

Site 3283 Invisible Cave

(condensed from dive report by Dan Hibberts to CDG Newsletter for potential publication)

7th April 2012 Divers: Dan Hibberts, Martyn Grayson

Following an easy carry of some 200m from the entrance the divers entered sump 1 which was quickly passed being 1.8m deep and 6m long. A short passage of around 30 meters to sump 2 was met which was found rigged with a spit and a line reel hanging above the sump pool ready to be laid. The divers passed sump 2 to find it to be 10m long and 2.1m deep. At the other side of sump 2 the passage continued for 150m passing three large avens one of which has a large inlet 15m above the floor of the passage. The divers made an uneventful return trip.

8th April 2012 Divers: Dan Hibberts, Martyn Grayson

The divers returned to survey the passage beyond sump 2 and dive sump 3. After completing the survey, sump 3 was dived and found to be 15m in length and 2.1m deep and a fairly simple dive. Beyond sump 3 a large aven was found almost immediately and around 25m of passage to sump 4. Sump 4 looked possible to bypass by climbing a slope on the right side of the sump where a large ascending unexplored passage can be seen however it was thought more awkward to use this bypass than dive onward. Sump 4 was dived and found to be 5m long and 2m deep before surfacing in a sump pool in a rift which is 5m long to where the next sump is met. While the line reel was being rigged for sump 5 the divers were surprised by a large eel which swam past the diver's feet causing some consternation to MG. Sump 5 was then dived and found to be 10m long and 2m deep surfacing into 50m of large stream passage ending at sump 6. DH attempted to pass sump 6 but there was insufficient line on the reel and gas in his cylinders. The divers made an uneventful return trip.

9th April 2012 Divers: Dan Hibberts, Martyn Grayson

It was decided by the divers to survey the previous days finds and attempt to dive sump 6. The survey was completed and sump 6 dived by DH. The sump was found to descend steeply down a mud slope with a cloud of silt following the diver. A depth of 5.1m reached which led to the base of a vertical pot. The diver ascended the pot and surfaced in a cross rift which is no more than 5m long before the next sump. MG followed the line through the sump to join DH. Sump 7 was then dived by DH and found to be approximately 6m long and 1.9m deep surfacing at the foot of large aven and another sump. MG followed through the sump and, while the divers where inspecting sump 8, green leaves and twigs were noted floating on the surface which is just below an aven. DH noted there was only 15m of line on the line reel then dived sump 8 and, after reaching the end of the line at a depth 6.6m, the diver was forced to return. The divers made an uneventful return trip. This being the last day, Invisible Cave looks a good prospect for a return visit.