

# EXPO 2004

In Cambridge. 5th July. Mark S, Oly M et al.

And so it was that at 12.41 on Monday 5th July did the weighbridge at Madingley Muldn pronounce one white Citroën C15D van, by the registration mark of L852 MFL, to be 400kg overweight - weighing in at nearly two tonnes. Mark and Oly were not best pleased, the previous days and morning having been spent cramming Expo goods into every nook and cranny about the van.

It was a combination of the appalling handling and the measly <1cm of suspension clearance at the rubber stop which persuaded us to have the van weighed. It was clearly far more overweight than in previous years - so much so that it was more than 200 kg over the total maximum load on the tyres!

We returned to the Tackle Store having summoned Martin and Dave, and soon began the tedious task of emptying about 300kg of shit out of the van - each item being monotonously weighed on Martin's bathroom scales.

Many, many phone calls ensued and after various silly plans (including driving to Expo and then coming back the next day for a second load, utilising a cheap day return on the ferry from ~~the~~ Calais!) we settled on a haulier who would transport it to Munich for 300 quid. Not

too bad in fact, given it would cost well over 200 quid to do the two-drives plan. (In fact, subsequently a cheaper company were found.) We declined one company's quote of three thousand pounds, refilled the van with lighter items and set off for Milton Tesco's, to collect journey food. At about 5.40pm all was ready (minus all the various tasks which we hadn't had time to do due to the massive hiatus). We set off for Earl's place and arrived without mishaps, planning to leave for Dover at 4am. Expo had begun.

Driving to Austria. 6th July. Mark S, Oly M.

Arose at 3.30am and left Earl's place just after five-past-four on Tuesday morning. The ferry was at 6am and we arrived just at the right time after a stop for fuel. (Got to the port about 5.20am.) - - - continued ->

<b>CONVEYANCE NOTE / SALES INVOICE *</b> SUBJECT TO WEIGHTS & MEASURES ACT 1985		SECURITICKET No. 29535	
* Delete as appropriate		GOODS	IN OUT OTHER
<b>PUBLIC WEIGHBRIDGE</b> VAT REG. No. GB 599 4493 65		TIME 12:41 DATE 05/07/04 SERIAL NO. 021949 CODE 408 1ST WEIGHT 1940kg	
<b>WEIGHING FEE / CASH SALE</b>			
AMOUNT	£ .....p		
V.A.T. @ 17½%	£ .....p		
TOTAL DUE	£ .....p		
CASH	C/C	CHEQUE	A/C
PLACE OF LOADING			
MADINGLEY GARAGE ST. NEOTS ROAD, COTON CAMBRIDGE CB3 7PH			

The ferry was on time and we set off about 8:20am  
French time onto the motorway. Driving in shifts, there  
were no mishaps until Mark's shift around Nürnberg.

6/7/04 | Dave's trip out.

All went v. smoothly: up at 3am (ouch!), coach to Stuttgart,  
Ryanair to Salzburg, tram, train etc to arrive at Bad Aussee  
at around 3pm. Bus timetable appears to be beyond the comprehension  
of mere mortals, so I walked. Then fell asleep, woke up  
and spent four hours watching German TV. (Something important  
has happened to the state governor of Steiermark, but I have  
no idea what)

7/7/04 ~~with~~ Olly M, Mark + Dave

Walked up hill. Snow level ~~was~~ very high. Had considerable fun  
hauling gear out of Traungold (caving gear + some digging were  
needed).

T/U: Dave 1hr

8/7/04 More getting stuff out of snow-choked holes.

T/U: Olly M 1hr

10/7/04 - 204A rigging - Dave, Olly M

Rigged down to bottom of A ent pitch. Owing to lack of rope  
we didn't get any further than that + iron out of excuses  
for walking downhill in the rain.

T/U Dave ~ 1 1/2 hr  
Olly ~ 45 min

①

11.7.04

Julia + Anthony are here. Det er veldig vanskelig  
 å snakke tysk. Men jeg må prøve. We left  
 Anthony's office at 3.00pm on Friday (I remembered  
 the guitar). Getting out of Norge not easy,  
 but arrived eventually 6 hours Oslo to  
 Göteborg. Then lots more hours thru Sweden,  
 Denmark + Germany, Sweden + ~~Denmark~~ <sup>Germany</sup> go  
 on for too long especially. Our stereo died but it  
 only cost 2000kr so it's fair enough. No  
 traffic jams once outside Sweden. It took ages  
 Dave ate lots of chocolate, (didn't full as deep  
 as much, Expo is great + so is Gösse.  
 I say chaps, it's a clubbed long way from Oslo to expo, what?!

13.7.04

Oh, so many songs get written in the rain. Well  
 plenty of rain here, so lets have some inspiration.  
 Here's Duncan's first bit:

When I first came to Cambridge,  
 I was only 18  
 With a fiver in my pocket  
 And my old dandy bag  
 So I went down to the pub  
 To check out the scene  
 But I soon ended up as a Beady old lay

Still Duncan:

When the manfluke + Tunnock bars  
 were stacked in great piles  
 With the old expo trailer,  
 we would drag them for miles

Then me:

u To the case-end of Austria  
 we carted our load  
 knowing the ~~expo~~ schaps awaited  
 At the end of the ~~road~~ road

\* INSPIRATION NEEDED ~~HERE~~ HERE \*

last verse:

And now I am lying here,  
 I aint had no booze  
 I've been pushing and caring  
 And I'm all sore and bruised  
 I feel like I'm dying  
 And I wish I could beg  
 For a stretcher to carry me  
 To old base camp.

Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Jenny + Ollie

We set off ~~in the~~ for our 3<sup>rd</sup> carry to Top Camp, and for the 1<sup>st</sup> time it wasn't raining. As we got to TC it got much darker and just as we started putting the big expo tent up it started to hail horizontally which was really quite grim. Eventually we got the tent up and went to look for Eisluftklo (76), Ollie knew where it was, but couldn't remember quite how to get there so we walked around a lot in the erratic boulders just before where 76 turned out to be.

Tue 13<sup>th</sup> Jenny + Ollie

Carried up our final load to TC, noticed that the tent had (obv) big puddles. Perhaps optimistically, I assumed it was had come in the tent whilst we erected it in the hail storm, so I bailed out the water + we set off for 76, armed with a GPS. We got the 2<sup>nd</sup> gps point and wandered around and found 97 which still had paint marking it. This gave us an idea of where 76 was which we then found. About 50m from 76, towards the ridge, was a very very good potential bivvi site - a big arched entrance maybe 12m  $\times$  1.5m with a snow patch and a skylight. Probably room for 2-6 people without too much rock moving + we people with more work, quite sheltered as well as it opens out into a small sheltered valley (with room for a small tent). We walked back to TC laying cairns as we went.

Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Jenny + Ollie

Woke up to find just how un-waterproof the tent was - lots of leaks thru the ceiling and 3 puddles a couple of inches deep, with sleeping bags and other wet stuff which wasn't nice at all. Eventually got going after a short delay to dry out the lighter before we could make breakfast. We walked back to 76 carrying lots of gear to collect at the bivvi with a view to actually using it - and it looked a whole better than the tent. We carried another load from TC adding more cairns as we went.

Ollie taught me how to belt by demonstrating to drill a bag spit for 97, then I put axes in for bags for 76 and 76b (76a was already belged). Then I went up in the 76a entrance, it goes  $\sim$  horizontally for about 10m over a step on the way, there was quite a lot of soft snow on the floor but no ice visible till near the pitch where there was a small ice-shall. The pitch continues down below where the 76 end shaft comes in (but this looked too loose to be worth using) - placed my 1<sup>st</sup> two underground bolts, then looked round the corner and saw one old spit which suggested that in the 70s the snow level was higher. I carried on down the ~~gully~~ ~~gully~~ ~~gully~~ ~~gully~~ gully with snow on the floor, the gully flattened out to a ledge with loose rocks. Just round the corner was a nice looking 10-20m pitch which looked to land on a big snow ledge. Time was running out so I came back up and added a bolt to the top to make the rope hang in a nicer place. Then we got changed and walked back to the car via TC to collect our wet slings to dry them. On the way back we realised that Ollie's GPS was still getting a fix by the bivvi.

Oh, whilst I was carrying Ollie carried a path from the bivvi to the 204 path.

TU Jenny 3 1/2 hrs

Sad verse

Oh the cold winds at night,

Then the bivvi would blow

But there were boys at the Stone Bridge

To guide you below.

If you didn't fancy carrying

You could go and get drunk

There was always lots of lathering

Down at old base camp

14/7/04

Ariston rigging

Dave, Olly<sup>(M)</sup>, Stuart,  
Dour

Wandered in down 204A re-rigging on Dave Brindle's rope.

Dour put in a bolt enabling me to get close enough to the 2nd pitch to see that it was open, which was a pleasant surprise seeing how much snow was around generally.

At this point Dour returned to the surface while Olly, Stuart + I wandered down Ariston. Ran out of rope at Steel Toecap + headed out.

T/U Dave, Olly, Stu 6 1/2 hrs  
Dour 1hr

15/7/04

204e rigging

Olly, Stuart, Peter

Had mild difficulty finding the entrance, it was further than I remembered. Took ages to rig the pitch, then went out.

T/U : Olly, Stuart, Peter 2hrs

15/7/04

Kivi Suit rigging

Dave, Mark D, Nial

Continued rig down bottom pitch of Ariston (which is shale) and stem pitch in Kivi Suit. Realising we had only three hanges left, we put in the next 8m pitch but didn't descend, + bugged off out.

Nial + Mark apparently got lost in the crawls at the bottom of Welpetinger

TU Mark 10 hours  
Dour 11 1/4 hours.

Way + were out an hour after I was; I really ought to have hung around to point out the route - some ~~guy~~ guys, but I was cold + knackered + wanted to go downhill.

\* Scientific note - air temp measured at Pot-U-like 2°C

T/U Dave 5 1/2 hrs  
Nial, Mark D 6 1/2

18/7/04

Razor Dance Rigging

Dour, Mark D

Early start - underground by 10:00! Speedy descent to Kivi Suit, where we picked up the bag of rope left on the 15th. We now had 3 1/2 bags of rope between us, which was considered A LOT. Mark rigged the bottom 2 pitches of Kivi suit, then Dour took up the cudgels and proceeded to rig Razor Dance down to the 2002 limit - the Steady Now pitch. Left the rest of the rope at that point and turned round at 16:00. Uneventful ascent, Mark D out ~~19~~ 19:45, Dour 21:15. Dour must buy a magic foot jammer!

\* Scientific note - the gravel in the crawl between Ariston & Kivi Suit is very interesting and is in different sizes in different passages, which gives some indication of the water flow during phreas. This should be a) recorded and b) taped off to avoid damage. MSD.

Friday 2004-07-16

Jenny, Ollie

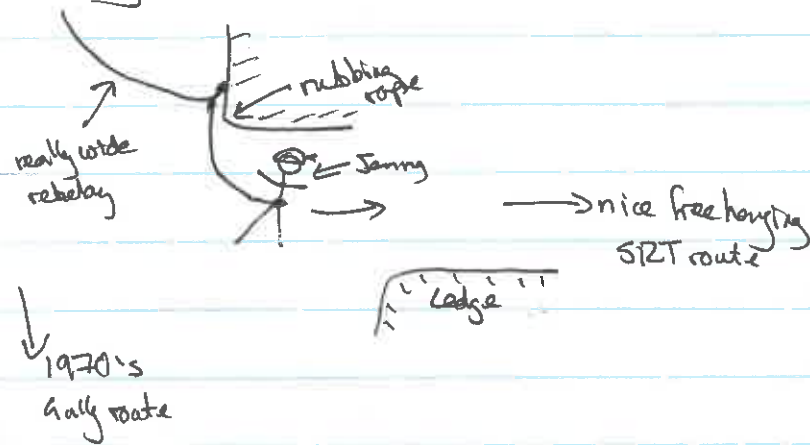
We bolted on down from the head of Draught Bitter (where the draught was so fine it made my eyes water while drilling a hole for a bolt). A deviation off a 70's spit got us to a little rock bridge, and a rebelay off another unusually well preserved and flush 70's spit to the "rock bridge lead". Rebelay off a natural spike <sup>(shape)</sup> (enhanced with a bolt hammer), and we're at our first lead. I poked out the looser rocks, and panned down into a serpentine rift below. I put in a spit, gardened more, and squeezed in, Jenny feeding rope from above (the bag was too fat). Along the rift, an arm intersects, and goes down a shaft. Another spit, and another outward squeeze, and I dropped the pitch, but it was blind. Back up, and the rift seems to form a U, both ends look like they end at snow slopes, presumably out on the pitch (though we're yet to confirm this). We ascend to the rock bridge, and head on down. I can see a ledge which will keep us away from falling snow & rocks, but after two spits I'm still not there and my legs are losing feeling. Jenny is cold too, so we exit. T/U: 4 hours

Saturday 17th July

Ollie + Jenny

Back down F6 again, this time it's my turn to bolt. I get down to the bolts / Ollie put in yesterday (after adding a spit for a deviator on the way down to stop the rope cutting them! The big snow plug), and spend quite a while swinging around trying to work out what is attached to what (handles, longer deviator...). eventually I sorted it all out, and follow Ollie's advice using the deviator as a rebelay temporarily to enable me to swing onto the ledge more easily. The ~~deviator~~ rebelay was all ~~working~~ and wide + free hanging, but I managed to cope, the just as

1. ~~Back~~ to swing. I noticed the rope would rub, so had to go back up, pass the rebelay, add an extra moulin, pass the rebelay, and restart swinging.



I landed on the ledge and did some gardening of rocks, which bombed lots and made the ledge feel really rather exposed. Ollie was complaining about the cold so I put in a bolt rather too quickly and he came down to the ledge. Ollie took over the bolting so he could warm up, and started a traverse along from the ledge, passing a small lead up a tube on the left. Down and across a bit (I think I couldn't really see from where I was). Any way after a while Ollie got cold / bored / something else and we returned to the surface. After warming up outside + drinking some hot choc, we returned to survey for the 'a' entrance to the pitches (draught bitter). Then returned to BC, racing darkness + an electrical storm. Total T/U 6 1/2 hrs

Monday 5th July

Martin

I was phoned, "There is a problem", "Please bring your 'bathroom scales'", "400 kg overweight", "bollocks" (thought Martin). Solutions... Another car... too crap... Another trailer... too long... ?SL... too expensive...

After sometime trying to find someone to fit a tow bar to Mark's van for a non-existent trailer, a haulier

was found to transport from Newton Hall to Munich. This required me to find cardboard boxes, twenty minutes after the bloke came to collect them all.

The next day Fast Freight haulers gave a better quote. IFF measured the height, width and girth of the pallet. So on Tuesday I stacked a fine stack of boxes in the tackle store. I got a quote, and on Wednesday I stacked a slightly lumpy pile of boxes. The van turned up to collect it, with his hydrolic tail gate and his pump hand truck. The pump truck did not fit under the pallet. Leaving the truck driver and I, ~~was~~ to lift the 340 kg pallet on to another pallet. After much grunting and straining we lifted the boxes onto a "decent" pallet. On ~~Sunday~~ ~~Monday~~ Friday I received a message saying the check I sent on ~~Friday~~ Thursday had not arrived, so I ignored it, and it all turned up in Paul Huss's on Monday.

Monday 14th July

Martin Nail  
Ollie says it was not his (thru cant end with <sup>memory</sup>)  
Went in E, noticed rubsd. Rugged Taking the Biss  
with PPE green string. Rugged Wat Nobolts, from first hole  
using two bolts! (Deviation needed). 0367B pushed to  
conclusion. 0368B, 0369B pushed to beginning of  
Faith Transverse. Penkil broke, so took some photos

Sunday 15th July

Ollie + Jenny

Walked back up to the bio, and sat around for a while feeling too hot. Eventually got underground with a plan of finishing surveying what we have found. We started at Draft Bitter, and started downwards. I realised how crap surveying patches was, especially really drafty patches that twist around lots meaning you can easily do plumb. Only one did we both need to be hanging from the same rope for a little while. Got down to the higher rock bridge (the one with the rebelay) before we got cold and overexposed. Ollie went out whilst I was around looking at possible leads and so I could draw things better. The big snow plug appears to be partly resting on another rock bridge, with an alternative smaller route down behind it. There are also 2 smallish (~1 or 2m in diameter) over tube type things going up from behind. Then checked out the small over with ice ~~bar~~ near the top of Draft Bitter - this didn't appear to go far. Once out we surveyed in the 76b entrance, this was less nice as the rocks are very sharp, the roof is a bit loose and there is a little climb in the middle. Definitely not worth using as an entrance when 76a is so much easier.

T/U 3hrs

Mon 19th July

76 - Brave New World

Ollie + Jenny

Went back down 76 with bolting gear with a view to kicking off Ollie's lead on the ledge and then rigging on down. I lined Ollie up the short but exposed climb, then couldn't see what was happening frages. Ollie got to the end of the rope + assured me it was safe to unlie, and then went off exploring. I sat on ledge with my light off (in case Ollie's passage came back to the shaft). Ages later, and just as I was getting worried Ollie returned. I convinced him that seeing as he was there it was worth bolting + then surveying. So whilst he bolted the details I pushed out for the survey kit.

45 mins later I realised at the chub to find Olly had dropped my spaxer after putting in the backpack. I passed him up a maille and he highlighted the 4 long bolts and I came up. The crawling passage led on past two slope caves (Pool sink fashion) and a passage off on the right to a pitch. We carried on, and after the cold lower bit some more passages branched off at a drafty spot, two more to be together, one high on the L and one on the R, then a narrow (cave) crack on the L that appeared a few metres to hit a snow slope. [Looking at the locations, we suspect this might be part of 99]. Continuity along the passage + post with low bit I suddenly emerged in the top of a big outdoor passage, several metres high and going in both directions! Upstream led to a chub, so we surveyed out in the passing another couple of passages on the way. We had a quick look downstream, but didn't survey. Soon an cave joined and the passage increased in size and became larger. In fact a pitch dropped down + the passage seemed to continue above. To the left make couple of passages left!

Amazed & pleased at our finds we continued to survey out, getting very annoyed with the crappy compass. After 35 legs we eventually tied the survey in with the previous one, and could leave the cave!

T/U 8 hrs

Sunday 18th July

Gathered rig + tourist

Surveyed on 2/3/04

↓ Dave, Becca, Nial  
By Gobion 12 on RH wall,  
went down as QM - didn't go.  
Also looked at QM5 on L chimney  
nothing easy.

Wandered down Gathered, while Nial + Becca toured up Sung's and apparently pushed a QM somewhere (Becca: where was it?)

Met up again at bottom of Toy Worm pitch, where Becca and I just about continued to find the bolts between us. Ran out of hangers after Eyehole pitd, so turned around + came out.

Becca suggested a wander up Treeumphant to Chocolate Salty Balls. It's very nice passage; we poked around for a while before heading out.

On the way back, had a stare at what may be C-34C - it's rubbish. - a tube at roof level which might be climbable into with 1 or 2 bolts, but all the rock is awful.

T/U 8 1/2 hrs

Mon 19 July

Razor Dance

Olly M, Dave

Carried in the pushing rope, and rigged the pitches beyond Steady Now. Ran out of hangers at the top of Yeast.

Also placed a hand bolt at the top of Mystery Wind, so as to replace existing dodgy thread, but didn't have a hanger for it. Headed out without a great deal of speed (I was v. cold + Olly v. knackered.)

NB The roof tube just below Mystery Wind could do with a bolt + a sling or something as a handline - climbing out of it on the downstream side is very awkward if you don't get yourself in the right orientation to start with. (I did a bizarre Superman-style dive out of it which could have been very nasty. Fortunately I succeeded in landing on the tackle sack!)

T/U 12 hrs



21<sup>st</sup> July Razodance Mark D, Down

An exceptionally early start (9:30am!!!) and a quick trip down to the start of Razodance. Reached the pushing front at about 13:30 after rigging Yeast pitch. Down bolted the traverses while Mark quickly dropped the pitch on naturals. The continuation at stream level was really nasty, so we voted for the high traverse, which goes into a level with a real floor "The Nordic Traverse". We surveyed into this, eventually reaching a small chum/pitch down (approx 5m). This was dully rigged and it lands in a small chamber "13 year itch". From here a further pitch of 18m was dropped back into the steamway. This pitch "Pepper Pot" was a real stunner - best pitch in the cave (imho)! Below the pitch, the rift continues in the same awkward style. By now it was 16:30 so we quickly surveyed the pitches and then headed out. Mark was out 20:15, Down at about 22:45. See my note from the previous trip about Down needing a foot jammer!

This was a fantastic trip, one of the best I have ever done in Austria. Home tomorrow, but a great memory to take with me! MSD

TU Mark D 10h 45m  
Down 13h 15m

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July Gafferred rig to Underworld Becken + Earl

Earl put a rhang about 40% down from top of Gafferred to help speed up using it + take us a bit further from the spray. Becken replaced the two ropes Dave rigged yesterday with a 9mm (bit too skinny) 91m then Earl continued to rig down Gafferred, adding a backup bolt to Eyehole and bolting the traverse up to Gafferred. Not long at bottom so we surveyed QM 03-8A which seen tholed + went out. Takes ~2 hours from bottom.

T/U 9 hours

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July Underworld/<sup>Sirens</sup> profit survey Becken, Nial + Earl

Finally ready to roll pushing:- looked at 03-29A, rigged handline to edge of large chamber - no rope so gave kat, plus 03-30B which needs a high level traverse (\* See our 22<sup>nd</sup> July trip\*) Tried off + surveyed 03-28B, 03-27B + 03-26B. I think 03-25B can be downgraded to a "C" QM. Then up to crystal pool. Surveyed chamber at 03-31B. Nial climbed up to the mud. Rilled pocket on the left of the climber - apparently chocked with mud. The small pit in the <sup>floor of the</sup> climber ~~off the~~ is kind except for a miserable boulder - Rilled hole which you can get to the de side of from a small passage on the opposite side of the passage to QM 03-~~25~~ 25B. There is a hole over your head in the chamber but Nial said the banks of mud would make it very hard to get into, plus a miserable little hole on the opposite wall. Then surveyed from 03-21B to 03-22C to complete a small loop. 03-20B doesn't exist, just mud - Rilled, though there is a miserable thin rift in the floor of the climber it's in. 03-19C is still there (actually

are 2 roof tubes here, but the more promising, higher one would be tough to get into. Re-checked 03-23C - not at all promising and 03-24C likewise - a v. steep steep climb. That seemed to tick off all the horizontal leads in Sirens (boo-hiss) so we went back to Eugene + Earl started to bolt 03-3B. While he started, I checked 03-5B - it's a blind pit, only 4m down. I also went down to 03-4B - it's a smallish pitch / rift which looks like it would connect to 03-2B + big chossy boulders at the top. Once again, not at all enticing. Neither 03-7C or 03-6C look to be much.

Wed 21st July Surface Prospect Beckia + Nial

Wandered over rd beyond 204 towards Greiskogel then back round on plateau side. Put in two tags on new caves! -  
WCC-2004-10 Earl's GPS (WGS) N 47° 41.740' E 013° 49.069'

Photo #54 on Nial's camera

215° to Zinken; 309° to peak of Greiskogel (stone arch visible)

Entrance shaft with snow plug + pitch visible beyond. Can get to head of pitch by going down a side tube next to main entrance shaft. Rich <10m.

**IN YOUR FACE CAVE**

WCC-2004-11 Earl's GPS (WGS) N 47° 41.597' E 013° 49.047'

Photo #55 on Nial's camera

202° to Braening nose; 218° to Zinken.

Strongly drafting entrance crawl to sleep down pneumatic passage to small chamber + pitch up climb on right wall.

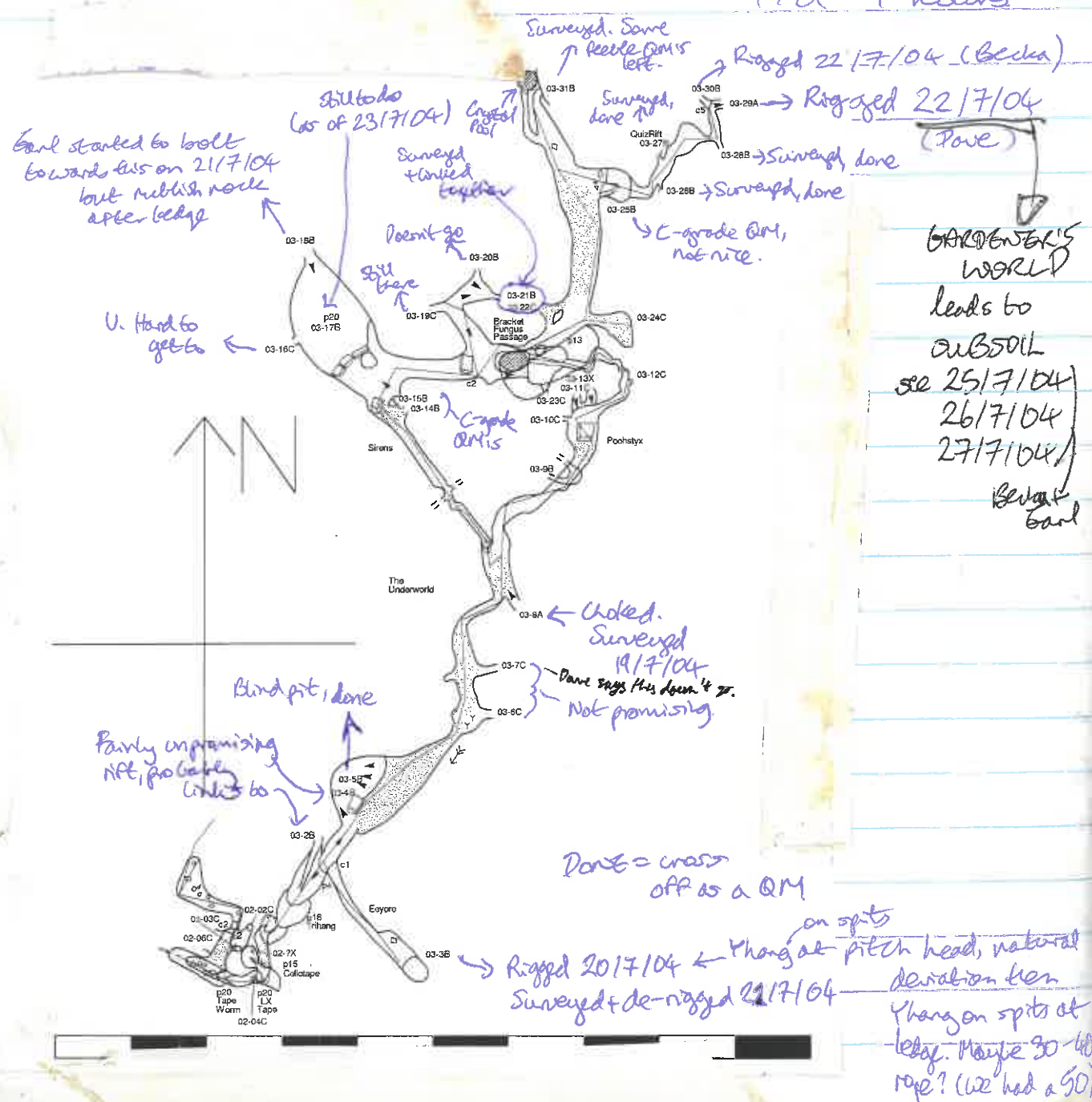
\* Tony + I surface-surveyed to 2004-11 in the evening of 21st + Martin, Stuart + Nial did a push + underground survey on 22nd

We also found (but didn't tag as didn't seem promising enough):

- ① N 47° 41.605' E 013° 49.265' - a 4m surface shaft
- ② N 47° 41.686' E 013° 48.981' - too-tight but very strongly drafting hole
- ③ N 47° 41.590' E 013° 49.068' - v. close to 2004-11 and also drafting

We also re-found 2002-04.

T/U 9 hours



**GARDENERS WORLD** leads to **SUBSOIL** see 25/7/04 26/7/04 27/7/04  
Beckia + Earl

Thurs 22nd July Underworld Rte Becha, Earl + Dave

Dave wanted to learn how to drill bolts so down to Earl's drill ~~at~~ in the Underworld... but first we surveyed + de-rigged Eugene. Then ~~Earl~~<sup>Dave</sup> de-rigged the 26m that Earl + Stuart had started to rig along the traverse in Sines yesterday (they'd hoped to get to O3-18B). Took all the junk to the end of Quiz Rift then Earl supervised Dave rigging O3-29A which went down the mud ramp then a Yhang (bolt + boulder) then a rebelay bolt then drop down to sloping ledge (~10m) to rebelay off a small knuckle then down to floor. Another pitch beyond this which Dave bolted but didn't have enough rope to descend. Meanwhile Becha was hand bolting ~~the~~ a traverse to get to QM O3-30B - three naturals and five eyes, ~~at three more~~ for too many) bolts later I got to the muddy up-slope only to be told there was no time to check it out because I had to survey Dave's pitch. Actually I was fooled by then having spent half an hour suspended 5m above the floor in a rift far too wide to bridge, trying to get to the far side. I tried propping up my long cow tail, putting slings for extra footholds into cow tails + sheer brute ignorance. It was also pretty exciting (ie dynamic) getting back - a free-hanging traverse. Surveyed Dave's pitches. Names: my traverse will be The Generation Game, Dave's first pitch is Gardeners @ World and his next one is University Challenge. Way out up Gaffered was way, way, way too muddy - I'd had to do a welly-brake on the way down + both my hand + my chest ganner were slipping on the way up... but I didn't have nearly so much fun as Dave who became an indignant Mr. Angry

+ ended up propping twice as far as the rest of us. I left him to Earl's calming tongue. THU 11 hours.

Wed 21st July 99 Jenny + Ollie

Walked back up to our bivouac in the sun, when we got there, Ollie was not feeling too well, so we decided that I'd explore 99 while Ollie sat on the surface and patched his overcoat. I went down rigged off the v. dubious tag bolt and a spitce. It went down an ~~at~~ inclined rift with snow on the floor for a bit less than 10m then wiggled round round the L to be below itself again. There were 2 odd spits, the 1st of which I re-belayed for. After this a draft was coming thru a small ice covered rift heading roughly toward the appropriate part of Brave New World. I kicked lots of snow out the way + attempted to hit thru the pitch head, (got ~1/2 way but the feeling it was a bit too high and committing, and decided to come out, this was easier said than done. After a while of fruitless wiggling I got a bit scared and asked Ollie to put his cowboy gear on to come + help. As soon as Ollie left I found a foothold and freed myself sufficiently to escape, but at least Ollie had practice at getting charged with cowboy gear quickly! I came out, leaving the ice squeeze for either a day later on in reps with less ice, or a day with a <sup>hammer</sup> ~~hammer~~.

TU - Jenny 1hr

Thursday 2004-07-22 76 Jenny Ollie

We went down 76 to push the pitch lead near the start of the "test tubes". It was unclear if the pitchhead was packed rocks or solid, so I used a mostly convincing thread as a backup, and put in a traverse spit, then a Y out in the rift. The rift was a good 1.5m wide, and tall so things looked promising. I ~~found~~ descended and traversed up stream, but just round the corner was a pitch up. Downstream dropped away and got narrower. Two rebelay later we were

in the top of the rift, with a barely feasible squeeze into a lower level. The bottom appeared to drop into blackness through a small hole - small stones dropped for a second or two if they got through the hole. The position is such that this is very likely to be dropping into the original 70, pitch series, so there wasn't much motivation for desperate squeezes. Jenny tried to <sup>connect to</sup> get through at a lower level, but that didn't work. So we surveyed out <sup>to</sup> the previous "Brave New World" survey and went home. Jenny put a better placed spit for the ledge end of the pendula on the way out. TU: 5 1/2 hours

Thursday 22nd July Random German Olly, Peter

Pete and I had failed to walk up the previous evening so on ~~an~~ 8 am rising and a run to the bus stop was in order. Waiting in Bad Aarsee allowed a random German bloke to approach and ask us if we could "show him the caves". Julia's powers of disavowal are clearly lacking because this random person proceeded to follow me and Peter from the top of the toll road to the plateau and onto the stone bridge (Julia had lunch with ~~the~~ Douw so didn't walk with us). Upon arriving he asked where the toilet was, "I need a big one", so I showed him the dripping ghyke. Thankfully his aim was true and no further flies were attracted to mal-aimed turds. He then had two cups of hot chocolate, took photos, and translated the phone message. We bid farewell at the entrance to Harchhische, and despite my best efforts at looking for a corpse on the next walk down I found none and must assume he made it. Luckily really given his nice Nikon camera and the pictures

of me and Peter on his 35mm film...

Thursday 22nd July Harchhische Olly, Peter

Julia had asked people to look at Harchhische so Pete and I decided to have a ~~short~~ poke. A survey was produced showing the main way on to be to the left at the bottom of the (first) pitch. Pete rigged the pitch and followed my bad advice of rethreading the rope around the natural backup because we only had one sling. Douw had told me a deviation was needed to stop the rope rubbing and he was indeed correct. So I spent the next half hour putting in a spit and getting groin injuries, while Pete scotched around in every unpromising lead he could find. At one point the digested aroma of shrimp noodles a la Blue Dragon chased him out of such a passage and the Plateau series was born. By the time I had finished botting he had unfortunately found a tight rift that appeared to go, culminating in a climb that I had to convince Peter to descend (with the aid of 2 slings larks-footed around a natural). After that it was all downhill as each unsurveyed bit of passage led to a further junction with 2 new leads. We pushed all the leads we could for several hours, with Pete pushing ~~on~~ a particular oblong several times ("Clifton's circuit"). Then we ran away to the Stonebridge and recounted tales of our great adventure and miles of care passage to whoever would listen. T/U: 6 hours

Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> July Hauchhöhle surveying Dave, Pete, Olly M

Pete + Olly had returned to camp the previous day with tales of caverns near murders to man, and nothing surveyed. So I ~~was~~ jumped at the chance to go and practice my survey note-taking, hoping to go on to bolt down the pitches (or rather show Olly how).

However I had somewhat underestimated the amount! Eleven hours later we crawled out, knackered, with 58 legs of survey in the book even ignoring all the oxbows + loops, and more passage still going.

(Olly had put one bolt in the pitch before being caught up in the surveying as well.)

T/U Pete + Dave 11h; Olly ~~10h~~ 10h

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> July Hauchhöhle again Dave, Becca, Pete, Olly M, Earl

A complex plan emerged over breakfast. Team keen (Dave + Becca) would go in and do some more surveying; team fester (Olly + Earl) would bolt the pitch; and team artistic (Pete) would take some photos. At 11.30 team science (Dave) would shout down surface hole 2002-02 so we could check if it connected to the daylight aven in the main Hauchhöhle trunk. At 5pm, the underground teams would meet up; ~~then~~ Olly, Pete + I were to bugger off down the hill and Earl + Becca would keep on caving.

This complex plan worked surprisingly well. 2002-02 does connect. Pete got his photos. Becca + I surveyed some existing stuff; Becca found a bypass to Tacklesack Blues via a roof tube. Then Becca spotted a traverse over the head of one of our pitches. After a quick detour to collect the rope, and using a sling larks-footed around my belt as an improvised corstail, we were across. Hey presto, yet more passage! Stomp stomp stomp for 150m or so. Walked down the hill with 28 legs more survey in my pocket, in addition to the previous day.

slight  
slight  
passage

This space intentionally left blank (so Earl + Becca's subsequent coming + Olly's bolting can be written up)

Earl kept rigging the pitch but the drill battery ran out after the pithead + deviation bolts + partway through a Y-hang ~20m down from the pitch head. We then went back to Sweet Shaft passage + went up the left-hand roof tube <sup>probably another 5m drop beyond here.</sup> just after the drippy aven with a bat skeleton. We surveyed 8 legs up here, past a tight thicket into an aven with water coming in + a too tight rift off. Out + home.

T/U Dave: 6 1/2 h Becca: 9 1/2  
Olly: 4h Earl: ~~7~~ 7  
Pete: 4h

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> July Eisfluthöhle - rigging down 70's route to Kagesenos Jenny + Olly

We decided that today we would continue down the 70's route and see how far we could get with the rope + hangers we had. I wanted to play with the drill, so set off down to the current end of the rigging (the next ledge on from the Test Tube passage) and put in a nice Y-hang. Meanwhile Olly swung around on the snow plugs below to retrieve my spanner he had lost. The pitch was really nice - the best so far, a lovely hang in a huge shaft, on down to the next ledge + some 1970's spits, one of which was used as part of the Y, a deviation later and I was at the bottom of "Plugged Shaft" on a bouldery floor with a huge bit of scaffold bar longer than I am! The next pitch wasn't far away, and as we weren't certain how solid the floor was we coiled the rope round - this is where the 112m rope ended, so we lied on the 85m and Olly bolted down "Saved Shaft" with, as is typical of this cave, a deviation. We now arrived at a WUE boulder pile, with at least one

boulder bigger than a car! The way on was under these with the draft... The boulders actually looked quite wedged, but it is probably worth trying to get over the top sometime (a) so as it goes any other way and (b) in the hope that it is safer. Oly rigged a traverse line through the boulders, as once on the other side you are in a rift with very little floor dropping away into "Key Series" 30 odd metres below. Oly rigged down this other doing some gardening of rocks at the pitch head, including one ~1m across... Oly got to the bottom of the 1st pitch and carried on down, I set off down this pitch, being really careful of all the local stuff skill that and reached the bottom just as Oly had reached the end of the rope below. The pitch was quite drippy by the end, and perhaps needs rigging differently for times of rain. Anyway, with no rope, one hang and no maillans left we decided to survey out, pulling the rope up to the top of the pitch so we could see next time. We wanted to swing with a plumb line, but the pitch wasn't quite free hanging, so the plan was for Oly to go up, and swing across to where it would plumb from. This worked well until Oly dislodged a small rock with his foot which fell 12m to me below, as I was looking up at the tape it did not bounce off my helmet but hit me on the top of my nose/bottom of my head. It hurt lots and I screamed lots thinking I was properly broken. After a bit I realised Oly was asking in quite a concerned way if I was ok, so I thought for a bit if I was, my nose hurt lots, but there was only a very small bit of blood, and once I opened ~~my~~ my eyes I realised that I could see alright, so I shouted back that I was ok, and cried some more till the pained away a bit. We did a bit of surveying, then decided to rise up until we had done more gardening + rigging, and went back to the base of Sweet Shaft. We surveyed back till it connected at The Ledge and went home.

T/u 10 hours

Sun 25<sup>th</sup> July

76 - Brave New World

Oly + Jenny

Oly fiddled the rigging in the entrance to add a high guide line above the rock bridge, and we went into the Test Tube, and into Brave New World, this time turning right to the pitch, hawkey round it (which I found scary as it was loose) and in into the orbow on the left, from here we followed walking passage past some Calcite and Gypsum patches until we hit a T junction with an even bigger passage. We followed this right and came to another junction, in front of us was a pitch down, with a passage appearing to continue over it, and a passage heading off left, as we had no fiddle we followed this head junction/chamber. There a very small passage went left, a pitch went down in front and a smallish passage went right. We decided to survey back from here till it joined with The 1st Brave New World Survey.

T/u 6 hrs

Walked up to 206 in the ~~evening~~ evening to see where it was and say hi to Earl + Becka. 206 bliss is ~ 45 mins from our blis, but I don't walk very fast.

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> July

76 - Brave New World

Oly + Jenny

Decided to carry the drill through the Test Tube to both stuff in Brave New World. We decided it would be better to carry SRT leids rather than wearing them too, ~~with~~ no carry tackle make the Test Tube seem much smaller + more awkward. Turned right into BNW, and Oly got started with putting a traverse <sup>round</sup> ~~across~~ the pitch that had made me scared the previous day. Also went well & till he dropped his stop onto a ledge a few metres down... Shortly, the stop was retrived and the traverse line rigged across, we were a bit odd so decided to postpone further bolting, and to survey leftwards till the next junction. This lead to an even that looked not too hard to climb and a probable passage leading off at the top. We surveyed back, then I started to bolt down the pitch.

at the end of the tunnel like, the ~15m pitch came down to a ~~short~~ high ceiling passage that shortly led to a further pitch down that we had no rope for. Billy put in 2 spots in preparation for a later trip and we scoured back out. We still had hours left before our callout, so we went to look at the stream canyon beneath the passage on from the pitch, assuming it would come out in the same pitch, soon it came out in what seemed to be yet another pitch... We surveyed this, then left the cave.

T/W 11hrs

Tue 27<sup>th</sup> July 76 - Brave New World Ollie & Jim

Didn't feel like coming back through the Test Tube again, so took survey gear to look off some leads (Chapel Hill). The first lead we looked at was the taken the R ~1/2 way along, near the probable 99 connection. It got progressively narrower, and then there were some small possible white trails. We decided that it would be hard to get past them without touching them, so scoured out. Continued into Brave New World, and turned L to swing the ore bow passages, these are small and crappy + the 3 passages end up uniting and going to a pitch in a stream canyon - we scoured to here and attempted to plumb the pitch. It is ~6m deep. Still had time left so went the other way along BNW, round the pitch and to the chamber we started surveying Jim on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Looked down the passage on the R, this gets bigger for a bit raising our hopes of this being the Train Tunnel passage we had been looking for, but then it got lower and a crawl led to a big open chamber which looked not too hard to climb. From the chamber it was not obvious where we had come from as it all looked small, so I named it "No Ways Charlie" though in fact I found another crawl out near ours that became a decent passage of reasonable size to an area - this is still to be scoured.

T/W 4 3/4 hrs

Sun 25<sup>th</sup> July Gardener's World → Subsoil Bedra + Earl

Down hofferred series, argh, this rope is way too fat. Welly-brake-tastic... To Gardener's World + I went over my "generation game" traverse to check that it really did go nowhere (argh) then denigrated it... not too exciting but one overly-dynamic swing into space. Earl then did some re-rigging of Gardener's World + rigged the pitch below to Subsoil chamber. I was cold so stampered around for 5 minutes whilst Earl packed his drill + <sup>I</sup> realised that we had some considerable new cave here... so into survey mode. From chamber surveyed around chamber + then up Hippo Hollens (lovely mud pots) to a thin rift with a large web pitch around the corner then back to Subsoil + surveyed a loop then time to go home. Good stuff! Oh yes - I forgot ~~the~~ the crap bit, came coming up the hofferred pitch series the mud on the rope meant that not one but both my gammas were slipping despite me having switched to a brand new chest gamma that day. At one point I got really unhappy + gave a mewling sound then thought of a solution: my spare hand gamma on a long cow's tail went above my other hand gamma. A bit slower but surely not all three can slip? Finally got to the 70m hofferred pitch which was lovely + clean rope (relatively) + (was going to survive Earl's Teflon-Gammas-Manson was, T/W 10 hours of course, fine + blamed it all on my poor technique.

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> July

Rigging Lyffered + Gardner's World Beck + Carl

Tue 27<sup>th</sup> July

Surveying Subsoil

Beck + Carl

Carl was all for going straight back down to push Subsoil but I'd promised myself not to go down there again until there was fresh rope on it so we carried in a 100m and 65m and rigged from Tape Warm all the way down (I ~~had to~~ replaced the top 91m - again - whilst Carl - Mud - doesn't - Stick - To - Me - Meron zoomed down on the slimy rope + replaced the bottom one). Then Carl went off to have a third attempt at re-rigging Gardner's World whilst I draped conservation tape around ~~the~~ Sivers, Bracket Rings, tie off Crystal Pool + Quiz kiff. I then got cold + grumpy waiting whilst Carl put in deviation after deviation on Gardner's World plus fresh pitch-head bolts + then had two attempts at putting in a deviation bolt on the lower pitch (University Challenge). Finally down to Subsoil with no time left to do any sensible pushing so Carl put in two final bolts for the 4m pitch over a boulder for the passage that leads to Cartierware whilst I checked that the Heavily Sealed passage went. A necessary but cold trip. On the way out we started a system to try to keep the clean rope clean! -

- ① On the bottom, before pitch, no wellies on the rope
- ② After the traverse, wellies to be thoroughly scrubbed (also footloaps etc) before ascending
- ③ Repeat scrubbing as required as ascend.

I am about to purchase a scrubbing brush to leave in <sup>this</sup> pool so, you dirty horrible lovers, don't go near my sparkling new rope unless you're positive -

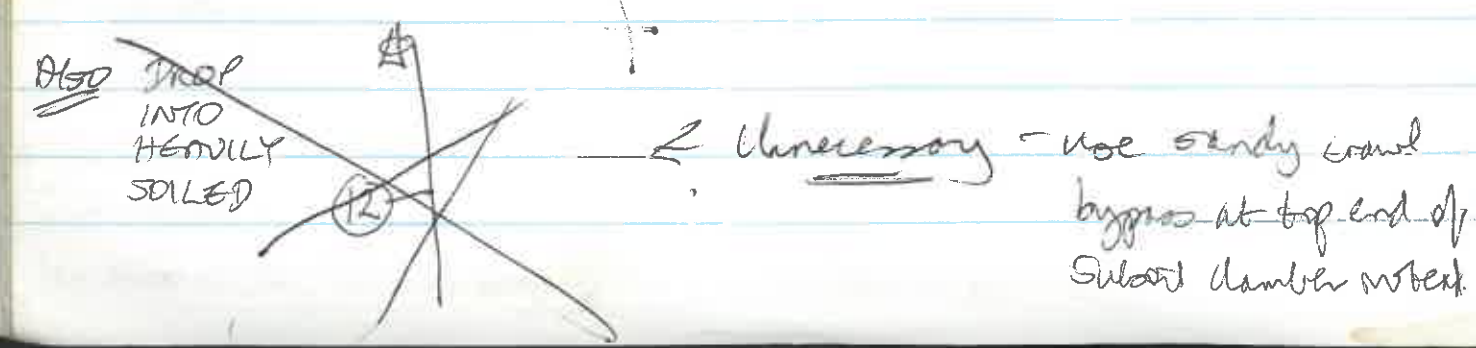
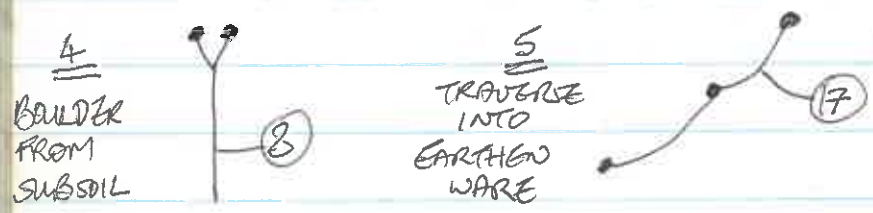
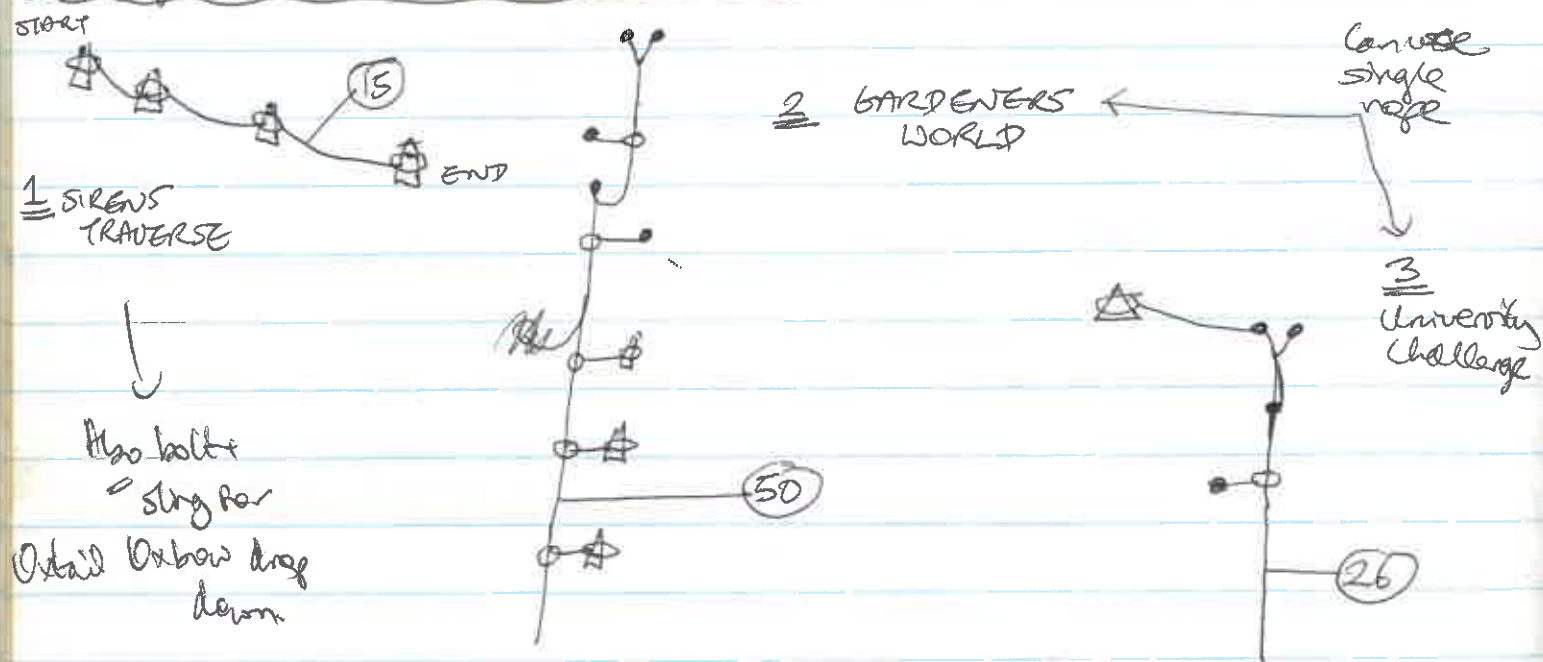
Thanks to Tony for cleaning + checking TU 10 hours  
the two Bilby buckle loop of rope we hauled out.

The Hazardance team was all off for a long ~~trip~~ <sup>trip</sup> so we decided to join them since it's the dinner tomorrow. Bloody cold at camp + not feeling enthused with a damp funny but a lovely controlled descent on the clean rope cheered me up. Before that, on the first main hang bolt on Lyffered, I found the rope really tight. Having a handy Carl, I manfully sent him down to sort it. There was a yelp as he did a mini-plunge + then he said that seemed to have sorted it. Right down to Subsoil, ~~we~~ rigged the biddly 4m pitch <sup>(8M ROPE)</sup> off the boulder then started surveying out of Subsoil up heavily sealed passage <sup>← NEED A 15M ROPE RATHER OFF OBVIOUS NATURAL TO GET DOWN TO IT</sup> (very muddy... again) with good draft. Initially large, deepish passage ending in a broader down area then popped out on edge of a large chamber. We were on a bank of mud only ~ 2m above the chamber floor but we had no gear, the mud was crumbly + Carl was very cold so we stopped there. Also a duffing over ahead there, again tricky to get there <sup>despite being very close</sup> given the dubious tensile strength of banks of undercut mud. Stopped the survey + stampied back to Subsoil. Carl then took the drill to put in three spits (lost one <sup>← highest</sup> possibly ~~possibly~~ dodgy as the rock cracked as he set it, "I think this is the best hillt I've ever done... dah..."). Meantime I conservation taped some crystals + the mud floor at the start of Hippo Hollows + the mud banks + spires at the bottom of the Subsoil chamber. Then <sup>we went</sup> up Carl's new traverse into Cartierware passage + we surveyed as we went in, past narrow mud potties + pools, stepping over a large + wet rift pitch + lots of BM's until Cartierware passage reduced in size (but still drafting? Hard to tell - draft is very strong into your face at



the start of Eastlenmore). At this point we decided to survey down the larger passage off left that led steeply down + twisting ("foremore" <sup>we</sup> finally lost the mud) + ended in a muddy oven + then a druggy wet oven at a convenient 6.55 pm time to go home. Took the drill battery out. For two people it takes ~ 1 1/2 hours ~~to get~~ to the bottom of Subsoil + ~ 2 1/2 hours to get out again, if carrying no real load. TU 1 1/2 hours

Rigging guide beyond Underworld



Wednesday 21st July suffered Earl + Stuart.

Descended to Eeyore to ~~continue~~ rigging Kanga pitch. Bolts had been placed on the previous trip, so adding a deviation enabled us to descend. Tony and Brian had won the only available instrument set, so we escaped without surveys. Explored around the bottom; only way on leads to a small chamber with pitch (not promising) which may connect to a pitch in the main Kanga area.

After that we moved round to the stress traverse to look at rigging around the big pitch 'Black Horse' (03-17B). First part of traverse was easy (bits ledge, 2 rickhalls and a bolt) but then ledge ran out. Next bolt shattered the rock on setting, but there is scope for a good Y-hang to the floor. Traversing on towards 03-18B will be non-trivial: probably bolting into overhangs wall, boots height and scrambling back up to QM. Ran out of enthusiasm, so left it at that.

Returned up suffered and went for a tourist trip around surveys. Stuart found a previously unnoticed QM (later pushed to a blind pitch) (between 01-83C and the connection to 'The Wide'). We then went to Treemountain and Great Oak chamber before returning via zone. TU 9 1/2 hours.

Stuart continues:

After ~~the~~ scrotting about at the base of Eeyore etc. Earl managed to increase the grade of the climbout by ~2 grades by removing one of the footholds. This makes getting out for whose surveys it. 'interesting'.

Swings QM is a climb up on the right, where a gallery looks through several holes to swings below. Hurrah for excessively bright + pointy lights in finding such delights.

The 27th July

Puroodume

Martin, Dave, Dow

My drill was at the bottom of Puroodume, and since I was about to go home I needed to fix it out. Since there was a shortage of people wanting to push the thing further, we decided to do one more push-survey-deer trip. Four days of attempting to dry out my fleecy undersuit proved futile (not helped by running up the hill in the dark and rain the previous night due to a 12 hour error in the recorded call out for the Eishoff beams) so at 8am I pulled on a southerly wet undersuit prior to a 10am trip start. Twenty hours later I took it off again, and for most of the intervening time I was too cold.

Uneventful trip in as far as the start of Puroodume, where the water level was higher than I've ever seen - probably double the usual levels. The wet climb was unpleasant but passable so we elected to carry on. Most of the pitches were fine: an extra waterfall had appeared at Mash-Tun, but it was ok. Copper The bottom of Copper was very wet - borderline dangerous. The relay on Yeast is in a star place for avoiding the water (share about the pitch head bolts, which need a 'testor'). In conclusion, Puroodume will be ok in the wet with an extra couple of bolts: one on the first wet climb, and another for a water avoidance deviation on Copper.

From the pushing point the stream continues in a tedious winding fashion. Martin headed ~~over~~ onward with the drill (having earlier put in a relay bolt on Pepper Pot) while Dave & Dow surveyed. Dave ~~and~~ couldn't read the ~~upper~~ instruments so I was forced to peer through the smoke. Some creativity was required to fabricate some data. Much tedious dithering about in the rift to find the right level and a 6m pitch later we reached the deep point (we ~~now~~ 54m deep) where the water goes down a tiny slot. Round the corner an ascending traverse goes to a much wider bit (10m across)

Looks like a weak bed has been exploited to make the widening - the bed is visible cutting across the passage. A line is needed where the traverse gets muddy and slippery - lots of brown mud with a black crust with desiccation cracks (at least there was before I stomped / trampled across it). The drill battery had done its usual trick of going from 4 bars to none in no time at all, so a Martin special pushing rig was put in place. Cartoon laws of rigging apply: the nationals are sound so long as you don't look at them too closely. More bolts needed next time. At the end is a pitch that we couldn't get close enough to see down - estimate 20m on the basis of throwing one rock down it (ie it could be any length at all).

Hereafter we ~~down~~ (read Dave) derged out as far as Coal loves a drink, where soup was consumed. The drill and a bag of rope walked out of the cave all on ~~their~~ own, whilst another bag of rope got tied at the bottom of Kiwi suit. Team foot jammer tentated out whilst expending no effort at all, whilst this dinosaur froged out at his usual funeral pace.

Pushing Puroodume is becoming quite serious in terms of the amount of effort and gear required. It is only worth pushing next year if there are enough (ie more than 4) moderately hard (but not necessarily bionic) people are interested in pushing it.

TU Martin 15hrs, Dave 16hrs, Dow 17½ hrs.

Thursday 22nd July 2004-11 - 'In Your Face' Martin, Nial, and Stuart.

Cous and look at our great new cave they said. Looks really promising they said. Might be a new 204 entrance they said DON'T YOU DARE FIND THE END OF IT they (Becka) said.

Having been reared in how to drive a survey notebook by Martin, we set off into the strongly drifting entrance tube which was extremely good at removing any heat our body could produce. ~~After~~ After much laborious surveying around the small chamber at the end of the entrance tube, Martin returned from the front where he was supposed to be bottling a pitch, announcing himself to be a fuckwit, and then scurried off to get the forgotten drill bit.

V.V. dodgy rigging ("It only rubs a little bit, so be gentle, ~~and~~ Oh, and you'll have to ascend the arm of the hang to get back") leads to a huge black ice plug at the pitch's base, and a dead ~~and~~ sounding and dangerous boulder choke.

Desperate not to incur the wrath of Becka, the two passages leading on ~~on~~ from the far side of the pitch became interesting. The lower one was very tight phreatic dropping @ about 95° to a wide low (2.1m high) chamber. The phreatic had a breeze but this seemed to disappear into a critical angle boulder slope. In desperation a small chimney was pushed to no avail, and the other way on from the chamber stopped.

Some effort was put into starting a traverse line to the higher passage leading on from the pitch head, but thoughts of food, warmth etc caused the general consensus to be 'fuck'. Also, the possibility of our only remaining lead dying was causing some perturbation.

Friday 23rd July 'In Your Face' Martin and Stuart  
& 204 scouting.

Somewhat I had ended up in 2004-U again. Martin completed the traverse in record time and declared, 'It's huge stamping passage, looks good'. This was unfortunate, since we had ventured out that morning with out instruments. And so it was that I chastised Martin, 'You weren't supposed to find more passage Martin'. This was the caves ending.

20 Martin ~~was~~ down a large passage it suddenly grinds to a halt. A survey (grade?) was scribbled ~~in~~ on top of a laminated 204 survey of ~~to~~ 200', using 20 MP of passage and 5 phumbed MP of vertical displacement above the previous day's passage. A mildly perilous 8m ascent into the passage roof yielded no further leads, and so we left the cave.

And promptly ran away to 204, to avoid telling Becka the good(?) news. ~~A~~ A sporting descent through the snow in 204d brought us to Swings, where Martin bottled a ~~red~~ hang into Earl's suspected connection to Helter Skelter.

Thurs 29th

Peter Olym, (Julian, Beeka)

Stuart then bolted to the pitch he had found previously in Ewing. It drops to the level of Ewing's main passage, and does bigger all else. There is a small tight tube back to Ewing at the base (SRT kit removal required) and it looks like there may also be an oven leading up elsewhere. No survey made.

Finally set off up the hill to fetch the remainder of my caving gear at 3:50 PM, intending to make a quick return in daylight with the gear. Olym kindly came along for the walk and to help me carry. (Perhaps also the best way to ensure that I didn't get lost on the plateau forever more.)

The walk proceeded quickly and with minimum moaning on my part (due mostly to my empty rucksack). Olym and I deviated from the path to investigate a few cave entrances - turning out to be in the 80's. We were rejoined by Julian and Beeka shortly afterwards, near the beginning of the slabs.

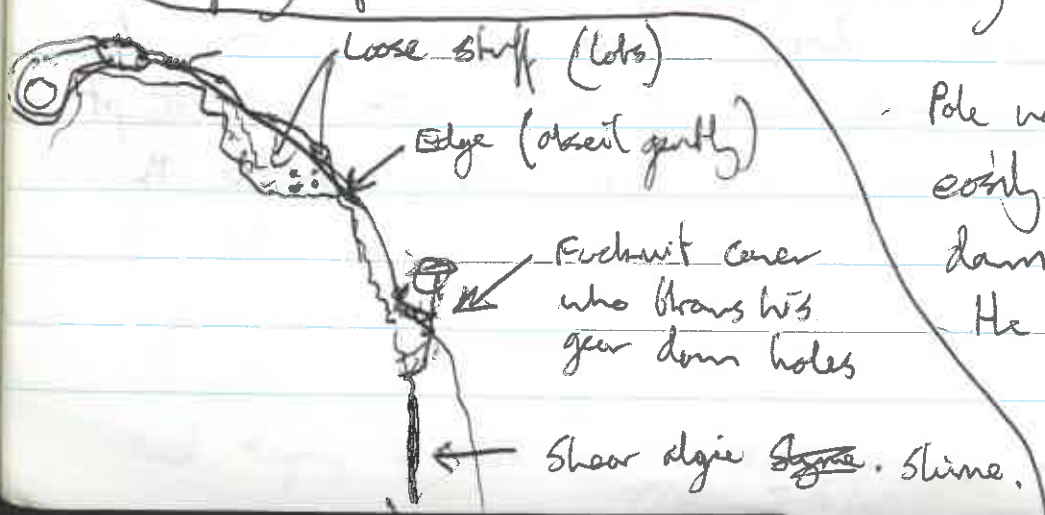
Towards the end of the slabs, I did the ~~do~~ often done thing of slipping with one of my walking poles. I then managed to kick said pole, and due to the wrist straps not being used (for safety in case the pole got stuck), the pole was projected ~~into~~ forward. The pole stopped, bounced, then fell. Fell ~~it~~ into the snow plug covering a x 20m deep hole. Rattle slip, rattle and it was gone. Climbing around the hole revealed a 10m drop / descent / climb down at one end, but the rock was far too loose to attempt the climb, so we continued less one walking pole to the stone bridge.

We proceeded to Insignificant Chamber where Stuart went down a hole, believed to be the connection to Rhino Rift, wherein he found survey station 'T2', an old string + greased mailon, and a difficult climb down. This satisfied Martin, and the only other noteworthy event was the **BASTARD TABLE BAG FROM HELL**. This thing is inherently evil. Its malevolence knows no bounds. Small children hide under the bed from it. It eats small puppies. Several chapters of the Bible know it by the name Satan. It feeds off the terror, pain and anguish it creates. As an instrument of torture it is unparalleled. Within the Universe there is no darker force. To the unknowing observer it is a regular table bag, in which the shoulder straps have snapped ~~from~~ at one end, and subsequently they have been tied to form a second donkey's dick. These two properties combine to form a dread object which is a blight to all cave-kind, getting stuck on EVERY SINGLE FUCKING THING, and <sup>this</sup> causing its cursed bearer to fall flat on its nose every three paces. ~~Off~~ The horror inflicted by this item in Bernhardt's revenge more words cannot describe. Let's just say being moored by cave, table bag, and trying to turn round in the passage at the same time is SHIT.  
T/C 2 1/2 hrs

Eventually we got packed, fed and watered at the bridge, and with pausing to try and firebomb the fly infested facilities, we must have left ~~at~~ some time around 7:20 AM. With us, Oly and I took some lunches (in case we found any old spits), a sling, ~~barbwire~~, and a 7m long 7mm rope probably de-rigged from Roscor Dance. We intended to get that pesky pole back.

On En-route, we stopped at Harehole to retrieve my carrying gear and ~~at~~ whilst there, I decided to go carrying and retrieve my slings and knots from the pitch / climb rigging. This was done quickly, replacing one sling + knot with a club pair, and the other Y-hang arm was re-headed through the bunker natural instead of via the sling.

Once out of Harehole, I found Oly hunting around on the edge of the hole for a second thread / natural belay. Tony Poole appeared on his way to the bridge, and recommended rigging a scramble down the back end of the hole, where the drop was ~~not~~ more around 10m. We did this, rigged from the single bit of carefully fixed rock in the vicinity - a bunker thread.



Pole was retrieved very easily by gently descending down and going around the snow plug.

Very gently, prussiking and self bracing completed the ascent (not wanting to damage the 7mm rope over the ledge. Pole was hauled up on the end of the rope to safety.

Rest of walk ~~was~~ <sup>on the plateau</sup> uneventful, although both of my wellies escaped my rucksack bindings and fell down different (but both shallow) grikes... Thankfully the weather remained dry in spite of overcast looking clouds. The light was poor by this time, and I slipped and stumbled more than usual, hurting both of my ankles.

Walking back from the huts, we encountered several bovine obstructions blocking our path. In the first instance, a calf lying down in the path. This was not good, we were shortly surrounded by the cattle, who had all stood up and stam as interest. (Including some with excessively large horns which looked quite pointy.) Thankfully walking slowly (very) and calmly defused the situation, and a similar one later on was similarly dealt with.

Got to campsite fixed, saw and browsed at about 10:40 PM. I suspect I'll sleep soundly tonight!

TU (hour (Peter))

30/7/04

Hauchhöhle: How to unacher yourself in the least exciting way - possible

Dave, Stuart

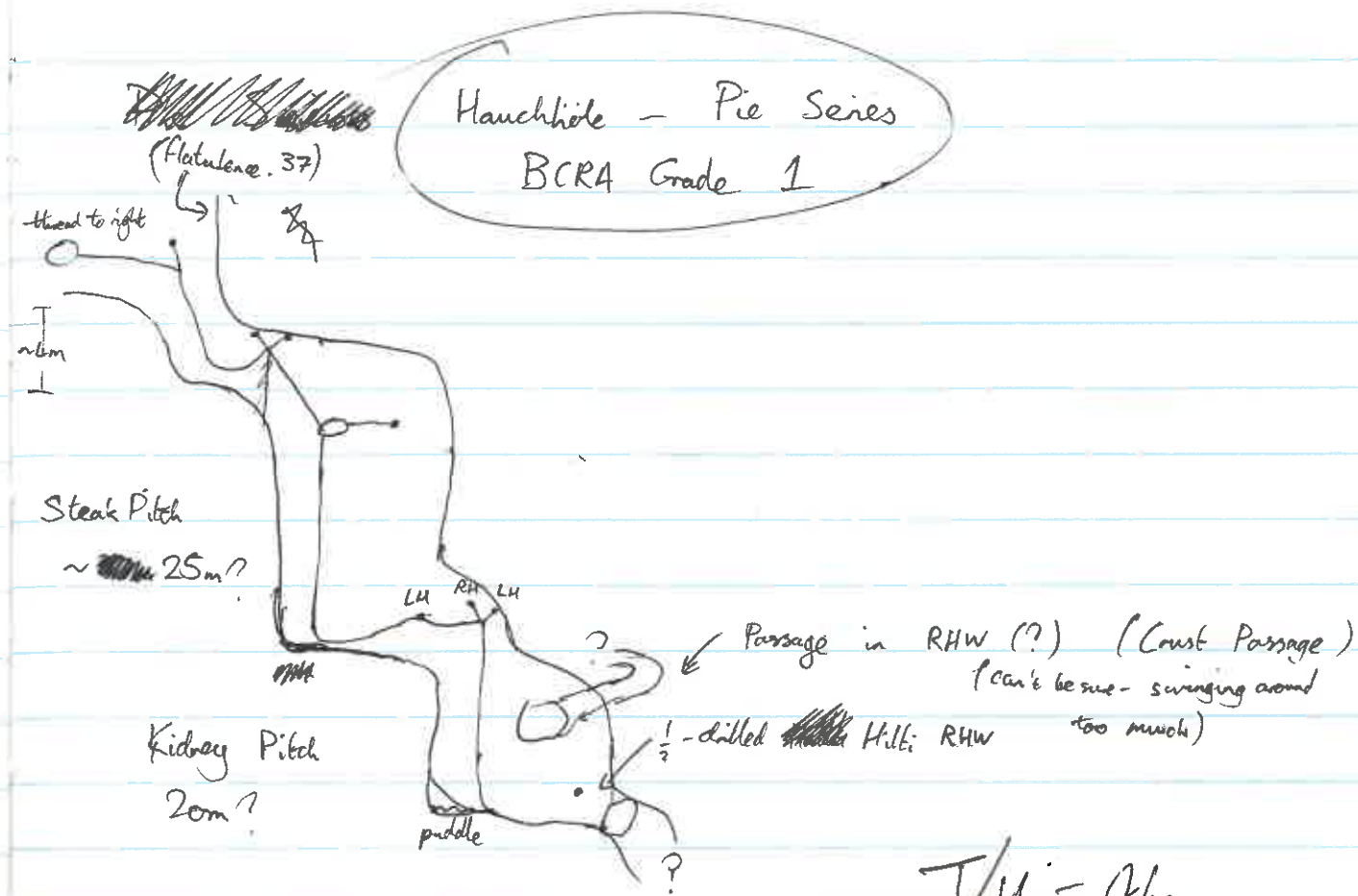
Plan was to do a quick Hauch trip then a surface wander. Proceeded to bottom of pitch rigged by Earl on a previous trip, where there was a half-drilled Hilti hole. Drilled this fully, + placed a Y-hang (plus one duff spit that sunk too deep).

At the bottom of pitch is a small (~5m x ~8m) kidney-shaped area of floor. At one end is a rift pitch, head blocked by a large boulder. I spent a while loosening it, but although it settled slightly it wouldn't shift.

Drill battery unfortunately ran out halfway through the Y-hang. Stuart freeclimbed down it (lunatic) and couldn't get back out again; I put in a very dodgy deviation + he pruned out on the previous pitch rope. Apparently it is a ~6m climb initially and beyond this is a stream rift.

While prunning back out I spotted a window in the side of the shaft. Swinging into this revealed an upwards-sloping tube about 80cm dia; I wandered up this for 25m or so to a leftwards bend, at which point I decided to come back another day with survey gear

HOWEVER while carrying out one of the tacklebags through Doesn't Go Rift I did something rather odd to my back, so I haven't cared since. Buggeration.



T/U - 4hr.

29<sup>th</sup> July 2004 76 + surface stuff Jenny + Ollie

Ollie wasn't feeling too well, so she did some surface stuff whilst I went into Bravo New World to retrieve the ladders, sky box, slings etc, and to carry a bag of rope down to the ledge ready for the next day

T/U 1 1/2 hr Jenny

30<sup>th</sup> July 2004 76 - Keg Series Jenny + Ollie

Went down to the top of Keg Series with lots of rigging gear + drill. Ollie did some more gardening (but there is still some loose stuff around) and went down, rather than hanging straight down the pitch like last time, he swung across into the passage ~ 1/3 of the way down the horizontal passage only went a few metres before became choked to the R, and rejoining the pitch on the left. Anyway

Oly rigged down a difficult draft heavily on the left that rejoined the direct pitch at the bottom + nicely avoided water + loose rocks. At the next pitch head I foolishly ~~erred~~ <sup>erred</sup> that it would be nice if it ~~scramped~~ <sup>scramped</sup> round the corner so we could look somewhere nice (+less loose).

The next pitch was actually nice, less loose + BIG, it was rigged with a deviation + a knot pass, but needs more/better deviations. This took us down to another ledge ~ m below, from here Oly rigged a 3rd pitch, with a deviation in that after ~ m reached a really big ledge with (for the 1st time for a while) a solid rock floor. Oly went down a short m pitch, whilst I commuted on how big and therefore significant this passage/pitch series was. At the bottom Oly found a sump and I felt guilty for wanting one earlier.

I descended down to check it really was a sump (it was, and not a very impressive one at that) whilst Oly looked at a small passage going off the other way till it got small, I came out + locked there, after a short crawl (5m) it met a small stream passage which I followed for a short way till it felt small + committing - the passage does however continue. Meanwhile Oly had found a more promising lead by climbing above the sump + following a tortuous ~~stream~~ <sup>under</sup> canyon down till it got bigger and became another pitch series, we decided to leave this for next year + surveyed out to the top of Keg Series.

On the middle big pitch I had a bad feeling about the rope rubbing so was prussiking fairly gently. Once I was ~ 1/2 way up I noticed that the rope was ~~scraped~~ <sup>caught</sup> round a flake above the deviation + was rubbing lots + lots over a fairly sharp edge ~~and~~. This made me scared, lots. I wished we weren't using 9mm rope to. I shouted up to Oly what had happened + that I was going to prussik very carefully, unless he had any bright ideas for what to do. Oly suggested I prussiked really really carefully.

I carried on up, past the knot pass, cursing Oly's rigging (sorry) till I got to the deviation which I clipped into (keeping my jammer on as well). Despite the device being on a dodgy small spike with rotted sling I felt a whole lot safer + pondered what to do next. The only option near Oly could think of was to pass the deviation so I could up flit the rope, then prussik gently past the nub point. I was careful & not too look at the rope till past the nub ~~as~~ that how Oly said cartoons work... Anyway the rope was only a bit furry, it didn't die and we exited the rest of the cave uneventfully.

TU 12 hrs

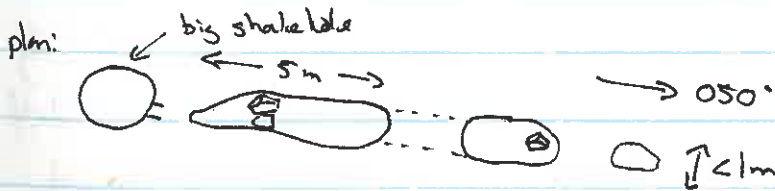
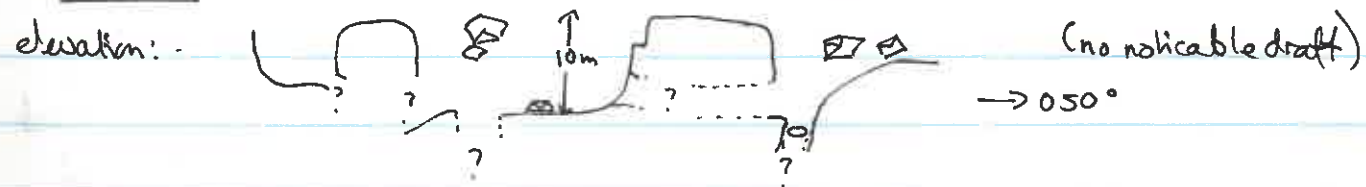
31st July

Surface stuff

Jenny + Oly

Walked towards the high point ~ W of 76 + the bioi. Just below (on the E side) of the high point we found a series of <sup>-3</sup> entrances along a fault joint, we called this 2004-05, they were 10m to a ledge, then seemed to go deeper, but we didn't have a table + I couldn't get the top to drop there.

2004-05



Continued further, going back to the bioi, but further N of the outward side. Found a rift below a line of small cliffs - 2004-06

2004-06



Shortly later we found another entrance which was going to be 2004-07, with 1 found point (90/5) and a tag (175), so we continued on till we saw a walk/scramble in entrance on the R. This has a drawn up survey and is 2004-07. Further still back, we came across a large cotta chamber with 1 collapsed roof and two entrances. We forgot to survey it at all but it was photoed by Olly + GPS'ed →

We then walked back to where Tantalus should be + didn't find it, but did allocated 2004-09, which is a shaft with 'a good drop and rattle', sorry but no photos or survey, but it was GPS'ed!

PS. Olly's GPS seems to have lot these co-ords, so we'll have to re-find them next year...

1<sup>st</sup> August 76 - to the Tap Room Jenny + Olly

Went back down to the top of leg series, but this time continued down the 70's route, down a short climb to a small chamber. The route continued down the rift, we used a shade stone (a big one) as a bad cap and Olly suggested a good place for a spit. I climbed round and started to put the spit in, I got as far as ~~it~~ nearly being set when I gave up (~~some~~ sore ankle + leg cramp) + let Olly take over, Olly was impressed at how far out I had managed to ~~put~~ place the spit and didn't call me a wuss for not finishing it. A deviation got us to the next ledge where Olly put in a back up spit and got started on a 4 R. Over the space of a couple of minutes what was a very distant small water trickle became very loud + sounded very close - I was concerned that a raging torrent along with loose rocks would appear from on above, fortunately it didn't and we didn't die. Olly said it inspired that it started to rain after

40 mins earlier. Olly carried on down the pitch and got to a narrow rift with, this widened out where a passage joined from the rift into a chamber with big boulders (The Tap Room), this was very drippy + wet so we left right on for another day and looked at the other inlet, reached from a small climb. This soon intersected a big pitch, with the passage continuing on - it looked reasonably easy to swing across, but we left this for a later date. We survey + derigged out, I greased the spits as well, till the grease ran out at the bottom of plugged set, which was good as we had for too much to carry already.

T/U 10hrs

19 July

Brian

Went in 2003-02 with Earls dill & rigged to bottom of Pitch. Abbed off pitchhead bolt put in 2003 down 6 m to rebelay then 2 rebelay on far wall to main drop. Dropped a few stones to find best hang through a narrow rift 13 m below didn't quite judge it right so put in another bolt as a deviation when I got down to the rift. Then a 43 m hang to a rebelay where I wobbled a bit, feeling isolated and wet then down to the floor. Bollocks! no way on. But wait a short climb up the side of the shaft and another hole. But no more rope so I went home.

21 July 2003-02

Tony & Brian

Surveyed in to bottom with short rope to investigate rifty hole ~~was~~ at base of shaft. - closed down after 5 m climb down through boulders. Went home.



22 July '04

Tony & Brian Surface Bash

Started out walking To the NE of 204 area  
until we met the big change in slope overlooking  
the valley with the Stogerneg in at the bottom.

Then walked along side of valley until  
we found two entrances of note: GPS, tagged  
and photographed

2004-12: N 47° 41' 06.1"

E 013° 49' 38.8"

2004 13: N 47° 41' 02.0"

E 013° 49' 38.7"

went back via Democles schact.

30 July '04

2003 02 bolting Tony & Brian

Using dub drill & blue dynamic rope, bolted  
around corner from pitch head bolt (2003-02-01 Survey  
station no 8) and up wall on right side of  
chamber to small window. Squeezed through to  
small chamber (5m) with no way on.

Drilled an exit.

31 July

Skinny features Tony & Brian

Rigged in to base of pitch. Tony put in 2 bolts  
to climb. A lead in right wall of chamber  
revealed short passage to corner left way on blocked  
by boulders - persuaded downwards - revealing a  
climbable rift to a tube again blocked by removable

boulders, to narrow low awkward passage to pitch head  
blocked by large boulder. New persuaders. Went home.

1 August 2004

Skinny features

Tony Brian

Came back with lump hammer & crow bar &  
persuaded boulder to reduce in size. Tony forced  
a way through to place a pitch head bolt & descend  
to small chamber with a squeeze through a rift in the  
floor. Descended to rifts chamber with no way on. Went home.

30 ~~July~~ <sup>July</sup> 2004

Subsoil Becka, Earl, Nial & Julian

↳ Pat Warm Blows a Sparky

Off to right survey leads at the end of Hippo Hollows in  
Subsoil. Nial & Becka surveyed two tubes on left at end  
of Hippo Hollows. First just popped out to look over the  
rift that the main passage ended on. Rutter back, the tube  
went steadily up to a small pitch. Earl put in two bolts  
for a Y-hang. We put in a cordy traverse over the top  
of the pitch (not for but rigged on feeble natural on the  
for sides <sup>4 steps mud</sup> + continued survey up the tube the far side to  
a small pitch with a possible vocal connection to the rift  
at the end of Hippo Hollows. Pitch a QMB. Then back to the  
Thang + I descended the short pitch. A small crawl at the  
bottom seemed to immediately open out onto a pitch. I  
didn't push it (needed to take SRT gear off) but <sup>another</sup> QMB.  
Meanwhile Earl had belayed Julian as he free-climbed down  
the rift at the end of Hippo Hollows to descend into Pat

Warm Blows & Sparling. Becha + Nial surveyed down into FWBAS & started to survey here until Earl tried to drill pits for a more sensitive rig down to FWBAS (+ failed...\*), found some weird white Ramak-like plastic of a passage at the end of the survey. <sup>We were using a rope dangled down the rift with lots of ribs so you have to free climb up + down. T/U 10 hours.</sup> that Julian took photos of.

July  
31 Aug 2004 Subsoil Becha, Julian, Earl, Frank + Nial

Becha + Julian set off an hour ahead of the crowd + did some virtuoso QM drilling by surveying up the sandy tube at the top of the subsoil chamber where Gardeners World / U.C. pitch comes in. The right tube closed down. The left one was small but straightforward + connected in to Earl + ~~the~~ my

Heavily sorted survey so ticked off one of the sandy crawl QM's here too (still leaving another crawl<sup>QM</sup> off from heavily sorted to be checked). Back to Subsoil + met others. I went with Frank to continue the Batterware survey, going straight ahead where Stoneware branched left. After a short while continuing straight ahead ~~at~~ I saw black face up to the right so we surveyed up there (care, nice calcite on left wall, we conservation-taped this route off on the next trip). Into big passage + surveyed left (North). The rock rapidly closed in due to massive collapse of rock from roof to end in a boulder choke which didn't really draft. Back to Subsoil + Julian + Frank headed out. Earl was still trying to get a better rig into Fat Worm Blows A Sparling (see \* yesterday). Nial + I continued the survey of FWBAS from Julian + his survey until we'd run out of time + pretty well

\* We surveyed a rift to the right. On an alcove on the left in the sandy floor were HUNDREDS of bat bones as if a whole roost had died there. Many bat bones throughout Subsoil (washing out of the mud?) but especially concentrated here. Ticked off all the horizontal leads. The last bit of a survey down a thin rift only needed a handline to protect a climb down + was the deepest part surveyed. Becha + Nial + I started to survey, beyond the dead bat, there was a breech (QMB) up to the left which then needed protecting for the final few metres up to an embryo-looking lead. Heading down from this point on the 3/8/04 trip I checked this - it continued steeply down boulders to a small chamber with a small web over - just about a QMB. This is noted on the first <sup>2004</sup> page of the 3/8/04 survey notes from Becha + Nial (pocket 44) Earl then was removed from his rigging + we went home, leaving Earl escape first to get the food on.

Becha T/U 12, Julian T/U 9 1/2, Earl T/U 10  
Frank T/U 8 1/2, Nial T/U 11

1 Aug 2004 Batterware Becha, Martin + Julian

Martin was keen to see Gaffer. Julian + I were feeling a bit worn but went for it. Down to where Frank + I had finished our survey yesterday. We connected our survey in to an earlier part along Batterware where Frank + I had made a vocal connection yesterday then continued the survey south going relatively slowly due to Martin's conventional note-taking. Very large passage ended in a mud choke but <sup>we ~~did~~ turned off left up</sup> reasonably large passage ~~up to the top~~ heading up steeply. This closed down to a small chamber with an unpromising rift off to the left but it dropped well + after some short legs we popped out into the bottom of a large mud ramp. We surveyed up this as far as was sensible given the slope + the very sappy mud -

would be OK with a handline. Then back down the slope and surveyed up a very similar mud ramp off to the side, this ended in a short climb which would be straightforward but would be best protected + wasn't worth as long as it looked like it led straight to a pitch. Then retreated back to near the boulder collapse where Frank + I had surveyed yesterday + surveyed up a thin drifting tube that I had noticed yesterday. This led up steeply with a pitch (with a nasty mud slope at the edge + uneven floor beneath) at the top + to the left a small chamber with a boulder choke which is presumably the same as the main choke <sup>at the W end of</sup> the big passage. Out.

T/U 10 hours

2 Aug 2004 Loop closure + Cresta Run

Becka, Nial, Stuart, Earl + Martin

Becka + Nial in early to take some BDH + pelicose sponsorship photos + to dig the pitiles into Rhino Kilt + take the rope to the end of Swags + Roundabouts. Martin (with Earl as a back-up ~~rope~~ rigger) then went up the rope which Martin had put in the bolts for earlier this expo (I think Earl had climbed putting in handbolts in ?2001?/2000) + rigged down the far side and - bingo - found a survey station from Helter Skelter. Meanwhile team survey (Becka, Nial + Stuart) surveyed "Trapeze", a climb to a gallery above the main Swags passage + a small chamber below which can be reached by a squeeze at the bottom of the main Swags passage - Nial + I had looked at this on 18<sup>th</sup> July + Stuart + Earl

had independently looked at it on a later trip. Then off to the Helter Skelter connection + started surveying this climb. Martin + Earl took the drill to Insignificant Clamber to QM 2000-10A + put in a natural back up, 4-bang with spits, bolted deviation to a ledge about 15-20m down + then two more spits in rubbish rock to descend to floor of Pleasuredome, maybe 45m down (this needs surveying). Meanwhile Nial, Stuart + Becka had found a thin rift leading off from the pitch which dropped into Helter Skelter + surveyed down this ("Cresta Run") as it zig-zagged steeply down to a small chamber (apparently <sup>the boulder choke at the top end of this is</sup> very close to the end of Rat Bount on the survey - worth trying for a useful connection ~~some~~ some time?). Cresta Run continued steeply down + we finished the survey at a pitch head with possible horizontal leads + a sharp pitch with possibly another chamber beyond. We then dangled the Helter Skelter pitch (but left the up-rope from Swags + Roundabouts rigged - would be horrible to dig anyway) + took the rope to Martin + Earl so they could finish their Pleasuredome pitch. We then did a short survey to link the Insignificant Clamber survey to Julian's Todd's climb out of Rhino Kilt last year to complete the second large loop closure of the trip. A very productive + varied trip!

T/U Becka + Nial 8 hours

Stuart 7 hours

Martin + Earl 9 hours

3 Aug 2004. Rush Subsoil + start to denig Gafferred  
Beda, Nial + Earl.

I thought it would be a bit weedy to just denig on the  
trip so I arm-extended Nial into some QM-biking +  
surveying + Earl into some rigging. We started by going  
to Fat Wam Blows a Sparling + I put conversation tape  
round the freshly (quite) dead bat in Bat Chamber + around  
the shore of bat boxes described on 31 Aug, see IV) whilst  
Nial denigged Earl's (as yet unused!) rigging for the pitch into it.  
Helped Earl get the drill + rope to Subsoil then sent Earl  
off up Gardeners World with 40m rope + his drill to bolt down  
Black Maria. Meanwhile Nial + I went to Earthenware + wet  
up a QMA on the right (before Stoneware) that ended in a  
boulder chock. Off the side of this was a thin + v. steeply  
rising rift which we surveyed partway up. I continued up it  
climbing to only ~2m below where it looked like a horizontal  
fracture tube was coming in but <sup>it</sup> would be worth probing  
the last bit of this climb up <sup>before checking it out</sup> (QM B - drafting). Then down  
+ along Earthenware to a tube off to the left which  
dropped strongly. This was initially small but popped out to  
a complicated area with a ~~QMA~~ QMA straight ahead. We  
turned right + briefly popped out into big passage. This was  
horizontal then sloped up steeply becoming a boulder  
chute + clearing down + knibled at a pitch head with a >2sec  
drop + maybe a way up above the pitch but this would  
need protection to look at + the boulders were dubious.  
Denigged the traverse + the 4m pitch into Earthenware + Nial  
off to find Earl whilst I denigged Gardeners World. Earl had put

in a bolt + a string to let you get into/out of Ox-bail Ox-bow  
easily (we have taped off Braillet Rings passage to stop  
people using it, so everyone should be going via Ox-bail Ox-bow).  
Earl had put the spits in for Black Maria but didn't have  
enough rope so we gave him some + he put in a lead pass  
+ descended. Apparently the shaft (large at the head of Sivers)  
narrows down so there is only a relatively small chamber  
at the bottom with only a QMC leading off downstage from the  
bottom. Nial + I were v. relieved to find the tape was just long  
enough to survey to the bottom of the pitch without us having to  
descend it. Earl denigged + I denigged the traverse then we  
collected all our rubbish together at the base of the Gafferred  
pitch. ~~As~~ Nial + I each got a very stuffed todeloode  
whilst Earl got his drill + associated rubbish. I volunteered  
to start denigging the 65m so went up last. I'd foolishly  
forgotten the traverse up to Eeyore - how? I ~~had~~ <sup>had</sup> a brief +  
boorhardy attempt at doing it with my 1.5 todeloode. Wrong.  
I then moved the bag to the end of the traverse + had  
another go. Still impossible - nothing to stand on. Linged up as  
Earl + I was tempted to abandon it but I kindly stuck a  
string around a knobble at the top, denigged the top bolt on the  
traverse then freeclimbed down the other side of the rift to  
the traverse (which was how Earl + I had rigged it this year).  
After that denigged the 65m line + headed up slowly with both  
gammes slipping badly again on the rope due to the mud - despite  
our best efforts at cleaning wellies + gammes. Waited whilst  
Earl put in one good and two failed spits at the top of Gafferred  
to improve the traverse at the head + out, at last, tired.

~~12 hours~~ 12 hours

4 Aug 2004 Rinish dragging Gaffered Becha, Earl & Neal

A finely honed plan worked brilliantly! Neal down at 11am to pick up the pre-packed tacklebag I'd dragged yesterday. Earl in at 11:30 & dragged the 90m on the rest of Gaffered. Becha in at 12:15. Earl & I belayed over who got to fiddle out of Gaffered with the tacklebags - my superior pride trumped Earl's superior strength & fitness so he got to bring Gaffered while I shuffled tacklebags up the cave.

T/U Neal & Becha 3 hours; Earl 4 hours

4 Aug Tony Julian Brian Push 2004-12

Followed draft into the cave, and investigated all obvious & easy leads. Draft was emerging from tight tube at floor level. This was squeezed to a small chamber. Still drafting. Rocks were removed and the way was squeezed to a second small chamber. Still drafting. Brian removed rocks outwards then Julian kicked rocks in to pass another squeeze into a roomier boulder slope.

Downslope emerged into walking/stooping sized passage which was quickly recognised by Julian as Iceland of KH. Found a red paint survey spot from 2003. G entrance resurveyed and surveyed out from this. Exited cave and walked back to 204 via drift. On route back

Tony found a horizontal entrance that he investigated: horizontal phreas to T junction, upslope

to choked chamber entrance, downslope to ~~more~~ more horizontal phreas bypassing pitch in floor. Tony exited. We went home. Cave Tag 2004-19

5 August Tony Brian 2004-19 - pushing.

Very arduous and contorted route to cave. GPS essential. Surveyed in. Surveyed 2 entrances one horizontal, one upslope vertical. Surveyed into cave via phreatotube to T Crossroads: Straight on, choked. Right to choked chamber. Left through nice phreas with pitch shortly in floor. Bypassing this, passage continues to T junction. Right is to choke but easily passable. Left to 2m climb to chamber. Left again to 2nd chamber and right, ~~to~~ upslope to open & daylight. We surveyed in the cave to what we thought was a plumb. Tony then exited the cave to try to find this shaft. After much whooping and hollering he eventually ~~such~~ succeeded and we made noodles and went home. Very arduous and contorted route back to stone bridge.

1st Aug 2004 Surface Prospecting w. Hauchhülle Street, Olly, Mak.

Mak arrives at Stone Bridge previous night, doing thousands of new really good caves near Hauchhülle, maybe doing important bits of 204 → 161 / ~~check~~.  
Much annoyance ensues.

1st Aug sees nothing even going to look @ said holes, who then find most of them go ~ 20m.

Further exploration found large fault with <sup>a few</sup> ~~multiple~~ caves of slight bigness. Mining through trip found (mining whilst in surface clothes) and a promising lead or two also noted.

When finally changed into cave gear, one of these leads was surveyed (2004-14), bolted & photographed. At this point rambling from the heavens stopped play.

Sheltering in the through trip cave, a small crowd was found (and later this cave was surveyed by Olly & Frank (2004-15), and crawl gets too tight).

Borden set in, leading to a desperate flight across the plateau in the Dome de Blitzen, which was very silly.

T/U ~ 1/2 hr - maybe less, at no point out of light from surface.

3rd Aug 2004 Ragnance Dey. Street, Olly, M.

In the absence of anybody else ~~was~~ willing to do it, Olly and I derigged Ragn. Delightful.

Found 1x Martin + 1x Frank after we had got as far as derigging bottom two pitches of Kivi suit. Assisted in derigging as far as top of Kivi suit, where Olly and subsequently I, jacked.

T/U Olly M 10 1/2 hrs  
~~Street~~ U 1/2 hrs.

4th Aug 2004 Surface work w. Hauchhülle pt. 2. Street, Olly, M.

Photographed & tagged 2004-15.

6th Aug 2004 Grababach Canyon Street, Martin, Mak.

What an ace place. Really good. And that's only the walk-in. Probably required less rope than we took. Lots of belly jumping into deep pools, and sliding down dodgy waterfalls on ones own. (But only if you are called Street or Martin. Mak was sensible and used ropes. How boring). Personal highlight of slipping whilst jumping 5-6m from a ledge into a pool, and executing a perfect sideways belly flop (if such a thing is possible).

Time in water 4 1/2 hrs  
~ under ~ 1 hr (Martin + Street)  
CO sees (Mak).

3<sup>rd</sup> August

76 - Brave New World

Jenny + Ollie

Went to Brave New World to look at the pitch lead, had too much gear to carry through the Test Tubes, so whilst Ollie started to belt I went back for a second carry. I returned to find that Ollie had traversed a short way across from the pitch head and stepped right into a drafty alcove, this leads to a big phreatic passage which made a sharp turn and became quite a high rift, we traversed along near the top of this to some boulders where we climbed down to the bottom and followed round a few bends to a pitch into something big... Ollie reckoned it was probably the bottom of Plugged Shaft, I traversed out far enough to see the scaffold bar which clinched it. We surveyed out, but didn't drop the pitch to close the loop.

Went back up to BNW level to survey and fully look at the passage leading off from No Ways Chamber. Ollie looked at a low crawl off, but it didn't go too far before getting too small (though it did do it).

This rift is called Forward to the Past

Went to survey the big passage I found on the 27<sup>th</sup>, at the aven at the end of it Ollie climbed up to the right but it ended. Straight ahead was another climb, but neither of us could quite make it without gear - it looked like 1 or 2 passages lead off at maybe 6m high. Finished surveying and heading out.

T/U 10 1/2 hours

4<sup>th</sup> August

76 - Brave New World pitch series

Jenny + Ollie

Went back to the pitch coming on below Forward to the Past. Ollie rigged down to the rock bridge down to a ledge where a passage doubled back and dropped a small pitch which was choked

at the bottom. The main pitch continued down the same fault plane (nb fault has ~1m offset at dips <sup>strike ~ 230°</sup> slightly to the E) this pitch lead to another short one before things got smaller, we got cold + time was pressing on. We started surveying out from here leaving a pitch with a couple of second drop (though the rock banded ones). Rigged back up to BNW whilst surveying and then traversed over the pitch to see if the main BNW passage continued, it did, initially quite big ~~and~~ rift like after ~30m it seemed to end, but a small passage lead off on the right this lead to a strongly drafty tube slightly bigger than the Test Tube with a bench in the floor, Ollie named this The Boiling Tube. After a bit a passage left on the left followed by an aven, shortly later another passage (this I named choked) left on the right + the main one got smaller, so we surveyed back from here.

~~Plugged~~ Again we had too much gear to carry out so I went back for the 3<sup>rd</sup> one whilst only abbed down to the ledge below The Ledge to deny. After this we both heroically carried out lots of gear + I denigged. I hadn't realized how much harder swinging around to deny would be with 2 heavy tacklesacks. By the top of Draught Bottle I gave up on taking both tags together + shuttled them up. By the end of denigging I ~~didn't~~ only had enough energy to carry 1 bag out the cave + stumble back to the bio. where Ollie had kindly cooked me food, he then went back to retrieve the bag.

T/U Jenny 13 3/4 hrs

Ollie 13 1/4 hrs

2004-08-05 Descending "108" and 2004-02

Jenny Ollie

We found a cave marked 108 near 76, but it doesn't match the description on the website (vertical entrance rather than horizontal) so we checked it out. It's marked with point "108" and has a spit in the centre of the "0". The spit

isn't great, but there's a good chunky flake to use too. The shaft descends ~9m to a ledge. At this level there's a horizontal passage which leads immediately to a 4m deep blind rift pitch. Back in the main shaft, a few natural rockfalls get you to a floor just under 30m down. At one end of the rift a draught emerges from rocks, but removing some rocks it appears it <sup>would</sup> require quite a lot of work to make progress and the container may be too small anyway.

We then used to look at 2004-02. This is a draughting hole very near the TB being with a chossy entrance. Just inside is a crap snow plug which collapsed a lot. The draught issues from a too narrow rift roughly below the entrance. The top of the rift has a large rock wedged in. This can be worked if pulled very hard. Perhaps it's worth removing to see if the rift is wide enough at the top? It's definitely wider beyond the rift.

T/U: 5/11/04

4/8/04 (?) ZOC digging continued Dave, Martin, Frank

After the stinging efforts of Oly, Stuart, Martin + Frank the previous day all the rope had made it to the bottom of ~~the~~ Pot-U-Like. Newly recovered from a hunched back, I was raring to go, but nobody else was very keen. Demonstrating keenness + stupidity in equal measure I set off alone and got lots of rope + sacks up the pitch, dismantling the paella as it arrived. Of course once ca 90% of the stuff was up, the very last haul rope got tangled with the SRT line, so I had to go down the pitch to sort it out.

~~From~~ Mess At this point Martin + Frank arrived + hauled the rope across the head of Kow's So Veiled while I derigged

the short pitch. We rejoined at the bottom of Thread Pitch, hauled up that + derigged it. From here we managed to paella to the bottom of Small Fox It, then to the bottom of the ent pitch, then out to the surface.

T/U No idea. Perhaps  
Dave 4hrs  
M+F 3hrs

6/8/04 Miscellaneous ZOC stuff Dave, Neal

Descended ZOC ent pitches and wandered up Near End series as far as the supposed end of the Colonnade Connection. Didn't look at all promising - clearing some cobbles revealed two passages heading in the right direction but both were far too tight. Dug out of A.

After a cup of tea we went back down E and slugged across to the up-pitch into Cresta Run. Attempting to dig into Rat Biscuit was no more successful than the last dig, owing to the excessive mobility of the boulder pile (see the size of the tatty hut bridge nearly squashed my leg). Some hammering revealed a hole in the floor, which consultant small person (i.e. not me) climbed into, and had rather more difficulty getting out of.

Having got bored of this we had a look at the pitch at the end of Cresta. The traverse round to the left proved possible without a rope (although somewhat entertaining on the return, as we were later



to find). This revealed a tall rift passage possible at roof level, leading to a chamber full of boulders. The rift has a strong draught but this just disappears into the boulders. There is an arguable lead: a crawl underneath a boulder the size of a small car, supported a foot off the floor by nothing whatsoever. Surveyed out; maybe 25m of survey (I don't know, I left the betes up the hill - doh!)

7/8/04 Hauchhöhle Dave, Nial

Woke up to the realization that as nobody had appeared from base camp with a drill battery, and the club drill was not inspiring in its rotational speed, we had nothing better to do than re-rig Hauchhöhle, catch up on the survey backlog + doing the thing again.

This we accordingly did.\* The side passage (Crust) off Kidney Pitch doesn't go; it narrows to a very tedious crawl over pondery mud, growing tighter so gradually that one might almost fail to notice quite how squashed the whole thing is.

Surveyed Pete's stuff off the left-hand side at the bottom of the ent pitch (Underhand Series, as it is underneath the

Left-Hand Series). Main passage goes on for some while before narrowing; at this point a meander off to the left enters a very diminutive streamway, probably passable but equally probably very rocky! Didn't bother with Backhand, the tubes off to the right.

\* Vertical squeeze at the bottom of Pie Series is now "Who Ate All The Pies".

8/8/04

Shaft bashing

Ollie, Dave (+ various spectators)

Rigged + descended a slot at the edge of a cross bowl near 2000-08. It didn't go.

Free-climbed down another hole to the north of this. It didn't go.

Descended 2000-08 to look at the supposed dig. It didn't go.

Chimbed into 2002-03 (or Hauchhöhle). It didn't go.

walked down the hill with 29kg of dirt. Drank Grosse. Utterly

failed to cook Gernknödel, Got very pissed. Listened to Mark

doing out Tom Lehrer with random accordion noises. Eating almost

raw Gernknödel gives you a head stomach ache. It seems to be seen

what effect Nial will experience from eating knödel seasoned with

rotten colander.