

The Moorswater Trail

This map from the early 1840's shows the Moorswater section of the East Looe Valley 15 years after the canal was finished and around 5 years before the railway to the mines around Caradon Hill was opened. Copper, tin and granite were brought down from the moors to the north by packhorse from the late 1830's, then loaded on to barges for Looe to be shipped on. Limestone, sand, coal, timber and other imports making the return trip. The Cornwall Railway crossed the valley in 1857 on Brunel's magnificent viaduct, but a rail link from the mainline into the valley had to wait until 1901.

Looe Mills - Corn mill, possibly the one associated with Liskeard in the 1086 Domsday survey. Recorded as Low Mill in the 1275 Liskeard Charter.

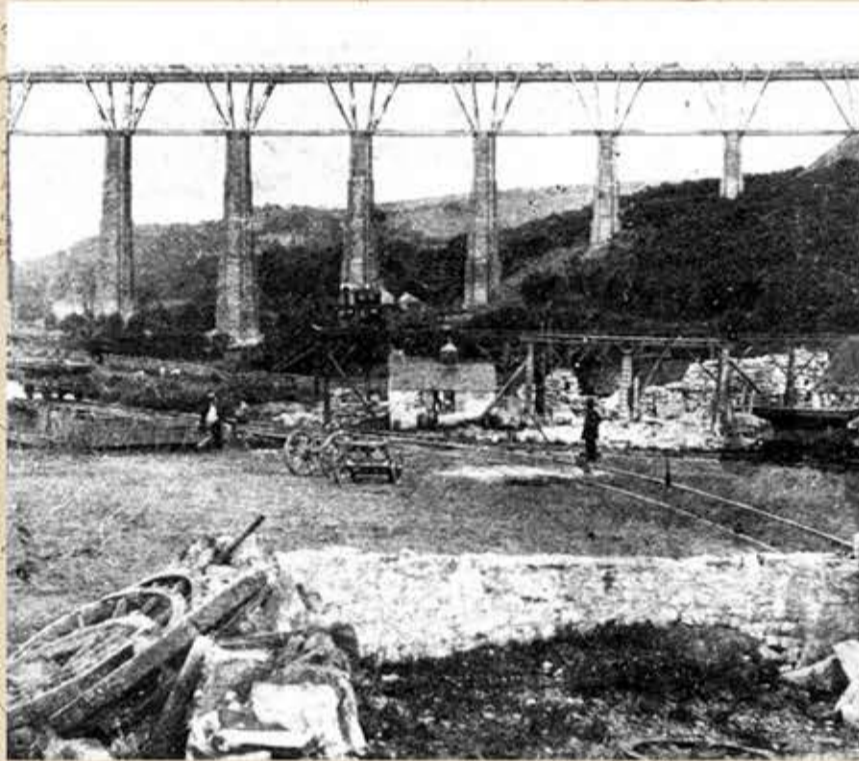
Paper Mill - In operation by 1809 and within 20 years superseded by an iron foundry, part of the site of which was taken over by the St Neot China Clay Company in 1904.

Moorswater Lodge - Built by the Lyne family between 1829 & 1830.

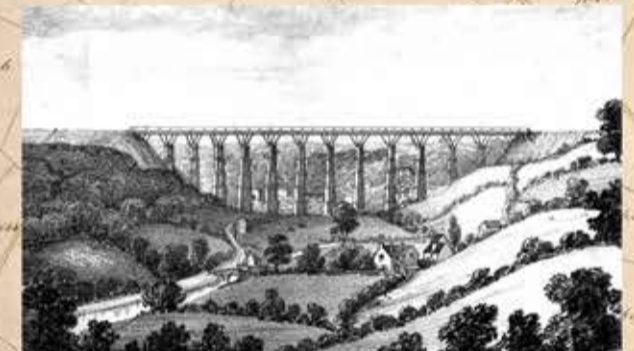
Lady Park - Part of a large Mediaeval deer park belonging to the duke's then earls of Cornwall and attached to their castle in Liskeard. A chapel and holy well within it were dedicated Our Lady in the Park. It was a place of pilgrimage until the Reformation.

Liskeard and Looe Union Canal Basin and Reservoir - Built to supply the canal which opened in 1828. Water was also obtained from the Moorswater Lodge lakes and the River Fowey at Crylla. .

Moorswater cottages and Lime Kilns - The cottages - indicated above in pink - were for those working the three banks of lime kilns - indicated by black circles on grey - or on the canal basin. There was also a public house here and later as the settlement grew places of worship a shop and café. .

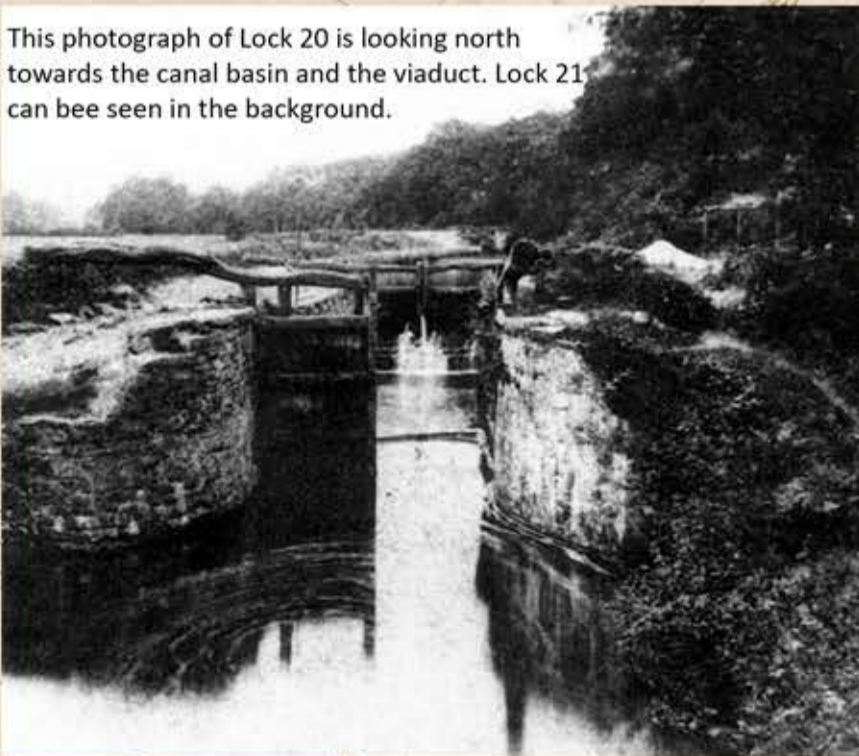


This amazing and early photograph is taken from the reservoir end, looking south across the canal basin to Brunel's graceful viaduct. Trucks from Caradon Hill & beyond can be seen, one, out over the canal itself (far middle left)



Moorswater Viaduct, Liskeard, 1855
145 feet high

Lamellion (Kernewek = mill in the valley)
This etching from John Allen's history of the area, by Mary his daughter, shows the Lamellion corn mill, a canal branch to the, now lost, single pot limekiln opposite Lock 23, and the viaduct as viewed from the south.



This photograph of Lock 20 is looking north towards the canal basin and the viaduct. Lock 21 can be seen in the background.

Lock 21 - Recently cleared and fenced it can be seen in the background of photo of Lock 20.

Use this map, the 1960s version, along with the Moorswater Trail Google Map (scan QR code below) to uncover the hidden story of this industrial powerhouse and its now lost village.



Liskeard Tithes Map
1842 with thanks to
Liskeard & District Museum

