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# Western Regional Group Field Trip

## WRGS Field Trip: Redcliffe Caves Tour

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Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Unbeknown to many, the area of Redcliffe, Bristol, overlies a small maze of man-made passages carved in to the local Red Sandstone cliffs. Dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, the main product of the caves was fine sand used in the glass making industry and for ship ballast. In keeping with Bristol's illustrious history, local legends state the caves were subsequently used during the slave trade, and for pirate smuggling and hiding treasure!

During the Napoleonic Wars, the caves were extended and used as prisons for prisoners of war. More recently they have been used intermittently as warehouses and air raid shelters during WWII.



Source: Axbridge Caving Group Flickr,  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/30672013@N08/2879336397/>

This two hour tour offers a rare opportunity to explore the caves and comprises a 45 minute guided tour of Redcliffe with commentary explaining the historical significance of the area followed by 1¼ hours underground where we will be guided through a section of the passages learning about the geology and history of the caves.

*\* The tour has a maximum capacity of 25 people and will be on a first come first serve basis. If we receive a high demand, we will arrange a second tour if appropriate. \**

**Meeting Point:** The Ostrich Pub, Lower Guinea Street, Redcliffe, Bristol BS1 6TJ.

**Date:** Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

**Time:** 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start at Phoenix Wharf below Redcliffe Parade, Lower Guinea Street, Bristol, BS1 6TJ.

**Important Information:**

- Sturdy footwear is required.
- Please wear old clothing as light staining from the Red Sandstone may affect light clothing.
- The caves that you will be visiting are roomy, there is no crawling and on only a couple of occasions you will be required to stoop.

**Very Important Information:**

- There is **NO LIGHTING** so please bring an efficient TORCH!!!

The cost of the trip will be confirmed upon group size but is likely to be around £4 per person, please e-mail [westernregionalgroup@gmail.com](mailto:westernregionalgroup@gmail.com) to reserve your place.

**e-mail**

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