

Artefact List

Rock Samples

On the left, cassiterite known to the miners as “blue peach” which is tin ore in its raw state. On the right, granite, the local bedrock in which it is found.

Tin Concentrate (Black Tin)

Processed and ground, this is what the ore looks like prior to smelting.

Tin Ingot

Smelted tin ready for making into products.

Miner's Helmet

A reproduction of an original 18th century miner's hat. This would have been made of felt, moulded to the shape of the owner's head and covered with pitch or resin to harden it. A candle, made of tallow, would have been fixed to the front with clay.

Miner's Helmet

Original helmet thought to be 18th century found in Wheal Roots.

Poll Pick

A short pick designed especially to be swung in a confined space. It could also be reversed and used as a hammer.

Hammer and Gad

The gad was held against the rock face and struck with the hammer. After each stroke it would be turned – a very slow way of drilling into rock.

Jumper

A double ended drill which could be reversed as one end became blunt. The bulge in the centre provided weight and grip. This would be regularly sharpened by the local blacksmith.

Quill

Goose quills were trimmed and filled with fine black gunpowder to be used as fuses. For a longer fuse, several could be slotted together.

Tinned Can

Modern cans tend to be made from aluminium rather than tin, however, the fact that we still refer to them as “tins” gives a clue to their origin.