

# DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

## Cave Access Information

Most caves and mines in the Peak District can be accessed by simply asking the landowner or tenant for permission; sometimes a small trespass fee (usually between £1 and £4) is asked for. Many of the mines are gated or capped for safety and to protect against risks to trespassers; these can be entered by using a large adjustable spanner to undo the bolts on the gate or lid, taking care to leave the site secure again on leaving. Some caves and mines are closed during the lambing season, usually between March and May. A few sites have to be booked in advance and require that visiting cavers hold their own Public Liability Insurance cover.

Brief notes on some of the more popular caves follow but note that **full details of all access arrangements will be in the new DCA Handbook** available from the DCA Secretary when it is ready. Updates to access information are posted on the DCA website.

For further information, contact the DCA Access Officer on *access-off@theDCA.org.uk*.

### Giants Hole:

Do not call at the farmhouse. Park in the designated area in the valley bottom. Put your trespass fee into the envelope provided, write on it the car registration number(s) and place it in the box at the car park. (Payment by cheque is acceptable - payable to "Peakshill Farm".)

### Peak Cavern:

Management permits Sunday only trips between October and Easter. Contact John Beck: Email. *john.beck6@btinternet.com* (or write enclosing S.A.E. to Glebe Cottage, The Hillock, Eyam, Derbyshire, S32 5RB.) giving choice of dates and details of party (no U.18's). Evidence of PL Insurance must be shown. Charge per head.

### Titan:

Booking required. Contact Dave Nixon, 3 Rose Cottages, Litton, Nr. Buxton, SK17 8QY. Tel. 07775-518626 OR 01298-872622, Email. *dave.nixon@tesco.net*.

### Rowter Hole / J.H. (James Hall Over Engine Mine):

In first instance contact Dave Nixon (see above) with proposed trip details and requests for survey. Call on Mr. Hall at Rowter Farm for key and parking - trespass fee charged.

### Oxlow Caverns / Maskhill Mine / Nettle Pot:

Call at Oxlow House Farm, where trespass fee is payable, before going to the cave. No parking available at farm but park at the side of B6061 road, next to the obvious stile and follow stiles and waymarkers to shaft tops.

### P8 (Jackpot) / Gautries:

Call on Mr. & Mrs. Ritter at Perryfoot Farm where trespass fee is payable. Park and change in layby opposite farm and follow markers across several fields for P8.

### Eldon Hole:

No need to contact farmer for routine trips. Approach from Perry Dale up Eldon Lane and park at top end, just beyond Sweetknoll House; follow footpath from here. Do not use surrounding fence posts as belays.

### Hillocks Mine / Knotlow Mine & Caverns / Whalf Pipe Mine:

All on land owned by National Trust. No prior permission required but park sensibly, either at the junction of the green lanes taking care not to obstruct farm access, or at the car park in Monyash Village. Shaft top lids require large adjustable spanner and must be secured after visit. In the past bad air has been encountered though this now seems to have cleared; please fill in pollution survey book in Knotlow Mine even if no pollution is encountered.

## **Fixed Aids**

DCA has installed Eco-anchors in a number of major caves and mines in the region in line with national policy. The number of these is kept to a minimum - it is not the aim of DCA to make caving easier, but to make it safer.

**Note that DCA does not install fixed hand-lines and any such found attached to Eco-anchors are not subject to DCA inspection.**

Details of all fixed aids installed by DCA will be in the Rigging Guide section of the new DCA Handbook when it is published.