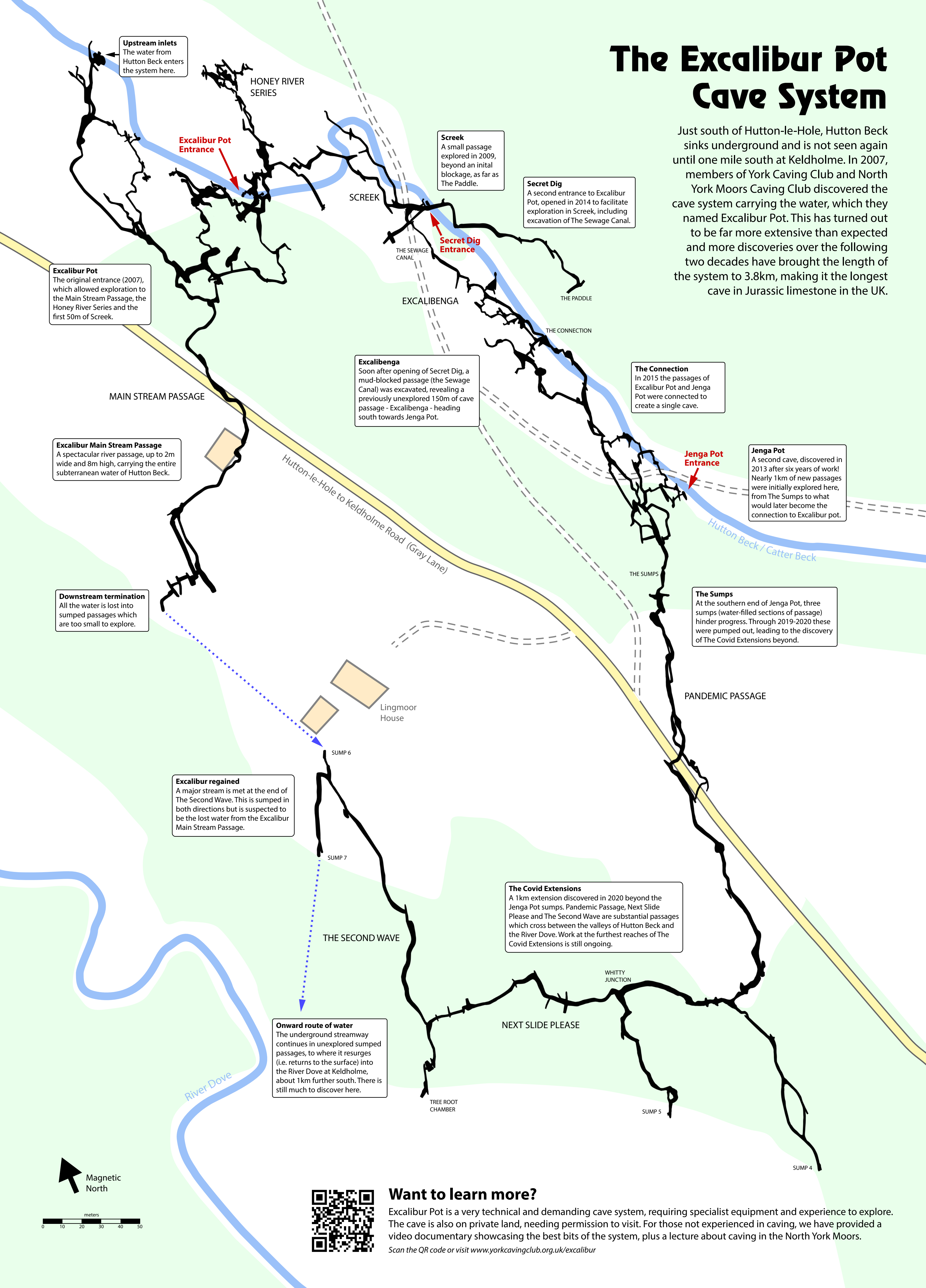


The Excalibur Pot Cave System

Just south of Hutton-le-Hole, Hutton Beck sinks underground and is not seen again until one mile south at Keldholme. In 2007, members of York Caving Club and North York Moors Caving Club discovered the cave system carrying the water, which they named Excalibur Pot. This has turned out to be far more extensive than expected and more discoveries over the following two decades have brought the length of the system to 3.8km, making it the longest cave in Jurassic limestone in the UK.



Excalibur Pot
The original entrance (2007), which allowed exploration to the Main Stream Passage, the Honey River Series and the first 50m of Screek.

Excalibur Main Stream Passage
A spectacular river passage, up to 2m wide and 8m high, carrying the entire subterranean water of Hutton Beck.

Downstream termination
All the water is lost into sumped passages which are too small to explore.

Excalibur regained
A major stream is met at the end of The Second Wave. This is sumped in both directions but is suspected to be the lost water from the Excalibur Main Stream Passage.

Onward route of water
The underground streamway continues in unexplored sumped passages, to where it resurges (i.e. returns to the surface) into the River Dove at Keldholme, about 1km further south. There is still much to discover here.

Screek
A small passage explored in 2009, beyond an initial blockage, as far as The Paddle.

Secret Dig
A second entrance to Excalibur Pot, opened in 2014 to facilitate exploration in Screek, including excavation of The Sewage Canal.

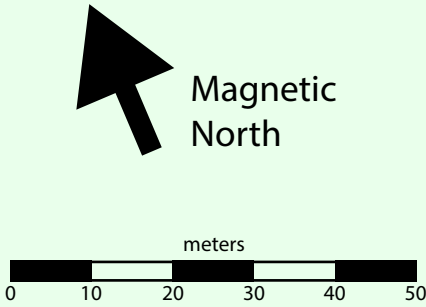
Excalibenga
Soon after opening of Secret Dig, a mud-blocked passage (the Sewage Canal) was excavated, revealing a previously unexplored 150m of cave passage - Excalibenga - heading south towards Jenga Pot.

The Connection
In 2015 the passages of Excalibur Pot and Jenga Pot were connected to create a single cave.

Jenga Pot
A second cave, discovered in 2013 after six years of work! Nearly 1km of new passages were initially explored here, from The Sumps to what would later become the connection to Excalibur pot.

The Sumps
At the southern end of Jenga Pot, three sumps (water-filled sections of passage) hinder progress. Through 2019-2020 these were pumped out, leading to the discovery of The Covid Extensions beyond.

The Covid Extensions
A 1km extension discovered in 2020 beyond the Jenga Pot sumps. Pandemic Passage, Next Slide Please and The Second Wave are substantial passages which cross between the valleys of Hutton Beck and the River Dove. Work at the furthest reaches of The Covid Extensions is still ongoing.



Want to learn more?

Excalibur Pot is a very technical and demanding cave system, requiring specialist equipment and experience to explore. The cave is also on private land, needing permission to visit. For those not experienced in caving, we have provided a video documentary showcasing the best bits of the system, plus a lecture about caving in the North York Moors.

Scan the QR code or visit www.yorkcavingclub.org.uk/excalibur