

### The Caves of Cave Dale, Castleton.

Grid Ref: Bottom entrance SK 13295 83460 (GPS), Alt: 290m.  
Access: No known access restrictions.

#### Introduction

Actual locations have been derived from differential GPS but due to the enclosed terrain positions may not be absolutely accurate. Descriptive locations are based upon progression up the dale.



#### Cave Dale Cave #1

Grid Ref: SK 15025 82685 (GPS), Alt: 225m.  
Length: 5m, Vertical Range: 5m  
Access: No known access restrictions.

**Description:** 20m up from the lower Cave Dale gate the entrance can be seen in the cliff up to the right. A 20m scramble and climb up a series of slippery limestone ledges accesses the 2m wide by 2.5m high entrance. A 2m climb enters 5m of walking height passage ending in a blind alcove. Above is a 5m high, blind solutional aven with mineral deposits.

#### Cave Dale Cave #2

Grid Ref: SK 14924 82562 (GPS), Alt: 272m.  
Length: 14m (including Cave #5 to which it connects), Vertical Range: 5m.  
Access: No known access restrictions.

**Description:** The low entrance is at the base of the cliff directly below Peveril Castle's "garderobe" (bog from the middle ages), that sticks out from the main wall of the keep. The passage starts as a flat-out crawl which soon narrows. 4m in it ascends over loose rocks to emerge in Cave #5. The connection was excavated in 1985 but ran in again soon after. Used by sheep for shelter.

#### Cave Dale Cave #2b

Grid Ref: SK 14934 82567 (GPS), Alt: 269m.  
Length: 2m, Vertical Range: 0m.  
Access: No known access restrictions.

**Description:** Just below and round the corner to the left of Cave #2 is Cave #2b. A very low 3m wide bedding with an earth floor soon ends where floor meets roof. Used by sheep for shelter.

#### Cave Dale Cave #3

Grid Ref: SK 14915 82524 (GPS), Alt: 266m.  
Length: 5m, Vertical Range: 1m.  
Access: No known access restrictions.

**Description:** Entrance is 39m SSW of Cave #2 down the inclined sheep path. An arched entrance ending 1.5m in where the wall drops onto a mud floor. Just to the left is a second smaller entrance which joins up. Other descriptions of this cave have suggested that at one time it may have connected to Cave #5 based upon historical records but it seems likely it was confused with Cave #2. Used by sheep for shelter.

#### Cave Dale Cave #4

Grid Ref: SK 14884 82442 (GPS), Alt: 257m.  
Length: n/a, Vertical Range: 45m.  
Access: No access (drops into the roof of The Great Cave in Peak Cavern).

**Description:** The small cleft entrance is just up to the right where the dale curves round to the left beyond the castle. A 0.4m wide by 2m high passage soon lowers to a crawl. Progress is halted at a mesh grill. Beyond the grill the passage narrows and eventually emerges in the roof of Peak Cavern's Great Cave. This was last climbed from below in 1988. (ref: 1)

### Cave Dale Cave #5 (Pevenil Castle Cave)

Grid Ref: SK 14910 82567, Alt: 277m.

Length: 14m (including Cave #2), Vertical Range: 5m.

Access: No access. The entrance lies in the top of the Peak Cavern gorge and is fenced off.

**Description:** Low wide entrance enters an inclined chamber with a rocky floor. At the far side is the connection with Cave #2 (usually run in).

### Cave Dale Cave #6 (Gorge Top Cave)

Grid Ref: SK 14870 82570, Alt: 277m.

Length: Rock shelter, Vertical Range: 0m.

Access: No access. The entrance lies in the top of the Peak Cavern gorge and is fenced off.

**Description:** A rock shelter perched in the top of the gorge above Peak Cavern.

### Cave Dale Cave #7 (Cave Dale Pipe Cavern)

Grid Ref: SK 14992 82332 (GPS), Alt: 330m.

Length: 33.5m, Vertical Range: 5m.

Access: No known access restrictions.

**Description:** A mined out pipe vein high up on the left (south east) flank of the dale. A small body sized entrance slides into a chamber, 12m long, <4m wide and 1.6m high. Beyond a crawl trends east for 20m to a low squeeze. Beyond the passage ends blindly after just 1.5m with just enough room to turn round.

### Cave Dale Cave #8

Grid Ref: SK 14850 82251, Alt: 301m.

Length: n/a, Vertical Range: n/a.

Access: No known access restrictions.

**Description:** Previous descriptions of this small cave are somewhat vague and its given location and the altitude don't match with any cave feature. The most likely candidate is at the position given above but it is hardly worthy of mention. A low overhang has a very small 1m long blind "cave" in it (and usually a sheltering sheep).

### Cave Dale Cave #9

Grid Ref: SK 14914 82395, Alt: 262m.

Length: 2m, Vertical Range: 0m.

Access: No known access restrictions.

**Description:** Obvious twin entrance formed in a mineral vein in the cliff on the left side of the dale just up from Cave #4. A 3m climb up onto a ledge gives access to a short solutional cave.

### Cave Dale Cave #10

Grid Ref: SK 14849 82405, Alt:

Length: , Vertical Range:

Access: No known access restrictions.

**Description:** Small cave formed in the same mineral vein as Cave #9 but high up on the opposite (right) side of the dale.

### Cave Dale Cave #11

Grid Ref: SK 14901 82489, Alt: 253m.

Length: 4m, Vertical Range: 1m.

Access: No known access restrictions.

**Description:** A grovel under an overhang on the right side of the dale just down from Cave #4. A squeeze accesses an ascending crawl ending where the floor rises to the roof.

### Cave Dale Cave #12 (Path Cave)

Grid Ref: SK 14975 82519, Alt: 239m.

Length: 1.5m, Vertical Range: 0m.

Access: No known access restrictions.

**Description:** A small but obvious entrance just above the path at the base of a cliff directly opposite the castle. A low passage, too low to enter can be seen to continue in for 1.5m over mud and stones. Used by sheep for shelter.

### Cave Dale Vent

Grid Ref: SK 14867 82329, Alt: 276m.

Length: 30m, Vertical Range: 30m.

Access: No access (gated).

**Description:** Beyond Cave #4 the dale curves left then right and ascends through a narrow section. Continuing on Cave Dale Vent is met on the right, an obvious gated entrance. Originally this entrance could hardly be seen but a smoke test from an aven in Peak Cavern's Five Arches proved there was a connection. This was enlarged by digging to ventilate the show cave. There is no access for cavers but this route has been used to access Peak Cavern during flood to rescue trapped cavers. As the flood receded this route unroofed before Halfway House in Peak.

## Cave Dale Rising

Grid Ref: SK 14871 82220, Alt: 305m.

Access: No known access restriction.

**Description:** In wet weather a reasonable sized stream issues from a rocky patch of ground on the left of the path in the base of the wood.

### Description Notes:

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### References:

(1) JN Cordingley, pers. comm.



### Surveys:

None known.



### Further reading:

- Caves of the Peak District (p60-61), DW Gill & JS Beck 1991, now out of print ISBN 1-85568-034-3.
- Rocks & Scenery of the Peak District (p13, 19 70, 82), Trevor D. Ford 2006 ISBN 1-84306-026-4.
- Limestones and Caves of the Peak District (p), Trevor D Ford 1977, out of print ISBN 0 86094 004 1 (paper) & 005 X (cloth)

## WARNING!

Caving and exploring mines can be dangerous and fatal accidents can happen, especially if you are not sufficiently trained.

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### CAVE RESCUE

In case of accident telephone 999 and ask for Cave Rescue.

