Mary Street;
- Nos. 4 - 10 Victoria Street.

Government guidance in Welsh Planning Circular 61/96: Planning and the historic environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas advises that a general presumption exists in favour of retaining those buildings which make a positive

contribution to the character or appearance of a conservation area (paragraph 32). The circular states that proposals to demolish such buildings should be assessed against the same broad criteria as proposals to demolish listed buildings. This implies therefore that all buildings marked green on the Townscape Appraisal Map will be retained in the future unless a special case can be made for demolition.



Nos 4-10 Victoria Street

5.5 Building styles, materials and colours

The majority of buildings within the conservation area are two-storey terraced cottages of a single design, modified in places where shopfronts have been inserted. Indeed, it is the uniformity of building design throughout the conservation area that provides a large part of its architectural interest, visibly demonstrating the rapid development of Treharris for a single colliery company. Many of the public buildings provide a high degree of conformity to the materials, style and scale of the surrounding housing, including St Matthias' Church, The Navigation Hotel, the former Treharris School (now the Community Centre and College) and the Royal Hotel. This provides a unified theme for the buildings of the conservation

area that confirms its evolution as a single planned entity.



Part of Thomas Street

The terraced houses in the conservation area are almost universally built using locally quarried rock-faced sandstone (although a small number have been clad with roughcast or grit render as a later alteration), with a single door and window to the ground floor and two windows above on the front facade. Window and door opening are surrounded by either red or buff coloured brick, which is painted in many instances, often in vibrant colours, as well as more standard reds and blacks. Window sills are formed of large, single slabs of stone with a 'rock cut' outer edge.

The use of rock faced sandstone provides a particular character to the terraces that provides them with a strong sense of local distinctiveness. This is further accentuated by laying the stonework in 'sneked' courses, which uses different sizes of stone, laid in horizontal courses of differing sizes. The stone has a dark silver-grey colouring with occasional patches of reds and browns created by patches of iron oxide, creating a brindled affect.

On Webster, Fell and Penn Streets the roofs are continuous along each side of the street following the slope of the buildings, rather than stepping down the slope, creating steep angles in some locations. Houses on Williams Terrace, Thomas Street and Victoria Street have stepped rooflines. Nearly all of the roofs have been re-tiled with concrete tiles, although a few isolated natural slate roofs survive.



Chemist at the corner of Perrott Street and the square

Chimneystacks are placed on the ridges of roofs at the party wall of terraced properties. Their survival varies throughout the conservation area. Where they exist they are normally of built from red or buff brick with some detailing, such as corners, in a contrasting colour of brick. Very few examples of original timber-framed sash windows survive, although some remain at the Royal Hotel and in Fox Street. Historic photographs record that two-over-two pane sash windows were originally found throughout Fox Street.

As mentioned above, a number of the larger public buildings such as St Matthias' Church, The Navigation Hotel, the Community Centre, and the Royal Hotel, were also constructed using locally

stone and similar details to the cottages. These therefore retain their elevations of rock-faced stone, also with 'snecked' masonry, as well as roof details such as prominent dormers or moulded terracotta ridge tiles and finials.

Buildings which stand out from the common 'theme' of the town include the chapels, banks and the Masonic Hall, all of which were built outside the control of the colliery company or the local Board. These tend to dominate their surroundings because of their enhanced scale and also they also emphasised their status by using 'national' architectural styles. These buildings are clustered on a path that runs from lower Williams Terrace, along Perrott Street to Thomas Street. They tend to decorate their relatively simple, rectangular plan forms with a variety of details including rusticated quoins, engaged pilasters, string courses and pediments, often formed in stonework or moulded render.



Snecked sandstone masonry

5.6 Shopfronts

The daily passage of thousands of men along Cardiff Road, Perrott Street and Fox Street, as well



as the needs of their families, provided the impetus for the development of a large and prosperous commercial centre in Treharris. The ornate late-Victorian and Edwardian shopfronts, including decorative cornice mouldings and brightly coloured awnings, added character and architectural interest to the town centre. Since the early 1990s, the closure of the colliery and the availability of alternative supermarkets and independent transport have resulted in the decline of the town's commercial role and the closure of many of its shops. Many of the remaining shops have replaced their traditional shopfronts with more functional but less attractive shopfronts made from aluminium or uPVC, although some historic shopfronts do remain and should be protected from future change.



Steeply sloping continuous roofline of Webster Street

Buildings retaining all or parts of historic shopfronts include:

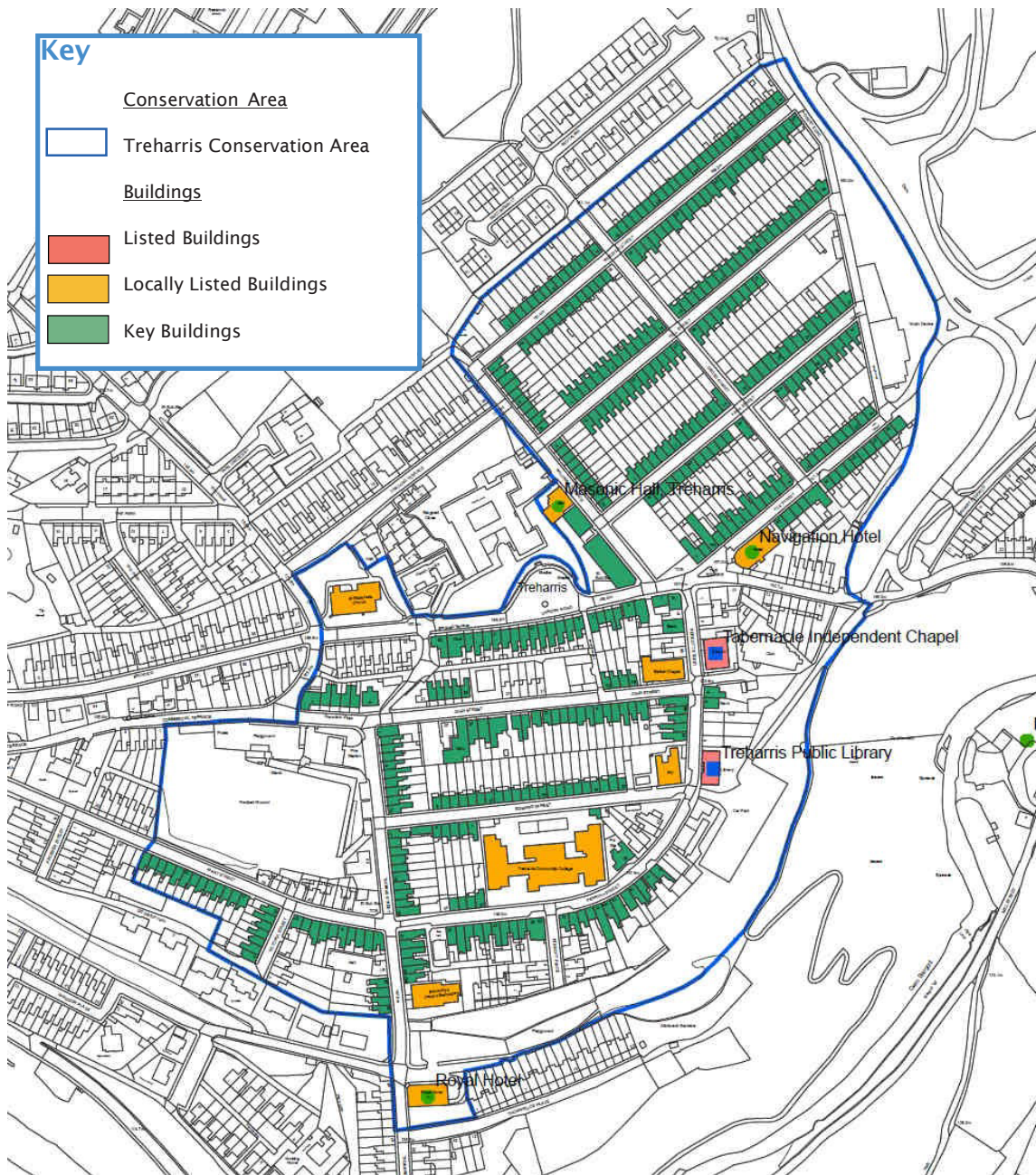
- The restored ground floor frontages of the Navigation Hotel;
- The four adjacent shops at Nos. 36 – 39 Fox Street, which retain scrolled brackets to a narrow cornice running along the frontage

of all three buildings, timber framed sash windows to the first floor and some timber pilasters. Other details may survive although these are currently covered by security screens;

- No. 4 Fox Street (Hairloom Unisex Salon), retaining engaged pilasters with consoles, tiled stall riser and a recessed entrance – the shop also retains its original angled fascia for a sun blind, with original timber framed sash windows to the first floor;
- No. 15 Cardiff Road (Vantage Pharmacy, or R.D. and M.R. Parry Chemists Ltd.), formerly a coffee tavern;
- HSBC Bank, Perrott Street;
- No. 18 Perrott Street (Treharris Antiques), retaining a near complete Edwardian shopfront;
- Former Hughes Jenkins Solicitors at the corner of Cardiff Road and Williams Terrace, retaining a number of interesting features



Architectural features remain amidst building conditions



Key buildings in Treharris Conservation Area



6 Issues

6.1 Introduction

During the survey work for this character appraisal, a number of negative features or issues were identified that detracted from the special architectural or historic interest of the conservation area. In due course, the Council will need to develop management proposals to mitigate the impact of these, a summary of which is included below:

6.2 Vacant buildings



Vacant buildings on Williams Terrace

A number of properties within the conservation area are noted as vacant or underused. These include the Brynhyfryd Chapel and former Bethel Chapel (most recently used as a Kitchen and Bedroom fitter's workshop), shops at Nos. 36- 37 Fox Street, the Masonic Temple and, most recently, the Navigation Hotel, amongst others. Because these buildings are not in use (either partial or full), they are not being maintained and they may eventually be lost due to their poor structural condition, as happened with the former public hall. Their vacant status and their condition also provide a negative feature in the conservation

area.



Brynhyfryd Chapel

6.3 Identification of buildings for local listing

A review of the list of buildings of 'local' historic and architectural interest within the proposed conservation area suggests that a number of additions are required to ensure the list accurately reflects the local built heritage resource. Buildings which should be considered for addition to the local list include:

- St Matthias' Church, Cardiff Road;
- Bethel English Baptist Chapel, Perrott Street;
- Royal Mail Receiving Office (former Police Station), Edward Street;
- Treharris Community Centre/College, Perrott Street;
- Brynhyfryd Welsh Baptist Chapel, Thomas Street.

6.4 Past loss of architectural detail on dwelling houses

The majority of houses within the conservation area have undergone some changes which cumulatively have had a detrimental effect on their character and appearance. Nearly all properties in the conservation area have had their traditional timber framed windows replaced with metal or uPVC framed units, and most of the roofs have been recovered with concrete tiles. Many chimneystacks have been removed, whilst a small number of properties have been clad with painted roughcast or grit render, resulting in the loss of the stonework that provides much of the town's characteristic appearance. Over the years, these relatively minor changes have had a significant impact on the character and appearance of the town. However, these changes are potentially reversible or could be mitigated through more effective management of the buildings in the future. At present the most significant threat to the majority of the buildings in the conservation area is from use of roughcast or other render, which is used to cover the front elevations.



Over-rendered frontages

The Council could consider the use of an Article 4 Direction, which bring under planning control a variety of changes to family dwelling which would otherwise be allowed under the houseowner's 'permitted development' rights. An Article 4 Direction would encourage the use of traditional materials and details, particularly the use of natural slate and timber joinery.

It is notable that a number of buildings have recently been re-roofed with imported or synthetic slate, as opposed to concrete tiles. This is seen as a positive step towards restoring some of the town's earlier historic character, although the use of Welsh natural slate, supporting a traditional indigenous industry, would normally be regarded as preferable.

6.5 Loss of historic shop fronts



Modern shop fronts fail to reflect architectural details

Many of the historic shops within the conservation area have now been converted into residential accommodation by removing the old shopfront. As



well as resulting in the loss of historically interesting joinery, the conversions have often been achieved by infilling with modern materials which do not match the historic stonework. The further loss of historic shopfronts should be resisted, and existing shopfronts should be restored to their original appearance as far as practically possible.

6.6 Vacant and derelict sites

A number of vacant sites were identified within the conservation area as follows:

- The plot to the south of the Treharris Library;
- The plot to the west of No. 32 John Street;
- The plot at the north east end of Fell Street.

The plot on Fell Street is currently being redeveloped for housing, whilst the other plots are derelict. Where the poor condition of derelict land has a negative impact on the character and appearance of the conservation area, the Council might consider using Section 215 Notices, under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, to require property owners to tidy up and generally improve the appearance of their land.

6.7 Traffic burden at The Square and lack of pedestrian permeability

The Square forms a pinch point for traffic passing through the centre of Treharris on an important route from Trelewis and Bedlinog, to the A470, avoiding the longer route through Nelson to the

south west. However, the heavy traffic load and narrow pavements around The Square make this a potentially dangerous area for pedestrians and create problems for crossing the road. Both aspects reduce the attractiveness of the area for shopping or socialising.

6.8 Lack of use or identity of the former Public Hall site

The site of the former Public Hall is currently a large rectangular area of grass, which, although offering some amenity, is particularly under-exploited in its potential as an attractive public open space, which might otherwise help to support the commercial and cultural use of the town centre.



The former public hall site

6.9 Security shutters on Fox Street for premises open in the evenings

In recent years a number of commercial premises on Fox Street have been converted for use as fast

food premises. These, along with a number of other shops, including vacant premises, tend to have security shutters that remain closed during the daytime hours when the shopping area should be busiest and, presumably, when the need for such shutters is least necessary. These create a series of inactive frontages whose unattractive shutters detract from the vibrancy and interest of the conservation area. By working with property owners the Council might arrange for more shutters to be raised during day-time, when the passive surveillance of passers-by reduces the need for such security measures. Alternative methods of providing a similar level of security might also be promoted such as the use of shutters on the inside of windows or by fitting shutters with a more of a more appealing design.



Roller shutters create bland and inactive frontages

6.10 Satellite dishes



Some buildings are fronted with unsympathetic materials

The presence of satellite dishes on many frontages overlooking the highway detracts from the historic character and appearance of the conservation area. Planning controls following designation of conservation areas are not retrospective and could not be used to force property owners to remove existing dishes. However, the introduction of tighter controls on the placing of dishes might help to resolve this problem in the long term. Where housing is densely built-up there is some potential for several properties to be served by a single dish. By working with satellite television providers the Council could aim to reduce the number of dishes required within the conservation area, potentially allowing many satellite dishes to be removed.

6.11 Wheelie-bins

The historic lay-out of properties within the conservation makes the storage of large modern wheeled dustbins within, or to the rear of properties, impractical. As a result they tend to



remain on the pavement to the front of each house where they have a negative impact on the character and appearance of the conservation area. They also create a potential hazard for pedestrians, wheel chair users, and mothers with buggies.

6.12 On street parking

The dominance of parked cars in the street scene has a negative impact on the appearance of the area. This has been addressed to some extent on Perrott Street, where parking bays and 'build-outs' have been used to define and break up areas of on street parking, whilst improving pedestrian permeability. Consideration should be given to the potential to make such improvements elsewhere in the conservation area.



Wheelie bins and satellite dishes detract from appearance

6.13 Disabled Access

Given Treharris' steep gradients and narrow pavements use of the surface car park to the rear of the Treharris Library is not adequate to the needs of disabled persons using the town centre

shops and other amenities such as the Health Centre. Consideration should be given to the provision of appropriate disabled car parking facilities in the town centre. The Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Access Group have identified the lack of dropped kerbs on Fox Street and around the bus station on Cardiff Road as a significant impediment to disabled access in the town centre.

6.14 Areas in need of enhancement

Public realm enhancements on Perrott Street have succeeded in raising the quality of the built environment in that part of the Treharris, although they are now in need of repair and maintenance. The areas of Cardiff Road, The Square and Fox Street would benefit from public realm enhancements to help develop a more attractive town centre area. The poor appearance of the eastern part of Cardiff Road at the entrance to the conservation area from the west was noted as being particularly poor. The pavements in this area are also very narrow bringing pedestrians in close proximity to traffic accelerating up the hill into the Square.

The entrance to the public car park on Perrott Street was identified as being particularly poorly maintained. Security railings recently erected in this area were considered to detract from the setting of the adjacent listed Treharris Public Library.

6.15 Fast-food takeaways

The focus of fast-food takeaways on Fox Street creates a number of sites where teenagers gather in the evenings sometimes resulting in anti-social



behaviour. Littering outside these premises was also noted as a significant issue that detracts from the general quality of the environment on Fox Street. The closure of these businesses throughout much of the daytime also detracts from the general business of Fox Street as a shopping area, reducing the overall viability of the area as a daytime shopping area.

6.16 Lack of awareness

There is currently little awareness of Treharris as an area with a particular historic interest or regard for it as a special example of late 19th century town planning, despite the activity of local history societies and individual enthusiasts. Lack of appreciation of the value of historic buildings to the community resulted in the total removal of all remains of the Deep Navigation Colliery buildings, despite the potential to reuse at least some of the buildings for community uses. It would be unfortunate if further buildings were lost as a result of lack of appreciation of their historic and architectural interest

6.17 Need for monitoring, review and enforcement

Following designation of the conservation area best practice requires the regular reviewing of the conservation area character appraisal and any management proposals on a five year cycle. Additionally, a full photographic survey of the conservation area should be taken every four years to assist with potential enforcement.

This is because it is necessary to monitor changes resulting from future development and to ensure

that the special architectural and historic interest of the conservation area is being preserved or enhanced, as required by the legislation.



Appendix A

Sources



Davies, W. L. (1992), Bridges of Merthyr Tydfil

DoE (1990), The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act

Jones, R. (2005), 'If it hadn't been for Mr. Harris ... The Story of a Pit and its Town (Treharris)' in Merthyr Historian Vol. 18

Kelly's Directory, (1891), Directory of South Wales: Treharris

Kelly's Directory, (1901), Directory of South Wales: Treharris

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (2008), The Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Built Heritage Strategy and Action Plan

Treharris Library, Local History Collection: Treharris Primary Sources

Welsh Assembly (1996), Welsh Planning Circular 61/96: Planning and the historic environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas



Appendix B

Public Consultation Report



1. Methodology

The Treharris Conservation Area Character Appraisal was written between February and March 2009, following a survey undertaken in January and February 2009 by The Conservation Studio. The document was drawn up following the adoption of the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Built Heritage Strategy by the County Borough Council in December 2008. Public consultation was undertaken to take into regard public opinion on the desirability of designating a conservation area and on the accuracy of the contents of the character appraisal, including the key positive characteristics of Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre and key issues to be addressed.

The public consultation ran for twenty days from the 4th March to 23rd March 2009. Following a launch event at Treharris Boys and Girls Club an exhibition was mounted in Treharris Public Library for the consultation period with copies of the draft appraisal and a questionnaire to encourage feedback. Copies of the draft appraisal and a downloadable questionnaire were also uploaded to the Council's website for the duration of the consultation period.

2. Stakeholder Letter and Publicity

A letter was sent to all properties within the area affected by the proposed conservation area and to other key stakeholders on the 2nd March informing them of the consultation process and inviting them to attend the launch event or to view the public exhibition. Details advertising the public consultation were also published in the

Merthyr Express on the 25th February 2009.

3. Public Surgery Event

The public consultation launch event took the form of a walk in surgery for members of the public held within the Treharris Boys and Girls Club on 4th March 2009 from 3:30 to 7:00 pm. The consultant who prepared the draft character appraisal, members of the Council's Planning and Regeneration teams and the Taf Bargoed Regeneration Manager were available to explain the background to the proposed conservation areas designation, its consequences and to answer any queries the public had. An exhibition, included copies of the draft appraisal and boards explaining the process and reasons for designating a conservation area, the changes in planning consequent to designation, characteristics of the conservation area and the key issues to be addressed by its designation. A questionnaire, which provided questions to guide responses from attendees, was made available and attendees were encouraged to fill it in at the event or to return it later. Approximately 30 members of the public attended the event, 24 of whom provided their names and addresses. They included local residents and owners of businesses in Treharris, as well as representatives of Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association, the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Access Group and Communities First representatives from the Taf Bargoed Partnership area.

4. Exhibition

Following the launch event the exhibition was displayed at Treharris Public Library between the



5th and 23rd March, including the exhibition screens, copies of the draft character appraisal and questionnaires for members of the public to fill in and return to the consultants preparing the Character Appraisal. Copies of the draft appraisal were also uploaded to the Council's website with a downloadable questionnaire.

5. Questionnaire

To encourage stakeholders to provide their views on the proposed conservation area designation a Questionnaire was prepared which was available at the consultation launch event, with the exhibition in the Treharris Public Library and from the Council's website. The questionnaire included one question that required a basic yes/no response to ascertain whether respondents agreed with the principal of designating the conservation area and three 'open' questions to illicit qualitative responses. The open questions asked for views on the accuracy of the draft character appraisal, factors contributing to the special historic or architectural interest of Treharris and negative features or issues that detracted from its special interest.

6. Questionnaire Results and Other Responses

A total of 5 questionnaires were returned for the consultation.

Three of the responses confirm that Treharris has special historic or architectural interest, although one states that a lot of this has been lost, whilst what remains requires protection and enhancement. The fourth response is more ambiguous

stating that listed and locally listed buildings should be preserved and enhanced, but asks what their use would be after restoration. Identifying suitable reuse for redundant buildings is not normally part of a conservation area character appraisal, which aims to identify the key historic features of an area and, in particular, those that are threatened. The potential lack of use is a threat to the survival of such buildings that suggests a need for management including protection through conservation area designation. The Council may wish to undertake further management measures, including feasibility studies to consider appropriate future uses for these structures, that preserves or enhances their historic interest and to prepare development briefs that would encourage sympathetic development. A fifth response did not provide an answer to this question

Three of the responses confirm that the Character Appraisal accurately defines the area of special interest. One of these positive responses also raises several issues affecting the proposed conservation area's special interest, which are considered in combination with answers to Question 4 below. One response provided no answer to this question.

Among the views expressed with regard to the characteristics that contribute to the special historic and architectural interest of Treharris, two respondents identified Treharris' mining history as important, one identified Treharris Square as an important space, whilst another identified the collection of historic buildings within the town as a special characteristic. Other positive characteristics identified by people attending the Consultation Launch Event included the projects successfully completed by the Treharris Regenera-



tion Committee, which included campaigning for the introduction of a one-way traffic system, the restoration of the war memorial clock at Treharris Public library and the creation of the Treharris Millennium Park on the former Deep Navigation Colliery site.

Issues affecting the character and appearance of the proposed conservation area, which were identified by respondents to the questionnaire and attendees at the Consultation Launch Event included:

- Noise from lorries and cars running over speed ramps on Fox Street
- The need for drop-kerbs to assist wheel chair users on Fox Street and near the Bus Station on Cardiff Road
- The lack of facilities for children and teenagers
- Concern over the concentration of fast-food takeaways on Fox Street and concentration of teenagers gathering outside them in the evenings
- Problems of littering on Fox Street with waste food wrappers a particular problem
- Pressure for on-street parking, particularly on Fox Street
- The unsympathetic modernisation of historic buildings, particularly introduction of metal shutters on the exterior of shops
- The lack of repair of damage to shop fronts

on Fox Street

- The need to bring disused buildings up to modern standards of accommodation
- The lack of signage or interpretation of the area's history
- Lack of public conveniences
- Need to make the area 'regeneration friendly'
- Traffic management issues were identified as a general cause for concern

Where these issues are relevant to the controls provided by conservation area designation or the potential investments that it might encourage, the appraisal will be amended to reflect feedback from the public, where they have not already been considered.

The lack of appropriate use or landscaping of the former Public Hall site in Treharris Square was raised by many attendees at the launch event and was referred to by 3 respondents to the questionnaire. The Treharris Area Community Trust have previously undertaken a study of the potential reuse of this site for a mixture of public car parking and public gardens including a wall of remembrance for former colliers of Deep Navigation Colliery. The issue of this area's lack of appropriate use has been raised in the character appraisal and is being considered within the Treharris Town Centre Regeneration Strategy.



Appendix C

Useful Addresses



Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Design, Heritage and Conservation Officer

Ty Keir Hardie,

Riverside Court

Avenue de Clichy

Merthyr Tydfil

CF47 8XF

Tel: 01685 726268

heritage&conservation@merthyr.gov.uk

Cadw

Welsh Assembly Government

Plas Carew

Unit 5/7 Cefn Coed

Parc Nantgarw

Cardiff

CF15 7QQ

Tel: 01443 33 6000

Fax: 01443 33 6001

**The Royal Commission on the Ancient and
Historical Monuments of Wales**

National Monuments Record of Wales

Plas Crug

Aberystwyth

SY23 1NJ

Tel: 01970 621200

Fax: 01970 627701

nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk

The Victorian Society

1 Priory Gardens

London

W4 1TT

Tel: 020 8994 1019

Fax: 020 8747 5899

admin@victoriansociety.org.uk

The Georgian Group

6 Fitzroy Square

London

W1P 6DX

Tel 087 1750 2936

info@georgiangroup.org.uk

Twentieth Century Society

70 Cowcross Street

London EC1M 6EJ

Tel: 020 7250 3857

Fax: 020 7251 8985

caseworker@c20society.org.uk

Council for British Archaeology

St Mary's House

66 Bootham

York YO30 7BZ

Tel: 01904 671417

Fax: 01904 671384

Ancient Monuments Society

St Ann's Vestry Hall

2 Church Entry

London

EC4V 5HB

Tel: 020 7236 3934

office@ancientmonumentsociety.org.uk

The Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings

37 Spital Square

London

E1 6DY

Tel: 020 7377 1644

Fax: 020 7247 5296

info@SPAB.org.uk



Garden History Society

70 Cowcross Street

London

EC1M 6EJ

Phone: 020 7608 2409

enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org

International Council on Monuments & Sites UK

70 Cowcross Street

London

EC1M 6EJ

Phone: 020 7566 0031

admin@icomos-uk.org

The Royal Town Planning Institute

41 Botolph Lane

London

EC3R 8DL

www.rtpi.org.uk

Merthyr Tydfil Heritage Trust Ltd

Ynysfach Engine House

Ynysfach Road

Merthyr Tydfil

CF48 1AG

Mheritagetrust@aol.com

Appendix D



Glossary of Architectural Terms



ABUTMENT Solid masonry placed to counteract the lateral thrust of a vault or arch and so give the arch or vault strength.

ARCH A structure forming the curved, pointed, or flat upper edge of an open space and supporting the weight above it, as in a bridge or doorway.

APEX The highest, pointed part of a gable

ARCHITRAVE / ARCHIVOLT A moulded surround to a door or window opening. An archivolt refers to an arched opening.

ASHLAR Worked stone with flat surface, usually of regular shape and square edges. As opposed to rough stone, which is not squared off. Due to its expense, you will often find buildings made of rough stone or rubble with quoins of Ashlar at the corners of the building, often laid alternately with their long-side and short side facing out; this is a common feature of Regency architecture.

BALUSTER A short post or pillar in a series that supports a rail, forming a balustrade. May be curved or straight.

BARGE BOARD Timber boards fixed to a gable end of a roof, can be ornamental in detail

BATTER An inclined face of wall; hence battered.

BATTLEMENT A parapet with upstanding pieces and indentations. For instance, Castellated or Crenellated, like the turrets of castles.

BAY , BOW and ORIEL windows These windows project out from the front or side of a house. Oriel windows generally project from an upper story, supported by a bracket. Bay windows are angled projections that rise up from the ground on the first floor. Bow windows are rounded projections, often formed of the window glass itself.

BUTTRESS A mass of stone or brick built against, or as part of a wall, to provide additional strength to it.

CASEMENT WINDOWS Windows with a hinged opening

CILL The horizontal feature at the bottom of a window or door which throws water away from the face of a building

COLUMN An upright vertical member which usually stands clear of the main body of a building. Usually circular in cross-section and is a common motif of classical architecture

CONSOLE An ornamental scrolled bracket, normally in stone or timber usually supporting a fascia

COPING Stones, usually large and hard-wearing, placed at the top of for example walls, in order to take the brunt of the weather and protect the more delicate stone-work below.

CORBEL A projecting block which supports a parapet or sill. Often carved.



COLUMN A vertical weight-carrying architectural member, circular in cross section and consisting of a base (sometimes omitted), a shaft, and a capital.

CONSERVATION AREA An area of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance

CORNICE Any projecting ornamental moulding that finishes or crowns the top of a building, wall, arch, etc.

COURSED A continuous layer of building material, such as brick or tile, on a wall or roof of a building.

DORMER A window which projects from the pitch of a roof

DRESSED STONE Blocks of stone that have been trimmed and given a smooth face, i.e. ashlar stone.

DRESSING Carved stonework around openings

DUTCH GABLE A term to describe gables which are curved

EAVES That part of a sloping roof which is overhanging.

EDWARDIAN Period during the reign of King Edward VII (1901-1910) where architecture was chiefly influenced by arts and crafts and natural materials.

ELEVATION One of the external faces of a building; also, an architect's drawing of a facade, set out to scale.

FACADE The front of a building.

FANLIGHT Glazed area above a doorway, designed to brighten the hallway inside

FASCIA The broad horizontal board over a shopfront which carries the name of a shop, often flanked by corbels.

FINIAL A sculptured ornament, at the top of a gable, pinnacle, or similar structure. Common in Victorian architecture

GABLE The generally triangular section of wall at the end of a double-pitched roof, occupying the space between the two slopes of the roof. By extension, sometimes refers to the whole end wall of a building or wing having a pitched roof.

GEORGIAN Covering the period from 1714 to 1830 where architecture was influenced by the principles of Rome and Ancient Greece. Regularly spaced openings and 8 pane timber sash windows are common.

GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE A style of architecture that was prevalent in Western Europe from about 1200 until 1550. Gothic Revival refers to the Victorian revival of Gothic architecture, characterised by pointed and arched openings.

HIPPED ROOF Pitched roof without gables, where all sides of the roof meet at an angle



HOODMOULD Projecting moulding over an arch or lintel designed to throw off water

KEYSTONE A wedge-shaped or tapered stone placed at the top of an arch or vault. In vaulting it occurs at the intersection of the ribs of a ribbed vault.

LANCET or LANCET WINDOW A long, narrow window with a sharply pointed head.

LEAN-TO ROOF A roof which is built up against a vertical wall and has one slope only

LINTEL A horizontal structural member spanning an opening (e.g. window or door). Usually made of wood, stone or steel (such as a beam). Carries the weight, and provides support to, the wall above the opening.

LISTED BUILDING A building or structure of specific architectural or historic importance and which is afforded statutory protection by Cadw

MORTAR A material used in construction to fill gaps between stones or bricks and bind them together

MOULDING A continuous, narrow surface (projecting or recesses, plain or ornamented) designed to break up a surface, to accent, or to decorate.

OCCULUS A small circular panel or window

ORIEL A projecting window in a wall. Originally the term was given to a form of porch, often of wood.

PANEL A portion of a surface, often a wall lining or in a door, that is usually rectangular and can be recessed or above another surface.

PARAPET A low protective wall or railing along the edge of a raised structure such as a roof or balcony.

PEDIMENT A low-pitched gable over porticos, doors, windows, etc

PILASTER A flat, rectangular, vertical member projecting from a wall of which it forms a part. Usually has a base and a capital and is often fluted. It is designed to be a flat representation of a classical column in shallow relief.

PLINTH The projecting base of wall.

POINTING The joints between the stonework, often in lime mortar

PORTICO A porch in the form of a Classical colonnade, usually described in terms of the number of columns.

QUATREFOIL A traceried opening made of four cusps or lobes

QUOINS The dressed stones at the corners of buildings, usually laid so their faces are alternately large and small. Usually in contrasting colour of brick from the rest of the wall. Common feature of Georgian buildings.



REGENCY Strictly the period from 1811 to 1820 when George, Prince of Wales was Prince Regent due to the madness of his father George IV. In architecture it is more generally considered the period from the 1790's to about 1840.

RENDER To coat (brick, for example) with plaster or cement.

REVEAL The part of the side of a window or door opening that is between the outer surface of a wall and the window or door frame; the jamb.

RIDGE TILES Tiles that cover the highest point of the roof

ROCK FACED Stonework dressed in such a way to make it look natural

ROOF LIGHT A glazed opening set in a roof

RUBBLE STONE Stones of irregular shape and size

RUSTICATED The treatment of stone in a way which emphasises its appearance. This is usually done by leaving the visible stone rock faced or rough

SANDSTONE A sedimentary rock formed by the consolidation and compaction of sand and held together by a natural cement, such as silica. Pennant stone, common in Merthyr Tydfil, is a type of sandstone

SASH WINDOW A window formed with sashes i.e. glazed wooden frames which slide up and down in vertical grooves by means of counterbalanced weights. The standard form has two moveable sashes and is termed a "double-hung sash."

SNECKED Coursed stonework where the squared stones have not been fully dressed and the coursing is varied by smaller filler stones or 'snecks'

SOFFIT The exposed undersurface of any overhead component of a building such as an arch, balcony, beam, cornice, lintel or vault.

STRING COURSE A continuous projecting horizontal band set in the surface of a wall and usually moulded. Often in a different coloured brick or stone, and used for decoration.

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER (TPO) Provides protection for trees specified in the order.

TREFOIL Ornamental tracery in the form of a flower with three symmetrical petals.

TURRET A small, often ornamental tower projecting from a building, usually at a corner.

TYMPANUM The ornamental recessed space or panel enclosed by the cornices of a triangular pediment. Also, a similar space between an arch and the lintel of a portal or window.

VERNACULAR An indigenous building constructed of locally available materials, to local detail, usually without the benefit of an architect.



VESTRY A room in, or attached to, a church where the clergy put on their vestments and where these robes and other sacred objects are stored; synonymous with a sacristy.

VISTA A distant view through or along an avenue or opening

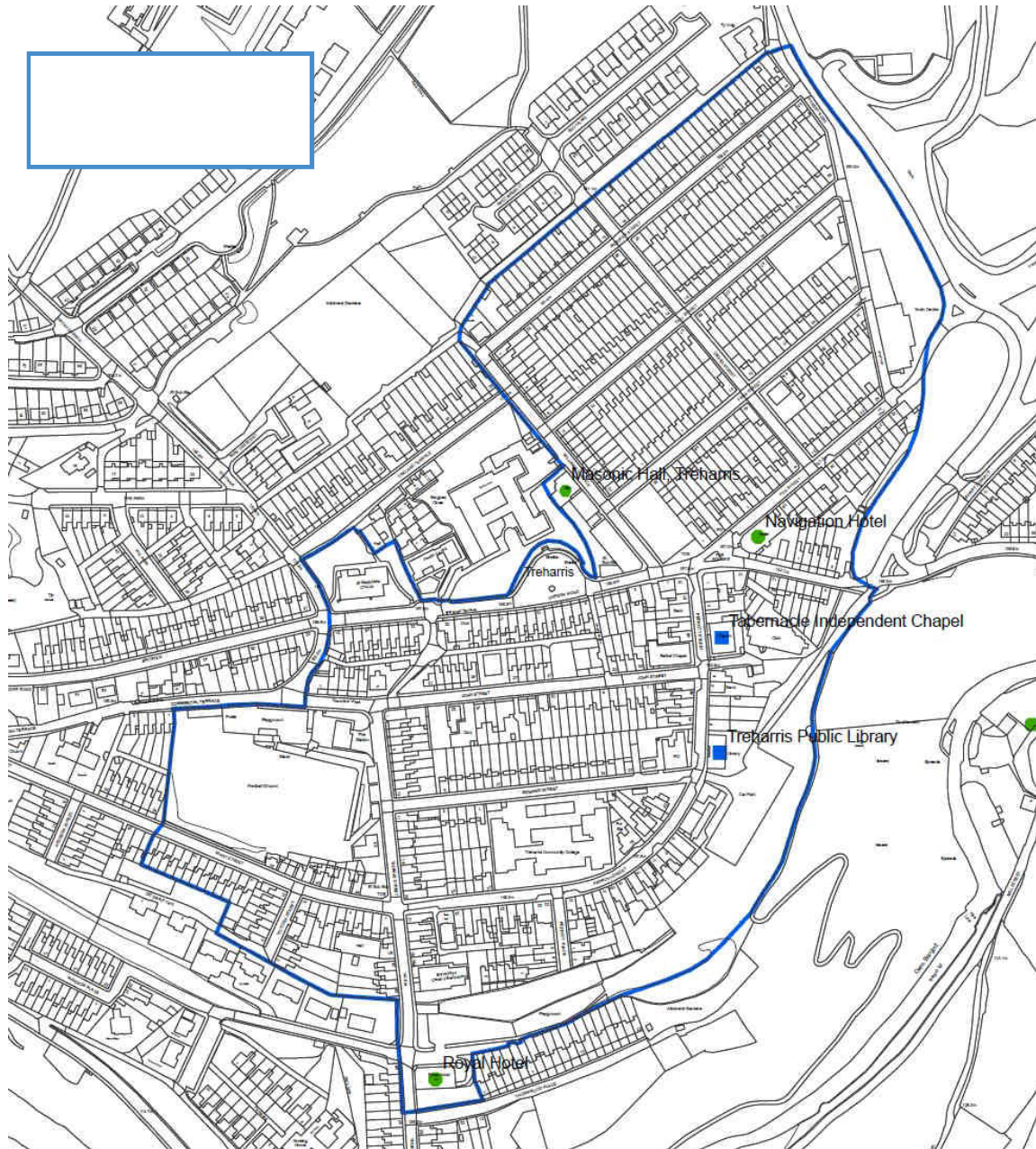
VOUSSOIR The radiating wedge-shaped blocks forming an arch

WHITEWASH A mixture of lime and water, often with whiting, size, or glue added, that is used to whiten walls, fences, or other structures.

Appendix E



Conservation Area Boundary Map



Treharris Conservation Area Boundary

