

History and Heritage at Deer Park



Earthworks in one of the fields provide evidence of human activity on the land at Deer Park Farm which can be traced back to the Iron Age (c.800BC - 43AD). Enclosure of the land as a deer park in the 13th century, and the development of the mining industry in the area, both influenced today's landscape.

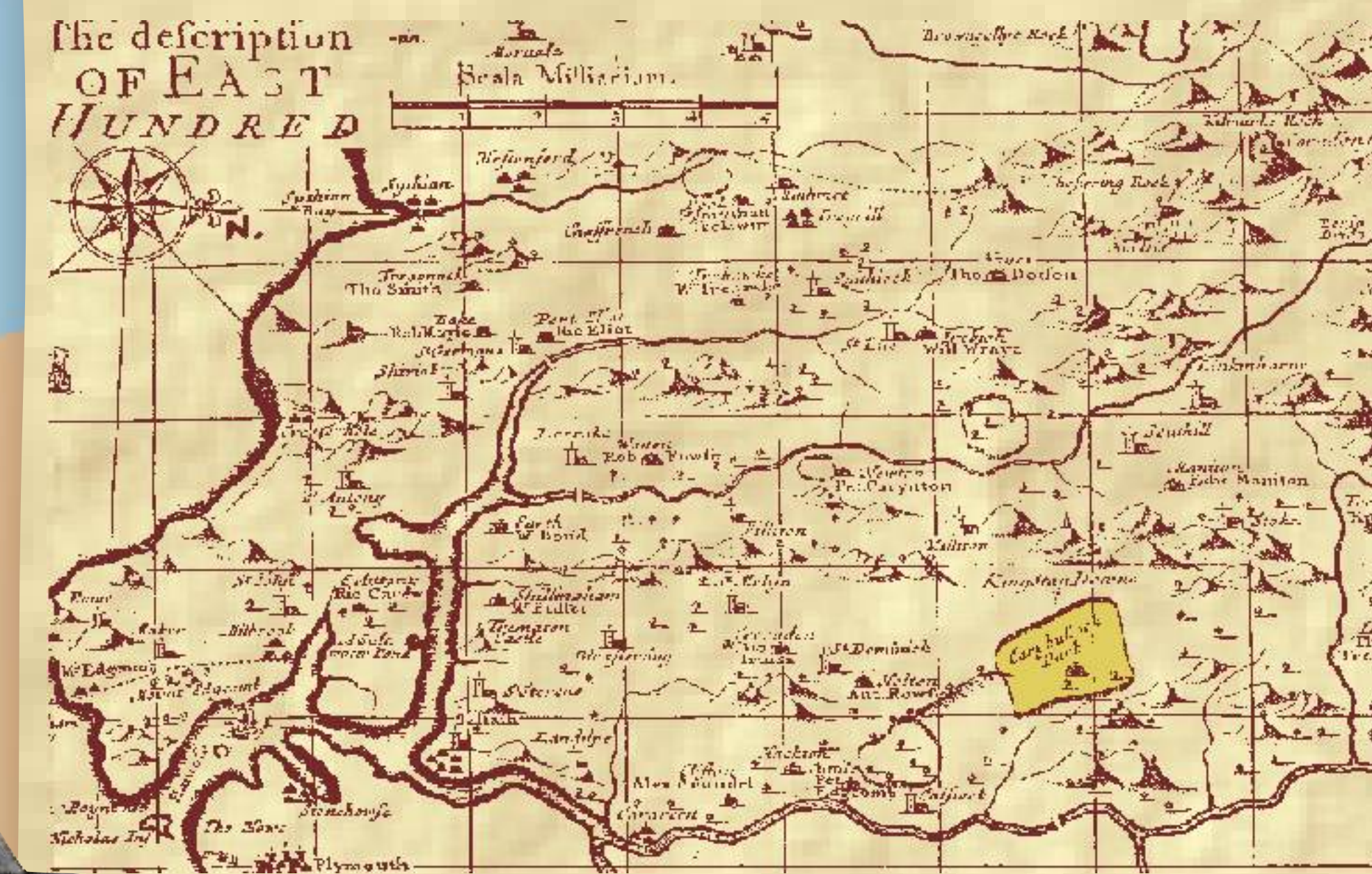
The Farm lies within the Parish of Stoke Climsland, one of seventeen manors in Cornwall given by Edward III in 1337 to the Duchy of Cornwall, which he created for his son, Edward, the Black Prince. It was the second largest manor in the county.

Deer Park Farm remained part of the Duchy of Cornwall estate until 1984 when it was bought by the Howlett family.



THE DEER PARK

The Farm was once actually part of a Deer Park known as "Kerrybullock", which covered some 400 - 450 acres in area. Deer Parks - where the animals were raised and hunted for sport - were great medieval status symbols, requiring royal permission and a lot of money to enclose, establish and maintain.



First documented in 1215, by 1272 Kerrybullock Deer Park was owned by the Earl of Cornwall, and in 1337 passed into the Duchy of Cornwall. The Park continued until 1542, when it was "disparked" in the reign of Henry VIII.

Kerrybullock is highlighted on this map of 1650, (which is orientated with north to the right). Here, the name is spelled as "Carybullock" - and the Park appears rather larger than in reality!

The Deer Park included the woodland lying in the middle of the current farm, which still remains the property of the Duchy of Cornwall today.

THE MINING BOOM

Tin was mined in this area from the 13th century, and in the 19th century the area around Deer Park Farm, including Lockett and Kit Hill, was a hive of mining activity. The mines worked an important group of tin and copper lodes, whose outcrops can be traced from Callington eastwards to the fringes of Dartmoor.

Down the hill near Lockett, Wheal Martha (later New Consols) Mine worked copper, arsenic and tin. In the 1870's, a long length of flue, (approximately 850 metres), was constructed up the hill away from the village to vent the poisonous fumes from the arsenic calciners. The stone and brick-built flue led up to the field chimney, which remains standing today. This is a prominent feature on the Farm and surrounding area - and a reminder of this early form of pollution control.

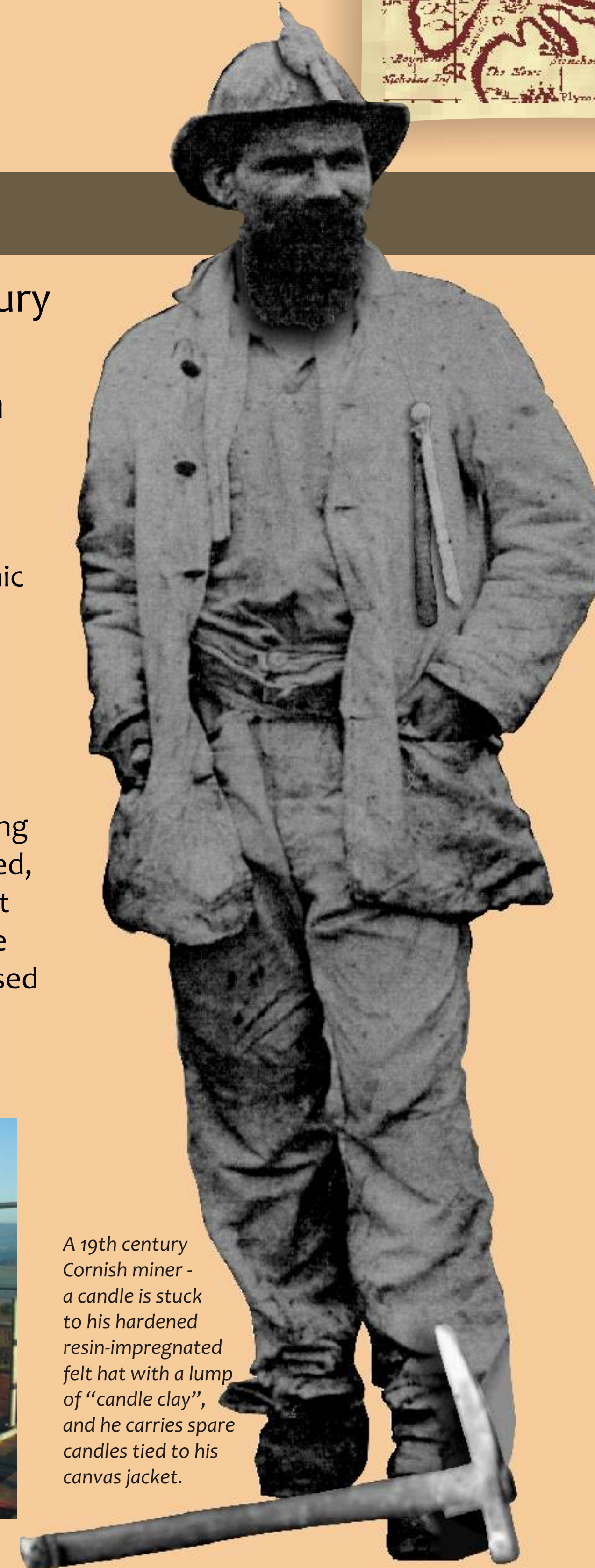


In 2008, Environmental Stewardship funding allowed the flue chimney to be consolidated, to make it safe and preserve this important feature of industrial archaeology for future generations. During this work it was encased in scaffolding to allow the brick top of the chimney to be secured, and a lightning conductor installed.



New Consols arsenic flue chimney during works

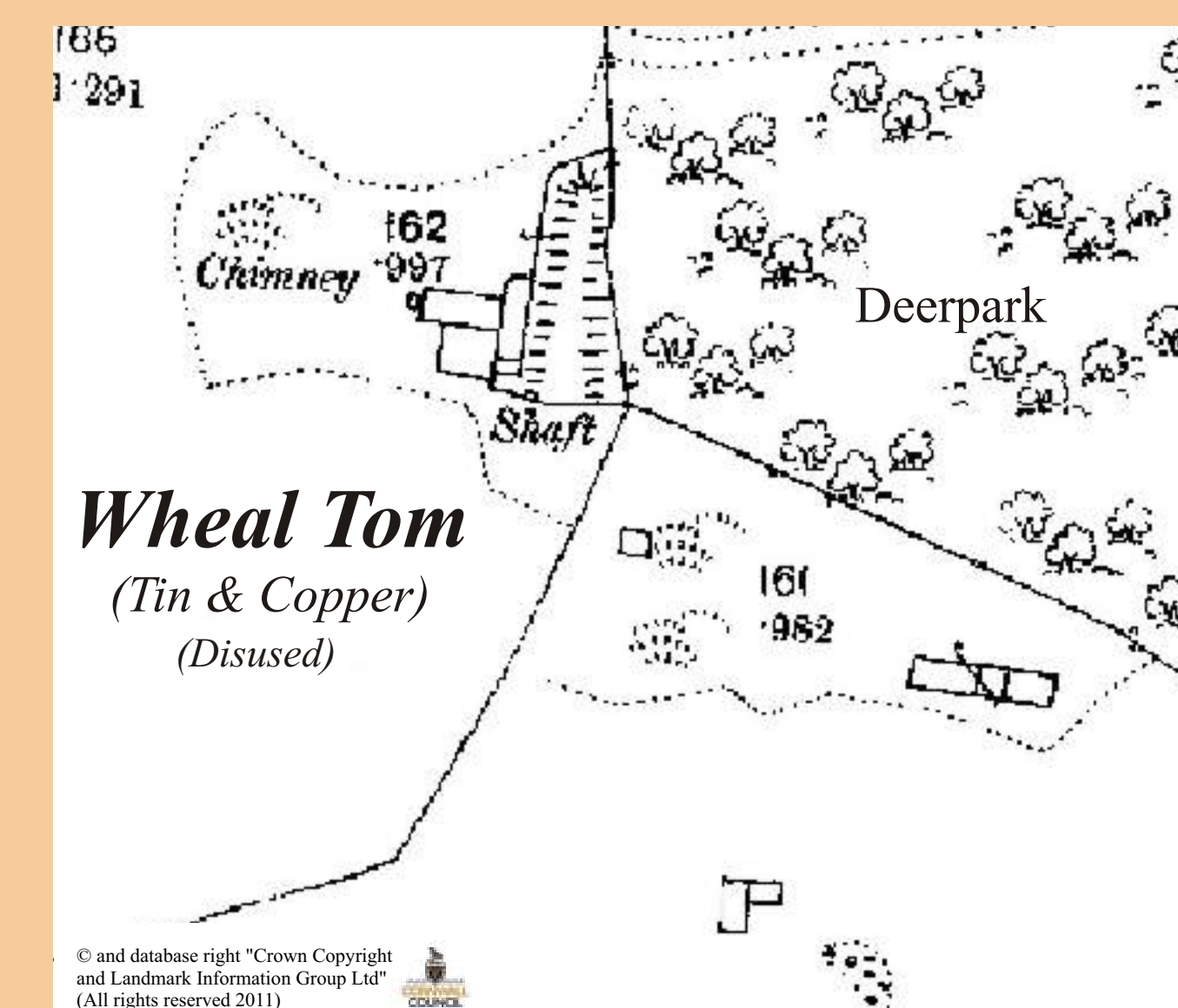
A 19th century Cornish miner - a candle is stuck to his hardened resin-impregnated felt hat with a lump of "candle clay", and he carries spare candles tied to his canvas jacket.



Wheal Tom balance bob box and mountings



Wheal Tom pumping engine house bob wall



c. 1880 Ordnance Survey map showing the mine workings

Also located on the farm are the remains of a less well-known tin and copper mine, Wheal Tom.

It operated only for a very short time - from 1850 to c. 1852 - working a lode containing Wolfram (Tungsten). This was a valuable metal, with a high melting point, initially important in hardening steel. An adit was driven and a steam engine and pumps installed, but Wheal Tom did not prove to be viable.

In 2008, the remains of the mine buildings were made safe for the public to view. They include remnants of the pumping engine house, balance bob pit, boiler house chimney and other structures - including the mine shaft, which was once 80 feet deep (24 metres).

Deer Park Farm lies within the Cornwall & West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site (WHS). The inscription of the area - including the Tamar Valley - was made by UNESCO in July 2006 and recognises the international importance of Cornish mining.



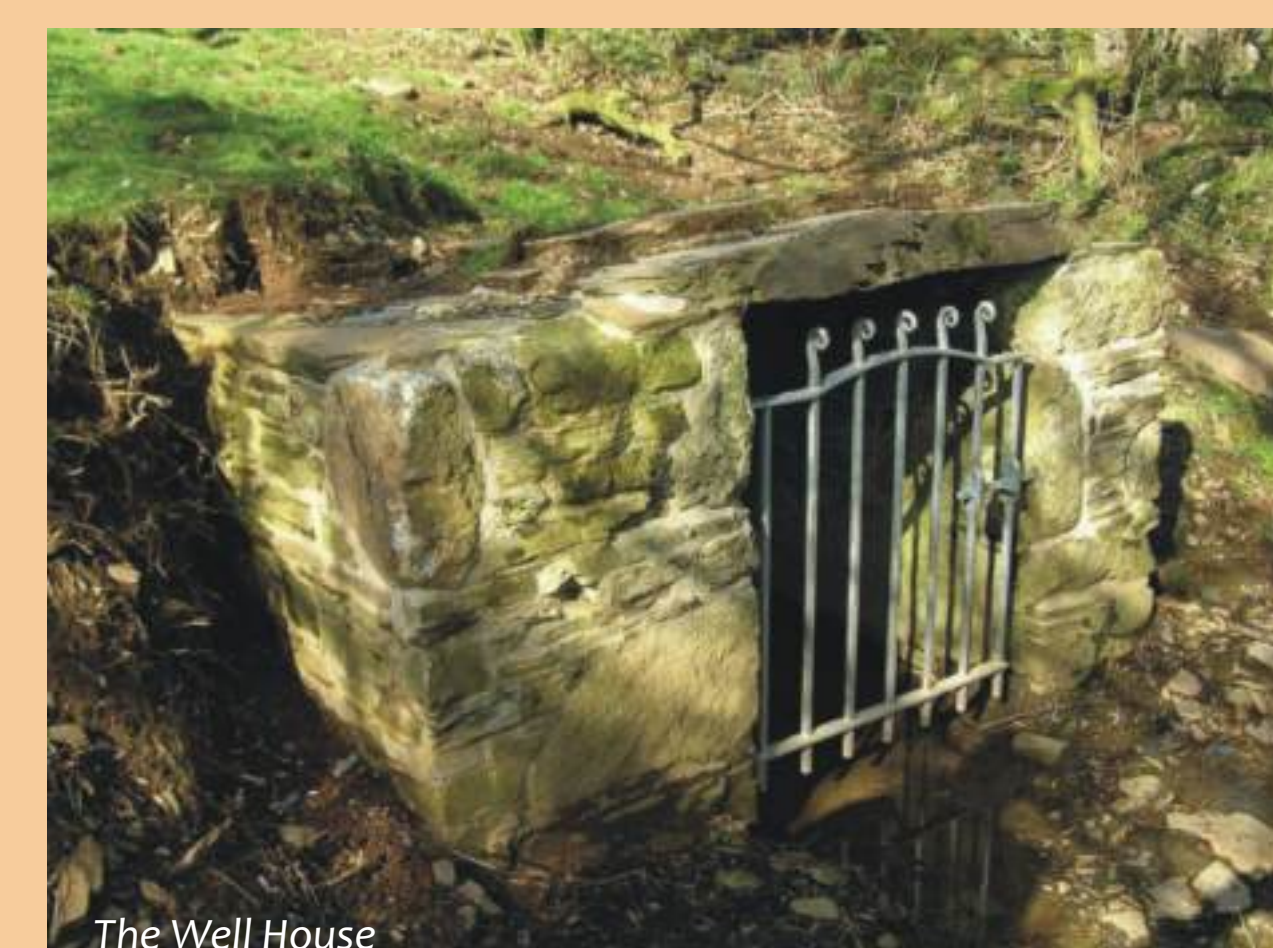
Our mining culture shaped your world



The Farm Buildings

The exact date of construction of Deer Park Farm (formerly known as Kerribullock Farm) is uncertain, but old maps suggest that it was after 1848.

The attractive farm buildings around the yard are of early Victorian construction, dating from the last great renaissance of farm buildings, beginning in the 1840's. These traditional buildings were the only ones in use on the farm until the modern sheds were added in the 1980's.



The Well House

A small 19th century "Well House" is sited below the farm, located in a field known as 'Well Park' as far back as 1671.

As there isn't a known water source within the confines of the farmstead, it is likely that this well house was once the farm's primary source of water - at least in the 19th century, before a more direct piped source from Kit Hill aquifers was created in the 20th century.

In 2008, the well house also benefited from work to ensure its survival for the future.