

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.

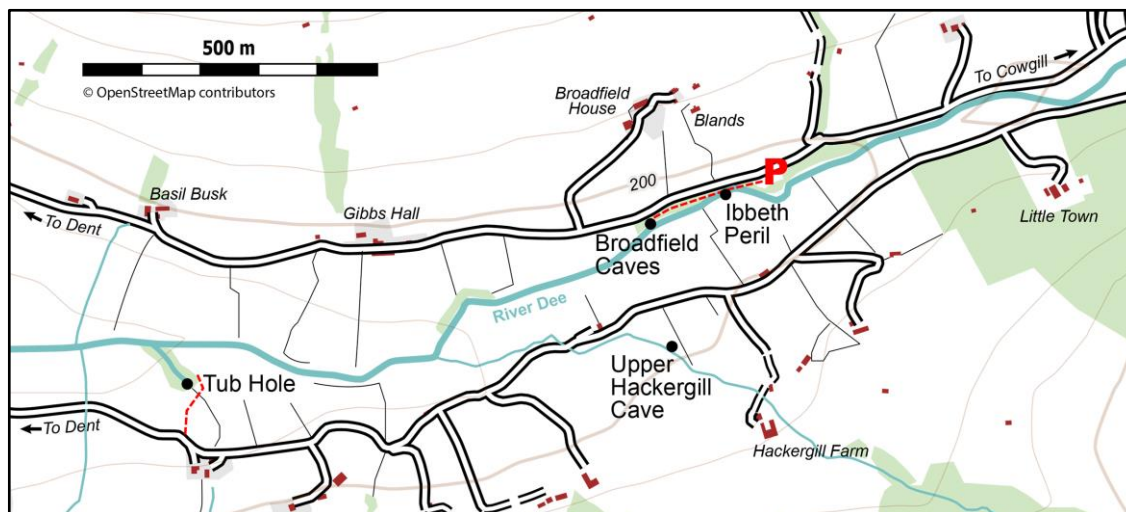
Many caves which are susceptible to danger from flooding have been highlighted in the descriptions. However, all caves, even typically dry ones, can flood in various circumstances, and it is therefore critical that the experienced caver using these descriptions makes their own judgement based on experience,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

The Ibbeth Peril system includes Ibbeth Peril 1 and 2, and Broadfield Caves. Combined, these comprise an extensive system >2.5km. The entire system is extremely flood prone. The description below covers only the most popular Ibbeth Peril 1 entrance, which is the quickest way to reach the impressive Main Chamber. However, for those seeking additional adventure on a very dry day, a more thorough exploration of the system should provide considerable entertainment. The only known description of the full system can be found in Northern Caves 3 (1994).

Ibbeth Peril 1 is located by the side of a deep pool in the River Dee. In wet conditions, it is not possible to safely cross the pool to reach the entrance. In extremely wet weather the pool floods the entrance completely. This cave should only be attempted during dry weather.



Parking:

Park in the very large drive-in layby at SD 74200 86480, located on the south side of the Cowgill to Dent road on the north bank of the River Dee. Note that there is another smaller parking layby a few hundred metres to the east which can be used if the main car park is too busy.

There is a marked public footpath crossing the river next to the car park.

How to find:

Grid reference: SD 74080 86440

Ignore the public footpath. From the car park follow the vague track west along the top of the river valley (with the river on your left) for 100m. The deep pool of Ibbeth Peril (below a waterfall) is spotted 10m below. Continue along the track for another 50m and it descends to the river. Now follow back upstream for 50m to the edge of the Ibbeth Peril pool. At the upstream edge of the pool (to the left of the waterfall) is a balcony with the Ibbeth Peril 1 entrance usually disguised by a makeshift cover and often buried by flood debris. A careful traverse around the left edge of the pool is necessary to reach this which should only be considered if the water level poses no concern.

Rigging: None

Navigation:

To locate the entrance, it may be necessary to clear flood debris and remove the hatch. The entrance starts as a crawl amongst rotting vegetation. The floor soon cuts down in a trench and a 2m drop down into a chamber with a pool of water is reached. Beyond here, a short and mostly walking or stooping height passage enters the magnificent and enormous Main Chamber.+6

Take note of your point of entry into the Main Chamber; it will not be obvious when trying to exit later!

Take some time to explore the Main Chamber and admire some of the calcite flows.

Just over half way along the chamber on the left side, a small stream cascades in from a high passage (the stream may be absent in exceptionally dry conditions). It is possible to take an exposed step across into this passage from a block, however, reports in 2016 have indicated that this block is unstable, so this is best avoided. Instead, continue to the very back of the chamber, where an easier and more stable climb up onto a shelf on the left leads into a crawl which runs back up the edge of the chamber to unite with the balcony. Follow the water upstream into an impressive and very photogenic stream passage, which lowers to stooping height, passes a bank of formations on the left and then terminates.

Replace the hatch on exiting to help protect the entrance crawls from blocking with flood debris.