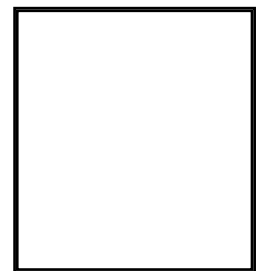


The Derbyshire Caver

No. 123

Re-opening Hungerhill Swallet
Knoltow Pollution Logger
Conserving Bats in Underground Sites
Cave Conservation in the Manifold Valley
"Deepest Highest" and Challenge Cancer



The newsletter of the
DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

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THE DERBYSHIRE CAVER

Autumn 2005

No. 123

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The DCA website is at: www.theDCA.org.uk

Cover Photo: Working on entrance to Hungerhill Swallet. Photo Dave Webb

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by Wayne Sheldon

PEAK SEASON

The 2005/2006 Season starts at the beginning of October until March 2006, so if anybody would like a trip into the system for their club or themselves, they should contact John Beck at the usual address on the rear of this Newsletter.

Public Liability insurance is required for access to the system and evidence needs to be shown to the keyholders before your trip.

James Hall Over Engine Mine – Re-taping of mining artefacts!

James Hall was re-opened in 1993 after a mammoth digging effort. In 1995, this was subsequently connected to Speedwell Mine then further digging connected it to Far Sump Extensions making this once remote area of Peak Cavern very accessible to dry cavers. There are many mining artefacts at various points of JH, in the centre of the #Workshop\$ there are the decaying remains of a cart; on shelves there are miners sieves, stow barrels and pieces of leather. In the #Tea Rooms\$, the remains of a single large wheelbarrow are still visible; as well stow barrels and pieces of timber. These were originally taped off using the red and white tape laid on the floor around the artefacts, but this still meant that cavers walked over them. Footprints were very evident in several areas of artefacts.

During March, several members of TSG aided by a caver from the Wessex started re-taping these vulnerable areas of the mine. The artefacts in the #Tea Rooms\$ were done first using the DCA preferred method of taping, stainless steel pegs and orange plastic tape. This area was completed but the drill packed in before we could make progress on the artefacts in the Workshop, however several of the artefacts were temporarily taped off with new tape. Things will be improved at a later date and the remainder completed at the same time.

Once the lambing season was over, (JH is closed for the whole month of April) we returned with the intention of finishing the workshop. A new drill, fully working allowed us to drill holes for the pegs then tape off the artefacts. We also created two paths through the workshop that lead from where #Bitch Pitch\$ pops out and directs people on a predetermined route to either the main route to Leviathan, or the dry route via the climbing shaft. Hopefully this will stop people walking on the artefacts.

Our attention will be turned to the White River Series where re-taping operations will start later in the year.

Reference:

PDMHS Mining History Vol 13, Num 3. Summer 1997.

News From Around the Peak

DCRO Call outs

The DCRO asked by a farmer to assist in rescuing a sheep in the Bradwell area in July. The animal was successfully extracted.

On Sunday, 7th of August a tourist collapsed while visiting Blue John Cavern show mine in Castleton. The tourist was nearly out of the cave as the DCRO Rescue Vehicle arrived and apparently has recovered from the incident.

Mendip Poor Air Alert

Reports of poor air in some Mendip caves leads to this general alert.

Extremely poor air has been noted in Honeyhead Hole (It is highly likely that Little Crapnell Swallet will also be affected).

Poor air has also been experienced in Swildon's Hole and in Wookey Hole beyond the showcave (divers section).

Other sites where poor air may be experienced:

GB Cavern
Manor Farm Swallet
Tynings Barrow Swallet
White Pit
Cuckoo Cleaves

It would be appreciated if cavers visiting any of these sites report any instances of poor air during the summer months so that the situation can be monitored.

Chris Binding
christopher@binding1176.freeserve.co.uk
CSCC Conservation & Access Officer

Masson CG Clean Up at Youds Level

On Tuesday July 19th a party from the Masson Caving Group dragged a

sackload of brushes etc along 1000ft of the sough and removed the unsightly spray paint graffiti from two places on the walls in and around the chamber at the bottom of Deep Shaft. It's good to know that in this day and age there are people with sufficient dedication and enthusiasm to go round cleaning up other peoples mindless mess. Thanks to John Barnatt and his team for organising the work.

Report by Dave Webb

DCRO Rescue Practice

On Sunday, April 16th the Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation (DCRO) held a practice session based at Hillocks Mine and Knotlow Cavern near Monyash.

The first scenario was a rescue of a fallen caver from a deep, open and large shaft similar to Eldon Hole and the small open rift leading to Hillocks Mine oil-drum entrance played the part of Eldon Hole for a few hours.

The first job was to set up a safety line around the "deep shaft" in order to provide protection for Team members. Then some Team members abseiled down to the "casualty" (a heavy dummy playing the part of an injured caver) - no cheating was allowed, we couldn't just walk around to the end of the rift and take the easy way down!

While the Team members carried out a first-aid check on the "casualty" and prepared a SKED stretcher, a number of others set up two releasable deviations in order to keep the stretcher in the centre of "Eldon Hole" while it was hauled to the surface while the remaining Team members set up a hauling and lifeline system.

Once the "casualty" had been loaded into the SKED and haul line and lifeline attached securely, preparations were made to begin hauling the stretcher to the surface while a "jockey" (a Team member prusiking up an SRT rope next to the stretcher) got ready to ascend with the stretcher in order to assist with any problems and also to keep an eye on the condition of the "casualty".

Once the stretcher was on the surface and all Team members returned to the surface there was a short break then all moved on to Knotlow Cavern Climbing Shaft. The scenario was that a caver was injured in need of assistance near the foot of the second pitch (Pearl Chamber).

A "Quadpod" was erected over the shaft entrance and a number of Team members descended the shaft. Some of them started to rig a hauling system at the top of the second pitch while the rest descended to attend the "casualty" - this time a live version: Keith Jule!

It was decided that the "casualty" was exhausted and hypothermic and would need to be stretchered out. The "casualty" was loaded into the SKED stretcher and hauled up the second pitch. After a short carry, the "casualty" was then hauled up the 55 foot (16.75 metre) Entrance Shaft.

Once on the surface, the "casualty" made a rapid recovery and was helped out of the SKED.

Paul Lydon

Keith "Ben" Bentham

Keith "Ben" Bentham died at the end of August from cancer. Although known as

stubborn and a bit of a "character" his contribution to Derbyshire caving was unmistakable. He carried out a lot of work in the Lathkill area and the bypass to the infamous Wind Tunnel in Peak Cavern leading to discovery of the White River Series was also down to him.

Some of his projects were controversial and upset a few people but that never seemed to bother him.

Putwell Hill Mine Capped

Cavers visiting this mine have reported that a cap has been put on the entrance to Putell Hill Mine with only enough room for bats to get in and out. The DCA Access Team are attempting to discover who did this and the reason.

Recent Diving in Peak Cavern

John Cordingley has started climbing White Feather Aven (the name given to the final airbell in Far Sump, 350m from base). This is formed on the same vein as Stemple Highway in Far Sump Extension and the hope is that if any passages exist at the top they may lead away from the known cave. The dive in through Far Sump was uneventful but a new thin layer of fine silt was observed that hasn't been noted previously. This maybe due to a lot more caving going on in Titan and Far Sump Extension. The Brown's Chamber restrictions were found to be small so the new bypass line added a few years ago was used. The aven was reached but with no "dry land" bolts had to be installed just above water level to

allow de-kitting. Some upward progress was made before heading back out.

Jhn recently returned to White Feather Aven and made 6 - 7m of upward progress. A passage off to the right at about 6m but this was ignored as it'll be easier to swing to it rather than traverse across once there are more bolts higher up the main

aven. Of note, were tide marks from flooding 5 or 6 metres above the level of the sump! Rob Eavis and Dave Harley assisted with the carry.

The Halfway House sump lies at the bottom of the Devil's Staircase in the old part of the show cave. In normal condition it takes the entire Peak stream which is next seen in the Swine Hole and

Resurgence. In times of flood the sump backs up, floods the Five Arches and overflows through the current show cave. The Halfway House sump can be dived for approximately 50m to a silt restriction but just prior to this on the right a very shallow bedding leaves the main passage which also takes some of the flow.

Jhn has dived Halfway

House again and managed to force his way through the squeeze into the shallow outlet bedding making a couple of metres progress. Beyond the passage enlarges slightly so a return in planned.

With thanks to Hitch'n'Hike's web site

Don't forget to visit Hitch'n'Hike's excellent web site on
www.hnh.dircon.co.uk

"Sidetrack Cave" Video and "Shout!"

There are two videos out with **ALL PROFITS going to DCRO:**

"Sidetrack Cave" is a 20-minute film of this recently discovered, well-decorated system filmed before the inevitable damage that will take place. (It also avoids you having to struggle through the entrance crawl!)

"Shout!" runs for 26 minutes and portrays a typical Cave Rescue call-out. It was filmed over a three-year period. If you've been on a Rescue Practice during that time, you're probably in it! Something to show the grandchildren!

Both films cost , 7.00 plus 80 pence P&P.
Contact Ralph Jhnson at RJhnCave@aol.com

"In days of old when men were bold and helmets weren't invented" ... OK so I'm rambling on a bit but following the release of the "Giants Hole" video/DVD a number of "old timers" who were involved in the early explorations and modifications have contact me with tales to tell and photographs and slides of the unadulterated system.

If anyone else who has with archive material that could be included in a sequel (should that be prequel?) could they please contact Ralph Jhnson email: RJohnCAVE@aol.com

DCA Matters

NEXT DCA MEETING

AGM (open to all DCA Members): Saturday, 25 February 2006, 10am. at Monyash Village Hall

The Hall will be open from about 9.30am with tea, coffee and biscuits on tap. The Old Smithy Cafe, next to the Pub, does an excellent breakfast from about 9am.

DCA HONORARY MEMBER

Welcome to Roy Paulson, who has been awarded Honorary Membership of DCA in recognition and appreciation of all his work for us over many years in the production of our publications and paperwork: The Derbyshire Caver, the DCA Handbook, the new Manifold & Hamps Valleys Cave Conservation Audit, the other DCA Conservation publications and all our essential paperwork.

CONSERVATION & ACCESS NOTES

Don't forget that all three members of the DCA Conservation & Access Team can be contacted together on one email address at access@theDCA.org.uk. Otherwise you can contact them individually at:

Conservation & Access Officer: John Taylor, Tel. 01663-734918, Email. cons.access-off@theDCA.org.uk

Access Officer: Iain Barker, Tel. 0114-253-0112, Mob. 0771-068-9704, Email. access-off@theDCA.org.uk

Conservation Officer: Dave Webb, Tel. 0115-840-1109, Email. conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk

DCA Project Co-ordination Officer

Thanks to Wayne Sheldon who has volunteered and been co-opted as Project Co-ordination Officer to assist in the work on SSSIs currently being carried out for English Nature. To date Dave Webb has done this job as well as his other work as Conservation Officer but has found doing the two major and time-consuming jobs together increasingly hard going. Wayne and Dave will work together on future SSSI projects so that Dave has more time to spend on his main work as DCA Conservation Officer.

Darfar Ridge Cave Access Arrangements

Darfar Ridge Cave is owned by the National Trust. To get the key, please contact the South Peak Estate Office on 01335 350503 during office hours, or email ilampark@nationaltrust.org.uk.

No more than four people in the cave at any one time due to conservation reasons. Much conservation work has been carried out within the cave, so please respect the taping and avoid spreading mud on recently cleaned formations. Many thanks.

Giants Money box

Len Kirkham of Crewe has installed a new "thief resistant" money box at Giants. Ralph has spoken to Steve Baldacci but up to the time of writing the old one is still in use. No doubt a notice will appear when the change-over happens.

Neptune Mine

Ralph Johnson reports that Crewe have been busy on the adit entrance to Neptune Mine in Cressbrook Dale which is now "open to all comers" (especially if they want to tackle the dig in the natural rift at the far end). The restoration is substantial and the original gate has been re-fixed which can be opened with a "Derbyshire Spanner". Care will still be needed when crossing the flooded open shafts located in the floor a short distance into the adit, as the original bridges of timber and old rails are still in place, and a traverse line should be rigged for protection

CHILD PROTECTION

NCA/BCA have developed and promote an Equality Policy, Child Protection Policy and Disrepute Policy. The

need for individual Caving Clubs to develop Child Protection Policies will be limited to those which admit members below the age of 18. Any such who may be in contact with employees or other formal appointees may lead to a need for Criminal Records Bureau disclosure. The CCPR has just published a summary explanatory booklet which is freely available to any CCPR member; so if you know of a BCA member club with possible problems, they are eligible to consult it.

If your club admits members under the age of 18 and you require further details, for a copy of this booklet and for further information on this service to CCPR members please contact:

Eliot Caton at CCPR on 020 7854 8526 or ecatn@ccpr.org.uk.

NEWS FROM OTHER AREAS

CAVE ACCESS AGREEMENT - Little Neath River Cave, Bridge Cave & Upper Nedd Valley

An access agreement has been reached between the Cambrian Caving Council and the Landowners of the above caves, on behalf of all cavers both recreational and professional.

Parking for these sites will be at the Bridge Cave car park only. As before, cavers will be expected to pay the agreed parking fee to the landowners, the Lewis family of Blaen Nedd Isaf. There will probably be some form of secure collecting box at the car park in the future but for now, a quick trip to the farm by one member of the group to ensure continuing good relationships would be in order.

Sporting cavers are asked to have suitable 3rd party liability insurance. Further pre-requisites of access are; that each member of the group is entering the cave of their own free will; that each knows the nature of the difficulties they will encounter and that each caver accepts that they are entering a potentially dangerous environment at their own risk.

Should anyone wish to dig or conduct a scientific project within LNRC, please contact the CCC beforehand. The cave and the land above and around the area are a designated SSSI which carries special protection at law. No dig or project will be refused if they are carried out in an acceptable manner.

Access for professional groups will depend on their demonstrating to the CCC that they have appropriate insurance cover, have carried out the necessary risk assessments and have paid their appropriate fee to the landowners.

High CO₂ Levels in Mendip Caves - warning from CSCC

For information: Some CO₂ monitoring was conducted in GB and Swildons on 14 July by Tony Boycott (UBSS) and Chris Binding (ChCC). The results are below. The numbers indicate that whilst there is a moderate problem at the present time, it is nothing Mendip hasn't experienced in recent Summers. But please be aware that at 2% CO₂ the likely physiological effects are:

"Lung ventilation increases by 50 percent, headache after several hours exposure. Accumulation of carbon dioxide in the body after prolonged breathing of air containing around 2% or greater will disturb body function by causing the tissue fluids to become too acidic. This will result in loss of energy and feeling run-down even after leaving the cave. It may take the person up to several days in a good environment for the body metabolism to return to normal."

Monitoring will be ongoing. Please see that guest cavers are made aware.

GB Cavern, Dry Way/Gorge junction - 1.5%

GB Cavern, below Ladder Dig - 2.5%

Swildon's Hole, Water Chamber - 1.75%

Swildon's Hole, 20' (top) - 2.25%

Swildon's Hole, below Tratman's Temple - 2.1%

Swildon's Hole, at Sump 1 - 2.0%

Swildon's Hole, Old Grotto (top) - 2.0%

Re-opening Hungerhill Swallet

Photos by Dave Webb

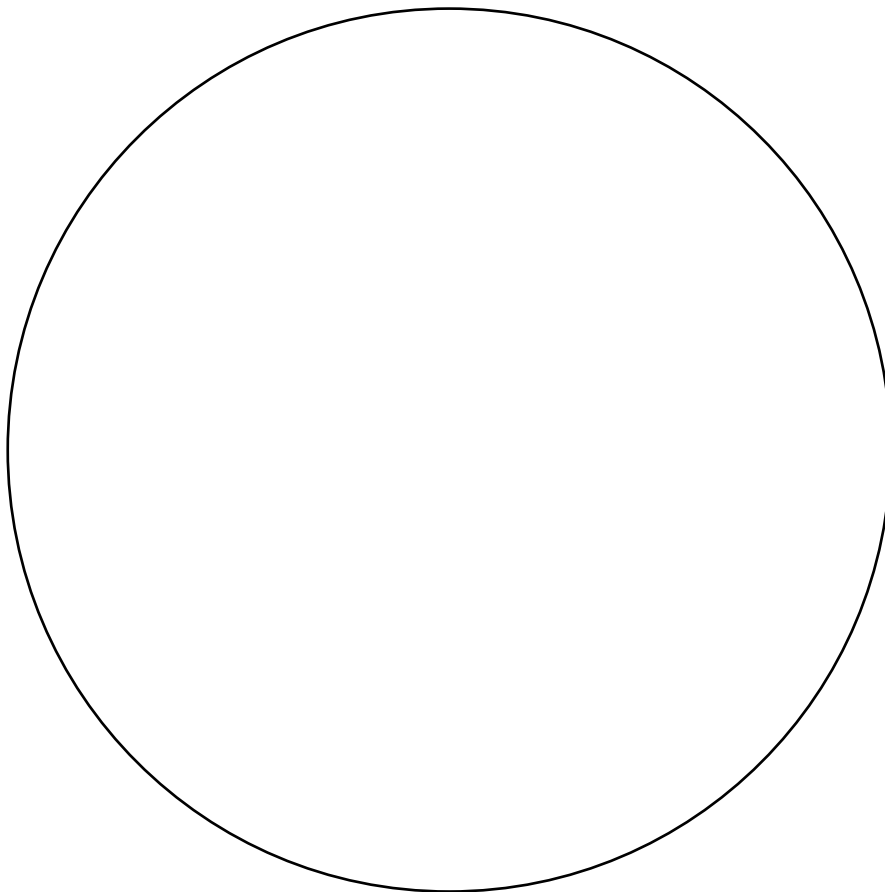
Workers in progress June 2005

Overview of Swallet from NW rim before work started

Len Kirkham and John Shenton and completed entrance

Len Kirkham and John Shenton (nearest to camera) digging out silt from adit

Pipe lowered down



Nigel Cooper
at base of
new entrance

View down collapsed oil drum entrance

View down excavation with steel frame in place ready to
support pipe

Re-opening Hungerhill Swallet - Another Crewe epic!

Hungerhill Swallet is a steep-sided tree-lined 6m deep swallet hole lying close to the Village of Eyam on the shale-limestone boundary beneath Hucklow Edge, and is one of several swallets formed along a series of mineralised veins. Unlike nearby Waterfall Hole it has no natural water feed but instead takes water from both a road run-off drain and a shallow mine drainage level; it does however lie above a known subterranean watercourse & an elusive #master cave. In 1985 an arduous and epic dig (even by Derbyshire standards) commenced, which was to last until 1987 during which the diggers were rewarded with 300m of passage and a 40m natural shaft - #Deep Space\$. Sometime in the mid-nineties both of the original entrances collapsed, one of which was timbered and the other, a later way in, had been lined with oil drums. Rot and rust had taken their toll and accumulated silt from the road drain completed the process of removing all traces of human intervention.

Of the two collapsed entrances only the Oil Drum entrance was considered to be recoverable; the adjacent Timbered Shaft would require an almost superhuman effort to dig out since the timbers were mainly whatever came to hand & often discarded doors and windows, which were not expected to last long anyway.

Earlier this year when Crewe C.P.C. were #between jobs\$ I took the opportunity to steer them in the direction of Hungerhill. #What's this then? they muttered as they poked about the soggy barren bottom of the shakehole. I explained, much as would a travel agent selling a week in Cleethorpes, that it wasn't what you could see but what you couldn't see that mattered. #With a little effort\$ I enthused, #you could be at the head of a 40m pitch in a few weeks!\$ The

sceptics, not unreasonably, wished to verify my wild statements with a look at the printed description of the system but the rest, as they say, is history, and thanks to their commitment and hard graft we now have another superb, if difficult, system added back to our inventory.

Work started in May 2005 but the dig, as with most digs, was not all that it seemed. Run off from the road had eroded the soil around the collapsed drums and deposited large amounts of black smelly silt for good measure. It took many hours of sheer muscle power to dig out the mess and shore the loose sides with ply and scaffold as the excavation became ever deeper. It even seemed possible that we had dug right past the adit into new ground as it was supposed to be no more than 3m down! In the event, and with great relief, the floor of the mined adit level was reached at a depth of 5metres but had been so full of silt that it had been almost invisible.

The black ooze was kibbled out for a distance of 3m in to where it was possible, if unpleasant, to slide penguin fashion over the top. A pre-fabricated steel cage was bolted in at the base of the shaft to support the vertically-placed heavy duty plastic pipe, and a mesh drain put in over the loose floor to act as a drain in the winter. The silty black soup that coated visitors from head to toe was always a feature of this entrance and Crewe are going to great lengths to make it more pleasant (less unpleasant then!)

On the surface an extra length of pipe has been bolted on to bring the top of the shaft well clear of the surrounding bog that will inevitably form in the winter months and a channel has been dug to divert the run off into the old Timbered Shaft pending a more permanent solution.

The #few weeks\$ had run on to nearly twelve but it has been a very worthwhile project and thanks must go to the many Crewe club members who turned out to help and worked in often very muddy and wet conditions. The engineering side of the project was only achieved through the good offices of Crewe member Len Kirkham whose inventiveness and persistence have resulted in first class job.

Hungerhill Swallet lies within the Stoney Middleton SSSI and as such qualified for grant-aid from English Nature as a DCA/EN partnership project, and the grant has enabled us to purchase materials durable enough to survive several generations.

The cave is a Grade 5 being very tight and awkward in places and #Deep Space\$ becomes impassable in wet weather. The lid is now a grill secured by nut and bolt and permission for access must be obtained from Mr Eyre at nearby Hungerhill House.

Note: The final 10m of the mine level running above and beyond the first squeeze contains very delicate floor deposits and interesting archaeology. It has been taped to help to conserve it.

Those who helped in alphabetical order.

Ann Austin, Andy Banner, John Beck, Darren Conde, Neil Conde, Nigel Cooper, Ralph Johnson, Keith Jule, Len Kirkham, Colin Knox, Lionel Parkinson, John Shenton, Ann Soulsby, Andy Templeman, Colum Walsh, Dave Webb.

Thanks to Mr Eyre, landowner, for his kindness in granting us unlimited access during project.

References: Beck J.S. & Gill D. 1991, Caves of the Peak District pp 213-214; Barker I, Classic Caves of the Peak District 1997 pp 83-85; Beck J.S. 1988, Jour. T.S.G. No.13 pp 26-33 (survey)

Dave Webb

Knotlow Pollution "Logger"

Please publicise to all who may visit Knotlow.

Following continuing and disturbing reports of pollution events and bad air in Knotlow Caverns, the Environment Agency has agreed to support our efforts to gain more precise information of these events by installing a water quality meter (known as a "Logger") in the stream-bed of the Coffin Level at the bottom of "Fourways Shaft". This will remain in situ for as long as it takes to obtain a satisfactory set of results and will be regularly checked for readings; meanwhile I would ask that you avoid disturbing the meter or the "static" water in the immediate vicinity as far as possible.

Knotlow Pollution Log Book Entries

Much of the momentum for this action has resulted from your detailed reports recovered periodically from the DCA Log Book placed at the bottom of Knotlow Climbing Shaft. The value of these entries cannot be overstated and since installation of the meter will become even more relevant.

Please continue to record water and air conditions experienced during your visit, adverse or otherwise.

The damaged hazard notices on the shaft lids have been replaced and the National Trust has installed a weather station at a nearby farm.

We are doing all we can and hopefully this latest "push" will have the desired effect of eliminating this long-standing problem.

Any comments and reports if you come across really bad conditions should go direct to Dave Webb at Tel. 0115-840-1109 or Email conservation-off@theDCA.org.uk

Dave Webb (DCA Conservation Officer)

Caves of the Peak District - New Edition!

Iain Barker, Bob Dearman and John Beck of the DCA have started work on bringing out a new edition of Caves of the Peak District. It's 14 years since the last one and several new discoveries have been made in that period. We aim to get the completed book at the printers in the early spring of 2006 and to have any hope of achieving this we need all the help we can get.

In order for the new book to be as up-to-date as possible, we need as much information as we can get from every individual and club who has worked in the area since 1991. Everything from a one metre extension to a known cave, to a brand new hole; to maintain the information available to cavers of the future, as well as the present, it all needs to go into print or much will be forgotten. If your club, or any individual cavers you know of have made even the smallest dig or advance please can we have the details? Even abortive digs need to be recorded to maintain the record.

The way to report your activities/discoveries is simple; just write it up in the same format as an entry in the current Caves of the Peak District and e-mail or post it to;

DCA Access Officer
Iain Barker
56 Thornbridge Crescent,
Birley,
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S12 3AE

Email: iainbarker@peakland.freeserve.co.uk
Tel: 0114-2530112

However insignificant your contribution may be, please submit it all the same, who knows what a future caver may make of it.

Thank you very much for your time and trouble, I look forward to hearing from you in the very near future, Iain

Conserving Bats in Underground Sites

The formations, archaeology and fauna of underground sites are all part of our national heritage, and all visitors to them should strive to maintain these sites. Always follow the safety and conservation codes published by the caving and mining history organisations and liaise with local groups over access and safety requirements.

Remember also that bats need your help to survive in the winter. Most hibernating bats are very difficult to see as many squeeze into cracks and crevices and only the two species of horseshoe bats normally hang free. Just because you cannot see them does not mean that they are not there! You must seek advice about any activity that might affect bats from the local SNCO.

Those visiting known bat sites for purposes such as recreation are asked to observe the Conservation Code and respect any special restrictions that have been placed on particular important bat sites. Disturbance can be very damaging, so only a limited number of people are licensed to disturb or handle hibernating bats in underground sites, and licences are issued by the SNCO only after training has been given. Such licences are issued for controlled, carefully considered basic survey and monitoring and occasionally for scientific research.

Site protection

In the past, some sites that would otherwise have been lost to underground explorers were saved because of the presence of bats. Also many sites opened by cavers and underground explorers are now used by bats.

Many sites have been lost through sealing for safety or security purposes. Sealing should be regarded only as a last resort, to be undertaken when other methods of site protection are not

possible or permitted. Liaison between interested parties can help preserve and protect such sites. Some underground sites are already protected for either nationally or locally important bat populations and many sites have been protected for other reasons but incorporate bat access. Most sites remain unprotected and, while some will be protected in the future, the majority will rely on the goodwill and common sense of visitors to ensure their continued use by bats.

Site protection for bats normally consists of incorporating a grille into all or part of the entrance, allowing free access for bats but limiting human access. The extent of the grille will depend on the nature of the site and the air flow desirable. Such grilles are usually made of horizontal bars with a 150mm gap and vertical bars spaced at between 450mm and 750mm.

A smaller gap as little as 100mm by 250mm may allow access for bats, but may limit air flow to the extent that the site will not achieve maximum bat potential. This should only be used under extreme circumstances.

Guidance for those managing underground sites:

- * If there is no information on whether bats use a site, a bat survey should be undertaken.
- * If a site known to be used by bats is to be grilled, gated or sealed, it is a legal requirement to consult the Statutory Nature Conservation Organisation.
- * Grants are available to assist with the provision of grilles or gates suitable for bat access.
- * Assume that all underground sites are used by bats. No site should be entirely sealed for protection; adequate access for bats should be incorporated wherever possible.

* Before a site is to be grilled for reasons of bat conservation, access arrangements for other interest groups should be negotiated with the owner and with conservation bodies and the local county archaeologist.

* Minor modification to existing site protection may improve the potential for bats.

* In the protection or preservation of any site, bat conservationists can offer advice, support, and sometimes influence as well as assisting with the physical work.

For further information

There are now over 90 local bat groups throughout the UK. Specific enquires or information about sites can be addressed to the local bat group, details of which are available from the Bat Conservation Trust or local SNCO (see list below). Licensed bat workers are usually happy to have the company of underground explorers during bat survey and monitoring work, and can demonstrate how inconspicuous bats can be and inform about their biology and conservation.

Lists of membership organisations are available from the National Association of Mining History Organisations and British Caving Association. Subterranea Britannica can often assist with information about other miscellaneous underground sites.

For semi-underground structures such as lime-kilns and disused railway tunnels, the Association for Industrial Archaeology may be able to help.

Statutory Nature Conservation Organisations

English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA
Telephone 01733 455000,
www.english-nature.org.uk

Countryside Council for Wales,
Maes Y Fynnon, Penrhosgarnedd,
Bagnor, Gwynedd LL57 2ND
Telephone 01248 385500,
www.ccw.gov.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage, 12
Hope Terrace, Edinburgh EH9 2AS
Telephone 0131 447 4784,
www.snh.gov.uk

Environment and Heritage Service
(N. Ireland), Environment
Services,
Commonwealth House, 35 Castle
Street, Belfast BT1 1GU
Telephone 02890 546 558,
www.ehsni.gov.uk

Underground Interest Groups

British Cave Research Association
(BCRA), Old Methodist Chapel,
Great Hucklow, Buxton,

Derbyshire, SK17 8RG
www.bcra.org.uk

British Caving Association (BCA),
Old Methodist Chapel, Great
Hucklow, Buxton, Derbyshire,
SK17 8RG www.british-
caving.org.uk

National Association of Mining
History Organisations (NAMHO),
c/o Peak District Mining Museum,
The Pavilion, Matlock Bath,
Derbyshire
DE4 3PS www.namho.org

Subterranea Britannica, 13
Highcroft Cottages, London Road,
Swanley,
Kent, BR8 8DB www.subbrit.org.uk

Association for Industrial
Archaeology
www.industrial-archaeology.org.uk

The Bat Conservation Trust
15 Cloisters House
8 Battersea Park Road
London SW8 4BG

Bat Helpline 0845 1300 228

www.bats.org.uk
email enquiries@bats.org.uk

The Bat Conservation Trust (BCT)
is the only national organisation
solely devoted to the
conservation of bats and their
habitats in the UK.

BCT produces a wide range of
publications and resources
covering all aspects of bats and
their conservation.

Registered charity number
1012361

Fund Raising Event for Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation

Improvised Rescues for Single Rope Technique

Lead by Adam Evans, member of Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation, C.I.C
holder and member of the professional Caving Instructors body A.C.I.

Pick up hints, tips, and technical skills in improvised S.R.T rescues.
Develop techniques on group assistance and problem prevention on vertical
underground sections.

N.B. Participants must be proficient in Single Rope Technique and have
working knowledge of S.R.T rigging and rope work.

Surface based on **19th of March 2006**, at Pindale Bunkhouse, near Hope in
Derbyshire

Cost: £35 per head all to be donated to DCRO

Accommodation can be booked at Pindale Bunkhouse and camp site
contact: 01433 620111

Strictly limited to a maximum of 6 people, so early booking advised

For more information on booking contact Adam directly see below:

Adam Evans

Mobile: 07900 927400

Email: adam@outdoorinstruction.co.uk

www.outdoorinstruction.co.uk

Cave Conservation Work in the Mainfold Valley

Cave Conservation Work done in the Manifold Valley - Summer 2005

Below is a brief summary of the work done during August, September and October 2005.

Darfar Pot Top Entrance

The concrete around the top entrance grille was repaired. The river entrance has now grown over and naturalised, so the top entrance should be used in preference. It's also easier to negotiate and safe from flooding.

Riverside Swallet

Due to the disintegration of the oil drums forming it, the entrance shaft of this swallet had partially run in and no access was possible. The entrance shaft was re-opened and scaffolded. At the top of the scaffolding was placed an access bar which normally lies across the top of the shaft to prevent large rocks from being thrown down it by members of the public. (Which happened in August less than 5 days after it had been re-opened.) The bar can be lifted and slid out of the way to allow access, then replaced on exiting the cave. Extensive repairs to the concreting around the entrance were also made. (Again made necessary due to numerous members of the public moving rocks about trying to see where the river was going!)

Riverside II

A new Manhole cover/frame was installed over the entrance and concreted into the river bed. The swallet was restored to its former depth.

Redhurst Swallet

A new hinged entrance grille has been installed by the National

Trust. It needs an adjustable spanner to open. Some concreting remains to be done around the entrance.

Wetton Hill Far Cave

A new frame and entrance grille has been fitted. An adjustable spanner is required to gain access.

T-Pot Old Entrance

An old (but servicable) Manhole cover found in the entrance shaft of Riverside Swallet was installed and concreted into the existing frame in the river bed. A large slab which had slid into the centre of the entrance rift was broken up and removed, restoring access.

Snowhole

A new Manhole cover/frame has been installed over the entrance and will be concreted into the river bed when the river next goes down a bit.

Bent Chisel Pot

The wooden lid from the old entrance of T-Pot was placed on this as a temporary measure. Next year a manhole cover will be fitted.

Ladyside Pot

A new grille has been manufactured and will be installed over the entrance when the river starts drying up again next spring. It will be hinged to prevent complete removal.

General Note

It has become apparent over the past few years that the frequency of members of the public interfering with cave

entrances in the river bed downstream of Redhurst Swallet has decreased markedly since the erection of the plain wire fencing along the river side of the track. The fencing obviously reduces the likelihood of people venturing into the river bed. (Although this does still occur as remains of a Barbeque and drinks cans were seen in the river bed where the fence starts.)

It has also become apparent over the summer of 2005 that the frequency of members of the public interfering with cave entrances in the river bed around the main sink area remains very high during the summer months when the river is sinking in that area. On the occasion when several large rocks were thrown down Riverside Swallet, the manhole cover was also damaged. (This has been repaired.)

Despite this, the National Trust appear reluctant to erect a discrete barbed wire fence along the river bank here to deter people from venturing onto the river bed itself. Many of whom even cross the field between the road and the main sink area, despite there being a sign at the field gate asking them to keep off.

Martin Milner

"Deepest Highest" Team raise money for Challenge Cancer

Great success for the "Deepest Highest" Team raising money for Challenge Cancer.

www.outdoorinstruction.co.uk is proud to have supported Challenge Cancer in their amazing event. The event called "The Deepest to Highest" is a challenge, set over three days, to travel from the depths of Giants Hole in Derbyshire to the top of Scafell Pike. Caving, cycling, canoeing, cross-country running and finally climbing.

The money raised will set up a fund to help people in and around the Peak District, diagnosed with a terminal illness, to realise an ambition to take part in an adventurous activity before they die.

Seven of the participants have developed cancer. Some, having received treatment are cured, some are dealing with the illness now and one good friend has recently died. We want to do something positive, to help other people diagnosed with terminal illness.

Derbyshire provides a fantastic environment for taking part in outdoor activities. We have an informal network of instructors, staff at outdoor activity centres and friends who not only support each other through work, but also come together to enjoy the outdoors for recreation.

To find out more about the event, its participants and to donate to Challenge Cancer visit:
www.challengecancer.org.uk

www.outdoorinstruction.co.uk took responsibility for the organisation and leading of the Caving section in Deepest Highest. It went tremendously well, with both 6 person teams of participants getting to the bottom of giants and back quickly and in one piece, ready to set off on the 120 mile bike ride to the lakes.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those that helped out in the Caving section of "Deepest Highest".

Namely:

Leon Zablocki and Phil Baker who gave up their time to lead the groups quickly and safely underground.

Dale Gray, Richard Crane and Leon Zablocki who helped pre rig the cave on the Thursday.

Graham Jones, Mark Williams and Shaun Puckering for the use of large amounts of cave gear.

Shaun Puckering of Hitch N Hike for the underground Photography Dale Gray, Shaun Puckering for helping lug bags from the bottom of Giants whistle the event made its way to the Lakes.

Glad it went well, it certainly wouldn't have if these guys hadn't chipped in.

Cheers

Adam J Evans

True Williams' illustration of Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher lost in the cave. From the first edition of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.

DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION OFFICERS FOR 2004-2005

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THE DCA - WHAT WE DO AND HOW TO JOIN US DOING IT

The aim of Derbyshire Caving Association (DCA) is to protect the caves and promote good caving practice within the Peak District and surrounding areas. Membership is open to all clubs, individuals and outdoor activity providers with an interest in caves and caving or mine exploration. Check out the DCA website for further information. Membership enquiries to the Secretary (address above).

The Derbyshire Caver (the newsletter of the DCA) has been in uninterrupted publication for over thirty years and is of paramount value as a forum for cavers in Derbyshire. The Editor welcomes contributions from all cavers, whether DCA members or not. News, articles, etc. should be posted or emailed to him at the above address, or give him a ring.

The Derbyshire Caver is posted free to DCA members; non-members may subscribe by sending a cheque for £7 (payable to DCA) for four issues, to the Secretary/Treasurer (address above). Some back issues are also available for sale.

Current issues of the Derbyshire Caver are available from the following outlets:

Hitch 'n' Hike, Bamford
The Old Smithy Tea Shop, Monyash
Peak District Mining Museum, Matlock Bath
Peveril Outdoor & Travel, Castleton