

### Treasury and the links to Speedwell Cavern Part 7 of Peak Cavern (Castleton).

See *Part 1 for an overview of the entire system, access and location.*  
This guide is based upon John Cordingley's 1986 guide book "The Peak Cavern System - a Caver's Guide".

#### Introduction

Approximately 250m upstream of Mucky Ducks the Upper Gallery becomes and a major passage is met in the right wall. This is Treasury Passage, narrow but walking sized leading to Treasury Chamber, Treasury Sump and The Trenches, leading in turn to The White River Series, Colostomy Crawl and Speedwell Cavern.

#### Description

**Treasury Passage** starts as a narrow walking vadose trench 3m high with a roof tube. After a short distance **Treasury Chamber** is reached. To the left, down through boulders is **SEP Sump** (Someone Else's Problem) which has been investigated and reliably deemed pointless. A more obvious route down to the left over boulders enters a stooping height descending passage to a short climb with a hand line. This lands on a sandy floor at the top of a steeply sloping passage leading down to **Treasury Sump**.

**Treasury Sump** is a 30m long dive through to the **Lower Bung Streamway** in **Speedwell Cavern**. This sump changes in nature and can either be a short easy cruise or a grovelly struggle and more than one experienced diver has had a bad time in it. There's a thick rope running through the sump enabling fully equipped divers to get through the sump without fins. On a good day the sump starts as a low silty passage arriving after 3m at a sharp left-hand bend into a bigger passage. This continues for 27m to surface in Speedwell. On a bad day, the Peak Cavern end of the sump can become very tight and silty and on occasion, impassable. A good flood normally clears everything out. Vis is usually zero to poor.

Back in **Treasury Chamber** the main way on is straight across from **Treasury Passage**, into Fawley Tower. **Fawley Tower** starts as a stooping height passage to a gate. Beyond, a 6m climb up an iron ladder leads to a 1.5m high by 2m wide muddy passage. This was dug out over several years to a junction, left closes down, right is the way on. 85m from Treasury Chamber a slither over a mound of mud marks the connection with **The Trenches**. Immediately on the left (not obvious) is the very low

entry to the upstream end of **Wind Tunnel** (described as part of the Galena Chamber Circuit in Part 5).

Ahead, hands and knees crawling against the left-hand wall leads to a step up and lower going. After a short distance the crawl moves across to the right-hand side of the passage and opens out. Soon after awkward crawling over boulders leads to a squeeze. This used to be an extremely difficult but it has been "modified". Immediately after the squeeze is a junction. Left leads to a 3m climb up. At the top, right leads to **The Front Room**, a small chamber with no way on, left goes up a sloping body sized tube to emerge at the bottom of **The Ventilator**. Above four pitches (not rigged) ascend 100m to the **White River Series** (detailed in Part 8), now accessed via Block Hall in Speedwell Cavern. Back down in The Trenches the crawl continues, becoming **Liam's Way**. The passage becomes higher with a vadose slot in the floor and soon it is possible to progress upright. A couple of stal bridges at shin level are passed which resemble water pipes crossing the passage. After a short distance a junction marks the start of **Colostomy Crawl**. The narrow continuation of Liam's Way goes left and soon becomes too narrow.

Colostomy Crawl is a flat out muddy tube that meanders and ascends for 140m to emerge at **Egnaro Aven** in Speedwell Cavern's **Lower Bung Streamway** at **Rift Cavern**.



### Description Notes:

Based upon the description in John Cordingley's 1986 book, "The Peak Cavern System - a Cavers Guide".

Adapted for this guide by Shaun Puckering.

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### Surveys:

A complete survey of the Peak Speedwell System is available from Hitch n Hike 01433 651013 [www.HNHoutdoors.com](http://www.HNHoutdoors.com)



### Further reading:

- Crewe CPC Rigging Guide (topo) available directly from CCPC and local caving shops.
- Caves of the Peak District (p93), DW Gill & JS Beck 1991, now out of print ISBN 1-85568-034-3.
- Classic Caves of the Peak District (p144), Iain Barker 1997, now out of print ISBN 1-86126-058-X
- The Peak Cavern System - a Caver's Guide, John Cordingley 1986, now out of print ISBN 0-948152-01-X
- Rocks & Scenery of the Peak District (p76, 82), Trevor D. Ford 2002 ISBN 1-84306-026-4.
- Limestones and Caves of the Peak District (p7, 12, 13, 41, 203, 208-210, 275, 297, 300-5, 341-2), Trevor D Ford 1977, out of print ISBN 0 86094 004 1 (paper) & 005 X (cloth)



### Entries in Descent Magazine:

- #65 (p7) Aug. 1985 (Wind Tunnel connected to Speedwell).
- #93 (p12) Apr./May 1990 (Fawley Tower)
- #97 (p10) Dec./Jan. 1990/91 (Treasury Sump)
- #99 (p10) Apr./May. 1991. (Dig in The Trenches)
- #100 (p16) Jun./Jul. 1991 (Breakthrough in The Trenches).
- #104 (p10) Feb./Mar. 1992 (Treasury Sump).
- #118 (p8) Jun./Jul. 1994 (Fawley Tower).



### Entries in CDG Newsletter:

- #55 Apr. 1980 p22-23 Treasury and beyond.
- #111 Apr. 1994 p25 Treasury Sump.
- #126 Jan. 1998 p17 Treasury Sump.
- #156 Jul. 2005 p12 SEP Sump - note.
- #157 Oct. 2005 p11 Treasury Sump - note.



### Amendments:

Amendments and additions can be sent to:- [caveguides@peakdistrictcaving.info](mailto:caveguides@peakdistrictcaving.info) (any information regarding access or safety issues is automatically passed on to the Derbyshire Caving Association).

## WARNING!

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

Anyone using this guide does so at their own risk while understanding and accepting that, although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the writers and/or contributors can not be held responsible for any outcome however linked to this text. Do not rely on this description as it may contain errors. Your safety and the safety of those around you is your own responsibility. The existence of this guide does not imply a right of access to the cave. An access agreement may or may not be in place with the land owner. Liability Insurance linked to a Landowner Indemnity Clause may be required.

### CAVE RESCUE

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

*Professional caver training is available from*

**www.OutdoorInstruction.co.uk**