Ropes:

0~10m: 7m, |||| 8m || 9m || 10m |||
(11 total)

10-20m: 11m. | 12m ||| 14m | 18m |||| 13m | 20m ||
(17 total) 17m ||| 15m | 19m |

20-30m: 29m | 25m || 30m ||| 24m | 26m |
(8 total).

30~40m: 35m ||| 34m | 40m | 32m || 37m || 38m | 36m |

40~50m: 50m || 45m ||| 41m | ~~42m~~ 42m |
(7 total)

50~60m: 56m | 54m | 55m | 60m |

60~70m: 64m || 63m | ~~65m~~ 65m |

70~80m.

80~90m. 85m || 87m |

Solstice! (42)

MENDIP WEEKEND 20/06/25-22/06/25

Rosa Clements, Gargi Biswas, Sam Gadus, Frances Pope, Lizzie Glanville, Captain Greg Solo (BEC secret agent), Vlad Cofaine, Mick Gielen Rocky Yu

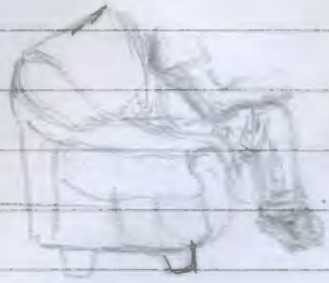




Mick! My first caving trip ever and it's been great so far! Went down Swildon's hole as far as the first sump and even just past that. Was afraid of getting too cold, but didn't. Squeezing and climbing is lots of fun :o The way back we were tired and Gargi fell :c But she managed to climb all the way out after that :) It was nice and warm and sunny out side.

Gargi: it was first caving trip ever as well and it felt unreal down there. it was very cold and wet and i wasn't necessarily enjoying it all the time, but really like squeezing through spaces and using all bodyparts to move through the caves. i likes the rocks and all sorts of formations inside as well. i had a lot of fun today :)





Meanwhile, Frances, Fiona and I (Lizzie) took a longer trip, going ahead via the Short Dog Passage to Sump I. On the way we rigged the ladder for the group, and appreciated the cool cave air as a respite from the already quite warm outside (left WCC ~ 11am).
At Sump I it took several minutes of persuading to get Fiona to brave the cold water to access Swillin's Two (the cave passages between Sumps I and II), and including the best persuasive method of splashing her with the water too. In the end Frances went first, followed by me. I asked Fiona to pinky promise to bring me my chocolates on the other side, since my oversuit in this trip doesn't have a pocket. My first sump! Just over a metre and aided by a rope, pulling myself through horizontally. I actually thoroughly enjoyed the experience, but that might just be the endorphins kicking in after all that cold water. Well, technical not a sump. Due to the recent dry weather, we could see that Sump I was not sumped, but had a few cm of air space in the top. Still, we went through as if it were a sump, so that counts I hope.
Beyond Sump I the road signs made me chuckle. (Wonky Hole 1½ Anxiety [illegible] centre)
Into the Black Hole series, where we had our muddiest part of a less muddy trip, and then some mud balls at the entry, and saw a small pit of them that Fiona had constructed a few (?) years ago! Was the Black Hole the pitch at the end? Or the black stuff on the limestone walls?
We also went to see the second Sump, with sheep bones on the side and a few more that we picked out of the streamway. It turns out Sump II did not look completely sumped either, and that's 8m!
Coming back to Sump I, we saw the lights of the others on the other side! And so we joined them for the return, going back the same way as we entered, with Fiona designing the ladder. I belayed Frances and Fiona up the ladder, although Fiona just came up without waiting for me first..

A great trip and I'm looking forward to instructor (I think) tomorrow.
~ Lizzie :)

(44)

Trip: Hunter's Hole (Rocky's Perspective).

Rocky - Greg.

This is a photography trip mostly, and I did the bottom pitch for ~20 times. We set off before 11, and got into the cave at ~11:30. The cave is boring. and the rigging guide is nonsense. I rigged the cave with great confusion, and bolts were everywhere.

At the bottom of the 2nd pitch, Greg set up his camera gear and took photos of me abseiling up and down the pitch from various angles. He headed off at around 1 and left the cave, while I was still doing the last pitch up and down.

It took me more than a hour to finish my task, and headed off at ~2:30. The ~~#~~ dorigging was easy. and I left the cave early.

I had to carry all the gear back to Wessex under the burning sun, but luckily I could drop the rope at Greg's van.

Secret Trip Peak District.

To Maté. Vlad. Carlos, Jon. Fiona.

Trip planned: Exchange trip

JH ⟷ Peak cavern.

Vlad, Jon. Fiona → Maté. Carlos ←

come out at 16.00

What happend:

JH → Peak Cavern.

Vld. Jon. Fiona.

(started walking 10am.
started caving 12pm)

arrived at 19.02
(2 min after callout.
Maté. Carlos. Martin went to find us
luckily I got my phone so
I called ~~Maté & Carlos~~. BTW this
time my phone survived !!!
HAHAHAHAHAHAHA.

I did a unplanned bounce trip to Leviathan with Maté. Slightly disspointed not to go up Leviathan, in, but had a great trip. Fyi - Leviathan to ~~Pete~~ washing pool, 1hr 25mins.
Carlos.

Carlos wants me to say that I hate everyone - Jon

:(- Vlad

67
(with hand gestures)

(46)

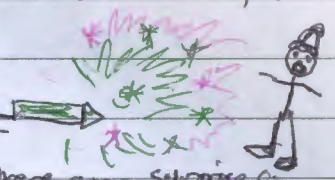
24/10/25 - 26/10/25 Mendip Weekend

Rocky Yu, Fiona Zhang, Rosa Clements, Valerie Mann, Carlos Tapia, Frances Pope, Theo Adams; Isaac Markovitz, Hannah Dold, Ariella Hinkson, Zackary Sheridan-Chapdelaine, Timothy Randazzo, Charlie Tharas, James Young

We stayed at the Belfry with Cardiff! It was loud. The hot tub was in action but apparently not very hot. Cardiff did all the shopping and cooking for us so we had to teach the freshers how to wash up.

Hunter's Hole (Rosa, Fiona, Theo, Isaac)

Isaac's first SRT trip! We went down a non-Sago pot route with some slightly more complicated SRT. Theo and Isaac did very well. We had a poke around at the bottom, but there's not a lot there. I'm glad we did the slightly harder route, it would have gone too quickly otherwise.



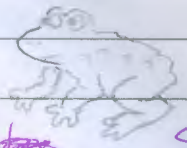
(OK, The fireworks were a lot smaller than this but there were some surprise fireworks around feet)

Eastwater (Dolphin Pot, 13 pots, lost toad)

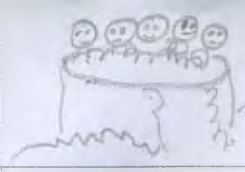
Valerie, Frances, Timothy, Charlie, James

Upper traverse:

Ah, the sweaty thrutching of the 45° rifting in Eastwater! We made it through and up, then rested in the little nap chamber. Valerie and I (Frances) did a lot of referring to the maps that we'd hastily coated in sticky back plastic. The route finding was haphazard but ~~Cambridge~~ Cardiff were ahead of us so we knew we'd got to Dolphin pot when we saw their knotted rope.



It was so muddy we hoped it was an in-situ but we did leave one of our ropes at the top just in case. An excellent ~~[illegible]~~ start to both of ~~a~~ our first time being leader on a rigging trip. Valerie had to lead because Frances (me) forgot to charge either of her helmets. At the ladder pitch Valerie knew bunny ears and I knew Italian hitch and we both knew fig 8, so we almost confidently ~~[illegible]~~ secured our ladder above Cardiff's and belayed the boys down. No mistakes and no faff, amazing considering that Val was operating on <2 hrs sleep and was rapidly succumbing to a Belfry plague.



In the hot tub, hotness was replaced by bubbliness to cover up the greyish water. Who knew that people could overdose on fairy liquid fumes?

We met Cardiff at the bottom of the pitch and asked them which way to go. We then immediately navigated around in a tight circle and were shocked to reappear back at the bottom of the ladder after less than 10 minutes. At least it allowed us to confirm that Cardiff had unfurled our ladder nicely after climbing theirs.

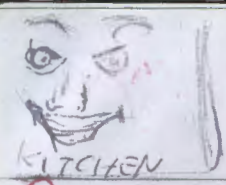
2nd attempt and we made it down all 13 pots and then up the muddy climbs. Next time I definitely want to do that the other way around - slip down the muddy climb and help each other up the pots. Derigging went smoothly despite Valerie nearly falling asleep whenever standing still. The 45° rift is always easier on the way out, unless you've the sucker left dragging the bag.

After the rift I found a toad lying in a gully. How did it get down so far? All the way down through the boulder maze, then down again, then sideways... It took us at least 15 minutes, maybe 20 mins of climbing passing the little toad hand to hand, to get it up to the twilight surface and safely housed under a rock.

← Saturday night: fireworks and wand sparklers.

Easewaber Upper series round trip (Sunday)

Roza, Hannah, Arietta, Zack, a green haired lady from Cardiff We decided to have a taister of Easewaber on Sunday for those who'd done Swildons on the Saturday. We moved at a steady pace to make sure everyone was OK on every obstacle. The Upper Traverse and Hallelujah Hole produced a lot of questions about whether this cave would ever open up and whether we'd ever be able to stand up. But eventually we all completed the lower traverse and got to (briefly) standing passage. Of course we immediately sat down and ate our chocolate. We had a little look at Dolphin Pot and a look at the boulder chamber on the way out (Look! this cave does have a big chamber!). I got up the awkward climb without too much trouble this time, though we weren't all so lucky. But everyone succeeded and we got out at a reasonable time. It was fun!



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Sunday trip: GB



Rajesh from Cardiff drove 14 of us over in their minibus.
At the ladder chains we found that Cardiff had brought 2 ladders and no belay rope. We had brought 2 SRT kits between 5 of us. Clearly nobody had planned this. Frances, Theo, Isaac, and Fiona all successfully got to Bat Passage and the Great Chamber!

Wales Halloween weekend 31/10/25 - 02/11/25

Rosa Clements, Jerome Oswald-Jones, Vlad Cabanea, Rocky Yu, Toby Mann, Jessica Ratcliffe, Viktor Verebetyi, Ariya Akhavan, Adrian Fischer, Cindy Yeung, Minjoon Seo, Seowoo Lee, Amy Watkins, Samuel Crowe, Jo Saltfield, Penny Garner

Trident & Judge + Shatter pillar loop

Rosa, Cindy, Minjoon, Seowoo, Jo, Toby

We went to see the Trident & Judge and met another group of cavers in Salubrious Streamway who recommended a detour. We saw some pretties to the left and had a look to the right as well. Most of us went round the corner and found a passage that went quite a long way. Then we found Toby was at with us. We went back and he'd gone straight on into a squeeze while we turned the corner. He got unstuck though. We continued down the streamway and saw the Trident and Judge. We had a look at the curtains at the start of Swamp Creek too. Then we went to see Maypole Inlet and Shatter Pillar and Selenite Tunnel and President's Leap. On the way back there was some good routefinding by the beginners. Good trip!

Top Entrance exploration trip



Vlad, Jessica, Arya, Adrian, Sam, Amy headed out aroud 11 am to do a top entrance of the cave, with the objective of having a technical, sporty trip. The group encountered passageways that required stemming, crawling, squeezing, and brief climbing. They ended with walking through the streamway ~~off~~ to back towards the entrance. Everyone had a great time. We ~~ended~~ returned to the entrance by ~~and~~ about 5pm - but I can't remember exactly. P.S We all successfully navigated through the contortionists!

(50)

The Jerome Group (Jerome, Rocky, Penny, Viktor) (Rocky writing)
We aimed to find the way for a through trip from Bottom. As the Streamway was high, we chose to go through the Bolt Traverse. However, I found out that I was the only one with caststails while walking there. After I reminded Jerome, he didn't want to open the minibus (where the caststails are) as the key was in a hard-to-get location in caving suit.

Thus, we did the trip without caststails (except me). To make things worse, Jerome screwed up the navigation by leading Penny onto the Airy-Fairy. Fortunately, Penny was rescued back with my caststails.

We carried on through the Connection, and climbed up a 4m wall (bypass the last bit through a hole). While climbing up, Jerome went forward to explore further without waiting for us to climb. There were more than one way on, and we took a while to re-unite with him. At this point, I decided that it's no longer safe to follow him, since I don't have surveys further from this. Thus, the three of us turned back.

We got back to the hut before Jerome, but our stuffs were locked in the minibus, ~~#~~ with its key hidden somewhere by Jerome. Luckily, I analysed what Jerome said about "hard to get to with caving suits" and found it in [redacted] after 3 seconds of search.

Generally, a lucky trip, and I learned the way for a through trip.

On Sunday there was a lot of hiking and a trip to Moonlight Chamber, which was good fun. Jerome and Penny did a 1→Cwm Dwr through trip.