

YORDAS POT

Water Park

6th September 2008

People present - Alex Ritchie, Mike Skyrme, Roz Pilling, Chris Scaife

Weather: Heavy rain on and off. Weather Warnings in force nearby



Originally we had acquired a permit for White Scar Caves, however the rain put a stop for that so the the plan was to do Rift but after reading a description that the crawl became impassable when there is just moderate rain and considering the considerable amount of rain falling and forecasted to fall we decided it was probably a bad idea.

Ideas were shot around and each in turn was shot down for a different reasons so eventually we settled down on Yordas, rather than doing a through trip we decided a down and up trip would be better rather than a through trip to

make the trip a little longer. (We also didn't want to risk a pull through in-case water made things impassable). We took a 25 and 35 metres rope as the pitches were only small where the first pitch was around 20 metres and the second was a little smaller then that (We had a longer rope but it was decided we wouldn't need it).

We set off up to Kingsdale and as soon as we parked up, the heavens opened none of us felt like leaving the protection of the boots of our cars. But we managed to pluck up the will to enter the rain. We first popped into the old show cave bottom entrance to see if the trip was even possible.

The roar in there was tremendous and the amount of water coming down the waterfall was like an avalanche. We saw a deviation above us to avoid the waterfall so we decided to give it a go. We left the old Show Cave and climbed up the hill to the upper entrance to start the trip proper. The first pitch was passed with ease and the deviation was of course used which is well placed so you can wedge yourself in as you pass it. Landing in the washing machine of the lower chamber Chris and me waited for the others.

Chris went off to rig the next pitch down stream while I waited for Roz & Mike to descend. With everyone safely down we went through the crawl though there wasn't much crawling as the amount of water pushed us down the passage all we had to do was float. We had to traverse the last bit once the roof got higher for fear of being washed over the pitch.

Mike went to help Chris rig the traverse, there was many anchor points to rig much more then we thought and after the 6th or 7th anchor was rigged on the traverse, the realisation was made that the 35 metre rope wasn't going to make it all the way down the pitch. So Mike de-rigged again and we had to turn back.

Going back through the crawl was a lot harder than it was going downstream, especially towards the end where as you try to push through the last bit of crawl which is quite flat-out the water rushes over your head. Very disconcerting I was completely under water for about 10 seconds as my chest ascender decided to jam on the rock. With a tremendous push I pushed my way out and popped out at the bottom of the pitch.

We all got up the pitch again with no trouble and I did my first little bit of de-rigging (I de-rigged the deviation) and I didn't drop the crab despite how cold my hands were.

All out we headed off to the pub after our attempt with the view to try the traverse again some time when it was a bit dryer and of course bring the longer rope down the cave.

Alex Ritchie



Photos - Mike Skyrme

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