

**inception horizon** A part of a rock succession that is particularly susceptible to the effects of the earliest cave forming processes and hence is critical to the origin of most non-tectonic caves. By virtue of physical, lithological or chemical deviation from the predominant carbonate facies within the sequence, it passively or actively favours the localized inception of dissolutional activity (see *inception*).

**incision** See *entrenchment*.

**initiation** The early parts of speleogenesis, generally up to the point of *breakthrough* from *laminar* to *turbulent* flow, at an average conduit diameter of 10mm. Initiation includes, but is not the same as, *inception*.

**intergranular voids** Primary or secondarily enhanced voids within rocks, with average dimensions of 0.001-0.1mm. Such voids, or pores, may provide interconnected porosity in many karst rocks and allow early water movement under *laminar* flow conditions.

**interstratal karst** Features formed by the dissolutional removal of all or part of a buried rock unit. Interstratal karst features are common within highly soluble *evaporite* rocks such as *gypsum* and *halite*, and may be equally common, but less readily recognised, within the preserved remnants of carbonate successions. Interstratal karst should not be confused with *buried karst*. The finest interstratal karst in Britain is the extensive cave development in the limestones beneath the Namurian Millstone Grit plateaux of South Wales. The large caprock *dolines* in the Millstone Grit are interstratal karst landforms.

**Jurassic** A period of *geological time* about 208-145Ma ago, and the system of rocks deposited during that period. In Britain the Jurassic system includes *limestone* beds at several levels in different areas. Some of these display surface *karst* features and contain *dissolutional* or *tectonic caves*, particularly in northeast Yorkshire, the Isle of Portland and Skye.

**kamenitza** A relatively shallow and sub-circular, flat-bottomed basin, formed by dissolution upon an exposed limestone surface. Dimensions range from a few tens of millimetres to several metres across and from about 10mm to 1m in depth. The term derives from the Serb word "kamenica" and means literally "pool in stone". Also known as solution pans.

**karren** German word now used internationally to describe small-scale limestone dissolution features, normally with dimensions less than a few metres. The classification of karren is complex, but the following are the main types:

*rillenkarren* - small runnels about 20mm wide, between sharp ridges, cut by sub-aerial *dissolution*;

*rundkarren* - larger runnels, about 200mm wide, with rounded profiles; formed under organic cover or soil;

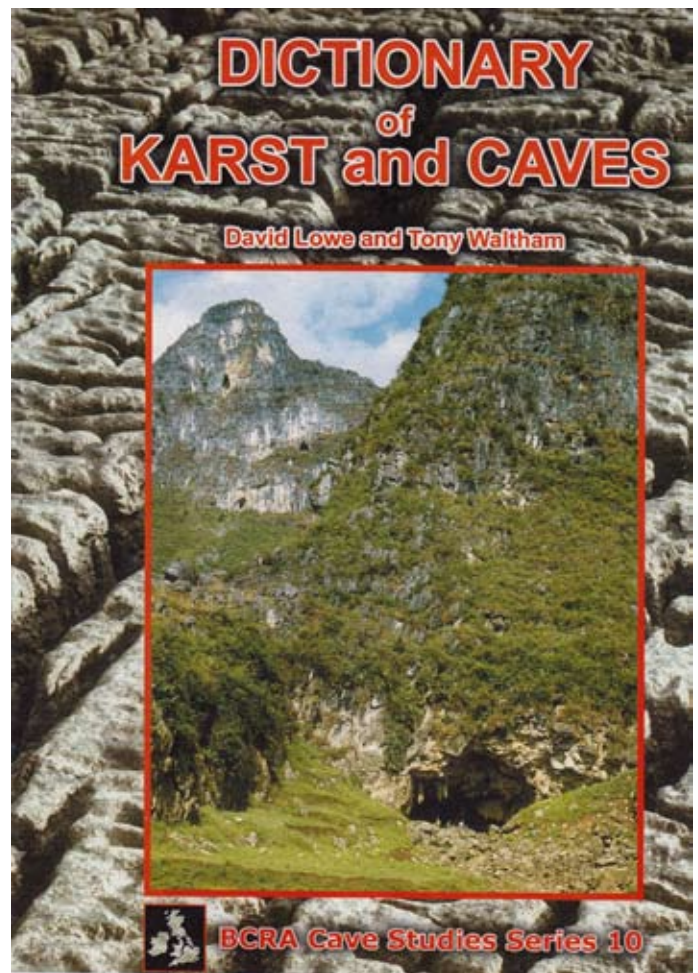
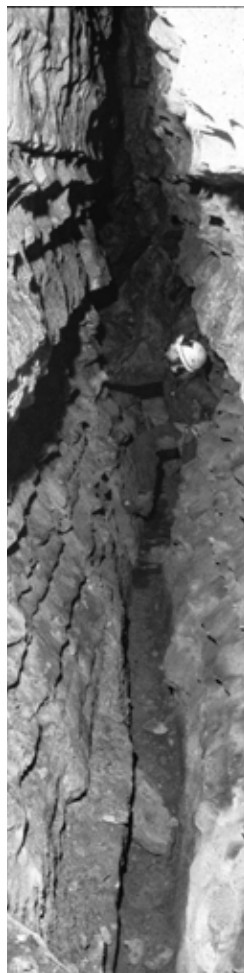
*rinnenkarren* larger runnels, about 200mm wide, with rounded troughs and sharp rims;

*microkarren* - very small parallel or random runnels with sharp ridges;

*klufkarren* - dissolutionally opened joints (see *grike*), mostly straight fissures;

*spitzkarren* - residual pinnacles and spikes, smaller than in pinnacle karst;

*trittkarren* - small horizontal, terraced bevels.



The dictionary is intended to provide a convenient first reference source, mainly for use by non-specialists whose understanding of cave and karst science may sometimes be obscured by terminology that is in everyday use by scientists. The coverage is biased towards geomorphological and geological aspects of karst. For this reason, along with others, the dictionary is not claimed to be exhaustive. It originates in Britain and therefore draws many of its examples from British karst and caves, though many examples from various other regions are provided where these are appropriate. Terms in foreign languages are included where they have gained wide international usage.

## Dictionary of Karst and Caves

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