

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR REPORT ON COLLECTING VISIT

The LDNPA hopes that you found your visit enjoyable.

The permit process requires a short report on your visit. We do not wish to make this onerous, and hope you will appreciate that its purpose is for everyone, the National Park Authority and collectors included, to gain the maximum benefit from collecting on the fells. Collectors have always played an important part in furthering knowledge of this important and beautiful area. Your answers to the following questions will help ensure that this important role continues.

The following notes are intended to assist in completing the form.

Please list minerals collected:

Please give as complete a list as possible, but please be realistic with the identifications and give an indication of why you list that species. Do please remember that many of the more unusual species are difficult or impossible to identify positively without laboratory testing of some sort. If you think you may have collected such a mineral, please say so, but indicate clearly the basis for your claim.

Please indicate if any material is still awaiting identification, and if so when results are expected:

An indication of any material for which you have sought expert advice on identification etc. would be very helpful. Some comment on your reasons for seeking such advice might be useful.

Please indicate where the specimens are being held:

It is useful to know if the specimens are housed in your own, or some other private or public collection.

Do you have surplus material that could be available for research or other collections?

This is not a trick question! Although, obviously responsible collecting involves keeping the amount taken from the field to a minimum, every collector sometimes has spare material to share with others. Indeed, this is an important part of responsible and sustainable collecting. An idea of what surplus material is available, and how it might be best used, is a valuable part of the collecting process and can contribute to conservation of scarce resources.

Please list any specimens that have been donated to museums or other permanent collections, and the names of those museums or institutions:

It is extremely useful to know where important, or even just representative, material may be found in museums or similar institutions.

So far as you are aware, are any of the minerals collected new records for the locality, for the Lake District, or for Great Britain (if possible give reasons for this):

This is a very important aspect of collecting. As most collectors appreciate, our knowledge of mineralogy owes a great deal to the efforts of collectors. Knowledge of the occurrence and distribution of minerals depends upon new finds. For the Caldbeck Fells a vast amount of information on the occurrence and distribution of mineral species is contained in Young, 1987 and Cooper and Stanley, 1990, but inevitably new finds are constantly coming to light. Please list here anything you think might be new. Highlight its absence from any known listings, either in the Caldbeck Fells, or elsewhere in Britain. The LDNPA has access to experts who can advise on the significance of new finds.

Will any record of any of your findings be published, and if so what form will that publication take?

By no means everything that is found will prompt a published report, but some will. It is important to place records in the most appropriate place. Society, club, or group newsletters are generally only read by members and are not usually good places for important records. Significant new finds deserve placing on permanent record in a suitable peer reviewed journal. If you have, or think you have, collected something significant, the LDNPA will put you in touch with experts who can advise and help you do this.

Did you notice anything at the site which the LDNPA might need to be aware of, e.g. erosion of spoil heaps or outcrops, evidence of illicit collecting etc.?:

The collecting permit system is about helping to manage the geological/mineralogical resource in the best possible way. It would be very helpful if you let the LDNPA know of anything that might help them to do so. For instance, a spoil heap may be becoming overgrown, or it may be suffering erosion from an adjoining stream. You may have seen evidence of illicit excavations or collecting. Observations of this sort will help to protect and conserve the site and ensure its continued value to future collecting and research.

Do you intend to apply to visit the site again?:

You may wish to return. It will be helpful to know this when you make your next application.

Do you have any other observations that might be helpful to increasing knowledge or understanding of the site?:

Please use this space to record any other comments that you might wish to make.

References:

Young, B 1987 *Glossary of the minerals of the Lake District and adjoining areas*. Newcastle upon Tyne: British Geological Survey

Cooper, M P and Stanley C J 1990 *Minerals of the English Lake District. Caldbeck Fells*. London: Natural History Museum