Appendix 1

Tavistock Key Centre Area Statement of Significance

As well as Tavistock itself, interpretive planning for the Guildhall project must recognise the Outstanding Universal Value of all the areas within the Tavistock WHS Key Centre Area to which interpretation in the Guildhall centre points visitors. The *WHS Management Plan 2013-18 Appendix 8.1* contains OUV descriptions for each Area and these are summarised here.

Area 8 Luxulyan Valley and Charlestown

This Area exemplifies late 18th and early 19th century industrial entrepreneurship which is reflected in an important concentration of industrial transport infrastructure and an industrial water supply network. The single estate ownership of both Luxulyan Valley and Charlestown help to account for their survival.

The Area's attributes are:

- Charlestown, which was built for Charles Rashleigh, is one of Britain's finest late 18th and early 19th century industrial harbours and the best preserved china clay and copper ore port from this period in the world.
- Charlestown Foundry was an important producer of beam engines, including the last pumping engine made in Cornwall, and other mining equipment.
- The engine house at Fowey Consols testifies to Cornish steam engine efficiency. In the early 19th century Joseph Treffry used profits from the mine, which was Cornwall's fourth largest, and support from a fellow investor to finance an industrial empire.
- The magnificent Treffry viaduct/aqueduct which spans the Luxulyan Valley is the earliest granite construction of its kind in the south west.
- Treffry's Par Canal linked the Fowey Consols inclined plane railway to a new industrial port at Par. Treffry also constructed a complex leat system to service his mining and quarrying interests.

Area 9 Caradon Mining District

This rural upland area on the south east edge of Bodmin Moor represents a copper mining landscape from the 1840s to 1890s. It exemplifies the 'boom to bust' nature of Cornish mining as the whole process from discovery to final closure lasted barely 50 years.

The district's principal attributes are:

- Internationally significant mineralogy and an unusual example of a copper deposit located in the granite of Caradon Hill.
- The district's remote location and lack of subsequent development has ensured that exceptionally high quality archaeological remains have survived including rare ore floors.
- Phoenix United was one of the most important 'eastern' tin mines. Exceptional remains include an early 20th century complex including the engine house of the last large pumping engine to be erected in Cornwall.
- Significant evidence for medieval and modern tin extraction in streamworks at Witheybrook and openworks works at Stowe's Hill.
- The Liskeard & Caradon Mineral Railway was constructed primarily to transport copper ore to the port of Looe.
- Rare copper dumpscapes encircling Caradon Hill.
- A landscape of dispersed mining settlements. There are well preserved mineworkers' smallholdings around Pensilva while Minions has the atmosphere of a rugged frontier settlement.
- A distinctive migration pattern of men from the declining mines around St Austell, Gwennap and Breage moving into the district. Until housing was built they were initially accommodated in huge temporary camps.
- Notable copper-rich substrates supporting rare lower plants. Two sites at Phoenix United and Crow's Nest (South Caradon and West Caradon) have been designated SSSIs.

Area 10 (ii) The Tamar Valley Mining District

Lying inside the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, this district comprises both valley and upland settings for tin, copper, silver-lead and arsenic mining, ore-processing and smelting.

The Area's main attributes are:

- A mineral transport network that connects to and includes the river Tamar. This includes industrial mineral river quays (e.g. Morwellham), a mine railway (Devon Great Consols), a mineral railway (East Cornwall Mineral Railway), a mineral canal (Tavistock Canal) and an ancillary industries canal (Tamar Manure Navigation).
- The most important and extensive survivals of arsenic refineries and calciners in the WHS (e.g. Devon Great Consols and Okel Tor).

- Industrial housing, principally Bedford cottages at various locations, many of them associated with Devon Great Consols which possesses a remarkable assemblage of mine housing at the greatest copper mine in the WHS.
- A greater scale, size, number and significance of water-powered sites than anywhere in the WHS.
- Well preserved and diverse smelting remains including silver-lead refining (at West Harrowbarrow and Weir Quay) and tin smelting (at Weir Quay, one of the best three surviving reverberatory furnaces in Britain).
- An important range of ancillary industries such as brick works, which are integral to the cultural mining landscape of the Tamar Valley.
- Significant archaeological evidence of medieval silver mining on the Bere peninsula includes shafts, the Lumburn leat which powered drainage systems, and probably the country's first planned mining settlement at Bere Alston.
- Market gardening is a unique and distinctive element of the cultural mining history of the landscape. The group of Tamar lime kilns, which are ubiquitous on the river quays, are exceptional with three having inclined planes.
- Mines situated on the steep valley sides sited where lodes outcropped and where adits could provide drainage.
- Miners' settlements grew haphazardly among the mines as at Gunnislake and Luckett.
- Some of the only true silver mines in Britain.
- Internationally significant mineralogy.

Appendix 2

Interpretation Theme Statements

This appendix contains detailed statements for the interpretive themes which inform the content of both the proposed displays in the Guildhall and the formal and informal learning programmes set out in the project Activity Plan.

Titles for the key themes are in blue and those for sub themes are in black. Topic titles are underlined.

Overarching Theme

Tavistock – Urban Jewel of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site

In the 18th and 19th centuries Cornwall and West Devon were transformed by metal mining, principally for copper, tin and arsenic. Mining created a unique cultural landscape including engine houses, miners' settlements, canals and railways which is so important that the region was inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2006. In Tavistock profits from mining enabled the Dukes of Bedford to invest in new central streets, fine public buildings and 'model' workers' cottages, all of which make the town the urban jewel of the WHS.

Key Theme 1: Gateway to WHS and Dartmoor Mining Landscapes

Tavistock's location on the Devon - Cornwall border makes the town the gateway to some of the most fascinating mining landscapes in the world. To the east, people have been mining on Dartmoor since at least the Middle Ages and probably since prehistory. To the west are the Tamar Valley and the other areas which make up the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. The Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape is regarded as so important that in 2006 it was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

World Heritage Site - 'Our Mining Culture Shaped Your World'

World Heritage Sites are said to possess Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) which means that they have a significances which transcend national and cultural boundaries. The OUV of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape Cornish Mining WHS is

> *The Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape was transformed during the period 1700-1914 by early industrial development that made a key contribution to the evolution of an industrialised economy and society in the United Kingdom, and throughout the world. Its outstanding survival, in a*

coherent series of highly distinctive cultural landscapes, is testimony to this achievement.

These landscapes are found in 10 Areas across the region from St Just near Land's End to Tavistock.

The Site's OUV is expressed through the overarching WHS interpretive theme, 'Our Mining Culture Shaped Your World', which is supported by seven key interpretive themes. These are summarised, and related to the Guildhall displays, here:

Earth Treasures

Cornwall and West Devon's unique and complex geology contains an extraordinary variety of metal minerals – especially arsenic, copper and tin, but also many others such as iron, manganese, silver-lead, uranium and wolfram. The Tamar Valley and Dartmoor contained some of the richest concentrations of these valuable minerals.

Mining the resource

Hundreds of mines were opened to extract metal ores on an unprecedented and global scale. In the 1850s Devon Great Consols mine near Tavistock was Europe's single largest copper producer.

Organised for industry

The region pioneered new methods for mining, 'dressing' and processing ores which were transported along a network of inland canals and tramways, rivers and coastal ports. The Tavistock Canal was an outstanding engineering and technological feat which made the reputation of the young engineer, John Taylor.

Mining society

Distinctive mining settlements were characterised by rows of terraced miners' cottages, miners' smallholdings and Nonconformist chapels. In Tavistock the Dukes of Bedford invested their mineral wealth to create an outstanding example of Victorian town planning with new public and commercial buildings.

Technology

The region provided a global model for steam-powered deep shaft mining through the development of the Beam Engine. Heavy machinery made in Tavistock's three foundries supplied mines as far away as Australia.

Mining overseas

During periods of depression and when the mines finally closed for good after only a few decades tens of thousands of people emigrated, spreading their distinctive mining culture around the globe. Between 1861 and 1901 Tavistock's population halved as people left to look for work at home or abroad.

The Cornwall and West Devon mining landscape

From the moors to the coast mining left a transformed landscape and a rich heritage symbolised by the Cornish Engine house. In Tavistock and the Tamar Valley it can be explored from the fine set of arsenic calciners at Devon Great Consols to the Duke of Bedford's imposing Town Hall.

Copper Bonanzas and Arsenic: from Pesticides to Homicide! The River Tamar as Tavistock's Industrial Highway

Until the development of the railways the River Tamar was Tavistock's link to the wider world. The Tamar Valley already had a mining heritage going back to the Middle Ages when new techniques were pioneered in the King's silver mines at Bere Alston. But it was during the industrial revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries that the valley was transformed by mining, mainly for copper and later arsenic.

Copper was used to sheath the hulls of ships, mint coins, make boilers, vats and pipes for the sugar and dying industries and as the main component of brass for manufacturing a wide range of goods including steam engine fittings and gun cartridges. By far the most important mine was Devon Great Consols which accounted for almost 20% of copper sales across the whole of the South West ore field between the 1840s and the 1860s and produced 742,000 tons of ore between 1845 and 1903.

When copper prices fell catastrophically and ore deposits began to run out from the 1860s many mines gained a new lease of life by working arsenic for which new uses were being found for dyes and pigments in the Lancashire cotton industry and as an insecticide against the colorado beetle on potatoes and bol weevil on cotton for which it was exported to North America. Arsenic was refined in calciners such as those at Devon Great Consols. In the last decades of the 19th century 50% of the world's arsenic was supplied by Devon Great Consols and other Tamar Valley mines.

Dartmoor – Tinworks and Tinners: the Dartmoor Mining Landscape

The granite massif of Dartmoor and the neighbouring 'country rocks' have been a major source of metal ores, principally tin, but also lead-silver, copper, iron, manganese, uranium and wolfram.

It is possible that prehistoric people first exploited these resources. Dartmoor contains one of the highest concentrations of late Neolithic and Bronze Age remains in Europe. Their ceremonial monuments and round houses are widely distributed across the moor. At Merrivale huts, stone rows, a stone circle and a menhir (single standing stone) are all visible from the main road across the moor from Tavistock. It is very likely, although still unproven, that the locals used the metal resources at their disposal.

In the Middle Ages Dartmoor was one of Europe's leading sources of tin which was used to make pewter tableware. Tin ore, called cassiterite, was first exploited where the lodes or veins in the granite had been broken up by erosion and redeposited in river valleys as alluvial or stream tin. The 'old men', as later miners called the medieval tinners, developed a range of techniques. Their efforts can be seen in the remarkable stream works and open works which make Dartmoor one of the best preserved medieval and early modern tinworking landscapes in Europe. The tin was crushed in stamping mills, which are usually identifiable by their mortar stones and smelted in blowing houses such as the ones which have been excavated at Merrivale.

The medieval tin industry on Dartmoor and in Cornwall was regulated by the Stannaries, which was (named from the Latin word stanuum = tin). In In 1305 Tavistock became one of Devon's three original stannary towns where smelted or black tin was assayed (tested for quality) and taxed in a process called coinage before it was sold to merchants from Britain and the Continent including the rich city states of Italy. Tavistock stannary district covered western Dartmoor and the Devon side of the Tamar Valley and included the stannary gaol at Lydford. Tavistock's share of Dartmoor production rose from under 20% in the late 14th century to over 80% by 1642. The stannary Great Courts or parliaments usually met at Crockern Tor although occasionally they adjourned to Tavistock. Dartmoor tin was coined in the town until 1831 when the last smelting took place on the moor at Eylesbarrow. The last coinage in Devon took place at Morwellham in 1838 and later that year coinage duties were abolished by act of parliament.

Industrialisation in the late 18th and 19th centuries created a new market for tinplate manufacture which in turn contributed to the development of the canning industry. The most

important mine on western Dartmoor was at Eylesbarrow where archaeological remains include a flatrod system, an unprecedented six stamping mills with dressing floors and six shafts with whim platforms. The engine house at Wheal Betsey is the only survivor on Dartmoor and drove the pumps for the mine which produced zinc, lead and considerable quantities of silver. Wheal Friendship was the most important mine on western Dartmoor. It operated for 130 years and produced copper, arsenic lead and iron. John Taylor began his career as mine manager there in 1798 and the need to improve transportation from the Mary Tavy mines to Morwellham inspired him to propose the Tavistock Canal.

Key Theme 2: Architecture and Buildings

Tavistock Canal – Mining Engineer and Entrepreneur - John Taylor and the Tavistock Canal

The Tavistock Canal was built between 1803 and 1817. It was conceived as a quick and cheap method of carrying copper and other ores from mines around Tavistock and western Dartmoor 4½ to miles to the port at Morwellham on the River Tamar. From there vessels carrying cargoes up to 200 tons could access the sea at Plymouth Sound. Copper ore was transported to South Wales where there were abundant supplies of the necessary coal and limestone for smelting.

The canal was also used to import materials needed to develop local industry and agriculture. Cargoes included coal, lime, limestone, timber, iron, dung, bones, guano, artificial fertilizers, luxury goods such as Continental wines and spirits, pottery, chinaware and fabrics. For over 40 years the canal was the commercial artery that linked West Devon's communities, mines, quarries, foundries and farms to the wider world.

Success in overcoming formidable natural barriers and the introduction of pioneering technology made the canal one of the wonders of its age. The Lumburn Valley is crossed by an aqueduct 60 feet above the river beyond which a 1½ mile tunnel, the longest in England when completed, cuts through Morwell Down. It took two or three hours to pass through the tunnel using iron shod poles. At Morwellham cargoes were loaded into trucks and lowered down an inclined plane railway to the quays 237 feet below. A network of leats carried water from the canal which, at various times, powered up to 35 waterwheels to work machinery in local mines and farms. Technological 'firsts' included the world's first wrought iron barges, and the 'air exhauster', a mechanised ventilation system which was used to clear dust caused by explosives when the tunnel was constructed.

When the Tavistock Canal Company was launched in 1803 copper prices were high due to the Napoleonic war and shareholders anticipated substantial profits from tolls and the exploitation of mineral reserves. Several new mineshafts were prospected when the tunnel was dug. The most important, Wheal Crebor, produced copper, tin, iron and arsenic in various periods from 1803 to 1902. However, the cost of building rose from an estimated £40,000 to around £68,000 and by the time the canal opened prices had slumped in a peacetime depression. While the annual tonnage of cargoes reached five figures every year except one between 1819 and 1865, profits were always modest. By the late 1860s the decline of mining and competition from the Great Western Railway, which had reached Tavistock in 1859, made the canal unprofitable and maintenance was increasingly neglected. Traffic stopped by the end of the decade and the canal officially closed in 1873 when it was transferred to the Bedford estate. Since 1933 water from the canal has powered a hydro-electric power station at Morwellham that continues to supply the national grid.

Tavistock – Power and Patronage: Tavistock Abbey and the Dukes of Bedford

Tavistock has been shaped over nearly 1000 years by two powerful landlords: the medieval Benedictine abbey and the Dukes of Bedford. The 19th century dukes used the profits from metal mining on their estate to rebuild the town centre and create the finest example of a planned metal mining town in Britain. Distinctive Gothic style architecture in Plymouth Road and Guildhall Square reflects how they incorporated the abbey ruins into their new buildings. The dukes created fine public buildings, including the Guildhall, Town Hall and Pannier Market and provided terraces of distinctively designed ‘model’ cottages for industrial workers in and around Tavistock.

<u>Tavistock - Abbey and Medieval Market Town</u>

The Benedictine abbey of Our Lady and St Rumon was founded in 974 by Ordulf, Earl of Devon and brother in law of the Saxon King Edgar. As its wealth and power grew during the Middle Ages the abbots became figures of national importance with similar status to bishops and with a seat in parliament.

Under the abbey’s patronage Tavistock grew from a small riverside settlement to become an important Devon town and parliamentary borough. As lords of the manor the abbots controlled the justice system, appointments, markets, fairs and the abbey mill. The monks provided alms, education and medical assistance. By the later Middle Ages Tavistock was also a centre of the woollen cloth industry, specialising in coarse cloth called Tavistocks which were exported through the abbey port at Morwellham.

In 1105 Tavistock was granted its first market charter. Market St and the streets leading out of town, including West St and Bannawell St, which are lined with burgage plots, were probably planned by the abbey authorities in the 12th century when the market charters were granted. This medieval town planning is clearly visible on the 18th century Wynne Map.

The abbey was dissolved by Henry VIII in March 1539 and most of its property was transferred to Sir John Russell whose descendants enjoyed the title Dukes of Bedford. Surviving abbey ruins include Court Gate, the western gatehouse known as Betsy Grimbal's tower, pseudo defensive precinct walls along the River Tavy, Still Tower, the abbots' lodgings in what is now Abbey Chapel and Trowte's House.

From guest of the Abbot to guest of Her Majesty

Trowte's House is a medieval building which may have accommodated abbey guests or a secular steward or servant responsible for overseeing activity in the courtyard by the main gate. It is a very rare example of a surviving building from an abbey Great Court. After the Dissolution it became a private residence and derives its name from John Trowte, a clothier, who is recorded as a tenant in 1691.

Early 19th century illustrations show Trowte's House in a state of disrepair and without a roof. It was renovated in the 1820s when it seems to have been extended to serve as a house for the mill which stood on the site now occupied by the museum. In 1848 the first floor was converted into a magistrates' retiring room for the new court. The two cells, with their original doors, were added in 1892 after the early 19th century police station at the far end of the building flooded. They continued to be used until the late 1980s.

The Duke of Bedford's Grand Plan

In the 19th century the 6th and 7th Dukes of Bedford used income from mines on their estate to redesign Tavistock town centre and construct new civic and commercial buildings. Together they created the finest example of a planned metal mining town in Britain.

In the 1820s and 1830s the 6th Duke laid out Plymouth Road, restored some of the medieval abbey ruins including Court Gate and Trowte's House, and built the Cornmarket including assembly rooms.

The 7th Duke much more ambitious building programme created a new Pannier Market which opened in October 1862 with a supper attended by 160 people employed during its construction. It was built of local hurdwick stone with a slate roof and granite floor with three

internal aisles divided by rows of arches. Outside the perimeter was lined on three sides with shops which were double fronted on the north side with the outer ones opening onto what became known as Duke Street. The market area was serviced by the new Market Road which ran alongside the river and also gave access to a new Butcher's Hall. Space for these developments was created by clearing what have often been characterised as slums, and filling in a substantial section of the river Tavy. The Duke's aim was to replace existing butter, meat and poultry markets with a central facility and to put an end to unauthorised stalls and markets which, according to the 1859 Tavistock Markets Act operated 'to the great inconvenience and danger of the inhabitants'.

The Duke also built Tavistock's impressive Town Hall in response to a vociferous public campaign for what the local newspaper described as 'a spacious and decent room for the social gatherings of the people'. He paid for this addition to the Pannier Market scheme by imposing a lease renewal 'fine' on Devon Great Consols mine. The New Hall, as it was originally called, included was first used to celebrate the Prince of Wales' wedding in 1863 and officially opened the following year with three days of celebrations including an 'Exhibition of Rare and Valuable Works of Science and Art'.

'Bedford Cottages - Housing the 'Labouring Classes'

Between 1845 and 1866 the 7th and 8th Dukes built around 300 cottages for what the Victorians called the 'Labouring Classes' in the town and across their West Devon estate. The cottages are an outstanding example of 19th century model dwellings built by paternalistic employers and landowners.

After 1846 cottages were built to a fairly standardised design. The outside had rubble walls and dressed granite quoins, window sills and porches, slate roofs, lead lined gutters and cast iron downpipes. There was little ornamentation except for a ducal crest or letter B, to remind the inhabitants of their patron's largesse, or a metal date plate. Most had two downstairs rooms, with a cast iron range in one and a copper in the other, and two or three upstairs bedrooms of which one had a fireplace. There were outbuildings for wood, a privy and a pigsty. The cottages often had generous gardens and each pair had a standpipe for water. The cottages cost £70-90 to build. Rents varied from 1s 6d to 2s 6d per week, which represented an annual return of 5-7%. In Tavistock the estate reserved cottages for natives but elsewhere this rule was relaxed on occasions.

The cottages were the Bedford estate's belated response to appalling poor sanitation and overcrowding in the town centre as the population rose due to the mining boom. The 7th

duke's determination to limit expenditure combined with his insistence on showing off high design standards meant the number of cottages built eased the housing crisis but fell far short of resolving it. In 1871 18% of people in Tavistock parish lived in a Bedford cottage. But the proportion of the population living in the most overcrowded central streets barely changed between 1841 and 1861 and only markedly decreased when Tavistock's population fell as mining declined.

The cottages' real significance lies in their visual impact, their contribution towards the development of urban planning and in what they reveal about the 19th century aristocracy's paternalism with its blend of limited humanitarianism and concern for social control when designing homes which they thought 'fit' for the labouring classes.

Mining boom - Industry and Society

In the first half of the 19th century Tavistock was a mining boom town, with all the opportunities and challenges that rapid industrial and urban growth provided. Tavistock had three foundries which are the best preserved examples in the World Heritage Site. They produced equipment including ore crushers and steam engines for mines in Devon and Cornwall and as far afield as Australia. The town's population trebled between 1801 and 1861 as people arrived looking for work and the central streets, which had changed little since the Middle Ages were characterised by overcrowding and squalor. But the mining boom was shortlived and when the mines began to close from the 1860s thousands of people moved to other parts of Britain to seek work or emigrated abroad taking their skills and mining culture to North America, Australia and New Zealand, South Africa and South America.

Devon Great Consols' Company Town

Devon Great Consols' influence on Tavistock society ranked second only to that of the Dukes of Bedford. The mine's profits financed many of their building schemes and many of its 1200 employees in 1861 lived in the town. By 1861 23% of Tavistock's working population were miners.

With the demand for workers in the mines and supporting trades and industries, Tavistock's population rose from 3420 in 1801 to a peak of 8912 in 1861. Many of the newcomers moved into the old medieval streets. Beyond the smart new facilities created by the Bedford estate population growth led to massive overcrowding, poor sanitation, disease and occasional disorder especially during hard times such as depression or industrial disputes. Between 1830 and 18-60 there were four enquiries into 'the condition of the people'. The

1846 Sanitary Report found 5035 people comprising 1129 families living in 600 houses with 908 people in Barley Market St and Exeter St sharing 30 privies.

At the other end of the social scale the mine manager, William Morris, lived at Abbotsfield House. His nephew, the revolutionary socialist and pioneer of the Arts and Crafts Movement, William Morris, designed a window in the parish church.

Casting for Industry: Tavistock Foundries

The local mines' growing demand for equipment, from picks and shovels to steam engines fuelled the development of ancillary industries such as iron foundries. Tavistock had three foundries which are the best preserved examples of ancillary industries in the World Heritage Site.

The town's first foundry was established beside the River Tavy in 1800. The Duke of Bedford's agent, William Bray, was a major shareholder. In 1803 this Lower Foundry was sold to Gill and Co. who expanded the operation by building a Higher Foundry and the business became known as the Tavistock Iron Works. The site included workshops, furnaces, workers' cottages and the Gill's family residence, Ferrum House. The foundry supplied the domestic market and the mining industry including ore crushers for Wheal Crowndale and Wheal Friendship, beam engines for the West Caradon and Devon Burra Burra mines, a water wheel for the entrance to the Tavistock Canal tunnel and the world's first wrought iron canal barge which was launched on Easter Monday 1811. One of the men trained at the foundry, William Finch, went on to set up a mechanised forge at Sticklepath which still bears his name and is now owned by the National Trust. The foundry closed in 1891 but reopened a few years later as a wool factory which remained open until 1965. Nothing remains of the Lower Foundry although archaeological excavation has revealed the foundations of the early foundry's casting shop and hammer mill. On the Higher Foundry site three sheds, the former company offices, the Gill mansion and the later wool factory office survive as private houses or apartments.

Bedford Iron Works specialised in manufacturing heavy mine equipment especially steam engines. One of its partners was the son of the engineer responsible for steam machinery at Devon Great Consols. The foundry operated from 1841 to 1866 when it closed because of falling demand when the mining industry declined. During that time it supplied some 30 boilers to Devon Great Consols and steam and beam engines to mines across West Devon and Cornwall and as far as Australia. By the turn of the century the site was occupied by

Morris Brothers coachbuilders and the same family occupy it today as long established undertakers.

The main business of the Tavy Iron Works was producing domestic fireplaces and cooking stoves. Because the foundry concentrated on producing household and smaller items rather than heavy machinery, it survived the closure of the mines and continued casting for stoves, laundry bars and manhole covers until the 1930s. In November 1886 the foundry turbine powered a dynamo to generate Tavistock's first electricity - which lit seven lamps! It began regular power generation in 1914 and continued until a hydro-electric power station was opened at Mary Tavy in 1932. One foundry building survives as residential accommodation as do workers' houses from the 1850s.

Mining, Migration and Overseas Adventures

The increasing scale of mining in the Tamar Valley and around Tavistock and the rising demand for goods and services to supply both the industry and its workers led to a growing need for more labour. Between 1801 and 1861 Tavistock's population increased nearly three times from 3420 in 1801 to 8912 in 1861. Migrants accounted for about 50% of this population growth. Many came from 'up country' elsewhere in Britain and from Cornwall but the overwhelming majority were born in Devon and gravitated towards the new industries from the countryside.

Even in the boom period, which lasted less than 40 years in West Devon, mining was highly susceptible to peaks and troughs as market conditions were highly volatile. During periods of depression many miners moved elsewhere in Britain to seek work or emigrated abroad taking their skills and mining culture to North America, Australia and New Zealand, South Africa and South America. When the mines began to close for good from the 1860s thousands of people left the area. By 1901 Tavistock's population had fallen to just over 5000 and it was taking on a new identity as a rural market town.

Key Theme 3: Policing and Justice

The Guildhall is one of the finest examples of the public buildings created by the 19th century Dukes of Bedford. It was a pioneering attempt to combine the functions of a police station and court room in one building. The Guildhall reflected national reforms in policing and the justice system and the governing class's fears of rising crime and radicalism among the lower orders. But it was also motivated by the Bedford estate's need to tackle the

problems of law and order associated with the social problems created within Tavistock by the mining boom.

Policing the community

The Guildhall accommodated the police for 164 years making it one of the country's longest serving police stations. During this time the role of the police changed from a semi professional to a modern force in line with national trends and as Tavistock evolved from mining centre to rural market town.

Fear of the 'Dangerous Classes' - Crime, Radicalism and Social Control

In the early 19th century there was widespread fear about rising crime rates, especially among the growing populations of towns and new industrial areas. After 1805 statistics about trials were published annually by parliament and they revealed crime rates rising at alarming speed. Among the governing classes there was widespread concern at what was perceived as the declining moral character of the nation. Industrialists demanded tougher law enforcement so that disorderly workforces could be disciplined. Another worry for the landowning class was the growth of radical political movements campaigning for parliamentary reform including supporters of the 1832 Reform Act and the Chartists demanding universal male suffrage in the 1840s. This coincided with revolution in France in 1830 and across much of the Continent in 1848. In Tavistock the Bedford Estate came under pressure from advanced Liberals such as John Rundle MP to introduce better housing and amenities for the population.

Early Victorian Tavistock experienced all the social problems that came with being a mining boom town - a growing population, overcrowding in the central streets, appalling sanitation and the exuberant or rowdy behaviour of the miners and other incomers. Under these circumstances it is perhaps unsurprising that the few statistics that survive for Tavistock seem to show rising crime rates. In 1845-6 the local magistrates heard 189 cases which was 12.6 for every 1000 people. Of these 40 were for murder and assault and 36 for breach of the peace. Many of the assaults were drink related incidents, for example one Saturday night brawl at Beertown involved 10 miners. The lowest penalty for drunkenness was five shillings plus costs of five to ten shillings. As the payment of fines was rare, the magistrates often had to resort to a short stay in prison or six hours in the stocks.

By 1859-60 the number of court cases had risen to 319 or 17 for every 1000 people. This increase was far greater than the town's population growth and suggests either rising

disorder or more effective policing. There were 27 cases of assault and 79 breaches of the peace.

This was the context in which the Duke of Bedford introduced a professional police force in 1837 and built a new police station a decade later.

The bridewell - the Duke's police station

This part of the Guildhall complex was built by the Duke of Bedford's estate as a new police station. It opened in 1848 and was known as the bridewell. There were six cells, two large ones at the front and four small narrow ones at the back. The two larger cells did not have washing facilities. Instead there were two granite washbasins in the corridor which suggests they were used for temporary detention, perhaps for remand prisoners. The doors on the two large cells are originals.

Victorian tragedy: the sad story of Matthias Ziscoven

Conditions and discipline inside the bridewell cells would have been austere. This is the context for the tragedy of Matthias Ziscoven who committed suicide in a cell one night in January 1864. Zisocoven, a German aged 45 who had been detained for begging, hanged himself from a hook on the cell door with his handkerchief. As a suicide he was buried in an unmarked grave in the cemetery in Dolvin Road.

The local paper described how: 'On Monday night about one hour before midnight, the body, unattended by funeral rites, was carried to the grave. A large number of persons, principally young, witnessed the gloomy scene, many of whom showed in their behaviour while marching to the grave, an utter inability to realise the terrible solemnity of the occasion.

What's in a name: the graffiti of Private Thomas Blewitt

The cells built in 1848 were condemned after the flood of 1890. However, in 1915 during World War I troops were billeted in them because they had WCs. Scratched into the door there is graffiti which reads:

Pte. T BLEWITT
11134
FROM
WALSALL
S. STAFFORDSHIRE

Thomas Blewitt, who made this graffiti in 1915, went to France where he survived the Battle of the Somme despite being gassed (once) and wounded (twice). Sadly, though, he never made it to the end of the war. Thomas fell, mortally wounded, at Lens (just 12 miles from where he experienced his first combat) on 11 April 1918 - exactly 7 months before Armistice Day.

Rescued in the Nick of Time: Prisoner James Stevens and The Great Flood of July 1890

On 17 July 1890 the River Tavy burst its banks flooded the police station. Superintendent Mitchell reported in a letter to the Chief Constable that the water had reached 5 feet deep in his office. A prisoner had had to be evacuated and moved to the lock up at Lifton while the Sergeant and constables 'had barely time to save their children' from the police houses behind the station. After the flood the old police station was regarded as uninhabitable and new cells were opened in 1892 in the area now occupied by the Tamar Valley and Tavistock Canal displays.

Parish Constables - "too imbecilic to be made of any use."

Before the introduction of a professional police force, maintaining law and order was the responsibility of Parish Constables. These local men were appointed by the Justices of the Peace for one year although many were reappointed. The JP's usually acted on the recommendation of the parish meeting or vestry but in Tavistock they would usually have followed direction from the Bedford estate.

Constables were not paid, although they could claim expenses. Their duties included setting the nightly watch in the town and taking over prisoners from the watchman and putting them in the lock up or the stocks. They were also empowered to raise the 'hue and cry' which meant summoning help from bystanders to pursue and arrest a criminal. Constables carried a tipstaff as a badge of office. Rural parishes usually had two constables. In Tavistock there were four in normal times but up to nine in periods of real or feared unrest.

The parochial system of operated essentially unchanged for 600 years after it was introduced by the Statute of Winchester in 1285. But by the early 19th century it was coming under growing criticism as the amateur constables struggled to cope with a rising population, urbanisation and the social tensions caused by the industrial revolution. Advocates of professional policing met strong opposition from those who feared it would lead to abuse of power and threaten civil liberties. However, alarm at reports of rising crime rates prompted some town authorities to initiate changes. Britain's first professional police force was established in Glasgow by Act of Parliament in 1800 followed in the 1820s by industrial

towns in northern England such as Rochdale and Oldham. In 1829 the Metropolitan Police Act established a full time, centrally controlled, professional and uniformed police force in greater London. The Home Secretary, Sir Robert Peel, intended the new force to serve as a model for other areas to follow.

In Tavistock dissatisfaction with the old parochial system was also growing. In 1830 five constables were commended and given a £1 bonus for capturing two notorious burglars, Drew and Marshall. But the same year the Duke of Bedford's steward complained that: 'the state of the police in the town is a most crying evil. It is needless, however, to complain of them. They are too imbecilic to be made of any use.'

Merritt's Men - Tavistock's first professional police

In 1835 the Municipal Corporations Act compelled elected borough councils to establish a police force. However, take up was slow and by 1837 only 93 of the 171 towns affected had complied.

As an unincorporated borough, Tavistock was not compelled to act. However, in 1837 the Bedford estate invited two 'bobbies' from the new Metropolitan police to provide advice and rudimentary training. They advised the employment of a professional superintendent and this was quickly carried out when Mark Merritt was appointed for one year on a weekly salary of 25 shillings. He was to be reappointed annually by the JPs on the recommendation of the parish vestry for the next 20 years, although his salary remained the same. Merritt's responsibilities also included acting as Inspector of the town's fire service. A deputy, John Physick, was also appointed in 1837 and he too went on to serve until 1857.

The two professionals led a local force of unpaid parish constables. The 1842 Parish Constables Act rationalised the system of appointment and introduced a standardised scale of allowances. Constables were paid 1 shilling for serving a summons, 2 shillings for executing a warrant and half a crown for conducting a general search of a public house or attending a meeting or fair. In Tavistock the number of constables rose from six in 1837 to 11 by 1851, largely due to the growth in population caused by the mining boom. In 1844 the local force's uniform was a blue coat with white embroidery and buttons. Neighbouring parishes had their own constables under the command of Merritt and Physick, who were joined in 1850 by a third paid officer with the rank of constable.

The Devon Constabulary of 1856

Until the 1850s most local constables continued to be unpaid. The 1839 Rural Constabulary Act allowed county areas to establish police forces but by the 1850s many towns and over half the English counties had not done so, usually because of concerns about the cost. In 1853 a series of riots in northern industrial towns caused an outcry in the press about the threat to public order due to inadequate policing and a shortage of troops to put down disturbances sue to the Crimean War. The government responded in by passing the County and Borough Police Act in 1856 which made compelled all area to set up professional police forces.

The Devon County Constabulary was established in November 1856 and the following spring Tavistock was chosen, because of its central location in West Devon, as the headquarters for 'K' division. Superintendent Benjamin Hill was appointed to manage a force of two sergeants and 17 constables of whom four served in the town and the others were distributed across the neighbouring parishes.

The new county constabulary's uniform included a box-cap which was replaced in 1876 by the pickelhaub were described by one observer as' the new Prussian style helmets.' The Chief Constable agreed a 3 year contract to supply these for 9 shillings each. As the divisional HQ Tavistock hosted the monthly pay parade when the village constables had to march to the superintendent to receive their wages. This tradition continued for 80 years. In 1877 the Chief Constable instructed that: 'The new Uniform is to be fitted on the next Pay Parade. Should the weather be wet or look threatening the new clothing will not be worn on the march to the place of assembly, but must be carried and put on for the parade, it can be taken home by each constable, but will not be taken into wear until further orders.'

The public's high expectations of the new force was soon severely tested. Within 12 months the first two sergeants had both been dismissed. Sgt Connell disrupted a meeting at the Bedford Hotel addressed by the Hungarian Nationalist leader Kossuth when he was, according to the *Tavistock Gazette* 'in a state of bestial intoxication' while Sgt Ireland was sacked for 'some disgusting conduct at one of the public houses in the town.' After such an inauspicious start it was to take several changes of personnel before Tavistock's residents began to have faith in their new professional police force.

A critical factor in changing public perceptions of the local police was the strong leadership provided by Superintendent William Mitchell, who arrived in 1878 and served for 14 years. His meticulous logbooks record over 200 entries and show how he managed to maintain a

balance between maintaining rigorous discipline and compassion for his men and the communities they served.

From the 1880s the story of Tavistock's police is one of a force based in a market town with a large rural hinterland from the agricultural villages of West Devon to the remote Dartmoor upland. Since then the role of the police and their relationship with the local inhabitants has developed in the context of wider social changes.

The Magistrates' Court - Theatre of Justice

The mid 19th century Magistrates' Court was designed to accommodate the work of an increasingly formal and professional legal system. It was purposely designed to provide an imposing stage on which the drama of justice could be acted out in full view of the public and where space was allocated to the actors' specific roles.

The Duke of Bedford's New Guildhall

The Guildhall complex opened on 28 September 1848 and cost the Duke of Bedford £4000. It was a forward thinking move which responded positively to the increasing professionalisation of the law and the police. It also benefitted the Bedford estate to have an imposing new building for the forces of law and order and a fire engine to protect property close to the centre of their mining town.

The new building replaced the old Guildhall which had been a courthouse and venue for public and civic duties since the 16th century. From the early 1800s the Duke's stewards received regular complaints about the cramped and dilapidated condition of the old Guildhall and the adjoining lockup or 'clink'. Benson, the steward in 1841, reported after a storm: 'The old guildhall has got several large holes in it.'

The new Guildhall operated within the national legal system but it was very much the Duke of Bedford's personal property. In September 1848 an estate official told the Clerk of the County Court that it could meet at Tavistock 'but such permission will only be during his Grace's pleasure (avoiding any right which might be otherwise presumed) and subject to payment for lighting, warming and cleaning.' The charge was 30 shillings per session. By 1861 the Guildhall was being leased to the County Police Committee which oversaw the Devon Constabulary. In 1912/13 the Bedford estate sold the Guildhall, police station and police accommodation and fire engine house to Devon County Council.

The court's work evolved in line with the national system. It remained a focal point in Tavistock's life until it was closed in 2000 when the court moved to Plymouth.

The Court - The Stage Is Set

Like its predecessor the new Guildhall served as both courthouse and a meeting hall but its primary function was always as a court. At a time when over half of petty sessions courts (for minor offences) still met in inns, its architecture reflected how the law was becoming more specialised and formal with its own elaborate rituals and costumes which required a specialised building to act as theatres for justice. The court was purposely designed to achieve three principles:

1. To be formidable e.g. by bringing prisoners up the narrow dark stairs from cells into the dock where they confronted by the JP elevated above them. On the wall above the bench the coats of the arms of the monarch, Prince of Wales and Duke of Bedford and the statue of justice all contributed to the imposing atmosphere.

2. To provide a good auditorium with tiered seating and good acoustics so that everyone could hear what was being said. One of the purposes of the court was to provide an entertaining but also educative function for the local audience.

3. To separate different categories of people e.g. by two inner doors which divided legal professionals from the public.

'Take him down' - holding court, dispensing justice

The old Guildhall had accommodated a local petty sessions court which tried minor offences. The new courtroom was designed to host several different levels of court, which showed the Bedford estate's ambition to raise the status of Tavistock courts, and by extension, the town.

- Petty sessions dealt with minor offences such as drunkenness, poaching and vagrancy. They were summary courts which meant they were presided over by one or more Justices of the Peace, often in an inn or the JPS home, without a jury. The 1848 Summary Jurisdiction Act converted petty sessions into regular courts which had to be held in public and complainants had the right to legal representation by a Council or Attorney.
- County Courts were presided over by a professional barrister and had the power to try personal actions for debts.

- Quarter Sessions where local JPs tried lesser felonies and dealt with county and borough business such as bridge repairs. Quarter Sessions did not try cases that carried the death penalty so by the early 19th century a wide range of cases had to be tried outside Tavistock at Assize Courts by a circuit judge from Westminster. At Quarter Sessions a grand jury (made up of local landowners) decided whether there was a case to be answered, and a petty jury reached a verdict.

During the 19th century the nature of crime changed with Tavistock's economy and society. When the court opened Tavistock was a mining boom town. But after the mines began to close from the 1860s people left to seek work elsewhere and social conditions in the town centre began to improve. By 1900 the population was just over half what it had been 40 years before. The number of court cases fell from 17 per 1000 people in 1859-60 to an average of 9.2 per 1000 people between 1880 and 1895. Prosecutions for murder and assault dropped by two thirds and for breach of the peace by 50%. As well as the falling population the influence of Nonconformist chapels and their temperance campaigns against the alcoholic drink trade may also have had an impact.

As Tavistock was transformed into a market town with a rural hinterland the nature of crime also changed. But the magistrates' court continued to occupy a central place in the town's affairs until the end of the 20th century.