

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

Important safety information about using CNCC descriptions and rigging topos

This MUST be read and understood by anyone using a CNCC-provided cave description or rigging topo

These descriptions and rigging topos are provided by the CNCC for use by experienced cavers only in assisting with trip planning and route-finding on some of the popular sporting routes in our region. They are not exhaustive, they do not cover every passage or feature, and details may have been greatly simplified to try to keep them concise and clear.

Great efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the information. Nonetheless, there are likely to be errors and (over time) an increasing number of inaccuracies due to changes in the caves and the replacement of resin anchors. The descriptions may also contain subjective viewpoints which could be open to misinterpretation. It is entirely incumbent upon all cavers to exercise appropriate care and caution when going underground using these topos and descriptions, and to have researched the trip from several other sources. Never make any safety critical decisions based on the information in these descriptions or topos.

Pull through trips must only ever be undertaken by cavers who are confident in finding the lower route out of the cave without a description, and who understand the extra precautions demanded of such trips (e.g. carrying multiple ropes).

The rope lengths stated in the rigging topos are considered the minimum length required based on average rigging. There may be errors, or your rigging may use more rope than anticipated. Therefore, it is critical that all ropes that are deployed for use have two tightened knots in both ends, to mitigate against the risks associated with the ropes not reaching the bottom of pitches.

Difficulty ratings, or 'grades' have been omitted from these descriptions. All cavers must make their own informed judgements of whether the cave is suitable for their capabilities, backed up by thorough research into the nature of the cave from numerous sources and an understanding of the capabilities of others in your group.

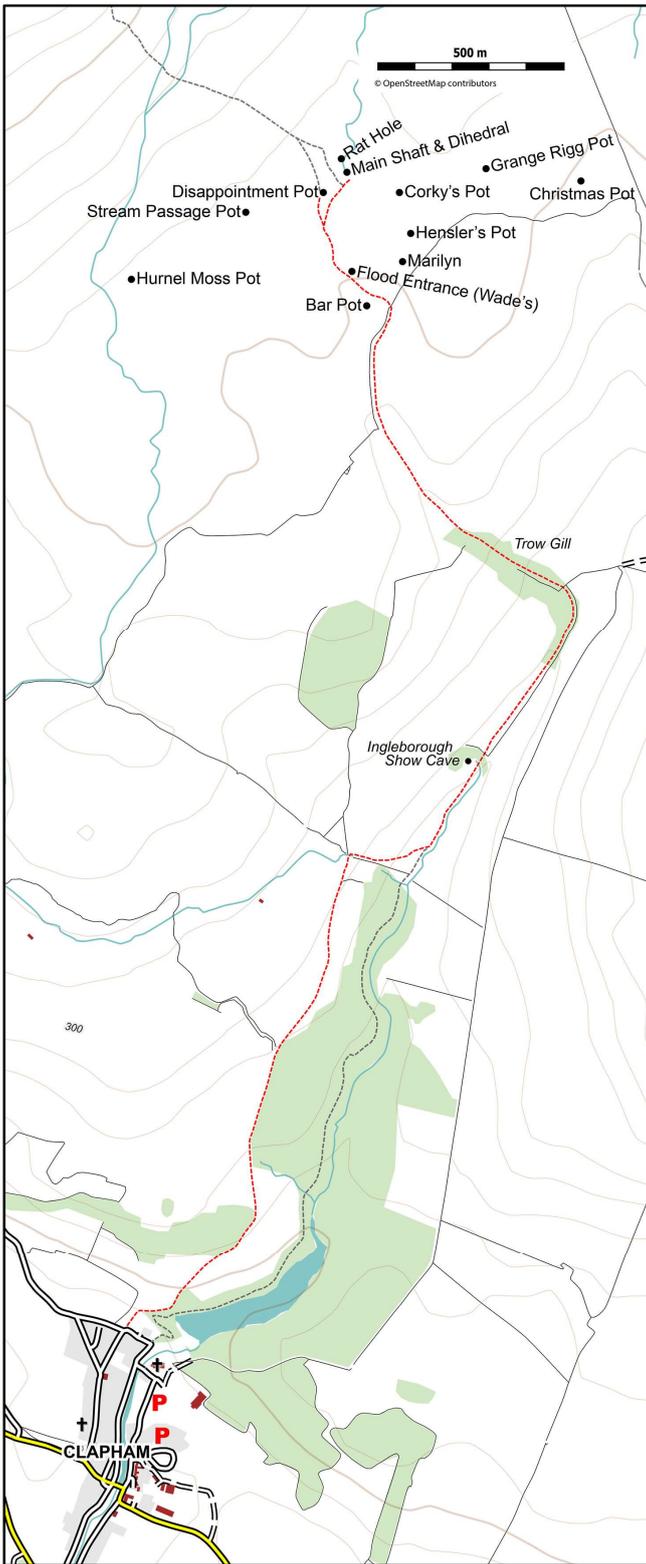
Many in-site ropes and ladders are mentioned throughout the descriptions. These should only ever be considered navigational markers and not safety critical belays. The CNCC does not install or maintain any fixed aids in caves other than the resin anchors shown on the topos. Never trust your safety to a rope or ladder which is left in a cave. For resin anchors you must understand the importance of belaying your rope to multiple anchors, including full traverse ropes leading to pitches, and always performing a pre-use inspection on every anchor. If any resin anchor shows movement, or fracturing in the nearby rock, it must not be used.

Rigging must always be performed to avoid any rub points or other hazards. Rigging exactly as depicted in the rigging topos does not guarantee a rub-free descent; this must be assessed and ensured by each individual caver on each pitch in every cave.

Many caves which are susceptible to danger from flooding have been highlighted in the descriptions. However, all caves, even typically dry ones, can flood in various circumstances, and it is therefore critical that the experienced caver using these descriptions makes their own judgement based on experience, extensive research and weather forecasts. Decisions to descend any cave after or during wet weather, or when wet weather is forecast, should be made based on an informed judgement backed up by thorough research from multiple sources. The critical moto which should be adhered to is "If in doubt, stay out!"

Although warnings are provided where there are some specific known hazards, the absence of a warning does not indicate that there are no hazards. Caves can (and do) change over time. Furthermore, the CNCC does not perform routine inspections or surveys of caves to look for specific hazards (e.g. loose rocks). All cavers are strongly advised to view the webpage on the CNCC website for their chosen cave to check for any warnings that have come to our attention. Experienced cavers using these descriptions must make their own evaluations for hazards throughout the duration of their trip and act appropriately to mitigate any risks.

Neither the author of the descriptions/topos or the CNCC will accept any responsibility for any damage, injury or loss (however caused) resulting from the use, misuse or misinterpretation of information in these cave descriptions or rigging topos.



In very wet conditions a significant stream will enter Hurnel Moss Pot making it unsafe. Reasonably dry conditions are advised. There are a few possible entrances, the newest of which is unstable. The old, traditional entrance described below should be used. Loose boulders throughout the entrance and the approach to Poseidon Pitch present a hazard.

Parking:

Park either at Clapham (village car park recommended or the road past the church, but not outside houses please) or at Newby Cote.

Location: Grid reference SD 74495 72422

There are two possible approaches to Hurnel Moss Pot. The longest but easiest to navigate is from Clapham via the Gaping Gill route as shown here (via the Ingleborough Nature Trail or the public footpath past Clapdale Farm, then past Ingleborough Cave, up Trow Gill and across the double-stile towards Gaping Gill). Follow the footpath straight ahead towards Gaping Gill after crossing the double-stile. After about 250m the path forks: Right goes towards Gaping Gill and left/straight on towards Ingleborough. Take the path towards Ingleborough for only 30m. Then, turn left and walk directly away from this path across the fell (bearing 260°). After approximately 200m across the fell, a large shakehole at the end of a shallow valley is found with the pipe entrance to Stream Passage Pot. From Stream Passage Pot continue across the contour of the fell (no further ascent or descent) on a bearing of approximately 235° to locate Hurnel Moss Pot after approximately 300m.

Alternatively, many cavers prefer to park on the Clapham to Ingleton road at Newby Cote and follow the public footpath up Ingleborough from there (not shown on the image here). This is vague at times, but is a shorter route. At the start of the footpath, after the farm, where the left wall turns 90° away as you arrive on the open fell, fork left slightly (a more obvious path goes straight on, but this is a quad bike track). Ascend the hill, bearing slightly away from the wall, to locate the footpath which gradually ascends towards Ingleborough. If you miss this, you risk ending up too low in the valley. Around 1 km up this footpath it is necessary to deviate off the path and across the fell towards Hurnel Moss using a map/GPS, as it otherwise defies description!

The entrance is a very large steep-sided shakehole with a stream flowing in. There are several large shakeholes in the area which can cause confusion.

Rigging: The rigging topo is available on the CNCC website.

Navigation:

The entrance is a horizontal low square hole under the steepest side of the shakehole, with a natural belay on the surface, which leads quickly to the first pitch with a single anchor hang. This pitch is best approached feet-first from the surface and it a little awkward at the top but soon opens out.

This lands in a chamber; daylight can be seen from the other entrance (which should not be used; it is very unstable). Remaining on-rope, a scramble down a loose slope of boulders keeping right immediately reaches the second pitch. Descend only 3m and then commence a long and very exposed traverse (with very few footholds) along the opposite wall, across the top of Poseidon Pitch. After 6m the walls converge, and anchors provide a Y-hang for a superb 27m descent. **Always rig the full traverse to avoid water and falling rocks.**

This lands on a broad balcony halfway down Poseidon. A traverse along a narrow ledge leads to a Y-hang for the final 33m descent to the floor.

Near the bottom of the pitch, an awkward, broken climb down amongst boulders into a narrow trench reaches the stream. **This is best treated as a pitch (20m rope) rigged from natural belays (various options available) as shown on the topo.** Downstream from here are a few more climbs down in the rift and 100m of reasonable stream passage before the rift terminates in a small and rather disappointing sump.