

INGLEBOROUGH CAVE
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SUMMARY OF RISK ASSESSMENTS, April 2011

The management of Ingleborough Cave takes its responsibility for the health and safety of all persons very seriously. This is reflected in our exceptionally low accident frequency over many years in the show cave business. On the few occasions when accidents have occurred they have been of a very trivial nature. During the most recent visit by the Health and Safety Executive no adverse comments were received following the inspection. In April 2011 our most recent risk assessment exercise was conducted. The parts of the cave and its environs used by this business were divided into three convenient areas:

Underground in the show cave
The outdoor area around the cave entrance & shop
Inside the building (i.e. shop and shop annexe).

Four groups of persons likely to be affected by any hazards were identified:

Visitors to the show cave
Employees
Any contractors working at the cave from time to time
Cavers passing through the show cave en-route to the inner reaches of the cave.

The main hazards noted during the risk assessment process, which may affect **VISITORS** to the cave, included:

Entrance area: occasional moving vehicles, possible loose rocks above entrance, tree hazards, possibility of slipping / tripping on paths and steps.

Buildings: possibility of fire, hazards associated with the sale of snacks, hot drinks etc, electrical installations and COSHH considerations (storage of small amounts of cleaning materials, generator fuel etc).

Underground in show cave: bumps and stooping where roof is near or below head height, high water (only in extreme flood conditions which are easily managed and very rare events, the last one in winter 1991), adequate safety lighting and electrical installations (inc. need for back ups in case of power failure), trip hazards, pools of water, "stragglers" getting left behind a group temporarily and visitors deciding to leave a group and go out of the cave early if they don't like being underground.

The risks of hazards actually resulting in harm were generally very low due to successful control measures. Inevitably there were certain hazards which would benefit from further controls – these additional control measures are currently being implemented in priority order. The most recent risk assessment exercise conducted (together with related documents) occupies a substantial ring binder, which is impractical to distribute to all potential customers in advance of anticipated visits. However, this material is available for inspection at the show cave shop by interested parties at any time. The management would be pleased to amplify on any specific points if requested.

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