

EXPO 2011

18/07/11

Chris ^{shags} rescues a sheep

On our first carry up, ^{Chris disappeared & then} we heard distressed sounding bleating from a sheep that had fallen down a grike next to the ~~col~~ path on the col. Heroically, Chris ^{went} clambered down ^{sheep} into the grike to effect a dramatic ^{orgasmic} rescue. Nobody quite knows what happened down there, but some time later Chris, looking a little sheepish, emerged clutching a grateful-looking and apparently ^{pleased} unharmed sheep. 2 mins TU

19/07/11 Djuke + KATHRYN

Our intrepid explorers carry another load up the hill - and got the easy ride really, because as Jess, Nial and Edwin went back down to get load #2 (after a quick noodle, mash + chili sauce stop) we went into 204e to rig the entrance pitch and gaffa'd. It was surprisingly warm and there was no snow plug at all. All went well erm... well Djuke rigged the entrance pitch, sort of, and ended up 4m above the bottom ^{at the} stopper knot. Caught high and dry I wandered onto the ledge, hunkered down and waited for Kathryn to re-rig the 4-HAWG (onto 1 bolt rather than 2 to conserve rope). That worked and with stretch the rope now reaches the floor ^{or hangs at waist height, unloaded} We came out to find Nial, Edwin + Jess returning to the Bivi with their second load. We played / fought with tarps for awhile, sorted rope, got bored and walked down. YAY CAVING = GREAT. 3 1/2 hrs TU

Kathryn then rigged to the 4 hawg of gaffered.

21/7/11 Rigging down 204E Nial and Edwin

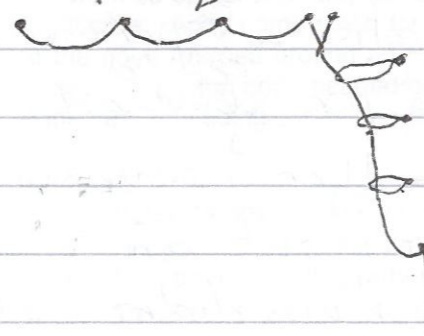
Up at 5:45 am after a drippy night in the bivvy. Underground at 7:10 am some kind of CUCC record perhaps?! ^{Underground at we'll beat it later in the week - Djuke}

With 2 bags of rope each, we made slow progress to Gaffered, which Nial finished rigging. The 200m of 11mm saw us all the way from the traverse below Gaffered to the bottom of Cerberus in the Underworld, with 10-15m spare which we used on Sirens' traverse. Couple of rigging points:

1. The 1st traverse bolt below Eye-hole Pitch and above Triborg is shagged - might need an extra one
 2. The deviation on Cerberus ^{is} might be better as a re-belay.
- Then continued through the Underworld to Gardner's World and Universally Challenged - here's a rough rigging guide:

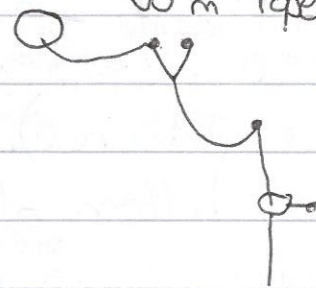
Gardner's World:

50m rope required



Universally Challenged

35m rope required



Space left here for Nial to redraw the diagrams above.

Finally, down to Chalk + Cheese and our composite. Mission accomplished! Pussing out was tiring with back-sacks full of back-sacks in tow!
T/U 11 hrs

21-7-11 CAMPSITE KIT CARTING TRIP

Djike, Kathryn, Jess

We stirred in our damp sleeping bags as Nial and Edwin got up and set-off for their rigging trip (see previous trip report). By this time (7ish) Kathryn was awake and shortly we all got up (slowly). Wetness was reduced as we hustled packing loads of camp kit. With 2 T-sacks each we entered Steinbrücken at 10:15 AM. The entrance crawl with Tachle was the most awkward. As we descended Gaffa'd, the pitch series, Cereberus and so forth we were reminded how far it would be to prissle out and how AWESOME it would be to camp and not have to do Gaffa'd everyday. On the plus side also we stayed completely warm through the whole trip and as long as ^Fwe didn't sit on my right buttock or knee (which were a bit worse for wear after a spectacular ~~fall~~ ^{fall} on the plateau). Before long we ^{could} ~~reached~~ hear Nial at the bottom of Tri-hang. Upon hearing us the boys - not wanting us to catch up - put in a difficult deviation on purpose and we subsequently didn't catch up with them until the campsite. Going down chalk + cheese was like driving up your driveway - you knew you were going to Home sweet Home, or as it is now known BUTLINS HOLIDAY CAMP !! !! !!.....

22/07/2011 - Tunnockschact Entrance Series

Chris Smith, Robert Adams, Jon Hauser, Andy Chapman, Noel Snape

Rob and I headed off to Tunnockschact ahead of the main party to continue with the previous day's rigging (entrance pitch pre-rigged to the first deviation). I continued with the rigging, whilst Rob sheltered on the surface.

Beneath the first deviation it was necessary to rig a Fig-8 rather than a Y-hang due to the thread on the right hand spit being damaged (needs re-bolting). Two further rebelay's to the first scree slope were rigged without incident. No snow was present on the **scree slope** making it **extremely unstable**. I undertook a spot of gardening, but my efforts were ineffectual as kicking down the loose choss seemed to further destabilise the remaining scree. At this point Rob descended the first main pitch and waited at the top of the scree slope

A "traverse line" was rigged from the bottom of the first pitch to the small pitch above the second scree slope. The entire traverse needs re-bolting as the anchor points are at ankle height, meaning that any falls taken on the rope will result in considerable shock loading. Rigging round the traverse and short pitch gave access to the second scree slope, where again no snow was present (in stark contrast with the previous year). Again, this **slope is extremely unstable**. Had difficulty finding bolts for the traverse to the second Y-hang, however I suspect this because there are no bolts besides the one back-up point to the Y-hang. Needs re-bolting to make safe in low/no snow conditions.

Rigging the second Y-hang was a complete arse as the two bolts in the far wall were nearly unreachable. Rigging this section took much faffing, by which point Andy had joined me at the top of the pitch. Descending the pitch to the next floor and set of rebelay's took place without incident, although I did miss out the bolt for the deviation (oops!). By now Rob, Jon, and Noel were waiting around the top of the first scree slope and traverse line.

Descending the rebelay's below the second Y-hang and (missed) deviation gave access to the top of the old snow slope; however instead of being greeted by several tonnes of snow there was a gaping crevasse where top of the old snow slope used to be. Evidentially the cave has warmed up considerably since last year. Descending the snow slope beyond this point was impossible. Andy came down for a second opinion and concluded much the same as myself. At the point I turned around and started to ascend, so that Noel could come down for a third opinion. Rob, Jon and I headed out whilst Noel and Andy made one last inspection of the snow slope before heading out in tat order.

Summary

- Scree slopes extremely unstable due to major snow melt
- Entrance Y-hang needs re-bolting for right hand spit
- First traverse needs re-bolting to raise the height of the traverse line
- Traverse to second Y-hang needs additional spits, to improve safety under loose scree conditions
- Bottom pitch above snow slope needs completely re-bolting to enable safe crossing of the crevasse in low snow conditions

23/7/11 Tomnachs - Andy, Neil

Neil rebelayed and adjusted entrance, including rebelaying traverse on left hand wall, at scribe level. We then continued to start of snow slope (molehill) and suspended 11mm rope used for entrance with 9mm. Andy rebelayed slope, ensuring covers could not slip down chasm. CARE!!!!

Continued rigging to start of Corral Caverns (short rope needed for small pitch before CC).

Advis: Large boulders moved during ascent up entrance slope CARE REQUIRED!!!

One person on pitch at time, moving together

Sunday 24 July to Tuesday 26 July 29

Djuke Veldhuis, Jess Stirrups, Nial Peters -- 204

In preparation for the day-shift of the Butlins camping team (the night-shift consisting of **Edvin, Kathryn and Holly**), we walked up (again, in the rain) on Saturday night. By Sunday morning rain had turned to snow:-s hence giving us all the more reason to get underground pronto. Despite having already carted down all the camping gear in a previous trip (see **Djuke, Jess, Kathryn** trip on 21 July), we still had two tackle bags full of food, rope and other fun heavy stuff each. Going down Gaffa'd and the rest of the pitch series, Gardener's World, Chalk & Cheese reminded me of just how much prussiking up there would be in a few days time and how pleased I was not to be doing it on a daily basis. We lugged the gear into *Dead Good Bat Chamber* and while **Jess** and **Nial** proceeded to calibrate survey gear and set up camp, I went along to our prospective hole, now known as "That Stupid Hole" (courtesy of Kathryn who originally referred to it as "That silly hole").

A few slings on naturals got us down the first 15 meters or so of a steeply sloping pitch onto a big axe like boulder. A short climb below all the boulders choke. On the left however, a thin, steep, muddy climb up opens up into an eyehole which overlooks another steeply sloping shaft (an aven onto the left and continuing down to the right). As **Nial** and **Jess** surveyed down I started bolting the pitch head and remembered how enjoyable this was-keeping you warm and filling your nose with lime. As we continued a further 20 meters down, landing on a small ledge, a dark cavernous rift continued below and we realised we had found yet another pitch series. Having only hand-bolting kits we didn't get much further before we were due to turn in for the night (it was approx. 7 pm)

Our first night at *Butlins Holiday Camp* (aka "Dead Good Bat Chamber") was warm, surprisingly so, it was also much drier than top camp (there was no snow, no rain - also no sunshine, but hey that's life). I rolled around for a bit in a thermals, a (clean) furry, a fleece liner and Tony's buffalo bag, but drifted in and out of sleep fairly well. We were rudely awoken at 5 am by the nightshift who made themselves dinner and us breakfast and a hot drink. They looked very ready for bed (note: for those doing underground camping, the nightshift probably has a rougher deal, though the first night they said they fell asleep very quickly, their body clocks are obviously rather messed up).

I winged too much getting into wet wetsocks, but actually, getting into caving gear was fine. A warm drink and some mediocre porridge later we were talking to the nightshift about where they had gotten with our pitch series. Having had a drill, they had dropped it another series of pitches, but had to eventually turn around being too cold surveying (they re-rigged *Chalk &*

Sun 24/7/11-27/7/11 Edvin, Kathryn, Holly - the Butlins night-shift
V/g at 3:30 pm for 1st day of 3-day camping trip. Down to camp at 6:30 pm ish for a quick cuppa. Then met Nial, Jess and Djuke who's lead was still going - the hole in the floor near *Dead Good Bat Chamber*. Continued drill bolting down a series of cold and drippy cascades. Finished off the original 100m bag of rope, then started on another. Left the lead still going, at the top of another pitch, by which time we were very cold. Headed to camp round 5am ^{and} having been up for 23 hrs, got to bed at 7am for a well earned and toasty warm "night's" sleep.

Slept well from 7am till 5pm, as we'd been very tired. Decided on a day out in the Wares to look at some tantalising QMs:

2007-204-71A: choked after about 15m

2007-204-58A: choked after about 10m!

2007-204-57C: went until we found another survey station in a sandy tube. Turns out this is a connection into Hippocratic Oath.

2007-204-56B: ended in a small aven after 5m!

2004-204-40C: died instantly

2004-204-47C: died instantly

Finally, some that work:

2007-204-62A) led, past nice mud, to a sloping chamber. Above a ramp up led to a pitch down. Almighty Freezing draught coming up. 18m rope wasn't enough to get to the bottom. This seems like a good place to look for Tomnachs, given the draught.

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After arriving late (around 8pm) and hence giving the others a lie in, making us dinner and them breakfast, we snuggled back into the sleeping bags. **Nial** and **I** apparently curled up next to **Jess** who was left immobile until kicking Nial in the head (at which point he moved). I think she was dreaming it all up really... Our last cycle started, wet wetsocks, damp caving gear and a distinct itchy feeling, especially on my chin which felt like I'd just been kissing a guy with stubble for the last 3 days (in reality it was a helmet strap rubbing against my chin with added lime dust/dirt/mud and moist air). Anyway, as you can probably tell, I was dreaming of a warm shower at this point and something to untangle the rat's nest that was my hair.

As the nightshift had killed off the *Wares* QMc's bar two vertical leads, **Nial** decided to introduce Jess and I to the wonderful world that is the *Convenience Series*. He seems to love it;

I think it's a bit gnarly and squeezey, I preferred the *Wares*. But I digress... In Nial's defence, he didn't make us follow him down the wet / tedious pit to check out the even wetter QMc in a 6 inch deep puddle (--- fill in name I've forgotten of this area---). While it sounded like Nial was swimming/drowning in a Yorkshire stream way, Jess and I sat at the top trying not to freeze discussing what we'd do with Nial should we drown. It was innocent Black Adder-esque humour really. Needless to say, that lead crapped out too. Thus, on we went to *Channel Five* where **Nial** and **I** (re-)bolted an incredibly dodgy, loose pitch; one of those where you can't tread without sending rocks hurtling down. Depressingly, we didn't even get time to survey as it was about time to head out if we wanted to walk down the hill that same night.

Maybe it was because I'd been underground for several days, maybe it was the 200 m of 9mm I dragged up the previous day, or maybe it was because I managed to get the donkey's dick of the drill bag caught in my foot jammer on the very first pitch back up to the surface (*Chalk & Cheese*) - hence, left swinging around trying to tug it loose, like one of those annoying zips on a cheap sleeping bag—but in any case I have never been that slow prussicking out. Nial kindly offered / pleaded to take the drill bag, but NO way was I going to give in, never. Selfish? Foolish? Stubborn? All of the above, yes probably, but my fight with the drill bag had become a personal battle of strength and will. I won. But didn't get out until 8 pm or so. But at least it was SUNNY JJJ on the surface. We had a relaxing dinner on the rocks. Went to bed. Heard the nightshift coming back around 3 or 4 am and walked back down the next day. All round, a superb first camping trip. (Climbing Trisselwand with Jess the next day didn't happen - we drank instead. It didn't happen the next day either, it rained, but more on that later).
Note to self: you write way too much when you type...

TU = 60 HOURS

Finally, some that work:

2007-204-52A led, past nice mud, to a sloping chamber. Above a ramp up led to a pitch down. Almighty Freezing draught coming up. 18m rope wasn't enough to get to the bottom. This seems like a good place to look for Tunnocks, given the draught.

2005-75-A: steeply sloping bedding plane, with 2m deep stream canyon, - it went! Led to a sand floored passage, which eventually led back to the stream which then choked as it descended into mud. Left on QM up a chassy climb.

Back to camp for 5am, where we attempted, and failed, to sleep until 6pm.

Final day of the camp saw us back at yesterday's QM, to put a rope on the climb. Two ways on - both eventually choked, but not before we'd got about 180m of survey for a new wire: ware for art than Tunnocks!

Finally, at midnight, we started prussiking out, reaching the surface at 3:30am. I'd like to write something romantic about gazing at the moon and stars after 60 hrs T/U. ~~#~~ Instead we dug a hole in a grike and buried 18 person-days of shit in it. T/U: 60 hrs.

Some ~~some~~ random thoughts on camping:

1. Leaving the Hilti-setter at the bottom of Gaffered and prussiking up from the Underworld to fetch it defeats the object of camping...
2. Spare lamp and drill batteries need to be kept warm to reduce loss of charge. Put them down your crotch or something.
3. Camping is surprisingly warm. Waiting around in furry + thermals whilst dinner cooks is completely doable.

4. Night shift was fine for 1st "night" since we were sufficiently tired. The second "night" was crap though, as our body clocks weren't fooled anymore.

5. When cropping into a bag, make sure you squeeze the air out before tying it shut: otherwise the Bren drum will fill up very quickly!

Tue 26 July ✓ Neil, Fer, Aiora. Tunnocks → String theory / Balony
13.00 - 21.00

(on printed page a few pages after this)

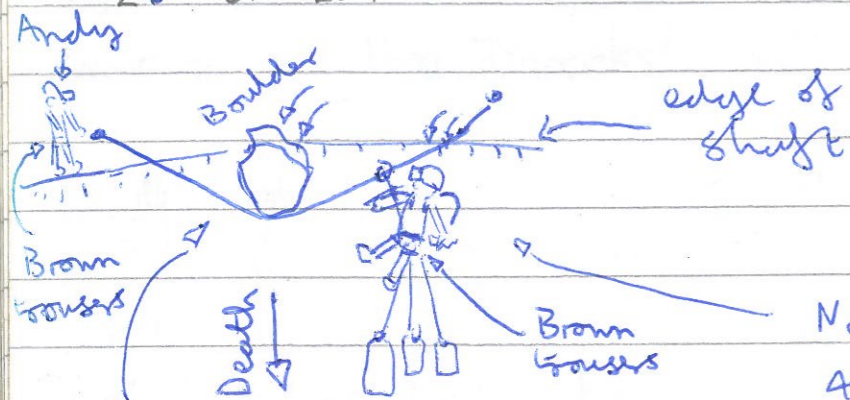
Wednesday 27 July
~~Tue 26 July~~ Fer, Aiora. Tunnocks → ibid.
14.30 - 20.45

(on printed page a few pages after this)

26-07-2011 Tunnocks - Neil, Fer, Aurora

Nice trip showing Fer and Aurora the way down to String Theory, got a bit lost after Ykiki Kiki beach, almost ended up at Starfish junction. Made our way to the top of String Theory to find Noel and Andy in a distraught state of mind and body. Noel had a close shave with a boulder on one of the short traverses. Rigged the top section of String Theory until we ran out of hangers. Made our way out but got caught in the ~~hour~~ ^{slow} hour traffic on the entrance pitch. Waited for an hour at the bottom of the snow slope, very cold.
T.U 8 1/2 hrs.

26-07-2011 - Tunnocks - Andy, Noel and Rob



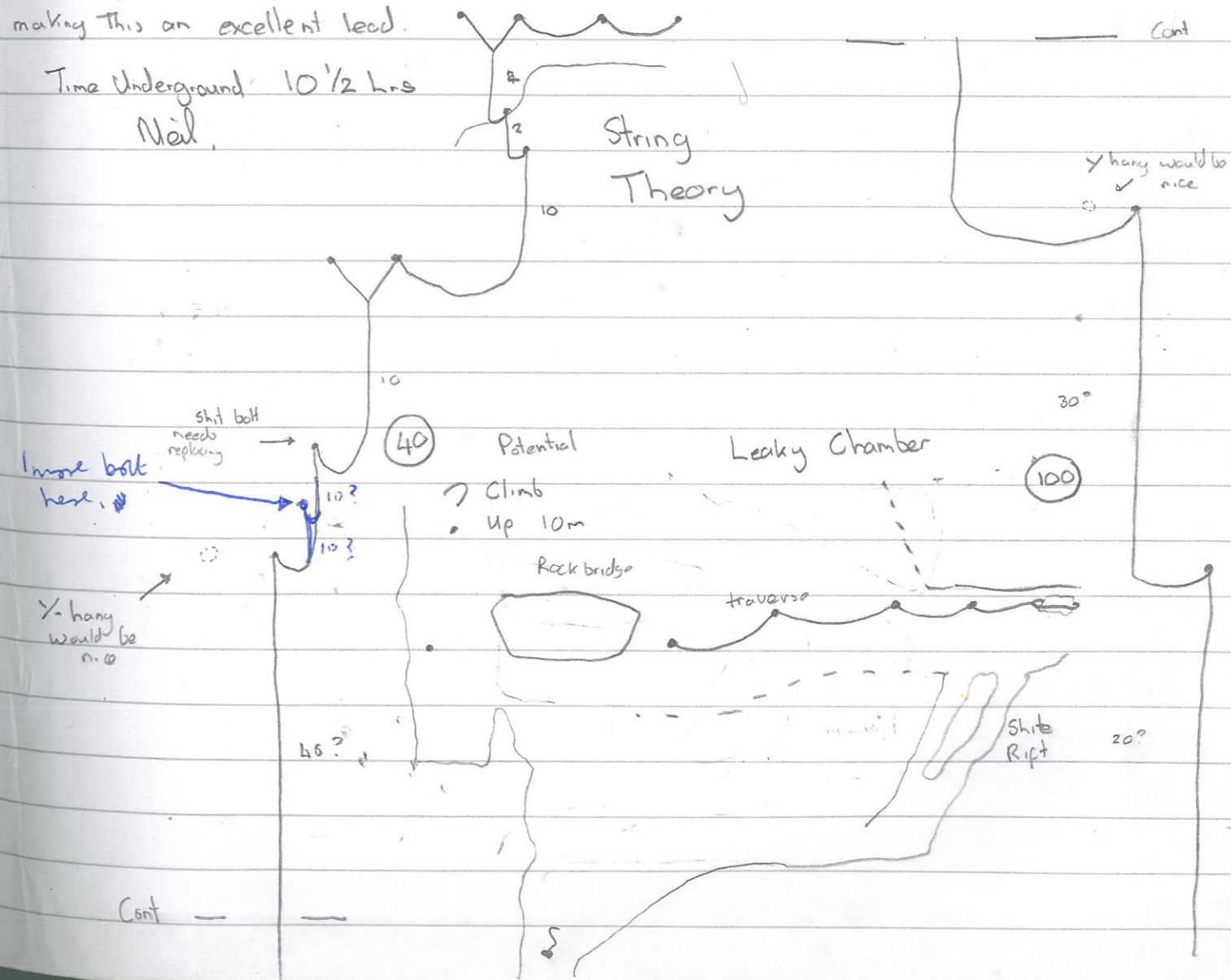
large boulder falls off onto line

Noel hanging off line with 4 tackle bags over top of pitch with very large boulder (est. >1 tonne) sitting on line, after being pulled over the edge. Brown trousers all round.

27-07-2011 - Tunnocks - Neil, Andy and Rob

Quick trip as far as String Theory, continued rigging down the 100m pitch, had difficulty finding last year's bolts. Finally rigged pitch, Andy and Rob sheltered in bivy shelter. At the bottom made our way up the baking climb to 'Leaky Chamber', limit of last year, all climbed down tight rift and looked at potential climb up, looking very good. Can see up 10 metres to a scalloped roof. Rigged a traverse line to bypass the Shibe rift and placed bolt at bottom of climb. Left climbing rope at and etriers in situ, ready for next assault. Made our way back out, from the survey 'Leaky chamber' is approx 26 metres vertically and 61ish metres away from 'Where O'Vare' in Steinbrückenhöhle making this an excellent lead.

Time Underground 10 1/2 hrs
Neil



Thursday 28 July 2011

Djuka Veldhuis -- VIA FERRATA - Grober Donnerkogel, 2054 m, Grade D (Intersport Klettersteig, Tour 28, p 120 Klettersteig book).

It was raining at 4.45am, which meant that Trisselwand was going to be wet and Jess and I wouldn't be going up. Rubbish. Having already sat still on Wednesday, I decided I wanted to go and do something active. Weather was very overcast and looked like rain, but hey, what's a girl to do?!

I settled on a Klettersteig on a side of the Dachstein Expo doesn't often visit and I can thoroughly recommend it. Coming in at the same grade as the Loser Via Ferrata (not yet in guide book as it's too new - but I've checked the Loser grade in the new version in the bookshop), it is about a 40 minute drive (towards Bad Goisern and then Gosau) if you don't get stuck behind a string of caravans. It has the advantage that apart from the via ferrata, all the height gain is via a cable car (*Gosaukammbahn*) where a return costs €12 - the last car goes down at 17.20 in the summer. It also has a lot of bang for your buck. The initial walk up from the cable car (listed as ½ hr in the book), took more like 10 minutes. The via ferrata itself takes about 3 hours and the walk down one to two hours depending on how much you value your knees.

The Route finding is simple; follow the path numbered 611, up a little hillock. Just before a turny gate thingy the via ferrata (signed) goes off to the left. The route is superb and actually quite suitable for beginners as it is interspersed by sections which are effectively just walking (though the cable is present throughout for protection) which is at times less steep than the muddy / slippery path of doom on the way upto Top Camp. Note however, that this is a fairly prolonged via ferrata which would take longer in the wet. It was incredibly cloudy / overcast when I did it, but I was still in shorts and a T-shirt for most of the way. Bring plenty of water if it's sunny. As with all via ferrata's, avoid if risk of thunder (or be walking down by then).

Anyway, there was I, starting out just above the cable station at the designated Hutte from which the path to the klettersteig goes and a random Polish bloke comes up to me and says, "You must be an experienced mountaineer, you walk fast". Well, no actually, it looks like it'll be pissing it down any minute and the cloud is coming in and I'm sorta hoping there's not going to be a thunderstorm. His backpack and helmet shiny, with an axe to boot, I eyed the Polish man somewhat warily. People on the hills with shiny gear are either very good and well off that they can get new stuff, or they've just started doing it. On the other hand I was also by myself (not something I generally do) and he seemed to have done some routes in the Dolomites. Anyway, a climb up to the start of the Via Ferrata with my newfound friend put my harness on --- shit --- helmet left down by the Hutte. Run back down and up again and my Polish friend awaits me patiently.

Despite the clag, I immediately loved the route. Divided into 4 main stages (Etappe) "Enzianwandl", "Ziehkogelgrat", "Kleiner Donner Kogel" and "Grober Donner Kogel" varying in grades from B to D. There are plenty of wider, path-like sections en-route to sit and have lunch and admire the superb view (which I got only occasionally). As we moved up and my well-gearred up friend fed me energy drinks and chocolate (I think my one piece of flapjack and slice of bread with Nutella didn't look like 'proper' mountain food). There is a nice balance of exposure with sections which are more scrambly and places where you can have a choc bar and take in the view.

Route finding is easy BUT - about ¾ of the way along a big green arrow points left (it says "Links") FOLLOW it - don't be tempted by the shoddy wire that appears to go straight up on your right - the latter is an old section of Via Ferrata that has been dismantled after the locals apparently complained about it ruining their view from the valley. The main route contours round over some awkward tree roots—which have become exposed and now hang above the limestone where the soil has become completely eroded—and ultimately comes to a col. Moving left the final and steepest stage of the via ferrata, the "Grober Donnerkogel", now awaits. It looks very imposing, but is in no way technically challenging.

To my sheer amazement, as I climbed the last steep section high on the Chai tea that my Polish friend insisted I drink. By this point I'd decided this chap was fully competent, if over-gearred for the trip in question and while he chattered away happily in broken English about how his

brother should have been on his expedition with him, but he'd not communicated this with his wife etc etc, I noted to my surprise that the sky was clearing. As I reached the top, two old codgers who had laughed at me on the way down when I'd gone back for my helmet, were sitting at the massive cross. They waved and my Polish friend took out the biggest camera lens I'd ever seen and started snapping as we were "blessed by God" as all three of the put it at different times, to have sun at the top. I don't believe in God, but the sun was fantastic and the atmosphere up there with the four of us great.

At some point I started talking about Gosser, which led the two old codgers (each just off the phone to their respective wives - mentioning something about a Dutch lady they'd met) to ask whether I drank schnapps. "Yes," I replied, "but I try not to drink too much before a long climb". Would I like some they asked I wasn't going to say 'no' J And thus it was that I found myself on the top of the Grober Donnerkogel drinking schnapps and chai tea in the sunshine. By now it was about 15.15 hr or so. We'd taken it pretty easy and the guidebook time are about right, though you could do the route notable faster if you're rushing.

An hour's walk down or so found my Polish friend and I at the Hutte drinking a coffee (which he kindly bought for me for my services as a guide, lol) and at 16.15 we picked the cable car back down. A great day, despite the clag and a trip I would recommend to those interested in ferrata.

28/7/11 - Tunnocks - Noel & Rob

Re-botted parts of String Theory, replacing 1 shirt bolt & 2 extra bolts to make Y-hangs. Also placed a few bolts on 5th re-belay to try & get a Y but these all failed, no Y needed. Looked up passage at floor level at start of climb up to balcony in String Theory, this leads via rift to dodgy climb up. At top survey marks from "popcorn rift" found: We followed the draft to a too light slot in the wall in "West Side Story" but way as found by climbing into traverse around the corner (not surveyed). This carried on to climb down to a 10m? pitch with large rift passage visible continuing over the top.

29/7/11 - Tunrocks - Noel & Rob

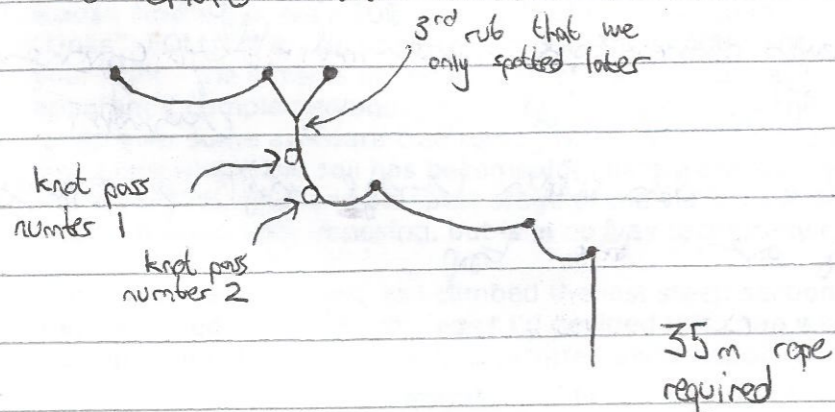
String Theory → Surveying finds from yesterday. Also looked around Konigsberg etc. Here we show Rob's Section into chamber @ string theory & there looks like a large rift continuing off at the top of a scree/boulder slope to the right of the balcony - i.e. climb up slope/gully to wall and bottom of balcony hard-line and follow the wall up right.

Ropes on String Theory re-rigged onto new bolts placed yesterday.

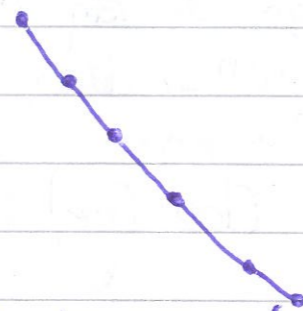
2nd Camping Trip - Day shift Fri 29th - Mon 1st (I think)
Edvin, Nial, Kathryn

Underground at 1:30pm on Friday, after stalling Nial for as long as possible. Down to camp to drop off food then back up to the Wares to drop the pith Kathryn, Holly and I found on the 1st camping trip (25/7/11).

On the way, we found a monstrous rub on Chalk and Cheese pitch so that was later rebolted - here's the rigging diagram:



Anyway, in the Wares, Nial bolted the pith. It's called Bird on a Wire because the rigging looked a bit like this:



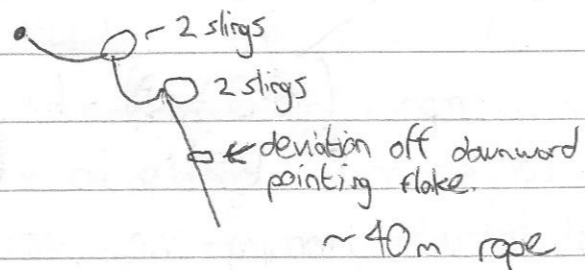
Used up all the rope (~80m?) but still going down. Too low for a Tunrocks connection? Back to Butlins for a toasty night's sleep. The following morning we went back to the pitch with more rope, but at the end it was still going down. We blew our whistles in case anyone in Tunrocks would hear us, but no luck so we dugged and tramped back to camp for a conciliatory cuppa.

Still a couple of hours left before bedtime so we had a look at (QM) at the back end of Dead Good Bat Chamber. Up a tangle, rubbish, chossy, shit climb then across a traverse and we saw... walking sized phreatic passage stamping of into distance, whoa! Called this 'A Grad Day Out'. The passage continues to a stop through a probe which is about 1cm deeper than any pair of wellies. After 50-60m it ends in a large chamber (with a dead bat). On the left is a pitch (QMA) and right was a stream canyon which we followed until a hardline was required.

Back to camp for a slightly chilly night as we all had wet feet. The following morning we went back to A Grad Day Out. Below the hardline the passage slopes very steeply down a couple of 10m ramps (the first of which we rigged with ~10m rope)

Things got a bit smaller (The Chicken Run) and we got to a junction. Right continues up a rift passage for ~20m to a small chamber with a stream entering from a ramp (QMC - looks very small) and another small passage (QMC) leading off at the bottom.

Left goes through a constriction (A Close Cave) to a pitch of about 20m:



Halfway down the main hang, a window leads to a passage which becomes progressively smaller, until after ~15m even Kathryn wouldn't fit. At the bottom of the pitch, the passage turns left after 5m to a small pit. At the bottom, below a pile of rocks, is a small passage (QM B). Across the pit, up a 2m mud slope the passage continues but gets very muddy. Exploration ended at a low section with a puddle and a very high risk of getting wet (QM B).

Got back to Bettins ~6:30pm for our final night's kip. Night shift headed out at around 12:30am, after their leads died.

On the final morning, we dismantled camp into:

- 5 backbags
- 1 pelican
- 1 bundle of 3 roll mats
- 1 big green army bag
- 3 Doren drums

Turns out carrying this between 3 is a bit of a killer, especially as we were rapidly accumulating rope, & from denigging as we went! Halfway through the Underworld morale was at a low point and we were breaking ourselves shuttling gear back and forth. Then we heard voices - hooray! - Holly, Emma, Olaf and Gareth had heroically come down to help carry stuff - heroes!!

Handed over lots of gear to them and they headed at while we slowly pulled 200m of rope up to Gaffered and denigged. At the top of Gaffered we met the others again! They had come back to carry more of our gear at the cave - absolute heroic legends! Left ~300m of dirty rope at the top of Gaffered and emerged at 7:30pm to a cracking sunset (and cracking knee joints).

T/U 78 hours.

30/7/11 - Tunwicks - LEAKY CHAMBER - Bob On

Neil & Andy

Returned to Leaky chamber to start ^{last} climb, Andy climbed initial 5m climb with 3 through bolts, etriers very useful, at top of 5m climb another short climb up led to third 4m climb. Aven appears to continue up for another 10 metres or so, placed final bolt and left all climbing gear in situ, still need to climb another 10-15 metres or so, until we are at the same elevation as to

'where O were' in Steinbrückenhöhle, hopefully we will get some horizontal development. Noticed passage leading off, after short traverse over the pitches. Followed steady crawl up steep incline, to walking size passage, ending at a balcony over large chamber. Short disto, legs of 27 metres to far wall, and 15 metres down to floor. Suneled from balcony back out to Leaky chamber. Made our way back out

of 'String Theory' after a nice cup of 'Mint Madness'.
Total TU: 11 hrs - Very satisfying trip!

1/08/2011 204 → Underworld Gareth, Holly, Emma, Olaf
TU: 8 hrs

Went down 204E with the aim of seeing the camp
& carrying some things out. Found Edwin, Kathryn and
Nial digging (chalk and cheese) and carrying out masses
of tackle sacks. For, took some tackle sacks off
them (but sadly they still had a large pile) and headed
out. Once out went back to top of Gafferd to
relieve them of more tackle sacks. Good
trip, first time down E and Gafferd - rule pitch.

2/08/2011 Tunnocks - down Konnsberg - 10000 bus shops
TU: 10 hrs Emma, Neil, Becka (String Theory)

Went down String Theory to have a look at
how possible hand bolting rift pitch down
west side story would be - decided it was
more of a drill project. On way back towards
String Theory met Gareth & Rob who had been
planning to rig down procrastination - they had managed to
drop drill bit, Neil had a bit for through bolts so we
swapped hand bolts for drill bit & went down
Konnsberg to big chamber. Neil bolted pitch/traverse at
end of bottom end of chamber. After short pitch/

traverse dropped into a sandy chamber with boulders.
Got ~~extremely~~ prematurely excited that we had
found the connection to 204 when we saw loads
of foot prints - turned out to be the bottom
of pigeons in flight. On the way back popped
into a side passage on left (a way at) this led
to a pitch QMA, also traverse went passed
another pitch QMA. I made a very bad job of
bolting and finding the way at. Good trip!

3/08/2011 Tunnocks + leads in higher level above String
TU: 8 hrs (Emma, Becka & Neil theory
So Ven 3 and Into Thin Air)

Looking at pitch in so vein & at the end of ~~String Theory~~
First went to drop QMA in so vein, ~13m pitch down
to large ledge pocket. Pitch continued down but we
didn't have rope to drop further & would require more
bolting. Continuation of pitch was drippy, wet, cold
and dropped down in several levels.

Next went down flying high - for passage to
cave down to end of Pooker Point (from 2007).
Evidence of people passed the last survey station -
started survey from there. Slightly scary climb passed
not totally convincing boulder got us up to a higher
level in the passage. This continued as traverse with
some boulders wedged in floor. Traverse went at
over pitch - after this floor came up a bit and
we climbed down to floor level, passage continuing on at
horizontal level. Really good trip.

2/08/2011 204E → Pingu Pitch Aiora, Fer, Olaf, TU: 8 hours

We went to the bottom of Pingu Pitch, where Fer and Aiora had been with Becka the day before. Brought hand bolting stuff and about 30 m of rope, as we were hoping to descent one of the holes at that place. Tying a 4-hang, that Fer and Aiora had bolted the day before, we went down and slightly right into a rather narrow slot (deviation) and found a surprisingly big pitch. We placed two more bolts, verified that another small hole with a trickle of water joined the big pitch, and decided that we wouldn't want to bolt and descent the big pitch on our own that day.

3/08/2011 204E → Pingu Pitch Aiora, Fer, Olaf, Gareth, TU: 8 hours

Returned to Pingu Pitch with a drill and Gareth. While Gareth, Fer and the drill went down to the big new pitch from the day before, Aiora and Olaf put in 2 more deviations to the lower end of Pingu Pitch, to avoid rubbing ropes and to practice hand bolting. Later on, Gareth came ^{up} again with the drill, while Aiora and Olaf went down. A deviation and re-belay later, we arrived at the bottom of the pitch, which was rather disappointing. The trickle of water disappeared in a puddle and the passage was desperately narrow, rickety but filled with rocks.

Surveyed on the way out and derigged the whole pitch series. Unfortunately, the rope got stuck at the last re-belay, so we left one tackle sack full of rope and rigging gear behind to be picked up another day.

29/7/11 Steinbrücken → Convenience Series → Channels
Becka + Holly TU 13 hours

Down to camp + picked up a survey + worked our way down to the lead then shared the rigging (we had a drill + 1 battery hubbly) + dropped 2 pitches but weren't at all keen on the loose boulders + disintegrating walls + rubs out, taking the other 2 batteries from the Day Shift to recharge. Good steady trip, ~~travelling~~

1/08/2011 204E → Pingu Becka, Airo + Fer
TU 8 hours

After 4 hours sleep this was a lovely, mellow trip we did some re-rigging of Alex + Jess's rig then finally got beyond Mal's last (2008?) station + dropped a pitch + then a climb down which looked like it was going to head off on a big, pneumatic tube - very excited - but it choked with mud after 2 legs. Some lovely fossils (including an ammonite?) at the bottom.

30/07/11 → 01/08/11 204 → Night Shift
Becka, Chris + Ppukie
In for + out SAM for me (TU 32 hours) + Sam
others (TU 34 hours)

First shift → Convenience Series (30th → 31st)

Used drill to start dropping a big, ~~dry~~ wet pitch. Stopped as time getting on + hard to see how to rig it without getting wet. 2 leg survey "i". Derigged + back to camp.

Second ~~as~~ shift → climb ^{alone} ~~to~~ camp. We'd been left a good landing lead but it ended after 2 legs then decided out a pitch but we only had a handbolting kit + Ppukie couldn't find naturals to rig off so we gave up. No enthusiasm from the others to go off to SDTR in Convenience so we packed up + headed out with ~~big~~ bags.

3/8/11 Final trip to finish denig of 204 Kathryn, Edwin, Nial
TU 1 hour

Quick trip to pick up ~300m rope that we had left piled at the top of Gafferred after the main denig after the final camping trip. 204 is now denigged, apart from the entrance pitch (which is left rigged to allow high level leads to be pushed).

31-7-11 West Tunnocks - Crossword Passage
Neil, Aiora, Far, Rob

Went to assist Far with rigging pitch in crossword passage, managed to find decent rock on right hand wall. Far drilled two holes and dropped the short pitch only to find Survey station and ^{spits} ~~bats~~ at bottom. Rob explored Crawl further up passage and found Survey Crawl. Placed another spit at top of next pitch but did not rig shaft. Confused as we ^{are} still unsure if this pitch has been dropped! Denigged initial pitch.

TU 8 1/2 hrs

1-8-11 Tunnocks - Above and Beyond

Neil, Andy, Noel

Returned to 'Bob-On' passage and Noel rigged pitch into big chamber, 'Above and Beyond'. Floor of chamber has steep slope down to the Northern end, explored and surveyed chamber. Numerous 'A' QMA's including traverse over a pit in the north and several deep shafts off at the Southern end, all bats are in the vicinity of Steinbrükenhole and should be the 'key' to the connection. Andy did a dology climb up bore wall to explore

a rift and, ending in another deep shaft.

T.U 11 hrs

2/8/11 Rigging 161

Anthony, Wokey, Oly, Adrian

The plan was to rig up 161 as far as Repton, then push the then roof tube in Repton left going by Wokey and Andrew A in 2009. However, after a very late start from the biv, this proved to be too ambitious. Took room of new 10mm with the intention of cutting it up as required as we went along. Oly christened his new drill by placing an extra rebelay bolt on the entrance pitch to split up the big hang - also put in a new bolt at the level of the short second pitch. By the time we got to the head of the Kasser pitch call-out was looming, so Adrian and I headed out whilst Wokey tried to work out a sensible way to improve the rig. He eventually gave up and followed us out.

TU 6 hrs. work: 7 1/2 hrs.

3/8/11 161 - pushing lead in roof of Repton.

Anthony, Wokey, Rob

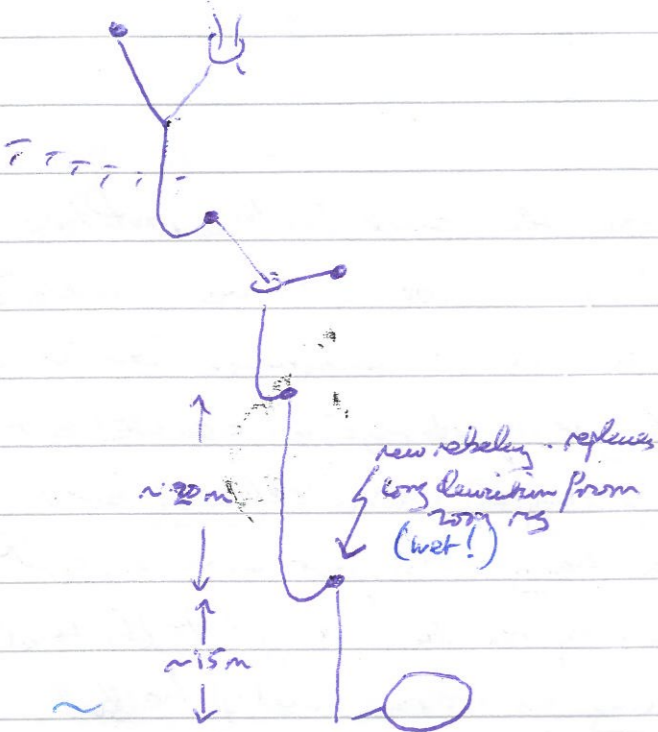
This time, with a slightly earlier start from the biv, we managed to execute the plan from the previous day. We also took the precaution of setting a morning call-out, which proved to be a wise move. Having lost Oly and Adrian to injury and tiredness, Rob chose to tag along.

At the pitch into Kasser there was much discussion about how to improve the rig. Eventually we settled for the quick option of sliding in a rebelay bolt to remove a rebelay from the 2009 rig rather than a completely new descent route. The descent is still a bit scrappy but is a definite improvement on 2009 (PTO for rigging).

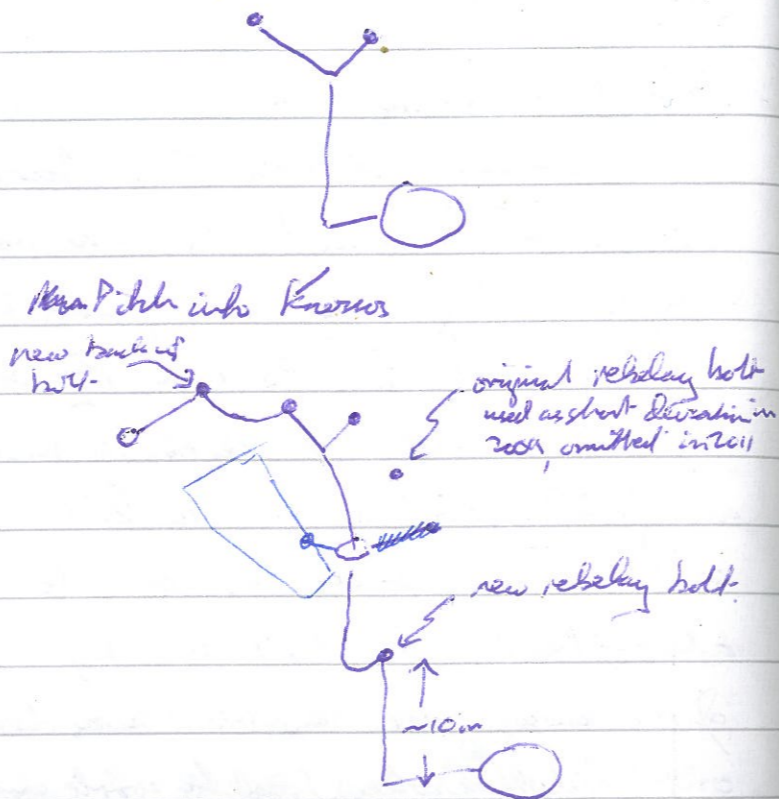
16th RIGGING, 2011.

[Within replays when measured at end of expo]

E. Entrance pitch:



Second pitch:



Trundled along to String Downfall which Wokee ruffed, then up the other side and up the rope hanging out of the roof of Repton to the wide open horizontal lead ("Way of Time") left in 2009 due to lack of time. This looked most encouraging: a sandy floored rift of comfortable proportions carrying a strong draught towards the known cave. Even so, I don't think any of us quite were quite expecting what we found next...

I was at the back welding the panel, when there came excited chatter from the front and the LBS measurements suddenly got bigger. Wokee and Rob had popped up into a 10m round draughting phreatic passage. It looks as though we have found the continuation of the YAPATE level (the passage is a similar size). We happily striped off with up-dip into the wind. The passage continues in fine style, being only less than 10m across. At one point there is a very pretty "chocolate river" of mud - this should definitely be taped to preserve it; we managed to traverse round the side but couldn't avoid kicking some sand onto it. A lead on the right just

Tue 26/07/2011 - **Tunnockschacht Entrance Series up to the Balcony**

Neil Pacey, Aiora Zabala and Fernando Abarquero (8hr)

Neil showed Fer and Aio the secrets of Tunnocks labyrinth. The newcomers were even able to find the way out. Short trip up to the Balcony. We took away many of the dangerous rocks we saw on the entrance, so it looks safer now.

Wed 27/07/2011 - **Tunnockschacht Entrance Series up to the Balcony**

Aiora Zabala and Fernando Abarquero (6hr)

Aio and Fer reviewed the secrets of Tunnocks, going down to the top of String Theory and back. We brought 60m rope to help others to keep going down

Fri 29/07/2011 - **204 Sandpit**

Kathryn Hopkins, Aiora Zabala and Fernando Abarquero

Kathryn showed us the secrets of taking survey notes. Short trip to Sandpit practising some tight surveying. Found Jess and Alex on the way out and after some problems with the carbide we came out

Sat 30/07/2011 - **Tunnockschacht up to Crossword passage**

Holly, Aiora and Fer

A nice caving trip finding our way to this Crossword. We practised hand bolting for a hand line before throwing the pitch. Holly tested how warm a storm shelter is with a candle inside.

Sun 31/07/2011 - **Tunnockschacht up to Crossword passage**

Neil Pacey, Aiora Zabala, Fernando Abarquero and Rob Adams

Trip to finish bolting the pitch. It turns out that once we descended the little pitch, Rob appeared from within a small and tight passage he had gone through to get warm. Thus 08-38C and Crossword are connected.

Mon 01/08/2011 - **204 Pingu pitch - bottom left**

Becka Lawson, Aiora Zabala and Fernando Abarquero.

Hand bolting and abseiling the left pitch, finding very nice shell fossils and ammonites, but with an unfortunate end covered by mud and sand.

Tue 02/08/2011 - **204 Pingu pitch - bottom right**

Olaf Kaehler, Aiora Zabala and Fernando Abarquero.

Hand bolting and abseiling the pitch on the right hand side (small). We abseiled a little bit down the parallel little hole below the horn, which could be continued. But it was drippy and cold, and there was too much friction on the rope, so we didn't continue that way. We were amazed at the potential deepness of the main pitch but decided that we didn't have enough experience (neither a drill to keep bolting) to throw that pitch down. Turned back.

Wed 03/08/2011 - **204 Pingu pitch - bottom right**

Olaf Kaehler, Gareth, Aiora Zabala and Fernando Abarquero.

Back in Pingu Pitch with the drill and lots of rope ready to do the bolting and abseiling of the central pitch. Gareth bolted an impressive free hanging belay. Unfortunately it ended in a little sump and going nowhere else. We did all the surveying and the de rigging until Pingu's rope decided that it wanted to stay there for a little bit longer :(

before the mud river (on A) might provide a bypass (and some more cave). There are several leads in the continuing passage, the best looking of which is a tube heading SW from the trunk route which carries a considerable breeze. (on A)

Eventually we ran into a 25+ m deep hole in the floor. It appears that the trunk passage continues over the top, but a traverse line will be required (on A). Since it was now quite late, this seemed like a suitable point to turn round. The gap to the Pasty Prince

area of rock has been closed to ~300m at a similar altitude.

Before going home, we threw a couple of survey legs down the southward continuation of the trunk passage from our entry point. The passage starts heading downhill as though a pitch is imminent and running water is audible ahead (Qm A). The survey places this close to Ventfitch.

With that we headed out having had a most satisfying day with 343m in the bank, mostly in a large trunk passage heading towards 204. Passage is to be called "Country for Old Men" given the relatively geriatric status of its explorers. Emerged at 01:30 to steady rain.

Thanks to Andrew A for bolting up the chinks in the Post place two years ago - we owe you a pint.

Tu. 11 1/2 hrs.

6 August - 161 ^{old men} ~~conv~~ conversation type. Becken, Julian

Having arranged to take over Ryuba's camp bed and space someone who thought I was not coming up made sure it was packed and set down with her. So there was an unfortunate scramble to find somewhere that wasn't bare rocks. Frank's hole had a ~~trap~~ badly rigged tarp with a pool of water touching the floor. Ollie and I rigged it to form a diagonal ~~off~~ ^{shelter} ~~one of the sides~~ shelter off the incorrect side. I retired

early in a mood. No one had the energy to pop round to see how things were doing, even though I could hear them chatting for hours about all the trips they did have the energy to do in the next several days. Things went badly when it started to rain heavily through the night as the wall under the tarp dripped as much water as if there hadn't been a tarp. I rigged it all on the morning, this time with the dry sock

under the shelter, but the mood was now seriously deteriorated and was being ~~ign~~ sternly ignored.

The walk over was hot, dry and sunny. There were lots of going forwards in the new "Oldmen" bit above Repton chamber to look forward to. Wookay lead the way so he could point out where the path was going to be across the interesting mud in the wide passage. However, after I'd arrived at the junction last, they all moved on while I put my extra layer on. After waiting a while it was evident that no one caved enough to come back and show me where not to trample the pristine mud. They did, however, spend the next hour conversation taping a lane ^{along} ~~around~~ all the passages while I took some crap photos. Then it was time to explore some "new" stuff off the chocolate river that didn't actually get out of sight of the chocolate river, except for one climb that a novice like me had to be ordered not to do. I was ~~considered too much of a novice to decide~~ ^{decide} for myself whether I could do it. Back at the junction I eyed up the south passage, which didn't immediately become a pitch as expected and could have been worth some gags. However, it was 6pm and time for novices to leave the cave and come back to the same spot to the millimetre the next day - well rested by a crisp night in the bivouac: 4 hours of crawling and scrambling each way. We left a chunk of flapjacks for Ollie on the tackle sack and departed. Via the Tyrolean of death which Wookay and Wall had rigged over Strange Access fall. The blue string snagged at the point where I was having to apply maximum arm-pull, and I needed to be rescued, partly by swinging the down rope ~~out~~ ^{out} so I could progress up the vertical distance the tyrolean was sagging. We got out in daylight and walked back in the dry. Tue 11 hrs

7 August - 161 - old new south route, Jess, Alex, Julian

While team elite waited for our German guests to arrive, team work went on ahead, and team novice followed on steadily and were caught up at the tyrolean, which turned out to be just as crap on the inward direction when you get your descender caught up in the loop as the pulley ~~tries~~ to take you 45° horizontally out into the sag of the rope. The stepping off point is at least a metre from the end, which saves the last five minutes of even hauling that you have to do on the way out. (A disto measure showed it's within 1° of being level). Jess got stung up for a long while and opted for the easier and up pitches, as Alex went there too. The double reelay on a boulder on the up pitch was quite slow too, so when we arrived at the junction it was nearly time for novices to head out. ~~Went~~ After one of the Germans found the way on in the south route, I set Jess and Alex finally to survey it, then went off to see what was going on elsewhere. Team work's lead was capping out. They'd found some ^{blind} sooty lower chamber that was a good place to take ~~camp~~ an afternoon camp that simply wasn't going to hold out for much longer. For a brief few minutes, the south passage ^{looked like} the best going leads. Unfortunately, I said so and this was held against me even though it had capped out by the time I got back ^{to it}. The Germans had got down the pitch and found the way on ~~the pitch~~. Team elite, who are allowed to stay ^{at the pushing} front after 6pm, dropped what they were doing and followed on ^{until very late} even though they were going to come back the next day, while team novice

tripped all the way out and across the plateau in the dark, but who cares about them if they can't keep up.

Tue 11 hrs

5 August 204 Pingu Derigging Trip / Tour of the Cave, TU: 4 hours

Olaf, Catherine Hulse, Amy, Adam, Nial

Went up to top camp after the Expo dinner and had a short trip to 204. First we went to Pingu Pitch from the 204e entrance, where Olaf had some fun disentangling the rope from the nasty rock flake underneath the first reelay. We then packed everything into tackle sacks and Nial gave us a tour of the upper levels of Steinrückenhöhle. Returning to the entrance, we headed towards the Magic Roundabout, had a look at Gaffnerl, then went towards Suspended Solution and escaped through the old entrance.

6 August 167 Old Men bolting trip, TU: 11 hours

Olaf, Ollie

We joined Becka, Julian, Wooley and Nial for a long trip to the far end of Namchenhöle. Wooley and Anthony had discovered a large phreatic passage at a pitch bolt climbed by Andrew Atkinson two years ago, the "Country for old men". All six of us scrambled along for 3 hours in a long tour through Iceland, Roast Beef, Tossie, Knossos, Block Tower, Yapaté, Chicken Fried Rice and finally to Repton, where the newly climbed passages started. After a short rifty bit, we turned left into a wider passage and after a short bit of uphill passage came to the junction. That's where we split into groups of two, with Wooley and Nial rigging a Tyrolean at Strange Acrossfall, Becka and Julian placing conservation tape and surveying a side passage, and Ollie and Olaf went north to a pitch at the end of what Wooley had surveyed a few days before. Ollie started drilling his way down, but quickly ran out of rope. Olaf placed a hand bolt for a top traverse of the pitch, and later Ollie placed two more bolts up there. We ran out of time though, and left two unfinished

rigs behind. It was still a loose way back to the entrance, which we did between the two of us, and we almost did not get lost at all. On the way back to the bivouac, we were facing the flashes and thunder, and eventually got home dry.

7 August, 161 Old men continued, TU: 12 hours

Olaf, Stefan, Thomas (two German guests from ARGE Grubenstollen)

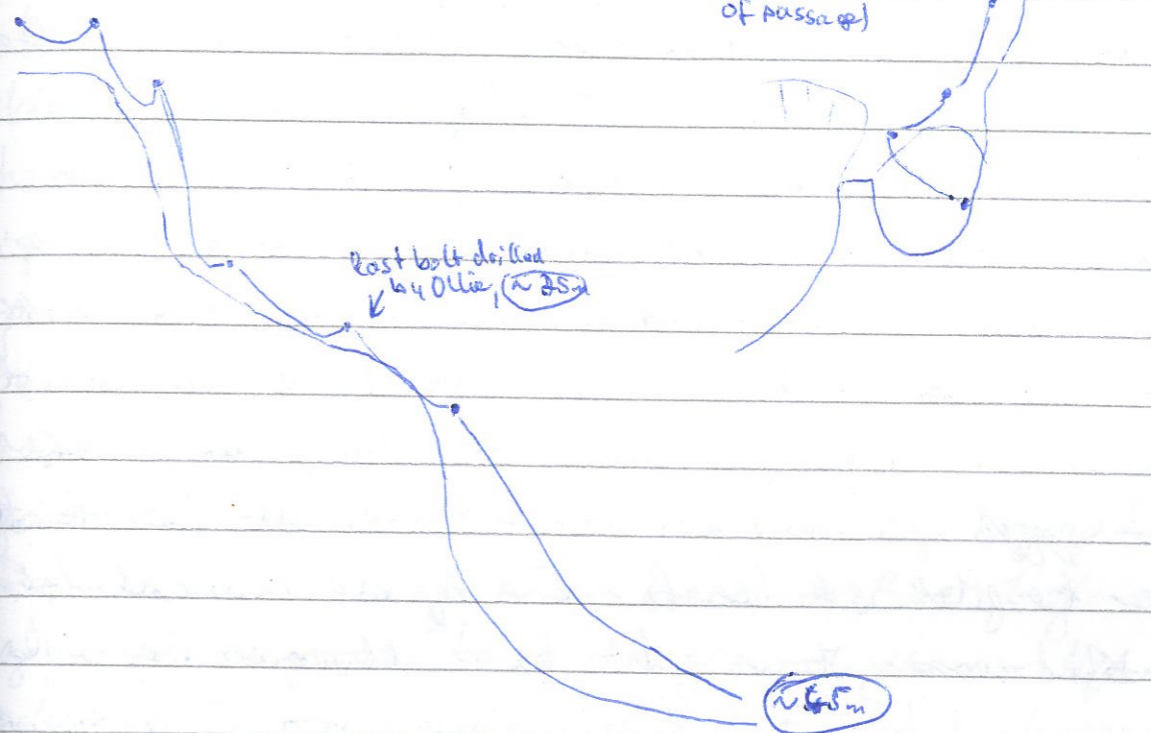
The new stuff in 161 was quite exciting, so there were 3 trips going there that day. Wookay, Cat and Adam went ahead early, Julian, Jess and Alex went next, and Anthony, Becka and Olaf waited a bit longer for two German guests, Stefan and Thomas. Team C entered the cave last, but we just about met Team B at the entrance pitch. We caught up with them at Knossos and Strange Acrossfall, where we eventually had a queue and reorganisation of the teams. The Tyrolean did not really work, so going down and up again was still the easiest solution. We finally got to the "Country for old men", and Team German (Olaf, Stefan and Thomas) went to the north end with the half rigged pitch. Wookay, Cat and Adam had completed the traverse line but not gotten much beyond. The downwards way, that Ollie and Olaf started bolting the day before, was still unfinished. Thomas took the drill and rope and went off. After reaching the first ledge, a 45° slope, he added another rebelay and dropped to the bottom. Stefan and Olaf then surveyed the whole leg to a length of 29.00m. As the bottom was very rocky again, Olaf went back to call Becka and Anthony. They started surveying a small rift passage going downwards, whereas we continued the main phreatic tube, carefully avoiding some beautiful erosion patterns. The passage was heading more eastwards and uphill for about 50 metres, then turned back northwards. There was another small pitch up there, but we could easily bypass it via an arrow gully in the ground, doing a sharp northwards turn a level below the main passage. Only a small 3m climb was in the way, so we placed another bolt for a handline. As it was getting late, we fetched Becka and Anthony and all headed out together. Along the way with all the pitches, we split with Thomas and Olaf going first, Becka catching up, and Anthony and Stefan meeting us at the entrance. Luckily it was dry on the way back to top camp, but it had been raining the best part of the day.

Pitch in Old Men:

(left hand side of passage)

Traverse across the pitch:

(right hand side of passage)



5 August - ~~20~~ Tunnocks - Thirty Nine steps

(beyond Flying High)

Andy, Becka + Rob

Tue 7 hours

The post-dinner hangovers were bad but - as ever - Rob was keen to squeeze in a final trip before he left. Up to the lead next, Emma + I had left + continued through a direy boulder chock (Rob going first as he has no fear + is bigger than Andy + I) to a clamber with leads off + then up a ^{steep} ramp which ended with either a loose dink ^(Rob) or a tight phreatic tube (me + Andy) to another clamber with more good-looking leads. We followed the draft up-slope with faint hopes of finding an entrance but we ended with a fairly conclusive boulder slope on 39 legs - good trip.

7 August - Anthony + Becha KH - 161 - Country For Old Men
TUE 12 hours

Shepherded Olaf, Thomas + Stefan through the cave + ended up in a Tyrolean logjam with Jess getting string up trying to get on it. Thomas + I managed to use it but pretty strenuous. Found Woodie's beam surveying where we'd intended going, having found nothing over the traverse at the N end + being too cold to descend the pitch there so we set Olaf, Thomas + Stefan rigging the pitch with the drill while Anthony + I ~~put~~ put in a natural + handbolt beam for the traverse over the pitch at the far end of the chockalative. I'd just finished crossing it using the huge, obvious natural when Olaf returned to say they'd found big stuff so we scuttled off + looked at their lead + left them to survey the big stuff north whilst Anthony + I threw a few legs to the south in bin, twisting off until it was time to go. Poor Stefan wasn't feeling well on the exit but at least everyone else was out of the cave so the exit wasn't too slow + then a plod back up the hill where, surprisingly, the Turnmotes gang were still up having just returned.

8 August - Anthony, Thomas + Becha KH - Country For Old Men
TUE 9 hours

Only 3 of us in KH today so despite enthusiasm failure due to the messant rain we had a slick + productive trip. Entrance pitch miserably wet but dried off on the commute. Down to the huge phreatic lead Olaf, Thomas + Stefan had

left yesterday + had a handful of fine, long legs in big stuff then it all fizzled out in what initially looked like a mud choke but a steep-down phreatic tube blowing a gale in our faces soon led us to a pitch head which has to be an A++ lead. Back in the main passage where we'd started surveying I spotted a small passage on the R wall which drafted strongly + led straight to another small pitch - another A lead. Having only hand-bolting gear (we'd taken the 2 drill batteries out yesterday) we left that too + back to the pitch to the big lead on the right. This went in Pine Style with lots of ?gypsum? crystals to a climb which we left when it looked like it needed protecting. A side lead on the right just before the climb started with many crystals on the floor then past a freshly dead bat (wings still neat) + got smaller (waxing) then ended on an easy-looking pitch (just too steep to free-climb). Draft but not very strong. Thomas took some photos then decided to call it a day. Had a grim, grim time on the entrance pitch with water pouring down especially at the new midway rebelay - needs fixing. I was near hypothermic by the time Anthony got up so did the walk on my own in the driving rain - thank god for PVC overalls, carms + reflectors.

2011-08-06

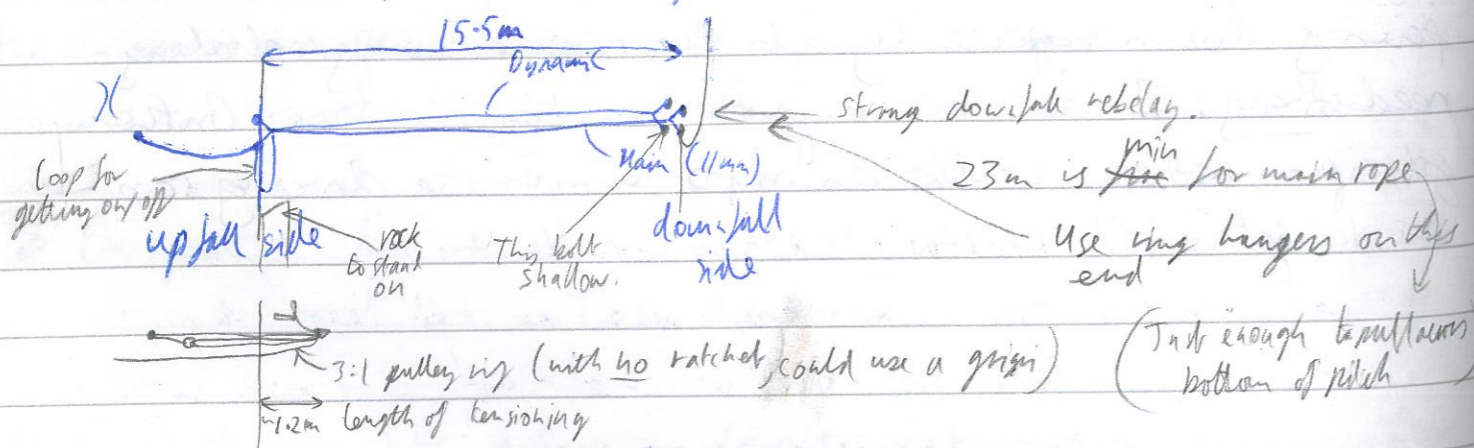
KH - Country for Old Man - Tyrolen rigging. Woolley + Nial

Part of the Berka, Tiliu, Oly, Oly M trip.

First went to the end to show everyone the new stuff (CFOM), start survey in the right places, where to cage, where leads are, see if the wide bit above the chuddle river provided a bypass or not (if didn't) and help take a few photos. Then it seemed like most useful thing to do was rig the tyrolen 'strange Accorfall' so we stole the bag of rope + a few hangers & slings & went back there. ~~Woolley~~ The pops were banging on the rebelay on the strange downfall side so after a bit of ~~discussion~~ discussion of how to rig it he went ^{down + up} ~~down~~ & rigged 2 y-bags - one for main rope, other for dynamic safety. ~~Bottom left bolt~~

~~Side~~ of work had asked that bottom left bolt of 4 was too shallow to take a modern rig hanger. Cleared out with Niall's matchstick determined that it really was that shallow - odd. An axe hanger fitted OK.

Meanwhile Niall had set up a 3:1 ~~pulling~~ ^{pulling} rig on the ~~face~~ repton side. We first pulled the rope in to see where the knot would go, then relaxed it, tied the Y-bag & pulled it in to dip to the bolts.



Tried it out and nobody died! Rather hard work getting off the steep end. A partition behind the pulley helps a lot. Clipping right up to the rope helps a lot too.
T/A: 8hrs.

2011-08-07

KH - Country for Old Man / Massive for Mendip Woolley, Cat, Adam, Henry

1st team into KH with coat of chousants expected. My allotted oranges turned out to be ^{very} competent & enthusiastic so we had a top trip. Went right to the end to complete the climb into the photos collection that Oly M had bolted most of the day before. Re-rigged rope so it was long enough, and decided on the 'quick & light' approach - ie no drill + paraphernalia - just climb on a (-rigged) stop, landing a line to pull stuff up afterwards. (Climb was maddy (thin layer over rock), steep enough to be worrying, short on good holds, and over a big drop. I could see why Oly decided to leave it. Still, with some pinch holds & ~~steep~~ steep cutting ~~edges~~ and a rather tense few minutes, I made it up without taking a massive flight.

Only to find that it didn't go at all! It was a dead end, with another hole down into the what we'd just traversed road. ~~Err.~~ Pulled drill up & put in a bolt so I could get back down ~~fast~~. No-one else had turned up yet so we had a choice of go down ^{took on leg up to climb to position it.} ~~to~~ ^{to} pitch, or look at horizontal lead back at previous junction.

Cat & Adam wanted to learn to survey so we went for long. lead. Windy, but not huge. Surveying was taught/learned as we proceeded down rocky passage which soon turned steep ~~left~~ right (west) with a stepped C3 up then a traverse over a hole. Here the passage disappears up into holes in roof then passage opens out into high chamber 3m wide 8m high, 20m long.

It looks like there is a continuation at roof level which needs a rope + climb to access. ~~But~~ We went home pleased with our day's work, which may be average for Andrea but would 'make us gods' on Mendip.

T/A: 10hrs

204 - Brian's Pit pitch vertig. Woolley, Amy, Stefan.

I had promised to apply my expertise to this damnish deep shaft which Alex & Jess had got about 30m down before deciding that ~~it was a bit much for them~~ & it was going to be very wet and they weren't sure what to do.

As J+A were knackered through another injury & w-o-e etc wanted to be responsible for following - through on this work we decided the trip would fix the rigging but then decide.

Amy kindly came along to show the way, Stefan wanted something much easier than KM. They got a rather bandied with nothing much to do for 3 hrs apart from shaft abridged backtracks up the 2nd pitch.

Work spent 3 hrs on the pitch, putting in 6 bolts (one centered and had to be re-done) making about as deep a hang as is possible. Got down as far as where snow leopard comes in before running out of time (and it wasn't clear that rope would reach floor either).

Managed to swing into passage about 4m above snow leopard. It goes about 6m S to probable dead end & 6m N to look down approx 12m pitch. QMB (no draught).

~~There are 2 bolts~~ (checked passage above (at ledge/side lead) - they don't go).

There is a healthy good thread a few m below the snow leopard passage which should get us to floor.

Turned round at 4pm & desipped, adding one more bolt on the spur side of centerfall once J+A's last bolt was desipped. That should remove the major drippy bit, but is unbedded, so might not. Got to pitch top at 5:20 ish as promised, but no sign of the others, and in fact it took another 40 mins to desip pitch head & cut out all gear -

There were 14 coils of stuff hanging on traverse line after I removed everything hanging from line - no wonder it's hard work moving.

~~Left~~ Left very fat sack with 9m of rope in, & ~~it was~~ strapped out with drill sack + sack of rope plus bolts. There's a lot of caving in 204!

Have sat here for AGES!

T/U: 8 hrs work.

Thos Amy + Stefan.

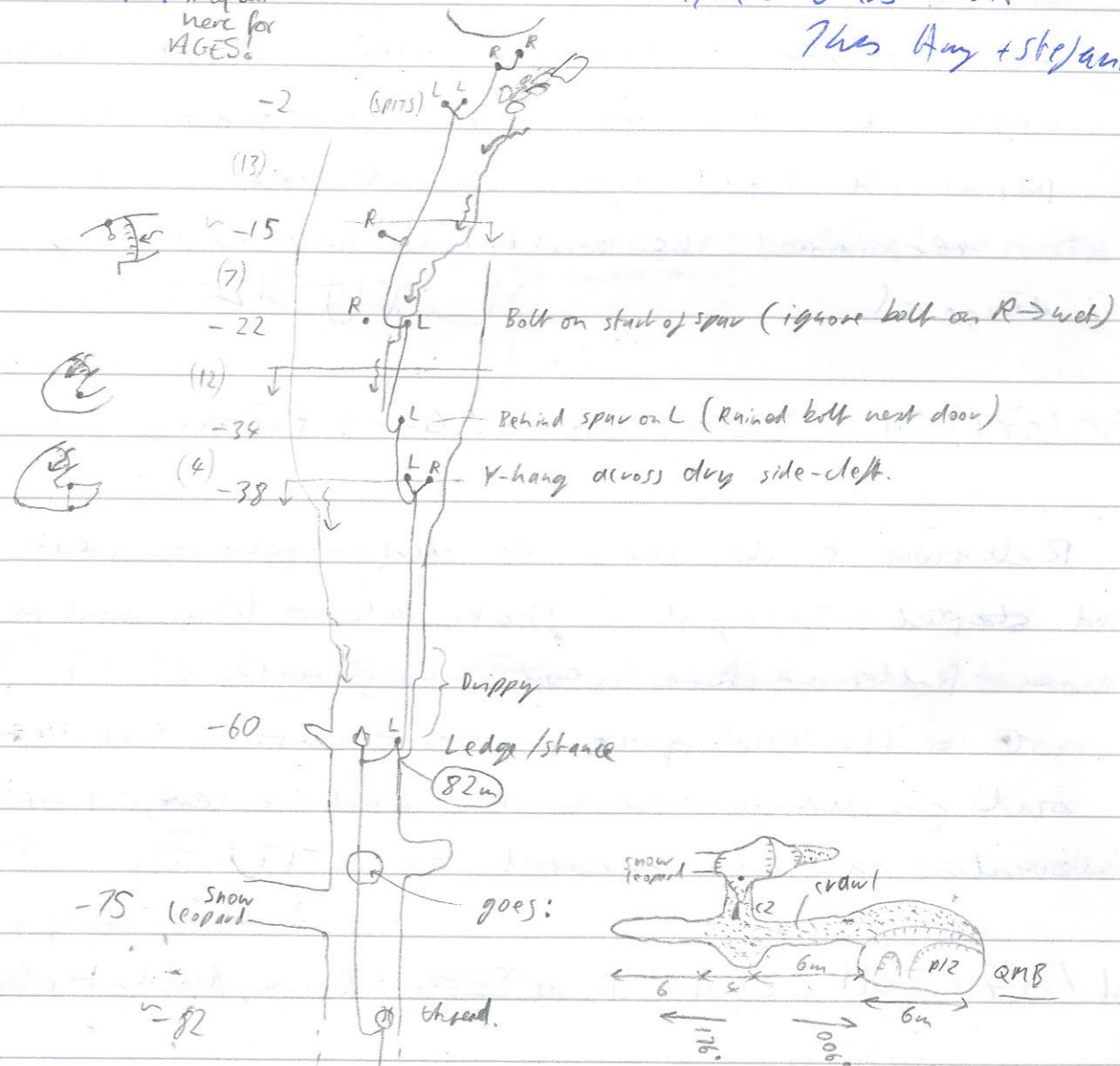


Photo Pitch Rigging Guide.

29/07/11 (yes, I'm a little behind!) 204 Tourist trip Jess, Alex.

Walked up in the morning, and decided to give Alex an introductory tour of the upper levels of 204 while scouting out a lead for the next day. Went down to boulder coaster but got a little lost, so went back to E entrance pitch, then to goggered, and out of 204 D via swings and roundabouts. Interesting entrance climb, chimneying up the side of the snow plug, & very glad that the permanent handlines were still there!

reclaimed the path and back in time for dinner!
TU 3/2.

30/07/2011 Jess Alex 204 → Pingu.

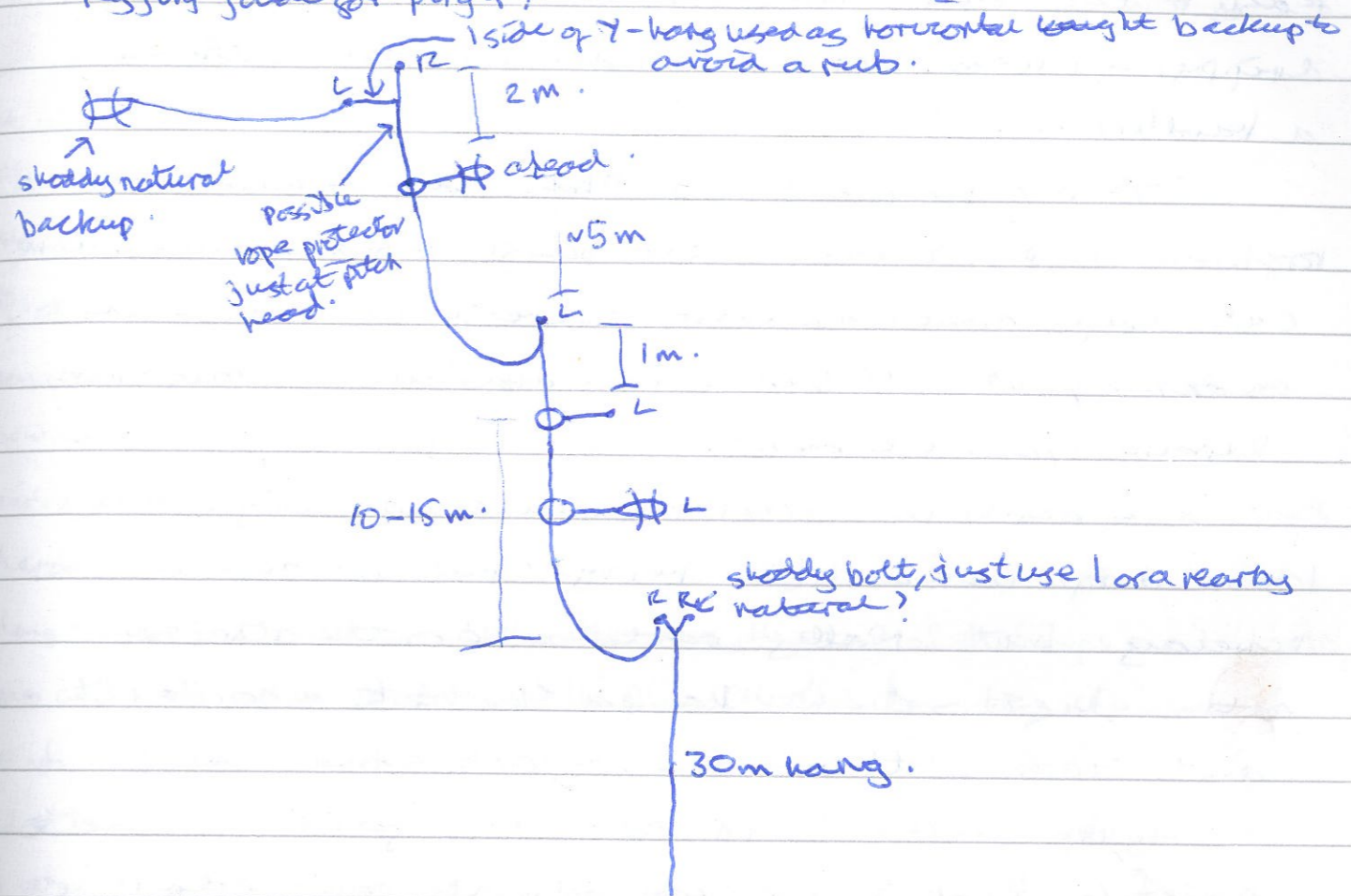
Returned to the lead scouted in previous evening and started rigging it. Took a long time, and needed more bolts as there were many rubs (but no drill...). got to the end of the previous surray then headed out for dinner and to try and scavenge more deviation tat and ~~carabiners~~. TU 7

31/07/2011 204 E Pingu Jess, Alex, Noel, Holly.

Back to Pingu again, this time with a more experienced 2nd opinion for the rigging (but still no drill...). result: Ok, but needs more bolts, some adjustment of current rig managed (see opposite).

About to start hand bolting, but both me & alex needed to pee, but only I managed it successfully! back out for a change of ~~clothes~~ clothes... !!! TU 4

rigging guide for pingu!

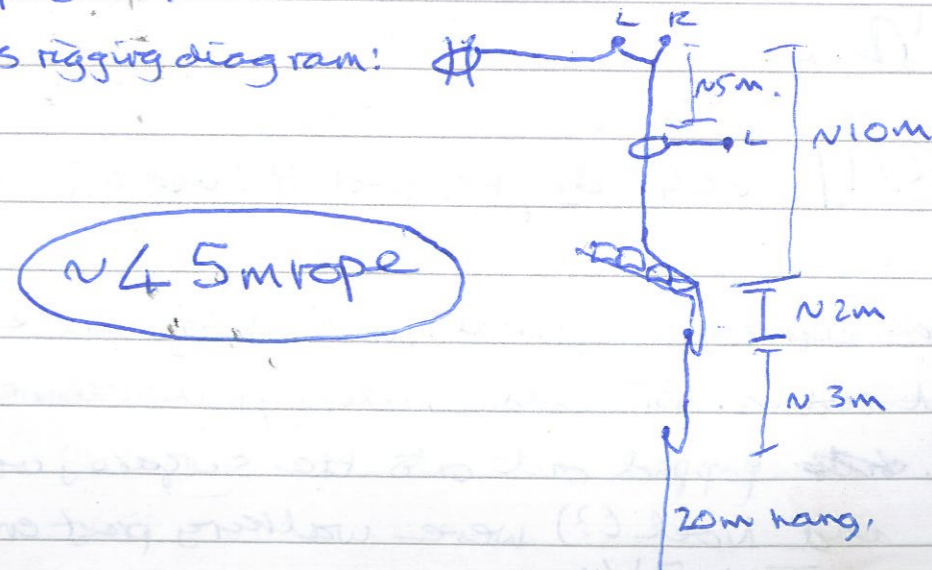


06/08/11 204 → Brian's phot shaft Jess, Alex, ~~Red~~, amy, Adam.

Rigging and bolting trip to Brian's phot shaft.

NOTE - All roads is a 36m pitch, not 26m as in online description !!!

All roads rigging diagram!



Easy route finding, pressure some v. impressive, though
drippy, & climb down from ridge across its centre reads
a hardline....

Started rigging Brian's Phat Stage - much loose
rock & upper Y-kang bolt a bugger to put in - had to have
cat help! added an extra traverse line bolt & went
on down, with 10 tons of rope and drill & rigging shit
hanging off my harness.

I don't like heights much, so dangling over a
loam drop was a little nervy! Put in a deviation &
rebelay, but really wanted to be on the other side
of the stage - didn't have a sky hook & could not
get there without one. Spent some time
swinging desperately in space, then gave up & had to
prussik back to the top with the rope, edwell, &
rigging shit... bit knackered!

The others meanwhile had a brew kit & were
busy making some v. welcome soup before we
headed out.

TU 9 1/2 hrs.

09/08/11 204 de-rig back to entrance pitch Jess, Alex,
Adam

Trip to pick up last of Brian's Phat Stage kite rope &
de-rig All roads. Bit cold waiting, but all went
smoothly, ~~but~~ popped out onto the surface just as
Martin G and Noel (?) were walking past en route to
Tunnocks. TU 3 1/4.

10/08/2011 KH → Country for Old Men Survey trip, TU: 17 hours

Becka, Holly, Olaf

We returned to the Country for Old Men to take a look at some of the horizontal leads.
After a slick journey all the way in (2 1/2 hours), we went down the first pitch in
the main passage and then left into the rift that Becka and Anthony had started surveying.
After a few legs with a gentle right turn, we arrived in another rift passage following
something like a fault line clearly visible in the ceiling. The way downwards
continued ~~up~~ across a small hole in the ground and some nice mud formations and then
reached a short climb up. Beyond, the rift was continuing uphill and shortly reached a small
chamber (2m wide, 4m long, 6m high) with some decorations. Two passages continued
along the fault line, but re-joined later at two places, the second of which was a small chamber
again. A 3m climb down got Becka to the floor of the chamber, where she squeezed
through a gap continuing the passage. Apparently, there is another short climb down
and it still goes beyond, but we had enough of the rift and called it a day.
To get warm again, we took a tour to the continuation of the main Phreatic
tube up to the next short pitch, and a detour to the upper continuation with three
climb and crystal passage with the dead bats. Next we went to the far end of
the chocolate river, where Becka and Anthony had bolted across, but not surveyed
anything yet. Close to the left hand wall it is relatively easy to climb across the rift
and we quickly reached ~~to~~ a popcorn passage with decorations all over. A
confusing amount of passages cross the popcorn at various levels, but they
all seem to join in a single place, a small chamber with a steep slope to the right
leading into a rift pitch. Instead, we took a wider passage to the left, continuing uphill.
After a few more legs, we arrived at a junction with a parallel passage, no popcorn
here, but plenty of round "wash pots". Our own passage quickly ended in a mud filled
choke, and as Olaf was cold, we decided to get going out of the cave back to the
biyy. Again, we met the Tunnocks crew returning at about the same time.

7/1/08/2011 UH → Where the wind blows, TU: 3 hours

Olaf, Adrian

Not many around were keen on UH that day. Also, as Olaf wanted to go down later on to leave the next day, we organised a short trip into UH. Becha, Woolley and Anthony mentioned a passage close to the entrance, where no one ever managed to find all the drafty holes, but still ~~was~~ a noticeable gale was blowing. Olaf led the way, we found the passage as described and the climb on the right hand side, but there was no rope in place. It seemed free climbable, but not very inviting, especially on the way down. So we decided to turn around, still not knowing where the wind blows. After a short trip, Olaf packed his staff to go down the hill, while Adrian stayed up at the stone bridge.

6/08/11 Surface prospecting TU 0.5 hrs

GPS for entrance: EW 1938, 33 T0411995 5283601 (UTM)

Neil, Andy, Emma, Gareth.

Surface prospecting north of tunnels.

Much of the area between tunnels and the area we found the cave was quite shattered & broken down. Area round the cave looks promising with quite a few shafts around. At Entrance we found a ~~down~~ ~~sharp~~ drop ~~then~~ in steep gully leading to head of ~5m pitch, way on continues to top of 5s rattling drop undescended. Entrance tagged as 2011 1.

7/8/11 Bob On Passage (Tunnels) Andy, Neil, Emma TU 12 hrs

Down to Bob On via Pigeon in Flight. Neil and I set up to aid climb the up pitches whilst Emma derigged ~~the~~ all the pitches in Lecky chamber.

Neil and I climbed the three pitches but found the way on upwards too tight so decided to leave it for anoxic future generations.

Back down to Above and Beyond, rerigging the pitch and then rerigging Pigeons in Flight on 10mm. Back out for packets of candy and hot chocolates.

8/8/11 March of the Penguins, Tunnels
Emma, Neil, Cat, Adam (TU: 10 hrs)

Went to QMA lead north out of ~~the~~ ~~the~~ 39 steps chamber. Low passage out of chamber had to bow crawl past boulder choke. After ~~the~~ passage opens up into nice phreas with narrow floor canyon. Followed passage ~~past~~ interesting ceiling level phreas → needs bolting up but passage appears significant. From here

Followed main passage down to junction. Way back on oneself (sharp left) leads to pitch head (QMA). Back to junction we took left passage leading through good phreatic canyon. Took main passage past QMB, QMC, QMA leads (Explored on subsequent trip). Passage ended in frost shattered loose boulder choke.

9/8/11 Tunnocks : March of the penguins

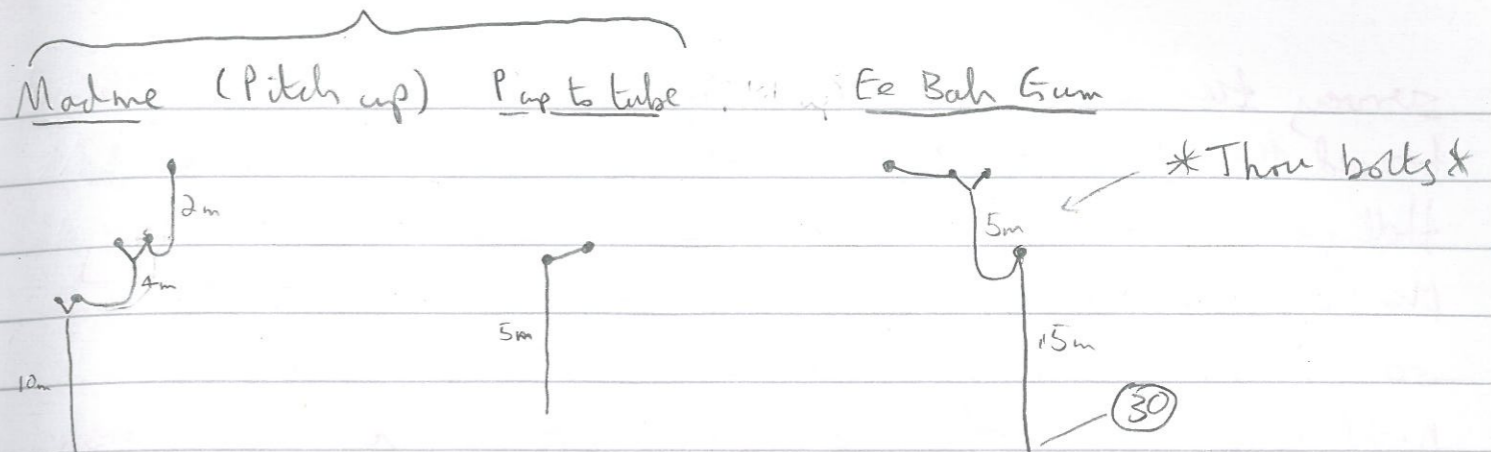
Emma, Neil Tu: 11hrs

Back to march of the penguins exploratory side passages found on 8/8/11. Started off from QMA at far end of passage led up slope to P-10 QMB with possible continuation QMB+. ~~There~~ ~~Back in cave passage. Others leads ended~~ Most passages ended in loose boulder chokes, with some signs of Dedy near the surface. Complicated interconnected part of the cave.

10/8/11 Tunnocks : Above and beyond Tu: 11hrs
Emma, Neil, Gareth, Noel

We returned to Above & Beyond to have another look up Andy's climb & survey up. Is much easier now there is a rope on. At the top, a further phreatic tube was spotted above, after a slightly hair-raising climb up (1 bolt, no etc.) a rope was rigged (P5 up) to gain a very drafty horizontal tube. Emma & Neil set about surveying whilst Gareth & I ran off to explore. Up "Frontier Land" & "Blackpool Sands" gained a side passage & the main passage ended at a pitch. Pitch dropped ("Ee Bah Gum") 10m into bottom of rift which appeared to continue in some direction as "Blackpool Sands". Another passage continued back under Blackpool Sands (walking passage). A quick look around then exit due to surveys having to much to catch up.

Left as Permanent Rigs



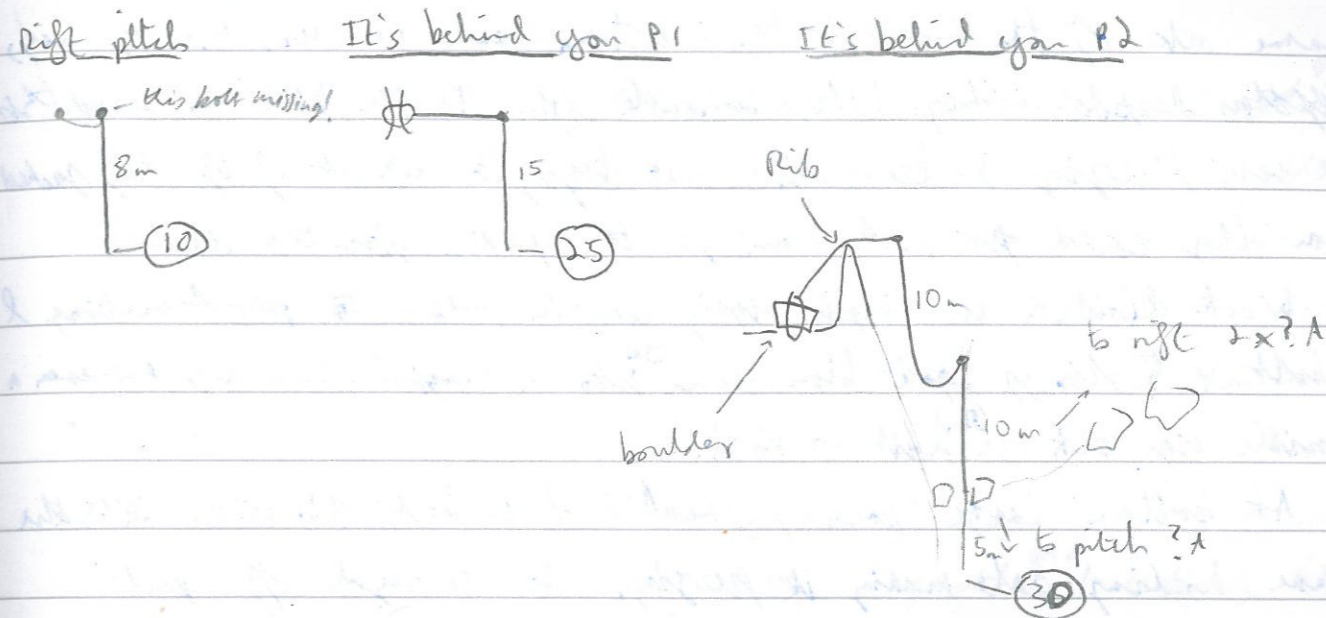
11/8/11 Tunnocks: Konigberg - That's the Day to Do the CONNECTION OF ~~258~~ 258 → 204
Wookey, Noel, Holly & Becca Tu 12 hours

Despite sore knees we talked ourselves into another deep trip in Tunnocks. Wookey & Noel whipped in ahead with the drill to start the pitches that were found in Above and Beyond yesterday whilst Holly & I started to survey down Ee Bah Gum pitch + then to a small ^{drafty} rift opposite their pitch. This rapidly popped out to a window onto what we assume is The Beast again - stones thrown out beyond the immediate ledge dropped free for 4-5s - a project for another year. ~~Whereas~~ The others were still bolting so we surveyed a QMB I'd spotted at the base of Ee Bah Gum. This was another small, drafty-rift which, again, popped out into The Beast but this time we could get out onto a wide ledge so we started surveying along the left wall with various tubes on the left. "Holly, did you walk down that mud bank?" "No, I thought that looked like footprints." I peered again - it could ^{due to} be rock fall, but it did look very like footprints... and then I saw two more - we've definitely got to remember people have been. I walked over with the tape + straight to station 23 + we finished the

survey then went for a run to see where we were. We traced the foot steps back + into a small muddy tube - Holly + I muttered to each other that this looked very like the waves - but we didn't want to count our chickens so as we ran until "Ooh," said Holly pointing at a nondescript mud bank we had to crawl over "I've been here - for sure - it's the waves - WE'VE CONNECTED!" We snatched at each other, had a jig + a hug then Holly showed me what she'd put on her 204 camping bag. We went back to the others, where Wookey had put in 3 short pieces with minimalist rigging + they were surveying back so we helped them to yelped them our news then helped them to finish their survey + showed them the connection then steadily out with some gear. Great final bit of Expo 2011 for me.

Noel & Wookey's passages continued up rift in some direction as "Blackpool Sands". First bolted a traverse over rift (Wookey placed a thru bolt!) but the leads all were choked with mud. Then headed down the rift (1 bolt). Opened out into large chambers. P15 down R-hand wall to a "rib" over (13 up) which dropped down P20 into shaft with jammed boulders (pitch continues below boulders)? QMA. Over shaft rift continues up dumbs & we reached after walking drafty rift, we reached a 18 up - ?A with which would gain continuing rift (needs a rope?) with a 16 down loose boulders below to the top of a 75 rattle ?A. Then Becha & Holly turned up to tell us we'd walked right past the connection, hence the name "It's behind you". Then got the guided tour of the a short

far end of Steinbochen. Excellent trip.



2011/08/12 Wookey, Cat Hulse, Adam Henry

KH - Pushing the end of Oldman (Mordor)

Wookey was keen to get back to the end of KH. Most people were leaving, also encouraged by AR&E invite to dinner at the Bergskantout ('Loser Alan' these days), and team UBSI were supposed to be making a meal from Mumish, so it took a bit of pleading to get a team together but we ended up with a reunion of the top Wookey/UBSI team that previously explored 'massive for Mordor'.

- Unfortunately, having forgotten to bring Olym's batteries up the hill, we had to take the Makita instead. Cat bravely carried it all the way in & out, wizzed efficiently to the end in about 3 hours with no falling, (although Adam did slip off the traverse over Bobon You and tested the rope - it worked perfectly leaving him safe on the rock with no harm done)

Went to the windy pitch at the end which was indeed freezing. Cat & Adam both put in 1st bolt then work took over in interest of efficiency whilst they did a bit of topping in with passage.

Pitch very confusing, with wind coming out of passages round corners & holes at various levels. Eventually realised that it all

came out of the hole at the bottom and down was the only way, Elythan despite looking like a wise old cat. By the time he saw that we were freezing I knew WBS were trying to work out if they packed now they could get back down for the party after the dinner.

Brook decided some rapid rigging was in order to prevent making I / Holt + 5 things get him down ^{25m} into a large chamber, not even a considerable rig, but ^(5m) a bit too short.

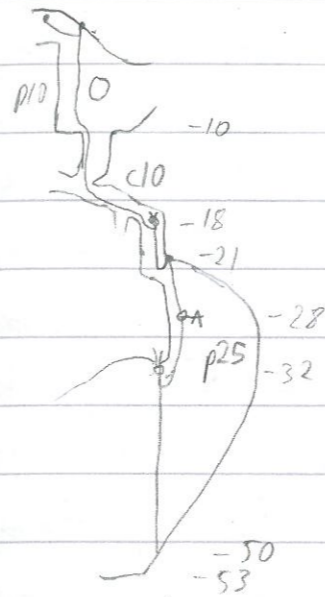
At bottom large passage headed off in both directions into the same howling gale making the freezing. We surveyed off past curious QMS down ~~the passage~~ (but very cold) passage until stopped by hole in floor. As it was past 7pm we decided to lead out, but couldn't quite walk past huge A lead near chamber so had a survey down there (much less windy so warmer). Soon hit big T-junction with A leads off to right and large phacelid (bigger than the one we already surveyed) off to left. Followed it as far as a pitch (10m) before finally (21:15) heading out, very pleased with our day's work (about 300m in the book). Took about 4hrs to get out a 45 mins to walk back with gear. Exit was too beautiful no view over valley filled with white illuminated by the full moon.

Embarked got to bed after 3am.

Desc:

Small very windy (blowing up) pitch, rigged from roof. After 1st 10m drop can be climbed another 10m ^{down} to 2nd hang from ~~the~~ thread then roof bolt where pitch opens out. direction ~ 7m down ^{on spike} avoids rock at rebelay (large thread) to drop nicely to near floor. (about 3m up). (55m ~~is~~ is a bit too short. But 60m for a proper rig)

Chamber is about 15m high. ~~Passage to~~ To W is N/S rift leading to



Large pitch at S end.

~~The~~ Large passage leaves eastwards, sealed by easy traverse. Strong draught blows westwards ^(4m up) (into chamber). Pass much less windy passage leaves on R. after 18m. Main passage continues uphill then turns NE. Climbing up to L in complex area reaches 30m pitch, which appears to be the source of some of the draught. ^{QMA} Immediately beyond

Arts a rift goes off L on 252° (QMB). The phacelid continues zigzaggy for another 30m. At the corner is a high ^(12m) solution area in the roof. (QMC) Ahead the passage gets very high & the way is blocked by a hole in the floor. QMA ~~is~~ This passage is 'mouth of the Euts'.

Large passage to R is more nice phacelid which arises in a chamber. A hole in the floor is approx p10 with a pool at bottom. ^{QMA} There is possible passage to N. Way on is downhill arising at a large T-junction with horizontal passage. ^{This is very windy again (E 5m).} 7m to R. (W) it opens out at a small streamway. ^{QMA} ~~area~~ This is 'Ribendell'. Passage continues ahead up small climb. (QMA) Another goes downhill to L. The stream sinks in for-tight passage.

Turning L (S) at T-junction enters large phacelid passage 5m across leading gently downhill. 'The Shires'. This reaches a pitch edge after ⁵⁰ 10m looking out into large chamber / area. ^{QMA} Drop is about 10m then another 10m in further hole. A small passage continues ahead for ~7m to look out onto another drop, probably the small space. QMB.

Halfway along the Shires a small rift passage goes off left. QMC

T 1: 13 1/2 hrs.

Social Caving, Any Weekend in August
As I'm a guest (even a very foreign one)
I'm supposed to write friendly stuff. I've
always been welcome and could spend an evening
time joining divers Caving Clubs! Right in
the middle of Austria, I found a place really
occupied by British people, baking their own bread
without ovens and being the only ones to buy
white beans, as well as drinking lots of tea.
Today, we visited Hallstatt and went swimming
at 17°C. Tomorrow we're going to top camp,
so I'm really looking forward to the adventure
of sleeping in the rain and eating curry!

So... I really have to thank the awesome
Bristol & Cambridge Caving people for accepting
a picky German, so I can, and getting me
beer as well as an awesome time!!

Thanks a lot & see you any time in Munich

Theresa 😊

13 August 2011
161 - Beyond Wookay's pitch, Mardor Andros, Juba

Having crossed Juba with a painful bout of caving
boredom before leaving of an another caving expedition to
Voodoo Canyon with her fancy friends, Becha got Andros to
swear over 7 bottles of Gosser to take him on a not-
complete-waste-of-time caving trip for once. She was going to
stay up with the all night session to make sure he drank it all
until assertively reminded of the ~~fact~~ notion that after 3 weeks
of neglect and one change-over day basking unadulterated caving
glory plus dinner with the Germans, things were getting
mighty sulky. Luckily, Niel was around to keep him occupied
through the night with interesting conversation and brass music until
he passed out under the awning with the foot of his sleeping bag
in the rain. Inside the hut Andros was among the debris on
the floor. He accepted a mug of strong coffee from me.
We drove up, walked across the plateau in the rain finding Wookay
and his side-kicks caving down from ^{gerry-rigging} ~~pitch~~ pitch at the far
end of Old Man to lots of horizontal passage which they pushed and
explored in every direction until 3 in the morning because that's what
they were there for. He'd passed a sketch to Olly of all the grade A
heads (most of which were pitches or traverses), as he was going on
ahead.

We reached top camp in still drizzle, wondering when Andros'
hang-over was going to kick in, and heroically continued on to 161g,
catching up with Olly & Emma. It's a long way in. Andros
declared the tyrolean crap, which it is. Wookay's rigging on his
Mardor rify pitch was even worse and had to be redone (it's bitterly
cold there), and then we pressed on to the far North end where

There was a breakdown pitch/traverse chamber. Emma went down it and climbed up the other side to find a junction, Olly ^{allocated} ~~selected~~ the left hand passage for himself because he had the drill and there was some work to do at the far end. He was snuffing from a cold he had caught earlier and was suffering. Andrea and I surveyed across the chamber (~~Andrea~~ ^{making} ~~me~~ ^{we} do notes for the first time in ^{about} 20 years, because he only does it with his PDA/Distox/top plant, which is the best - unless you don't have it with you - and can no longer use dumb paper). The right hand passage lasted only 2 legs to a pitch and a mid bunk, barely out of sight of previous passage. Certainly if Woody and Cos had ^{been} standing at the start of the chamber they could have seen our lights. It was 6pm and Andrea had lasted much longer than expected. We had to go out. "Olly, Julian will be sad," Emma said, as they shot leg after leg down their fresh passage. Don't worry about it, that was the plan. Andrea still moved up the pitches at a faster pace, and wanted to walk back across the plateau ~~was~~ by the light of the full moon, but I decided that the shadows were too deep and put a stop to that notion. Olly and Emma got back so much later after us that I lost a lot of sleep fretting over whether I had ~~got~~ accidentally T/U 11 hrs. pulled one of the up-ropes after me and snagged it out of reach.

161 - Morder side passage - stables

14 August
Andrea, Julian

I was up at 6 waiting for the sun to rise and dry my home made fuzzy rubber furry suits, looking for a new day ahead. Ready to get your riding gear on and go down to the yard and stables where all the places are wide open. So all the horses have bolted. There is no guse closing the doors now.

But you do anyway.

All the way down in Morder again, beyond Woody's horrid pitch, Andrea's third eye was twitching at the right hand passage heading South East, ~~and~~ down-wind and away from any chance of ~~egg~~ commensurate glory. With a success-rate ~~but~~ like mine you have to learn to deliberately disregard your intuitions and try not in any way distract the cave-finding powers of The Man. We took one of those grade-A leads past a stagnant pool that smelled of piss, and surveyed round 9-legs past a pitch, until we came out of the only other horizontal lead there, killing both in one go. Not exactly something to write into the logbook about. Andrea eyed up that pitch onto a basidgy slope to see if there was a way round. ~~It~~ It was cold. I suggested we go look at ~~what~~ the place Olly had got to on the far North end. For someone who had the loggi, he'd poked around the broken up chamber at the far end pretty thoroughly, ~~and~~ ~~not~~ ~~leaving~~ very little of interest overlooked. I climbed some mid rammed tubes to the right of the pitch and sent many chumps of the stuff down a ramp and off the side. ~~All that was left~~ ^{Nothing left}. All that was left was to go back to the ~~outback~~ ~~looking~~ traverse to boulders in the rubbish looking chamber to the South East. A 3m pitch of 2 naturals and a rope protector got us there, and into

a passage, which delivered exactly what the doctor ordered. It kept going on 15m legs through all kinds of varied terrain totally beyond my note-taking abilities to capture. There was sand, cheesy rock clumps, pitch by-passes, and a rift that completely changed character two times for every leg. Near the end we seemed to be ~~on a false floor~~ above a river on a false floor made of broken phreatic columns. Andrew found a little cluster of dead ~~wasps~~ ^{winged} insects on a tall stump and declared that this meant there was a close connection to the surface. On review of the terrain model, that's over 360m away vertically, so this is a mysterious phenomenon. We wrapped up our work at 8 and headed off out. I experienced that odd smell of boiling rubber again on knossus pitch, which must have been from me. I got up the entrance pitch ~~off Andrew~~ ^{second} and spent a long time on the cave getting changed while Andrew sat out in the moonlight ~~until~~ until it was suddenly obscured by a storm cloud. We ~~crossed~~ ^{traversed} the ground ~~in~~ to top camp on a ~~brisk~~ ^{brisk} 35mins, buffeted by freak winds interspersed ~~with~~ ^{by} thick banks of fog. Ten minutes later the night was torn open for a downpour, that lasted until we fell asleep, dreaming that if only Team Zeus had got down there ~~Plat~~ and started digging about instead of fungus around on the Plat Shaft, ~~at the~~ ^{the way} forward would have been easy.

T/U 19 hrs.

15-08-11 - Tunnocks - That's the way to do it

Holly, Emma
(# Noel)

A last long-ish trip before the end of expo, resulted in a trip down to the 258-204 connection in order to give Emma a tour & start the dig. Had a fairly early start (11am!) and managed to miss the rain (Tunnocks was very drippy!). String Theory was a lot friendlier the second time round & then Noel showed Emma & Holly the top of Procrastination - which is where we left him. The two of us carried on down to the connection, which isn't quite as exciting the second time round! In fact it was a little sad as, after looking at the 204 survey for the wares, I realised that the 'connection chamber' was in fact a chamber I had already been in on a previous 204 trip with Edwin & Kathryn (25-7-11), where we were following an A lead. If only we'd gone for the B lead!

After this brief tour, we made our way back to Procrastination with Emma denigging Eelbah gum & Pigeon's in Flight. Thankfully, we met Noel at the top of the pitch - we were both happy not to descend, being told that the pitch was at least 80m!

Noel denigged Procrastination, which was followed by denigging String Theory. Emma & Holly carrying two bags each & Noel stuck with 'The Beast' (120m) & denigging of String Theory. It was decided to then leave the rest of the dig for the following day, & we all left with a bag each, leaving two at the top of S.T.

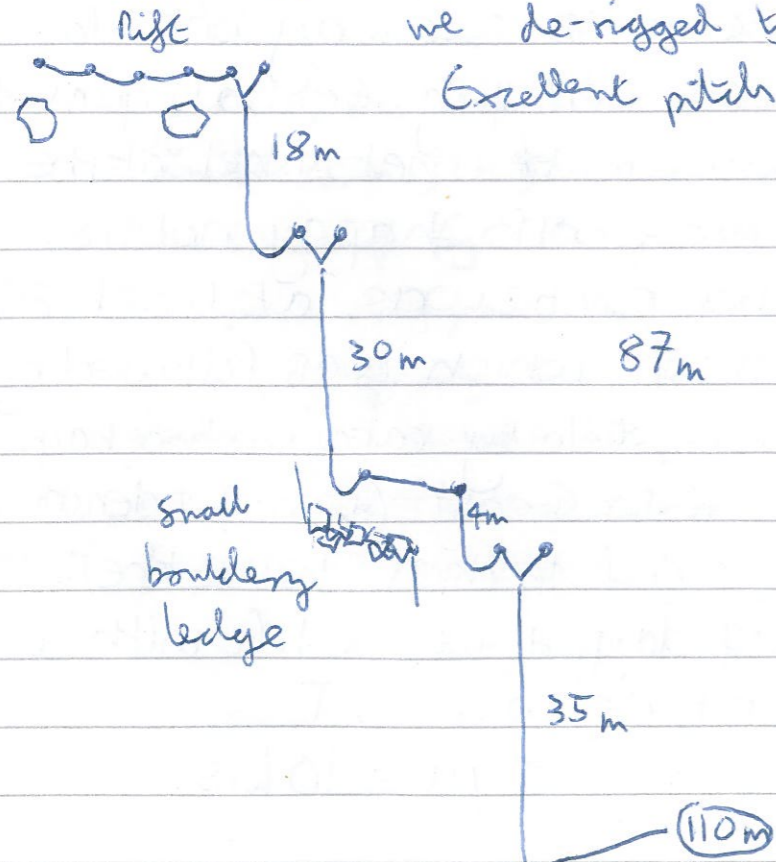
T/U = 10 hrs.

15/8/11 - Tunnocks - Procrastination PSE

Noel (+ Holly & Emma)

After Holly & Emma left me at the top of "Procrastination PSE" (still not descended to the bottom even though it was started in 2010). Initial traverse was followed & 1st descent of 18m to final bolt. I added a bolt to make a Y-bang, rigged short traverse & re-belay at a bouldery ledge about halfway down with a nice free-bang Y-bang placed just below. Pitch used 110m of rope approx. Large stream entered halfway down due to very wet weather, ~~halfway~~ but hang avoided most of water (except a few "drips" at the bottom).

At the bottom an airy step over another pitch (?A-P15m, taking stream) led to a bouldery chamber. Rife passage appears to continue at Northern end (?A-P10m) and small chamber could be gained at East end via 5m pitch (?B-P-5m). Surveyed and re-rigged out to meet the girls near the top, where we de-rigged to the top of String Theory. Excellent pitch.



16/08/11 Tunnocks 1st team Martin, Emma 2nd team Noel, Holly, Andy

Martin & Emma pulled the bags up from the top of String Theory, missed it back to the entrance to meet the 2nd team, who went to descig Caravel Callanias, followed by the entrance, stopping for naughty words and frayed ropes from Andy at the y-bang. Out for tea and curries. (4hrs approx)

13/08/2011 161 - Beyond morder Emma & Holly

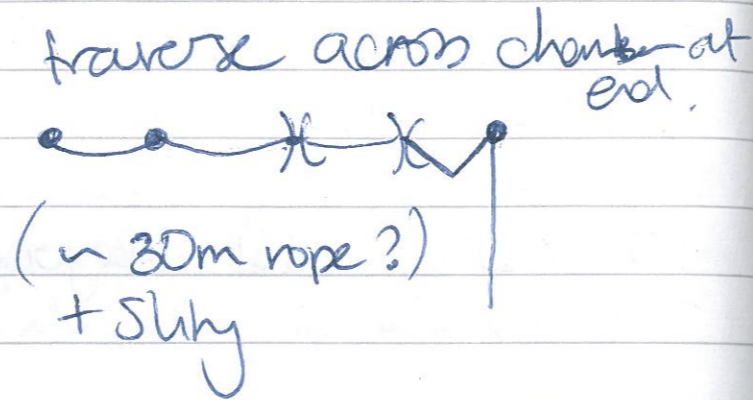
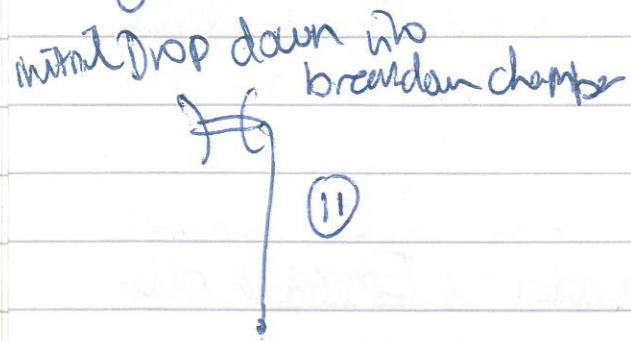
Tu: 14.5hrs

~~First trip in the P~~

Down Morder to QMA traverse lead that had been left by Wook, cat & Adam from the previous day. Used 11m rope & good natural to get to bottom of breackdown pier/traverse/chamber then clambered up the other side. Passages lead of both right & left. Oly & I took the left branch while Andrew & Philia went right (could have gone far).

Reasonable horizontal passage led to a traverse (needed rope) into a chamber with lots of holes in the floor. Across the chamber led to a pitch dippy pitch with possible horizontal continuation across pitch. This pitch is v. close to fat cut in 204, traverse across pitch looks fairly technical & hard on 10m or so across a wall with not so many features. Left as all leads needed

nightly work and we were ropeless & it was late. Headed out to good clear night. First time for me down ktl - impressive.



16 August 161 - Holy Cow Andrew, Cat, Tulus
We intended to bounce down to Base Camp to change Andrew's phone to sort out his cortesy car, which is a pretty lame excuse to skip a day when things are going well but my body really wasn't going to take a 3rd day anyway. Down at base camp the washing up was piled sky high. Olly said it wasn't his problem, and anyway he had spent all day yesterday in bed with a bad tummy. He then did it while I made chips. At 4:30 when we were intending to go up, the rain was hammering down, and I had a headache and felt that I had caught Olly's cold. ~~I slept the rest of the day~~ We changed plan to go up in the morning. I slept the rest of the afternoon, then spent the evening printing out maps of the 30m row between 161 and 204, along with route descriptions to Phat Shaft and Fat Cat, in an attempt to entice people to rig down to there with the rope they were pulling for Tomatoes.

~~Had~~ All focus on that connection could have got it done. Had I had the connection wired there, it would have happened. ~~And~~ And when both sides were either side of the big hole that would require 14 bolts to traverse around, I had a reel of strong thread we could throw across to the other team to set up the Tyrolean of Life, so that the 161 people could come out a much shorter way. But it was not to be. The desigging momentum was in full flow, and the only thing that could have interrupted it was a bad accident at the far end.

Cat, Andrew and me left base camp at 6:30am in good weather, had breakfast at the stone bridge, and carried on to 161g, and then on through the whole came to our extensions. Where should we start? Let's go to the far end of where we left off and kill that lead, then work backwards to any other leads until all the horizontal stuff is over. We left our SRT bit at the start as we had no further rope. I took some photos of the fly rock. The breakdown chamber where we finished the last time was obviously going to end with some perched pitches from dangerous wedged rocks, but having climbed ^{up and} under the biggest boulder it was found the passage continued. The whole trip was like this. You'd do 50 to 100m of fast easy passage with 15-20m legs in freezing cold wind, and then hit an obstacle, which it turned out you could get ~~over~~ ^{through} if you had the nerve. The first was a 5m climb up to a slot in the right wall. Then there was a

4m climb down to a splashy floor after a tricky shuffler along a muddy ledge that would no longer be possible without a rope once it had been smeared into slippery stone enough. This was followed by a climb over and through some rocky arches with slide-holes everywhere into which your body would disappear out of sight if you slipped down them. Then the cave began to ^{really} open out. We went past about a dozen proper QRM leads that you can walk into, not the rubbish kind Wobkey left in Mordor which were all pitches.

Cat went down a small side lead at one point, and had to be surveyed back out to the main passage. Only one other time did we back out of a lead, going down wind from a junction (it was downwind all the way in)

When we reached an awkward small pitch. We started to go upwind through wide unfamiliar passages that looked more familiar once we'd stoned off the cheese-cake top layer ~~partially~~ into that white stuff with our boots.

We broke into a large chamber ^{at station 50} and carried on through.

It was getting late. At the next obstacle, a pitch in a 2m wide gong passage, we declared it was a day. Andrew went back up to it to paint the survey number T, 56 and noticed that there was an easy way round it. But we had to save our energy to get out. One way to save energy is to leave some ropes in for ~~people~~ access to the connection from 204. So Wobkey's Cracks of Doom mordor pitch was left, as well as the German pitch.

While Andrew reduced the capital value of these installations by replacing ~~stings~~ stings and leas with cut rope and marlons, cat got the brew kit left by Emma and Ally going. It was so good. I was so tired. I went on ahead to Knossos and up to the drinking spot where I was so thirsty the water didn't even feel very cold. I ~~fast~~ polished off the final pieces of the cricket-ball sized bag of bag of 200 apricot flapjack I'd grabbed before leaving camp. (Oh, the pools of water at the far end appeared to have black ~~to~~ mould growing in them. No idea what it is). Everyone was asleep and not interested in what we'd found, which I think was better than the connection, which is inevitable and doesn't take to anything new. Survey plan not too bad, but wish I'd drawn cross sections. We'd made a loop that almost came back to Clorian Fired Nice by 30m. I ~~wasn't~~ Some of the survey drawings of that would be in the 1989 Book, if that can be found. T/U 14 W3

16 August, 161 - derry Cat, Andrew, Julian.

Considered my excuses because I couldn't face climbing through Tower Black again. They let me wait at top of Knossos pitch to take out a tackle sick. I derryged entrance pitch. We carried down a huge load at the hottest part of the day. Fighter jets tore the sky overhead. Caught sight of one. It was a delta-wing, so was probably one of those "stealth" bombers on its way to liberate the old in Libya.

T/U 3 W3

16/08/11 Emma, Martin, (Holly, Noel and Andy)

Quick hip down to the top of Shiny theory for me and Martin to pick up the bags of rope we'd left there after de-rigging shiny theory and below. Left all traverse lines in care as they were all on old rope - ~~and~~ only Caravel Carthasso X traverse to ^{the} pitch was derigged. Andy, Holly X Noel derigged Caravel Carthasso X the entrance pitch after US - ~~but~~ ~~the~~ ~~pitch~~? Thankfully as some of the entrance pitch drag must have been interesting. ~~End of~~ last hip of exp for US ~~is~~.

T/W:?

Klettersteig (Adam Hunt, Cat, Therese Stolle, Woods)

Went to Bad Griesen for a couple of klettersteigs. ^{see B. 2nd} (on) struggled up hill till too steep then back down till we found somewhere to park, stopped up hill taking a bit of a shortcut but eventually finding path into cliff. Short walk gets us to start of 'easy' VF. It leads straight out up a cliff! Very exposed start on rope. Poor Therese got rather more than the easy start promised. But it was very short and ended a bit at the top. Once sled got over the shock she thought it was great.

We decided to call over to the 2nd one as that was a very short days' entertainment. Because 1.50000 was in mountains as it turned out to be a long but worth and we got a bit lost, but eventually found the way down alongside, then back up an interesting VF. With funky traverse wire just way up, which Cat unhelpfully attempted despite them being a really long way apart!

Got to the top, dinked cross, and walked back to car for an excellent, if hot, day out. Oh yes and we enjoyed lunch in a very fine little hut on top of the cliff edge.