

## OGOF GWDIHW

by

O. C. LLOYD and R. SMITH

<i>Parish</i>	Ystradfellte	SN 9106.1316
<i>County</i>	Powys	<i>Altitude</i> 265m
<i>Map</i>	O.S. 1:10560, sheet SN 91 SW	<i>Length</i> 48m

### ABSTRACT

An account is given of a resurgence cave in the east bank of the Little Neath River, 430m south of Pwll y Rhyd. It extends for 48m and is part of an oxbow of the main river. The stream within the cave derives from an inlet 225m upstream in the river bed and dries up during drought.

### INTRODUCTION

This resurgence was discovered in May 1980 by members of the Croydon Caving Club, who removed a few boulders and found an owl in residence. Gwdihw is the Welsh for an owl. They found that the cave was impassable when water issued from the resurgence but in dry weather, when the water stopped flowing, they excavated it and extended it for 48m to a boulder choke. They thought that the water might come from Berth Lwyd Swallet, a sink about 350m to the south-east. But when the site was visited by the authors on 7.2.81 there was a hundred times as much water coming from the resurgence, as there was sinking at Berth Lwyd. It seemed likely therefore that the source of the water was somewhere in the stream bed of the Little Neath River south of Pwll y Rhyd. Owing to the interest taken in this area by the Society, ever since the discovery of the Little Neath River Cave in 1967, it was decided to do a colour test and make it a joint enterprise.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE CAVE

The entrance is small and leads to a low bedding cave with a boulder floor, mixed with domestic rubbish. The cave continues in this way to a boulder choke, which has not been passed. The only enlargements are at sections B and C, where there are cross joints. Between boulder choke and inlet the cave is impassable.

### THE COLOUR TEST

On 4.4.81 fluorescein was put into the Little Neath River at Pwll y Rhyd. The weather turned fine for the next four days, so that the colour was very slow to travel. During this time one of us (O. C. L.) did a surface

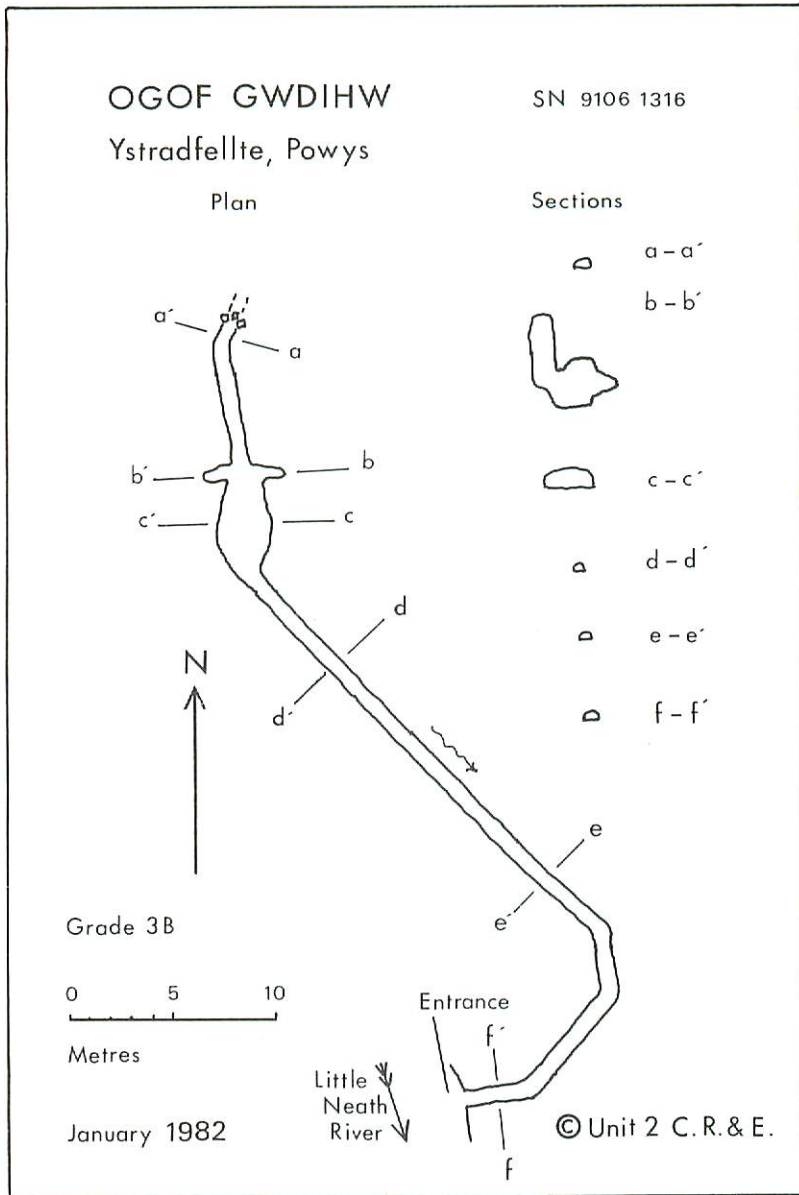


Fig. 27. Ogof Gwdihw, plan and sections of the cave. By kind permission of Unit Two Cave Research and Exploration.

survey to locate the entrance in relation to the nearest bench mark (BM 941.01) at SN 9104.1307 on a stone). He also explored upstream and found that the entire river was sinking into an opening on the left side of the stream bed, 225m upstream of the resurgence. Between the two the river was occupying some static pools or else the bed was dry. On the fifth day the weather broke and the colour was washed through

and detected in a charcoal bag, which had been placed in the resurgence. It is assumed that the sink in the river bed is the source of the water in Ogof Gwdihw. It is choked.

#### THE SURVEY

Plans and sections are shown in Fig. 27. The survey was carried out to B.C.R.A. Grade 3B by R. Smith and B. Cheasley in August 1981 and drawn by G. J. Christian, who has kindly placed it at our disposal. The copyright is that of Unit Two Cave Research and Exploration.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the above mentioned for permission to re-draw the survey for Proceedings. Also to Pete Smart for finding fluorescein in the charcoal bag.