

EASTWATER

A fun and interesting place, akin to being on a mountain with a roof.

Date : 25th March 2013

Present : Chris Sharman, Alex Ritchie, Chris Scaife

Weather : the brass monkey was merely sobbing.

A fun little trip, good for those bruises in that they will become bigger bruises. We went in following the giant climbing frame that is a boulder choke treating the bit of string like a diving line all the way. The water was absent as it had all frozen on the surface making it a unusually dry entrance. We slipped in through a small hole at the top of the boulder choke to reach a large chamber finding signs on the other side telling us not to go the way we had come. Too late now.

We encountered a 45 degree sloping canyon passage that led us all the way down to the cross roads where after turning left we reached an 8m free climb (Dolphin pot) the bottom 3 meters being quite difficult. Shortly afterwards we reached a wide open 10m pitch. There was a ladder on the pitch which we had prior permission to use. Me and the Sharmanator climbed down the ladder un-aided, where as Scaife not sure on these funny metal things sort of abbed down.

We went down the 13 pots first unable to find the way on that did not end in a messy death, even-though we took the left passage where we were suppose to. Instead we opted to waste an hour or so exploring sloping, muddy, loose and sometimes tight passage that did not seem to go anywhere fast though there was a few straws in places, so we went back up the pitch and Dolphin pot. We then explored:

Big rift - Big and rifty.

First vertical - Not horizontal.

The traverses - Not much traversing. It was not traversing in the traditional sense more how well can you stick yourself to the tight slope and not slide back down again, or into the real tight bit at the bottom.

Primrose pot - Prickly preposition, no way was I going through that hole. If I had I would have fallen a mere 53 meters

Mortimers pot - Life of the party. We had no rope to descend it with.

A great day of Underground mountaineering (Scaife tm) almost the whole pot is on a slope and the day was mainly spent climbing and sliding and we barely got wet at all!

Alex Ritchie