

ADDITIONS TO A GAZETTEER OF VERTEBRATE REMAINS FROM CAVES IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES REFERENCED IN CAVING CLUB JOURNALS AND ALLIED LITERATURE – 2014 SUPPLEMENT.

by

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INTRODUCTION

The following notes are intended as an addition to the gazetteer published in 2011 (Murphy, 2011), an update on the original version published in the now defunct online journal CAPRA (Murphy, 2002) and the supplement published in 2013 (Murphy, 2013). There are eight new entries and four updates. Reviews of the cave palaeontology (O'Connor and Lord, 2013) and cave archaeology (Lord and Howard, 2013) of the region have been published since the last supplement.

A total of forty nine bone bearing cave sites are now listed from caving club journals and other non-academic caving literature sources. The wide geographic range of the sites from Ease Gill in the west to Nidderdale in the east, Stainmore in the north to Grassington in the south contrasts with the records from the scientific/archaeological literature where sites are clustered near major transport routes (Murphy and Chamberlain, 2003). This gives an idea of the untapped potential of the region for archaeological, palaeontological and paleoenvironmental research. An example of this is the Ease Gill and Leck Fell areas where no caves are recorded in Chamberlain and Williams (2001) or Chamberlain (2002) but eleven sites are recorded in the caving literature.

Cavers appreciate the value and fragility of the underground environment and have a long and proud history of conservation work underground (Murphy and Chamberlain, 2008). A commitment to encourage and support cave conservation is part of the British Caving Association's constitution. This ethos is in part reflected by the appreciation of the value of recording potential archaeological finds in the caving literature. The bringing together of these disparate records into a single, updatable, gazetteer will hopefully inform future studies. It was pleasing to note the referencing of this and other related gazetteers in the recent publication reviewing the cave palaeontology of the area (O'Connor and Lord, 2013) and it is hoped future archaeological and palaeontological investigations will appreciate the value of the observations of the caving community and how much these have to offer our understanding of the Holocene and Pleistocene history of the region.

NEW ENTRIES

Conistone Dib/Gurling Trough

NGR: SD 984 676

BONES: Human, Ox vertebrae

POSITION IN CAVE: in undercut on side of gorge

IDENTIFICATION: A. Raistrick

REFERENCE: Anon 1998.

LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown

NOTES: Site listed in Chamberlain and Williams (2001) as Conistone, Grassington, North Yorkshire.

Craftsman's Hole (Pot)

NGR: SD 702 788

BONES: wild horse tooth (*Equus ferrus*)

POSITION IN CAVE: Alcove above the first pitch

IDENTIFICATION: A. Currant, British Museum (Natural History).

REFERENCE: Roberts, 1989.

LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown

NOTES: Referred to as Craftsman's Pot in Brook, *et al.* (1994) and the account of the original explorers (Davison, 1989).

The size and morphology of the tooth suggested a possible Pleistocene age.

Elbolton Pot

NGR: SE 007 615

BONES: bear skeleton (juvenile)

POSITION IN CAVE: in passage rising towards the surface at the base of the first pitch.

REFERENCE: Anon 1998

IDENTIFICATION: A. Raistrick

LOCATION OF FINDS: Skeleton was at one time exhibited at Cartwright Hall museum, Bradford.

NOTES: Although Anon (1988) gives Elbolton Cave as the source of the bones, they came from Elbolton Pot, not Elbolton Cave. This has been confirmed verbally by the original discoverer, D. Robinson. Elbolton Cave is called Navy Noodle Hole in Brook, *et. al.*, 1988.

Site listed in Murphy 2003

Fairy Hole and Cove Hole

NGR: SD 9986 6498

BONES: Pig, Human. The identification of Bear given in Taylor *et al.* (2011) is erroneous. The reference to bear bones and a carbon date of circa 500 AD is believed to result from confusion with information from an excavation at Kinsey Cave undertaken in 2005 (see Kinsey Cave entry, below).

POSITION IN CAVE: unknown

IDENTIFICATION: T. Taylor, University of Bradford.

REFERENCE: Taylor, 2011; Taylor, 2010 p 147.

LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown

Notes: A number of large bones were found at Cove Hole in debris from a previous excavation of unknown date, mainly domestic species (J. Thorp, *pers. com.*)

Site listed in Chamberlain and Williams, 2001.

Human remains from Fairy Hole consist of 2 teeth associated with a drilled periwinkle shell.

Taylor (2010) does not name the cave site described but details of the finds and stratigraphy confirm it is Fairy Hole.

Fat Finger Pot

NGR: SD 827 727.

BONES: 1: Pig, Red Deer, Roe Deer, Sheep, Ox, Domestic Cattle. 2: Juvenile Wild Boar

POSITION IN CAVE: In a rift, 7 m down the entrance pitch.

IDENTIFICATION: 1: Leicestershire Museums Service. 2: T. Lord.

REFERENCE: Haigh, 2001.

LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown

NOTES: Bones show no marks of predator activity.

Probable pitfall trap

Red Deer has not been recorded on Penyghent since the 15th Century.

Wild Boar jaw bone may be 3,000-4,000 years old (T. Lord, *pers com.*)

Site listed in Murphy, 2003.

Kinsey Cave

NGR: SD 8040 6569

BONES: Roe deer, human, bear (see Fairy Cave entry)

POSITION IN CAVE: in entrance chamber

IDENTIFICATION: University of Bradford

REFERENCE: Taylor, 2011, Wilkins, 2011.

LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown

NOTES: Cave has been subject to archaeological excavation a number of times in the past.

No late glacial material was recovered during this excavation.

Site listed in Chamberlain and Williams, 2001.

Potts Beck Sink No. 2

NGR: SD 903 749

BONES: Human

POSITION IN CAVE: just beyond the dig which opened the cave entrance.

REFERENCE: Cook, 1968.

IDENTIFICATION: University of Leeds

LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown

NOTES: Site listed in Chamberlain and Williams.

The skeleton is mentioned in cave guide book description, page 100 of Brook, *et al* (1988).

Y-Pot

NGR: SD 731 723

BONES: Human, Red Deer

POSITION IN CAVE: base of pitch

REFERENCE: Taylor, 2010, pp 2-4.

IDENTIFICATION: T. Taylor, J. Thorp

LOCATION OF FINDS: unknown

NOTES: The reference includes a photograph of the human bone assemblage.

UPDATED ENTRIES

Dead Dobbin Pot

NGR: SD 665 781

FURTHER REFERENCE: Lowe, 1974.

Gaping Gill

NGR: SD 751 727

FURTHER REFERENCE: occurrence B (Wild Cat Rift), p101 in Beck, 1984.

North End Pot

NGR: SD 6830 7653

FURTHER REFERENCE: Anon, 1989.

NOTES: Recorded in the incident list forming appendix 2 of Eyre and Frankland (1988) as incident No. 974 18/07/1986: "Human remains found (200 yrs old!)"

Listed in the Cave Rescue Organisation incident list 1986 (reproduced as pages 147-150 in Eyre and Frankland (1988)). "Assist police investigation after discovery of human bones. Later found to be of very considerable age."

Also listed in Chamberlain and Williams, 2001.

Sell Gill Holes

NGR: SD 811 743

NOTES: Recorded in the incident list forming appendix 2 of Eyre and Frankland (1988) as incident No. 116 14/10/1965. -"Human bones found - 150 years old!"

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