



Chimney Pig

This piece of equipment was used in the Scottish Borders for clearing choked chimney vents by manipulating the pig on a length of chain attached to a line. When a choke was located the pig was lowered to the top of the burning soot, the pig was then pulled up by the man on the chimney head and allowed to fall onto the packed soot.

This was repeated until the pig broke through and cleared a passage for the water used to extinguish the fire. In Edinburgh the same procedure was used but using a metal ball on a length of chain attached to a line, the line and chain being longer because of the height of the tenements. If working on a gable end the equipment could be lowered on the outside of the wall to ascertain the distance from the roof of the choke.

This was useful if the wall had to be opened to clear the choke, but was usually found by excessive heat in the internal wall or discolouration of the plasterwork. It was known as the Ball and Chain and was carried on the machine in a metal bucket.



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