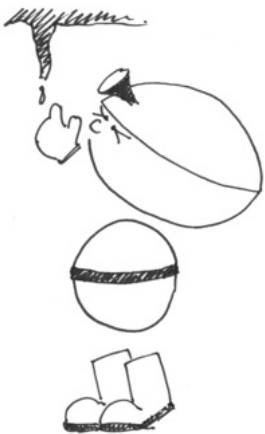


CONSERVATION IN CAVES

A Great Activity & Fantastic Classroom-
but what about the Cave?

What a great group activity. Caving combines physical activity with beauty, science and an exploration of the unknown. Many young people get their first taste of caving as part of an instructed group – this gives rise to a real conflict – should we be taking novice groups into the fragile cave environment?

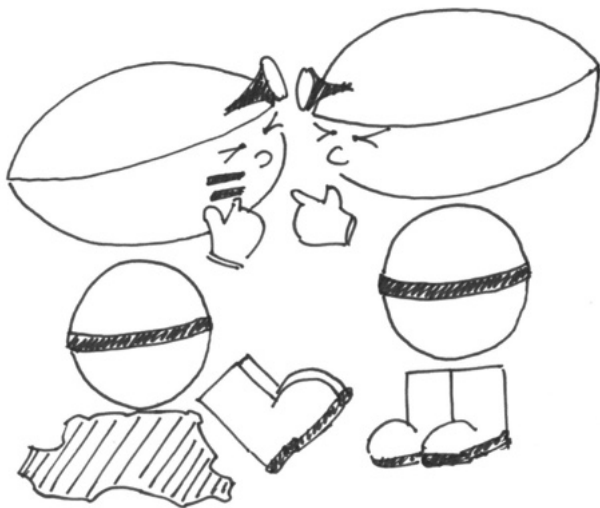
As instructors and teachers working in the outdoors, caves provide an invaluable working environment, but how much do we consider the impact of our visit? Every trip will take its toll, but we can and **must** minimize our impact, if this wonderful, natural classroom is to survive intact. Use it to extend horizons and enrich the lives of group members, to inspire an interest in geography and geology, to study the delicate flora and fauna, but remember - it is fragile.



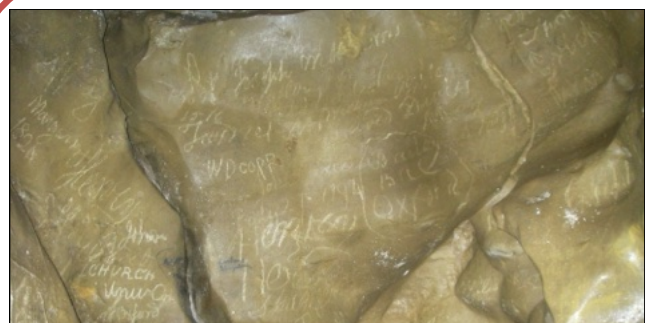
Look don't touch—these won't grow back in our lifetime



Bugs and Beasts- Give them a break, this is their home!

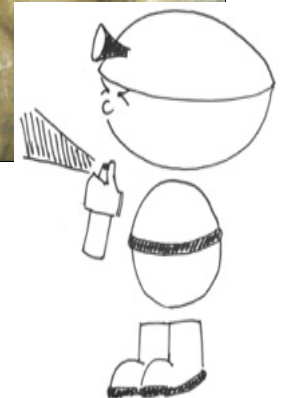


Sediments—may not look too exciting to you, but tell us much about the past. Leave the face painting and models for the back garden!



Graffiti—

A BIG NO!



Care of the cave should equal care of those in our charge. A strong conservation message needs to be delivered to all groups, regardless of age or ability. Good conservation starts with education!

Choose a suitable venue

A fragile, fossil environment is no place for a group of beginners. They will be excited and possibly clumsy as they undertake the 'challenge and adventure of a lifetime'.

Think numbers

The more fragile the cave, the smaller the group should be.

Enjoy!

Celebrate the beauty and fragility of your surroundings early on in your trip, before the tactile nature of rock proves to be too irresistible!



Food and Drink-
In the Cave?
Do we need to?
Careless crumbs
are likely to upset
the delicate cave
biota



Take out what you take in!



Litter—No room for abandoned wrappers,
batteries or clothing here

In the words of CHD Cullingford - "Caving is the most absolute of sports. It matches the thrills of exploring the unknown and defying physical obstacles with the intellectual challenge to explain how the unfamiliar shapes and beauties of underground scenery have evolved"

Enjoy your caving, but remember, we are privileged visitors who need to harbour a feeling of respect and responsibility for our caves.

CONSERVATION IN CAVES

Resource prepared by Juliet Parker-Smith (CIC) with additional original drawings by Vicky Arnold.
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For more info visit: www.swoapg.org.uk