

25th July -

- Paul + Tiggy taking down the hill ⇒
2 ~~goretex~~ goretex bivvy bags from ulg camp
3 sleeping bags from ulg camp.
2 blind bats.

Paul + Ian's Top Camp Adventure 26/7

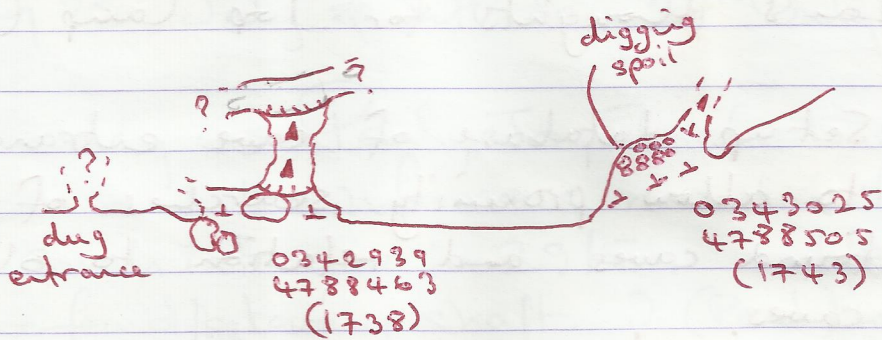
Took a jolly journey upto Top Camp, passed Xitu and the stone cattle trough on the obvious cairned route. Our original choice of approach missed out the fabled 'Snow Pole', although we spied it from a distance upon reaching the top camp fixed survey point.

We looked for the Percides entrance and located a snow plugged, slightly drafting entrance, but weren't convinced that we had actually found it. Of all the caves we identified during the afternoon, no entrance markings/numbers were spotted.

We climbed Verdelluenga and descended the NNE ridge -

An interesting arched cave entrance with snow plug and a accompanying shaft (undescended) was located at 0342568 4788008 (1856m) as part of an obvious set of localised cave features. No entrance markings or bolts were noted.

A series of three drafting holes was also observed along an obvious cliff outcrop. All three entrances had moderate/^{strong} outward drafts. No markings/numbering was found.



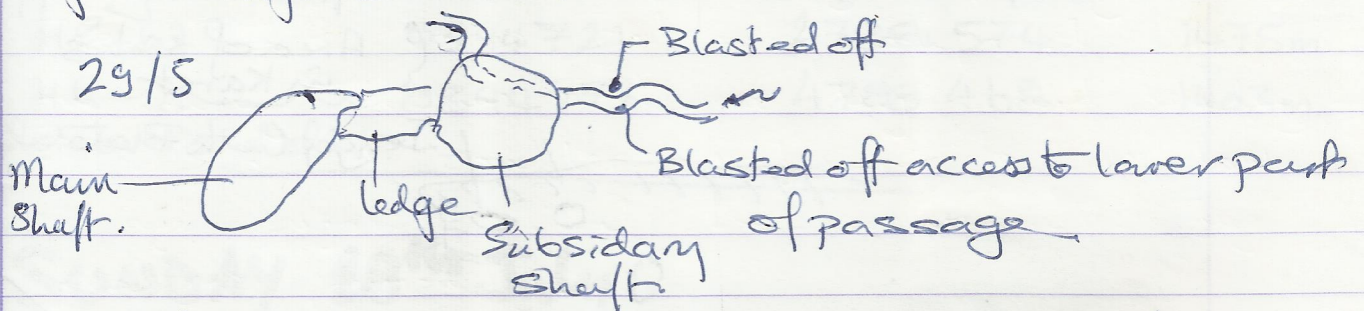
The first hole was dug for a short time until the faltering draft caused Paul to search for, and find the second larger, more obvious entrance (approx 4m wide by 2m high). The second cave was progressed to short muddy climb down (approx 3-4m) probably requiring a rope. The third large entrance comprised an overhanging enclave with a dug crawl leading off. Stacked boulders adjacent to the low passage suggests that the crawl was dug sometime previously.

Tau's thoughts for Top Camp (2014)

- Set up database of cave entrance data to allow proximity searches of newly found caves and relation to older known caves.
- Marking/numbering system, as many old caves do not have any identifying features. Metal tags + 6mm DB2 bolts?
- Water collection, presumably from ice fields.
- Move exped back to August to guarantee snow plugs have melted significantly?
- Short wave, Motorola type radios to allow better coms.
- Light ropes - 9 + 8mm!!!
- Locate the best camping area.
- Ascertain best approach route to the Top Camp area. Flag at the start of exped.
- Toilet - locate good spot and make sure everyone uses the same place.
- Convert old Top Camp cave locational data (distance and bearing away from the fixed survey point) to GPS co-ords.
- Consider size (number of people at Top Camp).
- Objectives of Top Camp Team
 - ↳ ~~Die~~ Test. Perdices (Needs Feas at potential risings)
 - ↳ Locating potential higher leads

29/5 Jenga.
Thursday 25th July & Saturday 27th July

On Thursday we Paul, Jo, Jack - to see if we could open out the infamous meandre that has caused such intrigue in 29/5. After a short (ish) search we found the lovely shaft. I (Paul) went to the bottom with its moonmilk, flow stone and very fine pool. A way on there is not for today. Back up and pendulum to a side shaft. This intercepts a meandre. The meandre is very narrow with a light inwards draft as one of the branches. - It is not 100% clear which is upstream - but I suspect from the slopes & cutting upstream is where the light draft comes in.



I set to and opened up the meandre that every one had attacked. For the first time I used snappers, which are similar to the guipardor filled straws we use in France. My only fear is that with the paper coat they'd be very susceptible to water or dampness. I cleared space on the left wall then attached the right wall. One shot each side had us into the lower passage.

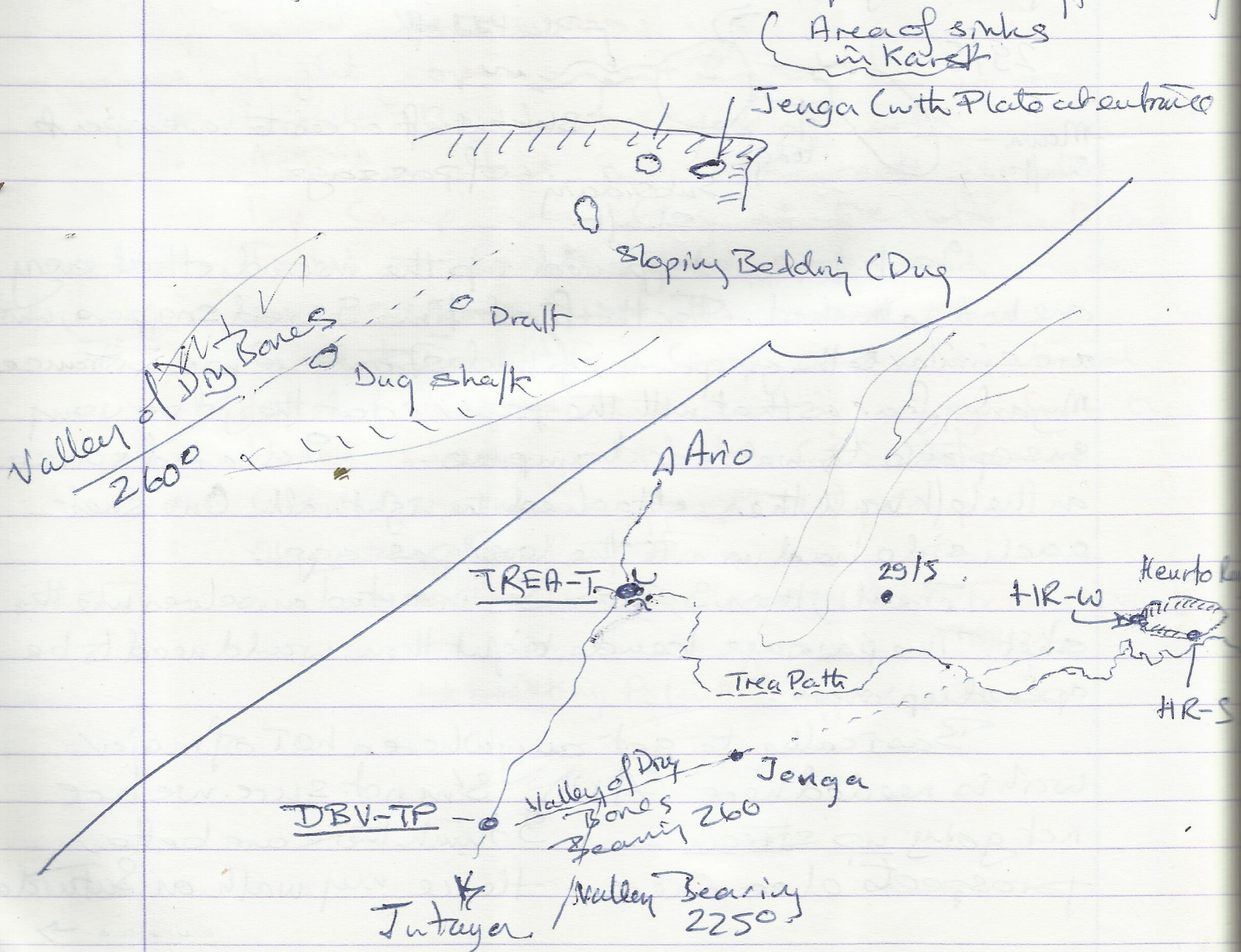
Jack, then I, then Jo inserted ourselves into the shot. The passage bends right then would need to be opened up more.

Basically to get anywhere a lot of major work is needed here AND I'm not sure we are not going up stream - I think there are better prospects elsewhere - hence my walk on Saturday

Saturday 27th - July. JENGA.

After seeing many mails from old (well my age) Oucc members on the elusive site of "Jenga" in Valley of the dry bones. I had to find it. Vague description of "Down the Trea path - Near Extremes" led me to believe it was over towards the Xitu side and thus less interesting. With Emi we un-earthed the Oucc GPS and worked out how to put in a waypoint.

Armed with modern technology I soon had myself looking down on the valley of the dry bones and a series of holes in its floor. AND each hole drafted out very positively




What is very interesting is that the Jenga digs in Valley of Dry Bones is on a Bearing of 260° which when followed back - which I did - falls almost directly into the hole of Heart to Ray which lies above the end of 2/7 and the infamous Choke Sybert. I think we have an excellent site to dig here!

GPS Coordinates (See Map 2).

Heart to Ray	TREA-T.	0344110	4788699.	1590m.
Top Dry Bones	DBV.-TF.	0344032	4788421	1615m.
Jenga		0344245	4788465.	?
Heart to Ray	HR-W	0344721	4788574.	1475m.
Heart to Ray	HR-S.	0344777.	4788468.	1403m.

↳ Hole over end of 2/7

SUNDAY 28th July.

Awoken by Ignacighte at 7^{am} to the News the tents had **EXPLODED!** and **GONE AWAY** - Pheff. - opening his hands and arms wide ... 

Out to investigate the carnage - It was real. The kitchen tent was shredded. The food tent had lost its shell. The Tarpallin had been ripped off. This had given access for the chickens to roam our food and worse still the whole herd of Ario Cows chose this morning to arrive and peruse our affairs. We regrouped what we could find in the bitter cold wind and then retreated to Refugio for breakfast and to await the sun.

Ode to a tent by Emi Wordsworth (nothing)

There once was a fierce breeze
That strengthened in the night
All woke to the morning
And the Campsite looked a fright,
All that was left of the Cooking Tent was crumpled metal bones
The proud blue tent still standing strong but naked & exposed
Ignacio had woken us
His arms thrown wide in t'air
At Seven am on a Sunday morning,
This news had caused Despair.
The equality had blown away and t'was dancing with the wind

Sunday 28th July

Another day of rain and the weather tent was EXPLODED!
Nerves and some more ...

Spent the day reorganising the camp after waking up to Ignacious telling Paul the tents had gone puss, not unexpected after hearing the wind during the night.

Wednesday 24th to Saturday 27th

Up All Night to get lucky, Survey Trip by team: Let's get to Culiem bro... ie Brian & Gaelan.

After hearing about the new leads down at the sump, Gaelan & I decided to do a trip down to get it all surveyed & it would be all organised & we would leave early on Wednesday morning. As usual we lived up to my nickname & fussed all day, eating food, organising gear & giving ourselves, 10 more minutes about 10 times. We finally entered the cave around 5pm & quickly made our way down the entrance series & met Eabha at the 2nd pitch after Custom's Hall to her going, what time & day it is, as her group hadn't a clue since they didn't have a watch. After a quick discussion about the new leads, she showed us her ghetto arse and we headed on our way. We soon met Sack & Ian & tried to confuse them about what day it was but Sack soon caught on as he saw Gaelan's smile. So another discussion about the leads & we learnt the proposed name, which was then stuck in our heads. Ian also told us about a drum of biscuits & cheese in the ^{Teresa} entrance series which we dug into when we got there hiding a packet for the return journey. Gotto camp & had plans to get up early & have an early start, but that all changed when Richard & Ross got to camp & we spent a few hours chatting.

Up Thursday morning for the start of our trip down to ~~camp~~ the sump. So after packing our bags with survey kit, food, kisu & bog roll & bag's (as Gaelan was feeling a bit iffy) we set off just after 1pm - the original time we planned to be at the sump at... our adventure began.

The start of the trip was uneventful as we took our time since we knew it would be a long trip. But the farther down the cave, the more ~~our~~ Gaelan's stomach started to act upon him, Then a small bit after

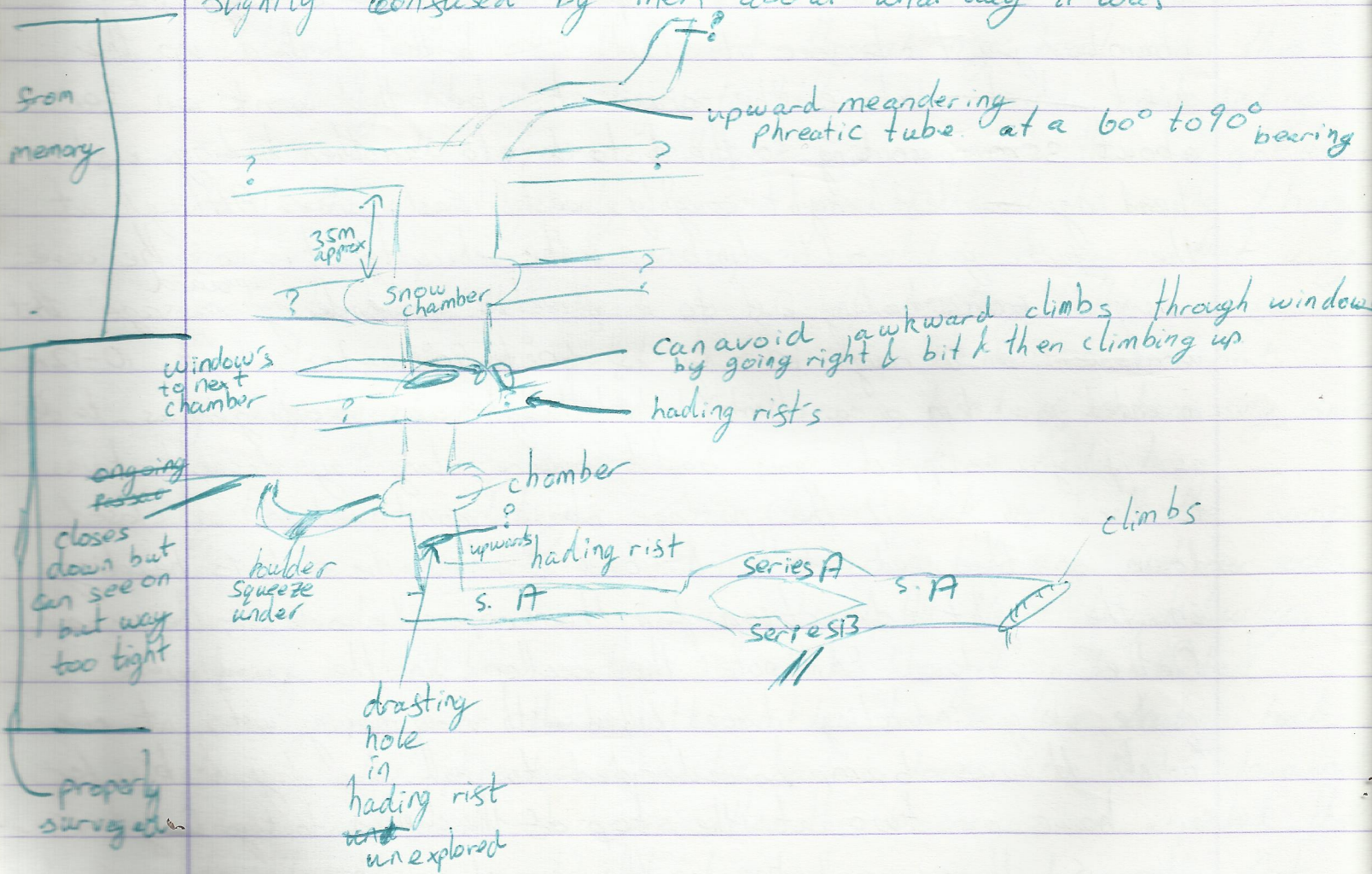
his & Steph's find Sli na Siofra, he stopped & turned to me going "Brian I need the bog roll & bag's" I searched through my bag only to realise I had left them at camp!! oops... So using a triangular bandage from the first aid kit & the bag's our food was in, Gaetan left a package on a shelf for our return Journey.

So with our delay above & a detour through Ferdie's dismay in we got to chunder around 7pm. And here our ~~good~~ sun began, as we headed down the classic numbers we found the bolts were fairly "Popular" as we came across one's out of the wall, loose in the spits, the rope's slightly in the water at places, our nerves started up I think. We then headed down the rift into the death series & all that went through my head was this was actually like descending into hell. After some route finding issue's, ie, the rope's weren't where we expected them we got down to Death is waiting only to find one of the bolts on the 7 hang ready to pop so had to spend awhile re-rigging that using a natural, & then head to "Death or Glory" which confused us the rope was pulled but after 12 hours we had finally reached the sump from, camp, kind of embarrassing since we are two very experienced cavers but we did have quite a few delay's. So after a quick meal at the sump & a few min's with our feet in the air to help dry out our socks we headed up the climb's into Up All Night to get Lucky, placing a hand line on the 2nd climb. We got up & started surveying from the bolt on the traverse line leading back towards the phreatic tube. We headed down into Éabha's down a sloping lead first, which we called the B series, as we expected the to close down quicky but I found a way up & onwards that lead to some calcite gourd pods & on into more ^{wide} hading rift passage, but we decided to turn around & head back towards

the main route series A, to get that surveyed. As I headed back I noted a chimney heading up into more rift. So we got back to the junction & started surveying the main on going passage but after awhile I went, hey that's the top of the chimney I just saw. We had just closed a loop & we both hoped our survey data reflects that... On that note we were not able to close the survey data as we couldn't find the last point in series B, so we learnt don't use tixex in white calcite passage, it's impossible to find.

So our on going lead from earlier on turned out to be ^{that we left} the main way on, so we kept going through the tunnels & up the rift's surveying as we went getting to the snow chamber which is where we stopped surveying or maybe the chamber just before it. But we both climbed up the rift ~~which~~ above the snow chamber that went on for about 35m according to the disto & into another heading rift heading ~~to~~ left & right roughly, west & East approx. Although at the start you could climb up & the characteristic of the cave changed from a heading rift to a phreatic meandering ^{upward} passage that went on a rough bearing of 60° to 90° after about 10-12m it ended in a 6m or so climb, which I thought was too dangerous to do as if you slipped you would bounce along way down, & it was too hard to see if the passage above continued on or closed down, so this needs to be climbed & checked as it is heading in the right direction for the opposite side of the sump. On the way down I did note the scallops in the roof were quite big indicating it was filled with slow moving water at one point. It was 6am, so we decided to call it a day & bivvy for an hour or two at the top of the climb's to try & get some sleep. So with a survival bag on the ground & a kisu over us, Graella & I spooned & managed an hour & a half sleep & woke up shivering & realising we slept with our heads slightly lower ~~down~~ than our

feet, we headed down to the sump for more food & then a slow
 8 to 9 hour trip back to camp pick up Gaelan's package from the
 day before & reaching camp at 6pm, happy to find Richard &
 Ross hadn't done anything about our 4pm callout, luck, y
 as they had just woken up. A short while later Fabba, Jack
 & Joe arrived to camp meaning there were 7 there when
 we only had 6 sleeping bags so a squashed night was
 had by all. So the next morning after 6 hours sleep, having
 been awake basically for 36 hours before that, I headed
 out with Joe & a bag of poo, leaving the other 5 to sort
 out de-rig from the bottom as I wanted sunlight. I exited
 the cave around 8pm on Saturday, although I was
 slightly confused by then about what day it was



~~Team De-Dangle From Flat Iron - Brian~~

~~Time In: 13:30 Monday 29th~~

~~Call Out: 09:00 Tuesday 30th~~

~~Down to de-dangle from Flat Iron to Entrance series~~

Turtle + ^{The} ~~Do~~ Home Cont...

Down the mountain in to the valley, North to the ~~Decist~~
East to France, Kip in FI Bordeaux. North to the Aucher
National roads all the way, except the Le Mons 24 hour
trod. More North to Colois meet the home who are
drunk and wearing stupid underwear. Kip on the boat
North West ish to Alton Towers. West to Oblivion,
repeat. North to Leeds, then Stepha. ~~The~~ Peatsie the
Delicious Turtle beats the More ~~by~~ ^{by} 3 beers.

So Von cost ~~£1778~~ both ways in fuel and tolls
not the boat

Fuel to Spain	£3000 £301.45	(including some of driving)
Tolls to Spain	£58.06	
Fuel back	£269.78	
Tolls back	£36.82	
	<u>£666.11</u>	≈ £570

~~PTO~~ Gear in Steps

~~100~~

- 8 35L Red Ortlieb
- 2 22L " "
- 2 4 man Shelters
- 1 8 man Shelter
- 1 Bopping kit
- Assorted spitz + cones, rinox, through bolts (not many)
- ~~Some~~ Tea candles
- ~~Assorted Nollons + Hangers (lots of)~~
- 6 Rescue Pullies
- 1 Mini Traction
- 2 Normal Pullies
- 1 Chest Jumper
- 5 Oval crooks + pulley bobins
- 13 Assorted Slings, some long, some too short
- 10 Ladder step things
- 2 Rope protectors
- 6m (guess) 6mm cord
- 1 Sky hook
- 36 x 10 water puri tabs (⁷²⁰~~360~~ liters)
- 4 220g Gas 70/30 Butane/Propane
- 1 100g Gas Butane/Propane
- 1 WD40
- 1 Small MSR Fuel bottle
- 1 MSR stove NO PUMP!
- 3 Nicola Phones (1 in Dorren down, 2 in Pelicases)
- 60m 9.1mm Dynamic
- 5 ~~2~~ Dorren Drums with 1st aid stuff
- 2 Rope Protectors
- 3 Mikito Drills (Fleur, who?, who?)
- Assorted Pots, Pans, Cutlery
- 11 Orange Bivv Bags
- ~~100~~ PTO...

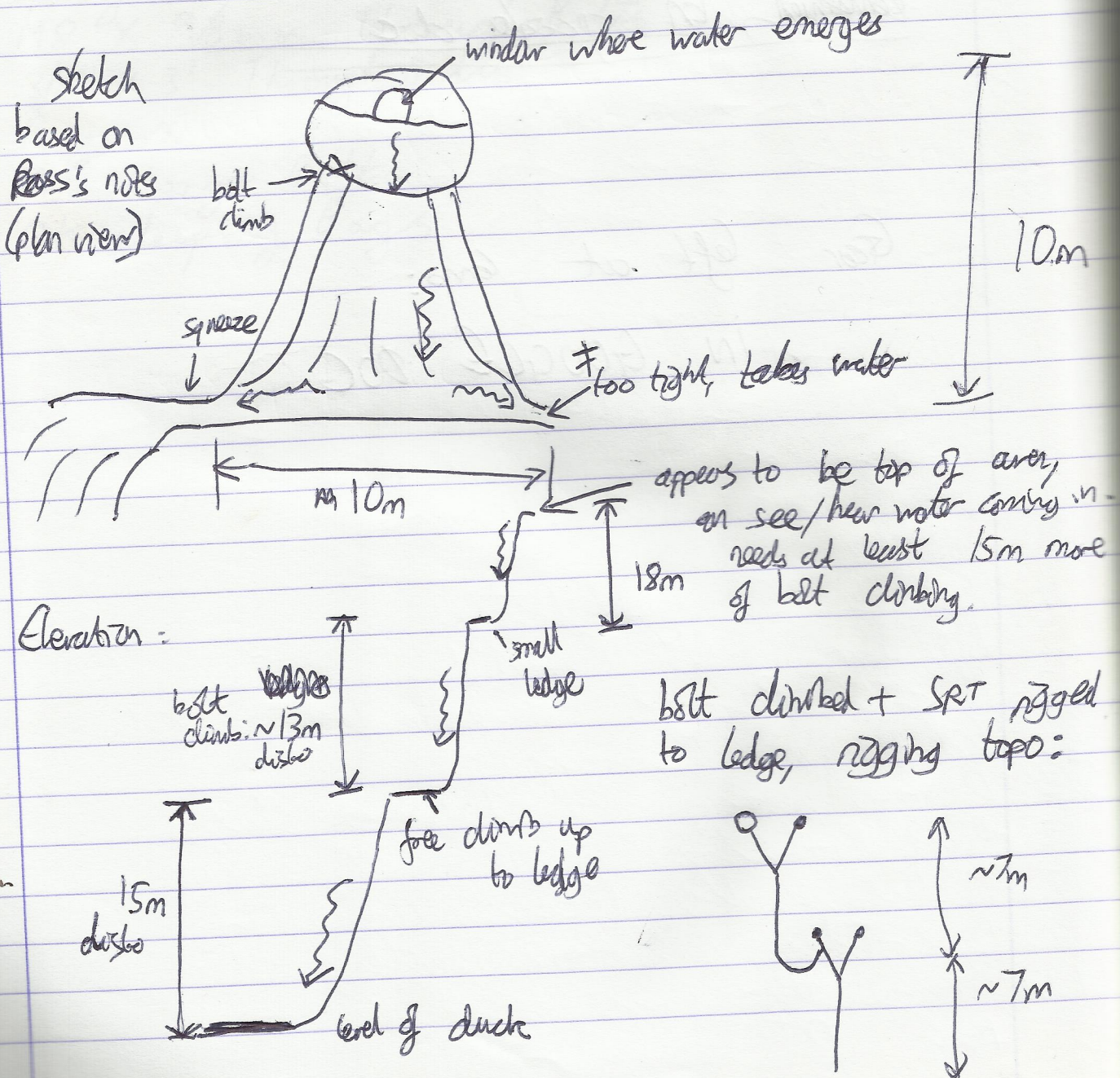
Sti na Sofra

Ross Hensley + Richard Gle

Thu 25th August 2013

Went in, smashed hell out of squeeze to get Richard through (still hard to breathe out)
 Ross had previously free climbed to a ledge and put a bolt + SRT pitch in about 4m up and we bolt climbed up from there.

I (Richard) fell on a bolt I'd put in and it held. Lesson learned: use the etries, footholds in Xitu are useless!



NB. potential other lead where water comes into aft near top of Flyer is believed to be the same inlet as water disappears down the too tight parts of the aft in that direction.

Before the Squeeze was surveyed by Tom + Emma
Screenshot on Steph's laptop

Martin }
Jeff } photos
Ross }

Vicky }
Richard } either pushing or
Jack }

Caving macks + goo down

16/7/13 Sandy & Avelina walk to Top Camp, Area F.

GPS (UTM WGS 84)

▷◁	=	TOP CAMP CAIRN	30 T	0341751	,	4787925	,	1914
		SNOW POLE	30 T	0341908	,	4788060	,	1846
		POZA LAS PERDICES (?)	30 T	0341669	,	4787736	,	1880

~~a-team 17/7/13~~

~~Steve, Claire, Fran~~

~~In 2PM — to camp~~

~~OUT FRIDAY EVE~~

~~CALL SAT 9AM~~

~~gap-team~~

~~Sandy, Avelina~~

~~In 2PM — to the gap~~

~~OUT TODAY~~

~~CALL 9AM SAT~~

~~Another - Ken~~

~~Jan Emera~~

~~In 2pm with~~

~~Out FRIDAY PM~~

~~Call SAT 9AM~~

~~- Intend to head
to rape B rape head~~

~~SANDY, ANZELINA, TIGGY + PAUL~~

~~- Snowcastle,
"Arlina's Jit" in
Teresa sewer.~~

~~In: 2:30pm Thurs.~~

~~Exp. out: Thurs. PM.~~

~~Call out: Fri. 9am.~~

~~Brian + emi call out in book 1~~

~~Tiggy + Paul - Customs Hall~~

~~In: 12.30 p.m. Fri~~

~~Exp out: 16.30~~

~~Call out: ~~23.00~~ Fri~~

~~Vicky - with Gaelan to avon climb, then out~~

~~In 12 noon Sunday~~

~~Exp out: 6pm Monday~~

~~Call out: 9am Tuesday~~