

10. FHA. SWANPOOL MINE. PHOTO OF SWANPOOL AREA. 3 APRIL 2024

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Photograph showing how the Swanpool area may have looked when Swanpool Mine was in operation.

Mine buildings can be seen on the left and mining waste where the car park is today. One of the mine chimneys is also visible, the base of which still exists.

Mining started in 1790 although the mine was only worked intermittently over the following years. It was principally worked for lead, but smaller amounts of silver were also recovered.

Up to 100 people including miners and 20 bal maidens worked at the mine site. Others were employed as blacksmiths or carpenters or worked in the sampling building, materials house or count house (mine office).

Interestingly, the eminent Cornish scientist Robert Were Fox FRS, the 'Father of Geo-Physical prospecting', used Swanpool Mine as a source of data for his groundbreaking and significant experiments in the early 19th century, published as: 'The Temperatures of Mines' and 'The Electro-Magnetic Properties of Metalliferous Veins in the Mines of Cornwall.'

Some of challenges involved in operating the mine are reflected in its nickname: 'Swamp-All Mine' as it swamped all the money that was spent on it!

The mine closed in 1860 following a dispute between shareholders and because of the dangerous condition of one of the shafts.

However, the story doesn't end there. See our next post ...