
VISITS TO ECTON - Essential Information

A. Safety

Students must be accompanied by the appropriate number of adults as the School/College is responsible for the behaviour and safety of their students. This includes the administration of First Aid, for which a valid, nationally recognised first aid qualification is required.

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. You should be aware that the school/college retains their responsibilities for the behaviour and safety of your students.

All EHFSAs are CRB cleared and have an annual training session, including a mine safety update by a qualified Mining Engineer. The Salt's Level adit of the mine is subject to all statutory requirements of a mine and health and safety inspections comply with these statutes.

B. Insurance

Each EHFSAs Tutor has insurance cover whilst undertaking leader duties in the field of outdoor education and ancillary activities. The indemnity cover is up to £5,000,000.

The School/College should have insurance cover for school and personal property.

C. Clothing and Footwear

All EHFSAs courses incorporate a variety of out-of-doors and underground activities. Ecton Hill is exposed to the weather and can feel cold and windy even in summer. The weather is often very changeable, so come prepared whatever the forecast says! Underground the temperature is a consistent 11°C, which feels cold in the summer. Therefore it is important that visitors bring warm waterproof clothing, even in summer. Sturdy, waterproof footwear with treaded soles that will provide grip in wet conditions is essential; walking boots with Vibram-type soles are ideal. Normal shoes and 'fashion' trainers are not appropriate.

The use of sunscreens, hats and long-sleeved thin shirts with collars are recommended when conducting field work. A change of dry clothing and footwear is advisable; please leave these items in your vehicle.

With increased awareness of safety issues, it is essential that staff and students arrive suitably equipped for the day at Ecton. At least 2 weeks before the course, we would strongly recommend that the staff show a full set of suitable items to the group, giving reasons for the requirements. If your students do not own the items, suggest borrowing from friends and relations for the day. With positive planning many difficulties can be avoided.

The EHFSAs Tutor has the right to refuse to take a group on the hill if they are not safely equipped for the day's conditions. Please consider the weather forecast and be prepared.

D. Programme

All Ecton courses are full days which mainly run from 10:00 to approximately 17:00. There are places for 28 students each day, so you may be sharing the activities with another party. Students should bring a pen, pencil and notebook. For Geology visits, students are asked to bring their usual geological gear, i.e. field notebook, clipboard, compass, clinometer, tape measure, dilute HCl in dropper bottle, sharp pencils, calculator, protractor, graph paper etc. Hard hats should be brought, but if necessary, we can lend you the mine helmets.

If an overnight stay is necessary there are three local Youth Hostels (www.yha.org.uk):

Hartington Hall	5 minute drive to the east	0870 770 5848
Ilam Hall	15 minute drive to the south east	0870 770 5876
Gradbach Mill	15 minute drive to the north west	0870 770 5834

E. Parking

Please leave your vehicle in the lay-by on the road (at the foot of the mine dumps at SK097584) and walk up the steep lane to the Centre. The Centre is beyond the green copper spire on the hillside above the road. Before leaving your vehicle, place all possessions out of sight in the boot or below the seats, except any valuables, which should be carried with you for the day. Check all doors are locked; National Parks have a rising car crime problem. EHFSA cannot accept liability for the loss of personal property.

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. Printed Material

Visitors need to bring with them the completed (and signed) Visitor Details and Safety Instructions pages of Visits to Ecton – Visitor Information form. Each student should also have a printed copy of the appropriate worksheets from our website and a pen/ pencil. If the black powder activity has been chosen as an option students will require access to a calculator. For Geology visits, it would be helpful if each student also had a copy of the Map of Ecton Hill (GW1 SS1) and the Salts Level Base Map [GW IS (C6)]. They would probably also appreciate the “answer sheet” when they return to base! [GW IS (C7)].

H. Emergency Cancellation or problems

If there is a problem during the week prior to the course then telephone the course tutor, Dr R Thompson (01889 882363) or Mrs M Haslop (01785 811322). Please note that there is no mobile reception at Ecton. A land line (01298 687030) is installed at the centre but is not manned on a regular basis.

I. Radon

This naturally occurring radioactive gas is found in some mines and caves. An annual check of Salt’s Level is carried out; no hazardous level of detectable ionising radiation above background level is registered. Salt’s Level has a high level of natural ventilation which prevents accumulation of Radon.

J. Programmes (subject to minor variation, depending upon weather/options)

Time	Chemistry Programme	Time	Geology Programme
10.00 10.10	Welcome & checking paperwork, clothing and footwear	10.00 10.10	Welcome & checking paperwork, clothing and footwear
10.10 12.15	Introduction to Ecton’s geology, mineralogy and industrial history, walk over hill to Waterbank mine, including collection of minerals	10.10 13.00	Introduction to Ecton’s geology and mineralogy. Walk to Apes Tor quarry for structural geology & engineering geology fieldwork
12.15 12.45	Lunch break	13.00 13.30	Lunch break
12.45 16.30	Underground visit, identification and chemical testing of minerals	13.30 14.30	Underground visit, focussing on chosen options
16.30 17.00	Selected extension activities	15.00 17.00	Walk over hill to see historical evidence of mining & surface geology. Follow up at Centre.