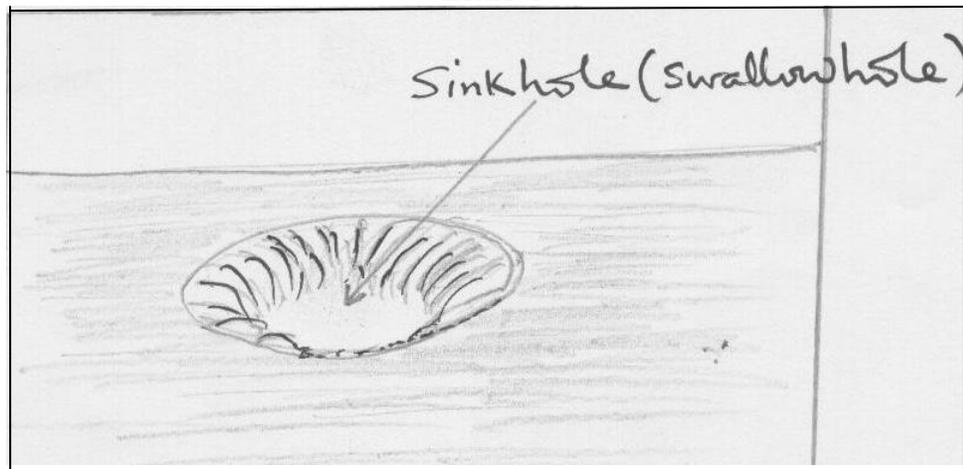


KARST SCENERY IN THE JURA

Karst scenery refers to a unique landscape resulting from the chemical weathering of limestone rocks. These are landform features of chemical weathering in areas of limestone geology. The chemical weathering process of carbonation has been responsible for the development of Karst features. Rain water combines with atmospheric carbon dioxide to form a weak carbonic acid which reacts with limestone rocks on the ground decomposing them to give rise to give rise to the following features:

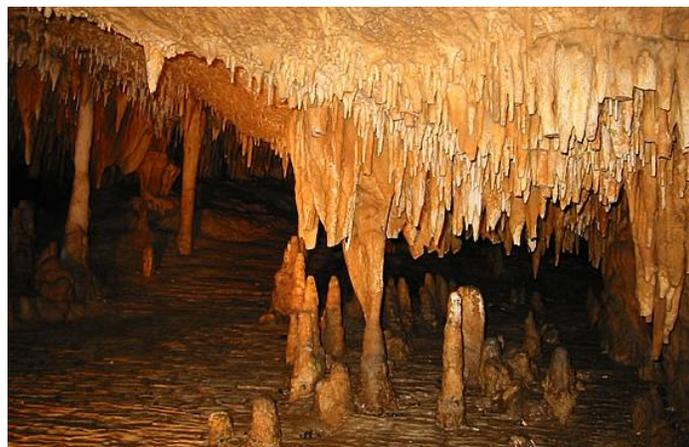
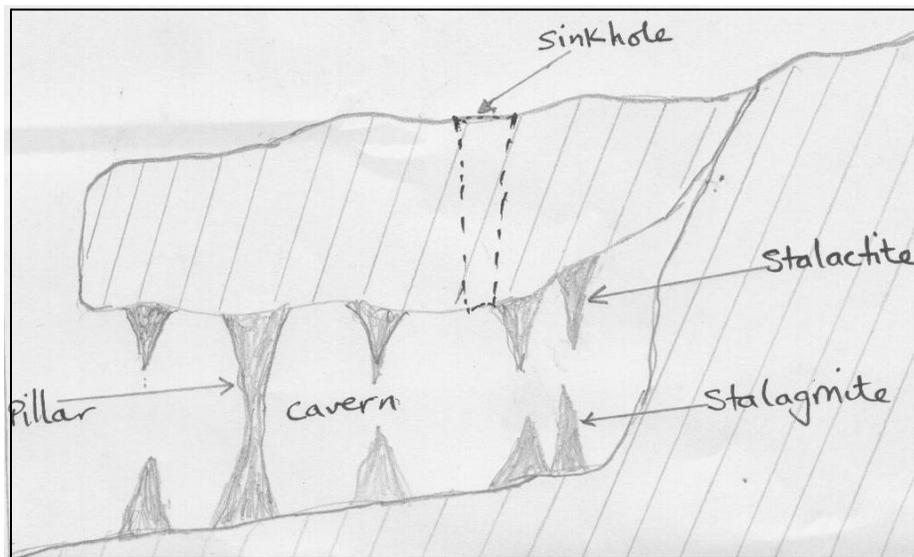
1. **Sinkholes** (Swallow holes):- These are oval shaped holes that are formed when chemically decomposed rocks at the surface sink or collapse creating a steep sided depression or basin. Swallow holes may be enlarged into funnel shaped depressions called dolines and these may further be enlarged to give features known as uvalas.

Sinkhole



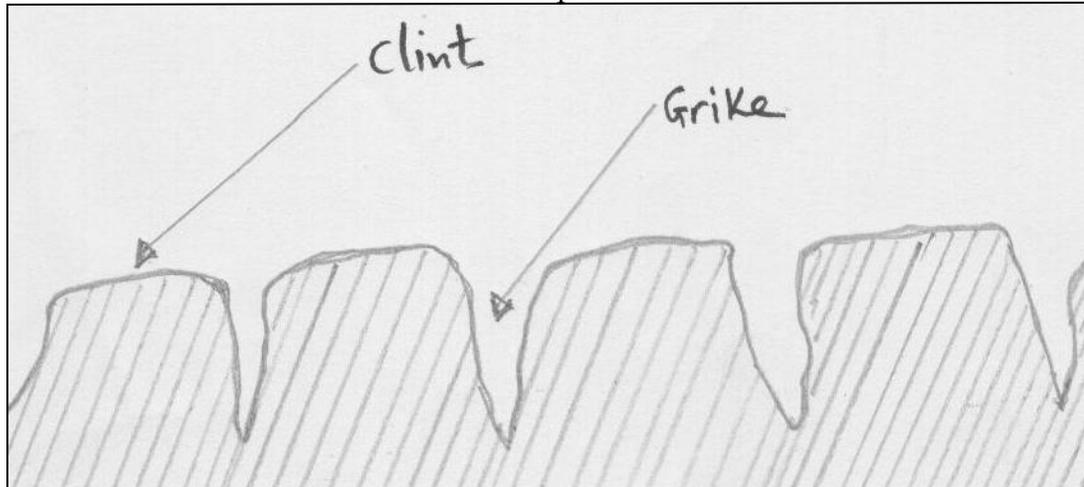
2. **Cavern** (Limestone Cave):- Is an underground chamber in a limestone region resulting from carbonation of rock and erosion of the weathered rock by underground rivers.
3. **Stalactite**: - This is a cone shaped column of crystalline calcium carbonate (calcite) hanging down from the roof of a limestone cave. A stalactite is formed when carbonic acid rain water sips through limestone rock then drips from the roof of a limestone cave with dissolved limestone. The solution may partially evaporate leaving behind a precipitate deposit of calcite or lime formation on the cave roof.
4. **Stalagmite**: - This is a cone shaped column of calcite that grows upwards from the floor of a limestone cave. They are formed as water containing dissolved limestone drips from the roof of the cave and is deposited on the floor of the cave. The solution then partially evaporates leaving a precipitate deposit or column of calcite on the cave floor.
5. **Pillars**: - Refer to structures made of calcite running from the roof of a limestone cave to floor. They are formed when stalactites and stalagmites extend towards each other and join within the cave.

Cavern and associated features



6. **Limestone pavement:** - Refers to a large area of bare limestone rock surface composed of slabs of rock (clints), separated by vertical cracks (grikes) that have developed by chemical weathering. The clints are in form of small ridges while the grikes are the narrow cracks or fissures separating them.

Limestone pavement



7. **Limestone gorge:** - This is a deep narrow valley with steep sides resulting from deep vertical erosion by a stream in an area of limestone rocks. It may also result from the collapse of the roof of a cavern. It can also be a dry valley.
8. **Limestone plateau:** This is an extensive raised/elevated land of limestone geology where the chemical weathering process of carbonation took place at a more or less constant rate.

Limestone gorge



Limestone plateau



Karst Landscape

