



RIFT POT & LONG KIN EAST

July 2021

Rift Pot can be descended with care in quite wet conditions. Long Kin East however is an active cave and requires dry and settled weather before and during your trip.

Parking:

Rift Pot and Long Kin East can be approached from many locations. Parking in Crummack Dale (shown on the map) is the closest approach at 3.5km. Other approaches include from Clapham (via Long Lane, 5.5km) or Horton in Ribblesdale (4.5km). GPS or compass and map are essential, especially as it can be difficult to find your way back off the fell in poor visibility. To approach from Crummack Dale, enter Austwick from the A65. About 250m after the Gamecock pub, turn left onto Townhead Lane. Follow this out of the village for 1.5km to where a 'no vehicles' sign is reached and the public road ends where a lane enters on the right. It is possible to park on the verge on the left just before this lane on the right joins.

How to find:

Rift Pot: Grid reference: SD 76090 72900

Long Kin East Cave: SD 76275 73085, Pot: SD 76215 72915

If parking at Crummack Dale follow the public footpath straight ahead for 1 km to where the track goes right towards the farm. Leave the track and go straight ahead through a few gates and then bear left away from the wall to follow a dry valley uphill and onto the fells. A vague track at the top should be followed to the left, and the track then sweeps around to the right. Keep right at all subsequent junctions to reach the signed Pennine Bridleway footpath. Follow this straight on for 100m and depart along a vague track on the left, leading up through a small limestone gully and soon crossing a ruined wall. Navigation beyond this point is trickier, but the correct direction is perpendicular to the line of the ruined wall. There is a very vague track. You are aiming for the wall of the Allotment fell, and a gate through it located at SD 7646 7284; a GPS/map may be useful!

Through the gate, continue straight ahead for 200m until you have passed just beyond the hillock on the left. For Long Kin East Cave, continue straight ahead across the fell for 100m to locate the stream which can be followed down into Long Kin East Cave (an obvious open trench). For Long Kin East Pot and Rift Pot, turn left to follow a limestone pavement 'path' around the back of the hillock. After 100m, the 5m entrance pitch/climb into Long Kin East Pot is on the left. Another 100m beyond here, turn right up a sheep track leading past shakeholes to reach Rift Pot after only 50m. The entrance is an elongated fissure which must be climbed down at its southern end to reach the first pitch.

Rigging: Rigging topos for both caves are available on the CNCC website.

Rift Pot navigation:

Climb down the entrance to the first (spectacular) pitch. A rebelay (or deviation) a short distance down allows an abseil into a cathedral sized chamber. The way on at the bottom is the less obvious route up boulders to the next short pitch, which is slippery at the top. The third pitch, only 5m further, should be approached by following the rift/fissure down the centre of the passage, **remaining on the rope from the second pitch**. The anchors for a Y-hang are located just above head height on the left wall above the pitch. A rebelay anchor is found only a few metres down. This pitch lands onto a large and airy balcony of jammed blocks with two possible SRT routes onwards. All pitches happen in immediate succession.

Yorkshire Ramblers Route: A slope of loose blocks leads down to a further pitch landing on a pile of rubble. The next pitch starts as a steep scramble down blocks then a tight deviation from the far wall where the slope becomes vertical. Yet another airy balcony is then reached (the Bob Hole route also enters further along this balcony). At the bottom of the pitch is a short slope down to a Y-hang on the left wall for the next short pitch. Finally, a wide Y-hang commences the final descent with a hanging rebelay about 8m down. This route is passable in almost all weather but is troubled by some quite loose blocks on some of the slopes above the pitches, so great care is required.

Bob Hole Route: This route is found across at the far side of the balcony and starts as a narrow slot at the top of a pitch which enlarges further down and passes a rebelay. At the bottom, another wide balcony is reached at the head of the main 40m pitch (the Yorkshire Ramblers route comes in further along this balcony). The main pitch can be descended as an excellent single hang from the right wall (a bit drippy in wet conditions) or via a drier multi-rebelayed route commencing on the left wall along a traverse.

Long Kin East Cave and Pot navigation:

Long Kin East Cave is the very top entrance of the Long Kin East system, where the water goes underground. Drop into the open trench and follow the water underground and along a fine, 250m long stream passage. Eventually, the entrance to Long Kin East Pot (a 5m pitch/roped climb from the surface) is met. Continue downstream along easy passage for some distance, passing some cascades and then a couple of short pitches. The route eventually reaches a short drop into a washed-out shale chamber, the start of the big pitch, which is quite a technical descent.

The rigging commences at the far end of the washed-out shale chamber as a short drop onto a broad balcony. On the left wall at the end of the balcony, anchors commence the main descent of a spectacular, potentially quite wet shaft. Note that some of the rebelays are hidden around the corner (left, as you face out into the rift), where they pull away from the waterfall; they may require some attention to locate them. The pitch lands in the same huge rift/chamber as both routes of Rift Pot to make an exchange trip possible; one of the finest in Yorkshire!