

Car Pot

Weather: Strange, not one drop of water and mildly warm.

People present: Me, Chriss Kelly and Mike Skyrum.

A cave that requires perseverance and team work to sample the delights that lie below.

The three of us met up in Inglesport for a hearty breakfast before being Don joined us with his flatmate. They would not be coming with us, as they were doing there own trip to somewhere a bit easier.

Food consumed we set off, for the customary long walk up the hill. The sky this day was a very strange colour, not white nor grey no it was blue, we still do not know what strange weather phenomenon this was but we have been getting quite a bit of this of late. Anyway thanks to this strange weather condition it meant caves that we could not normally go in were fine.

So Car pot was a fine choice for the day. Mike volunteered to rig and immediately the restricted character of the cave showed it self. The first pitch was not tight but it was a rift like all the way down, the second pitch was more open but getting to it involved a rather awkward little manoeuvre, as a short downwards slanting crawl deposits you directly on the pitch head. I found it was best to tackle this feet first.

At the bottom of the pitch things get a little more interesting... A narrow slot led off, with a slight widening led through into slightly wider passage below. We all agreed to take our gear off and pass them through. Going down the slot was not too hard but it does require you to perform an interesting manoeuvre which is: Go in head first and slide along until your head and chest are beyond the slot before bringing your legs up. This allows you to stand in the small amount of passage above before you slithering down like a snake. It's best to remember this manoeuvre as you will have to do it reverse on the way out.

At the bottom there is just a small space to stack all the bags and people, it just about fits 3 but any more and it would be like a caving version of twister! Beyond the slight widening lay Baptistery crawl quite awkward and even more so with tackle but as it was a straight passage we set up a belay line for the bags and pulled them through one at a time.

After this there is room again just for three people to put gear back on and go through a slot which dumps you out over an exposed and awkward pitch head. Harder going back out Chris will tell you, there is a ledge you can use push off to get yourself back off the pitch head. It does have the side effect however and that side effect is that its a trap! A welly trap to be precise, a trap that Chris fell victim to on the way out, causing much swearing.

Below this pitch is a short traverse over a large drop. It is here the cave opens out and a fantastic drop of 15m drops you into a large passage, but this is short lived as another constricted pitch head leads onto the final drop. It is however another nice drop which drops down past several ledges and through a window



into a final deep shaft. This leads into large passage, the tightness of the passages above were almost forgotten, for some of us.

First we went north well Chriss and Mike did, I was not sure where they went so wandered up and down a bit before finding them. The North Craven passage has some fantastic formations but they were surpassed by those in the South Craven passage. The formations are protected further by a 6m loose climb (which thankfully had a rope on it) and some flat out solid muddy floored crawling passage. There were lots of roof straws and some nice calcited flooring, we did not explore too far as according to the guide book all the passages at the end at either small pitches or chokes.



Chris de-rigged the bottom pitch and I de-rigged the rest which was fun. I already mentioned the welley trap incident but also the slot was interesting as unless you are short and your legs bend backwards (I am one of those) then it is really quite difficult. It also needs pure arm strength so those weaker cavers best have someone behind them.

Out just before sunset. A fun and entertaining 7 hour trip but for some reason my companions did not want to repeat the trip any time soon? But its so nice!

