

Castleton Cave Index

Introduction

The Castleton hydrological catchment area is home to the Peak District's most significant caves, including the Peak-Speedwell and Giant's-Oxlow systems. This index lists the majority of caves, mines and features of speleological interest. The major caves and mines are also described separately in their own detailed guides where indicated. Abbreviations are explained at the end of this guide.

Alsop's Cave (in Eldon Hill Quarry)

Grid Ref: SK 11640 81556 (GPS), Alt: 388m. Length: 10m.

Access: See Sidetrack Cave.

Description: See Sidetrack Cave.

Black Rabbit Cave (in Pindale Quarry)

Grid Ref: SK 15754 82197 (GPS), Alt: 245m.

Length: 150m+

Access: No known access restrictions. It's best to park at the top of Pindale and walk in down the track.

Description: The cave starts as a squirm down through boulders into a crawl which soon reaches a squeeze followed by a low bedding. Beyond a second squeeze the passage enlarges before terminating in boulder chokes.

Other: Caves of the Peak District, Beck & Gill 1991 (p57-58).

Blue John Cavern (show cave)

Grid Ref: SK 13181 83198 (GPS), Alt: 365m.

Length: 1.2km+, Depth: 90m.

Access: No access to cavers other than the tourist trip.

Description: A fine example of a predominantly vertical cave system.

Surveys: Published by John Beck, available from Hitch n Hilke.

Caves of the Peak District, Beck & Gill 1991 (p59).

Caves of the Peak District, Beck & Gill 1991 (p58).

Derbyshire Sump Index, CDG 1994 (p9-10).

Descent #136 (p15) Jun./Jul. 1997.

CDG NL: #161 Oct. 2006 (p13).

Bull Pit (nr. Perryfoot)

Grid Ref: SK 10650 81432, Alt: 360m.

Access: as for P8, call at Perryfoot Farm.

Buttress Hole (Winnats Pass)

Grid Ref: SK 13551 82684 (CAP), Alt: 341m.

Length: 10m

Access: No known access restrictions.

Description: An obvious entrance high up in the north side of Winnats Pass. The 1.5m diameter entrance drops immediately into a small chamber with a muddy floor. Off to the left a low crawl ends after 10m. At the time of writing the entrance chamber was littered with a large quantity of dubious and somewhat unpleasant rubbish.

Car Pot (nr. Gautries Hole, Perryfoot)

Grid Ref: SK 10113 81432, Alt: 317m.

Length: 15m

Access: As for Gautries Hole.

Cave Dale

Grid Ref: SK 13295 83460 (GPS), Alt: 290m (lower entrance).

Access: No known access restrictions.

Description: There are a number of small caves in Cave Dale, some of which are associated with Peak Cavern's entrance series of which lies below. These are described in detail in the separate Caves of Cave Dale guide.

Christmas Swallet (P9)

Grid Ref: SK 11177 82177, Alt: 340m.

Length: 70m, Depth: 70m

Access: No access.

Description: An active swallet with four pitches ending at a sump which has been dived to -9m ending in an impenetrable choked rift.

Surveys: Descent #73 (p28) Nov./Dec. 1986.

Other: Derbyshire Sump Index, CDG 1994 (p11).

Descent #73 (p27-29) Nov./Dec. 1986.

Connies Dale Pots

Grid Ref: from SK 13060 80807 north, Alt: 408m.

Access: The majority lie with CRoW access land, see Ordnance Survey Explorer map #1.

Description: A number of abandoned digs in open potholes and fissures.

Cove Hole

Grid Ref: SK 11595 82154, Alt: 370m.
Length: 20m+, Depth: 25m+
Access: No access.

Description: This small cave has been dug to a depth of around 25m.

Dielasma Cave (Treak Cliff)

Grid Ref: SK 13423 83180 (GPS), Alt: 370m.
Length: 12m, Depth: 2m.

Access: No known restrictions.

Description: The right of two entrances in a small crag just below the top edge of Treak Cliff. Stooping height entrance leads down over boulders into a small chamber. A small passage on the far side soon terminates. No obvious leads.

Dr. Jackson's Cave

Grid Ref: SK 09882 82167, Alt: 330m.
Length: 300m+

Access: Call at Tor Top Farm for permission.

Introduction: This cave is tight and awkward in places and floods in wet weather. The rescue of an injured caver from this cave would be extremely difficult.

Description: This cave will be detailed in it's own guide in the future.

Surveys: Caves of Derbyshire (p118), TD Ford & DW Gill 1984.
Classic Caves of the Peak District (p152), Iain Barker 1997.
Limestones & Caves of the Peak District (p321), Ford 1977.
Other: Descent magazine:-
#115 (p9) Dec./Jan. 1993/4 (connection to Perryfoot Cave).
#136 (p14) Jun./Jul. 1997.

Eldon Hole

Grid Ref: SK 11612 80896 (GPS), Alt: 415m.
Length: 200m, Depth: 85m.

Access: CRoW (Prior to CRoW the landowner has always been accommodating to cavers and requested that all gates should be left as found, that no litter should be left and that dogs should not be taken to the site).

Introduction: This classic open pothole is the deepest surface shaft in Derbyshire and boasts some fine formations in the high level series.

Description: See the separate detailed Eldon Hole guide.

Surveys: Limestones & Caves of the Peak District (p323), TD Ford 1977.

Frog Hole

Grid Ref: SK 12080 82365, Alt: 415m.
Access: No access.

Description: An aborted dig into a fissure in the old quarry.

Gautries Hill Pot (Perryfoot)

Grid Ref: SK 10083 81117, Alt: 347m.
Depth: 7m. Access: Unknown.

Description: A large open pot hole on the hillside behind Perryfoot Farm. A climb down from the lower rim accesses a boulder and mud floor with several aborted digs.

Other: Descent magazine:- #98 (p12) Feb./Mar. 1991.
#118 (p9) Jun/Jul. 1994.

Gautries Hole

Grid Ref: SK 10133 81452, Alt: 310m. Length: 250m.

Access: Park at Perryfoot in the pull-in (SK 10085 81284) and call at Perryfoot Farm opposite. It's probably best to go round to the back door (go down the little road and into the farmyard). A small access fee is charged - £1.00 at the time of writing.

Description: This short, sporting and popular cave is described in its own separate guide.

Surveys: Limestones & Caves of the Peak District (p320), TD Ford 1977.

Giants Cave (P11 & P13)

Grid Ref: Upper Cave SK 11685 82677, Alt: 369m.
Lower Cave: SK 11690 82617, Alt: 367m. Length: 90m
Access: As for Giants Hole below.

Description: An active swallet / stream / resurgence cave with a sump part way through which is not free divable.

Giants Hole

Grid Ref: SK 11942 82685 (GPS), Alt: 375m.
Length: 3km+, Depth: 130m.

Access: The entrance lies on Peakshill Farm land, above and to the West of Castleton. The track to the farm leaves the B6061 midway between the top of Winnats Pass and Perryfoot (SK 1164 8202). At the bottom of the valley the track reaches a gate to the right of which is an obvious "parking area" (SK 1162 8255). No prior permission required but a £2 per caver fee is charged, payable at "booth" in the parking area.

Description: This classic cave is one of the most popular caves in the UK and is described in detail in its own separate guide.

Surveys: Published by John Beck, available from Hitch n Hike.

Hiatt Holes (also known as Hiatt Cave)

Grid Ref: SK 13688 82525, Alt: 350m.

Access: No known access restrictions.

Description: The entrances are easily seen from the road below as a series of holes in the right hand end of Shining Tor, the largest and most obvious cliff face in Winnats Pass. These all close down after a short distance.

Hitch n Hike (visit www.HNHoutdoors.com)

Length: 18m, Width 11m, Vertical Range 5m.

Grid Ref: SK 20518 82640 (GPS), Alt: 155m.

Access: 10am - 5:30pm 7 days a week.

Description: First entered in 1984, this is the Peak District's longest established caving, climbing and outdoor shop. Free parking, loads of gear and the experience to back it up.

Hollandtwine Mine

Grid Ref: SK 13984 81261 (derived from calibrated 1971 aerial photo), Alt: 427m.

Access: Open cast mining operations have buried the shaft top. It is not known if the shaft was capped prior to being covered of if the shaft was filled with spoil.

Description: A deep and extensive mine which intersected some natural cave. The steam at the bottom has been dye tested to Ink Sump in Peak Cavern.

James Hall's Over Engine Mine (J.H.)

Grid Ref: SK 13503 87007 (GPS), Alt: 427m.

Length: 17km+ incl. Peak-Speedwell, Depth: 190m (to Boulder Piles).

Access: Call at Rowter Farm for permission, small fee charged (£2 per caver at the time of writing). No access during lambing (April 1st - 30th).

Description: This extensive mine and cave is over 600ft / 180m deep and connects to Speedwell Cavern at The Boulder Piles and Stemple Highway in Peak Cavern's Far Sump Extension. It is described separately in its own guide.

Surveys: A highly detailed survey, which includes a plan and two side elevations, is published by John Beck and is available from Hitch n Hike.

Little Bull Pit (& P6)

Grid Ref: SK 10378 81659 & P6 SK 10381 81682, Alt: 336m.

Access: As for P8.

Description: Little Bull Pit is an open pot above and to the south of the P6 Swallet. A climb down with the aid of a hand line access a boulder and mud floored chamber with a number of aborted digs. P6 has been dug out from

time to time gaining a few meters of passage but this fills back up with silt and debris.

Longcliffe Mine and Pot

Grid Ref: SK 14037 82543 (GPS), Alt: 312m.

Access: CRoW.

Description: A mine shaft with unstable ginging and rusty scaffold bar belay accesses workings and a section of natural cave. Due to the nature of the entrance this site is best avoided. There are a number of other open shafts in the vicinity but all are now blocked. These are:-
Mine shaft: SK 14121 82541, Alt: 291m, Depth 5m.

Mam Tor Swallet

Grid Ref: SK 12848 83143 (GPS), Alt: 389m.

Access: No known restrictions. A large obvious sink next to the junction where the old Mam Tor / Blue John Cavern road meets the A6187.

Description: The swallet is formed on the current shale-limestone boundary resulting in a general lack of stability. At the time of writing freeze-thaw action on the shale bank above the entrance has resulted in a minor collapse blocking the entrance slope. Prior to it being blocked an awkward slither down a steeply sloping crawl dropped into a small chamber via a 3m pitch. A crawl lead to another 3m drop and crawl to a junction. Left was choked while right became too low for progress. Due to the lack of potential at this site there is little point in digging back into this cave.

Maskhill Mine

Grid Ref: SK 12242 82162, Alt: 458m.

Length: 200m (4.75km including Maskill Mine & Giants Hole)

Depth: 150m to West Chamber.

Access: Call at Oxlow House Farm SK 12517 82502 first, do not go onto the farm land without permission. Small fee charged (£1 per head at the time of writing).

Description: This extensive mine will be described in its own detailed guide at a later date.

Surveys: Published by John Beck, available from Hitch n Hike.

#124 (p11) Jun./Jul. 1995 (detailing areas of repair).

Descent: #119 (p9) Aug./Sep. 1994 (instability).

#124 (p11) Jun./Jul. 1995 (repairs).

#125 (p12) Aug./Sep. 1995 (repairs).

Other:

Professional caver training is available from

www.OutdoorInstruction.co.uk

Middle Bank Cave

Length: 8.3m

Grid Ref: SK 14370 82402 (GPS), Alt: 300m.

In obvious gully between the flanks of Cow Low and Loncliffe.

Access: Lies just within the CRoW boundary just above and to the left of Middle Bank Pot.

Description: A 2.4m wide 0.8m high passage soon becomes narrower ending at a dig.

Middle Bank Pot

Depth: 2m (run in)

Grid Ref: SK 14356 82386 (GPS), Alt: 297m.

Access: Lies just within the CRoW boundary, by the obvious tree in the gully between the Cow Low and Loncliffe.

Description: A 5m diameter pot with mud floor which was dug out at one time but this has since run back in.

Moose Cave - see Alsop's Cave

Mountbatten Pot

Grid Ref: SK 12496 81708 (tbc), Alt: 469m. Depth: 42m.

Access: There is no general access agreement in place for this site but it is on land owned by Oxlow House Farm SK 12517 82502.

Description: A metal lid gives access to a water-worn fissure which is sustained and very tight throughout. The bottom of this has been dug in vain.

Nettle Pot

Grid Ref: SK 12526 81996, Alt: 464m.

Length: 650m+, Depth: 180m+.

Access: Call at Oxlow House Farm SK 12517 82502 first, do not go onto the farm land without permission. Small fee charged (£1 per head at the time of writing).

Description: This extensive cave will be described in its own detailed guide at a later date.

Surveys: Caves of the Peak District (p82), D Gill & J Beck 1991.

Descent magazine #77 (p12) Aug./Sep. 1987

Other: Caves of the Peak District (p82-85), D Gill & J Beck 1991.

Descent magazine:- #37 (p12) Dec. 1977.

#77 (p12) Aug./Sep. 1987 (the discovery of Derbyshire Hall).

#100 (p16) Jun./Jul. 1991.

#122 (p8) Feb./Mar. 1995 (collapse).

#158 (p18) Feb./Mar. 2001 (Far Flats).

Odin Cave

Grid Ref: SK 13420 83456 (GPS), Alt: 290m.

Length: 25m. Vertical range: 8m.

Access: CRoW.

Location: 60m from the road on the left of the worked out Odin Mine mineral vein.

Description: A 4.5m diameter entrance soon lowers and widens into a muddy chamber. 1.1m in daylight can be seen through a low opening on the right. The muddy floor steps up into a 6m wide 7m high chamber.

Odin Mine

Grid Ref: SK 13295 83460 (GPS), Alt: 290m.

Access: CRoW / SSSI.

Description: The accessible part of this once extensive mine is described in detail in its own guide.

Survey: CCPC Rigging Guide.

Old Tor Mine

Grid Ref: SK 13507 82749 (CAP), Alt: 373m (TBC).

Access: Permission to visit the mine should be applied for by contacting National Trust Estate Office in Edale on 01433 670368 in advance (a fortnight's notice has been requested). The lower entrance to the mine is gated and locked and the top entrance was filled with concrete some years ago.

Oxlow Cavern

Grid Ref: SK 12412 82186 (GPS), Alt: 425m.

Length: 1.4km (4.75km including Maskill Mine & Giants Hole)

Depth: 140m to West Chamber.

Description: This extensive cave is described in detail in its own guide.

Surveys: Published by JS Beck, available from Hitch n Hike.

P0

Length: 36m. Depth: 18m.

Grid Ref: SK 09137 81020, Alt: 349m.

Access: Unknown.

Description: A steeply descending entrance (handline required) enters a dug out walking sized passage choked after 20m. On the 29th June 1992 a horse was reported missing from Rushup Farm, and found at the end of this cave. The combined efforts of DCRO and the Fire Service extricated the horse without injury and so was recorded the first and so far, only, recorded equine cave rescue in the UK.

P1

Grid Ref: SK 09892 81265, Alt: 327m.
Access: Torr Top Farm.

Description: The stream Sinks into a rift passage between Dr. Jackson's Cave and Perryfoot Cave. Connected through to Perryfoot Cave in 1986.

P2 (see Sheepwash Cave in this guide)

P3 (Gautries Hole) (see separate Gautries Hole guide)

P4 (Sludge Pit / Sludge Pot)

Grid Ref: SK 10170 81540, Alt: 330m.
Access: Ask at Perryfoot Farm, as P3.

Description: An aborted dig in a wet weather swallet.

Other: Descent #145 (p11) Dec./Jan. 1998/9.

P5

Grid Ref: SK 10275 81626, Alt: 333m.

Access: Ask at Perryfoot Farm, as for Gautries Hole and P8.

P6

Grid Ref: SK 10381 81682, Alt: 336m.

Access: Ask at Perryfoot Farm, as for Gautries Hole and P8.

Description: Swallet just north of Little Bull Pit.

P7

Grid Ref: SK 10506 81737, Alt: 338m.

Access: email n.williams@bcra.org.uk

Description: This one time choked swallet has been extensively dug over the last few years entering some open passage. It is described in detail in its own separate guide.

P8

 (Jackpot)

Grid Ref: SK 10784 81792 (GPS), Alt: 326m.

Access: Park at Perryfoot in the pull-in (SK 10085 81284) and call at Perryfoot Farm opposite. It's probably best to go round to the back door. Small access fee charged, £1 per caver at the time of writing.

Description: This major cave is one of the most popular sporting trips in Derbyshire. It is described in detail in it's own guide.

Surveys: Published by JS Beck, available from Hitch n Hike.

P9 (see Christmas Swallet in this guide)

P10 (see Snelslow Swallet in this guide)

P11 (see Giant's Cave in this guide)

P12 (see the separate Giant's Hole guide)

Peak Cavern (The Devil's Arse) (Show Cave)

Grid Ref: SK 14865 82602 (GPS), Alt: 225m.

Length: (including Speedwell Cavern & JH) in excess of 17km

Access: Booking required - Contact: John Beck, Glebe Cottage, The Hillock, Eyam, Hope Valley, S32 5RB. Email john.beck6@btinternet.com

Description: Peak Cavern, which connects to Speedwell Cavern, James Hall's Over Engine Mine (J.H.) and Titan is part of the most extensive cave system in Derbyshire. It is described in detail in a set of separate guides.

Surveys: Published by JS Beck, available from Hitch n Hike.

Perryfoot Cave

Grid Ref: SK 09897 81258, Alt: 330m. Length: 180m+

Access: Call at Torr Top Farm for permission.

Description: This cave will be detailed in it's own guide in the future.

Surveys: Classic Caves of the Peak District, Iain Barker 1997 (p152).

Caves of Derbyshire, Trevor D Ford & David W Gill 1984 (p118).

Limestones and Caves of the Peak District, Trevor D Ford 1977 (p321).

Descent: #115 (p9) Dec./Jan. 1993/4 (connection to Dr Jackson's).

CDG NL: #126 Jan. 1998 (p17).

Pindale Cave

Grid Ref: SK 15729 82191 (GPS), Alt: 272m.

Length: 20m

Access: No known restrictions.

Description: At the top end of Pindale Quarry the workings intersected a cave passage. The passage to the left (east) is Black Rabbit Cave (see separate entry in this guide). Pindale Cave is the continuation of the same cave on the right hand side (west). A muddy hands and knees crawl soon lowers ending in a dig.

Pindale Sough

Grid Ref: SK 16400 83039 (GPS), Alt: 170m.

Access: Next to public footpath.

Description: The bottom end of the sough was in a poor state and blocked with sediment but the tail has now been completely destroyed by another of the Peak District National Park Authority's footpath landscaping projects. In the 1990's a couple of shafts were dug in the fields across the road from Pindale Farm which accessed the sough but even this far up it was partly blocked and almost full to the roof with water.

Rowter Hole

Grid Ref: SK 13435 82334 (GPS), Alt: 425m.
Length: 120m+, Depth: 82m.

Access: Call at Rowter Farm for permission, small fee charged (£2 per caver at the time of writing). No access during lambing (April 1st - 30th).
Description: This mine/cave is detailed in its own separate guide.

Russet Well

Grid Ref: SK 14828 82745, Alt: 190m.
Depth: 27m

Access: Contact the Cave Diving Group for the current situation.

Description: This resurgence is in a private garden on the on the east side of the Peak Cavern gorge just upstream from Goosehill Bridge. It has been dived to a depth of 27m via two squeezes. At the bottom the water flow issues from an impenetrable bedding. The water has been dye traced from the Downstream Sump in Speedwell Cavern's Lower Bung Streamway.

Surveys: Descent magazine #52 (p17) Oct 1982.

More Info: Derbyshire Sump Index (p63), CDG 1994.

Descent: #44 (p33) Jan./Feb 1980. #77 (p13) Aug./Sep. 1987.
#49 (p27) Jul./Aug. 1981. #156 (p20-22) Oct./Nov. 2000.
#52 (p14-17) Oct 1982.
CDG NL #60 (p29-30) Jul. 1981 #98 (p22) Jan. 1991
#89 (p30) Oct. 1988. #100 (p31) Jul. 1991.
#92 (p18) Jul. 1989.

Sheepwash Cave

Grid Ref: SK 10065 81335 (tbc), Alt: 326m.
Length: 30m, Depth: 9m.
Access: Perryfoot Farm.

Description: Tight in places ends in sump, dived for 11m.

Sidetrack Cave

Grid Ref: SK 11680 81521 (GPS), Alt: 388m.
Length: 479m, vertical range: 8m.

Access: The entrance lies on one of the terraces in the now abandoned Eldon Hill Quarry that was worked by RMC (the Roadstone Mineral Company). There was no access arrangement in place at the time of writing and the owners should not be approached as this could lead to the cave being sealed.

Description: This cave is detailed in its own separate guide.

Surveys: Included within its own guide.

Slop Moll

Grid Ref: SK 148213 82680, Alt: 190m.
Access: As for Peak Cavern.

Description: A major but impenetrable resurgence next to the path in the Peak Cavern gorge. The water has been dye tested from the downstream sump in Speedwell Cavern's Lower Bung Streamway.

Other: Descent #94 (p13) Jun./Jul. 1990.
Descent #156 (p20-22) Oct./Nov. 2000.
Descent #193 (p13) Dec./Jan. 2006/7.

Snelslow Swallet (P10)

Grid Ref: SK 11254 82311, Alt: 348m.

Access: No access arrangement in place. This swallet is on land owned by Peakshill Farm.

Speedwell Cavern (show cave) S RG

Grid Ref: SK 13929 82734 (GPS), Alt: 249m.

Length: (including Peak Cavern, JH and Titan) in excess of 17km

Access: There is no access to the show cave for cavers (unless you que up, pay and go in on the boat with the tourists!), nor is access permitted via the show cave to the further reaches. However, most of the Speedwell system is accessible via JH, Peak Cavern, and at some stage in the future, Titan.

Description: Speedwell Cavern, which connects to Peak Cavern, James Hall's Over Engine Mine (J.H.) and Titan is part of the most extensive cave system in Derbyshire. It is described in detail in a set of separate guides.

Surveys: Published by JS Beck, available from Hitch n Hike.

Suicide Cave (also know as Horseshoe Cave) RG

Grid Ref: SK 13756 82715 (GPS), Alt: 277m. Length: 140m+/-.
Access: No known access restrictions.

Description: This small but interesting cave is a popular venue with novices and groups and is detailed in its own separate guide.
Surveys: S.U.S.S. Journal 1976.

Thistle Pot

Grid Ref: SK 12359 80961 (GPS), Alt: 425m.
Depth: 17m.

Access: The pot lies 47m to the west of a public footpath.

Description: This shaft was dug over many years and was pushed to its limit in a water worn fluted shaft but this has now been filled in with rocks and capped with a steel cage. It is unknown whether the shaft has been completely filled or if the rocks just choke the top of the shaft.

Titan

Grid Ref: SK 13874 81846 (GPS), Alt: 428m.
Length: 17km+ including Speedwell Cavern, Peak Cavern and J.H.
Access: Booking is required.

Contact Dave Nixon, email dave.nixon@tesco.net.

Description: Titan is the biggest natural shaft in the UK standing at 141m top to bottom. It was discovered in 1999 from below via Peak Cavern's Far Sump Extension and climbed to a point close to the surface. A shakehole above was identified as a natural top entrance and a massive digging project began, finally connecting in 2003. The shaft connects to Peak Cavern, Speedwell Cavern and James Hall's Over Engine Mine (J.H.) making it part of the most extensive cave system in Derbyshire. It is described in detail in its own separate guide.

Surveys: Plan included within the main Peak Speedwell survey published by JS Beck, available from Hitch n Hike.

Treak Cliff Cavern (show cave)

Bottom Entrance: Grid Ref: SK 13604 83142 (GPS), Alt: 285m.
Upper Entrance: Grid Ref: SK 13574 83100 (cap), Alt: 310m.
Length: 300m+.

Access: There is no access to this cave for cavers.

Description: This is the best decorated of Castleton's show caves.

Surveys: Limestones & Caves of the Peak District (p323), TD Ford 1977.

Windy Knoll Cave

Grid Ref: SK 12657 83018 (GPS), Alt: 410m.
Length: 38m.

Access: No known access restrictions.

Description: Windy Knoll is a major speleological feature. The low wide entrance drops down a slope into a section of very big passage which terminates in a mud and boulder choke. It would not be unreasonable to suggest that perhaps this cave is associated with the high level fossil passages of the Peak-Speedwell System. It could even be the exposed, upstream end of the White River Series. In March 2005 freeze-thaw action got the better of the wide entrance causing a major collapse (1). The cave is still accessible but beware!

Ref: 1). www.PeakDistrictCaving.info, Caving News, Mar. 2005.

Other: Caves of the Peak District, D Gill & J Beck 1991 p106.

Winnats Head Cave

Grid Ref: SK 13155 82825 (GPS), Alt: 390m.
Length: 600m+, Depth: 150m.

Access: Call at Winnats Head Farm for permission.

Description: This major cave will be described in its own dedicated guide in the near future. In brief:- A low descending crawl leads to a small chamber and a squeeze down over a block. The continuing crawl soon enlarges into a large flat roofed chamber floored with big boulders. A large low passage to the left is soon choked. In the floor of the chamber, close to the point of entry, a well worn route down through a massive choke via a number of squeezes, climbs and mid-choke chambers reaches a drop down to the head of Cornwall Avenue. This large steeply descending passage soon enters the impressive Fox Chamber. A route down through the massive choke in the floor finally breaks into the side of some major vertical development with multiple pitches up and down. Down finally reaches a sump which has been dived to a choke at 12m depth.

Surveys: Published by JS Beck, available from Hitch n Hike.

Caves of the Peak District (p105), DW Gill & JS Beck 1991.

Other: CCPC Rigging Guide, available from Hitch n Hike.

Selected Caves of Britain & Ireland (p138).

Caves of the Peak District (p105-108), D Gill & J Beck 1991.

Classic Caves of the Peak District (p95-100), I Barker 1997.

Descent: Descent #47 (p15-16) Jan./Feb. 1981.

Descent#54 (p16) Aug. 1983 (collapse).

CDG NL: #86 (p8) Jan. 1988 (sump below Fox Chamber).

#91 (p19) Apr. 1989 (Sump II / Terminal Sump).

#105 (p31) Oct. 1992 (sump below Fox Chamber).

#116 (p27) Jul. 1995 (Sump 1 /sump below Fox Chamber)

Winnats Level

Grid Ref: SK 13354 82776 (GPS), Alt: 347m.
Length: 30m.

Access: No known restrictions.

Description: The entrance is on the North side of the road in the upper section of Winnats Pass, just next to an old gritstone pillar lying on its side. The level is 30m long, 1.5m high by 1m wide ending in a blank wall.

Description Notes:

Written: October / November 2006 by Shaun Puckering with assistance and contributions from John Cordingley, Dave Nixon, Malc Whitehead, Frag Last and Keith Joule.

Last updated: 1st April 2007, This edit: 1st April 2007

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Further reading:

- Caves of the Peak District, DW Gill & JS Beck 1991, ISBN 1-85568-034-3 (out of print).
- Classic Caves of the Peak District, Iain Barker 1997, ISBN 1-86126-058-X (out of print).
- Selected Caves of Britain & Ireland, Des Marshall & Donald Rust 1997, ISBN 1-871890-43-8.
- Peak Rigging Guide, published by Crew Climbing & Potholeing Club.
- Peak District Sump Index, R.L. Carter & J.N. Cordingley 1994, published by the Cave Diving Group.
- Rocks & Scenery of the Peak District, Trevor D. Ford 2006 ISBN 1-84306-026-4.
- Limestones and Caves of the Peak District , Trevor D Ford 1977, ISBN 0 86094 004 1 (paper) & 005 X (cloth) (out of print).
- Descent #132 (p8) Oct./Nov. 1996 (Eldon Hill Quarry)

Amendments and additions can be sent to:-

caveguides@peakdistrictcaving.info (any information regarding access or safety issues is automatically passed on to the Derbyshire Caving Association).

Abbreviations:

- GPS = Positional data derived from Global Positioning System.
- CAP = Positional data derived from calibrated aerial photograph.
- TBC = To be confirmed.
- CRoW = Site lies within a designated Countryside Rights of Way area. See the note at the end of this guide.
- CPD91 = Caves of the Peak District, DW Gill & JS Beck 1991, ISBN 1-85568-034-3 (out of print).
- CCPD97 = Classic Caves of the Peak District, Iain Barker 1997, ISBN 1-86126-058-X (out of print).

Clubs:

TSG = Technical Speleological Group
CDG = Cave Diving Group.
SUSS = Sheffield University Speleological Society.
CCPC = Crewe Climbing & Potholeing Club.
EPC = Eldon Pothole Club.
OCC = Orpheus Caving Club.

Notes:

CRoW: Some sites lie within a designated Countryside Rights of Way area so, in theory, there should be no restrictions with regard to general access. However, we advise the utmost respect towards the land and the land owner. It is worth remembering, sites within CRoW areas can be freely visited but legally there is nothing to stop an aggravated landowner freely visiting the site themselves and filling the entrance full of concrete..... Be considerate and respect their wishes!! (e.g. Thistle Pot).

WARNING!

Caving and exploring mines can be dangerous and fatal accidents can happen, especially if you are not sufficiently trained.

Anyone using this guide does so at their own risk while understanding and accepting that, although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the writers and/or contributors can not be held responsible for any outcome however linked to this text. Do not rely on this description as it may contain errors. Your safety and the safety of those around you is your own responsibility. The existence of this guide does not imply a right of access to the cave. An access agreement may or may not be in place with the land owner. Liability Insurance linked to a Landowner Indemnity Clause may be required.

CAVE RESCUE

In case of accident telephone 999 and ask for Cave Rescue.

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