

## OGOF TARDDIAD

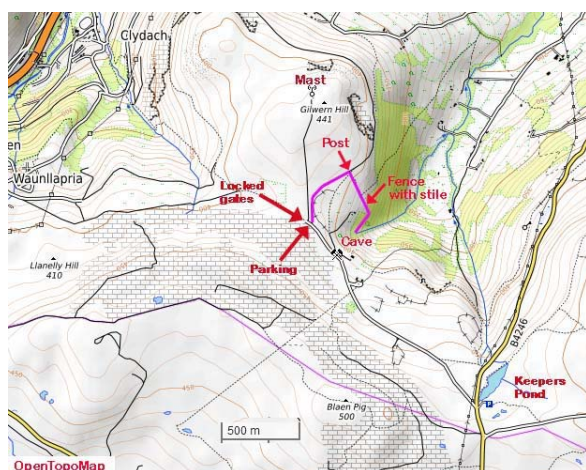
Ogof Tarddiad is one of a number of small cave entrances in the Pwll Du area that was seen as a digging prospect as far back as the 1950s. Some work was done in the 1980s to open a passage for about 20m up to a small choke which was then partially scaffolded. Another small passage beyond it led to another choke. This and further chokes were passed in 2023 giving access to Ogof Draenen's Waterfall Series.

**Caving Wales obtained landowner permission to explore in OTPD to open access into Ogof Draenen. That has been achieved and hence landowner permission for cave digging has expired. Any further digging at the caves would require new landowner permission.**

**What remains is landowner permission for access on foot to the caves by bona fide cavers. That is the only permission. The caves are located within woodland that is part of Gilwern Hill SSSI. There is no permission to do anything other than walk directly to the caves. The habitat within the SSSI is legally protected and any action other than accessing the caves on foot would require specific permission from the landowners and NRW.**

### ACCESS CONDITIONS

The entrance has not been gated as the underground route is challenging enough to appeal only to experienced and well-equipped cavers. Access is available to all Active-Caver members of the British Caving Association through Caving Wales. Please use the logbook just inside the entrance to record your visit. Report any problems to [access@caving.wales](mailto:access@caving.wales)



### GETTING TO OGOF TARDDIAD

Take the minor road leading from Keepers Pond towards the Gilwern Hill masts where it ends at a locked gate. Park considerably in this area, grid ref SO 243119. Walk along the tram road parallel to and slightly lower down than the mast road (purple line on map) reaching a wooden finger post after several hundred metres.

Turn right there and head straight downhill across the open common, following the line of the stone wall now on your right. The ground steepens after passing two sink holes that take water in wet weather and you come to a new stile over a wire fence. Cross this stile and follow the path below in the gully to where the first limestone outcrops appear. Traverse right here on to a path going through the woodland and stay on this path.

Follow this obvious path that trends gently downwards and to the right for about 200m to the cave entrance at SO 247118 which is marked "Cave" on modern 1:25000 OS maps.

The entrance you want is the lower one of two and a small stream resurges about 30m below it. The higher shorter cave in the cliff above you trends upwards towards the surface and is worth a look in passing.

When exiting Ogof Tarddiad please reverse the access route described here and do not make use of any neighbouring land that is in different ownership or other paths.



To leave Ogof Tarddiad on a through trip, climb up the rift into the Waterfall Series from the Draenen main stream near Flies' Cemetery. After the second fixed ladder keep right at the junction of two streams. If you find a third ladder (i.e. you went left at the junction) then you are below Outcast Series which is the wrong way. Do not climb the third ladder and instead return to the confluence and go upstream. From the entrance walk down a few metres then go left on to the permitted path.

## OGOF TARDDIAD DESCRIPTION

The sound of a stream can be heard just inside the entrance. It is assumed that this goes to the small resurgence seen a short distance below the cave entrance.

Going straight ahead is largely a hands-and-knees crawl up to the 1980s scaffolding (now improved) and then into similar passage going around a sharp corner and becoming more of a rift before passing under a low roof for a couple of metres.



The far side of the low point is another rift going left and right. The right branch is a low crawl over boards on the floor, passing a substantial boulder choke which connects with Ogof Draenen. In wet weather this choke can pour with water and a substantial waterfall enters beyond it. Then follow the obvious stream down.

After 50m a larger stream enters from the right which can be followed to a junction. A ramp going upwards reaches a short ladder, photo below left. This is the way on to Outcast Series which begins with some large passages, photo above right. Beyond are further crawls and rifts which emerge into Yes Passage (KUMB) and the way to Bolder Land.

Back at the junction with the stream entering from the right, continuing downstream for 30m you come to a rigid ladder (photo below centre) to descend a 4m pitch with another substantial waterfall running past your side during wet weather. Leave the chamber below and follow the water to a 4m pitch, also with a rigid ladder (photo below right). Some tall chambers develop in the rift. Continue down to join large passages at the top end of the Draenen streamway.



Top ladder



Middle ladder



Lower ladder

To your left at the very bottom is a narrow rift passage leading to the well-decorated Flies' Cemetery: a dead end at a pretty calcite boulder choke which is taped off. To your right is the Ogof Draenen main stream soon reaching very large passages. You will pass under the Big Bang pitch and arrive in a few minutes later at Cairn Junction where you meet with the route to the gated entrance.