GINGLING HOLE

(GINGLING POT)

FOUNTAINS FELL, NORTH YORKSHIRE

NGR: 385514. 470179. Alt: 459m
Depth to sump: 165m
Total length: 804m

Surveyed by members of the University of Leeds Speleological Association (ULSA)

Surveyed to BCRA grade 5c / UISv1 5-5-BCEF
July 2015 - February 2016

Surveyors: K. Bender, H. Bradley, N. Dalton, B. Hall, I. Peachey, N. Snape, R. Turnbull,

Drawn by H. Bradley and N. Snape

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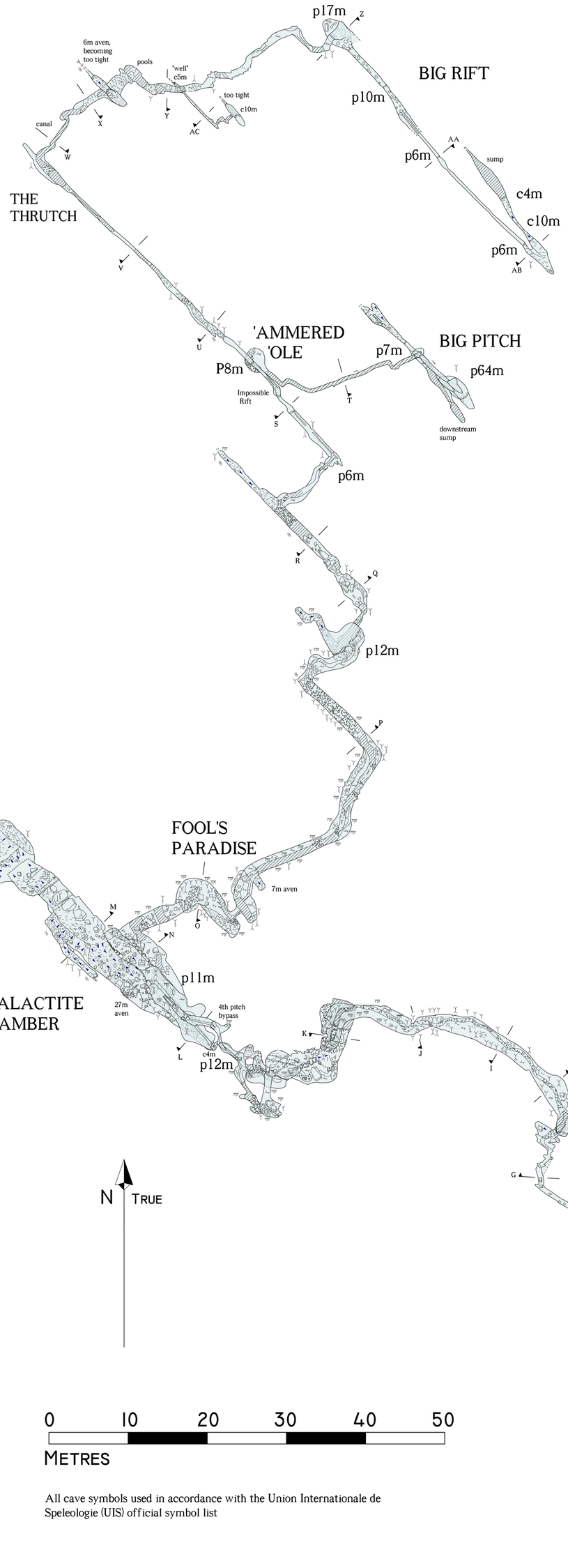
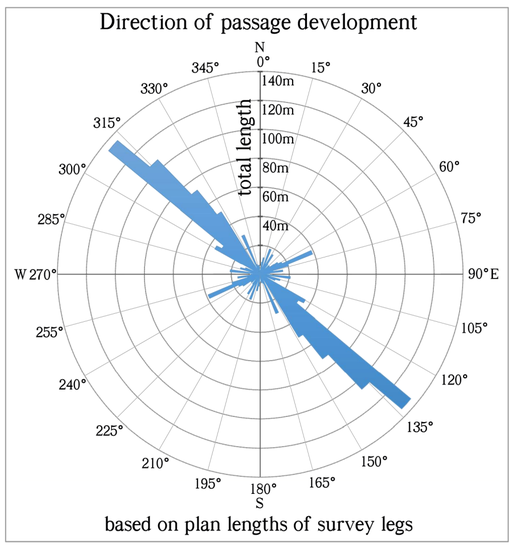
PLAN



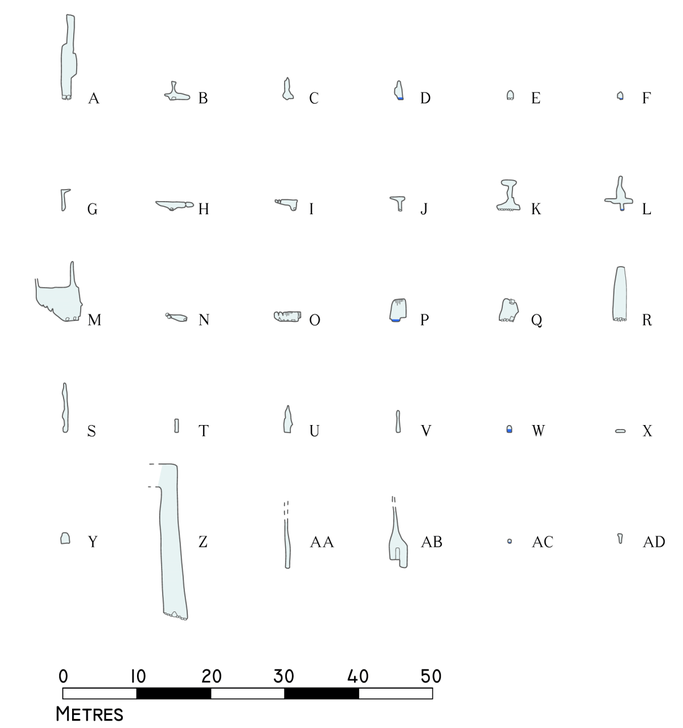
All cave symbols used in accordance with the Union Internationale de Speleologie (UIS) official symbol list

Direction of passage development



based on plan lengths of survey legs

CROSS SECTIONS



A Brief History of Exploration

Gingling Hole was first explored in 1923 by members of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club (YRC), with the earliest reports making reference to the cave as 'Gingling Pot'. The main exploration took place over two trips, ending in Stalactite chamber.

It was speculated that a Fountains Fell master cave must exist due to the volume of water that Gingling Hole and other caves in the area were known to take. This theory gained support in 1951 when members of the Northern Pennine Club (NPC) released fluorescein into Gingling Sink which was found to emerge three days later from Brants Gill Head, located ca. 5km to the northwest.

It wasn't until 1966 that members of the NPC began exploring Gingling Hole following a 'tip off' for potential in Stalactite Chamber. Driven by competition, the team broke through the boulder choked floor in one digging trip that lasted 13 hours. Here they were rewarded with Fool's Paradise and the remainder of the cave.

The NPC's exploration led them down two routes, Big Pitch and Big Rift, both ending at sumps at a depth of 165m. At this point the altitude of Brants Gill Head was estimated to be 40m lower than these two sumps.

The sumps were first dived in 1991 by the NPC. There was no way on found in the Big Rift sump, comprising a total dive length of 6m. The Big Pitch sump was more successful where, during the second dive, it was found to surface at around 85m long. Continuing 40m down this passage, a significant cave system with a large stream was intersected: the Fountains Fell Master Cave. Since discovery more than 5km of passage has been discovered and surveyed. Exploration here still continues.

References and Further Reading

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Stanton, R. (2015). Gingling Hole Extensions and the Fountains Fell Master Cave. *Northern Pennine Club Journal*, Explorations & Happenings 1987-2015: p.21-28.

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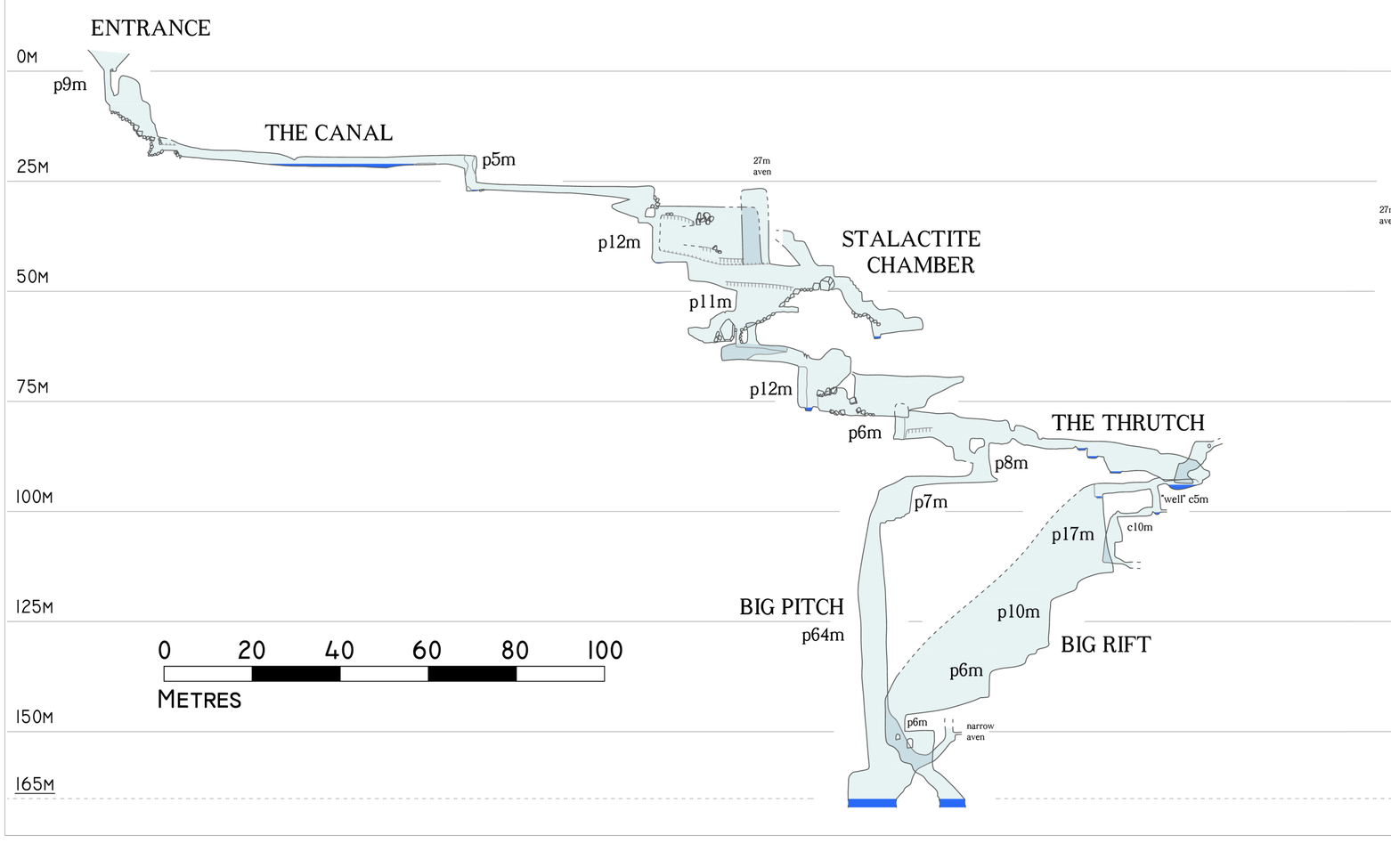
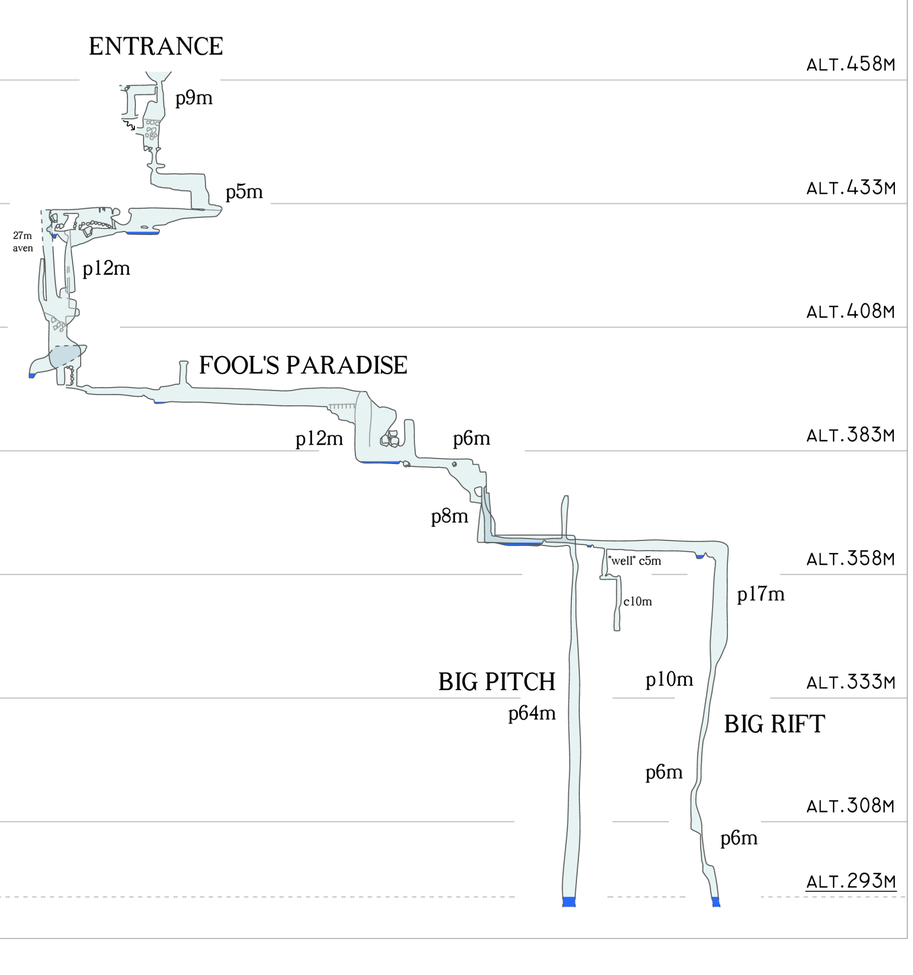
ELEVATION PROJECTED ON 132° - 312°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