

DERBYSHIRE CAVES.

Attached is a record of the trips made into various caves in the two areas of north Derbyshire of:

1. The Sparrowpit to Castleton area; including the swallets along the junction of the limestone and gritstones, the resurgence of Peak Cavern, and Oxlow caverns and Nettle Pot on the high limestone plateau.
2. The Great Hucklow to Stoney Middleton area; again this including the swallets at the junction of limestone and gritstone (notably Duce hole and Waterfall Swallet), and the caves in Middleton Dale and the Eyam Dale area principally Carleswark in Middleton dale.

The time period is approximately 1958 to 1963, and the records are copies of those made at the time and sent to the Recorder of the British Speleological Association in Settle, North Yorkshire. Comments made by the recorder, Mr Eli Simpson are also included.

Regrettably not all caving visits were recorded; in particular many down the recently opened up very large cave system in Giant's Hole above Castleton. Other caves explored but not recorded were Nettle Pot, Eldon Hole, Perryfoot Cave (where I was jammed by the accumulator on my belt in a tight crawl and Morley Forrester had to get me out) and Lathkill Head Cave.

Practically all the trips recorded involved working to extend or survey cave systems: the known caves are but a fragment of the total which must be still awaiting discovery. The most notable achievement was the break through made into the Carleswark System where a significant amount of new cavern was added, and recorded in the Associations publication "Cave Science" in 1962.

There was also an involvement with the tragic death of Neil Moss in peak cavern in March 1959. Some details of this including press reports at the time are attached.

Maps and some photographs are also attached.

Although outside this area, being in the Yorkshire limestone region, other caves descended were Gaping Ghyll (via Bar Pot), Hunt Pot, and Stump Cross Caverns. Although some photographs are attached the visits were not recorded.

Barry King

CAVE RECORDS

Coombs Dale (Fatigue Pot or Colliers Peril)

Late in 1957

E Pursehouse & two friends
B.King

Ernest Pursehouse, myself & two of his friends went to the cave on the right hand side of Coombs Dale, just past the dew pond, with a view to surveying the cave which myself & D.M.Forrester had previously visited. We got into the rift passage & surveyed about 120 feet past here in the "Bottom Crawl". We did not finish exploring.

December 1957

D.M.Forrester
B.Edey
B.King

At a later date, myself, M.Forrester & B.Edey visited the cave hoping to finish the crawl. Weather at this time was extremely cold with very thick frost & a strong warm air current was issuing from the cave mouth. We got past the limit of exploration of the previous visit but were stopped about 100 feet later by a lowering of the already low roof.

March 1958

N.Crosby
B.King
J.Wragg

Myself, J.Wragg & N.Crosby again entered the cave on a "pleasure" trip. Leaving Neil & Jackie in the bottom rift, I managed to get past the very low part & the passage continued in the same proportions. It was while continuing along this passage that the clamp on the accumulator packed up & I was forced to come back to the rift to repair it. We then left the cave.

Giant's Hole

(Date not supplied by Barry)

B.King
P.W.Crabtree
N.Crosby

Neil, Peter & myself arranged to meet some members of the Chesterfield Caving Club to have a meet with the object of taking the pump up to the upper series &, if there was time, to look at the aven between Base Camp Chamber & Garlands Pot. After much trouble the pump was hauled up to the Upper Passages, then everyone except Peter & myself left the cave & I managed to climb the aven & found myself in an abandoned passage, similar in dimensions to the entrance stream passage.

A subsequent exploration of this "Boss Aven" led to the discovery of a series of passages leading 160 feet above the stream canyon, & a large chamber full of curtains, flowstone & stalactites.

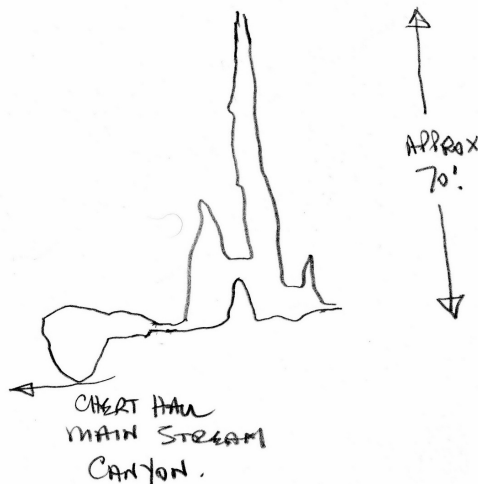
Giant's Hole

23 March 1958

B.King
N.Crosby
J.Wragg

Jackie, myself & Neil arrived at Whitelee Farm late, & when myself & Neil got inside the cave, Les, Pearce & Bob Toogood had baled the dams & gone through to Maggins Section.

Neil and I got to Chert Hall when we decided to have a look at the aven there which had never previously been climbed. When we got there I decided to have a go at climbing it, & after about an hour using back & foot methods got to the top of the vertical shaft only to find that its size diminished to about 6" x 2 foot about seventy feet up. It was evident that a large passage lies just beyond this constriction & judging from the amount of deposit that a large volume of water at one time fell down the pitch. The constriction may not be removed by hand methods & may have to be blasted.



Giant's Hole

1 June 1958

B.King
N.Crosby
B.Edey
L.B.Salmon
J.Childs

Dull morning when myself, Brian Edey & Neil Crosby set out for Giant's Hole by motor bike. We met Les Salmon off the Castleton bus & Neil took him to the entrance on his bike while Brian & myself were on my machine. We met John Childs at the entrance. The five of us baled the sump & went through to Chert Aven where Les & John carried on to look at some air currents in Maggins Section. The rest of the party got into Chert Aven & had some well earned provisions, then attempted to climb the aven. Unfortunately only myself could get up the aven, & when at the top I tried to force a way through the restriction, found that though the right hand side of the restriction was only consolidated rock & mud, the left side was immovable flowstone.

After terrorising Neil & Brian by dropping rocks, I gave the job up, to Mr. Crosby's relief, & descended. At this point we met Salmon & together we all left the cave.

It should be possible to remove the obstruction but it will need some hard work.

Giant's Hole

Sunday, July 13 1958

L.B.Salmon
P.W.Crabtree
B.King
N.Crosby
& others

On this meet the plan was to have two parties, one doing Giant's Hole, the other doing Oxbow Caverns. The Oxlow party was to put fluorescein into the East Sump & the Giant's party was to look for it reappearing in the Aven at the end of Poached Egg Passage.

Neil took two friends from work, & other people who came from different colleges, down to Chert Aven & back. Les, Peter Crabtree & myself set out along Oxlow Passage to look for the fluorescein which may come from Oxlow (some years later when the connection was made it transpired that the heights were wrong; the relevant section in Oxlow was below Giant's Hole).

After two & half hours of agonising crawling we arrived at the Aven at the end of Poached Egg Passage but no fluorescein was to be seen. We set off back again & got out of Giant's Hole about 06:45 pm.

Neil who was outside before then, told us of an accident in Oxlow so we went over there straight away. The weather was terrible, rain & high wind. Apparently "Flash" (David Gordon) had fallen in Pearl Chamber, & there were Cave Rescue, Police & Firemen attempting to get him out. They got him out about 9.00 pm. He fell off the ladder & luckily did no more than injure his knee.

The following week, me, Neil, Les, Toogood & Crabtree de-laddered Oxlow & found that the floor above Pearl Chamber i.e. Waterfall Chamber had collapsed during the week.

Giant's Hole

1958 01:30 - 6:30 pm

Present B.King P.Crabtree
 N.Crosby J.Randles
 M.Forrester H.Lord
 D.Hampshire R.Toogood
 Brenda ??

Myself & Morley got a lift to the cave with David Hampshire in his friend's Consul car.

We baled the siphon, had some food then I put an electron ladder on Boss Aven & myself, Crabtree, Hampshire, Brenda & Toogood ascended. Took three photos up there of two stalactite passages & then knocked the formations down. Toogood could not get through the tight section stopping further progress, but one can hear water coming down apparently another aven.

At this point Randles & Lord had left the cave & Morley said the sump had filled, so we left.

The trip was noteworthy in so much that Randles & Lord did no baling & apparently went down Garlands & then came straight out. At night myself & Neil went to a party at David Hampshire's house in Stocksbridge.

Guatries Hole

August 17, 1958 1:30 - 6:30 pm

B.King
B.Edey
P.Crabtree
N.Crosby

Myself & Brian Edey, recently repatriated, arranged to meet Peter Crabtree at Whitelee Farm & since we were on the bus, did in fact meet him at the terminus in Pond Street, Sheffield. We met Neil at Whitelee Farm (Perryfoot) as he had come out by motorbike.

On this occasion only Pete had been any distance in Guatries before, myself & Neil never having been in previously.

A beautiful sunny day, got changed & took my camera in its waterproof bag & rest of party carried 50 feet of rope ladder & a 60 foot belay & lifeline.

We looked all through the system which is generally low, wet & muddy. At the final pitch I took some photos whilst Pete had a look at an aven on one side of the chamber. This has probably never been climbed. It also looks as if there may be a "cat Hole" in the wall opposite the eyeholes that permit entry to the itch. If it is a passage it will be very difficult to get at.

We walked back to the farm past some interested people from a big car eating tea at the gate to the farm. "Flash" & a pal arrived later & myself & Brian walked back to Castleton & deposited a rope & ladder at Eric Savage's (tour guide at Peak Cavern) for next weeks Peak Cavern trip.

Got a lift back to Sheffield in a car which I never expected would get there.

Foolow

Sunday, 14 September 1958

B.King
D.M.Forrester

Myself & Morley set off to look at the swallets at Waterfall Farm, Foolow.

We surveyed the large Waterfall Swallet, & Morley noticed another large depression surrounded by trees nearby.

We examined this & found a small stream disappearing down a swallet which was a tube about 1 foot square. We surveyed the place & decided to come back the following week with Brian Edey to open the entrance. This is the "Pippin" Swallet.

REMARKS:

Eli Simpson (Cymmie), the founder member & recorder of the British Speleological Association, sent me the following quote :

"HISTORY OF EYAM - W.WOOD 1848. P9. The Pippin at the East end of the village, is a swallow: the Waterfall at the West end, is another of a larger kind. The water of these two swallows issues forth to the surface at the Gael s Wark in Middleton Dale; a distance from the swallow of two miles."

Giant's Hole & Foolow Swallets

Sunday, 21 September 1958

B.King
B.Edey
D.M.Forrester

Myself & Brian got up at 06:00 am & walked to Giant's Hole & released the dams which we had been informed were full. Les, Peter Crabtree & Toogood intended doing a trip to Giant's that day & needed empty dams to be able to bale out the sump water, allowing access to Garlands Pot & the rest of the cave.

Brian, Morley & myself then caught the Foolow bus from Sparrowpit & went to dig at "Pippin" Swallet but unfortunately the farmer refused us permission.

Carleswark

Sunday, 28 September 1958

B.King
D.M.Forrester
B.Edey
L.B.Salmon
& others

Today was the General Meet at Carleswark. Brian, Morley & I arrived at the entrance about 12-0 midday & no sign of Salmon & Co. Waited around a bit & got changed. Peter Sandall arrived & then Geoff Salmon. Neither was going underground. Two young lads arrived & said that Ron Mottershead had sent them. So we took them in.

At Naughts & Crosses Chamber we started surveying & found Les & one or two more people hammering at the choked N.E. Passage. Morley gave Les a hand & eventually Les managed to get through the choke, but the way is still unsafe. After much labour it was decided to leave the passage until next week. There is a huge draught coming through the passage & heading straight out for the entrance.

I have since learned that the entrance passage sump has been dived on one occasion & that it led to an almost completely submerged passage (walk) which was not followed.

REMARKS:

A record of 1802 states that "a passage runs for one and a half miles, under the Church in Eyam towards Foolow", but gives no indication of where the passage commences.

An old man said that in his youth (about 1900) he remembers going through "Charleswark" & coming out near the cottages at the top of Eyam Dale. He also said that there was no sump in the entrance then - told to Ian at Stoney Middleton on 26 October 1958.

Carleswark

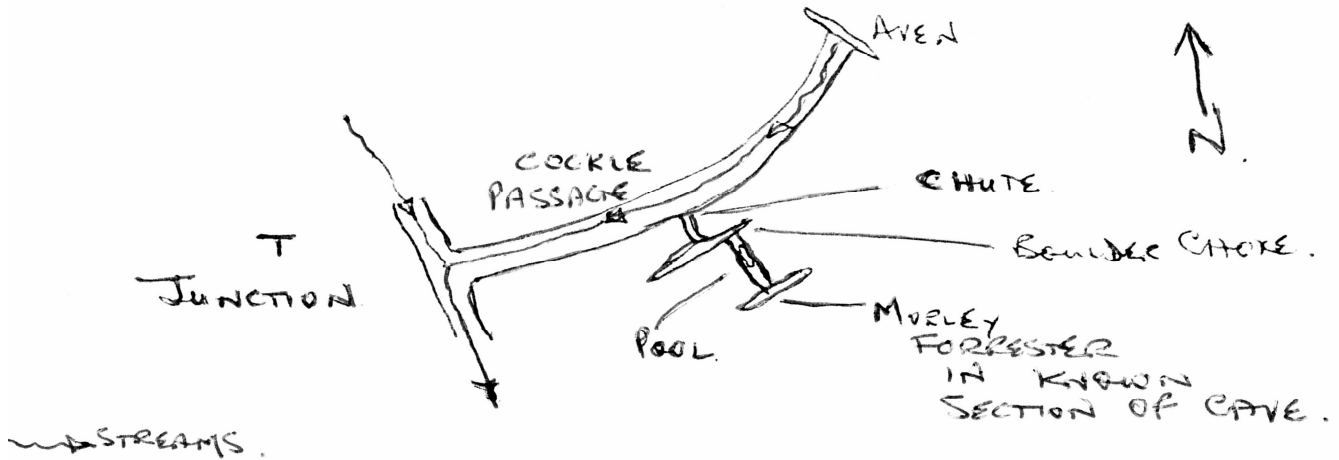
Sunday. 19 October 1958.

B.King
D.M.Forrester

Myself, Morley & Brian intended trying to pass the boulder choke in N.E. Passage Carleswark but unfortunately Brian had to catch an early train back to York.

Morley had not got his lamp so with my lamp & four stubs of candle we set off. After a bit of trouble at the Rift we got to the boulder choke & I elected to work first while Morley sat with the candles in the preceding rift.

After about 2 1/4 hours I managed to shift four boulders & dig out one wall sufficient to allow almost anybody through. I shouted to Morley that I was too exhausted to look at the new section which involved a tight crawl, but on looking down it I saw what appeared to be a chamber so did go on. The passages I saw were:



I got to the "T" junction, then came back & realised that I was utterly fatigued. Morley had to fetch the digging implements since I could not carry them. We at last arrived outside on our one light just as the evening of a beautiful day was approaching, & caught the 6:30 pm bus to Sheffield.

The following weekend Ken Pearce, Ian & Jacko "jumped" the passage while we were at Nettle Pot but neither passage went very far.

Carleswark

Sunday, 2 November 1958.

B.King L.B.Salmon
B.Edey G.Salmon
R.Toogood David ?

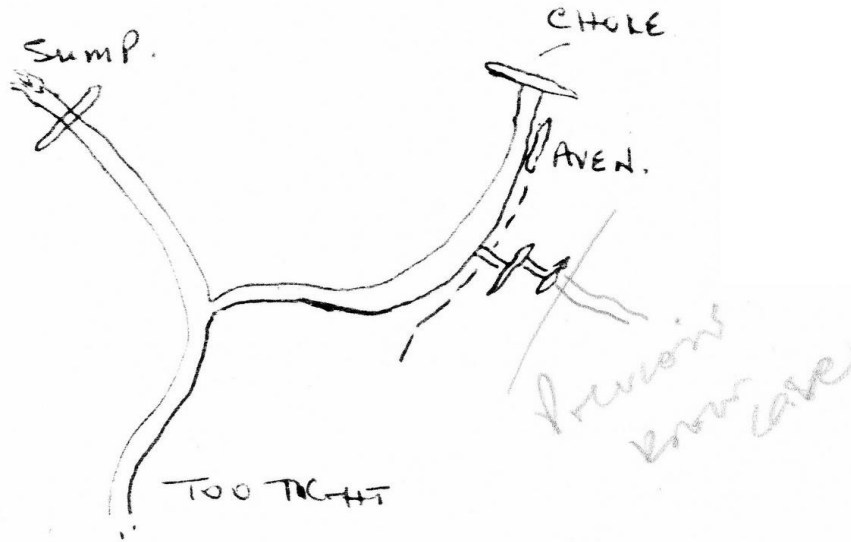
The 09:25 am bus took Brian & myself (Morley went to Church) to Calver & we walked to Carleswark. Here we found a lad called David who has apparently just joined B.S.A. We got changed (no sign of Salmon) & were about to go in the cave when Bob Toogood arrived. We waited for him & then went onto the cave & the new section & found the cave as sketched.

Toogood had a dig at the choke & I climbed the rift & began dropping loose boulders to Brian who levered them out of the way. Suddenly I heard the sound of water. Toogood said it was okay & that it came from his dig. However an amount of water suddenly started to come down the aven I was perched in. Needless to say we all vacated the new section pretty fast.

On reaching Naughts & Crosses Chamber we met Les, Geoff & Flash. Geoff came back out with us, & Les & Flash did not venture into the new series but did some surveying as a check on the original.

After getting changed, all of us went back to Stoney Middleton & had a cup of tea & caught the bus home.

Weather bad at this time. Had rained heavily Saturday & drizzled all day Sunday.



Digging At The Peak Swallets

The next stream but one above Little Bull Pit sinks amidst a huge rock fall - the rock having apparently fallen from a small cliff where the stream presumably enters the limestone. In this cliff face above the sink is a small cave which has a number of passages non of which go very far, all being filled with clay & the like.

Eli Simpson in Settle suggested digging big Bull Pit but Brian Edey & Morley found this trying (they dug on the Friday-14 Nov), & so we looked for a better spot. Brian was not impressed with Little Bull Pit.

We decided that the swallet above was a good bet.

Sunday, 16 November 1958 12:00 - 2:30 pm

B.King
D.M.Forrester

Morley & myself got to the swallet by motor bike & commenced digging using a hammer & trowel, hoping to follow the stream. We put about 2 hours digging in, & digging was not very rapid.

Sunday, 23 November 1958 12:00 - 3:30 pm

B.King
D.M.Forrester
B.Edey
J.Randles

The previous night myself, Brian & Morley stayed at Castleton Youth Hostel, & walked to the farm the following morning. We borrowed a pick & shovel from Alan Vernon, & with John Randles (who was sorting ladders at Whitelee Farm) did some digging. Peter Sandall arrived & all he did was criticise - he did no digging.

Brian had to leave about 1:30 pm (going back to York), & John Randles took him.

Meanwhile Ken Pearce was digging at Perryfoot.

Weather terrible, it drizzled all day.

Carleswark

Sunday, 7 December 1958 11:30 - 3:30 pm

Bob Toogood & friend
B.Edey
B.King

On this occasion some of the University "shower" were at Carleswark. However we left them in Oyster Chamber & proceeded into the New Section. I had a look at the aven here but it does not go (too narrow) & Toogood's dig leaves a hole too small to pass. This is due to a boulder which has fallen from the roof & which I am sure can be passed.

Myself & Brian surveyed the New Section & Brian gave me a lift back home to Sheffield - he had taken me out.

This trip was interesting because the scallops in the New Series indicate that the former water flow was from the point where the small stream disappears, uphill & up Scallop Passage & also out of the New Section & up into the Main Passage via the Tube Passage.

On this occasion the weather outside was extremely cold & there was a terrific blast through into the New Series at the Pig Trough. We failed to find it in the New Series.

Carleswark

Sunday, 14 December 1958

D.M.Forrester
B.King

On the Saturday I had found a very interesting extract in Shorts "Mineral Waters" of 1734. This describes numerous passages in Bamforth Hole. It also confirmed the Carleswark to Eyamdale, & the Carleswark to Foolow system.

Morley & myself went to Carleswark & found the entrance to Bamforth Hole. We did not explore the entrance however since we were both "ill" after having a Christmas dinner at Wortley Hall the previous night.

We surveyed the mine entrance & the position from Carleswark.

Shorts account mentions a fossil roof in the "vast" system he explored in Bamforth Hole. We did in fact find two more beds of the fossil Gigantus Productus above the one which is the roof of Carleswark; the one directly above Carleswark being in the correct position to give a fossil roof in any system which may be behind Bamforth Hole.

Middleton Dale

Sunday, 28 December 1958

B.King	11:00 - 01:30 pm	Bamforth
D.M.Forrester	02:30 - 04:00 pm	Eyam
B.Edey	04:30 - 05:30 pm	Merlins Cave

We three arrived at Bamforth & set out to find the passages described by Short (Mineral Waters). We eventually came to a natural chamber with a passage on the right. This passage led to a crack near the surface(?). We surveyed the mined portion, & then put an electron ladder off the cliff to examine the natural entrance. This is a chocked fissure.

The shaft in Eyamdale was visited next & Brian life-lined myself & Morley down. We surveyed the passages but did not finish the natural crawl because Morley had to catch the 4.30 pm bus (which he missed). Conditions were humid outside & there was a draught down the shaft.

After missing the 4.30 bus to Sheffield we went to Merlins Cavern & surveyed about 200 feet of the entrance level & caverns. Roof here very unsafe & natural section small, but everything on a large scale.

Carleswark

Saturday, 7 February 1959 11:15 - 3:30 pm

B.King
B.Edey

Brian & myself entered Carleswark in the hope of passing the boulder blockage in the New Section.

We eventually arrived at the blockage armed with hammer, chisels & hacksaw, & took it in turns at bashing away at the boulder. After a great deal of labour we knocked off enough off the boulder to allow Brian to squeeze through. I could not get through.

Brian crawled past the boulder & the passage height immediately diminished into a bedding plane crawl with about a foot of undisturbed mud on the floor. After about 30 feet this broke into a passage at right angles. This passage was much larger, about 5 feet high & 8 feet wide. Brian saw this & then came back.

We left the hammer etc. behind in the passage & came out of the cave.

There was a very small draught blowing up the passage with the boulder choke which we called "Cockle Passage".

Carleswark

Sunday, 8 February 1959 01:00 - 05:00 pm

B.Edey
B.King
D.M.Forrester

Brian & myself entered the cave with the object of widening the passage at the boulder choke so that I could get through.

Morley had come with us to the entrance but had complications with his boots, so did not enter the cavern. Since Morley stayed outside, I borrowed his lamp: this being fortunate since my lamp needed charging, & Brian's went out completely before we reached Cockle Passage.

We arrived at the boulder & knocked off enough to allow me to get through. Brian had no lamp so he remained at the boulder while I carried on where he went the previous day.

The large passage he had entered I found was a side passage of an even larger passage about 10 feet square. This passage went at that height, approximately North, as far as I explored it (about 150 feet) & still continued. At its Southern end was a large Chamber which I did not enter.

There were some passages leading off which I did not explore. This large passage had many small stalactites in the roof & some beautiful large stalagmites on the floor. The floor had silt in places, & rounded pebbles & stones on the floor as if brought in by a powerful stream. We called it "Stalactite Passage".

Having had a further look round we left...

We may have entered part of the mythical system that is reputed to pass under Eyam Church.

Carleswark

Sunday, 15 February 1959 11:15 - 05:30 pm

B.King
B.Edey
D.M.Forrester

Having entered Carleswark we set off at a fair pace towards the boulder in Cockle Passage. It might be added that conditions here are appalling, the way under the boulder being very tight, & past the boulder, the already thick mud gets deeper forcing the explorer to "swim" in the thick black substance.

Between the three of us we took some tackle (food, surveying equipment) & we left this in the large passage which we had entered last week, whilst we further explored this passage.

The passage was about 5-6 feet high & 12 feet wide & we followed it downhill & to the right. On the left were two large side passages. After some distance we came to a large rift chamber, & passing through this we were again in the typical oval passage. At last we came to a point where this passage came abruptly to a fissure passage. From the bedding plane passage to the fissure passage entailed a climb down of about 12 feet over a "razor edge" flake of rock.

We followed the fissure passage & entered another fissure containing a water trap on the left. Continuing we followed the original fissure passage again & here came to a much larger, clear, blue, deep syphon. On the right was a partly submerged tube which we did not follow. We decided at this point to retrace our steps to Cockle Passage to start surveying, & in doing so had a look in one of the side passages to the right.

It was obvious that many parts of this passage had been built up, & we found a shot mark on one of the walls - & hence called it Dynamite Passage. We followed this passage for about 150 feet & then returned without getting to the end.

By this time we thought we had better get on with the survey & agreed to leave the side passages & survey Stalactite Passage, which we did. Where this passage dropped into the syphon rift B.K. decided to continue in the roof to see if there was an abandoned passage there. Sure enough there was a passage above the syphon.

Myself & Morley followed this passage (Aladdin Crawl) - Brian had knocked his knee - & after about 50 ft came to a bedding plane chamber half full of water. This chamber contains the most wonderful formations I have ever seen, with stalagmite islands & pillars, & long coloured stalactites. Beneath the water were beautiful cave formations reaching the surface. We had not the heart to continue through this. & so named it Aladdins Cave & retraced our steps though the passage continues beyond here.

We finished our survey at the lower syphon.

At the inlet end of Stalactite Passage we looked for any back continuation of the passage. The two large passages shown on the survey are silted. There is also a fair sized chamber here with many fallen rocks. This has no obvious side passage & coming through its roof are tree roots.

REMARKS:

Throughout this cave are formations in a profusion that I have never before seen. The roof itself is part of the Carleswark "Productus" bed of fossils but much more lovely & is adorned with a mass of stalactites, curtains & flowstone. The stalactites range from very delicate, transparent straws to huge things - one we found being about 2 ft long by 7 inch across.

In the large chamber which I described we found a beautiful nest of cave pearls, one of the pearls being about 1.5 inch across. This chamber half way down Stalactite passage we called "Pearl Chamber".

Beyond Pearl Chamber we found a long line of fantastic helictites, & at two places found crystals on the floor that none of us recognised. We also found some animal tracks just past Pearl Chamber which may be rats or rabbit.

It would appear that we have found the water source that resurged into the entrance syphon in Carleswark.

Carleswark

Sunday, 22 February 1959 02:00 - 08:40 pm

B.Edey
D.M.Forrester
B.King

On this occasion our object was to photograph some of the formations & to look at the inlets to Stalactite Passage in the hope of reaching some large cavern that we believe to lie on the West side of Eyamdale.

We entered Stalactite Passage & B.K. took a number of photographs in the passage. Things were not going so well because my light packed up soon after I had started photographing. However we carried on, & whilst myself & Morley were in Aladdins Section, Brian was digging at a silted passage off Pearl Chamber.

Myself & Morley got back to Brian, & with assistance he got through the squeeze but only found himself in a tall aven which tapered too small at the top. We abandoned this & found that of the two passages on the right returning, only one - Dynamite Passage - would "go" since the other was silted after only about four yards.

We left the surveying gear in Stalactite Passage & followed Dynamite Passage. After quite a distance the passage got low & crawling through a pool brought us abruptly into a larger passage with many rounded stones & rocks. We followed this passage forwards & the passage abruptly divided into two crawls which became too low. At this point there was the sound of a cascading stream which we could not reach but which appeared to come down a very narrow fissure on the right.

Retracing our steps we climbed into a fairly big chamber on the right (going in) which had a tall, wide, fissure passage leading off. This soon lowered & ended at a choke. On the right was a crawl with many broken stalactites which led to another small fissure.

We were making our way back to Stalactite Passage when we noticed a passage which we had missed (on the left). We followed this, across another large fissure & to another choke. At this point Brian's light also packed up. We had intended surveying these passages but had not enough lights, so we had to leave.

REMARKS:

The passages that fed Carleswark & Stalactite Passage are associated with Eyamdale & we may have come to a full stop here for some time. The passages show extensive evidence of mining activity with shot marks, built up walls & set timber. We appear to be in the vicinity of Merlins Vein.

Carleswark

Sunday, 8 March 1959 11:00 - 05:00 pm

B.King
B.Edey
D.M.Forrester

On this occasion it was apparent that Morley had stomach trouble. In view of this he did well to accompany us & played a very useful part.

Our first objective on reaching Cockle Passage was an attack on the almost completely silted bedding plane crawl on the Western end of Cockle Passage. We tried removing mud with our hands at first but soon realised that this would not take us very far. Besides, the liquid mud kept running back into the channel we were digging.

We abandoned this & whilst Morley got some soup going at the head of Stalactite Passage, myself & Brian set off to follow & survey Aladdin Crawl. This we did, but found that the passage completely silted after about 80 ft, however maintaining the same magnificent quality of formation.

We returned to Morley: had some food, & then started to survey Dynamite Passage whilst Morley began to take some tackle into old Carleswark. Brian & myself had not time to complete the survey of this section since he had to be in York the same evening.

Carleswark

Sunday, 15 March 1959 09:30 - 02:00 pm

B.King
B.Edey
D.M.Forrester

On reaching Cockle Passage Brian & Morley went left to the "T" junction & I went through to the head of Stalactite Passage & got the shovel & a notebook with some survey that I had left the previous week.

We had a go at digging the big silted passage but could make no headway since the liquid mud merely flowed back onto the channel which we were digging.

Since this was the last trip before the discovery was to be announced I took the precaution of hiding our food etc. at the head of Stalactite Passage.

Carleswark

Sunday, 5 April 1959 10:30 - 04:30 pm

B.King
B.Edey
N.Crosby
R.Toogood

On this occasion I took Neil & Bob round the new discovery while Brian took some tackle up Dynamite Passage. When we got to him he had added about 10 ft to this & came to the pool which is presumed to be the same one which we found in the break through last November. We had some grub in the large chamber off Dynamite Passage & took it in turns to try to prise out the two boulders blocking the way forward. After a time there was enough room to allow head & shoulders through & it was seen that the boulders blocked a thin fissure too narrow to enter. Water could be heard in the distance up the fissure.

Robert followed the half submerged tube near the far end of the entrance syphon, but it went about 15 ft before coming to a rock wall. Sudden movement & the production of waves produces a huge booming sound both here & in the large syphon with which it is presumed to connect - possible indications of a chamber?

Merlins Cavern

Sunday, 12 April 1959 11:00 - 02:30 pm

B.King
B.Edey
R.Toogood

The intention of this trip was a thorough survey of the system to see if there was a possible connection from here to the mined section of Dynamite Passage in Carleswark.

We surveyed every passage in Merlins but came to a point where two pitches in the worked vein led to levels about 60 ft below, & having neither rope nor ladder with us we could not follow these. However Bob Toogood said that he noticed a draught flowing down the further shaft from the entrance.

The shafts probably connect at the bottom & are situated on the North side of the workings about 400 ft from Dynamite Passage in Carleswark. Bob Toogood had noticed a draught going down one shaft & myself & Brian Edey both noticed a very steady current of air entering the cavern at about 40 ft from the entrance. Weather outside was very warm & sunny & cave air should be dropping to a lower outlet.

Carleswark & Eyamdale Shaft

Sunday, 19 April 1959 12:00 - 04:15 pm

B.King R.Cook J.Randles & friend
B.Edey A.Breeze M.Randles
R.Toogood P.Crabtree

The idea in this case was for John Randles, his wife, a friend & Peter Crabtree to do a pleasure trip in the newly discovered cavern in Carleswark.

Brian Edey & myself would do some work of our own whilst they did this by trying to establish the connection which was presumed between the shaft in Eyamdale & the mined section in Carleswark. We arranged to do this by having someone - Brian - in the mined section, & myself down the shaft & shouting to see if a connection could be made in this way. A more accurate position of the shaft I had obtained showed this shaft to overlie on the mined section.

At exactly 01:00pm myself, R.Cook, A.Breeze & R.Toogood descended the shaft. I was the last down with A.Breeze & we heard faint shouting coming from beneath our feet - Brian in Carleswark.

Myself & R.Cook started deepening the shaft & eventually got to a point where we could see Brian about 6 ft below. We continued digging but had not time to open it sufficiently to allow anyone through.

COMMENT:

Any ore mined in Carleswark adjacent to the shaft could be brought to the surface here. The position of the shaft is not at the terminal of the three worked passages, & it seems from the survey that these should connect with the large chamber present in the shaft.

Carleswark (Eyamdale Shaft)

Sunday, 26 April 1959 11:00 - 04:00 pm

B.King
B.Edey
D.M.Forrester

We all descended the shaft & commenced to deepen the existing hole. Boulders, earth etc we put on the side of the shaft where a side passage leads to the chamber.

We had hoped to break through today but as the hole got deeper so it became much more difficult to get the stones etc. out.

At 4.00. we called it a day.

Carleswark (Eyamdale Shaft)

Monday, 27 April 1959 10:30 - 04:00 pm

B.King
B.Edey

Today we had a really good go at clearing the shaft. It soon became obvious that the miners had never gone through this section: the connection here being via one of the many small avens that are so common in Carleswark. Removing material involved going into the hole upside down - not very nice. After some time it became obvious that it would have to be cleared from the inside. This being the case we stemped one side up to prevent stones rolling into the shaft again & looked round the large chamber for any draughts. There certainly are draughts in this chamber but we could not find the origin.

Carleswark

Sunday, 3 May 1959 11:00 - 04:00 pm

B.Edey
D.M.Forrester
B.King

We entered the cavern hoping to have a big assault on the silted passage whose waters fed Cockle Passage - subsequently called "Big Dig".

On the way to here we had a look at the connection with the shaft to see if we could easily clear the rubble. It looks as if we will need a full day to do it, but there seems no reason why it cannot be done from the inside.

After a previous trip we had left the shovel, crowbar etc. in Cockle Passage, so we collected these & used the shovel to deepen & widen the small stream bed in the mass of clay at the dig. This method was highly successful at first & we progressed about 12 ft. forward making a nice, fairly big passage. Digging here involves lying in the stream & getting rid of the mud by passing it back from hand to hand.

After about 1.5 hours lying in this we stopped digging for the day since the water was damming up before us, & unfortunately some water started coming in through our exposure suits.

REMARKS:

Prospects very good here & we may get through in the next trip or very soon.

Carleswark

Sunday, 17 May 1959 01:30 - 04:30 pm

B.King
B.Edey
L.B.Salmon
K.Hurst & friend
E.Pursehouse

A good start was made & B.King & B.Edey spent the day digging at the Eyamdale connection, whilst the rest of the party had a look round the new part.

Some success was obtained by the diggers insomuch that the shaft connection was opened further by the collapse of several lots of material which were then cleared from the bottom. The collapse was obtained by dislodging boulders with an iron bar from underneath.

The other party had a look round the new part & Les Salmon noticed that the large syphon was in fact lower than the half submerged passage, giving opportunity in the future for some baling here to ascertain the cause of the booming sound which we had noted on an earlier trip.

Les also looked at our silt dig & he noticed a faint draught coming from it - a promising dig.

Carleswark & Eyamdale Shaft

Sunday, 31 May 1959 11:00 - 05:40 pm

B.King
B.Edey
D.M.Forrester
L.B.Salmon
K.Hurst
P.Smith
P.Sandall

At 11.0am, B.King, B.Edey, D.M Forrester & L.B.Salmon commenced removing large, dead tree trunks which were blocking part of the Eyamdale shaft bottom & which were on that part of the shaft which had collapsed due to our digging inside on the last Carleswark trip.

Ken Hurst & Peter Smith then arrived & together we cleared the shaft of these dead trunks with the exception of one very large one which we could not get out.

In view of the fairly large party, it was decided that a party should dig inside the cave & another party continue to deepen the shaft.

B.King, B.Edey & P.Smith then entered Carleswark in Middleton Dale & got to the continuation of the shaft under Eyamdale.

The team in the shaft itself, consisting of L.B.Salmon, D.M.Forrester & K.Hurst did a good job & managed to use the huge tree stump that we could not remove as a massive stemple. P.Sandall arrived some time in the afternoon & helped from the surface in moving the tree trunk to its position as a stemple. It became increasingly obvious that the party in the shaft could not do much to deepen the hole which was too deep & too narrow.

Meanwhile the party inside Carleswark were prodding the rocks, causing collapse, & removing the debris.

At about 05:30 pm, after much hard work, B.King, B.Edey & P.Smith emerged from Carleswark into the sunshine, via the shaft in Eyamdale.

REMARKS:

Both parties did a good job of work & the round trip from Carleswark to Eyamdale has been completed for the first time in - how many years?

The sides of the continuation of the shaft (about 9 ft) are unstable & will require to be made safer. Les Salmon passed the opinion that the shaft was natural, & probably took a stream that was flowing down Eyamdale at about 20ft. above its present level - a thing we had suspected but were not sure about.

During the work the party in the shaft had to pack rubble inside the connection to the chamber leading from the shaft, & so this is now sealed off.

Eyamdale Shaft & Merlins Cave

Thursday, 6 August 1959 01:00 - 04:00 pm

B.King
B.Edey
N.Crosby

We all three entered the chamber at the bottom of the Eyamdale Shaft, via the shaft itself.

Brian & myself then surveyed the two small passages leading out of the chamber & ending at a calcite choke. The sides of the entrance shaft at the deepened portion have collapsed further & it is impossible to see the lower Carleswark passage.

Brian & myself then went into Merlins Cave to examine the shafts, with a view to entering Carleswark from here. Both of us descended the shaft nearer the entrance, & I descended the further one alone. Neither showed any continuation at the bottom, though the further one appears to have a lower level beneath it which I could not enter.

We surveyed both shafts.

There were no draughts present.

Carleswark

Sunday, 9 August 1959 11:00 - 03:00 pm

B.King
B.Edey
N.Crosby

The three of us made speedy progress to the large silt dig that has occupied us for some time now (Big Dig).

On arriving there we observed that the small stream flowing through here had dried up during the fairly dry weather, & we were able to see the good work that Les Salmon & company did before us.

We worked here for some time, deepening the passage, & dug through to the part where Salmon apparently got to on the previous trip, where the roof heightens for about 20 ft & then lowers again - very disappointing.

On this occasion there was quite a strong draught blowing from the passage - cold cave air coming from a higher entrance.

REMARKS:

Very promising, strong draught, possibly coming from Merlins Rake; & we are within easy distance of the vein from here.

Carleswark

Sunday, 15 August 1959 04:30 - 07:30 pm

B.King
B.Edey
M.Foster

We set off in the hope of doing some good work at "Big Dig" - the big silt dig.

Our plans were to clear enough of the floor passage to allow the stream to flow down a small hole on the right hand side of the passage. At the moment there is no stream flowing down the passage due to the extensive drought.

After a while we began to have lighting trouble, & left about an hour after starting digging.

Outside we met Neil Crosby & Morley Forrester & went to the Miners Arms in the village for some liquid refreshment.

Duce Hole

Sunday, 20 September 1959.

B.King
N.Crosby

Duce Hole is an active swallet situated at the hamlet of Grindlow; itself being adjacent to the village of Great Hucklow. The stream is short, rising on the gritstones & going underground upon reaching the limestone to the South between a farm which was farmed by the Ollerenshaws, & a cottage owned by a retired mathematician, a Mr D.A.Young.

Neil & myself visited Mr. Young the owner of the land upon which Duce Hole is situated.

The swallet actually consists of two holes fed by separate streams, & both within 30ft of each other. One hole is open, the other is a kind of vertical culvert & is more or less chocked.

Even in this drought, the open hole is taking a stream - only a small thing at this time - about the same size as the stream entering Giant's Hole at the moment.

No draught from the hole, or into it.

Apparently the Stoke Potholing Club is interested but we may have prior option to them.

Carleswark

Sunday, 27 September 1959 11:00 - 05:00 pm

B.King
B.Edey
N.Crosby
M.Clarke
K.Crooks

All five members of the party arrived at Cockle Passage & at this point B.Edey & M.Clarke went into Stalactite Passage to look at the condition of the low syphon & the adjacent flooded passage, whilst the remaining three attacked the familiar silt dig.

During the drought the cave is the driest that I have ever known, & the silt at Big Dig was quite easy to remove. Unfortunately the roof & the top of the silt were now about 3 inches apart leaving no room to pack silt that had been removed. Whilst B.King filled a bag, N.Crosby & K.Crooks somehow managed to remove it further & find a packing space.

B.Edey & M.Clarke then arrived & announced several quite interesting things -

1. Brian thought he saw a roof passage off the top of Pearl Chamber.
2. There is a draught going over the lower syphon & it is possible to see a sand bank on the other side of the syphon pool.
3. Water in the adjacent flooded passage is very low - it is possible to advance approximately 100 ft more than previously. This passage is not natural & has shot marks in the walls farther on which indicate that the "old man" entered Stalactite Passage from the outside & blasted his way in along this passage.

Above the surface of the water is a draught which is flowing away from Stalactite Passage presumably to the surface.

REMARKS:

1. Downward flowing cave air was creating large draughts in Carleswark.
2. Cave air was leaving the cave via the Eyam Passage, the lower syphon, & its adjacent flooded passage.
3. The silt dig that we were digging could not possibly provide enough air to feed the three large outlets with draughts. It is possible to see in the large silt dig (Big Dig) that the roof & the top of the mud are within less than an inch for a considerable distance - it was decided to abandon the dig.

The additional draughts must be fed from somewhere, possibly from the passage at the top of pearl Chamber, if it goes. Also the syphon requires to be crossed & the adjacent passage requires some work to ascertain its outlet.

Duce Hole

Sunday, 4 October 1959 11:00 - 05:00 pm

B.King
B.Edey
M Clarke
N.Crosby

When we arrived we were informed that the Stoke people had been digging here & found that what appeared to be an old stream course leading to the cave was the junction of the limestone, & rock & silt debris. This was a shakehole, the bottom of which we enlarged until a very small chamber could be reached.

Enlargement further, after a great deal of time, was found to be impossible since it entailed removing large boulders which just would not go through what was apparently the entrance tunnel to the cave proper.

Later in the afternoon we realised that the only practical method of entering the rock stream passage was to remove a fair amount of silt from the entrance & dig into the small chamber from above.

With this in mind we went to see a local farmer (Mr Furness), who may let us move a boundary fence so that we may dig. He said that he would look at the situation.

Neil found a hole about 15 ft before the entrance which can take the stream - this may come in handy later.

Lying inside the chamber we had been working in, a pitch of some kind can be heard in the inaccessible regions further on.

Carleswark

Sunday, 11 October 1959 11:30 - 03:45 pm

B.King
B.Edey
D.M.Forrester
M.Clarke
E Pursehouse, & three friends.

The day prior to this trip I had heard from Les Salmon that he had received a letter from the Eldon Pothole Club, two members of which had gone through the flooded passage adjacent to the sump (thought to be the far side of the flooded passage at the end of the entrance passage) at the end of Stalactite Passage. They then came out at the ladder on the rift near the entrance.

Myself, Brian Edey, & Mike Clarke hence went through the sump going in, & surveyed it. It is a nice passage, semi flooded & with, after about 100 ft, shot marks pointing inwards, & apparently entirely artificial.

We met Morley Forrester, Ernest Pursehouse & company at Pearl Chamber after they had gone in the long way round via Cackle Passage.

We looked up Dynamite Section, & to our great delight found a powerful draught coming from a small hole at the bottom of the fissure off Dynamite Chamber. This small hole has a floor of calcite approximately 2 inches thick on mud. We called this tube D2 in subsequent notes. The tube is small, a few inches high & about 18 inches wide. This was obviously worth attacking in future.

Whilst we were in Pearl Chamber we looked into the roof for a high level passage, but there is none.

Carleswark & Nicker Grove Mine

Sunday, 25 October 1959 12:00 - 04:00 pm

B.King
B.Edey
M.Clarke

We were hampered due to the bus strike.

Mike & myself set off in Carleswark, intending to go through the entrance sump (Hippo Crawl). The flooded first 60ft. was easily passable, but we found that the rocks & mud in the following large fissure had dammed water up on the far side & it was impossible to pass except by diving. We did not attempt this.

On coming out we told Brian (who had been waiting for Neil Crosby) this, & we all went to Nicker Grove Mine in Eyam Delph. We explored & surveyed the top level, & found a large natural chamber half way along this level. There were three shafts off the level; one I climbed down went down about 25ft. & was apparently blocked. The other two shafts are deeper.

We found one passage which was almost completely blocked & this had an intermittent draught through it which blew in & then out of the hole. The survey shows this to be near the surface & it is probably caused by the wind outside.

REMARKS:

1. A good deal of the mine is natural & very old.
2. Appears to have been formed in the phreatic zone.
3. No evidence of any draughts that might lead anywhere.

Carleswark

1 November 1959 11:45 - 5:30 pm

B.King
B.Edey
M.Clarke
N.Crosby

On this trip we were hoping to remove the floor in D2 & follow the very strong draught there to its source.

D2 is the very low tube, leading from the fissure passage connected to Dynamite Chamber by a short crawl, on the North East side of Dynamite Chamber.

We agreed to work in turns, & myself & Mike to have first dig. Unfortunately we found after only 5 or 10 minutes that it was almost impossible to remove the calcite which covers the silt on the floor of the tube.

At this point Neil said that he had seen a shot mark in a rock in the tight piece at the continuation of the fissure passage from Dynamite Chamber.

As it turned out this was a peculiar mark on the rock. However, it made us pay attention to this section & we used the tools brought in for the assault on D2, here on the boulders blocking the continuation of the existing passage in Dynamite Chamber. This N.W. continuation of Dynamite Chamber as a narrow fissure passage we listed as D3.

After much hard work we ascertained that the passage (D3) would "go", but we could see no further than approximately 10 ft through the tight point. Through here it appeared to open into a larger passage, with a rock fall approximately 4 ft past the tight piece. We could not pass this constriction.

There was a slight draught issuing from the continuation of the passage (D3).

SUBSEQUENT REMARKS, 8.9.1993.

The low calcite slit (D2), was attacked by cavers in October 1970, the party being a combined BSA / LCC group. The calcite floor was shattered by the use of a paraffin fuelled flame gun - this has its drawbacks, the most severe is that so much oxygen is consumed by the flames that the user is likely to die of suffocation.

A series of upward rifts continues, finishing very close to the valley bottom (Eyamdale) or the road, adding approximately 300 ft horizontally & 65 ft vertically.

This is reported in an article by A.F.Devoto in the Bulletin of the British Speleological Association, published February 1972.

Carleswark

Sunday, 8 November 1959 11:30 - 05:15 pm

B.King N.Crosby
B.Edey D.M.Forrester
M.Clarke L.B.Salmon

NOTE: During the week previous to this trip ,I was told that the Orpheus Caving Club were claiming the breakthrough of the Eyamdale shaft into Carleswark, & that the Eldon Pothole Club had discovered 200 ft of cave at the big Waterfall Swallet near Foolow.

Made rather a speedy entry to Dynamite Chamber, & took in a large crowbar to supplement the existing tackle.

Arriving at the chamber we got a brew going, & took turns to try to make the squeeze past the two boulders blocking the rift at the N.W. continuation of Dynamite Chamber (D3) that we were working on last Sunday. This is well nigh impossible.

Several people, including Brian Edey, Les Salmon, & Mike Clarke attempted passage through the squeeze without success.

At 04:00 pm things were getting pretty desperate & we had made no headway whatsoever, When Brian stripped off down to jeans & sweater & attempted the crawl through again.

The attempt proved fruitful & Brian ascertained that the passage continued - a very gallant effort.

According to Brian the passage heightens immediately, but the way on is between a pile of rocks in the floor & the roof. At the top of this rubble slope, the passage continues as a smooth walled rift approximately 1 ft wide, & for a height at which the roof was not visible; though he could see that the passage widened considerably at about 20ft up. This passage continued for about 30 ft, then swung slowly to the right, & out of sight.

COMMENTS:

The passage that Brian has entered was passing air from the unknown regions into Dynamite section. At the same time the tube (D2) in the rift N.E. of dynamite chamber was passing air upwards into the unknown - so presumably was Big Dig (D1).

This passage may take us beyond the confines of Eyamdale (we are approximately 50 ft from the West wall of the valley), where we hope to meet large cavern again.

This fissure passage is only the second one of its type that we have found in the system.

Waterfall Swallet

Sunday, 15 November 1959.

B.King
B.Edey Taken round by John Needham of
M.Clarke the Eldon Pothole Club.
N.Crosby

Our party met John Needham who had asked the BSA for information concerning the geology of the area & also for guidance as to methods used in survey.

Waterfall swallet is a huge depression, possibly a collapsed chamber, with semi cliffs on all sides. As the name suggests the stream feeding the swallet enters the pot by falling over the cliff, but on reaching the floor of the basin sinks into mud which comprises the pothole floor.

The entrance passage opened by EPC is evidently a small overflow passage for waters which cannot be accommodated by the normal drainage in the floor of the basin.

The entrance is about one third up the wall of the basin & is exceedingly low, with a minimum height of about 10 inches.

We followed it into a system of near vertical fissures, & survey was carried out to a depth of approximately 65 ft, the survey itself being a slow job due to the numerous rock falls & peculiar offshoot rifts.

At approximately half way to the bottom, the survey was abandoned & Mike Clarke, John Needham, & B.King proceeded to the bottom to see the water which had not been encountered earlier (presumably due to the drought).

Brian Edey & Neil Crosby were left sitting at the top of a fissure which they could not climb down.

The stream (no doubt the surface swallet water) was encountered approximately 80 ft down at one point but fell away through a narrow fissure.

Proceeding to the bottom by another way the water was met here as an extremely heavy downpour coming in mainly at the end of another fissure, the opposite end of which contained a large chamber & a broad outcrop of the Gigantus bed of fossil which caps the passages in Carleswark.

Water evidently disappears at the bottom through three separate narrow (six inches wide) fissures.

COMMENTS:

After a short look round at the bottom of the system, myself & Mike got the impression that little attempt had been made to force the bottom & that any attempts would be soon rewarded, since passages adjacent to the water outlets at the bottom can be seen through boulder chokes.

At any rate these passages should be examined. A strong downward draught was evident in the entrance passage & in the vertical section.

Carleswark

Sunday, 22 November 1959 11:00 - 05:00 pm

B.King N.Crosby
B.Edey D.M.Forrester
M.Clarke G.Helliwell

The party proceeded to the new passage (D3) - the N.W.rift continuation of Dynamite Chamber - which we hoped to follow.

On arriving there, Mike, who was not wearing an exposure suit, disrobed as much as he could & made a laborious passage through the tight portion of the passage & arrived at the boulder fall that Brian Edey came to the previous fortnight.

He was able to ascertain that beyond this point the passage continued but rapidly became far too narrow ever to be followed (about 4 inches wide). The expansion of the passage in the roof also shut to approximately the same width. This passage - thin man way - was abandoned.

A careful scrutiny was made of all passages in the vicinity to see if anything had been overlooked - nothing. The only point of interest was that after an examination of the chamber with fallen blocks, a small, almost completely silted bedding passage was found with a very slight draught entering the system.

COMMENTS:

The now abandoned passage - thin man way - appears to be a washed out master joint, & does in fact extend for a fair distance both to the N.W. & the S.E. of Dynamite Chamber, but offers no hope of being followed.

As far as draughts go, the slit stopping progress to the N.E. of Dynamite Chamber (D2) has by far the biggest, but the hard calcite floor on mud needs to be removed. Arrangements are in hand for the beginning of an attack at this point.

Duce Hole

Sunday, 29 November 1959 12:00 - 05:00 pm

B.King
B.Edey
M.Clarke
T.W.Moore

The first hour or so was taken up by blocking the entrance passage of the stream which the farmer had asked us to do for the safety of his cattle.

The rest of the day was spent in starting the shaft which we hoped would break into the chamber at the point where the stream started its journey into the limestone proper.

By the end of the day this chamber could just be seen.

Duce Hole

Monday, 30 November 1959 11:30 - 05:00 pm

B.King
T.W.Moore

We spent the complete day digging a shaft 15 ft deep to connect with the chamber previously got into from the stream entrance.

The shaft was completed & the first of the boulders blocking the passage

Lying at the bottom of the hole & looking along where the stream disappears one can now see a pile of rocks in a passage about 3 ft square. In the roof above the boulders are three rows of stalactites up to 3 inches long.

About 10 ft down the passage is a monstrous boulder which has apparently fallen from the roof. It is hoped that this may not block the stream passage completely.

Duce Hole

Thursday, 3 December 1959 02:00 - 06:30 pm

B.King
T.W.Moore
M.Clarke

The morning was passed by putting up a decent fence around the now greatly enlarged hole. This was done well & the farmer should now have no fear of injury to his cattle.

After lunch the party spent its time dragging boulders from the entrance passage & attempting to knock off flakes of rock which prevented the boulders coming out.

By 5.30 pm a condition was reached whereby only one boulder was stopping progress down the passage, but at this time Mike Clarke had to leave in order to catch some transport to get back home to Doncaster.

Tom Moore & myself, by this time sensing victory, stayed down the hole, knocking pieces off the boulder. B.King then attempted to get through, & past the boulder found that the floor needed to be deepened slightly to get through.

The floor & sides of the constriction were attacked & fortunately are not so hard as the normal limestone; & pieces began to break off. At this point the two decided to leave the hole.

Unless it is raining hard next trip we shall certainly get through - a smaller man than either of the two big people working here could get through as it is now.

COMMENTS:

The constriction spoken of is between the very large fallen block & the left cave wall. By using a good light the continuation of the passage can clearly be seen.

A passage about 1 ft wide, & 4 ft high between the fallen block & the left wall of the cave - then past here an open stream passage approximately 2 ft high, & at least 2 ft wide for about 6 ft, & then a sort of window into blackness.

Water sounds extremely powerful here, & one can hear what is evidently a waterfall pitch, presumably starting at the window.

Mine Level at Bottom of Eyamdale

Sunday, 6 December 1959 11:30 - 12:15 pm

B.King M.Clarke
B.Edey N.Crosby

A very quick trip. The level was followed for a distance of approximately 200 ft when the way was seen to be blocked by a roof fall. Any attempt to remove boulders & get past would probably be accompanied by further roof falls. The passage was surveyed.

Comments:

According to a local man he had gone into Carleswark & come out here at the bottom of Eyam Delph.

The level has a very powerful draught entering it & going through the rocks at the roof fall.

Shot marks in the passage are pointing into the cliff for about the first 100ft, & then the direction of shot marks is reversed. The "Old Man" was evidently working outwards from a point under the cliff, & afterwards made a connection from the surface.

Plotting the level on the map it is seen that this level is in the next lead vein East of Merlins Vein, & there is an obvious connection with a level from the bottom of the Eyamdale Shaft. It appears that in the past there was a connection from Carleswark to Eyam Delph - the mans story may well be true.

Duce Hole

Sunday, 13 December 1959 11:30 - 05:30 pm

B.King M.Clarke
B.Edey D.M.Forrester

Neil Crosby came along but did not get changed.

An attempt was made to enlarge the constriction at the entrance, & to split the boulder preventing progress.

The difficult boulder made access to the passage impossible & we soon realised that the boulder would have to be removed. It cost many a bloody finger & 4 hours to remove that boulder.

Brian Edey then went through the tight section but stopped at another tight piece about 10 ft later (junction of the end of a massive boulder & the wall).

Mike Clarke then went through both tight pieces & reported himself to be at the top of a small pitch - he was at a slit in the cave floor - & could see water flowing beneath. The passage carrying the water was about 5 ft wide. Mike did not descend the pitch, but came back.

Morley Forrester & B.King then enlarged the first tight section & B.King tried the passage & found that he could get through.

Everything is now ready for an assault on the second squeeze & the pitch.

Duce Hole & Lumb Holes (Cressbrook Dale)

Sunday, 20 December 1959 11:00 - 01:00 pm

B.King M.Clarke
B.Edey N.Crosby
D.M.Forrester

Duce Hole

Heavy rain during the week had greatly increased the amount of water going into Duce Hole.

Brian & Mike went through & tried to enlarge the second blockage but conditions were appalling.

At 01:00 pm we abandoned it for the day.

Lumb Holes

We walked down to Cressbrook Dale into the deep valley, & had a look at the resurgence of Lumb Holes which is situated in a wild part of the valley, slightly above the valley bottom on the left.

There was a vast amount of water pouring out of the cave. The outlet stream passage has been lowered but of no apparent benefit as water is seen to be coming from a slit approximately 15 ft wide.

Duce Hole

Sunday, 27 December 1959 01:30 - 04:30 pm

B.King & B.Edey

A late start was made, & originally we expected a short trip to finish off the survey of Waterfall Swallet.

Heavy rain had fallen Christmas week & we expected Duce Hole being flooded. On looking there however we saw that there was less water than we expected.

It was decided that B.King should try to get to the top of the small pitch. He did this but found that the water was extremely unpleasant. Brian Edey then took his place inside, whilst B.King was outside & tried to get to the top of the slit. He could not get his body down it so started to try & remove some of the floor. After a few blows of the hammer part of the floor collapsed but he could not completely get rid of it into the space below.

B.King then took up position, removed that part of the floor & some more, & then went down the hole, asking Brian to stay by the entrance in case of accident.

Barry King found himself in a large passage approximately 10 ft high by 5 ft wide with numerous chert bands protruding from the cave walls, & the Duce water pouring in from above. Downstream the passage continued for about 60ft & then entered a large chamber with a large inlet run in on the left (presumably the other hole in the next field).

Beyond here the roof dropped suddenly giving a gap of about 8 inches between stream & roof.

Barry retraced his steps & went upstream where he was in a similar large passage until after a few yards another large chamber was reached, the passage ending just beyond here in a large choked (double) inlet.

Brian came down into the new passage & we removed some silt on the downstream side & followed the stream for about another 20ft, but again the roof lowered. At this point we could hear what sounded like a fairly large waterfall pitch close by..

We did not attempt to get through here but came back.

COMMENTS:

Hope to build a dam in one of the large sections to enable shingle to be moved from the floor without having the stream. By this method we should be able to advance further.

Duce Hole

Sunday, 3 January 1960 11:30 - 05:30 pm

B.King
B.Edey
D.M.Forrester
N.Crosby
G.Helliwell
R.Jackson

On this occasion we ferried some digging implements into the cave to allow us to remove the silt that is preventing progress to the presumed pitch (not an easy job to do because of the tight entrance section).

A dam was constructed in the large chamber Just before the silt dig so that any further silt deposition will occur before the dig. We hoped that this would also enable intermittent stoppage of water & thus make digging easier, but we could not make the dam completely watertight.

Half a metal drum was taken in & the digger filled this with gravel, then it was pulled into the chamber & then emptied.

We each had at least one attempt at digging. By damming up the water with one's body at the point of digging, & then letting the water go, it was found that the water crashed over the edge of a drop after about 4 seconds. The speed of the water was approximately 14 inches per second which means we have not very far to go. It can be seen that the roof rises slowly to approximately 7 inches high about 3 ft in front but the drop cannot be seen due to steam in the passage.

We did not reach the drop in the floor before we had to finish.

Duce Hole

Sunday, 10 January 1960 11:30 - 04:00 pm

B.King
B.Edey
M.Clarke
R.Jackson
D.M.Forrester
T.W.Moore

All the available time was spent digging forwards into the silt bed of the stream. Eventually a point was reached where a hole could be seen & a group of stones about 4 ft in front. We could not reach the hole.

Digging conditions lying flat out in the stream are terrible.

A friend of Mr Young (the retired owner of the cottage opposite - called "Withen View " - who had become our friend) by the name of Ken was staying at the cottage over the weekend. He asked us late in the afternoon to be taken down the cave, so we kitted him up & took him down.

Duce Hole, Waterfall Swallet, Pippin Swallet

Sunday, 24 January 1960

B.King
B.Edey
M.Clarke
D.M.Forrester
G.Helliwell
R.Jackson.

Duce Hole:

Far too much water entering the system to even contemplate entering the cave..

Waterfall Swallet:

However we did all (except Morley) get changed & walked in the pouring rain to Waterfall Swallet. The water in the basin was about 10 ft deep & rising at the amazing rate (because the basin is huge) of about 4 ft per hour.

Brian & Mike went part way into the entrance crawl but pools on the floor dissuaded them from going beyond half way - the pit was being filled from very powerful streams pouring over the edge.

Pippin Swallet:

We walked across & looked at Pippin Swallet. The hole on the West had backed up, & the hole on the East was taking a considerable overflow.

We all had some grub & walked to Bradwell in the rain, & had a look at the resurgence from Bagshawe Caverns which feeds the river here.

Duce Hole

Sunday, 31 January 1960.

M.Clarke 11:15 - 01:15 pm
D.Jackson
R.Toogood

B.King 02:00 - 05:30 pm
B.Edey

As may be seen two small parties were used - some people did not turn up due to the expectancy of flooding - there had been heavy rain the previous week.

Both parties attempted to push gravel down the passage in front. The first party used a home made "trowel" on a stick. The stick broke, so they went in on their backs & pushed with their feet, the stream carrying away the finer material.

The second party had borrowed a garden hoe & this was quite a good instrument. B.King found that he was tall enough to reach the "hole" in front with the end of the hoe whilst lying full length in the stream. We thus managed to lower the stream level by about one & a half inches. Enough material was shifted to allow fairly easy passage under a rock lip to the hole in the stream floor on the next trip.

Both parties got completely saturated & emerged somewhat the worse for wear.

During the whole time in the cave a continuous booming could be heard at the point of working.

Grindlow district

Friday, 5 February 1960

Brian Edey & Myself

Brian went out in the morning & had a look at a hole taking water in Knowles field on the Crosslow Vein. He found that this had very little prospects.

I arrived in the afternoon & we had a look at the land (Longdens) between Duce Hole & Waterfall Swallet. We found three swallets - two on Longdens land & one on Harrison's land.

Both those on Longden's land are very promising - the one on Harrison's land is not so good.

In the evening we walked over to Whitelee Farm at Perryfoot & collected 50 ft of ladder to take to Grindlow on the following Sunday. We were hoping to reach the "hole" which sounded like a waterfall in Duce Hole.

Duce Hole

Sunday, 7 February 1960 11:30 - 06:30 pm

B.King
B.Edey
D.M.Forrester
R.Jackson

(There was also a party at Waterfall Swallet, comprising:

M.Clarke
R.Toogood
T.W.Moore
B.Foster

According to my notes they were there from 01:00 - 04:30 pm & got lost in the cave)

At Duce Hole, B.King went in first & using a "home made" scoop managed to get through to the top of the "pitch". I used my hands & lowered the whole section leading to the part where the roof dropped, & allowed all the water to run off.

People then took turns at enlarging the passage & in particular the top of the hole. The hole dropped about 3 ft onto mud, & the water then ran away beneath what appeared to be the roof of the present passage in a hole just big enough for a medium sized rabbit - later the "roof" was found to be a flake of rock.

To cut short a long list of digging details the final work done was:-

1. Approximately 6 ft of silt & clay was removed in the hole. The whole of the silt removed from here (about 20 cu.ft) was dropped between wedged boulders into what was clearly a passage below.
2. It was apparent that this hole was not a pitch at all. What we were doing was removing the silt & boulders from a passage approx. 12 ft high. An interesting point was that we found pieces of pottery embedded in the silt to approx. 3 ft below the stream level.
3. When we left one could see what was apparently a large bedding passage (approx. 3 ft high & quite wide) developed beneath a thin chert band. This passage is about 4 ft below the point which we have reached, but the obstruction is now merely a couple of angular rocks.
4. We shall enter the new passage on the next trip. How far it goes is anyone's bet.

Duce Hole

Friday, 12 February 1960 11:30 pm - 03:00 am

B.King
M.Clarke
T.W.Moore

Got the last bus from Sheffield Pond Street bus station after night school to Grindlow. It was a beautiful moonlit night with approx. a foot of snow covering.

We had some supper in Young's cottage. He went to bed & we went down Duce.

Again opened my big mouth. We did not get through. We cleared the whole of the end section out except for one boulder which we could not move. The water was terribly cold - Tom Moore in particular had trouble with cold hands.

We went back to Sheffield on the first bus on the Saturday morning.

We decided to leave Duce for a fortnight to clear itself of the silt which we have dropped & which is causing problems.

Oxlow Caverns

Sunday, 14 February 1960 02:30 - 06:00 pm

B.King
B.Edey
R.Johnson
B.Foster
G.Helliwell
Eric ?

An uneventful trip except for the fact that we had a devil of a job getting the lid off the entrance shaft (placed there to avoid accidents on the moor) due to snow, & coming out I - & everyone else - have never been so cold.

On leaving we could not get the top entrance ladder off (iced up).

There was about a foot of snow & a hell of a wind.

We went down to the East Chamber only. Dick had to be hauled up all the pitches - he had promised us a pint each for this.

We took the tackle (except the entrance ladder) back to Whitelee Farm & had dinner there.

Waterfall Swallet

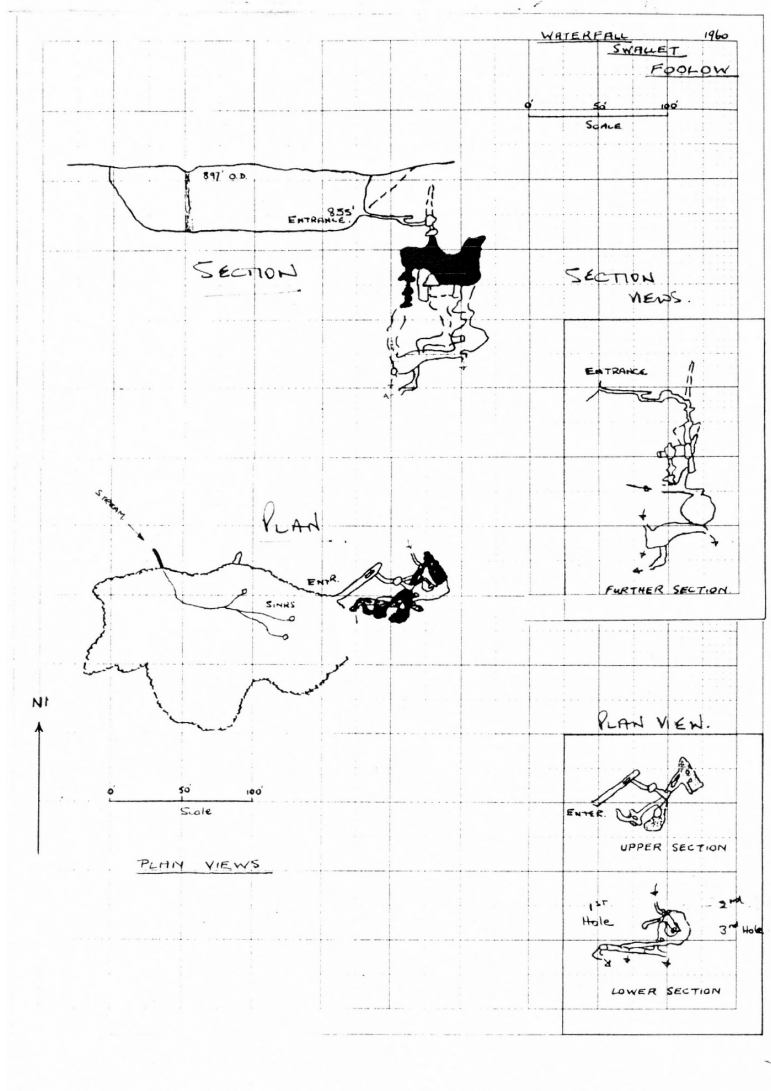
Sunday 21 February 1960 12:30 - 04:00 pm

B.King
B.Edey
M Clarke
R.Johnson
B.Foster

This was an uneventful trip, except that we as we went in we met John Needham of the Eldon Pothole Club & a friend of his who were coming out. They have finished with Waterfall Swallet & are working in Poole's Cavern at Buxton.

Brian Edey & myself were surveying the cave sections not yet done. We surveyed one of the ways to the bottom, & found that one of the passages which was blocked has a side passage behind it, but this in turn was blocked further on by a roof fall.

Dick found some detached stalactites & brought them out with him.



Duce Hole

Sunday, 28 February 1960

First Party 11:30 - 02:30 pm

B.King
D.M.Forrester
L.B.Salmon
Also R.Harris who only stayed 10 minutes.

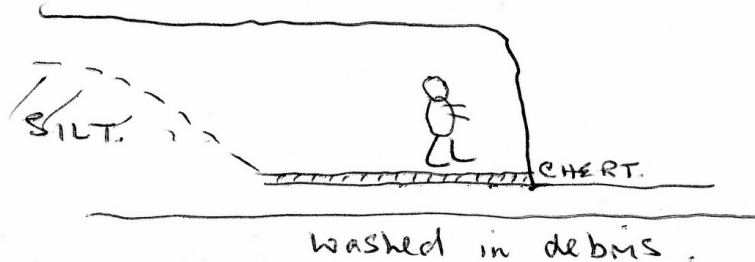
Second Party 02:30 - 06:30 pm

M.Clarke
B.Foster
R.Johnson

Eric ? also arrived but did not go down Duce.

The first party cleared out more of the end section, & nothing of importance occurred.

The second party finished off, & moved out the larger boulder. All ready now for breaking the chert band & into the bottom passage.



Duce Hole

Sunday, 6 March 1960

First Party 11:30 - 02:30 pm
M.Clarke
D.M.Forrester
B.Foster

Second Party 02.30 - 06.00 pm
B.King
B.Edey
R.Johnson

Very poor results today.

The first party managed to break off the chert band forming the roof of the new passage, & also cleared out some silt from here.

The second party removed silt from this new passage, & by various contortions under the water were able to see this passage "go" for approximately 8 ft with height from roof to floor approximately 5 inches.

The floor is of course shingle that we had dropped in...

We tried to stop further shingle washing in by putting boulders back, but it is pretty hopeless. We also managed to dam the stream up completely & divert water down a side tube on the North side where it reappeared adjacent to the new passage. I have no doubt that this dam will break at the slightest provocation.

Carleswark

Sunday, 13 March 1960 11:30 - 04:00 pm

B.King B.Foster
M.Clarke Ian ?
B.Edey R.Johnson
Eric ?

Myself & Mike Clarke did surveying. The two of us with Ian did a section of Carleswark to the far side of the entrance sump.

Nothing else achieved on the trip, except that Mike put some fluorescene in the stream at "Big Dig" on the way out & this went to the sump in about half an hour. It also appeared at the spring on the left going in, & also came through the sump main body.

When we came out we found that the bags had been pilfered. Garth lost his brand new boots, a pound note & a knife - two weeks later we heard that the stuff was at Bradwell Police Station - the thieves were found with the boots on Grindleford Station.

Unnamed Hole in Eyam Dale

Sunday, 20 March 1960

B.King
D.M.Forrester
M.Clarke
R.Johnson
B.Foster

We went to the entrance to the supposed connection with Eyam Church, in Eyam Dale.

After about half an hour broke through into a partly enlarged natural passage with broken formations & five pockets of beautiful cave pearls at the end of the passage. At the end of the passage was a beautiful clean shaft in the floor. Rocks dropped down here landed in water.

Sealed up the entrance & left - not enough ladder.

Unnamed Hole in Eyam Dale

Sunday, 27 March 1960 11:30 - 01:00 pm

B.King
B.Edey
M.Clarke
R.Johnson
B.Foster
Three members of the Rotherham Caving Club.

Completely futile trip.

Got to the shaft at the end of the entrance passage & dropped down a ladder. B.King descended. At 72 ft down the shaft went into water & continued beneath it.

Surveyed the hole & left.

It was rather funny later on. Brian Edey had arranged to get some "gelly" & detonators from a character called Arnold at the Miners Arms Pub in Eyam village. This Arnold worked in one of the nearby limestone quarries. We waited expectantly for him to arrive.

Like a scene from a Comic Opera, people were flitting around whispering about "gelly coming at 02:00 pm by motor bike". Needless to say it never arrived.

Waterfall Swallet

Sunday, 10 April 1960 12:00 - 04:00 pm

B.King
B.Edey
M.Clarke
B.Foster

A rapid descent was made & attempts made to find a passage which might carry the numerous trickles of streams through the cave.

The lowest point found in the cave, a narrow fissure, had been examined by Mike Clark previously. It carried no water then, but on this trip carried a nice deluge.

Brian Edey decided to have a closer look & found the water dropping through boulders in the floor. He removed some of these & found a tube beneath.

The hole was enlarged further by Mike & myself, but doing this meant that the person actually working was under an icy spout of water dropping about 6 feet.

The hole was opened up & revealed a fissure approximately 1 foot wide & 10 feet deep, with the water falling down it.

The party was too wet & cold to descend the fissure & so a boulder was placed over the top & we returned to the surface.

Duce Hole

Sunday, 24 April 1960 12:00 - 03:00 pm

B.King
B.Edey
R.Johnson
B.Foster
B.Harris

The day should have been devoted to pushing the new fissure in Waterfall Swallet. Unfortunately the farmer has refused access to the entrance, due he says to a large party being there over Easter.

This being the case, the party decided to open up an easier way into Duce by means of the upstream chamber, thus removing the very tight, wet, present entrance passage.

B.Foster & B.Harris went into Duce & looked at the bottom crawl which has barely altered.

After an afternoons digging at the surface a hole approximately 3 ft deep was opened up which took all the water from Duce.

Waterfall Swallet

?? May 1960 12:30 - 5:45 pm

B.King
M.Clarke
R.Johnson
B.Foster

Two lads on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

A descent to the fissure reached on the last trip to Waterfall was carried out. On arriving here it was seen that the rocks at the top of the fissure had gone, i.e. the fissure was now open.

B.Foster was the first to arrive here, & he

My record for this is incomplete.

We never did manage to find a way which could be followed through the mass of Fissures and boulders which comprises the whole of this system. As far as I am aware the cave has not been extended beyond the areas which we explored. The water goes to the Moorwood Sough in Stoney Middleton via a cavern opened up when the old miners were working the Crosslow Mine. One would expect extensive cave systems to connect Waterfall Swallet & the outflow, which prior to cutting of the Moorwood Sough was probably Middleton Dale.

Duce Hole

31 September 1961 11:30 - 03:30 pm

B.King
D.M.Forrester
M.Marsden
D.Hardisty
C.Lodge
"Garth"

The party entered Duce & D.M.Forrester & myself examined the furthest portion of the cave in the tight crawl. No water was being carried by this passage & it was seen that a narrow "window" was present approximately 5 ft beyond the farthest point that it was possible to crawl. It was impossible to see beyond this window & one could not ascertain the possibilities of the cavern opening beyond here.

Myself & Garth went to the upstream chamber & attempted to cause a collapse in the roof to enable easier entrance, but though several falls of rock occurred we could not affect a complete collapse.

FURTHER NOTE.

Morley Forrester & myself visited Mr Young at his cottage (Withen View, opposite Duce Hole on the other side of the lane) on the 24 December 1961, & the upstream roof had collapsed.

Editor's note: 31 September 1961 is not a valid date. As Barry did most of his caving on Sundays, it was probably 1 October 1961.

Duce Hole

7 January 1962 11:30 - 12:30 pm

B.King

I had a quick look down Duce Hole, entering by way of the recently collapsed hole in the field. A quite large amount of water was going through the cave but no backing up or obstruction to water flow was obtained throughout the length of the cave.

Duce Hole

Sunday, 4 February 1962 02:30 - 04:30 pm

B.King

D.M.Forrester

This was supposed to be an official British Speleological Association meeting, but nobody turned up.

The weather was not so good, in fact it drizzled all day.

At about 02:30 pm I almost forced Morley to go down the cave. He was somewhat reluctant.

Our original tight entrance has collapsed in the past month & so we set to work & really enlarged the new opening in the upstream chamber. Morley had not got his exposure suite, so he worked at the surface & I worked at the bottom of the hole in mine.

NOTE.

Cymmie (Eli Simpson, the recorder of the B.S.A.) died in hospital, presumably in Settle, on the previous Tuesday, 1 February, 1962.

Duce Hole

Sunday, 10 June 1962 11:30 - 04:30 pm

B.King
D.M.Forrester

We arrived at Young's cottage with the intention of taking a final look at the bottom section to see if we should abandon it, or recommence work.

We borrowed Young's "Pifco" torch & fastened it onto the end of a broom handle so that we could get a better look at the end passage.

I had first go, very uncomfortable, with barely enough room to move lying in the small stream, but the passage appears to have washed out well in the very wet Spring.

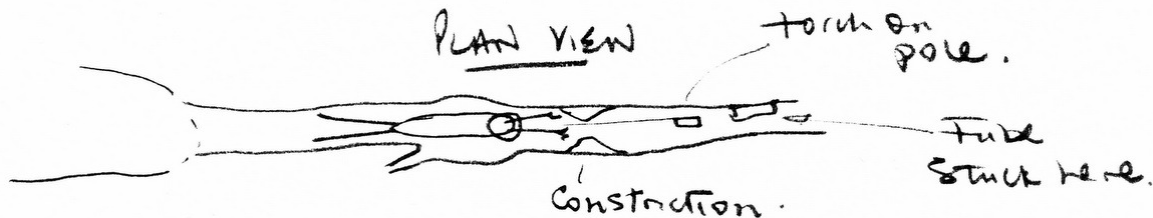
One of our drainage tubes has been washed to the end of the cave & it looks as though there may be reasonable prospects of pushing the cave further.

Morley also had a go & seemed very keen.

We came out, borrowed a small hammer from Young's coal shed to try to widen the passage. Both of us had a go & achieved limited success, in fact if either of us had been confident we could probably have gone straight through.

Morley had not brought his "nife" lamp. Mine soon ran out (being undercharged) & we ended up with two candles & Young's Pifco torch.

Both of us felt that the prospects were good.



Peak Cavern

Sunday, 17 June 1962 11:30 - 05:15 pm

Les Salmon
Terry Gillotte
Ken Hurst & friend
Bob Toogood
Brian Pickering
Harold Lord
Mike Clarke
Morley Forrester
Barry King

Morley & myself went to Hope on the 09.00 am train. It was a beautiful scorching sunny morning. We caught the bus to Castleton, & met the rest of the party outside the Peak Cavern entrance about an hour later. They had brought scaling ladders from North Yorkshire to look at some avens in the cave.

We carried the scaling ladders through the tourist section & to the two avens just beyond the "Mucky Ducks". On scaling the first aven, it tapered too thin to be passable - both Harold Lord & Les Salmon climbed this one.

We laddered the second aven but this petered out very quickly.

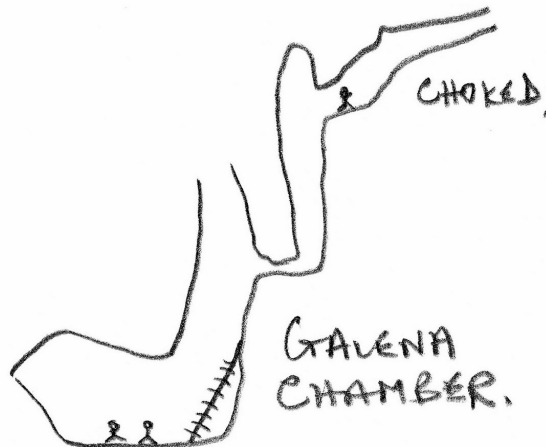
The ladders were dismantled & taken through to Galena Chamber - taking approximately 40 feet of ladder through to here. Harold Lord went up & came down obviously not liking it one little bit. Ken Hurst also went up & came down again very quickly.

Harold Lord & myself then went up the ladders & secured them to the wall. Harold then descended, & Bob Toogood came up. After painful hammering for belays, I climbed into a side passage in the aven. This gave access to another aven. We went up this & found a rift passage at the top leading to an almost completely choked section. All the others then came up.

We removed the ladders & brought them out, leaving only the ropes behind.

Outside Peak Cavern we met John Randles & Jacko (Harold Jackson) who had been collecting mineral specimens from somewhere in Derbyshire.

We got a lift home with Bob Toogood.



Carleswark

Sunday, 29 July 1962 01:00 - 02:30 pm

B.King & Morley Forrester

We set out with the intention of surveying the 270 foot crawl passage which connects with the main Eyam Passage, & this we did. My lamp went out as usual.

It was a nice warm day out, & a big draught was leaving the cave entrance, & a draught also came down the crawl which we were surveying.

On coming out we met Mike Clarke & arranged to look at Duce Hole in a fortnight.

Carleswark

Friday night, 11.30 pm - 03.00 am

B.King & Morley Forrester

We intended to resurvey the Eyam Passage which I suspected was inaccurate on the original survey.

We entered the Eyam Passage & surveyed East to the old choked entrance where a small draught entered. Having done this we surveyed West to Naughts & Crosses Chamber & then decided to come out via the Eyam Dale Shaft. This was the first time Morley had ascended the shaft, & we did well considering that my light went out - again.

It was a beautiful night, jet black with thousands of stars & many shooting stars.

Mr Young's friend, Mr Neal, had given us a lift down to the cave in his car but we had to walk back to Grindlow where we were staying.

It was blowing a high wind.

Merlins Cave & Carlswark

Saturday, 1 September 1962 04:30 - 06:00 pm

Barry King & Jacqueline Wright
Graham Helliwell & Margaret (?)

Graham & myself went in Merlins Cave & surveyed the pipe vein from Merlins Rake Westwards. This is a nice stretch of mine passage but ends at a shaft in the floor. The shot marks are pointing inwards.

Later we went into Carleswark, the girls stopping at the Curtain. Graham & myself went into Eyam Passage to look for the "loop" passage described by T.D.Ford in an article. We could not find the Loop passage that he describes continuing the South Crawl.

Having got changed, we then went to the Miners Arms, then the Royal Oak in Eyam & then the sheep roasting in Eyam.

Merlins Cave

Wednesday, 5 September 1962 07:30 - 09:00 pm

B.King
G.Helliwell
G.Kitchen

This trip was made after work (all three of us worked for Samuel Fox & Company at Stocksbridge).

We went in Gary Kitchens A35 van & took ladders & rope to descend the shaft in Merlins Cave (for completeness when writing up the Cave Science article which I was preparing on the Carleswark cave systems).

Each of us went down the shaft which we were checking, but the shaft is blocked at 31 ft down, & the blockage appears to have been deliberate.

Carleswark

Sunday, 17 March 1963 10:30 - 12:45 pm

B.King
G.Steel
A Jagger
D.Portman

Eric Sheldon picked me up in his car at 09:15 am at my home on Buchanan Road, Sheffield, & then we picked up the other three at Fitzallen Square.

We then drove to Carleswark, got changed & went into the cave. Eric seemingly had a run round in his car & ended up in Church somewhere!

I took the lads to Big Dig which is extremely filthy & looks far from promising. We then went into Stalactite Passage.

As we came out we met many of the Bradford Pothole Club who were having a meet at Carleswark.

Big Dig was carrying no noticeable draught, & the small stream here which feeds into the Entrance Sump was flowing down the passage & with the mud the conditions were abominable.

After coming out we called in the Miners Arms, & then the Rose & Crown in Eyam village.

Carleswark

Sunday, 24 March 1963 02:15 - 03:45 pm

B.King & Jacqueline Wright
Martin Wiseman & Janice ?

We all walked over to Middleton Dale from Hathersage. We left the girls outside & Martin & I had a quick trip into the mined section off Naughts & Crosses Chamber to have a look at possible extensions from here.

A very powerful draught was flowing up Carleswark, & up this passage (which incidentally is an 8 ft wide natural bedding passage with a calcite floor).

There are two blockages at this point, & both are similar containing very large boulders. The one on the extreme East is almost certainly the same fall as that in the chamber off Eyam shaft & a connection through would take very little effort. The other blockage contains smaller boulders, no draught, & would not repay digging, the other side of this blockage being known anyway.

Duce Hole

Sunday, 27 April 1963 10:15 - 11:45 am

B.King
D.M.Forrester
G.Steel

Geoff picked Morley & myself up at 08:30 am, in Fitzallen Square & we drove to Young's house at Grindlow. After having a chat with Mr Young we got changed & went down Duce Hole to see the present situation there.

I went down the bottom crawl first. The gravel floor is still too high to allow us to get at the boulder at the end of the passage, but using Geoff's torch it is easily seen that the boulder has been quite well washed. There is a passage of sorts continuing beyond the boulder but it is impossible to see if this is large enough to be followed.

I had a go at shoving the gravel down past the boulder with a rake but it is a slow job.

Morley next had a go & tried to hammer off a projection on the right which was hindering us but with little success.

Geoff also had a look, & could possibly have got beyond the projection to the boulder, but did not.

Came out, got changed, & called in the Rose & Crown Public House in Eyam for a drink on the way back home.

Duce Hole

Friday, 10 May 1963 08:00 - 10:00 pm

B.King
G Steel
A.Jagger
Morley Forrester went with us

Morley picked me up at our house in his new car, & we met Geoff & Alan Jagger in Sheffield. We got to Duce Hole but Morley did not go down & spent the evening with Mr Young.

In Duce we found the bottom stream passage bone dry, the stream disappearing into silt in the main chamber.

We dug out the bottom passage, getting underneath the projecting rock. We removed the silt & grit with a small hand trowel. Beyond the rock we got to the blocking boulder but the passage here is about 9 inches high & appears to fall away to about 1 or 2 inches high. A steady draught issued from this passage but unfortunately the stream could not be heard. We could get no further.

Whilst in the cave & on the way out we had a look at the area at which the stream disappears. It is evident that some sort of passage is present beneath the main silt bank. As a long shot it may be worthwhile to dig out the silt in the main passage to see where the stream goes.

P8 (Jackpot)

Sunday, 22 May 1965 11:00 - 01:20 pm

G.Kitchen & two of his friends
M.Marsden
D.Portman
G.Helliwell
W.Wilson
B.King

Morley Forrester should have been with us but had to go into work.

Met Graham Helliwell & Bill Wilson outside High Peak Roses At Hope, & Gary Kitchen was just going past. We all got to Whitelee Farm at Perryfoot to collect tackle & get changed at 10.00 am.

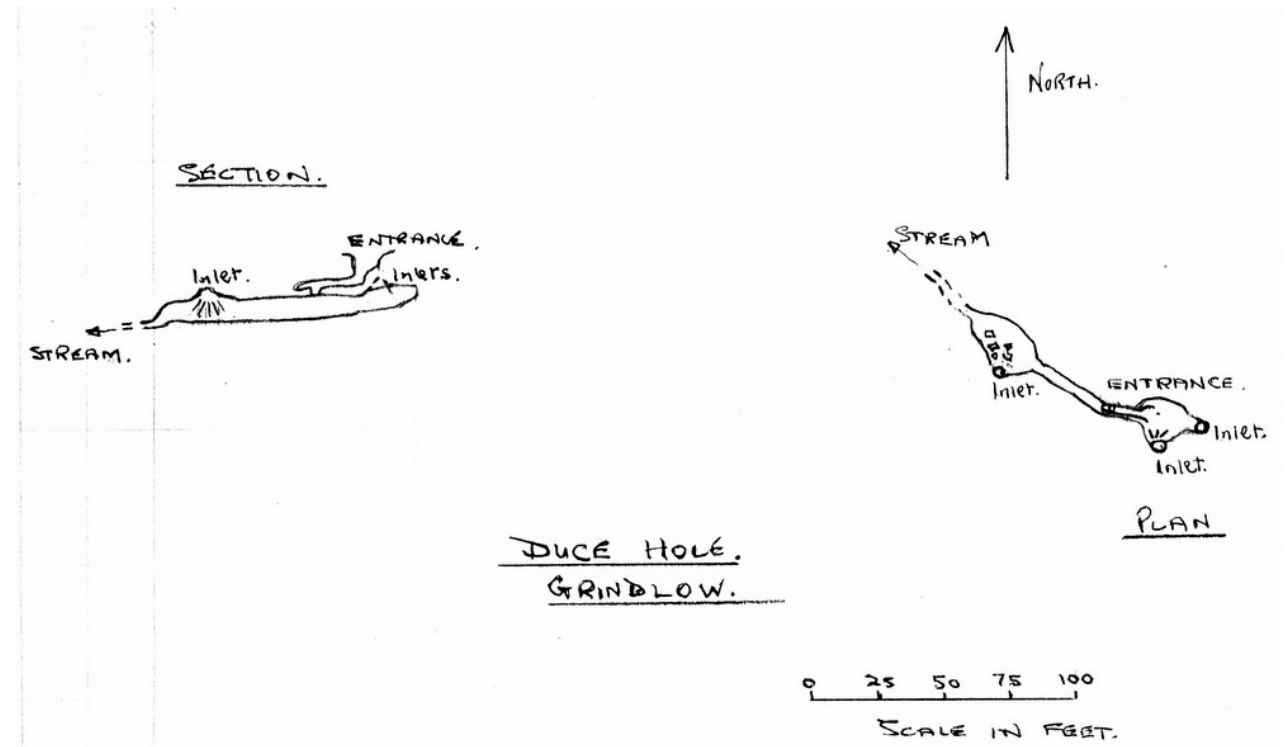
We got changed & went down P8. The weather was absolutely glorious & had been since Tuesday last, so there was a fairly low stream entering the cave.

The system seems very similar in character to the entrance swirl passages & the Crab Walk in Giant's Hole which is further towards Castleton.

The first pitch has an iron ladder attached & is quite jolly, the water dropping onto the ladder. To get to the second pitch it is necessary to traverse into the roof.

I had been lent a flash gun & extension cable & given eight flashbulbs to take some some photos near the final sump & lower passages. Had a bit of trouble due to the bulbs not firing but sorted the problem out eventually.

Came out, got changed at Whitelee Farm & went to the Nags Head Inn, at Castleton for a few glasses of beer before returning home.



Waterfall Swallet

Sunday, 16 June 1963 11:00 - 03:00 pm

B.King

A.Jagger

W.Wilson

Morley Forrester went with us

We arrived at the swallet in fairly heavy rain & parked Morley's car & my van (recently acquired) near Waterfall Farm. I had an interesting chat with the farmer before we went in the cave.** Morley stayed outside & read a book.

We three went into the cave, Allen first then me & then Bill Wilson. I had some trouble on the second half of the very tight entrance passage & had to dig some of the floor away to get in (the passage leading to the chaos of boulders which is the cave proper is only about 10 inches high).

Having got into the cave proper we descended to the bottom of the first drop & it appears that there has been a recent roof fall. We consequently spent about an hour trying to find the chamber way down.

Eventually we got into the chamber & descended it by ladder, but had to return immediately as time was running against us.

** The farmer at Waterfall Farm told me the following:

1. Within the last fortnight a shaft has opened up on the West side of the nearby swallet, in the nettles of the scree slope. This is 5 or 6 ft diameter & full of water.
2. Within the last year or so the farmer from Shepherds Flat has put boulders & ready mix concrete down a shaft at the South edge of the nearby swallet. Apparently a short horizontal passage (5 ft long) led to a slab. On removing the slab to look for a fox a deep shaft about 2 ft diameter was revealed. The farmer filled this in.
3. While hunting foxes, the fox being chased ran to cover in the nearby swallet & reappeared in the Waterfall Swallet!! The farmer was quite adamant saying the fox was the same one having only half a tail, & was seen to come from Waterfall Swallet by a chap standing nearby. He could not tell me precisely where it appeared.

The farmer was talking to a very old inhabitant, the oldest in these parts, who died recently. This chap told him that a passage connected Eyam & the Waterfall Swallet, & that he had seen mining equipment in the passage. The passage is said to connect to the surface at Waterfall through two shafts which lie beneath the scree slope on the Eastern end of the Waterfall hollow, but which are now covered by debris.

Believe what you will !

Peak Cavern - Death of Neil Moss

Accident on Sunday, 22 March 1959

The tragic death of Neil Moss in Peak Cavern received very heavy press coverage at the time. Some cuttings from local & national newspapers are attached with accounts of the incident. A very full account was subsequently written by Les Salmon & is also attached.

Les probably did more than any other person to try to rescue Neil, & for his effort & bravery was awarded subsequently the British Empire Medal.

Neil was of course never rescued, nor was his body recovered from the tube in which he had become jammed. Stones were placed over the top of the shaft containing his body & a simple inscription written there.

My involvement was only incidental in this episode, but may be of interest. On Sunday the 22 March there were two caving trips planned by the North Midlands Group of the B.S.A.

A fairly heavyweight party was to visit Peak Cavern (special permission had to be obtained to go past the tourist section, but our organisation had practically permanent visiting rights). Another party including myself, & as I recall Morley Forrester & Brian Edey amongst others - regrettably I did not record our expedition - was to further explore Carleswark.

The Saturday evening, that is the 21 March, my friends & myself had booked to spend the night at the Castleton Youth Hostel, which we did. We spent that evening in one of our favourite pursuits of sampling the beer in the local pubs.

Staying at the Hostel at the same time was a tall, slim, youth who had very little caving experience & who would be going on the Peak Cavern trip the following day. This young man was Neil Moss.

In view of Neil's inexperience we took great delight in trying to convince him that most of the following days caving would be in horrifically low or tight passages, & persuading him to practice by crawling under the bottom wooden sections of the bunks etc. In view of subsequent events this now seems somewhat black humour.

We parted company with the Peak group the following morning & spent the day in Carleswark.

I do not recall hearing of the tragedy on the Sunday. On the Monday I was at work as usual (at this time I worked in the Metallurgical laboratories of Samuel Fox & Company, at Stocksbridge Works) when I got a phone call saying there was a general call out of cavers to Castleton for assistance. At that time I was also registered on the Derbyshire Cave Rescue.

I rang Morley Forrester at his work place which I think was Grattons in Sheffield, & we got our gear & went to Castleton on my motorbike.

The area near Peak Cavern was clogged with Police, Firemen, cavers & morbid onlookers.

We got changed & were taken with others to the chamber where the tragedy had occurred. The best we could do was help carry ropes & equipment that was being taken into the cave in the hope that it would assist in the rescue.

The situation seemed to be that the party in Peak had planned to explore a tight vertical tube or shaft which led out of a large chamber, well beyond the tourist section off Pickerings Passage, on the North side of the system.

Neil Moss had volunteered himself as the explorer & had been let down the shaft on a ladder without a lifeline. It was an extremely tight tube, easily descended by breathing out & allowing gravity to pull you down, but not so easy to return. It appears that the tube then made a right angle bend into the horizontal, with another tight vertical drop after this. Neil having got this far requested help to get back.

Due to the configuration of the passage, its tightness & the hindrance of the ladder he jammed on the horizontal section. A further point was that he used a carbide lamp which was using up the oxygen, rather than the normal electric headlamp.

When we got there it was apparent that basically all was lost. Several people had tried to get to Neil but he had lapsed into unconsciousness, & could not help himself. A lifeline had been attached to him, but had repeatedly broken during pulling operations to move him. A regular sound of his breathing could be heard quite distinctly in the chamber, this being made audible by his chest being jammed against the rock walls. From time to time he became awake & screamed according to others in the chamber.

Whist wishing to help, it was obvious that only a very thin, small man would stand any chance of reaching him, never mind trying to move him or assist his movements. I regret to say that we were of no significant assistance in the rescue, which given all the circumstances was virtually impossible.

Regretfully we made our way out of the cave & back to Sheffield.