

EXTRA



Book

Black n' Red

Personal Information



Name

ACP EXPEDITION

Dates of use

28th AUGUST → 16th SEPTEMBER 2016

If found please contact

Guide to book contents

IMPORTANT CAVE STUFF!!!
DRUNKEN RANBELINGS
SILLY DRAWINGS
PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Important contact details



Use this page as a quick reference to the book's contents during use and for archiving purposes

ARIO CAVES PROJECT 2016 LOG

30 August - Tuesday

Callan / Phil / Dave O / Helen / Miri / Duncan
arrive at Lago Ercina 7:30am (!).

Dave / Helen wait for / accompany donkeys uphill,
Duncan / Miri walk up to refugio with expd kit.
Phil / Callan walk up then mark route to C4
entrance + dump personal cave kit at entrance.
Gear tent pitched + expd gear for rigging
sorted.

Refugio serves draft beer - result!

Very hot + sunny - been a good summer at Arío
✓ despite poor weather ✓ at Lago Ercina
for much of summer apparently. ✓ Consequently
spring is not running..... ✓

31 August - Wednesday

Interesting night in the refugio - extremely
limited sleep for all due to toxic combination
of world class snorer, 3 kids pissing about all
night and Miri's projectile vomit. Never theless....

Duncan did a monster carry from Ercina, Miri
recovered in the day, Phil + Dave rigged to
top of Monster + sorted the ropes ready to rig
from top & hang (note: need a chain of
maillons for a rub point on bottom section as
a kernmant was on rope as improvised protector
+ a large tackle bag required for bottom
ropes - top to ledge in a bag hanging from
& hang. Bottom rope is stacked (bottom on
the top), at the ledge after rift from

Rigging
info

Poxy Pitch) Also we placed extra bolt on Spire The
Final Frontier to break up pitch / negotiate the
big swing. (Drill / 5Ah battery / hammer / Pelican top of pitch)
Helen + Callum took tent to entrance camp +
erected it, with 3 matts.

1st September. Thursday

Dave & Helen going down to rig to bottom of The Monster, leaving
sleeping bags at bottom

Callum & Phil going in ~ 3pm to continue rigging, set up 2 person
camp and get as far down as possible - aiming for top of ladder pitch.

Going to camp: 2 sleeping bags

M&R

2 Fuel bottles

1x pan set

2x lighters

(should be out lunchtime Friday)
2nd. ✓

Next item in need to take; { 2x ladders

To leave at bottom

Climbing bag

Ideally shed loads of Krabs - screwdrivers

More fuel

Food

* Mike needs to know when a donkey is available for Paul's kit,
currently Monday sounds possible with Refugio - Check this is ok
with Paul and confirm this afternoon *

* Refugio needs more info on who is coming esp. at
weekend and who wants food in advance. They
are politely frustrated :-(

2nd Sept Friday

- Duncan and Mini carried 2 sleeping bags and a Mollimat to the entrance tent, plus their caving gear stashed ready for caving.

Snowglobe product photo shoot at the tent went well.

- * When back, rang Mike. Relayed the two actions listed on the previous page. Mike will email the R eferred tonight with answers.

Duncan

- Dave + Helen re-rigged the top of the Marster + rigged the came as far as (+including) Growing Up. 2 sleeping bags + drill taken to the sharp end. Encountered Callum + Phil at the bottom of Marster (on our way out). They planned to rig the rest of the ropes + set up camp. Due to exit came on Friday 2nd.

- * It was suggested that 2 people might like to take the ladders in to the bottom (on a late shift). The came would then be fully rigged.

(1st September) (Holman)

- * MATT, SARAH + RICHARD UNDERTOOK ANOTHER CARRY FROM CANGAS. BROUGHT UP 2.5KG PASTA, 2KG CHEESE, 1KG CHORIZO, 1KG SALAMI, 8 CARTONS TOMATO PUREE, DIGGING DRUM FULL OF TEA/COFFEE, 2 ROPES (1x58m, 1x62m) VARIOUS NUTS/CHOCOLATE/PORRIDGE ETC, 8LTRS WINE, DRY BAG OF MEDS (INC ANTIBIOTICS)

- Richard + Matt enter cave to rig ladders 5pm - expect out 3rd (pm)
- Phil + Callan out cave 3pm - eventful trip - arrived camp on 1st at 7pm, started rigging 7.30pm - Phil rigged / added bolts to Cat O Nine Tails + was 20 feet from bottom when rope ran out after going back up to ledge half way, took some slack out and then 7 feet short so had to re-rig whole pitch. Also most wallons (all left at camp) rusty + needed spannering whole way. Rope on Free n Easy was cut at end so didn't want to risk running out of rope again by adding new hang so left ~~it~~ as one hang - turns out about 15m left at bottom! Bugger.

Friday 2nd September

(Hdman) Sarah, Dave + Helen - Rigged and descended into the entrance of Xitu to see how much gear had been stored from years prior. Quickly realised that a full day and more people were required to inventory what was there. Removed approx 8 half used gas canisters, some pasta, tea/coffee, smash, spices (to spice up the repeated meals of pasta and tomato sauce in camp!), cans cans and probe wipes. ~~was~~ To return and make further inventory and bring out any other useful gear for exploration later.

Dave's
So drill / hammer left at top + 3 through bolts on traverse line
at camp ready to do this. (Richard was given this info
as ~~he~~ met on surface next day on his way in).
Rigged rest of ~~one~~ rope to bottom. + returned camp
at 2am. Woke at 8am - Callum projectile
vomited + not a well man. Slept to recover
until 10am (on 2nd). Although very weak, I'll
decided to exit (with a sleeping bag / gas from
camp so Phil could leave him on a ledge at
any point!). Top effort from Callum + surfaced
at 3pm. Left sleeping bag in ~~the~~ surface camp +
gas given to Richard to take back in.

* MSR in camp burning very poorly + only one
gas canister / no camp gas stove
Needs another MSR + service kit going in plus
gas stove? / gas.

Currently / 1 MSR / 2 full fuel bottles
2 sleeping bags + 4 old mats in place
in + pots (no mugs) + hand gel. + bag
X of old dried food.
No shitting in that area please ☺

* awkward relay below deviations on Monster
part one - short stirrup here will help
tired people.

3rd Sept - Saturday

RICH + MATT DESCENDED TO CAMP, SETTING OFF GATE FRIDAY EVENING (6PM). AFTER A
BREW AND BITE TO EAT CARRIED ON TO -650m AND RIGGED TWO LADDERS
AT THE END OF THE AWKWARD LIFT. 8 MALLIONS LEFT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LAST
SRT PITCH NEXT TO 5 ROPES OF VARYING LENGTH. RICH DRILLED + BOOTED A

(Y HANG)

NEW REBELAY PARTWAY DOWN FREE + EASY WITH ANOTHER HOLE DRILLED 10-12m ABOVE THE DECK. ~~THIS~~ THIS WAS TO AVOID A VERY SLIGHT RUB POINT BUT WE HAD NO MORE THROUGH BOLTS. DAVE, HELEN + PHIL TO ~~THE~~ BOAT ON THEIR NEXT TRIP DOWN. RUBBISH + EMPTY GAS CANS BROUGHT AT FROM CAMP THE FOLLOWING DAY. (+ calling gas stove which we used to cook)

At camp:

Drill (no battery) + 2 drill bits + one thought/longer/million bag of ~20 ready meals eg. breakfast + ~500g nuts
2 sleeping bags
Half cylinder (large) Coleman 70
MSR whisperlite - needs cleaning 2 pans, 1 bag, 1 small
~40 2in/3in 1 coffee + ~5 teabags
~24 jaffa cakes
NO STORE - Richard emailed tortilla expiry date 09/15-

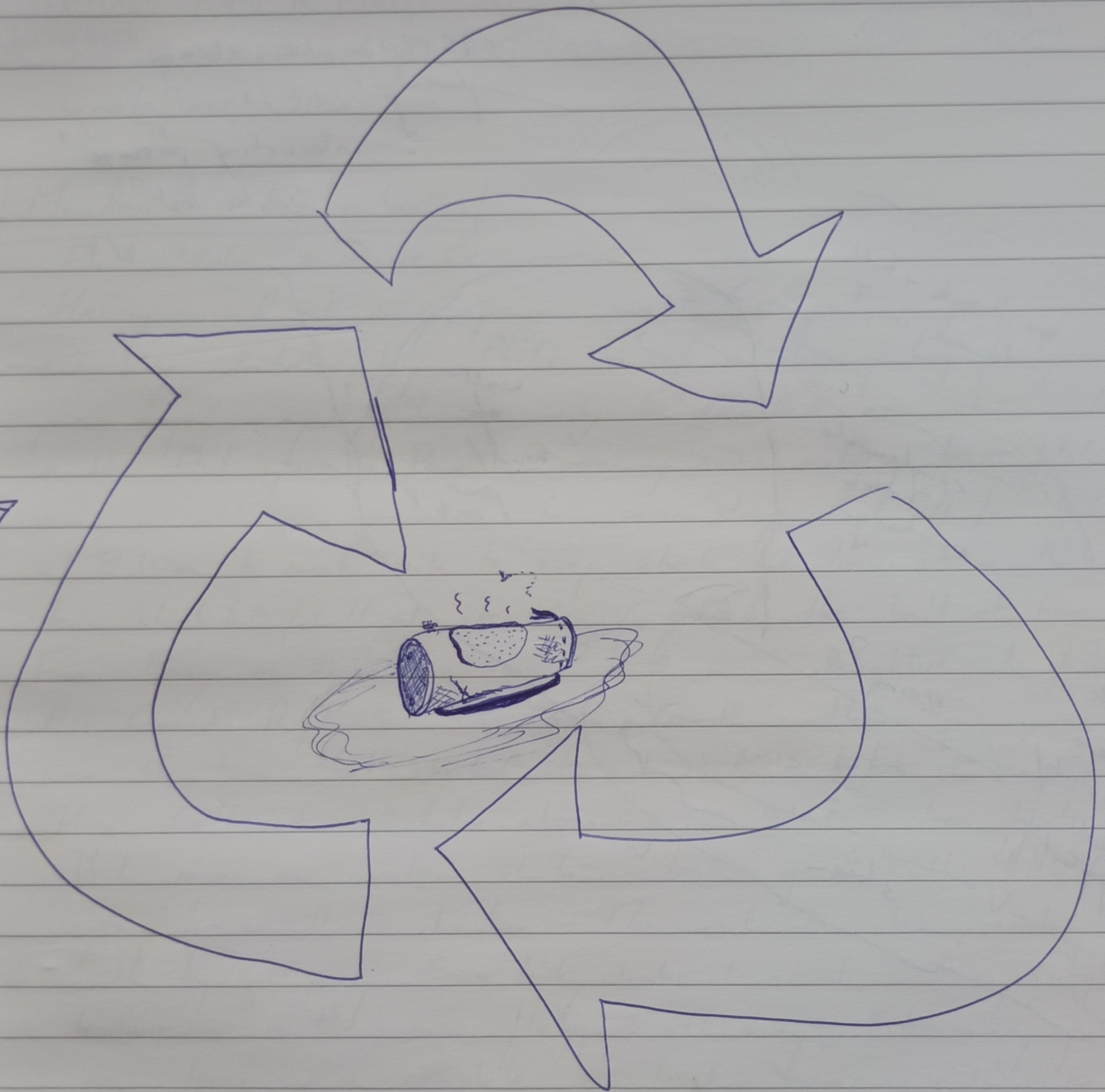
Rest Day for Callum (still off colour) + Phil, Dave took climbing kit ~ to top of Monster, Sarah, Helen + Miri acclimatisation trip to break through rift, (How not to get stuck, strung up, knock someone out with falling rock, or fall off the limestone pavement!).

4th Sept Sunday

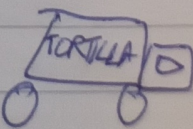
Dave, Helen + Phil on pushing trip to find/halt downstream chub - down to camp late Sunday, push Monday, out Tuesday. Also to mark route to swamp with tape + stick camp.

Miri & Duncan did trip to the top of the Monster. Scouting photoplaces, lots of laughing. Brilliant time avoiding sun and heat. Sleeping bag delivered at the top of the Monster.

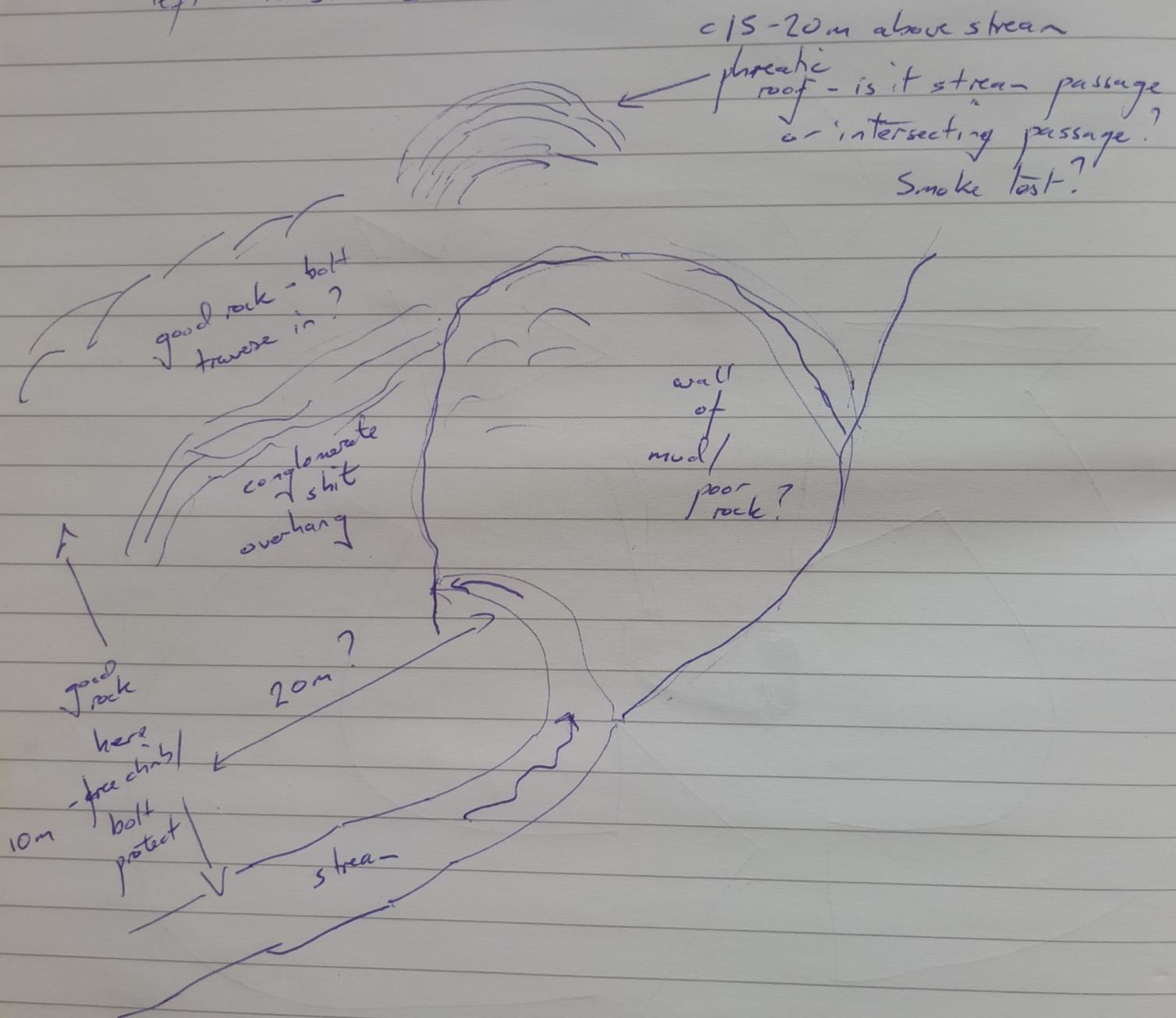
PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL



TAKE YOUR TORTILLAS
HOME WITH YOU
(there is no tortilla collection in this cave)



* so really smoke test would be useful before committing to what looks a fairly complex climb. Would need 30 - 40m static to rig, pass from left hand side 20m back.



Arrived back at camp, leaving climb kit at C4 / stream junction + drill / battery + 22m 8mm rope / 15 knots / through bolts at 8pm. + exited cave Tuesday 6th Sept at 1pm. Much faster to find route in stream with tape in place.

Sunday 4th September

Holman) Sarah, Matt + Richard Returned to Xihu and moved 6 large blue drums up to the snakehole and 2 large bags. 1 drum and other imminently useful items (including more pasta and crockery) brought back to camp. Richard also went to meet the next "clusterhick" ~~have~~ of cavers* and ~~ex~~ assisted in a carry from Lagos.
*(Dave O 2016)

Monday 5th September

Phil, Helen + Dave O.

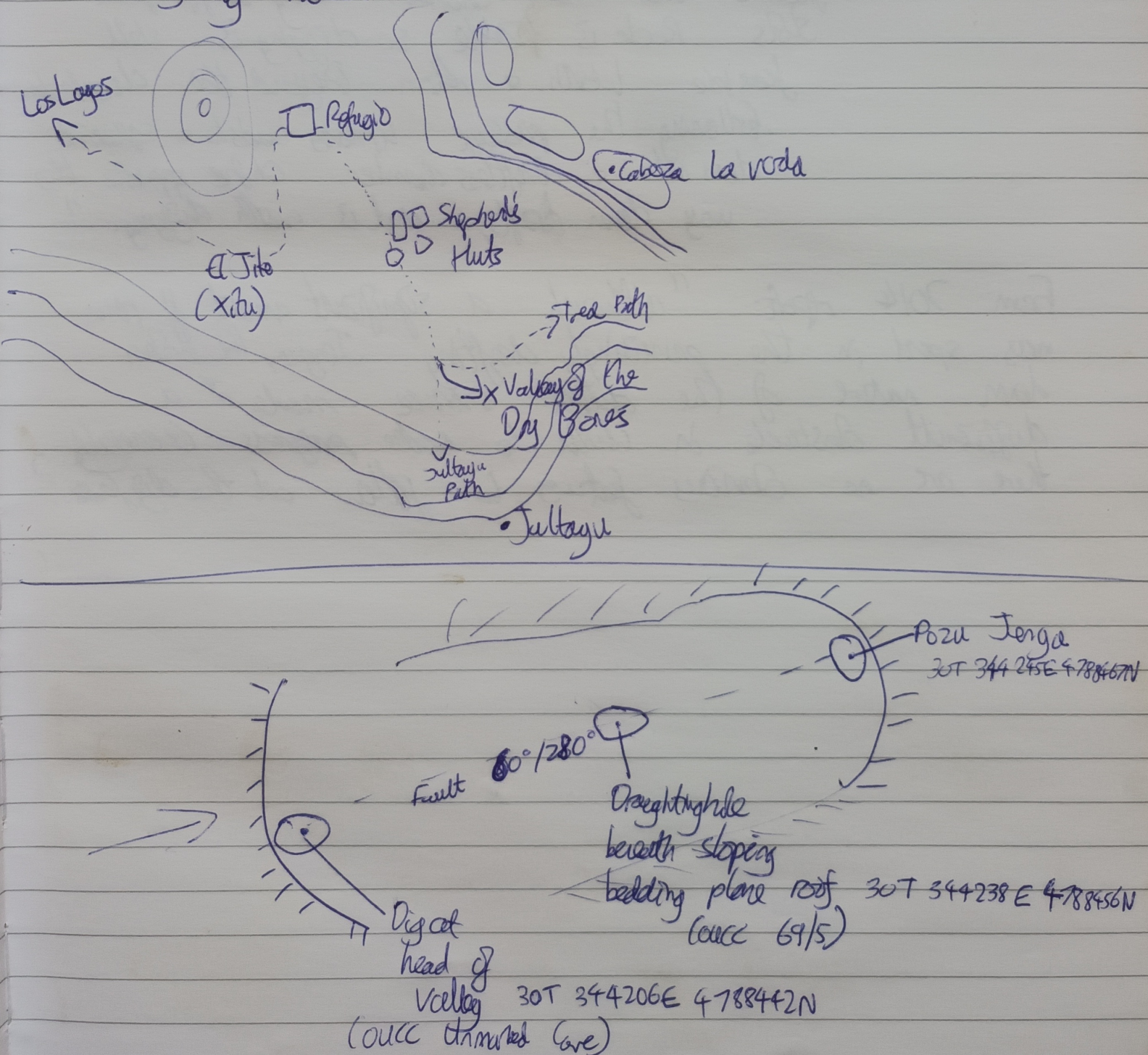
Having arrived at camp previous night (c 8pm), a good night was only disturbed by Phil's use of a sleeping bag from previous year exp. camp, which can only be described as shit... However with Phil spooning Dave and receiving some rubbing from Helen, some warmth was generated for some sleep. Set off for bottom at 8.30am to mark route to sump, check out lower stream climb + leave climb bt / drill at streamway. Added the bolt at base of Free n Easy as requested on way and was delighted to find Rio Grande Rift a bit more 'Grande' than last year (we were the team that checked it out in 2015 before it 'expanded'!). Huge draft at end before streamway.... Went upstream first to check ropes on upstream clb - looked good, with little / no spray or wind in climb. Then went downstream, marking route with tape all way. Some tricky climbs at start, and surprisingly torturous route, now flagged all way. Streamway just prior to sump a complete contrast - amazing colours and beautiful sump chamber. On way back draft very noticeable appeared; pass. into rift on RH side (~~by the stream~~ looking down stream). Phil climbed c 15m up ledges but rift appeared narrow + no draft - probably rift stream formed in. Around corner (obvious sharp bend) draft strong at stream and phreatic roof to passage - may be a different passage but c 20m above stream in complex / poor rock below *

Monday 5th September

Trip to Valley of the Dry Bones -

Oand Rose, Richard Cole, Sarah Holman

Following on from 2013 (Mackill) and 2014 visits to the valley we went for a scout visit to look at the legendary draughting holes.



IS THIS THE LINK POT OF THE
PICOS ??? D.R.

0
Pozu Tergo - see pg 23 of 2010 Shaftbashing Guide -
"Cliff face demolished to gain entry to a 6m pitch
Grandy G233 M the rift. Squeeze through boulders
including the chockstone reaches a very drafty chamber.
Final chamber dug in 1999 to retreat chok. Entrance
shaft partly collapsed in 2000 to enable a wider and
safer shaft to be dug. Rubble cleared in 2003 to open a
squeeze into small chamber. Soring draft from 3"
slots. Rock is friable so digging is still
feasible. Worth a return. Beyond the chockstone
following the passage upwards leads to a squeeze
down into a draftless chamber. Choke opposite this
way down drafts, and is worth digging."

From 2014 report: "although a significant amount of time
was spent in the promisingly drafting Tergo, the broken
down nature of the chocked entrance made it a
difficult obstacle in which to make progress. Generally
there are no obvious features to follow at the dig face."

69/5 "Windy Hole" - a strongly draughting hole (2010 shaft/boring barrel)

"Dug to 6m depth over a number of trips, from where a side rift led into a small chamber in a boulder choke with no way on. Dug further to reveal another small rift into chamber with 3 drafts. Both left and right are diggable with extreme care but have been left for another day."

① Unmarked one (Shallfhooking guide)

"Far end of valley. East of digging holes.

Just climb down, then head steeply down to boulder dig."

This one had digging gear in and may have been confused with Terga in 2014. O. Rose emptied the wet digging bucket onto boulder floor and the water did not disappear with any haste.

Tuesday 6th September

Dive gear prepared for Paul Mackrell's dive.

Into C4 Tuesday night to camp underground: D. Rose, P. Duffley, R. Cole

To C4 entrance test Tues night: S. Payne, T. Chapman

Into C4 wed's AM: J. Voder, M. Selbork, P. Mackrell

R + S Gregson took valves + two T's to C4 Entrance.

On way back down found cave = 13/9 Wiggly Cave

Shalfthorpe Greville: 0343108 4787889

M. Lavery Greville: 343 094 4787790

R. Gregson estimate: 343271 4787780

Sarah Holman, Mike Bottomley + Callum Braithwaite

- 3 rucksacks containing food, tea/coffee, gas, sleeping mats, sleeping bags, water containers, shelters and first aid kits taken to re-stock camp ready for the Dive team tomorrow.
- returned very late walking down from C4 in the dark, being very grateful for the newly reflective marked route (THANKS PHIL + CALLUM!!!) and the refugio for saving food and looking after us very well on our return (very happy cavers!).

Wednesday 7th September

Martin Hoff, Richard + Sara Guggen set off at 7.30 to try to get to 13/9 before it was too hot. Great sunrise. Found it dr. Rigged off big naturals but worried about rub points.

About 25m pitch down to snow. Sadly no way round the snow.

There was another shaft nearby. It was marked ovcc 10/9 1987. Scramble down a snow slope. Small chamber behind the snow plug. We needed a light but there was no way on. We walked back down the slopes of Tutayn until we reached the Tea path.

* Squeeze between boulders below snow plug into vertical-ish rift at around a foot wide. Poor front visible slope and tall enough to stand in - no draught & evidence but easily diggable for the first section. In the UK, this would be a dig people would spend half a day in it hope of finding out what happened next.

→ Bring yer own crockery

10 SEPT 2016.

CAMP Deep's - 5

food done there

YITU CLEAN UP.
Remind newbies of gear to bring.

Food needed

Need 2nl's

Tortilla

chocolate, sweets

Dried meals

food for surface camp.

Gear at bottom

Bottle of petrol
mini pan set
lighters
cup

- Need 2oo bags
- Wet wipes
- Bag roll.

Objectives

Upstream climb

Gear needed

Martin.

Tom

Riff

Climb over sump

Gear needed

STEPT

MIKE.

TEAM 1 - GEAR OUT

STEPH

SHANE

MIKE

MARTIN

RICHARD

ADAM.

TEAM SHARPA

GANDAGE THE WHITE

~~RUCAN~~

JOHN

SARAH MAYBE

- Knife, spanner
- Tackle sac - darkers
- A plastic water bottle
- Pin-tabs
- Spare light
- ~~Small pot set for~~
brentkit @ swamp
- We need a lighter
- Crochery, spoon
- Petrol
- Food
- Thermals
- Pac a mac
- Storm shelter
- Po. bags

Dave said sft kit
@ junction with C4
mainstreamway & Jnt.

4 bags of pants seen at swamp

Tuesday 6th Sept

Duncan & Miri started a properly epic trip walking up in the cool of the evening getting underground at 10pm. Picked up one additional bag at the top of the Monster and another from the top of G-raining Up. Set of a traverse through the crawl below G-raining Up and arrived camp 2 ish. Joined after 30 mins by Richard C and Paul Diff. Slept soundly till the dive team started arriving at 12 ish (midday Wednesday). Fapped till 4pm ~~before~~ seeing the dive team off before heading up to photograph the Monster. Miri was leading and spotted the last X-hung at the top of the Monster was badly wrapped around a flake; tight rope nearly 90°. Very unsafe. No option but to return to camp and await rescue from the surface, or use the rope and bolting kit from the streamway. Got back in camp about 10 pm and were joined at 11 pm by Tom and Matt who were on their way out from the dive team. They decided getting the drill was a non starter and after viewing photos of the swing opted to take $\frac{1}{2}$ the ~~drill~~ dynamic rope at camp and climb the pitch. A bold option considering they were on a bounce trip to the swamp. Decided to sleep until either Tom & Matt returned (est 4 hours), or the dive team arrived. At 4pm we were woken by Paul Mockrill, so it looked like Tom & Matt had made it out, hooray! Left camp at 6 am (Thu) surfacing at 11:30 ^{am} completely exhausted. Duncan napped hanging on the Monster and briefly fell asleep at the foot of a pitch. Unfortunately he fell while walking down rolling down a ~~rocky~~ slope for 20 ft. Very lucky to only get impact scars on both shins. Nurse Miri fixed him up back at the Refugio

Duncan

Wednesday 7th Sept

John Worden got up early to meet Matt at his tent for breakfast. We were to set off early to the C4 cave entrance but it was too dark, so it was decided to start at first light about 7am.

This trip today was the dive carry for Paul so Matt + I had taken cave gear up to the entrance on Tuesday night when we returned to the refugio before dark. I carried a heavy bag with a diving bottle on Wednesday morning. The two loads were a bit much for me to take up on Tuesday.

On Wednesday I entered the cave about 9am and carried the diving gear down to the underground camp. This being my first expedition, I was taking everything in and just trying to be steady while conserving my energy.

Quite a few of us congregated at camp, had a breather and drink then continued. Some went to the surface. I think I got to the sump around 7-8pmish. Paul made preparations for his dive and we all ate and drank.

Paul dived the Sump but had to return earlier than expected because of problems with two valves however he mentioned that he got very near to the connection. We helped him with his gear and all returned to camp.

Richard, Paul, Matt + Tom all 'banced' out while 'Diff', Dave Rose + I elected to stay in the underground camp. Matt + Tom left earlier while Paul was diving.

Diff, Dave + I had something to drink and went to sleep at about 6am.

Thursday 8th Sept

We got up at noon and had a good breakfast. After getting gear together and kitting up we set off 3pmish. I found it physically demanding exiting the cave up the pitch following the previous days carry, so I was last to come out about 830pmish.

Time was getting on with a fine drizzle and darkness approaching, so we had to follow the reflectors back to the refugio. I think we returned 1030pmish and a hot meal was put on for us, thank you very much!

This trip was a real 'eye opener' for me even though I have caved for quite a

long time. The 'Monster' pitch was quite incredible. I enjoyed the caving from below the camp also, It was quite a surprise for me just how far the soap was from there. Next time on a big trip, I think I would consider using a foot jammer and walking poles for the walk to and from the entrance. The whole trip was quite an experience for me and the longest period I have spent underground.

John

Thursday 8th September.

Richard joined out after Paul's dive with Dave dive himself - left Camp at 4:55am and out by 8:30. Brew at tent with Tom and Matt who had been sleeping there - Tom had heroically lead climbed the monster (Matt belaying) upper most pitch which was snagged around a flake - using deviation points as quickdraws. Thanks guys! Otherwise would have been 9 people in cave awaiting rescue, as Sarah Payne had left earlier due to injury.

After breakfast at 10am Richard got some sleep but was woken by the sound of the Irish arriving. Steph Dwyer, Shane McKinley (ACP 2013 veteran) and Adam Prior (new to expedition caving). As most people were here about 20 of us ate together at the Refuge - though D. Rose, J. Worden and P. D.J. were late arriving back after 10pm.

Richard

Friday

9th September - morning meeting to discuss plan. Dive gear out to Paul's car at Cayos by Sunday 11th - currently two 7s and two tackle bags at snmp, one tackle bag and small bag at C4 junction. Duff's camera gear also at snmp.

Discussed pushing climb bags - upstream waterfall for Martin Holroyd & Tom Chapman to continue Mike, Steph & Callum's work from last year.

Upwardly sloping phreatic near snmp to be looked at by Steph and Mike if they are healthy enough to do so, and smoke can be used.

Also discussed re. Cave Conservation eg. removing faeces or at least discreetly burying in dry sandy area of cave.

Xitu bit store has not performed very well - seems the entrance chamber becomes quite wet in winter/spring - Martin Hoff had a look down in April while hiking in Pizos. Also salt had been packed in with various steel/iron items in barrels and said items have rusted.

Discussed trying to rent a Shepherd's hut which could be financed by OCCC special projects fund.

Team headed in around 4pm: Mike^B, Steph^D, Adam^P, Shane^{Mc}, Martin^{Holroyd}, Richard^C. Adam kept up well given it is his first day caving after caving mostly in Ireland and a week in Yorkshire Dales.

Below camp Richard and Martin soon got ahead. Left bunch of hangers at junction and went to look at upstream climb. Then went to snmp and packed all rubbish except lead into the tackle bags. Started to ferry these back and left beer pit + can of smoke at the roof photos ready for mns to investigate tomorrow. Holroyd then decided to carry 2 bags and a 7 cylinder at once which at least brought him down to my pace but he did also trip over the cylinder sling and land face first. Thankfully uninjured as very deep in cave. We had arrived at snmp at 20.30 and the others were about 20 mns behind.

Hloyd and I then headed up to camp with small yellow and what will be known as Richie's big blue sack. ~~Stop~~ Arrived at midnight, had food and part of tea and left at 1am as getting cold because Lloyd insisted on cooking outside. ~~For~~

Richard solo trip out, carrying small yellow and big blue sack. Out at 6am - slow progress as a bit of foraging back and forth in rifts and C4 has many pitch heads which are difficult with 2 bags. Coming through window on entrance series nearly got hung up with bags snagged below. The PZs gods allowed me to eventually leave the cave with some difficulty. I seem to be getting better in rifts - last year ~~year~~ wouldn't have considered carrying 2 bags out alone. *

Beautiful starry night - finally found Orion which had been hiding away to the east behind the ridge so not visible fully from Refugio - though Betelgeuse comes over the horizon.

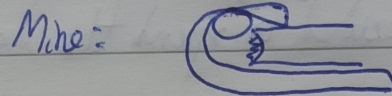
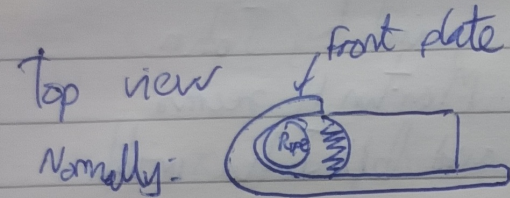
Slept until woken up by T. Chapman and P. O'Jiff arriving then jaffel for a while then decided to fall rickback with the two carry bags and strap coming gear to outside - slow 1h30 stumble down to Arid arriving at 12:30, Refugio being as Saturday. Met PSM on way up and he said Dave R and Sarah P behind him - subsequently bumped into Martin Hoff who thought he saw them going the wrong way? He was heading up to Vedallengua to look for caves above C4.

Expecting Shane and Adam out today with cylinders, leaving 2 tackle bags between 3 'volcan' caves.

Quiet afternoon at refugio for me as everyone has disappeared places - Sarah + Matt have gone, R + S Gregson taking them to airport then going to look in the Caes Caves. 8 dinners have been ordered. I may end up very stuffed!

Richard

* Another thing slowing me down was gradual failure of my Petzl Coil - chest ascender - old style, manufactured in 2005, at club for heavily used until last year and now has been up and down CF about 5 times.



The front plate has worn so rope is guided too far forward relative to the teeth. Especially on the down or less rope in the bottom of CF this can mean the teeth don't grip the rope properly but the ridge at the front of the curved cam digs into rope - so a few times cord slipped about 10cm down rope and the edge removed all mud from rope - no actual damage to sheath noted but quite unsettling. Teeth themselves are not overly worn but they are not able to grip rope in this situation.

I have started using an AV bra-style chest harness on this trip and compared to my previous Petzl brace it doesn't do very much to guide the coil - I think this could be contributing to the wear.

It looks like it will eventually wear to a knife edge which could cut the rope. Compare to recent analysis of New ("teeth") Coil failure methods.

Add: Possibly 78/5 but no rubbish or climbing

Sat 10th Sept

"Search for the Valley of Dry Bones and the discovery of
The Cave of Fools"

Miri's last full day at Ario and still recovering from the epic
cave-trip, so Miri and Duncan decided to head for the
legendary Valley of Dry Bones. We were joined by John
who was hanging around the refugio after Martin H seems
to have decided to spend the day on his own and left John with
no plans.

Unfortunately, with precious few directions, we spectacularly
failed to locate the valley of dry bones ending up in a
hanging valley above the Carres Gorge. We traversed the
mountainside to the Jaltayo path and decided to head
back to Ario.

Miri ~~announced~~ we should have a look in at least one
hole, so we dived into the shake holes nearest to the
Jaltayo path. We quickly found a chamber with 3
entrances (4 depending on how ~~it~~ you count them) and
Duncan started ~~at~~ digging the lowest point. It was
boulder Tenga and not very promising, but before calling
it a day Duncan poked around the other walls.

Before long, Duncan spotted a right line about 20 ft
descending about 45°.

All 3 attacked the wall ~~over~~ moving huge boulders
and soon finding a hole that rocks bounced down ledges
sending an airy drop of about 2 seconds. The hole is
about body sized, but the rift opens up back towards the
chamber. The floor was dry to 5 ft leaving a
precariously balanced chock stone that needs capping
to make progress.

If this cave goes, we would like it to be known as
"The Cave of Fools" in recognition of our sheer good luck and
stupidity.
Duncan

12 SEPT 16

STEPH'S SCRIBBLES.

First & foremost George at the refugio is now the ACP's arch angel. He has taken such incredible care of us. 😊

Steph, Sharon, Shane and Adam arrived at the bottom of the hill on the 8th of Sept, carried all our food & having fear up, had a lovely farewell meal for the 1st wave of ACPers who did an amazing job getting everything set up & the dine underway.

On the 9th - Mike B, Steph, Shane, Adam, Richard & Martin Holzgoyd went up to Ct with Sharon and Paul Mackrill

The 1st 5 went into the cave to go the bottom & collect the fear left at the Sump and bring it back to the cave. The way marking in underground overground was great which made for easy & efficient progress through the cave & cliffs. Great care was required as it was loose in a lot of places, a sling was useful for shortens on some of the cliffs though not essential.

The Sump was so beautiful and the blue water mesmerising & I didn't already know how bloody cold picos water is I'd have been tempted to jump into it.

~~Wish~~

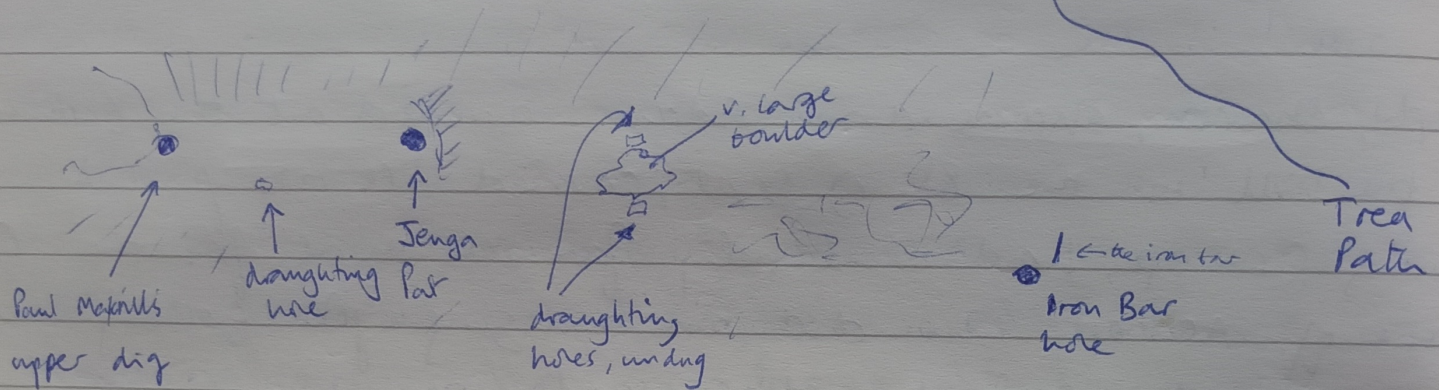
Continued on next day.....

Valley of the Dry Bones assessment

Richard G; Dave R; Adam P; Sarah P

walked to the valley of the dry bones, assessed it, walked back.

Grade 1 survey



We dug in Makill's upper hole until it was clear that the draught came from down-gulch i.e. the Jenga Pot direction, through boulders. We concluded that digging Jenga Pot should be top priority. Then we came across Iron Bar hole, a 2m pot to a draught coming from inside Sultayn. This needs digging.

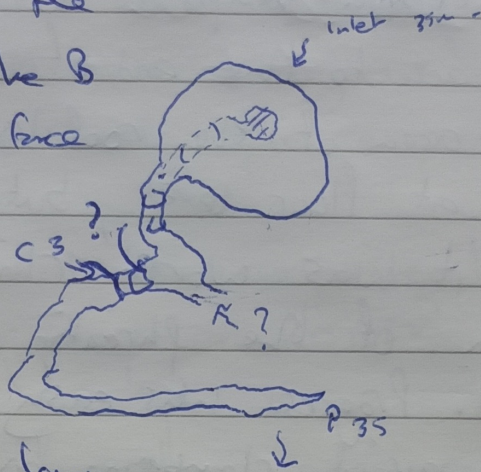
Tom's climb.

Tom, Jeff and Martin returned to the climb previously started by Mike B. Tom valiantly battled up the full face of the waterfall. Placed another 51st bolts before exhaustion left Tom debilitated, a broken man.

However, he had cracked the climb but fearful of what lay beyond descended and handed over the drill to Holger.

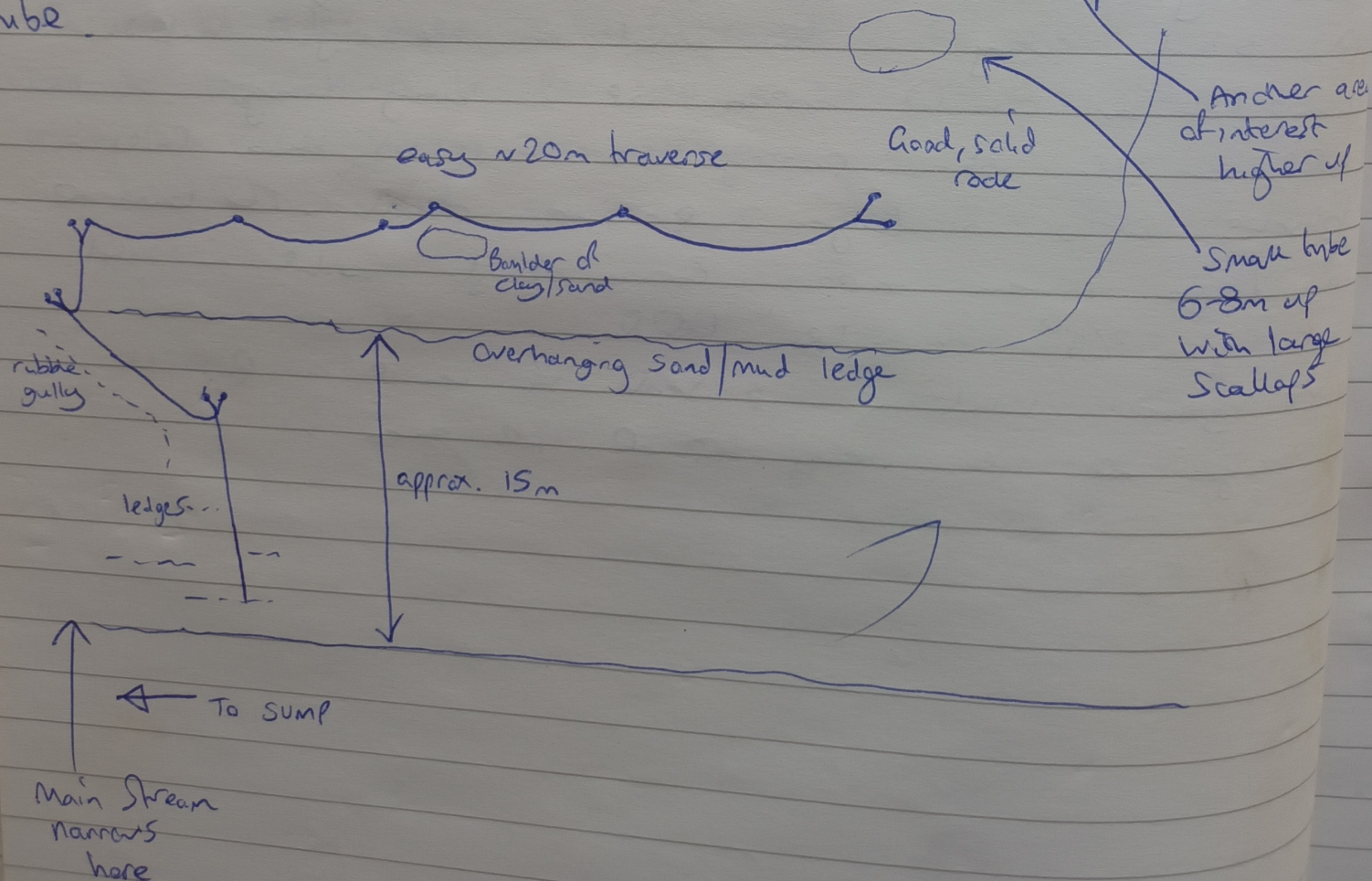
The climb was completed into a narrow rift with brittle footholds. A traverse line was placed into the rift for security. At last the second right hand bend it was necessary to climb up 3m between large glass blocks. A short way on an inlet on the right entered. A lamp hammer would open up a way through. To the left on the stream passage is followed over fallen blocks into a large impressive chamber. The base of a large oven approx 60m high with an inlet entering 2/3rd on the left.

A good climbing proved to reach a possible passage at the very top of the oven.



10th sept - Bolt climbing near downstream sump

After stopping at u/a camp on the Friday night, Shane & Mike continued on back to the end of underground 'overdrive' to investigate the area of the roof level phreatic tube. The draught is strong here at floor level, but looks to go d/s. Nevertheless it was worth climbing up to see if there was a continuation of the phreatic tube. Mike climbed while Shane belayed. Progress was easy with a few bolts for protection & to avoid clambering on shit rock. A traverse was gained & rope rigged down to Shane before continuing the bolt traverse alone. At furthest point, a tube can be seen 6-8m up although can't see it closes down. Above another 6-8m is another area worth investigating on next trip. From the traverse there is a brilliant view down the phreatic tube.



Mike returned to Shane and after bagging kit up headed back to U/G camp. Having done the main Streamway a couple of hours swift progress was made back to junction with C4 in around 35 mins. Arrived back at U/G camp around 12:30 am

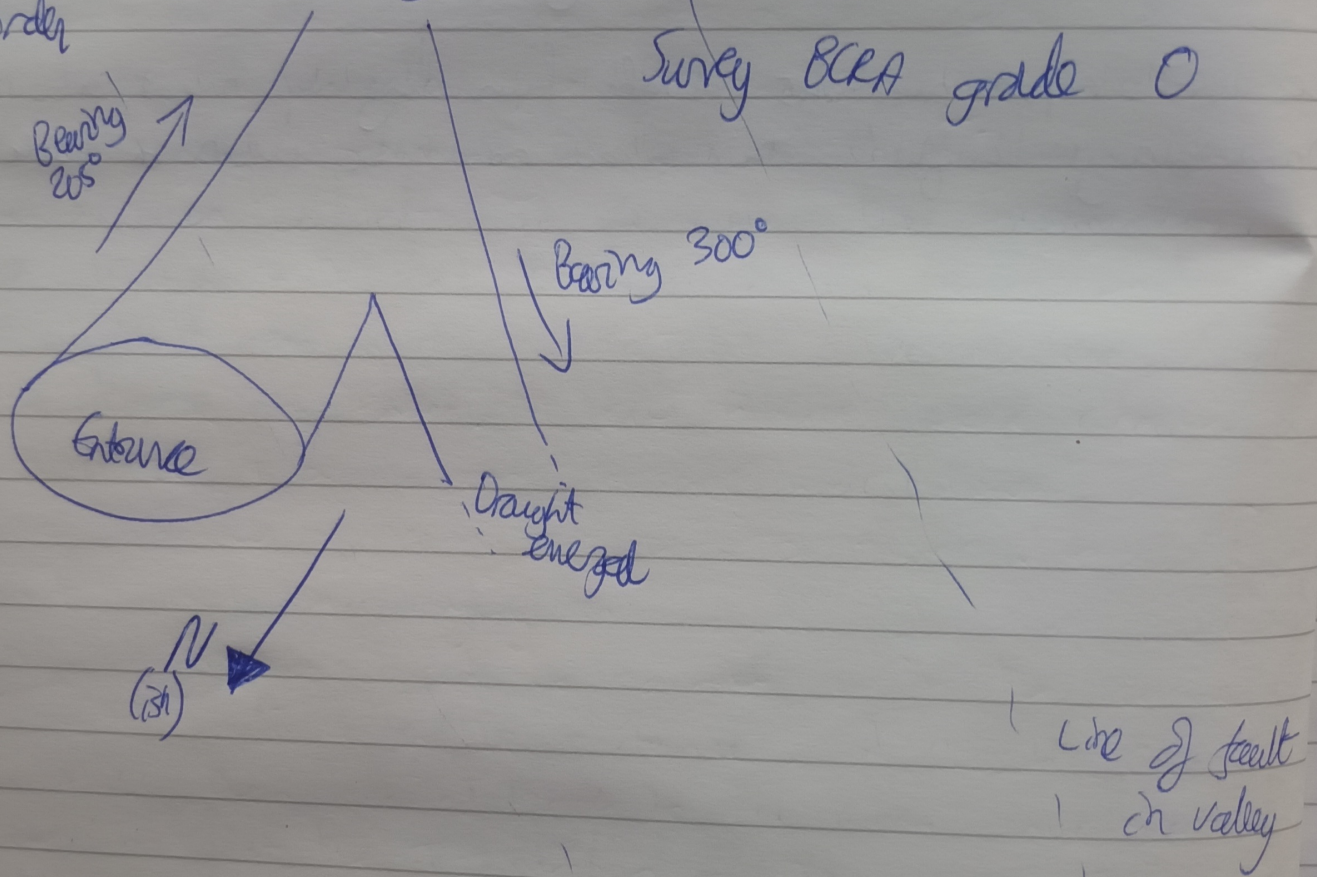
Good trip! Will be an easy climb to investigate tubes, maybe at same time as sump diving trip in 2017?

The 1997 report mentions draft funneling up aens above 'A Hard days knight' This area could be worth a look...

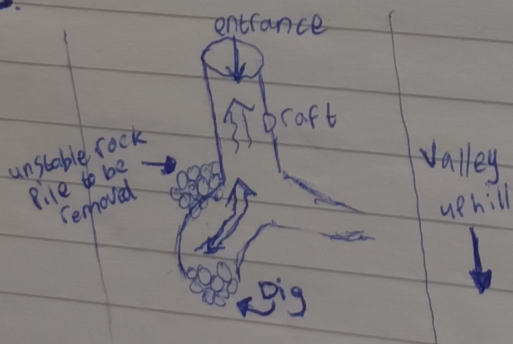
Monday 12th September. digging around valley of dry bones

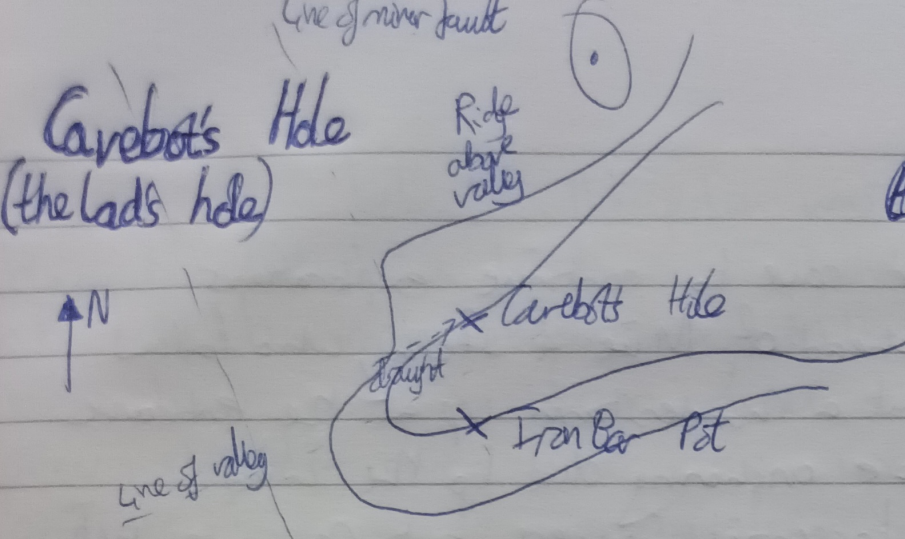
New entrance **Iron Bar Pot** discovered by team other day
30T 344344 E 4788489 N elevation 1514m

Dug / capped / hauled / supported by team: Adam Prior, Sarah Mettenley,
Richard Cole, Tom Chapman, Martin Hodge, Sarah Payne, Richard Gregson,
Sarah Gregson, Mike Bottomley, Steph Dwyer, Paul Diffley (filming),
Tom Wordley



Very strong old draught similar to other entrances in Valley of Dry Bones.



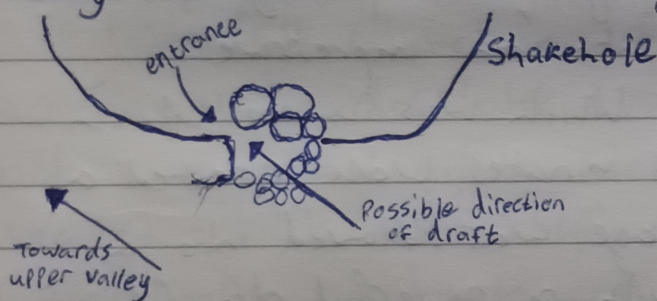


30T 344347E 4788504N

Elevation 1534m (but actually 5-10m below iron bar pot entrance)

Dug: Shane McKinley, Adam Prior, Richard Cole

Draft breezes from under boulders in shakehole, entered some, draught got stronger and seems to come from direction of up valley. Somewhat stable though may need scaffolding and likely capping.



Wednesday 14th September

Richard, Adam + John went down to camp and brought out some tackle bags. It was around 1am when we surfaced, so elected to have a sleep till 6am. We got up promptly and returned to the refugio before 8am.

The ropes got tangled on the top of the Monster pitch so I changed over and abseiled back down to untangle them for Richard who was prussiking up. I think they got caught on the flake again.

I must say the Monster pitch was a bit more damp than my visit last week and on entering the cave.

We were all very glad to see the surface tent on exiting!

John

13/9/16

Steph, Mike & Duncan enter cave to continue explorations upstream. Duncan goes in ahead of Mike & Steph, who follow 2-3hrs later after sitting out a thunderstorm up at the entrance tent, which needed a bit more anchoring due to the wind. Cave a bit wetter due to torrential showers but passable with no problem. Met Duncan at U/a camp & continue to the bottom & upstream waterfall where Duncan does a few photos before Mike heads up the waterfall pitch to hammer the inlet. At the top, a jagged streamway is followed to a junction with a narrow rift on the left. To the right, the passage continued to another junction with left leading into an impressive chamber & right ending at an inlet which was the one which needed hammering to enter. A few minutes work created a passable squeeze & a narrow passage was followed into a high & very narrow popcorn rift with a powerful draught. A few minutes was spent trying to find a high level route on but all ways appeared too narrow with the roaring sound of water audible in the distance! A possible capping project! Mike then headed back to the pitch investigating the narrow rift at the T-junction on the way. This was passed to an open streamway which was followed for 5 mins - still wide open. Mike then returned to pitch to find Steph approaching the top having just been hit by a Moel pulse. Duncan followed & it was quickly apparent water levels were increasing rapidly and the pitch was soon too wet to descend, with the storm shelter & food still at the bottom - oops. All then continued to visit the various passages before deciding to begin the survey & allow water levels to hopefully drop! Duncan & Mike pitch where a leg joined in with Duncan & Steph's

survey from below. The pitch was even wetter now! we then headed back to the T-junction & through the narrow rift into the open streamway. Mike had found earlier. Water levels had increased from ankle to thigh deep & a previously dry oven was now issuing a waterfall. Quick progress was made up the fine, albeit narrow streamway with Duncan leading the survey until a large chamber & waterfall were met. Looking back from here was a large black space at higher level! As water levels had dropped a few inches & we could go no further we headed back to the pitch & re-rigging the top allowed a descent back into the waterfall chamber. A steady ascent to camp followed arriving 1.5-2hrs later where much food/brews were consumed before a good nights sleep waiting around 1pm. Duncan headed out while Steph & Mike organised & packed up camp with all back on surface by 7.30pm.

An excellent & successful trip with around 270m passage surveyed & a further 30-40m unsurveyed up the hammered inlet - Tinkile Tinkile passage. So, ~ 300m in total. Thanks are due to Duncan for an excellent job with the survey & photography!

Next stop, F64 ☺☺

Rope to replace

Too thick: 2nd set of pitches from entrance
Lower 2 of master

Re-ig: top of master (2 derivations)

Muddy: very bottom pitches above Mark 66 ft
Top of Master

16 September 2016

David Rose

Thoughts on "The Ario Dream".

This has been an important expedition. The "Ario Dream" — the long-term goal of connecting the caves of Tultaya and Verdillengua to the Xitu-Culicumbro system, so creating a ~~gate~~ cave that could be 1700 metres deep — has taken some significant steps closer to becoming a reality.

① The C4-2/7 connection now looks like being achieved on the next dive. It is, to put it mildly, unfortunate that Paul M's valve problem forced him to abort his dive. But he very clearly has found the way on, and having swum up a fairly arched passage from the elbow of the dump, was probably quite close to surfacing in 2/7.

② The upstream extension in C4 was a hugely encouraging discovery that leaves several entry heads for the next expedition. It may well be that F64, not Sil de Ossa, represents the upstream and highest altitude limit of the Culicumbro catchment, but this is still well above 2000m A.S.L. ~~alt~~ ③ One of the new inlets seems to be heading directly for it.

③ The Valley of the Dry Bones has been investigated much more thoroughly than ever before. It is evident that this long line of shakeholes, all emitting ~~as from~~ an exceptionally powerful and cold draught, was above an important cave.

How to get into it? My view is that the round hole excavated by Rowan et al in 2014 is unlikely to go. Further digging there has left us away from solid walls in a chaos of loose rocks. Jenga Pt, the first entrance investigated in this area, also looks uninviting ~~for~~ for the same reasons. But one of the entrances further down - perhaps "Iron Bar Pot", in which a lot of progress was made - could well be the key. ~~The~~ The entrances discovered high on either side of the hill above the valley, one by Duncan, Miri + ~~Tom~~ John W, and the other by Tom + Jack P, may also hold promise.

Richard Cragson hypothesises that the Dry Bones entrances follow a fault line which emanates from high in the Gou de Tultayce, and is

heading down top for the 2/7
streamway beyond Croke Egb. B.
If he is right, a breakthrough
in this area could provide
the key ~~to~~ to the elusive
2/7 - Culienbro link, as well
as constituting a major cave
in its own right. The advocates
sueft-bashing in the Ton de
Tultayn in an effort to find
the top entrance to this putative
cave. I concur!

④ While we didn't make
any progress with the hole in
the wall above Culienbro -
a huge 20m diameter porthole
in the rock - it remains an
important project. Future efforts
to break the calcite ~~to~~ choke
at the back should be
condemned from a camp inside
the entrance. Stocked with
supplies ~~to~~ (including water)
sufficient to last a few days.
This would mean fixing
rope up the very awkward
and exposed terrain that
leads to the ridge containing
the cave ~~to~~ ~~at~~ above the
caves. As it is, ~~to~~ the last
section is just too dangerous.

In conclusion:

Much has been achieved in a short period. We have established several new and important things:

- * The C4-2/7 sump ~~will~~ should soon "go".
- * Dry Bones is an area of enormous + achievable potential.
- * Don de Tully requires more examination.
- * Upstream C4 may well lead us to a very high top entrance to the greater Cutiembro system.

TUESDAY 6TH

MIKE + RICHARD GREASON, SARAH HOLMAN, CALLUM
Bounce trip to camp with 3 more sleeping bags,
2 sleeping mats, Petrol, Gas canister, Food,
Tea, coffee,

PAUL DIFFLEY, DAVE ROSE INTO CAVE WITH FILMING STUFF
+ SOME DIVE GEAR. CONTINUE DOWN ON WERS
TO SUMP.

WEDNESDAY

May go in
Tues eve

PAUL MACKRILL, RICHARD COLE
DIVE TRIP - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ JOHN WORDEN, MATT,
SARAH PAYNE, TOM CHAPMAN

PAUL + RICHARD POSSIBLY CAME OUT WHILE
OTHERS CAMP

IN TUES

STAYING TUES

IN WEDNESDAY

OUT
WERS

DAVE ROSE
PAUL DIFFLEY
RICHARD COLE
MIKE (BOUNCE)
~~RICHARD GREASON~~
CALLUM (BOUNCE)
SARAH H

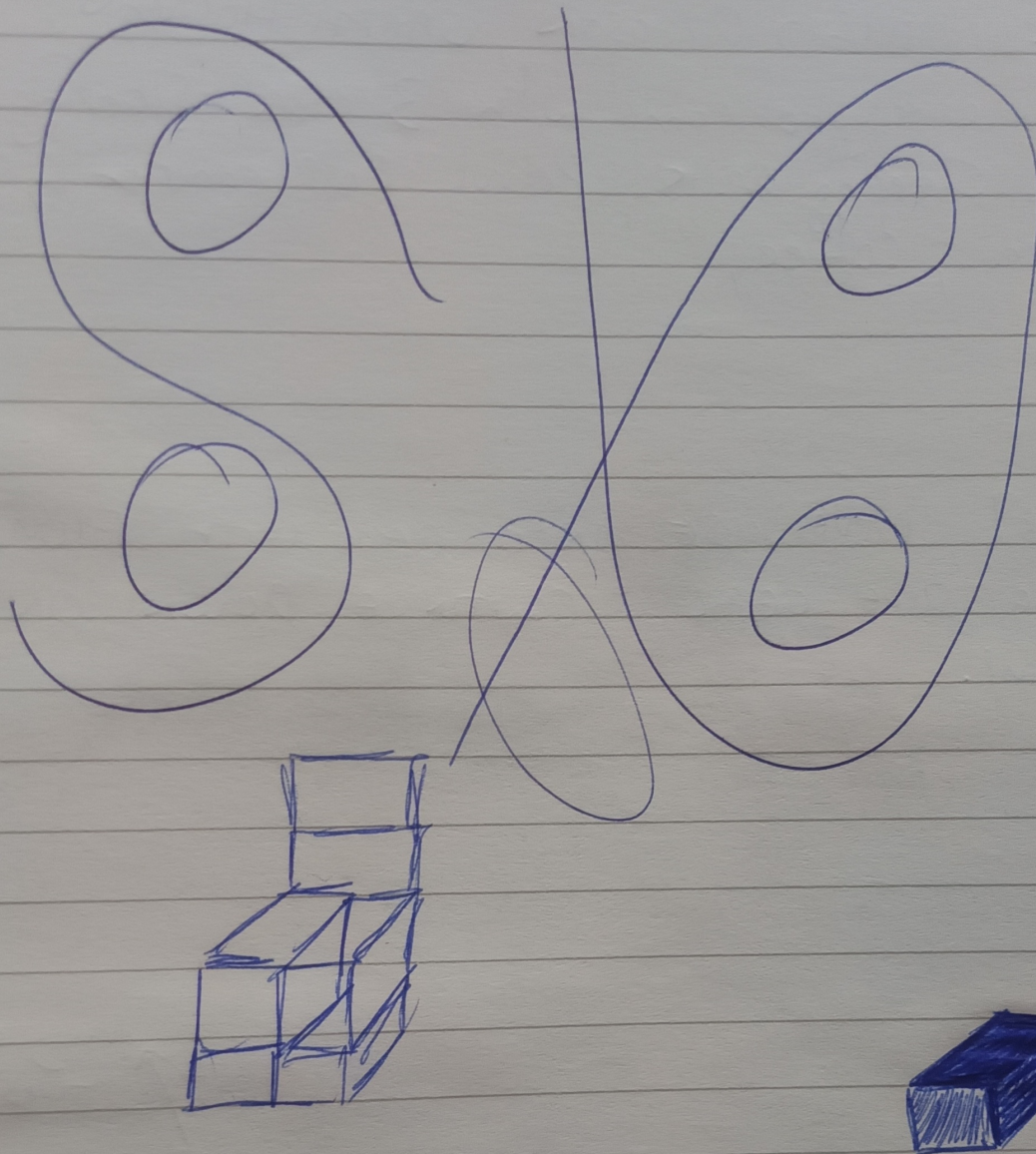
DAVE ROSE
PAUL DIFFLEY
RICHARD COLE
[SARAH HOLMAN???]

SARAH P
PAUL MACKRILL
JOHN WORDEN
TOM CHAPMAN
MATT?

TOM CHAPMAN
PAUL MACKRILL
RICHARD COLE

STAYING WERS

JOHN WORDEN
MATT, SARAH P
DIFF, DAVE ROSE



Callums kit left for exped

- MSR + large fuel bottle
- Primus gas stove
- MSR maintenance kit
- MTDE tackle sack & crab x 1
- Mammut wingate

C4 (TUES / WEDS)

MIKE

STEPH

DUNCAN

MARTIN HOFF

~~RICHARD~~ X

ADAM PRIOR ✓

May have to exit
Weds

GORGE

RICHARD + SARA GREASON

+ SHANE?

Sarah Payne

~~CR~~

Dave Rose

SUNBATHING

SHARON

DIGGING

SHANE, DAVE ROSE IF NOT ABOVE

JOHN WORDEN, SARAH PAYNE

Adam Prior

XITU CLEANUP

BOUNCE TRIP THURS / FRI (4-5)

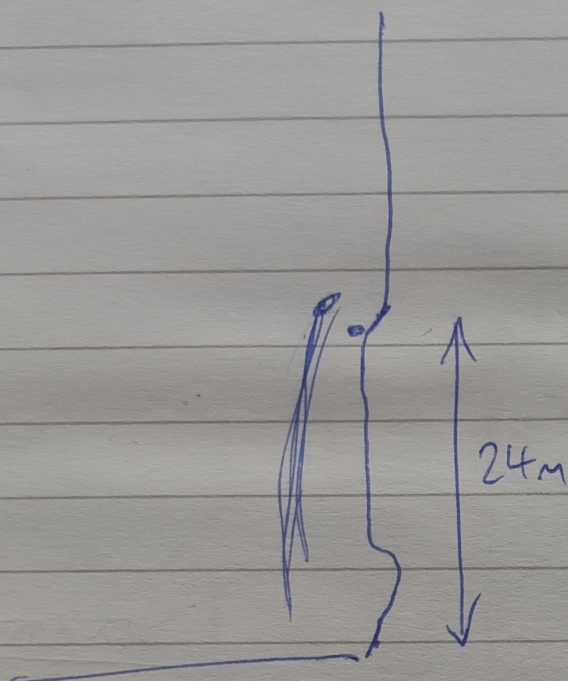
TOM CHAPMAN

SARAH PAYNE (TOP OR MONSTER?)

SHANE

JOHN WORDEN (PART WAY ???)

DAVE ROSE



Gorge

And

R Gregson
 S Gregson
 O Rose
 S Payne
 T Chapman?
 P Off

R Gle
 A Prior
 S McKinley
 S Dwyer
 M Botts
 M Hoff
 J Worden