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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MINING HISTORY ORGANISATIONS

Newsletter No.18

January 1991

EDITOR'S NOTE

The next Newsletter would normally be sent in April but the necessity to circulate material for a deadline means that an additional issue can be distributed.

MEMBERSHIP LIST CHANGES

New Affiliate Member (elected 25/11/90)

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE HISTORICAL MONUMENTS OF ENGLAND  
Mr N.Beagrie Green Lane, Maybush, Southampton SO1 9FP  
T. 0703-780966

Change of Name

WEALDEN CAVE & MINE SOCIETY (was UNIT 2 CAVE RESEARCH & EXPL)

Change of Representative

ROYAL FOREST OF DEAN CAVING CLUB  
Mr R.Packham Euroclydon Villa, Yorkley Wood, Lydney, Glos  
T. 0594-532436

Altered post code

CARN BREA MINING SOCIETY  
TR15 1QJ

NAMHO HANDBOOK

This is proceeding well and it is on schedule for publication early in 1991. Enclosed with this Newsletter is a printout of your current entry as it will appear. This is the final chance to amend any errors or add information such as fees, etc. (see highlighted items where applicable). Some entries are very sparse and there is the opportunity to extend them to fill an A4 page. The deadline for any amendments is 18th January - please send them to the Editor (address below).

FUTURE EVENTS

2-3rd March 1991 - IMHA Meeting (see below)

9th March 1991 - "Future of NAMHO" meeting (see last issue)

10th March 1991- NAMHO AGM / Council Meeting

12-14th April 1991 - AIA Affiliated Societies Weekend

3-6th May 1991 - NAMHO Conference

4th May 1991 - ( NAMHO EGM (proposed constitution changes)  
( NAMHO Council Meeting

## INSTITUTE OF MINING HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY

A meeting was held at Ironbridge on 24-25th November 1990 to discuss the setting up of an organisation provisionally known as the Institute of Mining Studies. On the Saturday, short reports on current research were given by David Dixon, Paul Sowan and Lyn Willies. This was followed by seminars on :

Mining History as a Service to the Community - Adrian Pearce.  
Working with Consultants - Ivor Brown.  
Preserving Regional Terminology - Peter Burgess.  
Glynn Pits - Marilyn Palmer & Peter Neavesson.  
Hushing - David Cranstone.

On the Sunday, the formal meeting was held chaired by Adrian Pearce, who outlined the developments since the initial meeting and the current response from NAMHO. Lyn Willies detailed the recommendations of the Working Party and a general discussion followed on the aims and objectives of the proposed Institute. It was agreed that there was a need for an organisation to promote and set standards for mining history, site interpretation and restoration. It should cover a broad spread of interests and expertise and serve to bridge the gap between the professional and skilled amateur.

It was formally agreed to set up a separate organisation known as the Institute of Mining History & Archaeology (IMHA) and to seek to interface this with NAMHO during the latter's consideration of its future structure and role. It was further agreed to adopt a two tier structure of the IMHA, with membership open to all interested individuals and Fellow status granted to those demonstrating a minimum standard of competence in various aspects. All those attending the meeting were deemed to hold member status only, the matter of Fellow status would be left until an election procedure was determined. Temporary officers were elected as follows :

Chairman : Roger Burt  
Secretary/Treasurer : Lyn Willies  
Committee : David Bick  
Alan Buckley  
David Cranstone  
Les Riley.

A further meeting of the IMHA was arranged for the weekend of 2-3rd March 1991 to be held in the Bristol area. There will be a series of seminars on the Saturday and the formal meeting on the Sunday will make the following decisions based on recommendations from the temporary officers :

- The constitution, structure, etc. of the IMHA.
- How the IMHA can interface with NAMHO.

Anyone interested in attending the seminar weekend or joining the IMHA should contact the Secretary, Lyn Willies :

'Hilderston', Dale Rd, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire T. 0629-584322

## ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY

AIA Bulletin Vol.18, No.1 1990  
AIA Guide to Industrial Archaeology of Surrey, 1990  
AIA Review Vol.13, No.1, Autumn 1990  
Assembly & Association No.21, Oct 1990  
" " " No.22, Dec 1990  
Cave Science Vol.17, No.2, Aug 1990  
Caves & Caving No.50, Winter 1990  
Great Orme Exploration Society Journal Oct 1990  
Leadership & Instruction Qualifications in Caving  
Northern Mine Research Society Newsletter Nov 1990  
Northern Mine Research Society Memoirs 1990  
Unit 2 Newsletter No.2, 1990  
World Industrial History No.6, Summer 1990

## BOOK REVIEW

"Memoirs 1990 - British Mining No.41", 1990, ISSN 0308-2199.  
The latest issue comes in the new-style A5 format. The Memoirs consists of a number of short articles on Cornish tales, a Scottish slate quarry, mines at Ravenstonedale, ore hearth smelting, Mellingloch Lead Mine, mineralisation in North Wales, Cym Brwyno Mine, Brora Colliery, mines of Renfrewshire and mining & proto-industrialisation. The strong Scottish bias in this issue covers an area often overlooked and again demonstrates how the British Mining series is becoming truly national in coverage.

"Industrial Archaeology Review Vol.13, No.1", 1990, Association of Industrial Archaeology, ISSN 0309-0728.  
This again has a mining flavour with two of the articles connected with mining history. One describes the recording work carried out at Glyn Pits Colliery, Pontypool. The other describes the Monument Protection Programme carried out by English Heritage and promotes lists of words that should be used to describe non-ferrous metalliferous mines.

## AROUND THE REGIONS

### Cornwall

Carnon Consolidated have submitted proposals to turn the Wheal Jane Mine near Truro into a £35 million leisure, tourist and business complex. They claim that this is the only way that their other mine at South Crofty can be kept open and it allows for Wheal Jane to be re-worked at a future date if the price of tin rises sufficiently. Included in the proposals are mining trails and a trip 200ft underground. (CBMS)

The mining engineers, Wardell Armstrong, have been commissioned by the government to investigate ways of reclaiming the white china clay waste tips in Cornwall and Devon. Possibilities being considered are amenity and agricultural use. (NMRS)

### Devon

Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit has won an AIA Fieldwork Award for recording work at the Gawton Mine and Arsenic Works. (AIA)

### Gwent

Leicestershire Industrial History Society has also won an AIA Award for recording work at Glyn Pits, Pontypool. This was carried out with the aid of a Lloyds Bank Award for Independent Archaeology. (AIA)

Marine Colliery at Ebbw Vale is to be obliterated under a restoration scheme but it has been surveyed by RCAHMMW. (AIA)

The site of the Gwaelod-y-Garth iron mine is threatened by quarrying but a public enquiry is to be held following claims of its archaeological importance. (AIA)

### Kent

Kent Underground Research Group have recently gained access to an underground quarry for ragstone at Maidstone. This is an important find since there is only one other known accessible site in the UK. Surveying is in hand and it has been necessary to fit a vandal-proof gate since it is sited in a public park. There is a likelihood that access can be gained to further workings in both this system and adjacent sites. (KURG)

### Norfolk

Wardell Armstrong are about to report after a £120,000 underground investigation into the chalk mines of Norwich. Several trial adits have been driven and a number of unknown chalk workings discovered. (NMRS)

### Surrey

Unit 2 Cave Research & Exploration has recently changed its name to Wealden Cave & Mine Society and it intends to seek charitable status.

## AMERICAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The 13th Annual Conference of the Western History Association was held in Nevada in October and over 100 American mining historians formed the Mining History Association. NAMHO was represented by Mike Gill and Roger Burt, the latter of whom gave a paper on the opportunities for researching Western U.S. mining history in England.

Besides 3 papers on aspects of American coal mining, there was a session called "The Big Bonanza: Mining Historians look at their Profession". At this, Clark Spence, William Greever, Russell Elliott and Otis Young (truly a panel of doyens) discussed their work and highlighted aspects of future study. The differences in our approaches also became apparent. The USA tends to concentrate on social aspects of mining, which we usually ignore. Conversely, we are better versed in the technological aspects of mining and ore preparation. We are both deficient in our knowledge of smelting but, unlike us, Americans felt that it was too technical to be made readily available to the majority. Clearly we have much to learn from each other. The Association is to hold its own meeting in July 1991 in Leadville, Colorado, where there will be papers, a banquet and tours of the town and mines. It will also host the 3rd International Mining History Congress later in 1991 at Denver. (M.Gill)

## FOREIGN MINING HISTORY ORGANISATIONS

Paul Sowan of Subterranea Britannica is the NAMHO liaison officer for foreign groups. He already has links with several European groups and has prepared a summary of the known ones below. If you know any more, please send details to the Editor.

### Belgium

SOCIETE BELGE DE RECHERCHE ET D'ETUDE DES SOUTERRAINS  
Siege Social et Secretariat,  
c/o Maison des Arts,  
Chausse de Haecht 147,  
8-1030 Bruxelles,  
Belge.

SOBERES tends to deal with the French-speaking parts of Belgium and takes an interest in all classes of man-made underground cavity, including metal mines. Publishes a journal.

### France

SOCIETE D'ETUDES HISTORIQUES DES ANCIENNES CARRIERES ET CAVITES  
7, Rue Clisson, SOUTERRAINES  
75013 Paris,  
France.

SEHDACS concerns itself mainly with ancient quarries and their re-use in and around Paris. Publishes a journal called "Liaison SEHDACS" annually.

SOCIETE FRANCAISE D'ETUDES DES SOUTERRAINS  
Siege Social,  
Centre Culturel,  
Maire,  
d'Artenay 45410,  
France.

SFES concerns itself mainly with ancient archaeological features underground, with a strong emphasis on cellars, tunnels under castles and old houses, etc; but also takes some interest in underground quarries. Publishes a journal "Subterranea" three times per year.

### Germany

ARBEITKREIS FUR ERDSTALL FORSCHUNG  
Karl Schwarzfischer,  
8495 Roding,  
Schorndorferstr 31,  
West Germany.

AEF has a field of interest for Germany (also Austria to an extent) similar to that of SFES for France. Publishes an impressively well-produced journal "Arbeitskreiss" annually.

## Holland

### STICHING MAASTRICHTVESTINGSTAD

Renier van Gelooven,  
Postbus 230,  
6200 ae Maastricht,  
Nederland.

SM is an organisation established to study the extensive fortifications at Maastricht, especially the Fort St. Pieter. The latter is on a hill full of subterranean quarries which connect with the fort.

### STUDIEGROEP ONDERAARDSE KALKSTEENGROEVEN

Joep Orbons,  
Pius XII Straat 14,  
6247 AW Gronsveld,  
Nederland.

SOK concerns itself with all aspects of research into very numerous (and very extensive) underground limestone quarries in South Limburg. Interests vary from quarrying techniques to bat hibernation. Publishes a journal "SOK Mededelingen" several times per year.

## Italy

### CLUB ALPINO ITALIANO

Prof Alfonso Picciocchi,  
Sezione di Napoli,  
Castel dell'Ovo,  
30132 Napoli,  
Italia.

The Naples section of the Italian Alpine Club is very active in investigating and publishing the numerous underground cavities in and around Naples, e.g. quarries, water tunnels, etc.

### GREAT ORME BRONZE AGE WORKINGS

Work has commenced on clearing the site around Vivians Shaft on the Great Orme to construct a visitor's centre for Spring 1991. About 30,000 cubic metres of spoil has been removed and this has revealed a large opencast feature with several new mine entrances. About 5000 bones were recovered, including a human jaw which has been sent to Cardiff Dental School for forensic examination. Many of the bones show signs of wear at one or both ends and seem to have been used as chisels or gouges. Copper minerals have impregnated the bone surfaces imparting a green colour, whilst manganese has turned them black.

Of current interest is the research on the 2400 year old body of "Lindow Man" found in a Cheshire marsh. This was also found to have traces of copper carbonate and iron oxide in the superficial skin layer and it suggests that these were used as cosmetics. This may suggest yet another use for the copper ore mined on the Great Orme.

In addition, about 500 stone tools were found varying from 0.25Kg to 29Kg. It is not known if the latter was suspended from a framework or whether it belonged to a strong individual. All are beach-derived cobbles of hard igneous rocks, mainly hammer stones with occasional mortar and anvil stones. (GOES)

#### CRITERIA FOR PRESERVATION

The original 2 reports have been split into 4, viz.

Coal	)	
Fireclay	)	Nigel Chapman
Iron	)	
Miscellaneous	)	Adrian Pearce.

The Coal report is finished and the Miscellaneous report has reached final draft stage. The latter is being circulated to nominated persons for comment and should be finished by February. One thing that has emerged is that the reports are a useful overview of mining in the UK. Thus, as well as being useful in determining the necessary criteria for scheduling applications, they may also be of use for reference purposes. It is intended that a copy of the final reports will be distributed to each NAMHO organisation for internal use.

#### DICTIONARY OF SURVEYORS

An ongoing project by Emmanuel College, Cambridge aims to summarise details of land surveyors who have been involved in producing maps. The first volume, "Dictionary of Land Surveyors & Local Cartographers of Great Britain & Ireland 1550-1850", was edited by Peter Eden and published by Dawson in 1979. It is intended to reprint this with several additions, including a bibliography of respective published works and repositories where they may be found. This work may be of interest to researchers since old plans often contain details of mining. The team are also interested in obtaining details of any surveyor not yet included. Any information or queries should be directed to Dr Sarah Bendall, Emmanuel College, Cambridge CB2 3AP. (AIA)

#### ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

The National Trust are seeking information on the 25ft waterwheel that formerly powered the Aberdulais tinsplate works. They intend to reconstruct the wheel but have few technical details. Any information to Steve Mitchell, National Trust, Aberdulais Falls, Neath, West Glamorgan (T. 0639-636674).

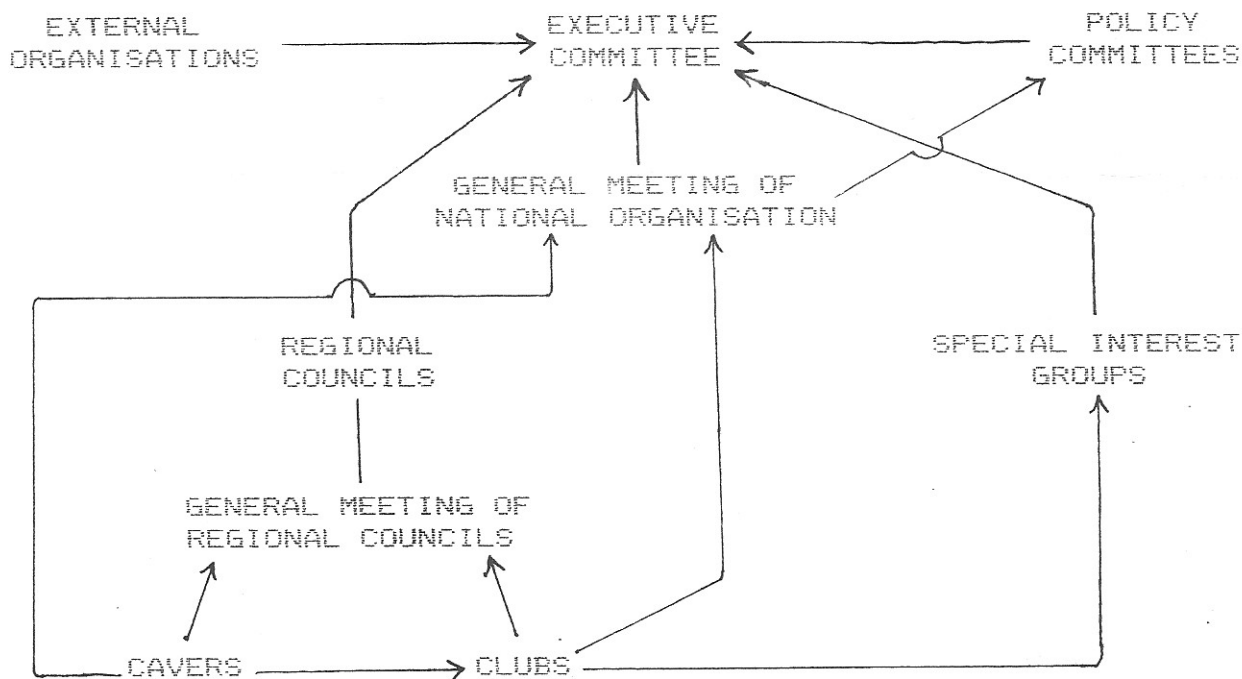
Nigel Chapman is preparing reports on scheduling criteria for Fireclay and Iron mining. To ensure complete coverage, he would be grateful to receive details of areas where such mining took place, sites worthy of preservation and references to published research. In addition, he would like to hear from anyone interested in assisting with preparation of scheduling criteria for these aspects of mining. He can be contacted at 14, Dorset Rd, Edgbaston, Birmingham B17 8EN (T. 021-429-3930).

### SCIENCE MUSEUM GRANT

A fund is available known as the Preservation of Industrial & Scientific Material Grant Fund (PRISM). This is intended to assist in the preservation of items which were important for the history and development of technology and science in all its branches. Grants are available up to 50% of eligible costs with a ceiling of £10,000 and a condition that at least 25% of the cost is raised from local sources. It is eventually planned only to consider museums registered under the Museums & Galleries Commission but, in areas where registration has not yet been carried out, applications will be considered from any organisation that maintains a permanent collection open to the public on a non-profit making basis. Applications will also be considered from charitable organisations concerned with preservation of industrial monuments. Details available from The Administrator, PRISM Grant Fund, The Science Museum, South Kensington, London SW7 2DD (T. 071-938-8005).

### NATIONAL CAVING ASSOCIATION

The NCA is undergoing a similar look at how its structure can be altered to allow for more individual participation. The latest proposal is



A similar organisation structure may be worth considering for NAMHO during the meeting on 9th March 1991.

### AIA COMPUTER SURVEY

The AIA is assisting in the development of a national database of industrial archaeology sites in Great Britain. For this, they will be heavily dependant upon local societies and individuals who may already have developed local or specialised databases on

personal computers. They wish to compile a register of societies and individuals with access to PCs (whether or not they already have a database), together with details of hardware, software and information fields where appropriate. A questionnaire can be obtained from Dr Miles Oglethorpe, RCAHMS, 54, Melville St, Edinburgh EH3 7HF.

#### AIA FIELD VISITS

The AIA is introducing a new venture by arranging field visits to sites of industrial archaeological interest. The first one will be held between May 28th - June 2nd 1991 in the Bristol area and members of NAMHO organisations are entitled to attend. Of the week's programme, items of interest are

Wed - colliery sites around Midsomer Norton and Radstock.  
Thu - Underground Quarry Museum, Corsham.  
Fri - Redcliffe Caves (for the glass industry).  
Sat - lead mining sites in the Mendips.  
Sun - mining sites in Golden Valley.

The cost of the full week is £9.00 or £3.00 for a single day. Details from D. Alderton, 48, Quay St, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8EY (T. 0986-872343).

#### WHEN IS A MINE NOT A MINE?

The use of correct local terminology was discussed at the recent IMHA seminar. Peter Burgess has submitted the following discussion paper and would be grateful if member organisations reproduced it to their members for discussion/comment.

Most readers would probably have no difficulty in explaining what a mine is, since they spend a significant amount of their time exploring and researching them. Most of the time, you would probably be right in calling the holes you explore "mines" but when they were being dug they were probably never called this. It would be a sad neglect of our responsibilities as mining historians to forget the terminology of our predecessors.

If we seek an "official" definition of a mine, we must look to the 1872 Metalliferous Mines Regulations Act, wherein we find that a mine is any subterranean artificial excavation exploited for minerals of one sort or another. Although grossly oversimplified, this is largely how we use the word at the end of the 20th century. The words "mine", "quarry", "pit", etc. are much older, however, than the artificial naming imposed on us by the 19th century legislators. It is important to recognise the 'true' meaning of the words we use, so we can better appreciate historical documents relating to mining sites and also restore part of our mining heritage - the terminology of times past.

How can we tell what a site should be called? Without documentary evidence or memories of retired miners, a few simple guidelines should help. The biggest mistake is to assume that a mine must be underground. The huge openwork at Parys Mountain is called a mine! Conversely, the active underground limestone workings in Derbyshire may NOT be mines - the clue is the

mineral sought. Underground workings for non-ferrous metal ores may be safely termed as "mines". Underground workings for building stone and slate are not so simple since they were always referred to as "quarries"! A quarry is simply an excavation, surface or underground, from which squared stone was removed. The workings for Bath stone, Welsh slate, ragstone, firestone and flagstone are all underground quarries and not mines.

Old workings for coal, fireclay and bulk limestone were usually termed "pits" or "collieries" and not mines. However, materials such as chalk and sand do not seem to have been called any of these. The word "Denehole" (a chalk bellpit) was coined by Victorians AFTER such workings were being dug - what was the original name? The case of iron is a law unto itself. In the Weald, it was the iron ore itself that was known as "mine" and the extraction sites were called "minepits". In Dartmoor it was worked by "mines" and in Somerset and Wales by "pits".

The subject, as you can see, is a complex one. There are problems which defy a standardised terminology, viz.

- Using "mine" as an overall term means that old references to "quarries" may be overlooked as surface workings.
- Using the old terms for purist reasons may not always be correct since 20th century workings were probably called mines by the men who made them.
- Mining historians who move to other areas, or study them at a distance, may use terms with which they are familiar but these may be of local relevance only and not appropriate elsewhere.
- A site that was worked for several centuries may have begun life being called a "pit" by miners and ended up as a "mine".

It is up to the individual mining historian to decide what terminology to use but, whatever names are adopted, it is important to remember that the vocabulary of mineral extraction has been evolving for many centuries. To ignore what our predecessors used as their normal day-to-day language will only serve to confuse those that follow us, when they put our research efforts into the context of many centuries of British mining. The ideal would be to use the term that was in use at the time of working.

I have made no attempt to discuss the terminology of mine features, methods, tools, etc. There is considerable scope for studying different words and drawing up local/national glossaries. If you are studying 'mines' for which the terminology is well-known, make an effort to preserve the vocabulary because nobody else will.

#### NEXT ISSUE

The next Newsletter will be issued in April 1991 to accompany the minutes of the AGM. Any material for inclusion should be sent by mid-March please.

Adrian Pearce 72, Hopkins Heath, Shawbirch, Telford,  
T. 0952-53310 Shropshire TF5 0LZ

## UNDERGROUND EQUIPMENT & CLOTHING

Neil Rushton  
33, Glade Way, Shawbirch, Telford, Shropshire (T. 0952-40765).

Neil is the Tackle and Rescue Officer for Shropshire Caving & Mining Club. He has put his experience to good use in running a mail order business, with prices that compare well with the major suppliers. As well as the items listed below, he can obtain most items on request. Postage and packing is extra - ring for details.

<u>ITEM</u>		<u>PRICE</u>
OVERTROUSERS	Heavy duty and waterproof with shoulder straps.	£11.00
UNDERSUIT	Fibre-pile one piece suit with zip front, elasticated cuffs and ankles.	£26.00
OVERSUIT	Heavy duty and waterproof with velcro covered zip, elasticated cuffs and ankles, hood in collar and knee pads. Above with pockets.	£37.00 £40.00
LEAD ACID CAP LAMP	Second hand with minimum life on full beam - 9 hours. - 11 hours.	£16.00 £18.00
BELAY BELT	Load bearing with battery loop.	£5.50
BELT POUCH	Waterproof and padded, ideal for food, camera, flask, emergency blanket, etc.	£4.50
PETZL FRACTICO	Fully adjustable sit harness.	£28.00
CHEST HARNESS	Shoulder strap and belt style.	£6.50
FOOT LOOPS	Fully adjustable with plastic stirrups.	£3.75
SEWN AND KNOTTED SLING	25mm webbing, 1m circumference. (any length made to order).	£3.50
KARABINER	Large offset D shape, screw gate.	£6.00
FIGURE 8 DESCENDER	Easy to use abseil device, can be carried as a spare.	£7.50
RACK DESCENDER	Ideal for caving and suitable for long pitches.	£24.00
PETZL STOP	Ideal safe abseil device.	£26.00
PETZL ASCENDER	Right or left handed.	£19.50
PETZL CROLL ASCENDER	Chest ascender.	£18.00

<u>ITEM</u>		<u>PRICE</u>
BOLTING KIT	Hangers, anchors and wedges.	POA
BLUE WATER II+ ROPE	Ultimate caving rope. 11mm diameter, low stretch, abrasion resistant, perfect for SRT and Rescue.	£1.39/m
BLUE WATER CLIMBING ROPE	Perfect for lifelining on pitches and rescue work. 10.5mm diameter, high strength, abrasion resistant.	POA
SRT KIT BAG	Ideal for krabs, slings and SRT kit.	£3.50
TACKLE BAG	Waterproof, 2 x 50mm adjustable shoulder strap, carrying handle. Capacity approx 150mm x 11mm	£9.00
FIRST AID BELT POUCH	Waterproof and padded, divided for bandages, plasters, drugs, scissors, etc. Cross on outside.	£6.00
EMERGENCY SHELTER	Waterproof, suspends from short length of rope to make ridge shape, doubles as rescue blanket.	£10.00
RESCUE BAG	For the specialist rescue team made to order. Heavy duty, waterproof, bright coloured head and foot sections, heavy duty twin zips, 4 tape handles, opens into flat sheet, reinforced base, carried in own crush bag. Can be used with stretcher or without through tight crawls.	£99.00
DUVET JACKET	Heavyweight, waterproof outer, cotton inner, 14oz hollow fibre filling, elasticated cuffs, velcro covered zip.	£60.00
KAGOULE	Long waterproof coat, elasticated cuffs, hood, velcro covered zip.	£16.00
ANDRAK	Waterproof smock, hood, elasticated cuffs, zipped below neck, map pocket.	£18.00
SLEEPING BAG CRUSH SACK	Waterproof, reduces bag to manageable size to fasten to rucksack.	£5.00
RUCKSACK COVER	Waterproof cover for any sack, will completely cover a sleeping bag, tent or carry mat fastened to sack. Various colours.	£8.00

\* \* ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING MADE TO MEASURE \* \*

\* \* DISCOUNTS FOR LARGE ORDERS FROM CLUBS AND RESCUE TEAMS \* \*