Feb Oct

2024 – 2026



2024 South Wales SWCC OFD

Hilary Term Feb 16 – 18

Steve drove the minibus! Nate organised!

Fiona. Vlad C. Rocky. Arran. Rosa. Tom. Josh S. ~~Ab~~ Anna. Abdul G

Dániel V. Eric H. Polina L.

Frances, Andy Harris, Jerome

- 17. Feb. 2024. OFD1 Steve, Rocky, Anna, Eric, Paulina

Rocky: This trip is Rocky's 2nd trip into OFD 1, although the first trip ~~only went~~ terminated shortly in front of the streamway. This trip serves as a route-finding training for Rocky, and he found it quite enjoyable to go caving with Steve, the president.

The trip proceeded to the streamway as intended. Then, after a brief feeling in the streamway, Steve decided not to risk as the water level was high. Thus, the group stepped out of the streamway and proceeded towards another direction.

After the cross road and a bit of crawl, they arrived at a traverse line, besides a deep valley in which the main streamway roars. Carefully traversing through, the group arrived at the so-called "π" Chamber. The trip ended here, and Rocky successfully lead the trip out of the cave without forgetting the route.

17/02/2024 Cwm Dwr

Jerome. Andy. Fiona.

The Elite team! We were so fast.

The entire trip only took 3.5 hours!

~~We also~~ No one died. yey.

(2)

17/02/24 OFD 1 Round Trip Mabe, Rosa, Josh, Abdul, Daniel

An enthusiastic team set off to OFD 1, hoping to be able to do the round trip. We looked at the water loggers and the emergency G&T. When we got to the Step, the water was about half welly height. Hmm. Steve's team arrived and agreed that the water situation was pretty marginal. He suggested briefly going into the streamway to have a look before turning back. We all went in and had a look, then went a bit further up and had a bit more of a look, and a bit further... The streamway was sporting but a lot of fun. We had a brief detour to see the wobble rock before Lowes chain. The boulder choke had a pretty deep pool of water in it. We also spotted the start the way to Waterfall Series! The climb was a bit sketchy th so not everyone wanted to do it.

We went up Lowe's chain, which is now a Via Ferrata ladder and Mabe did a good job of navigating through the bo of the round trip (apart from asking if we were at the Elep Arsehole lots of times). No-one had trouble with any of the c We had a lights off experience after Roly Poly too. We had sliding in the crawly bits, and looking at the view of the strea on the Bolt Traverse. Afterwards we went to look at the S again and now the water was a full welly high! The stream looked more impressive too.

When we got back to SWCC, Jules told us that we sh absolutely not have been in the streamway and everyone wh knew Wales would not have considered it with a weather fore like that. Oops. We all had a fun trip but maybe shouldn't do that again.

P

(3)

Provisional Plan for TT.

w1	26–28 Apr
w2	3 – 5 May
w3	10 – 12 May
w4	17 – 19 May
w5	24 – 26 May
w6	31 May – 2 Jun
w7	7 – 9 Jun
w8	14 – 16 Jun
w9	21 – 23 Jun

(4)

2024.03.02 ~ 2024.03.03 Yorkshire NPC.

Thomas, Frances, Rosa, Mate, Fiona, Rocky, Arranch, Vlad C, Jerome

— 2. March. 2024. Rowten Pot. Tom, Rosa, Rocky, Arranch, Vlad

Rocky: this trip is Rocky's first rigging trip, but is not a particular easy cave to rig. The group arrived at the entrance (some holes on the ground) after climbing up a hill. Rocky started the rigging with a 18 m rope which was packed at the bottom of the tackle sack, which turned out to be a pain. The first re-belay took the longest, since Rocky messed up with his descender lock and ended up undoing his descender sitting on his cowstail.

The following traverse line (at the bottom of the entrance and pitch went fluently, but Rocky made a serious mi by stopping on a ledge above abyss with no attachmen assuming everyone can reach the rope. The nonsense ende Tom got down, stopping Rocky's idiotici ty. The correct was is in fact a traverse in a narrow rift. Rocky had swing in and attach himself with cowstail to continue

The traverse quickly arrived above a pitch where rocky st to descend, not knowing how deep the pitch is. The narr rift widened into a large chamber, with a roaring wat pouring down on one side of it. Rocky, being confiden in the rope preparation, sadly found the rope ended 5m* above the ground. Thus, he had to climb up all the way to the top again to change to another rope.

*more than 5m. We packed 60m like the rigging guide said but it was very much NOT ENOUGH!

The rest of the trip went peacefully? everyone was impressed by the waterfall, and people existed the cave promptly, except Rocky who took his sweet and pleasant time de-rigging. Great trip overall!

3 March 2024 Lancaster Hole

Rocky, Rosa, Arran, Jerome, Frances, Andy

We spent a lot of time faffing. Setting off at noon for a Sunday trip is not a good idea. At least the weather had cleared up so the walk to the cave was pretty nice. Everyone got down the pitch safely. We went down Kath's Way and saw the handline climb down, but realised it was 3pm so turned back. A lot of the group were not familiar with Lancs so there was some route finding education... We saw a nice curtain too. On the way out Frances and Rocky visited Slug World and saw some helictites. A short trip but not bad.

Rocky finally realized: he had been using a right foot jammer on his left foot ... for 1 year! That's why ~~they uncatch~~ it uncaught the rope every 5 seconds...

(6)

Nenthead 0th week 11/10/24 – 13/10/24

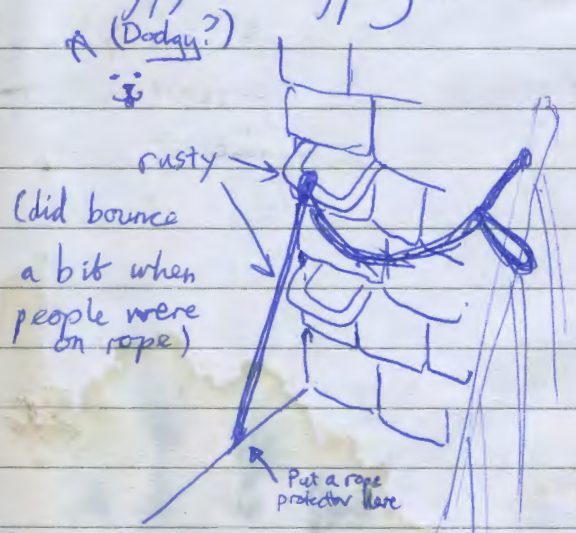
Rosa Clements, Fiona Zhang, Frances Pope, Jerome Oswald-Jones

No ONE DIED! RAMPGILL MINE
12/10/24



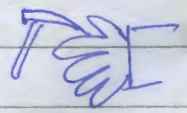
Did a 80m shaft. everyone took ~~[illegible]~~
21 ~ 25 min to ~~get up~~ prussik ~~parsik~~ out.

Doggy rigging! no ~~to~~ caving hangers!



Jerome brought his useless rock hammer, the only thing he dugged is himself lol

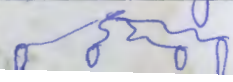




Jerome talked so much about his rock hammer, and then left it behind in the mine.

Jerome said he wants to ~~get a~~ get into trouble tomorrow lol.

At the bottom of Brewery Shaft we saw a Compressor machine with a scoopy wheel that still moved. also a 1933 newspaper article
↳ It had been recently greased!
Then we found one way on that had really deep water and another that had Bad Air do not continue warnings so we went back up. Then Fiona found a dodgy climb up. Jerome followed. Then they wanted to show me and Frances. It was super hard. We rigged a 30m rope with about a million knots and I eventually got up. There were some little crystals up there. Back in the main passage we saw lots of stripey formations with white, black, and red stripes, plus some yellow and purple bits. There were roots coming from the ceiling with straws growing off them. I've never seen anything quite like that and I never guessed a mine would be so pretty. There was also two sets of minecart wheels. Good trip!



It's amazing how much flowstone has grown in 100-200 years.

MENDIP WEEKEND

Rosa Clements, Fiona Zhang, Anna Wyeth,
Zachary Robinson, Sophia Scholly, Máté Sós, Valerie Mann,
Steve Roberts Oliver Singleton-Hourihan, Thomas Hale, Grace Joshy
Rocky Yu, Devarchan Banerjee, Olive Butler
Nils Drotleff, Toby Mann, JC, JEROME 'THE GREAT' OSWALD-OWNED

~~[illegible]~~

Eastwater	Swildons sump	Swildons Upper
Mabe	Rocky	Rosa
Jerome	Jonathan	Fiona
Valerie	Oli	~~Oli~~ Sophia
Anna	Devarchan	Oliver
Tom	Nils	Zach
Grace	Toby	

~~Eastwa~~ Swildons:

I did Zigzag. (solo 15 min)

— Fiona

I had such a nice experience in the cave today, really pushed my boundaries and managed to squeeze through some tight spaces. I was also really grateful for everyone in the team for helping me! Thanks to all the people organising the trip B

Grace + Tom

Suidons:

Did the long dry way down, and short dry way up. Very fun, saw lots of cool rocks. Interested to know what some of the different deposits are. Saw some small fossil-like things on a detour.

— Zach

8

My first time caving; although the technical side of it was pretty much what I expected, nothing could have prepared me for the feeling of being underground for 6 hours! There were times, only really in the tight squeezes, when I really started to feel a bit anxious, with the rocks right up at your face and a feeling that it might never end. But maybe that; the beginners' experience because it went away. But it was quite a spiritual experience being held inside the earth. The first time in complete darkness, with distant dripping the only sound. What made me feel better was thinking of all the people who were there before me. Like Robert McFarlane, who has written about being caving in the Mendips & ~~have~~ has a narrative ~~to~~ about walking alongside past travelers. Anyway, great experience, very satisfying, would do again!

– Anna

Swindon Sump II

– Denarchen

// This was my first time caving, and its one of my favourite experiences at Oxford. We climed down, jaunds ladder, made it through 6 waterfalls, ~~went down a 20 foot~~ including one 20 foot deep, where we used a belaying ladder; and went underwater in the Sump, before coming out the other way, all this was incredible, but what made this ~~better was the incredible~~ truly legendary was, the show 6 young people who never met trusted each other with their lives, and had an adventure of a lifetime. We had two experienced climbers, Rocky and Jonathan (B), an undergrad Maths, and a professor. Jonathan was an professor of Biology of atleast 50 years of age, but the fitter Men all of us, ~~and a cover with 29 years~~ 29 year of caving experience.

Rocky and jonathan set up the ropes; ~~a lot of~~ but for the most part everyone had to do everything. I liked the fact that, like seemingly difficult obstacles, were eventually scalable, sometimes with a helpful hand, pulling us up; or pushing our feet up. ~~The dark~~

The darkness was special, unlike ~~anyone~~ anything you would see outside and the caves were full of ~~spectacular~~ crystals hanging from the top(s), thin certain like formations, and some smooth stones which looked like ancient statues.

~~Overall, the experience was~~ so

I will be exaggerating, if I said it was all nice, my shoes were soaking with cold water and after e while quite numbe, it was hard to walk with cold, wet, feet, some of times we were in narrow spaces — ~~but all~~ but it wouldn't be fun if it was all easy would it. -

Good fun has to be earned; — like a good-life

Not exactly my first time caving, but my first official trip with the club technically I suppose. Went on the Eastwater Upper Series Round Trip with Maté, Jerome, Anna, Tom & Grace. Jerome is definitely insane, but unsure to quite what extent. Maté was very calm and collected, which was an appreciated counterbalance. All the new cavers handled everything to a great level, far better than might be expected given the challenge of the cave. The Upper Traverse was fairly novel to me,

and the cave overall had plenty of opportunities for poking around and having fun around the main route. Jerome & I climbed up at the ladder point without using the ladder (set up a line while I was halfway up), definitely feasible unlined but had it felt like taking the risk. Very cave-style climbing, prob not suitable for the first-time cavers. We made the decision to turn back after doing the ladder, since Grace didn't want to push on too far, which was a good call. Jerome left us behind on the way out due to our speed being "f*cking awful" and the route being "so, under [him]". He would physically eat a person who got stuck in his way.

— Valerie

Swildons	Sludge Pit	Easterober
Mabe	Jerome	Rocky
Zach	~~Fiona~~	Rosa
Anna	Sophia	Toby
Valerie	Oliver	Devarchan
Tom	Grace	Oli
~~Grace~~ Fiona	~~Rosa~~ John	Nils