

The flow up all the pitches with little effort, but there was a lot of strange greenish muck.

Bob-ke

C4 - the next 50 metres.

29-7.

We rigged Martin and Nobby's pitch a bit more out of the water. It was the most strenuous bolt I've ever put in. This dropped about 20m to a ledge, from where you traverse over to a dry shaft of 35-40m meeting the water again ~~at~~ at the bottom. Tim bolted a lovely Y-hang - and created the pitch head from hell. Something funny has happened to the rigging in the bottom part of the cave. Either it rubs horribly and is easy, or it hangs free and is a bugger to pass.

We went to the bottom of the pitch. The way on at stream level closed down immediately, while hammering open a hole gained a few metres progress, but it closed down there too.

Just before the bottom of the pitch is a ledge where the rope is now coiled. (78m from base). Going up a ramp gets you into the rift higher up, and this is passable although ~~somehow~~ you have to move horizontally. Tim reached a smallish pitch <sup>20m?</sup> where the rift opens out again. We think this is the way on. We looked for a higher traverse at the top of the pitch, but it didn't look possible.

Came out, having beat Andy into silence because he wanted to survey some more. The last survey station is at the bottom of the pitch before the 2 we dropped.



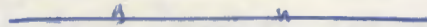
(52)

Marking the 113 on the right, looking down cave, a knobby spike at the same level as the end of the rope.

Gear

There is so much rigging gear in the cave you could chain all the maillons together and use them to rig a pitch. Well, there's about 20 hangers and maillons, a bolt kit with 8 spits and wedges, some tape, a 40m rope, a 10m rope. The last 2 pitches are ~~only~~ rigged on 125m rope, but only need 80m or so. Also there are the 2 80m ropes Bob left higher up in the cave today.

Pauline.

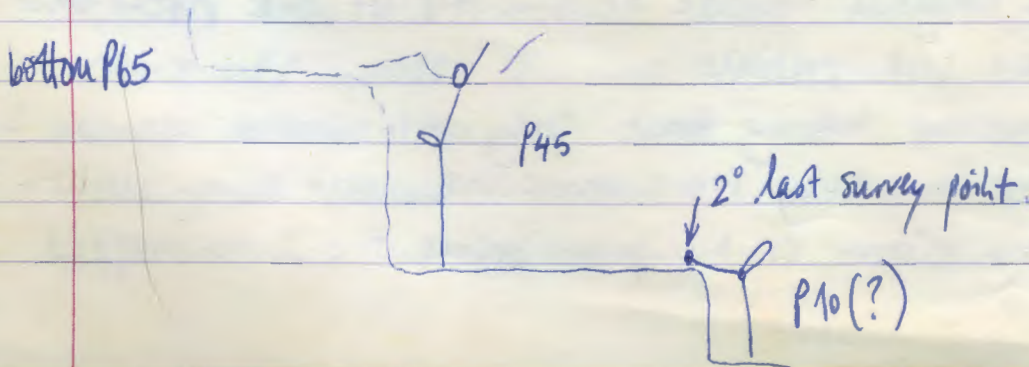


Please can you bring out bags of fettle and empty tacklebags the tea monitor



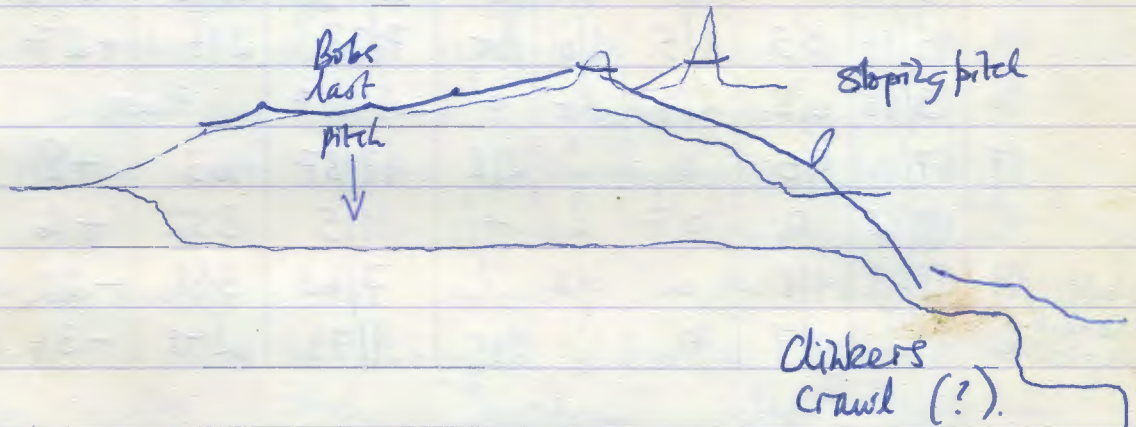
27/7  
mmmm C4 Nobby, Olly, Fungus, Martils.

Olly & myself carted the 125m 9mm rope down to the bottom of Mash Brown & began surveying. Fungus & Nobby caught up as we were messing about on the pitch below "Bigger Bognor" (P65) & joined in, ending the survey at carbide mark at head of next pitch (P10?) :





Ollie & I did the equivalent of a prussik out of G.G. & had a welcome cup of tea & some food. Nobby pushed the tight streamway whilst Furpa<sup>o</sup> traversed over previous (last) pitch & watched him emerge. Ollie & I arrived back & we bumbled around rigging the by-pass to the tight section with the rope from the previous pitch (sorry Bob!). This was a bit awkward as the rock is crap. Following Nobby down a passage which sounded like crunching over coals as you brushed against it we dropped down into a small streamway which quickly turned & shot out into a huge shaft in decent rock. A peculiar Y-hang was rigged on naturals & the pitch regarded as too wet to descend, besides it was past 5 A.M. & we had to leave! An uneventful return was made with all out by 12 A.M.



N.B. This write up should come before Pauline's last one in the book!

Survey DATA overlay

SOM  
18!

?



(54)

C4 SECTION E

STATION	LEG	L	R	U	D	DISTANCE	BRT	CLINO	Notes
D11 = 1		5/0	0	?	3/0				carbide mark RSL (only 2) wall at bottom Kash Brown pitch
2	2/1	1/0	3/0	HASH BELOW	1/5	3/02	047	-22	
3	<del>2/2</del> 3/0	0/3	0/4	?	POT	4/84	340	-15/5	
4	3/4	1/2	0/8	7/97	1/72	7/97	PLUM		N.B. Depth of pitch = 7/97 + 1/72 (Ollie's nose was the station!)
5	4/5	1/0	3/0	?	0/3	7/42	344/5	-10	
6	6/5	0/3	0/6	0/5	POT	5/48	133	-14	
7	6/7	3/0	1/5	?	POT	31/66	PLUM		
8	8/7	3/0	2/0	?	?	1/40	142/5	-32/5	} ledge
9	<del>8/8</del> 8/9	2/5	0/5	?	?	1/36	303/5	-33	
10	10/9	2/5	0	?	?	2/27	141/5	+55	} re-belay.
11	11/10	?	0	?	?	12/37	123	+76	
12	12/11	1/5	0/7	?	0	17/50	PLUM		
13	13/12	0/3	0	7	1/5	12/33	162	-13/5	
14	13/14	0	1/0	10	2/4	2/09	320/5	+21/5	
15	15/14	0/5	1/5	1/0	POT	7/33	216	+27	
16	15/16	0/8	2/9	POT	0	44/67	PLUM		
17	17/16	0/5	0	?	2/8	17/37	163	-8	
18	17/18	0	0/7	?	4/0	11/5	332	+6	
By up bolt Carbide mark LH side pitch. 19	18/19	1/8	0	0/8	?	7/63	318	-22	Back up bolt.
20	19/20	0/7	0	?	POT	1/73	248	-36	

instruments set 3.



28/7 Torca del Vasco - John, Anita, Alex

The trip turned out to be mainly a surveying trip. Whilst Alex ~~rigged the climb~~ put a bolt, and almost the bolt driver, ~~to the~~ rig the climb before the 8th Spanish pitch, Anita and I surveyed down 'Another Fine Mess'.

We continued to survey the climbs and passages Alex found on his last trip. We rigged 2 small pitches, and a hand line on ~~the~~ a muddy climb up on the way to give us chance to warm up putting in bolts.

The passage is quite old and muddy after the climb up but before the pitches at the end two inlets come in.

After 6 hours surveying and rigging we got to the pitch which Alex had been unable to climb last trip. Two pitches were dropped, both of about 10m. At the bottom the way on closes straight down, but there is a ledge half way up the pitch that ~~could~~ could be the way on...

John

It sure is!!

Oh (05.00 31/7)



(56)

31-7 HOLD YOUR HORSES, BIG DEVELOPMENTS IN 'C4'  
THERE WILL BE A PRESS PRESS SHORIBY

BOB K 06:00

We found the boat ...

P 08:00

"It's only recently been superseded by digital technology actually" - Olly on telephone exchanges

'Over here, SRT is the basis ...  
caving is ... The Principle !!!'

- Martin's drunken philosophy of Picas caving.

'that'd be the best thing since ...  
Marnflashes' - Nobby  
(referring to the possibility of a Vasco-C4 link)

Who said of what? #1

'God, it makes you want to shit just looking at it, doesn't it?'



carry list 31.7

- Pencils
- Black bags
- Carbide
- Cave food

30/7 Torca del Vasco Alex Olly Andy

A gentle potter down to the end of the cave, having given the tackle to Andy. The way on was easily seen with a light which actually worked. Swinging off the last pitch and traversing led to a climb down to a large chamber with a big black hole. Coming in through the far wall was an 'inlet'. So I sent Andy off to check the inlet whilst I started rigging the pitch. I finished the first bolt and still Andy wasn't back so I decided to wait a bit.

Andy came tearing back saying, 'It goes! It goes!' It turns out that the 'inlet' is a long section of phreatic passageways with lovely slippery mud all over the place. We rigged a traverse and hand lined two steep muddy sections before we came out a pitch head.

There seems to be a stream at the bottom, the pitch is virtually rigged, it just needs a rope attaching to the hangers.

At the moment Vasco is heading virtually parallel to Underground Overdrive about 650m away.

Alex



(58)

C4 and C9 30-7

I'm going to give up cave exploration because it can't possibly get any more exciting!

Bob, Tim and I got down the cave first, so set about the surveying quickly and, dare I say, efficiently? Well except for the bit where Tim set off down a pitch with the reel, leaving me with the end of the tape at the top. I was already holding too much and then decided to try and pack a tacklebag too. So it was the tape I dropped rather than the survey notes.

Geoff arrived at about this time, but decided that he would get a bit of a head start going out, so we said goodbye to him. Martin had rigged the next ladder pitch and took Bob to line him down it. I got myself under a survival bag yet again. It really works. The bag was slit up one side and I put the corner under my hat. In fact every time I stopped moving someone wrapped me in plastic!

We surveyed to the base of the ladder, then while I was otherwise occupied, Tim and Bob found the way on. I went back up the ladder and was looking at a traverse over the pitch head. There was shouting "Pauline", and "We're here". Oh yes, I'm here too, I thought. I went back down the ladder to find out what was going on. Tim came back to find us and we followed him through a hideously muddy rift. No wonder they waited on the far side and shouted, hoping we'd come through.

The passage was a 3ft wide streamway in very fractured rock. It got bigger and opened up into a 5m wide



boulder floored passage.

There was a difficult looking climb. Tim said don't worry about coming down and ~~gave~~ gave me his shoulder to stand on.

A bit further on, climbing through boulders again, someone said "here's a carbide arrow". Did this mean we were in the main streamway of C9, or was it just an inlet? Don't know, but we'd made the connection. We saw a carbide S, survey station.

The others asked me what to expect. I told them, a beach with an inflatable boat moored beside it. It seemed more like a legend than reality, so I was beside myself when we found it. I left in the air and we all danced around. Expedition objectives achieved!

Pauline.

~~On the way back for food and carbide we ran across the last survey station.~~

On the way back for food and carbide we ran across the last survey station. Besides it was a piece of red tape with 'Snablet and Pivo, survey end' written on it.

[It's a blackened rock on the top of the boulder by the awkward climb. This climb is on the left of the 2nd boulder chamber you come to].

Where was the BEC sticker?

Who said of whom (or what) #2  
'He tried to eat my shorts !'' ?

"I've never been near an ice axe. Why, I've never even smelled one!"



(6)

To everyone,

My time is up and I have to go back to my other life. Thanks to everyone for making this such an exciting and fun expedition - the best yet for me. Hope derigging is fast and efficient (!) Hope Vaso becomes the deepest cave in the world. Love after each other and take care,

love Pauline  
← X

PS. Please ring Juan-José (tel: 5211 790) and give him an update before going back to England.

PPS. Please bring the logbook to me when it gets to Oxford.

