

# BAGSHAWE CAVERN

## Torne to the Black in the Peak

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Date : 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Present : Graham Hillary, Brian Hilton

Weather : cool and clear

Barry Hilton of Doncaster Torne Valley Caving Club and myself, decided to tread in the footsteps of our heroes, Duncan Jones And Pete Dale and their trip into Bagshaw Cavern 31st March 2001. Trip report follows.

Drive towards top of Bradwell, and 100 metres or so along Jeffrey Lane, turn left into a small parking area. Just below this is the stone coe with a coded entry door lock. Of course you will have applied for a permit from [amandarevell@hotmail.com](mailto:amandarevell@hotmail.com) anyway prior to entry and you will have the code. In the coe there is a sign in book and a fixed safe into which you can post your £2 each entry fee and onward entry to the cavern.

At the first junction at the bottom of the steps, one way is marked as "no entry", I don't think there is anything in this area that it would be put off limits, but the way on is sharp round to the left along the entrance passage, dug out to make passable for use as a show cave in the past, and electric light fittings are visible in many places, and with concrete underfoot. At a junction, ahead leads to Calypso Cave up man made steps. Left at the junction is the way on passing the Dungeon to the lower series (more later). Following the passage watch out for the Three Avens above you. The westerly most aven can be free climbed, but there is a scaffold bar in situ so a rope can be put in here once up. Crawls join the Three Avens, but they go nowhere. Again following the main passage, the Iron Gate to the New Series appears on the right. If the northern most passage is followed to the Hippodrome, the Snakes Pyjamas, the entrance to the Full Moon series on your right is obvious, with a rope traverse and an in situ chain helper. The Hippodrome is a large broken boulder chamber, leading southerly to Blackpool Sands which leads on to a junction where the left hand fork leads to sump one. The right hand fork can be followed for a way before it closes down. Northerly from the Hippodrome leads to Glory Hole. From the Hippodrome a passage parallel to the one taken to get there can be followed which joins back up with the first, heading back towards the Dungeon.

The Dungeon is the access to the Lower Series, the pitch is possibly about 5 or 6 metres, and is rigged for ladder, and has also been rigged recently for a stretcher rescue, which is ideal for SRT. The way on is through water, not sure if the small dry crawl goes anywhere. Follow passage to Prosperos Cave, where you will find a few pieces of old timber, angle iron and an abandoned wooden ladder, from here you can climb up to Straw Cave, which is also the dry way round the lake. Follow the main passage, for more water in the Lake. Beyond that the next point of interest is Agony Column, loose rocks make crawling "Agony" and there is a "column" of rock, from which there are two ways on, Left Hand Passage to Claustrophobia and Windy Passage, or the right hand passage to Far Drought Series, neither passage we followed very far on the day.

There is a route which avoids both the pitch in the Dungeon and the Lake, but I don't know where this is, but according to the 2001 trip report its fairly hard crawling and to be fair the short pitch and the Lake are part of the fun.

Graham Hillary

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