

NAMHO Conference 2010

Underground Trips



NAMHO CONFERENCE 4 to 8 June 2010

Underground trips

>>>> UPDATE 20 MAY 2010: The trips to Stoke Hill Quarry, Farleigh Hungerford has been cancelled; all those who were booked on this trip should have received an email today. Also the party size for the Hartham Park Quarry, Corsham visit has been reduced to 10; again those affected should have received an email today. The emails set out your possible alternatives.

>>>> UPDATE 28 APRIL 2010: The trips to the underground Cotswold Quarries will be to Whittington Quarry, east of Cheltenham and to Lower Balls Green, near Nailsworth. There will be morning and afternoon trips to both sites on the Sunday 6 June (U23, U24, U27, U28) and one trip to Whittington on Friday 4 June afternoon (U36). Also we have had to reduce the numbers on the trips on Sunday 6 June to Clifton Rocks Railway (U19 & U20), due to a request from the owner. So these trips are now both fully booked. Trip U1A, U1B, U5 & U30 (Brookmans Quarry) These trips have had to be cancelled as the Duke of Beaufort will not give us permission. For more info see next page

We are offering underground trips for various abilities of delegates. South Gloucestershire doesn't have very much accessible to look at underground, so we are organizing trips to regions around - Forest of Dean, West Cotswolds, Mendip and the Bath area.

The guide to how easy or hard a trip is must be regarded as a guideline only; ask for more information if you need it (ring Roger Gosling on 01454 883607). Forest of Dean coal mines are only suitable for fit experienced cavers. There are steep slippery slopes, quite a lot of walking crouched and awkward climbs up into the workings. Similarly the Forest of Dean iron mines are only for experienced cavers, though these are easier than the coal mines. The stone mines are easier still, with Brookman's Quarry being just walking; the West Cotswold mines are mainly walking with occasional clambering over boulders; the Bath stone mines are harder involving short crawls, squeezes and some climbing (the easiest of these is Kingsdown Quarry (Swan Mine)).

Some of the trips are provisional; we are striving to confirm details, leaders, etc. For trips to the West Cotswolds, the exact mines to be visited are not confirmed.

All underground trips have a maximum party size, so book as soon as you can. Depending on demand and on leaders, we will try to double up on trips if possible at another time; also depending on demand we ***may*** be able to repeat some of the trips on Friday, Monday or Tuesday – let us know if you would like to do that.

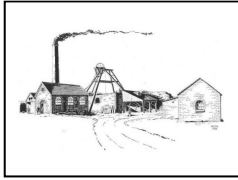
All delegates on underground trips must have BCA third party insurance (if you have it quote your number on the application form, if you don't add £5 fee to cover and we will arrange it for you).

All delegates are expected to provide their own helmet and lamp, also suitable clothing and boots.

Meeting points are shown in the trip descriptions and are linked from the website using Google Maps. Grid reference, nearby postcode and lat/long are given, but if you have any queries, PLEASE ASK. A guide to the travel time by car from the conference venue to the meeting point is also shown, but allow plenty of time for delays (particularly if travelling through Bath to the stone mines).

[For version number changes, see next sheet]





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Most trips are scheduled for maximum 2 hours (except Singing River Mine), although it is possible the trip time will be longer, depending partly on the ability of the delegates.

This file will be updated during the run up to the conference to show when trips are fully booked, also when some trip locations and meeting points are fixed. So please refer back to the website from time to time. PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME UNDERGROUND TRIPS ARE ALREADY FULLY BOOKED

If you are visiting the Forest of Dean, you may like to visit one of the show mines (Clearwell Caves, an iron mine, or Hopewell Colliery). The Dean Heritage Centre and Puzzlewood are also worth a visit. See the tourist attractions links on the conference website for details for these. An overview of mining in the Forest of Dean is at the end of this file.

Information on how many places are left for each trip.

The **status** of trip bookings as at 20 May is shown on pages 3 & 4. The number shown in the status column is the number of people already booked on that trip. Note that trips U3, U7, U12, U15, U16, U19, U20, U22, U26, U27, U31 and U32 are already full. Note that some other trips are also already nearly full. For some trips it **may** be possible to get another leader, but we cannot guarantee this, so preferably please select another trip.

Trip U1A, U1B, U5 & U30 (Brookmans Quarry) These trips have had to be cancelled as the Duke of Beaufort will not give us permission. For those already booked on one of these trips, you should have received an email and/or phone call about the alternatives. U1A, U1B and U30 have been replaced with extra trips to Lower Balls Green mine. Also easy trips to Old Ham mine in the Forest of Dean are available.

Trips U23, U24, U27 & U28 (West Cotswold stone mines) **have now been decided.** For more info see under the trip descriptions on later pages.

Trips U8, U14, U21 & U25 (Wigpool Iron Mine, Forest of Dean) now have two leaders for each trip, so we can take **two** groups of up to 10 on each session. The morning and afternoon trips will be to different parts of the mine, so you could book Wigpool for both a morning and afternoon trip without repeating any of the mine. For more info see under the trip descriptions on later pages. We have also had an offer from another leader to take trips down here on the Monday and Tuesday, so we have **added more trips to Wigpool as U33 (Monday) and U34 (Tuesday).**

Bookings for underground trips are very popular so far, but please note that there are plenty of places left on all the surface walks.

[Version 2, 3, 4, 6, 7: Status of trip bookings added.]

[Version 5: Status of trip bookings updated. Trips U33 to U36 added]

[Version 8: Status of trip bookings updated. Timings for U18 & U29 corrected and details added]

[Version 9: Status of trip bookings updated. Details added for West Cotswold trips and party size reduced for U19 & U20. Brookmans Quarry trips cancelled and replaced by Lower Balls Green, but with smaller party limit.]

[Version 10 More details added for several trips. Meeting point for Whittington Quarry trips changed. U35 trip Friday afternoon now confirmed as Old Ham Mine (Forest of Dean). Info re cancellation of trip U3 and reduction in party size for trip U2 added]





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Provisional Underground Trips Timetable

Booked so far and status as at 20 May

Where the “booked so far” column has TBD, the number of delegates booked is “To Be Determined” as a result of the cancellation of Brookmans trips.

Friday 4 June 2010

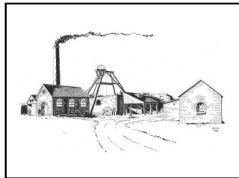
Name of Trip	Times	Party Limit	Booked so far	Status
U1A: Lower Balls Green, near Nailsworth	13:00 to 15:00	15	10	
U1B: Lower Balls Green, near Nailsworth	15:30 to 17:30	15	18	FULL
U35: Old Ham Iron Mine, Forest of Dean	14:30 to 17:00	10	6	
U36: Whittington Quarry (West Cotswolds)	14:30 to 16:30	15	5	

Saturday 5 June 2010

Name of Trip	Times	Party Limit	Booked so far	Status
U2: Hartham Park Quarry, Corsham, Bath	10:00 to 12:00	10	10	FULL
U3: Stoke Hill Mine, Limpley Stoke, Bath	CANCELLED --- CANCELLED			
U4: Redcliffe Caves, Bristol	10:00 to 12:00	15	10	
U5: Brookman's Quarry, S Gles	CANCELLED --- CANCELLED			
U6: Singing River Mine, Shipham, Mendip	10:30 to 14:30	6	6	FULL
U7: Monument Mine, near Parkend, FoD (Coal)	10:30 to 12:30	6	6	FULL
U8: Wigpool Iron Mine, FoD	10:30 to 12:30	2 x 10	0	
U9: Morses Level, FoD (Coal)	10:30 to 12:30	10 #	3	
U10: Old Ham/Old Bow Iron Mine, FoD	10:30 to 12:30	10	0	
U11: Noxon Park Iron Mine, FoD	10:30 to 12:30	10	0	
U12: Box “stone mine”, Box, Bath	14:00 to 17:00	20	20	FULL
U13: Kingsdown Quarry (aka “Swan Mine”), Batheaston, Bath	14:00 to 16:00	20	8	
U14: Wigpool Iron Mine, FoD	14:30 to 16:30	2 x 10	5	
U15: Morses Level, FoD (Coal)	14:30 to 16:30	10 #	6	
U16: Old Ham/Old Bow Iron Mine, FoD	14:30 to 16:30	10	10	FULL
U17: Noxon Park Iron Mine, FoD	14:30 to 16:30	10	1	
U18: Serridge Pit, Coalpit Heath (15 to 20 mins)	17:00 to 18:00	15		

Party limit increased to 10 for U9 and U15





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Provisional Underground Trips Timetable (continued) **Booked so far and status as at 20 May**

Sunday 6 June 2010

Name of Trip	Times	Party Limit	Booked so far	Status
U19: Clifton Rocks Railway, Bristol	10:00 to 11:30	10	10	FULL
U20: Clifton Rocks Railway, Bristol	11:30 to 13:00	10	11	FULL
U21: Wigpool Iron Mine, FoD	10:30 to 12:30	2 x 10	8+5	
U22: Noxon Park Iron Mine, FoD	10:30 to 12:30	10	10	FULL
U23: Whittington Quarry (West Cotswolds)	10:00 to 12:00	15	12	
U24: Lower Balls Green (West Cotswolds)	10:00 to 12:00	15	4	
U25: Wigpool Iron Mine, FoD	14:30 to 16:30	2 x 10	10+5	
U26: Noxon Park Iron Mine, FoD	14:30 to 16:30	10	11	FULL
U27: Whittington Quarry (West Cotswolds)	14:30 to 16:30	15	13	
U28: Lower Balls Green (West Cotswolds)	14:30 to 16:30	15	12	
U29: Serridge Pit, Coalpit Heath (15 to 20 mins)	17:00 to 18:00	15		

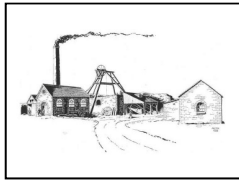
Monday 7 June 2010

Name of Trip	Times	Party Limit	Booked so far	Status
U30: Lower Balls Green, near Nailsworth	10:30 to 12:30	20	16	
U31: Monument Mine, nr Parkend, FoD (Coal)	10:30 to 12:30	6	7	FULL
U33: Wigpool Iron Mine, FoD	10:30 to 12:30	10	5	

Tuesday 8 June 2010

Name of Trip	Times	Party Limit	Booked so far	Status
U32: Monument Mine, nr Parkend, FoD (Coal)	10:30 to 12:30	6	8	FULL
U34: Wigpool Iron Mine, FoD	10:30 to 12:30	10	1	





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TRIP DESCRIPTIONS AND BRIEF HISTORIES

NOTE: Trips are listed in chronological order, not in trip reference number order.

U1A: Lower Balls Green, near Nailsworth

Friday 13:00 to 15:00

U1B: Lower Balls Green, near Nailsworth

Friday 15:30 to 17:30

Lower Balls Green is a Cotswold stone quarry about 1 mile east of Nailsworth. The trip will be mostly walking underground, with clambering over boulders in places. The hardest part of the trip may be the entrance grille, but this will not present a problem to average or novice cavers.

This underground quarry was worked for Minchinhampton freestone (oolitic limestone) circa 1800 to 1900. It was run by the Essex family. In the second world war much of the waste stone near to the entrance was removed and taken to Aston Down airfield. Unsuccessful attempts were made in the 1950s to grow mushrooms in the quarry.

Party limit: 15 Trips will be led by Chris Bowen, RFDC.

Meeting Point: NGR ST864995, postcode GL6 9AN, lat/long 51.69411, -2.19812

Travel time: 45 to 50 mins (from conference venue)

U35: Old Ham Iron Mine, Forest of Dean Mine

Friday 14:30 to 17:00

For details see U10 below (Saturday morning). This trip will be led by John Hine, RFDC.

U36: Whittington Quarry (West Cotswolds)

Friday 14:30 to 16:30

Whittington Quarry (aka Dodwell Hill Quarry) is a Cotswold stone quarry about 4 miles east of Cheltenham. The trip will be virtually all walking underground.

This quarry was one of the major producers of stone for the building of Cheltenham, later competing with Bath stone when the railway made transport of that more cost effective.

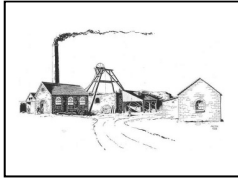
Stone was extracted between about 1800 and 1864 at which time it became uneconomic. **More detailed history to be added later.**

Party limit: 15 Trip will be led by Maurice Febry, GSS

Meeting Point: DO NOT CHANGE HERE, YOU WILL BE MOVING ELSEWHERE TO PARK BEFORE CHANGING. NGR SP010205, nearby postcode GL54 4HF, lat/long 51.88306, -1.98681 (This is a large lay-by on north side of the A40 about 1½ miles west of Andoversford junction with the A436.

Travel time: 55 mins to 1 hour (from conference venue)





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U2: Hartham Park Quarry, Corsham

Saturday 10:00 to 12:00

Hartham Park Underground Quarry comprises four once separate but now connected quarries, Travellers Rest (c1810-c1864), Copenacre/Hartham No 2/Hartham Park (1826-c1864, 1889-1939, 1945-1960), Old Pickwick (1851-c1853) and Pickwick (1899-1913) that were worked under the former Hartham Park Estate at Corsham at various dates between c1810 and 1960, plus extensive post 1999 workings mainly west of the old Hartham and Copenacre quarries. Bath stone from several different horizons within the Bath division of the Great Oolite has been dug in all of them.

In 1939 the quarries were requisitioned by the Admiralty, Pickwick and Traveller's Rest Quarries became Royal Navy Armament Depot Pickwick and Hartham Park Quarry became Royal Navy Store Depot Copenacre. RNAD Pickwick was de-requisitioned in 1950, RNSD Copenacre closed in 1994 and is now used for muck space for the working quarry.

From 1989 to 1998 the owner ran Pickwick and Traveller's Rest Quarries as a heritage visitor attraction under the style of "The Underground Quarry". Since 1999 most of the quarry has been leased to Hanson Bath and Portland Stone who currently dig around 3,500 cubic metres p. a. The area of Copenacre is believed to be 19 acres, the area of all the workings is around 35 to 40 acres.

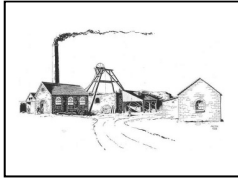
Underground the going is uneven, wet and slippery, sensible footwear is ESSENTIAL. There are 159 steps UP out of the quarry, do NOT attempt if unfit.

Party limit: 10 (was originally 20) Trip will be led by Mine Manager

Meeting Point: Quarry Car-park on south side of B3109, NGR ST855703; postcode SN13 0QR;
Lat/long 51.43154, -2.20997

Travel time: 1 hour to 1 hr 15 mins





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U3: Stoke Hill Mine, Limpley Stoke, near Bath **CANCELLED**

Saturday 10:00 to 12:00

Bath Stone Company, Midford Lane, Limpley Stoke, Bath, BA2 7GP

Unfortunately this trip has been cancelled.

Originally called Hayes Wood Quarry, this underground quarry was first worked before WW2 and in 1940 seven acres of workings at this site were requisitioned by the Ministry of Works. After the war, the site reverted to its previous ownership. There were a few years of working in the 1970s on a small scale. In 1980 the site was bought by the Bath Stone Company and is now referred to as Stoke Hill Mine. The BSC work the award winning Stoke Ground Bath Stone and, during the last twenty years have established themselves as market leaders with 95% of market share in Bath Stone Supply.

Stoke Ground Bath Stone is widely used throughout the UK in both restoration and new build projects, and is regularly specified by the National Trust and English Heritage. It was used for the restoration of fire damaged Windsor Castle. In Gloucestershire, also, nearer to conference venue, this stone has been used in restoration work at Woodchester Mansion, near Stroud www.woodchestermansion.org.uk

The trip will be walking mostly on the level, at times through deepish puddles, so wellies are advised. The whole area you will see is part of the working mine, you won't be seeing any pre war workings. You will see the modern methods of working and the machinery used.

Party limit: 20 ——— Trip will be led by Mine Manager

Meeting Point: NGR ST778606, postcode BA2 7GP, lat/long 51.34491, -2.31876

Travel time: 1 hour to 1 hr 15 mins

U4: Redcliffe Caves, Redcliffe, Bristol

Saturday 10:00 to 12:00

Mine workings that date from 1350 and extend under the Redcliffe area of Bristol. The Red Sandstone was dug out by pick and shovel, so the main product of the caves was basically sand, needed for the production of glass for bottling beers and spirits. After the mining effort the caves were put to other uses for storage of valuable goods (including elephant's tusks and palm oil), glassware, pottery and packing materials and also as a dumping ground.

The caves used to extend for 12 acres but due to building and road works only an acre of caves are now accessible.

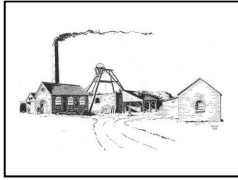
The tour lasts for two hours with $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour on the surface and $1\frac{1}{4}$ hours underground. There is no crawling involved just a pleasant walk in room sized passages.

Party limit: 15 ——— Trip will be led by Alan Gray, ACG

Car parking: Good car park alongside Portwall Lane Cost: 2hr:£1.20 4hr:£5.00 (pay & display)
NGR ST590723, nearby postcode BS1 6NB, lat/long 51.44908, -2.59002

Also some free parking available in Redcliffe Parade as well as some pay and display; also parking in Redcliffe Parade. Free on-street parking may be possible near to Ostrich Inn, Lower Guinea St, BRISTOL, BS1 6TJ)





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Meeting Point: harbourside in open area just south of Redcliffe Way bridge over the harbour, at bottom of sandstone cliff. Or from other direction, around corner to NE of Ostrich Inn, Lower Guinea Street
NGR ST589723, postcode BS1 6TJ, lat/long 51.44871, -2.59183

Travel time: Via M32 about 30 minutes

U5: Brookman's (underground) Quarry, Tormarton

Saturday 10:00 to 12:00

CANCELLED ----- **CANCELLED**

U6: Singing River Mine, Shipham, Mendip

TRIP FULL

Saturday 10:30 to 14:30

Singing River Mine is a calamine mine. The entrance is down a 40 foot ladder pitch, there are some awkward climbs and some walking in water (generally knee height maximum). This trip is only suitable for fit experienced cavers with the appropriate personal gear, who are happy with ladder pitches; the leader has stated that delegates are NOT to use SRT, the pitch will only be rigged for use of a ladder.

The mine was mainly worked in the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century for calamine (zinc carbonate), blende (zinc sulphide) and galena (lead sulphide). Around the 1920's, the Axbridge Rural District Council (ARDC) attempted to use the mine as an underground reservoir, but this was abandoned towards the end of the project due to the water being contaminated.

It is possible that we may arrange another Mendip mine for delegates to visit during the afternoon on the way back to conference venue.

Party limit: 10 Trip will be led by Mark Ireland, ACG

Meeting Point: Meet in Shipham village centre, at junction of The Square and Folly Lane, opposite the Pensford Inn.

NGR ST444574 postcode BS25 1TW, lat/long 51.31385, -2.79881

Travel time: 50 mins to 1 hour

U7: Monument Mine (Coal), Bixslade, Forest of Dean

TRIP FULL

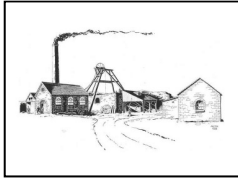
Saturday 10:30 to 12:30

Forest of Dean Freeminers drift mine, situated close to the trackbed of the Bixslade Tramroad, of which, the stone block rail supports can still be traced. The mine is named after the adjacent memorial to the Union Colliery disaster of 1902, the worst in the Forest of Dean, killing 4 miners.

The mine is operated on a full-time basis, and is a typical small run privately Forest of Dean coal mine. There are steep slippery slopes, quite a lot of walking crouched and awkward climbs up into the workings. Visit courtesy of the mine owners. Trip will be led by the mine manager. This mine is close to Hopewell Colliery (show mine).

For more detailed history, see http://www.minersadvice.co.uk/monument_pit.htm





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Party limit: 6 Trip will be led by Mine Manager

Meeting Point: Take track to the west of SO607 099 (about halfway between Parkend and Cannop, track opposite the Stone Firms).Then at a right junction, proceed left up the valley. The colliery is on the left. NGR SO605099 (nearby), postcode GL15 4JS, lat/long 51.78623, -2.57063

Travel time: 50 minutes to 1 hour.

U8: Wigpool Iron Mine, Forest of Dean

Saturday 10:30 to 12:30

Wigpool Iron Mine, situated in the north of the Forest of Dean near Mitcheldean, is an extensive mine.

Within the Gale are numerous outcrop "Scowles", one area being called the Delves, allegedly of Roman origin. In the Wigpool basin, the average dip is 35 degrees. Five entrances interconnect underground to the deep levels driven from two shafts, from which levels were driven at 115, 120, 126 and 133 yards depth. The shafts are believed to have been driven in the mid 1860s, both now infilled. Workings without the use of powder extend a long way down from the surface. Very few large chambers exist, most workings being of the bedding plane type, small and steep. Many formations exist in various isolated parts of the workings. The mine closed in 1918.

The mine consists of small, twisting low passages, on a steep dip, making very energetic trips. A few climbs, one exposed, will be encountered. Everywhere is covered in a thin film of the famous Forest mud! Experienced fit cavers only. Visit by courtesy of Clearwell Caves.

Party limit:10 Trip will be led by Les Twissel and Chris Bowen

Meeting Point: Details given are for MEETING POINT ONLY, DO NOT CHANGE INTO YOUR CAVING GEAR HERE, YOU WILL BE MOVING ELSEWHERE TO PARK BEFORE CHANGING. Meet at NGR SO652196: Just over 1 mile north of west end of The Stenders (postcode GL17 0JL), lat/long 51.87384, -2.50643

Travel time: 1 hour to 1 hr 15 mins

U9: Morses Level No 3, Coal Mine, near Parkend, Forest of Dean

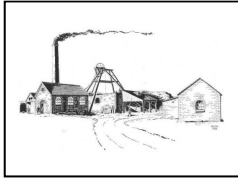
Saturday 10:30 to 12:30

Morses Level No 3 is typical of the coal workings of the freeminers; however it is currently only worked on a care and maintenance basis. In existence before 1835, it was driven as a short cross cut to the Yorkley Seam, a certified Steam Coal. A long way in, not accessible, a cross cut was driven to the Coleford High Delf seam, also a Steam Coal. The seam can be seen in situ in several places, also an excavated dram / skip found during remedial work, together with a rare underground Furnace, with uncut coal forming part of the flue!

A short fixed ladder, some stooping, & muddy feet, with a short steep slope are involved in the visit. Visit courtesy of the mine owners. Fit experienced cavers only. Trip will be led by the Pit Deputy.

Party limit:10 Trip will be led by Pit Deputy





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Meeting Point: 200 yards east of way into Mallards Pike Forestry Commission site at NGR SO639088: about half a mile east of The Barracks (postcode GL15 4HR, lat/long 51.77665, -2.52411. Meet opposite 5 barred gate.

Travel time: 50 minutes to 1 hour

U10: Old Ham / Old Bow Iron Mine, Forest of Dean

Saturday 10:30 to 12:30

Old Ham and Old Bow are two of the entrances to the iron mine of which Clearwell Caves (Tourist mine) is also part. Depending on demand, there can be two separate trips using different entrances.

Old Ham Iron Mine: A “crop “ working, consisting of a series of gently descending passages, via some crawls, & small climbs, to the more modern late c19 workings, 200 feet below ground, driven from Old Ham Shaft, also known as Hutchins Pit, or The Firs. The angle of dip is very shallow, 5 to 15 degrees. The levels from the shaft were unusually interconnected almost to the surface, via a series of sub-levels and tips. The mine was worked until the mid 1930s, with a “Travelling Road”, or “walk in” kept open until New Dunn, the gale to the deep, closed 10 days after the end of the 2nd World War. The workings can be a little like travelling through sponge, with many close 3 dimensional interconnections.

Dry & clean-ish with a few puddles. A few crawls & small climbs to negotiate, but the easiest of the iron mine trips on offer. Cavers, & ‘brave’ novices only. Visit courtesy of Clearwell Caves.

Old Bow Iron Mine: Another crop working, consisting of large “churns” (worked out pockets of ore) and rifts, taking the form a three dimensional maze. Fire-setting hearths are in evidence in few places, with much burnt coal scattered amongst the deads. The areas visited contain 1852 dates, last worked in 1909.

Much stooping, a few crawls and a few small climbs; dry & cleanish (for the Forest). Cavers only. Visit courtesy of Clearwell Caves.

Party limit: 10 per trip Trips will be led by leader from RFDCC.

Meeting Point: Meet in Clearwell Caves car-park (follow brown tourist signs).
NGR SO578084, postcode GL16 8JR, lat/long 51.77153, -2.61457

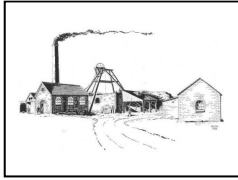
Travel time: 1 hour to 1 hr 15 mins

U11: Noxon Park Iron Mine, Forest of Dean

Saturday 10:30 to 12:30

Noxon Park is a wooded area just to north east of Bream. It is an area of “excepted” land (excluded from the Dean Forest Mines Act, 1838, [still in force!]), consisting of many open Scowles & Dolomite Quarries. Most connect with the deeper Oakwood Mill Land Level, often under water. The workings are in some places, large and peculiar to this area. Many workings end in steeper drops, sometimes vertical, often into water.





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Large rocks & slippery slopes are often encountered. Not clean! Experienced cavers only. Visit courtesy of FoDCCAG.

Party limit:10 Trips will be led by leader from RFDC.

Meeting Point: Details given are for MEETING POINT ONLY, DO NOT CHANGE INTO YOUR CAVING GEAR HERE, YOU WILL BE MOVING ELSEWHERE TO PARK BEFORE CHANGING. Meet off tarmac in lane at side of road at NGR SO597058, postcode GL15 6HW, lat/long 51.74946, -2.58522

Travel time: 45 minutes to 1 hour

U12: Box Stone Mine, Box, Wiltshire **TRIP FULL**

Saturday 14:30 to 16:30

Box Stone Mine (strictly speaking it should be referred to as Box Freestone Quarry) is an underground freestone quarry where oolitic limestone was worked for building. It comprises three nearby, interlinked quarries, Brown's Quarry, Spring Quarry and Tunnel Quarry. Some parts are still not accessible to cavers; many of the eastern quarries were taken over by the MOD and converted into ammunition storage and wartime government seats. At the start of c20, Box was said to have 60 miles of passage. Today all the quarries that connect together including the ministry quarries cover an area of approx. 650 - 700 acres including pillars.

Only the parts to the west of the original workings are accessible and parts of these will be visited. Dependent on the number of delegates requesting this trip, we will divide into different parties to be led separately, visiting different parts of the mine. Some of the areas inside Box are still known by their original names. (for example Cliftworks, Spring, Jacks, Cathedral).

The trip(s) will involve some crawls, squeezes (including vertically up) and clambering over muddy boulders, so is suitable for cavers of "average" expertise. Depending on the route taken, you may see quite a few cranes left (some almost intact), working areas, saws & saw bench, files and other miscellaneous artefacts. These are mostly left from workings from early c19 up to mid c20. Also the miners writings on the walls helps to understand the history of the mine.

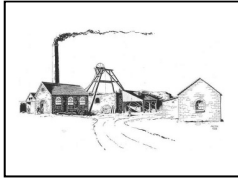
The history of Bath Stone quarrying spans 2000 years from the start of the Roman era to the present day. For an excellent summary and photographs of this see <http://www.choghole.co.uk> This is the website of Derek Hawkins who will be giving a talk at the conference on Sunday.

Party limit: 10 per trip Trip will be led by Malcolm White, RFDC

Meeting Point: Near gateway to east of Grove Farm (Caravan Club site), Box Hill, Corsham, Wiltshire at NGR ST836690, about halfway between postcode SN13 8HR and SN13 ONS, lat/long 51.42022, -2.23652

Travel time: 40 to 50 mins





NAMHO Conference 2010 Underground Trips



U13: "Swan Mine", near Batheaston, Wiltshire

Saturday 14:30 to 16:30

Kingsdown Quarry (to give its correct name) is another Bath freestone underground quarry, situated to the East of Batheaston just over the county boundary into Wiltshire. The mine entrance is right opposite a pub called The Swan Inn, hence the caver's name for the mine.

There are known to be workings here from the c16 to late c19 or early c20.

The trip will involve one easy crawl and some clambering over muddy boulders, so is suitable for cavers of "average" expertise. You will see an intact crane and nearby there is one crushed by a roof fall; you will also see working areas, saws & saw bench, files and other miscellaneous artefacts. Also the miners writings on the walls help to understand the history of the mine.

Party limit: 10 per trip Trip will be led by Jack Whiting, RFDCC

Meeting Point: Swan Inn, Kingsdown, near Batheaston. NGR ST810670, postcode SN13 8BP, lat/long 51.40228, -2.27421

Travel time: 40 to 50 mins

U14: Wigpool Iron Mine, Forest of Dean

Saturday 14:30 to 16:30

Another chance to visit Wigpool. For details see trip U8. Trip will be led by Les Twissel and Chris Bowen, RFDCC

U15: Morses Level No3 Coal Mine, Forest of Dean

TRIP FULL

Saturday 14:30 to 16:30

Another chance to visit Morses Level. For details see trip U9. Trip will be led by Pit Deputy

U16: Old Ham / Old Bow Iron Mine, Forest of Dean

TRIP FULL

Saturday 14:30 to 16:30

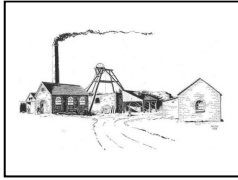
Another chance to visit Old Ham or Old Bow. For details see trip U10. Trip will be led by leader from RFDCC.

U17: Noxon Park Iron Mine, Forest of Dean

Saturday 14:30 to 16:30

Another chance to visit Noxon Park. For details see trip U11. Trip will be led by leader from RFDCC.





NAMHO Conference 2010

Underground Trips



U18: Serridge Pit, Coalpit Heath

Saturday 17:00 to 18:00

Serridge Engine Pit is the nearest underground trip to the conference venue, only a few minutes away. This was a pumping engine site (as distinct from a "coaling" shaft) A large Newcomen Engine was installed here in 1791 and is thought to have continued to around 1870 (by which time the nearby Frog Lane Colliery with its 85 inch diameter Cornish Engine was fully operational)

SGMRG have been excavating on the surface and in the underground chambers. NAMHO Conference volunteers will be at the site on the Saturday and Sunday late afternoons, to let delegates look at the site. We will explain what we think that above ground excavations may be. Access to what is thought to be the underground ash pit five metres below the surface (and NOT part of the mine workings) is down a normal household ladder into a chamber about 3 metres tall. From here a short flat-out crawl (often with a bit of running water) leads to another chamber with a passage leading to a blind reservoir shaft (thought to be the "boiler pond") and another narrow passage. Other than the flat-out crawl there is no difficulty to this visit. Time underground 10 to 15 mins.

Party limit: N/A. You will be allowed down in groups of up to 3 or 4 at a time for a quick look around. Leaders will be Ken Kemp (surface) and Steve Grudgings (underground)

Meeting Point: At Serridge Pit, parking is down drive at Serridge Cottage or walk from campsite NGR ST674796, postcode BS36 2UL, lat/long 51.51458, -2.46982

Travel time: 5 mins by car, 15 mins walk from conference venue, 5 mins walk from camp site

U19: Clifton Rocks Railway, Clifton Bristol

TRIP FULL

Sunday 10:00 to 11:30

U20: Clifton Rocks Railway, Clifton Bristol

TRIP FULL

Sunday 11:30 to 13:00

Clifton Rocks Railway is not a mine, it is a very steep tunneled incline for an underground railway from The Portway (Avon Gorge) to Clifton 240 feet above. The water powered railway opened in 1893 and operated for 40 years. During WW2 it became a secret transmission base for the BBC and had several other uses.

For more detailed history see http://www.cliftonrocksrailway.org.uk/history_06.htm

The Clifton Rocks Railway Trust is working hard to restore elements of the railway. The trip will tell delegates more history of the site and you will be guided from the top station, down to the level of the Portway. The climb back to the top involves about 320 Steps, so you need to be reasonably fit. No need for oversuits, but take lamp (and helmet) with you. The site is owned by the Avon Gorge Hotel.

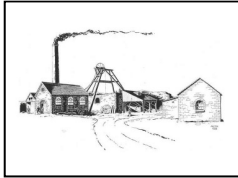
Party limit: 15 per party Trips will be led by Maggie Shapland, Clifton Rocks Railway & BIAS

Car parking: Clifton can be awkward for car parking. You will have to find on street parking near to the meeting point, or over towards Goldney House if you are combining your morning in Clifton with walk S13 or S14. **Lift sharing recommended, if not essential!**

Meeting Point: At Rocks Railway top station, to the right of the Avon Gorge Hotel, Sion Hill, Clifton, Bristol. NGR ST566729, postcode BS8 4BA, lat/long 51.45382, -2.62545

Travel time: 30 to 40 minutes; **allow plenty of time for finding a place to park. Lift sharing recommended.**





NAMHO Conference 2010 Underground Trips



U21: Wigpool Iron Mine, Forest of Dean

Sunday 10:30 to 12:30

Another chance to visit Wigpool. For details see trip U8. Trip will be led by Les Twissel, RFDCC.

U22: Noxon Park Iron Mine, Forest of Dean

TRIP FULL

Sunday 10:30 to 12:30

Another chance to visit Noxon Park. For details see trip U11. Trip will be led by leader from RFDCC.

U23: Whittington Quarry (West Cotswolds)

Sunday 10am to 12noon

Another chance to visit Whittington Quarry. For details see trip U36 (Friday). Trip will be led by Maurice Febry, GSS.

U24: Lower Balls Green (West Cotswolds)

Sunday 10am to 12noon

Another chance to visit Lower Balls Green. For details see trip U1A/U1B (Friday). Trip will be led by Chris Bowen, RFDCC and Jonathan Maisey, GSS.

U25: Wigpool Iron Mine, Forest of Dean

Sunday 14:30 to 16:30

Another chance to visit Wigpool. For details see trip U8. Trip will be led by Les Twissel, RFDCC.

U26: Noxon Park Iron Mine, Forest of Dean

TRIP FULL

Sunday 14:30 to 16:30

Another chance to visit Noxon Park. For details see trip U11. Trip will be led by leader from RFDCC.

U27: Whittington Quarry (West Cotswolds)

Sunday 14:00 to 16:00

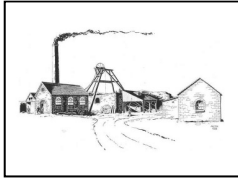
Another chance to visit Whittington Quarry. For details see trip U36 (Friday). Trip will be led by Maurice Febry, GSS.

U28: Lower Balls Green (West Cotswolds)

Sunday 14:00 to 16:00

Another chance to visit Lower Balls Green. For details see trip U1A/U1B (Friday). Trip will be led by Chris Bowen, RFDCC and Jonathan Maisey, GSS.





NAMHO Conference 2010 Underground Trips



U29: Serridge Pit, Coalpit Heath

Sunday 17:00 to 18:00

Another chance to visit a one of our local projects – **above ground only**. For more information, see trip U18 above. Leader will be Ken Kemp, SGMRG.

U30: Lower Balls Green (West Cotswolds)

Monday 10:30 to 12:30

Another chance to visit Lower Balls Green. For details see trip U1A/U1B (Friday). Trip will be led by Roger Gosling, SGMRG

U31: Monument Mine (Coal), Bixslade, Forest of Dean **TRIP FULL**

Monday 10:30 to 12:30

Another chance to visit Monument Mine. For details see trip U7. Trip will be led by Mine Manager.

U33: Wigpool Iron Mine, Forest of Dean

Monday 10:30 to 12:30

Another chance to visit Wigpool Mine. For details see trip U8. Trip will be led by George Price, RFDCC

U32: Monument Mine (Coal), Bixslade, Forest of Dean **TRIP FULL**

Tuesday 10:30 to 12:30

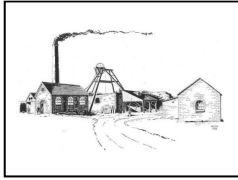
Another chance to visit Monument Mine. For details see trip U7. Trip will be led by Mine Manager.

U34: Wigpool Iron Mine, Forest of Dean

Tuesday 10:30 to 12:30

Another chance to visit Wigpool Mine. For details see trip U8. Trip will be led by George Price, RFDCC





NAMHO Conference 2010 Underground Trips



Overview of mining in the Forest of Dean

Iron ore mining in the Royal Forest of Dean probably dates back to the Iron Age. A Roman villa has been built over one small working. Shallow outcrop workings (Scowles) occur around most of the Forest, probably of ancient origin, but some showing evidence of shot holes from later working. Some of these (probably more than exist now) lead underground.

Deeper mining, involving levels and shafts, probably started in the early 1800s, finishing with the closure of the last iron mine ten days after the end of the 2nd World War. The orefield was famous for its very rich ore, the only impurity being limestone, which was required for its smelting.

Because of the skills of the ancient miners, now called "Freeminers", they were called upon for service to King & Country, at places such as Berwick-upon-Tweed. Because of the liking of Yew trees growing on the outcrop of the ore, they were also excellent bowmen, as well as sappers; they served at Agincourt and at Cressy.

Within the Iron basin, lay twenty seams of coal, originally, like the iron, worked in open pits and then as bell pits. Eventually long levels and deep shafts were driven, to work to the base of the basin. After Nationalisation in 1947, the NCB (later British Coal) concentrated on a few large deep shafts, the last closing on Christmas Eve 1965. British Coal became the Coal Authority, in 1994, but do not themselves operate any Forest of Dean mines. Coal believed to have come from the Royal Forest of Dean was recently found at a c13 dig in Monmouth.

Stone has been quarried also, both above and below ground.

All mineral extraction within the Hundred of St Briavels is overseen by Her Majesty's Deputy Gaveller. Mineral rights are vested in "Gales", from the Crown, being a license to work the specified mineral within the specified area, royalties being payable to "Her Majesty, Heirs, & Successors"

Trips underground in the Royal Forest of Dean will either be with the agreement of the individual owners, or, on behalf of the Forestry Commission, under the auspices of the Forest of Dean Cave Conservation & Access Group. The 'owners' of each trip are acknowledged in trip descriptions above.

