

(Aled) - I've put a ✓ by the reports now written into the expo computer.

N.B.: BUT NOT THE PICTURES

EXPO 2014

✓ 23/7/14 Rebolt/Rig Turntable Entrance pitch Anthony & Jess

Headed off to Turntable with 200m of 11mm, a substantial pile of hangers, slings, hooks, bits, drill, drill battery - so it took a while. I headed down with the intention of getting the rig so that we could have more than one person on the pitch at a time without hitting rubble on each others heads. Jess sat on the surface and scrubbed for a bit (apart from when it was heating). I put in a new reeling that neatly avoided the passing hauls, then spent ages trying to work out where I was going to put bolts in for the next bit since it was clearly going to be scary and hard. Eventually found a way to put in a particularly nice reeling (that Jess later enjoyed). Managed to wrap myself round the rope multiple times in the process, so spent 40 minutes untangling myself, then descended landing at the lower end of the first boulder slope as intended. Jess joined me and I proceeded to rig a traverse to the head of the next drop, making use of a pre-drilled Hilti hole and an existing Hilti. By this time we were running out of time so headed out.

T/U 6 hrs (A) 1 hr (S)

✓ 2014/07/23 Find 107, Start Riggings 14 Joe, Aled, Wooley

Joe on his 3rd day of looking for 107. This time armed with a new map from Wooley at the computer, set @ 3am, saying to find roots along year track and thus 108, then 107 was 120m away on 220°. Unfortunately this was copied from an older map - from 107, not to 107, so was backwards. Thus Joe & Aled spent a while looking in the wrong place until work arrived with a map from Wooley with correct info. 83 was pretty good (has got but no cap) and thus 107.

Ta-daa!

Then it transpired (hah) whilst Aled + Joe were collecting rope from stack at edge of plateau. Aled had left cap at 108 so had to hide in bin bag for 30 mins - "hoax". Finally got underground around 3pm. 107 is a nice cave & OTJ get full marks for documentation (Rigging guide + Log + Q&A) + sunny. Riggings I work hardy went well. Joe shined the useless + sunny. Charlie without gear. Aled followed with 7-socks before realising that a) this was foolish & b) he needed to come back & give Wooley hangers for rigging. Short period of excitement was survived.

Left Riggings due to Romp before going home. Case is V. cold due to strong draught throughout. Bing Wooley!

T/U 3 1/2 hrs

✓ 2014-07-25 Continue Rebolt/Pig Tunnels Entrance Anthony & Jess

Two days after our previous effort, the same team returned to continue the attempted re-rig of the Tunnels entrance pitch. I swung around in the shaft putting in an airy-piry rig to avoid the loose choss while Jess sat on a rubble slope providing moral support. One deviation and two y-hangs later, team 2 arrived with the intention of putting in a quick 'n' dirty rig to the bottom so they could start rigging the rest of the cave. After a few hours sitting with six of us strung out along the pitch with much shuffling of gear, it became clear that this plan was not going to work, so team 1 exited.

T/U 7 hours

✓ 2014-07-25 Team 2 into Tunnels Becka, Neil, Rob A & Michael S
T/U 10 hours

Tuned up hoping that Team 1 would have finished rigging the entrance series, found to be far from the truth. After a bit of unring and sh-ing on the surface, decided to rig just Team 1 to get to the bottom. Ice plug at the bottom was found to be significantly lower than previous years so existing bolts could not be used exclusively in quick & dirty rig. Inherited drill & bolting kit from Team 1 to rig the bottom, a traverse across the ice slope. From here split in two:
- Rob stayed on the entrance series, to use the bolting kit to continue the re-bolting of the entrance to avoid the loose floor
- Becka, Neil & I continued on carrying rope to deeper parts of the cave. Handline found in place at pits with knoedel. Camel Catharsis rigged then continued through Y Keykey beach & Dubious Pleasure. Max Pleasure. Back through Dubious Pleasure, where all 3 traverse lines were found in place. Reached spring theory top & deposited rope & baw hit, then bugged off out again, picking up Rob on the way.

T/U 10 hours

✓ 2014-07-27

Matt & Aled jolly 'n' 107. Did a carry up to top camp with the newly arrived curries, then had a quick pottle round 107 so matt could learn the way. Got as far as top bold for this spit where met Sam David Jess and Andy. Dropped off bag of rigging gear for Aled's pushing project. Nice trip some of the rigging is a bit "rock and roll"

4 hours underground.

2014-07-24

More Rigging in in 107

Wookey & Joe

Came down hill after last trip as Joe needed to settle phone. Work kept getting asked reading questions so didn't leave till 11ish. So underground about 2pm.

Loose trip, partly as I had think piece hung instead of that. One so unit learned, but also have about 5 or 2 independent trips, with Joe rigging ahead & work following, setting the economical rigging to add backings to one-bit wires & say 5km rope on wheels toward for 39km or. Joe came back to repeat squeeze then in again to keep warm. Work followed to be compared by implausibly tight cable for Austria. Then big through squeeze only to note lack of kipping & get second thoughts, so backed out & looked around. Didn't seem to go, to L or higher up. (He somehow failed to spot 5km rope left on intake). Both things (bottom squeeze to find corroborating Joe beyond. After a bit more confusion at way left in direction, whizzed a down to find very happy Joe at 'any progress'. Time to go home after great trip. This out from there, taking top squeeze into instead (not really any better given amount of effort approach. Dusk to top camp before dark @ 21.10. T/U. 6hrs.

2014-07-25

3rd Rigging in trip

Wookey, Joe, Andrew.
+ Aled.

Underground by 11 this time, with 3 bolts & plenty of keenness Joe headed for point, again, whilst Wookey & Andy H. came along as rigging factories to fix up the dodgy old rigging, particularly his property for knee-high pitch lead bolt. Fixed up, on brack stuff that we had left in & led the day before as had gone down the hill then on to add back-up bolts, and after in pitch lead bolts too. Caught up with Joe at 'too cold for this shit' when he had managed to scare himself rigging due to having to fish out string hedges associated a big leg-clembler. He was pleased to see some company. Work went over & rigged back about 2m higher to turn a horn into a pile traverse. (Fine bit of brassing by JV)

Aled turned up at this point having come up from base & solo-cared to find us to some now continued to big knee pitch, where we had 5 of the recommended 6 by. Andrew rigged it tight and added 2 bolts, and stopped, two to just reach the floor, whilst the last dangled out end of comparison QMS. Work looked off 13-CC-9C, 13-CC-7C, 13-CC-8X. 13-CC-6C is a C15 (!) down to a fairly short pit into China. Joe & Aled decided 13-CC-16A was worth a look. We all went down to be impressed by China. 13-CC-10B again the knee north-lead leads up a 20-30m blank with bolting project - too early. 13-CH-4B at the bottom is not inspiring. It probably doesn't go, but hard to be sure. Nets a bolt off a line to drive in.

Fortunately, Austrian couple in port change in our rack were able to provide beer, the great of phone number & a phone to call for rescue. Julian came & saved me.
Doh. That really was quite dumb!

✓ 2014-07-27 107: Alcove pop + Nipped down. Jess + Andrew + Sam + David

Returned to the "too bdd for this spid" traverse. Andrew climbed up above the traverse to the lead spotted the previous day and put some bolts in so Jess could climb up and survey the small passage found - "Alcove pop", which split after a few meters with both ways ending in mud. Small roof tube ran back into the main rift + split into many tiny holes. Mean while Sam + David retrieved the rope from Korea.

David replaced the bolt which popped out the previous day, and all returned to the passage and pitch found the previous day - Passage = popped across, pitch = nipped down. Andrew then finished rigging "nipped down" and David and Jess surveyed it, linking it into China before heading out. Possible passage continuation across pitch - QMC.

On the way back up the pitch, Andrew noticed the single bolt above the 30m hang and below the dodgy sling reelay was pulling out as he prussiked - when he got there, he could pull it out of the wall!

Everyone headed out, Sam having some light trouble in the squeeze - this is easiest using the low route now most of the popcorn has gone. All out by 20:15, and all headed down to base camp.

T/U 10hrs

QMC - Possible Passage continuation of Popped across on opposite wall of Nipped down - bolt traverse required.

26/7/14 ~~258~~ 258 - Turned - Rig String Theory + to Beast area
Anthony + Belea

Used rope previously departed to rig String Theory which was a breeze due to the reflector bolts placed on last year's denig - top gear!

Continued on + I rigged bypass in Pugh but it needed further tweaking. Anthony + I then went for a tourist checking the in situ nasty red rope on the short climb up + traverse + to look at the Beast pitch + pitch below Bob On,

TU 10 1/2 hours

27/7/14. 258 - Turnnodes - Pigeons in Flight →
Pigeon Droppings

✓ Balua, Neil, Rob A

looked at the pitch below Bob On but decided to
go to the one below the traverse just beyond
Pigeons in Flight. Neil rigged while Rob + I surveyed
down. Neil's pitch ("Pigeon Droppings") is nicely rigged
in 3 short drops (bit loose at pitch head). This leads
next to a well, undescended pitch but we went
for the blowing horizontal lead. It was crawly,
past 2 partly freshly dead bats to a bad step traverse.
Neil put in a couple of bolts to drop below the
traverse which was blind, + then to put a handline
over the traverse. We wrapped up the survey here +
headed out. En route I replaced the nasty, slippery
red 9mm on the climb up to the Baluany (just beyond
Long theory) with thicker rope + put the red 9mm
as a handline up to that climb

T/U 12 hours

✓ 28/7/14. 258 - Turnnodes → Pigeon Droppings →
Flying Rob

Becka, Kacey, Nathaniel

Headed down to where we left off yesterday, Kacey
+ Nat breezing down all the way entrance rigging
with all of 9 months canyon experience a piece
(though they'd just come from the Pico expedition
so are expo-seasoned). We set off surveying,
following the draft but quickly got to a pitch.
Nat went back ~~down~~ to fetch the gear while
Kacey + I surveyed side leads. When we got back
to Nat he shame-facedly ~~admits~~ confessed that one of
the dry batteries had rolled out of the bag he was
unpacking + down a small hole. He tried to persuade
Kacey to go in after it but he's no fool so he
wiggled in, ~~maneuvered~~ head first, managed to retrieve
the battery, attempted to turn around, failed, tried
to back out failed, started to sound a bit stressed +
finally begged for assistance. Kacey + I got a bag
each + he finally was hauled out. After that he
needed a while to compose himself so Kacey rigged
the pitch ("Flying Rats") with 2 spits at the top + a
rebelay then we surveyed down to a traverse with
a bad step + then better along a ledge with loose rock
where we ended the survey. ~~Shawn~~ decided that it
really should have been rigged. Packed the load gear up
left it at the top of Pigeon Droppings + went for

quick check on Neil + Rob below Bob On who were surveying out + then exited steadily

Tu 12 hours

29/7/14 prospecting in NE of Turnoedis
Becha, Mike, Andrea, Nat, Katey

A pleasant day ambling in the sun + trying to hit Mike's main goal areas. We found surprisingly little given the 5-person comb but we refound CULL-2005-05 which seemed promising unless the air in it is just circulating from the fractured bowl beneath the entrance. Mike, Andrea + Katey surveyed it whilst Nat bottled the right hand pitch to a bridge before running out of rope (we only had 11m + 12m; the only other rope at Top Camp was 200m!) + good rock, this should be returned to + checked out properly.

We also refound 2006-05 which appeared to have spits to descend but Base Camp couldn't find a report of what happened there, it looks pretty good.

"Hot Tub"

Finally, we found a new cave which we neatly tagged as CULL-14-876. Katey rigged this with a backup line + hang down perhaps 15m to a snow plug which might have a way on beyond. It seemed to have a good draft + is in an interesting position above 258/204 so, again, this would be worth returning to.

Tu 30 min

30/7/14 258 - Turnoedis → Ryeen Droppings →

Becha + Nat

Pumping Rats + de-rigging
"Trafalgar Square" Survey

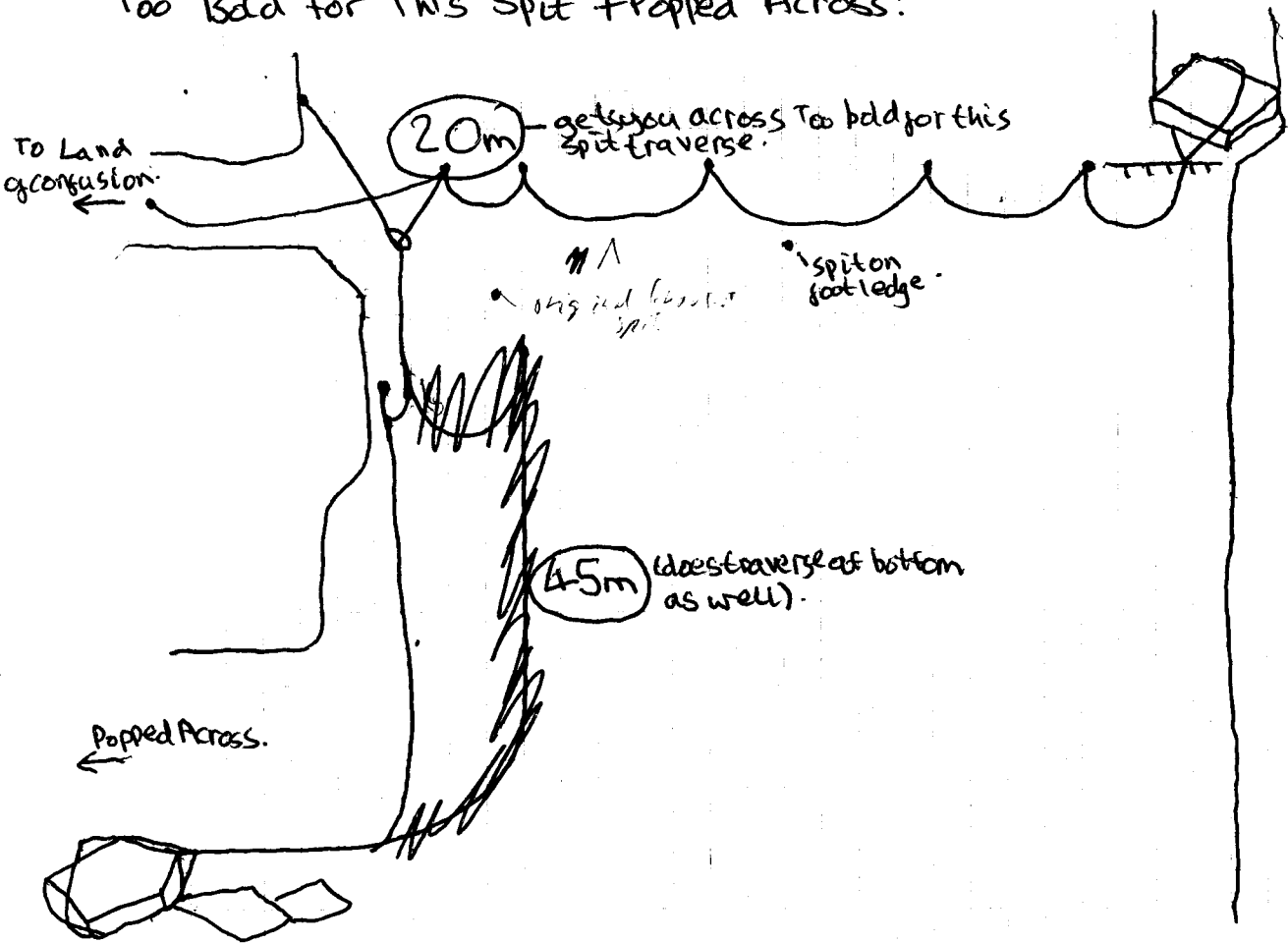
hid up the gear at the top of Ryeen Droppings including Rob + Neil's 80m rope so we were fairly laden + headed down to playing Rats pitch. Rigged to traverse a couple of 50-50 naturals (trying to conserve hangers due to the hanger - draught at top of camp) then Nat put a couple of spits in the fan side (+ another one which completely fractured the rock when he set it) + then another natural. We surveyed on from yesterday + then in loops under ourselves. Nat rigged on naturals down a short pitch. The passage looked big + phreatic + exciting but I went up the nasty loose climb at the end + it just fizzled out, grrr. We surveyed a final loop back to the short pitch then reluctantly decided

to denig, slugged out with 2 backloads a-piece so left
 rigging propped up + left rigging gear at the top
 then we paddled out, I think it was 3 hours in +
 ~4 hours out, emerging just gone midnight + snuck
 home before the rain really started. T/U 13 hours

✓ 29/07/14 107 - Gemshohle - finalising Nipped Down
 rigging + Pushing lead in
 Southern China - "The last TSA".
Jess, Wookey, Michael.

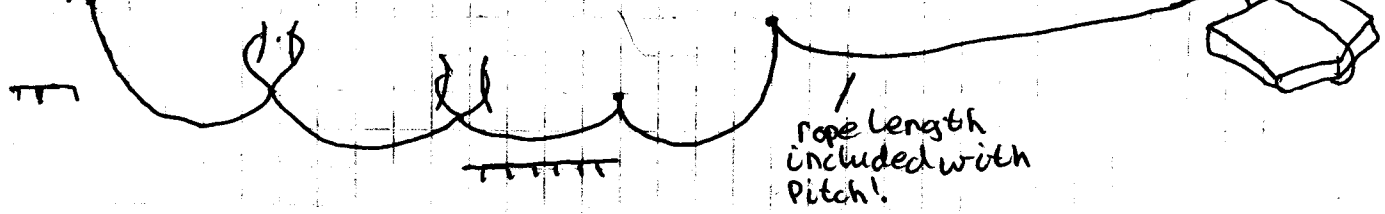
Nipped down had been rebolted the previous trip, but the
 ropes needed switching to ensure the rope reached the floor.
 Wookey sorted this while Jess and Michael passed 5m of
 slack rope along the popped across traverse back to the pitch
 at too bold for this spit:

Too Bold for This Spit + Popped Across:

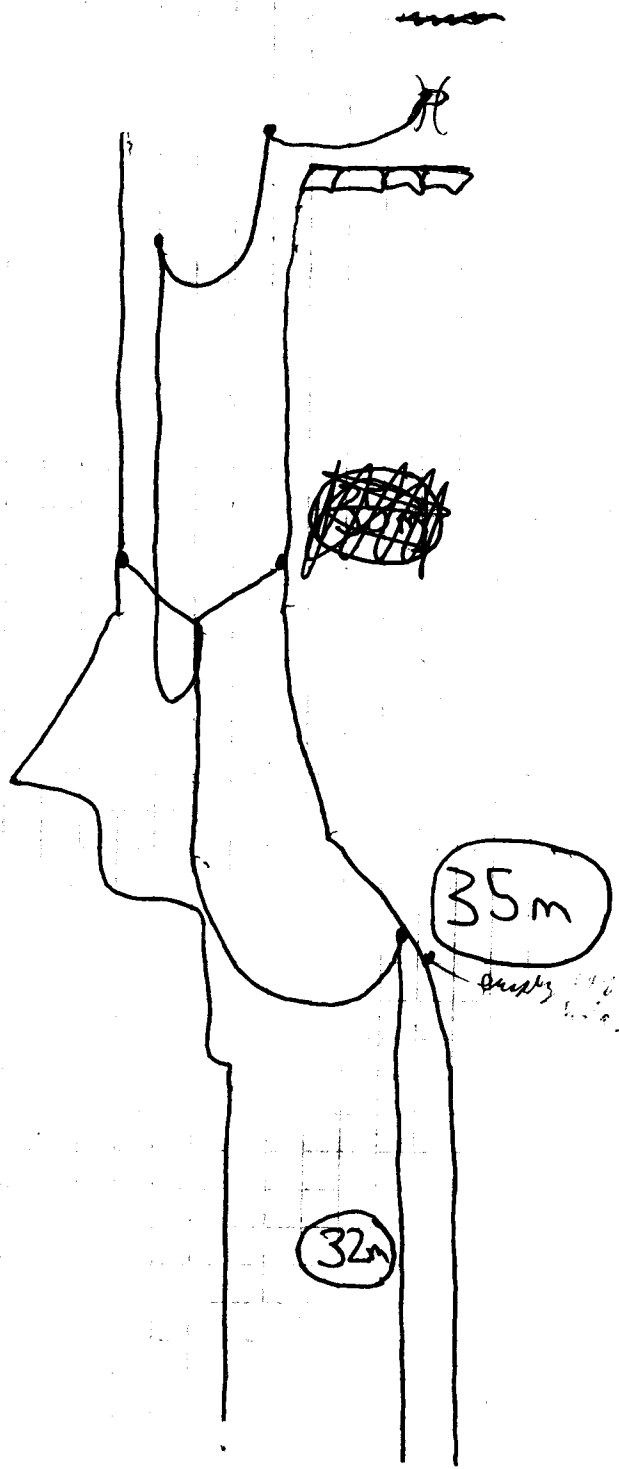


upto 100 Rola
for the SPIT.

Popped Across Traverse:
p-big!

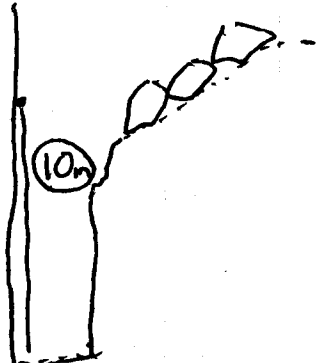


Nipped Down:

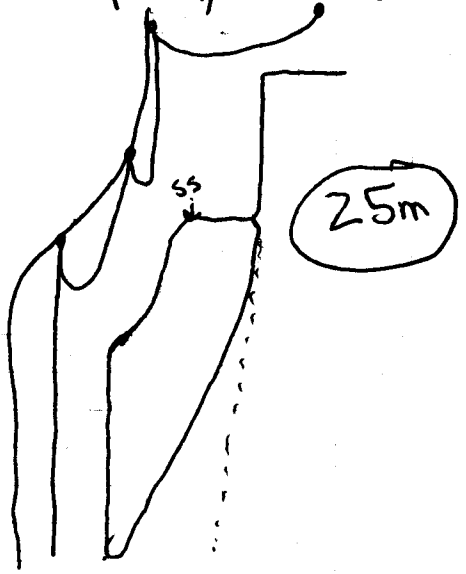


Rigging now settled, the team departed for the N end of China + Korea and spent some time checking for leads at and below floor level - wokey moved some scary boulders under Korea but all that was found was the pitch pushed by O+J the previous year. However, the climb to the alcove 20m up the N wall of the Aven at the N end of China looked promising.

Having so far found nothing new, the three now departed for the A lead at the S end of China - 13CH-11A. 7m climb was rigged with a handline from a single bolt 1/2 way down:



Large ^{smooth walled} semi-phreatic ^{high} rift passage was found heading S to a 20m pitch, which J+W bolted:



~~A further~~ The passage was found to continue ^{as leading rift with chert} in much the same vein until a final chamber with an aven was reached. Due to time now being short, all 3 exited and a return was planned the next day to complete the surveying, though the passage was given the name "The Last TSA" courtesy of Michael wearing his Dad's old TSA overalls.

TU 9 1/2 hrs

30/07/14 · 107 Gemshohle

The Last TSA, climb
Nend of China.

Jess + Wookey.

The return trip to The Last TSA, to finish the survey. Large mud and stone floored phreatic hading rift, heading S and down, with a chocolate mud river flowing down the floor. Large amount of wall peelage LHS - in one place a huge section has flaked off (20m? long) - the battleship Potempkin". Wookey shinned up into the ceiling after the battleship, finding a window out into the end chamber with the rift continuing up with a slight draft at 30m above the floor - Wookey realised how high he was, got scared and came back - Continuing climb up rift QMB. W rigged a handline - down the washed out mud and boulder cliff into the final chamber where an aven enters - QMX. far wall is solid, W poked around in the boulders and found that the RHW is undercut and could be the continuation, but no way through the very precarious boulder choke filling the chamber floor and bottom part of 2 walls (RHS, near side).

De-rigged back to China, and Wookey proceeded to climb up to the alcove visible in the N wall of the aven at the N of China, ~ 20m up. The climb drafted, but the alcove was a sand-filled passage and didn't go (B-CH-IB). On his way back down, on the RHS of a boulder he had passed on the way up, he found a rift small hole below which drafted V strongly out! The rift would be tight and looked like you would need to wedge yourself in then descend a pitch. The small hole below may give easier access if dug?

QMA!!! - the way to KH?

Due to time + J being tired, plus the lead looking like a trip in and of itself, both headed back out at this point.

The Last TSA: QMB - 30m climb up hading rift in ceiling between the battleship wall flake and the final aven.

QMX - the aven entering the final chamber.

Nend of China: QMA - Rift small hole with strong outward draft in N wall of aven 1/2 way up climb to alcove, may require pitch bolting once into rift.

TU 10hrs

30/07/14

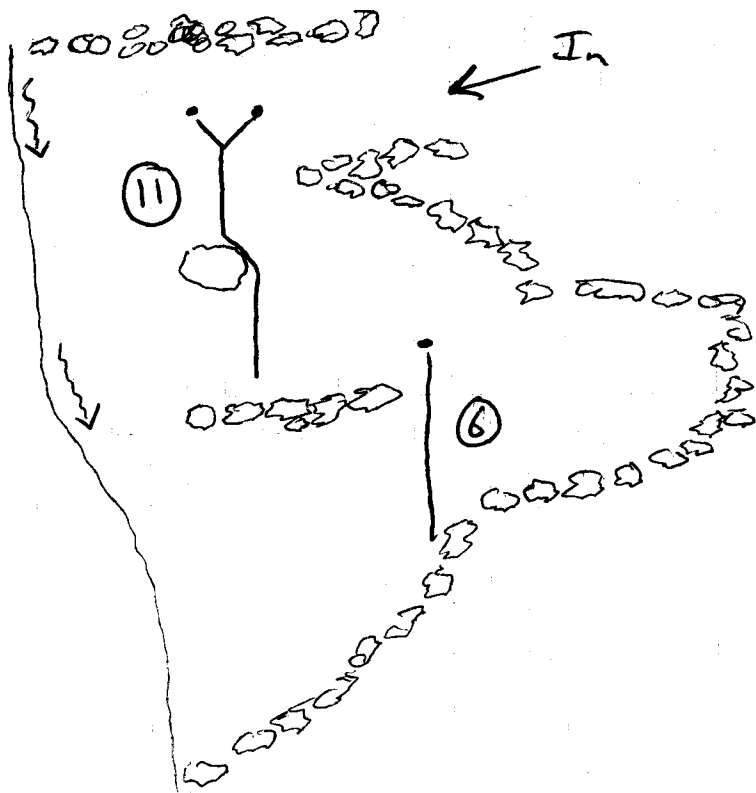
258 Tunnocks

Sightseeing and C-lead at the top of String Theory (09-44C)

Michael, Katey, Mike & Andrea Futtell

The Futtells wanted a sightseeing trip where they could take photographs without being pressured to go fast, and the others wanted an easier trip. Also given to us was the choice of a C-lead at the top of String Theory (09-44C)

Took the standard route to ST (Entrance → Carand Cathasis → Pleasure Series → ST). C-lead was along a rift out the top of the scree slope at the top of ST leading west. Floor of ~~the~~ boulder choke, after ~20 m the floor falls out. There is a gap wide enough to fit a person, an 11 m rope allowed descent to a second level of boulder choke floor. A third and final level of boulder choke floor was reached by another ~6 m pitch. Both ends of the rift choked up at each level. The lowest level was at ~45° angle, any step sent a cascade of rocks down.



Trireme Rift
(3 levels and they just get shitter further down)

Craps out in all directions, not worth returning to. On the way out, the Futtells took time on the entrance series to take a lot of photos.

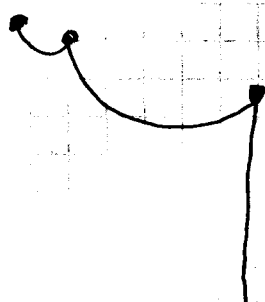
T/U 9 hrs

Computerised to new folder on expoweb.

RIGGING GUIDE: ~~Pigeons~~ Bottom of Strong Theory →

→ Pigeons in Flight → Pigeon Propping → Flying Rats
→ Trafalgar Square (please amend)

① Handline climb up to the Balcony



Rope to be left in place in 2014
(confirm?)

(25?)

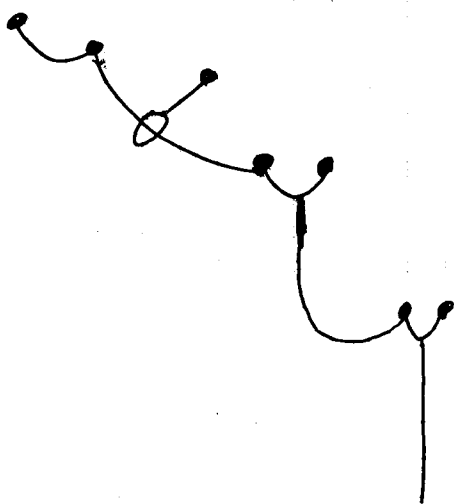
② Handline climb down to Königsberg.



(6?)

Rope to be left in place in 2014
(confirm?)

③ Pigeons in Flight pitch.



(40/45m)

← or a single bolt?

④ Single jammer C4 climb/pitch.



? I can't remember the rig

Rope to be left in place in 2014
(confirm?)

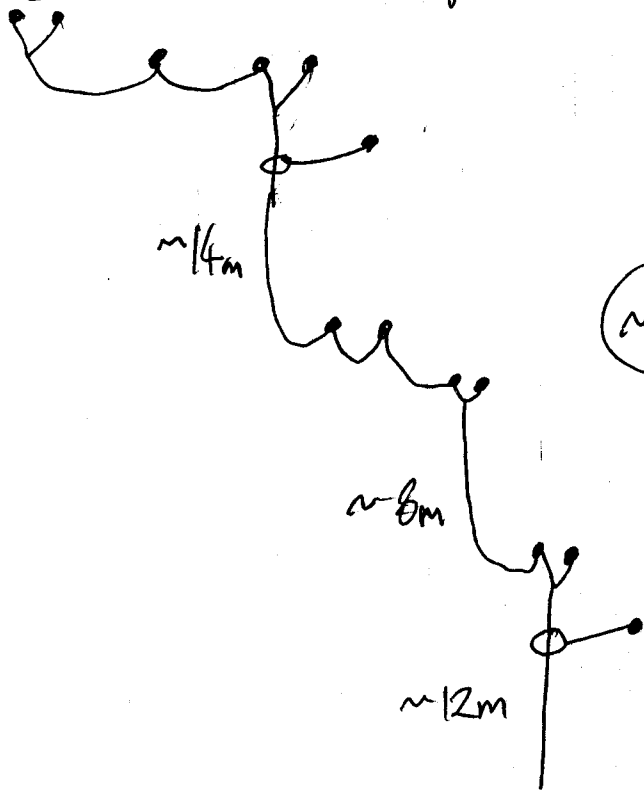
(10?)

⑤ Traverse over top of pigeon droppings
↳ Can BYPASS using small passage on left
I can't remember the rig

①5? Rope to be left in place in 2014
(confirm?)

though a short rope to protect the
move up to the chamber would
be good.

⑥ Pigeon droppings pitch.



~50m?

— around half of a
~~110m~~ 110m rope.

⑦ Traverse for step over blind pit



⑦m?

(easy w/out rope
unless have heavy
bags).

⑧ Flying Rats pitch



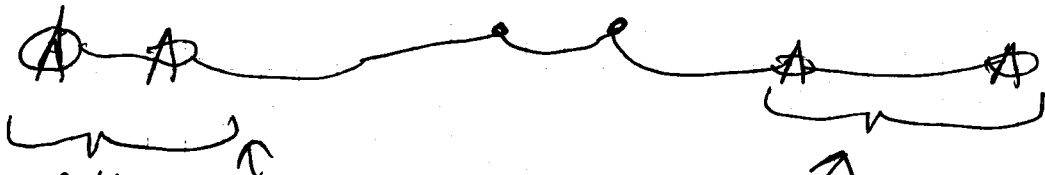
25m?

* Rigged with rest of 110m left over from pigeon dropping + some spare

so all 4 (6,7,8,9) probably 100m

← probably needs something here else hard to avoid rub

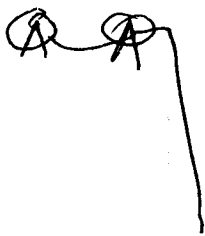
⑨ Trabalyon Square traverse.



25m?

Bolts would be much better at start + finish (rigged with hanger draught in mind!)

⑩ Trabalyon Square pitch.



NEEDS BOLTING! Temporary rig used on naturals. Maybe 20m?

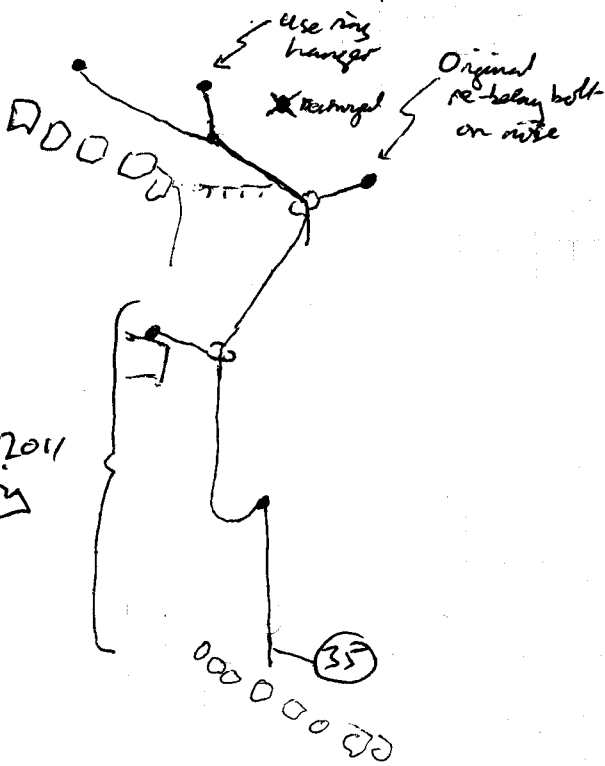
29/7/14

Fig 161g

Anthony, Rob A, Rob W

After a week of effort in 107, the general consensus was that it would be easier to find a connection from the 161 side, so Dr Day's Entrance Pit & Puffing Service was called into action. Traversed over with Rob² and enough gear to rig to Strange Downfall, placing a minimal set of reflectors on route. Puffing in proceeded smoothly with few surprises (apart from one handline that had been removed near the start of Pearle Blunder - reinstated) and flawless route finding as far as the top of Kwoosos. Here I discovered that one of the bolts I wanted to use for the pit's head y-hang had been deliberately disabled, so the new rig looks like this:

2014 MINOR SURPRISE / KWOOSOS R.I.L.



Route finding through Kwoosos / Star Wars / Tower Islands proved to be a bit more tricky - some reflectors would be useful - but we eventually made it to Staircase 36. The rope for the traverse over a big lake near the bottom of Staircase 36 has been removed and should ideally be reinstated. I rigged Strange Downfall while Rob² and Rob moved around in Chicken Fried Ice without finding any obvious route through to Pearle shore. With that we headed out - a most efficient trip.

T/U Flour.

As 2011
3

30/7/14

161 - Reconnaissance trip to Tunnel Stone and Beardstrasse

Anthony, Rob A, Rob W

Following a quick and effective trip the previous day, the same team returned to try the long way round to the leads near 107. We thought that the trip shouldn't take too long so were in no hurry to leave Top Camp. The plan in this logic should have been obvious and our failure to get underground before 14:00 proved to be a mistake. Traversed along to Strange Downfall, Rob W prodded up Strange Downfall to find that the traverse line at the top was (thankfully) still in place. Up long of time and into Country for Old Men, we had a pleasant surprise that the Subarctic pit was still rigged - the 100m of rope we had with us was starting to look like over-kill. All enjoyed the interesting rig on the Masher pit, then along the extensive horizontal stuff at the bottom. By now it was becoming clear that, despite minimal route-finding hassles, the trip was going to take quite a long time.

Arriving at Holey Cow, we finally found something that needed rigging. Rob W
repped down the little climb, then put in a hanger to protect the walk across
the ridge to the little traverse on the other side. It turns out that this bolt
is pretty good since when Rob made it to the ~~top~~ location of the y-hang
bolt, the ledge he was standing on disappeared and he took a big swing
and smacked into the ridge.

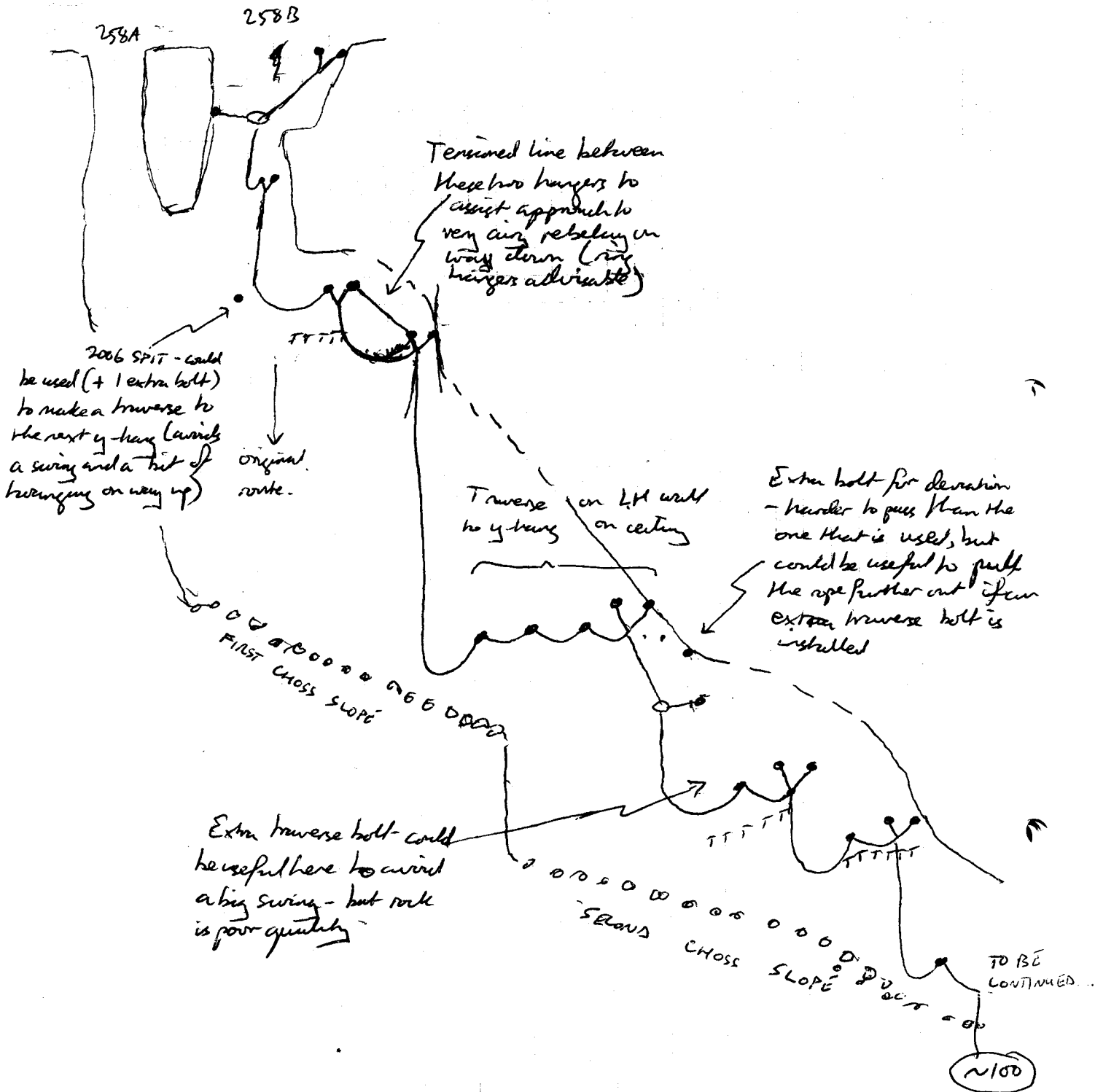
After that bit of excitement, we headed off to the Normal Stone. Survey
station 56 looked like the most promising area: there is an undercut
pitch with a fine draught. Climbing up into the roof (looks like we are
in the bottom of a keyhole) to see if the passage continues at roof level
might also be worth a try. The survey puts us 23m laterally and at the
same level as a parallel passage to Clinton T. Lied Nice, so there are a few
possibilities here for cutting a significant chunk off the commute.

Next we went to the end of Bundestrasse. The continuing rift at the end goes
to a pitch after ~15m. There is a draught, but it is small compared to
that in the phreatic passage. This suggests that most of the draught
disappears up the aren, which looks like a phreatic tube and Rob A
believes might be climbable.

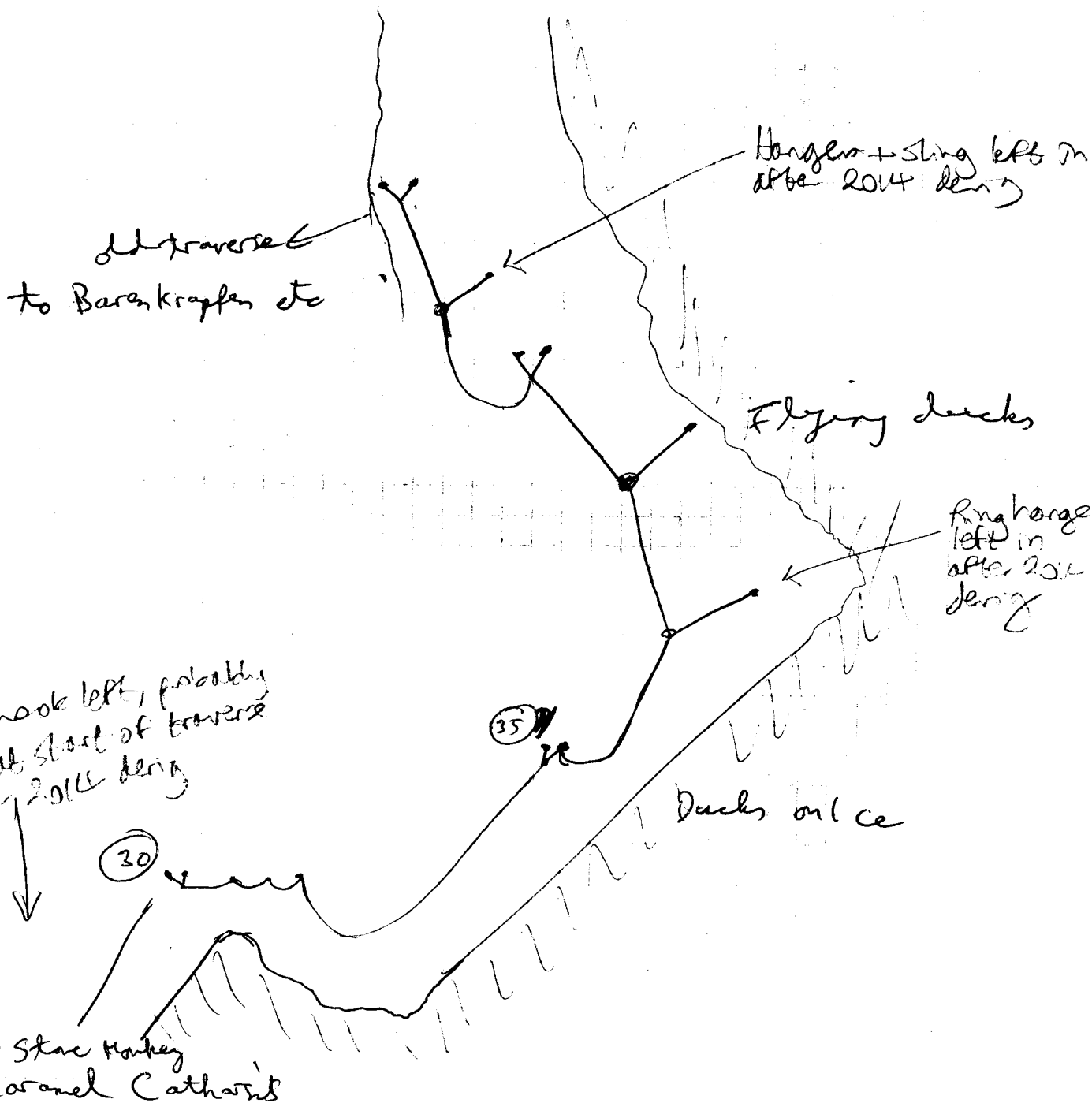
By now it was getting very late, so we returned to the junction at the end of
Tairchen Republiik and detached the rope. From here it took about 5 hours
to get out, with the only significant delay being to install a sling on a
good climb in Suederland that we had walked past on the way
down. Emerged to steady rain at 03:50. We were very glad of the extra
reflectors that had been installed on the walk out during the soggy walk
back. Arrived at Top Army at 05:00 in time for a dawn curry.

T/U 14 hours

TUNNOCKS ENTRANCE RIG, 2014, PART ONE



TUNNOCK'S ENTRANCE RIG, 2014, PART TWO



01/08/14 107 - GEMSHÖHLE - ATTEMPT TO PUSH WOOREY
& JESS'S LEAD AT NORTH END
OF CHINA

MATT, DAVID, ELAINE & SOPHIE

Attempts to go caving from base camp are not a great idea if you want to be underground at a reasonable hour... Rather a lot of faffing and a diversion to the mobile phone shop later, we were en route to 107. and underground at ~ 1:30pm. It was Elaine & Sophie's first LPO caving trip. Progress was somewhat slow, and since it took 4 hours to reach a point just before TOO BLD FOR THIS SPIT, the decision was taken to turn around at 5:30pm.

Elaine and David decided to retrieve the hand bottling kits which were left ~~there~~ just before Pop Across. David grabbed the kits then D+E caught up w/ M&S who were making their way out. Once M&S had gone past the squeeze, E derigged the pitch which bypasses the squeeze while D. rebotted & rerigged the ~~big~~ traverse at the bottom of said pitch to make it safer. ~~There~~ All reached the surface at ~ 9:45pm. D+E decided to go ahead to ~~the~~ top camp to cancel the collect & outrun the thunderstorm which was snapping at our heels. S+M arrived, rather damp, 1.5h later.

T/U Shows

02/08/2014

107-GEMSHÖHLE

ATTEMPT #2 TO PUSH
WOOLEY & JESS'S LEAD
AT NORTH END OF CHINA

DAVID, ELAINE, ALED, ROB W

After a late start than was intended (due to my extensive falling abilities), we were underground by 11:45. By ~~1:30pm~~ we had reached "Too Bold". This being Elaine's 2nd trip of exper, & only her 6th(?) SRT trip, she was not quite so confident on the larger pitches, so we ~~had~~ reached the bottom of China by around 3pm. The climb which Wooley had rigged was somewhat precarious to say the least, so we sat on the other side of the cross pile at the bottom in a group shelter until each of us had ascended the climb. Aled & David got to the top & I decided to come up. About half way up (~2m above the deviation) I felt a massive draught kicking out of a Manting rift in the wall: the lead! The others had gone too high. David dropped down with the doll after I had had a look down the hole, a slanting rift for ~5m which opens out over the top of a reasonable freehang (~20m). The pitch was subsequently dropped by David, who shouted enthusiastically up for someone to follow. I had the survey kit in my bag, so I followed on.

After some rigging adjustments, I dropped into a rather large passage with a hummingbird draught at the end. Very Excite! We went round the corner to where Dave had looked to and began surveying. However, after 3 legs Dave discovered a survey station - which wasn't ours. Strange! This lead us to believe that it was not new passage. We went through a squeeze after a sandy crawl after following a phreatic passage with a gravelly floor, this reached a massive rift with a dodgy looking climb or a dodgy looking traverse. [Tried doing the traverse but it was a risky idea with us being 2 rather inexperienced cavers on the wrong side of a possibly new bit of passage. We therefore turned round and backsurveyed 8 legs ^{from previous station} to the top of the pitch David dropped. By this time, it was getting on for 8pm & with at 12 (midnight) callout we decided it was time to turn round, Al & Elaine having already headed out. Carrying the drill, bolting kit etc progress was more taxing than inward & we reached the surface around 10:30. After some fuff & corde finding issues we returned to top camp at 11:40 pm, cutting callout a wee bit fine.

1/10/10.

2014-07-31 107:

Andrew, Aled.

Aled wants to drop a pitch, take 2.

Heavy rain in the morning meant Andrew's proposed ~~walk~~ walk up the hill at 6:30 am was postponed enough for Aled to wake up and decide he also wanted to go caving. An early start on the Plateau walk was hampered by shitty weather (lots of rain) and traffic in the form of cows and sheep. Upon reaching 107, Aled was happy to find that his SRT kit had ~~been~~ helpfully been brought down from the bunda-hill from the day before by Matt & co, so caving could commence.

Ominous sounds of water echo through the cave but ~~not~~ waterfalls confined to predicted places, most notably the "Easy reverse", but Andrew's previous fettling of the rope to make it tighter kept us out of the worst of the water. - when!

An hour and a half into the cave soon as reach the far end of "Too Bold for This Spite" which where ~~the~~ the new route into China was mostly hidden by torrential water. Aled's proposed lead drop was quickly found (it is an A lead, after all), and would be great if it ~~was~~ dropped into China as it was BONE DRY. Unfortunately, the rigging gear Aled & Matt dropped off the previous day had been unhelpfully moved to the bottom of "Nipped down" ... so basically out of practical reach.

Andrew "You could go down to fetch it, but you won't be coming back."

Looking at the dropped pitch at the end of "Too Bold for This Spite", Aled quickly agreed. Headed out feeling cheated. (2)

T/U: 3 hrs.

2014-08-01

Tomrocks - Riggng ~~a new lead by~~ Goldfinger by Champagne on Ice.

Neil, Aled, Andrew.

Slightly later start than anticipated as Aled had to first fetch his gear from 107. It didn't help that the Plateau Monster bit him on the way back to ~~the~~ Top Camp.

Entrance series was a great selection of rebelay, which - as far as the writer is aware - is ~~not~~ different from previous years, but as it was the first time down Tomrocks for Aled, everything was brand new. Neil provided helpful hints throughout the descent.

After much tripping ~~about~~ & sliding about, the two-and-a-half musketeers arrived at the desired location (which the writer believes was Champagne on Ice), only to decide the proposed pitch should be dropped from the other side. I can only then assume we backtracked and headed to Pledomin Highway, as by this point I hadn't a bloody clue where I was. Sat at the top of the pitch, Neil got ready for some serious climbing

* apparently

and rigging, while Andrew & Aled sat patiently. At some point Andrew ~~they~~ headed down after Neil as it went very quiet & dark - Aled was now huddled up in his survival bag, and couldn't see anything anyway. Some time past, and Andrew arrived back declaring we should go off to "cross off some of those fucking leads".

Many holes squashed through, precarious climbs climbed, rocks replaced, boulders shuffled and mud clawed away, and we ~~found the~~ discovered the following:

07-770: Soil filled phreatic passage, filled to roof, no draft. Probably worth 1 session (with a shovel)

07-99C: 5 m to complete rock fill - ~~draft out~~ draft out.

07-79X: Climb to soil filled slot, dug, ~~finishes~~ finishes in small rock hole, draft out. Roof looks to be immature, closes down.

07-85C + 07-83C plus unlabelled roof tube to west of ~~85~~ 85 and 83: Climbs up and joins in larger rift, everything above too tight.

Headed back to Neil, who I believe accomplished his task, munching some chocolate & headed out.

Neil & Andrew insisted on Aled leading - big mistake. Sat idly by whenever he headed in wrong direction. Bluffed at one particular passage causing much confusion for Aled, then sneaked off when his back was turned;

"C***S!"

Tiring climb out for Aled, crawled to surface like a beaten house-elf ~~then~~ about half an hour after Neil & Andrew. Face down on the limestone, Aled is asked if he wants to go back down with Becka & Rob who arrived;

"Hahaha... rope!" (cries)

T/O: 8 hrs (Neil & Andrew), 8 1/2 hrs (Aled)

2014-07-27 107: Aled wants to ~~put~~ ^{drop} a pulch, take 1

Mucho Juffos today! Helped not in the least by Aled, ^{Matt, Aled.} needing to collect gear from Top Camp first. Underground by 4:40pm!! ~~No time for~~

Matt - "No time to rig, just jimmer a tow"

Gave him a tow, I did.

✓ Got to "Too Bold for This Spite", & found David, Andrea, Jess, & Sam coming up the other way! Left bag of rope & rigging gear attached to said traverse. No time to push blanket back ~~out~~ out feeling cheated 😞.

(Also, just realized Matt has already T/U: 4 hrs. written this...)

✓ 01/08/14 Michael, Becca, Rob W.

Surface prospecting, NW of Tunnocks.

From Tunnocks entrance walked for ~15 min NW down the large gully before prospecting started, following the cairned route. Took a large loop by heading up the lower slopes of the Erie/Skoyel, then following the bedding plane NE and upward. After a few hours, found only one good lead (2014-777) and decided to turn for home. travelled S back to the end of the cairned route but found a more promising hole (2014-888) which was partly blocked by choss but had a very strong draft coming out.

777 was tagged & GPS logged, but 888 was only GPS logged for lack of time. T/U 0 hours.

✓ 02/08/14 Michael, Matt, Sophie, Sam

Checking Anns in Yaw Panks for snow level.

✓ (2013-03) AIYP is a possible back entrance to Tunnocks, explored in 2013 but found to be blocked by snow. Corresponding bit of cave underneath found snow & leaves, so almost certainly connected.

From the surface, looked like a straight haul to the floor, kicking all the snow & ice of 2013, particularly ice bridges across the shaft. Found to be not fine fill 60 m shaft but only 30 m down to ~~ledge~~ what was marked a ledge on 2013 survey, so rest of shaft blocked by snow. Could not see bolts for traverse shown on 2013 rigging guide.

Also checked 2012-ns-01 for connection into Tunnocks. Snow level was lower than 2013 as it connected straight into AIYP, but required ~30 m hand line when walking over snow slope.

Need snow level to be much lower for hope of making the connection into Tunnels, even though 2014 has a particularly low snow level anyway.

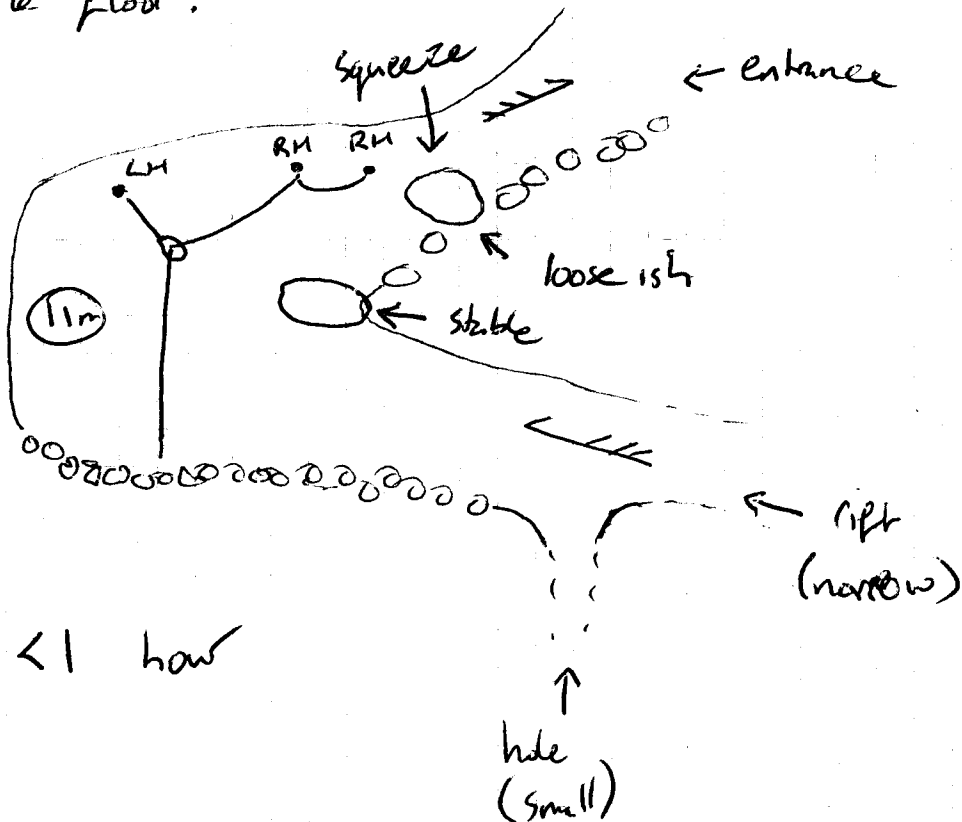
T/U < 1 hour.

03/08/14 Michael, Neil, Mike & Andrea
2014-888 and MF - unmarked pit.

Follow up on 2014-888, a drafting hole blocked mostly by glass. Took crowbar & bolting kit to prise all the precarious large rocks away from the entrance and rig the pitch that could be seen just beyond them.

Spent ~ 1 hour trying to clear the entrance, removed most of the small to medium rocks but there was 1 large boulder which wobbled but wouldn't move down the hole. In the end it was wedged to one side so it was passable.

Neil then bolted the pitch, which went down ~8m to a small chamber where the draft was coming out of a rift too small to pass, with a similar tiny hole in the floor.

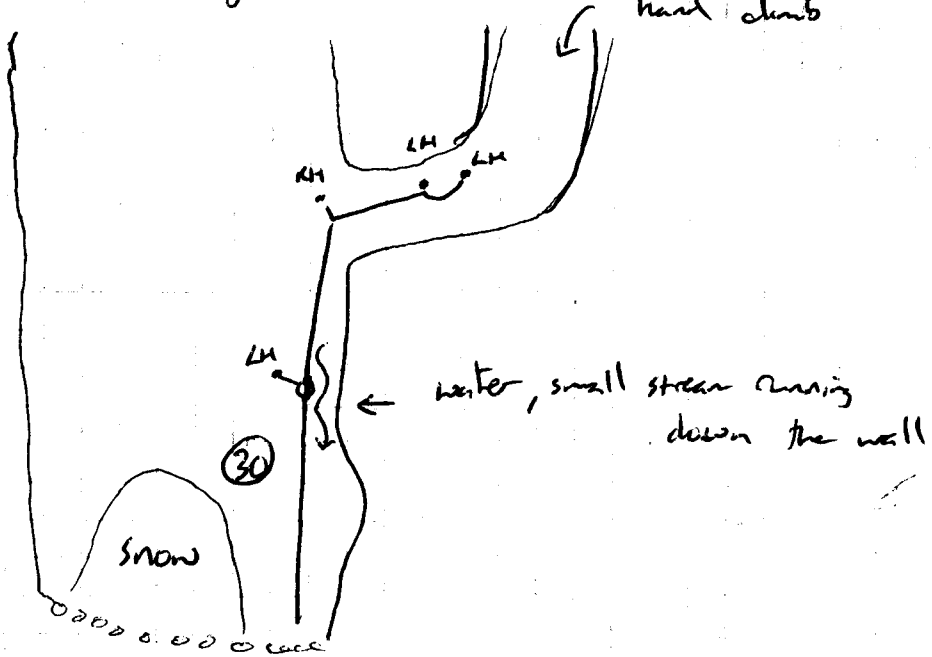


T/U : < 1 hour

Then proceeded to a large open pit that Mike Fretwell found in 2013. Snow plug at the bottom, ~25m deep and ~5m across.

Entrance was made easier by a hard climb down - 6m on the W side, emerging in a balcony from where the bolting started. Neil gave me his drill and an introductory course in how to bolt & rig (the first cave I had done so on!). [Meanwhile Mike & Andrea, and Elaine and Sam who arrived after their own trip across the valley, discovered that caving can also be a spectator sport.

There is a large window opposite the balcony, and they cheered Michael's every move as he bolted the pitch.]



Camped out on both sides of the snow plug, didn't go anywhere.

T/U : 1 hour

03/08/2014: 107 - KH connection made / KH derig

Becka, Andrew, Rob A, Rob W.

I was awoken early by Becka who was very excited about the previous day's trip. Survey data was examined & quizzing began. However, being not ~~properly~~ ^{properly} awake I did not provide any useful information at all, so we arranged to go back into 107 today with lots of tackle racks & examine the lead: if it was, as could have been the case, a connection into Korea, we would derig 107. If not, then who knew what was going to happen! After some inevitable fall (I dropped my wellies on the walk over) we got underground around half 11. We were in China by 1pm, and after some flapjack split into two twos: Rob & I went through the rift & down the pitch, & Andrew & Becka went into Korea & we would shout at each other to see if it connected. On dropping down the pitch, I showed Rob what we had done the day before and we headed up the sandy ramp to the slit. At this point, Rob proclaimed: "I bet you £500 that we're in Blom Out." On looking at the traverse I half attempted the previous day, he recinded the bet until further evidence arose. He found a way to chink down which bypassed this obstacle, and we poked round a bit at the bottom until we heard Becka & Andrew whooping with surprise: we were

indeed in Blom Out! Apparently my failure to mention how sandy the other side of the connection was or that we had found survey station 4 on the other side of the slit. In hindsight, it did look rather like other leads in KH that I had looked at. We decided that we would do the through trip out of KH, derigging as we went. After Becca had done one last survey leg to link mine & David's data with China (using our station 8 & station 4 (?) of the ^{top} ~~base~~ of the large boulder opposite Wookye's death climb) & me and Andrew had garded the death climb until there was only half a ledge left to rig off, we set off through Blom Out. Rob rigged the 5m traverse, and we continued, derigging en route. Unrods were derigged (and would need rebolting if it ever descended again), along with Sudderkind, Strange Downfall, Knossos & the Entrance. Strange Uphill, Staircase 36 & Repton were left rigged. We were out by 9, & a lightning storm ensued a hasty return to Top Camp. T/u: 10 hours.

~~Coping top for connection~~

27 min walk to beat the thunderstorm - a fine trip!

01/08/2014 2005-05 Katey + Nathanael

After prospecting with Becka, Mike, + Andrea a couple days before, Nat and I decided to revisit 2005-05 to carry on dropping the pitches there. Rob W bailed, leading to a rather late start, but we set off with a ~40m and 2x 11m ropes, plus the Bosch drill older than either one of us. We re-rigged the first pitch that Nat had dropped earlier and landed on a stone bridge between two pitches. Nat decided to drop the western pitch since it seemed to look ~~less~~ ^{more} promising, so bolted a rebelay and carried on downwards. After dropping through a slightly ~~narrow~~ ~~gap~~ narrow gap we landed on a loose, rocky slope with a ledge to one side. Nat bolted another rebelay and started on one of the 11m ropes, but rapidly came back since there was a pitch that was too big for us to drop with the kit we had - exciting times! I went down to take a look, then we went off to the ledge to commiserate. We reckoned the pitch had about a 2-second drop, making it somewhere between 20 and 30 metres. As we were cold and out of gear, we decided to return the next day with more rope (and our oversuits!).

T/U 3h

02/08/2014 2005-05 Katey and Nathanael

We returned ~~with~~ with a 100m rope and the same drill (well, the same battery). Unfortunately, the drill was shit (read: the battery was very low) and we only managed to put in 1 1/4 bolts. This was especially frustrating as Nat had converted a single-bolt rebelay to a Y-hang, so the 1/4 hole was right above the big pitch! Even more frustrating, we'd neglected to bring a spit driver due to inexperience and general incompetence. We headed back to camp promising that the next day we'd finally drop that pitch!

T/U 2h

03/08/2014 2005-05 Katey and Nathanael

We returned to the cave with a lighter drill and brighter spirits, and with surprisingly minimal fapping dropped the pitch. A nice long abseil down a clean-washed shaft landed on a rocky ledge with one more short drop before the cave opened into ~~a~~ a chamber. I bolted the small pitch, which turned out to be more challenging than anticipated, and we were in the chamber! Finally, a use for the compass/crino we'd brought! Unfortunately, in our trying not to be overly optimistic and scare the cave off we were very low on extra layers, meaning we couldn't survey for very long. On the plus side, the cave was nice and drafty! Despite cold and surveying inexperience we got about ~~60~~ 60m surveyed with plenty more to go. We also finally settled on a name for the cave - Balcony Höhle - based on the truly excellent entrance.

T/U 3.5h

04/08/2014 2005-05/Balcony Höhle Katey, ~~Mike~~, Nathanael, Noel

Since the cave was now going beyond the pitch series, we thought it would be a good idea to ask someone with more surveying experience for help, so along came Noel.

~~With his help~~ With his help (and the use of a Disto) we got a lot more surveyed - nearly 200m in 3 hours - with several ~~As~~ ~~As~~ ?As and a very solid ?B. We also put up cairns and reflectors on the route to the cave.

* Worth noting: the long (34m) pitch gets drippy after rainstorms, even after the rain has passed. It was only a bit unpleasant, not dangerous, but trips should take a bathy on rainy days in case the pitch gets more than unpleasant!

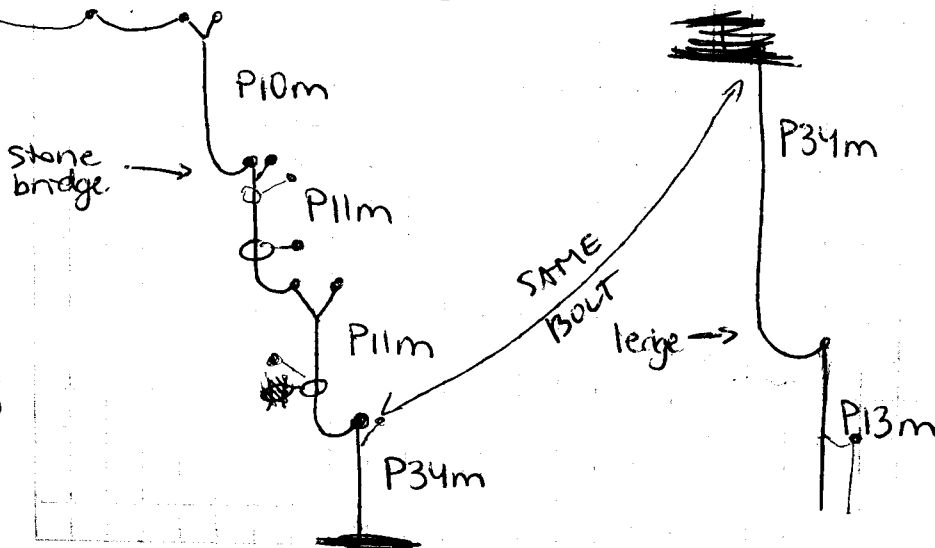
TJU 5.5h

05/08/2014 2005-05/Balcony Höhle Katey, Holly, Noel, Mike, Andrea

Noel, Mike, and Andrea had set off nice and early to go look at some of our leads from the day before, including a traverse that wanted bolting. Using a drill tends to go more easily when the drill has a bit, though, so when Noel came back to get one Holly and I came along to the cave. Noel added a backup bolt to the top V-hang then I descended first to fettle the rigging. After lots of waiting for people to descend to avoid bouldery death we set off to rig the traverse. While Noel was discovering a chasm too wide to traverse across Holly and I were looking at the parallel shaft we'd found, and we made a sound connection between the two (unsurprising, as Noel described around the corner of the pitch as a rift). We decided to leave that traverse alone for the time being and as Noel derged I took ~~the~~ everyone else to Liars Bakery, the ?B, for Mike and Andrea to poke around in. Holly, Noel, and I then went to traverse the parallel shaft Holly and I had visited instead. Traversing over one pitch ~~led~~ led to a second hole in the floor, giving the area the name Pit Pot. Traversing over the second pit landed on a rubble-covered ledge with a small window leading to a nice big pitch! Rocks fell for ~3sec, so we estimated the depth of the shaft at 60m. We surveyed to the window - a whopping 13m - and headed out. Mike and Andrea had had rather more success, surveying 109.13m ending in a (dry) ~40m pitch. ~~There~~ There are still plenty of leads to go back to; ~~not~~ not too bad!

TJU 6h

Balcony Höhle Rigging Topo - Entrance Series (05/08/2014)



1/8/14 Tunnocks - Ducks on ice / Tacklebox
Becha + Rob A. T/U 4 1/2 ^{Retrieval}

After a walk up + a prospecting trip I polished off the day with an evening sounter down Tunnocks to try to fetch the tacklebox that Rob had dropped down the ice slope whilst trying to rig the entrance. Rob hefted the mighty Bosch drill whilst I did a solo survey down the ice slope to a small pit + an ice slot (where, presumably, the tacklebox has gone, though we did manage to retrieve a string), a good-looking horizontal lead past a short traverse around the small pit (which ~~was~~ turned out to be part of Stone Monkey on the next trip on 4/8/14) + a possible lead in a chamber beyond the ice slot. Called home around midnight to be fresh for the next day

2/8/14 Tunnocks - Champagne on ice.
Becha, Andrew, Neil T/U 2 1/2 hours

Down to continue from Neil, Andrew + Aled's trip yesterday. Andrew continued from Neil's bolts + rigged ~ 3 more pitules, two of which looked like they could get wet. We surveyed on the way out, well dropped 55m vertically + left it still open + looking good so bang on course for Neil + Andrew's bossier-fuelled inspiration of trying to get to the Straight Chose / Arch 52 Angle area by dropping in from

the north end of Tunnocks

4/8/14 Tunnocks - Ducks on ice rigging +
Berha, Neil + Rob A connecting

T/U Berha 6 hours, N+R 9 hours

Off to finish the Ducks on ice survey. As soon as I stepped into the horizontal tube I could see people had been there before so we ramped off to see where we were - + soon arrived right above the top blob of Laramel Lathrosis, ~~so~~ bingo! Decided this would make a far superior entrance, avoiding two tedious side mauling crawls, a sloppy short pitch, a traverse + some crawling... but it needed a little work. Neil rigged a handline down to Laramel Lathrosis then helped me with some gardening then headed off to help Rob trying to improve the rig down lower Tunnocks entrance (Ducks on ice) whilst I spent a very 3 hours bouldering to garden the route. I did a snake leg (99cm) survey to do the connection + headed out while Neil valiantly stood by until Rob finished the rigging (bricky given the ice/crap rock/danger of rockfall/sharp corners) several hours later.

4/8/14 Tunnocks - Champagne on ice Chris + Anthony intersected above team during their short-cut creation then checked out Champagne on ice.

Anthony attempted to continue rigging between 2 separate cascades while Chris returned to make some of the rigging more humane.

T/U 8/5/5

5/8/14 ~~Beck~~ prospecting N of Turnlocks.

Beck, Neil, Anthony, Chris

weid all done

After an early morning walk down to fetch food from the carpark ~~by~~ (as Top Lamp had pretty much run out of everything) there wasn't time for a decent trip & the weather was a bit so-so. We headed off ~~at~~ past the Turnlocks col + ~~trans~~ onto in the fens + then along the German corner route to the hillside/ridge the far side of Ants in the fens then split into two pairs, each with a G.P. Anthony & Chris weren't impressed & didn't really find anything whereas Neil & I got excited by the general area &, especially, by a lovely section of limestone pavement full of shafts (one 2012-FT12 2 tubes), ~~for~~ some of which looked really good. ~~After~~ We then headed back around & Neil stumbled on the best lead (the only one that we topped) which was a slot in an open hole in the bundle with a fair drop beyond & a good draft. Quite narrow to enter but not an issue, (provisionally called Disappointment box. On both mine + Anthony's G.P.s

6/8/14 252 Tunnocks - Champagne on ice - connection
trip to Arctic Angle.

Beika, Neil, Mike

TU 13 hours

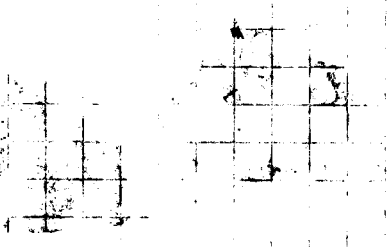
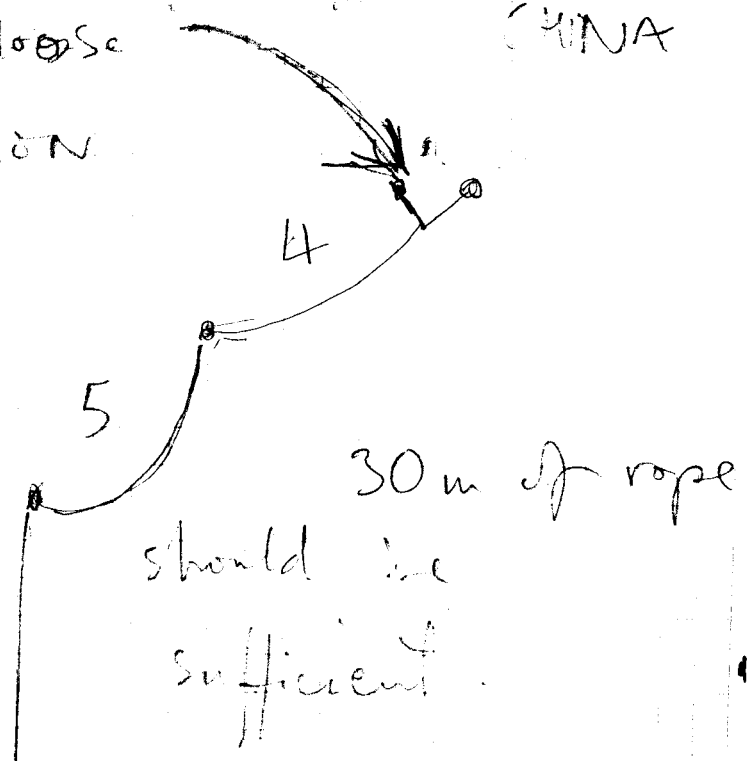
Back on down to continue our previous survey down
the pitules that Joe, Flann + Pete had rigged yesterday.
The horizontal passage looked an excellent lead with a
good draft (+ a single pair of footsteps in + out - bad
boy, Joe!). We soon surveyed to a traverse which Neil
rigged over a big drop + ... footsteps the other side... so
we only got ~ 4m of unstepped passage to get the
connection! We tried in the survey then ran off to work
out where we were (luckily I'd packed Julian's
mini-survey of the Straight Choice area). Mike took a few
shots of pretties + then we checked out the leads,
admiring the scary traverse + climb that Andrew had
done on the only trip that had been there before, when
we'd done a long rig-survey-derry trip at the end of Exp.
~~we had almost~~ There were no horizontal leads to do +
we were nearly out of rigging gear so we decided to
go for the DMA at the S end of Arctic Angle with a pb.
Neil soon rigged this + excitedly reported that it
looked good... + we'd already noticed the strong draft
so we whooped our way down to discover a maze of
attractive walking passage - lots of phreatic, some
formations, really lovely-looking passage, whoo-hoo!
Neil + I tried to break Mike with speed surveying

with a Duxbox. We romped around, surveying to a very large pitch from two different directions + several other pitches. We also left a couple of easy, strongly drafting 'digs' (needing 30 seconds to scoop away the sand to enter) + some slightly harder to enter horizontal leads as well as all the vertical leads for others to enjoy. Headed out after wrapping up a 69 leg, ~450m survey. I denoted the pitch + traverse + entrance rigging above Laramie Lablans as Duxis on Ice is now the standard route whilst Neil added two more bolts on Duxis on Ice to try to alleviate the rubs. Fine trip!

Kigginy Topo for Tibet (pitch ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~is~~ 103 + 16, retrospectively named by David):

heavily gardened ledge,
lots of big loose
shit. CAUTION

CHINA



13

06/08/2014 258 Tunnocks

- SRT practice / ~~hiking~~

Elaine & Michael

Having visited the fête in Bad Aussee the night before, M & E were up bright and early for a day's caving, ^{having stayed off the busser!} We couldn't convince Sam to accompany us up the hill but he gave us a lift to the parkplatz ^{- as there was only 1 pass left} claiming he'd come up later in the day (this turned out to be a lie). We reached the ~~entrance~~ Stone Bridge to the sounds of manic laughter - Nat & Robyn were ~~attempting~~ attempting to steal Katey's toilet paper as she was on the gruke, using a pair of salad tongs attached to a pole. Everyone who was going caving had left so we decided to do our own, not-too-serious trip (E. had thrown up that morning in the parkplatz - Sam's driving? Aris - disease from the USA crew? who knows.) E. needed some SRT practice so we decided that the Tunnocks entrance series adventure playground was the ideal candidate. We made good if a bit slow progress then one down proceeded as far as ~~the~~ Y Key Key Beach before deciding to turn around. The exit was actually faster than the descent, and we were out in time to walk back to camp in daylight.

T/u Fh

02/08/2014 2005/05 - Balkonhöhle

Elaine, Michael, (Holly, Noel)

E, M, H & N descended the entrance series together (well, in 2 waves to save waiting around) then H & N went off to drop a pitch (I assume they'll elaborate later) while M & E went to check out the passage beyond a climb which N & M ^{had} ^{rigged} while H & E descended. The ^{nice rifty ~~area~~} passage went and went - ^(Northwards) slightly scary loose boulder floor, ^{which we gorgoned a bit,} but some lovely mud formations. E achieved the impressive feat of becoming cold while wearing 3 layers of termals in addition to over & undersuit. We surveyed around 130m in total, leaving 2 ~~at~~ A-leads, one B-lead and two C-leads for future cavers. We called the area 'lemonsnow' and the data is in folder # '2014 # 19'

Tu 7h

08/08/2014. Car Park Cave. Pete.

Found at bottom of path, after water trough. Contains large chamber with apple strudel, beer and ice cream. Mmmmmmmmm.

03/08/2014 2014-NEO-01

more write-up from others to follow?

MATT, DAVID, ALED, SAM, SOPHIE, ELAINE

Mass surface-prospecting trip. Matt pointed out a horizontal-leading hole that a previous UBSS caver had deemed "too tight". Elaine, being an avid Mendips fan, decided that it was ^{actually} fine & wriggled through to find that it pinched ^{out after ~11m} STM, it was long enough to katar, so E+D ^{STM ~ 1h} surveyed/photo/GPS/ tagged it, while A+S dropped a small surface hole E+D had deemed too wet & horrible. Afterwards E+D did some cross-valley directing, so not much work. ~~More work to do~~ E+S then discovered that caving can be a spectator sport, watching Michael bolt a p1ca through a nice large window slightly further North. "

06/08/2014 Tunnels - The Number of the Beast
Chris & Rob A

Picked up pile of gear at bottom of String Theory,
augmented by a few more pieces of rope, & rigged
down to pushing front of bottom of the Number of the Beast.
Out in 4 hrs TU/12 hrs

07/08/2014 Balconhöhle - A Room with a View
Fleur, Pete, Chris

Fleur polished up the entrance pitches after the previous
day of gardening. We followed the howling gale
to reach the 40m pitch reached by Mike & Andrea on 05/08.
Pete rigged over the top, 'Natural Highs', with his rigging
butter providing an ever-increasing rope length (10m
replaced by 20m replaced by 40m). After traversing over
3 pits we were on terra firma, in substantiated passage
with leads all around & the sound of drilling above.
I shinned up the RA wall into large phreas ^{going up & downstream} which
I cabled along ^{upstream} until I was able to wave cheerily at
Noel & Holly who were dangling on the far side, wondering
how to reach the balcony I was beaming out from. We settled
for a Disk X 'handshake' across the gulf.
Fleur & Pete surveyed the 'Leads Beyond' while I put
some 'Unnatural High' bolts in (Pete's battery had died
hence excessive use of natural protection). ~~the~~ Then we
surveyed on down-dip along the windy phreas. It just got bigger
and bigger - while Pete & Fleur followed the biggest windiest
passage I took the drill to a drafty phreatic pitch off to the left,

left 15₂ down with a Y' bag waiting for someone to come
along with another 30m or so of rope to descend it - 'Sardener's
Question Time' due to the usual issue of just how much
gardening to do. Flew & Pete returned having reached a
traverse that needed rigging. So we took the drill day to
the end, passing a dried up stream trench in the floor.
The remaining 10m rope took us $\frac{2}{3}$ along the traverse in
3 bolts + 1 natural, so a splendid lead for someone to
continue into the threes beyond. 230m in book.

We had a bit of a game on the east pitches, meeting up
Mike & Elaine & then Holly & Noel, so we all compared
our finds - all going, so smiles all round. T/U 10 hrs

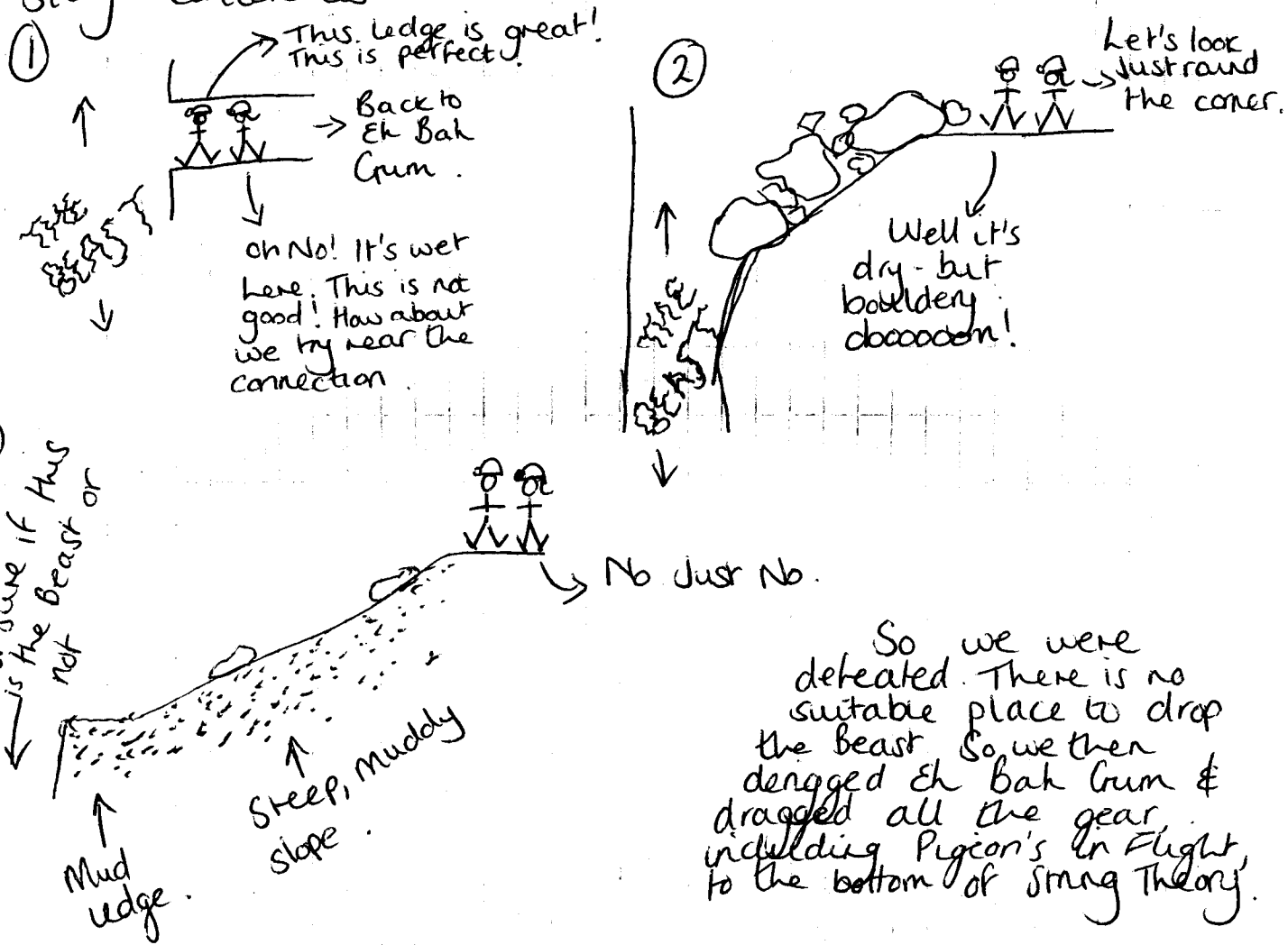
04/08/2014 - Tunnocks

Holly & Noel.

THE BEAST.

Unfortunately we have been defeated by the
Beast. \therefore Noel & I decided to try & have a go at
dropping the Beast so down String Theory, down
Pigeon's in Flight and off to the top of Pigeon
Droppings. Here there was a gear stash & Pigeon
Droppings was rigged - awaiting a denig. So whilst I
repacked the gear, Noel denigged Pigeon Droppings.
Once all the gear was out, sorted & repacked -
we headed to the Beast. We had decided to try
the window Becka & I had found (back on the
connection trip in 2012) so Noel rigged Eh Bah
Gum, which unfortunately was rigged on thru-bolts

and also needed a new rebelay due to a ~~bad~~ trashed bolt. Once done, we head to the ledge and the story continues - - -



So we were defeated. There is no suitable place to drop the beast so we then dugged Eh Bah Gum & dragged all the gear including Pigeon's in Flight to the bottom of String Theory.

T/U: 12.5 hrs.

05/08/2014.

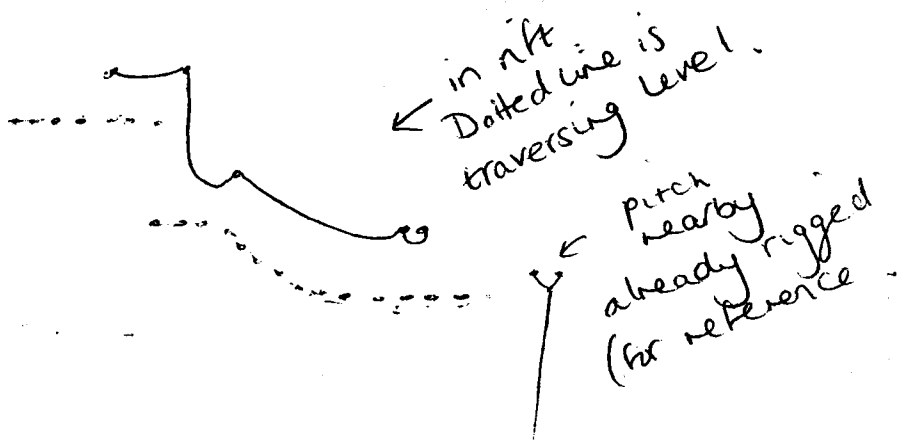
107 → Land of Confusion.

Holly, Callum, Joe

The weather was rubbish - rain, rain, rain. It was understood that the large pitch into Chia would be too wet to descend, so we went in to try & find a new way in, in the Land of Confusion. We headed over the big pitch & into LoC. Here one drops a

Short pitch (~ 6m or so), then climbs up the same height to on-going passage on the other side.

Note: at the bottom of this pitch is another pitch - dry, ^(13-LC-16A) A lead. Perfect for someone who wants bolting practice. On the main passage, Joe ran ahead to scope out the leads (pitches) that are understood to also lead to China. Joe found lead 13-LC-2C to be dry, so we attempted to rig here. Unfortunately all the rock was cheese. Eventually, after a lot of trying, we decided that it would be a project that needed more work & wouldn't be worth it. So we headed out, but rigged a traverse on the rift somewhere between 'Coldest Place on Earth' and 'Restless', as follows



Then headed out. T/U: ~ 5 hrs.

Friday 8/18/2014 107 derig Chris, Flew, Noel, Holly
None of us had been in the cave before but a hearts of gear
at TC meant that a tactical derig was required. On the
way in we eyed up the gear we passed, and were
disappointed by the sparse rigging. Noel & I pipped down
to see what we could find at the bottom of Chris. I found
an up-rope at the top end of this impressive fault chamber
but we decided it would be antisocial to derig so left
in situ. It turned out that, some way beyond was ~80m
rope + rigging gear in a bag, somewhere near the connection
to 161. oop. Still, between the 4 of us we
retrieved 7 rucksacks of booty to the surface, in
time to get down to the expo dinner 😊 7/0 5hrs

10/08/14 Balcony Höhle Nathanael & Holly

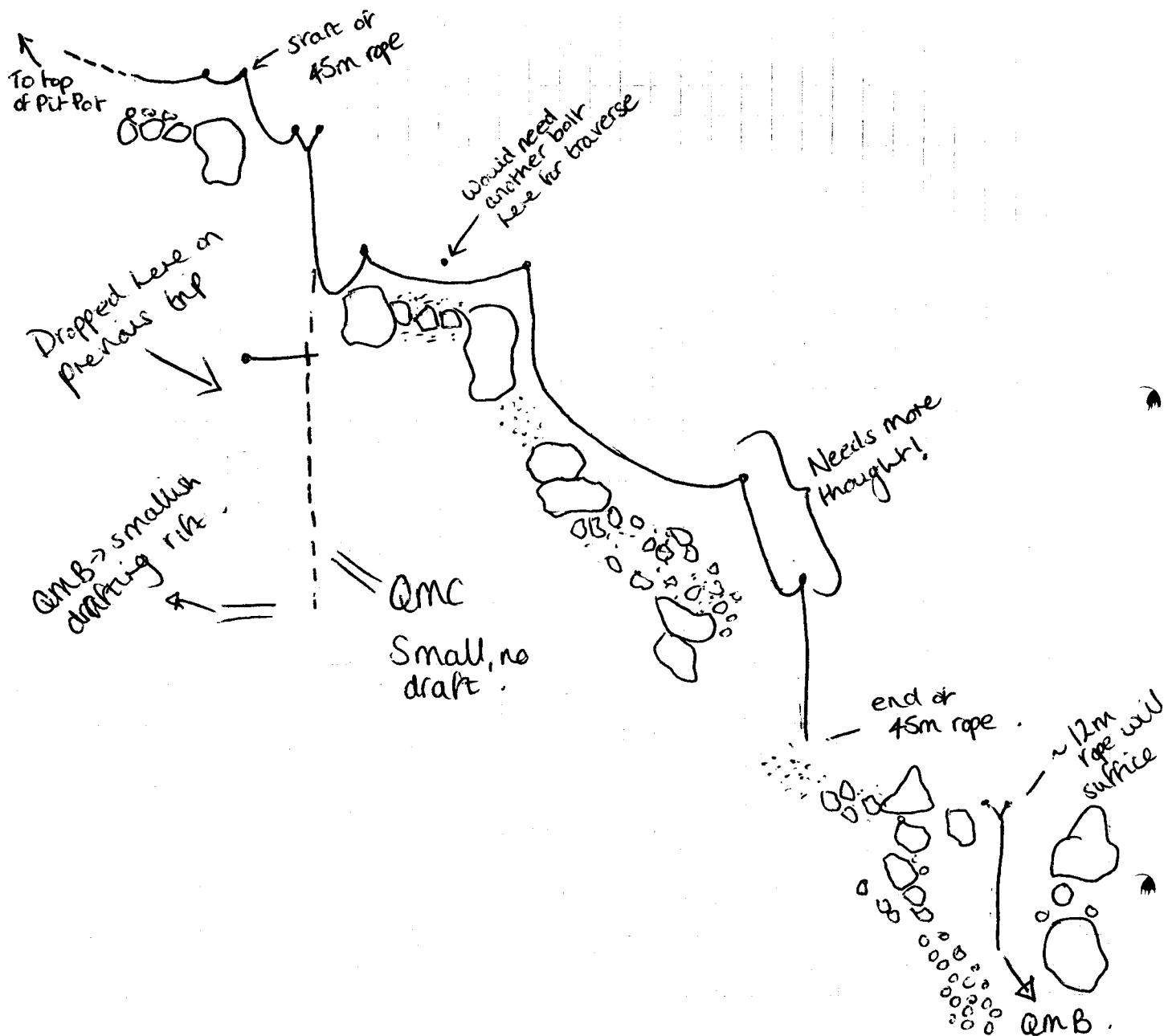
Back to Pit Pot. We derigged the deviation & pulled up the
rope from the previous trip and swung on to the boulder
bridge. I was drilling → put in a couple of bolts on the
rock bridge & abseiled down a very short pitch ~3m.
Landed on a boulder + mud slope. This was rather treacherous,
particularly near the edge of the slope where there
was a vertical section. I put in a couple more bolts
on the left hand side of the passage to attempt to
keep us away from these boulders. Was OK but not great.
Landed on a boulder floor, then called Nat down. We
had been surveying in at each stage of the rigging, so
Nat had been sat on a boulder on the boulder slope
whilst I rigged (and generally made unhappy sounds at the
boulders). In this time, Nat had managed to sit on his
nail varnish - breaking the rock & pair nail varnish all
over himself & the boulder. ☹️

Anyway Nat joined me on the boulder floor. I had thought
that this pitch was blind, but turned out there was
a rift heading off. This was a short pitch, which Nat
rigged. It wasn't easy as there was limited chace due to

crap rock. But rig it he did & down he went - making unhappy noises at the boulders. I joined Nat at the bottom (~7m) and we were in the rift, surrounded by boulders wedged in the rift. It wasn't my favorite place in the world. The rift continued, which would mean climbing down, under the boulders. It is drafting.

We have decided this should be a QMB. It's a good sized lead & is drafting. However the boulder slope before isn't very nice & it's likely that the boulders will get worse. If this was to be pushed the rigging would need further thought. As there were other leads, we denegged this for this year.

Rigging + Pitch Topo:



Balcony Höhle

Holly + Noel

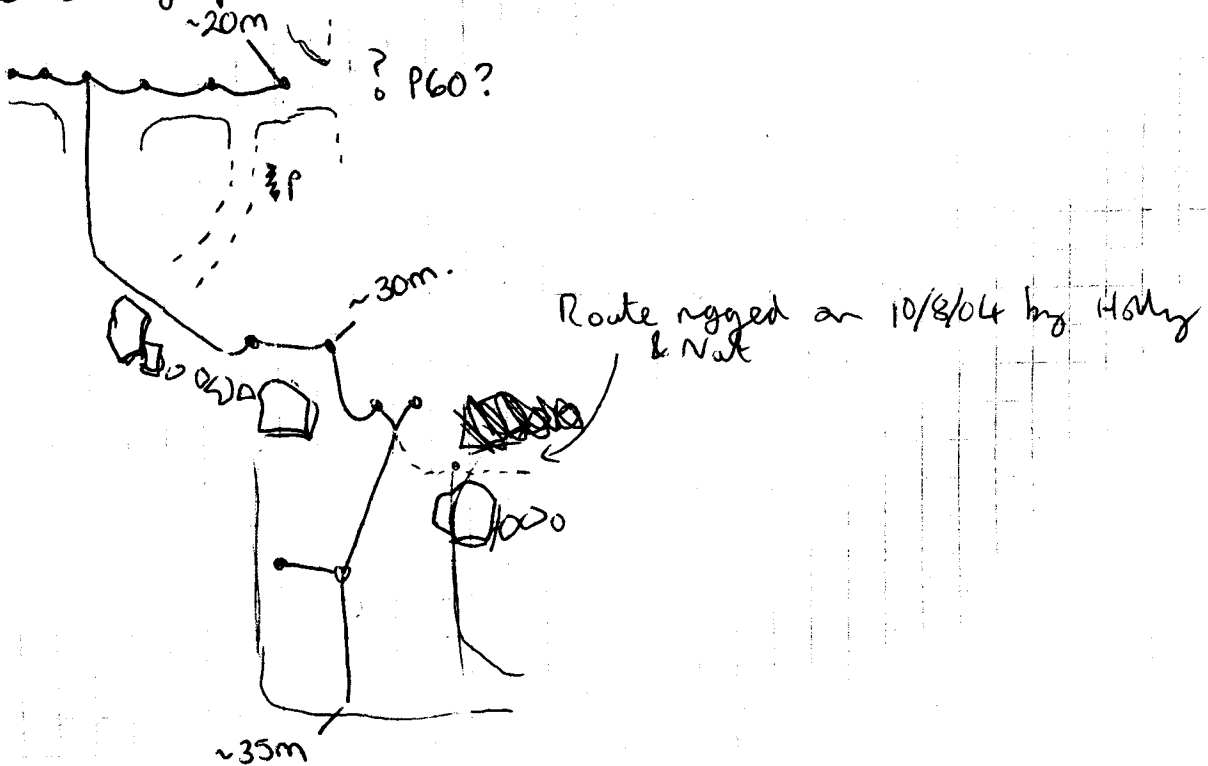
7/8/14

Traversing + dropping Pit Pot.

After crossing Pit Pot traverse, earlier (see Kate's entry) we headed back to drop the first of the pits which looked promising & reasonably simple. Holly started from some bolts she had previously placed in the traverse, descending around 20m to a boulder slope. With a bit of gardening, the slope was followed down to the edge of another pit, with solid walls for bolting in. Noel continued to descend, hoping for a good lead after having the last one by-passed by Chris & co. Bolting from the right wall saw fairly simple rigging with 1 re-belay & deviation to the floor of the pit. Looking up at the top of this second pit it is obvious you are just (~20-30m) below the ledge at the traverse above (leads by-pass).

At the bottom, a small rift led off with a bit of draft. We surveyed along for a while before reaching the time we had agreed to mess back out. Maybe worth returning but still plenty of better leads here.

* I had my eye on an exciting traverse/bridge over a rift with large passage continuing beyond. We set up & just as I abseiled over the edge, and got ready to make the great leap across I could hear Chris' voice from the passage ahead. Shouting made contact & he came round the corner on the far side of the traverse. Doh! hence the Leads by-pass name.



5/8/14

Fleur, Pete & Uncle Joe go down ~~to~~ Champagne on
W/Cold finger & Turnovers.

Arrived in Austria delighted to see our lead from last
year being pushed & going so well. Arrived at

The rigging front in slightly drippy shaft series.

Joe went down from Anthony & CSR's last rebelay,
but this left a wet final hang to the floor. So I
persuaded Joe to come back up for a re-rig. He
dismantled Anthony's rebelay, but instead of heading
for a window as I had hope, he continued to the floor.
Still the cave went on, Joe kept rigging, Pete & I
following surveying. It was all looking great, but
after two more pitches it died. The stream went into
a big rift and surped. I said I would de-rig as I
wanted a look in the window 2 pitches up. I swung in and
it looked like a different floor. So Joe went for a
quick bolt to see if it went. It did! And also
intercepted a horizontal passage which turned out the
next day to connect to Arnie's Angle. Satisfied we
were leaving a good leave, we could now exit without
denying. TU 12 hrs. Not exactly a gentle
introduction.

6/8/14 Baleary Hoehle / Room with a View

Flew, Ned & David.

Apparently the entrance pitch needed a little tweaking, and a lot of gardening.

Job 1. Rig chits down cliff to entrance ✓

Job 2. Doing pitch & gardening ✓

Job 3. Rig extended traverse line approach to pitch ✓

Job 4. Garden top ledge at head of pitch ✓

An unforeseen problem arises - large boulder is pushed down pitch but wedges firmly in route down cave

Job 5. Extra bolt at first re-belay. ✓

This proved very useful for extra task of trying to dislodge boulder. Ultimately this proved unsuccessful and a further denotation was needed.

Job 6. Garden "bridge" and slope of deck ✓

Job 7. Bolt for denotation.

Here we stopped due to end of drill battery + need for Ned & David to have time to run away down hill.
TU 6hr

7/8/14 Baleary Hoehle.

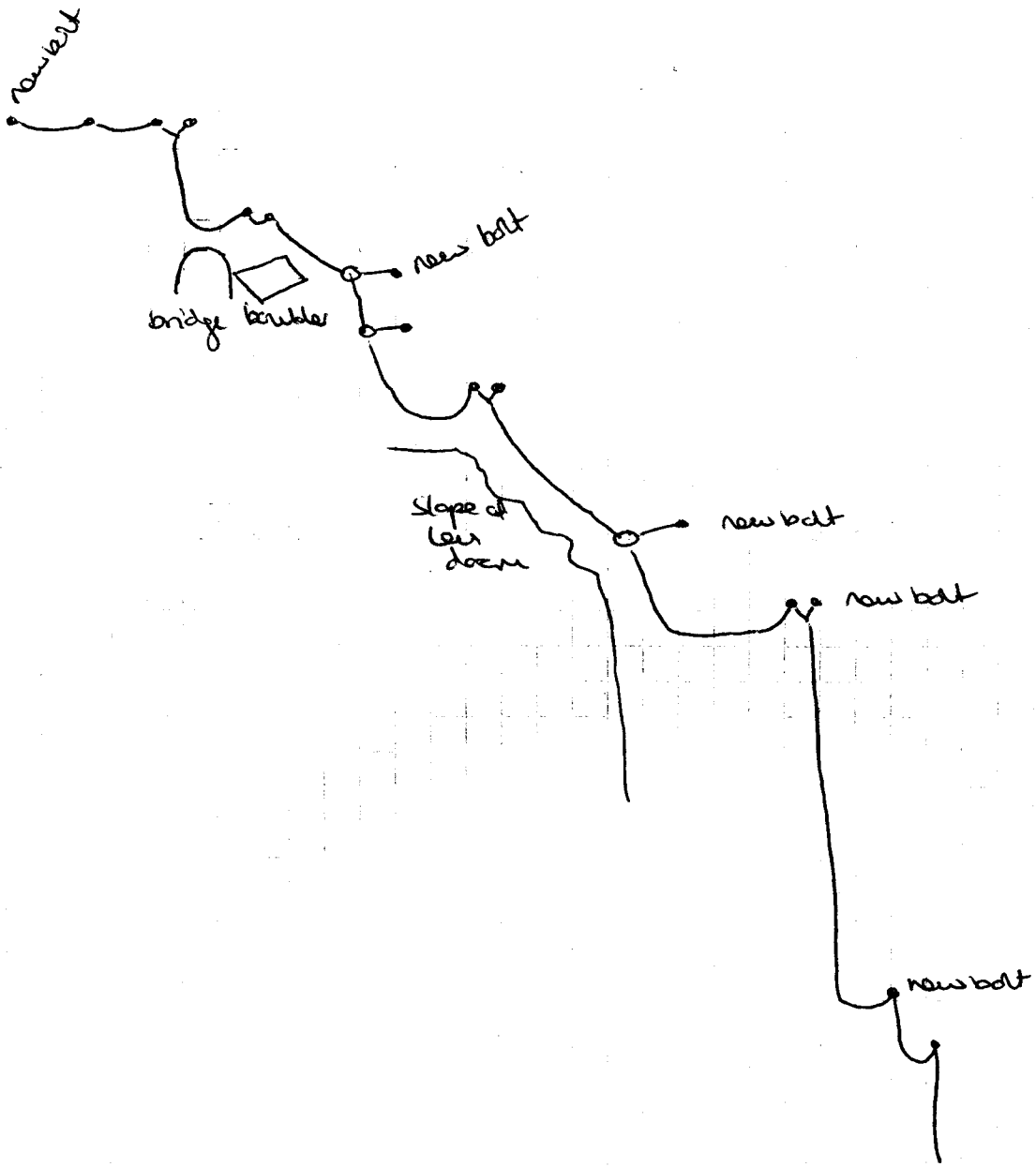
Flew, Chris D, Pete

See Chris' main write up. But first Flew carried jobs:

Job 7. Finish bolted denotation ✓

Job 8. Yhang for main hang ✓

Job 9. Extra re-belay at base of main hang ✓



1350m surveyed...

An unlikely trinity of gleam was carefully assembled for this daring mission, fuelled by tea, oats and currys (phart).

We bumbled down the (now safer) entrance pitches to the junction at the base of climb up to Leeds Bypass / end of Pete's traverse rope.

AMALGAMATION SERIES

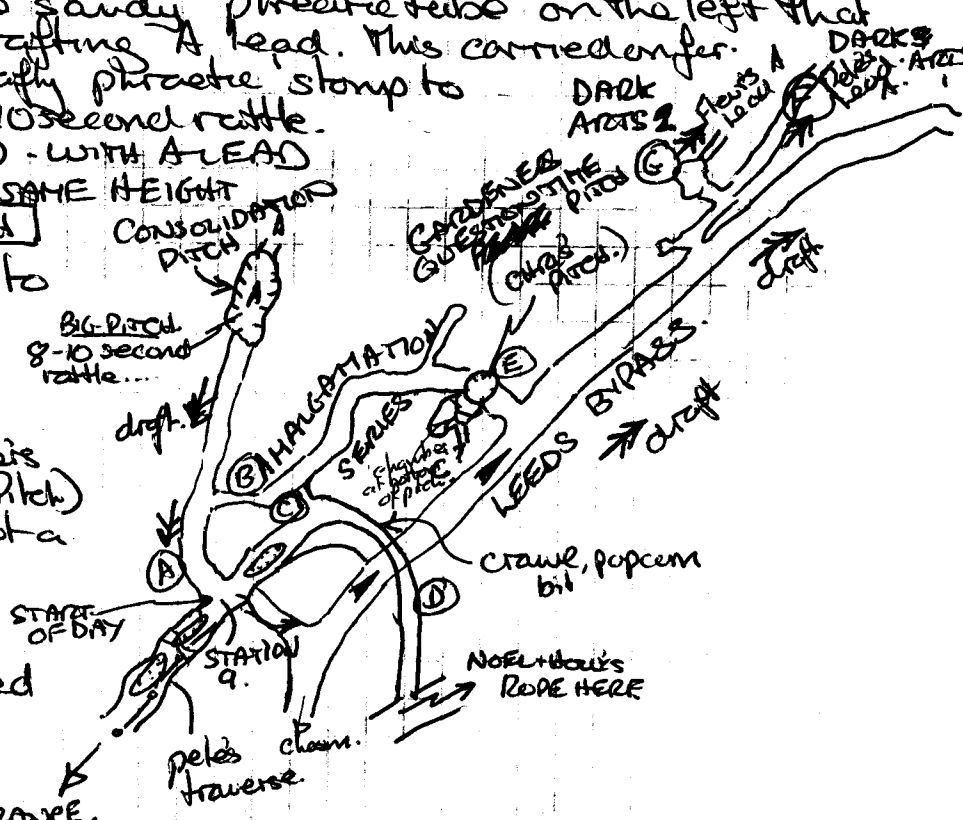
(A) We started with the sandy phreatic tube on the left that was a strongly drifting A lead. This carried on for a short but very drafty phreatic stomp to a big pitch with 8-10 second rattle. **VERY GOOD A LEAD - WITH A LEAD ACROSS TRAVERSE AT SAME HEIGHT**

CONSOLIDATION PITCH

(B) We then went back to a small side lead that involved a short utube and up into waiting passage that went to the far side of Gardener's Question Time (Chris' Pitch), across which we shot a leg to his top bolt.

(C) We then backtracked to a side lead that looped back to the far side of the traverse first beyond the station 9 where we started the day. Andy climbed across hole to make a loop closure. Due to the number of loops we called this the **AMALGAMATION SERIES**.

(D) A rather scatty side crawl with mud floor then headed off to a third loop closure, when we came out into a passage with (Noel + Holly's) rope hanging down.

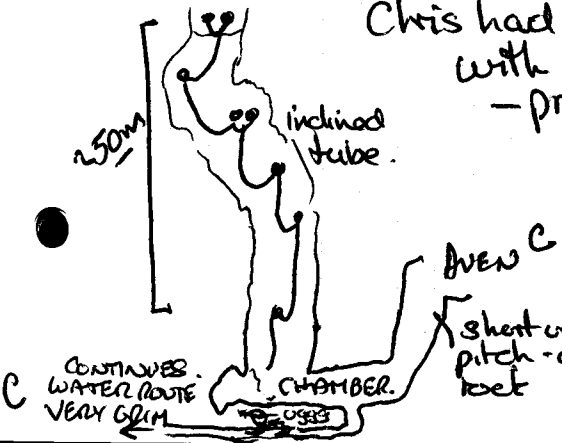


GARDENER'S QUESTION TIME

Andy then started rigging down the inclined tube of this pitch, past the first rope that Chris had rigged before. This led down to a chamber with a climb up to another Aven/Chamber of right - probably an B/C lead. A wobbly rock stopped us from climbing up further.

In the floor of the chamber was a very unpleasant hands+knees or flat out tube in mud, which constricts. This is where the water goes...

Using fleur's temperature as an excuse, Pete + Andy headed back up pitch + descended.



(F) DARK ARTS I (PETE'S LEAD)

We then continued down Leads Bypass a short distance to a side lead on left. This carries a very good draft, it is initially centred with a climb up (from which Dark Arts II starts) followed by a pneumatic tube - that is usually big enough to stand up in. This gets very interesting - and was pushed further the next day.

(G) DARK ARTS II (Fleur's lead)

On the way out Fleur saw the start of this side lead. It goes through an eye-hole to a clean washed chamber with a pneumatic tube leading off. This also drafts and is a good prospect!

The name Dark Arts refers to the feature of Fleur's Ruelo No. 1 at start of day.....

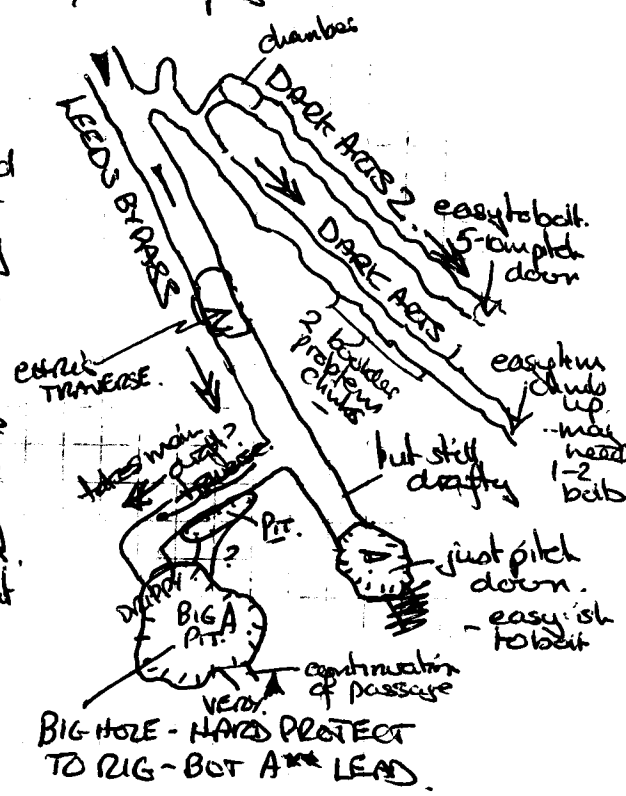
As the other hoards went down Tunnocks/Champagne on Ice - this crack posse headed into RWAV cave.

ENTRANCE SERIES / RAIN ok in...

Pete had just arrived at bottom when Flar heard a rumble which was followed by increased water flow. Holly got wet from drips. But pitch was ok on way out after a day of pretty heavy rain.

NICER PIT

~~Flar~~ finished the last few metres of rigging across Chris' traverse at the far end of Leads Bypass. We then merrily surveyed down lovely big pneatic tube downhill to a meter. Straight ahead led shortly to a pitch that would be ok to rig. From lip a 15/20m hang arrives on clean washed ledge, followed by another big hang. This is an A lead.



BIGGER NASTIER PIT

We went back to junction, and Pete rigged a very easy 6 bolt traverse uphill above a pit. The passage then turned left to arrive at lip of huge void. Near side of void is drippy, but dry beyond. Topping down pitch would be a hard project. But it may be better to start rigging down the hole below Pete's traverse - which probably goes to same place. On far side of the void is the continuing passage - but bolt traverse round side of void is an Andy Atkinson project.

But this is all where the big draft goes - A leads.

DARK ARTS 2

We then went back to Flar's lead and surveyed a nice pneatic tube that had good draft. We went 100m to an easy 5-10m pitch down. This is an easy and good project with a decent draft!

DARK ARTS 1

We continued surveying to avoid wet entrance pitch. The pneatic tube carried on even further than Dark Arts 2, and has an even stronger draft. Also a very good prospect.

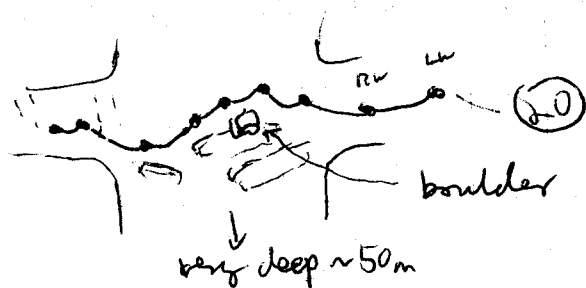
We did a couple of down climbs that were entertaining on the return, and could do with short ropes. We stopped at an up climb that would probably be free climbable. There is a good natural sling on left, and 1/2 more bolts may be needed. Very Good Draft!

Tunnocks - Arctic Angle - "The wrong choice", 11 8 14

- NOEL, JULIAN, ROB W, DAVE W

- Julian had made a rose appearance & wanted to go to the leads at the bottom of Tunnocks - we ~~from~~ got a sketch of Neil & Becha & Mike's survey from ~~the~~ Peter to find their A++ lead beyond the traverse at the end. A nice trip to the end & we soon found said traverse. Whilst I got up and started the traverse, the others set off exploring & surveying some small passages nearby (to ensure there was no easy way around the traverse this time).
9 Both crossed on an ascending ledge with a couple of exposed ding stones. ~~Can~~ TAKE CARE stepping over the balanced boulder - I could not push it off the edge but you never know what falls off here ~~as~~ (as per my "incident" a few years ago. - ~~once~~ once on the other side the strong draft resumed & a junction was reached after a few meters.

The others sorted their survey gear & we split into 2 groups - Julian & I taking the left branch & the others the right. Our turn out to be narrow & not too drafty ("the wrong choice") but ended after 150m & a "narrow section" at a short exposed climb down to a ledge - a few possible leads here - a wet sandy pitch & a possible traverse over - needs another look from down the climb (not done by us - possibly requires a rope). Back at the other survey front we helped the others finish up where the drifting passage ended in a small boulder floored chamber with two possible pitches out (~5m & ~10m) - both bouldery but good ~~climb~~ prospects.

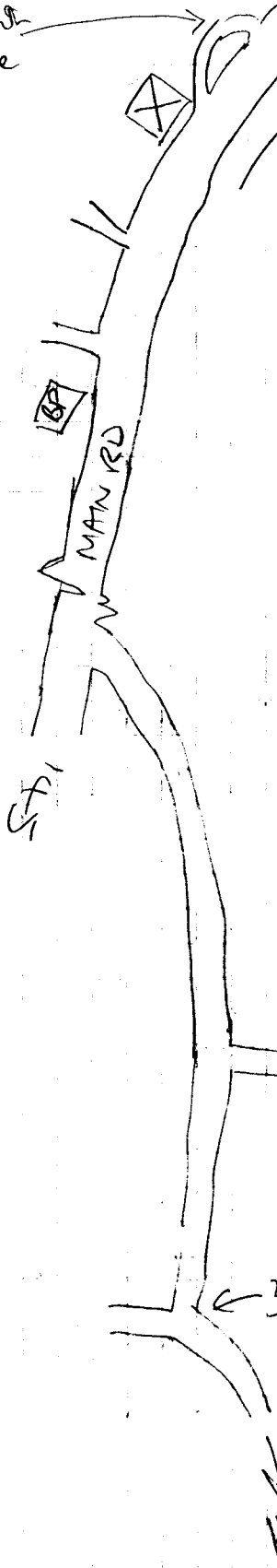


While ^{above} rigged, Rob, Dave, and me looked down through a tight hole into a chamber. Noel instructed that I should operate the distax as I'd pay if broken. The chamber had usual waterfall pitch break down. My god the crowd was tight on waxy back. Throat - U-bed with rocks wedged in it, arms by my side, distax lost somewhere underneath. I did not care if I broke it. Just get me out of here. Serious chance of doing my back in by forcing self on. Horrible. - Julian.

Command Prompt - cd ~~log~~ / caves / 2005-05
extend - (filename).svx

layby with
cable

TOWARDS INFO
Salzburg



[X] = GAS PLACE

Large "Lotus Austria"
bus parked outside.
+ tractor

LAGERHAUS IS
THE PLACE TO GET
GAS, NOT THIS ONE.

→ Loser

← 3 Way no
priority junction

↓ Aldo's

Sam, Elaine, Matt, Aled, David, Sophie D

3 8 14

Prospecting opposite Clowmhöhle
(Elaine's write-up of 2014 NEO 01 continued)

While Aled was watching Sam bolt his pitch and David was helping Elaine survey her horizontal hole in the overhang, Sophie and Matt headed to the end of the cliff and up ~~round~~ the gully behind. The area they wandered round above was dotted with lots of big holes. One could be walked into and was found to crap out, with a ceiling that came away if you touched it. Some gear would be required to ~~investigate~~ the others, so Sophie and Matt headed back to fetch stuff and anyone they could interest. As they picked their way ~~down~~ down the chossy gully they noticed Elaine ~~on~~ on the ~~hillside~~ ^{exact} hillside, discovering ^{what} ~~what~~ ^{Matt} ~~what~~ ^{recognised} as Clowmhöhle. Sam and Elaine were left to bash their way round the hill, while Aled and David were successfully enticed to Sophie and Matt's area. Matt, Sophie then David free-climbed ~~down~~ into a pit

* investigate

* bunker covered

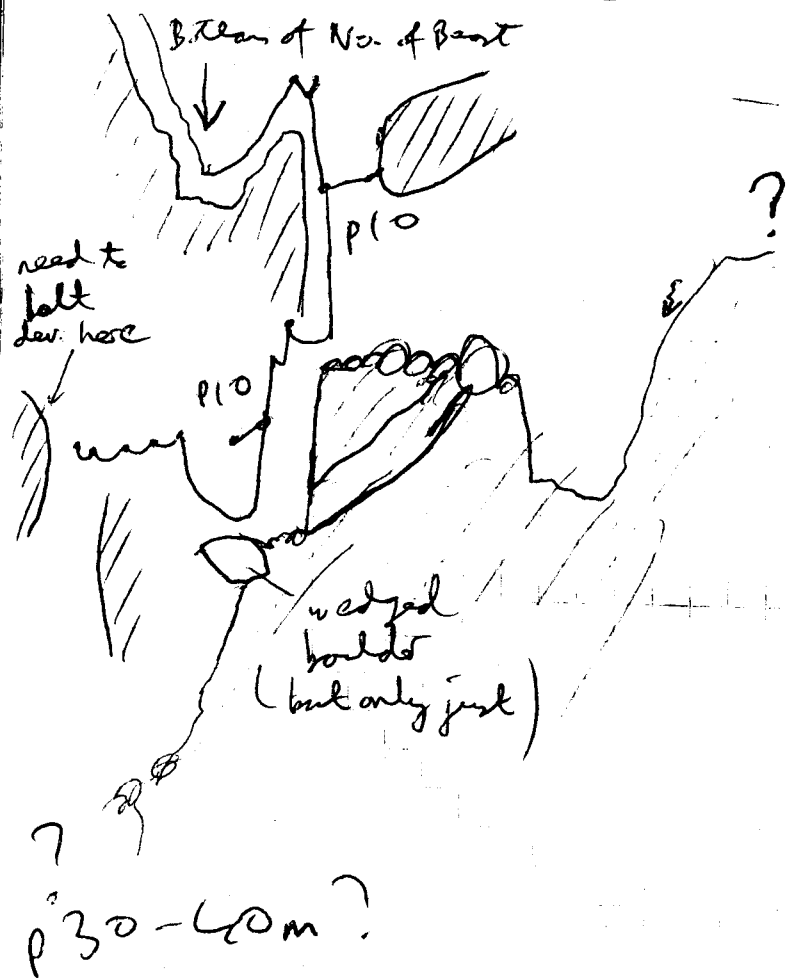
Tues 12/08/2014 - Tunnocks - Chris & Ardy
- Over flying 'Ducks on Ice'

Discovered that neither the 'new' rope - rigging Ducks on Ice - nor the ~~old~~ old one rigging the tow way in was long enough for a new & over pass, but we put one in anyway & used both ropes after going up & down several times. At least it kept us out of the rain & gets the rigging up to the required standard... sketch added to end rigging topo

Wed 13/08/2014 - Tunnocks - The Numbur of the Boat rH
Chris & Ardy

Put a few extra bolts in ~~the~~ on way in as previous year's bolt security was evident. At limit of exploration, at bottom of steeply sloping rift, ^{landing} in large choked floor, climbed up & descended 10m to another false floor, using an immense counterbalanced boulder for a deviation. At N. end of false floor was jangle drippy, at S. end was unstable & aged, but offered the draft & depth. I started gardening enthusiastically, sending increasingly large masonry down the shaft. Ardy ~~was~~ pointed at another hole down which I started picking stuff down but decided it was no safer so let it be. After I climbed back out a large piece spontaneously threw itself down the shaft. Counts. Having cleared the main shaft top I inspected a possible large thread 'I wouldn't go near that if I were you' said Ardy. I picked it and the metre-cubed chunk rolled down the shaft. We chose the narrow safest drop down to a false floor 10m below. This appeared to give a reasonable route down to the 30-40m main pitch below. I hopped over a large boulder & undered

what was holding it up. We pulled out a couple of loose blocks & I jumped up on the boulder but it stayed put. Nevertheless I started rigging a traverse along the far wall. Suddenly the boulder decided to roll, all on its own, to become wedged by a small flake. A few minutes with a bolting hammer & it was on its way again, to become wedged by another small obstruction. I carried on rigging the traverse before we decided to call it a day & leave the shaft for the next team to come with a crowbar ...



Times are mainly estimates

Thursday 17/08/2014 - Turnocks; Number of the Beast
Nat, Rob, Holly, Noel

After waiting for the rain to dissipate most of the morning we seized a window of clear weather to walk to Turnocks; minimal fall saw us under ground by half twelve; reasonably fast taking saw us at string theory by about 2. & number of the beast by about half five. Reaching this point Rob & Holly sat at the top of bottom of number of the beast in a toasty warm booth whilst Noel & Nat went down the 2-10m pitches, very carefully as the walls weren't particularly solid. (NB: the floor wasn't very solid either).

Noel decided that as we were there he might as well look down the ~40m pitch at the end of the (athletic ^{looking} & too) traverse. Placing a through-bolt in the fat wall for a deviation he set off. Nat sat and ate from a particularly solid boulder (bridge) eating sweets whilst this was going on. At the bottom Noel saw some potential (drafting) leads * but due to the need to derig didn't investigate them further (some, ~~at~~ would need some bolting). Following this Noel came back up & did a (rough) survey. Nat derigged up to a number of the beast. Rob derigged ~~the number of the beast~~ & Holly ^{the bottom of} did Procrastiation ~~it~~ was here that whilst Nat & Noel waited for Rob & Holly quickly sat in a group shelter. whilst chatting they heard 'cock' & 'fuck' being repeated. ~~It appeared~~ came to light later that he'd managed to get stuck in ~~at~~ ~~at~~ the pitchhead & struggled to extricate himself. Following this comedy everyone set off up ~~the~~ String-Theory with Nat derigging ~~while~~ whilst Rob & Noel ferried bags up to Caramel Catharsis. After counting out the clever bugs we'd transported thus far, we decided that String Theory was a step too far & left the rope for it done ~~to~~ at Caramel Catharsis, heading out at a steady pace, with Nat in a grouchy mood due to his paintin' breaking again. We were out at around 4am, and in good beds after substantial work by 5:15am. A fine trip!

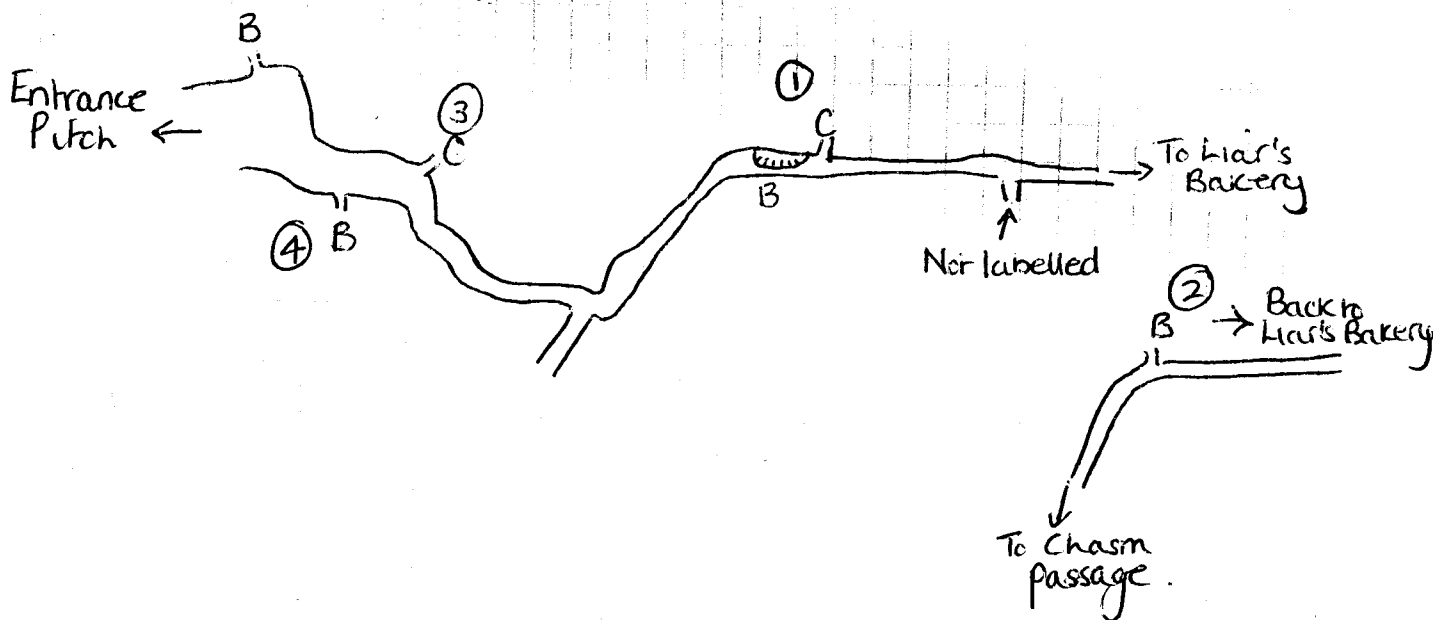
13/08/14.

Balcony Höhle Pushing minor Leads near entrance pitch.

HOLLY, NOEL, ROB W.

Noel & I walked up the hill, collected Rob & some surveying gear and headed to Balcony Höhle to clear up the leads near the entrance as below.....

Plan 'Survey' - Handdrawn NTS



① - We first went to this C lead. This went surprisingly well. What started as a hands and knees crawl quickly opened up and a junction was reached. We firstly took the left hand passage, which was walking passage which quickly took a right hand bend (heading north?) to a pitch. Beyond the pitch was more horizontal passage. Two good AMAs. Not sure how big the pitch is, but it is dry.

With no survey gear we turned back to the junction & surveyed up the right hand passage. This quickly got smaller, dividing into two small passages, which quickly closed down.

② - Next we headed to this B lead, which was surveyed to connect with the 'Not Labelled' lead. A small passage on the right (starting @ the B side the passage takes a sharp left hand bend - here the small passage is on the corner on the right) was followed, but became small + filled with boulders. - probably connects with main passage.

③. Next we looked at this C-lead. This closed down really quickly. Possibly a roof tube, not sure + dodgy climb.

④. Lastly we looked at this B-lead. After spending a

white smacking boulders with hammers, & lots of kicking,
Rob ventured in for a look - closed down instantly.

T/U = 5 hrs.

17/08/14

Within The Above
(Rob Adams, Neil Lacey)

29th July 2014

Another climb in the area...
...pitch down...
...Sandy Balls...
...Neil

Neil

Tunnocks - Within The Above

29th July 2014

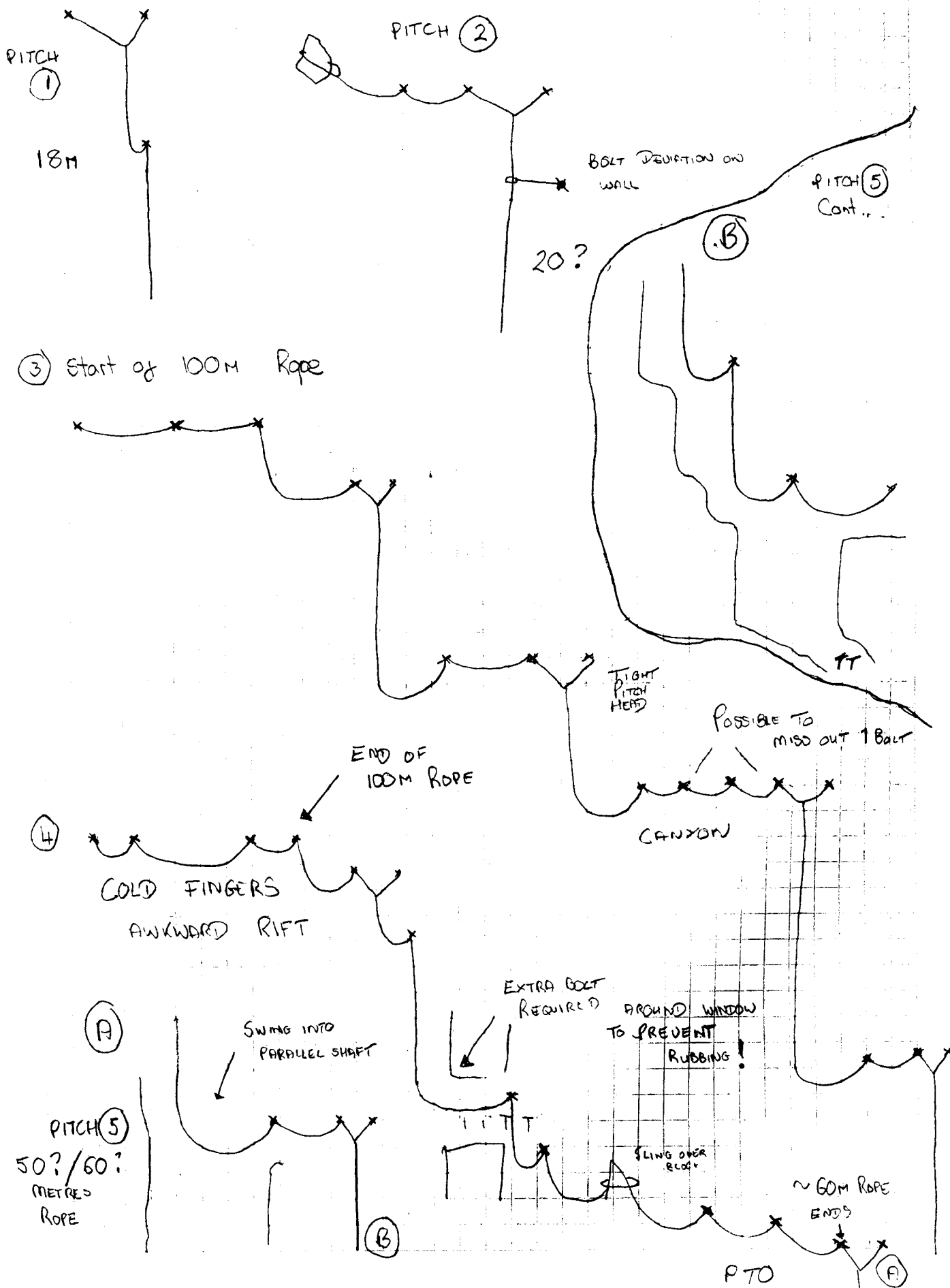
Rob Adams, Neil Pacey

Another trip into the area surrounding the Beast in Tunnocks. We got slightly delayed on the way in due to a slight accident with a slippery tackle sack. Luckily the bag was recovered without incident. Arrived at the top of String Theory just as team efficient 'Becka', Nat & Kute were replacing the handline on the Balcony climb. Straight forward descent of String Theory and up the climb to Pidgeon's In Flight. From here it is easy going to the big chamber 'Above & Beyond'. This is one of the largest chambers in Tunnocks and is very complicated due to the number of ~~sh~~ deep shafts in the vicinity. Decided to drop the shaft directly below 'Bob On'. This was the original way we found the chamber back in 2011. We chose this shaft as it is opposite the Beast and ~~lets~~ is dry and has a solid wall. Rob rigged the first pitch dropping 40M. Huge boulders at the top and also a loose hole with a stone shaft made the descent interesting! Rob managed a flying relay before dropping to the floor level on a steep bouldery slope. Rob rigged out on the right wall away from the boulders and a direct pitch down another 40M shaft. Base of the shaft confusing as there are many windows and passages coming in at different levels. From the base Rob climbed up a 5M climb directly above a huge drop. We also noted two survey stations and pink nail varnish on the walls and on a small boulder. At the time we weren't sure which trip had done the survey but I was 90% certain it was a trip with Andy Chapman, myself and Thomas a German Caver back in 2010. Decided to descend as it would be better to approach this area from the pitch at the bottom of 'Sandy Balls', directly below Pidgeon's In Flight. Surveyed out after Rob heroically prussiked back up to get the survey instruments I had left at the top of the pitches. Derrigged ^{and left tackle back in} back to Pidgeon Droppings. Maybe worth another visit via Sandy Balls but I suspect the next shaft will be wet! and wet.

Time Underground 12hrs Neil.

CHAMPAGNE SN ICE RIGGING GUIDE (BEST GUESS)

~ 45 BOLTS

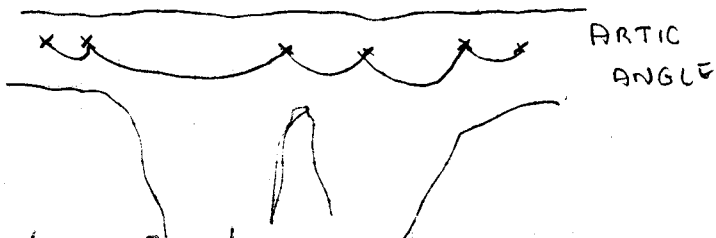




1000
1000
1000

19/08/2014
continuation of the
to

⑥ TRAVERSE INTO ARTIC ANGLE 5 OR 6 BOLTS REQUIRED ~ 20M



Nat, Rob W, Becka, Neil 19/08/2014

Lead at the bottom of Champagne on Ice (Arctic Angle) by striking expectation.

T/U Bedra + Nat 15 hrs, NeY + Rob 13 hrs
At an early start saw us underground, but tent (far too early). Heading down Champagne on Ice where Nat discovered that having a bag of your back can severely impede one's mobility. It is better to have a bag on your front. Should be a better solution. Nat discovered a passage that went North (turning left) after some time. It is a continuation of the passage. Nat & Becka established a voice connection

the pitch down from Arctic Angle

between this passage & another one which seemed to run parallel. After this we headed to the surface. Nat & Rob proceeded to both the top down (continuation of the passage) while Becka & Nat snowed. Going up the 30m Boulder climb on the continuation of horizontal passage (QMA) was spotted on the top side of a shaft. (Climb up this shaft like in winter) the bolted QMA was

well positioned end for 205!

Requires 10m Champagne on Ice & dumb derigging. Nat lowered Champagne on Ice with various strains happened to carry bags. Following that stomachs seemed to really harm. Can aid which was designed by Nat (being quite encouraged by an expert Becka, the Rob & Neil set off the entrance, suitably loaded, whilst a slightly ill loaded Nat stayed reasonably close to Becka to take rope. This Nat was at this point. Nat was alone whilst waiting for Becka to bring a moon watering. It was given a large yellow bag full of rope. It was said to have felt. Becka & Nat continued on arriving at the surface around half one. After a noisy walk back camp was reorganised. Everyone was happy. Went to bed at 3:00am. The 4900 Becka led the following day at 9:30.

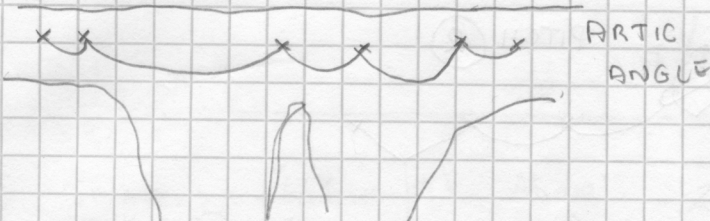
Requires 10m Champagne on Ice & dumb derigging.

seemed to drift well

which Rob liked

⑥ TRAVERSE INTO ARTIC ANGLE

5 OR 6 BOLTS REQUIRED ~ 20M



Nat, Rob W, Becka, Neil

19/08/2014

Leads at the bottom of Champagne on Ice

↳ Artic Angle
↳ Gritting expectation

T/U Becka + Nat 15 hrs, Neil + Rob 13 hrs

After an early start saw us under ground by half ten! (far too early). Heading down Champagne on Ice where Nat discovered that having a bag or your back can severely impede ones mobility (ie string you up on what should be a ~~rather~~ only slightly downward pitch road). Head once at the bottom Becka & Neil investigated a passage that went North (turning left after getting off the rope it's a continuation of the pitch rift). Neil & Becka established a ~~voice~~ voice & light connection between this passage & another one which seemed to run parallel. After this we headed to No Choice at All over Noel's traverse. Upon arrival Rob proceeded to bolt the pitch down (continued QMB whilst Becka & Nat surveyed. Going up the a 3m boulder climb on ~~had~~ continuation of horizontal passage (QMA) was spotted on the far side of a shaft. ~~QMB~~ This shaft links in with the bolted QMB ~~↳ This was~~ derigged due to time & ~~partially~~ constraints with Champagne on Ice & the Entrance needing derigging. Neil derigged Champagne on Ice with various staving happening to ferry bags. Following this stamping occurred to reach Carmel Catharsis which was derigged by Nat ~~which~~ (being chivvied encouraged by an eager Becka). Rob & Neil set off the entrance suitably loaded whilst a slightly less loaded Nat stayed reasonably close to Becka to take rope. This ~~did~~ ~~was~~ At this point Nat fell asleep whilst waiting for Becka to derig & upon awaking he was given a large yellow bag full of rope. It was said he hurt his balls. ~~After~~ Becka & Nat continued on arriving at the surface around half one. After a happy walk back curry was consumed & everyone was nappy. Went to bed at 3.0am & then I got Becka'd the following day at 9ish.

↳ the pitch is down from Arctic Angle

↳ well positioned lead for 2015!

↳ stored to draft well

↳ which Rob nipped

Requires ~10m climb

Stuff left @ Topcamp 2014

1 white drum

- Pasta 100g ###
 - Sloppy curries ###
 - Normal curries ###
 - Noodles 70
 - preserved veg 10
- } full

Little drums

- Oat so drum = full
- Soup tub = full
- Couscous = < 1/4 tub + 11 normal curries
- Dried mushrooms = 1/4 tub
- Muesli drum: full (2x full bags)

other white drum

- Normal curries ###
- Satay sauces ### + 8
- Noodles ### + 10
- Preserved veg ###
- honey stave ###
- large stick NOW INSTANT custard ~10 choc bars
- large bags of sweets: ### + 4 = 12
- Touler roll ###
- 1 bin MornPuke
- 3 hot choc pots
- 1 bag coffee shiver
- 3 bags peanuts
- 2 jars relish
- 2 jars pesto
- 1 long T.

Little drums

- Sugar ~ 1/5 drum
- 1 pack tea
- 11 normal curries in drill stuff drum
- 2 " " " " " " " "
- Hill's 10g
- 5 litres gas full + nearly full gas.
- lots of handbolting 28tbs + cones.

Need @ Top Camp For 2015

- * New tarps
- * Choco'ate
- * Flapjack
- * More bivvy string
- * Purple tarp
- * Permanent marker
- * Mash potato
- * Instant custard
- * Milk powder
- * Sugar
- * Tea
- * O-rings.
- * Sturdy plastic bags for storing things in
at end of expo (ie. inglesport bags)
- * Survey books/paper
- * Thin sand for denials etc

17/8/14 Balcony - The Far Side.

Noel, Holly, Andy.

Enthusiasm for carving was apparently waning as no-one had been underground for days. All respite in the weather meant we could head to Balcony with dry kit/clothes. We took 2 drills to attempt a "double-pronged" attack on the 2 main leads at the end of Leeds Bypass.

Holly set up at the pitch, aiming to descend this, whilst Noel & Andy re-rigged Ewan & Pete's traverse nearby to go back at the other main lead, a traverse over a huge blank-walled shaft into a continuation of the main passage, on the other side. - This looked like a major undertaking so we headed back to Holly to see if her lead would "go" easily.

Holly had put in a traverse, & it looked like, from closer inspection, that there may be horizontal passage continuing over the pitch. Soon, Holly had rigged the pitch which turned out to be ~10m only, with a much smaller continuation down through a slot. But there was a continuation of the horizontal at the bottom of the 10m!

Noel & Andy set off surveying whilst Holly tidied up the rigging. It kept going over a rift traverse into a tube with strange piles of flakey rock. It continued to a small pitch next to a boulder chisel with passage visible above the boulders, accessible by an exposed traverse over the pit. We found a hole up the boulders where both Noel & Andy got scared and didn't want to go up it.

But then Holly turned up, ~~and~~ told the boys to "man-up" & promptly climbed up through the boulders. So we had to follow, into the passage continuation above. The bigger passage, at the top ended after 2 legs at an aren, but a continuation in a cramp looking passage the other way (we thought it would end round the corner, & Andy didn't even notice it at first) kept going, & going up a slight incline.

The passage started interesting various junctions with A lead quality passages leading off, & got bigger & bigger as we went. Holly was now very excited, hardly able to contain herself enough to do her nail-varnish job! Even Andy appeared to be enjoying himself - or at least was less miserable than normal. Passage became very large, & ended eventually at a large shaft. Noel recognised this as the other side of the pit we were initially considering traversing so we had completed a large loop! We left a sheet of paper on the last station in order to shoot back across from the other side on the way out, to complete the survey loop.

Not quite having had our fill yet, it was still early so we headed up the first A lead on the way out & surveyed that to a pitch with a large passage continuing on the other side. Stray draught here, A+ lead. It would require some bolt traversing to get around to. We decided to call it a day & headed out, shooting the loop closure leg across the shaft on the way past (de-rigging the braveset to get there as well).

We called the new passage "The Far Side" as it was across the huge pit that was the old A lead. ~~This was~~ The new passage is a continuation of the major development of the cave & is very interesting.

We surveyed 514m on this trip in maybe 4-5 hours - not bad. We also left 7 major horizontal leads & a couple requiring traversing - ~~so~~ this is an excellent & easy-going cave so far - loads of potential.

Rigging Tops:

18/08/2014 Balcony - tying up loose ends in
Becka & Far side.

Rob & W

I was up bright & early at 7 to go up the hill with Becka. It was not to be an epic, with a start before midday not anticipated, so Becka was keen to push some leads in Balcony. We got up the hill around 11. After a tragic yet amusing incident involving me, the gate & the poo drum, we set off. The weather, for once, was pleasant, ensuring a dry descent at 12:15, the first for a while in Balcony! We took it slowly on the way in as I showed Becka most of the important junctions. We arrived at the pushing front, as described by Holly & Noel, at around 2pm. There, Holly, Noel & Andy showed us the leads they hadn't yet looked at. There were a lot of them, and all very pleasant carrying - me gusta! The first one we looked at was at the junction after the crossroads (station 4/6). This turned into a sand choked dig after only 4 legs. We then headed to station 6/1, where on the left was a lead that Noel was dead keen on. However, this also proved to be a damp squib as it melted back in with the main passage above some mud formations which have been taped off. 2 down, plenty to go! Next, we set off to the crossroads to check out the 2 unexplored

leads ~~at~~ there. The first, near station 36, became too tight after less than 10 legs. The second, a slightly thru-the-raft rift, ended up linking back in with the main passage again, ~~was~~ taking a 90° turn and coming in on the other side of an aven which Noel had down as another good lead. The connection involved quite an exciting traverse that Becca declined to do, instead coming round the main passage. At this point, it was getting on for 7, so we decided we'd do one more then call it a day. Holly, Noel & Andy had beaded out, but on their way bumped into us having a chocolate break and told us about 2 new leads they had discovered, one being a 6m climb ^{into an aven} down with more passage on the other side.

We decided we'd like to find some passage that actually went & headed off. I had been on water all day, and had finally got a system sorted - proper layout, able to draw back readings properly, elevation down. I was also a lot less faffy than before - bows! Our hopes were still dashed, however, as this passage led to a drop down through quite a small hole that would have shredded Becca's oversuit and probably not advisable without a rope. There looked to be reasonably sized passage below, and it was drafting out quite strongly, so we left it with reasonable optimism that it would be returned to.

Heading out was no better at all, with Becka finding the way easily. We caught Martin & Sophie on the entrance pitch, which saw us out around ~~9:15~~ 9:15 pm. Vis was low on the surface, so navigating back was a bit more challenging than normal. We were back at the biv by a very reasonable 10:45. A fine trip, despite the lack of ~~going~~ passage on our part! T/U: ~~9~~ 9 hours

18/8/2014 Noel, Holly & Andy C.

Balcony Höhle, Turtlehead passage.

After the amazing pushing the day before, we returned to the For Side to continue exploring starting with an A lead a few meters up a climb in the roof of one passage. (This was Holly's favourite looking lead). Climbing up, Andy placed the first station on a knob of rock in exactly the right place to resemble a turtle's head - hence the name (it's not a crude reference). Passage continued draughtily until we hit a total choke - draught was very strong & cold here. There was one possible good lead here - a draughting slot climb up next to the choke - with a black void visible above.

Returning to near the start of Turtlehead a side lead led off, & it was soon apparent that this was another major passage. Stomping up led to another excellent lead for next year - an 8m climb up (free climbable with difficulty - needs bolting as a pitch probably) - At the top are 2 x ongoing passages in similar proportions with big draught A++.

Round the corner was a huge pitch - A grade lead - but maybe a bit drippy. Passage then ran back South parallel to the one we'd just come up, & we ended this at a drippy free climb. Becka & Rob W had come in to look at other leads & they took over this climb lead after other leads crapped out.

Another excellent trip - 340m today & the core is now close to flying high in Tennach. Plenty of A grade leads left for next year.

12/08/2014 Balcany Hohlle - Dead Bat Pitch

Martin, Robert.

After a reasonably long trip the day before, Balcany was an ideal place to head to for some easy pushing. Weather was shit, so the entrance pitch was not too pleasant. We didn't really know where we were going, but we soon learnt which way was definitely ~~never~~ the right way. At around ~~half 10~~⁶ we found the pitch we were intending to drop, after 4 hours of exploring already explored bits. I bolted it, only to find that it went nowhere. ~~As a result~~ we surveyed it, then headed out. Martin got a bit chilly. We cut midnight callout a bit fine, after reaching the surface at about 10pm. T/U: 8 hours.