

Short Drop Cave – Yorkshire 8th March 2025 – Allan Berry, Helen Perkins

On 8th March 2025 myself and Helen decided to take advantage of a good weather window and drive up to Yorkshire for a caving trip. After discussing a couple of possible trips, we decided to do Short Drop Cave on Leck Fell. I had done this many years ago and remembered enjoying the trip.

We arrived in Yorkshire at around 09:00am for the customary breakfast in Inglesport. Then we drove to Leck Fell and found the parking area for short drop quite quickly. There were a couple of other cavers getting changed but they were going off to do Notts Pot.

We got changed in sunshine and headed off on the short walk to where we thought the entrance was. It turned out to be fairly easy to find and we soon dropped through the small entrance and into the initial (slightly wet) crawl.



Figure 1 – Entrance to Short Drop Cave

The crawl continued for far longer than I remembered and made dragging my camera equipment tedious. But before too long the cave changed to a walking size narrow canyon. After following this for a short distance I decided to take a photo but on getting all of the camera equipment out the camera refused to communicate with the flashes. Eventually I gave up but carried the equipment with us as I didn't want to leave the valuable equipment behind. After following the canyon for a while we came to a short drop which required our rope. This drop was a little wet but a nice clean yorkshire pitch. Here I tried my camera again and it suddenly started working.



Figure 2 – The Short Drop in Short Drop!

After the pitch the passages got larger and a very pleasant time was had stomping down these large passages following the stream the whole way.



Figure 3 – Helen in an impressive canyon

Eventually we came to another pitch, but rather confusingly, it wasn't bolted and there were no natural anchors. After scratching my head for a while I discovered some bolts leading up into the roof much further back from the pitch and decided to climb up using these bolts for protection. After a while it was obvious that this wasn't leading me to the pitch, so we gave up and set off back the way we came (it turns out we had got to the end of the cave and the pitch leads only to a sump. The high-level bolts led out to surface though some sketchy climbs apparently).

The way back led to some further photo opportunities before we returned to the surface to get changed in sunshine.



Figure 4 – Helen in another nice passage