

STREAMWAY MARKERS

These are located at safe exit points from the Main Streamway in OFDII.

Explanation

If there is a storm outside during a trip into the cave, the level of the water in Nant Newydd, the OFD II Main Streamway, could rise. If a trip is being contemplated that entails entering Main Streamway, the safe exit points need to be known and understood.

Most commonly, entry to The Main Streamway is usually either via Maypole Inlet or OFD I, although there are several other possible places of entry, some requiring ropes. A standard trip is the traverse of the Main Streamway either up or down stream. An alternative is the upstream trip to Top Waterfall which is usually a simple round trip with entry and exit both at Maypole Inlet.

On the upstream side of Maypole Inlet there is only one point at which a dry passage can be reached without equipment and that is into Pendulum Passage.

The floor of the passage downstream has many potholes, two of which are both deep and wide and normally require to be swum across. This can cause people to tire and become cold very quickly. The leader of the trip should be fully acquainted with the abilities of the party.

On the downstream side of Maypole Inlet, the egress points, are marked with reflective markers, are as follows:

The first point of exit is a normal part of the trip, to leave the stream at Great Oxbow in order to pass the sumps in the stream passage. Both ends of the Great Oxbow are marked. If this is used as an emergency exit all this affords is a set of dry passages in which to wait out the water going down.

The second exit point is at Marble Showers. For those who have the skill in traversing, this exit point provides a potential exit from the cave via the high-level passages leading to the Great Oxbow Series. This is **not** a route for novices. Otherwise, an easy climb gains access to dry passages which can be used as a refuge.

The third exit is in Fault Aven. Again, this only affords access to dry passages by the use of a scaffold bar.

A natural exit from the stream may be made at First River Chamber that gives access to the dry passages that lead to The Granary.

The final exit is at The Confluence. However, this may become impossible because, just on the upstream side, there is a short low section that sumps. Consequently, if this has already occurred the Fault Aven exit should be used.