

Report for website on Millpool Walk on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021.

This walk had been rearranged due to poor weather, however, in fair conditions, we met in the car park by the Millpool Firing Range at ten o'clock, (our leader having checked that there was no firing that day!) The walk took us over the moorland and up to one of the tors with some wonderful views, before stopping for lunch by a lovely pool, created by previous mine workings.



The second part of the walk proceeded from the pool along an access track, between a range of disused mine workings. These included a large fallen chimney, which would have probably been part of a Cornish beam engine house, used for pumping out the adjacent clay pit.

A very high buttressed wall indicated an important part of the mine workings. This wall provided, in part, support for the three round settling tanks situated behind. It also provided height for loading the China Clay into horse-drawn wagons after the clay had settled out from the water used in its extraction from the granite face located in the pit.



Alongside the pits were the mica drags (popularly known as 'micy drags' in local Cornish dialect). These stone lined channels, set in the ground, were where the clay in slurry form was pumped from the pit. The heavier micaceous waste material would settle out, after which men would scrape (drag) along the lines to remove the waste material before the clay was channelled into the settling tanks. The building in the background would have been the Pit Captain's House.



This walk demonstrated that roaming over the Cornish moors is not only a very pleasant, healthy pastime, but a source of great information about our mining heritage. Thank you to Paul for providing the mining information, and Marianne for organising and leading such an interesting walk.

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