

Site reference: SX67SW 1 **Name:** O Brook

District: Dartmoor National Park **Parish:** Holne

National grid ref: 66007100 & 66507110 **OS sheets:** 1:50k 202 1:25k OL28 1:10k SX76SW **GS 1:50k** 338

Locality description (address): Dry lake and the adjacent tributary on the south side of the O Brook 1KM south of Saddle Bridge.

Nature of site: Stream tin workings

Geological/geomorphological features:

Dry lake tributary gully and boulders of granite which are mainly fine grained and sparsely megacrystic with large isolated grains of quartz. Distinct steep sides mark the edge of the workings. Transverse channels between banks and heaps of debris show how the water was directed down the gully to wash out the grains of tin ore from the finer material. The coarse debris visible in the upper parts of the workings consist of quartz, black tourmaline with quartz (schorl rock), quartz veined with tourmaline and some fine grained granite. The quartz and quartz tourmaline debris is residual material from veins in the granite which are associated with tin mineralisation. Quartz and tourmaline are very resistant to being broken down by weathering processes. The tributary gully to the 500m east of Dry Lake shows similar features, but most of the debris banks are covered by bracken and moss.

Further major working for alluvial tin has been carried out in the headwaters of the O Brook to the west around Skir Ford and at Skir Gut [647705]. The workings there are up to 7m deep in places.

Reasons for registration as a County Geological Site: A good example of stream tin workings

Site sensitivity: None

Safety: Generally safe

Interest groups: **Schools:** Years 5 - 11. Years 12 - 16. Years 17-18 **University:** Undergraduate - Research
Professional geologists - Amateur geologists - General public.

Access & Parking: Roadside carpark at Combestone Tor [670718]. Walk south (1km) along the line of the Holne Moor Leat which crosses the road 200m west of the car park. Access land.

Date of assessment (V = visited): V 12 December 1998 R T Taylor

Site owner: Duchy of Cornwall. Access land.

Other comments: The open surface workings of the old Hooten Wheals [656708] and Henroost [652712] mines, subsequently worked as Hexworthy Mine lie to the west of Dry Lank on the south side of the O Brook. The later working of Hexworthy Mine is described in the reference below.

References: DINES, H G 1966. The Metalliferous mining region of south-west England. *Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Great Britain*. 2 vols., 795pp. London, HMSO. (Reprinted with addenda and corrigenda 1988)
HAMILTON JENKIN, A K., 1974. Mines of Devon. Volume 1: The Southern Area. David & Charles, Newton Abbot & London

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