

MEMOIRS

1965



N.C. & M.R.S. Records, 1965
"Grassington Moor Cavern"
Memoirs, NCMRS, p.47

Published by the

THE NORTHERN CAVERN & MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY
SKIPTON U.K.

© N.C.M.R.S. & The Author(s) 1965.

NB

This publication was originally issued in the 10 by 8 inch format then used by the society. It has now been digitised and reformatted at A5. This has changed the original pagination of articles, which is given in square brackets.

GRASSINGTON MOOR CAVERN

N.C. & M.R.S. Records

Grassington Moor Cavern. O.S. Sheet SE 06 NW. N.G.R. SE 027676
Approx. Depth 210 ft.

This cavern was found in the 1800s by lead miners making a rise from the 40 fathom level of the Old Turf Pits Shaft, sunk on the Turf Pits Vein. This shaft has now run in, and, as can be seen on the plan (Plate D Fig.1), no other workings connected with the cave.

With 1,350 ft. of cave as a prize, members of the N.C.M.R.S. concentrated on locating the ground in which the cave lies and, secondly, on finding any alternative to digging out a 40 fm. shaft. A careful survey was made of the ground in which the cavern lies and the mine plan orientated until the three major shafts marked on it tied up with the surface plan. The two deepest shafts, West Turf Pits, 30 fathoms, and Old Turf Pits, 40 fathoms, were found to have run in. Whim Shaft remains open to 20 fathoms but has been observed to flood quite regularly to an unknown depth. Midway between the two major shafts, a small shaft was found open. This appeared likely to have been the waygate or climbing way for the Turf Pits Vein workings. A 20 ft. descent down the walled entrance shaft, lead to a short passage cut through millstone grit leading to a further descent of 30 ft cut in a bed of shale. At the foot of this shaft the passage leading off had collapsed. At the foot of the entrance shaft a hole in the wall revealed a curious chamber obviously of natural origin, and, if one assumed that the waygate was sunk in a rough spiral, this chamber becomes a subsidence due to the collapse of the passage at the head of the third stage, thus making any excavation practically impossible.

Further attempts have been made by this society by exploring any shafts that were sunk to 40 fms, but in every case the almost total collapse of the workings has prevented any exploration at this level.

-ooo0ooo-

