

KNOWLE QUARRY, SHROPSHIRE: SITE LOCATION AND ACCESS

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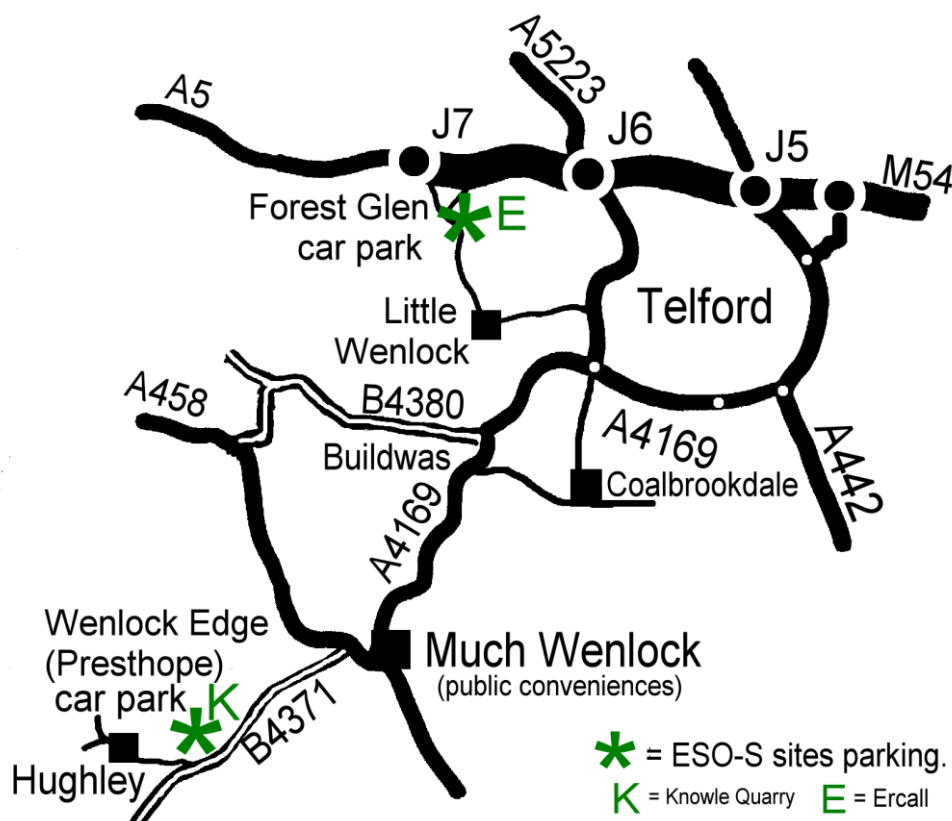


Figure 1. Access map for the area around Wenlock Edge.
(For a detailed map of the ESO-S sites see KNO7 Figure 1.)

SITE NAME: Knowle Quarry.

GRID REFERENCE: (Knowle Quarry) SO586977

STATUS: Knowle Quarry is owned by the National Trust. All of Wenlock Edge is an SSSI, with parts owned and overseen by The National Trust and Bardon Aggregates, amongst others.

OS MAPS: 1:25,000 Explorer Series, Sheet 217 Long Mynd & Wenlock Edge.

BGS MAPS: 1:50,000 BGS Solid and Drift, Sheet:152 SHREWSBURY

DIRECTIONS FOR GROUPS LINKING THE ERCALL AND WENLOCK ESO-S SITES:

[For groups linking this ESO-S site with the Ercall site the first Wenlock pupil worksheet is an activity for the journey].

Leave the Forest Glen car park and return to junction 7 of the M54 and turn eastwards, joining the A5223 at junction 6. Follow the A5223 southwards around the western edge of Telford. At the roundabout junction cross the A4169 onto the Coalbrookdale road. At the "T" junction by the River Severn, turn right and follow the river valley to join the A4169. Turn left towards Much Wenlock.

In Much Wenlock turn right onto the A458 and within 500 metres turn left onto the B4371. After 2.25 km the site office of Bardon Aggregates is on the right. A further 1.5 km along the B4271, just before the right turn to Hughley, the Wenlock Edge (Presthope) car park is on the right. This is big enough for a coach, although it is a tight fit. Do not block the gate from the car park to the track onto Wenlock Edge when parking here.

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FROM THE NORTH, EAST and WEST:

Follow either the A5 or M54 to junction 6. Turn south along the A5223 to the junction with the A4169. Turn right and follow the road downhill into the Severn valley. Before reaching Buildwas take the left turn towards Much Wenlock, still following the A4169 into Much Wenlock. In Much Wenlock turn right onto the A458 and within 500 metres turn left onto the B4371. After 2.25 km the site office of Bardon Aggregate is on the right. A further 1.5 km along the B4271, just before the right turn to Hughley, the Wenlock Edge (Presthope) car park is on the right. This is big enough for a coach, although it is a tight fit. Do not block the gate to the track onto Wenlock Edge when parking here.

PLANNING THE VISIT:

Well before the visit contact the **National Trust** website, <http://www.cardingmillvalley.co.uk> to register the presence of coach or minibus in the Presthope car park. There is no charge, and this will avoid overcrowding the small car park. Some groups may want to link with the National Trust services and extend their ESO-S visit to Wenlock Edge, if so these bookings may also be done on the website.

Groups wishing to extend this ESO-S visit to include the, now dormant, Lea Quarry (North), may do so only by prior arrangement, **well in advance of the visit. These visits will be escorted by a member of the quarry staff.**

Contact **Bardon Aggregate** to discuss any safety issues and which features of the geology or quarrying activities you wish to see:

Telephone: 01743 709287, or email the Quarry Manager: mark.ford@aggregate.com or Aggregate Industries Geologist: thomas.clifford@aggregate.com.

Groups wanting a guided visit to the **Much Wenlock museum**, should contact the Shropshire Education Officer on: **01584 - 813650.**

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS: Wheel chair access to these field sites is either very difficult or not possible, apart from the museum and a short loop of upgraded footpath close to Presthope car park, maintained by the National Trust.

INITIAL RISK ASSESSMENT:

All group leaders should meet with their parties prior to the *On-Site* visit and impress upon participants the educational nature of the event, and the need for extra consideration for the safety of themselves and others.

Each group should have a member of staff proficient in First Aid, and carry a mobile telephone for emergencies. Please remember that in some rural areas mobile phone signals can be very weak or none existent.

There is no substitute for group leaders viewing the site before the field visit and making their own risk assessment, according to the requirements of their own Local Authority. The following assessment is only a guide.

RISK	ACTION
Unpredictable changes in the weather.	Wear suitable warm and waterproof clothing. Get weather reports for the day of the visit.
Rock faces over 3m in height.	Wear hard hats. Do not climb the faces.
Steep footpaths, slopes and screes. NOTE: This area can become very muddy after rain.	Caution all party members to take care, especially in the wet, and insist on suitable footwear and sensible behaviour.
Narrow country roads with high walls and restricted parking space. (Drivers of large coaches may wish to drop groups off at Presthope, and arrange a pick-up time. If this occurs, strict supervision of groups crossing the B4371 should be made.)	Drive carefully and with consideration. Use only the parking sites suggested in the On-Site guides. Alert group members to the danger of traffic when walking, or making observations along roadside, e.g in Much Wenlock.
Wooden steps becoming slippery in wet weather.	Have sensible footwear and use the handrails.
Comfort breaks.	There are no public conveniences in this area. A stop in Much Wenlock is advisable. For details see KNO7 field exercises

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

The rocks of the area are Silurian shales and limestones which have been tilted about 10 degrees towards the south east. They are fossiliferous beds, and in this area the limestones show many patch reef structures with intervening bedded limestone and thin shale layers. The views westwards from the top of Wenlock Edge across Ape Dale, eroded into the softer shales, are across classic "scarp and vale" topography.