

GLOSSARY OF THE MINING LANDSCAPE

WHEAL

'Workings' (Cornish Language) – usually means mine workings.

SHAFT

A passage going straight down into the earth

PIT

In Cornwall usually means a quarry pit (though can sometimes be a mine)

BAL

'Digging' (Cornish Language) usually means a mine.

COPPER, ARSENIC, TIN, CLAY ETC

Many of the maps identify which minerals were mined here.

ENGINE HOUSE

Steam engines were used to run the pumps that stopped the mines from flooding. These buildings were where the pumps were housed.

CHIMNEY, STACK

Steam engines were fuelled by burning coal, many huge chimneys can still be seen on engine houses around Cornwall and West Devon.

MAGAZINE

Mining in hard rock requires a lot of explosive. Dynamite or gun powder was stored in special buildings called 'magazines'.

SLUICE, AQUADUCT

'Water courses'- as well as pumping water out of the mines, waterways were used to transport the ore (minerals).

SMITHY

Many mine works had their own blacksmiths to make and maintain tools.

FOUNDRY

A smelting works where metals are extracted from raw minerals at very high temperature.

QUARRY

An open cast mine.

KILN

An oven used for baking clay or roasting ore.