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

by

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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; Smelthall 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).
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

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”
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

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; Monaco, 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
LOCATION OF FINDS: A: Human remains at Sheffield University. B: in situ

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

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 on
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,
\textit{pers. comm} 1993). The cave is blocked at present and reopening it would require a major effort.

\textbf{Ingleborough Cave}

\begin{itemize}
\item NGR: SD 754 710
\item BONES: Woolly rhinoceros lower pre-molar (\textit{Coelodonta antiquitatis})
\item POSITION IN CAVE: Long gallery, beyond show cave limit
\item IDENTIFICATION: Alyson Armstrong, Cliffe Castle museum, Keighley
\item LOCATION OF FINDS: Alyson Brook, Bradford Pothole Club
\item REFERENCES: Brook, 2004; Speight, 2002.
\end{itemize}

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.

\textbf{Keld Head}

\begin{itemize}
\item NGR: SD 696 766
\item BONES: Horse tooth (modern) \textit{Equus caballus}. Permanent upper second premolar left
side
\item POSITION IN CAVE: By entrance pool
\item IDENTIFICATION: A. Chamberlain, University of Sheffield
\item LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown
\item REFERENCE: Cordingley, 1999b.
\end{itemize}

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

\textbf{Lancaster Hole}

\begin{itemize}
\item NGR: SD 664 807
\item BONES:“isolated phalange”
\item POSITION IN CAVE: Brew Chamber
\item IDENTIFICATION: none
\item LOCATION OF FINDS: Lost on way out of cave
\item REFERENCE: Ottway, 1974b.
\end{itemize}

\textbf{Low Eglins Hole}

\begin{itemize}
\item NGR: SE 094 734
\item BONES:Antler
\item POSITION IN CAVE: Hydra passage
\item IDENTIFICATION: unknown
\item LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown. Removed from cave.
\item REFERENCE: Davies, 1968b.
\end{itemize}
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

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

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

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

NOTES: Radiocarbon dates on roe deer bones give a late Medieval date. A piece of human skull was radiocarbon dated to 3167 ± 55 bp (AA22519), corresponding to a calibrated date of between 1500 and 1400 BC. Another human skull fragment was subsequently radiocarbon dated to 1865 ± 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

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

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

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
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

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

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

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  

**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  

**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

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


CORDINGLEY, J.N. In Prep. Fifteen years of digging at Fox Holes. *Journal of the Northern Pennine Club*.


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