

## Cave Conservation Monitoring Form

This is a joint initiative by Natural England, BCRA, BCA and the regional caving councils to undertake basic monitoring of the condition of our caves. The information to be recorded on the form may seem very basic but the level of recorded information is currently very low and any information gathered is therefore very important. None of the organisations involved in this scheme are requesting that you go underground to visit these sites. The form is simply provided for you to record information **from a trip which you would be undertaking anyway**. Caving is a dangerous activity and you are entirely responsible for your own safety when visiting a cave or any part of it. None of the organisations involved can be held responsible for the outcome of any trip. **Please read the disclaimer in the attached information note.**

### Filling in the form

1. **Part 1** of the form can be filled in after a visit to the cave but it is recommended that a copy of Part 1 be taken underground. It is always best to complete Part 1 underground, especially if you are reporting on a number of features, so that comments do not rely on memory.
2. **Part 2** is provided for you to supply any other information or suggestions concerning access and conservation issues for the cave you have visited or in general.
3. **A cave survey** is provided with the form, which shows the location of the numbered cave features. Please add your comments to the cave survey if you wish to provide a better description of the feature location.
4. **A short description of the cave** is also provided for your information.

### Use of the information gathered

5. The information gathered will be used for analysis and manipulation in a database or spreadsheet. **By providing this information it is assumed that your consent is given for this purpose.** However we need your consent to be able to use any material or photographs that you provide in future publications. **Please sign the statement at the end of Part 2 of the form to give your consent.**

### Photographs

Photographs of the features listed would be very much appreciated if you are sure that you have been able to identify the features on your trip. If possible, please put the following on the back of each photograph or send the details below by email with your digital photographs:

- Name of the cave, feature number and a short description of the feature e.g. for 3 photos of Feature 1 in Any Cave, photos should be labelled Any Cave 1.1, Any Cave 1.2 etc.,
- Date on which the photograph was taken (DD/MM/YY);
- Your name and the name of your club or group. e.g. "Joe Bloggs, Burnley Caving Club", "Joe Bloggs, Group from Bradford" etc.
- If you are agreeable, please also provide your signature on the back of each photograph if supplied in hard copy to allow its use in future publications, as well as signing the statement at the end of Part 2 of the form.

### Your comments on the form

6. We have tried to make the form very short. If you think it is too short or you have other comments on how we could improve it, please let us know, using the contact details provided below.

Please send the forms and any photos to:

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Tel 015242 42021  
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## **Disclaimer**

*Natural England is the government's advisor on nature conservation and is responsible for designating and monitoring the condition of sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) throughout England. Most of the major caves and cave systems of England are designated as SSSIs, either individually or grouped together as part of larger systems. The SSSI designation affords increased protection from damage or destruction of caves by external threats such as quarrying, land drainage and agricultural practices but does not affect the responsible use of caves by recreational cavers.*

*Raising awareness and promotion of best conservation practice among cave users, in partnership with local and national caving organisations, is the most effective method of ensuring the continuing conservation of our cave SSSIs and the protection of the resource against internal damage. Good conservation practice by cave users, in so far as it preserves the resource, serves the interests of all - recreational cavers, cave scientists, conservation organisations and the general public alike.*

*Regular monitoring of all SSSIs is an important part of the conservation process and is generally performed by Natural England staff. However, in the case of caves, Natural England staff are not normally able to perform monitoring as they are not experienced or qualified in undertaking underground work. One solution is for cavers to report on the condition of caves which they are visiting in the course of their recreational activities. Reporting simply involves filling in a brief tick-box type of questionnaire, supplied by Natural England. We will also supply a rough map of the areas of cave which form the SSSI and the location of important features, such as speleothems, cave sediments, fossils and minerals for which the site may be notified.*

*It is important to emphasise that Natural England is not requesting cavers to visit particular areas of cave systems. We are simply requesting information on the condition of caves and their features which cavers are visiting anyway, in the course of their own recreational activities. Natural England cannot accept responsibility for any accident or injury to cavers which occur during the course of these activities. Cavers should perform their own risk and hazard assessment and possess their own insurance.*

## **Potholes of East Kingsdale**

Eight deep potholes lie in a line along the limestone bench on the eastern side of Kingsdale. Only Heron Pot does not drain directly into the main Kingsdale conduits, but only King Pot and Brown Hill Pot have routes that can be followed through to the Keld Head resurgence. Each of the caves is different, and their values lie largely in their passage morphology and also in their roles as elements of the Kingsdale karst drainage system, though Heron and King Pots contain some notably fine calcite deposits.

**Crescent Pot** is the most southerly pothole (see the West Kingsdale survey). It is a typical influent pothole system, but its narrow and muddy stream series have almost no redeeming qualities.

## Cave Conservation Monitoring Form - Part 1

Name of Cave: **Crescent Pot**

Your Name and Club or Group Name: **Ian Walker (DUSA)**

Date of visit (DD/MM/YY): **07/08/2011**

Please confirm the names of the cave(s)/areas of the cave(s) you have visited: **Crescent Pot from entrance to 4<sup>th</sup> Pitch via main route, with excursions to bottom of Tonal Aven and some way up the large inlet just below Tonal Aven. Read notes in order of travel from entrance.**

Please record the condition of the following cave features in the table below:

Feature number on survey  <b>Provided survey is too small to annotate positions accurately; descriptive location only</b>	Description of interest features	Are the features still present? Yes (Y) No (N) Don't Know (X) or Not Visited (NV)	Condition of the features Very good (5) Good (4) Satisfactory (3) Poor (2) Very Poor (1) or Cannot Assess (X)	Description of the condition of the features e. g. damaged or broken, destroyed, muddy from hands/feet, poor condition from footfall, pristine condition etc. or Cannot Describe (X)	Photograph name and number  e.g. for photos of Feature 1 in Any Cave label the photographs: Any Cave 1.1, Any Cave 1.2, Any Cave 1.3 etc.
In low crawl, below dig climb	Calcite straws and sediment bank on true right hand side.	Y	4	Mostly untouched as they are out of the path. Some cobbles from streamway have been placed on the mudbank.	-
1 <sup>st</sup> inlet below dig climb	-	NV	-	-	-
At junction with 1 <sup>st</sup> inlet below dig climb	Single stalagmite on prominent point in angle between confluent streamways.	Y	2	Very muddy and rounded; used as a handhold.	-
Below junction with 1 <sup>st</sup> inlet below dig climb	Calcite straws and calcite on roof. Some white powdery(?) coating on mudbanks.	Y	4	Mostly untouched as they are out of the path.	-
At end of muddy crawl over boulders in roof	Small calcite flows and some false floors at high level.	Y	1	Muddied and damaged.	-
In easy crawl below 1m descending squeeze	Calcite straws, flows and miniature curtains.	Y	3	Some damage.	-
In streamway pools throughout cave	Greyish-white 'shrimps' up to 10mm overall length.	Y	X	Look happy enough, swimming around.	-
Bottom of Tonal Aven	Wide calcite flow on floor.	Y	4	Dirty. Walked on due to being in path to Tonal Aven.	-
Tonal Aven (lower part)	1m long calcite straw.	Y	5	Pristine. In vulnerable location.	-

Tonal Aven (upper part)	-	NV	-	-	-
Between Tonal Aven and large inlet	Calcite straws and carrot-shaped stalactites.	Y	4	Good, mostly out of path and untouched.	-
In chamber below Tonal Aven with large inlet	Calcite flows.	Y	5	Very good, out of path and quite high up walls.	-
In chamber below Tonal Aven with large inlet	Very unusual stalagmite growths (30-40mm?) with strange, fine, vertically-striped calcite(?) deposits on undersides (on true right hand side, at head height).	Y	4?	Complete and in good condition. But dirty/touched/naturally off-white?	-
In large inlet below Tonal Aven	Large calcite curtains.	Y	3	Mostly broken off at bottom (in path).	-
In chamber up large inlet	Calcite flow around aperture in ceiling continuing down true left hand wall.	Y	5	Pristine.	-
In chamber up large inlet	Large calcite flow down true left hand wall.	Y	5	Mostly pristine.	-
In chamber up large inlet	Large calcited block in streamway.	Y	2	Very muddy, climbed on due to being in path.	-
Just above small cascades above chamber up large inlet	Clastic sediment with straws on true right hand side.	Y	5	Partly water-eroded but untouched.	-
Just above clastic sediments up large inlet	Odd carrot-shaped stalactite.	Y	3	Very muddy.	-
In streamway above small cascades above chamber up large inlet	Stubby carrot-shaped stalactites with helictite growth.	Y	4	Some stream debris, otherwise untouched.	-
In main route at junction with small inlet above 4 <sup>th</sup> Pitch	Small curtain, small stal/boss, small gours.	Y	1	Dirty. Gours almost completely destroyed due to being on path at hand height.	-
Small inlet above 4 <sup>th</sup> pitch	-	NV	-	-	-
Main route below 4 <sup>th</sup> pitch	-	NV	-	-	-



## Cave Conservation Monitoring Form - Part 2

### Additional Information

- Have you got any general comments on the conservation status of the cave you have visited? (e.g. heavily used cave, much carbide, pollution, changes to drainage system, specimen collecting, areas inaccessible due to rock fall, areas which need taping off etc.)
- Have you identified any other features of interest in the cave you have visited? If so, please supply details.
- Have you got any other comments concerning conservation issues for the cave you have visited or in general?
- Lightly visited cave due to severity (Grade V) and perceived lack of interest/reward to tourist cavers.
- Little pollution generally but entrance pitch is a known dumping spot for dead lambs, usually in fertiliser/feed sacks. All recoverable remains recently removed and disposed of.
- Some digging detritus remains at the dig climb (below 3<sup>rd</sup> pitch) though much has been removed recently. Little or no litter in cave generally.
- Wooden shoring at dig climb is in poor condition. Collapse is inevitable unless remedial work is undertaken – DUSA is in discussion with local cavers as to how best to affect this.
- Pitch anchors (M8 female compression anchors – ‘spits’) are usable but reaching the end of their lives. Some new spits have appeared in recent years, not all in useful/thoughtful places. Rebolting with permanent, stainless anchors with fixed hangers should be undertaken to prevent further temporary spits being installed.
- Crescent Pot is DUSA’s adopted cave under the Descent Adopt-a-Cave scheme. DUSA makes regular trips and has undertaken several clean-up trips in recent years. The cave is currently fully rigged for SRT (i.e. bolts, hangers, maillons and ropes) to facilitate these trips but will be derigged once complete.

- This space is also for any other comments which you may have. *Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.*

***I give /do not give my consent for the photographs I have provided to be used in a future publication. (Please delete as applicable). N/A***

**If you do not complete this part of the form, it will be assumed that your consent is not given.**

Signed: **N/A**

Name: **N/A**

Date: **N/A**

***Your efforts are very much appreciated and by filling in this form you are making a valuable contribution towards cave conservation for future generations.***