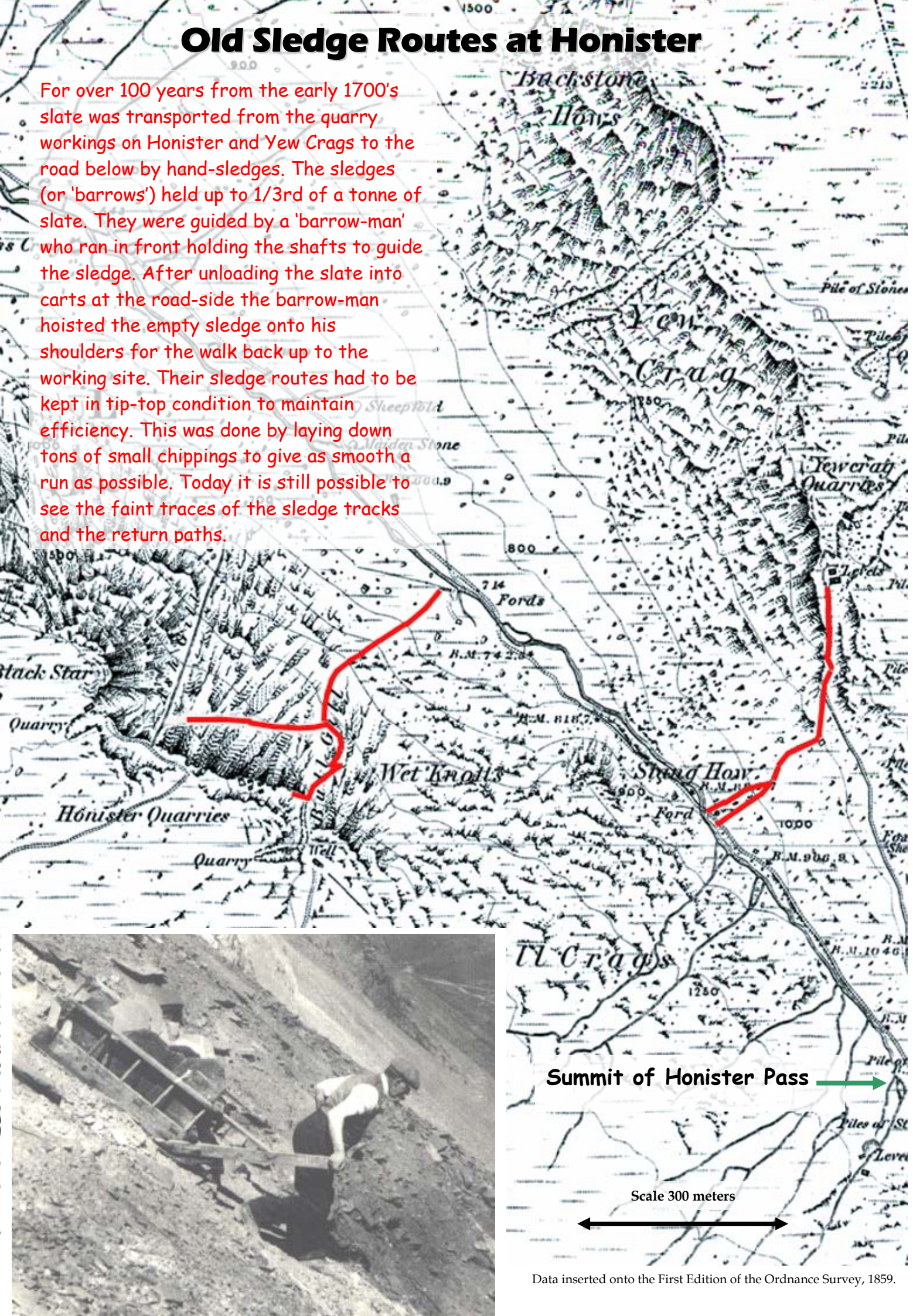


Old Sledge Routes at Honister

For over 100 years from the early 1700's slate was transported from the quarry workings on Honister and Yew Craggs to the road below by hand-sledges. The sledges (or 'barrows') held up to 1/3rd of a tonne of slate. They were guided by a 'barrow-man' who ran in front holding the shafts to guide the sledge. After unloading the slate into carts at the road-side the barrow-man hoisted the empty sledge onto his shoulders for the walk back up to the working site. Their sledge routes had to be kept in tip-top condition to maintain efficiency. This was done by laying down tons of small chippings to give as smooth a run as possible. Today it is still possible to see the faint traces of the sledge tracks and the return paths.



Summit of Honister Pass →

Scale 300 meters