



# Conference Field Excursion

## Field Excursion Details and Risk Assessment

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### Instructions:

Please read and sign the document, complete the personal details and put that page in a sealed envelope with your name and mobile phone on the front.

Please hand to the trip leader at the start of the trip.

It will only be opened in the case of an emergency.

It will be returned to you at the end of the trip

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**Title:** Williamson Tunnels Tour, Liverpool.

**Date:** October 20, 2019

**Organizers:** Philip Firth - Contact Number: 01744 886779

**Leader:** Gerry Lucas - contact: 077200 39683

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### Itinerary and Locations:

**NO HAMMERING OR COLLECTING DIRECTLY FROM ROCK FACES IS PERMITTED**

**Start Date & Time:** 11am

**Finish Date & Time:** 1pm

**Start & End Location:** Williamson's Tunnels, 44 Mason Street, Liverpool L7 3EW

### Itinerary

Often considered to be a philanthropist, as well as a notable businessman, there has been a long held myth that Joseph Williamson (1769-1840) funded soldiers returning from the Napoleonic Wars to dig tunnels under Edge Hill in Liverpool for no apparent purpose except to provide work. The fact is that the excavations are not strictly tunnels. They are slot quarries excavated by piecework quarriers to provide red sandstone for lintels and other building stones in the city.

Edge Hill, a suburb of a growing mercantile city in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, was riven with many slot quarries, some 30 metres deep and trending in all directions as the rock hounds followed the sandstone with the best characteristics. Williamson saw an opportunity to reclaim this land by constructing brick arches to bridge the slots, backfilling and then building valuable merchant houses on top.

This trip will take you underground to view the excavations, the brick arches and archaeological materials recovered from the infill. Evidence of the quarrying activity will be considered.

There are steps and some tight spaces. There is good Health & Safety on site and electric light illumination.

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## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

### **General and Weather Risks and Their Mitigation:**

1. If you have any specific health issues then please ensure that you have taken or have any necessary personal medicines that you may need with you on the excursion. Please communicate any specific issues to the leader of the field trip in advance of the start of the trip. They will make any decisions or adjustments to the itinerary that they deem appropriate.
2. The weather in the UK is notoriously changeable, Please consult the day's weather forecast before setting out and select clothing suitable for the anticipated weather conditions. The site is covered so once inside you will be sheltered from any adverse weather.

### **Location - Specific Risks and Their Mitigation:**

#### **NO HAMMERING OR COLLECTING DIRECTLY FROM ROCK FACES IS ALLOWED**

1. Wear seat belts where available when any vehicle you are using for this tour is moving.
2. Stay with the group. If you need to return to your transport then please notify the organizer and/or leader, and you will be accompanied.
3. At the site a separate safety briefing will be given covering the usual need to take care about slipping on steps and not getting fingers trapped etc.
4. Road safety awareness should be practiced by all participants when near roads.
5. The exposures are disused quarries and cuttings. Pay attention to additional local hazards with specific localities/outcrops as may be identified by the leader.
6. We recommend that sensible shoes and warm clothing are worn. Hardhats are provided for all visitors by the centre. Gloves and a torch are recommended.
7. Wheelchair users: regrettably, the tunnel network is not suitable for wheelchair users. Only the cafe, exhibition area and the toilets are accessible.
8. Visitors with limited mobility are usually able to complete the tour. The tour does move slowly, and although there are steps and varying surfaces, we usually find that a person who is capable of going up and down a staircase in a normal house can manage the tour.

**Based on the above information and the mitigation proposed  
This trip has been assessed to be LOW RISK**

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**Please now sign and provide the emergency contact details  
requested the following page**

**Please then put in a sealed envelope to give to the leader of your  
trip on the day.**

I hereby declare I have read the Risk Assessment for 'Williamson Tunnels' trip and will abide by it.

Signed:

Mobile Phone:

Name in block capitals:

**PERSONAL DETAILS**

Emergency Contact Name:

Phone:

Alternative Phone:

Relationship to you:

Address:

Medical Conditions:

Medications and dose: