

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.

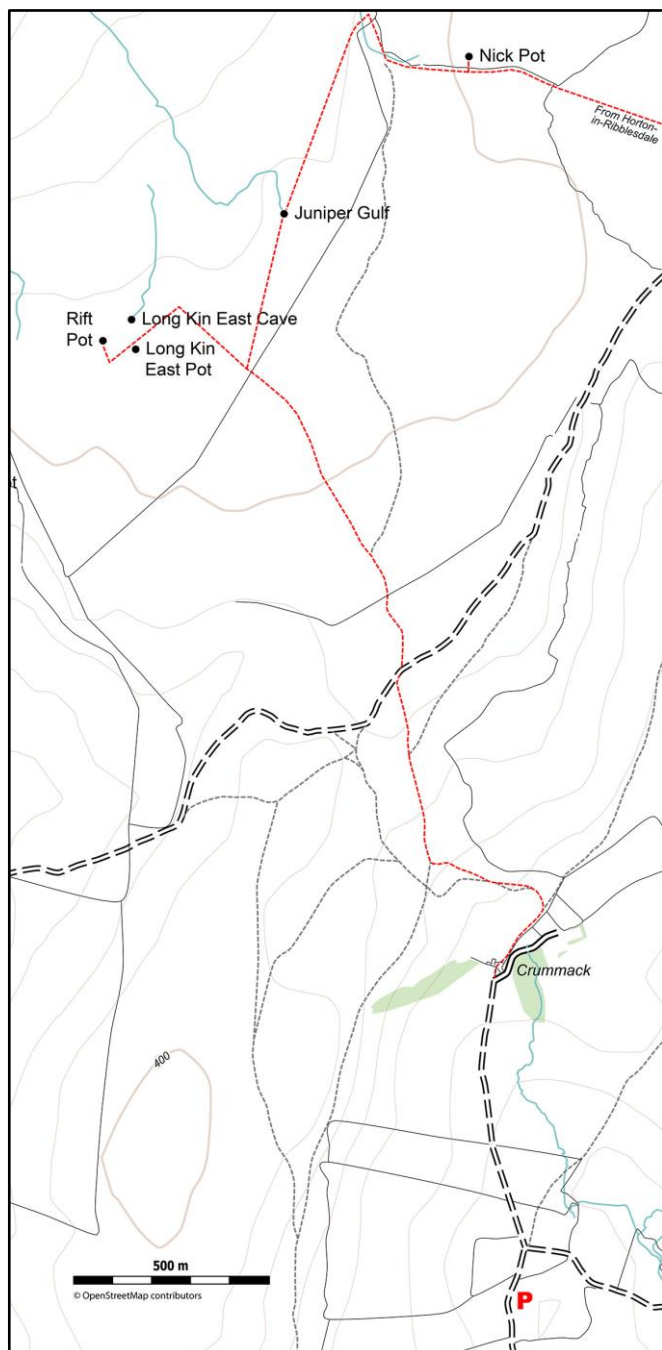
Many caves which are susceptible to danger from flooding have been highlighted in the descriptions. However, all caves, even typically dry ones, can flood in various circumstances, and it is therefore critical that the experienced caver using these descriptions makes their own judgement based on experience,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

NICK POT (via Thornber's Entrance)

November 2016



Nick Pot is an active pothole and can quickly become very wet on the big pitch; dry conditions are required.

Parking:

Just under a kilometre south of Selside is a turn (on the Ingleborough side of the road) toward South House Farm. It is often possible to park at the farm with the landowner's permission (call at the house to check). Failing that park in Horton in Ribblesdale either in the village car park or on the road between the pub and the train station, where on-road parking is available.

How to find: Grid reference: SD 77015 73742

From South House Farm: Go through the gate in the farmyard towards Ingleborough and follow the farm track west to intercept the public footpath after 600m just before a wall. Turn left and follow the path to reach the corner of the field where the wall is crossed. Approximately 500m ahead is a crossroads; go right and follow the path until a wall is intercepted and crossed. Follow the path along the right-hand wall for another 300m (to 100m before the path turns right) and Nick Pot is amongst exposed limestone 100m away over the right wall.

From Horton in Ribblesdale: Follow the footpath behind the train station for about 2km onto the fells. At a fork in the footpath, go right (probably signed to Sulber Nick and/or Ingleborough). Just over 1 km further is a crossroads. Go straight on and follow the path until a wall is intercepted and crossed. Follow the path along the right-hand wall for another 300m (to 100m before the path turns right) and Nick Pot is amongst exposed limestone 100m away over the right wall.

Nick Pot can also be reached from the parking location in Crummack Dale indicated for Rift Pot/Juniper Gulf/Long Kin East (see map)

Rigging: The rigging topo from 'Northern Caving' is available on the CNCC website (courtesy of CNCC Technical Group).

Navigation:

There are numerous small entrances in this area, including the separate caves Sulber Pot and Hangman's Hole.

Nick Pot itself has four entrances: Main Entrance and Direct Entrance are rarely used. Dawson's Entrance is for the route which takes a full descent of the big pitch (Vulcan Pot) from the top, making one of the biggest pitches in the country. Sadly, this route is quite unstable due to lots of fault breccia, and consequently is not fitted with resin anchors and is therefore not recommended.

The route described here uses Thornber's Entrance which joins Vulcan Pot on a shelf called Traverse in the Gods about 30m down.

Thornber's Entrance is a low entrance found between huge limestone blocks about 14m west of the main depression. The narrow entrance quickly leads to the first pitch which starts narrow, with an awkward to rig Y-hang (if you do not locate P-anchors then you have come into the wrong entrance and should turn around). There are two deviations on this 20m pitch from naturals to avoid rope rub.

A short low bedding leads to a stream which quickly narrows into a trench before plunging down Vulcan Pot. A washed-out shale band along the left wall leads to the first anchor for the Traverse in the Gods. This exciting flat out crawl-traverse continues via several traverse anchors along a shelf with the main shaft on your right. This is certainly one of the more dramatic approaches to the head of a pitch!

At the end of the traverse is a niche where a Y-hang commences the descent of this mammoth pitch (a small passage entering here loops back into the shaft slightly lower down and was one of the original ladder routes down the pitch). A Y-hang rebelay only 4m down commences the main hang of the pitch, a splendid 40m descent to a huge flake (the Trouser Flake) forming a bridge in the shaft. A Y-hang rebelay is found in the corner of the shaft by the Trouser Flake to enable descent of the final 30m.

At the bottom, slopes lead quickly down to the sumps. A draughty and cold wait lies ahead for your turn to ascend.