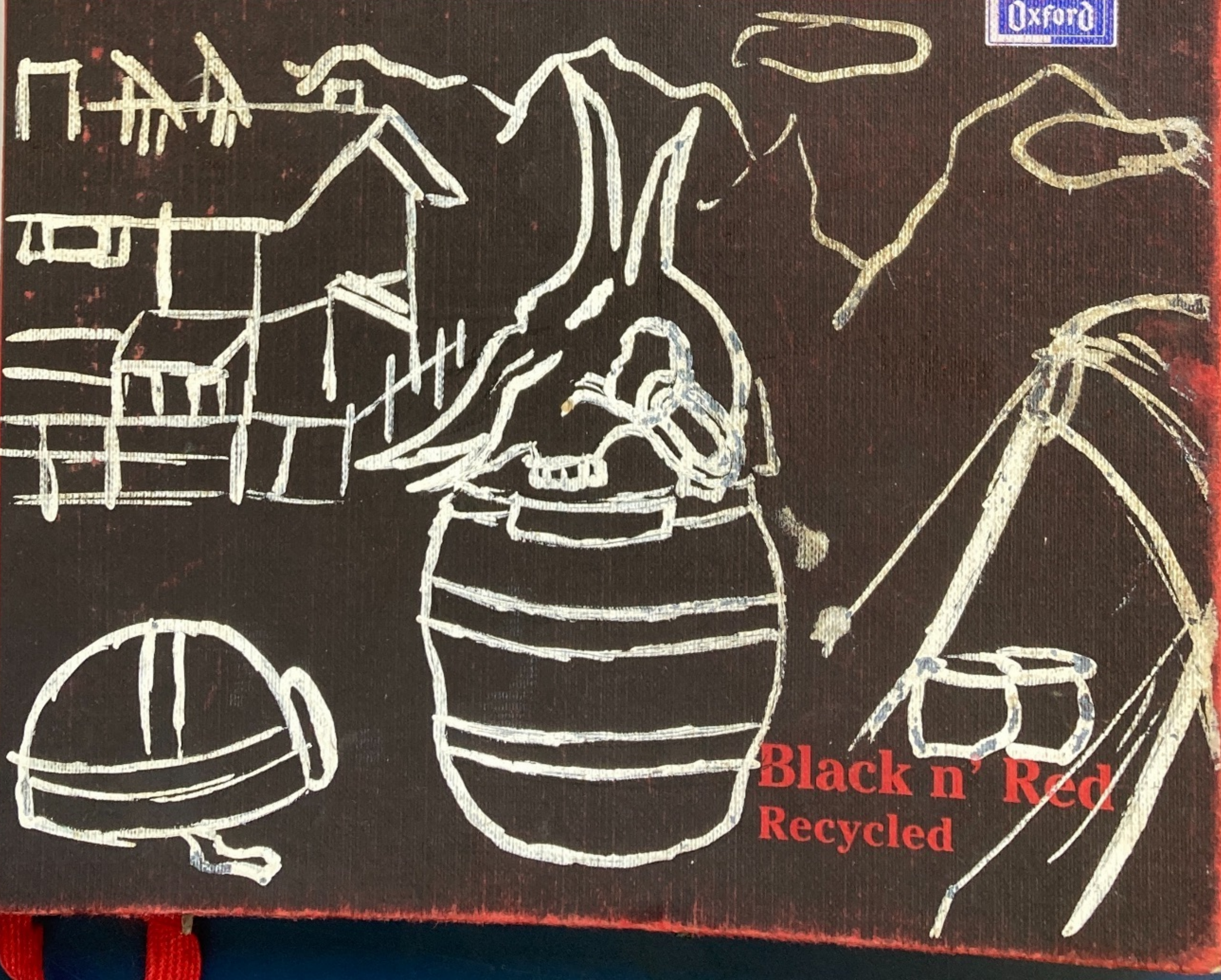
ARIO LOGBOOK

2025



Black n' Red
Recycled

		Communac LAGOS	Carries XITJ	Camps	CoM?	Book
1	Rosie	1	1	1		
2	Viki	1	1	1	~~✓~~ ✓	
3	Paulina	1	1	1		
4	Jean-Luc	1	1	1		
5	Julia —	1111	1	1	✓ ?	✓
6	Jess —	1	1	/		
7	Chris	1	1	11	✓	✓
8	Alfie	1	1	1		
9	Sophie	1	1	11	?/✓	
10	Will	1	11	1	✓	
11	Rachel	1	11	1	✓	✓
12	Becca H	1	1	/		
13	Becka L	11		1	?	✓
14	Mark	1 ~~EXEMPT~~		1	✓	✓
15	Sandy	1		1	✓	
16	Dan	1		11	?	
17	Dave	1		1	?	
18	~~Gradons~~	1		/		
19	Toby	1		/		
20	Bartex	EXEMPT		1		
21	Tony	111	1111	11		
22	Phil	1111	1111	11	✓	
23	Aileen	1111		11	✓	
24	Peter	11				
25	Rocky	11	1			
26	Fiona	11	1	1		
27	Martin	11	1			
28	Kai	111	11			
29	Ben					1
30	Toby					
40	Michael	1				111
41	Tom	1				
42	Andrew	111	1			

	CARRIES TO/ FROM LOSEMADOS	CARRIES TO/ FROM XITU	CAMPS	BOOK
43 BOGHAN	I	I	I	
44 PHILIP T	II	I		I
45 STEPHEN MACNAMARA				
46 VALERIE	II	II	I	
47 RICH	II	IIII	I	

LOGISTICS NOTES

- TUES 1 JULY - FRIDAY 4 JULY : MARTIN HAS TONY'S CAR KEY.

- PEOPLE COMING DOWN ON WEDNESDAY 2 → CHECK GREEN BAG FOR FLAPJACKS. ALL NEED TO COME UP. WE ARE CURRENTLY SHORT.

Saturday 14th June 2025

First Walk up Hill - Paulina, Jeanluc, Rosie, Becca, Viki, Chris, Alfie, Sophie, Julia, Jess, Will, Rachel

Jeanluc, Rosie Viki and I got to los lagos and started the trek from bottom car park around 2pm. The weather was drizzling and very very wet. At the top we stopped at xitu and grabbed the electric fence before heading to the refugio and meticulously putting up said tent by comparing it to Barteks photos 2 years prior. Afterwards we set up our tents by which point Chris, Jess, Julia Alfie and Sophie arrived. Chris figured out how to actually turn on the tent (a task we had failed) and we called it a night. I was long asleep by midnight when Rachel, Will and Becca arrived.

- Paulina P

After several delays Will, Becca & I arrived at Lagos. Becca said she'd never started a hike a 7pm before: Will broke the news to her that it was actually 9pm. Bit of a baptism of fire for Becca's first ever expo as we walked up in the dark & rain with thoughts of the last minute Air BnB Becca & I had researched as Will was attempting to sort car hire faff - [redacted] We arrived just before midnight, efficiently erected the tent & finally got some sleep after our 20hr day.

Rachel

JESS & I ARRIVED AT SANTANDER AIRPORT FOLLOWING A ~2HR DELAYED FLIGHT, MET ALFIE & SOPHIE, (WHO HAD BRAVED THE BUDGET FLIXBUS FROM LOUDON) AND WE WERE ALL KINDLY PICKED UP BY JULIA, WHO HAD DRIVEN FROM BORJAS. JULIA SUPPLIED US WITH TOFU FAJITAS AND NECTARINES. WE ARRIVED AT LAGOS AROUND 6PM AND WERE UP AT ARIO FOR 9. CARLOTA HAD LEFT DINNER OUT FOR US, AND JESS AND I TREATED OURSELVES TO A NIGHT IN THE REFUGIO

CHRIS

Sunday 15th June 2025

Will, Rachel, Julia, Jess, Becca & I went to Xito, and pulled loads of stuff out. I went down the cave, Julia was at the pitch head hauling, and a chain was formed to surface. Team YUCPC came and helped with the carry back, and we got the communal tents setup. Everyone then headed down the hill and convened at Bar Rosa for 1pm. We met Dave, Dan, Mark, Sandy & Becka, and all walked up, carrying endless communal kit. Julia & Jess then headed back down the hill for a few days in Chiris Burgos.

MONDAY 16TH JUNE 2025

TLJ - Chris + [redacted] Mark

MARK AND I WENT TO TRAS LA JAYADA, TO "TIDY" THE RIGGING FOR TRADE ROUTE USAGE. WE APPROACHED FROM THE OTHER SIDE, AVOIDING THE LOOSE & CHOSSY GULLY, AND RIGGED TO JOIN THE PREVIOUS ROUTE NEAR THE CHOUGHS' NEST, WITH CLUTCH OF EGGS. WE FOUND THE SNOW PLUG COMPLETELY MELTED, REVEALING A SLOPE OF LOOSE RUBBLE POISED TO ENSURE CAVERS BELOW. WE THEREFORE REBELAYED ~4m ABOVE THIS LEVEL, AND TRAVERSED AROUND A NOSE ALONG A NOTIONAL LEDGE. AFTER A DROP INTO FREE SPACE AND A PENDULUM FAFF, WE AGAIN RESOLVED THE PREVIOUS ROUTE HAVING BYPASSED CHOSSY LEDGE AND SERIES OF FAFFY REBELAYS. WE ASCENDED, TWEAKING AND RETYING AS WE WENT. A BAG OF ROPE WAS LEFT BELOW THE DEVIATION PITCH. THE CHOUGH EGGS HAD HATCHED BY THE TIME WE WENT OUT. WE LEFT A BAG CONTAINING DRILL, 1x FULL BATTERY, 2x DRILL BITS, BOLTING HAMMER IN A DRYBAG AT THE ENTRANCE. MARK LEFT HIS SNAPGATE ON THE ENTRANCE DEVIATION (TO TERRACE). RESCUE ROPE ALSO AT ENTRANCE.

CHRIS.

66/S - Paulina, JeanLuc, Becka2, Sandy Mon 16TH

located as close as is reasonable to coordinates, near large shakehole there are two entrances. furthest away does not go. does draft and has verbal collection to ~~eqtr~~ nearer entrance. JeanLuc went down furthest away one whilst I went down the nearer entrance. The entrance nearest the shakehole is a 3m loose climb down into a series of short 1m climbs/squeezes through blocks the last of these lands you in a small chamber with a 3m blind pit that is chocked at the bottom with rocks. Seeing a spit in the distance we traversed over the ~~pit~~ pit to find the head of the first pitch. We used 2 existing spits found in the cave

and ~~I~~ Jean Luc hand bolted a further 3rd spit to form a backed up Y hang. The 25m pitch ~~landed us t~~ opened out into an airy chamber and landed us on a Sandy floor with rocks on the far side if standing with the pitch on the left. ~~S~~ in the left hand wall there is a drafting rift. Jean Luc followed this for 5m to where the floor dropped down and a series of light comes at roof level could be seen. According to the description this is the way on

Paulina P

Camp admin - Paulina, Jean Luc.
Prior to our trip to 66/5 we went to xitu to recover the 200m real of new rope along with ~an amount of old rope and numerous rollmatts. Following this we set up a third communal tent to use for cooking at which point Sandy and Becca joined us for the above trip to 66/5

Paulina P

27/9 - Rosie, Alpie, Viki, Sophie, Becca (Mon 16th)
Went to 27/9 to bring in camp bags and re-dangle ropes if possible. Took 4 underground camp bags* and left them at the bottom of the pitch out of the Aria Reality (before the cave pearls). Did not get to undangled rope, did pull up entrance pitch rope and attach to hanger, left it like this on exit.
* no snap gates left on

Los Lagos communal camp
Becca + Sandy + Dan + Dave
Hot + sweaty.

15

Sunday ~~4~~th

Priority to carry up:

- Drill related stuff (leave 1 in cars)
- UG camp kit - sleeping stuff 1st.
- Week 1 flapjack (food)
- Binbags/tape etc.

To remove from site

- Rope
- Roll mats

pans..

~~Pans~~
~~Food~~

poo bags
4 inflatable ~~mats~~
4 gochets
4 sleeping bags

4 bags camp gear

RUSTING

NEED
2X
TSACKS.
+SURVEY
KIT +
BOTH BAG

(A) 100m (C) 50m
(B) drill + batteries x 2
metalwork ~~tape~~
~~Survey kit~~ (C)
20 thrubolts
20 hangers.
4 Slings + 4 snapgates
20 mailions
hammer.
drill bits,
~~spanner~~
~~? skyhook~~ (B)

Downtere
tent
rollmats x?
bowls + cutlery

Camp needs?
toilet roll + hand sanitiser
Stove + fuel + lighters
food etc + poo drum
? pans + sponges + sandwich bags
waterproof notepad + pencil
4x snapgates for camp bags
first aid.

Mon 16th TCJ Mark Sims, Chris Corry

The wind whistled past me as I pendded towards where I was pointing. "Just 1 more should do it" I shouted up to Chris, and he pushed the rope again with his foot. I heard a concerned noise from above as my back pointed towards the hanger I was aiming for. Bingo - I caught the hanger with my ring finger. Thankfully another hold nearby let me clip in and I breathed a sigh of relief. Although relief felt a relative thing in that situation. ~200 m off the floor the wall gave some comfort, but it was feeling a bit much for day 1 of the expedition. Maybe I'm going soft. After more pitches down & some extra anchors saw us reach our turnaround time & we set off out. "It's just SRT. It's the same anywhere" I reminded myself periodically (largely futile) on the way out. Except it wasn't really since we were rebolting a bit more & rerigging on the way out - somewhat of a spaghetti test, but hopefully acceptable for a potential trade route. Enjoyable stuff

Wed. 18th SKULL CAVE SANDY + DAVE

Quickly demolished the boulder blocking the passage leading up to the Eft squeeze with 2 rounds of caps. Entirely made of crystalline calcite and broke apart nicely. Proceeded to attach the Eft itself, which was much more resistant. The squeeze is in a rock / calcite / mud matrix which was hard to cap as holes tended to break into mud filled voids making them useless. Shallow holes with single caps worked best but very slow work. Knocking small chunks off at a time. I eventually squeezed through to the pitch head, but could not see an obvious way down that was big enough. Very tight & constricted. Needed some thought about how to get back again! Stuff left at Skull Cave: 1 DRILL, 1 capping set, 1 lump hammer, 1 bolting hammer, ~5m rope, ~6-8 hangers

+ bolts, note: NO BATTERIES, ONLY 2 LONG DRILL BITS. NEED BAR + CHISEL ON NEXT VISIT.

Wed 18th 80/5 & 66/5 TEAM REJECT - Toby, Will, Rachel, Becca

Started off locating 80/5 successfully. ~~It's located very near to the Trea path, has a large rocky entrance chamber with a slot down^ which Jean-Luc & co. had previously put some through-bolts in.~~ I had a quick go at fitting through the slot but decided we definitely needed to break out the capping gear. Myself & Becca successfully enlarged the slot enough to awkwardly fit through. I then placed another throughbolt & dropped the ~10-15m pitch. Went to a rocky floored chamber with no way on. Spent a while searching for the draft which most get lost amongst the boulders in the floor. Called it a lost cause & dengged.

It's located very near to the Trea path, has a large rocky entrance chamber with a slot down^ (with a cool draft) which Jean-Luc & co. had previously put some through-bolts in. I had a quick go at fitting through the slot but decided we definitely needed to break out the capping gear. Myself & Becca successfully enlarged the slot enough to awkwardly fit through. I then placed another throughbolt & dropped the ~10-15m pitch. Went to a rocky floored chamber with no way on. Spent a while searching for the draft which most get lost amongst the boulders in the floor. Called it a lost cause & dengged.

Headed next over to 66/5 which took a little while to work out the correct climb. Toby climbed down the dead-end shaft & Will the correct one. Tobes then continued successfully completing the corner shop & exclaiming that it was one of the tightest things he's done. Probably best told in the words of the loyar himself... RACHEL

There's not much more to it than that. There are several corners, possibly 5, but I wasn't counting. They are all tight. Someone said the first was tightest, but I did not find that to be the case. V. impressive exploration from the OGs.

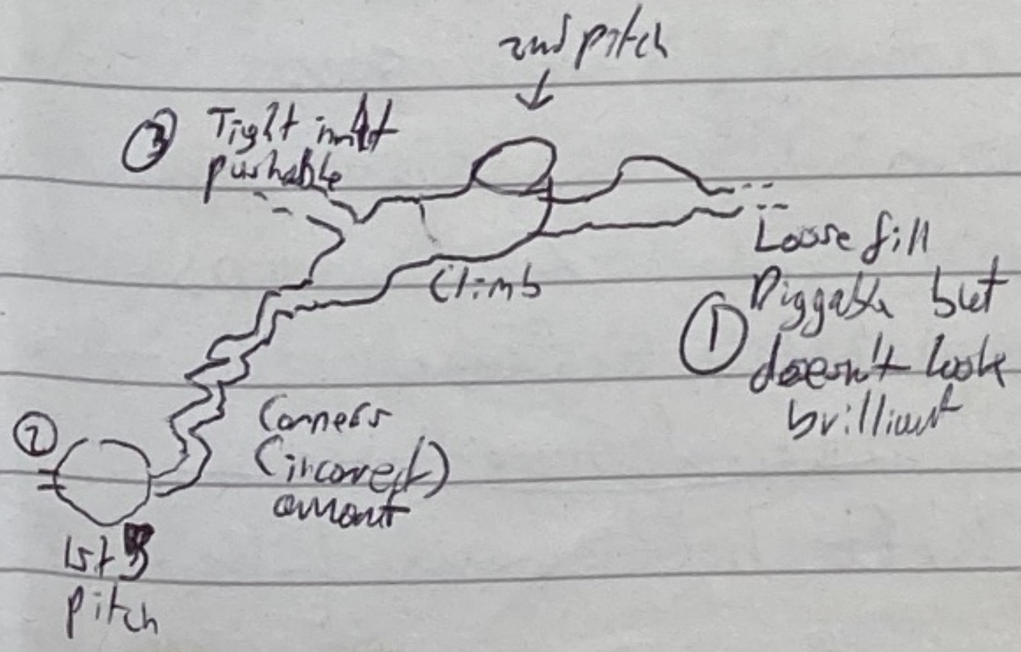
After the corners I explored what I could above the 2nd pitch. Leads:

① Loose fill caving in, diggable, not great

② Window halfway down 1st Pitch. Always a chance it will bypass corner shop...

③ Tight inlet - doesn't look great.

TOBY



Wed 18 TLJ - Viki, Dan, Sophie, Alsie, Chris, Becka

Chris and Becka went ahead of the other 4 to reboit and survey some pitches. The others followed at a leisurely pace, enjoying the size of the cave, then met back up at the top of like & subscibe. Viki, Sophie and Dan attempted to improve the squeezes in try a little harder by hammering the walls with some large rocks. After a little while Sophie and Alsie left to go back out and Viki and Dan followed Chris and Becka down L&S to delive a bag of rope to the bottom. Here, two leads were identified; a small hole behind the rope of the last rebelay, and a drop by the 25th survey station. Dan and Becka investigated the small hole, which went over a false floor of cobbles to a squeeze. Viki and Chris looked at rigging the drop using naturals, as by this point there were only 3 bolts remaining. A short distance back from the edge of the drop, a climb was found which bypassed this drop and meant rigging was unessessary. We all regrouped once more, and it was decided that Becka and Dan would ~~continue~~ continue the survey, and Chris and Viki would go on ahead to find the connection.

Following the strongest draft led us through some crawls, over a traverse and up into ~~a ch~~ chass.com where a large 5 written in carbide marked a survey station. continueing on led to the top of holie-than-though, where the three bolts were used by Viki (one unsuccessfully) to begin ~~reig~~ rigging this pitch. The small hole which Becka and Dan had initialy explored at the bottom ~~top~~ of like & subscribe turned out to connect to this passage, coming down in a would-be pitch halfway across ~~the~~ a traverse in the pit with a pool to find the SUMP. The desciption was followed Full Moon Rising then we began the ascent. Two ropes, (one 40m, one unknown (supposedly 40m)) and some tape were left at the top of holie than though, and 12 alloy and 2 stainless hangers with mallions left at the bottom of L&S together with the drill and a hammer + 1 battery. In approx. 11:15, ~~out approx 01:00.~~ Becka out 11.30, Chris out last 12-30, left bottom of Like + Subscribe at 9pm.

WED 18th Drone Attempt - Graham, Rosie

Went down into Area 10 to attempt to fly the drone to look at possible holes in the cliff, ~~down past between~~ Trea and Extremero. Unfortunately the drone met its end during the first proper flight. Tried to find the remains, not able to locate it and came up past 53/5, went off-piste and came across hole not in shaft bashing guide, on steep fall overlooking 53/5 coordinates on Topo GPS WGS84 43.23728 -4.91871, nearest caves are 3/5, 9/5, & 11/5. In-between steep slabs & bare limestone. Can see bottom, but looks like it may continue underneath wall.

Tue 17th - 66/5 attempt + 80/5 Paulina P, Jean-Luc H, Sophie B

We decided to return to 66/5 after batting the first pitch. After getting to the tight rift - the corner shop JL attempted to fit with SRT kit - no go. Following this I attempted to get through without SRT kit. After some squirming I got through the first constriction and left too ensure I wasn't permanently stuck. JL then also managed to pass the first corner. I attempted again and made it through a further 3 or 20 corners till I get to a wide bit. Ahead of me it got tight again and I again turned around - concerned as to whether I could. Sophie then got to the same point. We considered pushing further but the thought of taking tacklesacks through this combined with our lack of caping materials made us turn around.

We left and went to 80/5 instead where we found a sizable cave/alcove with lots of bugs and a sloping pitch on the left (right) we pulled a boulder out of this and noticed a very strong and cold draft. We balled a handline to a single bang and I tried to fit down - sadly to no avail. This would be easy to cap ~~on~~ as the pitch seems to open beyond the pitch head. Rocks fall for roughly 1-2 seconds.

Paulina P

Weds 18th 27/9 Mark Sims, Paulina, Jean-Luc.

Underground at 11:30 we had a smooth trip in. Just 2 bags of mainly personal kit between us + kathy & survey kit. Reached the junction at about 2pm and gave a quick reminder to JL + P how to survey. ~~Then~~ I kitted up and set off down the rope Sandy & Bedea had rigged last year. soon on to the first 50m I had brought. With a bit of traversing at the top ~~I~~ I was descending a fine pitch ("Drill, Baby, Drill"). Most of the way down this I rebelayed to the 100m (also had happily heard no sign of any survey issues behind. Outwards and downwards it ~~I~~ was a pleasant change to come off the rope for a short rift section between drops. On down more pitches until a drill battery replacement was required. JL + P were doing so well with the surveying that I considered them deserving of a 'Green Cushion' (a reward for good work at Kevin's school) so that's what we called that section. By now I was concerned at the size of the drops ahead and the lack of rope left, so the rigging evolved from frugal to more frugal. Finally the end of the rope came out of the bag and appeared to just reach the ~~bottom~~ ledge below. Damn it, we weren't going to be connecting with C4 today, although every cloud - at least we didn't need to derig!. On the ~~Rag~~ ledge I placed a bolt and called Paulina down so she could sketch. Once down I asked if she could ~~keep~~ shine her light into the void ahead. "Oh, there's a ~~I~~ rope!". We'd done it after all - this was one of the ropes from Mike's climb from 2016(?!). Bugger - we did need to derig! After a celebratory photo I headed up slowly as JL derigged swiftly behind. Come 7pm we reconvened at the junction and did a bag audit. 4 between us now we had picked up 170m of rope and all the bolting stuff. I suggested the others head up with a bag each and I'd follow behind with 2, ready to ditch one if I got too far behind. I just about managed to keep up, so at the reality we went with 4 between 3 - teamwork makes the reality work. On wards and outwards and we were out for midnight ~~I~~ Top trip! Oh, and on the way in my hand jammer detached itself, but incredibly fortuitously for me Jean-Luc

a) saw it and b) could get it! (right at the end of the reality).

Tuesday 17th Sarely + Will TLJ

Following on from the excellent entrance series work of Bort Sims + Chris Curry, Will + Sarely head to TLJ. Will descended first, ~~tom~~ deviations installed by Mark on the pitches to the snow plug were installed.

Will rigged down to the Ureration Station, replacing hangers with SS ones, annoyingly initial rope did not reach from rose to Ureration Station. An awkward pitch was required. Ropes swopped for th chopped one at the bottom the entrance pitches. the Ureration Station was reached, unfortunately this pitch could not be split up due to distance from the wall. Sarely now joined Will at Ureration Station for shift change.

Sarely then started on splitting the Whopa with a few ~~started~~ shorter pitches. Success was achieved and with Sarely at the Century Box Will descended to meet. Sarely then continued to the floor after installing one new ½ - bang to break up the last pitch.

With "both" Batting-Bed-Boys" at the bottom of the shaft immediate urination were had. Golden Showers from the Ureration Station had not been permitted.

Sarely + Will then continued through Try A little Harder to check rope was there for rigging Like + Subscribe - it was. A ~~bad~~ handline was installed at the entrance to Try A little Harder.

On the way out some minor changes were made to the lower section of the last pitches + The Whopa. Out at 1820.

Thurs 19/6 Graham Trip down to area 10 at the top of the cliff above where Rose & I were yesterday. Follow path towards 'the Prow' the overlooks the Canal de Trea but head down to the left of the ridge well before the end of the prow down a steep slope between trees. The cliff is off to the left and look to be good options for placing a bolt in some exposed limestone close to the edge if contemplating abseiling down (plus a selection of trees). Well worth spending a day for a group of people prospecting here. There is exposed limestone with karstic development but didn't find any obvious entrances. The situation does hold great promise. Moving around is easier than the vallée extremero and could possibly give access to the region between the left branch of Culiembro and the end of 2/7.

Thursday 19th Will, Toby, Becca, Julia, Rachel. Prospecting in valley of the dry Bones. - Border of Area 5/7

① Triangle shaped alcove above scree slope. 3m climb up to choss filled gully with no draft & many flies. Rock fell on Julia on her way down the climb resulting in large bruise but all was ok.
43.231466, -4.920161 1689m

② Snow plug in large split shakehole beneath a tree. ~4m climb (loose) down to snow plug. Possible way on down slot with cold draft but just went down into choss. Small crack below tree in same shakehole w/ slight draft.
43.23108, -4.92113 1725m

③ Large shaft with 2 entrances. Lower entrance has small slit. Upper entrance more open. Drafts. Rocks fall for ~10 secs hitting a couple of ledges higher up before free falling. Good, promising find.
43.230773, -4.92068 1758m (Sonachero)

④ Cave marked with green paint "OUCC 85 8/7". 3-4m climb down large shakehole. Round corner where daylight can be seen from other side & could see down into cave ⑤. Bird flew down it so further investigated..
43.23189, -4.91900 1644m.

⑤ Climb down narrow slot, opened out to 2-3m climb. Could see down

shaft seen from (4). 6m climb down into rubble floor chamber. Round corner to possible dig with small chamber beyond. Another climb explored but didn't go anywhere. Had a really cold draft at entrance. less strong further in.
43.231861, -4.919003 1635m

THURSDAY 19th Rosie, Paulina, Jean-Luc

Pre-thunderstorm, went to 86/5 (near xitw), previously undescended. Rigged off natural with tape and then two deviations. About ten metres to rocky floor. Continues left into very small rift choked with stones, not remotely human sized and seemed to be getting smaller. Noticeable cold draft blowing outwards. Derigged and ran back to Reygio due to thunderstorm.

After thunderstorm went to hole found on Weds during journey back pm drove failure. Coordinates WG584 43.23728 -4.91871. Rigged off natural to natural re-belay immediately below and then deviation off bollard 4m below on opposite side. Descent was around 6m to rocky floor. Suspect following shape of slope (which is bare limestone) and chokes at level of next ledge down the slope.

TUE 17TH 2719 Bechan, ~~Becka~~ Becca, Dan + Rachel

The aim was to push the parallel pitch series below Coffee Pot so we slogged in with drill, metalwork, rope etc in 3 bags. Rachel realised she'd forgotten her light battery halfway up the walk so she whizzed back. She got to the entrance as we left + said she'd catch us up as we now had a bag each to take down but at the pitch below Arse Reality she hadn't arrived. We decided to dump the gear at the Coffee Pot + see if she'd come by

the time ~~Beth~~ we'd returned. She hadn't so we decided to head out in case she'd had a problem. To our relief we found her outside at the entrance having recovered from a migraine. We walked helicopter shuttles to the refugio + helped them onload.

Thurs 19th - Viki, Sophie, Alsie

Went to 81/S which had little to no description but marked as going on shaft basis guide. Was a small (maybe 2m cubed) hole in the hill that did not go anywhere. Could only be used as a shelter next, tried to find 33/S, found a different shaft (CAVE ⓧ described on Fri 20th by Becka + Viki) on the way, not on GPS. Descended down ~~~~ ~15m to the bottom where a non-draftingly, quickly choked crawl was the only possible way on. Next, found actual 33/S. Exo'ed as described in guide, but with only a small amount of snow. Descended into main shaft, temporarily ignoring hole in side shaft. Ran back to refugio to avoid the rain then returned a few hours later. At the bottom, a short crawl led to a tight (ish) hole. In this hole was another hole but no one could aim well enough to ~~throw~~ throw a rock into it. Due to lack of kneepads and time, cave was left rigged for another day.

Friday 20th - Paulina, Jean-Luc, Jess SKULL CAVE

After much indecisiveness and debate we decided to try our luck pushing skull cave. Sandys team from a few days prior had left rope, bolting and capping kit after working to enlarge the Cpt. Getting too and down the cave was easy enough with the coordinates + description being sufficient to find it (easier to spot on way down than up.) We managed to ~~el~~ enlarge the Cpt by crowbaring a large chunk of calcite + capping. ~~Cpt~~ All three of us can squirm to the pitch head with SRT gear. The pitch head itself is very tight with Jean-Luc not being certain to get down it. I probably could but getting back up the pitch head would be concerning I would best describe the pitch head as a shallow S curve? We also where not sure where to place bolts as there's not much room for hammering and most things are calcite and sound hollow. ~~Ther~~ There is a metal hanger inside in the left wall and metal strap on the right there is also an inside sling - all bar maybe the sling look very old and corroded - probably unusable? We spent some time hammering lower in the rift to enlarge before heading out. We found our crowbar to be too long. Perhaps a chisel - lump hammer combo would be better - or plug and feathers which would be a good way to get through the calcite - though these may be impractical. Alternatively someone more used to capping in tight spaces. From hammering we found wall may be solid in some places. Draft was very strong and inward. Pitch opens out below.

Paulina P

Fri 20th — Prospecting in area 5/11 boundary
Becka L + Viki

An excellent day out! Viki started by showing me [redacted] Cave (X) which went nowhere but was GPSed + photoed on Becka's phone (not Becka's phone for all GPS + photos today),
(1) Cave X — 30T 343396 4789609 FINISHED.

Next we returned to 33/5. At the bottom of the main shaft we moved boulders + rocks to enlarge the first hole. Viki then Becka [redacted] went down. Some draught ?inwards? but it could be driven by air circulating past the many tubes. Below the first hole you could squeeze under to another tiny chamber but no obvious way on. The draught seemed to come out of the tight rift at the base of the first hole but it would need the boulder at the top (which Becka failed to drop down it) to be capped to properly check this. Derigged cave as we needed the rope

(2) 33/5 New coordinates! ONGOING, NEEDS CAPPING

We then started walking vaguely along the ridge overlooking the hos hagos path to head to area 11 but en route Viki spotted trees in a gully, [redacted] only ~50m below the ridge. Becka reported a shaft that sounded blind but Viki was keen to check it out so she rigged down on naturals then called up to say it was going. Becka went down too + we found a 4m climb down which we put a handline on. This led to a sizeable rift with a great inward draught that ended in a sizeable [redacted] pitch (20m). We couldn't see any pitch but it definitely looked like cavers had been here (+ signs of wear before) + there was a bit of green paint (perhaps "OUCC"?) at the cave entrance that Becka took photos of

(3) ← SUBSEQUENTLY DETERMINED TO BE POOR OPTIMISTICAL SO UPDATE COORDINATES → NEEDS SURVEY NOT RIGGING
(11) New Mystery cave. Coordinates 30T 343377 4789757

REVISITED ON 23/6

Finally we headed to area 11. We located 38/11 — an excellent drought but needs digging

④ My GPS 30T 343452 4789873 D16
+ ALSO 30T 343450 4789892 D16

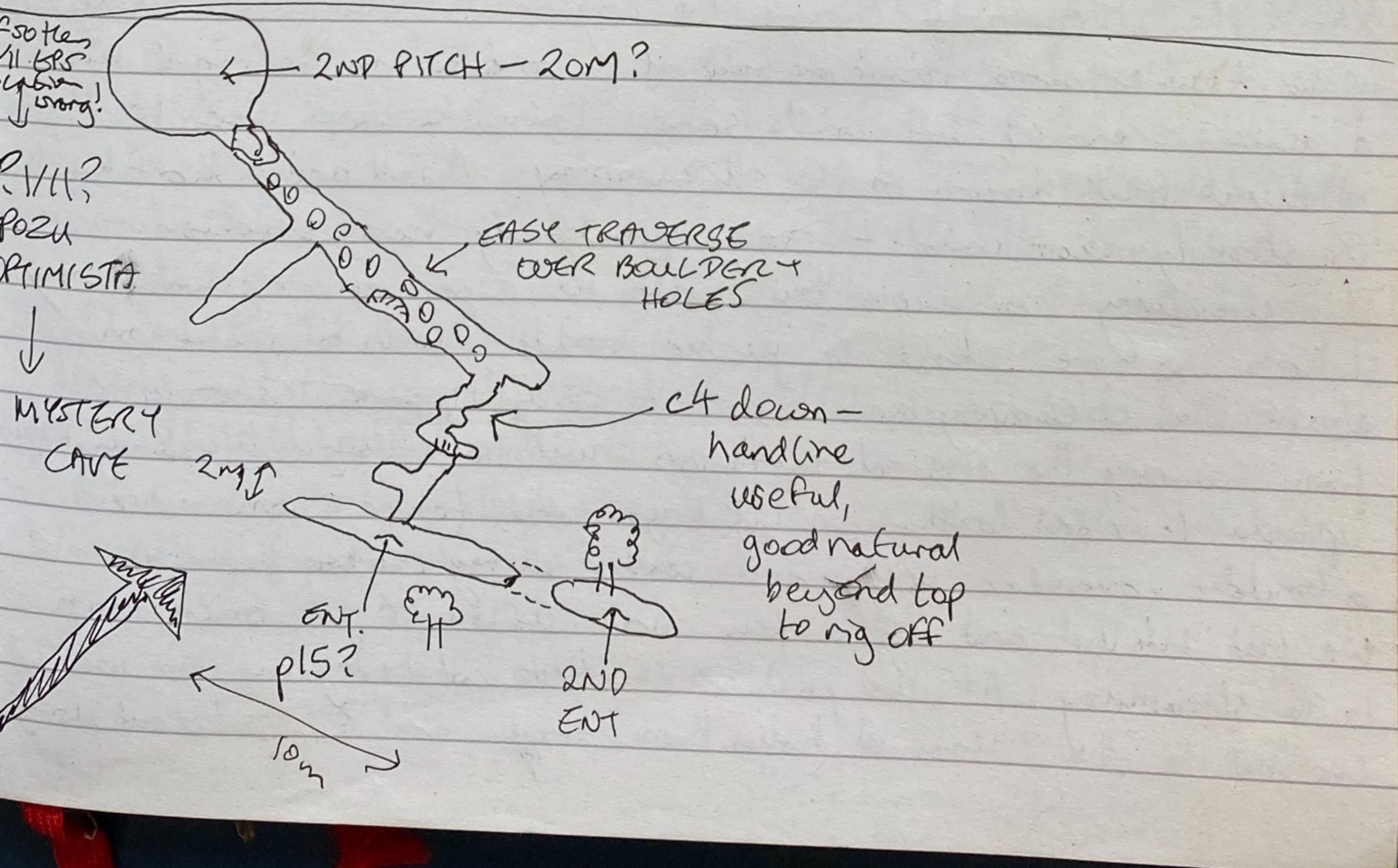
Nearby Viki found a grassy small shakehole with a cold draught coming from the bottom. Worth a little dig?

⑤ 30T 343433 4789920 D16 — REVISITED ON 23/6

Reheard 35/11, didn't look exciting.

Spent some time looking for 5/11. We don't think it's where the coordinates say it is ... instead we agree that it's the same as 39/11 ⓪ which we found, This looks excellent — an obvious shafte close to the path.

⑥ 39/11 new coordinates: 30T 343611 4789892
↑ NEEDS PITCH DESCENDING.
SAME AS 5/11 WE THINK.
→ Descended on 23/6 — FINISHED



Fri 20th TLJ

Survey trip downstream from 'Holier than thou'. Mark S & Graham N

Good trip down to 2/7 via TLJ. Now that the connection via 'Try a little Teardrop' has become more of an access route we noted that some sections might benefit from some simple rigging to improve safety and reduce effort on long trips: A short traverse over a drop with fragile conglomerate edges on the left could use a handline (10m+) after 'Like a Subscribe' and just after the new pitch down into 'Holier than thou' a short throughy climb could be facilitated by rigging a short pitch about 5m further along. We followed the 'Holier than thou' inlet stream down to the main 2/7 streamway and turned left downstream. A beautiful section of streamway with deep pools could on the whole be done largely dry (only G's right wellie getting filled) by teetering on the edge of the deep pools (but risking complete immersion). The streamway after a while disappears into boulders. Climbing the boulder slope above the streamway into 'Fear and Loathing in Las Brujas' which is a wide and high region of collapse of the passageway with a small stream inlet on the right hand side. Following the slope up leads to a balcony way above the streamway though the way on is after a short distance up the boulder slope round the back of a boulder on the right has a nice area of soft white sand. Down the slope leads to a climb back down to the streamway. A bolt and a short handline is strongly recommended to avoid a potentially nasty situation.
The streamway continues but with no signs of original survey stations so we chose a perched boulder with a spike on above the streamway and marked with tipper to survey back from assuming the original surveyors must have used it. We surveyed back up into fear and 'loathing in las Brujas' and found a stone on top of a boulder covered in white sand with a survey marker paper (31).
We tied into that and did a few more stations to get back down to the streamway. At that point we decided to call it a day and return via TLJ.
We met the other 2 teams at 'holier than thou' and G promptly exited out slowly.

G

Saturday 21st, Skull Cave, Will + Mark

Will + Mark headed up to Skull Cave to continue capping endeavours of Paulina, Jeon-Luc and Jess. The walk up was hot but not awful. Easy progress to the Efet was made after careful negotiation of the loose rubble slopes on the pitch heads. There was some light descension a possible merit of a deviation on the main pitch.

Arriving at the Efet, Will assumed position of Copper with Mark acting as lackey (he needed a break from leadership positions). What ensued was a farcical afore of very ~~a~~ unsuccessfully capping. Beginning first with get the rod very badly stuck (~~on the~~) part way into the Efet. Teamwork was deployed here and eventually the rod freed. Further faff continued as the success of the capping was now being measured by whether or not they made an audible sound on firing. Most notably, one of them made a small fart noise.

It became clear that the rock on the upper right hand entry to the Efet was too soft for capping but too hard for hammering.

At shift change it was decided that the left hand side of the Efet should be tackled. This was identified after Will made an attempt to pass and Mark did successfully pass - Will should Man-Up really'. The approach of filling the hole with caps successfully removed (x2) so blocks from the left hand side. Further attempts at the squeeze by both individuals, demonstrated not only that Will is useless at Squeezes but also that the Successful squeezer (Mark) had a pinnacle of rock going into his back. This was removed by both Team members taking it in turns to lie feet down in the rift drilling downwards at arms length. Followed by reaming and cap placing by feel alone. This activity was successful and provided considerably more room for the manoeuvre.

Mark went through and assessed the pitchhead as very tight, but very doable. Will still couldn't complete the move.

A very enjoyable day, bough a minute with some novel capping experiences. .. "You can do it if you just Man-Up" A. Wright. 2025.

Will e Graham

Sunday 22/6/25 Prospecting down the gorge in area 10 just north of the ridge to Canal de Frea on a steep slope above the cliff on the south side of the vallee extremero continuing down colene Graham went on the 19th. The track for this and for the 19th have been uploaded to the WhatsApp group chat. Sadly nothing of interest found. We started following down the top of the cliff down steep ground with thorny plants, then cut across to the recorded location of 30/10, but failed to find a convincing entrance at the location. There is plenty of exposed limestone so definately worth further prospecting between the recorded tracks and maybe further down (though it does get steeper). According to the map in the refuge, there is a 'fuente' down there! We didn't see it though. In terms of 'location, location, location' the area really ticks the boxes! Getting around is challenging, but a lot easier than in the bottom of Extremero!

Tuesday 17th 27/9 Camp Bounce Chris, Rosie + 1 with personal stuff

Went down 27/9 with 2 tacklesacks, one with rope for the pushing trip (see above) and another with two dareen drums (much lighter). After the Ario Reality, we picked up the 4 camp bags that had been left there the day before. Left the rope bag at the intersection to the Cat that point) possible connection to C4. Chris also left a note here for the pushing trip as he had ~~dropped~~ lost his pantin & some gear earlier in the cave (suspected bottom 9 aven before Ario Reality as Rosie had heard a thud). Continued down to Casa Carlotta and left the bags there & made an inventory. Quick look at C4 sump & then out, did not meet the others but Chris's pantin was retrieved! 8 hours

AFTER BECKA/BARTER/JERNLEE/PBULINE
CAMPING TRIP

23rd Camp plan

Currently there:
- Drill
- Drill bits x 2
- Drill dry bag
- Drill battery
- 2 bolting hammers
-
- 15m? tape
- Green rope (30m?)
- Rope (20m?)

- 6 stainless hanger/maillon/throughbolts
- 19 alloy " " "
- 5 alloy hangers
- 4 screwgates
- 2 snaplinks

- 3 drysuits in dry bags

- 2 petzl classics
- 3 petzl portages

- 2-3 person bothy
- 1st aid kit
- Spade
- 6 lighters
- 1.5 loo roll
- 2.5 rolls poo bags.
- 1 big dunen drum
- 2 big stoves
- 1 small stove
- 3 gas
- 3 bowls, spoons, cups
- Many pan sofs
- 2 sponges

- 5x tents meals
- 15 porridge sachets
- 7 custard sachets
- 13 coffees
- 2 big dry bags (not water tight)

Needs:
- Poo drum
- Hand sanitizer
- 1 loo roll

UPDATE FOLLOWING CAMP ON 26TH/27TH:

Now 1 nearly full large gas + 1 ½ full small
HOLE FINISHED
2x EXTRA BOLTMATS ADDED
1x Inflate the mattress a bit soft

Tras La Jayada - capping Try a little Harder

Sunday 22 June 2025 Dave + Chris

Forty years almost exactly since my (DR's) last visit to the bottom of TLJ. A little apprehensive on the way to the entrance given the number of metres that would have to be climbed by my slightly older body. But halfway there we checked our phones + saw the latest reports of the possibly looming World War Three: somehow this calmed my nerves. Compared to a nuclear conflict, how hard could this be?

We set off down around 11. In contrast to days gone by, there were no little icebergs loosely frozen to the walls + the underground glacier 100 m down (aka the snow patch that avalanched while we were at the bottom in 1985) was absent. I did not feel cheated, only relieved.

Many more rebalays than under the old hand bolting regime, but still some large(ish) stretches of block free hanging space between them - maybe 40 or 50 metres all in one section. With a Scurion LED, as opposed to a Petzl carbide, it's possible to appreciate the architecture of this great, dark vault. Imagine if they built a winch. It could become a premier Picos attraction for adventure tourists.

AJ I spotted Chris on the bottom when he was still a long, long way below, But as soon enough I joined him. A crystal pool would be our drinking water when needed. The window into the parallel shaft near the bottom that goes just a little deeper than the main abyss was instantly recognisable.

And so, ahem, to the way on. How could we have missed this obvious opening? Did we just not look properly because we knew the SIC said there was no navigable passage? (It's baffling to me, because it is so very obvious.

A little bit of crawling, a climb down and the another up and we were at the Try a Little harder rift. Chris capped four constrictions with impressive craft and speed. After two-and-a-half hours of pleasant passage enlargement our position was accomplished. The rift is now comfortable, even for someone my size. We went through to the top of like and subscribe, then waded back.

The climb was sweaty and strenuous but the rigging is good. You just keep going, and going and then you reach the daylight. A great day out that has left me enthused, I wanna see more!

Friday 20th June. Sonachero - Rachel, Will, Dave

Returned to sonachero armed with large amount of rope, bolts, drill etc.
Bolted down 100m+? shaft but found some spits & a hanger near the bottom so had been previously explored. Interesting shaft with lots of calcite flowstone but ends in a boulder floor with a damp muddy corner & no way on.
Possible calcite shelf part way up which may be a lead but would need to bolt traverse to it & didn't look promising. alcove with no draft. Made it back for dinner with only minutes to spare. Left rigged for surveying which Sandy, Julia & Becca kindly returned to complete the following day.

Sat 21st June

Couple of holes found near 33/5
① Shaft with 3 sec rock fall on top of hill above 33/5 UTM: 30T 343434 4789623
② Draftying hole in the grass, pulled some rocks out & found a narrow, descending tube. Loose at the top. Very near 1 so may be connected?
UTM: 30T 343447 4789641

Saturday 21st June and Sunday 22nd June

Tras la Jayada Camping out 27/9 - Paulina P, Jeanluc, Becka L, Bartek
Whilst we were sat in camp Bartek showed up for a supise visit! He had come up for the weekend!? and had to be at work Monday this meant he had just enough time to join on a camping trip with a storm maybe coming in a few days 27/9 needed to be dengged and so it was decided we would go down TLJ take photos. Take the dry suites to camp and ahead out 27/9 starting the dive. Getting down TLJ was smooth but seemed to go on forever! We met the previous days camping trip at the top of like and subscribe and they kindly agreed to take our bags with our clothes from TLJ to 27/9. (as they were also on a through trip but coming the opposite way) We took some photos on like and subscribe then Jean-Luc balked the first traverse. We headed to take

a ~~took~~ look and entertaining photos of the full moon rising dump before heading onwards. I balted a traverse and we carried on through to holier than thou and the mainstreamway. Here we took more photos before the next challange. Photographing Viagra falls. Despite dyficulties in communication this was a success. Some more streamway later we [visited the C4 dump. ← THIS WAS ON 22ND ON OUR WAY OUT OF 27/9 Our progress impeded by occasionally collapsing ledges. We] eventually got to camp - a lovely setup above canals on mars with some sketchy drops surrounding - precarious for late night loo trips. At this point 22.00 we were quite ready for food and bed. Sleep was pretty good for me and Becka. Barbek sadly had a wet sleeping bag and Jeanluc who was already ill the day before had only become more ill. We packed up and headed towards 27/9. at 09.00 it was decieded Barbek would derig first. At this point its imporbant to mention that as Barbek had only come for the weeked he did not bring caving gear. He was instead using Grahams. deeply personalised harness held bogether by chickenwire and tape. and wellies 2 sizes too big. Barbek was not enjoying this. As I headed up the first pitch I saw the cairn Mark, Jeanluc and I had ~~built~~ built when we thought we connected to C4. I can now sadly confirm that we depressingly ~~dug~~ a parallel route which landed in 217 rather than 271 C4 :. At the top of the second or third pitch up I ran across Mark, Sandy and Julia who where team big dog of the derig (each of the 4 teams were named after a dog) The plan was a team of 3 enter the cave every hour and everyone takes a bag out. The 4 of us were given bags and headed on our way up passing the other teams as we went. Things went smoothly save for Barbeks SRT battle up to the airs really where a mild cluster occured with team 4 who we met on the pitch leading up to the reality. The rest of the way was smoath apart from a few close shaves with rocks. All in all an extraordinary trip and a very lucky opportunity to do a throughtrip. Out 17.30.

Paulina P

Monday 23rd June

~~to 33~~ 33/5 and 30T 343434 4789623 Paulena P, Jean-Luc, Sophie

1- We first went to Rachels prospect from Saturday (UTM above) We bolted the first pitch as a backup be a natural then a Y hang with a rebelay due to ~~the~~ running out of rope. The pitch is maybe 25-30m? At the bottom is a sizable chamber with a downwards slope with two ways on. A crawl in the right hand corner ~~strops under itself with a~~ leads to small climb down ~~bolts~~ to a heavily calcited chamber ~~which leads to a~~ ~~crawl~~ with a choked floor under the left hand wall a flat out crawl leads to a wide but low chamber with a boulder floor. Only possible way would be a squeeze (which would need capping - not head size) with possible room beyond. Back in the sizable chamber ~~the~~ to the left of the crawl is a very loose climb up (maybe 3-4m?) with possible way on leading to large boulder filled chamber - may need a very short bolt climb due to looseness.

W- We then went to 33/5 to CAP a boulder blocking the way on. ar we put in a few extra bolts and were greeted with lots of the bees in the shakehole - I think a hive is nearby? Sophie capped the th boulder in the crawl allowing a 2m climb down ~~or~~ - in a body size a flat to a chocked boulder floor - whole area loose. of ho m b

Paulina P

Mon 23 June Becka + Dan

An enjoyable day birding off surface shafts + checking out digs in area II, revisiting some of the sites Ulli + I visited on Fri 20th. First we revisited site (6) from 2016, June, this is 39/11 + 4 bolts

by Dan

doo 5/11. It was descended on naturals with a 10m pitch leading to 3m wide x 10m long ravine then tight rift/crawl of 5m with no draught so 39/11 = 5/11 FINISHED

Next we spent some time trying to find 34/11
I am pretty confident this cave does not exist at the recorded location (please update shaftbashing guide, Sandy!)

We ~~had~~ spotted an obvious shaft right by the cave path. Dan descended it from 2 naturals + a bolted deviation. It dropped 8m to a bouldery floor with rubbish. Bottom was ~~4~~ 5m long x 2~~.5~~m wide (it was 3m long x 1.5 wide at the top).
NEW CAVE IN AREA 11 ⇒ "SLATE TILE SHAFT"
(2 red slate tiles at entrance). 30T 343650 4789874
FINISHED

We found 40/11 but it looked very unpromising, less than 10m deep, we could see the floor with rubbish on it. We didn't descend but didn't look good location accurate.

Next we found 7/11. The entrance description was accurate, ie boulder slope to a rival slette below a small cliff.... but it was a 2m crawl to no way on ie, no crawls so update this as FINISHED. Updated location ~~30T 343704~~ 30T 343709 4790138

Heading back to the path we found a new, good looking arub shaft, 1m x 1m diameter. It was descended on a natural + a ~~[illegible]~~ pitchhead bolt that descended 11m to a blocked rift ie a 3m free climb to a blind shaft.
NEW CAVE IN AREA 11 ⇒ "POZO DE LA CABEZA LAS CAMPANAS"
30T 343589 4790138
FINISHED

Finally we decked out the draughting dog that Viki + I looked at on Fri 20th. (numbers ⑤ and ④)

⑤ Grassy shakehole – still draughting out well. We spent 15 minutes pulling out rocks + boulders – there was some black face below but no bedrock so it would probably need quite some work to get anywhere.

For ④ we located the three entrances of 38/11.
My updated GPS locations + descriptions are:-

38/11 (A) – tight grassy hole. We removed quite a few boulders until we could get a head down to look – it was a too tight crawl draughting out strongly. 30T 343452 4789873

38/11 (B) – 2m horizontal crawl into boulders with no obvious continuation. Draughting out. Not great digging potential! 30T 343450 4789860

38/11 (C) – horizontal crawl of 6m (NOT accessible pic) which closes down to a tiny hole though it does draught out. 30T 343484 4789837

Mon. 23rd

Sandy, Julia, Dave.

5/10 – draughting inwards, much smaller than described in shaft bashing guide.

24/10 – No cave found, ~10cm × 10cm fly filled hole OR ~1m × 0.5m hole ~1m deep.

25/10 – Dave went down, ~4m deep & choked.

Fri 20th - Toby, Julia + Becca TLJ

Bounce trip to Survey from the connection @ bottom of Like + Subscribe through phreatic tubes to full moon rising sump. From survey point 31 to FMR sump + looked for a potential sump by-pass. Further surveyed some potential by-passes which mostly went in wrong direction. Located a 10/12m pitch which rejoined the main holier than thou route as well as a lower passage connection which did the same. Station 16 lead to a potential ~~upper aven~~ by-pass into an upper aven which went the correct direction, found by toby + later killed ~~exact~~ by chris. Potential other tiny team lead around station 16 still to be explored. Survey data still on Julia's phone. -Becca

Sat ~~22~~ 21st - Julia, Becca + Sandy - The Rattler

Surveyed ~~the~~ the shaft to the bottom. potential lead up into a rift but no draft so was deemed not worth pushing. Shaft was detached. 2 Salamander were also rescued. -Becca

Monday 23rd June TLJ Rosie, Alfie & Chris

Following a super-chill departure from camp around 10:30 we arrived at TLJ to find the camp team (Mark, Viki + Will) still kitting up after some delays contacting the outside world. Specifically, Tony S. needed to know within 24 hrs whether he was diving. To this end, ~~He~~ our mission was to establish whether a sump bypass existed.

We followed Mark, Viki & Will down the shaft to the soundtrack of Will's eclectic repetoire of Scottish folk songs, ~~and~~ "If you like Tras La Sayada" to the tune of 'Pina Colada', and 'Oh, Tras La Sayada" to the tune of 'Seven Nation Army'.

We parted ways at Like & Subscribe and went to survey the open leads Julia + Co. had left/near Full Moon Rising Sump. Alfie pushed, while Rosie quickly got to grips with sketching in Todo Droip, and I zapped the disto around. A sporting climb up the rift led to a mud-floored chamber where the rift closed down. Therefore no high-level sump bypass, and Tony's FMR diving project would go ahead. Having established this, we returned to the

MAIN PASSAGE TO SURVEY THE LOW-LEVEL ROUTE OF HOLIER THAN THOU. ALFIE HAD A GO AT DIGTO OPERATION THIS TIME, AND SOON GOT THE HANG OF IT. WITH BOTH THESE OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED AND GETTING A BIT CHILLY, WE HEADED BACK TO THE PITCHES. WHILE ROSIE + ALFIE STARTED UP THE PITCHES, I HAD A QUICK PUSH/DIG AT THE SHORTCUT PASSAGE FROM LIFE + SUBSCRIBE DOWN INTO THE ROOT OF HOLIER THAN THOU. IT WILL REQUIRE A LOT OF GARDENING AND BOLTING, BUT WOULD CUT ~10MINS OFF THE TRIP TO 2/7 STREAMWAY. FACE-FINDING COMPLETE, I FOLLOWED ROSIE + ALFIE UP LIFE & SUBSCRIBE. ROSIE UNFORTUNATELY BROKE HER PANTIN STRAP ON THE WAY UP, WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY RATTLED OFF DOWN THE TRY A LITTLE HARDER RIFT. DESPITE ROSIE BEING LIMITED TO FROGGING, WE MANAGED THE ASCENT UP TRAS LA SAYADA TO SURFACE IN UNDER 2 HRS AND WERE BACK IN PLENTY OF TIME FOR DINNER, HAVING REPORTED OUR FINDINGS TO TONY SEDDON SO HE COULD PATCH HIS DIVE KIT.

CHRIS.

24th June - Area 10 Cleft in NW corner of Huerta del Rey.
Jess, Graham, Dave, Jean-Luc, Paulina 43.23360 -4.91229
Everyone was very patient as I bolted a pitch down to a terrifyingly loose scree slope halfway down the cliff. A large boulder sits at the top of the slope which prevented us from seeing if there was a way on. Jean-Luc ~~took over the bolting here~~ bolted a traverse up to the boulder. There was no clear way on, with the slope remaining loose up to the ceiling.

Described as blind in original 1982 description - most of the rest of the cave is beyond an awkward traverse ("the Boulder Step") at the top of this pitch.

Tues 24th - Mystery cave (Optimistic) -> Rosie, Becca + Becka

Headed down ~~45m~~ Second pitch to land in a large chamber with a muddy floor from a dried out pool. Way-on was to the right then a small rift to another drop down to a natural rebelay which is muddy + loose. 10m to the rebelay + 15m to another boulder floor. Cave continues to the right of a large boulder up a small 2m climb into a popcorn filled tight rift. After some hammering by Rosie, Becca + Becka were able to squeeze through boulders → tight upthrust ripping oversuits, rift continued down to another tight spot which required capping to lead to a climb down which can be traversed over to a small window. Through the small window and down a 3m climb, lands you in a large chamber with a boulder floor again. The chamber leads up and around to the left to the bottom of a large boulder choke which was explored + exausted by Rosie. Becka + Rosie Surveyed out and Becca de-rigged - mystery cave = killed. :(

MARK AS FINISHED IN SHAFT BASHING GUIDE

-Becca

Tuesday 24 June 2025 66/5 Dan, Sophie, Toby

Trip to finish the high level leads in 66/5. Initially Dan drilled a thread for a dyno on the first pitch to access the window. All 3 cover visited the window, getting successively further into it. Ultimately it is just a side rift and goes nowhere.

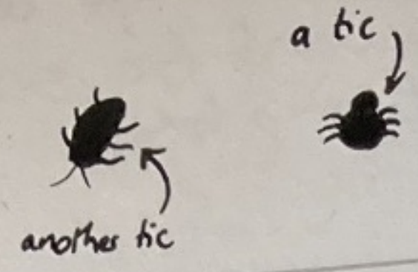
After this the cornershop was tackled. Dan did not invert.

Sophie and I explored all the high level stuff above the 2nd pitch. There are loads of tiny crawls branching off, with holes leading down to the pitch area. The ones that did not do this closed down.

Toby

Sat 21 Optimista Viki, Rached, Jess, Alsie

The mystery of the cave which me (Viki) and Becka had found continued with the rest of us - two to bolt and two to survey. Me and Alsie successfully descended the Aven where my previous trip ended while Jess and Rachel began the survey (after running back to camp for more rope and bolts as I'd seriously underestimated the length of the pitches). After the aven was another, equally long but less appealing pitch where we found several spits and a



decades-old sling. Being cold and unwilling to push the tight pit at the bottom of this pitch we turned around. It was back at camp after a conversation with Dave that it was discovered ~~over~~ that our mystery cave was actually optimistu. A cave explored to it's conclusion in the 80's after boom.

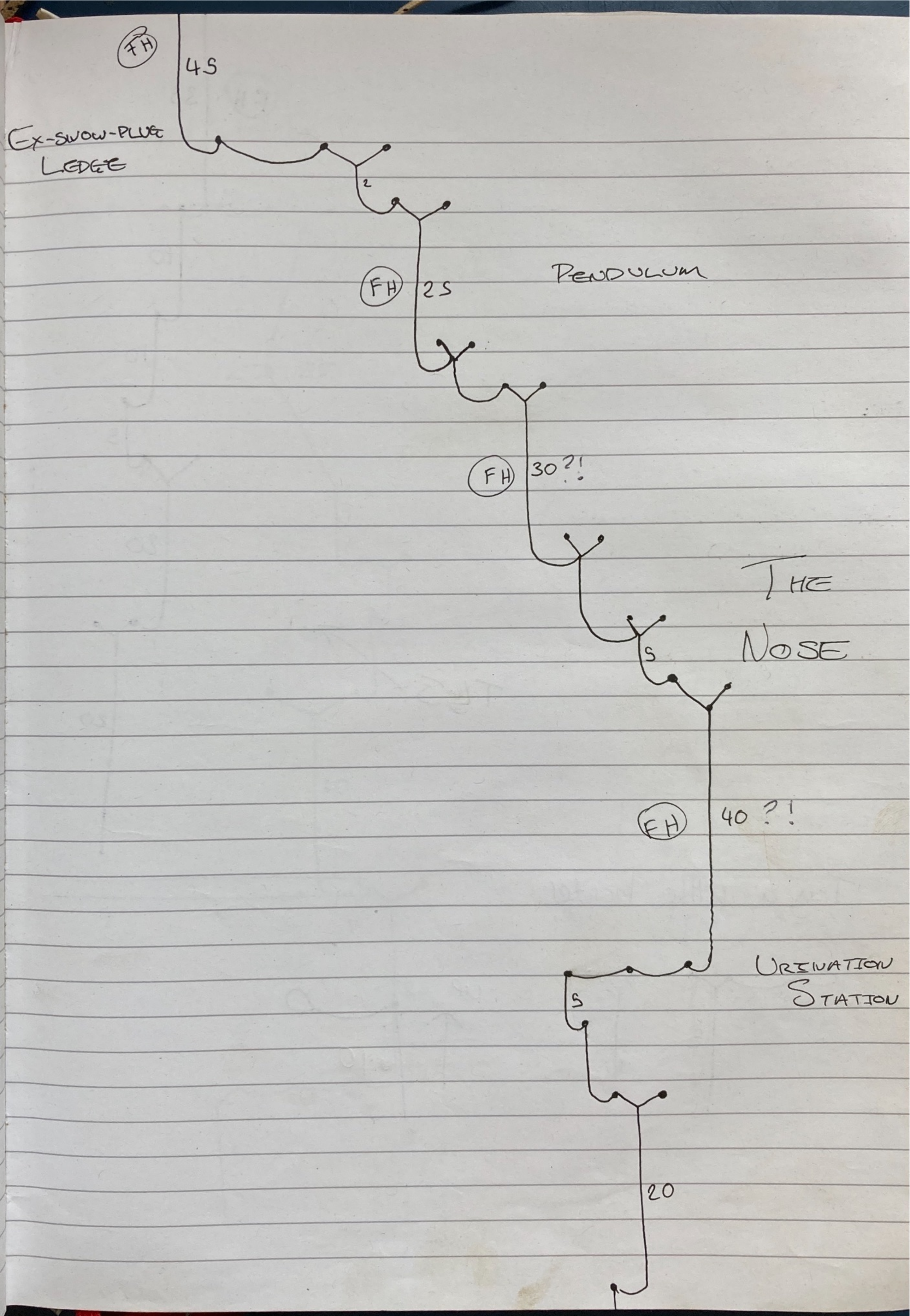
Viki's Translaj

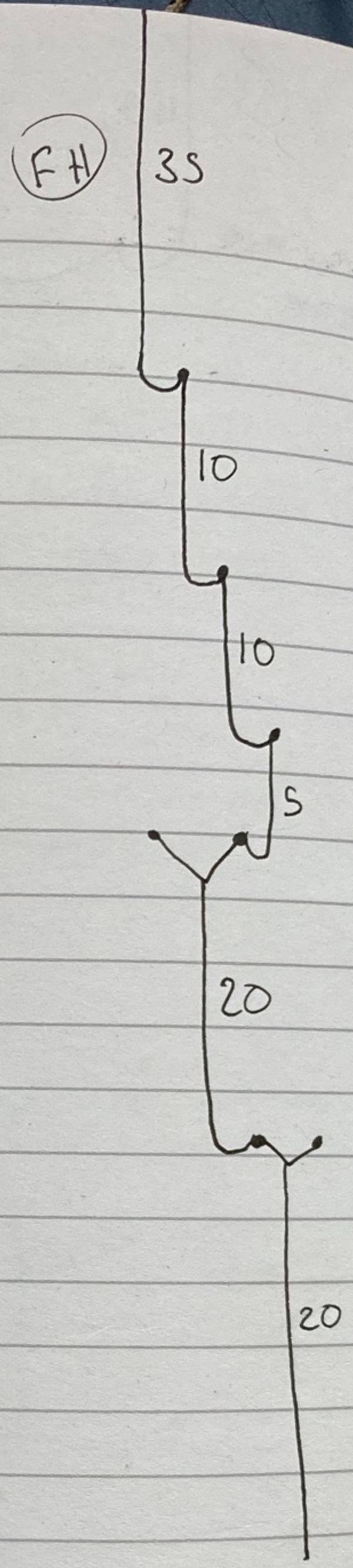
*

All rebalay lengths are wild guesses by someone not too good at judging distances!

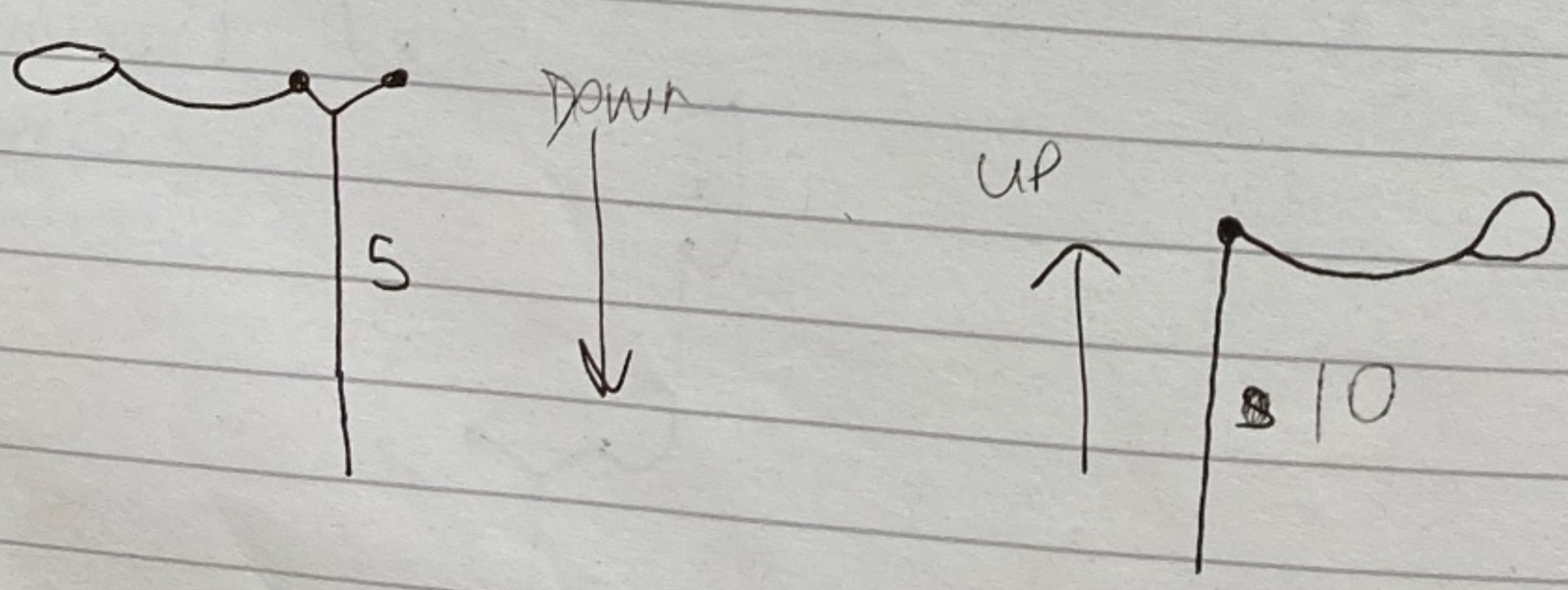
*

(FH) = Free Hang

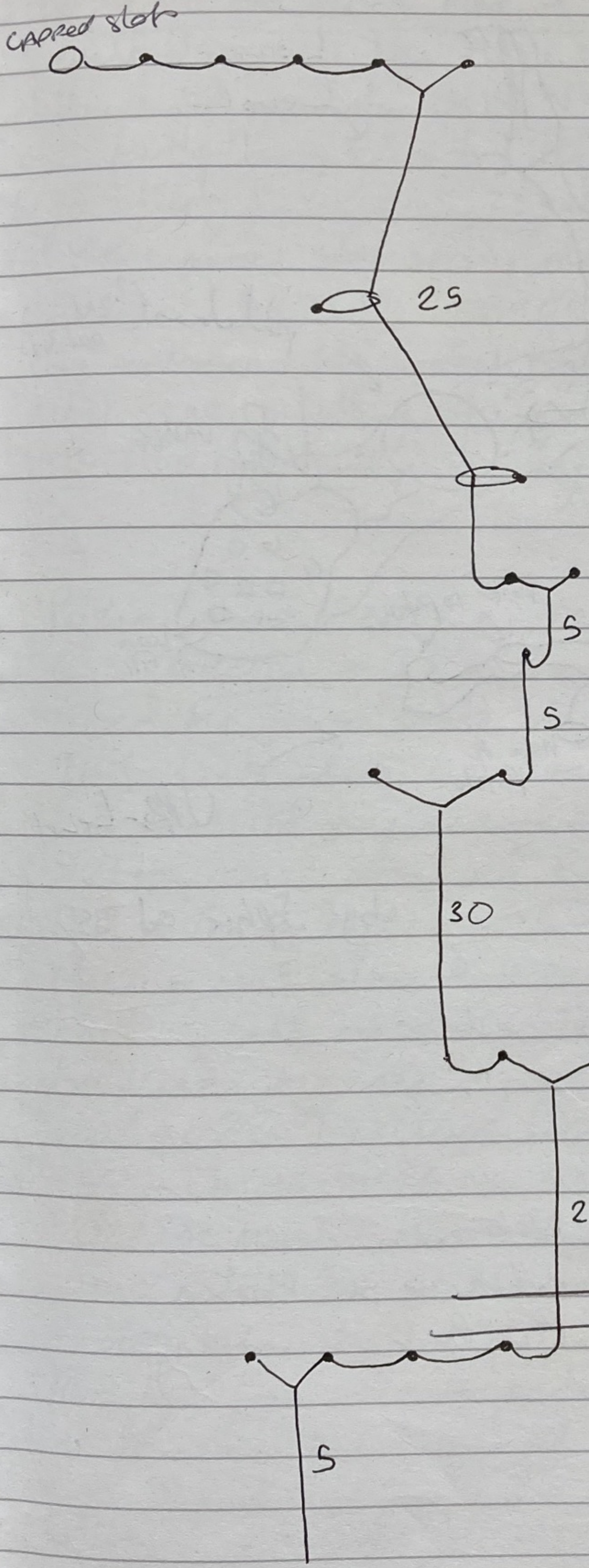

FH
4S
EX-SNOW-PLOW LEDGE
2
FH
2S
PENDULUM
FH
30?!
THE NOSE
S
FH
40?!
URINATION STATION
5
20



Try a little harder



Like and Subscribe



7 BAGS

SUNSET STATION
31 GRAN DRIVE

FMR

25

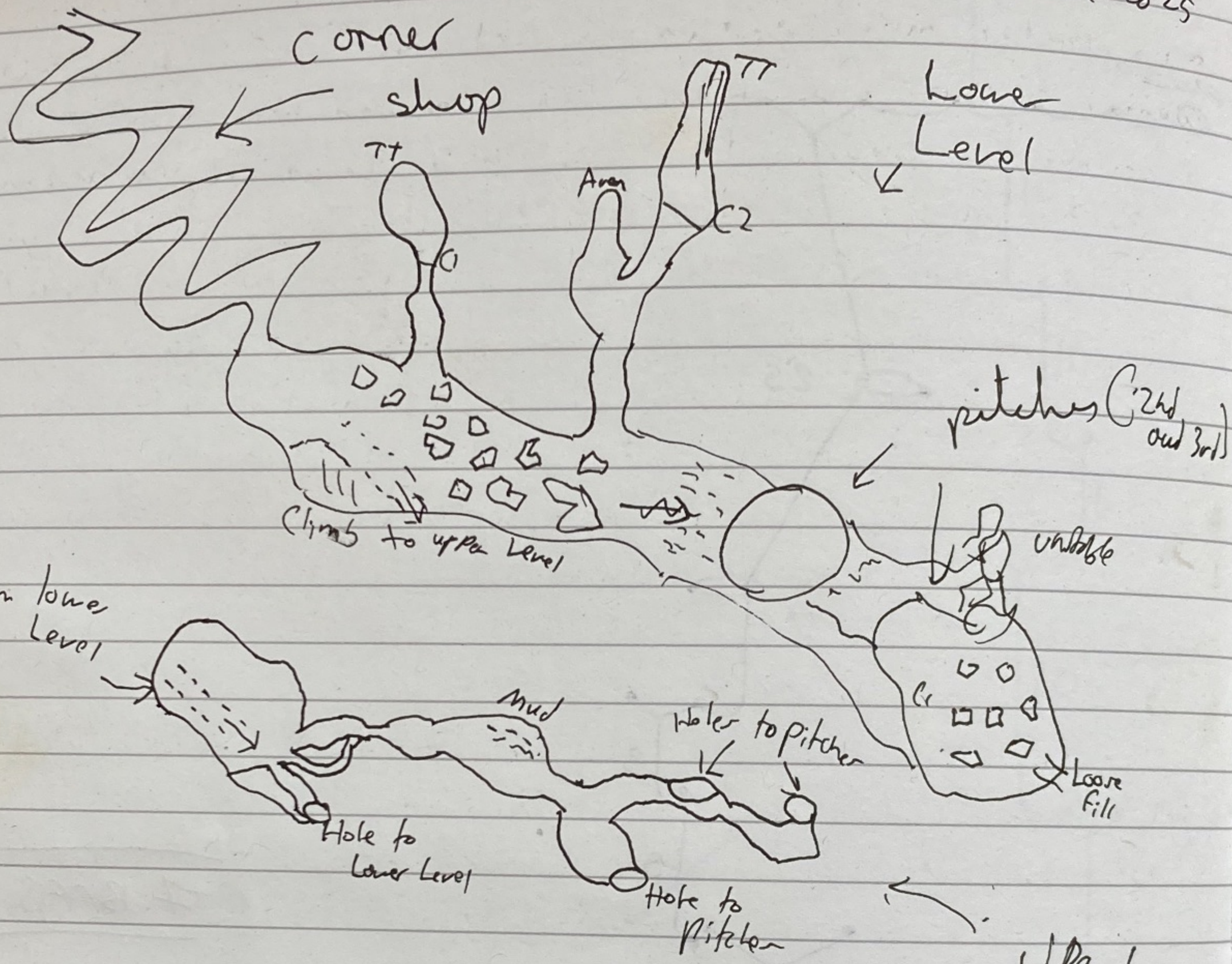
BURY BOXES BELOW SLOP

CAVE

31

Diagram of leads above 2nd pitch in 66/5

24 June 2025



by Sophie and Tosy

10m
35m
70m
45m
Approx 160m rope in 2 pitch descents

20m
30m
70m
rope we took in

We took in ~120m rope.
38 maillons
45 Boulders large
2 pitch descents
Must 2 deviations on 2nd pitch

Notes on design of entrance of Muxa
PTO for summary

Further ~~Ha~~ trip into Area 10 to investigate a spring marked on the map in the Refugio. 25/6/25 Dave & Graham

went down to the ridge to the Prow and photographed the deft we did yesterday in the NW corner of Muerto de Rey and another one further away towards Tullaya (near the Trea path as it starts to go steeply down 43, 23347 -4, 91517). We continued down to the supposed ~~spr~~ spring marked as being at an altitude of 1150m about at 43, 23395 -4, 90484. No sign of any water or cave entrance. We looked right up to the edge of the cliff but didn't see anything of speleological interest. We headed back up to the Prow ridge just as the day returned.

Pozu Cabeza Muxa - rope collection - 26/6/25

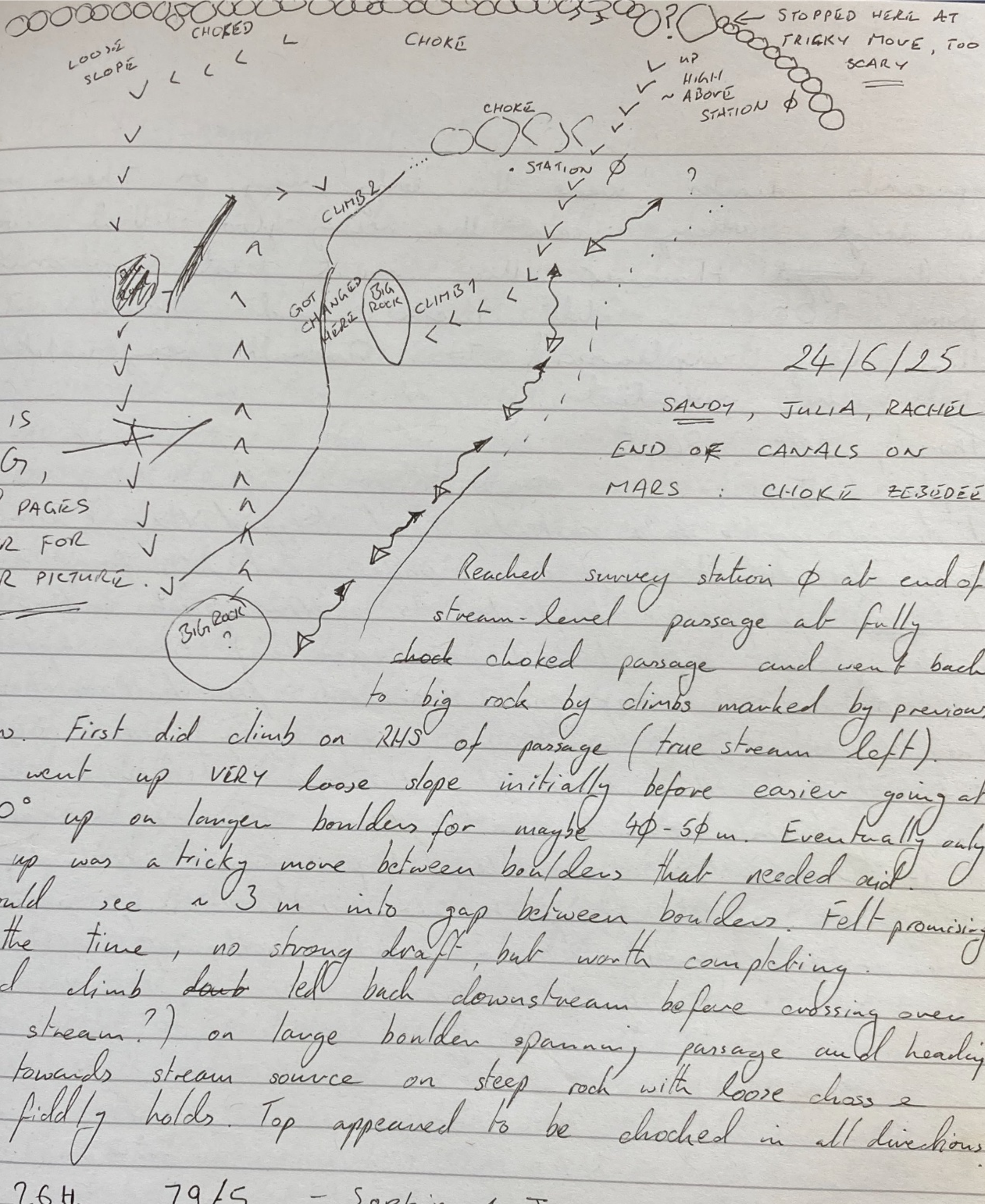
Becka + Dan T/U 7 hours

Given the poor state of our newly rigged rope in TLJ (including one section through to the cave) we realised replacement rope was needed. 300m extra was sourced from the UK to arrive with Phil + Tony but fetching rope left M~~ee~~ 2022 in Muxa was also mooted so after a brief - too brief - call to Phil + Tony to ask what was needed to guess the gear we set off with approx 120m rope + 38 maillons. The "20 minute walk took ~45' - WHY IS THERE NO GPS TRACK FOR A CAVE EXPLORED IN 2022??? We got there via some rough ground to find a huge entrance. We rigged off a boulder to get to the first pitch + hallelujah, the Stainless hangers were still here. We used our rope to rig down to the above where as described, we found 2 Petzl dossigne bags labelled "upper" and "lower" with knots in - hurrah, just need to rerig these 2 bags + we'll get to the Petzl transporter at the Eagle's Nest supposedly stuffed full of more rope.

upper bag rope

At this point things got more complex. I tried + tried but could not get the knots to match the ones on the hangers. We looked at the knots on the lower bag rope but they didn't match either. And we emptied the bags to see if they'd been packed upside down (why?!) but it still didn't work. Eventually I decided to just go on down to see if I could dodge it. After (1st bag rope ended part way down) a bit of loose, boulder slope, another short pitch + more boulder slope. I started the 2nd bag at the start of a ten down to more short pitches. Part way I kept kicking down the worst of the loose boulders + could smell something bad + rotten, ugh. After a short pitch I shouted up to Pam to say I'd found a big carbide pig + then I started near-retching. "Are you OK?", I rang the next drop I'd stood on a large, calcite encrusted boulder only to realise it was a thick carpet of white goo - a dead cow. My wellie was covered in it, the stench was foul. I waited until I could control my stomach, ignored the flies + maggots on the walls + decided I might as well keep heading down since I was already covered in cow gunk. Sadly the rope ran out at the bottom of this pitch with drops (the main shaft?) continuing below + no sign of the Eagle's Nest. Sigh. I headed back up, dragging all the stinky hangers. The hanger by the cow had obviously been used as a savoury station, with red nail varnish but when I removed it ~20 maggots crawled off, yuck. Pam ferried the upper section + we decided to try to carry everything back. The route was better than on the way there but Pam had to shuffle a toilet bag.

To retrieve Muxa as far as we got you need ~40 hangers + maillons (we dropped 45 hangers but several could be skipped) + about 280m rope - approx 12m for slope to 15m pitch + 15m pitch + 160m in 2x 80m double bags plus 2 lengths of tape for redrop



24/6/25

SANDY, JULIA, RACHEL

END OF CANALS ON MARS : CHOKE ZE3ŌEE.

Reached survey station ϕ at end of stream-level passage at fully ~~chock~~ choked passage and went back to big rock by climbs marked by previous teams. First did climb on RHS of passage (true stream left). This went up VERY loose slope initially before easier going at ~30° up on longer boulders for maybe 4ϕ-5ϕ m. Eventually only way up was a tricky move between boulders that needed aid. I could see ~3 m into gap between boulders. Felt promising at the time, no strong draft, but worth completing.

Second climb ~~doub~~ led back downstream before crossing over (above stream?) on large boulder spanning passage and heading back towards stream source on steep rock with loose chossy small fiddly holds. Top appeared to be choked in all directions.

Thur 26th 79/5 - Sophie & Jess

Due to proximity to camp we just went down to locate the cave entrance with no equipment. Found the right to descend down which already had a bolt. After retrieving SRT kits and hangers descended off a natural and the bolt for ~.7 m. A tight crawl led to the small chamber referenced in the shaftbashing guide. Some possible but unlikely to go anywhere

upwards drinks were the only way on. There was no draft coming from the rocky floor that could be dug ~~dugged~~. However, the insect nest mentioned from 2006 is still there and would make this very unpleasant. This Overall very unlikely to have potential

Thursday 24th 8615

Sophie & Jess

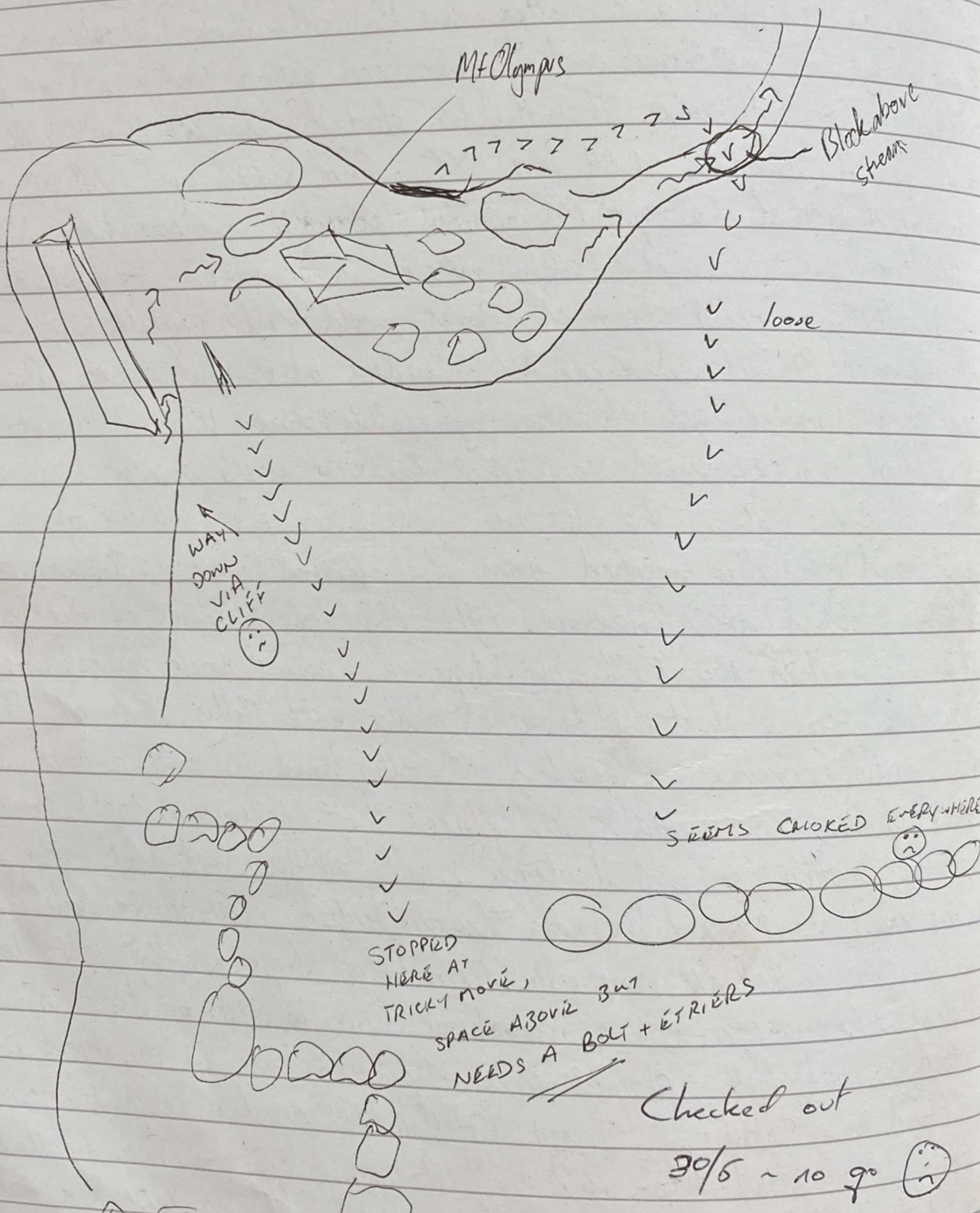
I denied Sophie ~~her~~ a rest day and dragged them 30 mins over the hill to explore an 'undescended hole found in 2022'. A ~~Very~~ tight pitch head led to a 10m pitch ending in a boulder choked rift. I had an excellent time shifting boulders and throwing rocks around for half an hour (my Northern Dales heart was very happy) while Sophie sat getting cold & damp. By the end I could see roughly 3m beyond the boulders. There is a noticeable draft. Overall a possible but far from ideal dig. The area is interesting though, with lots of potential holes in the limestone pavement worthy of investigation.

Mon 23rd TLJ camp (Canals on Mars) Mark, Viki, Will

Was pleased to find less water down Viagra Falls than last year, and glad of Sandy's re-rigging / bolting. The hoof up to BTTTJR was marvellous as last year, and pretty uneventful other than Will taking a quick dip. Thankfully he was undeterred and we were soon eating Tent meals at the brilliantly constructed camp. Then the fun started - dry suit time. Viki took the med, me the large & Will the XL. Once suited up Will set off down, soon reporting that the rope I'd installed last year was too short. We sorted another and he got to the bottom where we convened to assess the way on. Immediately we could see that a boat would not be workable here - the rift narrowed & widened ahead with boulders at various points. The suits were ideal for the varied depth of water, generally between knee & waist deep, and it was fairly straightforward to protect the suits at the points we needed to climb out of the water. The passage was incredible with lots of fine white sand, and gradually morphed from the textured, jagged limestone of upstream 2/7 to scoured grey limestone. After the entertainment of the out-of-depth canals we reached Mount Olympus where we changed back to overalls.

It seemed to me that the terminal choke essentially starts at Mount Olympus and is pretty enormous. We pushed it pretty hard in and around stream level, including some fairly spicy places. At stream level itself I reckoned it was just about passable so pushed along, sadly getting wet feet in the process, all to no avail as it ended in more dense chokes. Surveying back to Mt Olympus we spotted a ramp up the rubble slope on the left (facing the choke). I had a look up, going about 30m in total on chossy ground. It looked a much better prospect to me than the base of the choke where we had been pushing. I got slightly lost on the descent peering down a much bigger climb than the one I'd come up, but some shouting located the others and we continued to survey out. We left the camp for Sandy, Rachel & Julia who were heading in the next day. The canal provided some entertaining surveying, but thankfully we found that with enough air in the suits it was possible to bob along without clinging to the walls. Chilly at this point we left the survey for the next team to finish.

A Hvel dinner was very welcome at camp and after a decent night's ~~sir~~ sleep, several brews and ponidges, we had a steady trip back out.
Top trip.



Checked out
30/6 ~ 10 pm

26th June – Julia, Becka + Graham – prospecting walk

We started at "Dave's cleft" located by Dave + Graham yesterday (25 June). Rigging down to investigate it was delayed by the lack of a bolting hammer. Julia took one for the team + sprinted back to the Refuge whilst Becka started to bodt down using a rock hammer. After Julia returned she took over + dropped down to the base of the cleft to find – nothing at all. Left at 30T 344498 4788540

We then headed up the ridge looking for entrances 8415 was refound but not investigated further. After a jolly up Sulbaya, the Wizzle's Eye + 217, Julia went home on the usual path whilst Graham + I took the a curved OSM path the other side of the Dro bowl.

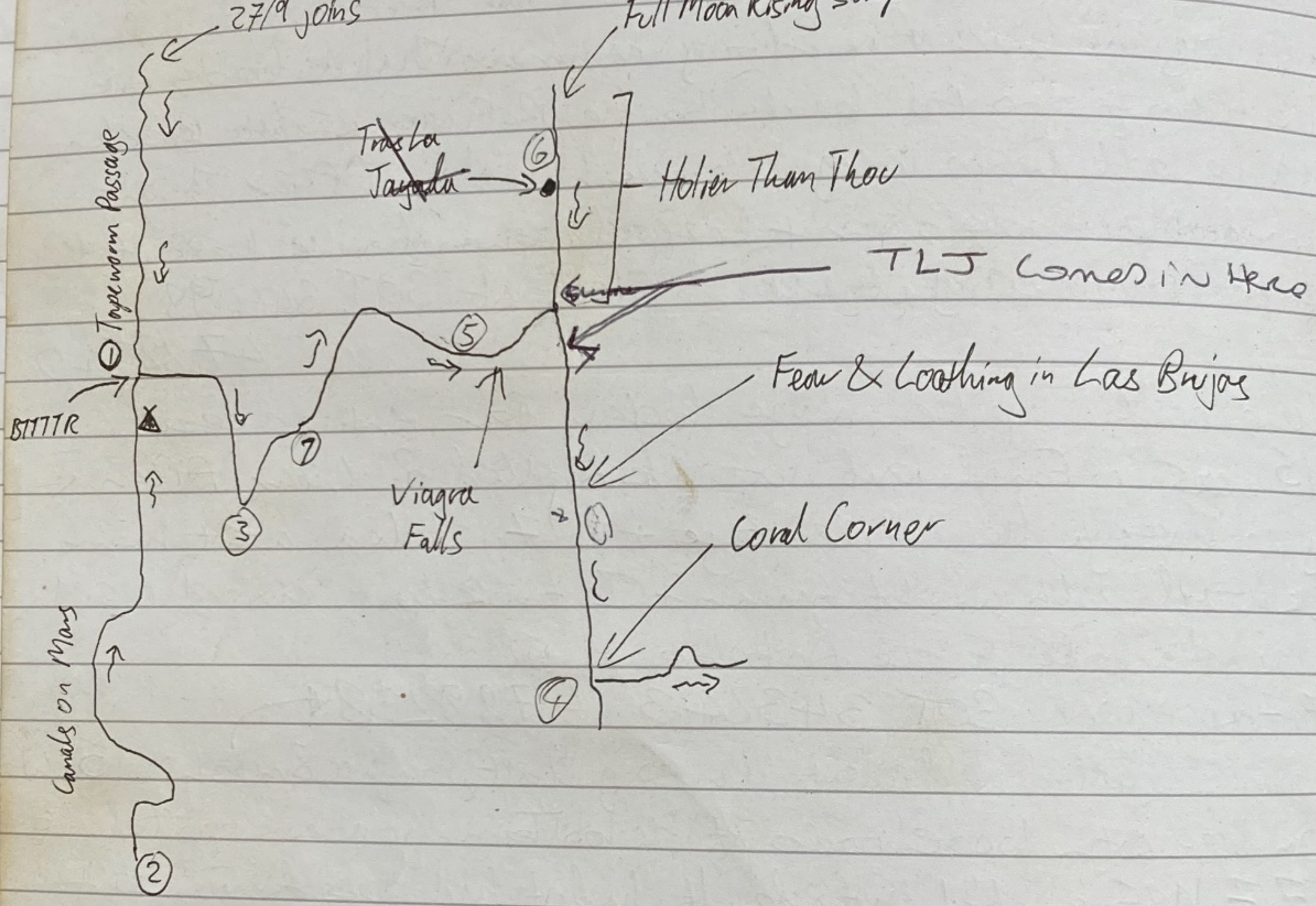
7/7 LOCATION 30T 343843 4788238

Very soon I spotted a decent looking shaft, maybe 8m x 1·5m x 10m deep with loose rocks at the bottom. Graham spotted the OUCC 7/7 1985 painted outside. It hadn't had coordinates so + was rewarded as having a snap flag at the bottom so it'd be well worth returning to.

En route back we refound 8615 but it already had 2 fresh (today) throughbolts in it = It had been dropped to an end but had a draught + could be diggable.

Week 3/4 logistics (in no particular order)

2/7 locations of interest:



▲ = camp
① = ~40 m bolt climb
② = Choke (see prev. sketch) [Phil + Arleen] DEAD LEAD
③ = Savage Journey (previously unsurveyed - tight rift to larger passage)
④ = Multiple leads in description - Coral Corner [see Chris Carey team report] [2 ich et al.]
⑤ = Inlet passage - climb of 4-5 m? On true left.
⑥ = Approx 10 m down Like & Subscribe is a parallel shaft - looks v. big! Would need a few bolts and would be worth tying into the survey. [Dr Tim]
⑦ = At the Compass Clino & Me (long, straight ca. 1m wide hading rift) can be climbed at various points to big passage above. Progress can be tricky due to rift below, but it certainly warrants a good look (with some ropes / bolts?) and a survey - there is no reference to it in the description.

LIST OF "GOOD" IDEAS IS IN FRONT OF SHAFT BASHING GUIDE

Skull Cave:

Currently rigged down 1st two pitches. 'The Eft' now enlarged enough to reasonably comfortably slide down to stance above pitch, and could probably cap rift from here (to avoid previous hideous-looking manoeuvre up rift to drop back down) to access pitch directly. Should be achievable in one reasonable day. Capping kit has been left here minus caps + drill. (see printed description for context)

25/9 KIT LIST (Becka)

Aileen + Sophie know where this gear is stashed!!-
- 1 blue AV tackle sack
- 70m rope
- 35m rope
- 11 hanger + maillon + thrubolts.
- 3 spit hangers (NO MAILLONS)
- 5 tape slings + 5 snaplink crabs.

You NEED A DRILL + HAMMER + MAYBE METALWORK TO PUSH 25/9 (c), 25/9 (d) & 25/9 (e) AS WELL AS ~~HOOK~~ DISCHUFFED CAVE

#3 IN BECKA'S 27/6/25 WRITE UP

↳ 30T 342725 4787855.

↳ (THIS IS POSSIBLY 21/9 "UNDESCENDED 25M SHAFT" - BECKA FOUND NO SHAFT AT THE LOCATION GIVEN FOR 21/9)

25/9 — GPS COORDINATES TO THE 1998 TAG
30T 342836 4787712

SEE WHATSAPP FOR GPX TRACK OF REFUGIO → 25/9 ON 27 JUNE

TLJ notes.

- Rigging generally seems to avoid loose stuff now - but be vigilant! *
- Guideline at entrance newly installed - may need adjusting
- Some ropes not looking in great condition. Please only replace with new / v. good condition ropes
- Please abseil slowly !!!
- Orange rescue bag is hanging at 1st ledge ~ 100 m down
- The next rope to be replaced is probably the 1st rope with a deviation (by the chutts nest).

(IF 2 GROUPS USING TLJ -

** If going in, start early / be at bottom of main shaft before lunchtime. If coming out aim to be in main shaft mid afternoon onwards, **

* with the possible exception of the pitch below the urination station - see topo on earlier page

General Notes

- Expect to do at least 1 carry up of communal kit (list at front of logbook)
- Don't expect all ideas for trips to be provided to you. Sometimes there may be specific trips that need people, but not always - there are literally hundreds of possibilities in the draft bashing guide. Sometimes noone will know where / what things are.
- Please itemise everything that goes into Xitu in the logbook, ie. what is going in and the quantity.
- ~~For anyone~~
- Do not use the newest ropes for shaft bashing or short term projects, save them for TLJ
- Please survey anything / everything that is found
- FILL IN INSURANCE DETAILS (PINK FOLDER) IF NOT ALREADY THERE

Kit to return to UK at end:

- All drills + batteries - leave 2 DRILLS + 4 BATTERIES for RICH / PHIL FRIDAY
- UG camp stuff (sleeping bags, jackets, air beds) ✓ - in new dry bags + portage
- Stoves - leave 2 for self-catering ✓ tackle bags please
- Mark laptop + charger ✓ - ANYTIME
- Distos / phones Photo on whatsApp 2 Pulleys, Karabiner pulley + Krab (thin) & dyneema.
- TLJ reserve kit (Mark's & Grahams) but rope can stay. FRIDAY
- Logbook + red folder of topos (not critical)
- ACP screwgate + snapgate krabs
- bolt climbing gear + dynamic rope Rich left in TLS. THURS
- Petzl tackle bags (at least enough to pack stuff returning home) 2 ✓
- Any broken things that can be fixed. -
- Kit specifically labelled 'YCPC' (bolting kit + bothys) ✓
- Orange Mac Pac tent - alfie + sophie will take

Numbers of people

LOGISTICS NOTES → OLD

Sat 28th 25
Sun 29th RH 18 > Canals
Mon 30th ~~22~~ 21
Tues 1st ~~22~~ 21: 20 > ? Pete, Andrew, Flan or bowes? BOLT CLIMB
Weds 2nd ~~21~~ 1 > BOLT CLIMB
Thurs 3rd ~~21~~ 1 > DIVE DAY, IDEALLY (BIV?)
Fri 4th Due ~~21~~ 1 - CAMP ~~FLUFF~~ fluff MUST COME OUT.
Sat 5th ~~21~~ 1 - 5 ppl WALKING down
Sun 6th ~~16~~ ~~-8~~ ppl WALKING ~~OFF~~ down
Mon 7th ~~12~~ - 5 ppl WALKING down
Tues 8th 8 > NO MORE FLAPJACK left?
Weds 9th 8
Thurs 10th 8 (UK-BOUND) - ALL GEAR HAS TO BE IN CARS.
Fri 11th 4

1 SETTI

17 SLINGS

] WITH STASH BAGS.

RICH, Phil, Tony, Andrew A, Val, KOI, Fiona, Rocky

27 JULY 2025

25/9A > 1h40 with breaks via TLJ

AILEEN, BECKA, JESS, SOPHIE

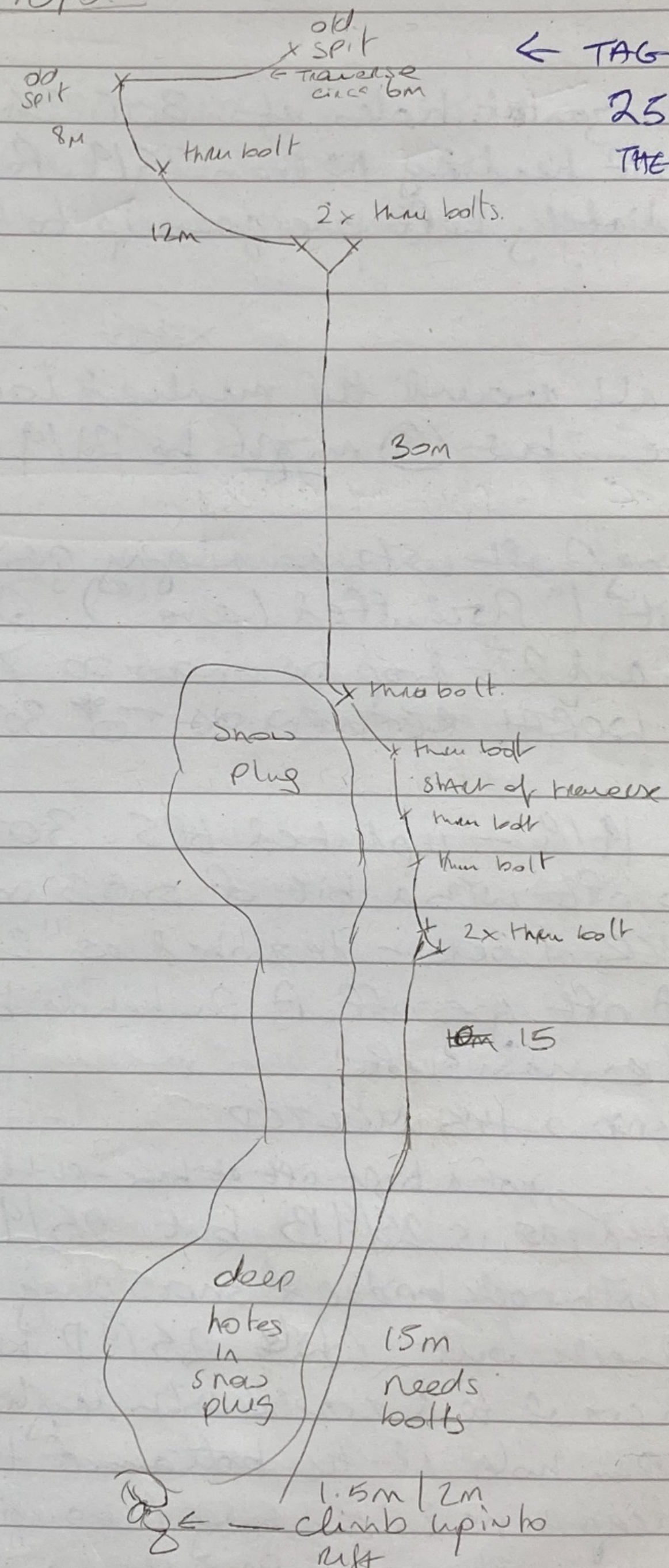
Hot walk up. We decided to push 25/9a. Descended ~~70m~~ 60m to the snow plug. Traversed round the lefthand wall, with the "wall" of the snowplug on our right. Put a pitch in to descend to the lower snow plug, then inclined-walked down it. The snow still fills the main shaft, but there are 8m deep pits in it, so a way through it might be possible in another few years. One very uninspiring climb up into a small rift left undone due to lack of gear. It might go, but I wouldn't rate it a great lead. No draft from it. We rebolted on the cave on through bolts.

Top

Written by Aileen

27 JULY 2025

25/9a Rebolted topo



← TAG FROM 1998 FOR 25/9 INBETWEEN THESE 2 OLD SPITS

27/6/25 Area around 25/9

Becka prospected whilst Aileen, Sophie + Jess bolted 25/9A

① ~~Two~~ Two horizontal holes at 30T 342824 4787791
Obvious if heading N from 25/9. Right one ends immediately, Left one goes up to 4m hole in roof.
FINISHED

② I walked all around the marked location of 25/9 No shaft there... but ③ might be 25/9 ~~&~~ "understanded 25m shaft".

③ Good looking shaft with an angry pair of choughs resting in it ("Dischuffed Dave"). Shaft 10m long x 3m wide and 2+ drop to snow so >20m deep?
DEFINITELY WORTH RETURNING TO 30T 342725 4787855

④ Relocated 19/9 — updated GPS 30T 342659 4787808
Long narrow rift with a bit of snow in it Sort WORTH ANOTHER LOOK — described as "25m deep shaft to snow plug. A rift goes off. A shakehole behind has a window into the main shaft"
→ TO SEE IF SNOW HAS MELTED

25/9A is Risked, as is 25/9B but 25/9C (most northerly hole?) with rock bridge + snow plug needs a rope to descend + check out ~~while~~ 25/9D had a rubble slope with a 5m crawl to a crack with daylight at the bop + a 50cm x 50cm hole at the bottom of the slope that was >10m deep + needs checking (through loose rocks dodgy — no snow in this one. Finally we may not have looked 25/9E.

→ just a tight rift at base — perhaps worth returning to if all snow melts

WE LEFT GEAR — bag/besom, rope + maillons — see list 2 pages back. Drill + hammer minimum needed for a return.

CAMPING MEALS - LIST 28/July.
AT ARIO CAMPSITE.

2x LARGE HUEL CAJUN PAST (feeds 4-5)
10x HUEL SMALL MEALS (20 HALF POUCHES).
1x SUSPECT ADVENTURE NUTRITION VEGGIE SHEPERDS PIE
3x tent meals.
~~Hot~~ = MEALS for 14 ppl MAX.

28/6/25 25/9 Alyie + Sophie

The labelling of caves in the guide is somewhat dejicuitt.
a is the large shaft at top of hill with snowplugs
b is a smaller hole downslope of a ~10 m deep
c is the gaudy open shaft with a rock bridge. It snowplugs which you can see from where gear is left
d small crawl
e ?
further pitch (call it x) small hole at bottom of reachable slope (quite unstable)

Alyie ~~Sophie~~ bolted 25/9b
it is still snowplugged. Leads to an ~40 cm wide rift with rock and snow on either side

Sophie bolted ~~the~~ x on the surface and began descent. It has many loose large boulders and needs a rebelay or deviator to get to bottom.
Larger than 15 m pitch and opens into larger chamber. Strong draft

Kit left up there (Alyie add)

~~5~~ tapes + Snappatty
9 throughbolts + hangers
3 Spits + hangers
3 oval crabs
1 hammer
70 meter rope + 35 meter still in a cave entrance
1 tarp/bag

Coord (Alyie add) cave near TLJ

43.231115, -4.933085 (google maps coordinates)

43°13'52.0"N 4°55'59.1"W
(make this ones better, I don't know)

~~Last week Andrew, Kai, Rich, Tony~~

29/06/2025 - 25/9 and 21/9 - Toby, Ben, Rocky office

- Dropped 25/9 A to check right rift in snow, closes down into a boulder chocked floor (Not diggable / not worth it)

- Descended hole in 25/9 D, went approx 50m down, then ended in snow plug. Bolts have been stripped, ~~etc~~. The snow plug continues down for at least 6m. It becomes obvious that all holes in 25/9 area end in a ~~snow plug~~ the same snow plug (lots of entrances to same system)

- Descended what is assumed to be 21/9, used 90m down to a snow plug with potential way on in rift, returning the following day.

Left there - 20 M rope, 30M rope, 20 hangers, 4 bolts

SUNDAY 29th JUNE. TR2 - Cave of Old Men's Dream.
Pete Talling, Andrew Atkinson, Julia Acres.

Lovely day out, with extra picnic. We went down to TR2 and enjoyed the cool breeze at the entrance. The cottage cheese was not as bad as last year, but Pete had picked up the wrong set of capping rods, as the fixing pin connected to nothing else. Oh well. But Andrew found a way to get it working, and capping commenced. Some good progress was made by taking off the right wall, which was rock under cottage cheese. More of the right wall needs to be taken off, but there is now space to move and cap the start squeezed at end. One more capping trip needed? Right widens beyond at goes ~ 10 feet before curve to right. Hard to assess what happens, but it has a weak but distinct draft. Good day.

Coral Corner 26-27 June Dave, Dan, Alfie, Chris

26th.

On Thursday morning Dave, Dan, Alfie + Chris descended TLT. The previous day my chest jammer had failed, and Dans descender had bent out of shape, so Quartermaster Scott kindly provided us with these items from his own kit. Having previously capped TLH to make it more comfortable Dave-sized, we were soon down into + Subscribed, through Holier than Thou + into the 2/7 mainstreamway. Matt + Graham had already had a look at the downstream continuation down to Fear + Loathing in Las Bragas, so I won't go into that in detail on that. At F+L we failed to find described way on (a climb down into the boulders marked with a carbide arrow), and continued over the top of the boulder pile to the downstream end of the chamber, passing an intriguing inlet aven in the left-hand wall. After much poking around and consideration of various suboptimal options, we followed the left hand wall of the chamber and temporarily rigged a dubious pitch down from natural, which was descended with due caution into the aforementioned downstream canal. This could be properly bolted as a pitch and may provide a better trade route than wriggling through the boulder choke. The passage from here was a tall narrow vertical rift over a canal, easily traversed + bridged. This abruptly came to an end at a short down-pitch, again rigged off naturals over the top of OCCCs 90s vintage rope + slings. The nature of passage completely changed at that point to wide meanders sculptured streamway in OFD-like marbled rock. This soon led to Coral Corner, readily identified by the coral fossils in some large limestone blocks which had fallen across the ~~stream~~passage. On top of one of these was a cairn and permanent survey station, which was in place but had suffered some flood damage and was not easily legible. Coral Corner is a complex 3d space at the intersection of two fault at right-angles to one another

with the main streamway taking a left turn through 90°. On the outside of the corner, in the continuation of the upstream rift an inlet enters at a slightly ~~better~~ higher level. A climb up an in situ 00cc handline led to a remarkably draughty popcorn stalagmite grotto. Proceeding through this for a few meters leads to a pitch back down into the ongoing rift which was not descended but looked promising. Both the handline and the pitch were rigged off naturals with vintage tat and should be rebolted before use. Back at Coral Corner, water also enters from much higher up, probably from above the downstream continuation, and has dissipated into a gentle rain by the time it reaches stream level. I briefly climbed higher in the chamber to get a better look at this but shied away, without bolt or aid climbing tat. I fired some splays from the survey assistant to facilitate a sketch of the chamber, while the others loafed further downstream for a few minutes. We then headed back upstream. Having ascended the temporary rigged pitch at F→L, I managed to leave behind my neoprene cuff which had been padding the rope on a sharp corner. If anyone were to retrieve the cuff it would be good. The rope was left there as an indication of where to bolt (probably slightly further on the left-hand wall) and we proceed upstream for a few hours to camp at Bay Tho Tichet.

After a pleasant + uneventful first camp, we headed out the next day. Dan with a shredded glove, and Chris with tendonitis and minus one cuff. Thankfully it was the last day of the expedition for us so this was no inconvenience.

Tb.

To summarise jobs to do:

- Four pitches to bolt and rig:
  ~ 5m down from boulder pile into downstream ~~cor~~
  continuation at F+L
  ~ 5m down out of rift traverse just upstream of Coral Corner
  ~10m handline to replace up into inlet passage at
  Coral Corner
  ~ 5m down pitch into orgoing inlet passage

Possible bolt/aid climbs:

- Inlet Awen in left hand wall at F+L.
- To look at high-level inlets at Coral Corner.

24th ~~August~~ June
Skull Cave, Tom, Michael, Fiona

Tom and Fiona capped awkward tight bit above third pitch, definately much easier now to set into the tight rift/pitch head. Probably a bit more capping would make the rift much easier. Meanwhile Michael surveyed from a few metres

30/06/25 BEN, TOBY, VAL

21/9 → SOUTHERN EDGE OF LARGE BOWL BELOW C4

WE RETURNED TO 21/9 BRIGHT AND EARLY, BEATING THE MORNING HEAT. AUDREY JOINED US FOR THE HIKE. WE RAPIDLY PASSED THE FIRST SERIES OF PITCHES QUICKLY REACHING THE LIMIT OF THE PREVIOUS DAYS RIGGING. THE LENGTH ~~OF~~ SNOW RAMP (REACHED AT -25m) CAME TO A SHEER DROP OF ~50m ~~DOWN~~. WE RIGGED A TRAVERSE OF 3 BOLTS AWAY FROM THE OVERHANGING ICE PLUG. ~~THE~~ ABOVE THIS TRAVERSE IS A SMALL (CURRENTLY DRY) INLET. THE PITCH BELOW THE TRAVERS IS ~50m DOWN THE EDGE OF THE ~~ICE~~WALL. THE BASE OF THIS SHAFT IS -

BOLT CLIMB + DIVE PLANNING

~~SAT 28TH~~ Monday 30 — 27 PPE/
Tuesday 1 — 27 BOLT DAY 1
Wednes 2 — 27. BOLT DAY 2
~~THURS~~ 3
THURS 3 — 27. DAY TRIP TO MAR CAMP.
FRIDAY 4 DAY IN FOR DIVE
SATURDAY
SUNDAY DIVE DAY.
TEAM
DIVE OUT.

↳ MOSTLY ICE BUT A [redacted] GRAVEL FLOOR CAN BE SEEN BELOW. THERE IS NO WAY THROUGH AT THE BASE HOWEVER AT THE SLOW LEVEL A RIFT DOES CONTINUE! THE ROCK HERE IS POOR HOWEVER WE WERE ABLE TO UTILISE SLINGS AROUND THE ICE TO PROTECT THE FINAL DROP INTO THIS RIFT. A SHORT SLOPE UP LEADS TO A SQUEEZE (HAMMERED MUCH LARGER). SHORTLY AFTER THE RIFT BECOMES TOO SMALL. REQUIRES CAPPING - VERY STRONG DRAUGHT. GOOD LEAD BUT UNABLE TO ALLOCATE MORE TIME. BT/TW returning TO DE/RIG AND SURVEY TOMMORROW.

TLJ. PLAN. BOLTING + DIVING

BOLT CLIMB. TEAM.

1/ RICH
2/ Steve MUSH.
3? ~~PHILIP~~ Toby
4 Ben

} Tuesday + Wednesday.

Wednesday bounce to make camp.

Wednesday
DIVE GEAR IN!

5-6 ppl ~~be~~ for dive carry.

Tuesday IN.

Andrew ⇒ Dive Gear IN
Pete T ⇒ Dive gear IN.
Fiona ⇒ Dive gear IN.
Valerie ⇒ Dive gear IN.

} Bounce TRIP

Tues
SKULL cave
1 MICHAEL
& Tom.
3 Rocks.

Wednesday DIVE CARRY Team

~~Toby~~ Kai
Michael.
~~Ben~~ ~~PHILIP~~?
Tom

DIVE BAG

~~CANCELLED~~

Bounce

WEDNESDAY
CARRY ~~DOWN~~
~~3 BAGS~~ HILL
~~IN~~

1/ Michael
2 Tom
3 ~~Valerie~~ ~~Philip~~
camp move IN

Wednesday dive support IN

Tony S. Diver (out Friday)
1 Aileen. (out Thurs)
2 ~~TBC~~ Eoghan (out Thur)
3 PHIL (out Fri)

Ollie ~~Andrew~~
Sophie
~~Aileen~~ ? Aileen
~~Ben~~ Eoghan

TLJ PLAN

THURSDAY

DIVE DAY

DIVE GEAR leave. with DIVE SUPPORT.

~~CA~~ DECAMP TEAM. ×3.) / Insiders out.

Insider CAMP - out.

DAY TRIPPERS To Bring BAGS out.

THURSDAY DIVE BOUNCE ~~HO~~ > CARRY OUT 7 BAGS

JULIA
Michael
PHILIP
TOM
Kai
~~PHIL~~ EOGHAN
AILEEN
~~JULIA~~

PICK UP ~~[illegible]~~ ~~JULIA~~?
DIVE GEAR
FROM SURVEY STATION 31.

OUT WITH DIVE GEAR.

Rest DAY THURS
STEVE, RICH, TOBY, BEN, SOPHIE, ALFIE, ROCKY.

JOBS: CAMP SORT / CARRY down OTHER CAVE

~~F~~ THURSDAY DECAMP IN (CAMPING THURS / FRI).

1/ ~~TOBY~~ ~~IRC~~ Fiona ♀ CAMP BAG 1
2 ~~BOAT~~ ~~TSC~~ Val ♀ CAMP BAG 2

FRIDAY DIVE
CARRY ~~BOUNCE~~ / GEAR CARRY DOWN HILL

STAYING THURS / FRI

1/ PHIL
2 TONY

CAMP BAG 3=4

Bounce on ~~Friday~~ - TLJ

1 ~~Andrew~~ Tom
2 ~~Robby~~ Toby
3 ~~Valerie~~ Steve
4 ~~Ben~~

5 ~~Toby~~

~~CARRY OUT~~
~~OR TOURS~~

RICH +
STEVE +
ANDREW TO
Decide on
NUMBERS

FINAL

1/ Kai ♀ ✓
2 ~~Michael~~ ♀
3 ~~Tom~~ Aileen
4 ~~FIONA~~ ? Julia
5 ~~Pt~~ Philip
6 ~~Ben~~ Andrew
7 ~~Toby~~ Pete
8 ~~Valerie~~ ~~Steve~~
martin

30/6/25- TJJ - bolt Climb with Rich, Alfie + Kai

We went down to the main streamway and looked for a ~~climb~~ 4m climb on the right when going up stream. as per a previous ~~the~~ report. Alfie went up it but could not find a suitable route for a bolt climb. as it was more than 4m so decided to use the time and ~~bolt~~ battery power to bolt a route above the cascade near viagra falls incase of wet weather so people can escape.

Written by Kai

Gear Log:

Along main Streamway:

ropes 10m to 14m

4 short through bolts with hangers

etriaer

ajustable etriar

Rich's personal aid climbing kit

Top of Holier than tho

21m rope

1x1.2m sling

aprox 6m of tape

maillons x7

1 crab

4 twist hangers

2 bent hangers

1 tacktle bag

30/6/25. Skull cove cont.

191 Tonys must not have had bones, or must have been able to in gravity. Rocky passed half of the gear back into the Eft, including a phone to coptore the moment. After 2 slings had been rigged to aid a wide range of emotions, much swearing, and Michael reaching in croll/crotch a bunch - Tom finally emerged. Now that it was ~ we headed out of the cave Knackered but thankful that it wa Storming.

on the way to find a kit stash, we found a small entrance clo Skull Cave, ~~at~~ just below and West of it . This looks to continue, sounds bigger beyond, but would require a few hours capping (and s It probably would connect into Skull Cave? bug br

30/6/25 - Skull cave - Michael, Tom, Rocky

We set off from camp at 8:30, arrived 9:30, and were underground for 10:15. Tom got on with some more capping of the Eft for ~1h whilst Michael finished catching the survey up to the pitch head of The Hollow Men (P40), and Rocky helped out both. At ~12, after a snack, Tom placed a bolt (after one unsuccessful attempt) and rigged the pitch.

The rigging is:

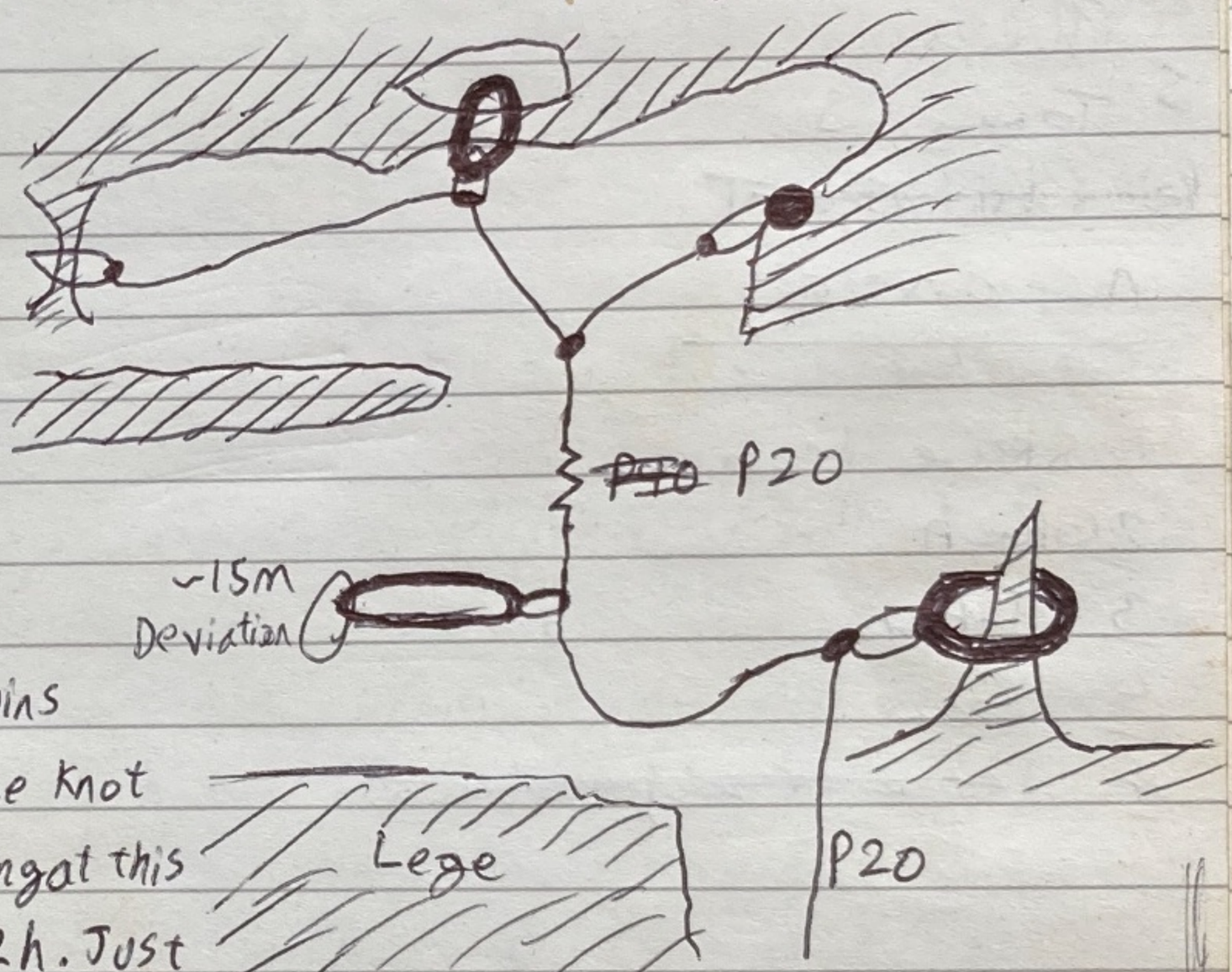
Small, unreliable stal/cdown

↓ traverse

sling in ceiling

↓ y-hang

bolt in for wall



Tom then tried to fit through the squeeze, but couldn't fit in about 10mins of trying due to a tight pinch just below the knot of the y-hang. Tom was bored of capping at this point, so Michael capped & hammered for ~2h. Just as the area before the hang was big enough to cap the pinch - Michael dropped the capping rod & mat down the pitch... Bugger.

Some enlargement had been accomplished, so Tom had another go at the squeeze in order to go fetch the capping rod. This time he got through (after breathing out), and found the capping ~~rod~~ mat on the first main ledge, ~20m down. He rigged the deviation on the '91 sling, and abseiled on to a big spike using a new sling. At the bottom of this 2nd ~20m pitch, there was again no sign of the capping rod. There were several large holes in the floor, any of which the rod could have gone down, and all would need more rigging to get down. After ~40min of searching, Tom came back to the top with only a mat.

Passing everything he could through to Michael, who then passed it on to Rocky, he then spent the next hour or so desperately squeezing through the pitch head. Making inches of progress at a time, and gradually becoming less & less happy, Tom had finally met his match with a squeeze.

←

Reserved

~~Wednesday~~ Tuesday 1 July

1 ~~food~~ Dinner Rest for carlotta.

EATING @ normal time (8pm)

1 Aileen
2 Phil B
3 Kai
4 Philip
5 Tony S
~~6 Philip T~~

Not eating

1 Steve Muh
2 Rich
3 Toby
4 Ben
~~5 Tom (self catered)~~

Away
Julia.

eating late @ 10pm

1 Michael
~~2 Pete~~
2 Rocky
3 Tom
4 Andrew
5 Pete T
~~6 Valerie~~

Self-catering

1 Goglow
2 Sophie
3 Alpha
4 Fiona
5 Martin.
6 Valerie.

Wednesday 2nd July
Dinner FOR Refugio

[TALK TO SETTI !]

EATING @ normal time (7pm).

1 Pete T.
~~2 Julia.~~
3 Rocky
4 Andrew
~~5~~ Phil (v)

EATING LATE (10pm).

1. Michael
3 Kai
3 Tom
~~4 Philip. (v).~~
5 Rich

6 Steve Muh
7 Toby (v)
8 Ben
9 Julia.

on Wednesday morning.

Wednesday 2nd July

Dinner for Lehigro.

NOT EATING.
1 Aileen 3 Tony
2 Phil

SELF CATERING: 1 Eoghan (not here) 3 Alfie 5 Frank
2 Valerie 4 Sophie. 6 Martin

Thurs Breakfast :

30/6 - 1/7/25 Tony, Sophie, Aileen, Phil

TLI pushing trips to Canals, plus eyes on sumps for Tony prior to dive. Only Sophie had been through connection before, so they navigated us through to 2/7 from bottom of big shaft. Upstream journey v. enjoyable to BITTER, with interesting options taken over dogs pooh including a V3 boulder problem at water level (one for the climbers there....). Arrived at camp about 2pm and farted about for a bit. Despite Phil's aversion to out of depth water, he, Aileen (who has an affinity for deep water) and Sophie donned the dry suits to check out the lead at the end of Canals on Mars. Tony provided essential expertise in dry suit fitting/use. After descending the rope to the Canals, SRT kit was ditched + an amazing bob along to the boulder choke ensued (although surprisingly, some walking + boulder hits too.). Sophie undertook →

01/07/25- Xitu gear store sort Kai + martin

4x Jerry cans 25L

1 digging bucket

1 underground tent - needs cord

In same barrel

2 reels of webbing

2 Person tent ~~shelter~~

Hand sanitiser x 15 bottles

20 x lighters

1 shelter

1 poo ~~drum~~ drum

1 barrel:

Cups

plates

mixed eating irons

3x various pan sets

10x cord mats

1 darren dram of candles

1 crow bar with sling

2x capping mats

roll of carey mats pins for padding tackle sacks

2x 5L petrol cans - empty

5x half litre MSR petrol bottles

Barrel labled digging hand tools

1 barrel of digging gear:

Lots of cable ties

20x through bolts

2x tip ex

Screw driver

pliers

adjustable spanner

Chizzel x2

x2 bolting hammer

Lots of zip lock bags

3 ~~wire~~ ~~wire~~ leathers

Storing

Various cord

1 dorren drum of spins
1 empty dorren drum
1x size 9 wellies (pair of)
Storing Kpods x3 - in white tub with a black lid
Tussocks ~~x8 packs of 10~~ → 8 PACKS of 10.

In pot
Knife sharpner
1x worm slakes
1x can opner

ROPES: 20 Various SRT ropes
5 white tubs with 1 lid
NOTE: NO More GAS IN XITU

(Canals push continued)

← safety watch, while Phil + Aileen climbed up the ramp indicated by Sandy / Mark, using a dodgy interpretation of bathy, leading + handlining. The roof of the passage was reached with only moderate rockfall. It was an enticingly black space, but after an hour or so of looking, no way on, and no draught. All very upsetting really - it appears 'Mars bars' onward progress .... A bob back to camp by 9pm, with Tony cooking amazing fuel.
Following day, sorting camp until 10.30am then a quick check of the bolt climbs in BTTTTR. Back at Holier Than Thou by about 1pm. Sophie + Phil excited to spread team out (surface at 4.20pm) and Tony / Aileen checked the Full Moon Rising Soup ready for Tony's dive. All back by 8-9pm.
Such a good streamway + shaft series.

WEDNESDAY ~~28th~~ JULY 2025

CARRY DOWN TO LOS CABOS
- TONY'S CAR (MARTIN HAS KEY).

1 RUBBISH (BIN)
2 Broken gear pile (BIN).
3

TAKE FROM TONY'S BOOT

1 2× Ropes
2 Flapjacks!
(if there are any in the green bags)

Tuesday 1st July 2025

Philip + Sophie + Eoghan 21/9 derig + survey

After quirky late start due to changes in TLJ plans last minute we found ourselves walking up the hill in the heat. Eoghan and Philip walked to the viewpoint and then we all went down to the cave entrance.

There was a 0 marker at the top and a 15 marker just beyond the freehanging traverse on the way in. We surveyed up to the 15 & from the bottom (NOTE the survey markers will need to be reversed)

Philip + Eoghan derigged and we took all the kept gear back to camp (70m rope + new rope + hangers + tapes)

01/07/25 TLJ Kit carry Bounce trip
Andrew, Fiona, Pete, Valerie

Walked up to the entrance in the morning, waited there for other teams to go in first and for some stuff (inc. Valerie's suit + SRT) to be brought down from 21/9 by Ben and Toby. Started down the cave at about noon. No issues getting down TLJ and Lake and Subscribe, and although we were slightly uncertain on finding our way to the bags to bring back out we made it without any wrong turns. We had enough time to clamber up to Viagra Falls and took a short break there, before heading back the way we came. Exited the cave around 10pm while the sky was still light, but was quite dark by the time we got back to camp.

This trip was the biggest I've ever done so far by a fair margin (perhaps not in terms of the, but certainly intensity, verticality, general wow factor). I brought down enough food that I didn't have energy issues on the way out (I was feeling ravenous by the time we returned to camp though), and was mainly slowed towards the end by a sore foot and some harness chafing from the prussicking.

TLJ is truly awe-inspiring. It's on such a different scale to anything I've seen hardly before, the size makes it difficult/impossible to fully process the size of such an impressive cave. The closest I got was in those moments of looking up and down

at the lights of the others, and knowing that those distances between us were just a fraction of the whole thing. At times, especially the longer sections of rope, it was quite daunting, but I didn't have any actual problems with fear.

I have sadly realised that I lost one of my studearrings at some point on the trip, definitely never to be seen again.

As a first big expedition trip for me, it certainly didn't disappoint, and I feel confident in wanting to do more, of whatever form that may take on this expedition or another.

—Valerie

Wednesday 2 July Top Camp area Walk to F80 per Sandy's Softboshy Hitlist

Left Ario at 11.00 in classic Picos drizzle. Contoured across to Tras la Jayada, finding S/9 on the way there. Quick look at this year's rigging from the other side, then on up into the around the head of the cwm path and the path round to La Jayada itself. Ongoing mizzle across to the snow pole and consider options. I decided the GPS for F80, the furthest known entrance that risks turning the Ario Dream into its biggest bestest self. Barely a kilometre - easy! A line of cairns is easily found from the small triangular flat platform in fact multiple lines of cairns. For F80, the line of travel is essentially 180° south. A handful of rebecco's watched my progress as I set about following a rising contour over the skyline to my south. A short shallow valley, another brown snake about the diameter of my little finger and about a foot long. At the head of the valley, the col gives access

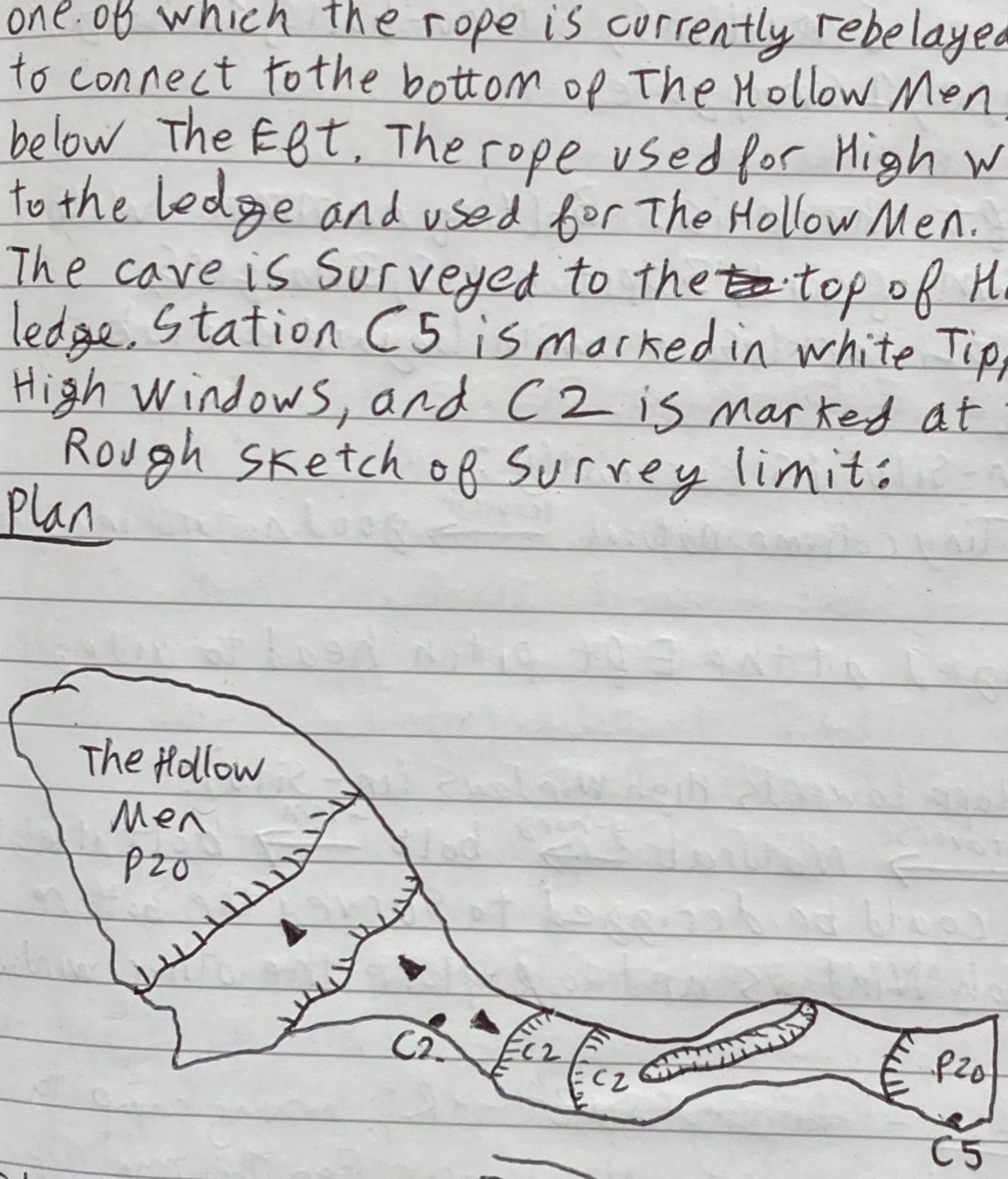
to a high sloping bowl. Three cairns at the lowest node of the bowl and that's your lot. I looked up the scree as far as I could see into the mizzle and while the shape of the skyline appeared, route appeared there none. I went across to the visible rock shelter and the ongoing valley left there. GPS told me the nearby presence of F28 - high enough I couldn't see it from where I was - I looked up the valley of where I thought I could see a route up. A route for rebecca sure. Edited version - I climbed up a route that wasn't a route and eventually emerged onto an area where I could walk up on modest slope. 1404m - Thanks GPS. Up onto top of flat ridge, GPS wants me to go down the side. Forgot my anti-gravity boots - no! Went on the GPS wanted me to come back down and back on myself. Now I could see the entrance. Where CH entrance is a bucket in a cliff face this is a bigger bucket in an altogether bigger cliff face. Access via off vestial slope of mixed grass and loose chippings. Every time one slips, it goes a long way. Down to the lip of the bucket check GPS. Perfect. One kilometre two hours. It took 10 minutes to get back onto ground flat enough I felt confident to sit and text whatsapp that Sandy's instruction had been followed stupidly. Following the obvious route in the right direction home led to the top of the scree bowl I had peered up at through the mizzle sometime before. Some careful climbing down onto the scree then the joy of mobile footprints collapsing under every step. Wheee! Contoured across to the rock shelter to check out the small volume of snow patch and limited shelter on offer. Not great. Back to the snow pole in 50 minutes from the top. Back to the fuente Eastern cattle trough in another 35 and back to the refugio to enjoy the weather. Yay!

Martin

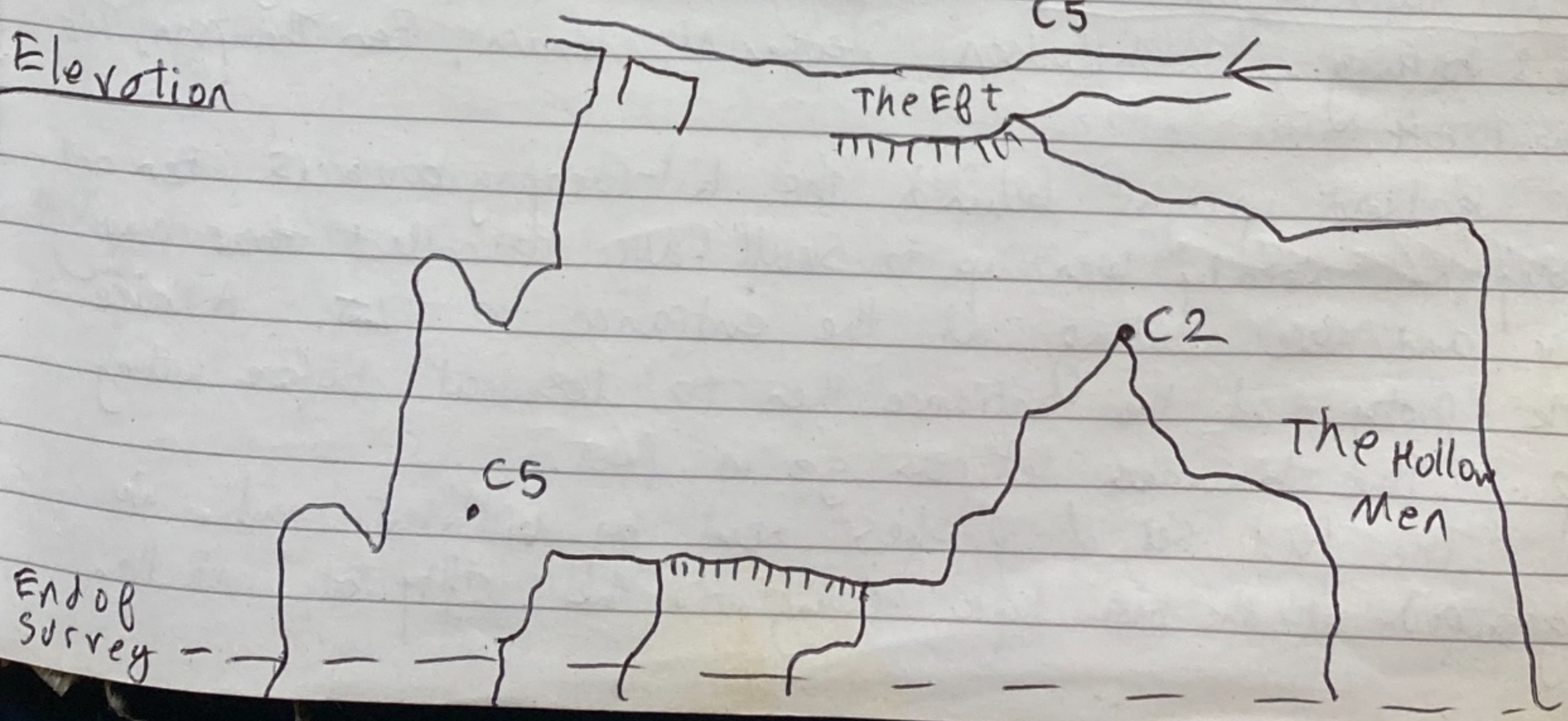
Skull cove Status as of 1/7/25

The Eft is big enough for Michael (6ft, 78kg) to squeeze through. May want some more copping and a better backup.
The cave is rigged down past the Eft, and into High Windows. This is not the main way on, but has a few windows that need exploring, one of which the rope is currently rebelayed into. One of these is known to connect to the bottom of The Hollow Men, which is the main way on below The Eft. The rope used for High windows could be derigged to the ledge and used for The Hollow Men.
The cave is surveyed to the top of High Windows, and the ledge. Station C5 is marked in white Tippex near the y-hang of High Windows, and C2 is marked at the crest of the ledge.
Rough sketch of survey limit:

Plan



Elevation



Skull cave status cont.
Equipment in the cave:

At the top of High Windows, there is a tackle sack (yellow, ~3L) inside are the ropes (top to bottom) 40m, 25m, 35m.
These should rig the rest of the cave known in '91.
Attached to this bag are: 6 maillons, 6 thru-bolts, 10 hangers, 1 spit bolt, ~2m of tape, 1 snapgate.

At the top of The Eft there is: Bolting hammer with lanyard & krab, ~2m of cord, 3 spit bolts, 3 hangers, 3 maillons, and ~20L tacklesack with lanyard & krab.

The lower rigging (in-situ) is currently:
Enter The Eft → Tiny collumn natural —traverse→ good natural in ceiling —y-hang→ bolt —~20m→
There is a sling rigged at the Eft pitch head to aid egress

Heading down the slope towards High Windows (in-situ):
Rebelay at natural —traverse→ Natural —y-hang→ bolt —~10m→ bolt at ledge
This last bolt could be derigged to survey the bottom of ~~the Main~~ High Windows and to explore the other windows

TLJ, Tues 01 Jul 2025 - Bolting in BTTTTR, moving camp to Few & Lofting. Rich Hudson, Stephen Macnamara, Ben Thompson, Toby Wheatcroft.

Walked up just behind the kit-carrying bouncers. Ben and Toby had already been up to Skull Cave to collect their caving gear and were waiting at the entrance to TLJ. A nice little party at the entrance then to de-sweat before kitting up. The bouncers let us go in first.
The first set of pitches went by without event. We regrouped at the base before heading into the rifty bit, and then

down to the connection. Fierce draft down there.

~~From~~ We went into the main stream, and downstream less than 100m to find the planned new campsite - a lovely, flat-bottomed sandy ledge up a rocky slope. Afterwards, we turned around and went upstream past Viagra Falls (very impressive), through all the acrobatics of water avoidance, finally reaching the previous campsite about an hour later. I was pretty tired at this point - combination of no proper dinner the day before, and v. little sleep also...

Had a quick cup of tea and then back to the bolt climb - 50 m up the boulder slope at the junction with Tapeworm. There I sat for about 4+ hours while Rich did fantastic work of getting up ~40 m towards the big hole above. He'll write that up.

Back for dinner at about 23:30.

Next morning, after breakfast, we went back up & finished the climb - unfortunately it didn't go far ~ see below...

Toby & Ben meanwhile packed up the camp and carried half of it back through the streamway to the new campsite.

Rich & I finished up, packed to loading stuff & ropes, and followed later to the new campsite. Met Alfie & Sophie before we started off (who collected the remainder of the camp bags). At the new campsite, had a small dinner - Tony, Phil, Eoghan and Aileen were already there. Rich+I started off about 18:30. I made an accidental drop to the sump on the way.

Back to the surface for 22 → 23:00, then a dark, misty walk back. Thank God for those yellow flag markers.

TLT Wed 02 July Alyia + Sophie

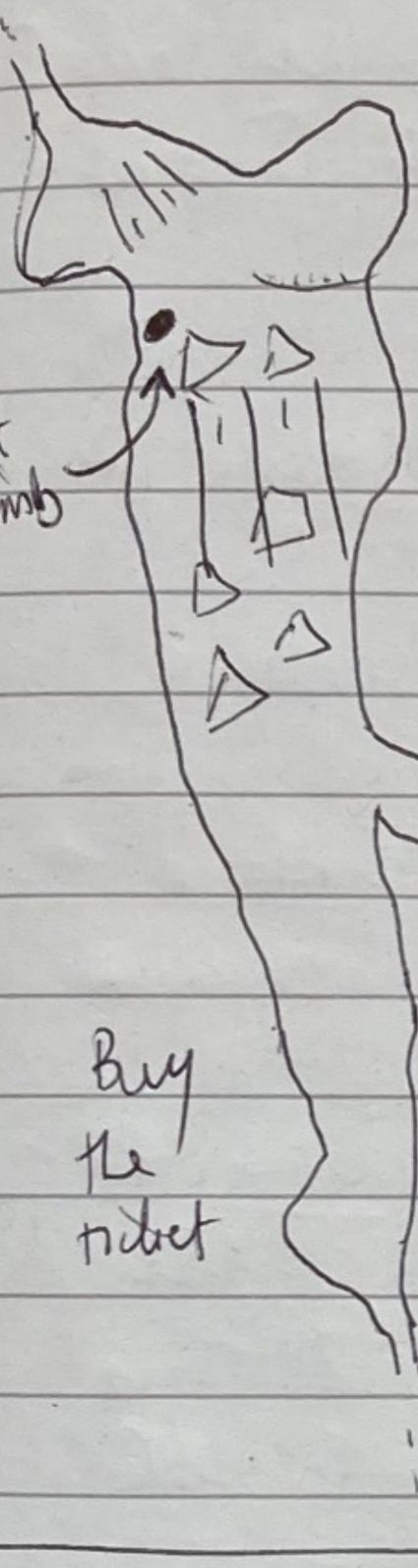
Bounce trip to help move camp from Bug the Tuket to Fear and loathing before the dive.
Brought down one dive bag to service station 31 and some empty bags to camp.
Passed Ben and Toby in the streamway who had some camp bags. Continued to camp and sorted through some kit from bolt climb with Steve + Rich.
They headed out ahead of us and we headed to camp at a very leisurely pace delivering 2 bags + roll mats to camp.
We then left TLT taking out the hangers and quick draws to the surface.

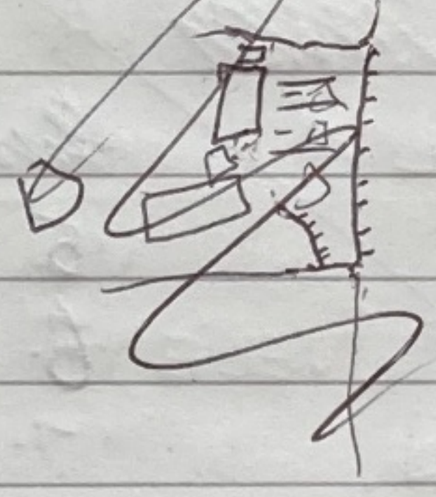
Aid Climb → 1st → 2nd July 2025
Rich (climber) Steve Macnamara (Belage)

The climb started well on good rock and rapid progress was made to ≈ 20m. A quick descent to re-rack the quick-draws with both and a second climb was made to within ≈5m of the top before we called it a night.
The next day, the last 5m was tackled. This was dreadful with no good rock, lots of mud a meandering line creating excessive rope drag an abandonment of rope and a very sketchy off bolt

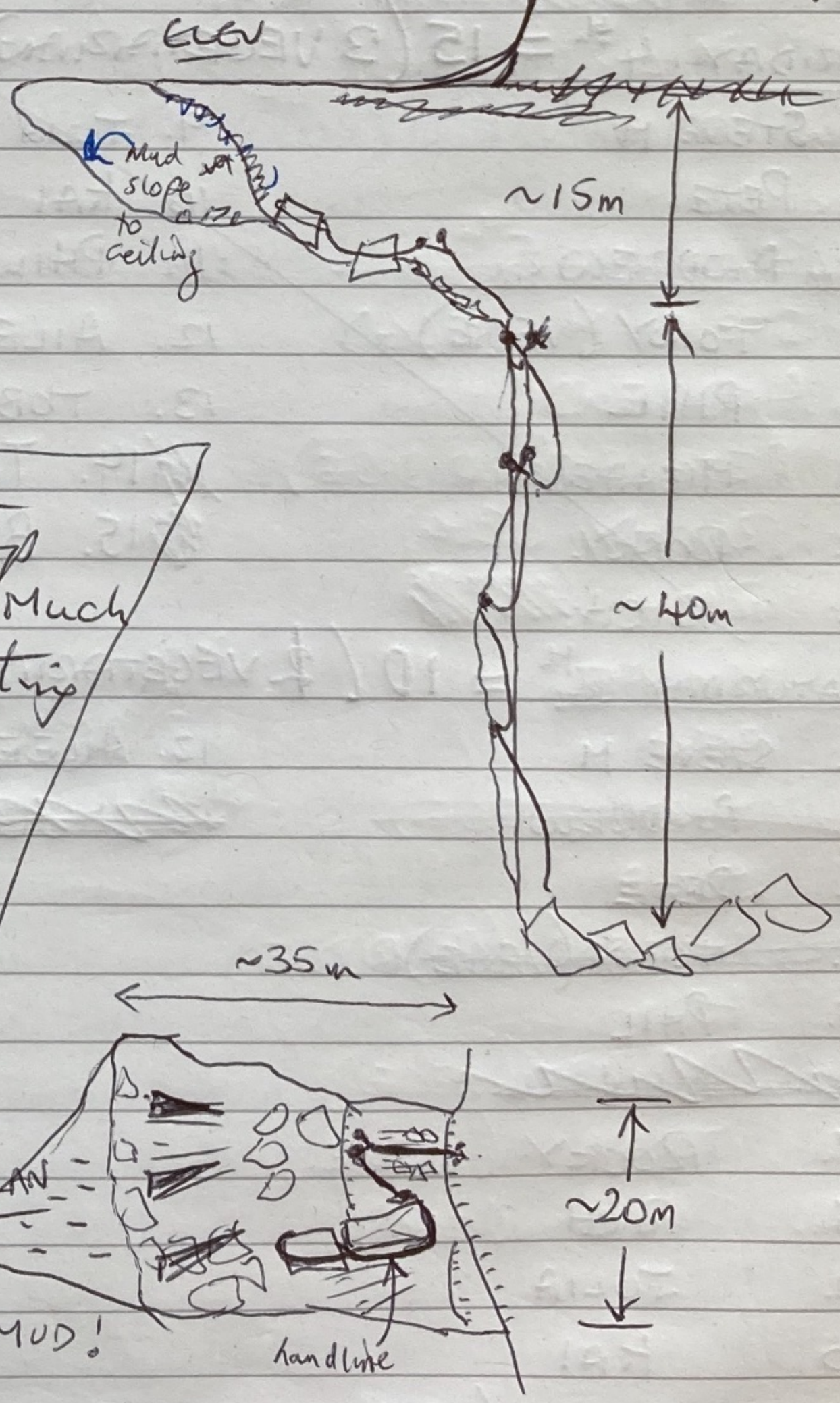
WHISKEY GALORE

Tapeworm





Bolt Climb : Whiskey Galore



scramble gained the top and safe(ish) ground. Much fun (sic) was had getting down with no abseil rope & even more shennanigans stripping out the climbing gear Steve then came up & we explored up the mud slope to find the area cropped out like so many other climbs. NEEDS TO BE SURVEYED (Rope left in situ)

DINNERS

THURSDAY 3rd.

7pm.

1. ALFIE
2. SOPHIE
3. JULIA
4. MICHAEL
5. ROCKY
6. BEN
7. TOBY.
8. RICH.

9pm

1. PETE
2. ANDREW
3. STEVE M
4. AILEEN
5. KAI
6. PHILIP (VEGE)
7. TOM.

FRIDAY 4th = 15 (3 VEGETARIAN) PEOPLE

1. STEVE M
2. PETE
3. ANDREW
4. TONY (VEGE)
5. PHIL
6. MICHAEL
7. ROCKY.
8. RICH
9. JULIA
10. KAI
11. PHILIP (VEGE)
12. AILEEN
13. TOBY (Veggie)
14. Tom
15. Ben

SATURDAY 5th = 10 (2 VEGETARIAN) PEOPLE

1. STEVE M
2. ANDREW
3. PETE.
4. TONY (VEGE)
5. PHIL
6. MICHAEL
7. ROCKY.
8. RICH
9. JULIA
10. KAI
11. PHILIP (VEGE)
12. AILEEN

SUNDAY 6th = 10 (2 VEGETARIAN) PEOPLE

1. ANDREW
2. TONY (VEGE)
3. PHIL
4. RICH (EGG)
5. ROCKY ~~(VEGE)~~
6. KAI
7. JULIA
8. AILEEN ~~(VEGETARIAN)~~
9. PHILIP (VEGE)
10 STEVE M
11. ~~ANDREW~~

MONDAY 7th = 6 (1 VEGETARIAN) PEOPLE

1. ANDREW
2. TONY (VEGE)
3. RICH
4. PHIL
5. ROCKY
6. KAI

TUESDAY 8th + WEDNESDAY 9th = 6 (1 VEGE) PEOPLE

1. ANDREW
2. TONY (VEGE)
3. PHIL
4, RICH
5, ROCKY
6. KAI

BREAKFAST ⇒ PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR TIMES + CHOICES.

FRIDAY 4th

1. STEVE M (EGGS) ✓
2. ANDREW & ✓
3. PETE (PORRIDGE) ✓
4. ROCKY (EGG) ✓
5. RICH ~~(VEGGIE)~~ ✓
6. MICHAEL ✓
7. BEN ✓
8. ~~TOBY (VEGE)~~ KATH.
9. JULIA ✓
10. AILEEN (PORRIDGE) ✓
11. ~~DARREN (VEGGIE)~~ KAI ✓
12. PHILIP (VEGE) (egg) ✓

SATURDAY 5th

1. STEVE M (EGG)
2. ANDREW
3. PETE (PORRIDGE)
4. ROCKY (EGG)
5. RICH ~~(VEGGIE)~~
6. MICHAEL
7. BEN
8. ~~TOBY (VEGE)~~
9. JULIA
10. AILEEN (PORRIDGE)
11. KAI
12. PHILIP (VEGE) (egg)
13. TONY (VEGE)
14. PHIL (EGG)

AILEEN COUNTS (87) NEW FLOORS

SUNDAY 6TH

1. ANDREW !!
2. STEVE M. (EGG)
3. ROCKY (EGG)
4. RICH [redacted]
5. PHILIP (VEGE) (egg)
6. AILEEN (PORRIDGE)
7. JULIA
8. TONY (VEGE)
9. KAI
10. PHIL (egg)

MONDAY 7TH

1. ANDREW
2. TONY (VEGE)
3. PHIL (egg)
4. RICH [redacted]
5. ROCKY (EGG)
6. KAI
7. STEVE M
8. PHILIP (VEGE) (egg)
9. AILEEN (PORRIDGE) ?

TUESDAY 8TH

1. ANDREW
2. TONY (VEGE)
3. PHIL (egg)
4. RICH [redacted]
5. ROCKY (EGG)
6. KAI

WEDNESDAY 9TH

1. ANDREW
2. TONY (VEGE)
3. PHIL (egg)
4. RICH [redacted]

4 July 2005.

Friday 4th ... PLANNING — Updated PLANNING from Previous entry

TLJ DECAMP

1/ Steve
2 Toby
3 Tom

TN2

1/ Michael
2 Ben

Walk Dive gear Down

1 Aileen
2 Julia.
3 Pete
4 Andrew
5 Kai
6 Philip
7 Eoghan.
8 (~~Ben in evening~~). ~~Abbie + Sophie?~~

Skull cave

Abbie
Sophie

Surface laptop

Mahon-

IN TLJ

1/ Phil
2 Tony
3 Val
4 Fuad

TLS Tender TMP

1/ Rich
2 Rocky.

3-4 July

TLJ camping trip. Fiona. Valerie. coming up with Tony Phil.

It was decided on Wednesday evening by Andrew that Valerie and I can go down TLJ for a camping trip as the ~~de~~ De-camp team. ~~The~~
The weather wasn't very nice on Wednesday (cloudy and ~~drizzle~~ to light rain). I was hoping ~~the weed~~ we can get some sunshine on Thursday moring but no. ~~it too~~ the weather got even worse on Wednesday evening. it turned into heavy rain and on Thursday moring its still soggy and I ~~don't~~ didn't get a chance to dry my stuff.
The original plan on Thursday is that Valerie and I ~~se~~ set off the last, let the bounce trip people go in first. but as it was so foggy on Thursday moring it was decided for all seven of us to set off together. The hike was fine, I overheard some conversation about pee and poo but anyway. ~~the~~ The hike ~~was~~ a was about 50 min. I made the ~~We reached TLJ, got~~ wise choice of hikeing in my caving wellies.

We reached TLJ. got changed. Valerie and I went down the last the descend was fine. ~~so~~ mostly went smoothly as usual. But at one rebelay, I got my short cowstail crab stuck between the ~~rope~~ milon and the rope. I got it unstck, by standing on my foot jamer on the previous rope. We got to the pottom. with no problem. and reached the stream way The stream way was still shallow at that point. However we still got a little water in wellies while traversing.

(2:20pm)

~~The~~ Once arrived at camp. we changed into dry clothes, put plastic bags on our foot which works incredibly well on sand. A few minutes later. Tony and Phil showed up. We ~~had~~ boiled hot water in the camp and had hot chocolate ~~and~~. soup and dinner.
the camp was warmer than I expected. It was also very sandy (it was around 3min hike up from water level so hopefully high enough so it doesn't get flooded) sand literaly gets everywhere, on our cutleries. bows. pots. everyone got a little extra sandy

bad news: when we arrived yesterday, the waterlevel in stream way was low, we could keep ourselves mostly dry if careful but when we are going out, the water level went up an extra 2 feet. now waist-deep. getting wet is unavoidable. The water was cold and the flow ~~x~~ was strong at some parts. it was very painful, especially with my personal bag I was trying to keep dry (where it has my phone init).
ingredients in their water. (it tastes like dirt). We went to bed at 7pm
~~xx~~ Tony and Phil woke up at 5.30 am the next day (Friday)
Mo and Valerie woke up at 6 am.
We had breakfast, decamp, put stuff into several bags and left some of the camping stuff at the camp site since we are planning to come back in 2026.
We carried the bag all the way to the bottom of the first pitch there we met others ~~xx~~ and they took the bags from us.
We climbed out. it was sunny. Everyone survied. with or without ~~x~~ some ~~x~~ scratches.

— Fiona. 4th July. Friday. TLJ camping trip

Skull Cave - 4th July Alyie + Sophie

Carried a drill and buttery up the hill. We were feeling kinda silly and didn't do all that much. ~~Oh~~ Both of us fit through The Eyt without too much dyyficulty but it should deyinitely be cupped more, particularly the bit where the pitchhead is.
We deraygged the rope from the shuyt going off the main shuyt (leaving karayuss and maillons rayged as requested). Moved the rope to descend down the other route. This has some slings left from the 90s which we used for demos. Bolting may prove dyyicult as ~~x~~ the majority of surfaces are covered in cubic. Any ~~x~~ learn going in to my should take lots of tapes and to use for naturals.

Took an inventory before heading out which is below. Going out the Eyl is more challenging but takes < 5 mins each. Again would suggest further cupping

SKULL CAVE INVENTORY

Drill
Battery (Fully charged)
16 x throughbolt (with hangers + maillons)
1 x oval crab
Full tackleset of rope (> 100m)
2 x tacklesacks (including one above)
Drybag

+ neoprene ~~repeat~~ ~~repeat~~ ropes and slings ...

3/07/25 - Bear Camp of TLJ
There was 7 of us that carried out Gear from the Sump Kai, Eoghan, Aileen, Phillip, Tom and Michel, Julia we had to wait around a little bit at the sump and hid in the groups shelter eating haribos. getting out did not take too long and we had a good tag system for getting bags through the rift.

Skull Cave to do:

- Cap The Eft wider
- Rig to the '91 limit of the main route if rigging is needed
  ↳ from the bottom of The Hollow Men (below the Eft)
  ~~2~~ climb ~~down~~ up into continuation of the chamber
  ~~2~~
  ↳ Follow trickle of water, on right - then I am unclear:

"The way on from the Waste Land is near where the main trickle of water drops some 4m over a series of small ledges to where it drains through a small hole. To the right of this, a larger hole is a window into the top of a large echoing shaft; this is a large, easily possible rift, Church Going, which is thought .... (speculation) .... A light squeeze leads downstream from the base of the rift. A small passage, Pilgrims Progress, can be followed at floor level for ~15m through several squeezes, to within 3m of a large sounding space in which water can be heard trickling."

- Cap the lead at the bottom of the '91 exploration

- Survey the rest of the cave
  ↳ Sketch of last scraps a few pages back, from 1/7/25

- Bolt and rig the rest of the cave, to explore and survey
  ↳ Below the Eft, not the main way on, has some slings and a bolt to rig High Windows with a ~40m (or the rope that continues down The Hollow Men). Has at least 3 windows to swing into, one of which has a bolt to clip to.
  ↳ Many ways on from the bottom of The Hollow Men, and the Waste Land - some pitches, climbs, etc.

SATURDAY 5 July

Things to carry down the hill.

1. Sleeping bags.
2. Red + blue mats
3. Brew kits.
4. Stoves
5. Only 2 drills + 4 batteries to be left up.
   Take others down.
6. Retrieve transferred bags
7. All dry bags

SKULL CAVE 03/07 BT TW

BT/TW HAD A SHORT DAY HIKING UP TO SKULL CAVE IN THE MISTS, THANKFULLY AN EASY PATH IS FOLLOWED MOST OF THE WAY. THE CAVE WAS GLORIOUSLY ABOVE THE MIRE AFFORDING GOOD VIEWS OVER THE BOWL. WITHIN SKULL CAVE SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE ON THE AWKWARD APPROACHES TO THE TIGHT PITCH (BUT NOT THE HEAD ITSELF). AFTER A MINIMAL AMOUNT OF EFFORT TW DECLARED HE HAD HAD ENOUGH SO WE RETURNED TO CAMP FOR THE PLANNED EARLY TEA.

TR2 04/07 BT MH

MH WANTING AN EASIER DAY AFTER A TL3 BOUNCE (AND BT NOT FANCYING THE CLIMB IN/OUT EITHER) A SESSION IN TR2 WAS IN ORDER. AA GUIDED US TO THE ENTRANCE ENGAGING MH IN A HEARTY DISCUSSION ON THE MINUTAE OF CAVE SURVEYING (WHICH WENT MOSTLY OVER MY HEAD). THE VIEW FROM THE ENTRANCE DISTRACTED US FOR SOME TIME. ENTERING TR2 WE PROCEEDED TO THE PROJECT TAKING TURNS AT THE JUST TOO TIGHT SQUEEZE. AFTER 0.5 HOURS WITH COULD PROBABLY HAVE MADE A CRACK AT IT BUT AFTER 1.5 OF EQUALLY SATISFYING/INFURIATING CAPPING IT WAS LARGE ENOUGH FOR BT TO EASILY PASS. A LAYER OF CHEESE BEHIND THE GOOD ROCK ABSORBS MOST OF THE ENERGY OF ANY CAPS PLACED IN TOO DEEP HOLES. BEYOND THE RESTRICTION THE CAVE IMMEDIATELY ENDS WITH NO PROSPECTS OF CONTINUATION. WE SURVEYED AND LEFT AFTER A JAUNT AROUND THE REMAINDER OF TR2. SURVEYED LENGTH ≈ 8m.

Tony - Drive Trip report. ... 2-4 July

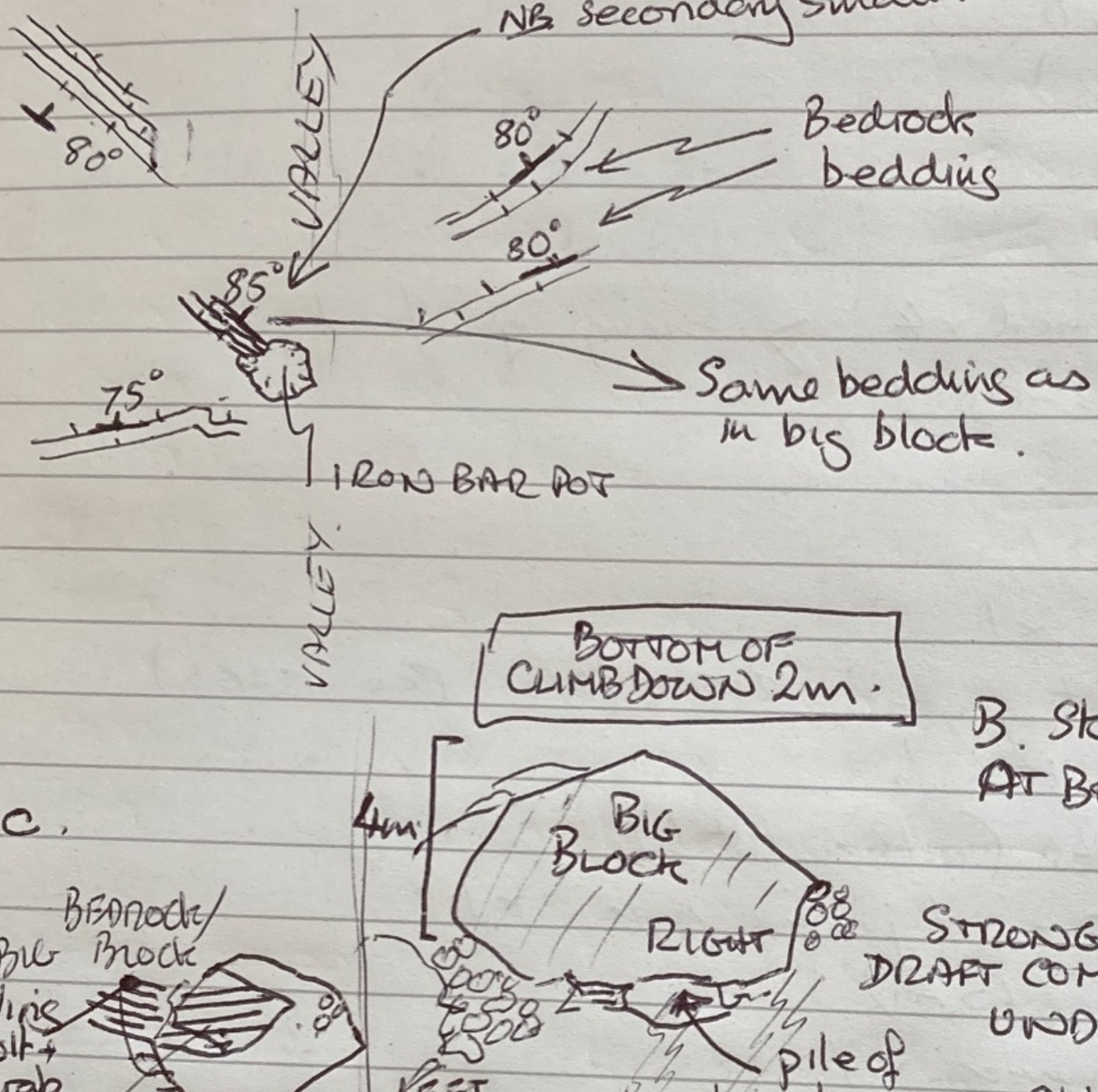
Tony - Dive Trip Report 2-4 July.

FINAL FEAR + LOATHING CAMP INVENTORY 2025

- enough karrimats
- Tent (erected)
- 5 x Dry Bags
- entrenching tool
- gas cannisters med x4 small x1 > enough gas for 1 night
- hand gel x2
- hot sauce (!) x1
- pencil + paper x1
- rolls of toilet paper x 2.5 (NO POO BAGS)
- food bags x10
- tape lengths (< 10m total)
- single 60m dynamic rope x1
- static rope (15m)
- bolting hammer x1

IRON BAR POT. ⇒ Pele, Julia ; 5TH JULY

(A) MAP VIEW OF VALLEY



B. SKETCH OF AREA AT BOTTOM OF 2m CLIMB

C.

STRONG!! DRAFT COMES FROM UNDER BLOCK ON RIGHT

DIG: Need to dug under block where pile of bones are, between places where block is supported. Or possibly stand block to right of it. Block is VERY large, so could shore as

Iron Bar Pot has its characteristic howling gale of a draft, blowing out. At bottom of 2-3m climb down there is a very large (5-10m) block ahead. The draft definitely comes from under the block and on right. There is NO draft to left of block.

The big (5-8m) block in the dug face forms continuous rock with rock hauling is, and they are most likely (80-90%) in a very big block, whose bedding is discontinuous with nearby bedrock. So very likely (80-90%) a very large block, or there is a fault and/or complex folding in area

Overall: This seemed diggable, but a tricky dig that ideally needs experience. The "bedrock" wall is solid, but forms a very large block. Would need to keep places where block is supported, and dig between. Do able? Then there is just no idea of how much digging is need. But it has this utterly ridiculous outward cold draft!!

TR2. Pete, Andrew, Kai, Fiona 2nd JULY.

Went to TR2. Tried to teach capping to Kai + Fiona, who enjoyed it. Some progress.

TR2. Pete Andrew 3rd JULY.

Back to TR2 Capping firing pin kept getting stuck, amidst the choose. Minimal progress

TR2 Michael, Ben 4th JULY.

Team SUSS showed capping prowess, and got through. Undercling on left was a pool, climbed up but no viable/diggable way on. The choose mine is dead!

Skull Cave 5th July.

Steve Mah, Eoghan Mullan, Kai, Philip Thornton

After a slow morning recovering from our 4th July celebrations we set off up the hill, following Boris slightly vague description.

We arrived at the entrance at 12:00 and I had an opportunity to get a nap in. When I awoke everyone was finally ready and we descended down the cave.

Eoghan and I arrived at the ~~bottom of~~ pit to find out Steve had dropped his descender and had to navigate the last pitch on beals. He ~~bounded~~ bounced down to retrieve his and after I attempted to navigate the pit we started the pitch. Eoghan drilled four bolts and everyone taking turns however there was no bang. We switched to hammering out the four and after Steve, Eoghan and I had knocked a few cms of rock off we called it a day.

TLJ 5th July - Derrigg

Andrew Ateen

The main shaft was already started. Took it in turns to descender. Anchors on the rebelay above the excavation removed due to ducking ledge that is too tempting to ~~remove~~ use. Tension line left on bag swing. Three bags of rope. Excavation slalom, snow plug, and second pitch of main shaft.

XITU

ARIO 2025 END of exp
Gear inventory

Rope

43m
30m
40m
48m
20m
15m
15m
15m
70m
70m
~~43m~~ ~~30m~~
~~15m~~ 15m
35m
60m
10m
70m
30m
40m
52m
10M
19M
15M
15M

Rigging

Lots of spits/
Cones/nuts/
hexagons
↳ (Do we need hex?).
23 x Tape of assorted length.
1 x 6mm cord circa 1M ~~length~~ length

Maillons

✓ stainless-steel x 70.
~~non-stainless-steel x80.~~ +28
2 non-stainless steel = 108

Hangers

~~28~~ x bent hanger 50 alloy
~~40~~ x twist hanger 55 alloy
70 x twist hangers stainless steel
29 x bent hangers stainless steel

Bolts. (153 in total)

stainless steel alloy x 70.
non-stainless steel x 83

Of these:

~~very long x 20~~

- very long (~12 cm) x 20
- medium ~~long~~ (~10cm) x ~~37~~ 37
- short (~8cm) x 27

→ non-stainless steel.

- medium (~10 cm) x 33
- short (~8cm) x 37

→ stainless steel.

Capping Gear

Capping mat x1
goggles x2
placing pin x2
Hammer x2
firing pins x2
extensions x6
~~Drill Bits~~
spanner for capping kit
~~2~~ 24m x2
CROW BAR x1
capping Bag x2
Blow tube x1

GAS

900ml full x5
900ml ¼ full x~~2~~ 3
400ml ½ full x2
400ml ¼ full x1

Stoves / Pans

all stoves/pan sets for u/ground x

Elec Fence kit

~~Subject~~

TACKLE + SACKS

22L Rotzz x~~12~~ ~~13~~ 9
5~~0~~ x large AV
6 x Misc tackle sacks

DRY BAGS

4 x drybags
1 x drybag with GAS canisters inside

X/TU Food / extras inventories

~~Fuel cans~~
1 x measuring jug (why??)
3 x hardware 200ml
9 ~~15~~ x washing up sponges.
8 x toilet Roll
1¼ dishwashing liquid
60 x medium sized freezer bags.
25 x bin bags.
56 x water sterilising tablets.
~~90~~ 70 x serviettes.
7 x 76g instant custard.
3 x bivvy ~~shelter~~ shelters
4 x tins fish
80 (roughly) tea bags
10 tealight candles
12 AAA batteries
16 AA batteries.
1 blizzard bag.
2 x boxes matches.
1 x large pot.
1 x bag of spring.
50 x decaf teabags.
14 x tesco mocha sachets.
13 x tesco latte sachets.
9 x tesco cappuccinos.
16 x Nescafe 3 in 1 sachets.
20 x nescafe 2 in 2 in 1. sachets
22 x tea/coffee whitener sachets
1 x firepot posh baked beans dehydrated meal
1 x pasta carbonara dehydrated meal
1 x pepper corn jar 47g.
3 x lighters

X/TU Food / extra Inventories

1x foam dull holders
1x ~~blli~~ blizzard bag
1x "sandy" mug
1x fleur knife / fork / spoon set
1x spork. (titanium).
1x sachets of strawberry / mango tea.
2x poo down down
1x Chris cuny tent

Skull Cave 06/07 Rocky Andrew Steven

~~我写中文你们一定看得明白吧~~ ← (Steven's idea)

We went to skull cave at the middle of the day. We intended to enlarge the tight tunnel, but it seemed the the caps were not at their best condition. We gave up the capping after setting off 3 caps.

Then, Roeby and Steven squeezed through the pitch head to retrieve the gear left in the cave. We recovered ~100 m of ropes in a bag, along with the capping rod that was dropped down previously.

Roeby de-rigged the pitches below the tight pitch head, retrieving all maillons, carabiners, ropes, ~~et~~ and slings with the exception of one sling for a long deviation.

Steven then de-rigged the part above the pitch head, and we carried everything (except that sling!) out of the cave and back to the camp.

The tight pitch head is still too tight for most divers.

Mizzle ⟷ ORBALLAR 6th of July

~~Skull Cave~~ Xitu Cave Eoghan "The Nazareen"

Eoghan "The Nazareen" Mullan, Philip "Pit", "Expanding Man", "Rock" Thomson

Awaking this morning with plans to drink absurd amounts of coffee and what would be ~~eat~~ considered a rake of pins I was distraught when I found out I would have to count mailboxes. After breakfast I decided to settle into ~~a book~~ some reading with the intention of finishing 'Men Without Women' by Haruki Murakami by dinner when Carlotta approached with juggling pins and impressed upon me the objective of being able to competently handle them before lecture. Safe to say, my day was ruined before it got going.

Following mailbox counting and rope cleaning, I thought for sure I would be allowed to enjoy the rest of the day. Unfortunately, Aileen informed me I would be travelling to a cave ~~of~~ over 400m deep with Eoghan. Needless to say, I was nervous.

~~I prepared myself~~ I organised my kit and had a bar of cooky chocolate to help steele my nerves. As a loyal disciple I followed ~~the~~ The Nazareen along a treacherous limestone pilgrimage. Weighed down by three 7 rope bags I was suffering from intense fatigue before even beginning our descent. We clunged and scrambled our way to the pitch head. Eoghan descended while I held vigil on at the entrance. I began lowering gear and Eoghan soared below.

The cavern persisted for what felt like decades, I expect Odysseus ~~the Odyssey~~ ~~from Troy to Athens~~ ~~was covered faster than~~ returned home faster than the time it took us to complete this job. I was then hit with a ~~puzzle~~ puzzle. A poorly coiled rope. Without realising how bad it was it sent ~~it~~ on its journey below. It quickly fell apart and tangled itself around a rock. Eoghan was livid and unleashed a flurry of epithets my direction. ~~That~~ mistake ~~did not~~ happen again.

When everything was done I descended to untangle the rope that was caught and assist Eoghan who with ~~ease~~ organisation. When I it was complete we journeyed back to the surface. The trip was long and arduous but overall, a success.

confused by watch

Shaft - Barking 06/07/25 Phil, Tony, Valerie

After a group cappa lesson in the early morning, we set off fairly promptly to take a look at some part of area 10 as requested by Graham. It turned out that the .gpx files I had downloaded didn't include the shaft-barking locations, only the previous surveys. Rocky said the shaft-barking gpx he had was only available on [illegible] years Drive, and not this year, which would explain why I didn't find it. We scrambled down into a large depression by the Tea Path that looked promising but a scout round the edges only revealed a simple entrance, in the west corner. The A-shaped opening is up a small scramble and although we didn't bring lights into the big depression, Phil was able to tell that there wasn't any way on, at least without extensive digging. We carried on to the promised bandit and had lunch (flapjack). From there we looked around at the landscape for any promising spots, and considered daytrips for further investigations the hill. We didn't fancy going any further today, so headed back. There were some possible points of interest high to the west (more due to large drop below to access safely rather than particularly difficult route as far as we could guess from a distance).

7th July. bounce trip down the hill.

— all of us were carring things down the hill so that people don't have to add extra weight on their stuff when they are going down on Tuesday.

Weather was bad in the morning it was foggy and raining lightly. The walk to las Bobias was fine, but started to get hard in the final half. There was just so much mud! I almost stepped into cow poop. (but missed it and stepped into a water puddle instead) (actully a wise choice would be wearing caving wellies. Phil made a wise choice!)



We walked down to the top car park. loaded stuff to Tony and Rich's car All except Tony and I went straight back up hill. Rich had to some coffee in his camper van. Tony and I went to Cangas to get nice food and snacks.

When we were coming up. it stopped raining already but the first half to Las Bobias is still very muddy. I spent plenty of time trying to avoid them

To add when we got back to camp there were some (3/4) Vultures slowly around it was soon announced there was a dead calf not too far away. Very soon there was about 20 Vultures on the floor like big chickens eating their feast.