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.

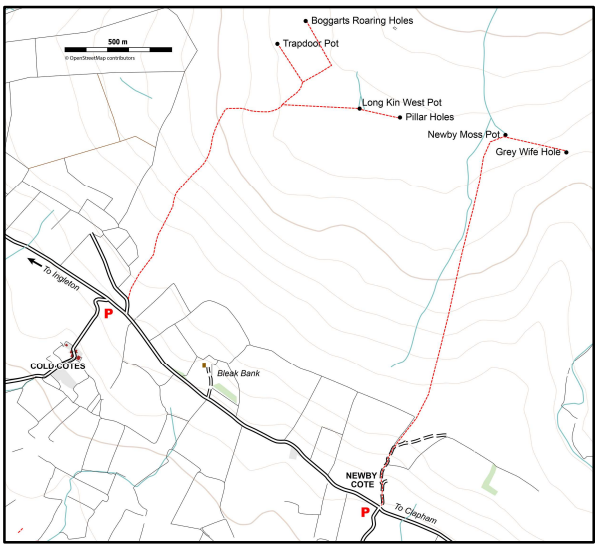
Many caves which are susceptible to danger from flooding have been highlighted in the descriptions. However, all caves, even typically dry ones, can flood in various circumstances, and it is therefore critical that the experienced caver using these descriptions makes their own judgement based on experience,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

LONG KIN WEST

November 2022



Long Kin West may become hazardous in wet weather. The main shaft is very exposed so take extreme care when descending not to dislodge rock onto any companions below; the rigger should check carefully for loose rocks.

Parking: Park on the Newby Cote road, approximately halfway between Ingleton and Clapham, 50m east of the Cold Cotes junction (there is ample hard-standing roadside verge parking near where the farm track joins).

How to find: Grid reference: SD 73095 72460

GPS and/or map and compass is highly recommended.

Follow the farm track uphill for 50m and cross onto the fell at a gate. Follow the path uphill (this is not marked as a public footpath on OS maps but is open access land and is well-trodden). After 1.3 km the path forks, the more obvious route up Ingleborough going uphill to the left. However, the way on is right/straight on, to follow the contours of the hill eastwards for 300m to locate the entrance of Long Kin West. This is an extremely deep but open hole with a small rock bridge.

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

Navigation:

It is desirable to locate a natural surface backup for the rope before approaching the shaft; There are no anchors so you must use your own judgement. There may be a metal spike, however this is not CNCC-endorsed. A single anchor over the rift entrance next to the bridge marks the start of the shaft (a rope protector is advisable here). This may require some attention to avoid rope rub and spiky vegetation! A multi-rebelayed route descends the shaft, ending with a hard-to-find drilled hole deviation approximately 8m below the final rebelay.

At the bottom of the pitch, a climb down some loose boulders is best treated as the second pitch and rigged accordingly.

Below the second pitch, a crawl-traverse (on rope) leads along a shale bed over the third pitch to a rock window where a Y-hang commences the descent. Take care with the positioning of the knot here to avoid rope rub. This third pitch descends to the floor via two rebelays. The pitch lands in a rift of loose boulders with all ways on completely choked.

PILLAR HOLES

November 2022

A choice of routes allows for a fun, short exchange to be made. In very wet conditions, the final pitch of Number Two/Three routes can become very sporting or even hazardous. Number One route is more navigable in wet conditions but can develop a lot of spray at the bottom of the first pitch and suffers from an economy of anchors on the second pitch, forcing some creative deviations to be identified. Overall, Pillar Holes is explorable in damp conditions, but best avoided during or after heavy rain or when water levels are particularly high.

Parking:

Park and approach as for Long Kin West. An equidistant approach can be made from Newby Cote, parking on the verge by the road junction.

How to find: Grid reference: SD 73292 72385 **(GPS and/or map and compass is highly recommended)**

From near Cold Cotes: Follow the description above to Long Kin West. Then, Pillar Holes can be found 200m away on a bearing of 100º (i.e., continuing east along the contours of the fell beyond Long Kin West). **From Newby Cote:** Follow the Ingleborough footpath for 1.8km. Then turn left off the path once you reach the various sinkholes of Grey Wife Sike and follow along the contours of the hill for 600m. Pillar Holes is a series of four holes in a long east-west shallow depression, the western three being the routes of entry with P-anchors to assist in identification.

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

Number One route (west): An anchor in the rock near ground level 1m from the edge (may be obscured by grass) provides a backup. A Y-hang should then be rigged for the initial descent, with a single anchor rebelay (of questionable necessity) halfway down. This pitch lands on a traverse (stay on rope) which leads down an exposed step across a hole to reach the anchors for the next pitch. A Y-hang commences the descent into a dry circular shaft. About 10m down, a deviation from rock in a fissure at the opposite side of the shaft is necessary to prevent rope rub above. Another 5m down you land on a shelf, where creativity is needed to locate a suitable natural deviation for the final 5m descent; or failing that, a well-placed rope-protector for a descent over the edge. The way on is downstream, a climb down the small hole to connect to the other routes.

Number Two route: An anchor provides protection for a descent down a slippery grass gully to a Y-hang for the first pitch. This lands on a boulder slope leading down to a balcony and the next pitch (where Number Three route enters from above). This pitch descends to reach a Y-hang from an anchor and an obvious natural belay. Descend onto a broad ledge and traverse to a Y-hang for the final pitch. A deviation from a knob of rock just below the pitch head is required. From the bottom, the upstream passage leads to a climb up to the bottom of Number One route.

Number Three route (east): A short free-climbable drop from the surface onto a limestone platform is necessary to locate two anchors, one as a backup and one for a hang to intercept Number Two route.