



Essential Information for GENERAL & SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES

A. Ecton Hill and Mine

In terms of the physical demands on participants, it is called Ecton Hill for good reason! The Centre is about 30m (100 feet) above the road. The Engine House on Ecton Hill is a further 60m (200 feet) above the Centre. We use tracks and paths which zigzag up the slopes and will always go at the pace of the slowest. Anyone who does not wish to go any higher can always stay at the Centre, brew tea and look at the exhibits.

Salt's Level adit is a tunnel with a nearly level floor, which is usually somewhat muddy, but nothing over the welt of a boot. It involves stooping for some of the time, but when the Tutor stops to point out features it is mostly in places where there is good headroom. Hard hats and cap lamps are provided, but there is no "show cave" lighting. If you have your own cap lamp and would like to bring that, or a torch, please feel free to do so. We use some 200m of the Level, before coming out the same way. Underground, the temperature is a consistent 11°C, which feels cold in the summer.

It is well ventilated and it is very rare for anyone to feel claustrophobic.

B. Clothing and Footwear

It is important that the group brings warm waterproof clothing, even in summer; sturdy, waterproof footwear with treaded soles that will provide grip in wet conditions is essential. "Approach shoes" or walking boots with Vibram-type soles are ideal. The Course Tutor has the right to refuse to take a group on the hill if they are not safely equipped for the conditions on the day. If you know that your group has difficulties, please contact the Tutor/Guide to discuss solutions. A change of dry clothing and footwear for the journey home is important. Please leave these items in the vehicle.

C. Medical Conditions

As a Centre which has undertaken work with young people out-of-doors for many years, we have always been very aware of our responsibilities for the safety of fieldwork groups. With an adult group, it will be assumed that individuals are responsible for their own medical needs etc. It would be helpful if any medical problems which might cause a problem on the hill or underground could be summarised for the Tutors to know.

D. Useful Background Information

Your group might be interested in some of the information on the website, on the [A Level Geology](#) page, under the section: [Geology Workshops](#). Any of the sheets may be downloaded and printed. The [Map of Ecton Hill GW1 SS1](#) and the [Outline Map of Salt's Level GW1 S6 \(C6\)](#) could be of interest to all visitors and [GW7 SS1 What makes an ore deposit worth working?](#) provides useful background for those interested in History and Industrial Archaeology.

The leaflet: [Ecton Hill Copper Mines in the Manifold Valley](#) provides a very short history of the activities at Ecton and can be used before, during or after general visits.

The [ECTONHILLPowerpointTemplate](#) can be used as a "pre-visit" primer. It can easily be adapted to suit the needs of any particular group.



E. Parking

Do not use Satellite Navigation to try to get to the Centre – the postcode will take you to the top of Ecton Hill. Use the “Google” link” on the *Contact Us* page of the website or one of the other alternatives.

Please leave your vehicle in the lay-by on the road (at the foot of the mine dumps at SK097584) and walk back towards Mintlyn house at the roadside, turn right just before the house, through the five-barred gate, marked “Peak District National Park – Private” and along the track through the dumps to arrive at the Centre, next to but before, the house with the green copper spire on the hillside above the road. Before leaving your vehicle, place all possessions out of sight.

F. Refreshments

Tea, coffee and water are provided. Visitors need to provide their own packed lunches and other drinks which should be brought up to the Centre.

G. Emergency Cancellation or problems

If there is a problem during the week prior to the course telephone:

- the course tutor or
- Susan Wilkinson (01732 456997) or
- Dr R Thompson (01889 882363) or

Please note that there is no mobile reception at Ecton. A landline (01298 84522) is installed at the centre and it would be helpful, on the day of the visit, to phone the Centre if your group is delayed for any reason.