

Stony Middleton Dale SSSI - Yoga Cave.

The cliffs on the north side of Stony Middleton Dale contain numerous caves, ranging from short segments of phreatic tube only a few metres long up to the Carlswark Cavern / Merlin Mine system, with more than 3km of surveyed passage. The area is important since it demonstrates, better than any other area in the Peak District, a sequence of cave levels developed successively in response to stages in the lowering of the valley floor. These levels can be correlated with successive levels in other catchment areas such as Bradwell and Castleton, and dated speleothems and sediments then allow the development of an absolute time scale for the evolution of the major gorges and dry valley networks of the limestone area (Beck, 1980).

The highest levels are represented by isolated fragments of vadose cave such as Cucklet Church Cave, at 240m OD, while the present active resurgence (now only active in flood conditions due to capture by mine drainage) lies at 174m OD. Four distinct levels were recognised by Beck (1980) as follows:

1. The First Remnant Complex (Ivy Green Cave, Keyhole Cave, Bossen Hole and high level passages in Carlswark Cavern).
2. The Second Remnant Complex (represented only by short segments in the Dynamite Series of Carlswark Cavern).
3. The Carlswark Complex (including most of Carlswark Cavern, Streaks Pot, Yoga Cave, Lay-by Pot and many small caves), the northwestern areas of which are still active.
4. The Lower Complex, seen only in the resurgence passages of Carlswark Cavern.

The clear distinction between levels results from the structure of the area between the swallets at the base of Eyam Edge between Eyam and Swevic House, north of Foolow. The hydraulic gradient from sink to resurgence corresponds closely with the strike of the limestones, so that each phase of valley floor lowering resulted in the abandonment of a large network of conduits as the drainage was slowly captured by caves at lower horizons.

The caves are not large or spectacular, but there are many classic stretches of passage. Every small passage segment can be regarded as part of an important overall picture.

Yoga Cave. CPM. Yoga Cave is a small network of passages belonging to the Carlswark Complex, up-dip from the active passages of Streaks Pot. The passage roofs are excellent examples of solution of the Lower Shell Bed, the silicified fossils standing proud through differential solution.

CAVE CONSERVATION MONITORING FORM (Version 3 - Dec02)

Yoga Cave

Feature number on survey	Description of interest features	Are the features still present?	Comments on the condition of the features
	CPM -Cave passage Morphology	Y/N	
1	CPM: Small network of passages belonging to the Carlswark Complex, up-dip from the active passages of Streaks Pot. The passage roofs are excellent examples of solution of the Lower Shell Bed, the silicified fossils standing proud through differential solution.	Y	e.g. Passage intact? If not – explain. ?evidence of water pollution (in active passages) Perfect condition. Silicified fossils of the lower shell be present.
2	CPM: (As above)	Y	as above.
General comments on conservation status of the cave	Please indicate on map location of any mineral deposits and any unauthorised collection. (eg Heavily used cave, much carbide, pollution, changes to drainage system, specimen collecting, areas inaccessible due to rock fall etc) Little visited cave. Rubbish cans in shaft entrance were recently removed by Chesterfield Caving Club & Darkside Caving Club.		

Name: Mark Cope (Chesterfield Caving Club)

Contact details: Tele/Email: 07826 515624

Date of visit: Summer 2009

Please return this form to Dave Webb, DCA, 3 De Vere Gardens, Woodthorpe, Nottingham . NG5 4PH

“Thank you for assisting in the conservation of this cave.”

Yoga Cave, Stoney Middleton.

SOURCE: GILL, 1976.

NGR: 2122 7589

LENGTH: 183m (600ft)

ALTITUDE: 198m (650ft)

