

# Mining trails activity sheets

## An introduction

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# Search for clues

# Be creative

# Work things out

# And learn too!

## About the mining trails

During the 19th century the Camborne and Redruth mining district produced half of Cornwall's enormous metal output. It was ground-breaking in every sense of the word! Now those once noisy, industrious mine sites lie still and quiet but they also form an extremely important part of Cornish Mining's World Heritage Site.

Thanks to the Mineral Tramways Heritage Project, there are now around 20 miles of largely traffic-free trails for walkers, cyclists and horse riders in the area. Many of the trails follow as closely as possible the tramway and railway routes used to transport ore and vital supplies to and from the area's many tin and copper mines to ports of Devoran on the south coast and Portreath on the north.

A few sections are steep but others can be used by people using wheelchairs and buggies. All can be used to discover something new and exciting at nearly every turn - unique and amazing mining landscapes, spectacular views, peaceful countryside, exceptional wildlife and carefully conserved, internationally important mine sites.

By 2008 there will be even more trails to choose from - ideal if you want to get fit for free, explore the area, find somewhere safe to learn how to ride a bike, or enjoy a sustainable way to or travel to school or work. Each will be linked to at least one other trail as well as to mine sites, historic towns and villages, public transport and visitor attractions - offering a bigger choice of destinations, directions detours and durations.

# The Great Flat Lode

## Introduction sheet 1

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## About the activities

These trail activity sheets are designed to give you fun things to do as you journey along the trail. Keep your eyes open and score yourself one point for every task done. **GOOD LUCK!**

Also included are some blank sheets of paper in case you spot something interesting and want to draw it or mark where you found it.

Helpful hint – finding these boards will give you answers to some questions!

## Before you start

Make sure you fill in the following details before you start, just in case you accidentally lose your activity pack somewhere on the trail.

Name

.....

Age

.....

Address / School / Group

.....

## Use with question ② on activity sheet 1

### Find, measure and record



# The Great Flat Lode

## Introduction sheet 2



King Edward Mine c.1910

### Trail fact file

**Trail name**

**The Great Flat Lode trail**

**Distance**

**12km (7.5 mile) circular trail**

**Who uses it?**

**Walkers, cyclists, horse-riders  
and scouts.**

**How long does it take to walk it?**

**About 3-4 hours**

**A loaded fact**

**There are only a couple of steep sections - it's the "lode" (or mineral deposit) that's flat, not the trail.**

## Mining in the area

The trail takes you through a key area of Cornwall Mining's World Heritage site. By following part of the Basset Mine Tramway built to carry tin ore for processing at Wheal Basset and West Basset Stamps, you can see one of the greatest of historic mine remains in the world.

From the 1870s, thousands of miners worked underground the ground here in dark, wet and dangerous conditions.

Above ground, the area would have been a hive of activity too. Children as young as ten would have worked with girls and women (bal maidens) crushing the ore and wheeling it to trams that carried ore and supplies to and from mines and ports. It's difficult to imagine, but where you are now would once have been a busy, noisy and dirty place to work.

# The Great Flat Lode

## Activity sheet 1

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### 1 Eye Spy plants and wildlife



You can find some unusual birds, animals, insects and plants at derelict mine sites. Some of them actually like the hostile habitats created by spoil heaps.

Spot one of each in the categories below and write down its name OR draw it in the space below.

**Animals and birds**

**Flowers and trees**

**Bugs and butterflies**

.....

.....

.....

### 2 Find, measure and record




**USE THE RULER ON INTRODUCTION SHEET 1** Find an object (a leaf, feather, stone or whatever takes your fancy), give it a name and use the measure on introduction sheet 1 to record its size. You can also use it to measure and compare the sizes of other objects you find on the trail.

# The Great Flat Lode

## Activity sheet 2

### 1 Quick questions

Travel  clock-wise from King Edward Mine. From here you will see CARN BREA.

The summit of this hill is 250 metres high and two prominent objects on it are connected with the area's leading mine owner, Sir Francis Basset of Tehidy.

1. What are the two objects at the top of Carn Brea?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Optional detour to WEST BASSET STAMPS.**

Take the path from South of St Euny Chruich. This site is one of the finest surviving 19th century dressing floors.

2. These stamps aren't the kind you stick on to envelopes! What are they and what did they do?

.....  
.....

3. When was this stamps engine house built?

.....

### 2 Quick questions

 Find WHEAL BASSETT.

1. How much copper ore did this mine produce from 1832-80?

.....

The boilers of the steam engines at Basset Mines used as much C... as the whole of the city of Truro.

2. What's the missing four letter word (beginning with C)?

.....

In 1892 the Basset Tramroad (and a steam locomotive) were introduced to transport materials for processing here. A little later, two tunnels were created.

 Find one of the tunnels.

3. When was it rebuilt to form part of the Great Flat Lode trail?

.....

### 3 Quick questions

 Find SOUTH WHEAL FRANCES

4. When was the golden period for South Wheal Frances?

.....

5. What was the size of the pumping engine erected on Marriott's Shaft in 1847?

.....

# The Great Flat Lode

## Activity sheet 3

SOUTH WHEEL FRANCES CONTINUED.

### 4 Quick questions

**Find** MARRIOTT'S SHAFT.

a. How far did this shaft extend?

.....

b. What used to be located above the shaft and what did it do?

.....

**Find** THE COMPRESSOR HOUSE.

a. What was supplied here?

.....

b. How many rock drills could be supplied at a time?

.....

**Find** THE PUMPING HOUSE.

a. When did the engine catch fire?

.....

b. What fuel did its new engine use 37% less of?

.....

**Find** THE CAPSTAN ENGINE HOUSE.

a. What did the capstan engine do?

.....

**Find** THE MINERS' DRY.

a. What did miners use this building for?

.....

**Find** THE BOILER HOUSE.

a. How many boilers were inside this building and what did they do?

.....

b. How many boiler explosions were there?

.....

**Find** THE ORE BIN AND CRUSHER

a. What happened to the tin ore when it had been trammed here from the shaft?

.....

**Find** THE WINDER HOUSE

a. What did the winding engine raise?

.....

b. How much weight could it haul at 610 metres per minute?

.....

c. What diameter were the winding drums in the middle?

.....

# The Great Flat Lode

## Activity sheet 4

### 5 Quick questions

**Find** NEW STAMPS, WHEAL GRENVILLE.

The stamps engine house here dates from 1891. Below it are the remains of ore and arsenic processing buildings.

**a. What do you think went on here?**

Tick the correct answer

- Ore crushing
- Pumping water
- Smelting

**b. Where was the refined tin ore from Wheal Basset Stamps taken to be smelted?**

From here you can see the biggest range of **ENGINE HOUSES** that can be seen anywhere in Cornwall.

**c. How many can you count?**

Tick the correct answer

- 4-6
- 8-10
- 11 or more

**d. What item of processing equipment is in the foreground in this old photo of workers on the dressing floors at Basset Mines?**

### 6 Talking heads

Why not try giving one of the people something funny to say using a bubble.



# The Great Flat Lode

## Notes, drawings, doodles

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# The Great Flat Lode

## Notes, drawings, doodles

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