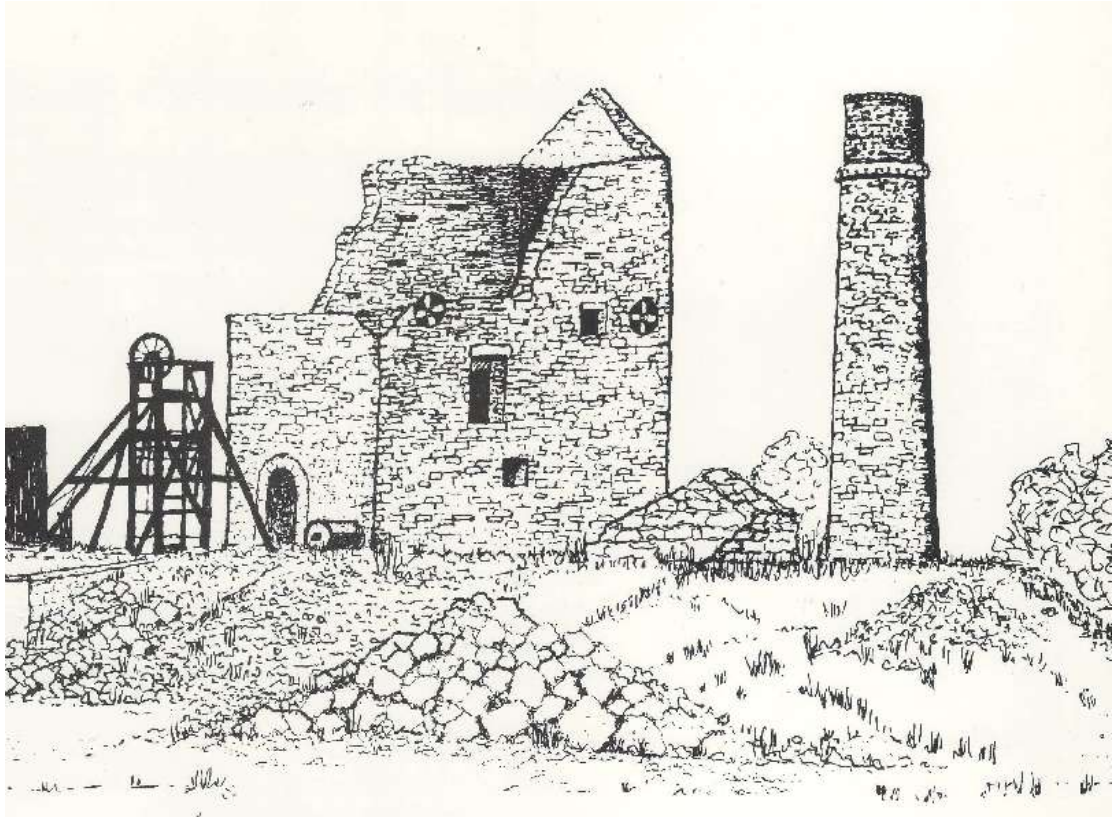


Magpie Mine



Teacher's Pack

Peak District Mines Historical Society/ Natural England

Contents

1. Site Information Page 3
2. Plan of the site Page 4
3. Site Profile Page 5
4. What Magpie Mine has to offer Page 6
5. Learning opportunities Page 8
6. Curriculum Links Page 9
7. Health and Safety Page 11
8. Photographs Page 13

1.Site Information

Contact Details

Site Name: Magpie Mine

Site Address:
Sheldon
Near Bakewell
Derbyshire

Grid Reference: SK417368

Contact:
Peak District Mining Museum
The Pavilion
South Parade
Matlock Bath
Derbyshire
DE4 3NR

Tel: 01629 583834

Or Mave Luff: 01530 810905

Email:
magpiebookings@pdmhs.com
Or
mail@peakmines.co.uk

Booking a visit

Please contact the museum or Mave Luff on the above telephone number to organise a visit. We can adjust the content and activities

according to your requirements. Visits are FREE, we just ask that you complete an evaluation form for us.

Cancellation arrangements

If you are unable to make your visit, please let us know as soon as possible, so that we can make alternative arrangements.

How to find us

The nearest town to Magpie Mine is Bakewell.

From Bakewell: take the A6 to Ashford, turn left up Kirkdale (signposted Sheldon), right at the top and the site is on the right.

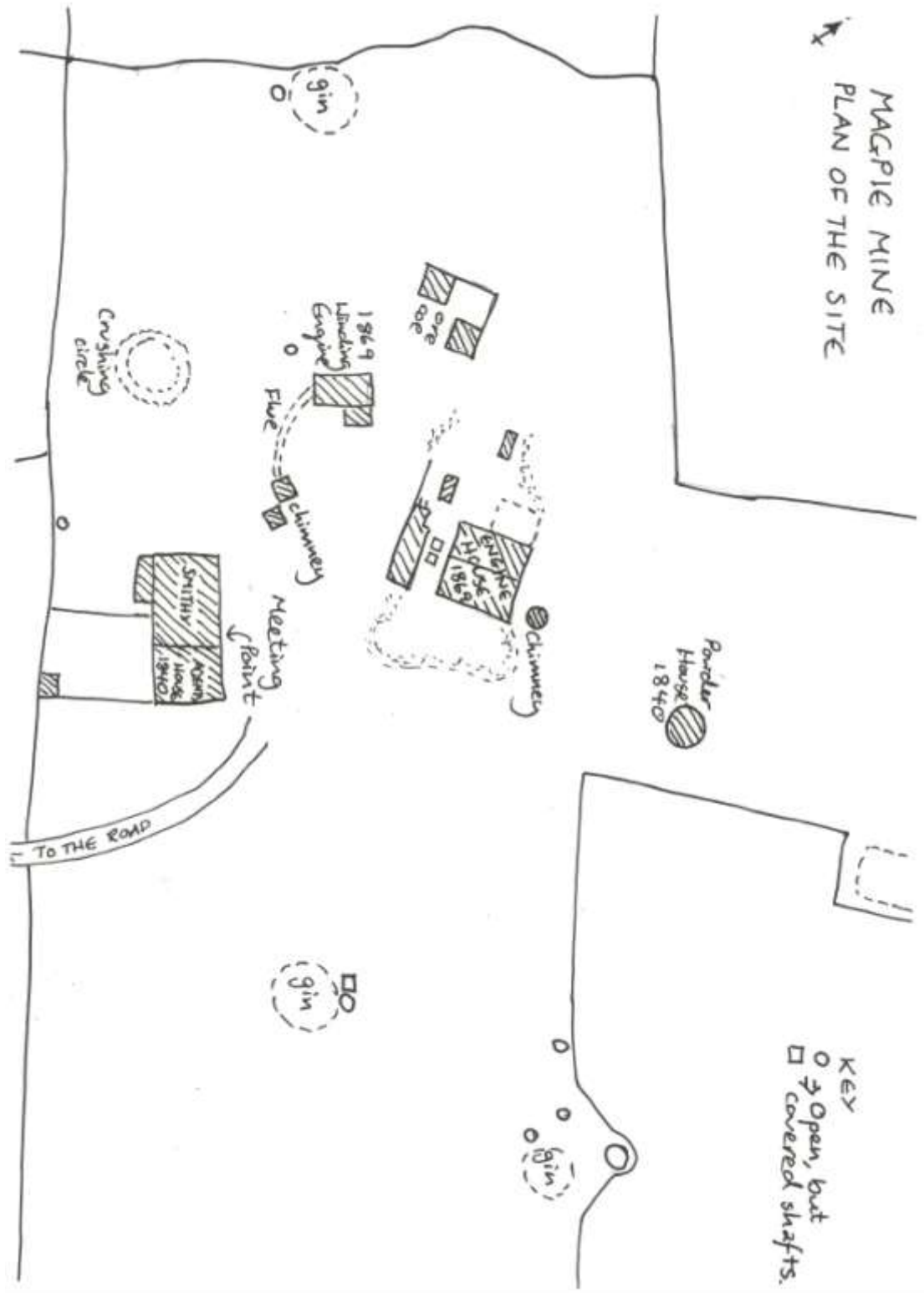
From Ashbourne or Buxton: take the A515 to Sheldon and the site chimney can be easily seen.

On Arrival

There is space to park a coach or minibuses at the side or the road at the end of the track. Walk up the track towards the mine buildings where you will be 'met and greeted'.

Children can leave bags and lunches in the agents cottage.

2. Plan of Site



3. Site Profile

A brief history

Lead mining has been an important industry in the Peak District since before Roman times. Magpie Mine is one of the best examples of surviving surface remains from this once thriving industry.

The mine has been worked on and off from the 1740s to the 1950s, by various shareholders and to differing intensities. Profits fluctuated over time, with the rising and falling price of lead and the cost of extracting water: 1827 and 1871 were the most profitable years.

Various methods were used to remove water so that access could be made to lead at a greater depth, including several different pumping engines. A sough (drainage tunnel) was created in the 1870s, costing around £18000, and prompted the first use of nitroglycerine explosives and pneumatic drills in the area.

Magpie Mine is also famous for the disputes between 1824 and 1835 which culminated in murder and 'the widows curse'. You will find out more about the story during your visit.

The site today

The site is owned by the Chatsworth estate, but is leased by the **Peak District Mines Historical Society**, a charitable organisation. The society use the Agent's Cottage as a field centre and occasionally for overnight accommodation. An active volunteer group work to maintain and develop the site.

Livestock graze the land around the mine buildings and help to maintain the species rich grassland.

Magpie Mine is a **Scheduled Ancient Monument**, which means it has been listed by English Heritage as being an important archaeological resource for the 'educational and cultural benefit of future generations'¹, and should be protected as such.

There are numerous wild species present on the site. The metallophytic plants attract special interest.

Magpie Mine is also within the **Peak District National Park**. As such it is a heritage attraction for tourists and the public footpaths that cross the site are used regularly by walkers.

¹ English Heritage (2004) *Scheduled Monuments: A guide for owners and occupiers* English Heritage Publishing.

4. What Magpie Mine has to offer

Areas for potential fieldwork

- Historic features including mine buildings/ archaeology
- Geological features
- Flower-rich grassland
- Dry-stone walls

Species on the site

- Calaminarian grassland and metallophytes
- Leadwort
- Spring Sandwort
- Alpine Penny-cress
- Rabbits
- Pansies, cowslips and orchids

Archaeological Features

- 1840s Mine Agent's cottage and smithy
- Engine houses of various dates, which housed pumping and winding engines
- 1840s Cornish Powder House
- The remains of several horse gins
- Shafts of various dates, some used for climbing, some for winding
- 1950s winding gear

Less visible remains include:

- Crushing circle
- Dressing floor
- Slime ponds
- Tram road

Activities

Activities can be tailored to fit your curriculum requirements, although some may be more suitable for certain key stages:

- A guided tour of the site, looking at the various uses of the buildings and features on site.
- Then and now: a study of how site use has changed from the past. Children are asked to look for modern and old features of the site and think about what purpose the site might have in today's world.
- Storytelling activity: children can learn the real-life story of the murders that took place at Magpie Mine and the Widow's Curse. This can take place in or out of doors.
- Treasures from the mine: in bad weather children may want to handle authentic artefacts and minerals from Derbyshire's lead mines, in the Agent's cottage.

- Flora study: (for fine weather) children will study a square metre of land to discover how many species of plant life are present.
- Barmoot Court role-play: discuss and take part in a case of the local lead mining court.

A visit to Magpie Mine would be ideally complemented by a visit to the Peak District Mining Museum and/or Temple Mine in Matlock Bath. This would create a full day of activities. For more information about educational visits to the Peak District Mining Museum call 01629 583834.

Pre and post-visit ideas

Loans boxes are available to borrow from the Peak District Mining Museum for a small fee, along with a set of suggested lessons plans. These include artefact and mineral handling activities, dressing-up and role-play plus ideas for literacy and geography activities.

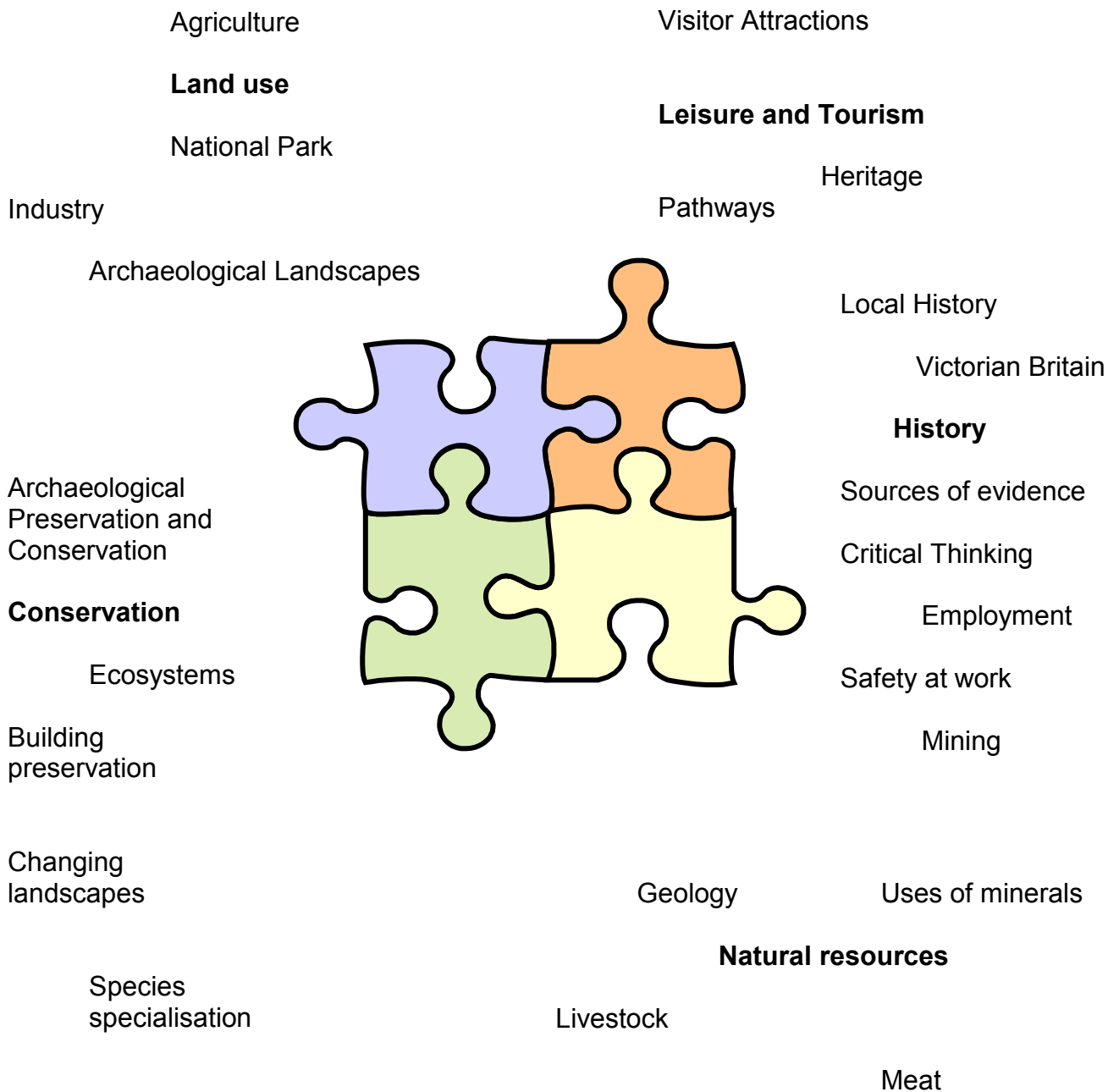
Facilities

- The Smithy and Agent's Cottage can be used for shelter, lunches and activities during bad weather.
- There is a toilet and hand-washing facility but unfortunately no disabled facilities.
- There are plenty of places to picnic outside, but no tables.
- Emergency and reunion point: the Agent's Cottage

Evaluation and improvement

Please complete the evaluation form as this allows us to claim payment from Natural England for your visit. We believe in constant evaluation and improvement, so if you have any recommendations or activities that you have used at school please pass on the details.

5. Learning Opportunities



6. Error! Curriculum Links

The New Primary Curriculum

Area of Learning	Essential Knowledge, Key Skills or Breadth of Learning	Example at Magpie
Historical, geographical and social understanding	How the present has been shaped by the past	Visual evidence of how the site has changed over time to become what it is today
	Environmental development and sustainability	How the natural environment has been changed by the mining industry and how land use has been reinvented to sustain the site for the future
	Identities, cultures, communities and democracy	An industry that was at the heart of many local communities for hundreds of years, thus shaping their identity. The Barmoot court demonstrates the development of local democracy.
	Connections between people, communities and places on a range of scales	Important individuals and connections between the local, national and global mining industry, plus its links to other local industries.
	Critical enquiry using a range of methods and sources	Learn about the past and present from archaeological, natural and documentary evidence plus the handling of artefacts
Scientific and technological understanding	The power of creative ideas and problem solving	Technological developments throughout mining history that were used solve problems and increase productivity, including pumping engines, horse gins and explosives.
	Natural environments	Local geology, species rich grassland ecosystems
	How humans engage and influence their environments	The impact of various human activities, including farming, leisure and mining, on the natural environment.
	Practical investigation	Investigating the species of a specific ecosystem.
Understanding English, communication and languages	Listen to stories	Pupils can hear the story of the Magpie Murders and widows curse.

	Express themselves creatively	Pupils can take part in a role-play activity.
--	-------------------------------	---

The opportunities at Magpie Mine also encompass **Essentials for learning and life:**

- Developing critical thinking skills by looking at a variety of sources and discussing them proactively. Learning how to learn from artefacts and physical evidence.
- Communicating with new audiences and outside their familiar environment.
- Listen and respond to their peers and individuals outside of school.
- Adapt their behaviour for a new environment. Behaving responsibly and safely in the countryside.
- Understanding how communities use democracy to resolve conflict.
- Understanding how they can look after their heritage and that heritage belongs to everyone.

Key Stage 3 and 4

Learning opportunities for the secondary curriculum include:

History

- Magpie Mine and the lead mining industry could become a local history case study to be compared with a broader historical or geographical context.
- The site allows pupils to appreciate and evaluate the 'role of historic sites in preserving, presenting and influencing people's attitudes towards the past.'

Science

- The site can be used to study environmental variation in plant species.
- It is an excellent case study for how natural, geological processes and human agency interact to change the environment.

Art and Design

- Magpie Mine is a very atmospheric site, with many different textures and natural hues, which could be used for some inspirational artwork.

Citizenship

- The Barmoot Court is an excellent example of the history of local democracy and judgement by peers.
- The Magpie Murders could be used to debate responsibilities, actions and consequences, and how the justice system has changed.

7. Health and Safety At Magpie Mine

There are important things to remember and ways to behave when you visit Magpie Mine and the countryside:

- All visitors should wear sensible and suitable footwear, as your visit will involve walking over uneven, possibly muddy, fields and loose rocks.
- Pupils should bring sun-block, hats and plenty of water if the weather is hot, as there is little shade on site.
- Children should be kept under adult supervision at all times: mines can be dangerous places. All the shafts you will see on your visit are safely covered, but it is possible, as it is in most of the Peak District, for holes to open up.
- There may be livestock on site. Visitors should not approach or scare them. All dogs should be kept on leads if livestock are present. All gates should be closed.
- Visitors should not come into contact with livestock, but may touch gates/fences/walls that have been in contact with them. There are hand-washing facilities in the Agent's Cottage and adults should ensure all children wash their hands before eating. Fingers/pens/pencils should be kept away from mouths and open wounds covered.
- Lead is poisonous. Do not eat the plants growing on it as they also contain lead!!

The Countryside Code

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk/things_to_know/countryside_code

How to behave on your visit to Magpie Mine

Don't scare the cows: they are a lot bigger and stronger than you!

Leave all the gates how you found them or the cows might follow you home!

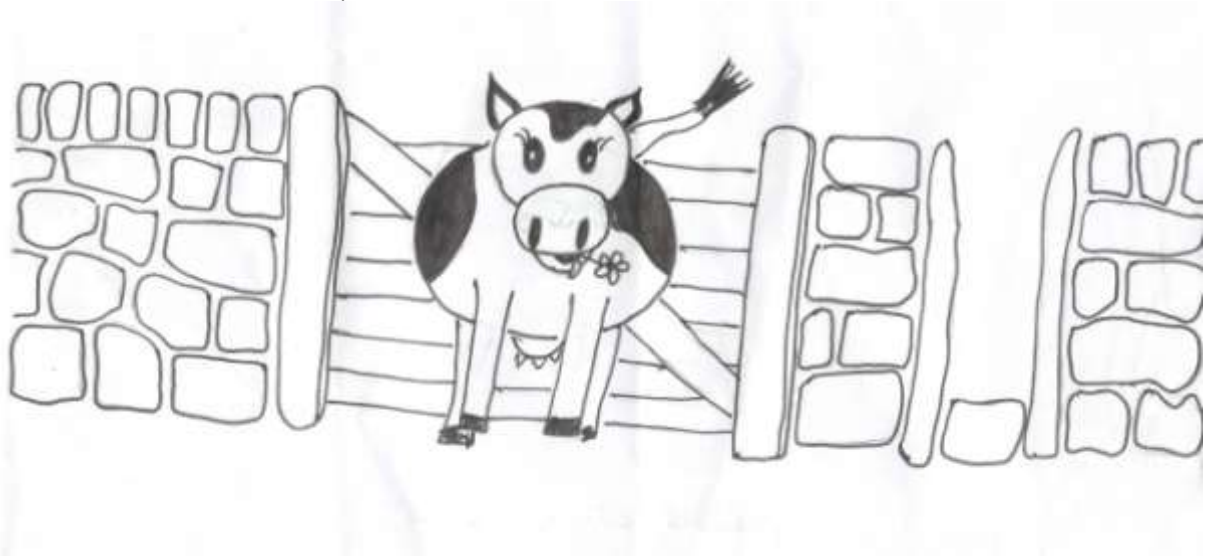
If you see a big hole, don't go near it unless an adult tells you it is safe. Stick to the well-used paths.

Don't throw stones down mine shafts. You never know who is down there!

Make sure you bring clothes that are right for the weather!

Wash your hands before you eat and don't put them in your mouth. A cow might have scratched its bum on that gate you've put your hand on!

Please leave the countryside exactly as you found it so that someone else can enjoy it too. Don't pick the flowers, take the minerals or leave any litter behind!



Photographs from Magpie Mine

You may wish to use some of these images for pre or post visit activities. If you would like to see more photographs relating to Magpie or the lead mining industry please contact the Mining Museum.



Looking down the main shaft as the cage is lowered. 1977, courtesy of H. Parker



Restoration is taking place on the engine house and chimney, whilst the agent's house is still roofless, c. 1975, courtesy of H. Parker.



McGwisten and Edgar Garlick, Magpie owners, early twentieth century, date unknown, H. Parker's collection



Aerial view of the site, 1960s.



Magpie climbing shaft, courtesy of H. Parker



Reconstructing the horse gin, 1988, courtesy of H. Parker