



## DERBYSHIRE CAVING CLUB

### ALDERLEY EDGE COPPER MINES

#### GUIDANCE TO VISITORS

- ACCESS** All the mines except West Mine and the Scout Hole are under property owned by the National Trust and have been leased to the Derbyshire Caving Club. The Club has also arranged access to West Mine through a shaft on National Trust property. The National Trust has granted permission to the DCC to take visitors around the mines covered by the lease subject to certain conditions. Visitors are generally taken around Wood Mine and occasionally Engine Vein. Visits to the West Mine, Hough Level and Brinlow Mine can only be made by experienced cavers.
- RESTRICTIONS** Anyone reasonably fit may visit the mines leased by the DCC provided that they are in a party led by a member of the DCC. Persons under 18 may do so provided an indemnity is signed by a parent, guardian or Local Education Committee. Persons under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian or some other suitably authorised person, for instance a Scout Leader or Teacher. People with disabilities can be accommodated on trips designed to suit their capabilities.
- EQUIPMENT** The DCC will lend a helmet and miner's cap lamp to each visitor. No other special equipment is required and visitors are discouraged from bringing extra items such as torches and cameras which may hinder their tour around the mines.
- CLOTHING** Good footwear is essential and wellington boots are recommended. Trainers are not suitable for some trips. Waterproof clothing is not required but old clothes, which will not suffer from contact with sand and mud, are advisable. The temperature in the mines is cool, but constant. Dress as if for an autumn day in the garden!
- HAZARDS** There are some hazards but the parts of the mine visited have been selected to minimise risk. The guide's instructions must always be followed. The route can be varied according to the interests and abilities of the party. Visitors with medical conditions (such as asthma, angina, epilepsy, etc.) must ensure that they have the appropriate medication with them on the trip and should advise the leader in advance, in confidence.
- MINERALS etc** No mineral specimens of any kind may be taken from the mines. This is a condition of the lease and also means that the minerals remain in situ for subsequent parties to see. Photographs may be taken without any restriction, but photographers are asked not to delay the rest of the party unnecessarily. Photographers must be aware of the extra risk to their equipment when taking it underground.
- COST** The cost of maintaining the mines and lighting equipment is borne by the DCC so donations from visitors are warmly welcomed. Most visitors believe that a donation of £8 is appropriate for Wood Mine and Engine Vein or £12 for West Mine trips. Donations will not be accepted from persons under 18 unless accompanied by a parent as the Club is not licensed as an Adventure Activity Centre. An exception is legitimately made to this rule for Open Days.
- ARRANGEMENTS** Planned visits to the mine led by volunteers are available on Tuesday nights and some other times of the week. To find out more, contact the person named at the bottom of this sheet. Visitors from other caving and mining clubs should contact the Club through the website. The meeting place for such trips is at the large car park close to The Wizard on the Macclesfield Road (B5087), Nether Alderley (SJ 8595.7722) or at the Surgery opposite The Wizard (SK10 4UB). There is a map on the Club's website. As an alternative to an organised trip, you can visit on Open Days which are held twice a year; for further details, have a look on our website under Open Days.
- CONTACT** For weekday evening trips: [group-trips@derbyscc.org.uk](mailto:group-trips@derbyscc.org.uk)
- WEBSITE** For further information, refer to the club website at [www.DerbysCC.org.uk/alderley](http://www.DerbysCC.org.uk/alderley).