

✓
John B's account of Razor Dance derigging trip

Tue 8 → 12 hrs.

④
Date: 2, 3 August 2007

People: John Billings, Aaron Curtis, Jon Telling
(+ Duncan Collis, Mark Dougherty, Richard Mundy & George North)

Left base-camp for an "early start" at (maybe) 10am.
(Duncan & Mark had been talking about a R.D. trip the day before...). Got to Stone Bridge early afternoon.
Jon T was itching for a RD ~~derigging~~ trip. — already up there for a few days, wanted "decent" trip.
~~by 11:30 AM~~ Aaron & I pulled gear on quickly, & then the three of us set off down 204 A. ... Duncan & Mark to follow after a few hours.

My second trip in Austria, first one was with Aaron to do some science stuff in a shallow cave. This RD trip turned out to be quite vertical. Not much horizontal caving, at least to start with. Stopped briefly for my 2pm spit sample. We carried on downwards (later learnt that this was the Kiwi series).

After a couple of hours we hit Razor Dance. Much more horizontal & quite tight. Had a few problems finding the correct level — it's quite a deep vertical rift in a few ^{most} places. Lots of grunting. Jon T: "flow with the rock, not against it".

Got to final pitch before sump at bottom. Jon + Aaron

already down. Just as I was half-way down, Jon shouts for me to start going back up. What the fuck? Shouts that it's getting very wet. Bloody hell, he's got a point, this little RD stream has got a lot wetter. Better had get out. Oops, no chest jammer on central MR (in dangly bag) - have to go right down. Thunderstorm?

Put chest jammer on. Jon volunteers to dery - yes please! Start heading out, followed by Aaron then Jon. Bottom pitches very wet - get quite soaked. After a while, bump into Duncan & Mark. Good to see them. Say they've re-rigged ~~Pepper Pot~~ ^{Pastey of Mystery} pitch cause it's a bit damp. Follow ~~that~~ Duncan up to top of Pepper Pot. Duncan, Mark & I wait there for an hour (damn cold!) until Aaron & Jon turn up. Given heavy tackle sack full of wet rope, carry on pushing up through RD. Duncan goes on ahead.

Turns out that it's quite a mission to push a tackle sack through tight, vertical rift. Almost leave it a couple of times. Arms tired. Actually, there is a technique to it. Push it ahead and wedge it, then follow.

Get to basic 'camp' (stove + food) called "God Loves a Drunk" - passed straight through on way down. Hot food, courtesy of Duncan. Richard & George also there! Set off again after a bit, following Jon. Hear him now & then at top of pitches.

Leave tackle sack at bottom of Kiwi Series, next to Jon's. Start up, bloody hard work. See Duncan following at bottom of pitches. Should have brought more chocolate bars. Find my discarded water bottle on way up - very thirsty, quite welcome! Also flap-jack cake :-)

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------|------|------------------------------------|
| T/U | John + Jon + Aaron | 12h | Tilly Kate conversation 5/8/07. |
| | Duncan + Mark D | 11h | |
| | Richard + George | 8.5h | |

Eventually get to surge at 2am. "Job's a good'un". Food then sleep. Won't do that again in a hurry. Appears there was a ~ 7pm thunderstorm.

Finis. (A)
Razordance - finish derying 3 August 2007
Wooley, Andrew + Becha (plus Oly 5 for T/U 11 hours, T/U 5 hrs. last time)
Down 10am. Wooley + I fetched the tackle sack of rope from Mystery Wad + deryed the two pitches. By the time we were back at the bottom of Kiwi Suit Andrew had unbagged all the rope and done paella number one, ^(2 hrs) up the first pitch by himself... at which point we were committed... to ~~more~~ more paella stacks until the last one emerged onto the slabs outside of top lamp. Oly came along to help when we were on the big pitch below Wolferbrger Way, which made life easier ^(down to only one tackle bag each) + for the final pull we had an excellent surface support party of Aaron, Richard, John + Jon to do all the hard work. Rope dried overnight, worked the next day so all RD deryed in 2.5 trips - not bad.

✓
Rigging Turnodeschacht
Jon + Becha

(A)
4 Aug 2007

TU 4 1/2 hours

Neither of us had been before but the magic of GPS + a good set of cams got us to the entrance. Jon then ~~winged~~ ^{rigged} all the way down the entrance pitch about 100m. I just thought he was using some standard wire rigging but as I went down it went rub, bang, rub along with a hail of loose rocks. On the way out we realized that some of the problem was that the snow level was way down on last year... but we'd also not been warned about the three rope protectors needed. After that comes a small ^{climb} ~~climb~~, should I take the tailrope? Asks Jon, No, it's OK if you just roll it ~~ahead~~ says I. Oh no - you OK? Er, do you want to check out this QMB down this little shaft? Fortunately Jon ~~could~~ ^{did} get down + reported it kept going as a QMB... + ~~plebbed~~ ^{plebbed} the tailrope. We then looked at QM1A which looked an excellent lead. After some gardening there was no time left to survey so roved around the rest of the passage here + then out. Be a lovely cave if someone with a drill rigged the entrance more creatively.

Pete is drunk → Tuesday 30/7/07

Fucking about in the Quarries (→)
Pete Jon T. Mial Sarah Frank,
& maybe others

Some of the people at top camp decided that crawling was effort. They were right. Therefore we decided to look at some hole we had walked just on a previous slack day showing newcomers where Turnode is.

We passed 204 E to find some reasonably deep but snow-filled holes. Armed with a drill Mial ^{bolled} ~~bolled~~ our way down a hole. Our team (Pete, Mial + Sarah) was joined by Jon ~~and~~ after Pete had ~~decended~~ ^{decended} and decided ~~to~~ we did it have enough rope. Aided by Jon what we decided was 2007.02 was ~~decended~~ ^{decended} to a snow ~~filled~~ ^{filled} plug and a slot followed by Jon. ~~We~~ ^{We} surveyed down ~~the slot to a~~ ^{the slot to a} ~~flat~~ ^{flat} ~~when~~ ^{when} ~~there~~ ^{there} ~~is~~ ^{is} a ~~chute~~ ^{chute}. It turns out this place was probably already explored in 2002. Frank laddered down a hole that had a visual connection to where we had been. Sarah and I looked

By RANDOM Guy called PETE AT THE CAMPSITE!!
Moose! →

1st Aug

Surface Shift

Jenny + Ollie

Mowing failed to find 2004-04 the previous afternoon we had another go and it was still hidden sadly. Then went to look for 84 which we also failed find, I guess it is either well hidden or not close to 83 to the NW.

Found an interesting looking hole (2007-73) walking entrance down a snow slope which then went down a bit to a chamber. Ollie looked at the continuation which was a bit snowy + small. We will return later in expo.

2nd Aug

(B)

82 → 85

Jenny + Ollie

Went over to 82 to survey the connection with 85. Shortly into the cave is an even up to the surface a new higher entrance!

As we surveyed we could hear very loudly a thunderstorm overhead, and a waterfall appeared near the 85 entrance.

Ollie had a look at the continuation of 85 but thought the climb wasn't free climbable due to the current snow/ice position.

3rd Aug

(B)

76: Boiling Tubes

Jenny + Ollie

It had rained a lot overnight + was still raining so decided the pitch in 148 might be unpleasant, so decided on 76 instead. Went to the end of the Boiling Tubes where we left 3 leads ~~to~~ in 2004.

None of the leads looked great, but we started with 04-62B the straight on lead. This was crawling then wiggling to a boulder which was followed shortly by a stal blockage - unusual for Austria. The stals weren't huge but neither was the passage. I surveyed half while Ollie took notes, and sadly my promising lead leading straight to 2007-71 was no more. (There was a small spider here)

Ollie removed some soil from the RH lead 04-63C and discovered that the soil continued for quite some way, so we left that and looked at the final crack lead (04-64C), after moving some rocks I crawled down, slightly downhill + over rocks. I was really hoping that I would be able to turn around at some point as I wasn't looking forward to reversing back.

Then I noticed the passage was echoing. In my experience so far small crawls tend not to make large echoes. This made me excited and optimistic that I might be able to turn round. After a few more meters the crawl enlarged enough that I could just turn round yay! Rocks dropped down the pitch went for ~ 2.5s then bounced a bit more. Shame it would be a crap place to carry gear.

Returned to Bow and looked at 04-25C, scurried down to where it got small - is going easy to move rocks though. It looks like it connects with Lorry so probably easier to get through from the south.

Finally looked at 04-26B, scramble in (mostly) over the A+ pitch ledges into a narrow walking height passage followed this up to a T junction, L is low crawling and right a bit larger - both are C grade leads. The RH one may join 04-41C perhaps. Surveyed this and left, removing the radar detectors on route.

T/U: 7 1/4 hrs

4th Aug

81

Jenny + Ollie

Went back to 81 to survey the new path. Not a hugely long cave but a lot of entrances (which we have pit hills in for the trap (and for 82b trap)). There is still a couple of leads to look at later as well. What we surveyed was mostly walking passage and quite pleasant.

T/U: 2 hrs

19/7/2007

Razor Dance

Dave, Andreas,
James

Ⓔ

Our hopes of an early start were sabotaged by the realisation that the drill battery was (a) flat and (b) broken. Several hours of charging and some gaffer later, we got underground around noon.

At the pushing front, James + I covered damply while Andreas rigged the pitch with a Y-hang + re-belay 2m further down. This landed in an elongated rift chamber, with a fairly narrow but ruler-straight slot leading off. Andreas went ahead with the bolting gear while we started surveying.

The slot widened out somewhat + a scramble up onto a ledge led to a keyhole-type phreatic tunnel + slot in the floor. Andreas rigged a traverse where the slot began to widen + reached a stance overlooking a deep, dark pool of water.

Andreas attempted to answer the question "is this a sump?" by traversing out along a ledge to see round a corner, but ran out of battery. So we headed out, leaving the depth certainly over 600m.

T/U 15h.

25/7/2007

Random Leads in

Dave, Djuke,
Frank

Ⓓ

Insig

We felt like a short trip so next to try + tick off some annoying QMs in the Insignificant area.

01-3C is clearly too tight

01-7C went to a ~~the~~ short crawl + climb up into a tall passage. This went maybe 10m to a big pitch (probably Pleasuredome). Side passages high + low on the right led to the same pitch.

A window just before the pitch was some more crawls + a steep ramp down to a complex loop junction. On the right is another big drop (Pleasuredome again?) On the left various tubes lead off. QM C.

New passage is Swiss Cheese.

At this point I gave up in disgust realising that my goal of making the survey easier to draw was clearly hopeless, + we exited via No Pain No Gain (module getting lost after turning left instead of right on hitting 110 A Day).

T/U ~~11~~ 6³/₄ h

Quarries (continued)

in another hole that had a bolt already in place and found no leads. Sarah + Jon looked at some other places further in the Tunnocks direction which ~~one~~ one of them will have to write about. To conclude: Time wasted - 1 day.

Trisselwand - the 14th 2007-08-05

Wookay, Niall Peters, Andrew Atkinson.

Niall felt it was time to attempt the Trisselwand again, 15 years after the last disastrous attempt. Wookay 'volunteered' as a previous incumbent and Andrew was dragged into coming too. Packed in advance with trepidation and got up by 6 am to outletted clearly made by Andrew. Hiked in to bottom from Sattel to start by 9 am. To head the start go down a bit ^(30m?) after the heli-landing zone open area I just follow obvious path. We went off up among scree slope I walked half an hour falling. First cord of handspun webbing is just scrambling up path to start.

We decided to do 'Hofmann's' route ⁽⁵⁾ as it is in guidebook with eggs. Previous trips have done the 'Eisen Stigerweg' route (3-4+) Wook led (a couple of pitches, getting a bit hot on 2nd. Then ~~did one & was~~ Andrew took over for the next couple of pitches took into the gully. We zigged up there, mostly moving together. Chilly in the shade. Had lunch at 1 pm above pitch 8. We were overtaken by 3 groups further down - 2 heading up 'seebeck' sport route & one pair going our way. They had no gear beyond armbands - using hody being on Italian hill for being!, but were clearly much

better climbers than us. ~~But~~ So on we were at the headwall where there really is a bench fixed in place to look at view from. Next bit was obviously hard so we sent Niall first. Turned into proper climbing at this point. 1st pitch (#12, 4-) OK, North really quite tricky - a fine lead. System we used was 2 half ropes, leader had no sack, both seconds carried ~~the~~ rucksacks, on easy pitches both seconds moved together. Pitch 14 was wobbly-looking overhang - not as bad as it looked but still scary & with desperate slab back into gully, not designed for short-arms (drop onto tiny ledge from one handhold, wobbly pylon for pro). More gully & a couple of slabs, now quite hot after ^{3 1/2} hours in sun. Andrew suffering from sun but saved by care at stance for pitch 18.

Now quite strong out with 2 hard pitches right at the top, final bit. Having the hard stuff at the end like this really rather unhelpful. 2 more fine leads from Niall - bloody good job we brought him along! Niall more out for care, and marvellously exposed climb and overhang looking right down 800m to lake, finally gets you off horrible cliff to marvellous views that you could have had by working up.

Very tedious 1 1/4 hrs long look down to well-earned beer. Niall liked the hard bits on good rock ^(really didn't like the chossy pitches). Wook & Andrew hated those & used the easy bits on shifty rock. Finished at 6:10 pm. 9 hrs on the rock. ~13 hrs total trip. Not epic, but bloody hard work & quite scary.

3rd August '07 'Quest to BS17' Richard M.

The previous day/night I had been down to 'God Loves a Drunk' with George North. On the 3rd I therefore hurt and my caving gear was thoroughly soaked through. Given no sun to dry it, a day of top camp festering ensued. I erased the memories of prussiking through 2°C Razordance waterfalls ('the wettest I have ever seen it' - Mark D) by going on a mission for Dave L.; a quest to mysterious point BS17.

BS17 is about a 1h10 walk away with no heavy pack in ordinary clothes. One traverses over the ridge behind the bivvy and over two subsequent hills, before coming across a fairly low ridge, perhaps 500m long and running E-W. On the far (North) side of the ridge, the limestone takes the form of a series of 5m cliffs up the slope. Organhöhle, BS17, is likely to be one of the many holes in these cliffs. The GPS point did not correspond to one exactly, but

there were half a dozen possibilities within 50m.

The area around the ridge appears very promising for caves. The limestone is not very broken-up and there are holes, big & small, everywhere. The side of the ridge is particularly nice in that it offers many horizontal entrances.

I took photographs using Ollie's camera before stumbling back in thick fog, hoping the GPS point did not pack-up.

4th August '07 'Lead 03-75A' Ollie S., Aaron C., Richard M.

My caving gear still wet & cold, we set off to the 'Wot no Butcombe' end of the 'Rhino Rift' area of 204. We rigged pitch 03-75A; a phreatic pitch head tackled nicely with a single backed-up bolt. The fortuitous bolt placement occurred purely by chance.

03-76B leads out from the opposite side of the pitch head, but would require a handful of bolts to access.

Aaron took some time rigging, at one point succeeding in incorporating his chest tape into the rig accidentally.

We descended the pitch, now named 'Hollow Sausage'. It is phreatic in character, with a shelf around halfway down before the shaft balloons out, then contracts again.

At the bottom of this 9m pitch, one finds one's body in a small widening of a tall, narrow & windy rift. This had a small stream at the bottom and has been named 'Dover's Last Stand'. The stream is often obscured by rocks & boulders. The crawl to the pitch head is likewise rocky.

A boulder choke prevents one travelling far downhill the rift. Uphill there are fine mud formations on the left wall. A 4m climb leads to a narrowing of the rift. It gets too tight, but there seems to be a route above of B/C QM caliber. This is tough and may qualify as being a pitch. Would be better explored downhill.

T/U 6½ h

5th August '07 'Chocolate Salty Balls' Ollie S., Aaron C., Richard M.

Ollie, Aaron & I went for a 2½h jaunt down 204e. The main purpose was to place some thermistors in Chocolate Salty Balls for Aaron.

Meanwhile, Ollie & I looked at some QMs. 01-39 C should be downgraded to a D lead. It seems to be boulder choked.

The nearby B lead, if it corresponds to the hole in the floor, looks really very tight and very steep.

01-36 C was pushed. It turns right, then becomes too tight.

It is worth noting that Andrew 'Andy' Atkinson & co. have replaced the handline in Cave Tree Chamber with some red 2006 9mm. I would have put in some 2003 myself, but don't ultimately care.

3rd August '07 VERMIN Richard M.

Top Camp is now home to:
• ≈ 30 massively fat & well insulated mice.
• THE FLAPJACK BEAST.

Frank has scored a victory over the mice

by altering the food hammock, rendering it inaccessible to them.

However, we saw THE FLAPTACK BEAST (a small squirrel thingy) access the hammocks via running upside down across the Stone Bridge roof. This animal will thus prove hard to defeat.

Gösser Streamway - Rig, park, survey, design
Wookey, Andrawa, ~~John B.~~ John B.

Needed an easy trip in order to walk down hill ~~from~~ for Trineband, so picked a QM on the survey which was interestingly above the large area in Hippocratic orth. QM 06-7A at the end of Gösser streamway.

Also took in a rope to replace 1996 traverse line in cave face chambers. (9mm bit of 2006 red stuff, ~15m).

Discovered that top of line was tied to 2 large but loose boulders. One moved 3 feet with a slight touch! Took opportunity to get nice photos of large falling boulder. 2nd shot ^(boulder) great. Put in 2 bolts to make it safe, using opportunity to teach John B. how to put in drill bolts.

Rigged down - cave is not quite like survey. Actually P3 + P6 after ~4m then ~8 after ~12m then ~30m of distance to ^{head} P29. Got to end to find long bolt on far side of pit but no knock-up bolts/threads/anything. Someone had been very keen. Put in 2 bolts for traverse to pit (drills are great) & dropped to bottom. Nice binding passage subtlely next to solid rock at one end, deepish (0.6m) pool and impenetrable rift

in main long stream, at the other end.

Surveyed (2 legs, ~38m) and designed & cut hole with big fat leg of rope. 74. 4½ hrs

2007-08-07

Dachstein Via Ferrata

Dave + 2

guys from Reading Uni

Did the Seewand - Klettersteig. No helicopters involved. Takes ~5h on the face + hour's walk either end + cable-car down. Bloody hard work but magnificent situations.

NB This is not the same as the Johann - Klettersteig. It is about the same grade but 780m long while Johann is ~500m. Starts from the Kessel spring near Hallstatt, + goes to Geoid Alm.

T/w (Time wired) 5hrs

→ FWIW: If you're going to do this you must leave early - sun will hit you at 2pm ish, and last cable car down is at 5pm.

2007-08-08 'Slippery Hole' Richard M.,
John B.

The previous day, we walked to 2007-04 with Wookey. On the 8th we pushed and surveyed this. The cave is in a loose depression on the ridge behind the bivi. It has plenty of snow in the entrances and dramatic slabs of rock hovering above it.

The north entrance leads to 'Slackwell's Stumble', a boulder choked passage with bouldery floor.

The other entrance leads to a snowy slide down into 'John's Winter Wonderland' or alternatively a precarious 3m climb leading to a boring chamber or a bouldery passage into 'Quick Wee Chamber', with a ledge on the opposite side.

Quick Wee has a high entrance inaccessible to us. John's Winter Wonderland has a too tight passage that echoes and feels as if it may 'go' under the snow.

2007-04 has been tagged by us as such.

We had several 'brown alert' moments on climbs, due to slipperiness and looseness. Another memorable time was when I put

in a crap spit, then reached to hang a sling from a natural. The snow under me collapsed, dropping me 4m, luckily onto more snow. I slid down the snow towards the Winter Wonderland, before the rope became taut and caught me. Worrying.

2007-08-07 Wookey, John B.

Walk to 204 via 161d.

Given light winds & a nice day, decided to investigate ~~with~~ from doing 161 from 204 & then check out possibility of route. Walked to 161d without much juggling. Decided to hire a tourist in cogs & had books to show John free passage of Triassic Park. Nice trip for about 50 mins, including some photos.

Then continued along traverse to 161e. Found a large stone slightly in but it was untagged & unmarked. Assumed it was 161e, but later research shows that that is further north than 161f, which we came across a few mins later. This at least be known? Later marked Bivi site can use to say 161e is untagged/unmarked, but seems that is confusion, not fact.

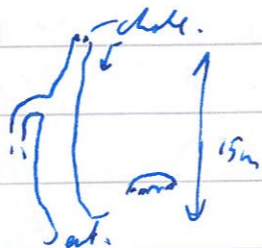
Continued following traverse with which was generally easy to follow. A bit of bush-cutting would make it lovely. ~~Reached~~ got out from below cliff after ~45 mins but then got into complex area of rocks. Not sure of best route to 204 as we had no GPS. Ridge looks completely different from the back side. Very hard to tell which part is which & a whole load of other line marks appear. Ridge is not really

a ridge at all & is about 300m wide. Eventually struck the west
& came out ^{~300} ~~at~~ ~~about~~ ~~metres~~ N of the line.

Found a couple of caves on - water. ~~the~~ 1st explored
entirely by John B despite not being good in T-shirt &
shorts (low, windy). Slight drought. Unfortunately due
to no GPS we won't find it again for years.

Also found large hole 200m from line,
described in 'Slippery like' entry.

With all the casing I sub-optimal work whole week from
low peak took ~~over~~ $5\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. From 161 d it is probably about 2 hrs
to 204 by sensible route. $1\frac{1}{2}$ to cover entry (f.a). Route needs some
series having to make practical for trips, but we confirmed that
diff traverse path is not a mess (in fact it's the wisest bit).



2007-08-08 Wooty, Becker, Andea (again!)

Photos, Rig, Survey, Push trip in Tunnels.

Andea took photo gear, Wooty took tools & rigging gear,
Becker took survey gear. Went in to far end to rig traverse over
'17s rubble', via a couple of rigs of advance ice.

Andea rigged traverse & we then left of big rocks, returning
with photo gear to 35m where just another similar below. Traverse got led
to other lines down pitches. Not clear if all 3 holes are same
pitch or not. Put in a couple more sails to tidy rig, surveyed &
went back to leads below climb up to cobble pile. Then pitch down
but c3 into passage went about 50m to another large pitch.

Big drought.

Next went to horizontal Q4 N of the cobble pile. This was with
Mark. Andea left for 2nd photo trip of day in 82. Becker & Wooty

Surveyed over 250m of stony passage 'Rhyback (only)'.
Exceptionally fine trip - lots of Q4's. Eventually gave up, which
saved by too many Q4's, ^{change with 3 going off E, NE, NW} ~~the~~ ~~by~~

Last survey is the way forward - but keep hats away from SAT.

T4 Body, work 10hr. Andea 6hr.?

2007-08-09 Wooty, Becker, Andea + Olig

Back to bag some more horizontal cave, despite having
to walk back down (look) All Underground by 9:30. 1hr to pushing
front. Off resolutely north, past some very fine pebbles to antenna.
Then chamber with pitch below and choice of A-leads. Took
wobbly one - softy passage, the left choke, the decaying phreatic,
made a tricky c3 up into softy, wide place with passage down ahead &
on right (dramaticy connects us). Another off on L, dropping away.
The main lead down terminated at a dead area ^{6m} passage
blocked by soft choke. (vents continue. Air probably goes up area.)

Lead on R from softy place is huge passage almost full of led.
~~assess~~ Strong drought, goes to small ice over then pitches out in
steeply ascending lakes. Area may be drinkable.

Lead on L goes only about 30m to pitch.

So went back to upper lead at pitch chamber. Passage ascending
at consistent 23° to ~~the~~ EAM. ~~was~~ ~~that~~ ~~John~~ Olig came to
join us as we started up here & did a bit of sketching. Did
about 100m of this before work had to start long journey home.
Others continued, determined to dook up at least 500m.

Passage was up to 1825m (60m below entrance). Work out in a
little over an hour, just in time to get stranded on day
with Tom & Moses (who had no caps & I got soaked to skin).

in ~~dark~~ ^{oyster} ~~square~~

Work TH. 7th. Beira + Andrew T/U 10 hrs.
Oly T/U 8 hrs

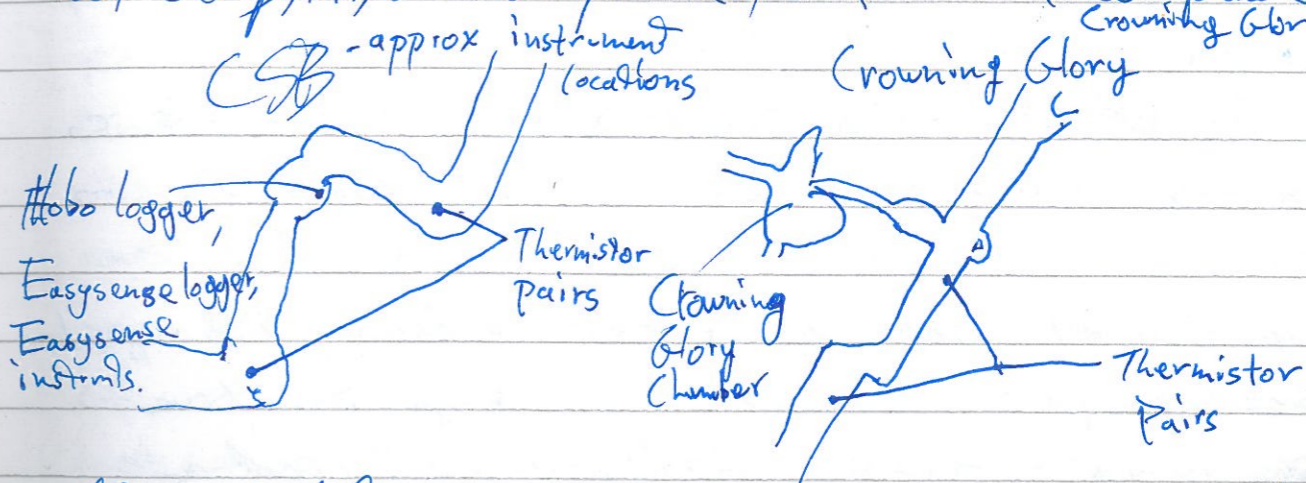
2007-08-08 Tunnockscht Frank, Aaron, Ollie, ~~Pat~~
^{South}

Got underground 1pm w/ intention to find ~~Andy~~. After
ticking off QMs 11C, 22C and 20C, realized
our progress was cut short w/o any rope to descend the
p9. Aaron set off to find Andy, Wook & Basha in South Tunnocks to
swipe some rope. Find them he did, and ~~ended~~ returned
w/ more than he bargained for - Big Bertha complete with drill,
misc gear & rope. After much toying and fro-ing S to N, following
objectives accomplished. Surveyed & drilled 2 pitches Duncan
had dropped in N off of big chamber (now called "Secret
Squirrel" and "Fat Rat")^{2 no way down}. Frank & Pete left to go
down hill at this point. Ollie & Aaron rigged p9 in
sark. - could only find one spot, and put another
in as considered this a tad dodgy (actually this was before
we had drill). ~~Back in N~~, Ollie & Aaron Drilled 32A,
~~not~~ to be surveyed next trip. Has another pitch and hoiz
QMB @ bottom & provisionally called the "Pantin Sales Pitch".
Also bolted pitch into big chamber in N (where Secret Squirrel
begins) which had hung off impressive natural but
was awkward to mount/dismount, now much
better. Pete & Frank out ~ 7pm? Aaron & Ollie out 12pm.
T/U: 7h T/U: 11h

Just noticed
Richard already wrote an entry
for this earlier trip in
logbook
- 2 Treeomphant

2007-08-05 / CSB Thernistor Ollie Richard Aaron

W/ one datalogger installed in Gertrud's Revenge already
(upcoming write-up), we set off to install 3 more:
2 in CSB (1 Hobo w/ 4 thermistor, 2 wet/dry pairs, 1 Easysense
w/ temp, RH, & barom. pressure) and 1 in Treeomphant.
Crowning Glory



Also ticked off QMs 01-40C-20139C. T/U 6 hrs
2 1/2

2007-08-07 Anemometer related, Ollie Aaron
^{quick useless trip}

After a few hours of fiddling w/ his homemade sonic
anemometer using a procope & laptop at the bridge, Aaron
threw up his hands and decided to solder the finicky thing
into a datalogger and whack it to the bottom of
Entrance. However, the allen key needed to open
the logger was in a ~~pot~~ conveniently in a Peli case
in CSB. While Aaron was already resigned to bringing
laptop & scope underground b/c anemom. needed to be
adjusted after xport, trying to solder underground
seemed like crossing the line. So Aaron went down to get
key & brought a well-calibrated Ollie to put in a

spit to mount the anemom. on. On the surface again,
Anon failed to get the logger & anemom to play nice
together and decided to abandon the enterprise until
a later date, in the UK or on Expat
T/U 1hr

2007-08-07 Gafferend → Inconvenience Series
Nial, Andrew, Martin + Beuca T/U 14 hours

Down to tick off some leads + start tie dery. Nial rigged
his "worst ever pit" - for his sake, I hope it is true -
rope slung round a boulder at the pitch head, post a
wriggle through loose choss + a few rubpainted down to a
spit he put in with a 20cm long vertical crack above it.
This dropped us down to where the Engaged Pitch landed + from
here Martin attempted to outdo Nial by rigging the ~~at~~ next
pitch on even more choss. Got v. cold waiting + ^{was} ~~was~~ mighty
relieved to find, after the first spit had gone in, that wet run
out of hangers (we had ~~one~~ ^{mistakenly only} brought two in total!) + could
go out. Andrew took q. a few photos through the trip + he + I
surveyed two sharpish QM's while Nial + Martin headed out.
We then derigged the rope in Inconvenience + Valle + Ureed +
then took a tackle sack out leaving just a 55m potting rope to
fish out at the bottom of Gafferend. Overtook Martin + Nial before
Gafferend + slowly we all trundled out. Still Super muddy Gafferend
rope plus a heavy tackle sack is a crap combination.

2007-08-06 Turnodes → Apfel Strudel.
Jan, Beuca + Morven T/U 6 1/2 hours.

My first ever cave in Austria - descended
down very loose boulder slopes to
large pile of snow at bottom of
pitches - fun sledging down. First
ever injury in Austria soon followed
- jumping to avoid boulder fall + lands
on lovely smooth icy floor - same effect
as banana skin! A fun but painful
trip followed. Found apple strudel section
of cave - best bit was a shute that
looked like a bob sleigh run - great
going down, tricky on the way out.
Ended survey at exciting junction -
pitch on one side, stomping passage
on the other. Back up pitches +
down to top camp for introduction to
Holy Hand Grenade. -

2007-08-09
Jan, Morven (Ollie brief cameo appearance) 5 hrs V/g (Tunnock)

- Surveying trip down 'great, draughty lead' - left after Winklin Bank
Dundee, then second left along passage. Phreatic tube leads down + W.
becoming increasingly boulder filled + uninspiring towards end - couple of
large areas though, maybe where daylight comes from. Named 'dubious
pleasure'. Morven's back was playing up in old, so left after down hrs.

21-7-2007

FRANK TULLY, PHIL UNDERWOOD.
George North, Pete.

Flooding in England.

Basically I'm working in Scotland so on the Friday I drove from Glasgow to Bristol. However it was wet, very wet.

Took 5 hours to get to Manchester then the M6 slowed down to creep speed. I forget it was the first weekend of the summer holidays so every caravan in the UK was on the move.

Torrential rain so eventually got to south of Birmingham by 6:30 - another six hours driving.

Continued driving at snails pace however all was not looking good.

By 8:00 the slow lane north of Tewkesbury was 8" deep in water. By 9:30 the fast lane was 6" deep and the slow lane was too deep for lorries. There were cars broken down on the hard shoulder with the water up to their windows.

I was approx 150 cars back from the point when the police closed the M5.

Then the highways agency took over.....

The rain stopped at 11:00 pm but it took the highways agency another six hours to return the

I was released back onto the motorway at 05:30

Got to Bristol at 6:30.

Got on hours Kip.

Then to start packing - bit of a rush considering I was to pick up my Underwood in Reading. However the railways were closed south of Birmingham.

So at the last possible minute Phil found a train that was going to ~~Stonard~~ Stonestead.

Anyway we all came together.

Packed in 2 hours -

Drove to Stonard - found Phil & George.

Drove to M25-A12 Junction found Pete

Got to Dover how late - got chips

Got on West Ferry - No problem

Drove to Austria in 12 hours. MICE

8-8-07

- Jon, Maren, Martin (Jon, Maren - 1/2 hr singer underground).

- Went to Super Shift. Frank + I found a den days ago - a phreatic tube leading off a big bank of chert, above quarries uphill of busy site. Used ladder + lifeline to survey, only small, large cave, blocked w. boulders, oh well. Named 'pink water biscuit cave' 'cos it was really only worth looking at after looking at all the other entrances.

6th Aug

81

Jenny + Ollie

Went to 81 for an easy day to tie off the crap lead near the RH route from 81b. To me it looked like a tight, loose + awkward route through a boulder choke that obviously didn't go. I only went in cos Ollie thought it was 'interesting'. Mainly moved the loosest rocks out the way I wriggled through and it opened up into a rift. The boulders looked less bad from below, so Ollie came through as well. Got into a rift with various holes in the floor to a lower passage in the same rift. I traversed right to the end to where it was easy to climb down. This got us down to the top of a lot of ice which formed a floor to the rift chamber.

Walked carefully around on the ice we saw some very cool curved ice formations. At the end of the ice there appeared to be a pitch down between the ice and rock, we were with our gear so steered clear but hypothesized it might drop in to the ice castle passage in 148. Surveyed out (checking that the lower lead didn't do anything interesting)

T/U:

7th Aug

Surface Stuff

Jenny + Ollie

Walked up to Laser 0/5 and had a look for 1987-02. Scrambled up the hill for a way and didn't see any horizontal entrances. Got fairly near the crest of the ridge, so headed back down by a different route. Ollie spotted a draughting out shaft $\frac{1}{2}$ which we numbered 2007-2 GPS. Carried on down and got to a hidden valley with a low horizontal entrance with a MUGS out draft. Walked inside and got some big passage going straight on and right, both of

which led to pitches. Reading the old logbook suggests this must be 1987-02 (from the U/G end entrance ^{located} descriptions).

Surface surveyed this to Laser 0/5.

Oh, in the morning had a look at another new entrance (that has probably been seen before). Colapsed valley entrance with a couple of leads, one might go but not without an oursuit + kneepads. Second lead is a crawling sloping phreatic passage for ~10m till it chokes. This is 2007-7 GPS:

8th Aug

81-148 connection

Jenny + Ollie

Ollie looked down the surface shaft near 148 first - down to the snow plug then the ledge to where a narrow rift heads down presumably into the avar in 148. Didn't push down this gear as we have the other route rigged.

We were going to push the pitch shaft in 148 but I was feeling sick so we went back to 81 to tie up a surveying loose end. Ollie concocted a plan whereby I sat at the entrance and felt ill, and Ollie went down the rift shaft and bolted the hypothesized 148 connection. I figured he would have a hard time with the rope, drill + survey kit on his own through the rift + climbs, so I came too + felt ill and whinged a lot.

Ollie bolted down the pitch at the end of the ice and sadly it didn't go ^{far}. We surveyed it and while I dregged Ollie looked for other pitches we had missed.

Back at the strand a tight gravel through ice led to a small rift and a pitch. This dropped into 148! rift where we built a cairn which was cool. Surveyed out passing N'ral + Andrew photographing ice and cairns.

T/U: ~5hrs

9th Aug

148 - pitch stuff

Jenny + Ollie

Headed into 148 with way too much gear, but not enough crabs or mailers. Got the the main pitch and the water levels rose considerably making it very noisy + wet. Oh well, at least the rigging will be good in high water. Ollie rigged a backup + bolt to get down the narrow bit then got to a ledge where he rigged a nice K-hang and went down through a tight bit and then opened up lots to a deviation. He carried on down to a bit blackness with sadly no rocks to drop down. It was quite by this point (especially on the power drill) so he came back up - next time we need to rig it further out I guess.

Came out the cave surveying a poxy side bit on the way. Came out in the dark and day - reflective markers are ace.

T/U: 6 1/4 hours

10th Aug

1987-02

Jenny + Ollie

Went to survey + explore 1987-02, headed to the RH pitch first it had a bolt, which combined with a couple of naturals + sending it for me wall got us down. Pitch lands out a junction, left (as you look down the pitch) is BIG phreas with another way in from a little vertical crevasse. This goes for a while then gets smaller and lower (but still 5m wide), eventually the gap between the rubble and roof becomes too low. Would be diggable but doesn't draught. Back at the base of the pitch a daylight even comes in from stratification. To the right soon becomes a rift, climbing high ends up chocking, low down gets to a narrow meandering rift turning left through which a howling draught blows out. We both went a few meters in and noted that it echos + is a bit high - the most promising a slight rift could be I guess.

Again, back at the pitch, kind of back underneath is a phreatic passage that ends in a hanging death choke that again draughts.

Back at the entrance the other way on drops into the same passage as the others one. Daylight comes in from another shaft.

Very interesting to get big phreas here ~ 1/2 way between 76 and 161... Worth prospecting in the area next year I think.

T/U: 5 hrs

13th Aug

South Tunnocks (Pantin Sales Pitch) Aaron + Ollie

Another trip involving ping-ponging to and fro from the North + South of Tunnocks. Went North to check a traverse past scree slope + command rope. Returned through Secret tract, surveyed 31A which turned out to be an exceptionally smooth p30 duly named the Pantin Sales Pitch. Checked out little horizontal passage to left which didn't go, and then dropped the next pitch, yet unnamed, which surveyed to about 45m. Exciting to find that we had been standing on a wedged pile of boulders suspended above an airy rift. Single hang + backup got us to bottom where it choked. Very likely way on (marked QMB) by traversing around to right into spacious rift before ~ 15m down the p45. Ollie supposed about of the beesness so we went back north to meet Beckad Martin who were on their way out and survey continuation of Flying High. Didn't manage much (~ 30m) before Aaron had had about enough. ~~It's~~ Avoiding staly while maintaining our precarious position high ^{precises}

in the rift while surveying involved a form of Vedic Levitation. Rift got smoother & wider - looks like next trip will need to drop down to (early walkable) rift floor & climb up again shortly. Blows a gale in there though.

11th Aug Gafferred → The Wares + Denig - Beckia, Aaron + Martin

Pootled to the Wares + headed off for a QM I'd been hankering after climbing: QM 04-49A. We'd left it as a steep ramp needing a handline in 2004. I rigged a handline up (needs ~25m rope) using 2 natural trees hand bolted a pit on the left wall then a v. fine thread on the left wall then tied off on dodgy naturals at the top. Surveyed up to find an extensive horizontal level-yippeee. Sadly this was a denig trip so we surveyed as much as we could, as far as a complex clamber with several pitules, & then had to ^{leaving lots of QMAs} run out. Aaron's light played up then fell apart & he couldn't find his spare batteries. "I think I've learnt a lesson about redundancy today" says he... Then slog, slog, slog up the denig. Martin set off first with a backload & then pulled a second sack up Gafferred, I denigged + Aaron did a backload shuffle. We ended up getting 3 backloads all the way out, one at the bottom of ~~E~~ entrance pit & one tied to the bottom of Gafferred pit so a pretty ~~to~~ good job.

TU 13 hours

12th Aug Gafferred denig + Tlemisters - Beckia, Aaron + Martin

I got to the lowest relay on Gafferred + hauled up to backload tied to the bottom then denigged + Martin + I took out a backload each whilst Aaron switched his data loggers.

TU 2 1/2 hours

12th Aug Turno desclacht → Stone Monkey - Beckia, Aaron + Martin

Second trip of the day: our reward for furnishing the Gafferred denig. Hadn't much time (set off from camp at 4pm) so we headed for a nearly lead-the-drafting hole halfway along the traverse down Ribs with knidel. This quickly opened into a steeply sloping, sizeable passage heading steeply up. We surveyed until I was cold and it was feature, leaving QM A's + B's en route and fine, large ongoing passage.

TU. Beckia 4 hours
Martin + Aaron 5 hours

13th Aug Maximum Pleasure leads in Turno desclacht.
Martin + Beckia

Off down to the MP / Flying High junction + surveyed the walking passage on the right (after tying off a QM just before Delicious Pleasure). This ~~was~~ was fine, roomy walking passage. A large passage underneath linked back to the

I checked the snowy passage at the oven - it was small + headed up steeply but the snow was rotten with holes in ~~it~~ ^{and} it looked a bit dodgy so we left it.

main Maximum Pleasure passage. ~~The~~ Our passage went in Pine style to a large oven with a smallish passage with snow and pine cones and leaves... I got ^{by the potential of an entrance} really excited which Martin was perplexed by, since I'd been unimpressed by all the old stal that he'd been getting excited about. We kept surveying past the oven + then it headed up a ramp + gradually became smaller + less enticing before we left it at a cd in a drizzly oven. We then went back to the ml/flying high junction + did a QMA near to it, on the left. This headed down steeply to a chamber with large lumps of flowstone. It was really drafty and we were too cold to face more so we headed out.

TU 10 hours.

14th Aug Maximum Pleasure survey in Tunnacleschlach
Becka + Julian

A fine sunny morning so we hung around until all our gear was dry in an attempt to have a warmish ^{survey} trip in Tunnacleschlach. We started by doing the left lead just after the traverse in Ribs with Knödel. This was extremely drafty + rapidly led to a large pitch. We then headed to Maximum Pleasure, taking some snaps en route. We surveyed from where Martin + I had left off yesterday, in the flowstone chamber. We went past a large pitch + down to another, smaller pitch then surveyed a small passage on the left and then did a couple of hops up smaller passages to reconnect to the flowstone chamber, making us feel virtuous. Martin + Olly turned up + we pointed them to the remaining horizontal lead which turned out to be steep

after only ~30m). I then dragged Julian to the far end of Maximum Pleasure to double-check that there were no other good leads to the north. Nothing looked very tempting but I persuaded Julian to continue the passage on the right where Wooley, Andrew + I had left off. This headed up into 'outward crabs + ceiling tubes + loads of 2-3m legs. Unfortunately there was no good reason to stop so we just plodded on until, thanks to, ~~as~~ it finally, gradually lost the draft + fizzled out to too-tight ceiling tubes.

TU 10 1/2 hours.

14th Aug

81 band 82

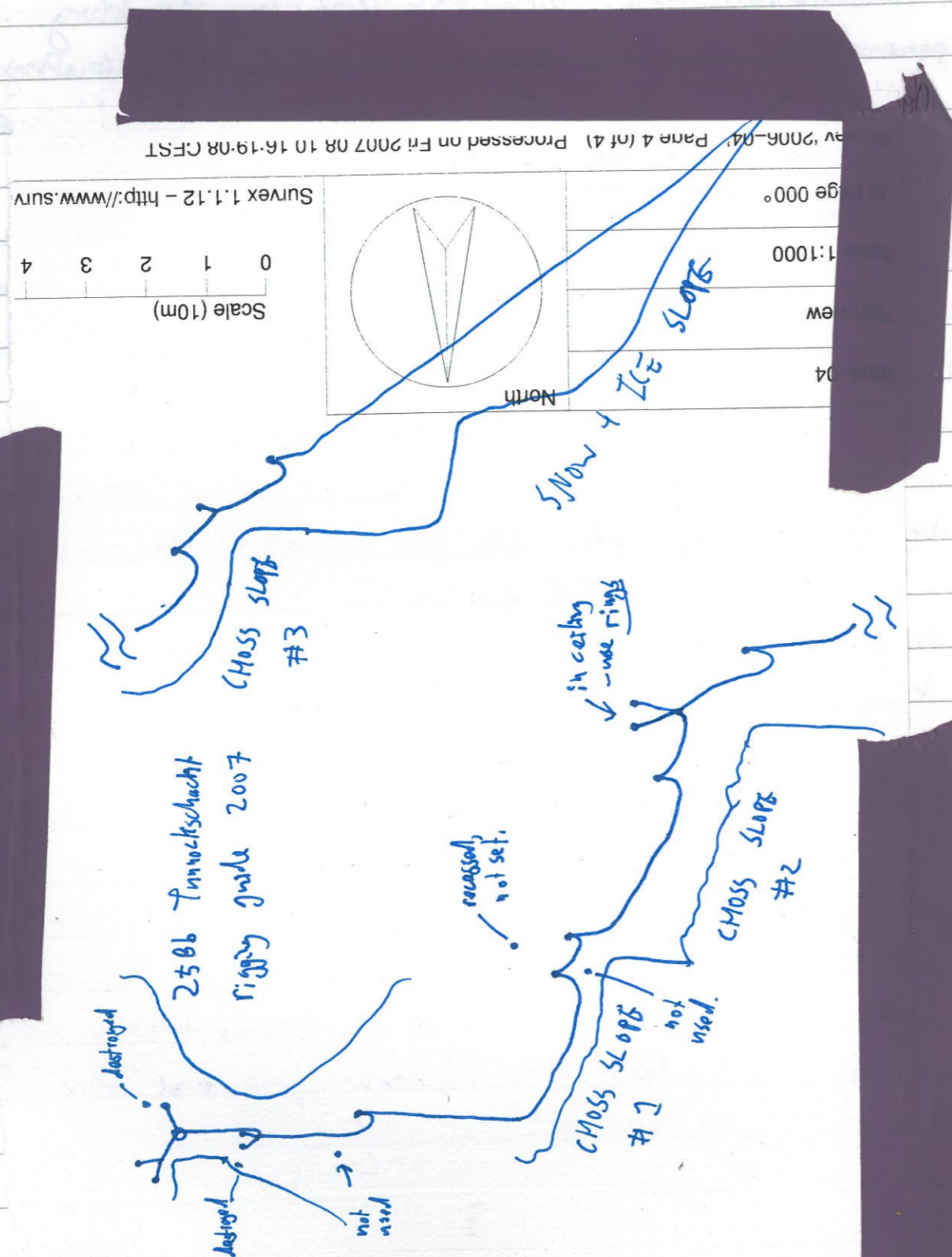
Jenny + Olly

We were feeling a bit tired so put off the 148 trip by another day and went to tie up some loose ends in the 81/82 area. Started with a surface survey from 81b → 148 in hope of improving the loop closure, also tied in the 82 tag to 85.

Surveyed the remaining passage in 81 and checked out all the leads - except for anything we missed there are no longer any leads. There was nearly yet another entrance but it was blocked with rocks, doesn't seem worth opening it up as 81 has more than its share of entrances already.

Went into 82 to re-survey the upper level and check out of the 'draughting tube' noted in 1977 → it draughts lots + lots out and whilst it is very high the floor is muddy/sandy + could easily be dug. It is heading for the similarly big phras in 198702 and less than 200m away.

(258)
 Rigging Guide for Tunnockschacht Entrance
 drawn by Duncan



13th Aug

76 derig

Jenny + Oly

Decided to derig 76 so we at least only had one cave left rigged. Didn't take the drill in to conserve battery power for 148 so couldn't push deeper. Nice going through the test tubes with only SET kits to carry. Successful derig. To get to The Ledge needs 16+16+28m of rope.

T/U!

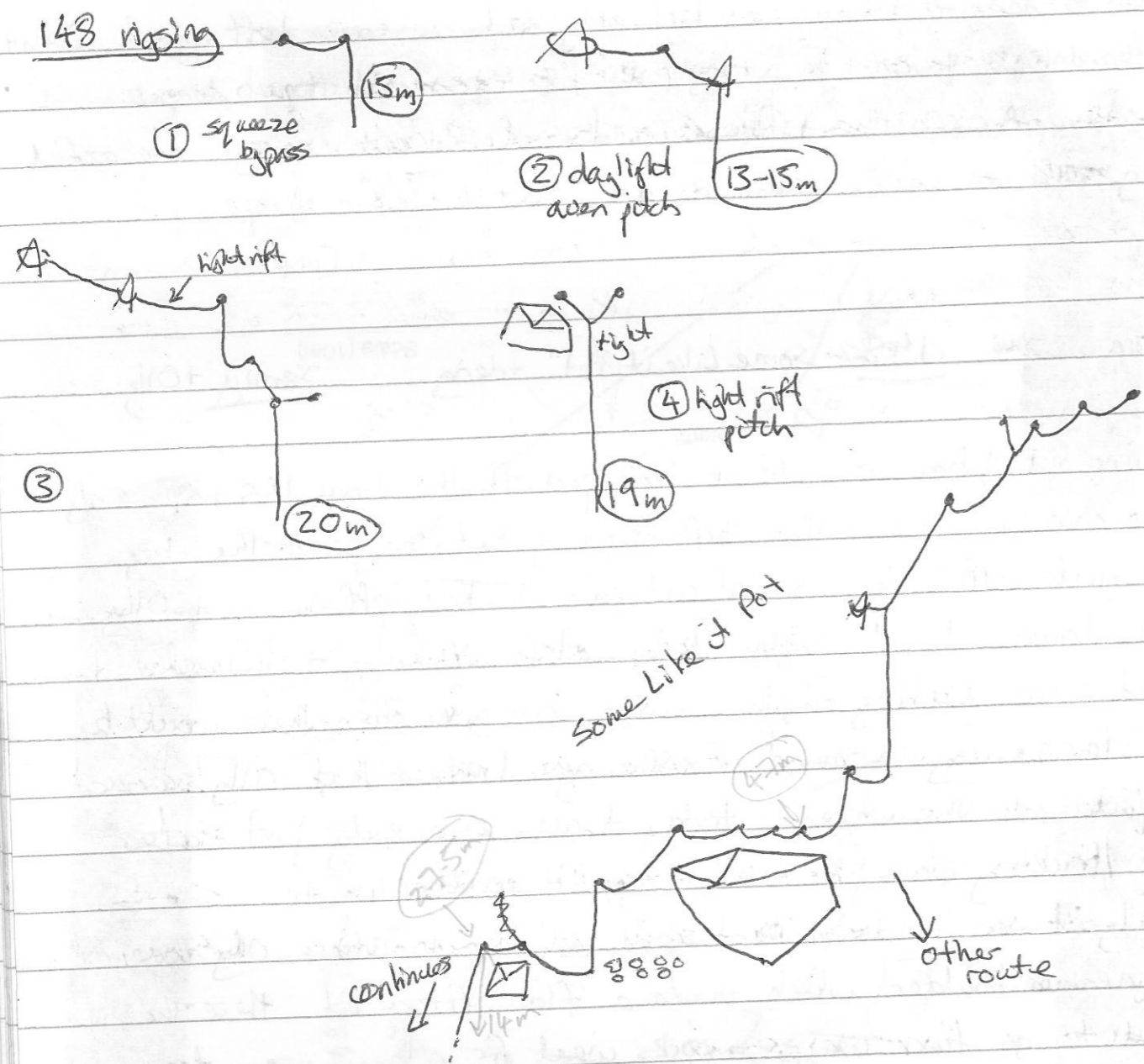
15th Aug

148 - "Some Like it Pot" + derig

Jenny + Oly

Running out of time so could no longer put off the final 148 trip. Only had to carry in the drilling shaft + survey kit, so got to the big pitch quite efficiently. Sorted out gear we had left there + Oly set off down. I sat on the ledge at the Y-hang + shivered as I watched Oly getting farther away, every so often there would be some tarzaning around for the rig. I noticed that Oly seemed to be quite near the water - today it was essentially just water running/trickling down the wall. I hoped it wouldn't rain. Eventually it was my turn to descend, got down to where Oly was at a huge jammed boulder which made a 'floor' for a bit. There the rift seemed to go two ways - rocks went for a long way down the straight-on-left route, but a stronger draught seemed to come from the right. This lead shortly down to a ^{bouldery} 'floor'. The rift continued over a jammed rock, a big draught comes from here. Oly went some way down - it doesn't trivially join the other route + rocks also fall a long way... I was cold + Oly had done a lot of rigging so we decided to start the derig. It didn't go too badly (even the tight rift bits) and we got all 4

tacklesacks out just about before it got too tiring -
T/U: ~ 9 3/4 hrs



The rigging in Some Like it Pot needs some adaptation in case it rains, but currently would be more unpleasant than suicidal.

14th Aug

Final CSB thermistor trip

Aaron + Pete

~~Arrived to the thermistor site in CSB~~

Hauled ~~the~~ dataloggers & thermistors out of ~~CSB~~ ^{CSB} ~~glory~~, along with a tacklesack of rope left from earlier desc. Aaron reprogrammed CSB logger to log for coming year (Plan recording once per hour, memory fills in 387 days). Plunged back down E, replaced the CSB logger, and Pete abridged E on the way out.

T/U 5 1/2

15th Aug

Packing Sembruleenhöhle Bivvy

Beda

Pete, Aaron + Duke had done a monster carry yesterday leaving the 7 of us a mere double carry today - we got everything down in 17 loads, packing up the bivvy between + heading down the second bivi at 8pm with the final rays of the sunset painting the slab (Beda, Julian, Aaron, Duman, Marko, Olly + Pete)

16th Aug

Rope washing

Beda

Tony + Duke had come back to collect spit so gave us a hand and Jenny + Olly came down the hill with their rope so, thankfully, there were decent numbers for the mammoth rope washing, checking, chipping + labelling plus assorted scrubbing.

1 Ply from the
UK to USA

17th Aug Sketching + packing

I started drawing up surveys at 7am. Around 10 people were starting to emerge after last night's deep fat fried gardening glove extravaganzas. The conversation duly turned to ferry times as Tony et al set off home. Durks decided to check when on the 19th his ferry went and came back in and asked the date "The 17th". "My ferry leaves in 12 hours" ^{"(The 19th is when)"} ~~at 10pm~~ ^{at 10}

Re-based Expo machine sputtered into action and within the hour the wheels were on the trailer, it was filled with rope + the tarp strapped on, Martin had been woken from his hangover lie-in, her gear was packed up, they'd been fed a cooked breakfast, sandwiches packed and they were on the road with a good chance of making the ferry. After this Riverbarn we slumped for a while then started cleaning + I sketching until 3am, by which time I only had Pete Per company who was on a one-man bender trying to ~~get~~ beat Neal's been tally. The last bits of plan for Maximum Pleasure are a bit ragged but I got there in the end, ready for a 7:30 start to take our train to Italy.