

Copperhouse Tidal Pool



Built in 1788 by the Cornish Copper Company the Pool was intended to be used as a storage reservoir to hold back water at high tide. This was then to be released through a sequence of sluice gates to ensure that the navigation channels were constantly scoured. This process would allow larger vessels to enter the harbour safely over the notorious Hayle Bar. Later, the water was also used to power the Tidal Mill situated in the eastern corner of Wilson's Pool before a steam-powered engine was installed in 1862. A deepwater canal had already been dug in 1768 from the Swing Bridge to Copperhouse Dock, allowing cargo vessels to reach Ventonleague Quay.

The walls surrounding the Pool and those of Copperhouse Dock are built of "Scoria" blocks manufactured from the black, glassy waste from the bottom of the smelter furnaces, a building material unique to Hayle .

For over 60 years Copperhouse Pool was used as the venue for the famous Hayle Regatta and many Hayle children have learned to swim in the Mullet Pool behind the Custom House. Today the Pool is a Nature Reserve under the protection of the R.S.P.B. and the mudflats attract many ducks and waders to feed there during the autumn and winter.

