

Scottish Mining Terms

After-damp	gas left after an explosion containing a large quantity of carbon monoxide
Bing	a heap e.g. of coal, debris or colliery waste
Blaes	mudstone or shale not containing much bituminous or carbonaceous matter, but generally sufficient to give a dark blue ('blae') colour
Blind pit, or bore	a shaft or bore drilled upwards or downwards from an underground position, and not reaching the surface of the ground.
Bottomer	person who loads and unloads the cages at the bottom or intermediate landings in a shaft
Brattice	partition in mine to regulate ventilation or support sides or roof, brattice cloth- canvas sheet for regulating ventilation in mine
Brush	to remove part of the roof or pavement by blasting or otherwise in order to heighten the roadway, hence brusher
Brushing	strata above or below a worked seam taken out in the making of roads
Buntin or buntion	wooden cross-stay in a shaft; a support for shaft slides
Choke damp	Carbon monoxide or carbon dioxide which suffocated miners.
Cuddie	A weight mounted on wheels; a loaded bogie, used to counter-balance the hutch on a cuddie brae,
Cuddie brae	an inclined roadway, worked in the same manner as a self-acting incline, the cuddie serving as a drag on the full hutch running down
Cundie	the unfilled space between the pack walls after the coal has been removed, in steep long-wall workings, a narrow roadway without rails, down which mineral is rolled to be loaded into hutches at the bottom; a small roadway or aircourse
Dook	an inclined roadway
Downcast shaft	The shaft down which the clean air descends to ventilate the underground workings
Firedamp	methane gas naturally found in coal seams - highly inflammable and explosive.

Golet or Gouton	A drain channel or gutter designed to carry water away from the workface
Holing	the excavation of a thin layer of soft material beneath, above, or in centre of a coal seam, as a preliminary to working it; or the layer so excavated.
Hutch	receptacle in which coals are conveyed from the face, formerly a type of basket, now a box-like wheeled truck
Hutch pin	a miner's tally put on a hutch to indicate the hewer who filled it
Hutch pinning	to substitute dishonestly one's own tally for another's on a more fully loaded hutch
Hutch road	line of rails on which hutches run
Kettle	cylindrical or barrel-shaped vessel of wood or iron, used to raise and lower materials and men during the sinking of a pit
Lipe or lype	a small intrusion or irregularity in the joints of a coal-seam
Longwall	a system of mining by complete excavation at one working
Oncost	a time-worker
Parrot Coal	a term for gas coal, often but not always restricted to such as is of inferior quality. This name has probably been derived from the crackling noise made by this type of coal in burning.
Pavement	the layer immediately underlying a coal or other workable seam
Putt	to propel a loaded coal-hutch from the coal-face to the pit-bottom by means of a series of shoves or pushes
Putter	person who does above - man or boy who assists a drawer to take his hutch along a difficult part of a drawing-road
Race	a group or train of hutches coupled together
Redsman	man employed to clear debris or rubbish from the workings in a coal mine
Road	passage in an underground working in a mine
Roadsman	mine official responsible for the making and maintenance of haulage roads
Roof	the layer immediately overlying a coal or other workable seam
Sinking pit	pit or shaft in the process of being sunk

Snibble	bar of wood or iron used as a brake or drag on a wagon or hutch in mining
Splint coal	hard coal with a dull lustre, which does not cake or break up in a furnace
Stoop	A broad pillar of coal or any other mineral left in to support the roof of a working
Stoop and room	A system of working a seam by a network of galleries, separated by broad pillars or stoops
Tree	to provide with supporting timbers or props, as the roof of a coal working
Tub	a hutch or small truck into which the cut coal is filled, a measure of coal of varying capacity
Upcast shaft	shaft up which the air returns to the surface after having ventilated the underground workings
Waff	to direct a current of air at, to fan
Waste	old workings; or the debris from workings