

## Offroading in caves...??? Yes, caves!

The **Four Wheel Drive Club** is always looking for something unique to offer its members and we now believe we have found one of the most amazing offroad driving adventures available.

In the constant quest to deliver more unusual events, the latest search took five of the Four Wheel Drive Club team to northern France in order to explore a site for what was hoped would be a good place for a future club event. Well, everyone was wrong... It is a *fantastic* place for a future event- so much so that it was immediately arranged and added to the club events calendar!

### What is this fantastic place?

The site is called Les Cinq Piliers (the 5 Pillars) and the caves are its unique selling point. The site, about 2 hours drive from Calais, is a huge disused quarry and one of the best natural off road sites in Europe, with over 300 acres of woodland, many kilometres of rough tracks, with steep and slippery inclines. Then there are the caves.... A network covering 110 hectares, all varying in height - some go so low you can't even crawl through and others are 6m high, plus there's well over 2kms of tracks to drive! So much in fact it's easy to get lost...

Carl Liversage describes some of the fun "We arrived at the site on a snowy Sunday morning. It wasn't long before we were deep underground exploring with only torches and the lights from our vehicles. The terrain was moderate but there were a couple of challenges en route and driving in caves is just so different. The height in places was tight as was the width but some careful driving meant that we all got out without a scratch. The buzz was being able to drive underground in a hugely historic site that was previously occupied by Germans during World War I. But I can't even begin to describe the fun we had, I'll let the pictures do the talking...."

### A bit about the site...

Les Cinq Piliers (the Five Pillars) is located near the French town of Compiègne, about 60 miles north of Paris. During World War I there was severe fighting in this area. In addition to fighting, the German occupiers carved enormous caves into the hilly areas, which served as bomb shelters for their soldiers and ammunition. The industrious Germans chose this site for their tunnels due to its geological make-up. During the 31 months the occupiers stayed in the area, they did a tremendous job, because their gallery of caves stretches out over a length of about three miles. You can easily get lost amidst all the recesses, thoroughfares, and pillars. In the forest above the caves, you also can find a lot of artefacts from the period as well. German text carved into rocks can be found too. Another common occurrence found carved into rocks is an eagle, the national symbol of Germany.

This is an amazing and not-to-be-missed experience. To be a part of this quite unique offroading trip visit [www.fourwheeldriveclub.com](http://www.fourwheeldriveclub.com) and become a member today - it's free to join. You'd be mad not to!

Watch out for the full event write-up and pictures in Total Off Road later this summer - it'll make great reading!