

## SMFS RULES FOR FIELD TRIPS

Failure to comply with the following rules may lead to you not being allowed to participate in a field trip and exclusion from future field trips. Serious offence could lead to expulsion from the Society.

1. The required correct safety equipment will be used at all times.
2. A Field Trip Leader will be appointed for every visit. They will have the overall responsibility for the group and their instructions will be followed at all times.
3. Members will be required to sign an indemnity form when engaged on Society field trips. This will be held by the Field Trip Leader.
4. Members must report to the Leader on arrival and when leaving a site so that they can be booked in and out if necessary.
5. A suitable and sufficient risk assessment will be made by the Leader and the findings of the assessment conveyed to all members of the group.
6. The Collecting Code of Practice will be adhered to.
7. The requirements of the Health & Safety at Work Act and the local management must be complied with in all working quarries and mines.
8. The good name and reputation of the Society will be upheld at all times.

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### INSURANCE

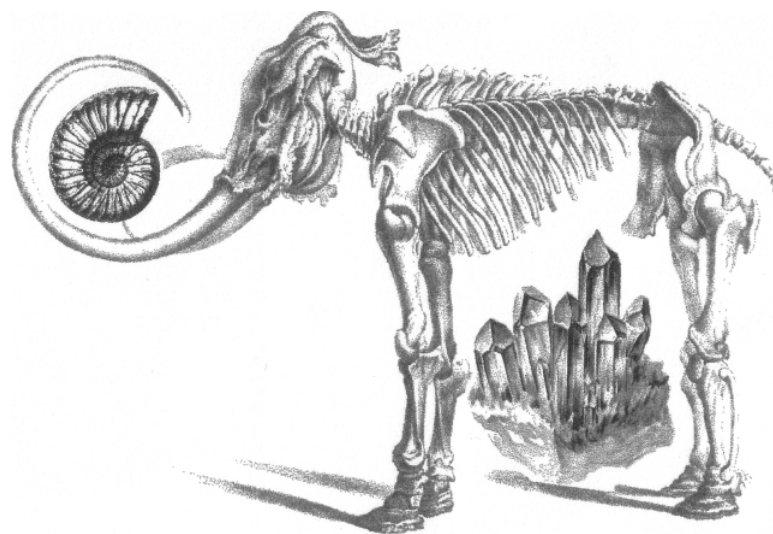
The Society carries full public liability insurance for members engaged in Society organised field trips. You are recommended to obtain your own private insurance for your person and equipment. It is worthwhile checking your vehicle insurance if you intend to take your car into a working quarry. You may find that certain activities are excluded in your cover.

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### FINALLY

Mineral and fossil collecting can be a potentially hazardous occupation; also many sites have been irretrievably ruined by bad collectors. Compliance with this Guide will help to ensure that you continue to collect for many years to come.

**HAPPY AND SAFE COLLECTING**



**SOUTHAMPTON MINERAL & FOSSIL SOCIETY**

# FIELD TRIP GUIDE & RULES

## Equipment and Code of Practice for Mineral and Fossil Collecting

Issued January 2007  
Reviewed April 2010

## EQUIPMENT

You can use these lists to check off your equipment before setting off on a field trip, this will ensure that you arrive at a site correctly prepared for collecting. Some of the following equipment is mandatory when collecting in working quarries. Failure to use this equipment may lead to refusal of entry to the site. The Field Trip Leader may also refuse any person that is not suitably equipped for a field trip. If you wish to take a vehicle into a quarry many companies now require a flashing orange beacon to be fitted and working whilst on site.

### REMEMBER!

Compliance with the Health & Safety at Work Act is a legal requirement in all working quarries and mines.

### MANDATORY EQUIPMENT

- Hard hat and protective gloves
- Safety boots or steel toe-capped Wellingtons
- High visibility, fluorescent jacket or waistcoat and trousers
- Safety spectacles or goggles
- Orange flashing beacon (if taking your car on site)

### ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

The following equipment is really essential if you wish to get the best from a field trip and from the sites on which you collect.

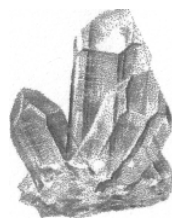
- Rucksack or collecting bag
- Geological hammer, 2 lb, or club hammer, 4 lb
- Cold chisels
- Magnifying glass, x10 ideal
- Newspaper for wrapping specimens
- Field notebook and pencil

### RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

Equipment recommended for comfort or that may be found useful.

- Waterproof clothing.
- Overalls / boiler suit.
- Protective gloves.
- Sledge hammer, 7 lb.
- Small spade (useful on old dumps)
- Ordnance Survey map(s)
- Packed lunch and drinks
- First aid kit (the Leader will have access to a First Aid kit)
- Spare dry clothing (especially socks)

You may also wish to take other equipment like cameras but remember that you may have to carry it all some considerable distances over difficult terrain.



## OUR COLLECTING CODE OF PRACTICE

An accepted code of practice for collecting in the field is now essential if the opportunity to collect is to be retained. Many sites are over collected and site owners are less likely to give permission to collect if damage or inconsiderate collecting is occurring. It is your responsibility to comply with this Code of Practice to ensure that sites remain usable and accessible for all, now and in the future.

1. Always follow the Country Code and observe any local by-laws. Remember to close all gates and leave no litter.
2. Always obtain permission before collecting on private property. Accept any decision of the land owner and follow all instructions that they may give.
3. Do not interfere with any machinery and keep away from any restricted access areas that may be marked.
4. Be aware of any consequences that your collecting may have on the environment, wildlife and plants.
5. Do not dispose of material from other sites on a different site. Do not leave broken rocks where they can cause harm to others or livestock.
6. When collecting on coastal sites ensure you are aware of local hazards and tide times as necessary.
7. Take great care at cliff and quarry face edges as they may be unstable and you might fall or dislodge material onto people below. **DO NOT WORK UNDER OVERHANGS.**
8. Do not enter old mine workings unless permission has been given and you are properly equipped for underground collecting. **NEVER GO ALONE.**
9. When intending to go collecting in remote or mountainous areas always prepare properly and inform somebody of your plans and expected return times.
10. Only collect sufficient material for your own needs. Do not strip sites or damage interesting sites. Preservation of sites is now vitally important.
11. Finally, always be considerate. Your actions when collecting can reflect on the Society and collectors generally. One bad collector gives all collectors a bad name.

