



OGOF FFYNNON DDU NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE AND SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

ANNUAL PERMIT TO ENTER THE OGOF FFYNNON DDU (OFD) CAVE SYSTEM (Which is within the control of South Wales Caving Club and Natural Resources Wales)

This permit grants members of Mendip Caving Group (The Club), permission to lead parties of not more than 6 members of The Club (inclusive of The Leader*) into the Ogof Ffynnon Ddu Cave system between the dates of 1st January 2023 and 31st December 2023 via all entrances.

Signed  Date: 13.12.22
(South Wales Caving Club Permit Secretary)

On production to SWCC Permit Secretary of a valid membership card for The Club, a key may be obtained at SWCC headquarters.

NOTE: BY USING THIS PERMIT TO OBTAIN A KEY AT THE SWCC HEADQUARTERS, THE LEADER* CERTIFIES THAT HE OR SHE ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SAFETY OF THE GROUP AND HAS READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE 'CONDITIONS OF ACCESS TO OFD I, II (TOP ENTRANCE) AND CWM DWR' (AS ATTACHED WHEN ISSUED) AND THAT THOSE CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN MADE CLEAR TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP AND THAT DATA PERTAINING TO THE TRIPS CARRIED OUT UNDER THIS PERMIT WILL BE COLLECTED AND STORED TO ASSIST THE PERMIT SECRETARY IN CARRYING OUT THEIR FUNCTION. (For more detail, please see the South Wales Caving Club Privacy Notice which is available on the SWCC Website or upon request to the South Wales Caving Club Permit Secretary.)

VISITORS ENTER ENTIRELY AT THEIR OWN RISK AND SUBJECT TO THE ATTACHED CONDITIONS OF ACCESS TO OGOF FFYNNON DDU1, II (TOP ENTRANCE) AND CWM DWR (AS ATTACHED WHEN ISSUED).

*The Leader of the group shall complete all fields in an entry on the Key User Logsheets.

This Permit to be held on file by the Secretary of The Club and made available to all members of The Club upon request. It is not necessary for The Leader to carry a copy of this permit but by exercising the permission granted under this permit The Leader certifies that the group are aware of all conditions set out herein.

Access to Ogof Ffynnon Ddu I, II (Top Entrance) & Cwm Dwr

The entrances to OFD II & Cwm Dwr lie within a National Nature Reserve/SSSI administered by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The entrance to OFD I is owned by the South Wales Caving Club (SWCC) and also lies within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This permit is issued on behalf of NRW and SWCC and is required for any entrance to OFD. Entrances are gated and keys can be collected from SWCC HQ on production of a permit.

Annual Permits: Applications for permits that are valid for one year should be made directly to The South Wales Caving Club Permit Secretary. Such permits are normally granted only to clubs that visit the cave frequently and have, over a significant period, demonstrated a responsible attitude to safety and conservation.

Conditions of Access to OFD I, II (Top Entrance) & Cwm Dwr

- a) These Entry Conditions and Rules apply to all parts of and all entrances to Ogof Ffynnon Ddu.
- b) Parties using SWCC access keys shall log the use of keys on the sheets provided in cottage No. 3, which includes the name of the leader and number of people entering the cave. Parties must make their own arrangements for rescue at all times. Note that the HQ is usually closed by 5pm on Sundays.
- c) For reasons of cave conservation and adequate supervision of less-experienced cavers, the maximum permitted party size is 6 including the leader. Parties must not join up underground and should deliberately maintain separation from other parties.
- d) The leader is responsible for the conduct and safety of the party AND for the provision of the equipment necessary to complete the trip. The leader must draw to the party's attention the conditions relating to the use of any fixed equipment within the cave, which are displayed on the board in Cottage 3 of SWCC HQ. (A copy of these will be given upon request). The leader is responsible for the cave key. Lost keys will incur a charge of £50.
- e) ONLY electric lighting is to be used. Carbide MUST NOT be taken into the cave.
- f) This permit is for ENTRY ONLY. Camping, commercial filming, digging and the use of explosives, dye tracing and other research projects require special permission, for which application is to be made via the South Wales Caving Club Permit Secretary.
- g) Conservation of the cave is very important and those who enter the cave are responsible for its welfare. Some areas are taped off for conservation reasons. Marker tapes must not be crossed or moved, under any circumstances other than in extreme emergency. Observe all tapes and route markings in the cave. If there is no tape, proceed only if there is a clearly defined path. If in doubt, STOP.
- h) Smoking is prohibited throughout the cave and no litter whatsoever is to be left either inside or outside the cave.
- i) Cavers visiting OFD 1 must park vehicles in approved locations and approach the cave entrance by approved routes. Details of locations and routes can be found on the notice board in cottage No. 8 of SWCC HQ.
- j) The gates are to be locked at all times except when entering or leaving the cave.
- k) Cavers enter at their own risk. Many sections of the cave are arduous. For safety reasons, adequate experience and suitable clothing and equipment are required throughout the cave and especially in the further reaches of the cave and in the streamway.
- l) Installations, apparatus and equipment must not be damaged. If accidental damage occurs this should be reported immediately on return via the whiteboard in SWCC Cottage no. 3 and by email to the South Wales Caving Club Permit Secretary.
- m) Access to the land surface of the NNR and of much of the remainder of the SSSI is unrestricted but visitors are asked to help protect the wildlife and natural beauty and avoid disturbance to grazing animals.
- n) Failure to observe these conditions may result in the refusal of any future application for entry.
- o) These Entry Conditions and Rules may be revised from time to time.

Ogof Ffynnon Ddu II Streamway

1. CAVERS ARE ADVISED TO WEAR WETSUITS IN THIS STREAMWAY.
2. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT NOVICES SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN INTO THE OFD II STREAMWAY.

Columns Access

Access to the Columns (in OFD II) has been restricted since 1978 following a number of incidents of wanton damage to the area. The Columns and adjacent floor are particularly vulnerable because, being formed from limekiln seepage, they are much more fragile than conventional calcite formations. All parties visiting the Columns must be accompanied by a Warden. Wardens will normally be available to accompany parties on the Sundays of Easter, May Day, Spring and August Bank Holidays, and on New Year's Day. Parties wishing to visit the Columns at these times should have a valid permit for OFD II and should make themselves known to one of the duty Wardens at SWCC HQ by 10.00am on the day.