

ARID CAVES PROJECT ' 2015 C4.

LOG 2015
BOOK

FABRIANO

C4 Log

Phil, Callan, Helen, Dave

Annex Canyon Sat ①

Expri - camp at campsite

Sun 30 Aug

Phil / Helen / Dave ~ 1st carry up to Refugio, after horseman didn't turn up (!) ~ Laura at refuge said he had 'lost the horse' but also suggested he had looked at the forecast.... which was grim. Fortunately it cleared as we approached Ariz and after a ~~putting~~ putting expd tent up behind refuge, we went up to C4 to GPS / mark path, as it was last forecast for sun for a while. On return Callan had arrived too.

Mon 31 Aug

So the rain + mist starts.... Went back to car for second carry + breakfast. Got back to hut just as two huge storms started + continued all night.

Tues 1 Sept

Mist + drizzle rather than pissing down... So all up to C4 with personal kit + 100m rope, entrance ropes drill + hardware. Went in noon, Phil rigging as been done before - pleasantly surprised to find some dry pitches still had ropes in. Dave fettled some of deviation + noted where more bolts needed for forging dive gear. Rigged to top of Monster, then back for tea.

Wed 2 Sept

Same weather, same cave. All up to entrance + Phil rigged Monster part 1 while Dave + Helen prugged rope for Monster part 2. - They then rigged this while Callan / Phil added bolts on entrance pitches where noted earlier. Dave ran out of rope 10m from base of Moiste II.

Thurs 3 Sept

Worse rain so third (+ final) carry from car - forecast set to improve from tomorrow. 😊

Fri 4 Sept

Dave/Tony rebolted Monte II, Phil/Eallon entered cave as they came out at 5.30pm + rigged beyond Monte to top of Mash Brown, ready to drop, exited cave 2.30am / but at 4am. Stunning walk off in moon/star sky.

Sat 5 Sept

Moved up hill, rested, Mike/Skyh in cave c noon to rig beyond Mash Brown. All rest of team to valley to camp (?). Dry day at last

80m	100m	3 Rope	3	80	4 Man storm shelter
80m	100m	3 22 Hangers (12x1hr 10 stu)	3	3	Orange survival bag
80m	100m	3 Rope (New)	1	5	Gas 500g
80m	100m	3 Rope for Monster	100	80	Tealights
		3	1	3	Hand Wipers
		3 At House	20m	3	Rubble sack
		3 Item	1	3	Red/White tape
		Survival Bags			Cable ties
6		4 Storm Shelter 800	30m		Inner tube
2		4 Gas 500g	60m		Bell wire
4		4 Chisel 2d Point	20m		Capping gear
1		4 Pliers	20m		Webbing Tape 40mm
9		4 Entry Rungs	100m		Webbing Tape 50mm
10		4 Guy Lines	1		Webbing Tape 18mm
8		4 Carvery	2		Cord 6mm
30		4 Milton Sackets	1		String
200g		4 Marm Flake	1		Lump Hammer
10kg		4 Typ	1		Beating Hammer
13		4 Dry Bags	pair		Hand Bolt kit
1		Lead Acid 12v pack			8 Man storm shelter
1		80m Hung up Petrol Cooker			Fuel bottle
1		40m Hung up Spare burner			Wellies size 43/9
		85m Hung up			10mm
		15m Hung up			10.5mm
		7m Hung up			10.5mm
		11m Hung up			10.5mm
		18m Hung up			10.5mm
		6m Hung up			10.5mm
		20m Hung up			10.5mm
		13m Hung up			10.5mm

FRIDAY 4TH

Mike, Steph + Helen take tent up to C4 entrance plus caving gear. Weather misty + light rain at times. Route up very well marked by advance team! About 1hr 15min, steady walk, quite exciting near end as various deep holes passed. A small flat-ish spot found for tent & after some rock removal this was pitched. Excellent meal in refugio that evening!

SATURDAY 5TH

Mike & Steph enter cave around 1.30pm to continue rigging beyond Hash Brown (see Phil's entry for 4th). Steady progress made down this line & generally large cave. Initially dry & bouldery ^{for a few pitches} an inlet is soon gained and followed down a couple of pitches to the monster - a v. impressive shaft, particularly the latter 75m section! Phil & Callum's limit soon reached & Steph belted/rigged Hash Brown & Bugger Bognor (boggy boggarts) before Mike rigged Cat O' nine, while Steph went back to the base of growing up for more rope. Mike/Steph then rigged Free n' easy, and Mike continued to Gooseberry Pot while Steph returned to Bugger Bognor. After belting head of Gooseberry, Mike headed back to Bugger Bognor & both exited reaching surface at c 12:15am. Tony had brought up food & sleeping bags & so after soup/coffee we all stayed up in the tent rather than return to refugio. We were treated to a stunning sunrise in the morning, the sun perfectly framed by the window in the tent  preceded by a very red moon the night before 

SUNDAY 6TH

Mike/Steph did a carry of v/a camp kit + climbing kit in the afternoon.

Steph's
OBSERVATIONS:

1st deviation of Monster could be quite strenuous for short asses with heavy loads, it was totally free hanging for me.

The monster is pretty awesome, watch out for the feet ~~area~~^{quartz} bands in the shaft.

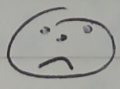
The boulders at the top of snowing up pitch look fabulously perched over the pitch ceh 😊 thread delicately 😊

Hash brown down to Boggy Bogarts is very dusty so beware when looking back up.

Hash brown, really watch that the rope does not get SNAKED here, lots of picos like rock protrusions.

Bigger Bogner (Boggy Bogarts) is now re-named by the crazy Irish lady ^{qs} ~~to~~ happy march mallow camp. This modest sandy reprieve from the cave is a lovely friendly brow stop area with a lovely stream conveniently near by.

Mandy 7 Sept

Helen/Dave/Phil in cave noon to finish rigging to bottom/
check out Rio Grande Rift. Dumped bivouac etc at
Bugger Bogor + followed Mike/Steph's/Tony's rigging to
sandy ledges up left in v old crumbly tube to Tony's
bypass to Neocomer pitch. Phil dropped pitel with
36m rope to ledges above 'There Be Dragons'
+ bottled to exposed Y hang over pitch. Dave
dropped pitel + put in 2 rebays to dry ledge at
bottom. Phil checked out snaggy rift to ladder
pitch of Marie Celeste - old OUC rope on traverse
which was useful for butchering for various threads/
spikes for ladder! Down pitch into very different
chamber - big blocks / small / shattered rock. - Way on
was easy to find across muddy ledge to crawl +
infamous included rift. Despite Dave/Phil's best
efforts, only 'Helen the hero' passed first squeeze.
Looked for ways on in other places - no joy. After
frustrating hour gave in + went back to Bugger Bogor
to camp - ready set up by Eva/Richard
(Thanks guys - legends!). Arrived at midnight
- meant to eat + doze for 4 or so hours but
woke at Tan (it's that comfy!). So surfaced
at noon Tuesday to report back to team. Sorry
not better news chaps  . But we could
hear the stream

09/09/2015
Gnome Up Hill

- Small yellow dive bag
- Large yellow dive bag
- Darren drum of valves
- Two dive lines
- Fins
- Bag of climbing gear.

Thurs 10 Sept

Dave / Ton / Si / Eva / Dave / Ben / Richard carry dive / supplies kit to camp while Paul / Tony rest at camp. Phil / Marki photographed top section to Monster. Excitement on monster pitch when Si hit by rock on shoulder, interesting prusik out one hankel, all ended well with beer @ refugio.

Friday 11 Sept

Phil / Helen / Dave down hill to go home. Massive congratulations to Paul / Tony sorting the rift and Steph / Mike / Callan for pushing the chis (we hope!). Good luck with Dive and the whole team - really hoping all goes well now - sad not to be with you but a privilege to be involved on a great exped which looks like it will be a success - thanks a million for all Mike's hard work organising it. Come home covered in glory! ☺

Thursday 10th Sept

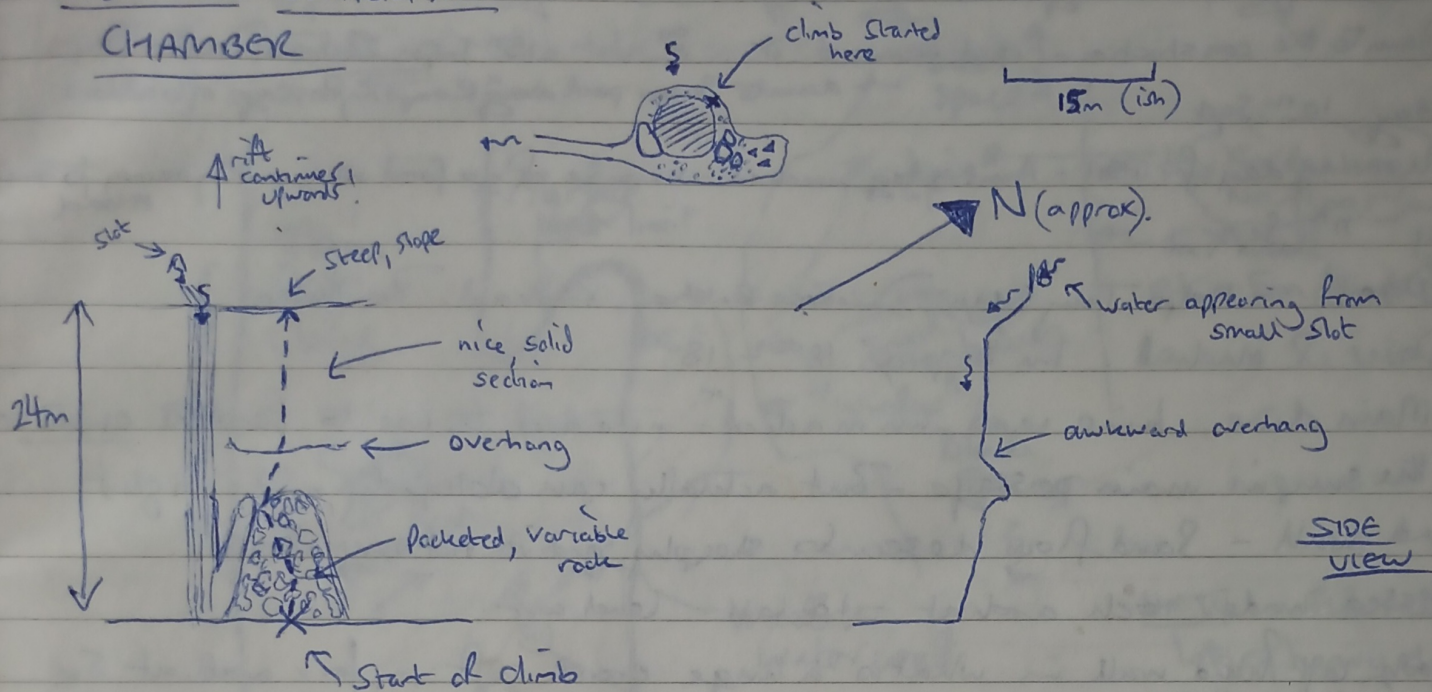
Mike, Steph + Callum in the cave first, around 10.30am to bolt the upstream waterfall, assuming light rift now opened by Paul/Tony. Upon arriving at camp at Bugger Boggar, we caught up with Paul/Tony & said rift was now open & the guys had enjoyed a trip to Special Agent Sea where the ~~boat~~ ^{boat} was found to be ~~at~~ moored & still inflated!! After a few brews & some food we continued on down the cave. Good progress with enjoyable caving to bottom of Here be dragons before short awkward rift to ladder. ^(20m) From bottom, formerly light inclined rift was found and passed with ease - absolutely amazing work guys!!! 😊

A gloomy passage followed to main stream & few minutes caving upstream led to impressive waterfall chamber. After selecting the line of the climb, kit was arranged, food was eaten & more layers donned by the belayers (v. cold & draughty place) before Mike started the climb. 3hrs of climbing was achieved to top of waterfall, from where v. steep ramp continued for few metres before continuing vertically, but water issued from small slot to one side. Rope drag & failing batteries forced a rebreat & a rope was rigged for return before stripping gear. Happy to reach the bottom (was quite a biring climb, especially passing the overhang), kit was packed, we had a brew & Callum went up to have a look and allow a disto measurement - 24m.

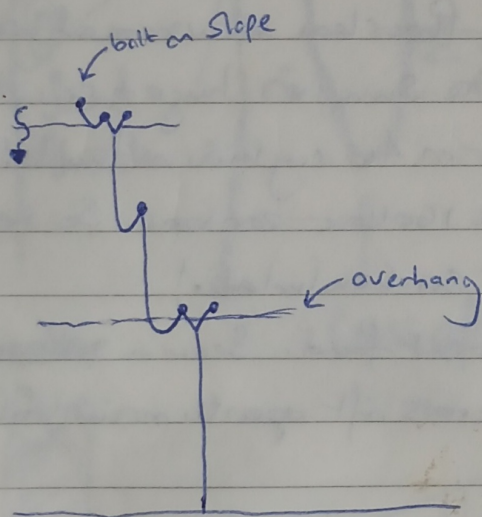
We slowly plodded back to camp which we arrived at around 2.30am. Food was eaten, and a cold night ensued, especially for Callum! A lazy start on Friday before setting off back to surface which was reached 3hrs later around 6pm. Back at refugia, much food & beer/wine was consumed, reflecting on an excellent but biring trip with passage, well over, ongoing!!

UPSTREAM WATERFALL CHAMBER

PLAN



RIGGING



35m rope, not much left!

Wednesday 9th Sept

Paul Machill + Tony Seddon.

Down to the constriction - and removed it. ⁵⁰ 15th Trip. Entrance to offset camp
↳ down to Snup pool along Ramping Passage of boulders

Thursday 10th Sept

Recovery day for PSN - Anne + Greg wrecked - because of no food when on 3rd journey to base
+ bad

Friday 11th Sept

Dive - Help Tony Seddon, Jane Rose Enbha, Richard Benthusen

Diver P. Machill. In approx 18⁰⁰ - 18³⁰.

Main dive. Line real unmarked - intended to use to find the entrance
to the snup's main passage - But actually ran obliquely under right
hand wall - Sand floor descends steeply and is not very stable

Passed under rock arch at - 18.6m. Level out.

Took left hand wall in what is a huge cross rift. - few walls at 5m
distances - floor invisible - no roof. No wall ~~at~~ right or left. Line finally
tied off at rock throat. - Huge personal concern that line lost or damaged
in this huge unmarked, roofless, floorless environment would have
meant no chance of return. Also the snup is huge + complex and only
line would find the way on - Air or 4c cylinder limited at - 18m
with no floor. - already a synthetic to 160 bar - 200 bar. So return to base.

~~2nd~~ On way spot a 2nd boat sudden intake!

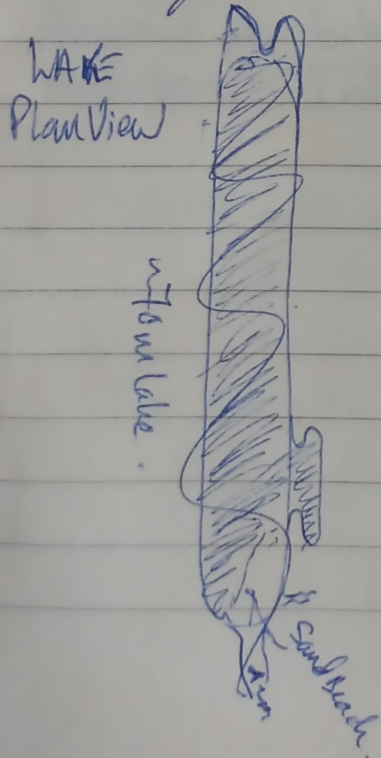
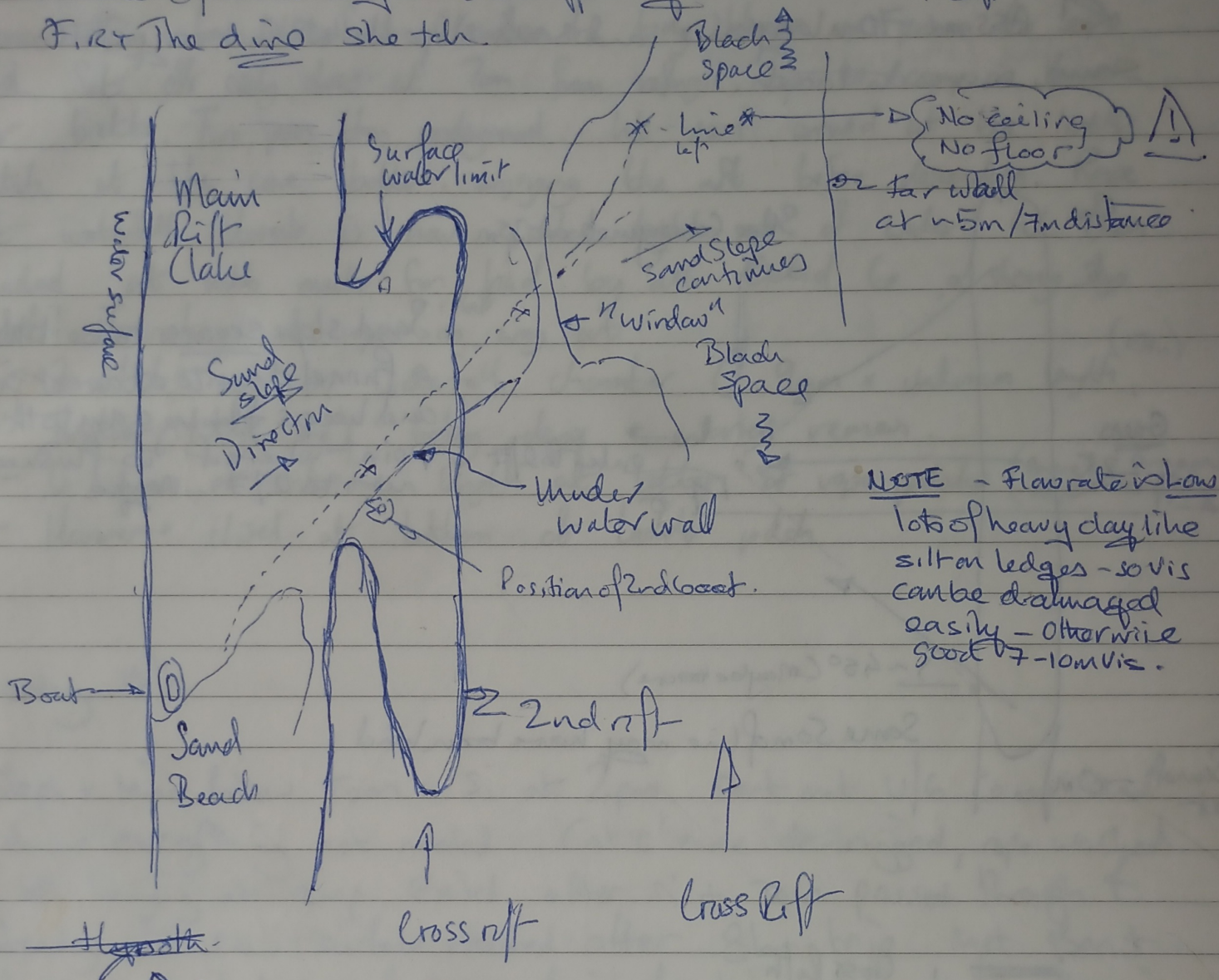
2nd dive. Exploring near where boat found. Seen a passage - but
sand floor rises and I surface in cross rift open to main lake. Return
and re-unmark line.

3rd recce. Surin whole lake. - Follow left-hand wall - return via right
- Sand floor higher on left-hand side drops dramatically to RHS. Floor not
visible for most of length of surin left hand side. Sand floor rises steeply
to end of rift (definite closure). Return on RHS side - wall under with
and always deep blue - no sign of bottom. Good place for anyone
with under water agoraphobia...!

Conclusion. Sand slopes to low point on right hand
side - base maybe at a very deep point before rising to 2/7. A return
would need large air supply / rebreather and possibility to exceed 50m.

FEAL

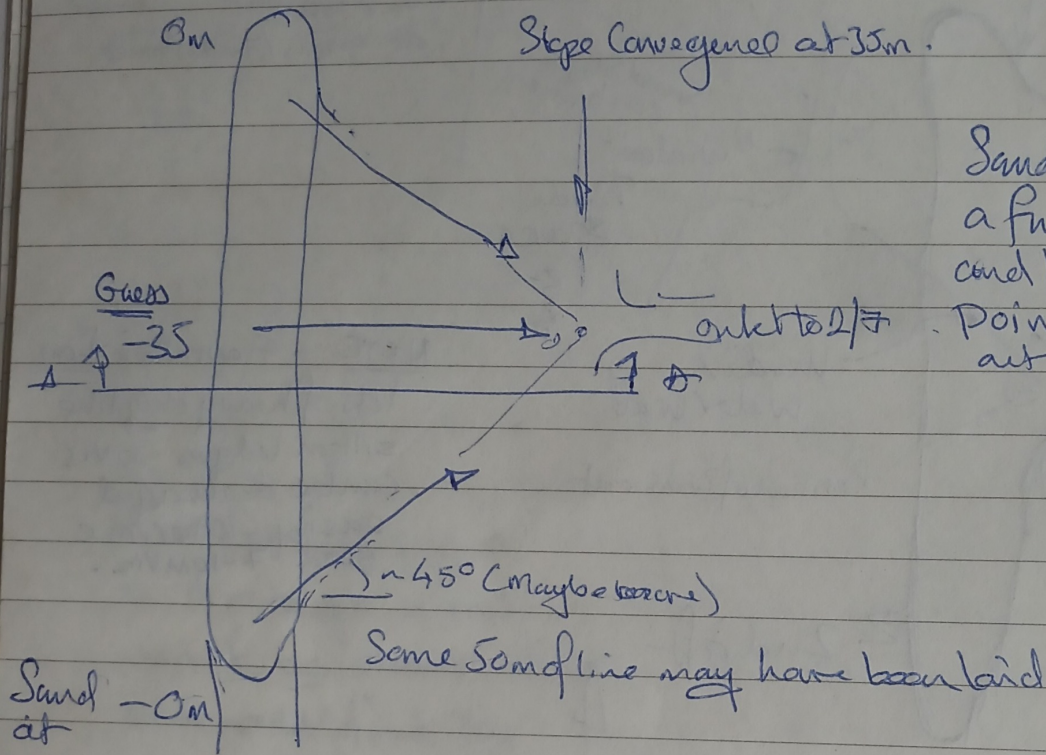
Guess of what might be happening (or Bullshit / hypothesis comes)
 First The dive sketch.



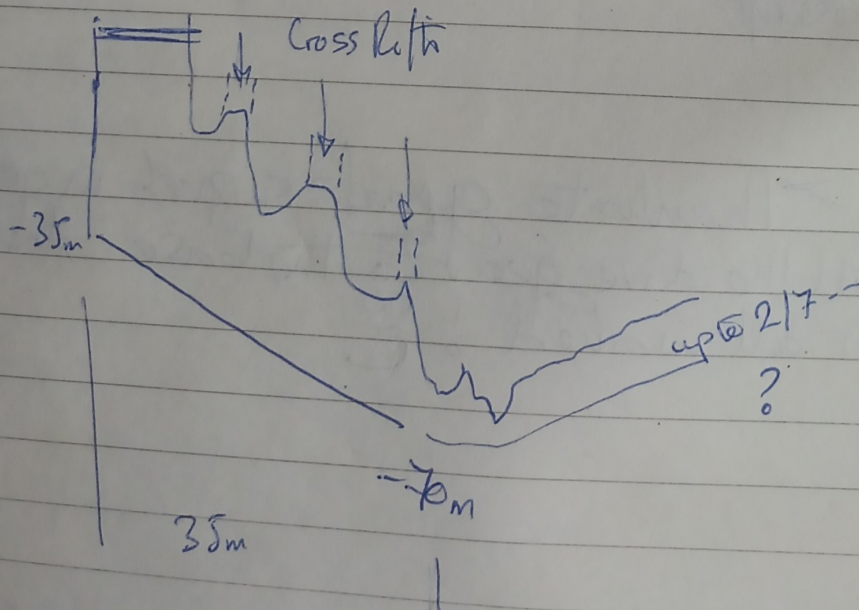
Thanks to great support in getting
 all the dive gear to the base And
 it all worked !

Hypothesis

Assume 70m long lake and sand slope at 45° (not very stable sand, moves to touch).



Sand slope seems to be like a funnel down to a lowest point and keeps flowing down to this point where it so flushed out to 2/7... maybe



Monday 14th September - Tom and Si.

Bounce down to Waterfall Chamber to tidy things up prior to expo end. Set off early doors at Tam from refugio, up to camp in time for brekka. Two pocs then underground. We soon arrived at the ladder pitch at the cave bottom, enjoying the rest before descending. Rope at waterfall climb is now pulled tight out of water. We then headed out with much fun had by all. Exited to a sunny sky. Perfect! Inventory of ropes ^{↑ 15m} on way out:

- 2 little ropes in waterfall chamber (9mm x unknown length, another little one) - belay device + entries remain.
- 4 ropes of unknown length at bottom of rope pitches (there be dragons) (15, 30-40?)
- Hammer + chisel at bottom of ladder pitch.

Monday 14th

Steph + Mike follow Tom + Si at 2pm. Sort out U/G camp and remove everything not needed. Cat o' nine de-rigged, rope washed & left hanging at camp. Exited after Si + Tom passed through & steady exit saw surface reached after 8hr trip. Met Ben + Andrew at bottom of space final frontier en route to de-rig Monster. Inventory of camp to follow!

Todo

18/7/17.

Thanks

10,000 + people reached, get more likes & shares.
film @ kmf - accommodation

photo dropbox

Bosch filming - reunion weekend

Talk @ hidden earth
Post on UK Caving
Write for the website

C3-C4 - 2ft

Reply to our sponsors.

= 905m deep

191 to 140th in the world

f64 → 990m

Email George.

f64 to Chliembro

Mark re: website embedding

71,700m

World class

YDG Invoice £210.

Top 5 in the world.

990
905
—
85m

9/9/16

Rope found in Xitu

- 15 m black & green flecks marked '30 m BPC no 23'
- Approx 40 m white, black + turquoise ref A11.0 BSEN 1891 Marlow
- " 20 m white, black + turquoise
- 25 m red, black flecks. Frayed end 302 032
- * 18 m white, red + black flecks. Green + yellow tape at ends. ^{9 mm}
- est 23 m white, red + black flecks marked 23 m
- est 45 m yellow + white, grey tape on ends.
- 12 m green, blue flecks, cut undergrounds
- all above 10 mm ropes apart from *

- | | | | |
|------|------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 9 mm | 21 m | white, black + red flecks | black tape at ends |
| 9 mm | 25 m | " " | " quite clean |
| | 25 m | " " | " very clean. |

- 1.5 m 6 mm cord ; 1.5 m seat belt tape ; 2x 1 mm black slings
- 16 m black tape

10 mm dirty white rope with black flecks marked & looks 35 m.

9 mm dirty white black flecks 6 m.

10 mm black 9 m.

10 mm dirty white blue flecks 11 m.

10 mm red high tech 1 end sewn loop other cut ^{12 m}

10 mm " " " " " " " " ^{42 m}

10 mm red + black flecks ~ 18 m

LIST OF NON PERISHABLE FOOD KEPT AT ARIO (Sept 2016)

CHICKEN PASTA SOUP	6 PACKETS
GREEN PEA SOUP	8 "
COUS COUS	2½ kg
ASSORTED PASTA	5.3 kg
TOMATO PURÉE	2.5 kg
WHOLE OATS (Porridge)	0.5 kg
ASSORTED PACKET NOODLES	6 PACKETS
ASSORTED NUTS	0.5 kg
BLACK BEANS	1 kg
INSTANT COFFEE	200g
HOT CHOCOLATE	1.4 kg
CONDENSED MILK	450g
TEA BAGS	(APPROX 250)

NOTE: BRING MILTON TABLETS
TO DISINFECT THE FUCK
OUT OF STORED CROCKERY,
PANS etc.

screw top gas canisters stock 16/09/2016

c500g full x 2
c250g full x 1
c250g near full x 1
c500g near full x 1 } for underground camp

c500g part used x 3 for entrance tent

c500g well used x 3
c250g well used x 1 } for surface use and
early disposal

canisters marked SURFACE/ENTRANCE TENT/U/G CAMP
as appropriate

packed with gas

1 all day breakfast ration pack
2x instant custard sachet
6x instant sauce mix sachet
1kg cous cous
1kg pasta
tomato puree x 800g
1x tin tuna
1x tin callos
individual maspa potato x 10 helpings

3x kad gel
1x pan lifter

daren drums

1 x tea, coffee, sugar

1 x caps only

1 x cable ties, snoopies, cord

1 x bolting supplies

thru-bolts x 180

drop-ins x 73 ~~+ setting tool x 1~~

petzl bend x 8

petzl twist x 7

maillon x 18

raumer bend x 10

raumer twist x 18

~~petzl bolt + cable~~

petzl bolt + ring x 31

~~raumer bend maillon x 8~~

~~raumer bend maillon + thru bolt x 4~~

Belay device

7 x screwgates

2 x Snaplinks

Numerous roll mats

plus extra blue drum containing items on white paper

Ropes (see white waterproof paper)

2 x capping mats

10 x tacklebags