Caving terms (less detailed)

**Active cave / streamway**: Cave passage with a flowing stream.

**Aven**: A vertical shaft as seen from below.

**Bed**: Horizontal band of limestone.

**Boulder choke**: Fallen rocks obscuring a passage.

**Cavern**: A very large cave chamber.

**Duck**: Place where the cave roof almost reaches a water surface.

**Formations**: Features such as stalactites and stalagmites formed by the deposition of calcite.

**Pitch**: A vertical shaft requiring a ladder or rope to descend.

**Pothole**: A vertical cave.

**Shakehole**: A surface depression resulting from the collapse of soil and rock underneath. May indicate the presence of a cave beneath.

**Shaft**: A vertical cave pitch. A shaft that opens to the ground surface is also called a pothole.

**Sink / Swallow hole / Swallet**: Where surface water enters the ground.

**Stalactite**: A long thin cave formation hanging from a cave roof; usually made from calcite.

**Stalagmite**: A cave formation growing upwards from the ground.

**Straw**: A thin hollow stalactite.

**Squeeze**: A short section of very constricted cave passage.

**Sump**: A flooded cave passage.

**Traverse**: Moving horizontally along a cave wall.