

Caving system for Hilltop Supplementary notes.

See also site drawings 1 and 2 and the associated photos.

The proposed development is for a small caving system to complement the existing exciting activities at our centre which specialises in outdoor educational residential and day groups for primary schools.

The system bolts together and lays on the ground. Internal caving system is approx. diameter of 600 – 750 cms. Its general height is about 1 metre . There may be one small part which rises to 1.5 metres.

There are no concrete foundations . The ground is prepared by spreading a type 1 material over the 10 by 7 metre area.....about one dumpy bag load. The system is then laid and bolted together. If needed a second bag may be used to backfill so that the 'tubes' do not move. Access to the site will be by existing road and tracks . The installation will take one day and we would envisage perhaps 3 or 4 vehicles to have access.

The chosen site is a small area of a large field we purchased in circa 2003 and has been used as a nighttime camp fire experience for young children. This activity has been moved to a more sheltered area within Hilltop.

To protect this site from the wind we had built earthmounds around it of approx. 1.5 metres The site is bounded on all sides with earthbanks . In addition an earth mound topped with hawthorn has been planted which runs the whole length of the eastern boundary of the open field. The south boundary of the field is mature hawthorn on top of an earthbank.

The consequence of this is that the caving system will not be visible at all from any public land and not even from neighbouring farmland. The earthbank at the actual site has some hedging and we intend to plant more . This for aesthetic feel and we wish to prevent the children from seeing the structure to create a mystery feel. There is on site a log store about 2.5 metres high with a green cover. From the layby it is very difficult to see even the top of this.

The interior surface is finished to feel like a real cave with stalactites and stalagmites , a cavern, two squeezes, an up and over etc. Emergency exits are strategically placed.

It is intended to paint the exterior surface of the system to blend in with the surrounds despite the fact it cannot be seen. We need it to look professional . We will do this on site either green or brown or a mixture of the two.