PROCESS OF MINING LABELS



THE DRY

Miners changed and prepared for work in a special room called the 'dry'.



HAND DRILLING

Early miners drilled the hard rock with hammers and chisels called 'borers'.



STOPING

The job of tunnelling out the precious ore was called 'stoping'.



CORNISH ROCK DRILL

Invented in 1881, the Cornish Rock Drill made miners' jobs a lot easier and was sought-after all over the world.



BLASTING

After drilling, miners used explosives to blast out the valuable ore. Early miners would pack the holes with gunpowder, later dynamite was used.



TRAMMING

The blasted rock was loaded into mine carts to be taken for processing, a job known as 'tramming'.



MINE WAGON

Bucket-tipping mine wagons made it easier to unload the ore.



MINERAL TRAM

Above ground, tramways were used to transport the ore for processing.



SPALLING

Spalling was the process of smashing up the ore by hand. Much of the labour was done by women, known as Bal Maidens.



TIN STAMPS

A machine used to break up the ore into a fine sand before the metal could be extracted.



STAMP MILL

A site dedicated to breaking up the ore. Many of the machines were powered by waterwheels. The water was carried around by 'launders' or gutters.



BUDDLE FRAME

A device used to separate tin sand from waste rock. The heavy tin would settle onto the frame while the waste would be washed down the slope.



BUDDLE PIT

Tin sand was stirred with water in this pit. The heavy tin would sink while the lighter waste rock would be pushed to the edge.



SHAKING TABLE

Powdered rock and water were passed over this table which would vibrate to separate the heavy metals from the waste rock.



SMELTING

Finally, the ore was melted in a furnace and turned into bars of pure metal called 'ingots'.