

Scimitar Cat – *Homotherium*



Height: 1.1 metres

Length: 1.7 metres

Weight: 80-130 kg

Occupied Kents Cavern: 400,000 – 200,000 years ago

Scimitar Cats are known to have lived in Europe from about 3 million years ago until their extinction, 200,000 years ago. They had enlarged upper canine teeth which had serrated edges, indicating that they were used for cutting through flesh. Their teeth were flattened and would have looked thin when viewed from the front. Scimitar Cats stood tall with especially long fore legs and shoulders that resulted in its back sloping downwards showing they were built for energy efficient travel, and may even have used this advantage to wear prey down. In Kents Cavern about half a dozen canines have been found in the breccia, believed to be around 400,000 years old.

