

CASE STUDY 1: A LEGACY OF MINING

CASE STUDY DETAILS

Key Skill Subjects:

Geography
Geology
Environmental Science
History

Duration:

1 Day ✓
2 Day ✓
3 Day ✓
5 Day ✗

Locations:

Multi – location (requires transport throughout day)

Accessibility:

Coastal Section ✓
Tidal Dependant ✓
Steps ✓
Unmade Footpath ✓
Open Moorland ✗
Steep Gradients ✓
Former Industrial Site ✓
Mine / Underground ✧
Weather Dependant ✓

Optional Extras:

Tour of Tin Mine
Visit Working Beam Engine

Key To Symbols:

Yes: ✓
No: ✗
Optional: ✧

This module is specifically designed to cover a broad range of geographical topics. The module is themed around the now historical tin mining industry; covering aspects from the formation of the tin within the rocks to the environmental legacy of the now abandoned mines. All of the localities within this case study are within a World Heritage Site.



Ruined mine buildings close to the sea

We start off at a coastal locality at the base of a small river valley where we can examine the rocks first hand, make sketches and describe the minerals which make up the rocks. We also look for evidence that there may be valuable minerals hidden deep within the hills here. Students are encouraged to keep notebooks, and to record observations as a field geologist would.

The tour then moves up the coast, to some of the early mine sites in the area. Students can look at the geographical constraints of building mines in these areas, and examine how they were overcome or perhaps we can look at the environmental legacy left behind now the mines are closed. We will consider many environmental impacts during the tour, including: visual, contaminants, wildlife, human health, noise etc. Students can also visit a working steam beam engine over 100 years old (entrance fee payable).



Modern Headframe

We conclude this tour with a visit to a modern tin mine (entrance fee payable) and the last to operate in the area - the mine closed less than 20 years ago, and has been preserved as a museum. Students can observe the

modern, scientific ore processing techniques and have a go at gold panning. In addition we can see lockers and personal items in the miners dry, which have not been touched since the mine closed giving a picture of the type of men and women who worked underground.



Cathedrals to steam cling to the cliffs in a world heritage site

The tour is normally concluded with a trip underground, where we see the minerals 'in situ', and observe tunnels cut through bare rock by hand.