Deborah Griffiths

The tin streaming process.

Could you describe the process of tin streaming?

What you had was tin ore in the form of gravel which had eroded away from its parent rock and had settled in this low spot through which runs a young tributary of the River Lemon and in essence tin streaming used water, whether it be water from the stream itself, water that had collected in the surface, or even water that was brought in from somewhere else by an artificial channel. It was to use water to flush away the lighter waste material leaving the heavier tin ore behind and then to use the stone waste to create barriers to divert the water onto further areas of tin ore.