

Key Vocabulary

ADIT — A tunnel driven into the hillside. This is used to get to the slate, or to drain water from the quarry.

BACK FILLING — Waste rock which is left in a disused area of the quarry. Can also be left in to help support the roof.

BAIT — Quarryman's lunch or break.

BANK — Flat area outside level entrance.

BARGAIN — An agreement reached by a company of men to do a particular job for an agreed amount of money over a set time.

BLONDIN — A type of aerial ropeway.

BOGIE — A trolley used to move clogs on an incline.

BOTHY — Small house where the quarrymen would live.

CHECK WEIGHMAN — The person on The House whose job it was to ensure all the slates leaving were of good quality and the right weight.

CLOG — Quarryman's early footwear.

CLOG — Lump of slate weighing anything from one to five tons.

CLOG RUNNER — A person who pushes the clog bogies from the quarry.

CLOSEHEAD — Underground quarry.

COMPANY — A group of four or five quarrymen.

CORBEL — An arched roof made of flat stone without a keystone.

COUNTRY ROCK — The rock in which the slate is found.

CROSSCUT — A tunnel driven through the country rock to cut the slate at right angles.

DAY — Underground term meaning surface or outside.

DOCKING — A method of striking a clog to reduce it in size.

DRESSER — A person who shapes the slate to size.

DRIFT — Tunnel or level cut through the slate.

EXTRACTION - The removing of slate.

FANCY — Member of the gentry.

FATHOM — Six feet.

GANT — A small wooden platform for quarrymen to work on.

GINNEL — A small passage to get behind the slate to ease it out.

GRIKE — A small crack between the clog and the face.

HAUSE - The meeting point or work shed at the mine.

INCLINE — A tunnel driven at an angle usually between 33 and 45 degrees, or a tramway for lowering slate or clogs down a slope. This can be on the mine surface or underground.

JUMPER — Hand held steel drill.

KYTEL — A type of basic, heavy, cotton working jacket.

LEVEL — Horizontal tunnel giving access to the closehead or quarries.

MUCKING OUT — Clearing away rubbish after blasting.

NOGG — Large metal ring placed in the roof of the quarry to suspend lifting gear.

OLD MEN — Early miners.

OPEN TOP — A surface quarry.

PILLAR — A part of the slate left in to support the roof or walls.

PRICKER — A long copper needle used for creating a hole in the stemming so that a fuse can be inserted to blow a clog.

QUARRY - The open area on the top of the mine, where slate is taken from.

QUOIN — A large lump of slate used for cornerstones on buildings.

RIDDS — Waste material.

RISE — An internal shaft connecting two levels.

RIVER — A person who splits the slate into manageable sizes for the dresser.

ROCKHAND — A person who works underground at the quarry face removing slate.

ROUNDHEAD — The name given to slates with a round top.

RUN-IN — An underground area where the roof has fallen in.

SETT — An area of land mined by the company.

SILL — There are two sills, which forms a sandwich either side of the slate i.e. the top sill and the bottom sill.

SLATE ANVIL - Tool used to rest slates on, so the whittle can shape the slates.

SLEDDING — The method of transporting the finished slate.

SOLE — Floor of the level.

SPLITTER — A river who splits the slates.

SQUARING UP — Preparing the quarry face for extracting new slate.

STEMMING — The material used for containing the charge in the hole, usually clay or quarry dust.

SUBSIST — A loan given for wages due.

TAMPING — Putting the charge in the hole, usually done with a wooden stick or brass stemming rod to blow the clog.

TOMMY TIN — Small tin for carrying food.

TULLY — A quarryman's tool used for docking and splitting.

TUNNELLER — A man who drives tunnels into the rock for slate extraction, but does not work at the quarry face.

WHITTLE - A hand tool used to shape the slates.

YORKERS — String tied around trouser leg bottoms or knees to stop dirt going up.

