

Norsk Grotteblad nr 18, Mars 1987

William Buckland 1784-1856

William Buckland, the first Professor of Geology of the University of Oxford pioneered scientific cave exploration in Britain. His excavations in Kirkdale Cave, Yorkshire, and Paviland Cave, Gower, were of special importance. He recognised that caves were formed as a result of natural processes and that there are several types of bone deposits in caves: water lain deposits, talus cones, beneath natural pitfalls, and the deposits of inhabited caves. However, he rejected evidence that showed that man had coexisted with the extinct animals of some caves. Buckland greatly influenced the development of cave studies in Britain.