

WELCOME TO THE ALDERLEY EDGE COPPER AND LEAD MINES

The Derbyshire Caving Club provides access to the mines for members of the general public to see for themselves the world of the copper and lead mines below Alderley Edge.

Members of the Club will lead your trip and will explain the safety issues involved.

FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, PLEASE FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY AND KEEP TO THE MAIN PATHS IN THE MINE.

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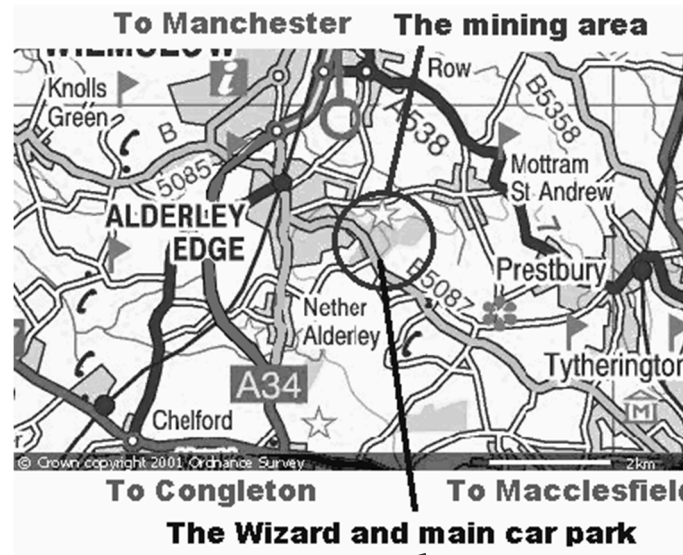
GUIDANCE

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 Brynlow 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. Within limits, people with disabilities can be accommodated on trips designed to suit their capabilities.

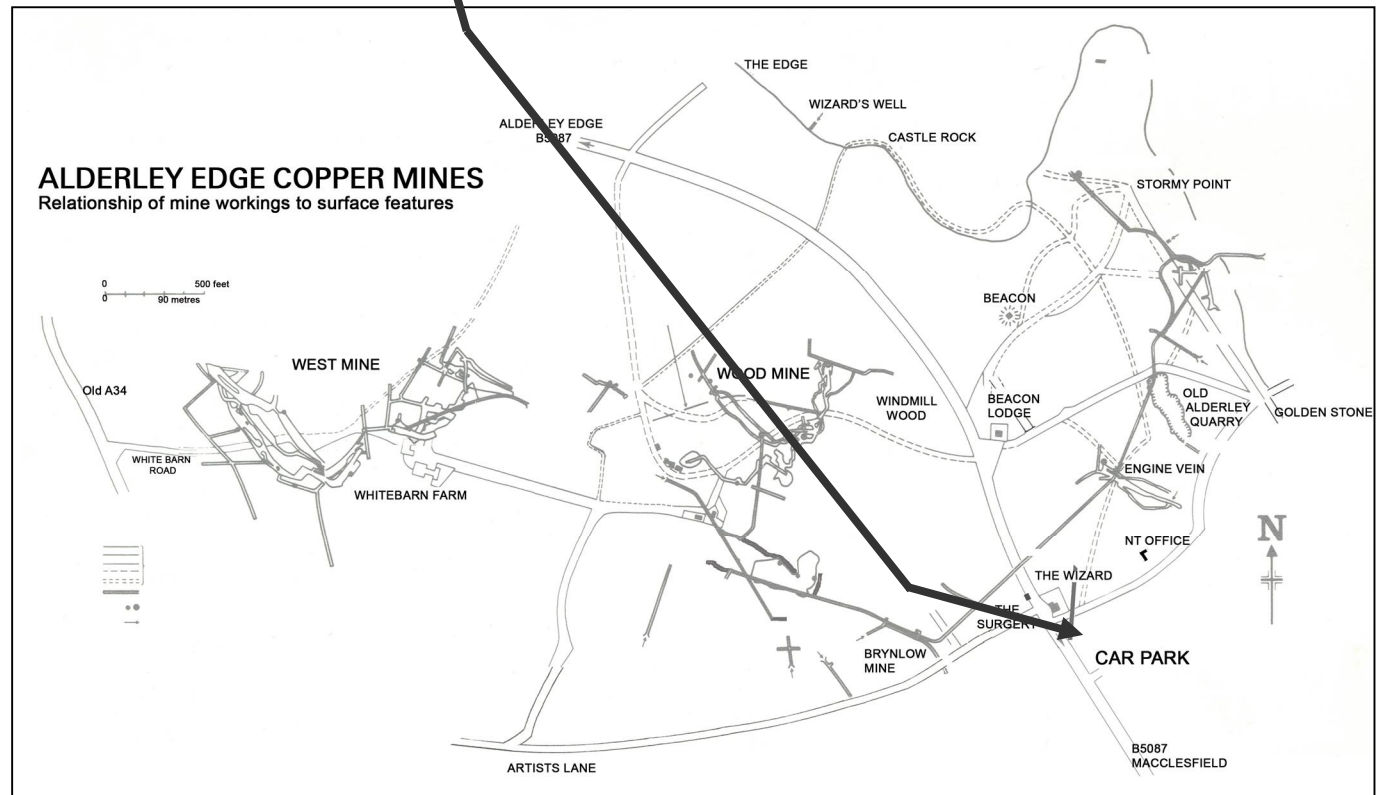


EQUIPMENT

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 payments from visitors are expected. Most visitors believe that a donation of £10 is appropriate for Wood Mine and Engine Vein or £15 for West Mine trips. Payments 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 Wednesday nights once a month. To find out more, visit our website. Visitors from other caving and mining clubs should also contact the Club through the website. The meeting place for all trips is at the large National Trust 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 which is reproduced here. 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

AlderleyMines@derbysCC.org.uk

OpenDays@derbysCC.org.uk

FURTHER INFORMATION

<https://www.derbyscc.org.uk/visiting>

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For further information, visit the Caving Club website at www.DerbysCC.org.uk which has sections on history, geology, exploration and other topics. There is also information about joining in with the caving and mining activities of the Club. You can also purchase copies of "The Alderley Edge Mines" which was published in 2012

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Derbyshire Caving Club – April 2025

VISITING THE ALDERLEY EDGE COPPER MINES

Alderley Edge, Cheshire

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**How to arrange a visit
What to wear and to bring
What it costs**

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We have many visitors each year and they usually ask the same questions. This leaflet is designed to answer the most common ones.



DERBYSHIRE CAVING CLUB