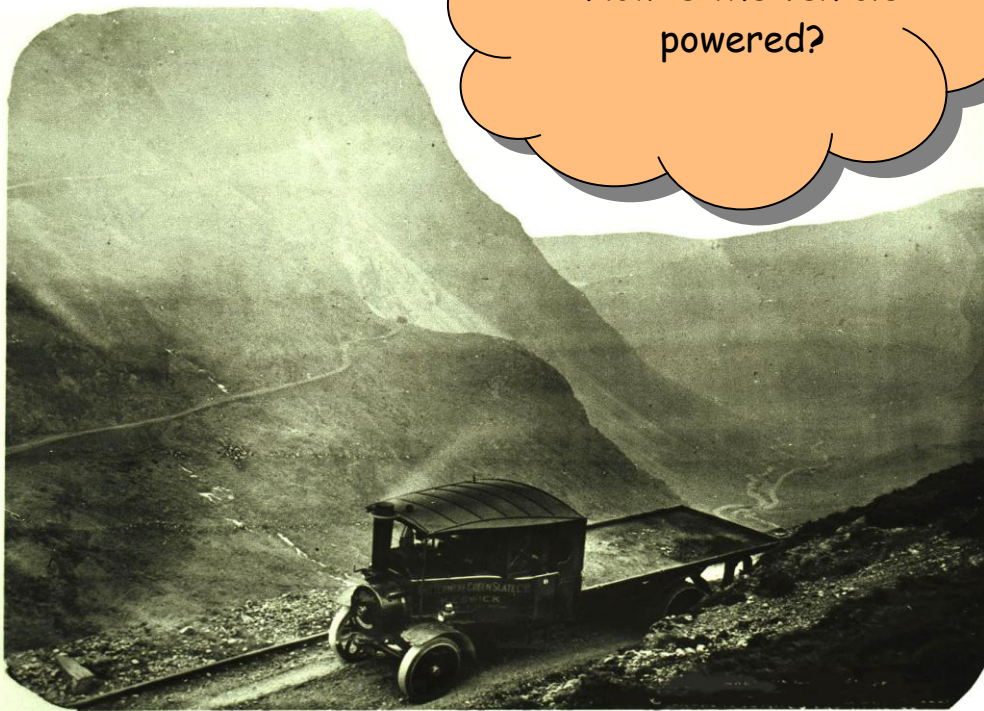


Transporting the Slate

How old do you think this vehicle is? What clues are there?

What is the vehicle used for?

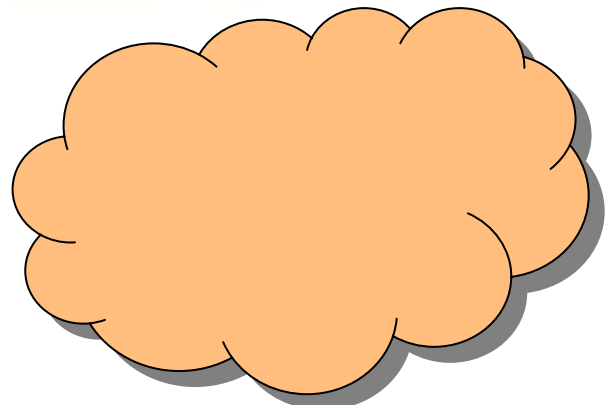
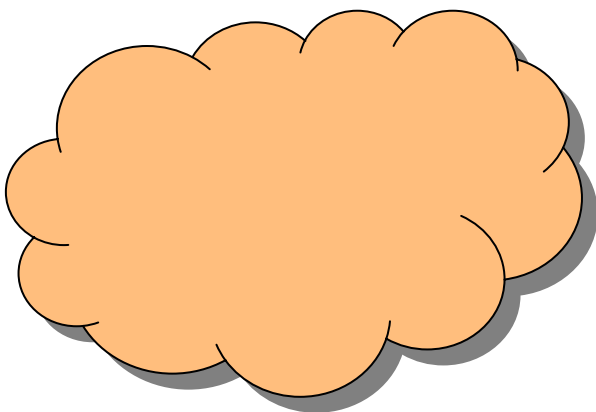
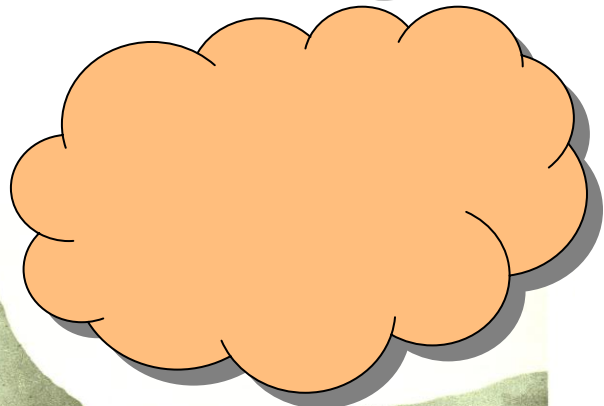
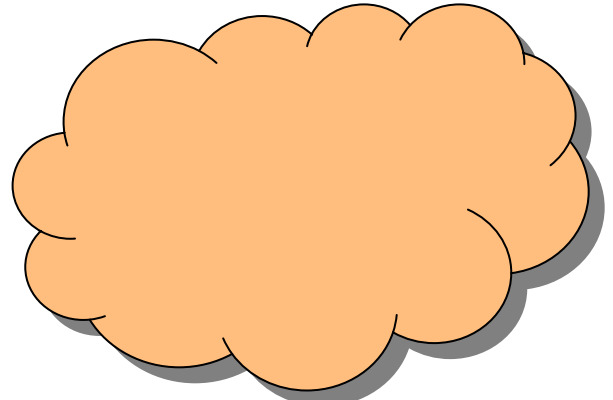
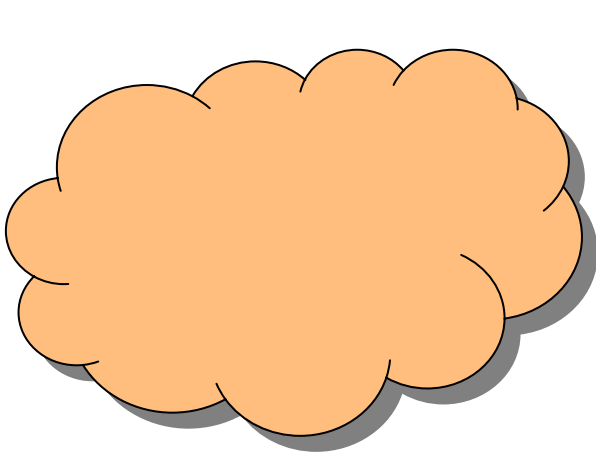
How is the vehicle powered?



Where do you think it is going? Why?

Why is the vehicle empty? Where is it returning from?

Transporting the Slate



Transporting the Slate

A large, light green, cloud-shaped text box with a black outline and a drop shadow. It contains six horizontal lines for writing.



A second large, light green, cloud-shaped text box, identical in style to the one above, with a black outline and a drop shadow. It contains six horizontal lines for writing.

Transporting the Slate

Transporting finished slates from this remote and mountainous site was always difficult and many of the remains now visible on the site reflect attempts to solve this problem. The earliest are probably the packhorse tracks leading from Ash Gill and Bull Gill Quarries down to the Warnscale Beck.

The technique of hand sledding was used to transport slates down to the scree slopes directly from Bull Gill and Yew Crag to the Buttermere Road. Highly skilled men would run in front of loaded sledges holding onto two shafts, steering the slates down the screes to the road below, a highly dangerous occupation. Parts of the sledways, made of small fragments of slate waste, can still be seen.



The self-acting inclines, worked by gravity, were introduced in the 1880s and are still highly visible features of the landscape. Each consisted of a steeply inclined railway on a regular gradient, requiring the construction of embankments and cuttings. This track carried trucks controlled by cables from drumhouses.