Mendips Trip 1st + 2nd Feb 2025

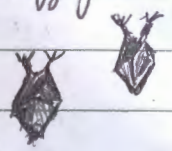
Valerie Mann, Máté Sacs, Brandon Tang
Bradley Tan, MARK GORDON, Chris Jenkins
Rocky Yu, Richard R. Allen, Rosa Clements

Saturday Trips

Technical Masterpiece	Swildons to Sump 2
Valerie	~~Brandon~~ Richard
Máté	Bradley
	Mark
Hunter's Hole	Rocky
	Chris
Rosa	
Brandon	

Hunter's hole

My first rigging trip. Was fairly fun and engaging. We initially went down the default way, going down to the stone bridge with a 30 meter rope then going to the small hole to go down. This 2nd part was fairly easy with only 1 X. We then wandered around to explore the bottom of the cave. We crawled up to the bridge again and then went down a narrow route around the bigger hole. This had some difficult to rig X-hangs and a hanging rebelay. Some of the bolts were very hard to spot... After that it was fine to get out. I designed the route back to the surface struggling with the tuddlesacks along the way. Overall fairly fun! - Brandon



Lots of little bats some quite close to the main route we didn't disturb them though.

22

We descended rockily and ventured upon an allegory that sisyphus most assuredly would recognise. The dankest of the dank and the wettest of the dry underpants were achieved by our brave heros. Because of the unending shame of not samping or writing compelling sentences, here we are. The pints have been drained and now we are writing about the cave which led to writing about writing about the cave. Trapped in recursion, abort.

- Richard, Mark
- Bradley Tan

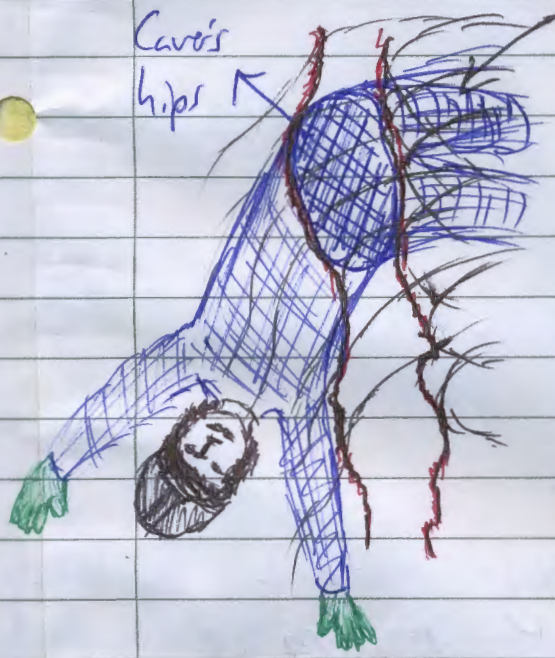
Eastwater Technical Masterpiece

Cave. Good. Hard. Very much regretted the lack of knee pads (managed to not ~~[illegible]~~ them somehow). The route really lives up to the name, although I propose it be renamed Piece of Cake Passage (not for difficulty, but for one of the formations and cause it would be funny). One bit required multiple attempts at repositioning, a particularly nasty corner. In the end a high approach with the hips led to success. At the bottom we wandered around the cave, including a particularly muddy area. Coming back up Máté was prematurely celebratory about passing the difficult corner, only to be faced by said corner 2 minutes later.

Oh and also at the start of the ascent I tried to go back down to the bottom of the passage to see if it was

possible (it was not). I was in a little bother but managed to rectify the situation. Mate wishes that I mention the caveworms we saw and a 'sump' that made a funny drain sound. [Insert Pun Here].

* We eagerly anticipate the wrath of Ironic for doing this trip without him.



"Artist's" impression of that one difficult corner looking straight on at it, with caver in situ.

My Technicolour Masterpiece

– [signature]
(Valerie)

* "How, bloody, dare, youuu >:|"

24

Sunday Trips

Eastwater Upper Traverse Round Trip

Valerie
Rosa
Bradley
Richard
Mark

Swildon's I

Mate
Rocky
Brandon

I wussed out of getting wet in Swildon's after taking on Technical Masterpiece yesterday, and went on the Eastwater trip instead. The entrance was noticeably less wet than yesterday, which was nice. We poked our heads into a few diversions from the route — looked down Dolphin Pot and went to the Large chamber. Very nice going overall, no issues, and a good wind-down in Intermediate. Got out early too so no rush, and even time for Richard to do some SRT training.

We went to the pub last night and had cider, which made me very wobbly for a

bit even on just a single point. Mark seems to have me beat on the Constrictor since he was still all fine on the absolute smallest setting I can manage.

-Valerie

I've never been more terrified in my life. Why did I come here? The agents. It is pretty cool. Y'all are freaky.

- Bradley

Very different to Swilder's hole. I enjoyed all the climbing and squeezing and since only did the upper round tripit was shor So I wasn't too tired. I'm very glad I am not claustrophobic as it was quite t in places but manageable. Enjoyed not having boots filled with water and it kept me warm with all of the clambering.
- Mark

(26)

The eve of my first caving trip
The van ride about made me sick
It's true what they say
The dangers of caves
Are nothing compared to dear Chris

Then into the hole in the ground
That Swildon presumably found
It's hard to conceive
That I once believed
The way would be "short" and "dry" down

By Sump One my valor was tested
But I dove headfirst, brave and invested
Then sunk in defeat
My bollocks were beat!
By a **genuine** homo erectus

From scrambling through boulders asunder
Or shoving ha'penny at Hunter's
It's a definite bet
I will never forget
A caving trip so full of wonder!

— Richard

Wales Weekend 14/02/25 – 16/02/25

Rosa Clements, Valerie Mann, KAMAL ASCANI
Tanya Sultan, Fiona Z, Mohammed Alwelyee, Ahmed Alsulami
Sarah Sokhn, Oliver Butler, Vlad Cătămea,
Frances Pope, Carlos Tapia, Charlotte Heniot,

Standard OFD Top Edward's Shortcut ?

Sarah	Mohammed	Oliver
Tanya	Ahmed	Fiona
Kamal	Carlos	Charlotte
Vlad	Frances	
Valerie	Rosa	

15/02/2025

My first trip was quiet intense I would say! We stayed in the cave for like 4 hours and we exploted various galeries. The squeezing was the scariest part, especially for Kamal! I really enjoyed anyways as we were led ~~[illegible]~~ by the best duo (Valerie and Vlad) !!

Tanya

15/02/2025

My first caving trip was exciting, nerve racking & fascinating. I was surprisingly warm throughout the tour. Well fed, & watered. However, I think, ill bring down a peanut butter sandwich on my next trip. and possibly some music! ♫♪

Thanks to our leads – Rosa & Frances :)

Carlos T

(27)

15/05/25

First caving trip in the UK ! Really love the Ogof Ffynnon Ddu cave. Thank you so much for the organisation ! Our team was me, Fiona and Oli ! We went to moonlight, midnight passage ; also checked the trident and the Judge ... A lot of variety, really amazing black limestone, lots of fossils, some really stalactite / stalagmite / helichite, nice people ! Everything reunited for a good caving trip !

Hope to come back soon ☺ Charlotte Haniot.

Dales Weekend 28/02/25 – 02/03/25

Rosa Clements, Vlad Catanea, Carlos Tapia, Brandon Tang
Fiona Zhang, Rocky Yu.

01 March 2025

Didn't know what to expect from my first ever caving experience — ~~felt~~ the first descent felt a bit sketchy but soon I was used to navigating the tight spaces. Really impressed by the structures I never imagined could exist at such a depth underground, the endless rows of stagiamites / stagiatites and the overwhelming darkness! It truly feels as if you have entered the bowels of the Earth. ~~Tha~~ Thanks OUCC, and our guides Rosa and Martin for the unforgettable experience!

~ Shao Yang

01/03/2025

Saturday night, after 6 or so hours underground, my body is aching. Just finished dinner which is putting my body to sleep. This place is gorgeous, ~~this morning~~ in the morning we had a picturesque frosty start to the day. Helped make breakfast, and got dressed. We did multiple SRT ~~trips~~ drops & ascends which was exilerating. The entrance to Pool sink is ~~a~~ super tight, but fun. Ingrateful to the team for all their help & leadership. Thanks, Carlos Tapia

Forget doing 4 SRT pitches without any SRT training, my greatest caving accomplishment to date is peeing in full caving + SRT gear (a girl)

Rocky: This is my second time into pool sink. Last time is was Expo preparation, and the trip was super long. I was trashed last time, so I am looking for the ~~th~~

Challenge. After pushing a rope bag into that miserable entrance passage, I rigged the first pitch. As people are relatively slow, I followed Brandon to supervise him rigging the second Pitch. It turned out that our ropes were super long comparing to the pitches. After the second pitch series, I went back to check other people, so when I was rigging the last pitch, people were waiting.

I rigged the travers lines carefully and tightly, and we went to the "bottom" of the cave (which was the "start" of my last trip here. We proceeded to explore. After some crawling and tight walking, we arrived at the streamway and climbed up. We eventually arrived at a chamber that I immediately recognised. Climbing up in one side of the chamber, we arrived at the "straw valley" I saw two years ago. There were lots of straws on the ceiling, and we also found the cake Fiona made two years ago with fallen straw.

On the way back, Brandon and I derigged the cave and took hard effort carrying ropes out. We made it back at ~ 19:30.

On Sunday → Fiona, Vidad, Carles and Brandon visited Bull Pot of the Pitches.

Fiona almost broke her Bones: I forgot to make a look on my simple (and I forgot that I am using a simple, when passing a deviation, I just fell. — too little friction on my simple and I let go of the rope to get the deviation. I held on to the deviation so I didn't fall. I was like lol. I made the fine work lol Fiona