

OU Cave Club

1993 Exped

OXFORD UNIVERSITY

CAVE CLUB

LIBRARY

Arco Log

Black n' Red
Ruled
A4

30/6/93 - Ario Logbook appears at base

1/7 No Pen...

Made Food

Went to Lagos, 9pm

as food so heavy

no sleeping bag etc.

Paul will walk up early

to check you out

Pasta Optional...

Heat and serve

Enjoy

Dave

the eggs for the ... *see label...

It is now possible to:

- a) see Jullagan
- b) walk about without a waterproot
- c) without getting wet.

Still no need for sun-tan lotion.

DJB

3 July '93

Sun at last!

Excited about the way up. A group of 5
spaniards was seen leaving Lages before 10
at Bed. Myself & Harry caught up with them at 10:30,
where we found them heading to a 15 year old
female member of the group. Apparently her condition
was high, (although by the time we reached her it was
10:45/minutes); few other symptoms shown. This was
probably another case of exhaustion, the other person
being a little more strenuous than her usual work at
college. Anyway, they had two bags each, covered
with sleeping bags, and had reached the camp by
helicopter!). We hung around, not very long as it
was hot. For about 45 minutes before they were
that no great help would come if our situation
was combined with the weather. The weather was
a little bit better than the other day. The weather was
a little bit better than the other day.

2/11

Back at Ario, with a pen which works better than the burnt stick. The problem now is to cook for people using very little food.

Fast 8/11 rigging Trip. Sean, Fenella, Sam.

Late start from Lagos - we didn't get up because it was raining. Walked up and put up big tent, then sorted gear to rig B/11. Fenella has left her SRT kit at Lagos, so we improvise using lots of tape. Finally, at about 4 o'clock we set off in search of the cave. In the mist, some time later, we find it. Fenella discovers that her new carabiner light doesn't fit the old tubo, and does a good job of repairing the electric. So with 5 bags of gear (enough to reach the cave) we descend.

At the 3rd pitch, yes the one which starts with a ladder, Fenella decided to stop, and go back to camp. I discovered an easy way to get down. Just rig your strap upside down to the ladder. The strap provides just enough friction to hold you, but a gentle push allows downward movement. **TRY WITH STRAPS WHILE RIGGING** - There won't be a problem with this. At the 4th pitch, we left the bottom and Sam set off out while I rigged the 5th pitch, which was very difficult.

The Radio

This is set up as it was last year, positioned
located to the right of the path (looking towards
at the top of sod 4.

Enjoy.

Sean.

Paul -

Here is some nice hot curry. (well, it's a
pathetic attempt, but there were no onions, ~~tomatoes~~
more lentils, spices etc..)

Add lots of pasta ~~and~~ and eat, but don't
they want more when we come out.

Sean.

4/7 3-15 Am. SRT Practice in 8/12. At Soan...

After spending all day trying to make the railway
up in the evening, cooked, and took a short
trip, and also put in a 2nd bolt for
3 hours, and it's clear outside (highly).

Found a good place
from the back of
is a stone

3/17/93 (about 3/17/93)

P.M.M. Hung, S.H., Rob

Returned from the 2nd rigging trip about 3:00am. We have rigged down as far as the ladder climb to the slab of Rio ~~Atenas~~ de los Enfermos.

The pitch down into V. Big Chamber needs rerigging, preferably with bolts at correct points, I would suggest a traverse and lead lined climb.

Current state of affairs is:-

Pitch of Peanut Pitch,

- 1. Tackle Bag
- 1. Shackle Tape

35 m 35m* 25m* 10m 10m.

[25m, 5m, 5m 15m]

Resist from P.W.N.N.Y. to Rio Pequeno, and pitched ~~to~~ Rio Pequeno (+ all the rigging gear required for this pitch.)

at start of Rio de los Enfermos

- 1 Tackle bag with 70m rope and all rigging gear
- 1 Tackle bag with 5m (instead of type in Bold Step)
- 15m (P. tk. stop pt)
- 70m (Unwell)
- 20m (October)
- instead of type of camp post?
- (Big land)

[Signature]

Arrio. When

in the winter

the last of

5/7/93

Al, the peace.

Rare is the opportunity for a expedition leader to relax, away from those persons induced stresses -

'No, it's my turn to class at Lagos'

'But I want to go sleeping; &'

'It's your turn to order the lunch.'

So while everyone else naves it up

Bar Maria Rosa this evening, I have the pleasure of the Refugio to myself this evening.

Where are the write ups? Glancing through the log book, there seems to be too little write up of trips. I doubt the missing details can be found in the Lagos book - Anyone participating in an expedition, please write up trip reports to have personal viewpoints.

For my part, I'll add a few details.

Well, last night I eventually managed to phone Juan Jose, the S.I.E. have given the permission to camp in their area; just as well really. Today, I (& Sam) reproduced copies of our permits of ICONA. It is laying a matter of at Lagos for inspection at all times in summer, we may have 8 tent at camp Barrio; we may use any furniture for the camp but tell them we mustn't destroy anything. We should also be aware of the

had requested to bring any.
 yesterday, I rigged a rather untried pulley
 Francis, ~~with~~ with Son's excellent guidance, to provide
 support. I only rigged it, I left long before
 finding out what happened at the bottom. I also
 noted other cave, about 200m up slope from
 camp. I found it following an obvious green
 passage down slope having circled around
 top of bed 4. I moved a few rocks
 and traced a entrance to a typical Pico's slab
 with entrance dropping to a boulder floor. One
 major boulder still needs crawling to one side,
~~then~~ a ladder (or 2) dropped down it before
 can be checked. I will return to it at the
 first opportunity, probably to find it closer to
 the pebbly boulder floor immediately; but also
 how deep is this? Xito becomes 1144 m deep?

What about all these electric lights in the Refuge,
 where do they get the power from? Surely not
 from the 1000 volt 'Hot Tempo'! (See, I've
 seen some near Spanglers). I still see sea on the
 mountain in daylight.

Remember to write using this
 book is kept dry!
 write properly out

3/7/93

84

Dozo Cabeza Integro Revisited.

Pat. Wilson
Henry Silliman
Rob Garbutt

Was it really a year ago I sat on the table with Richard, discussing the achievements of the weeks of the '92 expedition? It is sad to think of an expedition prematurely, yet both of us were busy with the possibilities of OUEL expedition coming. The 2/7 camps were showing upstream, distracting us from the mighty depths of the river. Never would it be possible to finish 2/7th summer, (the hard winter of bulldozing which was paying off), the question was "Low water the main left-over leads?"

And in addition to this, what of 'Tajavina Cave'? An S.I.E. entrance, noted but not labelled, and rediscovered by Wilson in the same year, I still had it for a while down an entrance climb, the weather was quite good ascending rift. Myself and Richard had tried returning early, but the descent found several good leads, but they were not so easy as they seemed. It was a bit of a lead with a ladder, ... and the lead was not so easy as it seemed to be. It was not possible to ...

descended down. The ladder was still to short, so I waited a convenient ledge while Steve added our first ladder to the pitch. It just reached the bottom. We pushed ~~by~~ our passage to a T junction, where with frustrating it was discovered at 400 3 feet. Eventually, with much clambering, we found the outlet, a crack and gravel slabbing underneath a less than obvious boulder. After pushing rock and mud aside, we followed this passage to the top of a short drop. The drop was overhanging & seemed to be too steep to free climb.

We ate our pack of peaches, dropped one, and christened the drop Peach Pitch.

We then ladder up, only stopping so I could christen 'Disturbed Pitch' before ascending its 75 feet of ladder, (and its unladdered bits too!). I figured at this point that we'd been foolhardy & dangerous, albeit accidentally.

The trip had been fun, it was my first trip for that expedition. I proudly bared Richard all my enthusiasm for the cave beyond Peach Pitch. I even resorted to the cliché 'it blows a gale'!

So we continued our train journey to Saffron, but not yet about, (allowing some girls who braveried in a chain of a mind), and so the distribution of the same material and not mapped as ad

(via Lesotto & Leeds) ... to be continued.

6/7/93

Slab climbing, Part, Fennell Chris.

71/5

150m on 292° from campsite

While waiting for more people to arrive from Lopez, Fennell & I went and had an attempt at moving the large boulder that blocked the entrance. We eventually succeeded but much assistance was needed, so Fennell Chris and several pulleys. On our next attempt, we succeeded in fitting the boulder in a tape sling, but when things looked good, the rock started slipping out. We spent the rest of the hour clearing medium sized rocks from the pitch lead, using a crow bar at arms length. Eventually we were able to lower the boulder through the 87° crevice at the pitch lead. Eventually, at that moment the boulder finally slipped out of the tape crack completely, and tumbled its way to the bottom of the cave. We went back to camp for lunch.

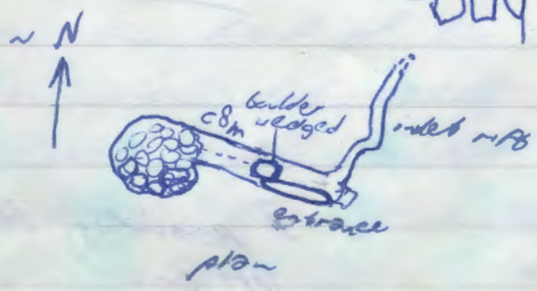
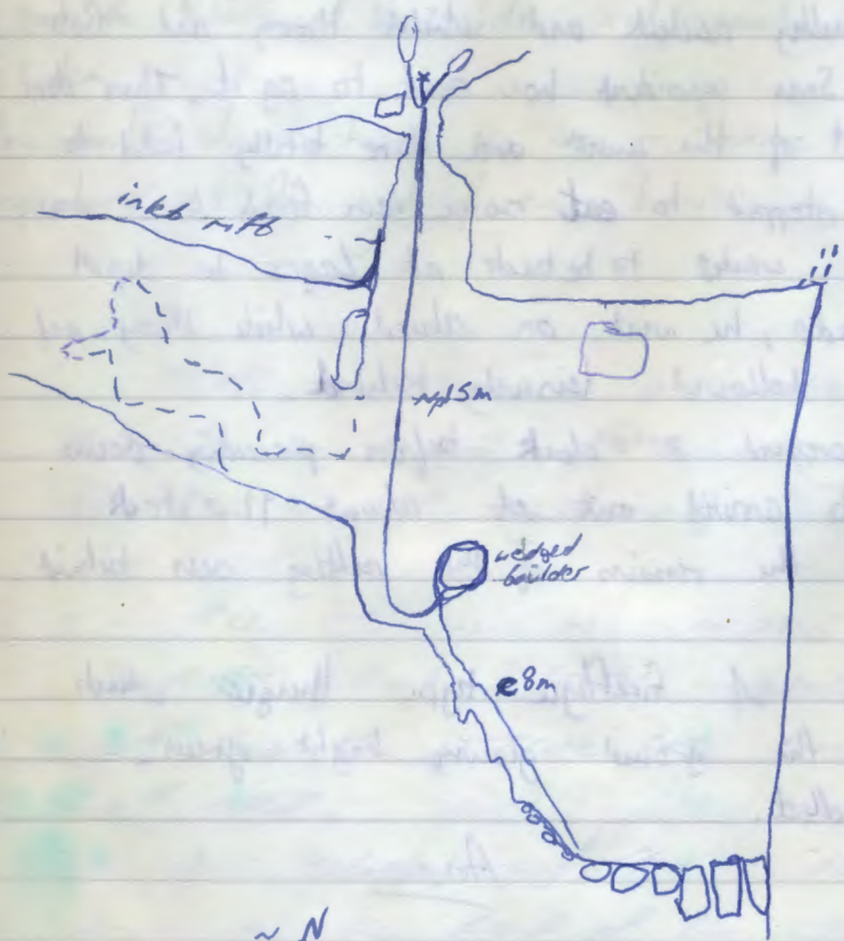
Later in the afternoon, we returned prepared for a descent. Rigging of a bolt and retards with a retards took up, I descended first. After ~15m I reached a pulley / wedged boulder, and noted a inlet with I rigged a retards at the joined rock, then noted how poorly supported it appeared. I descended the remaining 8m as a life line climb. At the bottom of the shaft, I found a boulder floor, (not surprising as wind blow down so much

rocks), and no reasonable way on. There were gaps between some of the boulders, but in places it was possible to see down a further 15 feet, but generally the gaps were too small and the boulders too big to allow any further progress.

Ferretts joined me, then ascended whilst I had a look at the inlet rift, (it went in about 8 m, and climbed about 5 m, but again became small).

Once Ferretts had exited, Chris came down, bagged the cave, and also left, followed closely by me derigging. Another shaft bashed to conclusion!

Phil



12
7.7.93

Harvey, Rob & Sean rigging 8/11

Once again the sun was out and faded between an easy day relaxing in the unusual weather conditions or going caving down 8/11 or chose the latter. At 3 o'clock we began our descent.

The trip was intended to finish rigging and we set off without any incident until Harry managed to detach a deviation on the way down into very Big Chamber. Unfortunately, Rob and Sean were already down the pitch and Harry was two inches too short to replace it easily. Once he had, however, we again made good progress through Wet Chert Rift with the aid of basic levitation. At one point Sean even demonstrated his knowledge of advanced levitation when the right hand wall temporarily disappeared.

Few Pitch was eventually reached and whilst Harry and Rob hung around in the rifts Sean considered how best to rig it. This done we climbed up to the start of the ascent and there totally failed to find any bolts and so stopped to eat some cave food. As it was now 6 o'clock and Sean wanted to be back at Lagos to depart early for a trip to Oviedo, he went on ahead while Harry and Rob finished eating and followed leisurely behind.

Sean arrived back around 8 o'clock before proceeding down to Lagos. Harry and Rob arrived out at about 11 o'clock just in time to see the remains of the setting sun behind the sea.

We also saw lots of firefly-like type things which lie on their backs on the ground glowing bright green.

The dinner was excellent.

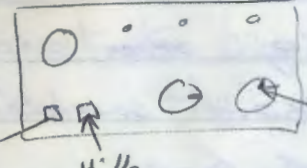
Anas

* providing ble. C.B. is left on. ↘

How to use Sean's radio. [It's not here any more] Sean 29/7.

You shouldn't use this radio without an amateur radio licence, but it may well be the fastest way of contacting someone who speaks english and can call out the spanish cave-rescue. It will also work from anywhere you are likely to need it.

To use,



1) Turn on with volume.

2) Check. Tone switch is in, low switch is out.

3) Check display says 145.750. If not, press button 6.

4) Press the button at the side and speak into the radio.

5) Listen.

You should always hear a $\text{---} \text{---} \text{---}$ morse signal reply from the repeater at the end of every transmission.

Sean.

Note - There is a radio at the Refugio, this is an equally fast way of summoning help, (that is why it is there!)

The CB is now located at the top of the hillside about 100m ~~up~~ slope from the top of Sed G. There are two switches that you will need.

1) Volume - on/off, the top of the plastic knobs on the front of the CB; this should be left on even when not using the radio.

2) The speaker on/off, the loose switch on the loose red wires. Turn this on ~~from~~ when you are using the radio, otherwise turn it off.

The VHF link may work soon, this means Lagos can talk to us* we still need to go to above Xita to reply. PRO

RADIO'S cont.

Please radio Lagos twice daily at least, once in the morning (~ 9.00am), and in the evening (~ 7.00pm). People may not be listening at Lagos permanently, especially between 9.30-11.30pm. Then if you fail to get a response, return to camp, try again later. The best time to call may be shortly after each hour (eg. after at 9.03pm, 10.03pm), if possible, we will have someone at Lagos manning the radio at that time.

Emergency Use. - it is your own.

Firstly, and most importantly, think, use your common sense!

i) If you come out of a cave, needing to summon rescue.

i) If minor, (eg Johnny has the shits, and will be making his own way out of the cave slowly), or quite minor (eg Johnny is a bit tired, and would like more food through the squeerer)

then come to camp, use our C.B.'s to summon help of the rest of our expedition / keep us informed.

ii) If any more serious, and outside assistance will be required, (eg Johnny has a broken leg and broken arm),

then summon outside help immediately, 1) through the Refuge's radio, 2) through our C.B. to Lagos, or using Sean's radio if all else fails. Then ensure that both our camps are made aware of the situation.

2) If you are at Arco, and there is no sign of a party and it is past their call out.

i) Check all details in the back of the log books, check to see if they did take ^{their} log with them after all.

9/7/93 15

Arrived in Bilbao last night and caught the last bus to Santander. Dossed the night at the bus station, and continued to Ariondas. Met Richard, and then caught the bus up to Lagos.

Hot walk up, clay to sod 3, but clear above.

It's great to be back at Aris. Even after five previous expeditions, the mountains are still stunningly beautiful.

Giving

cont.

- (i) Brief Lagos of the situation using the C.B. if it is possible to get a response.
- (ii) Check the cave entrance, to ascertain if they are out and lost on the mountainside; are rather late, but are now or'd/ nearly out of the cave, or if they seem to still be in the cave.
- (iv) Update Lagos of the situation.

— Two points - 1 - look after yourself, your no use if you get lost or injured unnecessarily.

2 - don't disappear into the cave before you are sure that others ~~know~~ know of the situation. It will be no good if the first anyone else knows of an overdue party is when they find Aris abandoned 12 hours later.

If there are two of you, work efficiently, it would be worth one of you going underground carefully to find out what the problem is.

You should have already read the rescue guides!

[Signature]

Note on showering at Aris

Think about the air temperature. If the rain turns to hail half way through you will not be able to rinse the soap off.

Harvey

10/7/93

811

Paul, Sam, Rob, Gavin

Nobody else has written this up, so I suppose I'd better. Did a bit of re-rigging on the way down, and made a tourist trip into Insalubrious. Rob stood on a boulder at the bottom of Peanut Pitch, which promptly slid into the choke, blocking it. After about an hour, we'd engineered another route through. This is quite tight, and best taken slightly on your left-hand side.

Continued and rigged October, and Paul and I continued to last year's limit, then pushed for "two minutes". Started following the top of the rift, but this became difficult, so backtracked and followed the bottom. After ~30m came to a drop with the sound of a largish stream at the bottom.

Gavin

Sunday 11th - Shuft Bashing in Area 9 (ish)
Richard and Gavin.

As the rain of the previous two days had seemed to cease and there were odd patches of blue in the sky and Gavin Oresuit + Pung were still wet we decided to go shuft bashing.

Gavin was particularly interested in some shufts near the Curicente / Verdelluenga ridge; myself a cave, which looked promising I found last year but never went back to.

We wandered up towards La Verdelluenga and found a promising shuft plugged with snow. We both huddled down and noticed an interesting continuation beyond the snow plug. I SRT'd down to find a too tight rift and boulder choke.

After more walking and looking I rediscovered two huge shake holes found the previous year. One is probably just a bankday floor. The other is VERY impressive; a large rift heading into a large entrance straight into the mountain. This could lead to a BIG CAVE. (shades of Ridge Cave)

After more wandering several more entrances were noted. Gavin's shufts were found one of which is again, deep and impressive.

On the way back we noted 'The Wiggly One' a blank space at the side of apparently very low snow plug looks promising.

A return with bolting kit and longer rope will be made!

⊗ [18/9]. In valley running down from Verdelluenga, over rocky ridge ~400m NNW of La Jayada, clearly visible from this ridge. 232° Verdelluenga, 114° Curicente
10m descent to snow plug; further 5m descent reaches too tight rift.

○ 19/9 ^{of Verdelluenga} On spur overlooking 200m diameter closed depression. Verdelluenga 222° ; Curicente 118° . Shake hole behind has window into main shaft. 25m deep shaft to snow plug. Needs bolting.

○ 20/9 In side of spur of Verdelluenga, in area of many shafts and shakeholes. Curicente 110° ; Verdelluenga 216° . 30m long gully with snow, continues into the mountain.

○ 21/9 ~~Deep~~ Near western col on Curicente-Verdelluenga ridge. 148° to col ($\sim 300m$); 250° to Verdelluenga. Overlooking bowl. 25m shaft.

Note: do we have a programmable calculator up here? Could someone please program it, as I'll want to work out the survey data tonight.

Gavin

My programmable calculator has a survey program. It should be coming up. Run file and back to run.

Shaft-bashing Area 4. 11/7/93. Sean + Chris V.

With 16/4 remaining as the only significant known one not yet descended by once, we chose this for some SRT practice. After some awkward rigging we discovered that Chris was without stop, constraints + croll, but descended anyway.

Location
~~Description~~: In the right-hand side of the valley containing most of the caves in area 4 is a visible cleft, which continues to the top of the valley, bearing 225° (approx) from camp. At the base of the bowl, the cleft contains 9/4, 16/4 and a small shaft on the left-hand side of the valley, not descended, but may be digable.

Description: 20m entrance pitch (spike, 2 bolts + hang, deviation off opposite side, deviation off same side) lands on snow on a flatish floor. Ignoring the choked phreatic tube, there is a crawl over a stony slope into a chamber, filled at the bottom by loose mud floor which 'sumps'. Traversing round to the right, through a window leads into another chamber. It gets more complicated, see survey. Ends up in a 20m rift, which bells out. Other routes are possible at higher levels.

Sean

Harvey would like to ask that waste food etc. is disposed of well away from the tent area. This avoids, for example, ~~the~~ stepping on a pile of rotting rice + beans on your way to wash your hands.

20

12/7/93 Surveying Trip to 8/11.
Gavin and Richard.

My ~~trip~~ first trip to 8/11. An early start avoided the heat. We made good progress down to the sump. I got my first taster of the rifts and the light bit above the 3rd pitch.

We continued the surveying from where it was stopped a short distance beyond the sump. Despite having to rig a traverse line above an intimidating drop we managed to survey to the 1992 limit in reasonable time. We continued onwards to the ~~known limit~~ explored limit of the cave, this passage makes an interesting U-turn.

The survey suggests that perhaps one of the holes traversed above after the sump could provide a more direct route to the streamway.

Richard

13/7/93 Shaft Bashing in Area 9. Richard, Harvey, Gavin

Returned to 20/9. Rigged down, and I descended to the snow. Round the corner was another drop. I started putting a bolt in, but the rock split, so I made do without. 10m down was more snow, holes round the side, but none looked inviting, especially as I was clad in T-shirt and shorts. Reascended, and traversed across this drop to the top of a much more promising hole. Rigged this properly, and descended 20-25m, to a snow pile on a boulder floor, with no way on.

Then went to 16/9A (the largest and highest of the shafts in the 16/9 area). Harvey descended. He says it's twice as high as the tree outside his

house. Twin shafts, meeting at the bottom, with lots of snow. No way on. The other shafts in that area are still worth looking at though.

Possible Rescue

Time now 00.32

Call out 01.00 for Paul, Harvey, Rob.

Plan: Gavin to head down to find out what the problem is.

Sam to wait at ^{top of 3rd pitch} ~~entrance~~ for further news.
 If no word by 06.00 then general call out to be activated via Refugio radio.

Rob found near Refugio at 01.10

Paul and Harvey found at entrance at 01.20

Rescue returned to base 01.30.

Lessons learnt

- Keep an eye on the time, and allow a realistic amount of time to get out
- Two people isn't really enough for a rescue
- The radios don't work.
- We should arrange an adequate amount of gear at Round Pitch to rig Insalubrious Route if the choke collapses.

Shast Baiting in Area 4

Gavin 15/7

Went looking for 28/4 and S/13 but found neither. But did find the following

○ 29/4 To east of Cabeza Verde is a collection of interconnecting bowls. On LHS ~~is the largest~~ is a 15-20m shaft, with a perched boulder above. Faded S/E mark. Cabeza Llambrisa 153°. Undescended

○ 30/4 20m from 29/4, lower down, 5m climb down to chamber. Marked S/E 30°. Undescended

29/4 and 30/4 are probably S/E caves Pozo Cabeza el Verde numbers 2 and 3, so 28/4 is probably nearby.

○ 31/4 Follow Culiebro path to 1/4, then follow round the about 30m away from the bowl to pick up another path running up and down hill. Don't follow too close to the bowl as this leads to a sheer drop. Uphill is on the left (the right) is an 8m x 8m entrance. Worth checking fully - a climb to the right may go

○ 32/4 ⓧ Downhill from 31/4 is a double bowl. On the ridge between them, at the side nearest the path - but invisible from the path - is a 4m x 4m entrance. No way on

○ 33/4 ○ Over the ridge to the north of 31/4 is a 40m diameter shakehole. On the far side is a shaft, just above the path. Undescended.

14/7/93 23

Rigging (Pushing) 8/11

Paul, Rob, Harvey.

Carried gear to current limit of exploration.

Rigged ~~access~~ line on climb + traverse line across bold step on the way.

Rob & I investigated side passages before above climb after deep pool. Rob thinks he's found a way to by-pass the pool. Crawling up a 45° slope in the opposite direction to the climb we found

a) a connection to the place after the pool where you can go straight on instead of doubling back

b) A large shaft which went up ~~about~~ at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the tree outside my back door (~~at least~~) (50 ft). This appears to be source of most of the draft & some of the water.

Paul then rigged the pitch at the limit & we descended. At the bottom is a small chamber with the streamway visible at the other side.

Just before the bottom you land on the level in the rift, which continues on.

Coming up we noticed that the rope was rubbed.

Since the time was nearly 8 pm we decided that we'd better head back. We decided to rig a ladder on the climb down into the small chamber $\frac{1}{2}$ way through the main rift. This was a bad idea because somehow ~~we didn't~~ get Paul & I didn't get out till 1 a.m. despite Rob being $\frac{1}{2}$ way up the 3rd pitch at midnight. We sent Rob out to let people know

that we were on our way, but unfortunately he lost his way to the Refugio & wasn't in time to prevent a call-out, which was skilfully conducted very efficiently. Apologies & thanks to those concerned.

Anyway, I had a most enjoyable trip, & was very pleased to have gone further than Lodein Phosphate rift which had been as far as I got both this year & last. Weid had the deeper bits seemed like a different cave.

Harvey

16/7/43 - Pushing down 8/11 Sam, Gavin and Richard.

Now that the short pitch in Big Wind had been riggered it seemed there was wide open passage to push! How wrong we were.

An efficient trip to big wind meant plenty of time to push and survey. At the bottom of the pitch a rift with water in the bottom led of downstream. It is difficult to tell whether we've hit the main streamway again or not.

The rift continued and a few reasonable big passages joined from the left including a large one. However we couldn't escape from feeling that we were too low. The ~~the~~ passage lowered to a nasty low stoop in water.

Further on the passage started to get bigger. - "Great" thought Sam and me; Gavin however said "We'll meet a sump around the next corner. Not quite, but nearly. - A disgustingly muddy passage which bows down in most directions.

The main passage seems to continue albeit via a low muddy squeeze.

The surveying of new found passage ^{was} ~~with~~ miserably cold and we were glad to be heading out. I noticed the passage about level with the deviation which we were told later by Harvey they assumed to be the main way on. The two could interconnect or maybe not!

17/7/93 - Digging in the valley of dry Jones - Gavin & Richard.

After much indecision as to what to do everyone finally made their minds up and we went off digging 69/5. The promising dig discovered by Gavin, Tony and myself last year. It had certainly progressed since I was last there a year ago as was shown by the pile of spoil heaped up near it.

Gavin dug and I made a stone wall with the spoil and got cold.

We had lunch.

I dug and Gavin just got cold after I discovered that my aim when throwing rocks from the bottom to where Gavin was sitting was particularly bad.

When we had decided that a number of rocks needed bolting before they could be removed we gave up for the day. Gavin looked at a few more digs before we wandered back in the mist to Aris.

Richard.

18.7.93 Richard & Rob go Shaft-bashing - Area 7

Amidst some late morning promise of good weather we set off up to area 7. Our main aim was to find and explore some of the undecoded caves around the northern rim of the Sciltage bowl.

We soon found 40/7 and also an obvious shaft which was unmarked but may have been 21/7. From here we proceeded using the shaftbashing guide following its treasure hunt trail type descriptions in search of the caves we wanted. The mist had already started closing in...

Following the ridge upwards we found 24/7 and 23/7. The next cave we wanted to locate was 22/7, however, our initial attempts failed although we did find some unpromising unmarked shafts followed by 41/7 which was decoded and bottomed.

Attempts to find further caves, in particular 22/7 upon which all other descriptions seem to be based, were hampered by a further deterioration in visibility. We decided to return early to have some tea!

41/7 Outside the Northern rim of the bowl, 70m downhill from 23/7. The shaft bashing guide suggests an 11m descent but this seems rather optimistic. A simple free climb descends the rift reveals that it closes down in both directions with ~~no~~ no way on.

Rob

17/7/93 Rob Chris & Harvey go on wild goose chase - & find goose!

28/4 (Poru Cabeltha el verde number 1) had been explored by the SIC & apparently ended in a passage too tight to continue on. So far, this cave had not been found by O.U.C.C. & so we set off to find it. Bearing 'Barin Hall' given us directions to the general area in which he thought it might be. An area containing lots of boulders 5-10 mins east of Cabeltha el verde. The SIC also gave a bearing of another mountain.

It occurred to us as we trudged away from Aris towards where we had previously been able to see the now invisible Cabeltha cove through the thickening fog, that we were going to have some difficulty finding this area. Further, the chances of us finding a particular shaft somewhere in this area were fairly remote.

So, basically we were going on a shaft bashing trip impeded by 3 complete sets of carrying gear, loads of lugging gear & ropes & lots of fog.

When we thought we had reached Cabeltha Vale we headed East. This took us to some sheep - and then a snake-hole! Could this be one of the many holes in an area full of holes? Or was it a random lonely hole? Anyway, we dumped ~~our~~ our packs & explored, finding a couple of other snake-holes next to it. So, we could well be in the right area but attempting to make a methodical search of an area we might or might not be in when we couldn't see each other across a snake hole seemed not easy. Oh yes, and we'd walked off the map.

We decided to continue East, & found nowhere very interesting to search before we came to a cliff.

We decided to head round in a circle which might take us round or through the area. Presently we came to another large shake hole & debated the possibility that it could be the same one we'd been at before. It looked different, so we investigated. Unfortunately, Rob & I ended up exploring the opposite sides to those we'd looked at previously, so it was a few minutes before Rob announced that he was standing where we'd dumped our tub-sacks before. Yes, it was the same hole.

We headed off towards an area where I'd seen more shake holes, & found nothing. We were getting fed-up with our wild goose chase & decided to direct our exploration in a somewhat different direction!

Thus we came to an area which looked much more promising, & decided to dump sacks again. Very soon I found a shaft just where I was expecting to find one. It was marked 1E/4.

Description of 1E/4

5 meter free-climbable shaft. Leads to chamber on one side (invisible from surface) 6ft high. Another small inlet to chamber is blocked & runs on from chamber & opposite side of shaft blocked.

Then we continued East, Rob moving to the right & me to the left of a gully. I followed Rob's path and arrived at a shaft which transpired to

be the very one we had gone in search of! Rob descended 1st & second pitch, ran a way on & we rushed home as time was getting on.

²⁸
Description of 35/4 (Pozo Labettra el verde) location

Head East from Pozo Labettra el verde along a gully which rises up & then dips down again towards a shale-hole. Level with this shale hole ~~is~~ to the right of the gully is the entrance (hidden from view ~~is~~ from this approach.)

18/7/93 - Gavin & Harvey return to 28/4

I pushed myself up Labettra Cove as much faster than my legs can carry me and subsequently wobbled unsteadily along the ridge in Gavin's wake. We soon arrived at a shale-hole which, after I'd wandered further on to get my bearings, turned out to be the one before the one next to 35/4. This turned out to be next-door but 1 to the hole I'd visited twice yesterday.

We descended - the cave description follows. After an enjoyable trip down a most pleasant cave we completed our cross-country run to arrive back at Aho in good time for tea.

Description of 2814

Entrance shaft (P7, P19) drops into chamber. Climbs down through slot into large chamber (alternatively rig pitch further along). Inlet to right leads to moonmilk. Straight ahead leads to crawl through boulders, down to 4-way chamber junction (Wobbly Rock Junction)

To left is crawl leading to chamber. Climb over boulders to where rist narrows down: First left hand bend is passable to wider section, but this needs widening in order to turn over for next right hand bend.

~~To right from Wobbly Rock Junction~~

Straight ahead from Wobbly Rock Junction, tube descends to 3m drop into chamber, start of STE route. Rist to left closes down. Main route leads to 7m climb down to slot which is the top of the 3rd pitch (P8). From the bottom of the 3rd pitch, the 4th pitch follows immediately (P11). At the bottom the rist becomes too narrow, at least for me.

To the right from WRT, a crawl, with holes connecting down into STE route, leads into a slot / area of breakdown, with ending at a blockage with an enlargement - and a hole - visible beyond.

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|
| <p>First pitch (P7) }
 Second pitch (P19) }</p> | <p>40m rope {</p> | <p>Thread backup; Y-hang off 2 spikes
 Spike backup; bolt and spike Y-hang, needs deviation
 half way down</p> |
| <p>Third pitch (P8) }
 Fourth pitch (P11) }</p> | <p>40m rope {</p> | <p>Spike below
 Y-hang from 2 bolts, spike deviation
 Bolt; bolt rebelow</p> |

8/11

18-7-93

Tony, Jim, Chris

Why hello Ario. Team 'no messing about' having arrived at Lagos the night before & got drunk on v. little, begged our gear + stuff up ^{in morning} & decided irrationally to go caving. Jim started to feel flaky on wet rocks, & Chris joined the decline into crapulence w/ Codeine phosphate. Deciding that the better part of valour was in discretion, we jocked. Tony was displeased with this decision so off he went, onwards. The jockers were pleased to note that they got back in time to drink vino at the Refugio. Not so Tony, for he's not out yet!

Chris Densham

16/11 @ Harvey & Richard

19/7/93

After a morning of festering at Ario, Harvey and myself 'noise riggers' went off to 'rig' 16/11 an unfinished shaft described as 5m from the Ario Path. After spending a bit of time on the wrong path ie in the Ario bowl we headed over the ridge and after a bit found the respective shaft.

Spectacular rigging ensued - Back-ups half way up the mountain and one carefully placed bolt (the only one we had) led to a surprisingly nice Y-hang free hang which Harvey descended.

The bottom was filled with a snow plug which Harvey descended. The passage heading off southwards proved out to be a tight crawl which left Harvey looking like 'someone off an Aerial Soap Powder' advert but which didn't lead anywhere.

Richard

Random Quote.

As Rob was beginning his 1st ascent through the tight part at the top of the 3rd pitch: Paul was beneath him.

Rob

Rob to Paul: "Am I standing on your head?"

Paul: "Yes, but it's all right."

Rob: "No it's not. I'm not on it properly!"

Digging the "Dry" Sump

20/7/93

Fair

We discovered this site nearly a year ago, and ever since then I've been keen to get back and dig it. It's situated at the upstream end of the Rio Pequeno passage, and appeared to be a very easy dig along a tube half filled with sand, and leading into blank mountain. Best of all, it was dry. As I spent the winter digging the wet, muddy dig in the north of Carno, I used to think how nice it would be to get out to Spain to such a nice, dry dig.

It had been a fairly crap morning. I'd been suffering from a severe bout of crapulence. I'd dropped the margarine; this in itself wouldn't have been a disaster, except it landed in the potatoes waiting to be fried, and scattered them across the tent. Eventually they were cleaned up, and I was handed a plate of fried potatoes; so I decided to put vinegar on them; except I missed, and poured vinegar over Jim's rucksack and the ropes. It was one of those mornings.

It was also raining, and so I spent a lot of time prevaricating. Once I got underground, my craps

seemed to wear off, and I made good time down to Passage With No Name Yet, where my creeps promptly returned. I tied the rope to the backup, and then the main hang, and realised I had six feet of rope left; so I switched to the longer rope, and pushed the tackle bag down the rift, only to discover it wasn't attached to me...

Anyway, I eventually got down into Rio Pequeno, and arrived at the Dry Sump. Except it was wet. There was a big puddle sitting just where I wanted to dig. "Yum" I thought.

I started digging a little channel to drain the puddle, but the floor was too horizontal for this. So I dug a big hole for the water to drain into. But then the hole filled up, so I started bailing the hole with my wellie.

Eventually I decided there was nothing for it but to get in and dig. My scheme was to dig until it got particularly squelchy, and then have a bit of chocolate. In an hour, the chocolate was finished.

I got in about 2 metres, and if it weren't for the water, the digging would be very easy. I'll be back in a few days when it's had time to dry out.

69/5

Richard & Gavin 21/7

Continued digging. Shifted about a cone of rock, and stacked it. At the bottom, a little rift seems to be leading off. It will take a bit more digging to get into it, but it's looking very promising.

34

8/11 Richard, Steve^{P.} & Chris,

22/7

A short trip to the Very Big Chamber to give Chris a taste of the cave.

No problems at all - had a look at the Passage with N's Name let and then headed out,

23/7

The Radio works. It is on the ridge above Xitu, roughly above the viewpoint.

Turn it off after use.

The switch on the front turns off the speaker when it is turned ON.

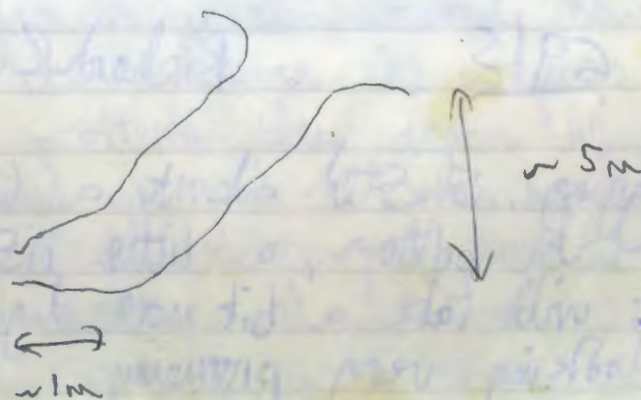
When it stops working, swap the two batteries about.

P.

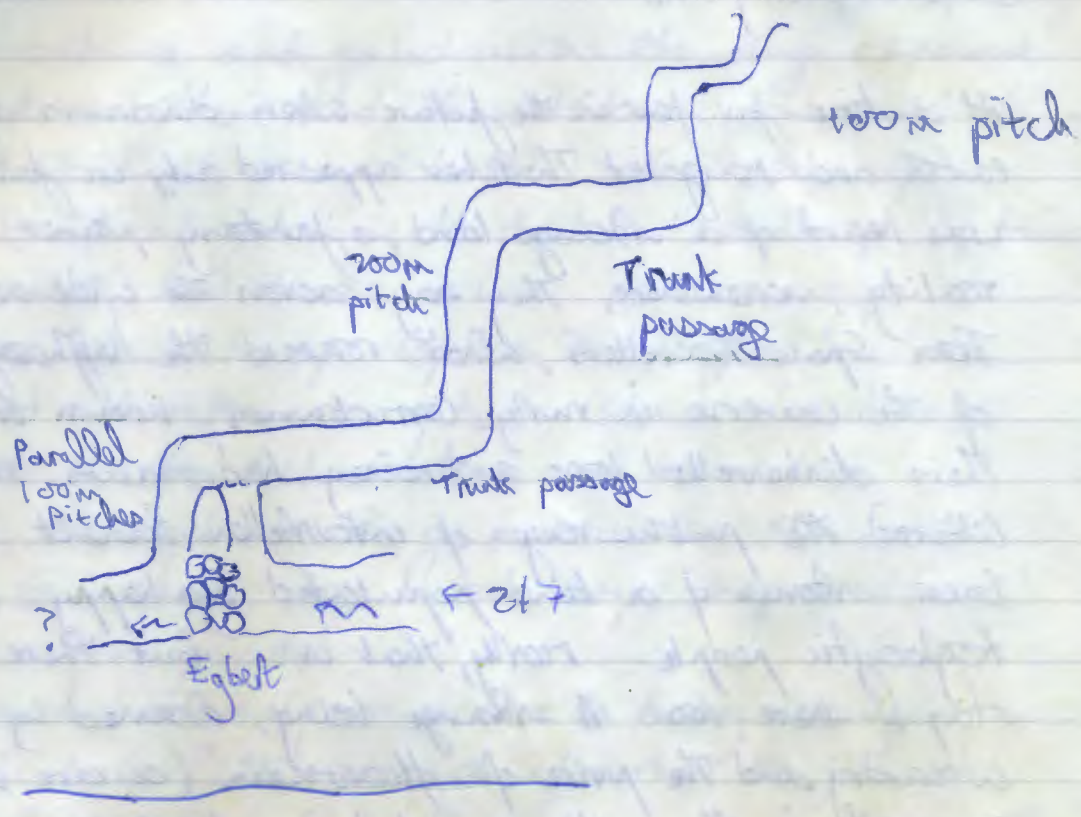
8/15 Sam, Steve, Rob, Gavin

23/7

Continued digging. The rise noted yesterday on the previous day was enlarged, and a black space at the end opened out. The hole is now foot size but will probably be easier to extend. There is no obvious blockage beyond the constriction.



Relationship with rest of cave:



The above is complete BULLSHIT.

6/9/5 Sam, Steve, Richard, Gavin 24/7

We removed the boulder blocking the rift, and squeezed through the rift to arrive in a chamber in the middle of a boulder choke. The draft dissipated between the boulders, and there was nothing obvious to go at.

We looked for a new dig site.

76
DISCLAIMER: Any resemblance to persons or events, real or imaginary, is entirely coincidental.

Tales from the planet Technodweeb ----
1: "Good Morning Ario".

At a time far, far in the future when dinosaurs again ruled the earth and Margaret Thatcher appeared only in fairy tales, rumour was heard of a strange land, a fantasy planet, come from reality, somewhere, they say, across the wide astronomical sea. ~~For~~ Space travellers, who roamed the highways and byways of the universe in rusty Corrobumes, known on earth for their dishevelled looks and roiny hadrosaurs that escape littered the public rumps of interstellar hammit routes, brought back stories of a land populated by happy, smiling dogbodytic people. Mostly, that is. But there was another rump here too. A strange being, obsessed by technical wizardry and the price of fluoroscein (a rare and valuable commodity in the wild mountain parts of the ~~planet~~ planet Technodweeb, and ~~and~~ a vital ingredient of the religious ceremony that involves turning the rivers green - but otherwise utterly worthless). Two such rumps are lying ~~in bed~~ part of an expedition searching for more religious sites. They are asleep in their tents at base camp. It is 10 o'clock. Two hours later it is 12 o'clock, time for the daily radio transmission from Ario, and the happy dogbodytics have important news about fluoroscein detectors. At base, the radio (a large, unwieldy device ~~erected~~ built by Captain Techno, who had a fondness for ~~to~~ making larger, unreliable versions of the ~~the~~ ~~the~~ Techno wizardry easily available in the shops) crackled into life. "Ario to base camp, Ario to base camp, over". Major Slouch opened one eye.

He knew the transmission would only last for about one minute so he had no time to be. He went back to sleep for a further 30 seconds. Then he finally realised

that he really was going to have to hurry if the radio was to be reached before the transmission ended. He dragged himself to the tent entrance and gazed across the huge expanse of space between him and the radio tent. How could he do it? Suddenly it occurred to him. Yes, wake up Captain Techno, and get him to do it! "Wake up, Captain", Slouch shouted. But it was no use. No amount of shouting would wake up Captain Techno for his transmitted number. No option, Slouch would have to drive over to the techno's tent and rouse him physically, then get him to go and answer the radio.

"Radio to base camp, Radio to base camp, do you read me?" the voice was exasperated.

Slouch decided he really was have to hurry, really.

~~The van~~ Which car? The van was closest. He jumped inside, started the (new) engine, and sped across the 3000 metres to Captain Techno's tent. Suddenly, there was a loud crash, thunk, tinkle. Slouch didn't notice ~~that~~ what had happened, but Captain Techno did... At the sound of the engine (Captain Techno had managed to programme his alarm watch to sound like an engine starting up) he looked out of his tent, to see a large glass object flying in a long, slow ~~and~~ arc from the van roof. His precious solar panel was in pieces on the grass, like so much low-stick.

"Have you any idea how much that ~~is~~^{is} worth?" Captain Techno shouted.

"Was" Slouch replied, grumpily.

"Radio to base camp, ending transmission - over and out"

Survey Instruments

Pre 24th/7Post 24th/7

Climo 510270

510270

Comp 81010

40703

Climo 844147

844147

Comp 40703

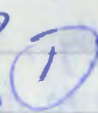
81010

Climo 228529

228529

Comp 319123

319123



Pozu Mohandi 26/7~~th~~ Gavin, Rob + Richard 25/7

Richard Barnes on making the connection with 8/11.
(apologies to Proc 12)

"Tears of nostalgia welled up in my eyes as I absented down to the floor where Gavin was standing. 10 metres above, the blue plastic bag, left by Chris + Tony while trying to traverse across the wall, bent on a ledge behind me, the pool where I had frozen to death while surveying. And, yes 15 yards ahead of me was the mud sump where Sam, Gavin and I had spent many a happy hour wallowing in the sump trying to find a way on - Oh, happy days they were.

Meanwhile Rob had arrived a demanded to know the location of the nearest habire."

The aim of the day was to connect 8/11 to a lower entrance near Mohandi. (or is it the over way round?)

Gain, Rob and I had elected to look at two entrances about 50m from Mohandi.

We rigged a ladder on 26/71 and I went down to see what happened. Climbing down into a small chamber to rift led off southwards. When my jumper started to rip I leaved outwards. We explored the other hole and then Gain went down to find no way on.

Gain who now had an oversuit and went back down 26/11. 'It goes' he shouted back after nearly falling down a 30m pitch.

In we went and followed Gain down the pitch which ended up at the aner just before the mud sump.

A connection had been made.

The search for Bufona (continued) 26/7

Well I still haven't found it. Suggested if I know where it is, found 2 entrances:

34/4 In the next valley left (NW) of 31/4, at an altitude of 1420m, just above where a subsidiary valley joins from the left. and The valley continues down to the pasture with the big brown boulders. Bearing to big brown boulders 70°. An unlikely looking rift on the right of the valley, marked with a gain by the entrance and another gain above. Just round the corner is a shaft of maybe 30m.

29/11 ○ In Mohandi valley, just above springs, behind a car-sized boulder, a horizontal gravel which splits just inside the entrance. Not fully investigated, but looks like a fossil resurgence.

Gain

The search for Bufona (Part III) later

Checked out 29/11. All routes choke quite quickly. Then walked down the ~~map~~ NE ridge of Cabeza Muxa, but no sign of Bufona, except I spotted a large entrance in a cliff about a mile away, probably in the crag marked as Cabeza Chica on the Abarcas map, alt ~1350m.

26.2.93

8/11 Tradesmans entrance / Maps cook-up / New entrance?

Everything seems to have gone wrong so far ...

- (1) Forgot water
- (2) lost chocolate
- (3) went and got above
- (4) lost boot
- (5) went to look for boot
- (6) couldn't find it

So... I tried carrying in frames but that didn't work either

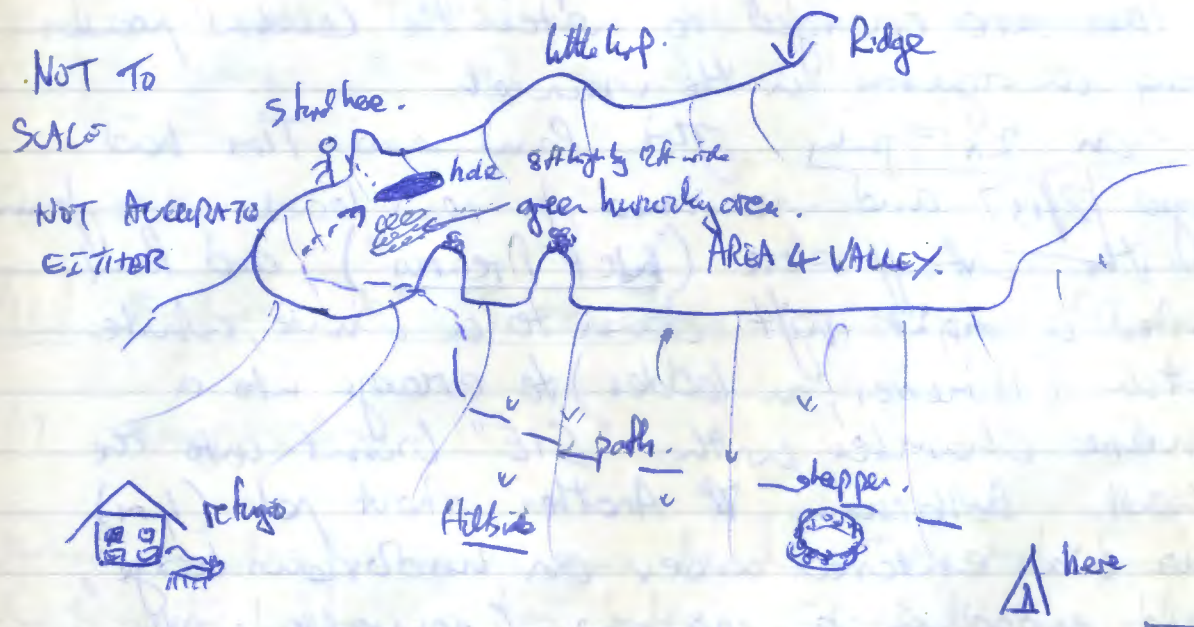
Meanwhile, surveying continued in 8/11 without me.

2 hours later after a quite rest I attempted to go back to camp via 8/11 but to no avail. I ended up too far to my left by about 1 mountain

this is no a dog
its a chag

How to tell difference
Carpenter (a) is it wet
(s) does it bite

Went from a large amount of valley I'd never seen, pursued by more shaggy
white chag. After a bit of chiseling along on appropriate looking ridge
Area 4 appeared proving that I was not totally lost. Also below me there
was a rather big hole with a bouldery slope leading downwards into
darkness. The entrance appears to be unmarked, and is not
visible from anywhere other than a small ^{bit} of ridge.



37/4

Climb up for the Carpenter as if you intend to enter the area 4 valley between
the two spikes with Cairns on, ~~the ridge~~ above arid bowl. Instead of
passing between them, continue to climb up to the ridge to about 20 ft above
the height of the two peaks and traverse around inside the valley at this
height. Above 50 ft away from the peaks is a hummocky ^{green} dark
green patch above which the hole is located. BUT YOU CAN'T SEE IT (the hole)
unless you are on the top of the ridge. ~~where~~ So I think that no
one has seen it yet - maybe if we were looking

Care or see tomorrow

Chris ✓

Postscript .. Sam set his ~~hair~~ hair on fire
while sneezing v. Silly

42

8/13 - Cabeza Julagwa

Tim, Rob, Richard.

26th July.

Photographed and surveyed the new, well decorated
funds in 8/13 (the REAL Cabeza Julagwa). ~~There~~
~~about~~ about 45 metres of passage in all,
with lots of chimney bits and two squeezers
separated by an awkward and very pretty pool.

Some of the best formations are seen in the Picos.
Then took some sponsorship photos too. Detached
the cave and emerged to watch the central peaks
having an agam in the tunnel.

on 23rd July Tim, Paul and Tim had
riggered 8/13 and searched for new leads. we found
a ~~the~~ ~~stuff~~ ~~above~~ ("Jet Drearus"), and Paul
pushed a tight rift down to a white, white
pitch (13 metres, an ladder) to emerge into a
pinkish chamber with "SIE" burnt into the
wall. Bellows. * Another short pit (4m)
was entered under an unobvious ledge,
and ended in a narrow (parallel with
harrow) stream rift (small draught). This
appeared not to have been found previously.

NOTE: The new murrey leads in to the main system
at a marked "Δ" point on the Right wall at the
top of the short ladder climb. It is on the far side of
the entrance to the small passage off to the right.

Instrument Calibration

Measured relative to the new compass & clinometer
(compass 319123, clinometer 226529) the corrections
to other instruments are:

Compass 81010 Add 1.5° to readings

Clinometer 510270 Add 1.0° to readings

Compass 40703 Add 1.5° to readings

Clinometer 844147 Subtract 1.5° from readings

8/11 Before the Correction — a few trips written up

19/7 Tony, Chris

Returned to check up on some leads, Tony had found on his solo trip to bottom on day before. Checked big inlet on left at foot of October — went vertical fairly shortly.

High levels on way to swamp yielded nothing but a big open chamber. High level stuff on left immediately after crossing swamp. Tony climbed up to, & looked at more on a later trip.

Heading from swamp towards Big Wind, first hole in floor led to stream swamped immediately in both directions ("Like Carno, but Moreso"). Further along, at climb up into Big Wind, climb down instead lead to lower streamway ("Sportive God"). Heading right (upstream), an inlet heading off left led to a climb, dropping to a chamber & a rift heading apparently down — but would need bolting on top to get into it at high level. ~~The~~ Going back downstream, inlet on right lead to some passage ending on a shelf at side

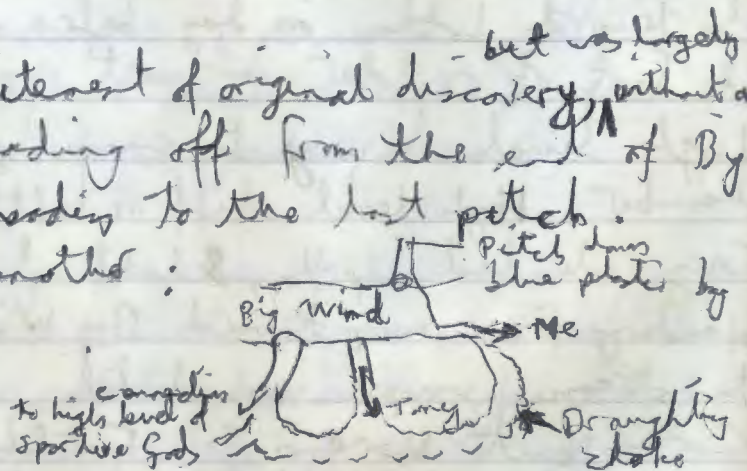
of a BIG PASSAGE leading off in both directions. After savouring the moment, bearing huge flames out of our generators, we strode off down the passage, discovering after approx 5m a BLUE PLASTIC BAG. Bollocks - we had connected with end of Big Wind. We probably buggered off at this point - I forget.

21/7 Tim, Tony, Jess, Chris

We surveyed the upper bit of the lower "Sportive Gods" streamway ~~at~~ as a fractional foursome. Then Tim & Tony started the climb at the mud sump at the far end of the cave. Getting bored of watching Jess & Chris completed the lower streamway survey connection with the pitch beyond the end of Big Wind. By this time Tony was well strung out on his climb at the end, Tim was frozen. We exited.

23/7 Tony, Chris

This trip had all the excitement of original discovery, ^{but was largely} without any. We checked some routes leading off from the end of Big Wind, at the left turn leading to the last pitch. Tony went off one route, we another:

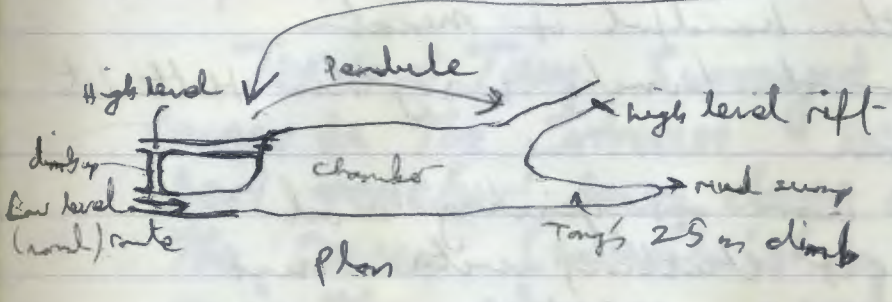


Soon ended up with lots of passage, lots of draughting, lots of junctions. Whoops from me brought Tony from a draughting choke via a connection. The passage swept downwards in a graceful arc, connecting with a shelf at the side of a big passage with a blue plastic bag

in it. Bollocks twice.

Onwards to Tony's climb at the end. I held the rope, & Tony completed it. It all pinched out at a height of ~ 25 m. He descended, sacrificing 1 crab + 1 tape.

Standing back in the chamber, Tony psycho-speles-bullshit another passage heading off to the left at a not-quite-so high level. Climbed up to passage leading to chamber at higher level, then we perched



across to a big rift heading off & downwards!
 we ran along the bottom of the rift up & over a flake & it choked. But not quite - swiftly digging out some gravel beneath a large choked boulder we were off down again. Again it choked. we climbed up rift, doubling back to a chamber with a largely false floor. Various routes lead off from this area - all of them small draughting inlets. One of them intersected a small rift heading downwards. We cleared boulders out of it, but it did not draught or inspire. A slow exit was made - out at 1 am. A trip to the seaside was made later.

25/7 Tony, Chris

Returning from the seaside to find a connection had been made to our pendule, we had no excuse not to survey the connection. At least it only took us 10 mins to get out compared to 3 1/2 hrs the previous trip!

26/7/93 Jim

Fear and Louthings in Los Lujos
 a single assignment get down to Los Lujos
 at 11:00 am so ~~showed~~ Dave and Davony Sean
 could enter the Tacos 100.

They were late starters and ~~headed~~
 at about 1230

were been invaded by Hungarian
 I grabbed another handful of medicine
 and looked for this bunch of reptilian Mottentots
 now to be found

The medicine wore off quickly and
 I found myself chattering with a nice
 bond of cures from Budapest keen to
 get on with curing.

So they set off for Los Lujos Ariv
 with some of their gear I considered
 my new assignment.

"Make some dinner for us when we
 get back"

Pineal Gland and Paster

A Recipe, as far as my drug
 ravaged brain can assemble.

Potatoes

Crusty Potatoes

Garlic

Strawberry Turn

onion

cornflower

Tomato

Comma

onion

Cardomum

mix and cook

dave and Sean both ate
 this with only a small
 amount of "witty comment"

drank some coffee
Had another cigarette
I was nearly out for there
just another few minutes and
I was away
So long to the Curving Dream.

27/7/93 Entrada del Raptor [23/11]

Tin and Tony Succeeded to (almost) the
corner in the stream where Steve and I
had reached two days ago. Pushed
the corner (which is a kind of Zed bend
in the stream - wet and awkward),
then on to a nice bit of rift until it gets too
tight at stairs level. A climb up (4m) gave access
to a parallel section in the rift, where Tony pushed
a couple of awkward tight, overmind-eating bits
~~to emerge~~ ("the Raptor") to emerge in a larger rift.
Type: Hot Hot? walls a bit ruddy? Oh dear -
wet chert rift - we had the third, and very
sporting entrance. (Basically, Grade I wire, the
rift wiggles almost directly between the last
staircase point and the inlet very soon after the
double ladder pit (hot chert). It is filled in
the boulders above "hooting Apatosaurus", and found
nothing much and chert, except are large open
cave.

Tip

FIND
A
CAVE
SERVICES
Well done for Robert
27/7/93

46

I am going up Top Camp, I will go to base on Friday afternoon (~~call out at 10.00 AT BASE~~). Steve is walking up this evening. If anyone wants to come up on Saturday, please be at base on Friday evening, and we'll carry more stuff up.

Call out Saturday morning at base.
[11/22] total job about 23 2P/F/FS

at (thru) of beyond? just have it
I have not? note? north of it is very
below. ops just out below had
had to go to back a (in hand) very off
(knowing how to do - north of it is

28th July

Tim Jim Richard Piro
went and took a zillion photographs in
8/11 photos in 3rd pitch head 4th P. Pit Head
Involutions, Big chamber Peanut choke very big
chunks and wet checks.

FIND Heading East From Foot of Pitch into
A The Very Big chamber gives (possibly?) access
CAVE to another new and better large chamber go look
SERVICES

got out at ~ 11.30 back for dead good
Steve Robert Munich
well done A Rob

Tu!

Steve

Credit due to P Mann
AD Seddon.

John wrote the words &
Paul played the games.

24/7

49

UCC Culinary enterprises (SAR: prop.) have gone to Top Camp. (7.30). Taking some food - pasta, oranges, bread, milk, tinned tomatoes, ~~and~~ if anyone else comes up; spuds, fresh food generally, enough gas.

Back on Friday evening, either direct to Lages or more likely via here.

Steve

The "through" trip is not a stroll!

Who told me it was?

(P.S: have checked the Dukhtarai cream - will return it on Fri. If anyone else gets flaming red bollock itch, too bad...).

28/7/93. 1/5. I.S.H. + DRB.

Exploratory rigging trip into Xitu. Found the rift interesting on the way in, so sent Dave back to carry the 80m rope through. Most of the bolts seem OK, although some are a little rusted. Entrance ladder is 2m too short, but you can climb up to it.

First pitch after the ~~to~~ rift needs a backup bolt. Ripped to Traverse Pitch, with ~70m rope. This barely reaches the ledge 20m down. Suggest cut rope at top of traverse pitch, and use something longer for this and next pitch (looks like a deviation will be sufficient to allow a free hang).

Bay at limit contains short tapes, 3 wires, ladder, masts, ~~rope~~ ^{rope}

Also, 2nd pitch from rift needs backup + longer rope (1m + what is used for backup. now 10m) Sean.

27/7 Shaft bashing Chris V, Jim, Rob, Steve, Peter, Antygas, Roha, Rivo

We first visited an undescended entrance in area 4. This has not yet been given a number as we're not sure what number we've got to so far. Description of entrance: Cabera del Verde 150°, Cabera del Covi 165°. Two adjacent holes (larger ~ 0.5m x 2m) in slabs just east of summit of Cabera Julagua. Small, faint red paint marking.

Description: 5m climb down to bouldery floor. No way on. No draught.

This is the SIE cave no 31. Pozzo de la Cabera de Julagua. This is 36/4 sh.

For the 3 Hungarians with us, this was their first Spanish cave. They proclaimed that in Hungary, such a cave would be regarded as exciting (remind me never to go caving in Hungary...) and that just for 2 days' digging would be required to get through. They clearly have a lot to learn about caving in the Picos.

To cheer us up after this ignominious start, Chris (a.k.a. The Incredible Mister Vernon) treated us to a one-off performance of his world-famous Amazing Vanishing Cave Routine. Before our very eyes, he made the entrance he had discovered the day before disappear - even before we had managed to lay our eyes upon it!

Suitably awed, we then set off to investigate

9/13. Under Jim's expert guidance, this provided me with valuable rigging practice. The cave is an 8m drop to a bouldery floor, with a small dip down at one end, which is choked. No apparent SIE making, but the cave corresponds exactly to SIE cave no. 32, Pozo de la Cembra de Joulagua. At the bottom of the cave we found an intact and well-preserved sheep skeleton.

While the Hungarians, Chris and I looked around the cave (which didn't take long), Jim and Rob wandered off into area 13 to look for new entrances. They failed, succeeding only in nearly dying of heatstroke. When they had returned and we had emerged, some of us rescued a sheep trapped in a hole in the ground. This made us look so silly that the only thing for us then to do was to return to Aris, which we did, showing the Hungarians some of the entrances in area 11 on the way.

Steve

29/7/93

Pat, Kuby, Moho

20/11 - Entrance # 4

- 'Cueva del Sierra Fucada'

Important - 8/11 is now derigged down to pit 4 (inclusive). Use 20/11 instead!! (else it may hurt!!)

Well, we made a typical lunchtime start,

52

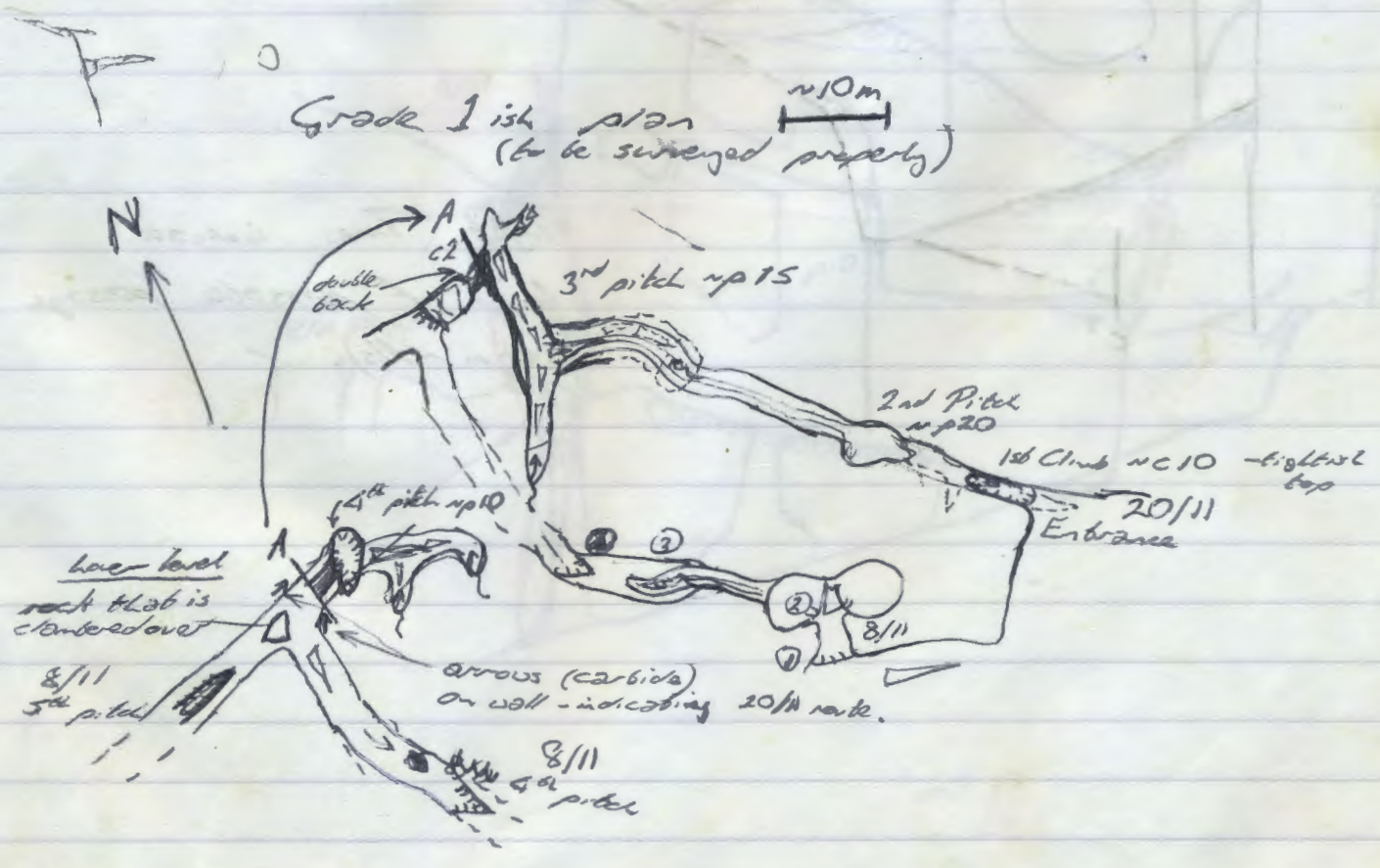
Losted only by the sound of approaching thunder.

Whilst the Hungarians (inc Andi, who walked over with us) engaged the 120b at the summit, I rigged the first climb, and ~~added~~ placed a bolt at the head of the second. Once done, I was joined, and the restaving began. We followed the rift (nice wide climbing ramp over narrow rift) until the third pitch was set. Here the chore of bolting was shared between me & Krubyn, who descended the pitch first. The way on was less obvious here, the two inlets were down the boulderslope, the outlet up it, a not quite obvious 'squeezeable' to the left being the way on. The two Hungarians stowed their exhaustion for gardening here, "stabilizing" the boulder slope, and enlarging the squeezeable. Reaching the head of the fourth pitch, I shared I was an equally able gardener, removing much choss before bolting and ascending. On landing, I realised I was in 8/11, but on looking round realised things weren't quite right. I fumbled down the bouldery floor, to find two inlets. Meanwhile, Krubyn had descended, walked 5m upslope, and declared the place to be 8/11. I walked upslope 100, and rapidly recognised the boulder as the passage junction just before the ^{now} 8/11 fifth pitch.

I considered the situation - there wasn't time to survey, as the gear was on the surface, I was cool only really shorts & b-shirt under my oversuit, ~~and~~ a few more bolts needed placing in 20/11 to improve the ledge, and 20/11 was a damn

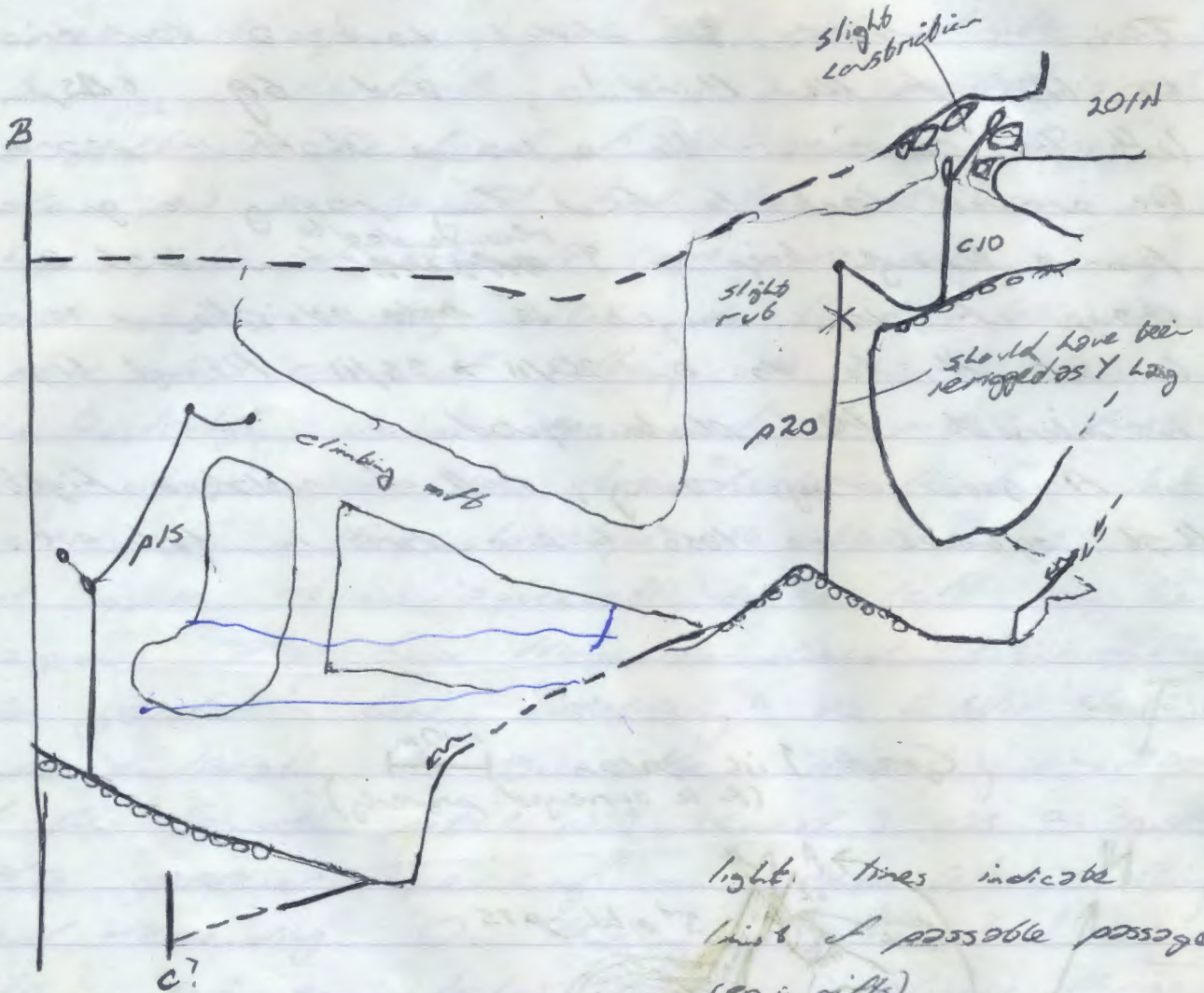
side easier than 8/11. I formulated a plan. I, for my sins, would design the 8/11 entrance, while the other two worked up the 20/11 rigg. This we did, I didn't have a good time at the top of the third!, and by 6:45pm we left the 'crows' in the entrance shaft in peace. We arrived back to find Tony raring to go, I put a through grip - I ~~recommended~~ ^{recommended to} him - that a change of plan might be ~~more~~ advisable - so he set off to do a 20/11 → 26/11 through grip to intersect the photo squad.

A good days caving, full of nostalgia fighting that squeeze on last line - first in, last out.



20/11 et-el - top

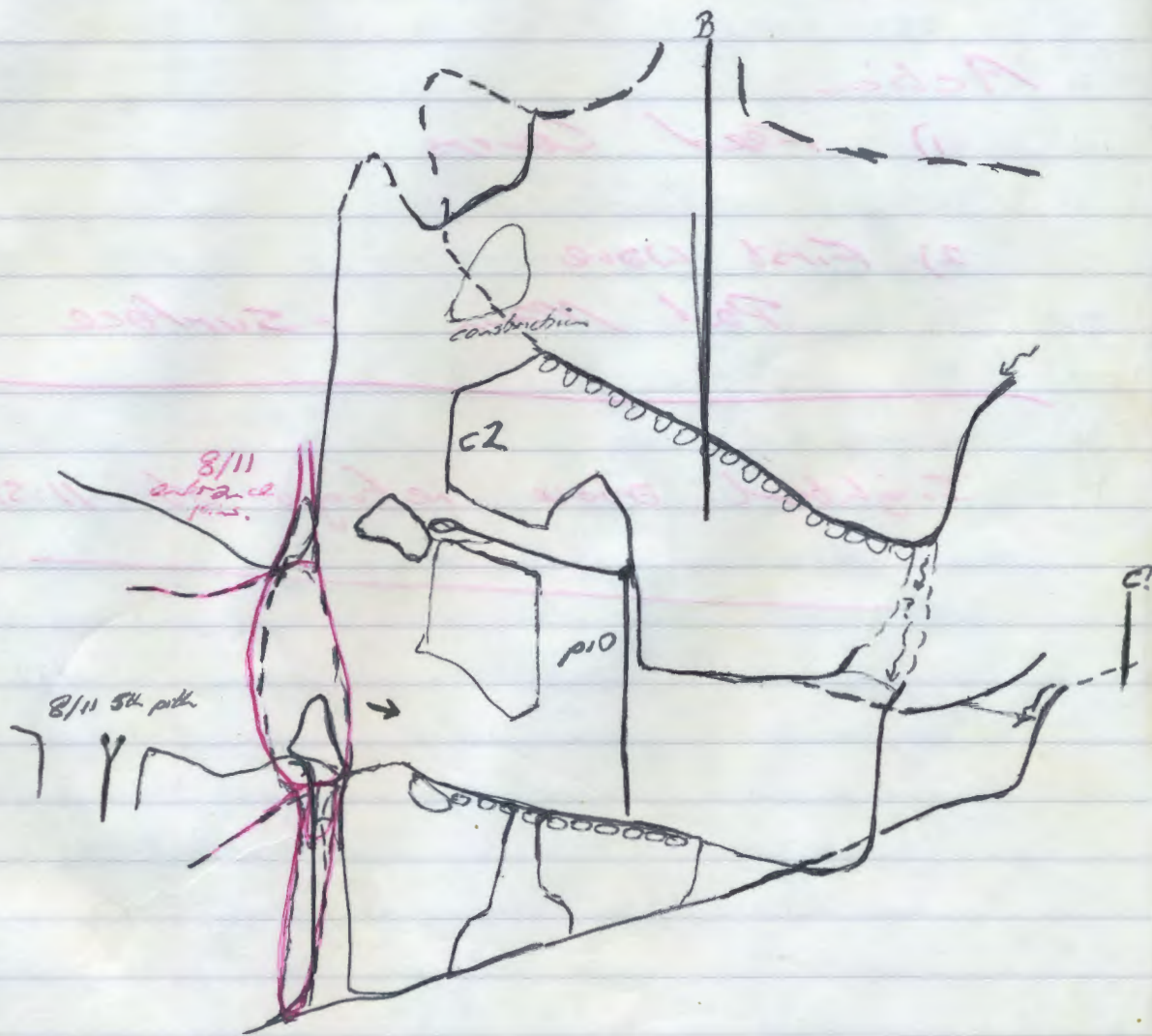
- Grade 1 ish



light lines indicate
 limits of possible passage
 (eg in rifts).

20/11 ex-el - combined - Grade 1-24

30/2



56

1150 29th July.

Possible Rescue - Overdue Party

Pozo Optimista 30/5

Chris Denton } Overdue covers.
Pevo }

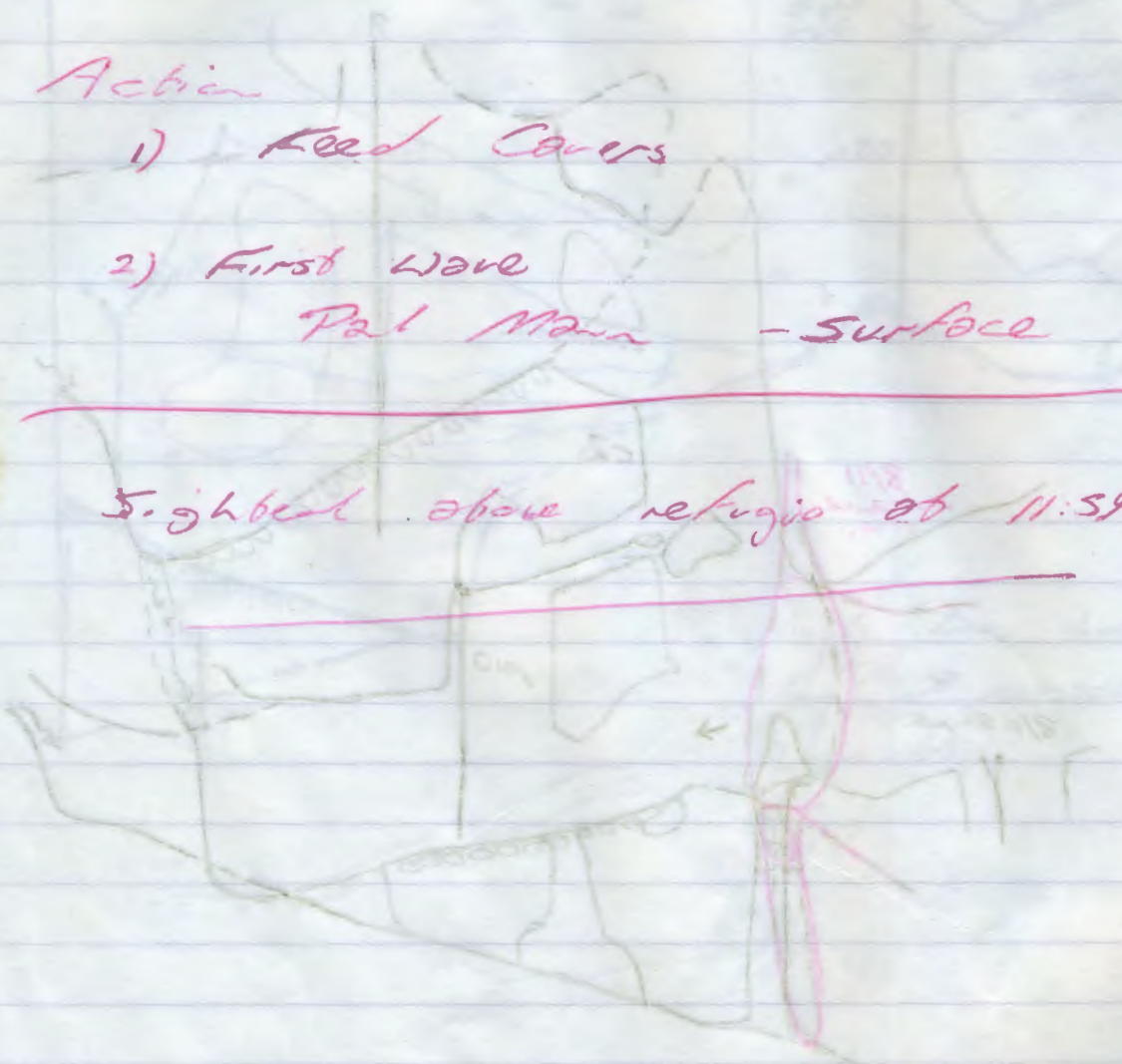
Action

1) Feed Covers

2) First Wave

Pat Mann - Surface

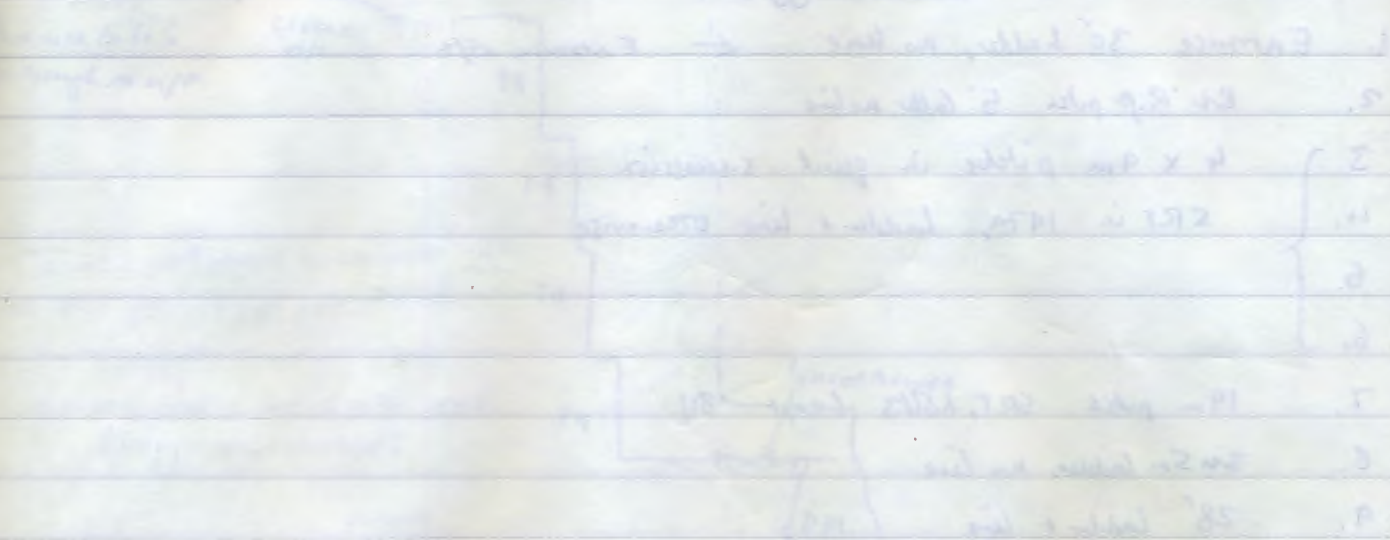
Sighted above refugio at 11:59



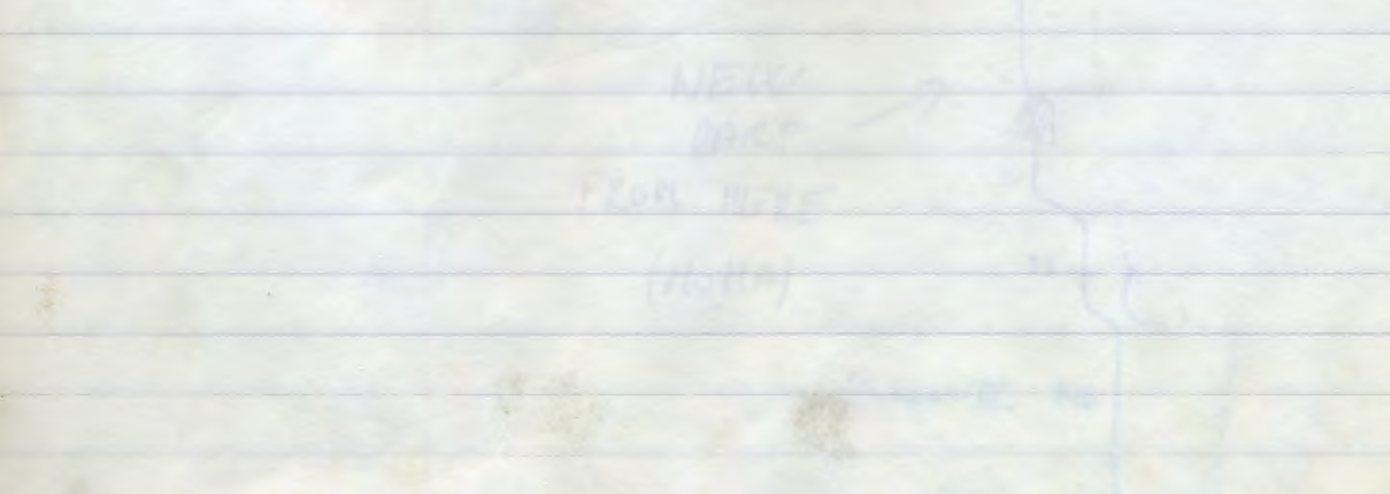
Field notes

Site for dig

1. Excavate 20' below surface
 2. 4 x 4 m grid of post markers
 3. 10' x 10' grid in 1981
 4. 1980/81 dig



5. 1981/82 dig
 6. 1982/83 dig
 7. 1983/84 dig
 8. 1984/85 dig
 9. 1985/86 dig
 10. 1986/87 dig
 11. 1987/88 dig
 12. 1988/89 dig
 13. 1989/90 dig
 14. 1990/91 dig
 15. 1991/92 dig



NEW
PART

FROM HERE

(1/1/11)

58

Friday 30th July

Xitu for beginners

WARNING: I am relying on 12 year old memory - details related here shouldn't be relied on! Jim Sheppard + John Forde did a LOT of re-rigging in 1981

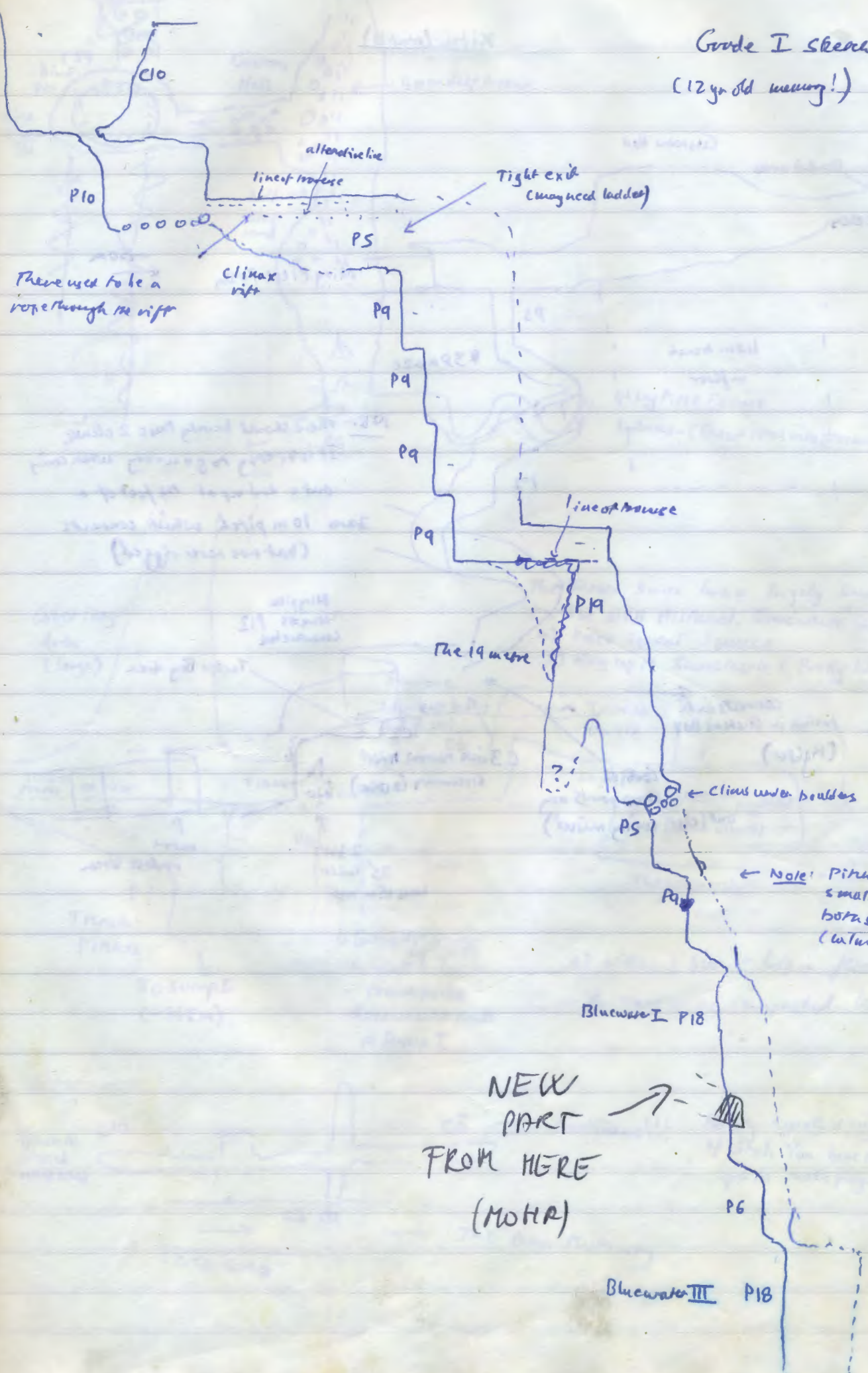
List of pitches etc:

1980/81 rigging

1. Entrance 30' Ladder, no line ← Entrance rift
 2. Blk Rift pitch 5' ladder, no line
 3. } 4 x 9m pitches in quiet succession
 4. } SRT in 1979, Ladder + line otherwise
 5. }
 6. }
 7. 19m pitch SRT, holds (except '81)
 8. 24.5m ladder, no line
 9. 28' ladder + line
 10. Bluewater I, ^{60'}SRT (except '81)
 11. Bluewater II 20' Swothy
 12. Bluewater III 55' - downwell.
- } All follows in quiet succession. Rigger on some length of bluewater

Remark At the bottom of bluewater III is a 120' shaft. Puddle off to a bouldery shelf. Then crawl through to Customs Hall. Chamber with a very deep trench. Crawl round a dodgy traverse (unlined). Continue to a junction. My piece passage goes left, but instead go down a hole in the floor (5m wind climb) + down a vertical maze featuring one very nasty 5m climb (lined in 80/81) to reach the stream. Coarse arrow pointing outwards at stream.

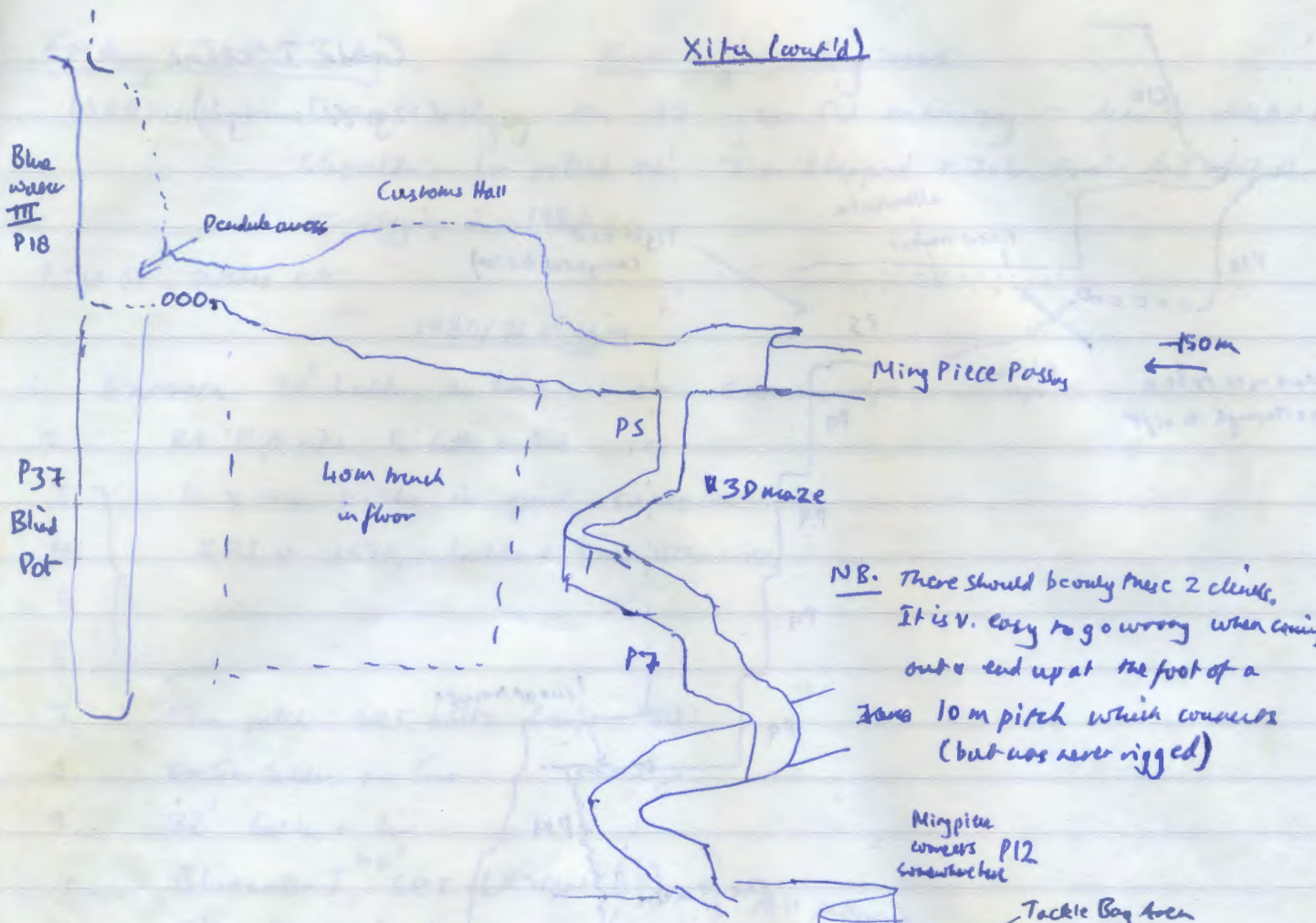
Grade I sketch
(12yr old memory!)



Xifu (cont'd)

Blue water
III
P18

P37
Blind
Pot



NB. There should be only these 2 climbs.
It is v. easy to go wrong when coming
out & end up at the foot of a
zone 10m pitch which connects
(but was never rigged)

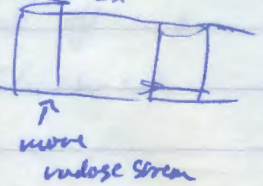
Connects with
track in Customs Hall
(righter)

Coastline
arrow points way
out (else easily missed)

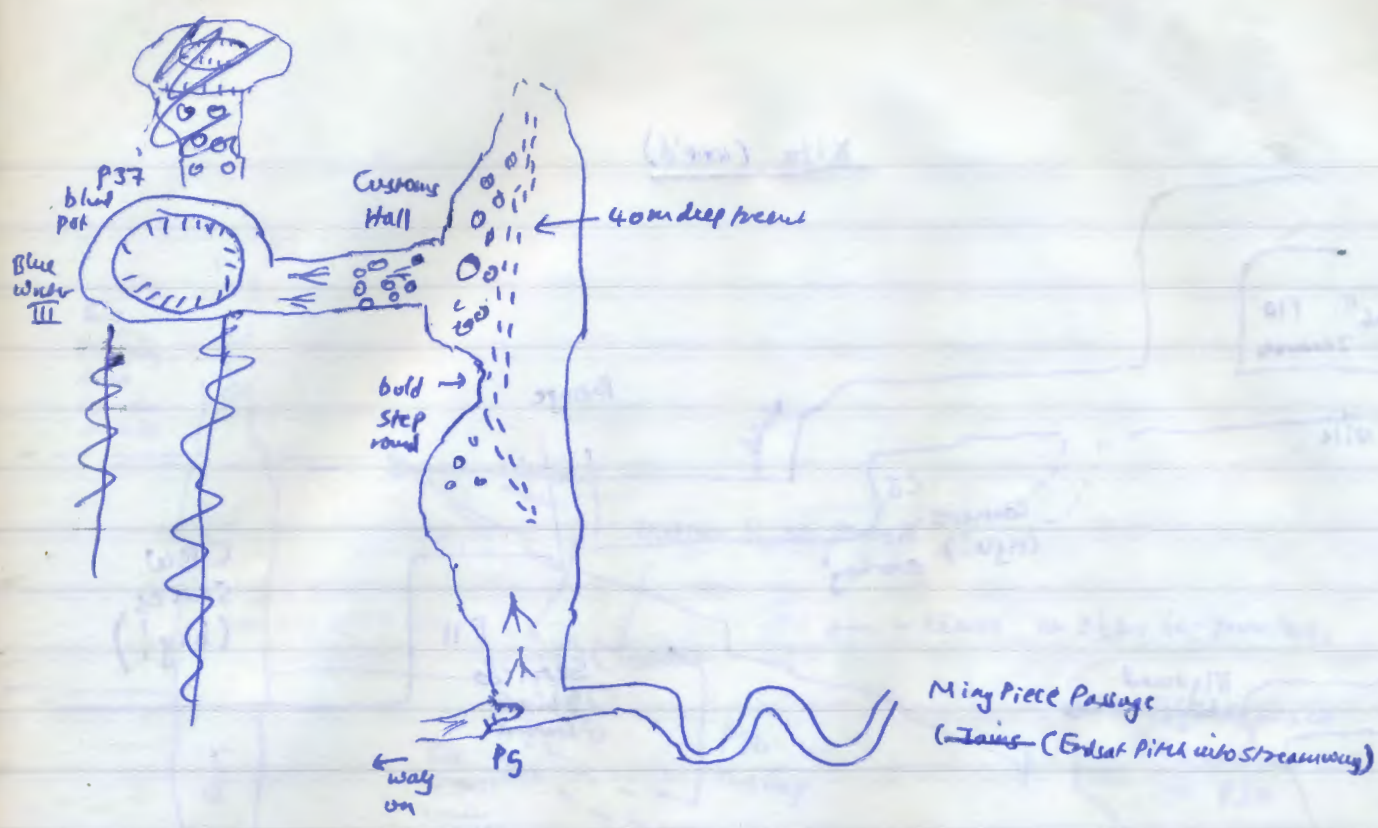
C3 into narrow
streamway (active)

2 bolts
25' ladder
needs 15m rope

Tackle Bag Area

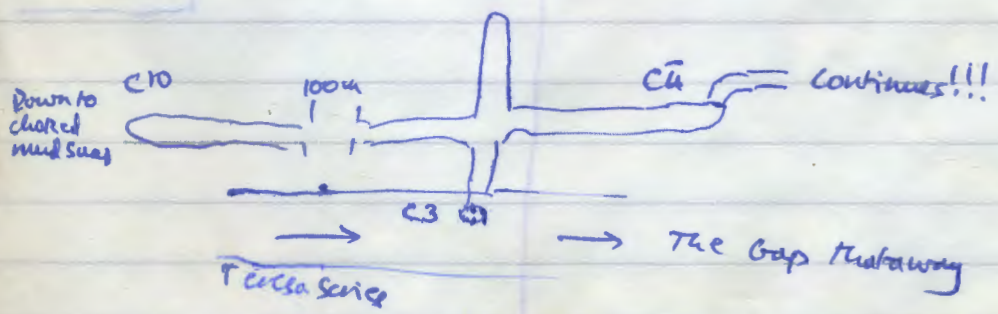
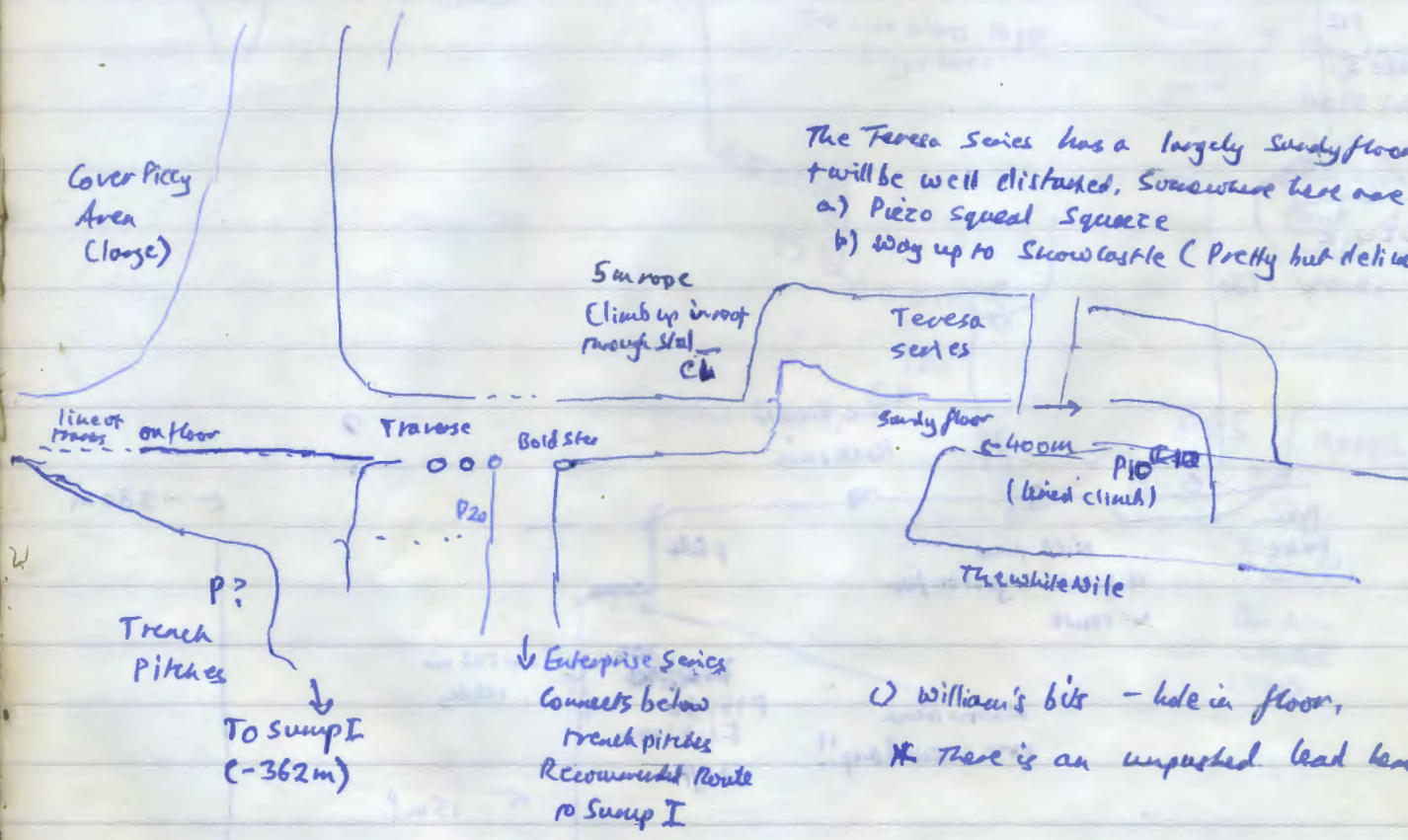


WEST
WENT
FROM HERE
(HORN)



Cover Piccy Area (large)

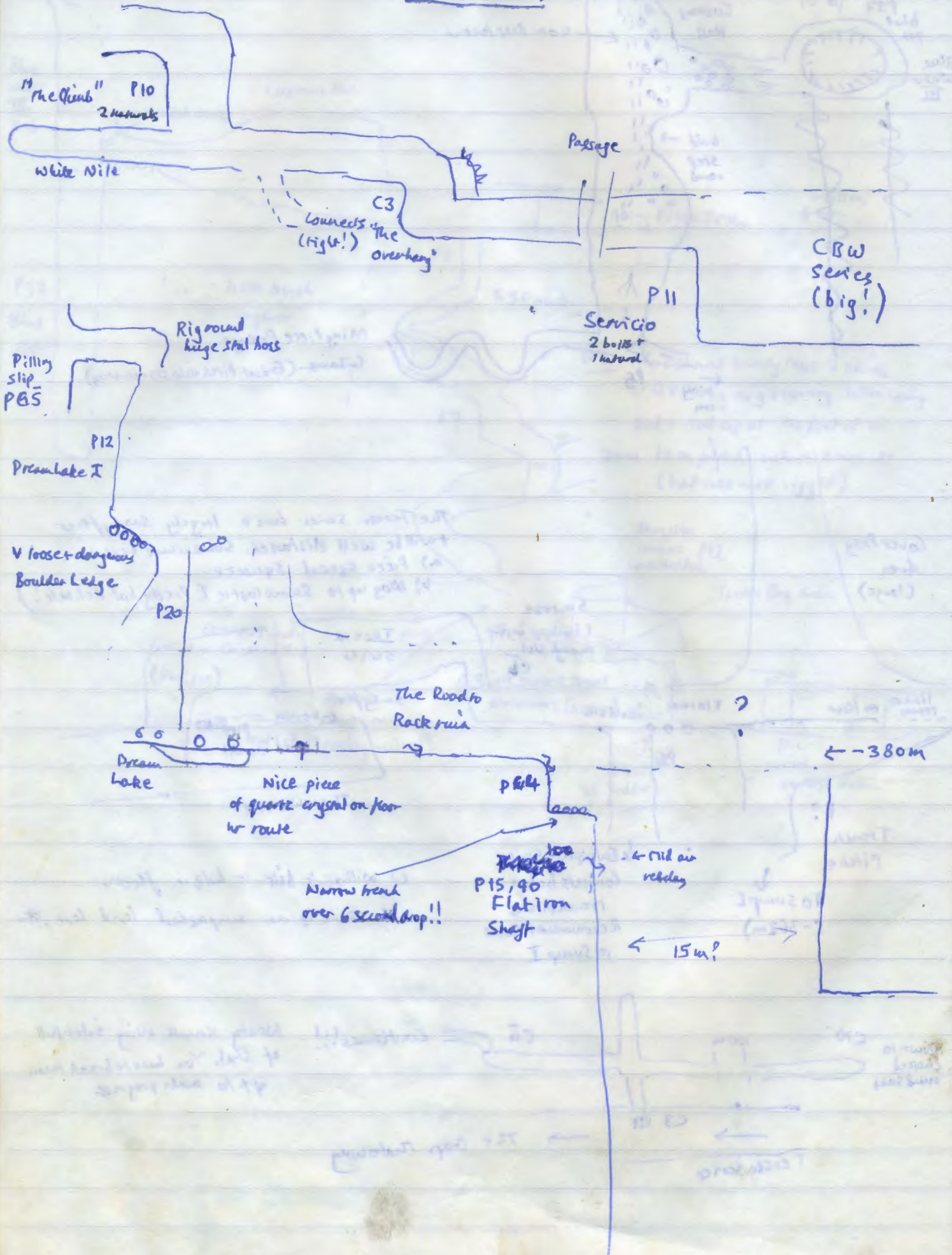
The Teresa Series has a largely sandy floor + will be well distaked. Somewhere here are
 a) Piezo squeal squeeze
 b) way up to Snowcastle (Pretty but delicate!)

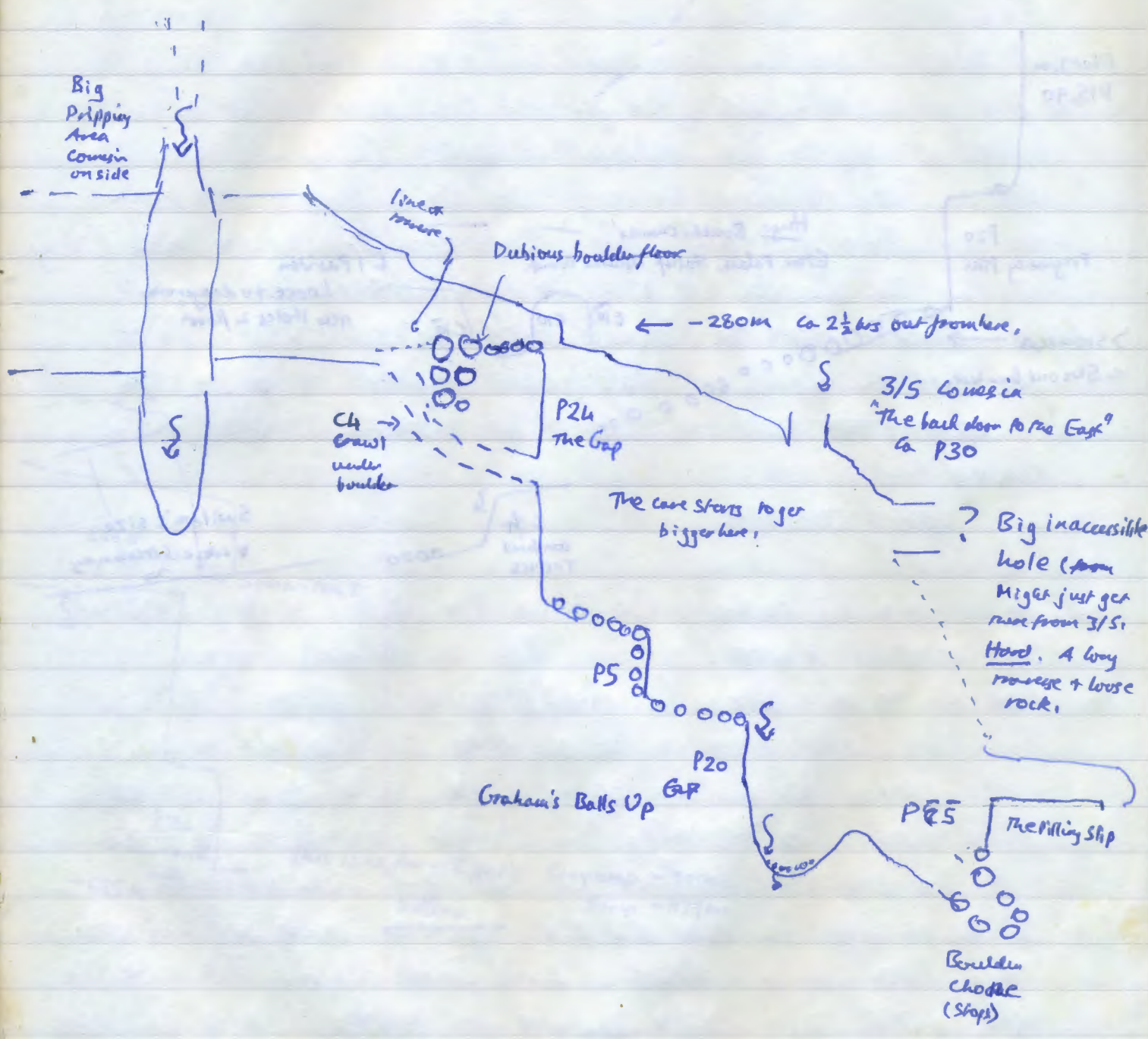


Nasty small rising inlet full of stal. You have to break them off to make progress.

62

Xitu (cont'd)





Xihu (cont'd)

Flat Iron
P15,90

P20
Pregnancy Pit

Huge Boulder Chunks
Eron Palais, Hall of Nourish Draft.

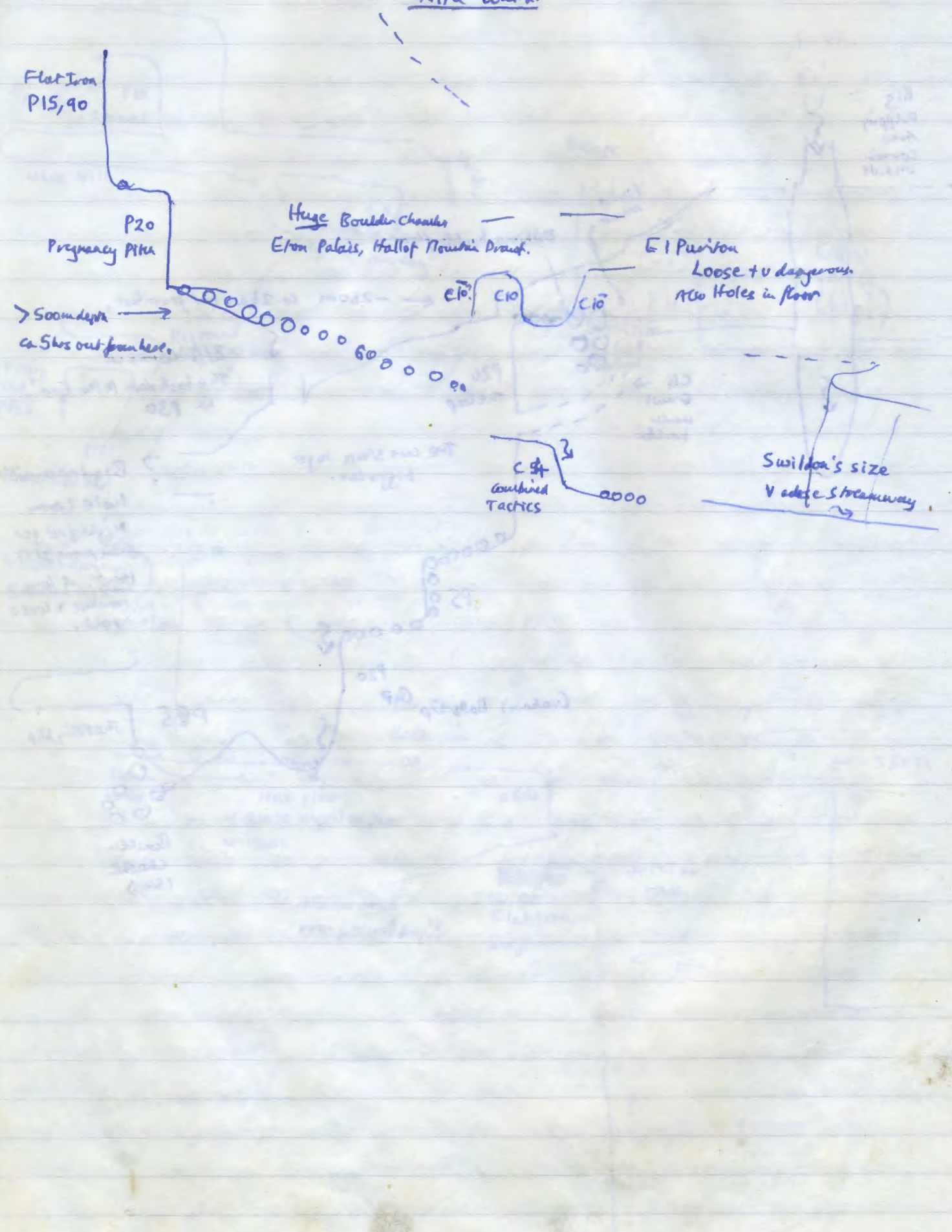
E1 Pavilion
Loose + v dangerous.
Also holes in floor

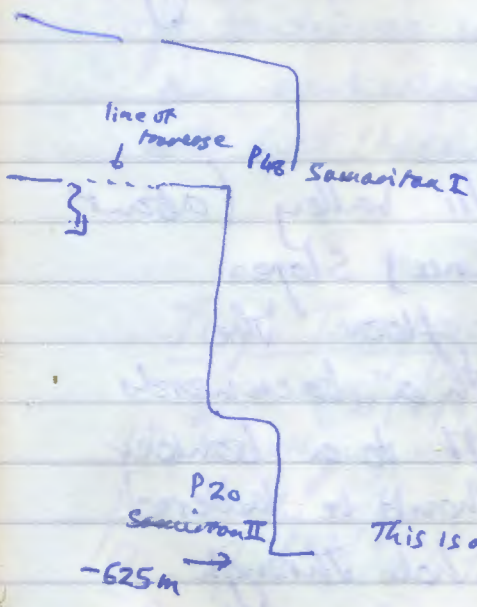
> 500m depth
ca 5hrs out from base.



C 34
Combined
Tactics

Swilda's size
V edge streamway





This is as far as I got. Camp was -790m.
 Swamp -1139m.
Willeia →

Entrada del Raptor. [23/11.]

At 30/7/93, three dips have gone to Entrada del Raptor. On the first, ~~Paul~~ Jim pushed the shaft, Tim and Steve pushed down to the awkward corner (Pmax). On the second, Tim and Tony surveyed to the start of the ~~meandro~~ meandro, then pushed (Tim) through the Pmax, and (Tony) through the Raptor to join the wet chert's Rift a joint down stream from the double ladder pit. On the third dip, Tim, Richard and Rob photographed down to the ~~descriptio~~ meandro, and Tim went boulder surveying.

Description.

An obvious 13 metre shaft in the 8/11 valley (about 40 vertical metres below 8/11 entrance) slopes steeply to a steep (vertical) boulder floor. The boulder slope drops to a hole with a backwards free climb down an easy, wide rift to a boulder chamber. ~~The~~ Aqueduct, the pitch should be laddered. At the chamber bottom, an obvious hole through boulders leads down a loose squeeze into another loose, steep floor to a short (2m) climb down. Traverse the left wall to a ledge where a ladder hangs (lashed up to a natural loop) drops onto a boulder slope (3m). Go down the slope to a large jarred boulder, cross the screaming void, then more right round the back. Over a hole, then ~~at the~~ the inlet leads down two short steep/choiky into a steeply sloping streamway to the left. Eventually the stream narrows, and a ~~at the~~ small inlet chamber with an obvious hole in the wall is the current terraced survey

pond. follow at roughly stream level until an easy
 squeeze up leads into an oxbow on the right.
~~Follow the~~ The route is obvious, until you ~~or~~ reach
 a Z ~~bend~~ bend in the stream. An oxbow to
 the left is too tight, but allows ~~or~~ enough
 legroom for a 3-point turn in the Z bend
 squeeze (prox). You inevitably get wet here.
 The right is wider for a while, but The key is to
 climb up for about 4-5 metres at a prominent
 near-vertical chest band. An arrow marks this,
 and the point where you go horizontal again. The
 rft continues with two squeezes, separated by
 an awkward corner, before popping out immediately
 into wet cheeks rft.

Tang

Trips Tan forget to write up.

- 3/11 (21/7/93)
- ① Surveying with Tan, Chris + Tang in lower main streamway
 followed by belting up ~~the~~ a climb at the bottom end.
- ②. 2/11 (22/7/93) with Tang to look at the high fault stuff above
 Big ~~big~~ wind. Big stuff up there. (22/7/93?)

Tang

68

29/7 Photographing in 23/11 and 26/11. Richard, Rob
and Tim.

We decided for completeness to photograph 23/11 (Grabada del Raptor) as well as the bottom half of 8/11.

Leaving the thunder behind we went into the equally as dangerous 23/11. Tim took some more nice pictures of me in squeezes about to be covered by boulders. We finished off in the streamway. On the way back Tim did a bit of boulder Sky-Diving but fortunately recovered quickly.

The next part of the trip took us down Pozu Mohando. Despite getting v. cold and all the flashguns starting to flash irregularly we got some good pictures at the snip, big wind and the lower streamway.

We were cheered up by the arrival of Tony on a through trip who helped us take some more pictures finishing off with one of Tony on the pitch out.

Richard.

28/7

Pozu del Optimista 30/5 1/11

Williams, Tony, Chris D.

Williams having turned up at the Refugio the night before during a reasonably spectacular session involving our recent guests, the Hungarians, a plan was hatched to visit Optimista the next day.

The cave was found after only 2hr looking, & the existing bolts were good. We rigged up in an efficient manner. It's a wonderful cave - an unexpected passage leads off from the bottom of the entrance shaft,

and various pits we traversed road on the way to the 2nd pitch (1 bolt dead). The crawl 'Underman' was one of the most pleasant crawls I've seen - a soft mud floor, lots of well sloped passage - yea yea. At the foot of the fourth pitch Tony & I climbed up to get into the rift at ~~to~~ a high level - it lead on to narrow rift where the footprints ceased. While Tony proceeded to push through this section I found an easier way over the top. About 20-30 m of narrow rift navigation, and we were in bigger passage. A couple of inlets came in, then we were standing 5 m above a deep SUMP POOL - or at least it looked like it. The drought carried on over ~~to~~ the top into a higher level dried up sump - probably a good dig site. Returning to million at the foot of the fourth pitch, we exited before dark.

An excellent trip - a wonderful antidote to bashing heads against the wall of 8/11. The scorpulous reputation of the cave seems highly undeserved - it is complex enough to warrant a look at every lead.

Chris

29/7

Optimists

Pivo, Tony, Chris

A return visit to check out all the leads we could think of. A ~~to~~ gravel & dig at the base of the chub from the entrance patch yielded nothing. Pivo & I rigged down the high pitch which we traversed road the left on the way on to the 2nd pitch. Tony went on to climb the ramp in the middle of Underman, underman, & looked at the

stuff at the top of the 4th pitch. Pivo & I went down the ~ 40-45m pitch, finding a climb leading down to another pitch. Since we didn't have enough rope to get down it we derigged rope ~~to~~ down big pitch to check out another pitch (immature young stream passage). So, while Pivo re-rigged big pitch I went back to Aro to get some more rope. Weather foul so good to get back underground. At the bottom of the (15m?) pitch was a narrow rift - quite tight. This lead to a climb down to a chamber (draughting) which alas I didn't have time to check out. Time to head back to an Aro collapsed by storm.

31/7/93

Xita - RevisedMoka, Kujta, Willenin

Kutya (Dog)

Down in 11:30 - had start having gone to see entrance minus foot-locks
 went to see Clinax Rift, which needed a re-rig. Put a tackle line through
 Clinax Rift + a couple of bolts at the pitch afterwards to get a better take off.
 Rigged the old 45m rope down the rift + the 9m pitches (unused). The NB. The 19m
 pitch rope is only just long enough. Carried on down the Bluewater pitches where
 the bolt bit got knocked (since repaired by Dr Roberts) hence the Piggie standard
 is lower here. About 60% of the old bolts were OK, when sprayed with WD40.
 Carried on NB. Didn't rig a line in Customs Hall. Be careful here - the entry
 passage has a 40m drop below! Carried on to the 5m pitch in the Streamway
 which has a grooved bolt! Left stuff strewn around:

Bottom of 14m: Tackle bag with short lengths of wire rope, wires, mailbags, ladder
~~ladder, mailbags, wires, rope~~

Bottom of Bluewater III: in 20m spare rope on the end of a 90m length.
 Where you meet the Streamway: Tackle bag with rope, hangers, mailbags (in 11), ladder
 Bolt kit has been taken out.

Xifu is a NICE CAVE. The 1st Sreamway is a little like a wind sand ch. of the 21st Stroom.
It is easy to go a long way. Out on 7:30 pm, Time underground! Star.

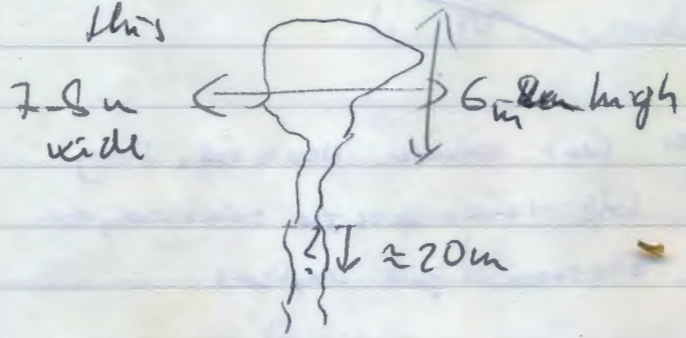
P.S. On the way out Moko + Kijja found what looks like a fresh lead (!),
Climb up at the 10m of Bluewater. It is a sandy floor passage.

Out to
31/7/93

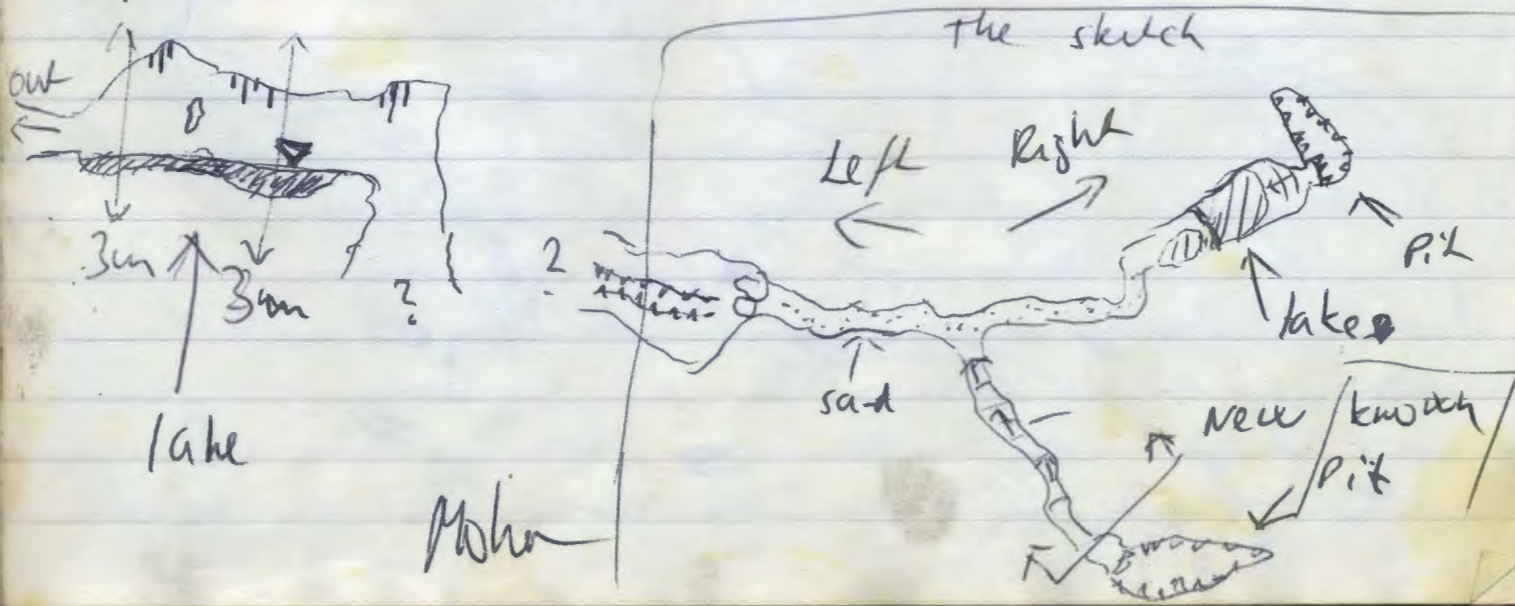
William

P.S. P.S. About the new parts I marked in the previous pages in the sketch where you goer it.

It is begin with a short climb which is a little bit exposed. After it a 2m wide leads down through 20 meters. At the bottom this floorstone is. It wasn't broke before us. This passage leads to a junction. The left side is a 2m wide 2m high fossil passage, in the bottom sand, it leads to a enormous fossil meadow like this which is goes away but without rope we couldn't go.



The right side went after 20m a little lake which was ≈ 0.5 m deep, and after it was a pit which is minimum 10m



27

31/7/93 Saturday

Steve arrives at ~ 7pm from Top Camp, bearing the news that F43 chokes, but there are plenty more holes in the ground.

A nice walk down in the mist. In fact it's very pleasant to do the walk up to Top Camp again - nice to know I remember the way & all the landmarks after [FILL IN BLANK WITH LARGE NUMBERS] years.

Steve



Can't remember. Need to take a Survey book + make a sketch. The contours leading down to the stream are quite complicated.
W.

1/8/93

Happy Birthday Phil Sargent!

Saw Steve R to Top Camp, with another funk & lots of gear. We will need:

\$ Something to make water taste nice (Zunix, orange squash etc)

Fresh veg & fruit etc

A bolting hammer. - could be

Paint! + brush

ought to be in cages?

LETS BASH THOSE SHAFTS!

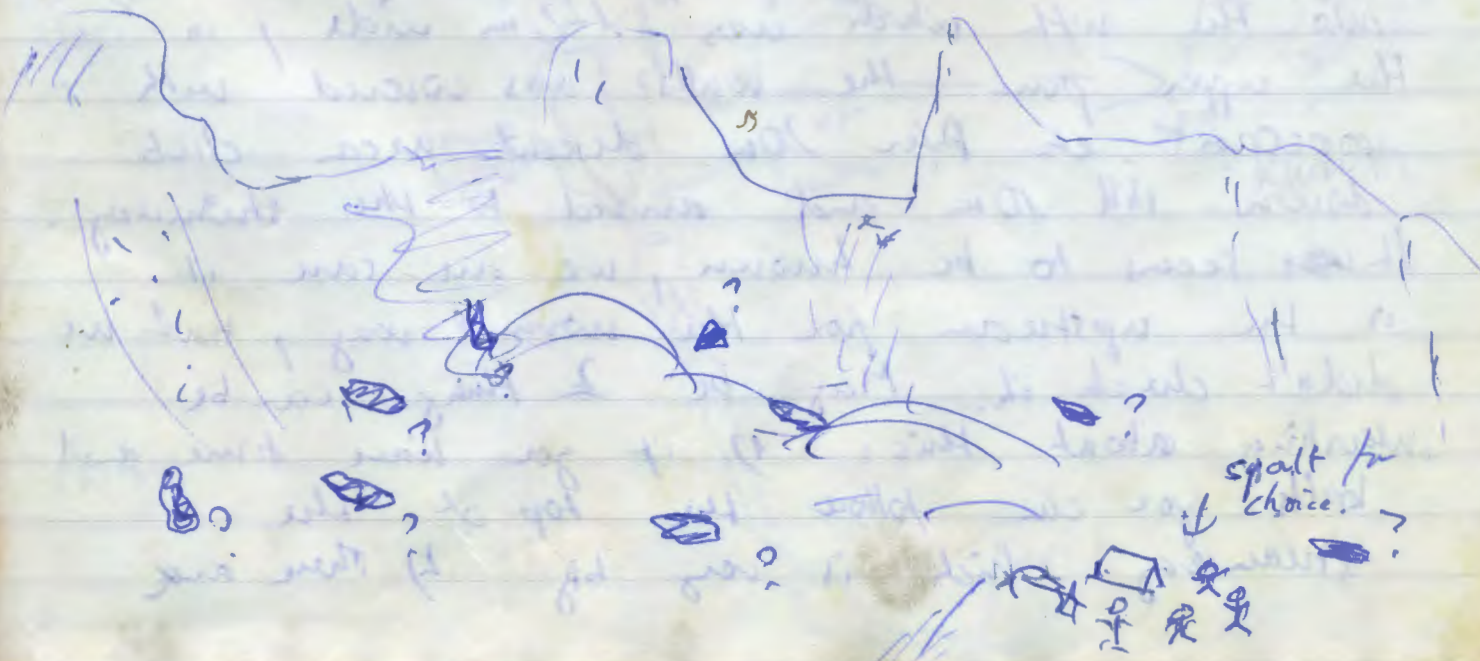
(sic)

In the words of the immortal Andy Ritey

"Why are people putting about down here when there's lots of big downy holes that no-one has seen down at Top Camp"

? I agree - Richard

- WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FURTHER REPORTS!



74

31/7/Sat.

Steve, Chris, Piro and me went down to 20/M. ^{and} after to 8/M to do some digging in the very Big chamber. On the way there Piro carefully explained to Steve how to do everything. We found a new boulder choke where climbed first. Steve got stuck. [?? - Steve] In V. B. Chamber Chris found a nice rock ^(just like a baby's foot) - which had to be taken out fast - but she lost the way and nearly had to have a mesh. I couldn't have got come out without Piro's help as was climbing up as a monkey with 1 foot and with to right hand after getting freed in 8/M few days ago.
Andi

1/8/93 Xiter - Kutza, Moka

We arrived in short time to the entrance the new series. After the climb up we decided on to push. First we went to the "left" side passage where was found the big passage with the deep rift. We descended into the rift which was 1-2m wide, in the upper part the walls was covered with popcorns etc. After 20m descent circa climb down still 10m and arrived to the streamway. It ~~was~~ seems to be known, we are sure it is the upstream for the normal way, but we didn't check it. May be 2 things can be interesting about this: 1) if you have time and bolts you can follow the top of the streamway which is very big 2) There are

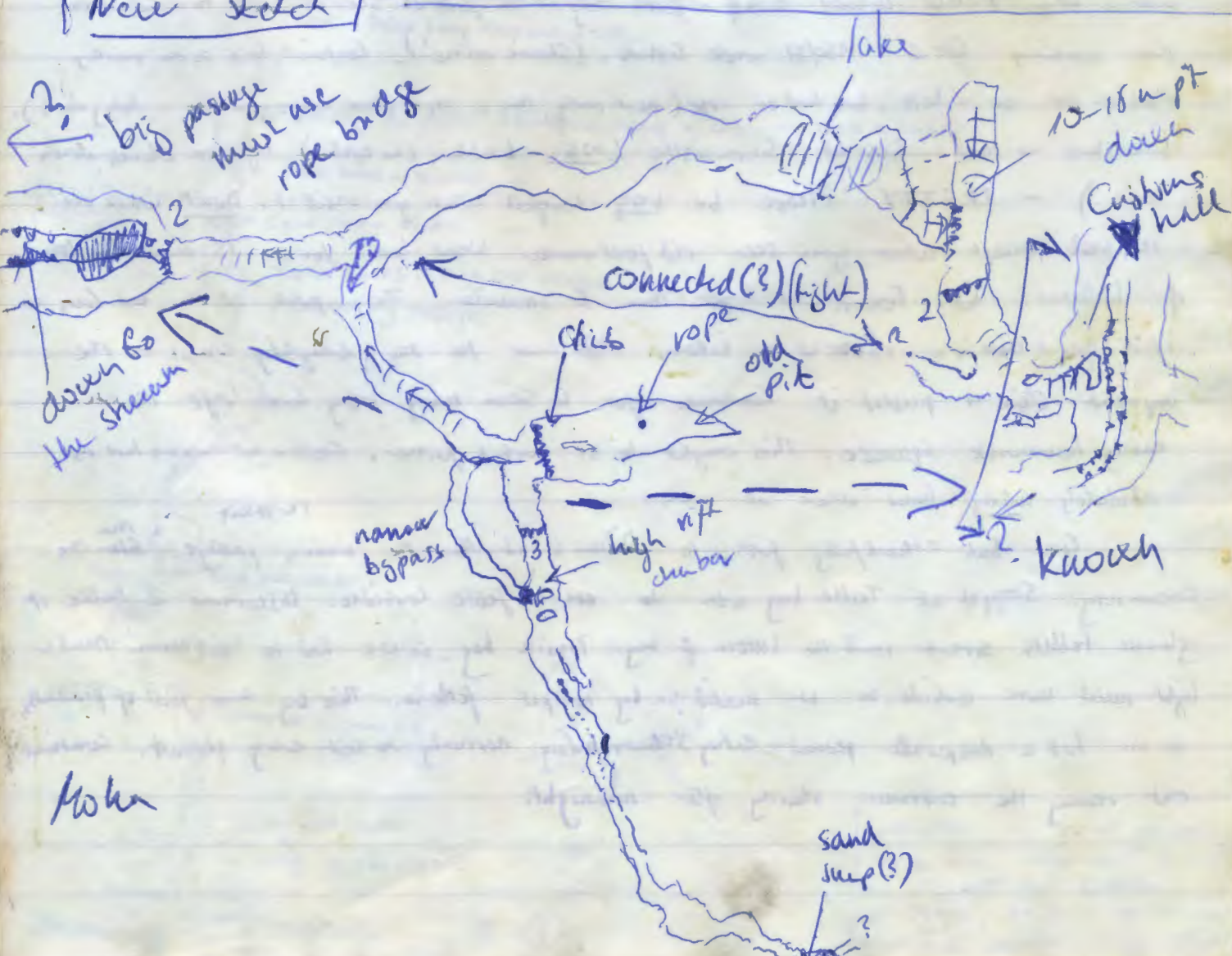
a lot of deposits from which you can make some examination about the age of the originally streamway.

At the right side after the little lake we descended about 10-15m in a wide, well decorated rift (lot of flintstone), and from the bottom we connected near to the Customs hall.

We thought on all finding is the top of the streamway.

At the entrance of new part from the old pit leads a short narrow passage too, which is ~ 40m long, at the end a sand sump, and a chocked passage to down. This rift is high, maybe at the top you can go away, we didn't try.

New sketch



1 Aug 93

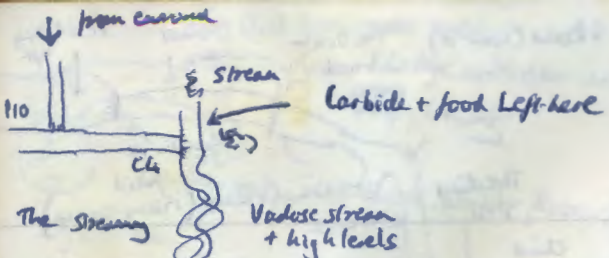
Xitu Revisited (To Gap, Snowcastle, William's Bit)

Paul, William

Staked Ca 1230pm, reached Streamway pitch quickly, which we rigged with a ladder + a (too short) line of 2 x 1981 bolts (both OK). Continued to Teresa Series. Rigged short rope on climb up room (rigged off stal boss) + continued to The Chair where we rigged half off the tail end of the 90m rope used on the Bluewater pitches. ~~Got~~ off 2 naturals. Continued to Scorio where there are 2 x 1981 Sheppard/Foster bolts in a Y - we used 1 + a good thread on the Rhs. Rope now here we used the other half of the Bla 90m rope tail. Continued to the Gap which we didn't rig, but instead went through the loose crawl to view Gap Chandelier. Couldn't see the ~~commission~~ ^{in the roof} as there is a rock wall - the Gap will have to be rigged to see it. Anyway, there's no hope of getting to it from Xitu. (I think). Time now 5pm - 4 1/2 hrs so far.

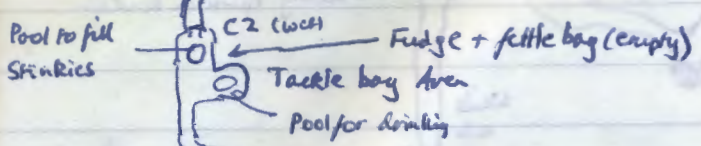
Made our way back to Scorio, ~~where~~ passing a 1981 Sandline Coa which we got under a drip. Felled Corbides + left a fettle bag at the foot of Scorio, next to a hole in the floor containing bits of 1980/81 waste Corbide. (Share on us!). Continued back to the overhang where we put in a bolt, but had no rope (best party use a rope, please unless you like a dodgy climb). Went back + took a look at Snowcastle (NB: Ladder (no lifeline) left on climb down there.) - PRETTY. Please be very careful when you visit it. Don't walk over the stal except where you see old footmarks. Went back for a "15 minute" tour of William's bit. Found it longer than I remember. The pitch at the end looks as if it goes + there is a rafter at the bottom. Also went to the draughting crawl + the cupped climb + pushed it. Continues for ca 50m along very loose rift to an easily hammerable squeeze. This ought to be pushed further. Felt a bit nervous here as absolutely no body knew where we were.

Came back thankfully first to William's bit then the main passage, ^{Teresa's} ~~Star~~ the Streamway. Stopped at Table bay area to eat + fettle Corbides. Discovered 2 tubes of glucose tablets sprawled round the bottom of my Prusik bag, so we had to eat them. Paul's light needed more Corbide, so we needed a bag to put fettle in. This bag was full of peanuts, so we had a desperate peanut-carry session, ^{finding} ~~finding~~ narrowly to eat every peanut. Continued out reaching the entrance shortly after midnight.



[Paul's Sediment Sample 3] at Captain's Hall

3



More Vadose stream (cf Crabwalk in Giant's)

P5 Ladder + rope * Needs 15m rope *

More vadose stream

climb up 1 1/2 m here Stream continues as trench in floor (Leads to Trench Pitlake Swamp 1)

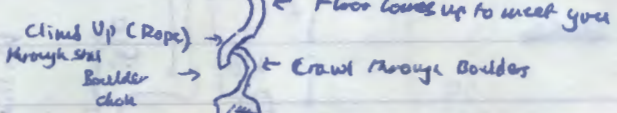
Cover Piccie Aven (see Proc 4) [Paul's Sediment Sample 2]

2

Traverse along high levels of vadose passage Care! Deep Long drop underneath

Build step pit in floor to Enterprise series + alternative route to Swamp 1.

Floor lowers up to meet you



Teresa Series. Very old passages, mainly photoetic. Nice walking passage.

Sandy Crawls

Slopes Blind Sandy crawl

climb up?

Slope down

Entrance to William's Bit

Journal boulder

climb up rbs of ramp

Crawl (sand floor)

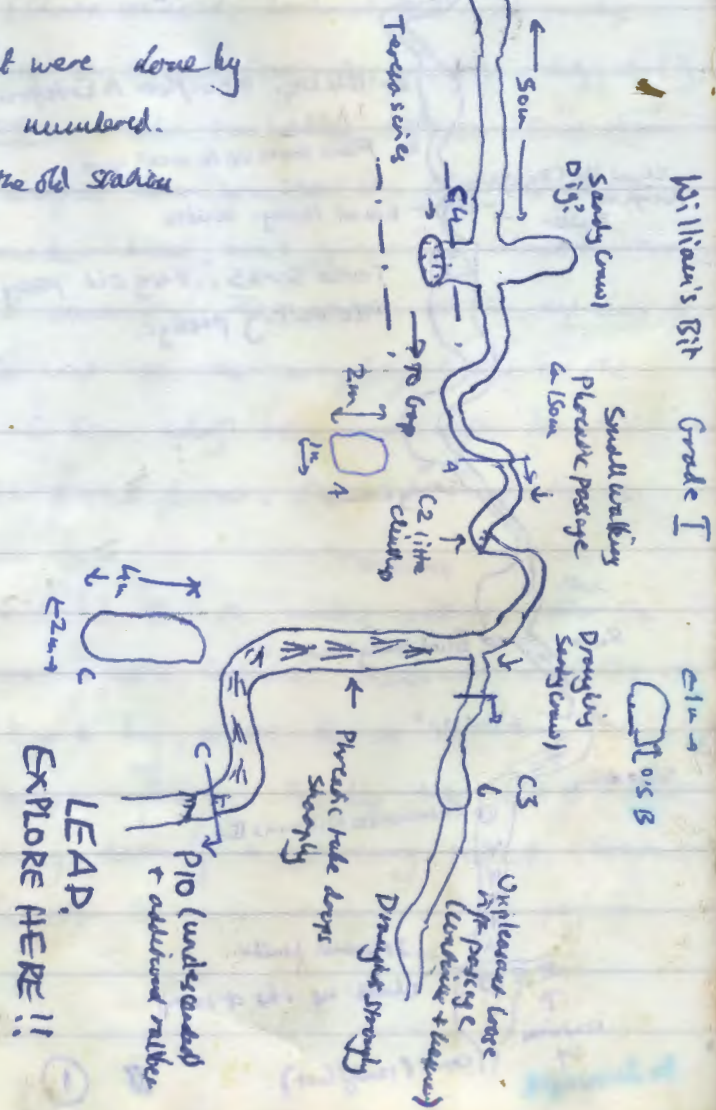
Conditions up to Snowcave

1

Note - sed. sample numbers reversed when sent off to Spain, ie 3=1, 2=2; - retained sediment retains original nos.

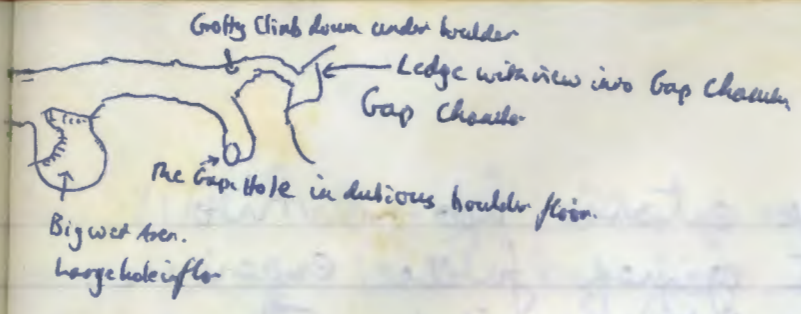


N.B. Surrey Stations in William's Pit were done by John Singleton in 1981. They are numbered. Any new surveying should be tied into the old stations



LEAD. EXPLORE HERE !!

William

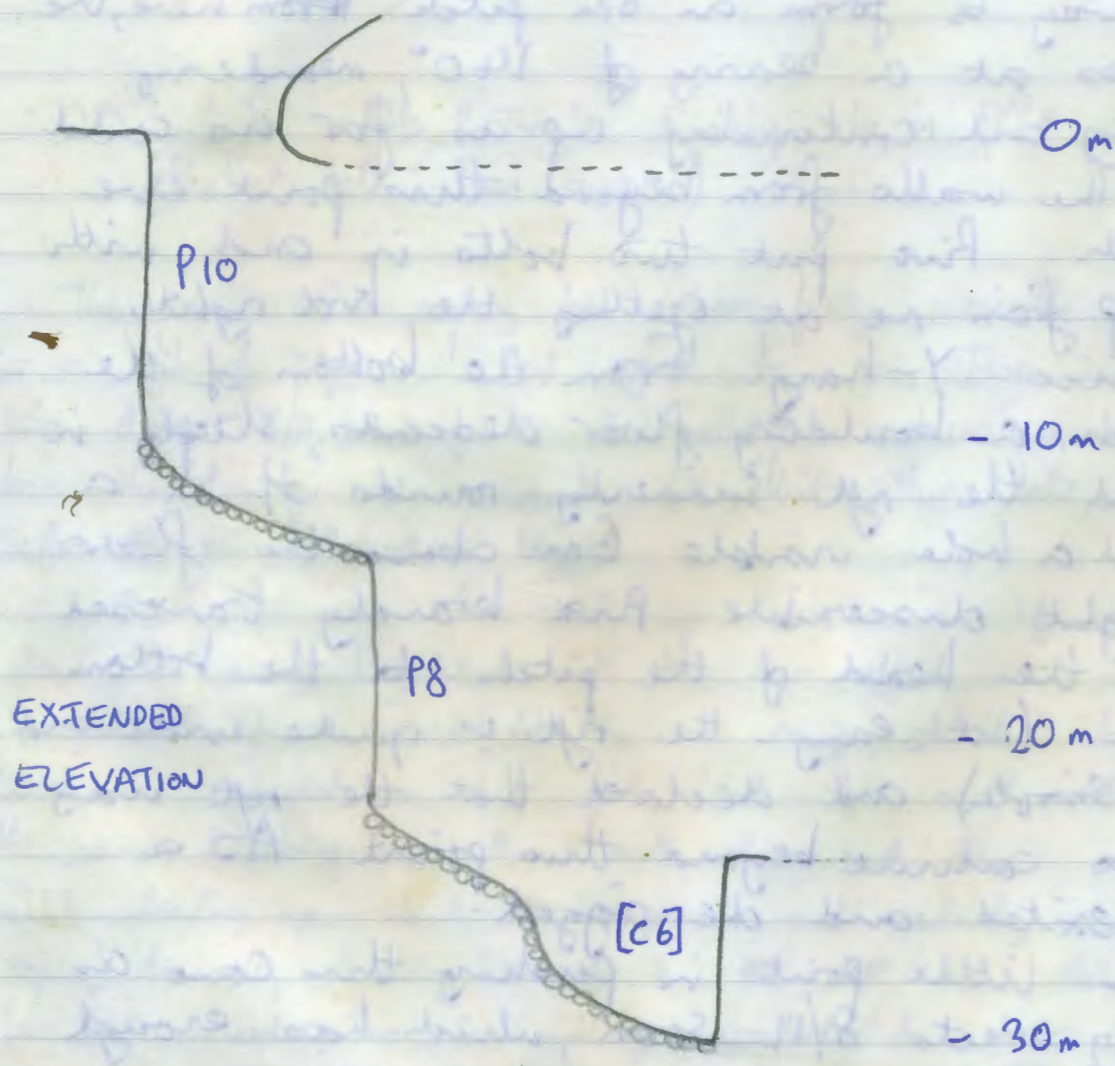


1/8

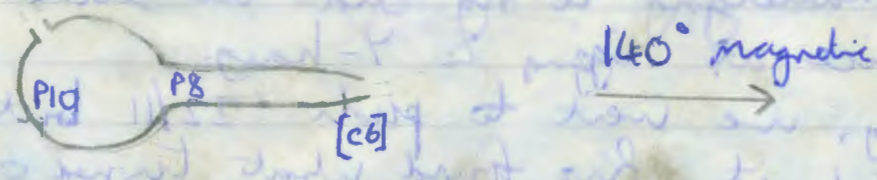
24/11

Rob, Stone, Pivo

Grade 1 survey:



PLAN



After a brisk walk to the entrance, Rob and Rivo waited patiently while I gained further experience at rigging by rigging the entrance pitch. The result is probably best described as interesting, but at least it gave a nice hang. Descending to a bouldery floor, a very narrow rift heads left. This is merely a continuation of the main shaft and soon ends. Descending the boulder slope, the rift drops away to form an 8m pitch. From here, the rift continues at a bearing of 140° , meandering very slightly and continuing up as far as could be seen. The walls from beyond this point are very smooth. Rivo put two bolts in and, with a little help from me at getting the knot right, rigged a nice Y-hang. From the bottom of the second pitch, a bouldery floor descends, steeply in places, until the rift suddenly rounds off in a smooth wall, a hole visible 6m above the floor and a draught discernible. Rivo bravely traversed across from the head of the pitch to the bottom of the hole (not easy - the rift is quite wide and the walls smooth) and declared that the rift was too tight to continue beyond this point. As a result, we exited and de-rigged.

There seems little point in pushing this cave as it probably meets 8/11 soon, which has enough entrances as it is.

Rob commented that this cave would be good for SRT rigging practice. The entrance pitch is somewhat challenging to rig and the second pitch is nice practice at rigging a Y-hang.

Upon emerging, we went to push 22/11 but couldn't find it. Rivo found what turned out to

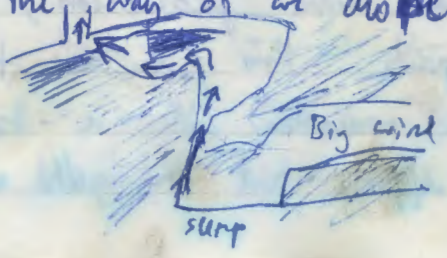
be 21/11. We left 80m of rope and some rigging gear in a tackle bag just inside 21/11, anticipating returning the next day to push 22/11. Finally, we had a quick look in a hole Rob found, which was just a dirt a few metres down into boulders with a monkey sheep's skull at the bottom. Rob Garrett is 18. ?

Steve

20th July - Rob & Tony's Pushing trip in 8/11
(Better late than never!)

The weather this morning had been fairly miserable but nevertheless in a fit of pique I had agreed to join Tony on a pushing trip down 8/11. When, for a short period, the witness seemed to have gone from the dog we make a quick start, about rather late, to get underground before ~~our~~ enthusiasm lagged.

Our plan was to check up on some of the leads lower down 8/11 around Big Wind and to this effect we made good progress through the cave. At the main sump, at the beginning of Big Wind we checked on our first lead - the small inlet which feeds the sump. Climbing up this and then out there is a large inlet leading up which is exposed and practically unclimbable (without ropes). However, climbing across to the left and then up is another big inlet chamber. This is similarly unpractical to climb but we climbed it anyway (in fact it's two exposed climbs up). The dirt leads to a fault controlled passage which connects with the other inlet. It also leads leftwards along a route Tony claimed to have explored on an earlier trip with Chris D. The ^{1st way} way on we chose was a loose climb upwards.



Grade 0 swimming.

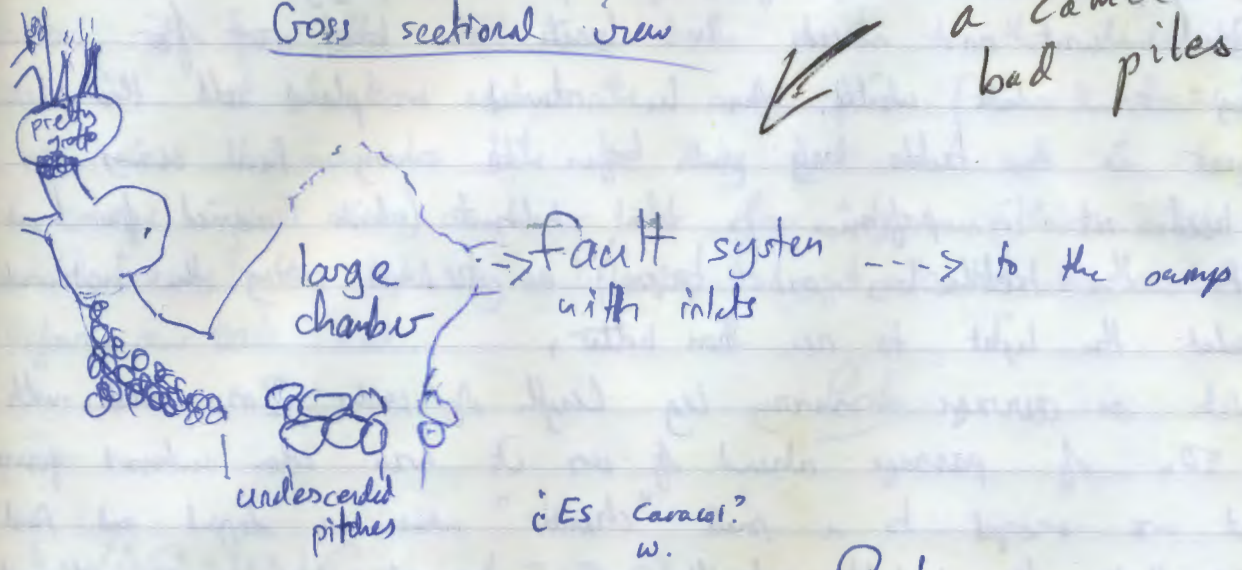
92
The way on was all loose rocks and we climbed up to a chamber, about 30m above the pump, which was boulder choked with no way on. We traversed left along a slanting fault line (slope $\approx 75^\circ$) climbing up any inlets we passed. The whole area drifted slightly and although the whole area was frequently checked we succeeded several times on coming close to the surface - even finding green vegetation at one point; obviously washed down by a storm.

The way on was not always obvious and after hard going and treacherous - at one point Tony sent a pile of loose rocks falling 30 ft from above us and one of them failed completely to make a favourable impression on my helmet!

The fault also extended down as far as could be seen, presumably to an old stramway but this was not investigated. Instead we eventually climbed up an awkward tight dent into a very large chamber comparable in size to the Big Chamber but probably much taller! Unfortunately we were at the only entrance from our direction - a window halfway up directly above a large hole in the floor of the chamber. The climb down/draught was not too difficult and from the centre of the chamber bouldery floor we could see two holes in the floor - both large and side by side descending $\approx 10m$. With loose rock all around and no obvious way to free climb down we continued out of the chamber from the opposite side to the one by which we had entered. This was a bouldery floor sloping upwards to a small chamber where a technically awkward dent up through a boulder choke was the only reliable way on. This led into a pretty grotto full of flowstone. A low crawl led southward but three tubes up behind the flowstone were explored. Two were impassable but the third (on the left) was subjugated (with a little persuasion) and Tony went up it to a junction. To push this further towards the surface would require a little more persuasion with a hammer or crowbar and is probably not worth the effort - but the grotto was pretty!

This looks like a camel with bad piles.

Gross sectional view



Rob

2nd August - Paul & Rob attempt to detach 8/11's rifts

In view of the shortage of ropes and rigging gear at Ario it was decided to dig the rifts from 8/11 (a October, the Chard, and Few Pitches). The original plan was to enter via 26/11 (the bottom entrance) and come through to 20/11 (the new top ~~pit~~ entrance) descending as we went. Then Paul suggested surveying 20/11 on the way so I suggested that we might as well survey ^{with the} 23/11 (the middle entrance) on the way in as this ~~bag~~ would bring us right into the heart of wet chucks rift - and so the trip was planned.

But as the old cliché about clay pots goes (obscure joke - blame the knock on the head in the previous write-up) things didn't run quite as intended...

We started first getting charged at 20/11 and walking down to 23/11 - descending and thus removing our SRT gear. Some, if you read Tim's account of when it was pushed, it is apparently quite tight and outward. Having negotiated the loose boulders of 23/11's entrance series without dislodging too many large boulders we soon reached the rift and made good progress again to the current limit of surveying. We also had with us a tackle bag for the digging later as well as the

64

survey equipment and SRT gear (in pressure bags).

Paul went on ahead to locate the best spot for surveying or what waited. When he returned we placed all the spare gear in the tackle bag and began to survey. Paul using my Petzl head out in preference to his helmet (which I carried for him along with the tackle bag and tape) as he was using the instruments and needed the light to see them better.

With an average survey leg length of under 2m and with our 50m of passage ahead of us it was slow awkward going. At last we engaged to a small "chamber" where we stopped and Paul explained that he hadn't actually gone beyond this point yet and so didn't know the best route (only route) on to reach Wet Chicks Rift. He then looked down at a lower level through a hole whilst I climbed up to look along the rift. I carelessly somehow managed to get in front and found myself pushing a rift about 1cm narrower than my expanded chest. Encouraged by vague signs that someone else had passed this way before I proceeded round a couple of hairpin bends until I could see Wet Chicks before me. Unfortunately, to negotiate the last piece of rift you must needs be horizontal and I chose head first... whoops!

I was soon stuck horizontal into a wide part of wet chicks rift high up with my legs still in the 23/11 rift. This interesting predicament was fortunately solved when I eventually managed to wriggle on my out underneath me. However, I still had to return to continue the survey.

This we did, carrying the tackle bag and Paul's helmet with me until just before the final hairpin bend when with about three legs outstanding Paul dropped the tape - it fell down a very long way! Then once we had abandoned the survey the tackle bag finally decided it had had enough and refused to move - coming loose into the rift as I tried to persuade it to continue.

A long hard fought wrestling match followed between myself and the tackle bag with his ally - gravity. When at last I

summed is getting the tackle bag up enough so that Paul could remove it from the rift we both went to the double ladder pot in wet chucks and ate some food (from the tackle bag). By now it was too late to dig the cave and we hurried out to emerge just over an hour later (no infamous third pitch to contend with), leaving the tackle bag behind, to get back at least 15 mins before our call out.

Rob

WARNING - 3.8.93

15/5 has acquired a new resident.... He/she (gender unknown) is about half a meter long, thin, brown, legless with a darker zig-zag pattern running lengthways. He/she may answer to the name of Adonis the Adder.

Preferred location would seem to be anywhere you would like to put your hands / feet / other parts of your anatomy, as well as all the cracks/crannies around 15/5!

This shy individual prefers not to make his/her presence known until it is most awkward and he/she is easily offended and is much disposed to venomous and biting criticisms of clumsy unbecoming wanderers.

Do tread carefully around 15/5... you have been warned!

Rob

P.S. Don't get caught with your trousers down.
P.P.S. Apologies for the last P.S - I couldn't resist it

4/8/93

An Appeal (or 2)

Please - think about the needs of other groups (ie. the Top Camp Crew ©) - It would have been more sensible for the team who gave 'touristing' down Xitu to have derigged Opt. in its or 379/11 so that there is more rigging gear and rope available. It is needed!

Or possibly someone else could have spared themselves for camp guarding or a supply run etc.

Paul needs people to guard base a.s.a.p tomorrow. Could one or two people please go down ~~to~~ for him as early as possible in the morning? Maybe an Hungarian ~~but~~ ^{friends} could help here?

Dave 'n' Sean
they done gov'n.

Steve

- ps. I have topped up your car side
 with some of my load intended for Top
 Camp. Would it have been more
 sensible if one of the 'taxi' crew
 had fetched some more today? You have
 only two lumps left!
 (OK - live just fuel a bit more
 but not much).

m

88

3 Aug '93

Xitu - Pushing William's Bit

Moha, Steve P., William

Rerigged stream pike
with half of the Optimisto rope.

Down ca ¹²⁴⁵ 1230. Took Optimisto entrance rope + 50m of 9mm rope.

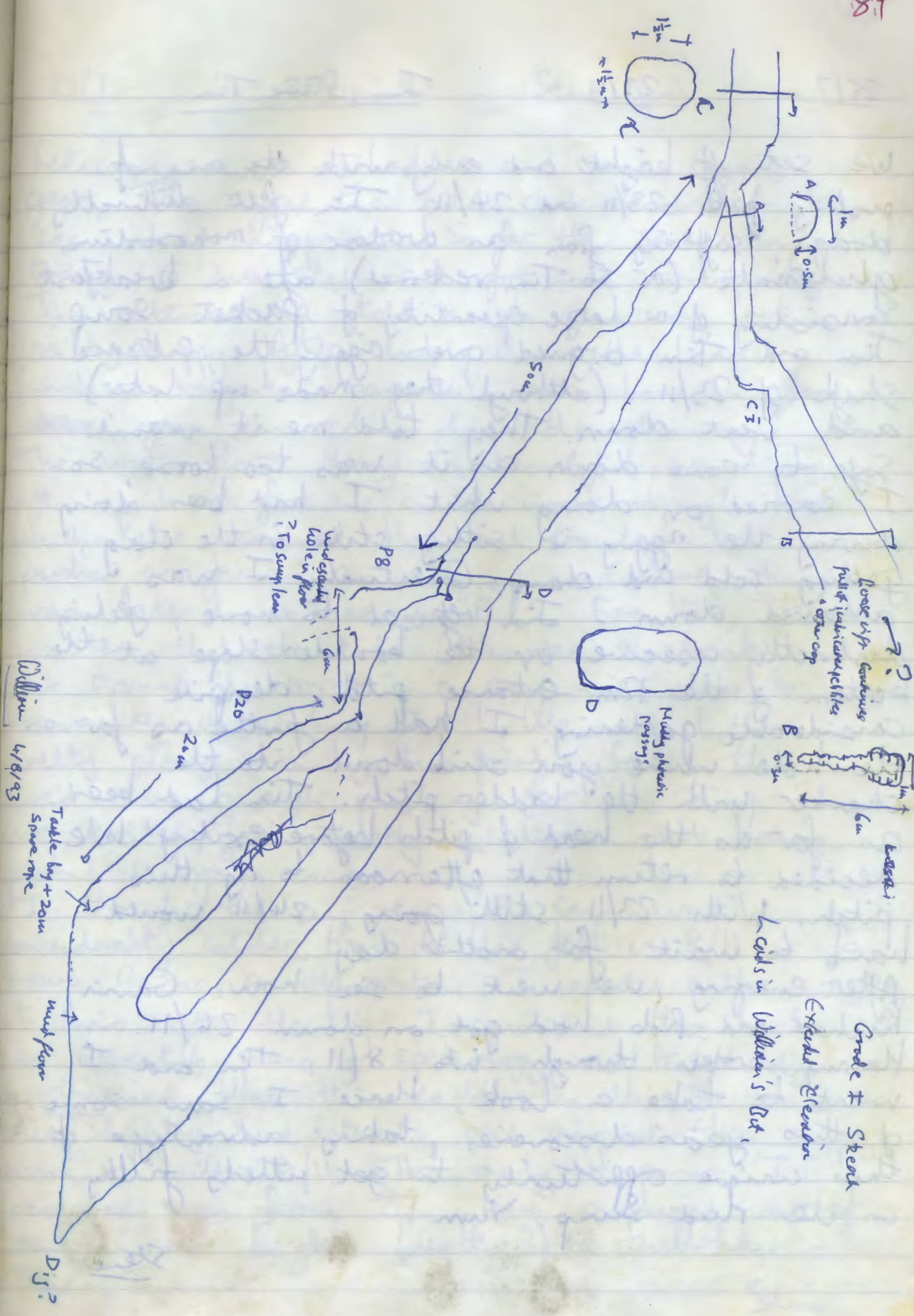
Showed Moha & Steve where the tunneling to Snowcastle was, then backtracked to William's bit, which is v. slippery with a tackle bag. Moha pointed out that the passage is v. old plastic with short sandy/mud floored Sumps. Came to the pike ca 1515 + banged in 3 bolts. Then Bridged over 1st hole in floor, then Moha put in another bolt to get down the next hole in the floor. Discovered a long mud slope leading to... an old, clogged mud sump. Sorry. It's Must have had a bad dream.

($\Psi\chi\omega\epsilon\pi\eta\lambda\alpha\iota\sigma\delta\epsilon\gamma\kappa\iota\epsilon$). Moha on IT's quite easy to dig, though, as our own inconclusive efforts showed. Whether it would be worth it may be quite another matter. Maybe we'll find out in 2005. ^{These is a lot of other passage around the Teresa series}

Left me 2 short ropes at the entrance to William's bit, ^{the short} one for The Overhang & the less short one for the Snowcastle ladder. Took out the bolt kit & ridding gear

P.S. Moha is very enthusiastic about the other lead & sees it as a Sump bypass. Kalya + Piro want to push it today. I'm far too tired.

William



Grade # Street
 Extended Elevation
 Lid in Williams's Box

William
 4/9/93

Table leg + 20m
 Spine rope

Mud floor

Dig?

Muddy phreatic passage

Loose w/ft contains full of industrial pellets + straw cap

Wind shield hole in floor ? To Swamp Area

S04

C3

P8

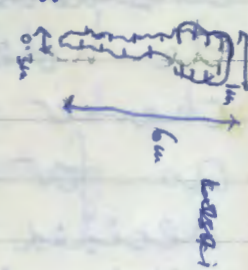
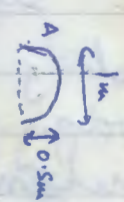
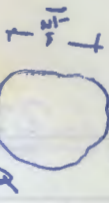
D

D

B

P20

P26



00

25/7

23/11

Jim, Steve, Tim

We set off bright and early with the aim of pushing both 23/11 and 24/11. Tim felt distinctly dodgy, suffering from an overdose of monosodium glutamate (or so Tim reckoned) after a breakfast consisting of a large quantity of packet soup. Jim and Tim argued over rigging the entrance shaft of 23/11 (although they made up later) and went down. They told me it wasn't safe to come down as it was too loose, so I carried on doing what I had been doing during the rigging i.e. sitting still in the dag, getting cold and damp. Eventually I was allowed down. Jim refused to move, feeling distinctly insecure on the boulder slope at the bottom of the 12m entrance pitch, despite considerable gardening. I had a fiddle as far as the hole where you climb down into the chucker with the ladder pitch. Tim had been as far as the head of pitch before exiting. We decided to return that afternoon to rig this pitch. With 23/11 still going, 24/11 would have to wait for another day --

After emerging, we went to see how Gavin, Richard and Rob had got on down 26/11. Having broken through into 8/11, Tim and I went to take a look, hence I saw some of this year's discoveries, taking advantage of this unique opportunity to get utterly filthy in the mud Sump. Yum!

Steve

25/7

23/11

Steve, Tim

94

Returning with a ladder and some rigging gear, Tim rigged the pitch and descended to see what happened! So for the second time today, I sat still and got cold. Eventually Tim returned and told me to come and look, visibly happy. After climbing down the ladder (which is somewhat exposed) onto boulders, ~~then~~ you can climb down to the streamway. The water flows through a beautiful, meandering rift which at first we could walk through, but which later involved flat-out crawling. We pushed as far as an awkward manoeuvre, which was later to be named "Pmax". From here, Tim insisted that the echo indicated a chamber just around the corner - a very wise place to terminate a pushing trip! We were both pretty stung out by this point, feeling that we'd done enough pushing for one day. So we exited, feeling pretty exhilarated at having pushed a going cave.

I thought the air down the cave was considerably colder than it had felt in 8/11 a few hours earlier, an observation I reported enthusiastically at Aris after the trip. I considered this to be an interesting piece of speleology and tentatively hypothesised that this could mean that the cave did ^{something} slightly more interesting and original than simply connect with 8/11. The only response I received was from Jim, who accused me of reaching new heights (depths?) of bullshit. Thanks, Jim.

Steve

12

3/17

20/11 → 8/11

Chris, Steve, Andi, Riva

With 20/11 having become the 4th entrance to Sistema Sierra Forcada two days earlier, our brief was to investigate it thoroughly and, if there was sufficient time remaining, to look at some of the leads in 8/11.

Setting off down 20/11, we had a fairly thorough look at the cave as we progressed.

Nothing we looked at went, apart from the way into 8/11. At the bottom of the 4th pitch, we enthusiastically clambered through boulders until Chris suddenly reported the discovery of a sizeable rift going in both directions. I came to look and no sooner was the rift starting to look familiar than Chris excitedly 'discovered' a three-way junction.

Yes, you've guessed it, this was 8/11. We'd taken the awkward route from the 4th pitch, rather than simply traversing across from the bottom.

Having established where we were, we headed for the Very Big Chamber. I attempted to find Tim's lead ^{just beyond the squeeze below Regent Pitch} and asked Riva if he knew where it was. I think there must have been a misunderstanding, because he then proceeded to show me the way down the pitch into the Very Big Chamber. As a result, we simply proceeded to spend some time exploring and admiring the chamber. Andi found a piece of rock she liked so much that Chris brought it out for her. Riva found a spot where he liked the view so much that he wouldn't

move for 15 minutes. However, I soon decided it was time to leave if we were going to make our call out.

Back in the boulder choke at the top of the pitch, I followed Tim's direction as I understood then to his lead. I found a small, draughting hole through boulders with rift visible through continuing for a metre or so. To get through would require digging a very large, very loose, very lethal boulder choke. Just removing a few small stones to get a better look, a ~10 kg boulder landed on my left hand, fortunately without causing any serious damage. To get to this dig, contour round to your left after emerging through the squeeze through the boulder choke until you meet a wall. Then climb up the boulders a few metres to get to the draughting hole.

Our exit took place at a reasonable pace, but I realised that we would get back to Ario very close to our 9 pm call out. To meet a rescue, I sent Chris, who was leading on the way out, to leave the cave and get back to Ario as quickly as possible by himself. The rest of us returned to Ario at 9.05pm and since we didn't meet any rescue party, I assumed that Chris had got back OK and stood down any rescue. However, as I started to eat my evening meal, I realised that Chris was not in fact there. Oh dear! I suddenly remembered that Chris Vernon was the man who, last time he walked back from 8/11 by himself, had

ended up in area 4! Paul set off into the clog with a whistle but returned later, to no avail. I commented that at least when Chris last got lost he did at least discover a new cave entrance, even though he did then proceed to lose that.* Just when we were beginning to lose hope, Chris emerged from the clog at 9.50pm, having taken an impressive 1hr 40 mins to walk back from 20/11 - quite a feat! He had apparently been miles away when he had heard Paul's whistle in the distance and turned towards it. The moral of this story is presumably never to send Chris into the mountains by himself.

A note on 20/11 by the way - there are a few places in the cave where you have to be careful of loose boulders. The short climb down above the ~~3rd~~^{4th} pitch requires especial care - plenty of loose stuff just waiting to be dislodged. Nonetheless, the cave provides a much easier and pleasanter entrance to 8/11. The top of the 3rd pitch will not be missed!

Stone

37/4

* 99/4 Pozu Brigadoon [or Pozu del Vernon]

Location: Can only be found by ~~climbing~~^{cavers} lost at night in clog. Rumoured to only appear one day every hundred years.

Description: Unmarked entrance approximately 1.5m x 2.5m. Only visible from a very small

area [sic] Boulderly slope leading down into darkness. Pheromonal draught in entrance; barely possible to stand up.

Scientific note: Only surviving sample of Speleosauros plasticus inflatabilis located just within entrance. Returned to Ario for dissection.

5/8/93

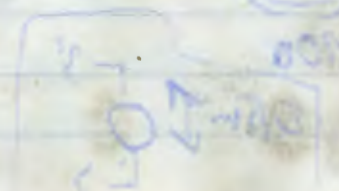
The locusts descend from top camp, eat everything - run away
HOT HA

Sam Steve Gavin
Liquid

6/8/93 2:40am

Rob and Steve return safely from their 8/11 pushing trip. 25m pitch leads to new chamber and a rift heading down with a 7-second rattle. Please don't disturb us too early! By the way, we bought Paul and Wilkins' messages back from 26/11.

Steve

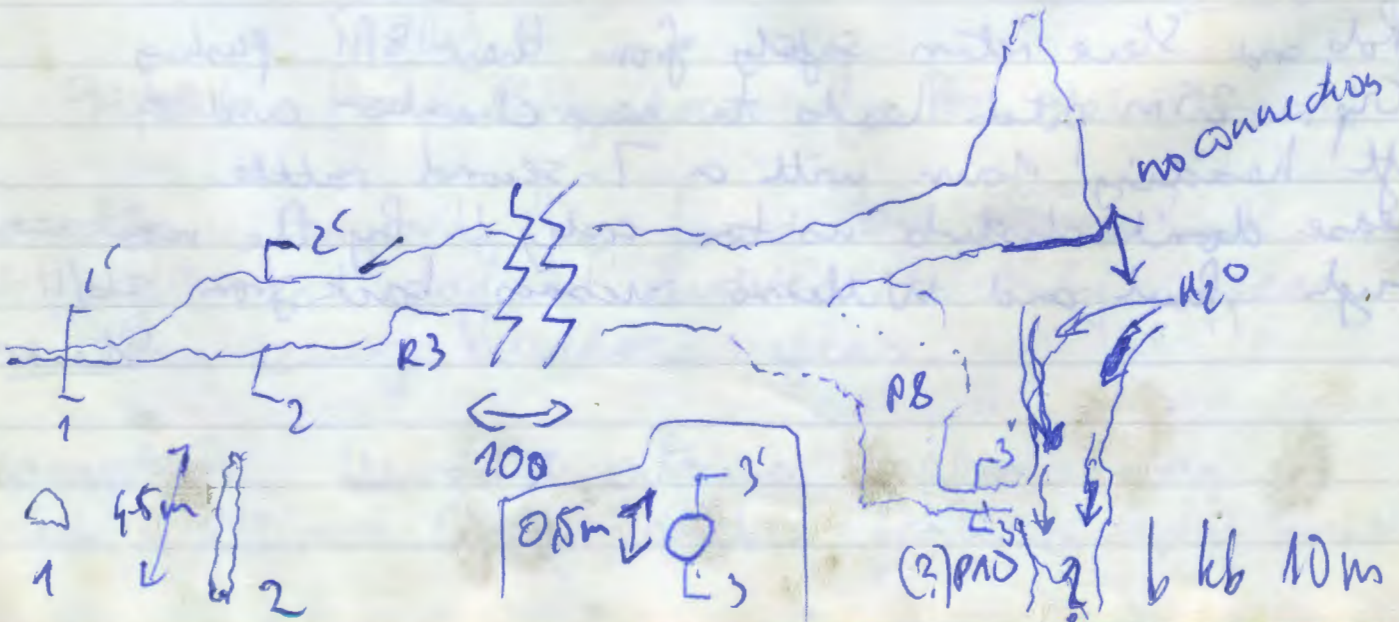


09/08/93 Kutzja - Pivo Xitri
Williams-bit - new part

After the Moha's explanation they found the big mud swamp and the windy side passage. They went about 50-100m in the narrow meander when was a little climb up. After Pivo fall down he staged there and waited. Kutzja pushed alone. The meander was about 200m long the last part was really nasty. At the end the meander ~~started~~ suddenly began to slope down (so here it was like an outlet) and ended a 8m pit. Kutzja climb down and at the bottom of the pit found a 1/2m ϕ tube which lead to a next pit which is active. The water amount approximately same the I. Steamway's water. But of course it is sure it isn't the I. Steamway!

Sketch

by Moha² after Kutzja explanation



$$\Delta N = r \cos \text{bear} \cos \text{inc}$$

$$\Delta E = r \sin \text{bear} \cos \text{inc}$$

$$\Delta \text{Up} = r \sin \text{inc}$$

5 Aug '93

Shaft Boring in Area II

Paul had promised me my first trip in Sistema Sierra Focada, but we felt lazy & walked down slowly in the hot afternoon sun. On our way down, we noted a small closed depression overlooking Mohandi containing many diggable/hammock-carrows.

One such was: 30/11 Small Shaft in small N-facing depression 10m below top of ridge (on Cabeza Julayua site). Entrance climb of 2m leads to further 1 1/2 m down with crawl. Doesn't look as if cave contains narrow crawl. Cylones thrown through crawl into small chamber gives 1m deep. Looks if caved readily.

30/11 Entrance Win: Top of ridge 10m from cave gives bearings & inclinations:

Cabeza Julayua	139 1/2°	+21°	
Area II Survey Cabin	166°	+16°	(8/11 in line with rail)
Cabeza Formica	219°	+12°	
Cabeza las Campanas (?)	281°	+6°	

[We had survey gear for the trip & thought we might as well use it],

Also on the way to 26/11 entrance we noted a small, strongly draughting crawl at base of cliff on the ridge above 26/11. ~~Noted~~ [31/11], Surveyed back to entrance of 26/11.

Stn 0 WIS head starting on 26/11 below. (ie. +1.7m above ground)

Stn E Middle of top of 31/11 Entrance.

	Dist	bear	inc	ΔN	ΔE	ΔUp
1 → 0	29:44	007	-24 B	+26.69	+3.28	
1 → 2	30:50	197	+25 F			[Co-ordinates in Survey Book]
E → 2	10:29	359	-8 1/2 B		P.S. 31/11 lies 63.3 m N, -11.18 E and 28.08 m Up.	

We also noted a small closed valley below 26/11 in the direction of Cabeza las Campanas (ie. to right of 31/11). It is at least 10°C colder than the surrounding area & has strongly draughting entrance which need looking at. It also makes a good place to change on a hot day.

William

98

5th August '93

William & Paul detachments

Systema Sierra Forcades rift, and things.

(26/11 → 20/11, with 23/11 inserted)

We eventually made it underground after much surface fumbling. This was William's first trip into the system, so I had to put on my best rock finding head.

Our mission was to set, survey & detach (i.e.) no easy task. We bumbled along to October, where our work began. Here we found a large, fiddle dump, too big for the BDH we'd brought for the purpose - blue plastic bags were ~~deployed~~ deployed. The three pitches were detachable effectively, but I couldn't get all the rope into the tackle bag, this caused problems throughout the rest section of rift.

We arrived at ladder pit, where we set ourselves up for surveying etc. We loaded back down the rift, William managing to retrieve the tape I'd dropped several days previous. We then surveyed the 15m of cave between our 23/11 survey station & the 8/11 marked survey station, only 5 legs, only 2 in 23/11. We then set ourselves up again, detachable ladder pit, and loaded up the rift, now carrying 3 tackle bags, one of ropes and ladders, and one of carbide fiddle. At V.B. chamber we dumped the carbide tackle bag, taking the BDH of fiddle up with the ladders. The first ascent up of the cave can be best described as a long hard slog, the rope tackle bag being notably heavy lump; I had to do Pean's crawl backwards to

get it through. With much hauling and passing of
backpacks we eventually surfaced just after midnight,
completely knackered - and with more ~~problems~~ in my
oversuit! ~~As~~

Rob

Arrived back in Camp ~~to find~~ at 12:30 on - 1/2 hr before. Call over to find
Hungarians had prepared a wicked *perulasta* (Thanks) ~~at~~ that Top Camp had indeed
while we were out & that my nearly full bottle of *Cuore* y *Tico* had been
drunk by persons unknown, the latter justifying their actions by ^{crossing} ~~marking~~ my
initials on the bottle & writing "Kitty".

W.

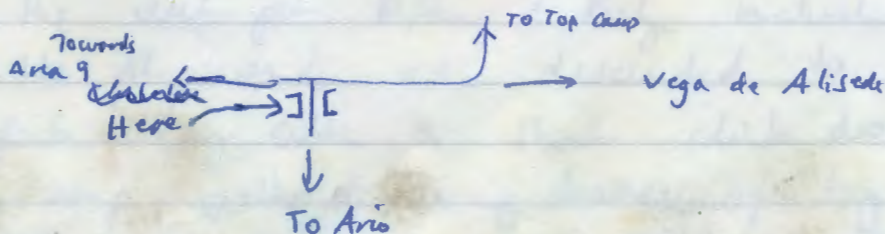
Note for 20/11 surveyors.

Precise survey station in 8/11 is top of
boulder at junction.

Please be the survey round to the 8/11
entrance bolt. (only 3 legs from the 20/11 entrance).
- the survey bolt is at the top of the first pitch
climb on the ~~right~~ left hand side. Alternatively,
if you can't find the bolt, the ^{aluminum} *cooca* bag is slightly
lower on the right hand wall, survey to its centre.

Rob

6/8/93 Walked to Top Camp with Steve & Paul. Met Gerhard near. On the way
back, Steve noticed that the boulder choke in the little rocky wash jcty the
Vega de Alischa path is loosening strongly. Looks as if it could be dug. A
hole was seen after removing a few stones



100

William - sorry about the 43.

Chris was meant to tell you
where it was. ---

Hope anticipation will sweeten the
taste "in finem."

--- it was found in the end in
Munc est Sibendum! ---

Horrid & claggy walk up- (~5pm)
No better here - We will try top camp.

Star

NB/. Handled Tammes & Pulley on cord
belong to Chris Kershaw and he would
be glad if they were returned to
him. They are on the gear pile in the
Ario tent.

NB/. William - I'll be back at Ario in a couple of
days and we can sort the train ticket out then.
Lithard.

Sat 7 Aug

Surveying 20/11 + Gavin's Dig

Gavin, William

The 4 Hungarians went off down Xitu, leaving LB & Ne at Camp. Fortunately, Gavin appeared at 11am, so we set off in the direction of 20/11 in the mist.

Started by surveying from the bolt in 8/11 to the circle O on 20/11, then surveyed down 20/11 to its junction with 8/11 on the large boulder. Gavin & I agree that there is room for improvement on the rigging of 20/11, not to mention the large unnecessary corbide arrow at the junction with 8/11. Left the rattle bag in very big chamber to fill with corbide fettle on the way out + continued to Gavin's Dig.

The Dig for a couple of hours. I must say, Gavin is a much better digger than I am. The end is now in sun in, & draughting, but the roof & floor are both sloping down with ca 5" airspace. Looks a good bet, but will probably take at least a couple of trips. Cleared the last of fettle on the way out & got back to camp in the even thicker clay at 8pm - within 5 minutes of expected time. Good trip.

William

7/08/93 Xitu

Kutya - Moke (Andi - Piro)

We started together so and went to the entrance of Xithans bit. From here Andi and Piro went back, Kutya and Moke went to push. We went through the long tight meander, and arrived to the place where Kutya was 2 days before. Moke marked a bolt before the tube which leads on the vent pit. After it Kutya marked another one in the pit, and we descended to the bottom. There unfortunately after a short climb down we reached a scump, without any chance of by-pass. Maybe possible to climb up into the inlet, follow the

201



water up, but the wall very loose. With a lot of bolts is possible but not the best choice.

After it we climbed up to the top of the pites and went further horizontal in the meander and reached a chamber which is an old cascade. The way further on the opposite side and 4-5m higher as the bottom. Here we could hear the sound of water. If somebody climb up (not impossible) can arrive to the inlet which goes to the sump. Maybe there leads through an old passage to the other side of sump.

After it we decided not to go back, but on the way unfortunately Mike accidentally dropped a loose stone into a deep hole on the bottom of meander which was unusable for the normal way.

After it we had to see it. ~~the~~ The access of top of the pit isn't easy. There are several ways but none of them is wide. Anyway the pit is big, around 20m deep. From the bottom leads further on another short (6-8c) drop. After it the way become tighter and tighter and the end is too tight. No draught.

We arrived to the surface around 11 p.m. 8/10/15

at about 10:00 p.m. we had a very long and difficult climb to the surface. The way was very narrow and the rocks were very loose. We had to be very careful and the climb was very long and difficult. We arrived to the surface around 11 p.m. 8/10/15

104

9/8/93

Richard + Gavin

'The Wiggly One'

After an earlier couple of trips into area 9, as ever other things got in the way and so it had been left to the last week of caring to return to 'The Wiggly One' - a huge shakehole the east of La Huayada.

When seen on our previous trips it seemed to have a 'blind hole' at one side of the snowphy.

On our return the snow had certainly reduced. I rigged down the southern part of the shake hole. Landing on the snow I threw rocks down a promising hole & there was no boom! However on rigging down it, it became obvious that it was merely a hole which tapered gradually to sub-human size and ended at what looked like a snow floor.

The other side of the shake hole was checked out and again nothing found.

Despite not finding anything, area 9 remains one of the great unexplored areas in this section of the Picas. Hopefully a phased week long camp up there next year ~~might~~ will reveal lots more.

Richard

8/8/93

William + Gavin

8/11 Dry Sump

Continued digging, and made good progress thanks to the spoil trays. The bottom of the sump seems to be just beyond the digging limit.

9/8/93

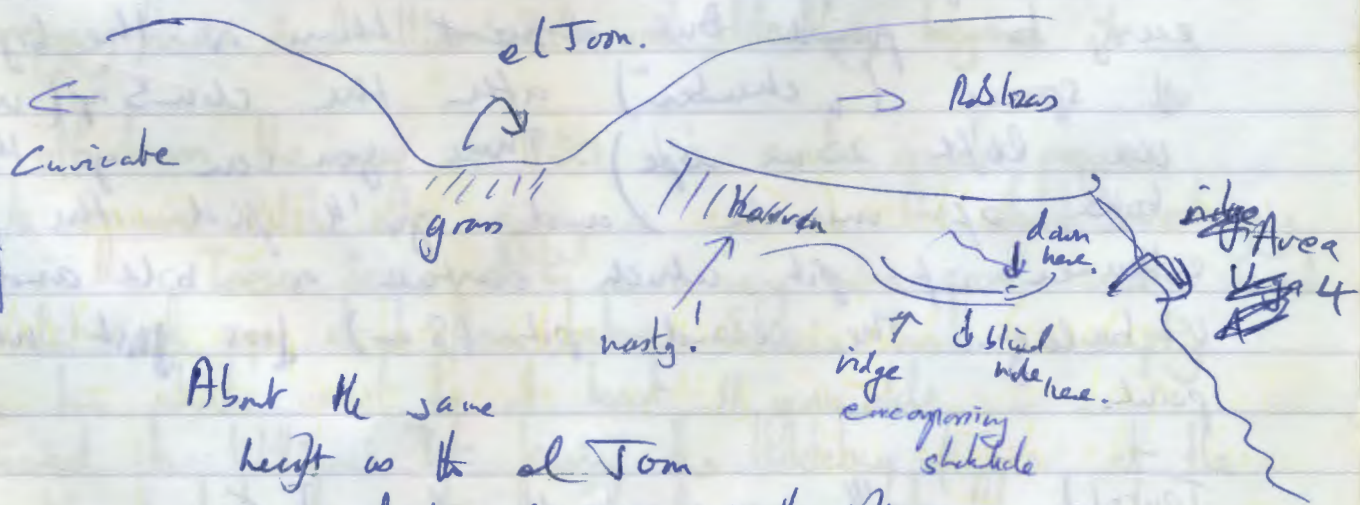
SAR down from top camp. I had
1 nice 3 1/2 hr walk, taking in most of upper
area 9, the Taltaya to Sant, 2/5, Taltaya,
+ 12/5. = 3/5. Nice, Nostalgic walk.
I found two caves.

1) In area ~~7~~ 7. a shaft, abt 20-30m?
deep, to worth looking at.

48/9

Directions: go to lowest part of ridge
between Taltaya + Cavicote. Walk on ridge
towards Cavicote until stopped by sheer rock
wall. Traverse / contour at this level about
30-50m further. I put a cairn near the
entrance of which is abt 1m x 1m. A good
position for up area 2/5?

2) In area 9. Right at the back;



22/9

About the same
height as the el Tom
pass, abt 60-100m to the right.

106

10/8/93 Instruction for the surfacing in
Williams Mt.

First of all I and Kuba want to say sorry because
of we do not help for you, ~~we~~ but we
have just hunted here and a bit to see
hear. Tomorrow if you need we'll survey
a part of our finding.

The part after the light meade is deneged!
It need a 10m and a 20m long rope
and maybe to the first climb a little piece
of rope. (see the sketch!) The sump-end of
passages the first two pit is naturally "nigged"
the second pit need a rope protector.
The sump-pit has two bolt, ^{the first} before the
squeeze the second after in the right
side in the pit (not under the water!)

The 20 m pit for the meade seven is not
easy to find. But ~~at~~ there is the biggest
space ("chamber") after the climb up (where
we left 20m rope). There you can go the
both of meade and you'll find the
entrance of pit which contain a bolt and a
V-belay. The second pit (8m) has just naturally
point.

Tonight we'll come back for T.C.

See you - Kuba

10/8/93

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ↓ STEVE F

Audi

I have just found I am as old as
Sam's father. --- Oh dear.

Steve

(not the Little Jay)

10/8/93 Richard & William

1/5 Kitu

Surveying finds in William's Bit and detackling beyond it.

Set off down the cave at 11:30. We made quick progress down to Servino Pitch after rigging a rope on the short overhanging climb in the Teresa Series. Kitu is a very nice cave with varied casing. Retrieved rope et al from below Servino and an empty Surtire bin which must be at least 11 years old.

Returned to William's Bit leaving the tablebag of gear at the junction. We headed down to the mud sump and found two survey stations near the pitch head. Surveyed down to the sump. We then fully explored the tubes on the left of the passage in the hope of finding a sump bypass. Unfortunately none of them went but we did connect them to the first drop

10.8

at the pitch which is traversed over.

Feeling rather pleased that we'd completed our objectives for the day we stumped to the draughting ^{ground} and headed upwards to check that a rope had been left on the first short climb up.

We then headed out with a couple of brief stops for carbide fixing/fitting and were out by 9:30 p.m. just in time to see the sun setting.

Richard

12/8/93

Climb up at ~3:30am. Look night for a piss + some water, and saw loads + loads of shooting stars - one every few seconds. The longest - later covered about a hand-span.

After a good trip down Xitu, a fitting end to a great expedition - going home tomorrow.

~~Steve~~

11/8/93 - Xitu William - Rob - Steve (G.R.)

William asked me to write up this trip so I will do so in my very best joined-up writing so that people can read it.

We went down the cave. William showed us the way. The entrance series

is like good bits of Yorkshire + Welsh caves joined together. We got the end of William's site + surveyed the Hungarians' site which is lower. The next bit

To a right-angled bend on a high traverse on glued-together pebble shite. Rob carried a tackle bag full of ropes which we did not use to rig down the pitch as time ran out. Also enthusiasm.

We came out and I nearly fell down the trench in Customs blall. William nobly threw his body between me and certain doom.

Then we had no trouble with the rift & saw the dregs of the sunset from the cd.

All the tackle is now at the foot of the ropes in the entrance series (Two bags, not too heavy, & two ladders).

P.S. How about calling the Hungarian's rift Budapestential rift? Steve also found a little inlet to it - Home Agent's inlet.

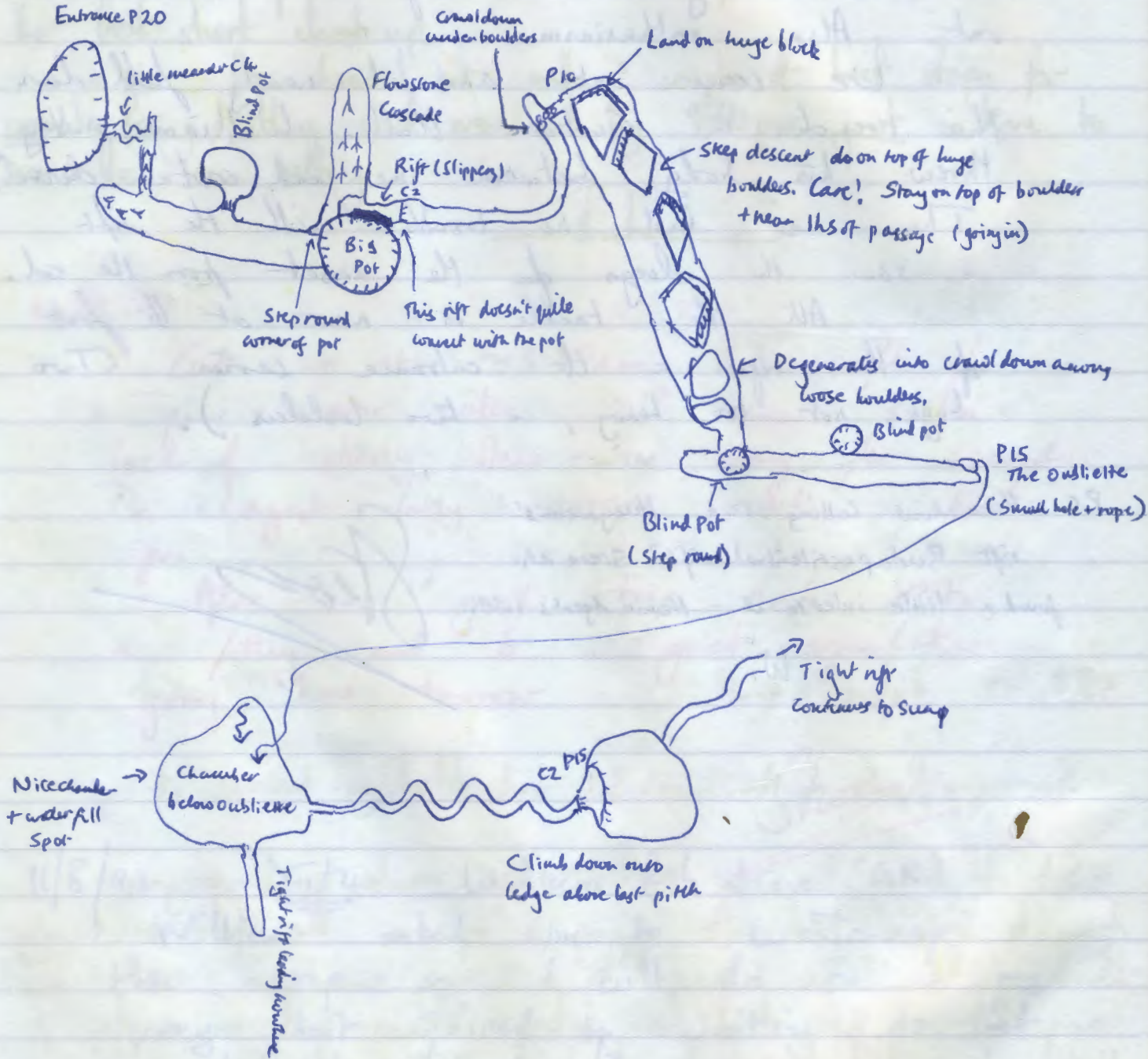
W.

* This is not actually true but added to maintain narrative interest.

12/8/93

Optimists - a Grade I sketch

In response to popular demand, I have been asked to take up my pen again



The main route down is well-worn,
W,

12/8/93

Transcript. Xihu (William's Bil) Surveys

The Squared paper is already at Los Lagos, so this is the only opportunity I've got to write up the surveys.

Trial of 10 Aug '93 Survey to Mud Sump.

William (Book), Richard (Vista) Compass: 319123 Clin 226529 (new set)

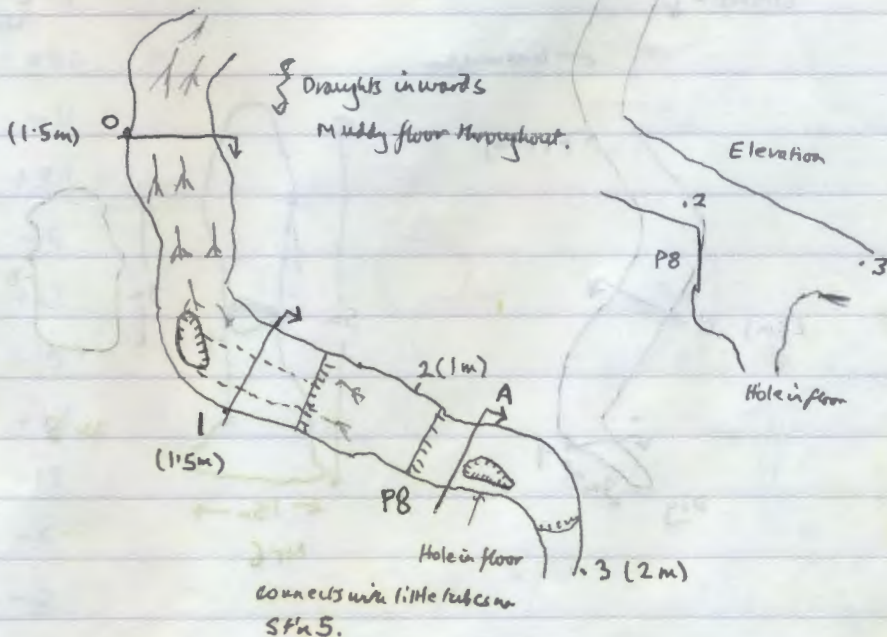
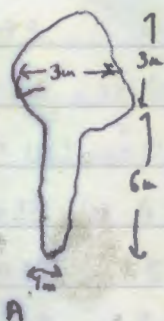
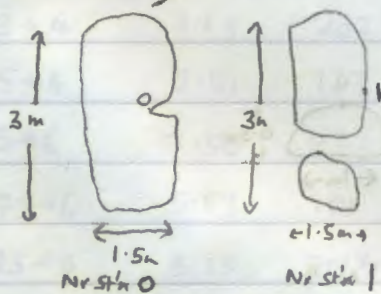
Leg ~~1-0~~ ¹⁻⁰ chosen on what we hope are 1981 Survey Stations just above pitch level.

Stations 0 + 85 marked as permanent Stations. Station heights above floor in (brackets).

Leg	Dist	Bear	Inc
1→0	11:99	321	+22
1→2	6:00	069	-38
3→2	7:35	245	+31
4→3	8:34	299	+60
5→4	3:40	009	+45
5→6	6:95	128	+1
7→6	2:49	280	+6
7→85	3:20	138	0
9→85	7:41	251	+22

Plan

X Sections Looking in. Numbered either by survey sta or letter

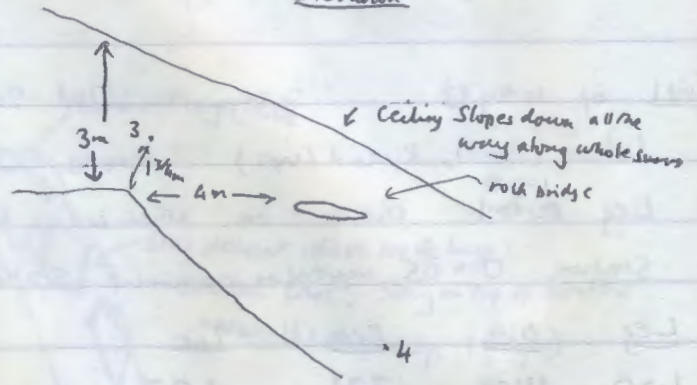
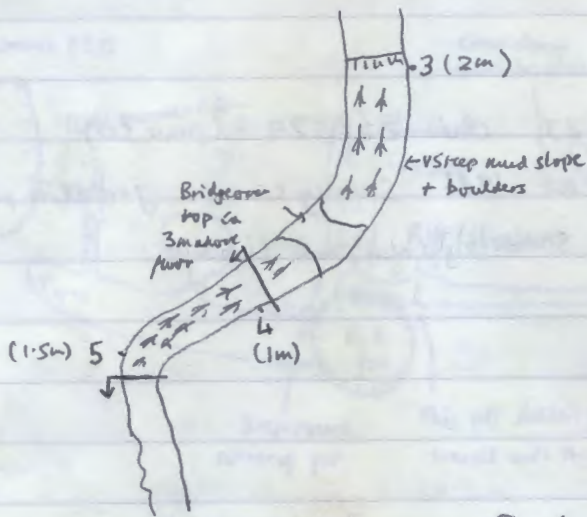


12/3/93

Transcript of Williams' Bit (Mud Survey) Survey (Cont'd)

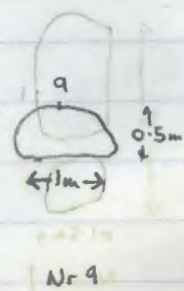
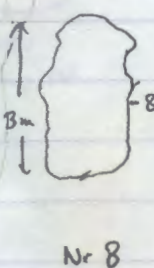
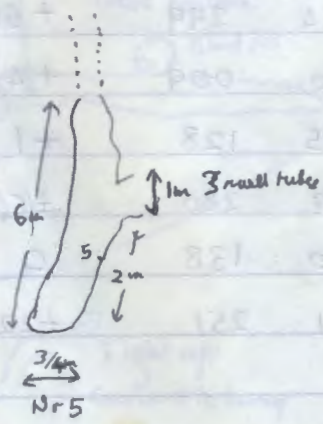
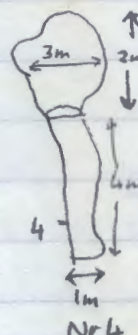
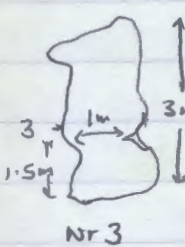
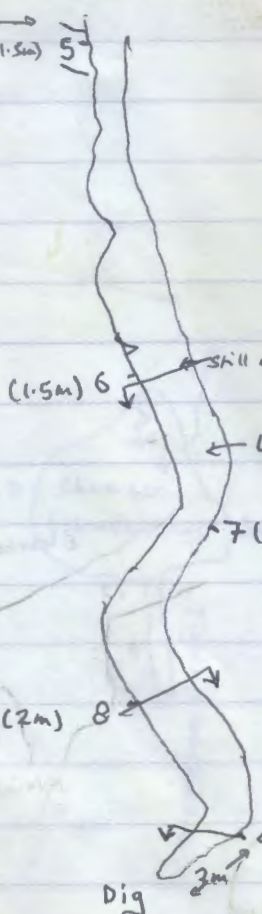
Plan

Elevation

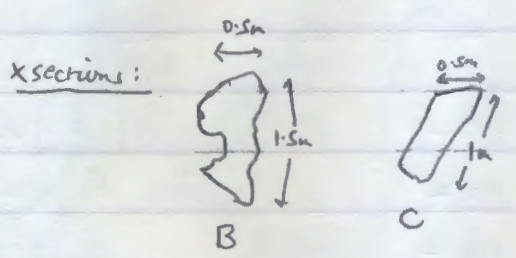
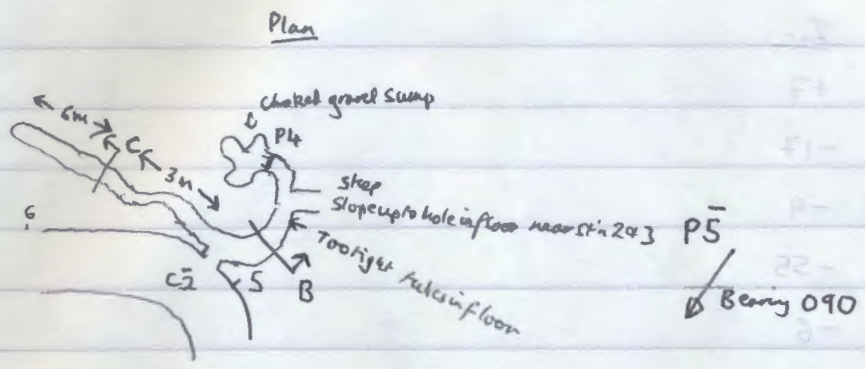


X Sections Looking in

Entry to small tubes (1.5m)



Grade II of little tubes nr Station 5:



Surrey Trip 2 of 11/8/93

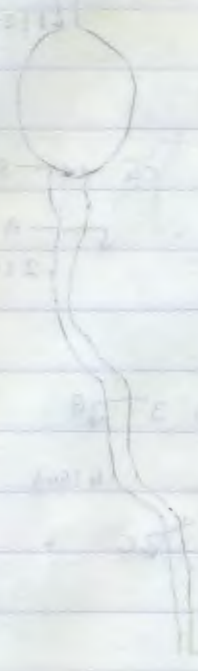
William's Bit → Budapestential Rift / Iron Mine.

Same instruments. William: Book, Steve R lists, Rob tape.

Surrey started from large Carbide 72 on Wall - presumably 1981 Surrey stn.

Stns 7, 16 & 26 are permanent.

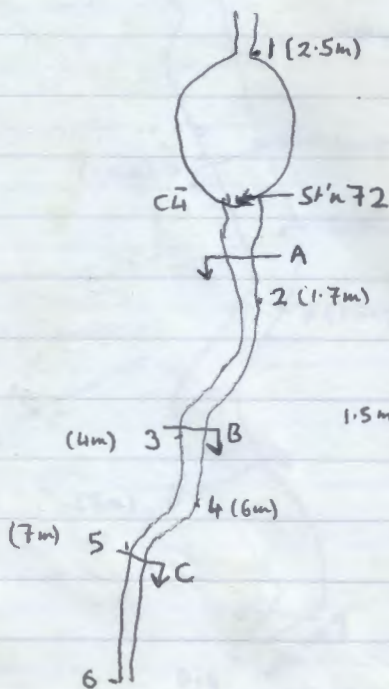
<u>Sic</u>	<u>Dist</u>	<u>Bear</u>	<u>Inc</u>
1 → 72	3:79	261	-13
1 → 2	6:25	246	+46
3 → 2	5:37	113	-11
3 → 4	2:63	252	+37
5 → 4	2:51	133	-5
5 → 6	7:50	277	+13
75 → 6	5:83	101	-15
75 → 8	8:25	301 1/2	+18
9 → 8	5:06	133	-13
10 → 9	6:45	197	-5
11 → 10	4:14	137	-3
11 → 12	0:94	000	+32
12 → 13	4:23	310	+9
14 → 13	5:12	198	+7
14 → 15	4:55	323	+30



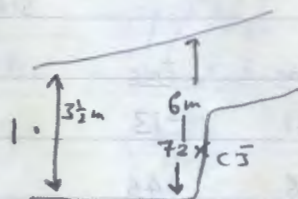
12/8/93 Transcript of William's Bit (Iron Mine) Survey (cont'd)

Leg	Dist	Bear	Inc.
165→15	4:96	144	+7
17→165	2:35	091	-17
17→18	4:25	313	-9
18→19	1:60	320	-55
19→20	6:64	070	-6
21→20	2:65	282	0
22→21	2:68	249	-8
23→22	2:28	128	-43
24→23	2:50	111	-3
25→24	1:57	168	+19
265→25	4:45	115	+7

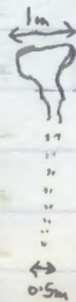
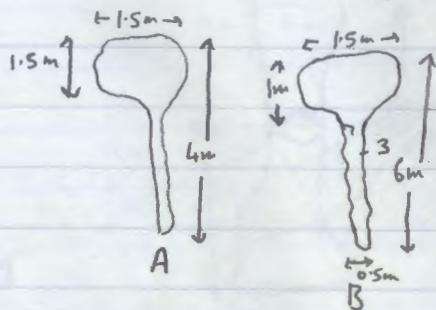
Plan



Elevation



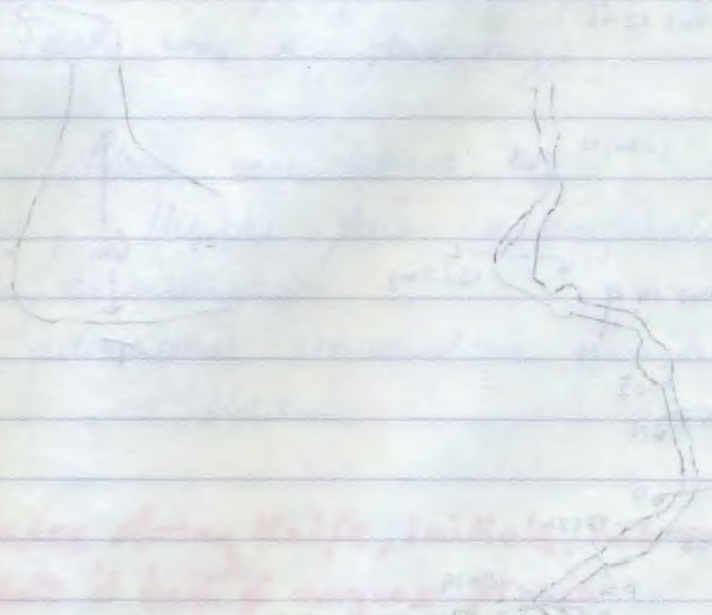
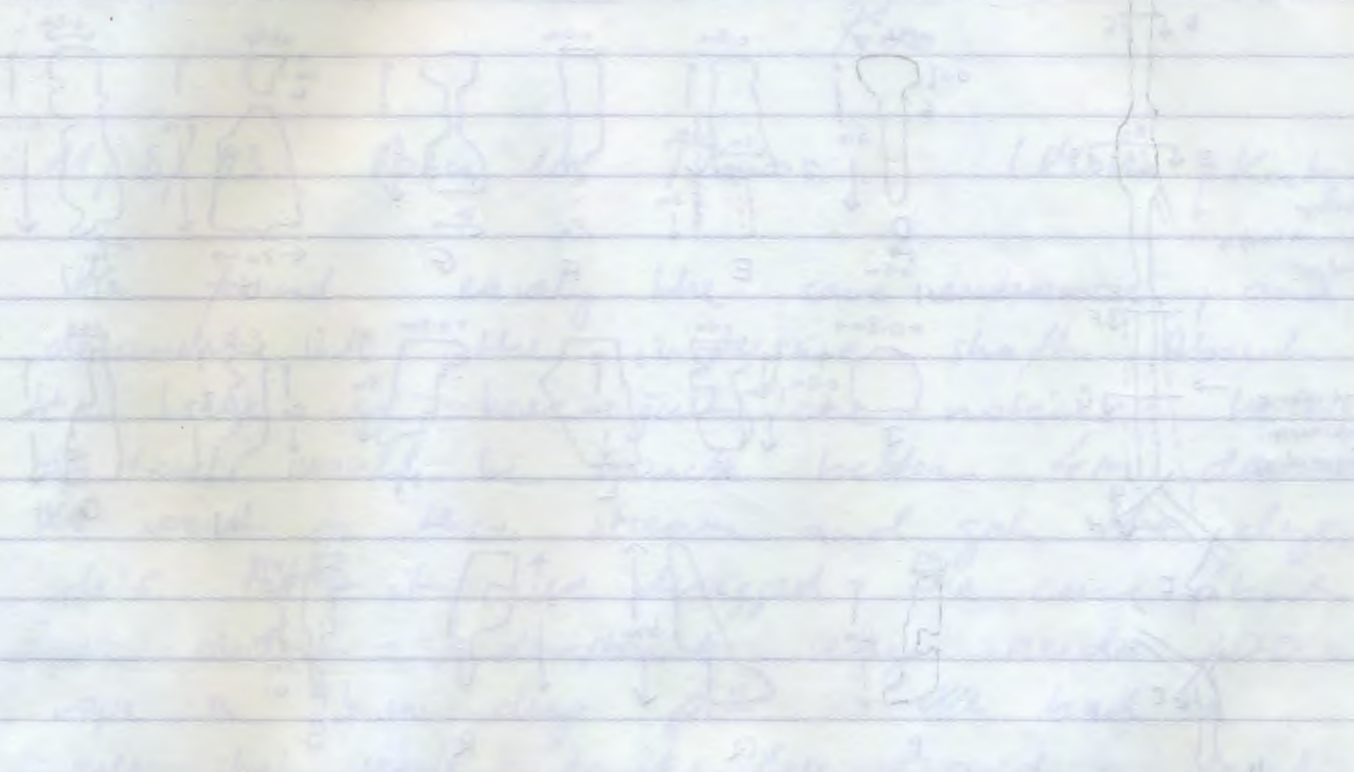
X Sections looking in:



NB. Don't be deceived. This whole survey is along a horrible tight, loose rift, full of projections. The sections make it look a lot bigger, as it's impossible to descend in every knobble.

This page intentionally left blank.

THANK'S SEE YOU AGAIN!



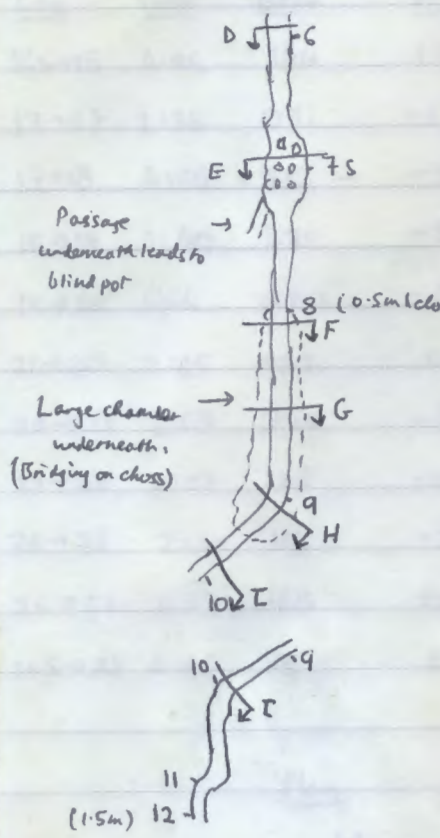
[Faint, mostly illegible text in blue and red ink, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]



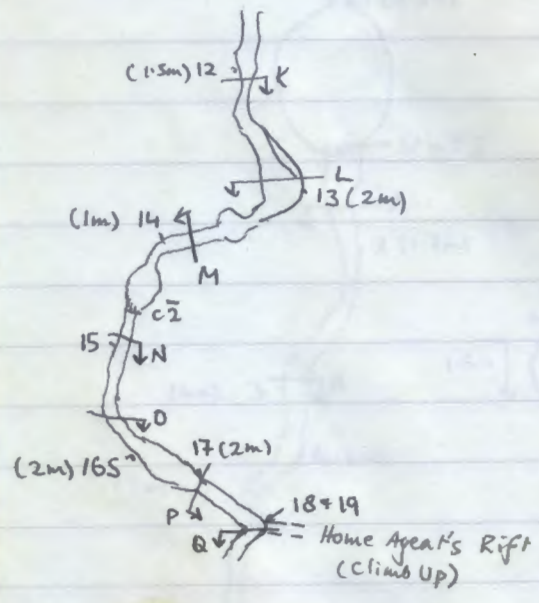
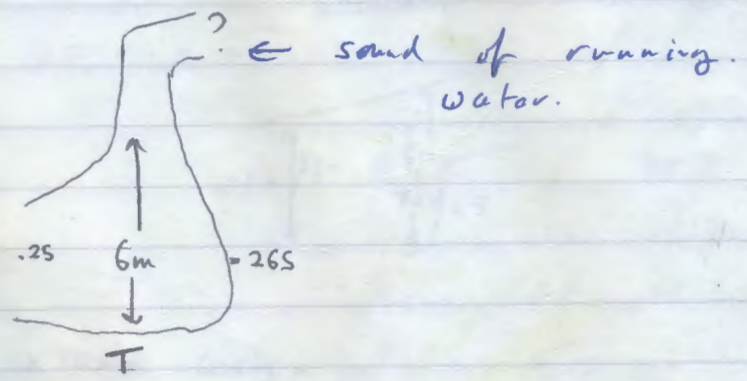
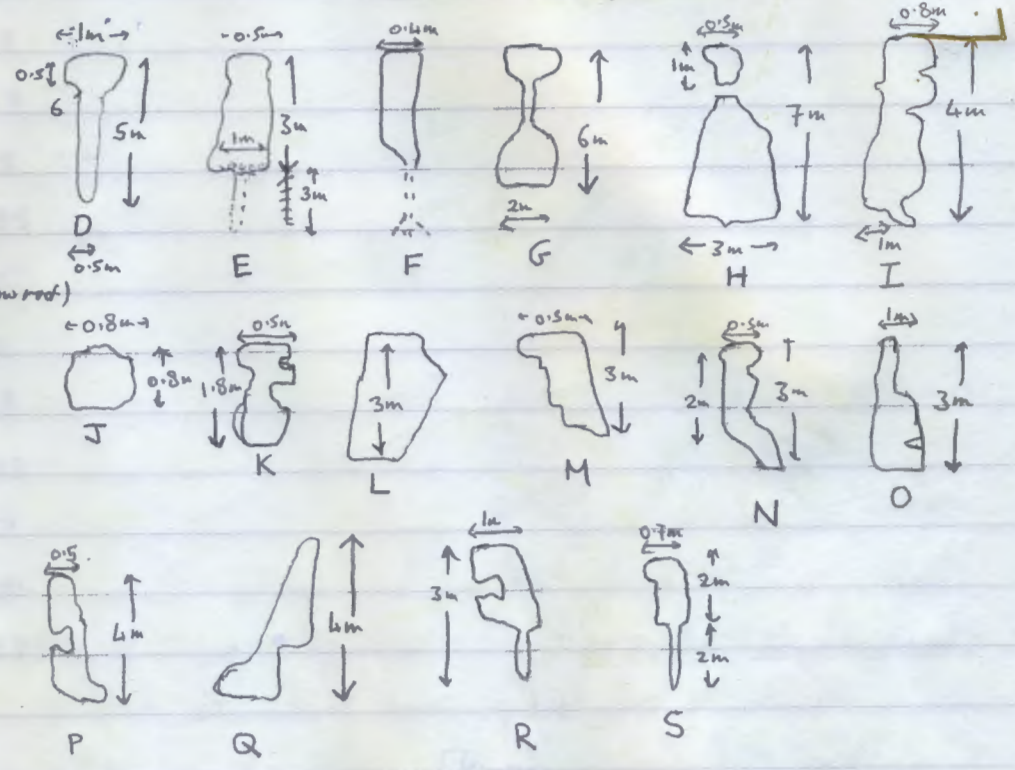
12/8/93

Transcription of William's Rift (Iron Mine) Surrey (cont'd)

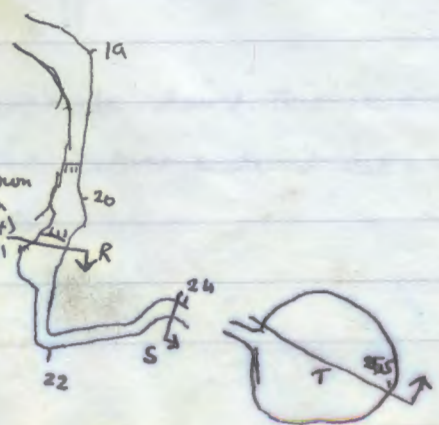
Plan



X Sections (looking in)



(continues for two flights after ~5m.)



12/18/93

THANK'S and SEE YOU AGAIN!

Pico

11/8/93 Pozo los Texas (Moha, Kentza)

We found easily the cave entrance, and descended into the impressive shaft. About the bolts we have just one notice: both of them would be much better 4m downer. We went to the stream and got the dye dets. After it we derigged the cave, but we didn't understand why needs 200m rope a 93m deep pit. We had a nice hot walk to the base, and a fairly quick one to Pico. That was a fine day.

12/8/93 Hungarian! Now we have to move back to Pico, thanks for everything and see you next summer. (Our real names and addresses somewhere back on the logbook)

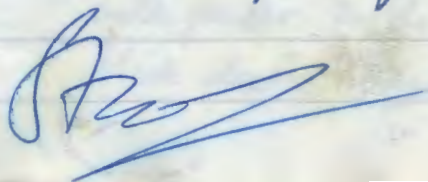
12/18/93 I've lost my Swiss Army Knife, initials WS on plastic. I'd appreciate it back if anyone sees it.

12/18/93 Found it on road fly!

W.

W.

Also - please remember to swap ~~at~~ my T-shirt for an XL one (pref white) + give to Gavin to take to Oxford for me.



Goodbye to Aris!

A fine sight with central main half-hidden by cloud. Now my knackered knees need survive only one more trip down - Good luck, hope the final de-rigging goes OK.

Steve

12/8/93 Digging the Poy Sump + De-rigging 20/11 Richard + Gavin.

I was feeling very crap when I woke up, so was Gavin. 'Oh, well, I thought I'll feel better once I'm down the cave. However my feeling crap turned into being crap on the cave. Overhead ripped, cowstails got caught, light kept fuking up!

Gavin was obviously feeling similar as he only managed a hoop digging in the sump. Then wee jerked and de-rigged the cave on the way out.

Richard I've got my Swiss Army knife inside the cave. I'd appreciate it back if anyone sees it.

W

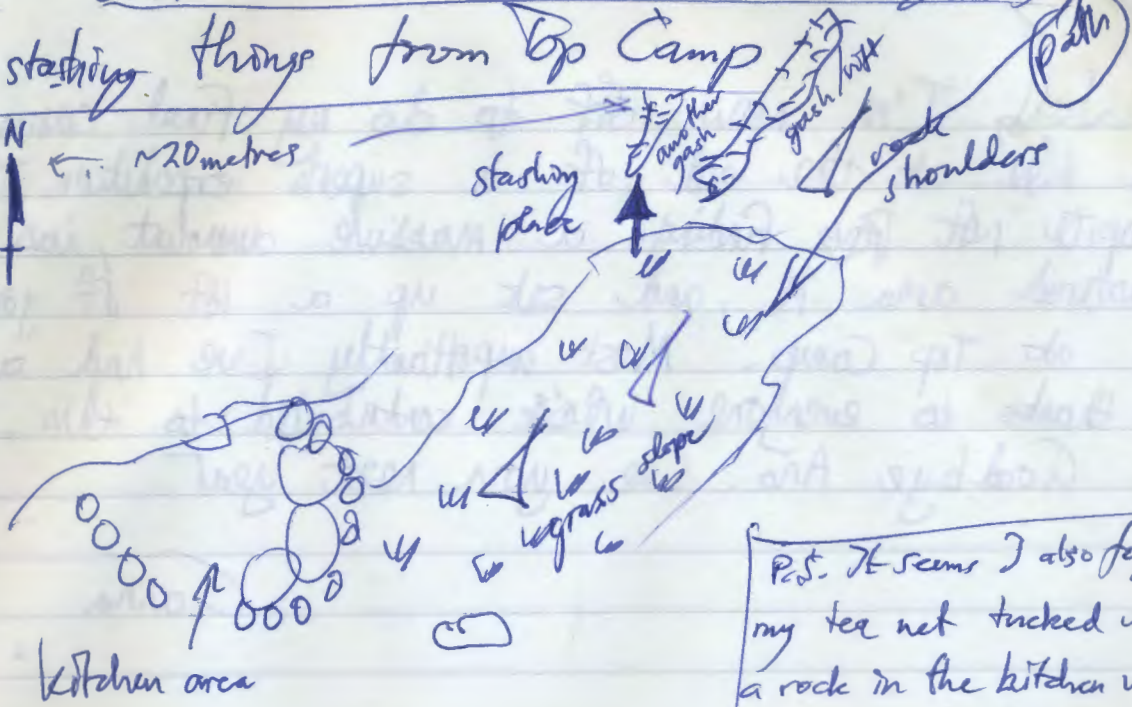
Richard

13 Aug '93 Instructions to those whose thinking of

re-un-staying things from Op Camp



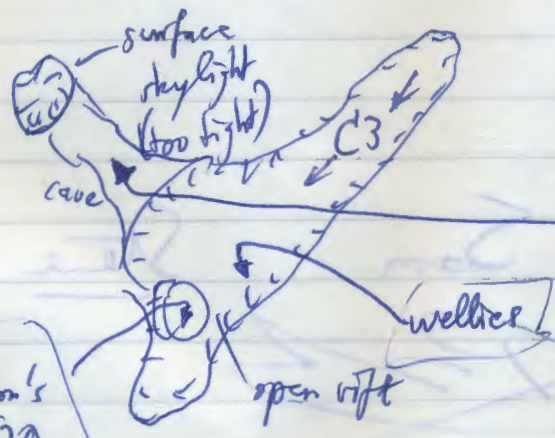
← ~20 metres



← camping ground →

P.S. It seems I also forgot my tea net tucked under a rock in the kitchen wall by its handle. If anyone bothers going up & finds this, please bring it down - ta -

From outside kitchen wall, go down grass slope (as if going off to bird), but at the end of the grass keep left onto rock clint between two gashes. Climb down far end of lefthand gash, this is the one. Floor plan:



lefthand

Jan Houghton's reel of F20 route-marking plastic wire which never quite worked, now falling to bits

- round & rectangular water containers
- knackered tacklebag (snow cont's)
- 2 washing-bowls (red)
- 2 carbide containers inside black plastic bag
- 2 saucepans, 1 funnel
- 2 tins of tomatoes, 2 tins of milk powder inside another black plastic bag

120 end

Well, I'm now off to do my final carry down the hill at the end of a superb expedition which, despite not ~~have~~ finding a massive amount, has completely mastered area 11, and set up a lot of good leads up at Top Camp. Most importantly I've had a lot of fun, so thanks to everyone who~~s~~ contributed to this, ✓
Goodbye Aro. See you next year

Carrin

It's 12:50 p.m. and Aro is looking pretty deserted. The big tent has been dismantled and everyone is desperately trying to fit what's left into their rucksacks. Last night after a day of carrying down many lines we went to the refugio for our last night at Aro. They seemed pretty pleased with the food, rope and Speleorama that we gave them - in fact, drinks were on the house. Anyway all that's left to be said is "Farewell Aro see you next year!"

Richard

Sam

Steve

Rob

PS

B1

Date	Time In	Cave	People	Tag#	E.T. Out	
2/7	1:00	8/11	T.S.H. S.B. F.B.		Midnight	27
3/7	5:00	8/11	P.M. H.S. R.G.	1	1:00am	17
3/7	11-30pm.	8/11 Entrance, salt/Drinking	Sean, Chris.	2	2:00am	6:00
4/7	1-00pm.	8/11 v.l. En. 19 x 16 in	Sean, Penella, Harvey.	1	midnight, 12:00	5/7, 9:00am
4/7	—	Oris Botol	Sam, Chris, Paul (orig).			
5/7	12:20	450m/282° from camp.	Paul, Penella		1:00pm	2:00
6/7	5:00 pm	"	Paul, Penella, Harvey Chris	3	9:00pm	10:30
7/7	1-00pm.	8/11 Rigg'ng	Sean, Harvey, Rob.	1	10:00pm	midnight
9/7	11-30.	8/11 Rigg'ng	Sean, Harvey, Penella	1	10:00pm.	midnight
9/7	4:00am	69/5 - rocky, dry holes	Gavin		5:00pm	6:00pm
10/7/93	11:00am	8/11 Rigg'ng	Gavin Paul Sam Rob	2	10pm	midnight
11/7/93	11:00am	Area 7 Shaft Bushing	Gavin + Richard			8pm
11/7/93	3-00pm.	16/4 and Area 4, SRT probe	Sean + Chris		6 pm	9pm.
12/7/93	10 am	8/11 survey & push	Richard & Gavin		20:00	midnight
12/7/93	1 pm	16/4 "	Chris + Sean.		20-00	10pm.
12/7/93	10:30	20/9 etc	Richard, Harvey, Gavin		18:00	21:00
14/7/93	12:00	8/11 Big Wind. Rig. Pick, Survey	Paul, Rob, Harvey		10:00pm	1:00am
14/7	3-40	near Los Texas.	Sean.		8:00pm	at Arico.
15/7	14-00	28/4, 9/13	Gavin		18:00	20:00
16/7	10:00	8/11	Richard, Sam, Gavin		21:00	24:00
17/7	12-00	Valley Dry Bone	Richard, Gavin		18:00	20:00
17/7	13-00	28/4 (Shaft Bushing)	Harvey, Rob, Chris		20:00	21:45
18/7	11:30	Area 7 Shaft Bushing	Richard + Rob		6:00	8:00pm
18/7	11:30	28/4	Harvey, Gavin		19:00	21:00
18/7	15-13	8/11	Chris, Jim, Tony		22:00	9:00am
19/7	12-42	8/11	Chris, Tony		21:00	00:00
19/7	2pm	16/11	Richard & Harvey		6-00	8:00am
20/7	12:00	8/11 Dry (SRT) Swamp	Gavin		20:00	23:00
20/7	12:00	Area 4 " 13	Jim, Paul		20:00	00:00
"	13:00	8/11 end	Jim & Rob		21:00	09:00
21/7	12:00	69/5	Richard & Gavin		17:00	20:00
21/7	13:00	8/11 - end.	Tim, Tony, Jim, Chris.		22:00	09:00
22/7	13:00	8/11 Survey + Big Wind.	Jim, Tony.		20:00	midnight

Paul 1 Sub Gloves
 Gavin 2 " " Total
 Rick 2 Sub. Glo. Clips
 Sam 2 " "
 Chris 1m Tape, " jubilee clip
 Tim 1m Tape
 Tim Gloves
 William took for Gloves. Contributed 1/2 Can x WD40 (for old bolts)
 Paul 1 Watercap securing tag.

2000-11

1000.00
 1000.00
 1000.00

1000.00
 1000.00
 1000.00

1/8/93	12:10	Xiter new	Mohan, Kirby	22 ⁰⁰	Game	✓
1/8/93	13:30	22/11	Rob, Steve, Piro	19:00	22:00	✓
2/8/93	14:50	23/11 → 20/11	Paul, Rob - detachable survey	21:00	24:00	✓
2/8/93	14:30	Ophista	Steve, Piro	19:00	21:00	✓
3/8/93	13:00	Xiter	Piro, Kutya, Chris, Audi	19:00	Midnight	✓
3/8/93	12:30	Xiter William's Bit	William, Steve, Moha	22:00	Game	✓
	12:30	Kit		20 ⁰⁰	Midnight	✓
4/8/93	18:50	23/11	Chris, Rob	19:50	20:50	✓
5/8/93	14:00	24/11 → 20/11	William Paul <small>with derig complete 23/11 survey (3 logs) 20/11</small>	21:00	1:00	✓
5/8/93	17:00	26/11	Rob, Steve	00:00	5:59 am	✓
7/8/93	12:30	20/11	William, Gavin	20:00	24:00	✓
8/8/93	"	"	"	"	"	✓
7/8/93	10:30	Wiggly	Richard, Gavin	17:00	21:00	✓
9/8/93	12:00	20/11	Moha, Kirby, Audi	20 ⁰⁰	Midnight	✓

133



Date	Time In	Cave	Case	People	Time out	Call out	OK
22/7	2:00	8/11	Richard, Chris & Steve		8:00	10:00	X
22/7	1	Area 11 13(4)	Jim Paul		7:00	8:30	X
23/7	12:00	69/15	Gavin, Rob, Sam, Steve		17:00	21:00	X
23/7	12-24	8/11	Chris, Tony		12:00	9:00am	X
23/7	1:00pm	Juliana Park Valley below 9/11	Pat, Jim, Tim		9:00pm	10:30pm	X
24/7	12:45	69/15	Richard, Chris, Steve		18:00	21:00	X
24/7	11:45	8/11	Jim Rob		18:00	21:00	X
25/7	11:30	26/11	Richard, Gavin and Rob		7:00pm	9:50	X
25/7	11:30	28/11	Richard, Gavin and Rob		7:00pm	9:50	X
25/7	11:30	23/11	Tim, Jim & Steve		7:00pm	9:50	X
25/7	5:00pm	26/11	Chris & Tony		10:00pm	12:00	X
25/7	5:30pm	(8/11) near 56/15 (10m SE)	Sam & Chris V		7:30pm	9:45pm	X
25/7	5:00pm	23/11	Tim & Steve		10:00pm	11:45pm	X
26/7	09:30	Bufoa	Gavin		15:00	18:00	X
26/7	12:45pm	8/11 bubble 4/3 26/11	Pat Tony	(survey)	29:00	23:50	X
26/7	1:00pm	"	Chris D. Chris V, Sam	(survey)	21:00	23:59	X
27/7	1:30pm	8/13 1/2 (23/11 7/11)	Tim, Rob, Richard		21:00	23:59	X
26/7	16:00	29/11	Gavin		19:00	21:00	X
27/7	09:30	Bufoa top camp wire base	Gavin!		20:00	10:00	X
27/7	13:30	23/11	Tim + Tony, -Yu-Lin	Sandwich	21:00	Midnight	X
27/7	15:30	Area 4 9/13	Jim, Steve, Rob, Chris, Moha,	Kutya, Pivo	7:00	10:00	X
28/7	11:00	8/11	Rob, Steve x2, Andi, Kutya, Moha		20:00	24:00	X
28/7	10:00	Top Camp (Surface)	Gavin		20:00	18:00	X
28/7	12:00	8/11 (Photo)	Jim, Tim, Richard,	Pivo	22:00	00:01	X
28/7/93	4:00	45	Sean, Dave.		10:00pm	1:00am	X
28/7/93	11:00	Opnik	Chris, Tony, William				X
29/7/93	11:55	Optimist	Chris, Tony, Pivo		10 pm	00:00	X
29/7/93	12:45	20/11	Pat, Kutya, Moha		8 pm	10 pm	X
29/7/93	8:00	22/11	Steve Roberts		Fri 30/7	Sub 31/7	X
29/7/93	13:30	20/11	Tim, Rob, Richard.	Base 20:00	22:00	Base 10:00	X
29/7/93	19:00	23/11	Tony (brave to work)	Base 20:00	22:00	Midnight	X
30/7/93	11:15	26/11	William, Moha, Kutya	Photography	19:00	16:15	X
31/7/93	14:15	Xitu	Chris, Steve, Andi, Pivo		19:00	21:00	X
1/8/93	16:23	8/11	William, Paul		22:00	6am prompt	X

B/B

	Time In	Cove	People	E.T. Out	Call Out	Out
8/73	11:00	Xite 7.58 4.81	Wilma Richard	21:00	Midnight	✓
11 Aug 83	11:30	Xite Iron Mine	William, Steve, Rob	21:00	11:00 night	✓
11/8/93	11:30	8/11 Dry Swamp	Steve P, Gavin	20:00	24:00	✓
11/8/93	11:30	Tecos-Lagos	Mula, Kevyn, Moli	22:30	1 ⁰⁰ a.m.	✓
12/8/93	11:30	8/11 Dry Swamp	Richard Gavin	20:00	24:00	✓
12/8	2:30	8/11 Fault over trap	Sam, Steve, Rob	22:00	23:59	✓

11:00 11:00 2:00 2:00

12:30 12:30

10:00 10:00 15:00 15:00

11:00 11:00

11:00 11:00

11:00 11:00

11:00 11:00

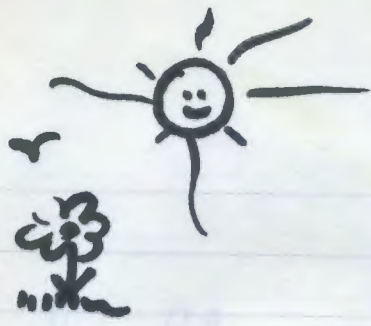
11:00 11:00

11:00 11:00

Chris + Sean

Have gone to the Refugio. Please
come and tell us that you're out.

Richard



ARANY **ANDI**
BUDAPEST 1037
KALAP u. 8. I/4
HUNGARY

TEL: **1-883-440**

AT UNIVERSITY: 1-665-011 / EXTENSION **22-06**
1-664-011

Another address. 1027. Fő u. 51. BUDAPEST/HUN.

TOMPA KÁROLY → he's **PIVO**

2142 NAGYTARCSA
~~PETŐFI LTP 13 I/15~~ PETŐFI LTP 13 I/15

HUNGARY

NYERGES MIKLÓS (MOKKA)

1027 Budapest Fő utca 51. I.3.
HUNGARY

NÉMETH ZSÓLT — KUTYA

B67



BUDAPESTI MŰSZAKI EGYETEM

Nyerges Miklós

okl. vegyészmérnök

Lakás:
1027 Fő utca 51. I. 3
Tel: 1-673-692

Szerves Kémiai Technológia Tanszék
Budapest, Műegyetem rkp. 3. Kmf 75.
Tel: (361) -166-50-11 / 22-13

7th February '94

Box 448
Maun
Botswana

Dear OUCC,

Firstly, I hope you are all well, not too many accountants I trust. Joan, I hope your new flat is going well; Chris, I'll try to move out properly on my return. Cheers to all who made the 'expedition' dinner an entertaining evening.

Well, what've I been doing the last two months? Visiting a country whose caves you can count on your fingers; well, you now need to use a few more of your fingers. This might not be the Picos or Mulu, (perhaps a Devon?), but the caving has been exciting.

This week, the project should have wound up its field work, most of our members having packed bags for home, but instead we've found ourselves with a whopper of a cave (by local standards) and needing to recruit a few new members

to be our survey sites. We also find ourselves with the logistical problem of having three campsites, an airstrip and a broken down land rover, all in the middle of nowhere.

Let's elaborate. Our newest cave is about as remote as you can get, exploration is real Indiana Jones stuff. It takes us a day to reach our main camp, at the long known Gcwikaba Cavern. There is a track for this part of the journey, however, it is merely a track, with deep pools (it's the wet season) and deep sand, and 4 wheel drive is essential. This camp is relatively luxurious, water is only 1 1/2 hours drive away, we have a large canvas shelter, and we have a fridge (for storage of essentials...

anti-venom, camera films, beer) From here, ... (a pause of a week while we survey, photo, explore etc)... it is a further day of driving to reach the Koanaka Hills, 3 mounds of dolomite standing proud of the desert sands, literally in the middle of nothing. The first and largest hill has yielded nothing, despite being 20 times bigger than the other two summed. The second has an impressive bone cave, full of

2 million year old fossils. The entrance was
noted by a French archaeologist, but he
never made it beyond the entrance chamber.
We found a way down through the bottom
of a boulder slope, (passing a few fresh
leopard kills) into the true cave, one
large low chamber (averaging $70m \times 40m \times 2m$)
with little else but bats and bone breccia
covering all walls and ceilings. However, the
third cell is the most remarkable. It
is the smallest ($\sim 350m \times 150m$), yet contains
within it the largest cave, over 1.5 km. It is
made up of a series of parallel galleries that
link to form large chambers, some of which
have fallen in to give 40m high boulder
ruckles that extend to the surface (giving the
entrances). The caving is made more interesting
by the large colonies of bats, the consequent
organic floors, and the variety of life using
entrances, (barn owls, snakes, occasional large predators).

Anyway, the best cave by far is the main
cave we came to study and explore, Wo'-down.
Although only a few hundred metres in length,
it is unique amongst these caves as it was
sealed to the outside world until its discovery.
As a result it has had less of a sand infill,

leaving routes to deeper parts of the cave system open (dropping well below valley floor levels), and it hasn't been inhabited by bats, hence no corrosive guano, meaning formations are intact. And the formations, they are breathtaking. All the normal stalagmites, stalactites, columns, flowstones, cascades, straws, rimstones. Enough cave pearls to make your eyes water, wonderful sedimentary features for the specialist, (dunes, drip holes, etc.) And then there are the crystal growths; popcorn on the walls, huge selenite-quartz swords sticking out from walls, left behind when the dolomite dissolved, and delicate 'dinner plates' of quartz, like paper doilies, projecting out into passage ways. But best are the helictites, they get everywhere, on ceilings, walls, floors, other formations, each other... they seem to know no limit. In places they grow like lawns, unlike anything I've seen elsewhere. The cave is just serious soft porn to any cave.

Also, we have to keep the caves location secret for now; but it does have a very unobvious and outward entrance, I can say that much. And just in case anyone does get

that far, well we've put in a gate! - So
we may be in the middle of the Kalihari,
but we had good reasons. We need to
keep bats out, (an unusual thing for cavers
to do), and try to restore original atmospheric
conditions to the cave. Even so, the gate has
been over designed to be completely tamper
proof to anyone but those who have keys,
and positioned such that no brute force nor
technological means would be immediately
successful. Paranoid?... not vs.

Oh, I forgot to mention Wal-doums other feature,
its high CO₂ concentrations at depth, (recorded
levels so far as extreme as ~8-9% CO₂, 9% O₂
... not very healthy. We have had mixed
success penetrating this part of the cave, trying
both standard scuba and rebreather apparatus. Bulk
of equipment has been one problem, stopping us at
a constriction. Another problem is the safety
concerns of the back-up team, the cave has
a habit of belching its foul air into some
of the intermediate passages, stopping us
from reaching our base, or forcing us to
retreat fairly hastily. None the less, the
pushing in this part of the cave, when conditions

allow, has been exhilarating.

Anyway, I'll wind up for now, (back to
the bus this afternoon), SLG will see you all

in April

Good Spelunking.

Paul