



BCRA

**NORTH PENNINES**  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



## BCRA Field Meeting - North Pennines

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

### Hypogenic Caves of the North Pennines UNESCO Global Geopark

A joint meeting of British Cave Research Association (BCRA)  
and The North Pennines UNESCO Global Geopark (NPUGG).

#### VENUE

Nenthead Village Hall, Nenthead, Alston, Cumbria. CA9 3PH



#### ATTENDANCE FEE

£10 one day

£15 two days

#### INTRODUCTION

This joint field meeting will be an opportunity for cavers, cave scientists, geologists, mine history specialists, quaternary scientists and local residents to gather and share knowledge and enthusiasm for this special but relatively little-visited location. There are several fine cave systems in the North Pennines but the region is most notable for hosting the longest and most complex maze caves in Britain. In contrast to the majority of British caves which are epigenic (formed by descending waters) the maze caves are of hypogenic origin, that is they were formed by rising waters. As such they have no connection to the present land surface and are only accessible because they were intersected by lead miners.

The North Pennines UNESCO Global Geopark has first class interpretation of Geo Heritage and Geo Conservation at local visitor centres and on line resources that can be found at <http://www.northpennines.org.uk/about-us/unesco-global-geopark/>. Study of this facility is highly recommended.

The meeting will comprise a series of talks and four categories of field visit:

- surface geological site visits led by some of the regions most experienced geologists.
- self-guided walks.
- guided visits to some of the best introductory caves this region has to offer (these will be suitable for persons who have a reasonable degree of physical fitness but have little or no experience of cave exploration).
- guided visits to more extensive caves (suitable for those who have previous caving experience).

## **PROGRAMME**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am & Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> - 9.00am**

On both days there will be a short morning session of introductory lectures in the Village Hall followed by a selection of surface geological/ heritage walks or underground visits. These will include caves suitable for novices and more serious caving venues. The following caves have permits in place for both days.

Hudgill Burn Mine Cave

Knock Fell Caverns

Fairy Holes Cave

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Bunkhouse accommodation has been booked for 25 persons at Haggs Bank Bunkhouse. CA9 3LH

[\[haggsbank.com\]](http://haggsbank.com)

Cost £20 per person per night. All bedding is provided but bring your own towel.

Camping on site £10 per person per night.

Campervans with electric hook up £20 per night.

A booking form (see separate document) must be returned to [andrew.hinde@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:andrew.hinde@naturalengland.org.uk)

First Come First Served!

## **CATERING**

Breakfast will be available on Sat. and Sun morning at the Village Hall, price – £7.50

Evening Meal (2 courses) 7.00pm Village Hall , price £12.50

Pack Lunch £4.50

Self- catering facilities are available in the bunkhouse.

Please advise of any special dietary needs on the booking form.

## GETTING THERE

Nenthead Post Code CA9 3PH . Grid Ref NY 781 436.

Nenthead is on the A689 between Alston and Stanhope .

Allow plenty of time for what you think is the last half hour because it is likely to take you longer!

If you need picking up from public transport please let the organiser know.

## EQUIPMENT / HEALTH & SAFETY

Full Waterproof body cover and walking boots are recommended for all guided and self-guided walks. The weather in the North Pennines in June can still be poor so please prepare appropriately for such an eventuality.

The underground activities will require standard caving PPE and helmets/caving lights.

Novices will be provided with a helmet and light but will need fleece base layer and mid layer plus old waterproofs to wear underground. Wellington boots are ideal footwear.

## INSURANCE COVER

All members of the British Caving Association (BCA) have third party liability insurance cover. BCA's insurance also provides non-members with third party liability insurance cover whilst they are participating in a BCRA field meeting. However, personal accident insurance is the responsibility of the individual.

## ORGANISER

The meeting organiser is Andrew Hinde

E mail - [andrew.hinde@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:andrew.hinde@naturalengland.org.uk)

Land line – 015242 42021 day time

Mobile 07748 424637 evening

## BOOKING

**Please fill in the booking form (a separate document) and return to Andrew**

