

VALLEY ENTRANCE – ROWTEN SUMPS

Free Diving!

Date: Saturday 27th June 2009

Well we met Dan at the lazy time of 11.45am, got some info from DR and then popped in Bernies for a brew. After this we made our way round to Kingsdale and got ourselves ready. With a few pictures at the entrance we made our way to the pitch and then on towards the Rowten sumps.

Reaching the first sump it was nice to see the other side due to water levels being low. So Dan swam through followed by me, brrghhhh cold! We were now both in the first air bell and looking at the next sump it looked wet. We sat there looking at it and sticking our heads under water to look at the way on but it was too murky to see very far. After a while Dan plucked up the guts and went for it and a few moments later I heard the faint woo hoo. I then turned my light out to see if I could see Dans light from the 2nd air bell, I could but I wasn't happy with going through so I just sat and waited. Not too long and I saw the sump flood with light and then a helmet appeared from the depths.

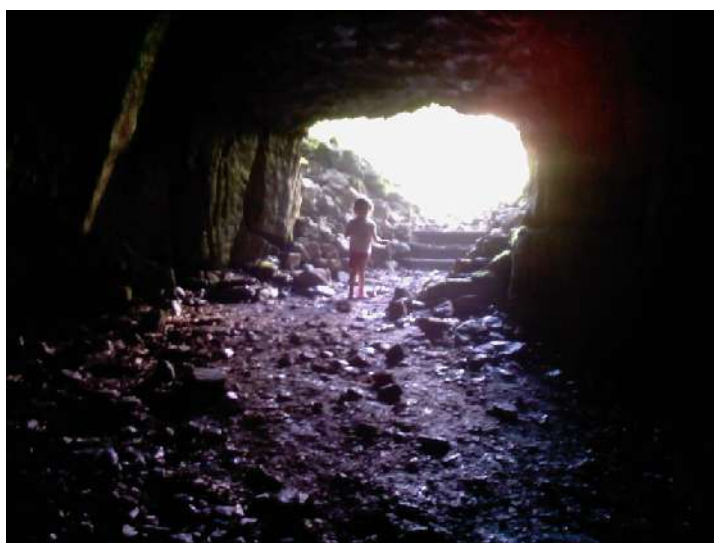


Dan was contemplating whether to do the third sump but I convinced him it was not safe on his own so we headed out with me doing the first sump twice more just to get the feel for not breathing and being cold. Quick progress to the entrance and back into the sunshine where Shelley, Violet and Hazel were waiting since the howling gale blowing out of the entrance was like air conditioning.

We then drove up to Yordas to get some pictures but Dans batteries had died so we headed on towards the Wheatsheaf for some refreshment and a bite to eat. Dan had half a cow!

Pete Dale

Photos – Dan Jackson



A [Black Rose Caving Club](#) trip report.