

Tuesday March 13th

Red Rake Mine Newburgh level



13 of us turned out on this cloudless and starry night. We just about filled up the layby.

None of us had been in here before luckily Katie knew where the entrance was having had a walk along the dale earlier in the week.

We entered into a really nice sough with beautiful key stoned archways and followed that keeping in a straight line.

The place became enormous after the few short crawls. There were stemples everywhere after a while we got to an area held up by a man made rock Pillar (See photo). After passing that to the right and down we eventually got to the flooded passage and the way on was by boat made up of a large tractor inner tube covered in sacking.



This took about 40 mins for everybody to get to the other end. We continued down the passage to a rope hanging down I guess this was the end of the traverse bypass, The roof must have been 20 meters above us with lots of big rocks suspended by almost nothing up there.

We arrived at a rope 10 of the party went up and on.

John Steve and I stayed there as time was getting on now. We waited for about 15 mins and they started to appear back so we made our way back to the boat.



[Katie takes it up from getting off the boats.](#)

My Grandad lived in Calver and as I teenager we always used to walk his dog to the entrance of Newburgh level and I always wanted to know what was in there....

Many years later and now a caver I finally got the chance!

Pete is writing the trip report up until the boat trip, so I will take it up from there.....

After a lovely and exciting trip across the lake sharing the boat with Jess (I think everyone else boated across the lake solo, but me and Jess enjoyed sharing so much we did it in both directions!) we passed an SRT rope disappearing off towards the top of the stope – may have to come back to

check that one out. After a little bit of up and down, over boulders and under low sections we arrived at short up pitch with a roped handline bypass. At the top of this a short uphill section led to the top of a spoil heap. Looking up we could see the rails of a railway ending in space – clearly a tipping point that can created the spoil heap we were standing on (also some dodgy stemming holding back many deads that we thought it best not to look too closely at).

The mine continues in a very straight line, with the roof mostly very high above, although with lots of evidence of workings at higher levels in the stope. Eventually the mine finishes at this level, leaving ways on up and down. A hole in the floor drops down to two ways on. Straight on looks like deep water and no-one braved it! Left leads through wading deep water, up to about waist deep at times on me (but I am a shorty) but mostly more like knee depth. There are several places to climb out, over some rubble then back down to the water. Eventually it pinches out. This was the only significant passage we found not in line with the main drag/ entrance passage.

The up rope led to a few ways on. One of these goes to another up rope which we left for another day (the pub was calling....)

An awesome trip, really enjoyed it and finally found out where that mine I visited so many times as a non caver went.

I am not sure if he ever worked in Newburgh but my Great Grandad was mine engineer and worked in nearby North Cliffe. See photo below – he is second from the right in the bowler hat.

Pete Dell and Katie Eavis

