

# Mining firm expands its search for extra sites

THE COMPANY that owns South Crofty mine has extended its search for mineral deposits.

Western United Mines (WUM) has begun surface drilling at Duchy College's Rosewarne site, Camborne.

WUM owns 150 square kilometres of mineral rights around Cornwall – from as far south as The Lizard to land north of Bodmin – and the drilling is part of its strategy to speed up the process of getting the company back into full production by pinpointing where economically viable mineral deposits are located.

Designed to cause minimum disruption, the exploration drills occupy a compact area. The drills are collecting samples up to 300 metres (1,000 ft) below the surface.

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John Webster, chief operations officer, said: "It makes sense to identify potentially viable deposits quickly across wide swathes of the county.

"The main targets of the present drilling are higher tonnage zinc and copper that is much closer to the surface and that we can develop much faster and extract at far less cost than our deep underground developments at South Crofty.

"Cornwall has a wealth of potentially attractive minerals and we want to identify and develop any potential ores as quickly and efficiently as possible for the economic benefit of all."

Duchy College Rosewarne is a further education college specialising in land-based studies. Set in 47 hectares, its facilities include a commercial plant nursery and farm.

"We are happy for WUM to drill as we are keen to encourage activities which could lead to Cornwall becoming more self-supporting," said college estates manager Nick Pascoe.



Surface drilling has begun at Duchy College Rosewarne.

"Mining is part of this county's heritage and any finds could aid our community greatly in the future." The drilling at Rosewarne is set to continue for three or four months.

● Plans have been submitted to relocate South Crofty's surface buildings and to double its underground operating area – see pages 8 and 9 for full story.