

Sunday 3rd January 1988
Pikedaw Calamine Caverns

MEET REPORT

PIKEDAW CALAMINE CAVERNS: MALHAM. Sun 5rd Jan. '88

Members present

A. C-P-Thomas....Ml
M. Mitchell
D. Webb
C. Jones
A. Wilson
C. Wood-Johnson...guest
G. Jones
C. Barrow
J. Helme

9 Members turning out on this blustery wet day to view this set of natural caverns in which calamine had been deposited and were subsequently exploited for same. The entrance shaft is a beaut, landing at a three way junction. Derbyshire abounds with examples of this, Water Icicle Close cavern for example (actually a lead mine) where a 100ft hand picked shaft lands directly on a natural 5 way junction. Some hypothesise that these are testaments to the divining and prospecting skills of the old fella, personally I am of the opinion that as for Pikedaw another now lost access to the mine once existed and these shafts were either plotted to known underground survey data, or in some cases perhaps were driven up from the workings below.

Of particular mineralogical interest were the natural solution pockets in which had been deposited a mosaic of malachite and azurite. Of note also was the economy of size of some of the older communication levels and access ways.

A.Thomas 13/1/88