

**24<sup>th</sup> November 1988**  
**Letter to Descent Magazine**

To: Descent Magazine

From: Ian Tyler

Seathwaite Wad Mines (Keswick)

Sir

I have recently seen the article and description of the above area. In your July edition and would like to bring your readers up to date.

There has, in the last few months been at least 2 rock falls in the bottom section and this area must now be considered 'dangerous'.

The area of entry at the top i.e. "Gills Stage" and the two pitches down to "Fareys Stage" one can still consider safe. The traverse section over the "Grandpipe" shaft out to day has been rebolted and lined for safety.

The problem area is below "Fareys Stage", after Fareys Stage Grandpipe pitch. A small fall has occurred in the passage – further on after the rubble slope section one descends a short pitch 40ft to a landing. This is the start of the two final pitches. It is the first of these were all the problems have occurred.

A large shield of rock has been displaced from the shaft wall this has cascaded down dislodging a larger perilous boulder; this has descended to the top of the next pitch which it now overhangs. Also the original fall has displaced a volume of rubble which was supporting another large boulder which now hangs unsupported. As the system ends in a funnel this will all be above you should you risk a descent. Worse still if you are not equipped for S.R.T. and/or your ropes have been pulled through, you are then in a totally committed situation which cannot be advised (all pitches have been rebolted for S.R.T.) as and when area has been made safe you will be advised.

Regards,

Ian Tyler

C.C. Cumbria Amenity Trust