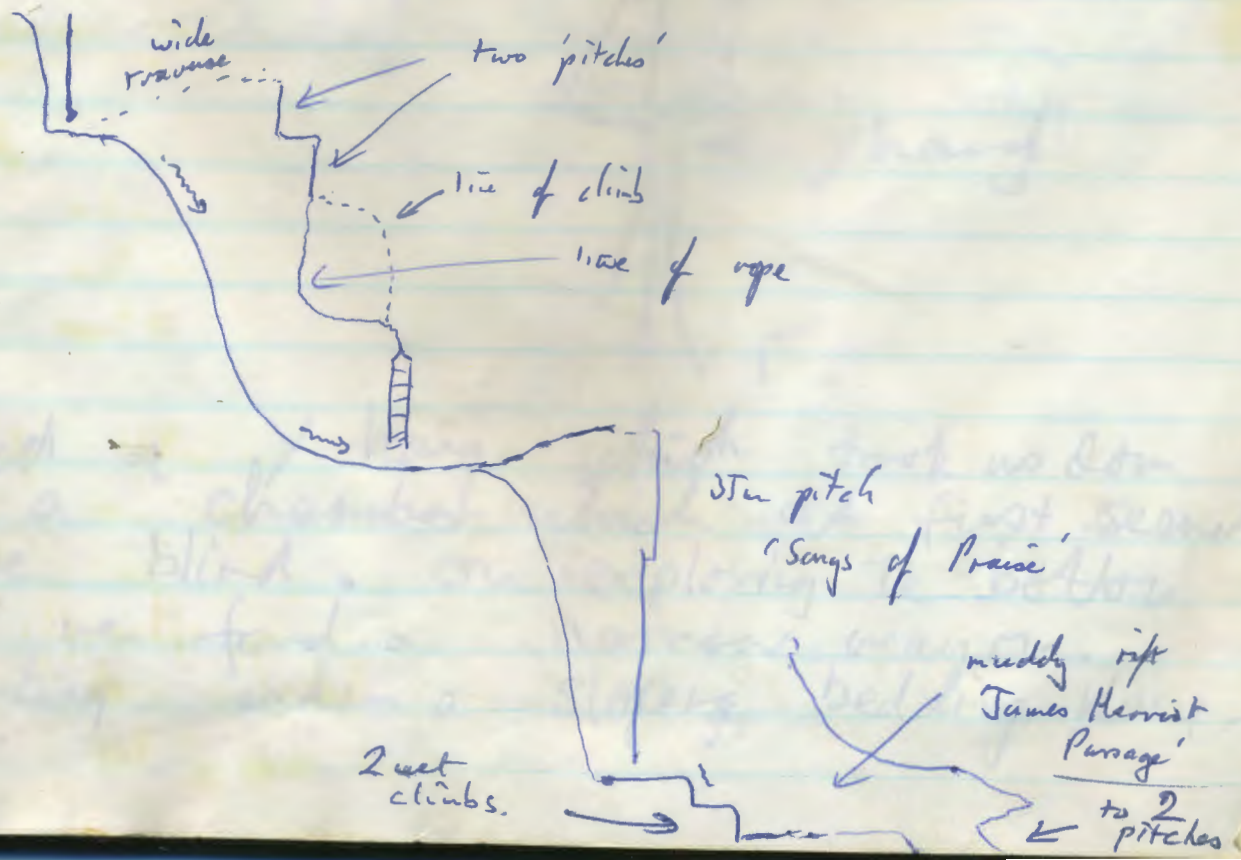
Tried to persuade Ian to sling a ladder down; aided by Mike, who climbed up & down several times. The ladder is a good thing, though.

Just round the corner from the foot of the ladder, the dry traverse level led to a sizeable pitch. Mike rigged this, and descended ~ 35m, unhooking to the last obstructive rock, which he could not hitch off.

The cave is wide at the foot of the pitch, and the stream quite big. Two Mendip-style wet climbs led to a rift, coated in mud & giving rise to thoughts of sumps. The roof was only ~ 6 feet above our heads. Ian climbed down & found another pitch into more big stuff. It was now midnight so we went out, with the odd bit of hassle in Blasphemy rift, a truly awful place. My croll kept slipping on the entrance ropes.

Out at 8am to the beginning of a hot day.

New Sit



We guess abt 70 - 80 m depth added, in very little forward distance. Thus the cave is ~ 360 + 75 = 435 m deep, and still a long way from Jorcad Blanca. The stream is cutting down very steeply. It seems likely that F20 is independent of the known sits of F2/F7.

'James Herriot Passage', because its like being 'stuffed up a cow's arse.

'Songs of Praise' - because it's before 'All creatures great + small'!

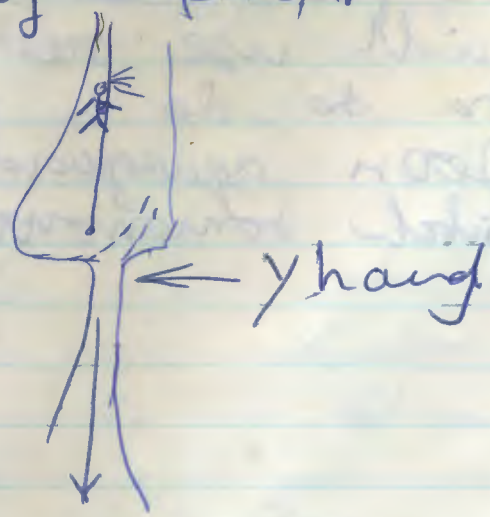
Steve

23/7

Uhey, Dave + John C. have still not returned (2.45 pm) from their trip down F20, starting at ~ 1-30 yesterday. We'll start getting organised soon. A wet + miserable day.

2/6. Phil D. Rory,

Paul Cooper and Rory set off whilst I Jarred myself bad temporarily into the day the idea of caving being totally abhorrent. Managed to avoid the F20 pushing trip and decided to do 2/6 as an "easy option" on leaving, took a bolting kit and met Paul Cooper on his way back to get the bolting hammer and carried on to the cave. Paul briefly decided to give up and go down for a meal so Rory and I decended. We soon reached the limit of vertical rigging and put a bolt in for the rest pitch. Decended to the top of another pitch ~~as~~ of the form:



Rigged a Y hang which took us down into a chamber which at first seemed to be blind. On exploring the bottom end we found a narrow rayon, crawling under a sloping bedding plane

leading to a further desperate crawl (The Crawl of the Wild) which to my delight finally yeilded a superb pitch with 4-5 second free drops, the boulders making a sound like trains coming into a London underground station as they plummeted to their doom. We spent some time lobbing rocks off in sheer delight and decided a bit further onto a ledge ≃ 5m below. We seemed to be in a massive wide rift and the ledge consists of jammed boulders. Having run out of rope, we ate, chucked a few more rocks off and went out. At the Y hang I investigated the continuation of the rift to the left hand side and found a possible crawl by pass. We will use the 110 m rope from tonto to do a rerig, and then use the 200m aquaguard to get down the big pitch tomorrow.

P.D.

Wednesday 23/7/86

Rescue Trip. Phil, Steve, Roy, Neil.

We have taken:

Food – packet soups – Bluets, chocolate, Tuna.

Medical – Suture kit, dressings, iodine, paracodol, feldene.

Cuside – 1 BPH cartridge full.

Several survival bags & pullegs also.

We have not taken the stretcher or the drip kit.

Leaving we about 6pm.

They are all OK slow due to light falures etc.

(56)

Ridge Cave 21/22 July

This is correct but out of sequence in log.

Martin M, Steve M, Dave R.

Intended to try to locate the high level route over the top of the "sump". Went to the limit of high level route dropping down into the chamber. Steve then continued down into the streamway to recover the tackle bags that were left behind. He returned looking very hot & dragging two large tackle bags behind him.

We then went back to the route above the chamber & rigged a traverse across a boulder ledge then dropped a rope over the end to try to find a obvious traverse level. Unfortunately there was no such luck & we were left dangling in space above the stream again, still on the wrong side of the "sump". I thinking I was only away for 15 mins, returned to find Dave & Steve frozen as that I had been off for 2 hrs. We then derigged back to the waterfall at the bottom of Thunder Alley, checking other possible routes as we left.

On the return I managed to kick off some boulders at the last pitch on top of Pebbles Flintstone. Be wave of this as it all fell on Steve who is now quite sore.

Martin

Please leave this page.

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F20 Trip 22/23 July

Dan, Johnathan C, Ursula.

Having not been able to write this trip up immediately due to the medical condition "Manus Fucktelypus" many of the details may have slipped my memory. I Apologise for any mistakes, however if anyone wishes to make a formal complaint, it should be typed on headed notepaper and sent together with a stamped, addressed envelope to my address in college.

Meanwhile the cave trip :- We started at a moderate time of one o'clock, not wishing to embarress less enthusiastic cavers by setting off earlier. The entrance series was very efficient, and this general efficiency continued up to a pitch between Blueplanet and Ernest where for the 3rd time I got caught on a pebble and took an hour to get off.

From now on I was quite tender and much to my surprise found my way to the bottom of Calamity with few difficulties. Without too much difficulty the pitch the me and Johnathan couldn't find, appeared at roughly the same height in the cliff as the bottom (not the 1st place to get off) of Calamity Jane. Trotted off the ~~Calamity~~ Songs of Praise, Okay a-matchy and like moans when attempting to strangle herself on the short climb down where you don't follow the rope.

In Jane's Hermit passage the first sign of future problems surfaced, the my cabide needing a good poke before working again, splashed along the stream, having packed our gear into tackle bags and found lots of exploration, which is like a cows backside. Intrepid as ever I squeezed down the rift in search of the pitches which we were informed about. A ladder was fixed to make the ascent easier than as Dan Lottrach I looked for a less tight route through the cliff. A dark wide space beckoned and I slid down it to find no more rift. Instead a pitch whose bottom I couldn't see

Please leave this bag.

58

Pressed against the walls, the way back seemed incredibly hard, so when Dom offered his Donkeys back for support I grabbed it and swinged to a narrower but where I could traverse down. If I'd gone up where the hole was, I probably (50% chance) would have fallen and made life very hard for Dom and Ukey. As it was I was trapped for an hour on a fairly large ledge, adequately supplied with food so bloody cold, whilst the pitch was rigged. By the time the next pitch was rigged it was time to get out, the obvious way on a 30m overhang I had hung. Got off back out about two at night.

We took 16 hours to get out, for numerous reasons which will be listed.

- My bicycle light and spare generator getting blocked and not being cleared, so had to get lit at someone else before whenever it came out
- the getting lost in cliff before Colombia, and battle carbide electric going out.
* - Ukey getting stuck in climb where you don't follow rope.
- Ukey losing carbide generator bottom pain cliff which Dom found again. Very long hood strap.
- Ukeys light going between Ernest and Blasphemy so had to be guided through cliffs.
- My electric battery running out.
* - Ukey lost in wire cliff before entrance series, Dom went back along it twice, she had gone up label which Paul surveyed without instruments due to failing light. & no contact lenses
- 2/3 people going up entrance series with no light.
- 1 fall

I got out at 5.30 and after 5 minutes the rescue party arrived, looking very worried - THANK YOU. The other two emerged in the next hour, Ukey with broken footloops.

- I won't go down R20 again this expedition. Will the rest of the expedition kindly hollow it before I come back

J. C.

* due to mud in contact lenses argh!

24 July.

Dave H, Phil D, Roy T.
Surveying trip down 2/6.

Martin M, Steve M
Trying to find route through Ridge cave at stream level, have taken survey gear to use it unsuccessful.

24 July RIDGE CAVE Martin M, St

Intended to go to bottom of Ridge to try pass-through boulder choke. On the way down put a bolt in on the pitch into big beluga so that the majority of pitch is now clear of the crud. The bolt hammer & anchors are at the top of thunder alley. Slipped into the traverse line have taken the diver to base to put a new thread on.

Once down into big beluga we regaged the streamway at the bottom I remembered I had left the tape in crystal chamber so returned. In doing this I noticed that a very sharp rub point had gone to the core so replaced the 20m 9mil with 20 10.5mil plus rope protector. Unfortunately the rope was too short so there is a knot dangerous at the bottom of the pitch so rerig with a 25m rope. In the stream we tried pushing the choke & removing some boulders. This proved unsuccessful.

On the way out we surveyed through from

the sump to crystal chamber. Unfortunately we had no Idea of where the last team survey station was so someone has to climb up. The station in crystal chamber is the wall opposite thunder alley and about up the wall. There are prominent S's marking it.

At the other end the survey station is before the "sump" on the downstream looking left wall, again marked with the S.

After 20 survey legs we exited the very cold but managed to climb up.

Let it be known that although the was good it was just one of those for me

1) left helmet in camp, had to walk back to camp from ridge
2) got totally stuck in mucky canal so Steve rescued me
3) left half of hand on wall when putting bolt in
4) left tape in chamber so had to return up wet pitches
5) had to bring wet pitches due to rubbish rope.

It was quite surprising. It was such a good trip actually.

[signature]

25th July: Paul B. & Graham. Ridge Cave
16 hours. Pushing.

Got to the bottom rerigging one of the streamway pitches as we went down. Spent a couple of hours hammering and trying to insert ourselves into the hole. We got bored and so we buggered off to look for a high level bypass. We climb up the last inlet