

Muddy Puddles

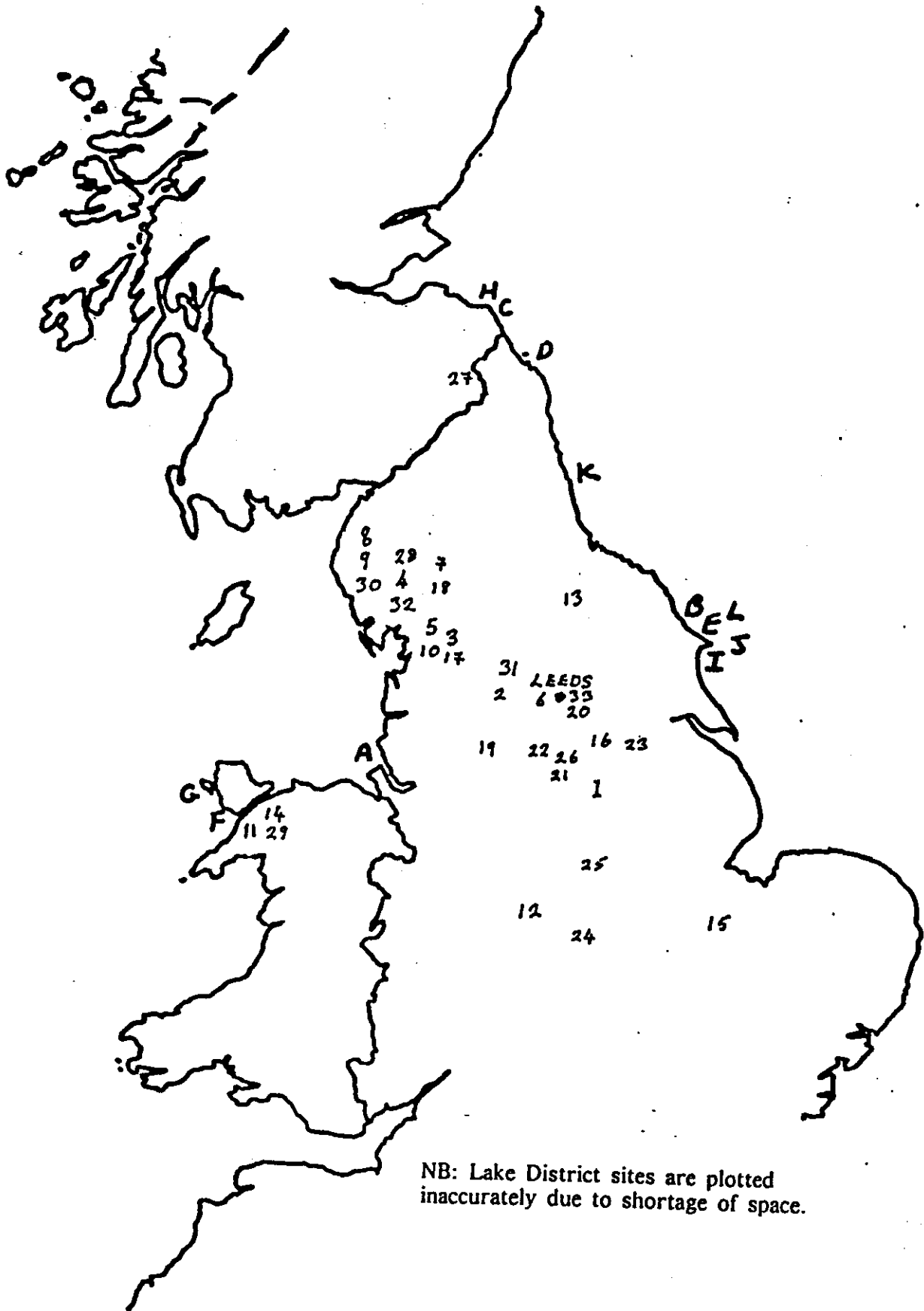
edited by
Linda Spashett

This book came out in the early 1990's. It was a source of valuable information to divers. Unfortunately many of the sites within its notes are no longer accessible to divers. We have added this as an historical document for interest only.

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CENTRAL BRITAIN
APPROXIMATE POSITIONS OF THE DIVE SITES
IN THIS EDITION



NB: Lake District sites are plotted inaccurately due to shortage of space.

SEA SITES

(A) ALBERT DOCK (2½ hrs), Liverpool. Directions: Take M62 west to end. Pass straight on through traffic lights towards city centre. There are then adequate signs to "Albert Dock and Attractions". Follow these signs onto the coast road and past the Liver Buildings on your right. As soon as you see Albert Dock turn right at the lights and through the big gates (DON'T follow the signs - these signwriters are having a private joke) 50 metres after the gates there is a small slip on the left into Salthouse Dock - park your car on the slip, this is where we get in. Permission is required by annual licence through your diving club/school, who must ring Captain Bill Broadbent (Merseyside Development Corp) on 051 236 6090. Free annual licence runs April-March; diving fees are 85p per diver per session. Hours and sites strictly limited (e.g. some days only up to 11.00am) - see details on licence or ring Capt Broadbent before planning a dive. SMBs are mandatory. Air: none nearby. Facilities: Toilets, restaurants, coffee bar very close by. Visibility: this is the Mersey. Information from Mersey DC, and John Smeaton BSAC.

(B) BURNISTON BAY (2 hrs): Directions: See map in *Dive Yorkshire*. Go north on A165 from Scarborough, turn right at Burniston along Rocks Lane. Almost at the end of Rocks Lane, before the farm house, turn right, there is parking on the right. Yomp to the beach down a long flight of steps. Swim on 90° bearing for 100m to find wreckage. Max depth: not much more than 8m at HW, but more life than in a quarry. (See *Dive Yorkshire*). Visibility: acceptable after period of offshore wind.

(C) EYEMOUTH (4 hrs), Nr St Abbs, Berwickshire (See *Dive North East*). Directions: Take either the A1 north right through Newcastle, or use the A19 to go through the Tyne Tunnel and rejoin the A1 north. Bypass Berwick-Upon-Tweed and follow the cliff road north. After you leave the coastline watch for a right turn onto the A1107 (Eyemouth). It's a small turning at the bottom of a long sweeping hill - don't go so fast that you miss it. Follow the signs to the Harbour (at the south end of the bay). Please park in the marked spaces, the traffic wardens here really love their job). Air: at St Abbs harbour. Visibility: Usually acceptable.

(D) FARNE ISLANDS (3-4 hrs): (See *Dive North East*). Directions: Take either A1 north through Newcastle or use the A19 to go through the Tyne Tunnel and then rejoin A1 north. Just after Alnwick take the B1340 (Seahouses) road. Check with your Dive Marshal whether you are meeting at Beadnell Caravan Site (popular divers' accommodation) or at Seahouses Harbour itself. The B1340 passes the caravan site on its way into Seahouses. Air: from Stan Hall, St Ebba's House, Beadnell, opposite "Beadnell Hall Hotel". Tel: 0665 720615. Charter boats & accommodation: Ring Stan Hall for further information. Facilities: toilets, food etc. close to Seahouses harbour. Visibility: usually acceptable in summer. Launching is discouraged in winter.

(E) FILEY (1½-2 hrs), Yorkshire (see *Dive Yorkshire*). Directions: Take A64 York Road to Staxton (the first roundabout after the end of the dual carriageway). There is a Little Chef and a Shell Garage on right just before roundabout. Turn right onto A1039 (Filey). Follow A1039 through Muston to a T-junction. Turn right and then immediately left at the roundabout (still on the A1039). Follow this road over a railway crossing and turn right into the car park opposite the FINA garage. This makes a good meeting place, but if you are a bit late, don't wait here, keep going to the roundabout and bear right following the signs to "The Beach". After going down the cobbles turn left and go along the coast road for 300 yards. Turn right into the small car park before the road turns away from the sea. This is Cobble Landing. Checking conditions: If the plan is to meet at Fina garage, and you arrive early, please go down to Cobble Landing and either look at the flag or find the car park marshal (Ted) and ask him, before returning to the Fina garage to tell the Dive Marshal what you have found out. Air: no compressor. Facilities: bacon butties, fish'n'chips are

good. Visibility: silty inshore; improves further offshore. Information from John Smeaton BSAC.

(F) MENAI STRAITS (4 hrs): Directions: you dive from the slipway in Menai Bridge Anglesey, swimming towards the suspension bridge. Limitations: Bangor University have set up a nature trail here so don't collect anything in the way of lunch. Times: The slack water time for the area is 2h before HW Liverpool. Wait until you see the boats that are moored by the slip begin to turn with the tide and that is the time to enter the water. It is possible to time a dive in the Strait to go with the tide one way and back again when it turns (so they say). Take care: the currents in the Strait mean you have to be very careful especially without boat cover. Facilities: the editor would welcome information, please. Air: dive centre on Ravenspoint Road, Trearddur Bay, Anglesey, see Mike Magee. Permission/fees: apparently not necessary. Information from Clwd Sub Aqua Club 167.

(G) RAVENSPPOINT (4-5 hrs): Trearddur Bay, Anglesea. Further details: from Mike Magee at dive centre on Ravenspoint Road. Air: from Mike Magee. Information from Clwd Sub Aqua Club 167.

(H) ST ABBS (4 hrs), Berwickshire (see *Dive North East*). Directions: Follow the directions to Eyemouth. You could go through Eyemouth and follow the back roads to Coldingham but the roads are better if you stay on the A1 north for a few miles more. Watch carefully for a crossroads (left to Reston and right to Coldingham). Take the right turn and go into Coldingham (go carefully into Coldingham - there is a nasty blind junction that you cannot see until you get to it). As soon as you reach Coldingham the road turns left round a petrol station, but you need to go right (straight on) past the SPAR. Go down the hill and where the road bends hard left notice Scoutsroft Caravan site - there is a compressor here. Follow the road round the left and into St Abbs. Remember that space is limited in the harbour car park - be VERY early. Diver saturation: when car park is full (most summer weekends). Air: In St Abbs Harbour or at Scoutsroft (above). Visibility: has been up to 20m; down to 1m: expect 5-10m in summer.

(I) SOUTH BEACH (1½ hrs): (launching only). Directions: take York Road (A64), turn off towards Bridlington (A166). Turn right at lights towards Brid centre. Right at roundabout towards South Beach. Along sea front to car park and South Beach slipway. Pay and display. (Don't go to South Cliff site, a mile or so further south). South Beach slip is known locally as Belvedere. No shore diving. Facilities: cafes, toilets, fresh water hoses. Take 2 cylinders OR air available locally by prior arrangement: Clean Air Services 0262 400325 - follow initial directions down to roundabout, then turn left, then immediately to right down little track to railway arches. (See *Dive Yorkshire*).

(J) SOUTH LANDING (1½-2 hrs): Take York Rd (A64); after York bypass, take Bridlington turnoff (A166) to Brid. Just before Brid, pick up signs to Flamborough, take right fork at church, then right turn to South Landing; right again signposted Heritage Centre. Car park at top of cliff by Heritage Centre (pay and display, beware officials). There's a gently sloping roadway down to beach (may be used for (un)loading, but no parking). Depth up to 4m, best at high water, vis as at Thornwick. Facilities: toilets at Heritage Centre. Take packed lunch. No air available nearby. Sea bottom is mud/chalk; dragonets, butterflyfish, flatties etc. (Launching also possible here). (See *Dive Yorkshire*). Beware currents which can carry shore divers out towards Flamborough Head. Visibility: can be nil most of year; 3-5m vis is possible.

(K) SOUTH SHIELDS (2½ hrs), where R. Tyne meets sea, south side (see *Dive North East*). Directions: Take A1 north to Dishforth where you turn off onto A168 towards A19. Take the A19 to within two miles of the Tyne Tunnel and then take the A194 (South Shields). Follow signs past the port and onto the Sea Front. Once at the sea

fairly easy scrambling. Some lower basins make very shallow dives and long uphill walks back, but they're fun for snorkelling. Visibility: usually excellent, ca.5m; down to 1m when water is running fast. Times: waterfalls can be dangerous after heavy rain/meltwater - be prepared to cancel your dive as appropriate. When running fast, a whirlpool develops next to the fall: this only spins slowly in the 10m basin, but can pin you in a corner on the surface. A 50m rope tied to the base of the tree near the water access point, attended by the shore cover in snorkelling gear, would assist experienced divers, who could also escape the whirlpool by ducking underwater, grabbing the lip of rock between the 10m and 6m basins, and pulling themselves out of the current. Neither solution is easy, so if in doubt don't dive. Diver saturation: 2 buddy pairs in water; no room to queue at water entry point. Avoid weekends. Information from Muddy Puddles.

4. BRATHAY QUARRY (4 hrs): a rock quarry near Ambleside, at altitude ca.100m. Directions: (Bring a trolley unless you like yomping). From Ambleside take the Coniston road, then at Clappers Gate turn left towards Hawkshead. The road crosses a river, then after ca.200m road forks, keep left. After about a mile turn right just before the row of mock tudor houses that you'll see on left. After about 300m on left there's a gate and stile. Park close to side of road, and before kitting up, climb gate and walk the 200m track uphill to the quarry, to check water level. Retire defeated (or not) to Drunken Duck Pub nearby. Depth: 12m. Visibility: Clear like Hodge Close. Diver saturation: water area will take plenty of divers, but there's shore access space for one small group only. Facilities: none. NB: This quarry was drained but it filled again; present situation requires regular checking. At the time of going to press, Pattinsons said the quarry had been drained again. Legal access: permission required from Pattinsons, though it's next to a public footpath. Owned by Pattinson builders, on Beresford Road, Tel: 05394 42117, ask for Mrs Matthews. Some members of Kendal BSAC (who have now left) used to dive this site. NB: This is on a site of Special Scientific Interest, used by the Freshwater Biological Association, who study the local ecology. Tel: 05394 42468. Information from Leeds University BSAC and Scuba Tech.

5. CAPERNWRAY QUARRY (2½ hrs), SW of Kirkby Lonsdale, by Lancaster Canal, before you get to Carnforth, Lancs (Take A65 then B6254). Directions: come up M6, pass Lancaster turnoff, take Overkellert Quarries turnoff, junction 37, before Lake District turnoff. It's near the little town of Overkellert, ask directions there if necessary. Permission: Capernwray was sold by McAlpine to Marksteady, which has connections with Northern Diver. Marksteady has given the use of it to Blackpool Area Divers (diveclub and school) Tel:0253 869188. There is currently no lock on the gate, and no diving fee, but you may be charged for parking on site. Lock and alarm your car and don't leave gear unattended. Max depth: ca. 20m. Visibility: you can see your buddy if you don't kick up the mud. Facilities: none. There are small silver fish (bleak), and a lot of junk and silt on bottom. Site is 30m above s/l. Diver saturation: probably 2 club groups on site at once. Information from Blackpool Area Divers.

6. CHALLOWDENE RESERVOIR (1 hr), nature reserve at Bradford. Directions: It's on Duckworth Lane, just beyond Bradford Royal Infirmary on the right, if you're going towards Allerton. Managed by Barry Tinker, Tel: 0274 752648, Recreation Division, Bradford City Council, 2nd Floor, Central House, Forster Square, Bradford BD1 1DJ. Permission: granted by lease to diving clubs at a fee of ca.£65 per year. Limitations: Lease granted to only about 3 clubs per year, diving only on e.g. a weekday evening and weekend morning. Write to Mr Tinker to be included on next year's waiting list. Depth: 9-12m. Facilities: There's a nearby gents' toilet, nothing else. Diver saturation: controlled by permit. Information from Divers Warehouse and Barry Tinker.

7. CONISTON (4 hrs), ie Lake Coniston, Cumbria, at altitude ca.45m. Permission is not required to dive; fee: none. Easiest access is at Bailiff Wood car park on the east side. Take M6, leave at junction 36. Take A590 towards Barrow in Furness, follow east side

road from near Pennybridge. After you come to the first car park, run along the car parks till you reach Bailiff Wood car park. Go left out of the car park, and where the road is at the same level as the water there's a path through the trees. You'll see a large boulder in the water. Swim out past the boulder till you get 9m. depth, then turn left to a wall which goes down to depth 25m. Further information about other Coniston sites etc. from Stuart Mynert at Scuba Tech diveshop, tel: 0524 381831. Facilities: none. Air: from Scuba Tech. Diver saturation: information please? Visibility: varies with weather and season, average 4-5m. Information from Scuba Tech.

8. CRUMMOCK WATER (4-5 hrs), Lake District: a popular site at altitude ca.92m. The Warden is Mark Astley, Tel: 0900 85267. Directions: Shore dive from Hause Point, which has small car park for three cars, surrounded by double yellow lines. Alternatively you can get a permit to launch your dive boat (sans engine), or hire their rowboat at £8 per ½-day, and row across to Ling Peninsular on the other side, and shore-dive there. Permission: Ring beforehand, giving date of dive: you may be refused if 3 carloads are already booked. Fee: none for shore diving; there may be a launch fee. Depth: ca.21½m. both sites; Hause Point is a cliff dive. Visibility: said to be very clear. Facilities: none; nearest toilets 1½ miles away at Buttermere village. Diver saturation: however many you can cram, with their gear, into 3 cars. Information from Jim Loxon, previous warden, Tel: 0946 861235.

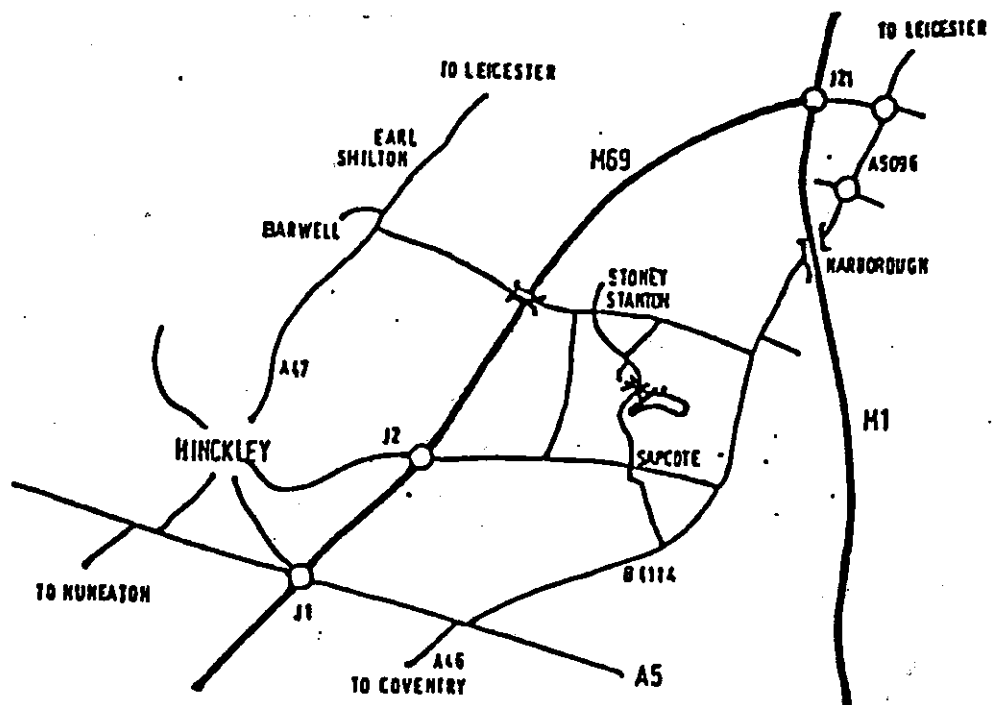
9. DERWENT WATER (4-5 hrs), Lake District; lake at altitude ca.69m. Too inconvenient to dive. Most of the lake is too shallow and ices over in winter; car park is too small and in wrong place. You'd have to walk a great distance, with gear, to find access to (maybe) 5m. The Warden is Mr Wilson, tel: 07687 77322. Local divers use Crummock Water, see above.

10. DEVILS BRIDGE (2 hrs), a river dive near Kirkby Lonsdale. Directions: A65 NW from Leeds, towards Kirkby Lonsdale. Go across River Lune bridge and turn sharp right to car park, toilets etc. Burger stall and bikers on opposite side of bridge in daytime. Go through kissing gate between toilets and bridge, follow track down to river. Max depth: ca.7m. Current in river is slowest at sides; rock/pebble bottom. Eels at night, salmon, trout etc. Access: The local Parish Council control access. There have recently been some difficulties here, but regulation of access has now reverted to approximately its previous form (see notice posted at the site). Times: you may now dive here every day November-January, and Sundays only July-August. (NB: some say you can enter water above bridge where Parish Council doesn't own land - ie not between bridges - but this requires checking). Night-diving: it's not known whether permission is required - check with Parish Council. Night-diving here must be well-organised during a previous day-time dive/visit. Divers will be swept downstream at 2kts, surfacing in pitch blackness, and will need to know where to surface, where to climb out, and how to get back to entry point. It's easy to be separated underwater on night dives here - divers must be suitably self-sufficient, just in case. Visibility: usually at least 2m (peaty). Facilities: toilets and burger stall. Fee: Apparently none, but check the Notice on site. Information from Muddy Puddles.

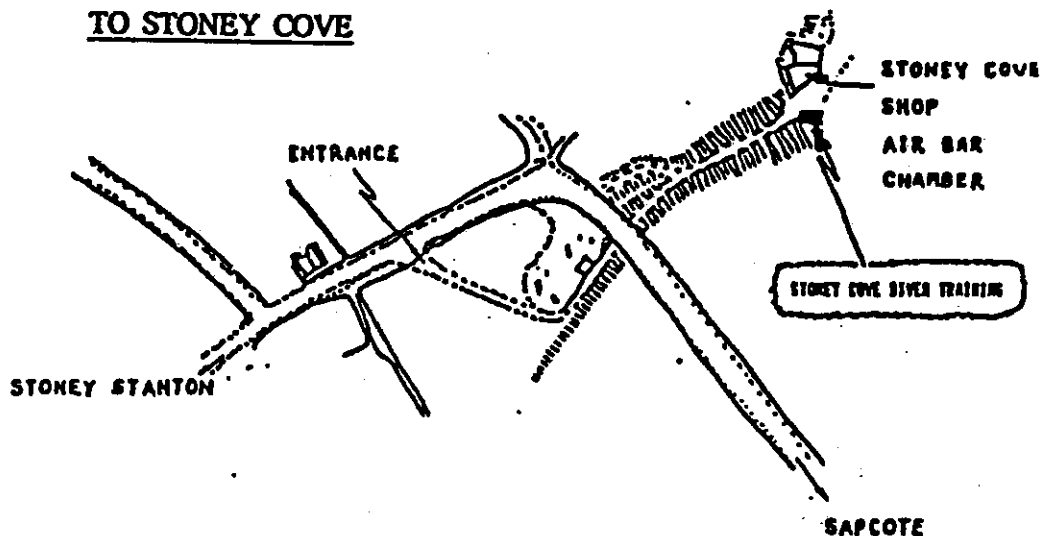
11. DOROTHEA QUARRY (4 hrs): disused slate quarry, Snowdonia, at altitude ca.125m. Contains rare palmate newts and a big fish used in local restaurant, plus old quarry plant, wrecked vehicles etc. Directions: (use OS Outdoor Leisure Map 17, "Snowdonia"; Dorothea is grid ref. SH499532). Go west along north coast of Wales to Caernarfon, i.e. take A55, then A5, A4087, A487 into Caernarfon. Take A4085 south. Pass large reservoir lake (Llyn Cwellyn) on right and Snowdon on left, then take right fork at Rhyd-Ddu (B4418) to Nantlle. Pass through village. When you are almost out of the village, the road bends sharply left (south). The east entrance to Dorothea is at this bend, on the right. Drive along the track (when it's open), and Dorothea is the first lake you see on the left. On the map it's the largest, next to ruined Talysarn Hall. There is access to the same track from the west, via Talysarn. Carry on westward out of Nantlle along the B4418 to Talysarn. As you reach Talysarn, keep turning right (see

front turn left and follow the coast road. It's convenient to meet in the car park close to the Sailing Club at the North end of the Coast road. Air: no local compressor. Facilities: Toilets are a 100-yd walk back south along coast road, on landward side. Take packed lunch. Visibility: most of the time, very poor. Poor vis here can be preferable, as silt is suspended in water, and wrecks uncover somewhat.

(L) THORNWICK (1½-2 hrs): Little Thornwick: Take B1255, North Marine Road, from Flamborough Village centre, turning left immediately before Viking Hotel. This rough road leads to free car park by cafe, steps down to LEFT HAND bay. Wreckage is 200m to north, 50m from rocks. Best at high water, or dive on the flood for easy return. Max depth up to 10m. Visibility normally nil; only acceptable after period of offshore wind in summer: ½-5m. Sand, gravel, chalk, kelp bottom. Facilities: cafe and toilet above bay, open tourist season, office hours. Packed lunch advisable. No air available nearby. **Thornwick Bay:** Directions as for Little Thornwick. Thornwick Bay is the RIGHT HAND bay, reached via long cliff path down to right hand of bay, from free grassy car park BEFORE you reach cafe. Best at high water; AVOID flood tide in RHS of this bay (current sweeps you out). Max depth up to 7m; vis as above. Sand, gravel, chalk, kelp. Facilities are at Little Thornwick. (See *Dive Yorkshire*).



TO STONEY COVE



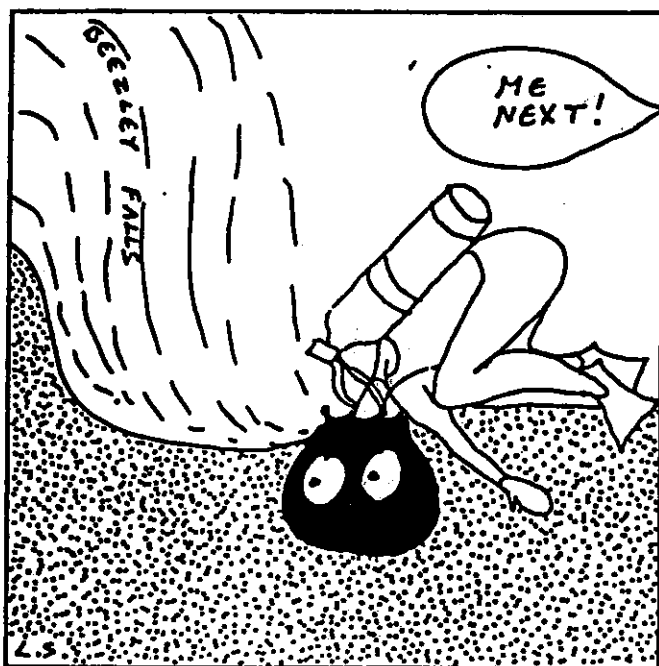
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FRESHWATER SITES

6

1. ARMSTRONG QUARRY (1-1½hrs) known by divers as Steetley Quarry, at Steetley, Worksop. It's near Rhodesia and Shire Oaks. Directions: Leave motorway at Barlboro, junction 30; go towards Worksop. Pass Van Dykes hotel on right; road bends where you pass pub on left; turn off at Steetley Lane; on right is Bakery Factories. Enter Factories access road; halfway down this road on right, you will see Armstrong Quarry. Is there legal access? There is legal access to the Factory road, and along the bridleway which passes alongside Armstrong Quarry BUT LEAVING THESE TO APPROACH QUARRY IS TRESPASSING. Please note at time of publication, there are Government moves to make trespassing a criminal offence. What can we do about it? Redland, which own the site, have a positive attitude towards divers, and would like to see the site developed, possibly for watersports, in the future. Currently they can't give us legal access because it's a closed site under the Mines and Quarries Act, there are adjacent landfill ops, next year there'll be earthmoving ops on nearby waste tip. They ask us to get our request to dive there onto their files for their future planning use. Write to Mr Keith Wharmby, Redland Estates, Whitwell Works, Southfield Lane, Worksop, Notts S80 3LJ. For enquiries ring Mick Kerman or John Carlill on 0709 867474. Depth: 25-30m. Facilities: none. Visibility: said to be quite good. Information from Redland Estates.

2. BAILDON GOLF CLUB (1 hr): three old reservoirs: lease being transferred by Yorks Water to golf club, at Baildon Moor, near Bradford. Two of the reservoirs are too shallow/muddy even for this book, but the middle one is "deep enough to dive", they say, and clearer. Contains no golf balls. Permission: ring Ted Northard, club secretary, on 0274 582428/584266, after 1994, when negotiations should be completed. NB there may be difficult access, and one diving club already has first refusal for diving permit. Information from Baildon Golf Club and Divers Warehouse.



*"Beezley is so clear,
you can see from
one side of the
basin to the other."*

3. BEEZLEY FALLS, (2 hrs) near Ingleton, N. Yorks: the top waterfall in a series. Directions: take A65, turn off into Ingleton centre. Take left fork down to rivers. Turn right after crossing 1st river (not private waterfall car park). Up steep lane ca. 2km. Turn right through farmyard (marked Beezley Falls), park in next field. Parking fee: about £1, pay at farmhouse. Facilities: none. Max depth: (in full flood) 10m directly under waterfall in top basin, or 6m in adjacent bowl in top basin, access by

OS map). The track is through a gate by a small roundabout (very rough track this end, sometimes blocked). Permission: until recently, none was needed, there was no fee - but - Is it now closed? Dorothea was recently bought by a developer wishing to infill then develop the site; the site has been recently closed by blocking the track both ends. Local politics and planning permission may or may not have been a problem, but Gwent Council has apparently been offering the site to dive operators. These could not take up the offer due to insurance limitations (Dorothea's too deep) unless Dorothea were filled in till it was 6m deep. At the time of publication, there was unofficial access to divers via Nantlle, over the almost-unblocked track - vehicles need good clearance. Chester Dive School (0244 314204), which used to use Dorothea regularly, may have the latest information re access. Access to water: on the north side of Dorothea, there are 2. The one next to the (unsurfaced) car park goes into shallow water with terraces of 5m, 9m, 23m, with a roadway down to 34m. The edge of these terraces drops to 50m+, (and the Max depth is 100m+, **INEXPERIENCED DIVERS BEWARE**). The second water access is a few yards further west along the track, and goes almost straight into 50m+. For further diving information, see *Diver* magazine October 1990 pp33-36. Facilities: none. Visibility: can be 15-20m. Air: at Tynrhos Divers, ring first - 0758 740712 - at "Tynrhos", Mynytho, Pwllheli. Diver saturation: plenty of room in the water; limited room for access and parking. Probably 2 club groups are the maximum, avoid Sundays.

12. DOSTHILL QUARRY (2 hrs), Church Road, Dosthill, Tamworth, Staffs B77 1LL. Tel: 0827 281304. Previously a (gravel?) quarry, now a commercial dive site owned by Guildenburgh; contains pike which hang around 6m contour on far side. Directions: Approx 12 miles northeast of Birmingham; 3.5 miles south of Tamworth. You can reach Dosthill by one or more of the following roads: M6, M42 north to junction 10; *A5 Tamworth road, 1.8 miles going straight over 2 roundabouts to Dosthill traffic lights; left (A4091) for 1.2 miles through Dosthill village to Church Road (ie road goes up the hill and down again; at bottom of hill is petrol station where road bends right and begins climbing again; shortly after this, on left, is pub with "Fox" in its name). Soon after this turn right into Church road, go 0.25 miles, first left after church (ie before you go down into a housing estate you will see a small wooden gate on the left. Turn in here and you will find a sloping car park, with recently improved surface (no more downhill mud-skiing in diving gear). At the bottom of this car park is the dive site. Directions from Leeds: take M1 south to Junction 24A. Take A42/M42 towards Tamworth for approx 16 miles. At the signs for Tamworth Services turn off and take the 3rd exit onto the A5 (Tamworth). Follow directions as above from *A5 Tamworth Rd etc. Hours: Mon closed; Tue 10-6; Wed 10-9; Thur 2-8, Fri 2-9; Sat 9-6; Sun 8-4. Entry fee: £2.50. Fill: £2 (tank must be IDEST stamped as appropriate). Facilities: Basic. Coffee & snacks usually available. Basic toilet, unsuitable for Royalty. Max depth: ca.27m. Visibility: weekends ½-3m, better on weekdays. Diver saturation: when car park full. NB: Straight drop at water entry point into ca.20m; long swim to opposite side where there is nice slope for training. Information from Dosthill.

13. ELLERTON PARK (1hr): lake at Catterick. Permission: ring the farmer David Thompson on 0748 811373, or just turn up and dive, and your Fee of £2 per diver per day will be collected. Directions: Leave A1 at Catterick turning; you'll see the airfield on opposite side of junction. Sliproad turns back over motorway, take road to Scorton for 1-2 miles, you'll see Catterick Racecourse on left, then the white Catterick Bridge Hotel on right, then road goes over a bridge. After 400 metres pass a pub and filling station on the right. After another 200 metres turn right at crossroads, signposted Scorton. After 1½-2 miles, as you come into Scorton turn right near Coates Garage, signposted North Allerton. After 1-1½ miles, pass through a village and after another ½ mile the road bears left (nasty bend) and after 100 metres you take right turning, signposted "Ellerton Park". The car park is close to the lake. Depth: at least 10m on opposite side; mostly 6-8m. Facilities: toilets. Visibility: usually fairly clear, worse after rain. Diver saturation: up to 50 divers are considered acceptable here at weekends. Such numbers spoil the vis, but there's plenty of parking. Times: open

0800-dark weekends; from 0730 midweek. Night dives by prior arrangement.
Information from Diver Training College and Mr Thompson.

14. FRON QUARRY (4 hrs): an altitude dive at 325m, near Dorothea, Snowdonia.
Directions: Having arrived at the village of Fron proceed until you come across a grassed flat area at a road junction. On this area you will see a track giving access to a bungalow approximately 100m up its length. Follow the track past the bungalow and turn sharp left when the slate wall ends. Travel over a hump in the track and you will be on the parking area above the quarry. Access to the water can only be made from one point, down a rather precarious climb. You will need a long rope to tie off on the angle iron that is sunk into the ground at the top of the climb. Fron has a maximum depth of 35 metres but apart from a car, an old truck and a few fish there is not a lot to see. Having done your dive and taken your gear back to the car, keep your suit on, take a torch and climb down to the water again. Go past your entry point and keep going around the quarry edge as far as you can possibly go. Be careful walking across the scree. Eventually you will come to a huge block of slate behind which is a tunnel going into the hillside for about 150 metres. The tunnel is blocked at the end but it is said that it used to lead to another quarry. No facilities/air etc. Permission/fees: apparently not necessary. Diver saturation: information please? Information from Clwyd Sub Aqua Club 167.

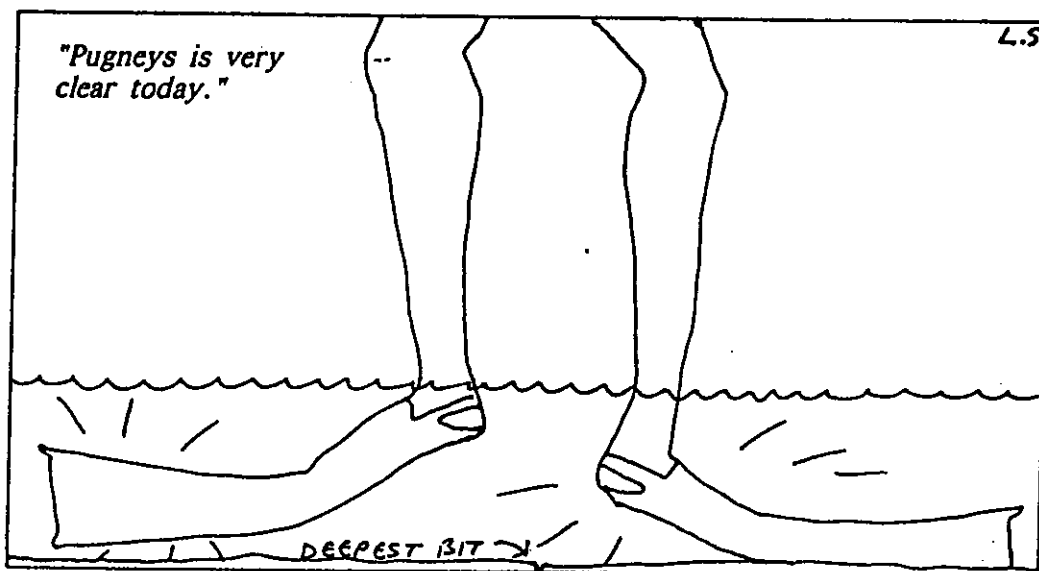
15. GILDENBURGH WATER (2½ hrs), Eastrea Road, Whittlesey, Cambs, Tel: 0733 351288. A natural lake, commercialised for divers, containing pike, perch etc. Snorkellers can spot baby pike in summer among reeds at edge. Lurk quietly near reeds at 3m; you may see some large fish. Dive shop hours: Mon closed; Tue-Wed 9-7.30; Thur closed; Fri-Sat 9-7.30; Sun 8-5.00. Diving hours: From when dive shop opens until 10.00pm. Directions: From the A1: take the A1139 signposted Peterborough. Follow the signs to Whittlesey. After crossing two roundabouts continue on the A605 towards Eastrea. Approx. 100m after Whittlesey Motors (on the left) turn right on the crown of the bend. Follow the road to the clubhouse facing the lake. Check in for diving at the shop on arrival. Entry fee: £3.50. Cost of air fill: £1.55 low pressure; £2.10 high pressure fill (tank must be IDEST stamped as appropriate). Facilities: The lot - air, dive shop, changing room, toilets, showers, bar with food etc. (also dive training and accommodation - ring for details). Max depth: ca.22m. Visibility: ½-3m weekends, better on weekdays. Diver saturation: Should the car park overflow (it doesn't usually) the lake could still take all the divers - however long queues can develop for air fills when car park is three-quarters full. Information from Guildenburgh.

16. HATFIELD MARINA (1-1½hrs) previously a sand quarry, just outside Doncaster.
Directions: Take Thorne road from Doncaster towards Hatfield, turn left towards Scunthorpe, Marina is on left. Permission required from the Marina, Tel: 0302 737343/841572 (or try asking at camp site at the Marina). Times: Diving permitted approx. April-September. Fee: ca.£3 per diver per day. Facilities: toilets, washing facilities, possibly food. Depth: ca.15m. Visibility: up to 12m. Diver saturation: ca. 30 divers. NB: Government cutbacks mean the future of watersports here is in doubt (ring and check in April 1995). Information from Upperfield Marine and Hatfield Marina.

17. HELWITH BRIDGE QUARRY: near Settle, N. Yorks. Quarry near River Ribble, altitude ca.229m. Directions: (See OS map). North out of Settle for 4½ miles on B6479 towards Horton in Ribblesdale. Turn left at Helwith Bridge (signposted "Helwith Bridge" and "Helwith Bridge Hotel"). The road bends sharply left, then goes over the bridge. The quarry is on the left. Permission: from Tony Gilbert, farmer, on 0729 850566 after 5.30 pm. Fee: £2.50 per diver per day. Times: weekends only, or by arrangement. Depth: 15 metres. Facilities: none. Diver saturation: 30 divers, controlled by permit. Information from Divers Training College.

18. HODGE CLOSE (3 hrs), OS Landranger sheet 90; position 317018 (W side of L. Windermere). Disused stone quarry at altitude 155m, containing newts and wrecked vehicles. Directions: Take A593 (Coniston Rd); after ca. 5 miles, pass large lake on right; after ca. 1 mile, road bends to right, then take turning off to right from there, marked Hodge Close, going up side of stream; go on 1½ miles to Hodge Close. There's a small group of buildings on right, and a road across a field down to left, with post blocking access. (Non-divers can enter Hodge Close from here by following road up behind farmhouse, then scrambling down slope into the landing-stage end of the Close). Pay Parking fee of £4 at Farmhouse, to get post removed. Drive along road down to stream. (There's an apparent approach to here from west shown on OS map, not navigable). Kit up, bring torch and approach main quarry via 2-ft-deep stream, wading through 50m-long dark tunnel (mind your head). Descend 8-ft vertical ladder at end. Max depth: ca.32m. Beware, no shallow areas. There's a notorious tunnel, which has claimed lives, at approx 20m - **KEEP OUT** (unless qualified and equipped for Cave Diving). Visibility: 5-15m, with stone bottom, scrap cars etc. A clear-surface cave dive is also available (torches needed), easiest access from left shore of main quarry and through dry tunnel, exit via landing stage into main quarry, Depth 6-7m. This cave dive is not for the faint-hearted: you enter tunnel already kitted up, and arrive at a hole where you sit on the side, put on fins, and launch yourself into blackness - water is 6ft below, lit by buddy's torch. In daylight you can spot the glow of the exit on the far side of the water surface. Access to the exit is ca. 1m below the surface. Hold your breath momentarily and look up before surfacing at exit. When ripples stop you can see nice view of trees etc. through the surface. Facilities: none. Diver saturation: **MAIN QUARRY**: plenty of room in water, but more than 3 club groups around the side would be uncomfortable. **CLEAR SURFACE CAVE**: 2 buddy pairs in water; don't queue in tunnel using up your torch battery. Information from Hodge Close and Muddy Puddles.

19. HOLLINGWORTH LAKE (1½ hrs): a canal-feeder reservoir north-east of Rochdale. ~~FOR BOATHANDLING TRAINING~~. Directions: Take M62 from Manchester towards Huddersfield, leave at junction 21. At roundabout turn left, follow signs to Hollingworth Lake Watersports Activity Centre. Permission: ring in advance 0706 370499. Fee: £5.80 per boat, for a day-permit. Restrictions: max 5hp engine (or leave boat at home and pay for course organised by Hollingworth). 8kt speed limit (if you can get 8kt with 5hp). Water-area and time restrictions may operate on Sundays, otherwise times are 9.00-5.00. Information from Hollingworth.



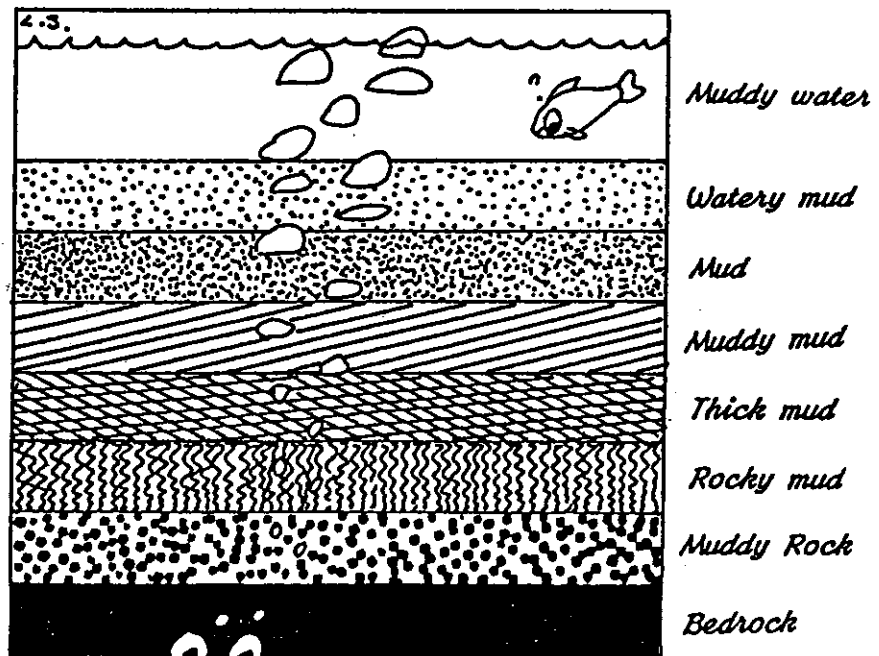
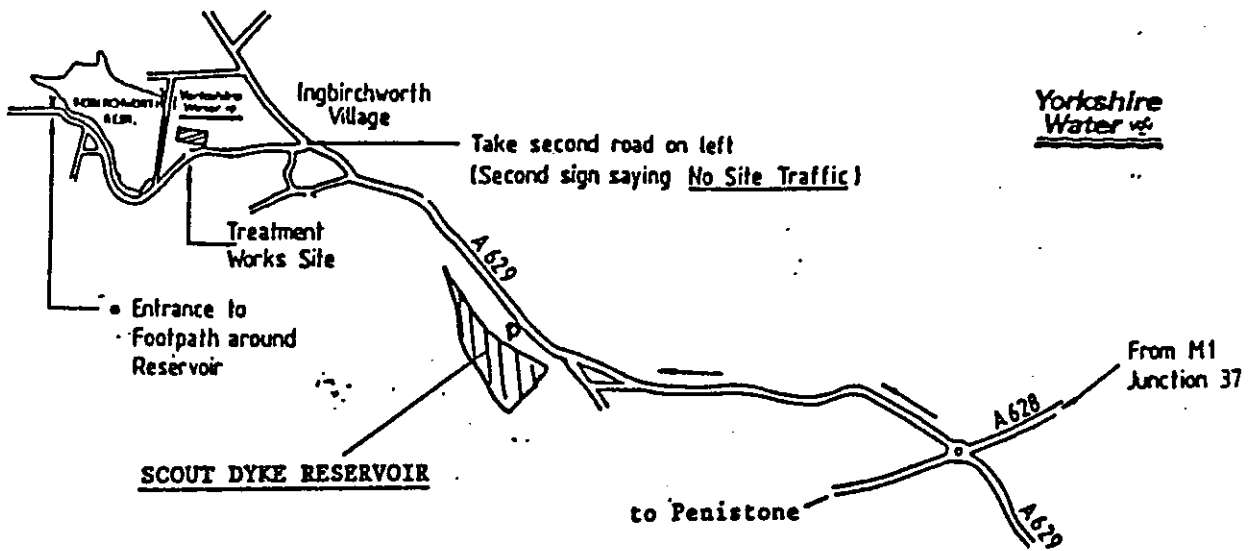
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20. PUGNEYS (1 hr), Wakefield. Country Park lake used by boats after 1000h. Directions: take M1 south to junction 39, go left to Wakefield. After 1 mile you come to a roundabout. Take 3rd exit to Pugneys Country Park. Get permission from David Nelman beforehand, and beware it may take you a couple of weeks to find him available, Tel: 0924 386782. Times: 8.30-10.00am. Depth: 3½-4m. Facilities: hot showers, changing rooms, toilets, vending machines. Fee: £2 per diver per day, this may include free pickup by inflatable by arrangement. Visibility: poor. Limitations: minimum of 4 divers per group, to provide shore cover. No launching. Diver saturation: controlled by permit. Information from John Smeaton BSAC 1851.

21. ROTHER VALLEY COUNTRY PARK (1 hr) nr Sheffield, close to SDS (diveshop). Site created from restored open cast coal workings. **FOR ENGINE TESTING: WATERSPORTS LAKE.** Directions: (Approx 1hr from Leeds). Take M1 south, leave at junction 31, turn right. Follow signs to Rother Valley Country Park. Arrive at entrance BY EIGHT O'CLOCK am, when it opens (no entry fee). Follow signs to Watersports Centre. Permission is required from Mr P.S. Dolling on 0742 471453; launch fee £4.50. Times: On-water time (for engined boats) is only 8.30-9.00am, so arrive in time to be launching at exactly 8.30. Hours are frequently extended, especially in winter & midweek, when no other craft are on lake. Depth: max 3½ metres with mud and weed. This is a useful place for running in a new boat engine etc. To make the most of your journey after such brief water time, there is plenty of car park space to demonstrate anchoring technique, compass use, artificial ventilation etc. Restrictions: This lake is lined with clay to keep the water in, so to prevent damage you may not use your own anchor (borrow one of the Sports Centre's). The Sports Centre's insurance insists you use the Sports Centre's own lifejackets (so far lent free) on boats, not stab jackets. Facilities: Use of toilet (and possibly changing rooms?) after 0830; possibly food available elsewhere in Country Park in summer. **FOR DIVING: NETHERMOOR LAKE.** Directions: Follow above directions to entrance to Rother Valley Country Park. Drive to Reception at Watersports Lake as above, while looking out for the Nature Reserve Lake on the left. A track goes alongside that lake, and you dive in a lake behind the Nature Reserve. You need to carry on to Reception to pay the fee of £2 per diver and get form to fill in, and key to gate in Nature Reserve track. Collect key after 0830; return by 1630, or later after April. Permission: is required, ring Mr Dolling beforehand with your plans. Tel: 0742 471452 (office); 0742 471453 (Watersports Centre); fax 0742 481251 (office) or write to The Manager, Rother Valley Country Park, Mansfield Road, Wales Bar, Sheffield S31 8PE. Limitations: Diving access is limited to BS-AC members or "BSAA" (= SAA?) No licence is required, any Dive Marshal or buddy pair can apply. There is no limitation of times. Access: The diving lake is actually nearer the main Killamarsh Road B6058, and it's more convenient to park at Killamarsh Working Mens Club, if you can get permission. From there the access is closer. Divers are advised, however, that if you don't book and pay, there is no legal diving access from any direction. Depth: 20m. Visibility: poor and muddy; probably best midweek. Facilities: at Watersports Lake, as above. Diver saturation: controlled by permit, which involves a strict rule that you inform them as soon as you cancel a dive. Information from R.V. Country Park.

[Stop Press] **33. ROUNDHAY PARK** (20 min.): This is Waterloo Lake, popular with anglers who hold permits, in this city park. Directions: see *Leeds & Bradford A-Z*; follow Roundhay Road (A58) northwards until it crosses Harehills Lane (B6159). Take left fork, still called Roundhay Road, and carry on; it becomes Wetherby Road. Turn left into The Carriage Drive. Depth: (when full) 8m+. Visibility: 0-1m; silty. NB: Use SMB. Facilities: lakeside cafe, and toilets inside restaurant, summer only. Permission: write to Richard Brown, Parks and Countryside Manager, Leisure Services, Town Hall, Headrow, Leeds LS1 3AD. His secretary's number is 0532 478354, but you are asked to write giving planned date, time and number of divers, and regular permission is not normally given. Fee: information please? Times: by arrangement, to fit in with the anglers. Diver saturation: controlled by permit. Information from Parks Dept and Muddy Puddles.

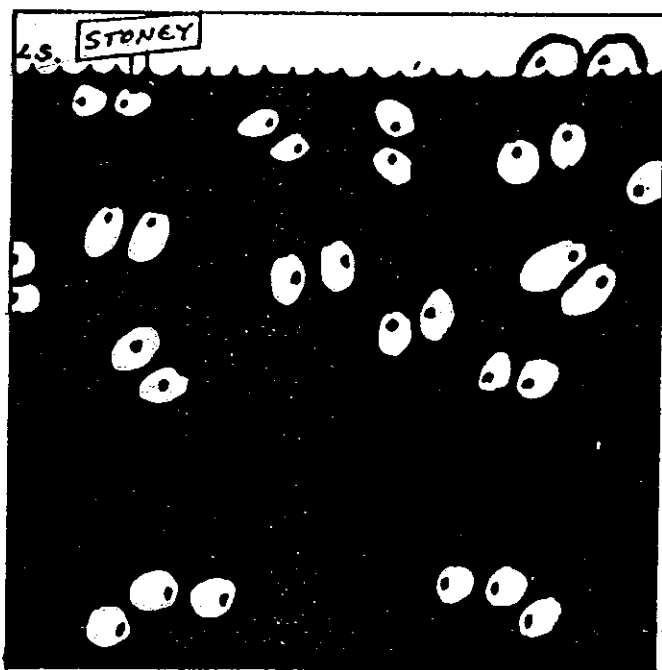
22. SCOUT DYKE RESERVOIR (1 hr), near Ingbirchworth village, Yorks (see map). The *only* Yorkshire Water site where diving is permitted. In shallow undisturbed corners in spring, before entering water, you can see frogs and baby fish. **Permission:** Diving must be arranged via your dive club which will need an annual licence from Yorkshire Water. **Fee:** was previously about £10 for licence. Ring John Davis, Conservation/Recreation Manager for Yorks Water, 0742 592005, or write to him at Yorkshire Water Services Ltd, Castle Market Building, Exchange St, Sheffield S1 1GB. **Times:** Diving is from Dec to Feb (trout fishing only for rest of year). **Exclusions:** For safety reasons it is not permitted to dive near the outlet valve, which is apparently near the tower (your dive club will receive full information). **Facilities:** none - and you will have to change at the roadside unless your club arranges for a key to open the gate. **Depth:** ca.5m. 10m. has been found, but that may be near the outlet valve . . . **Visibility:** up to ½ metre, usually. Glance upwards when diving, to admire odd khaki water-colour (peat and mud). **Diver saturation:** plenty of room in water. Not usually a popular site, but unsurfaced car parking area (if you can get in) could probably take 4 or 5 club groups. Little room to park in the road. Information from Yorks Water.



"Some say Scout Dyke is 5m deep, some say it's bottomless."

© Linda Spashett

23. SEVEN LAKES (2 hrs), nr Crowle, Scunthorpe. Normally used as a boating lake.
Directions: Take M62 east to junction 35. Turn onto M18, south. After 6 miles turn off at Junction 5 to M180 (east), go 3-4 miles to Junction 2 (A161). Seven Lakes is just north of there. Turn left on A161 to Goole. After 2 miles you will come to a very complex junction - just aim to go straight over it and you will end up at a T-junction. Turn left and follow the sign to Crowle (still on A161). 200 metres down this road you will see a sign for Seven Lakes. Turn left down this narrow road (beware speed ramps). Turn right into the first car park (with the jet-ski shop). The dive site is through the small gate to the right of the pub/clubhouse (where the toilet is). **Permission** is required; ring 0724 710245, and pay **fee** of £3.50 per diver. **Times:** 9.00-11.00am, also night diving is permitted. **Facilities:** divers may use the car park and toilet, but not changing rooms. **Max depth:** ca.12-14m in the middle, after a long swim; close to shore it's about 3m. **Visibility:** several metres. Mud and lots of weed. **Diver saturation:** plenty of room in water, but controlled by permit. NB. there have been incidents where speedboats have been accidentally allowed to launch while divers were in water using SMBs: double-check their launching plans when applying for permit, warn your shore cover to keep alert, and use SMB (or dive somewhere else).
 Information from Seven Lakes, John Smeaton BSAC 1851 and Diver Training College.



*Her first 35m dive:
 "He looked alright
 in the car park."*

24. STONEY COVE (2 hrs), nr Stoney Stanton, nr Leicester. Tel: 045527 2768. Britain's most popular winter training site, due to both in-water and dry facilities. There are other sites which are just as good, but an attraction here is the clearer water, large 6m terrace, and the slip, for novice rescue drills. There was some discomfiture when the fee rose to £4, but they say the management could make more money out of using Stoney as an infill site, then developing it, so don't knock it. They say most accidents happen where those involved are over-relaxed in familiar surroundings. Don't be blasé just because it's only dear old Stoney. Besides the obvious reasons, it's in our interest to keep incident numbers down, and therefore Stoney's insurance premiums down, to help stabilise the entrance fee. Pike lurk round the sides at weekends, and in wrecks midweek. Watch the perch's odd way of disappearing at the edge of visibility: body first, fins last. DON'T nick the crayfish, there's almost NO meat on them, and they're dead and smelly before you get home. **Directions:** Take M1 to junction 21. Take M69 to first junction (2). Take Sapcote road (B4069), and take second turning left to Stoney Cove. Entrance is on left after road bends left. You can park just inside entrance or in top car park, but waterside car park is more convenient. Weekends are busy and long queues develop for parking and for air ca.8.00-10.30am

Sat and Sun, so arrive at other times if possible. Entry fee: £4. Facilities: The lot - air, dive shop, changing room, showers, toilets, pub with food and outside snack bar, recompression chamber. (Dive school - ring for information). Hours: weekday diving 8.30-4.00; weekday shop 8.00-5.00. Weekend diving 7.00-2.00; weekend shop 7.00-3.30. Fills: Tanks up to 12 litre £2; tanks from 15 litre £2.50 (tanks must be IDEST stamped as appropriate). Max Depth: ca.36m. Visibility: 1-5m weekends; better on weekdays. Security: as in all crowded places, don't leave your property unattended. Diver saturation: when the car queue forms. Even before that, divers can get in each other's way underwater, because most training involves staying on shallow terraces near the car park. Avoid weekends if possible, to spread the load. Information from Muddy Puddles.

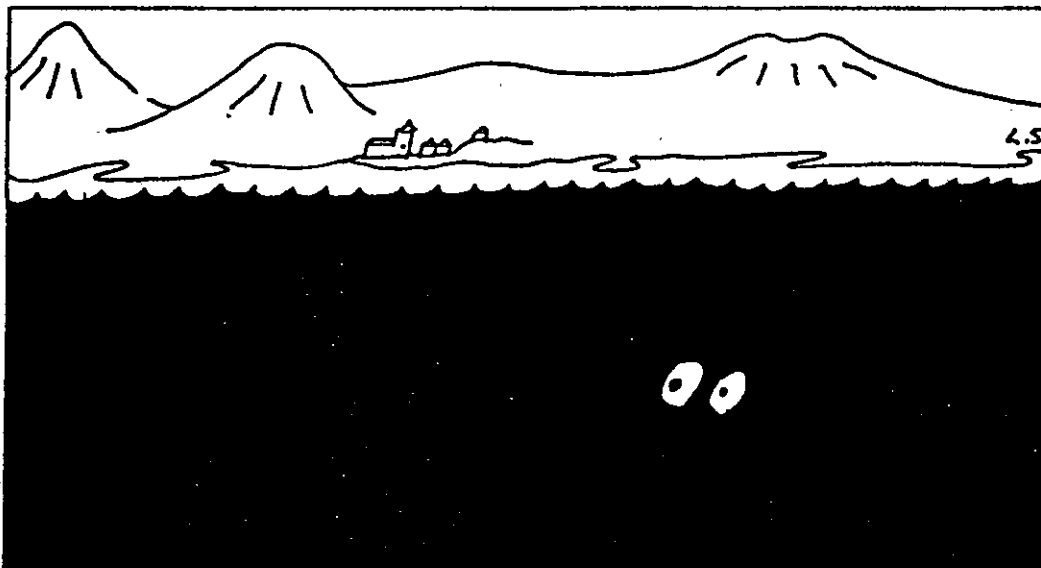
25. SWINLAND WOODS (1½ hrs): nr Nottingham. Fee: £25 per day for any-size group. Facilities: none. Depth: Apparently 63m in a deep, bottle-shaped hole. Safety: an unknown aspect at present. More information would be welcome. Information from Diver Training College (who have no further information at present).

26. THRYBURGH COUNTRY PARK (1-1½ hrs) NE of Rotherham. Tel: 0709 850353. Originally a Reservoir constructed ca.1880; sold to Rotherham Council 1980, now watersports/fishing/camping centre and nature reserve. Permission is required through your club, which must write to: Director of Amenities and Recreation, Countryside Officer, Recreation Offices, Grove Road, Rotherham S60 2ER; or for enquiries ring Jane Leeson or Alan Duncan on 0709 850353. Limitations: Diving restricted to April-September. Enter water near Visitor Centre; keep to centre of lake, well away from fly fishermen. Only one club uses the site at present, but more are welcome. NB: Government cutbacks mean that the continuation of watersports at this site is reviewed every year, especially as the same council has to run Rother Valley as well. Fee about £2.10 per diver per day (was £1.90 in 1994). Diving times: Thursday evening. Facilities: Shower block and toilets 30m from car park and water access point. Depth: 14m - swim E or ESE from access point to reach deepest area. Directions: It's on the main Rotherham-Doncaster road (A630) near the village of Thryburgh, and is well-signposted. Diver saturation: controlled by permit. Information from Sea Safe, and Thryburgh.

27. TWEED (4 hrs): River Tweed, at Kelso, Roxburgh. An alternative dive site when blown out of St Abbs. Directions: From Kelso Central Square, pass police station and church graveyard, and its adjacent car-park; park in next car park by the river. The Kelso dive site is the Cauld, accessible from the Coby, where the river has a grassed, park-like edge. Depth: ca.8m; silt at edge, stones at centre. Expect ca.1kt current. NB: beware of regular rowing boat on this stretch. Local anglers are friendly: keep it that way by handing over any fishing gear you may retrieve. Permission: to dive from the Coby, ring, in advance, the Duke of Roxburgh's factor Mr Jackson on 0573 223333, then on the day, Mr Coleman and the police as below. Another site: A more interesting site might be Junction Pool, a world-famous fishing pool between the Cauld and Kelso Bridge, where the Tweed joins with the Teviot. This is managed by Michael Miller of Heritage Investments, Tel: 0676 522098, an English company which does not issue permits to divers, due to year-round fishing rights. Permission in general: Most river waters are owned in Scotland, so you need permission both for access over land, and entry into water. Further information from Superintendent of the River Tweed Commission, Tony Coleman, on 0289 330474, 0831 126969 or 0573 226152. Tell Mr Coleman your planned times and access point on the Tweed, and he will find out whom you should ask permission to dive (ask them on the day you dive, if necessary). Be prepared for refusal as diving must be coordinated with fishing rights. Mr Coleman will also "call off" the river bailiffs (and he is bailiff for Kelso) who would otherwise challenge you. You should also inform local police of your plans for the same reason. (Some poachers wear wetsuits too). Dead fish are often seen on the river bottom from December to late spring. They are thin but otherwise undamaged. These are the ones which have failed to return downstream after spawning, and they can't eat in the river,

so this is a natural occurrence, the bailiff tells us. Information from Tony Coleman.

28. ULLSWATER (4-5 hrs), Lake District; lake at altitude ca.148m. Directions: Keep away from the south end where the steamer pier is. A popular shore dive site is Styboro Crags (see OS map), 1 mile north of Glenridding village, where there's a good layby for parking. Facilities: information please? It's a rocky spot with slightly better vis in this generally silty water. Depth: up to 90m in this lake. Local Warden Ken Ratcliffe, tel: 07684 82067, says no permission is necessary, and no fee charged. NB: A safety boat is advised in summer, and SMBs at all times. Visibility is described by divers as extremely low, expect nil vis below 6m. Diver saturation: information please? Avoid all Lake District sites on summer weekends (traffic jams). Information from Sea Safe and Ken Ratcliffe.



"I don't know what they see in Ullswater."


29. VIVIAN QUARRY (4 hrs). Slate quarry. Directions: sited at the Slate Museum in Llanberis, N. Wales on the A4086, a popular place for training. Max depth: 15m. Contains some huts and cars as well as general quarry debris. Don't worry if you hear a humming noise whilst under water, there is a power station inside the mountain at the rear of the quarry. Permission must be obtained from The Manager, Wardens Office, Padarn Park, Llanberis, Gwynedd, Wales. Access: The quarry is fenced off for safety reasons and they do ask that in gaining access to the water you do not damage the fence. Facilities/fees: information from the Manager above. Air: none. Visibility: information please. Diver saturation: controlled by permit. Information from Clwyd Sub Aqua Club 167.

30. WASTWATER (4-5 hrs), Cumbria. Lake at altitude ca.63m. Directions: Beware steep hills on scenic route via Windermere and Hardknott Pass (1 in 3). More sedentary route: From M6, take road towards Barrow in Furness, then through Broughton in Furness to west coast road, then towards Wastwater after Ravenglass. Only one road passes close to the lake. Take this road, pass the guide post; ½ mile further on you come to the highest point on lake shore. You'll see 3 car parks on left, then grassy opening on right. Locals shore-dive from this site, where there's easy access for carrying twinsets if required. This is the access point for The Pinnacles site. Follow a gravel path then buoyed line (both underwater) to 5m, continue 150m to depth 12m, and you come to a wall which drops to depth 45m, followed by a silty slope to ca.90m. Facilities: none; nearest toilets at Wasdale Head by the hotel. Permission is necessary: ring Wasdale Warden on 094 67 26296, giving date of dive, no. of divers, Club name and your phone no. Fee: none. SMBs are not mandatory as the only watercraft on the lake are 12 canoes. Visibility: clear water over slate; some nice slopes. NB. There are plaques on the 45m underwater wall in memory of burials

by scattering of ashes on the lake. Diver saturation: controlled by permit. Information from Wasdale Warden, Scuba Tech and Uni. of Leeds.

31. WHARFE: River Wharfe, nr Grassington, below the Strid. Once a popular dive site, land giving access has changed ownership, and diving has been stopped.

32. WINDERMERE (3 hrs). Lake at altitude ca.39m. Directions: Take A65 from Leeds towards Kendal, then follow signs to Windermere; then EITHER take ferry from Bowness on Windermere towards Hawkshead OR drive round lake via Ambleside and Hawkshead. Don't dive the old popular dive site which was on the west side of lake by ferry opposite public conveniences - that would now take you into the path of the waterbus. Instead, drive towards Strawberry Gardens on west side of lake, where there is parking: choose your water access point nearby. Facilities: None, except the toilets at Hawkshead Ferry. Permission: Those arranging the dive must inform the Warden beforehand Tel: (0539 442753) giving full details, and SMBs are mandatory. Fee: none for shore diving. Boat divers must register their boat at the Warden's Office on arrival (fee ca.£29) and use an A-flag. Proposed speed restrictions on Windermere are not currently in effect. Depth at Strawberry Gardens site not known, but depth at the old site was ca. 10m, over mud. Visibility: expect ½-1m. Diver saturation: controlled by permit. Information from the Warden.



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DIVE SHOPS

Note: It's in every dive shop's interest to maintain a good relationship with local divers for trade reasons, and it's in the customer's interest to take advantage of this friendly attitude. If two or more divers turn up together and buy several major items, there's a good chance of a discount. Most dive shops offer free coffee and local diving information. All offer good advice regarding equipment. Visit all your local dive shops, see the latest goods/bargains on offer and make friends with the owners, who are all divers. All local dive shops are equally good and all provide air - the following notes are the editor's opinion only.

DIVERS WAREHOUSE (Otter Watersports) (0274 307555/727252): Otter Buildings, Douglas Mills, Bowling Old Lane, Bradford BD5 7JR; open Mon-Fri 0900-1730, late night Thur 0900-2000, Sat 0900-1700, closed Sun. Run by John Womack and his son (divers). Agents for Apeks (made in Lancs); Oceanic (U.S); Poseidon (Sweden) regulators. All these regulators are recognised worldwide; you can get them repaired anywhere. Regulators can be serviced on site. Cylinders are tested to IDEST, and the pillar valve is serviced free. Otter manufacture neoprene and membrane dive suits on site, also woolly bears and thinsulates. Masks and fins are directly imported from Taiwan, cutting down price. DW has full sets of dive equipment for hire, and at least 15 2nd-hand neoprene/membrane dive suits for hire. Directions (from Leeds city centre): Head for Bradford city centre. Take Manchester Road (A641) from Jacobs Well Roundabout. After just over ½ mile turn left at traffic lights onto Bowling Old Lane. Otter Watersports is building immediately on right.

DIVER TRAINING COLLEGE (0904 744424): Ashley House, Malt Kiln Lane, Appleton Roebuck, York YO5 7DT; open Mon-Sat 0900-1730; Fri 0900-2000; closed Wed & Sun. Dive school (ring for information). Run by Steve and Sandra Fila (divers). Very comprehensive stock of dive gear, lots of spares and small items, and air. Hard-hat (Standard Dress) & decompression course (dry-dive) on Sundays by arrangement: a highly recommended fun day out for the club.

MIDWAY WATERSPORTS AND LEISURE (0532 444315/444316): Dark Arches, Neville Street, Leeds LS1 4BR; open Mon-Fri 0930-1730, late night Thur 0930-1900, Sat 0930-1700, closed Sun. Run by Steve and Janet Hunter (divers). This is the only dive shop in central Leeds; you can reach it on foot from Leeds City Square. Going south, pass the Railway Station on your right, go under the railway bridge. The entrance to Dark Arches is under the bridge on the right. Walk along the tunnel till you come to a bridge over water. Midway is close to the bridge. You can park outside the shop briefly on weekdays for loading purposes. Car access is as for walking, but cars must leave through the car park. Good technical information can be got here, regarding diving equipment. Midway are agents for Aquion suits, which are popular with students, as they stand up to very intensive diving. Various dive gear and reliable servicing are available here. Midway has a dive school (ring for information). Midway has promised a £25 donation towards the *Muddy Puddles* pool equipment fund, and we thank them for this kind offer.

NAMRON SCUBA DIVING CENTRES (0709 838382) Canklow Meadow Industrial Estate, West Bawtry Road, Rotherham S60 2XL; open Mon-Fri 0915-1715, Sat 0915-1700. Run by divers Dave Hochstetter and Chris Graham. Agents for all Namron and Sherwood products, servicing all these on site. Repairs, air fills, testing station (IDEST). Agents for Aquaseal Sea Drops for keeping mask clear; Aquasure for all suit repairs; Emox 911 oxygen powder kit (HSE-approved: you buy main unit and get refills). Namron do tailor-made wetsuits and drysuits. Directions: from M1 take exit 33 towards Rotherham. Look for Canklow Meadow Ind. Est. sign, with Swallow Hotel on corner - it's almost opposite Meadowhall, the huge shopping centre.

ROBIN HOOD WATERSPORTS (Roho): (0924 443843) 152 Leeds Road, Heckmondwike; open Mon-Fri 0915-1800, Sat 0915-1700, closed Sun, late night Thur till 2000. Run by Bob and Barbara Findlow and their daughter, Sally (divers). Official dealers for Spiro/US Divers (U.S) and Scubapro (U.S.) regulators, brands known worldwide, and repairable in most countries. Regulator and cylinder servicing/testing is done on site (IDEST). Dive suits, hoods, bags etc. are manufactured on site. Roho's Quattro membrane dive suit is the cheapest around at present and lasts about 5 years with moderate use. The Roho large dive bag is the cheapest for its size, and their suit bag has a convenient duffle-bag-type shoulder-strap. Robin Hood runs a Dive School (ring for information). **Directions:** Take M621 out of Leeds; turn off left onto A62 (don't join M62). After about 1½ miles go straight across 6-way junction (lights). The road goes up steep hill through another set of traffic lights; at brow of hill there are open fields to right, and Robin Hood is on the left.

SDS WATERSPORTS (0742 488688) 66-70 Station Road, Halfway, Sheffield S19 5GW; open Mon-Fri 0930-1800, late night Thur until 2000, Sat 0930-1700, Sun 1100-1600. Run by Arthur Balderson (BSAC Adv. Instructor). SDS is a main dealer for US Divers, Spiro, Apeks, Oceanic, Poseidon, Scubapro etc. regulators, all recognised and repairable worldwide. Also dealer for Aquion, DUI/Zeagle and Northern Diver drysuits, and apart from dive gear there are always new boats and engines on site, GPS/sonar equipment always in stock. SDS repairs propellers and engines, and manufactures stainless steel A-frames. **Directions:** Take M1; turn off at junction 31 to the right. Follow signs to Rother Valley Country Park. Go past Country Park entrance on right, the road goes through a village and turns sharp left near a shop (with prominent Cadburys chocolate sign) on the right. Turn right at this bend. Follow this road for a mile or two and you'll come to SDS on left hand side shortly before a roundabout.

UPPERFIELD MARINE & DIVING SUPPLIES: (0709 525480), 18 Greasbrough Road, Parkgate, Rotherham. Opening times: Mon closed; Tue-Fri 1200-2000; Sat 0900-1700. Run by John Hartley (diver). Upperfield Marine are agents for all makes, and are qualified to repair most regulators (on-site servicing and testing). They run a dive school (ring for information). There is always a good range of stock here, including plenty of spares and small items. Air to 4000 psi. **Directions:** (bring sober navigator). South on M1, take first junction after passing Tinsley Viaduct (huge, can't miss it). Take 1st exit on right (Parkway). Dual carriageway to roundabout, take 1st exit. Next roundabout: 2nd exit, Rotherham ringroad, dual carriageway. Keep straight on past next 3 roundabouts (the third one has a B & Q shop on far side, go straight on). At next roundabout take 3rd exit to Barbott Hall industrial estate. At next roundabout take 1st exit to Broad Street Park Gate. Take 1st exit, and after 450-500m turn left at traffic lights into Greasbrough Rd, and the shop is 50m along, on left.

DIVE SUIT REPAIRS

SEA SAFE: (0924 460003 day/460969 eve). Unit 24, Riverbank Centre, Dewsbury, Leeds; open 24h. Run by Malcolm Race (diver) and Gwynne (years of suit manufacture experience). Emphasis is on quality and speed of repairs; some repairs can be done while you wait. Sea Safe make their own neoprene drysuit; an undersuit similar to the thinsulate but a fraction of the price; other neoprene items. Gwynne will make or repair any watersports clothing - you invent it, she will make it. **Directions:** Take A653 towards Dewsbury. Come down hill into Dewsbury; turn left and immediately right, then follow the road which goes around to south of the town centre. It then goes under a railway arch and bends to the left whilst going uphill. You go past a large church on the right (it's up on a slope). Shortly afterwards you'll see signs on the left saying Riverbank Centre. Sea Safe are in a building on the left hand side. (Take their phone number with you in case you get lost).

