

Trelavour Lithium Project

Key Facts

- Cornish Lithium is testing for lithium contained within the granite at Trelavour by drilling to obtain samples of the rock
- Lithium is used in batteries for electric vehicles and renewable energy storage
- We are drilling boreholes in the Trelavour china clay pit which will be up to 300 m deep
- We are recovering rock core and chips to analyse for lithium content
- The programme is expected to last approximately 14 weeks
- We have a team of 6 geologists working full time on the project from our base at Trelavour Dryer near St Dennis
- We are investigating the lithium-rich section of the granite at Trelavour which is known to contain lithium-bearing mica minerals. Historically the pit has produced high quality kaolin
- The borehole sites are within the operational boundary of the existing Trelavour China Clay pit. We have agreements in place with the mineral rights holders and Imerys to allow us to carry out this exploration work
- Normal site working hours are between 07:00 and 19:00, 7 days per week
- The works all fall within the current planning permissions for the site
- The boreholes are being drilled by Priority Drilling Company Ltd., who have drilled a number of similar boreholes in Cornwall



Who is Cornish Lithium?

Cornish Lithium is an innovative, eco-technology company focused on mineral exploration and development for the environmentally sustainable extraction of lithium from geothermal waters and hard rock in the historic mining district of Cornwall. The Company is using modern technology to re-evaluate the region's potential for low carbon extraction of lithium and other vital technology metals such as tin, copper and cobalt. A secure domestic supply of such metals is considered vital to the industrial strategy of the UK as it moves towards the production of electric cars. Cornish Lithium currently employs 20 people based in its offices in the Tremough Innovation Centre in Penryn, Falmouth.

Contact us: trelavour@cornishlithium.com or call the drilling team on 01726 420 001

Why Trelavour Pit?

Some of the most lithium-enriched granite in Cornwall occurs in the St Austell region, including in the Trelavour Pit. In 2020 Cornish Lithium drilled 41 exploration drill holes at Trelavour to test its lithium potential, and the results were encouraging. Further exploration drilling at Trelavour has started and a 26 hole, 4,000m drilling programme will determine the extent of the lithium rich granite at Trelavour and generate a mineral resource statement in mid-2021.

What is lithium?

Lithium is the lightest metal, with a high charge density, making it ideal for lightweight portable batteries. It is not a dangerous element and occurs in stable compounds in nature.

Why is lithium important?

Today over 50% of lithium produced is used in electric car batteries and predicted growth of electric cars is expected to be significant. Prior to 1991 lithium was mainly used for glazes in ceramics. It is also starting to be used for large electric grid size batteries for managing sustainable sources of power such as wind and solar.

Which countries currently produce lithium?

Global production of lithium in 2019 was 77,000 tonnes. Australia is the largest producer at 42,000 tonnes from hard rock and Chile the second largest at 18,000 tonnes from brines. Currently only a small amount is produced in Europe – Portugal 1,200 tonnes/annum. Some analysts believe global annual production will double by 2024. The UK has significant potential to produce lithium.

How much lithium is in the granite at Trelavour?

This drilling programme will help Cornish Lithium to evaluate the size and grade of the potential resource at Trelavour. Once this is determined further engineering work, testwork and environmental analysis will be done, together with on-going community and public consultation, before applying for detailed planning permission ahead of developing the project further.

What is Cornish Lithium's relationship with Imerys?

Cornish Lithium has an agreement with Imerys to allow the Company to explore for lithium in the Trelavour Pit. If the exploration work is successful and future development work suggests a viable business, Cornish Lithium will look to partner with Imerys to work Trelavour Pit.

What are the differences between mining for china clay and lithium?

Similar processes are used to mine the rock for both kaolin and lithium minerals. For lithium there is likely to be a need to mine the harder less kaolinised areas, whereas for clay it generally is the softer fully kaolinised areas. The processes for producing lithium from the rock are similar to those used for china clay production, and kaolin will also be produced as part of the process.

When will you start producing lithium?

Cornish Lithium has already produced small quantities of lithium at laboratory scale using an environmentally safe and low carbon technology to extract lithium from mica minerals. Cornish Lithium has acquired this technology licence which provides an innovative processing solution for the Trelavour Lithium Project. The next stage is for a small demonstration pilot plant to be constructed and commissioned late in 2021 at the Imerys Trelavour Dryer site. If this is successful, this is expected to lead to a larger process plant constructed and operational by mid-2024.

Will you be employing local people?

Cornish Lithium already employs a team of 20 people in Cornwall. If the investigations at the Trelavour project are successful, then Cornish Lithium will look to employ up to 10 people over the next 12 months (a mixture of short term and permanent jobs). In the longer term there could be as many as 200 skilled, well paid, new jobs associated with this lithium project if it goes ahead. Cornish Lithium aims to set up training and apprenticeship schemes at this point.

How do I apply for a job?

Cornish Lithium welcomes CVs from potential applicants. Please send a CV and cover letter through to careers@cornishlithium.com and should a suitable position arise you will be invited to apply to it.

Future Communication

Cornish Lithium will provide regular communication updates, which will be on its website (www.cornishlithium.com) and sent to all stakeholders. The Cornish Lithium website has more details about the Company and its projects in Cornwall.