

# A GAZETTEER OF VERTEBRATE REMAINS FROM CAVES IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES REFERENCED IN CAVING CLUB JOURNALS AND ALLIED LITERATURE.

by

P.J. MURPHY

## INTRODUCTION

This gazetteer contains a summary of information about caves in the Yorkshire Dales from which vertebrate remains have been recorded in the caving literature. It was first published in the now defunct on line journal CAPRA (Cave Archaeology and Palaeontology Research Archive) in 2002 with revision in 2004. This version has been revised and updated to include a further 9 sites. The area covered is that of the three current volumes of the Northern Caves guide book series (Brook, *et al.* 1988, Brook *et al.* 1991 and Brook *et al.* 1994) excluding Morecambe bay, North York Moors and Magnesian limestone caves.

Hominid bearing caves recorded in the archaeological literature are listed in Chamberlain and Williams (2001) and non-human remains in Chamberlain (2002) however some overlap is unavoidable with sites such as North End Pot where finds were recorded in both caving and archaeological literature. Several sites included in this list have produced human remains.

Caving clubs have a long history of recording their exploits in club journals. These can have irregular publication dates and small print runs but all the references listed here should be available from the British Cave Research Association (BCRA) library in the Peak District (bcra-librarian@bcra.org.uk). References are also taken from *Descent* magazine (ISSN 00-46-0036) Wild Places Publishing, 51 Miles Square, Cardiff CF24 3SH), BCRA publications and the Cave Diving Group Newsletter (ISSN 1353-713X). Three sites (Green Rigg Pot, Marble Steps Pot and Election Hole) are referenced from the Northern Caves guides but in two of these cases further work on identifying the remains has taken place.

All text in quotation marks is taken directly from the original references. The species present at each site are given in the form used in the original references.

## SITE LIST

Antler Hole; Badger Cave; Bown Scar Cave; Deaths Head Hole; Dib Scar Cave; Election Hole; Fox Holes; Gaping Gill; Green Rigg Pot; Ingleborough Cave; Keld Head; Lancaster Hole; Low Eglins Hole; Marble Steps Pot; Mill Beck Sink Cave; North End Pot; Rawthey Cave; Red Moss Pot; Rumbling Hole; Scar Gill Cave; Sell Gill Holes; Shuttleworth Pot; Small Mammal Pot; Smeltmill Beck Cave; Sleets Gill Cave; Sod Hole Gill Cave No1; Summit Cave; The Cupcake; Twinkle Cave; Valentine Hole; Wee Pot; West Kingsdale Master Cave; Wizards Chasm; Wretched Rabbit Entrance (Ease Gill).

## GAZETTEER

**Antler Hole**

NGR: SD 846 700  
BONES: Red Deer antlers and skull  
POSITION IN CAVE: Below first pitch  
IDENTIFICATION: T. Lord  
LOCATION OF FINDS: Unknown  
REFERENCES: Holden, 1959; Ottoway, 1974a.

NOTES: Ottoway (1974a) refers to finding “parts of an antler of Red Deer and a vertebra and some bits and pieces of limb” in an unnamed cave on Fountains Fell. This is believed to be Antler Hole.

**Badger Cave**

NGR: SD 9032 6431  
BONES: Badger and Cow  
POSITION IN CAVE: Lying on cave floor with many other small animal bones.  
IDENTIFICATION: T. Lord  
LOCATION OF FINDS: T. Lord; J. Thorp  
REFERENCE: Thorp, 1999a.

**Bown Scar Cave**

NGR: SD 918 721  
BONES: Dog Skull (“probably a terrier”)  
POSITION IN CAVE: unknown  
IDENTIFICATION: C. Ottway  
LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown  
REFERENCE: Ottway, 1974a.

**Deaths Head Hole**

NGR: SD 668 791  
BONES: “humerus and radius of small ox and cat”  
POSITION IN CAVE: Main Chamber  
IDENTIFICATION: A.J. Sutcliffe, British Museum  
LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown  
REFERENCE: Sutcliffe, 1975.

NOTES: “no more than a few hundred years old”

**Dib Scar Cave**

NGR: SD 992 662  
BONES: “numerous animal bones”

POSITION IN CAVE: small chamber beyond rock shelter limit  
 IDENTIFICATION: unknown  
 LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown  
 REFERENCE: Evans, 1993.

### **Election Hole**

NGR: SD 855 701  
 BONES: Antlers  
 POSITION IN CAVE: in a passage to the right of the entrance rift  
 IDENTIFICATION: unknown  
 LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown  
 REFERENCE: Brook, *et al.* 1991.

### **Fox Holes**

NGR: SD 756 774  
 BONES: Badger, Wolf, Wild Boar, Fox, Frog, Rabbit  
 POSITION IN CAVE: various  
 IDENTIFICATION: D. Yalden, Department of Biology, University of Manchester  
 LOCATION OF FINDS: some at Ingleborough Cave  
 REFERENCES: Cordingley, In Prep; Cordingley, 1993; Monico, 1994; Ottoway, 1974b.

### **Gaping Gill**

NGR: SD 751 727  
 BONES: A: Red deer, black grouse, human fibula mid shaft and possible human rib.  
 B: Cat (Drury, 1975)  
 POSITION IN CAVE: A: Main Chamber, top of west slope . B: Wild Cat Rift  
 IDENTIFICATION: A: T. Lord /A. Chamberlain. B: Unknown  
 LOCATION OF FINDS: A: Human remains at Sheffield University. B: in situ  
 REFERENCE: Murphy, 2003a.; Cordingley, 1999a, 2000 and 2001; Drury, 1975.

NOTES: Radiocarbon date of 4016+-51 BP on deer bone. Dating lab record sheet reproduced in the Craven Pothole Club Record No73, 2004 p.16

### **Green Rigg Pot**

NGR: SD 736 989  
 BONES: roe deer  
 POSITION IN CAVE:  
 IDENTIFICATION: D. Yalden, Department of Biology, University of Manchester  
 LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown  
 REFERENCES: Brook, *et al.* 1994; Smith, 1967.

NOTES: No mention of bones is made in the account of the original exploration (Smith 1967) though Brook *et al.* (1994) refer to "a cone of animal skeletons" at the base of the entrance

shaft. The Roe deer bones were taken from two intact skeletons except the hind legs of an animal had been washed away by the cave stream. Six different types of skull were noted in the cone of animal skeletons at the base of the entrance shaft, possibly including horse (P. Monico, *pers.comm* 1993). The cave is blocked at present and reopening it would require a major effort.

### **Ingleborough Cave**

NGR: SD 754 710

BONES: Woolly rhinoceros lower pre-molar (*Coelodnta antiquitatis*)

POSITION IN CAVE: Long gallery, beyond show cave limit

IDENTIFICATION: Alyson Armstrong, Cliffe Castle museum, Keighley

LOCATION OF FINDS: Alyson Brook, Bradford Pothole Club

REFERENCES: Brook, 2004; Speight, 2002.

NOTES: In a typical Dales cave interior deposit. Probably an isolated find having travelled some distance through the cave. Range approximately 50-25 ka in Britain.

### **Keld Head**

NGR: SD 696 766

BONES: Horse tooth (modern) *Equus caballus*. Permanent upper second premolar left side

POSITION IN CAVE: By entrance pool

IDENTIFICATION: A. Chamberlain, University of Sheffield

LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown

REFERENCE: Cordingley, 1999b.

NOTES: Presumed to have been recovered from the cave by an unknown diver

### **Lancaster Hole**

NGR: SD 664 807

BONES: "isolated phalange"

POSITION IN CAVE: Brew Chamber

IDENTIFICATION: none

LOCATION OF FINDS: Lost on way out of cave

REFERENCE: Ottway, 1974b.

### **Low Eglins Hole**

NGR: SE 094 734

BONES: Antler

POSITION IN CAVE: Hydra passage

IDENTIFICATION: unknown

LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown. Removed from cave.

REFERENCE: Davies, 1968b.

### Marble Steps Pot

NGR: SD 680 771

BONES: Unknown

POSITION IN CAVE: On the floor of a chamber reached via a traverse and a 6 m bolt route from the upper main chamber

IDENTIFICATION: none

LOCATION OF FINDS: in situ

REFERENCE: Brook, *et al.* 1994.

NOTES: A proximal domestic cattle tibia from an unknown location in the cave was identified by T. Lord. The bone showed cut marks.

### Mill Beck Sink Cave

NGR: SD 701 869

BONES: Horse Tooth

POSITION IN CAVE: towards downstream end

IDENTIFICATION: unknown

LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown

REFERENCE: Monico, 1993.

### North End Pot

NGR: SD 683 765

BONES: A: Horse, cow, red deer, pig, human. B: Giant Auroch, reindeer, wild pig, dog, human

POSITION IN CAVE: Base of entrance shaft

IDENTIFICATION: A: W.T.W. Potts, Department of Biology, Lancaster University;  
B: T. Lord

LOCATION OF FINDS: A: unknown. B: T. Lord

REFERENCES: A: Wilcocks, 1974; B: Morgan, 1990.

### Rawthey Cave

NGR: SD 719 973

BONES: Red deer, roe deer, wolf, cattle, sheep, domestic pig, dog, human

POSITION IN CAVE: on the floor of the Wolf Den

IDENTIFICATION: A. Chamberlain, University of Sheffield

LOCATION OF FINDS: in situ

REFERENCES: Goddard, 1998; Hedges, *et al.* 1998; Murphy, 2008, 2009. Richards, 1999.

NOTES: Radiocarbon dates on roe deer bones give a late Medieval date. A piece of human skull was radiocarbon dated to  $3167 \pm 55$  bp (AA22519), corresponding to a calibrated date of between 1500 and 1400 BC. Another human skull fragment was subsequently radiocarbon dated to  $1865 \pm 40$  bp (OxA-7450) which places this particular find firmly in the Romano-British period.

**Red Moss Pot**

NGR: SD 810 758  
 BONES: "A pile of bones (probably a cow)"  
 POSITION IN CAVE: In main stream way near Long mire inlet  
 IDENTIFICATION: unknown  
 LOCATION OF FINDS: none  
 REFERENCE: Anon., 1972.

**Rumbling Hole**

NGR: SD 671 791  
 BONES: "Long dead cat"  
 POSITION IN CAVE: In the 'Dead Dobbin Series' in a small chamber part way along a rift passage at the base of the 2nd pitch.  
 IDENTIFICATION: unknown  
 LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown  
 REFERENCE: Ramsey, 2008.

**Scar Gill Cave**

NGR: SD 981 711  
 BONES: Horse, sheep, rabbit  
 POSITION IN CAVE: In sediment excavated from rock shelter floor  
 IDENTIFICATION: unknown  
 LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown  
 REFERENCES: Ottoway, 1974a, 1974b.

**Sell Gill Holes**

NGR: SD 811 743  
 BONES: Human pelvis  
 POSITION IN CAVE: in Main Chamber  
 IDENTIFICATION: Manchester University  
 LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown  
 REFERENCE: Melvin, 1966.

NOTES: The reference states that more bones were found by the Cave Rescue Organisation.

**Shuttleworth Pot**

NGR: SD 6621 7978  
 BONES: Dog, wolf, auroch, horse, newt  
 POSITION IN CAVE: in excavated fill from entrance shaft  
 IDENTIFICATION: T. Lord  
 LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown  
 REFERENCE: Wood, *et al* 2011.

**Sleets Gill Cave**

NGR: SD 959 692  
BONES: Roe deer  
POSITION IN CAVE: Main Gallery  
IDENTIFICATION: Leeds City Museum  
LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown  
REFERENCE: Ottway, 1974a.

NOTES: 33 bones recovered

**Small Mammal Pot**

NGR: SD 752 723  
BONES: "large number of bones from at least 4 different mammal species"  
POSITION IN CAVE: Small Mammal House  
IDENTIFICATION: unknown  
LOCATION OF FINDS: in situ  
REFERENCE: Gardner, 2005, 2006; Speight, 2005.

NOTES: Bones now buried by dig debris (Gardner 2006).

**Smeltmill Beck Cave**

NGR: NY 849 146  
BONES: red deer  
POSITION IN CAVE: Red Deer Rift  
IDENTIFICATION: British Museum  
LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown  
REFERENCE: Ryder, 1974, 2008.

**Sod Hole Gill Cave 1.**

NGR: SD 868 937  
BONES: Wild Boar Tusk  
POSITION IN CAVE: On clay bank before entry to main chamber  
IDENTIFICATION: Sheffield City Museum  
LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown  
REFERENCE: Ryder, 1979.

**Summit Cave**

NGR: SD 779 961  
BONES: "reindeer posterior cannon bone"  
POSITION IN CAVE: unknown  
IDENTIFICATION: unknown  
LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown  
REFERENCE: Ottway, 1974b.

NOTES: probably refers to a metatarsal (T. Lord, *pers. comm.*).

### **The Cupcake**

NGR: SD 66721 78423  
BONES: auroch, wolf, badger, wild boar  
POSITION IN CAVE: In sediment fill of entrance shaft  
IDENTIFICATION: T. Lord  
LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown  
REFERENCE: Ramsey, 2011.

### **Twinkle Cave**

NGR: SD 844 654  
BONES: "Bones everywhere"  
POSITION IN CAVE: unknown  
IDENTIFICATION: unknown  
LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown  
REFERENCE: Burrow, 1976.

### **Valentine Hole**

NGR: SE 090 635  
BONES: Dog skeleton  
POSITION IN CAVE: Dog cavern  
IDENTIFICATION: unknown  
LOCATION OF FINDS: in situ  
REFERENCE: Davies, 1968a.

### **Wee Pot**

NGR: SD 732 723  
BONES: "skull of a large herbivore"  
POSITION IN CAVE: At the opposite end of the shakehole from the cave described in Brook *et al.* 1996, there is a 2 m drop followed by a 3m climb. The skull was at the base of the climb.  
IDENTIFICATION: unknown  
LOCATION OF FINDS: in situ  
REFERENCE: Cordingley, 1998.

### **West Kingsdale Master Cave**

NGR: SD 698 774  
BONES: Reindeer  
POSITION IN CAVE: River Junction  
IDENTIFICATION: ?E.K. Tratman/R.J.G. Savage (Bristol)  
LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown. Not in the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society museum collection



REFERENCE: Murphy, 2003b; Murphy, *et al.* 2002. Waltham, 1974 Brook and Crabtree, 1969.

NOTES: A fragment of a left scapula from a horse or large bovid was recovered from sediments at River junction by P Murphy on the 17th December 2001. Radiocarbon dating showed the bone was less than 200 years old (Murphy, *et al.* 2002). A horse skull was recovered from River Junction in November 2002 (Murphy 2003). A photograph taken by D Brook of some of the bones recovered in 1967 shows: metatarsal of *Bos primigenius* or bison; damaged femur from large Bovid (?same as above); tibia of unknown affinity; ?sheep bone. This assemblage suggests a late Neolithic/early Bronze age date

### Wizards Chasm

NGR: SD 84- 65- (exact position not disclosed by explorers)  
 BONES: domestic fauna and red deer  
 POSITION IN CAVE: Bone Rift  
 IDENTIFICATION: T. Lord  
 LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown  
 REFERENCE: Thorp, 1999b.

NOTES: ? post-Roman (T. Lord *pers. comm.*)

### Wretched Rabbit Entrance (Ease Gill)

NGR: SD 676 806  
 BONES: Fox  
 POSITION IN CAVE: The upstream end of Wretched Rabbit Passage at the base of a 70 foot climb.  
 IDENTIFICATION: unknown  
 LOCATION OF FINDS: Skull removed from cave.  
 REFERENCES: Anon, 1952; Eyre and Ashmead, 1967.

NOTES: Originally thought to be a rabbit, hence the name of the cave.

## REFERENCES

- ANON. 1952. *The Caverns of Upper Ease Gill*. Northern Pennine Club.
- ANON. 1972 Discoveries and extensions. *University of Leeds Speleological Association Review*. **10**. 1-2.
- BROOK, A., BROOK D., GRIFFITHS, J. and LONG, M.H. 1991. *Northern Caves volume 2 The Three Peaks*. Dalesman.
- BROOK, D. and CRABTREE, H. (eds). 1969. Appendix 2: The drainage and development of West Kingsdale. *University of Leeds Speleological Association Explorations Journal*. 70-73.

- BROOK, D., DAVIES, G.M., LONG, M.H. and RYDER, P.F. 1988. *Northern Caves volume 1 Wharfedale and the North-East*. Dalesman.
- BROOK, D., GRIFFITHS, J., LONG, M.H. and RYDER, P.F. 1994. *Northern Caves volume 3 The Three Counties and the North-West*. Dalesman.
- BROOK, A. 2004. Monster find in Ingleborough Cave. *Descent*. **176**. 13.
- BURROW, M. 1976. Twinkle Cave. *Journal of the Yorkshire Subterranean Society*. **1**. 45-47
- CHAMBERLAIN, A.T. and WILLIAMS, J.P. 2001. A gazetteer of English caves, fissures and rock shelters containing human remains. Revised version June 2001. *CAPRA*. **1**. <http://capra.group.shef.ac.uk/1/caves.html> (accessed 15.01.2011).
- CHAMBERLAIN, A.T. 2002. A Gazetteer of Non-Human Vertebrate Remains from Caves in the Yorkshire Dales Described in the Scientific Literature. *CAPRA*. **4**. <http://capra.group.shef.ac.uk/4/bonecavechamberlain.html> (accessed 15.01.2011).
- CORDINGLEY, J.N. In Prep. Fifteen years of digging at Fox Holes. *Journal of the Northern Pennine Club*.
- CORDINGLEY, J.N. 1993. Fox holes extended. *Descent*. **114**. 8.
- CORDINGLEY, J.N. 1998. Newby Moss pottering. *Craven Pothole Club Record*. **52**. 18.
- CORDINGLEY, J.N. 1999.a *Craven Pothole Club Record*. **56**. 17.
- CORDINGLEY, J.N. 1999b. Have you lost a tooth? *Newsletter of the Cave Diving Group*. **133**. 2.
- CORDINGLEY, J.N. 2000. Bones lead to resurvey in Gaping Gill. *Descent* **156**. 10.
- CORDINGLEY, J.N. 2001. Progress with the GG Main Chamber survey. *Craven Pothole Club Record*. **62**. 36.
- DAVIES, M. 1968a. Valentine Hole. *Yorkshire Underground Research Team Report*. **1**. 3-7.
- DAVIES, M. 1968b. Low Eglins Hole. *Yorkshire Underground Research Team Report*. **1**. 13-20.
- DRURY, A. 1975. Wild Cat Rift – Gaping Gill. *Northern Cave Club Journal "The Caver"*. **3**. 24 & 25.
- EYRE, J. and Ashmead, P. 1967. Lancaster Hole and the Ease Gill Caverns. *Transactions of the Cave Research Group of Great Britain*. **9**. 2. 61-123.
- EVANS, B. 1993. Dib Scar Cave. *Craven Pothole Club Record*. **30**. 36.
- GARDNER, J. 2005. Another entrance to Gaping Gill. *Descent*. **184**. 9.
- GARDNER, J. 2006. The Bar Pot alternative. *Descent*. **190**. 26.
- GODDARD, A. 1998. Into the Wolf Den. *Descent*. **142**. 20-23.
- HEDGES, R.E.M. *et al.* 1998. Radiocarbon dates from the oxford AMS system: Archaeometry datelist 26. *Archaeometry*. **40**. 437-455.

- HOLDEN, W. 1959. Antler Hole. *Journal of the Northern Pennine Club*. **2**. 2. 11-14.
- MELVIN, M. 1966. Sell Gill Holes, Ribblesdale. *The Speleologist*. **II**. 6. (February/March). 12.
- MONICO, P. 1993. Mill Beck Sink Cave. *Descent*. **115**. 10.
- MONICO, P. 1994. Fox Holes access. *Descent*. **118**. 14.
- MORGAN, P. 1990. North End Pot (Marble Steps area). *Caves and Caving (BCRA)*. **49**. 26-27.
- MURPHY, P.J. 2003a. The bones of Gaping Gill. *Descent*. **174**. 12.
- MURPHY, P.J. 2003b. More of the Kingsdale horse. *Speleology (BCRA)*. **2**. 5.
- MURPHY, P.J. 2008. The Wolf Den 10 years on. *Descent*. **203**. 32-33.
- MURPHY, P.J. 2009. The Wolf Den 10 years on. *Yorkshire Archaeological Society Prehistory Section Bulletin*. **46**. 64-66.
- MURPHY, P.J., LORD, T.C. and Brook D.B. 2002. The Kingsdale Reindeer Revisited. *Cave and Karst Science*. **29**, 2. 87-89.
- OTTOWAY, C. 1974a. Dem Bones. *University of Leeds Speleological Association Review*. **12**. 49-50.
- OTTOWAY, C. 1974b. Mo' Dem Bones. *University of Leeds Speleological Association Review*. **13**. 28-29.
- RAMSEY, D. 2008. Rumbling Extension. *Descent*. **200**. 13.
- RAMSEY, D. 2011 The Cupcake Connection. *Descent*. **219**. 30-31.
- RICHARDS, J.D. 1999. The Wolf Den. in: RICHARDS, J.D. (ed). *Meet The Ancestors. Unearthing the evidence that brings us face to face with the past*. BBC Worldwide Ltd. 108-29.
- RYDER, P.F. 2008. *Memoirs of a Moldywarp*. Broomlee Publications. 22. ISBN 978-0-9779093-0-6
- RYDER, P.F. 1974. Smeltmill Beck Cave Revisited. *Moldywarp Speleological Group Journal* **7**. 30-33.
- RYDER, P.F. 1979. Sod Hole Gill cave No.1. *Moldywarp Speleological Group Journal*. **10**. 22.
- SMITH, B. 1967. Green Rigg Pot. *Journal of the Northern Pennine Club*. **3**. 1. 16.
- SPEIGHT, A. 2002. Digging here, there and everywhere! *Descent*. **164**. 9.
- SPEIGHT, A. 2005. Bar Pot potterings. *Descent*. **190**. 26.
- SUTCLIFFE, J.R. 1975. Digs, discoveries and disappointments. *Gritstone Club Journal*. new series **5**. 58-59.
- THORP, J. 1999. Badger Cave. *Caves and Caving (BCRA)*. **83**. 6.
- THORP, J. 1999b. Once in a blue moon. *Descent*. **147**. 26-28.

- WALTHAM, A.C. 1974. The chronology of the caves. *in*: Waltham, A.C. (ed). *Limestones and caves of north-west England*. David and Charles. Newton Abbot. 440-450.
- WILCOCKS, J. 1974. Cave explorers and archaeological finds. *British Cave Research Association Bulletin*. **4**. 10.
- WOOD, K., RAMSEY, D. and BENDALL, R. 2011. Deep under Leck Fell. *Descent*. **218**. 21-24.

P.J. Murphy  
School of Earth & Environment,  
University of Leeds,  
LS2 9JT.  
P.J.Murphy@leeds.ac.uk