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.

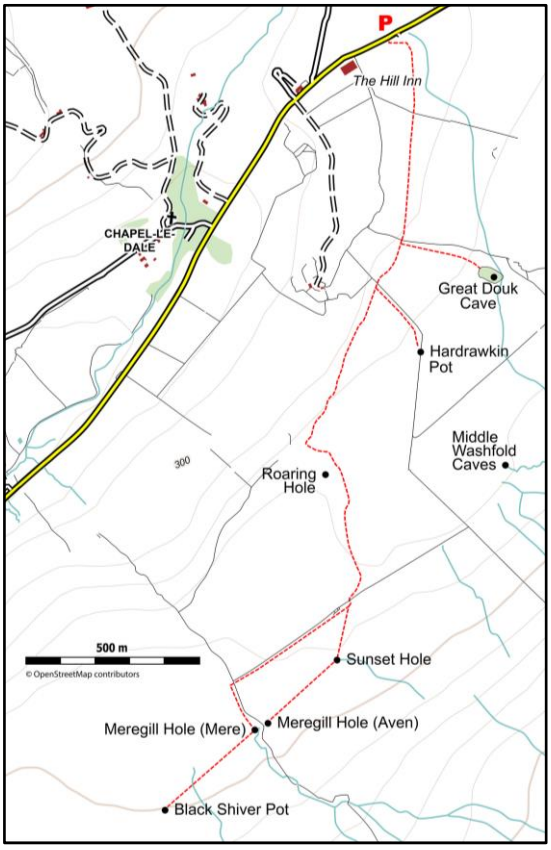
Many caves which are susceptible to danger from flooding have been highlighted in the descriptions. However, all caves, even typically dry ones, can flood in various circumstances, and it is therefore critical that the experienced caver using these descriptions makes their own judgement based on experience, 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.

ROARING HOLE

August 2018



A quirky trip requiring only a modest amount of tackle to descend to >120m depth. Roaring Hole loses much of its depth through an interesting variety of boulder chokes and free-climbs with some good size chamber on route.

Many of the boulder chokes have been passed by digging and stabilised with scaffolding; extreme care and continuous inspection by each group is required. Even in dry conditions the chokes are rather drippy; in slightly wetter conditions they are likely to deliver a soaking. Roaring Hole responds very quickly to rain and in heavy downpours the chokes can soon become impassable due to falling water.

Parking:

Park on the road a few hundred metres north east of the Hill Inn at Chapel-le-Dale. There is a small parking space which accommodates 3-4 cars immediately next to the start of the footpath up Ingleborough (on the right if heading away from the Hill Inn), and a larger parking area another 100m further, across the road.

How to find: Grid reference SD 74217 75907

Follow the main marked footpath up Ingleborough for about 1.2 km to where the path rises steeply up a limestone escarpment and bends sharp left and then (50m later) right, to meet an excellent limestone pavement on the right. Follow the path for about 100m alongside the pavement to where it bends slightly to the right and then slightly to the left; on this left bend, turn off the footpath and walk along a 'trough' in the pavement for 15m; then turn right and the depression of Roaring Hole is 15m ahead.

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

Providing a 7m ladder, three short (15m) ropes, 9-10 krabs and 4-5 slings are carried, confident climbers willing to forego the final pitch to the sump can enhance their trip by leaving most SRT metalwork at the foot of Bandstand Pitch and continuing with just harness and cowstails.

Navigation:

The entrance lies at the bottom of the shakehole and is a dug, free-climbable shaft dropping 6m into the top of a large cavern. There is a slight constriction 4m down which may prove tricky on the upward journey. The cavern drops down a few sections of walled dig spoil to reach a scaffold-supported boulder choke. At the bottom of the choke, a step over a block reaches the top of another very large cavern and Bandstand Pitch.

Bandstand pitch is rigged via an anchor in the left wall just before a narrowing, and then from another anchor on the left wall just beyond to enable a 5m drop onto a balcony. Just below where you land, an anchor provides a backup for the approach to the second part of this pitch, where a Y-hang on the left wall may be rigged for a 5m descent. Getting on/off this Y-hang can be tricky; the anchors are quite low down because the rock higher up is not good quality; a well-placed knot in the rope leading down to the Y-hang will provide a useful handhold.

At the foot of the pitch, the way on is downwards through a drippy choke. The route weaves down through boulders, the final section being a narrow slot which is unfortunately directly under the water; a slight wetting is probable here in all but the driest conditions.

At the bottom of the choke a crawling streamway leads off, enlarging after 15m as the floor cuts down, to enter a muddy rift chamber. At the end on the right the route continues downwards to rejoin the stream. A low crawl downstream quickly reaches the next scaffolded choke (Morecambe Pier Choke) on the left. This feat of engineering descends 8m and is also well-watered particularly further down. At the bottom of the choke a low crawl (best tackled feet-first) quickly enlarges at a 3m climb down into a long chamber.

About 10m along the chamber and on the left is a narrow slot dropping down between large blocks. Descend here and into a short section of passage which leads quickly to the head of a 4m drop. This drop is bypassed by descending through a window on the left 1m back. The bottom of this climb emerges quickly into the very large Slab Chamber with a 7m climb/pitch down to the floor. This is free-climbable with care, although at the very least a knotted handline is recommended. An anchor on the right wall provides a backup, and another just above the edge (hidden from view until you are out over the top of the climb/pitch) provides a suitable hang.

At the bottom of the chamber, continue down another boulder choke to reach a steeply descending passage leading down to the stream. After 10m this stream passage narrows; it can be followed but the best way on is a shelf on the left, which soon re-joins the stream at a chamber, often with water entering from above. Beyond here, a stooping/crawling height stream passage meanders for about 40m until the passage cuts down at the start of a traverse over The Rift (not to be descended as there is no way on at the bottom). Two anchors against the left wall, one in the roof, and then a belay around a block on the floor provide anchorage for a traverse line to protect the exposed step across this pothole.

Around the corner the next pitch is quickly reached in a small rift; it is awkward at the top and is rigged from obvious natural belays; a ladder is arguably easier. At the bottom a muddy slope leads down to another narrow pitch which is often just treated as a handlined climb from a natural belay. This drops into the stream passage of Sunset Boulevard. Upstream sumps, but downstream leads via some potentially very wet crawling to the final pitch, which is often extremely wet and drops directly into a sump pool. Natural belays are available, but this is rarely descended.