

Engineering Consultancy Group

REPORT PREPARED FOR
Adrian Frost
Technical Services DETL

STRUCTURAL INSPECTION
AT
TROOPERS HILL CHIMNEY

11th November 2004



Report Prepared by:

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History

There are two chimneys at Troopers Hill, one high on the hill which was the subject of the earlier report (October 2004) and one at the base of the hill, which forms the subject of this report.

Both appear to date back to a time when this area was mined for coal, copper and clay etc.

Reports suggest that the high level chimney was thought to have been built in 1863 as a vent for sulphurous smoke produced by William Butler's Tar distillery at the bottom of the hill. It is not known if the two chimneys are linked in any way.

Site Survey 11th November 2004

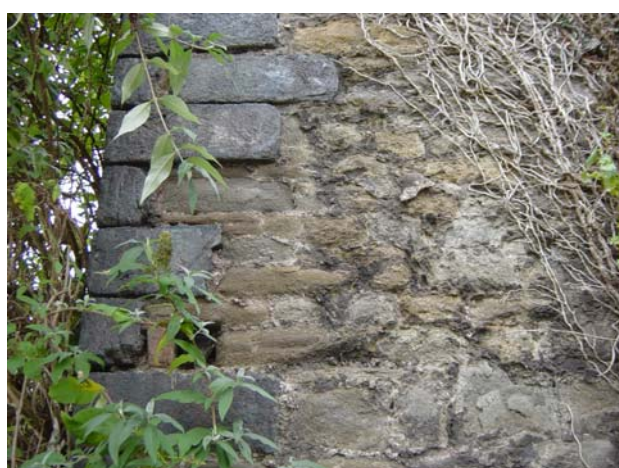
The survey was carried out from ground level, so the condition of the upper levels could not be assessed. Because of considerable growth around the base of the structure, close examination and internal inspection were not possible.

The chimney is sited at the bottom of Troopers Hill Road. Impact damage from vehicles is possible due to its close proximity to the road, however there is no sign of damage to date.



The chimney is predominantly constructed of local stone and appears to be in relatively good condition although close examination was prevented by growth on and around the structure. Most of the growth on the structure itself is dead but careful removal would allow a better assessment of its structural condition.

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The top of the chimney has irregular stonework that may be loose. As any falling stones would present a danger to the public further investigation should be made and stones re-set or removed as necessary.

Pointing is generally adequate with no significant defects. However re-pointing may be necessary in the next few years in order to preserve the structure.

There are various small openings in the wall which appear to be there by design but could also be due to weathering and missing masonry. These do not present a problem at the moment.

Conclusions & Recommendations

The chimney is in reasonable condition and much of the growth that recently covered the structure has been cut back or killed. It is important that this is kept under control and annual maintenance is recommended. A re-inspection can be carried out when this is being done.

In the next few years consideration should be given to repointing as this is beginning to deteriorate and could affect the long term stability of the chimney.

The top should be accessed and any loose material re-bedded or removed. This should be done immediately as there does appear to be a danger from falling masonry.

Other than these measures I do not think anything else is required at present although regular inspections are advised for both chimneys. These can be made annually following the regular cutting back of growth.

Arthur Richards



View looking north



View looking south



View looking east



View looking west