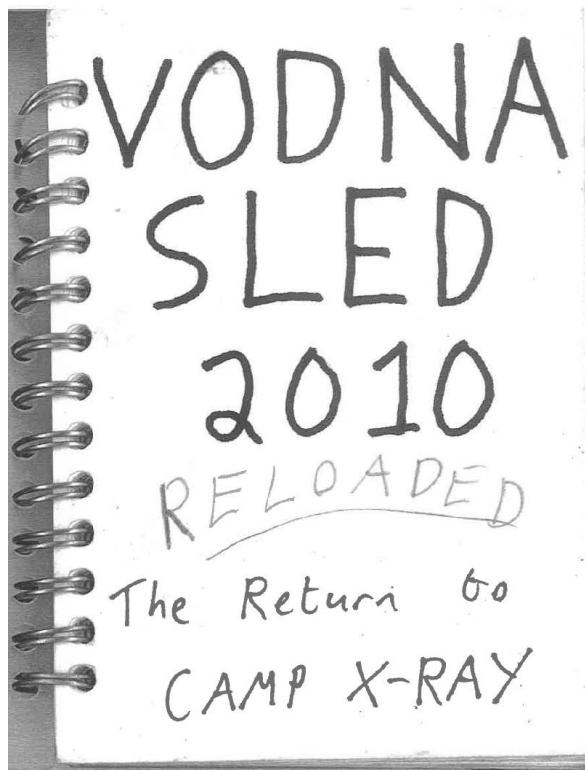


Camp X-Ray (-550m): Inside the Hollow Mountain

Underground Camp Logbook Entries 2010-2011

Vodla Sled 2010 The Return to Camp X-Ray



[Logbook cover]

22-7 Nick

After about 6 hours of caving finally made it down. Met Gergely and James on the way down as they were leaving the cave. Last bolt before camp is horrible - needs rebolting/rerigging - 15cm lower would be awesome. Built a tent at the camp. Required stone movement. NEED WEED! Should have thought of it before. Listening to Massive Attack and getting raptured. Oh yeah! Kate setting up sleeping space, Jarv went to get more water. Camp is getting established. Looking forward to Worm's World Party. Mike - cooking. Weed is really a missing resource. So far so good. About 5 metres from camp is a hole with water in it, able to hear, quickly got established as peeing corner, hope it's not a lead...

23/7/10 Jarv

Nice snooze - super warm. Nicola snored like a trooper - just a few minutes into the classic Black Adder session. Broken sleep - probably as Nicola got up for 2x piss. Awoken at 10:30am by the beasts crawling up towards our pits. Tetley and Myles rustled up some hot-choc, then wandered off down the continuing passage.

23.7.10 2:10pm Myles

Entered Gardener's World at 6:20 am. Made our way through, rerigged Zimmer on the way down. Arrived at camp at 10:30am and awakened Jv, Mike, Kate and Niko. Wandered down Friendship Gallery for an hour or two. Found nice lead, will investigate later. Sleep now.

23-7 2:20pm Tetley

It's good to be in a sleeping bag at Camp X-Ray - seven years after the last camp here. It's very comfy - I like the tent - some things don't change though, Blackadder on the sound system, smash and tuna etc. Hopefully we'll get some good pushing in tomorrow!

23-7 6:20pm Tetley

James and Dan arrive for a quick visit before heading off to push the Muddy Window.
8:20pm Andy and Gergely arrive - I ignore them!

23-7 10:30pm Myles

Fucking body won't fall asleep! Must have only had a couple of hours at most since Dan arrived. Gergely and Andy turned up at 8ish and now they have checked out Leopard a while. Tetley's bodily functions are out of control! May bring some corks down for his digestive tract next time. Anyway, now for some food and tea and hopefully can stay awake till bedtime at noon!

23-7 11pm Tetley

Myles and I share breakfast/dinner with Gergely and Andy. Fine food!

24-7 12:20 James

Breakfast with Tet and Myles. Dan and I will visit the lead we killed off yesterday (Muddy Window) and survey it, then to Red Cow.

24-7 1:30pm Myles

Back in Camp for 2nd night. Pushed Tolminska today, good lead. Surveyed till 8am. Some nice pitches, covered in mud. Listening to strange foreign music.

24-7 2:05pm Tetley

Great push down Korita today - 8 bolts, surveying etc. It's GOING, GOING, GOING.... Go THERE! (But try and avoid rigging future pitches in or near the water.....) Andy and Gergely have left to push Leopard - James and Dan to survey Muddy Window and then go for a jolly below Big Rick. It's been a great day - thanks Myles. Time for a decent sleep.

24/7/2010 23:20 Tetley

James and Dan return on a high! 9hrs good kip in bed - I feel good! Forgot to say I had a shit yesterday....

24.7.10 James

James and Dan went to Smash. Cool trip! Left ~80m 9mm by Red Cow.

25-7 Sunday! 2.15am Tetley

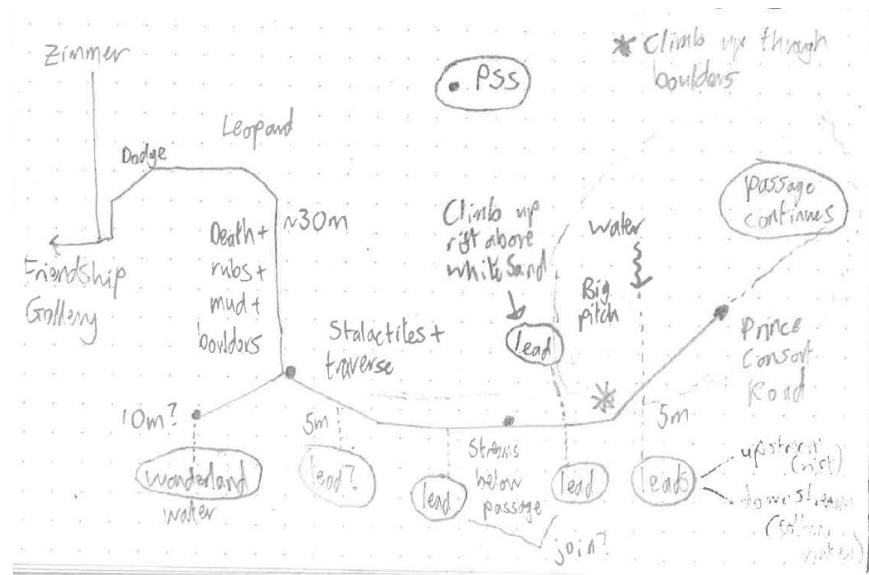
James and Dan in sleeping bags. Myles and I contemplating putting our furries on. Still no sign of Andy and Gergely - hope they're OK.

25 July '10 3:15am Andy

AJ and GA turned one crappy lead (Leopard) into lots of great leads.

3:40 am Tetley

Excitement mounts as Andy and Gergely return with news of BIG DISCOVERIES! Now the day train is close to crashing (in their sleeping bags). Myles and I are about to set off for sunrise and beer. Can't wait to return!



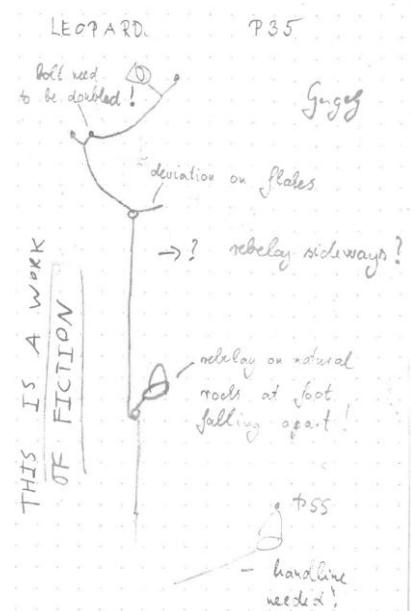
[Andy's sketch survey, Zimmer to end of Prince Consort Road]

25.7.10 T- 5hrs to surface Myles

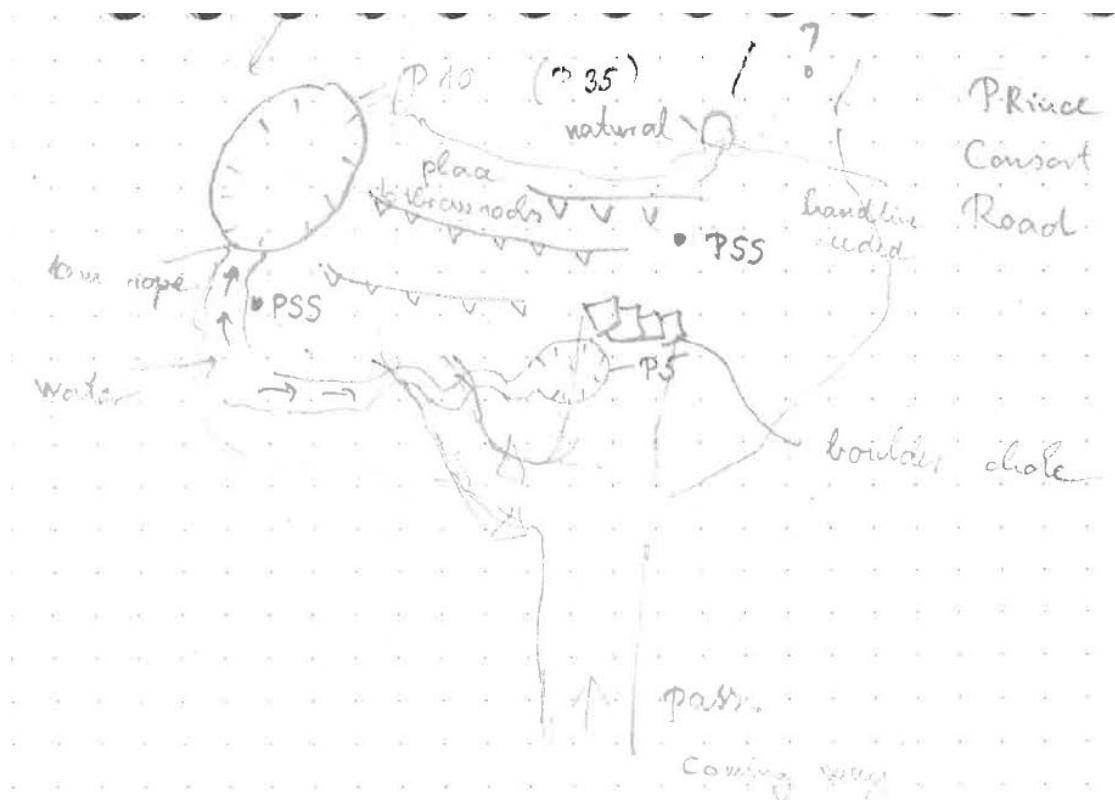
First camp draws to an end. Been extremely fun if a little cold sometimes. Will definitely return to explore my little rift, Tolminski lead and Andy and Gergely's big leads! I will be back!

25.7.2010 Gergely

Route after traverse needs to be marked! Crystals on ceiling. Take care of them. p.s. See you in Hotel Tolminka!



[Gergely's sketch topo of Leopard]



[Gergely's sketch plan of Prince Consort Road]

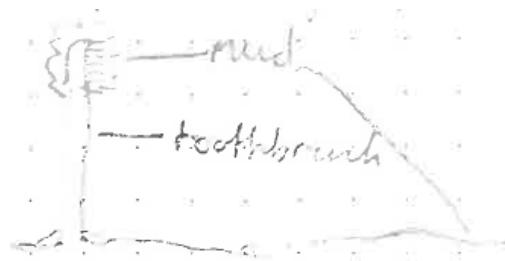
Martin

MM and WF. Gas running low - not able to get full blast, off to Leopard.

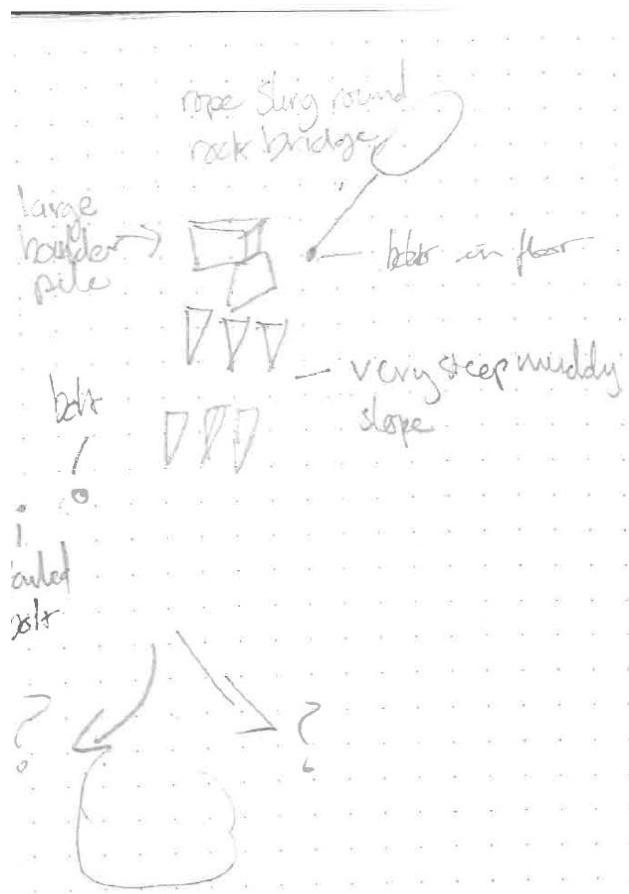
26-7 Kate

Arrived at camp again. Hellish trip.

1. Pulled Quad muscle. OW.
2. Got big chunk of hair jammed in descended. Started slashing hair until Jarv rescued and undid descender.
3. Fucking toothbrush pierced magic drybag and the bristles soaked in mud.
4. Nearly died slipping down Pink Series pitch. Fell a bit. Shook me up. David Bowie made things better. Hopefully lots of exciting exploration tomorrow.



[Kate's drawing of toothbrush stuck in mud]



[Martin's sketch topo of Cheetah]

Martin

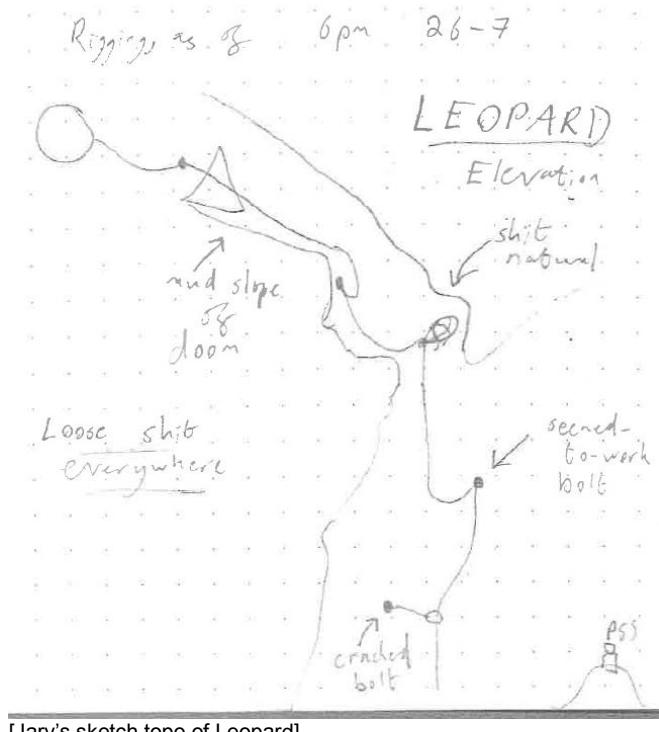
After a day at Leopard I have nothing to show for it. I have removed the backup round the boulder on the floor and made a rope sling fit round a rock bridge, which is going nowhere. After the second bolt there seems little solid rock for a freehang and the walls are full of sharp stal. The bolt William put in failed as the rock cracked and I was not prepared to slice the rope by swinging back and forth looking for a place especially as I was below the rub points.

26-7-10 10am Jarv

Awoken by Martin and William returning from their post-lunch look at Korita (8am). Off with Mike and Kate to have our own attempt at the apparent death trap on the far side of Leopard. Could really do with some rawls - have drill but no battery, Arg! Will try our best and pop back for lunch and turds.

26-7-10 Jarv

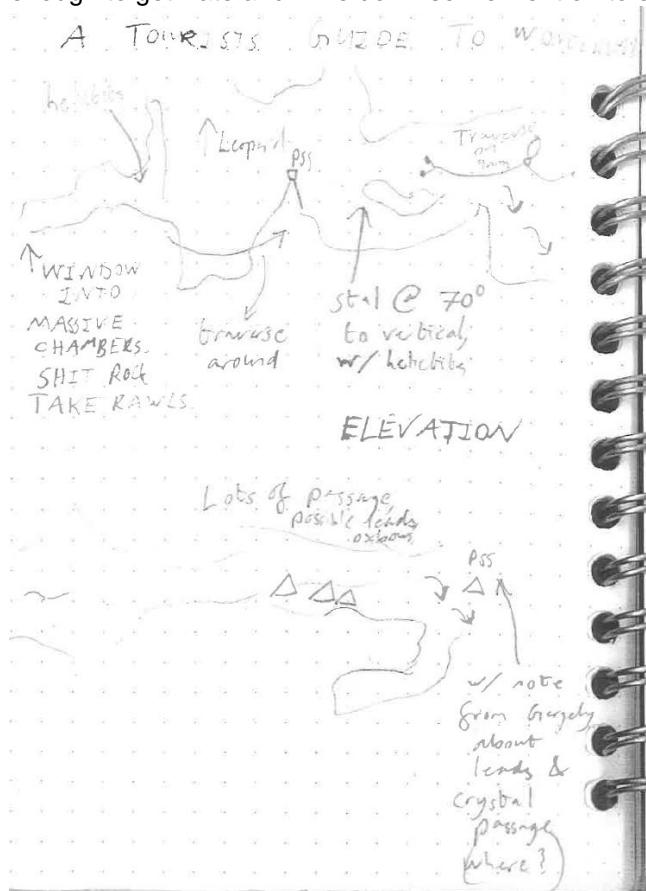
Leopard rerigging: Tough! 3 bolts in - 2 failed, one blew open rock, other cracked and demoted to 'deviation' class.



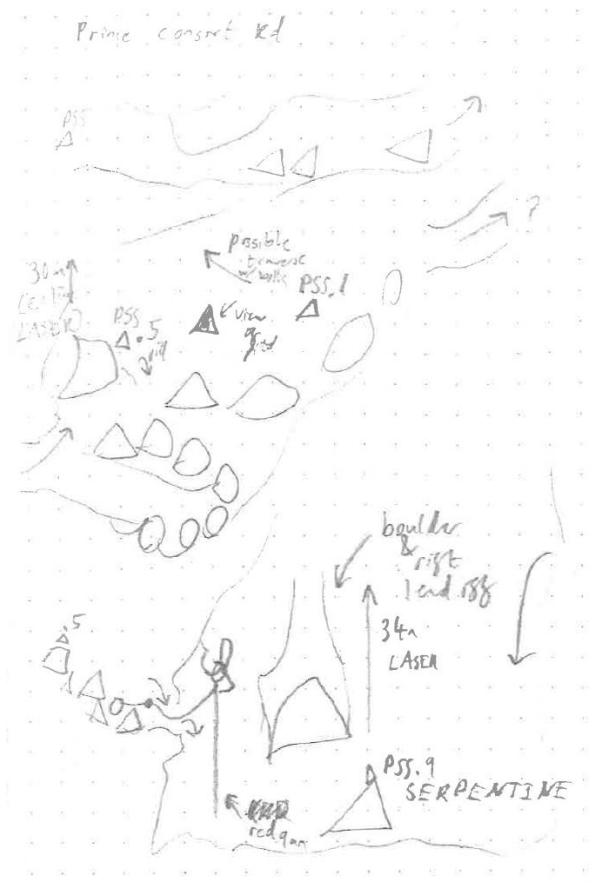
[Jarv's sketch topo of Leopard]

Martin McGowan: Rename it CHEETAH as you're always cheating death?

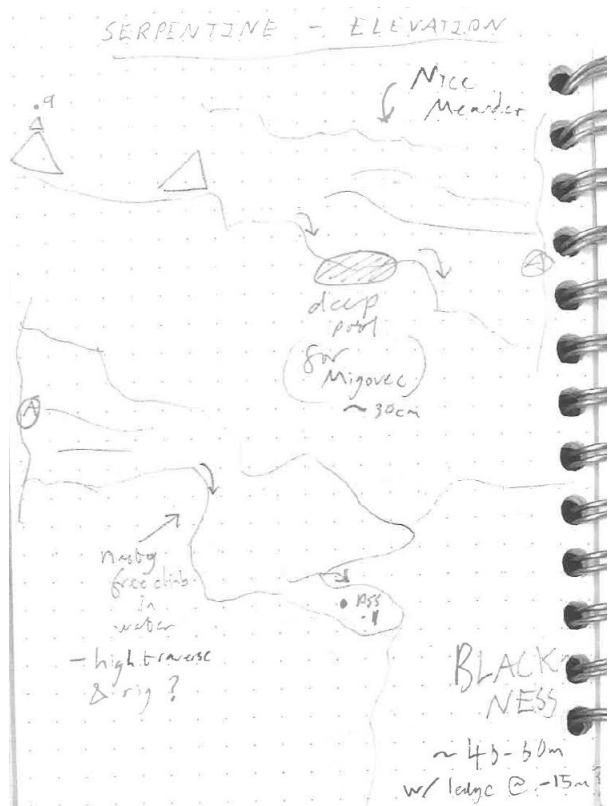
So it's not finished but it is ~50% safe. Needs lots of rawl bolts to fix. Anyhow, it was good enough to get Kate and Mike down so we went off to explore...



[Jarv's sketch, A tourist guide to Wonderland]



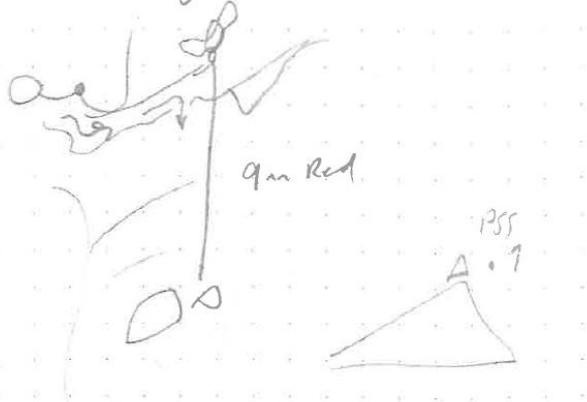
[Jarv's sketch showing Prince Consort Rd and Serpentine]



[Jarv's sketch showing Serpentine]

SERPENTINE is pitch down

Pitch from Prince Consort Rd. 5.



[Jarv's sketch showing Serpentine]

SERPENTINE is pitch down from Prince Consort Rd.5. Exit chamber over/under big boulder and enjoy ~50m lovely meander with wet cascades (care!) Ending in dubious freeclimb to pitch head above ledge and continuation of big pitch. We threw the only stone. Rattle ~8s. Est 40-60+m

Kate

Smoked Mackerel fucking delicious. Just came back from Leopard and Wonderland. Pretty exciting stuff. Still a bit cranky, probs hormonal or just reluctant to be down here after just 1 day on surface. Being the first one at the bottom of newly rigged pitch was immense, definitely worth any grimness suffered or to be suffered. Wonderland is magical, like a child's playground but with big holes and sharp jaggedy rocks. After new pitch gorgeous little streamway - quite small but not uncomfy. SERPENTINE. Stopped at promising pitch and did some surveying. This caving lark is pretty good. Good times dancing with Mike and making mud covering on rock with 'K' spelt with stones. Getting out tomorrow, wonder how long it will be this time till I'm back... Martin just shat behind the tent and it smells horribly awful.

27-7 10:50am Tetley

Back again (with Myles) - 55 hours and only 1 sleep since leaving. Smooth exit out on the 25th. Then Tolmin - 2 steaks! Rush of enthusiasm as I walked up from Ravne - decided to come straight down. Stayed up and packed after surface cavers went to sleep. Smooth 3hrs down. We then went to Leopard extensions. Now bed!

27-7 Sometime around 11am Myles

Back in Camp X-Ray after 51hrs on top. Couldn't resist Tetley's proposal of 2nd camp! Feels good to be back. I'm gonna' fuck this cave up.

27-7 11am Jarv

Jarv, Mike, Kate To the surface once again! Lovely stay @ Camp X-Ray, made much more entertaining by Martin's situation comedy. Leads are fantastic, Leopard is passable (drill and rawls to sort fully). Somebody go there!

27-7 10:30pm Tetley

Great night's kip! No cavers here to wake us up... Forgot to mention that the camp stank of piss when we arrived... Smell has gone now... maybe we've just got used to it. Installed a piss Daren Drum (Heavy Metal). Location behind tent.

27-7 Myles

Where are all the cavers?

28-7 00:10 Tetley

We're now leaving to Korita. Tet and Myles.

28-7 12:55 Tetley

Back from a storming caving trip! We met Nicolas and Gergely at Zimmer - they slept while we pushed... Another 7 bolts added to BLACK KNIGHT pitch at end of Korita. Once down the stream flowed into a duck. "There will be a bypass" I declared.... and there was! The stream passage continued – we stayed high. Eventually ~15m drop to stream. But Myles found a dry passage – strongly draughting – that goes to a ~10m pitch. This dry route we called SIDEWINDER. 130m in survey book. We left ~25m of 9mm rope at bottom of Black Knight – nothing else left there. Great trip – we returned to wake Gergely and Nick. James and Jan are somewhere down Big Rock – hope they're OK and back soon...

28-7 1pm Myles

Returned from this storming push with Tetley. We now have two pretty beastly leads. Was a bit tired during final rigging of Black Knight but perked up as soon as we found new passage. Now in underground camp. Thought we'd killed it all when we found the duck but Tetley saved us with his bypass seeking skills. Had to heat up Nick's willies over the gas stove until they were flexible enough to fit on his clodhoppers. Him and Gergely are off to push now.

28-7 3:15pm Tetley

James and Jan said they'd be back from a Red Cow push at 11am. Got woken at 2pm. We (Gergely, Myles, Nicolas, Tet) got rescue kit together... grrr... I got out of my warm pit – put caving gear on. Gergely and I went to find them. Glad to hear "Yes we are OK" when I shouted down Big Rock. It's good to hear the leads still going – good too to see Jan again at u/g camp! So time to crawl into my pit (again!) for some sleep. I really need it (the wee dram should help).

29.7.2010 James

Just woke up after an epic in Republika. Our sleep addled brains thought we'd have enough time for a deep push... needless to say we just ended up sleeping all the way: on top of survey stations.... On the good side the drill does make rigging easier. Also the passage still goes to the max, a 35m pitch, 30+ m of stream. Only stopped due to lack of ropes. Stream keeps going. Also both pitches below the chamber have dry alcoves. PUSH!

29-7 2:05am Tetley

A broken night's sleep... James snored like a pneumatic drill – he's becoming my nemesis! (Only joking!) Woken by Dan + Iztok + Gergely + Nicolas. 8 people here it's all very jolly. Bob Dylan on the sound system, cooking, spliff smoking (by the new comers).

Tetley's top tips

- 1 Pish before you shit
- 2 Pick your nose before sleeping
- 3 Use a lump of carbide and a plastic bag to dry survey instruments.

t.b.c!

TH 29-7: 2.45 am Dan

Finally into our sleeping bags. Izi and I came down 17:30ish. Got to F.G. ~8pm. We checked out a few leads but no survey gear. Bumped into other day (ish) train. back to camp ~1:30. delicious food. Now sleep!!!

29.7 3am Gergely

Good day of pushing with Nicolas; Rolling Stones chamber and then Hidden Surprise passage. Did some bolting, now only a couple of life-threatening rubpoints left. Tomorrow is the day for the pitch at the end of Hidden Surprise. Camp is very home-like feeling, nice music, carbide light, and 8 cavers – an underground paradise! Except for the piss smell. Well, but everything has its downsides... This is going to be my longest caving trip. Whooh! Now a good sleep. Funny day train steadily drifts towards night train. It is said that our natural day is 20-27 hours long...

29-7 13:45 Dan

About to get changed. Procured survey gear (thanks Tetley) and drew survey pages ☺ Off to push end of W.L. (If night train didn't get there first – still not back).

Dan's top tip

Roll up the edges of the composting bag before taking a shit.

2/46 29/7/10 Thurs Jan

Woke up at u/g camp to the sound of water (lots of water), went to check out Zimmer, and yes, there was lots of water. James hopes his little tent is OK.

30/7/10 Fri James

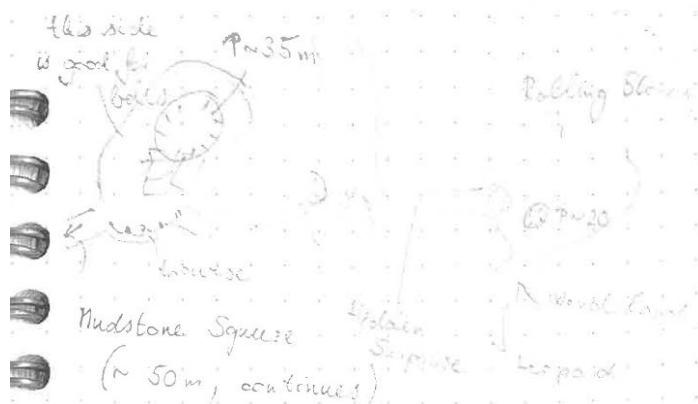
Yesterday I took Jan down horror show: Esoterica...

03.54 30/7.10 Dan

Amazing pushing trip. Found the palace of King Minos. back ~1:30. Others back just in time. Good day☺

Gergely

Made traverse at end of Hidden Surprise. Other end (cont. passage) is a strange squeeze. Probably we were the first and last persons there... Good company! Nice discoveries! Good cave.

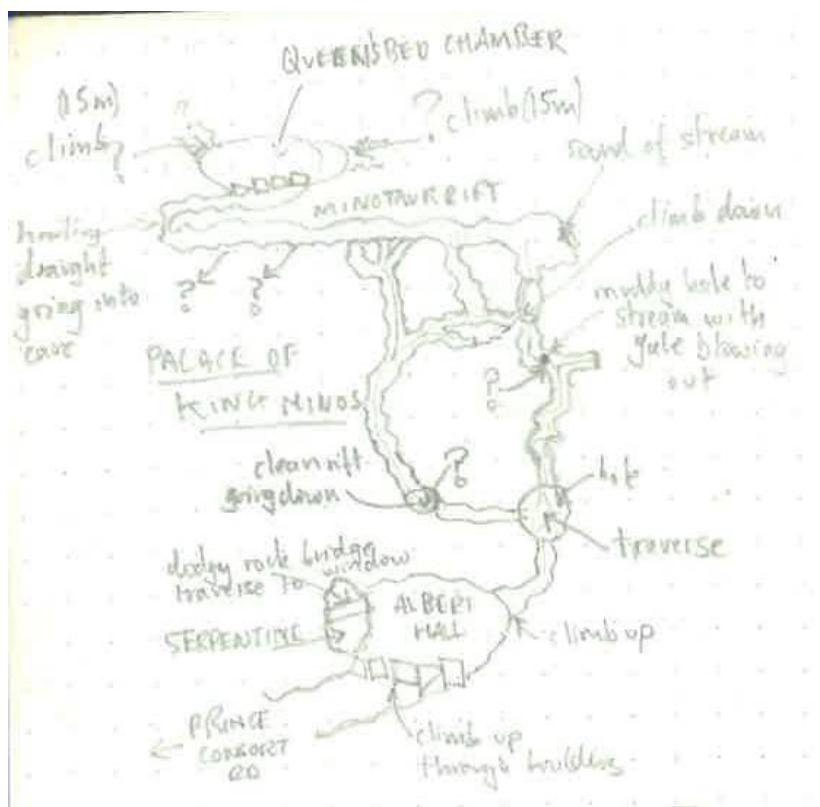


[Gergely's sketch showing Mudstone squeeze, Hidden Surprise, Rolling Stones]

We did not go down to pitch. Far side is good rock; start from 2 bolts on traverse. End of squeeze is still going, slight draught. Bottom of pitch is better! Waits for you!

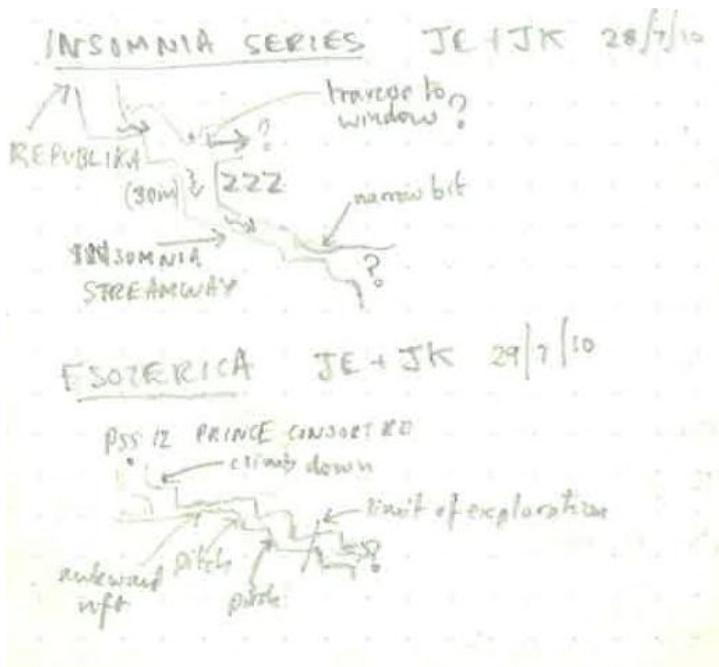
Fri 10:40pm 30/7/10 Jan

So, my amazing camping trip comes to an end, its been an exciting time, it started with a 14hr trip to Red Cow – pushing 90m leaving a nice streamway still going at one of the deepest parts of Gardeners World, shared camp with Tet + Myles (good to be back in camp with Tetley-san). Day 2 (Thurs). I bolted a traverse over to a window in Albert Hall (above Serpentine), didn't go. Looked at hole beneath PSS12 (Prince Consort) pushed awkward rift to a couple of pitches ESOTERICA, left it with two pitches undescended and looking good still. We looked at muddy climb in Albert Hall (which turned out to be KING MINOS PALACE) but left it for Dan + Izi, as we heard they were going to push it, all-in-all a good introduction to the LEOPARD/PRINCE CONSORT RD series! Back at camp we had the place to ourselves, but were expecting Jarv and Jana., about 10pm I woke up and heard lots of water (thought it was flooding up Friendship gallery!) and it stayed like that for the next 24hrs. Day 3 (Fri), started at 2am with Dan, Ezi, Gergely and Niko returning, and tales of storming passage and the maze of KING MINOS PASSAGE! Which sounded incredible, we decided to go and see what it was like and check some leads left unpushed, we tried to understand Dan's detailed survey diagrams but it was all a bit complicated and disconnected! This what I drew for Gergely after we came back...



[Jan's sketch showing Palace of King Minos and the Queen's Bed Chamber]

An amazing bit of cave! James looked down leads off MINOTUR RIFT and a muddy hole with the sound of stream. In the Queen's Bed Chamber the draught must go up I think...? So after 3 days I'm feeling pretty broken, but u/g camp is amazing. James and I are heading out soon, but I've lost track of time, at some point in the last 72 hours we've changed trains, but I don't remember the station, only the destination. Thanks for an awesome trip James!



[Jan's sketches of Insomnia series and Esoterica]

U/G Bivi tip #4

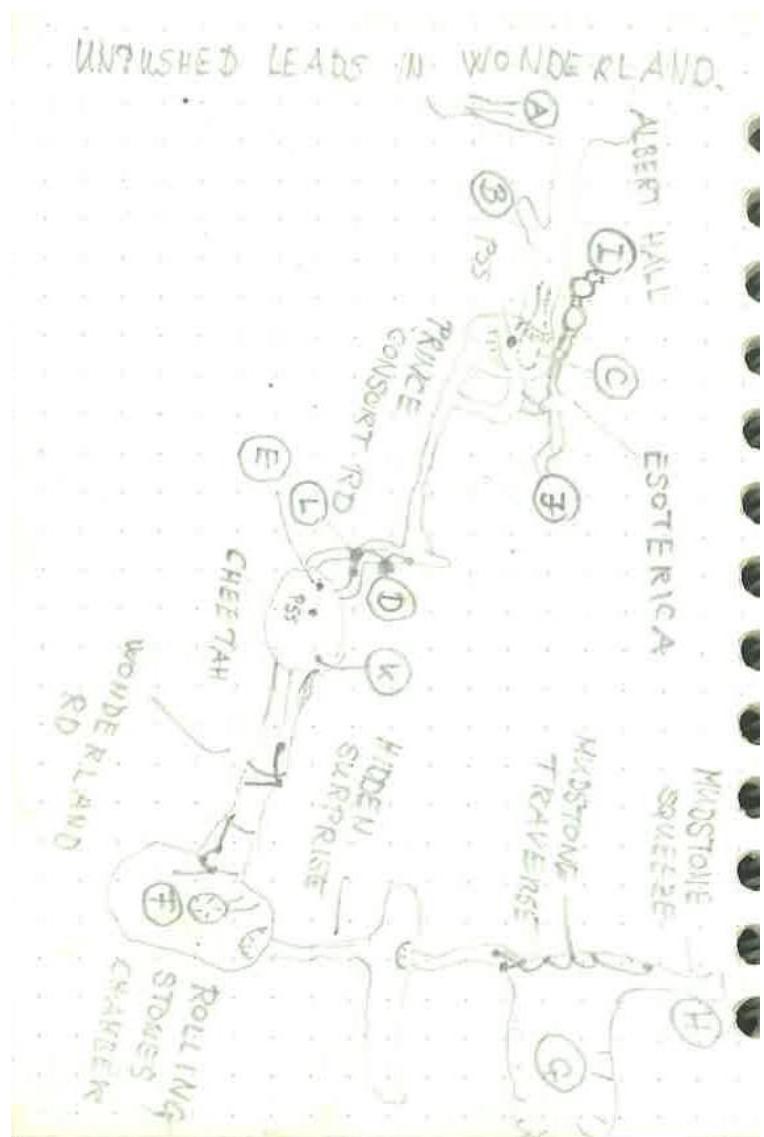
Put gas canister in sleeping bag to help Butane burn. (but take it out of your bag before trying to use it)

Sat (morning?) 31.7.2010 Nick

So, my second trip to UG camp turned out to be quite long and interesting. Gergely introduced me to the extreme caving = exploration of unknown. Tried to remember all the stuff he had told me, but not so easy. During the time we've been down here we've pushed Wonderland to chamber now known as Rolling Stones (watch where you step). Continues with Hidden Surprise (crawl/walking passage with chamber in the middle). Then Gergely put up a traverse (I wasn't much help with putting in the bolts) over an unpushed (~40m) pitch (LEAD!), once we had the traverse, it was kinda obligatory to check out the squeeze on the other side (now known as Mudstone squeeze). Had to take harness off and several times hammer action was needed. After about 40-50 m, the squeeze gets even squeezier, we were quite tired, not much draught so we turned around. Surveying was pain. Went to sleep (3rd night in Camp X-Ray). Plan was to get out but kinda didn't happen as there was too much water in Zimmer and presumably in higher pitches as well, so we decided to miss callout and stay one more night. No pushing, just tourist caving, that was the plan of the day. Went to check out passages discovered day ago by Dan and Izi. Very Beautiful! Looks like it snowed there but upside down, the crystal formations are crazy, definitely have to come down with camera for photo trip. Jan and James stayed down here as well, and day and night train kind of blended together. Now after 4 nights in the underground we are finally going up. Thanks to Gergely the diet and food down here was excellent, everything tastes better in the underground!

31-7-2010 Gergely

Our fourth night is over. We eat up the remains of our food, drink the last teas and hot choc. There is no way back now; we must go up today! The water seems to be a bit less than yesterday. Probably I will wear all thermals; will be good when waiting for Nicolas at the top of pitches. I wonder whether there was ever a 5-day underground trip on Mig...



[Gergely's sketch showing unpushed leads in Wonderland]

31-7-2010 Gergely

Chamber at the end of Prince Consort Rd has been renamed Albert Hall.

1-8-10 Jarv

Back to camp! Jarv, Jana, Martin and Shed. Arrived after the flood, had a spot of tea to start things off – then photo gear to Leopard. Amazing crystals and formations, unbelievable they are there really – only managed to photo a fraction of them. Back to camp for ~1am, noodly-mushroom-smashy goodness. Camp was a bit trashed – dirty crockery, dirty water, spare turd loose in its plastic bag on the walk to camp. The previous tenants clearly also had some obsession with burning things – piles of ash everywhere, including cardboard from the mess tins.

1-8-10 Jana

After 28h raining on top, our trip to u/g camp was postponed for 2 days. Seeing all this new stuff, makes me feel I am in an old, exotic cave, somewhere on a moon[©] Billions of crystals everywhere! Now off to push bottom of Korita.

12:30 1-8-10 Javv

Martin and Shed have departed after two rounds of tea then hot choc. Jana and I are absorbing noodles and listening to Fairport Convention. Shared a single shit bag with her – the relationship that shits together, stays together! Off to Push/Photo Korita/Black Knight. Back by 23:58.

p.s. Fixed external batteries for speaker and reflexed spine of this fine tome – both are thus delicate!

1-8 23:15 Tetley

Back to Camp X-Ray! Karin and I had a smooth 3hr journey down – meeting Shed and Martin near the entrance and Javv and Jana at Zimmer. Good food cooked by Javv. Looking forward to a good night's sleep then pushing tomorrow.



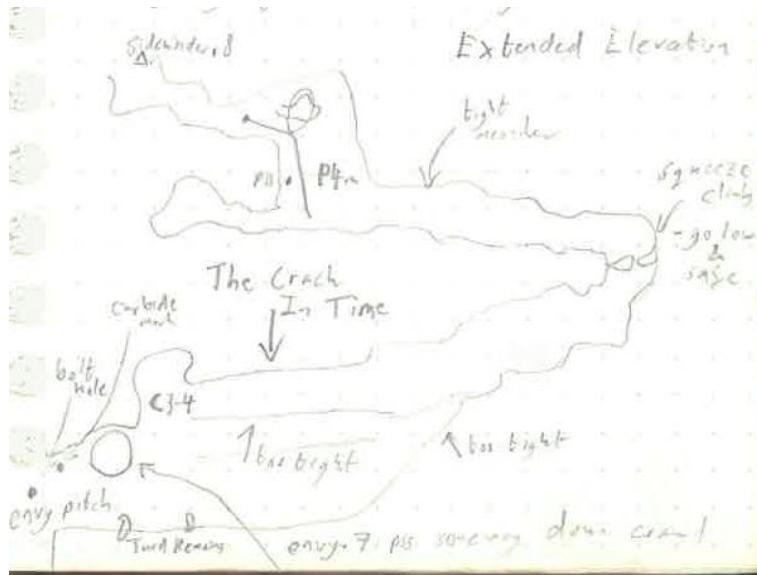
[Tetley's poor cartoon, Camp X-Ray by Day/Night]



[Karin's excellent drawing "Someone somewhere in the cave"]

2-8-10 Jarv

Jarv and Jana. Pushed Sidewinder - to connection with envy! Great push – arrived in tiny crack in ceiling (perfectly straight 10m), with phreatic body tube that lead to challenging (?) climb of ~C3-4m down to envy pitch. ***We derigged the Sidewinder + a bit pitch*** you'll want ~10m tat with hanger/million for backup and massive sling for natural hang.



[Jarv's sketch showing extended elevation from Sindwinder.8 to envy pitch via the Crack in Time]

We photo'd to the best of our ability: A bit of Sindwinder, the duck from the far side, Black Knight - bottom and middle – Korita middle.

Also day before: Albert hall, Muddy/NCB bit, crystals (Martin). With Martin/Shed – Minotaur Rift, pretties on way to Queen's Bed Chamber, Stals on Cheetah, Cheetah itself.

Jana's damaged her wrist, so its to the surface we must go.

Jarv's top leads: Wet pitch at end of Black Knight – traverse along rift to hang? Serpentine – big pitch, rock looks good – big ledge @ 20-30m depth.

2-8 10:20am Tetley

Good night's sleep in the old 'buff bag' – nice to think I was sleeping in the same bag that we used at the Hotel in 1998! Camp X-Ray is becoming more like home.

2.8 Izzi

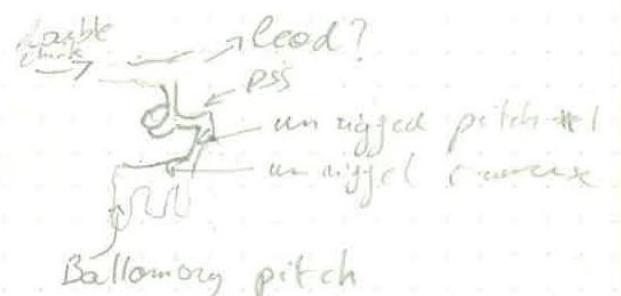
Štartal smo ob 4³⁰ z bivja. V kamp smo pršli mala pr zgoda tko de smo šli pogledat kristale. Ka smo pršli v kamp so bli Tetley, Karin, Jana in Jarv že zbujeni, tko da smo si nardil pašta, mala pobluzli in šli spat. Zvečer gremo phat še mala.

2-8-10 23:58 Tetley

Karin and I had a great day looking at all the new finds beyond Leopard. I put 3 more bolts on cheetah pitch plus deviation. We looked in vain for more easy horizontal passage. Hopefully Tjaša, Erik, Izzy and Mawr have more luck. Time for sleep now – James and Dave complete the 4 bed camp.

3.8.10 James

Went to Ballamory with Dave, the plan was to free a boulder at the bottom of Ballamory pitch. Unfortunately more rope than we had was necessary.



[James' sketch of Ballamory pitch]

I think we need ~50m of rope. Also looks like there is a lead before the weird doubling back bit. On the way back we stopped in the fridge and rescued some carry mats. caving near Cactus Junction is beautiful! Thanks Dave.

3-8-10 10:15am Tetley

A good night's kip. Erik, Mawr, Tjaša and Izzy have returned with news of more discoveries. Found Rik on the stereo – good to hear him again. Hvala Karin! (for a very pleasant few days!) back upstairs so hopefully the sun will be shining – my vitamin D levels are getting low!

3.8.10 Tjaša

Dans smo šli obstickat minotaura in odspodi odkril že povodnega moža. Za urško je pa štrika zmankalo ☺ Malo se bomo naspal in šli vn. Lepo smo se mel. Hvala za dobr kamp Maur, Izi, Erik, Tjaša.

4-8-10 Nick

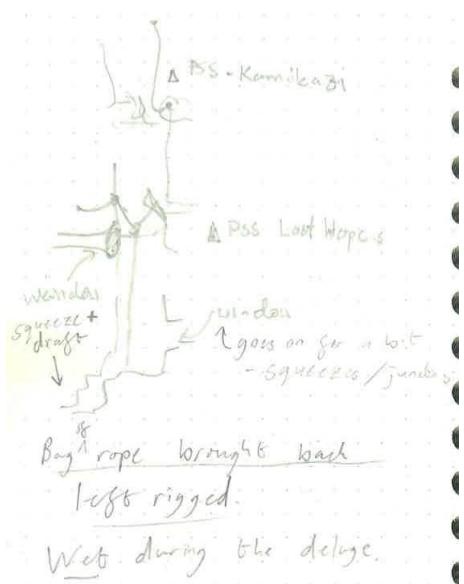
Came to Camp X-ray at around 2pm, faffed around a bit and went to show Thara the newly discovered passages. Took camera with us and took pics of the nice crystals, bumbled our way through Prince Consort Road to Albert hall, where we decided to turn round. Nice sightseeing. Pushing tomorrow. Hopefully. Since no one else came on the day train, we got the whole tent to ourselves. Noodles and fish for dinner, Sadni Čaj for Good Night. Camp X-Ray is as lovely as ever.

5-8-2010 10pm Myles

Arrived yesterday/today at 6am, went and pushed Korita series with Jav. Trying to kill it but is keeps going! Jav was a tad broken before we went to sleep. I will be tonight! Nick and Thara just returned, Nick has a 100m² hole in his oversuit. Left Tetley in a drunken state on the surface.

5-8-10 Thara

Left for Kamikazi pushing front. Rigged down the 10m pitch. At the bottom, there is a flowing passage which will be big enough for humans in 1 million years. About 1m above the bottom there is a window which turns out to be a lot of crawling/squeezes. There are two small chambers along the way for us to stand. At the second chamber we climber down into active water passage. Upstream is dead but downstream is blocked by a squeeze worthy of Jana. We left unsurveyed as we forgot the tape. Next we checked the window at the level of deviation. Same thing. It kept going and the gap on Nico's oversuit widen to cover both buttocks. On the way out of the window, I heard a sudden change in water flow. It must be raining outside 8 hrs before. (This was at 7pm). Surveyed in wet conditions was not fun!



[Sketch survey showing Kamikaze and Lost Hopes]

6-8-10 Jarv

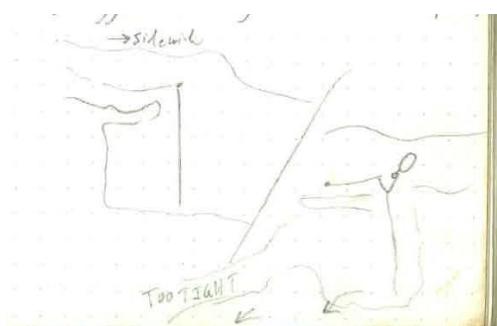
Jarv and Myles. After an epic 24hrs in camp waiting out the flood pulse (hit @ ~7pm on 5-8-10), we are now getting ready to push Korita. I wonder if others are coming from the surface... We'll have to rotate back on to the night train if a whole roster of 4 turn up ☺ for the dream-team. Camp is super comfed with the roll mats from Cactus Jnc installed under the tent.

6/08/10 William

James and William. Pushed a wet, so far unnamed pitch off Prince Consort Road, could see what might have been the bottom about 10m down at which point the streamway really started to pour down (must be raining again). Eventually bolted to the apparent bottom which of course wasn't, water continued to hammer down a large hole in the floor, might have been a challenge to rig and stay dry, but fortunately found a dry rift that went over the active pitch (possibly). Another 40m down that should be easy to descend.

6-8-10 Jarv

Jarv and Myles. Train crash! Having rotated onto the day-train we collided with Tet, Fratnik, JKP and William. So we must away, a long way to the bivi, at least, when you leave at two minutes to midnight... Korita is dead, without explosive. Derigged entirely to the 3rd pitch.



[Jarv's sketch topo of bottom of Korita]

6-8-10 23:48 Tetley

Back again for my seventh night! Fratnik and I had a smooth 2hr journey down. Met Nicholas and Thara just about to head out. Jarv and Myles are here too (soon to go down Korita).

James and William then turned up. TEA all round! Fratnik and I eventually went for a tourist jolly to the Queen's Bed Chamber. then we went down to push Povodni Mož. Wow! A small hole in a large dry passage soon leads to small fossil stream passage then to nice Active stream. Went down 2 pitches (pushed by Izi, Erik, Tjaša and Mawr). Bagged one more then half bolted another. Back to camp for tea (and medals). It's clearly raining outside – Zimmer is very wet. Hope Jarv and Myles (now back from pushing Korita) make it out OK!

7-8-10 9:50 a.m. Tetley

Tea cooling down... Fratnik is making food, James is putting his wetish furry on, Dirty Old Town playing on sterio.

7-8-10 11:10 a.m. Tetley

Final hot vitaminski – then James and William to Serpentine, Tetley and Fratnik to Povodni Mož. 'Dangerous Dick' is seeping slowly into my subconscious....

7-8-10 11:15 p.m. Tetley

Fratnik and I are back and well fed. A great days caving. Sadly Povodni Mož is now dead, Up stream pushed to 30m+ aven, bolting downstream, we eventually hit a sump. All now surveyed and derigged. Now time for bed.

8.8.10 Fratnik

Drugo leto spet, Do konca nikoli izhojenih poti.

8-8-10 10:40 a.m. Tetley

So... 8 nights I've spent down here – a what a great time I've had! Hopefully next year will be as fun as this year! Thanks to all my fellow inmates at Camp X-Ray – for the tea, the jokes, the laughs etc. Tomorrow is the 9th Birthday of Friendship gallery! Where will we be in 9 years time???

9-8-10 19:15 Jarv

Jarv and Thara. Alright chaps and chapettes we're taking the two packed sacks and an extra with broken/superfluous tacklesacks and have unpacked rope and fettled the armoury in the entrance. Grabbed a bit of rubbish and Tet's Nido tin. I imagine Tuesday wave will be with you around Noon Tet, James KP, William and Nicola are in it.

p.s. Recharging your MP3 player – so long and thanks for all the fish!

9/8/10 21:40 Kate

Lie in till 4, Blackadder GOOD, throwing up BAD. Just come back from investigating The palace of King Minos, the Queen's Bed Chamber and such places. Did intend to push but it turned out that Dan had made up his lead and his descender is absolutely obliterated so no rigging was done. Had a lovely trip, nice climbs and awesome formations. Mud whirlpools and more crystals than you can shake a stick at = FAB. Cheetah is horrifically terrifying. Back in camp, hurrah! last night this year, it's been good. Can't wait to come back next year if you all will have me.

10/8/2010 1103 Dan

Well well well, the final UG log entry. Almost finished packing up camp. Kate just set of up. Left down are. Many tins of fish. tea bags and sugar. Gas stove and 3 bottles of gas (2 big and full, 1 small and half full) + lighters. In a D Drum w carbide for dryness. A few soups chocolates + nuts. Hmm.. I guess I should get changed and leave. So long till next year: X-Ray 3 – revenge of X-Ray.

p.s. I hope the Loperamide kicks in soon.

Further things left: Loads of rope, a few slings, some booze, 2 survey tapes, a lump hammer, coal chisel.



[20100731-23-54-22-Jarvist Frost-Canon G5-CRW_0405-Camp X-ray]



[20100729-13-06-55 - Iztok Mozir - P7294686 - Camp X-ray]

Izgubljeni Raj 2011 Revenge of X-Ray

IZGUBLJENI RAJ 2011

REVENGE OF X-RAY

[The start of 2011...]

21/7/2011 1.45am Jan Clare, Miles, Jarv

Arrived! 5 hrs down from the sunny plateau with 7 tacklebags, Jarv (hero) rigged from Space Odyssey. Jan was pursued by a strange chicken smell which turned out to be a split packet of Bachelors Chicken Savoury rice. Jarv (weirdo) arrived at camp first (~11.30pm) imagining he'd find an emancipated caver... instead there was a carpet of mould growing on the debris of 2010. We spread sand on the mold, broke out the comf. collected water, cooked food, set up the fairy lights and cranked up the tunes! Aah yeah. Tomorrow we hope to recce Serpentine, limit of explo.

10:20 am Jarv

Time to get up! reset my 9am alarm so we had a bit more of a snooze (the Blackadder went off @ 2:30 am). Jan's bladder has dragged us out of bed – quite a tight callout, 10PM, so little time to explore.

11:07 am (21-7-11) Clare

Jan is cooking soupy cheesy smash while Jarv and Myles are lazing in bed listening to Blackadder. I was dragged out of bed by my bladder but since we didn't have a piss BDH I did a Tetley special and pissed into a resealable bag instead. Dribbled over pants a bit but otherwise OK. Camp is super comfy and I don't want to leave.

11:22 am Myles

The morning after the night before. Awoke after slightly disturbed sleep and thus forced to remain in my comf as long as poss. Clare pissed in a bag, Jan cooked orange smash and we all listened to Blackadder. Camp is 5.3°C! Possible due to the biological processes of the mould civilisation controlling camp. Now for a little bimble and then out for tea and medals. WOOF WOOF.

12:45pm 21-7-11 Clare

Myles and Clare. Gone for a little bimble around Leopard. Aim to be out for sunset. MP3 player died, think its out of battery. See you up top! [Note by Jarv – charge it with the speaker USB-battery thingy!]

5pm 21-7-11 Jarv

Saw Clare and Myles down Albert Hall/Serpentine. Sniffed lots of leads out with Jan:

1 Just after traverse on Consort Road (red rope). Dry oxbow on right passage (narrow rift) goes back but doesn't intersect passage. Echo suggests pitch/chamber. Good lead for small fresher.

2 Near Esoterica, waterfall inlet on left. Climb down between boulders (easiest is to continue towards Albert Hall down mud slope climb then double back into crawl), follow water sounds to undropped 10-15m pitch.

3 Serpentine/It will Rain. Follow red rope down from Albert Hall – at end of It will rain, fairly difficult 1.5m cascade/freeclimb to start of pitch. We rigged ~5m to ledge, look down 10-15m (nice pitch!) into what appears to be chamber (big-ish). With water. Left ~25m 10mm in tacklesack, also ~12m 10mm left @ end of It will rain.

Reheated tea and peanuts, time to head for surface!

Good luck team Thursday/Friday!

22-07-2011 7:45 pm Tetley

Johnny and Tetley arrived at X-ray after a smooth 4hr journey down. It's good to be back! Fairy lights... not so sure about them... Cup of tea then off for a tourist trip down Friendship Gallery.

9:45 pm Arrived back from F. Gallery bimble to see Fairy lights... Ah... already I associate them with all that's good about u/g camp! Soupy cheesy fishy smash for supper.

22.07.2011 Not sure what time.... Jonny

First night at U.G. Camp! had a nice 4hr trip down to camp followed by a quick trip to the Top of Big Rock Candy Mountain. Tasty dinner of cheesy soupy fishy smash. Lieing in a sleeping bag watching Blackadder whilst Tetley tries to make Zimmer nice. Camp appears to be comfier than bivi! Looking forward to starting pushing tomorrow.

23-07-11 2a.m. Tetley

Yep left Johnny in camp to play on Zimmer for 3hrs, hopefully the new rig is better. Returned to find Johnny almost asleep. Listening to some Bach. Sleeping pills for Jonny, Žganje for me!

"For us going to the toilet is a mundane activity, for you it is the basis of an entire culture" – the Red baron (Blackadder).

23-07-11 Tetley

Woke up 10:15a.m. Setting off to push leads beyond Leopard 12:30p.m. Discoveries await...

23.07/11 22:00 Jonny

Just back from a nice pushing trip. Myself and Tetley headed to Wonderland – hidden surprise, then kamikaze. After a short hammer to make a squeeze bigger for me we followed a path next to kamikaze and ended up in a larger chamber 'The Red baron' (see previous page). We surveyed the area; promising lead, traverse across ~5m drop. Left the lead to check the end of kamikaze. Turned out to be a "COLLECTOR'S PIECE" (Tet) i.e. a crawl. End was blocked although sound of RUSHING WATER was very clear and a passage could be seen through boulder – exciting. Trip back was a bit arduous; dehydrated. Made it back to

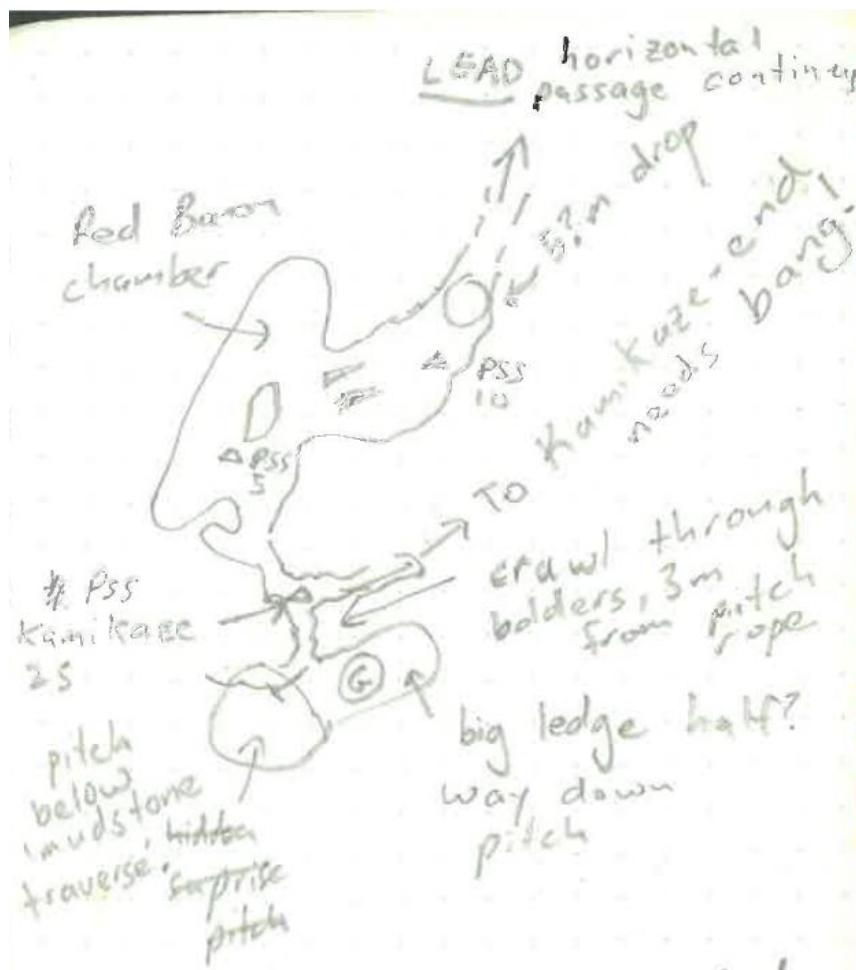
camp for a great pint of tea, blackadder and the roar of Zimmer. Storm possible up top? Still – interesting leas, possibly a horizontal continuation? Making food – nice cous cous and sausage.

23:00 23-07-2011 Tetley

Top tip #1 Don't take Žganje and then take sleeping tablets.

Top tip #2 If you go to push the exciting lead off Red Baron, take some water with you to drink!

75m surveyed today, most in 'Red Baron', a big chamber. Many thanks to DW and JKP for leaving us the storming and draughting lead, complete with a PSS at the start!



[Tetley's sketch of Red Baron chamber]

The lead: rope traverse needed over 5?m drop, horizontal passage awaits!

23:58 23/7/2011 Tetley

Went to empty piss BDH – still a lot of water coming down Zimmer.

9:45 am 21/7/2011 Tetley

A good night's sleep, no headache this morning. Tea and Dangerous Dick. Zimmer is still very wet – no other cavers have come to join Jonny and me. I'm in a great mood, Jonny is perhaps apprehensive about the climb out.

10:30 a.m. We've decided that Zimmer is too wet to start out... so we'll be staying warm and dry at Camp X-Ray for a while. The bad news is that I'll have to take a shit. grrr.

10.33 am? 27/7/2011 Jonny

Avoiding going up Zimmer, flood pulse? Staying at underground camp listening to music until a reasonable time to get out. May do some bolting practice? here's hoping that Zimmer decides to dry up a little sooner rather than later😊

24/7 14:45 Tetley

It's still bucketing down Zimmer! Jonny and I are still alone, Jonny has now broken through the 48hr barrier. We've moved to half sugar rations, oh life is tough!

24.7.11 16:15 Jonny

Amazing what putting in a single bolt can do. Moral boosted slightly after contracting a bit of 'the fear' and speaking to Tetley about stories of broken pelvis', rescues and general caving deaths. Zimmer still pissing down so we'll wait until morning before making ascent, be it wet or not.



[Small cartoon by Jonny showing a wet pitch]

More interestingly, seems like the stream near camp x-ray is likely to be separate from the Zimmer – water seems to come from opposite direction (Obviously due to large amount of water). "Now don't tell me I've nothing to do"

24/7/11 18:20 Tetley

After an hour of 'Dead Ringers' we've moved on to 'Little Britain'...
21:25 Jonny and I have both been dozing, still no sign of other cavers, what's going on 'up top'???
23:30 Clare and Jarv arrived at 10:40pm with tales of apocalyptic horror on the surface – snow! storms etc. Looks like Jonny and I made a good call!
23:38 Clare and Jarv gone to push lead off Red Baron – back to sleep for Jonny and me.

25.7.11 9am Jonny

C+J arrived back around 7:30am having found ~200m of cave. Tetley and myself now off to the surface. Little apprehensive to leave the comfort of camp but after three nights it's time to leave!

25/7/2011 9:05 a.m. Tetley

Final faff/fag before heading out. Many thanks Jonny for an excellent, productive, fun 3 night camp – looking forward to the Laško I left at the entrance

p.s. Thanks to all who've made X-Ray so pleasant – Jarv especially.

25-7-11 10pm Clare

Clare and Jarv. Arrived at camp yesterday night and left immediately to push Red Baron after a chat with Tetley and Jonny. Found ~220m of passage we named 'The Throne Room' on an 8hr bolt pushing trip. New Uneo finally worked under Jarv's loving touch! Night train is hard

work though – caving on autopilot on return to camp. Now in bed listening to Blackadder over coffee and ready munch. Jan and Kate, Dan and Myles were supposed to have arrived on the day train a few hours ago to kick us out of bed but no sign of them. Where have all the cavers gone?

25-7-11 10:30pm Jarv

Jan and Kate arrive! Nice to see some other peeps. Strange condensation on the sleeping bag – perhaps we can dehumidify the whole tent with carbide?

Mornings in UG camp are a perpetual Sunday Morning. We had chocolate and latte in bed. It was rather nice.

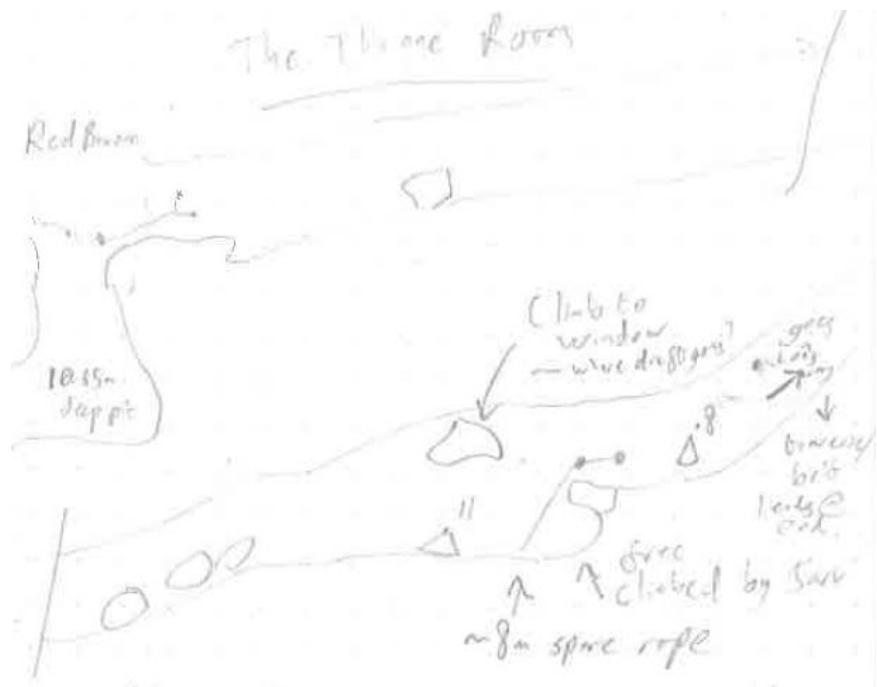
I think I slept 8AM – 8PM ish, with a little break for a piss and a sip of water. Clare was making little sleepy noises, like a rabbit, but apparently slept little.

The drill is much fun, v quick and efficient.



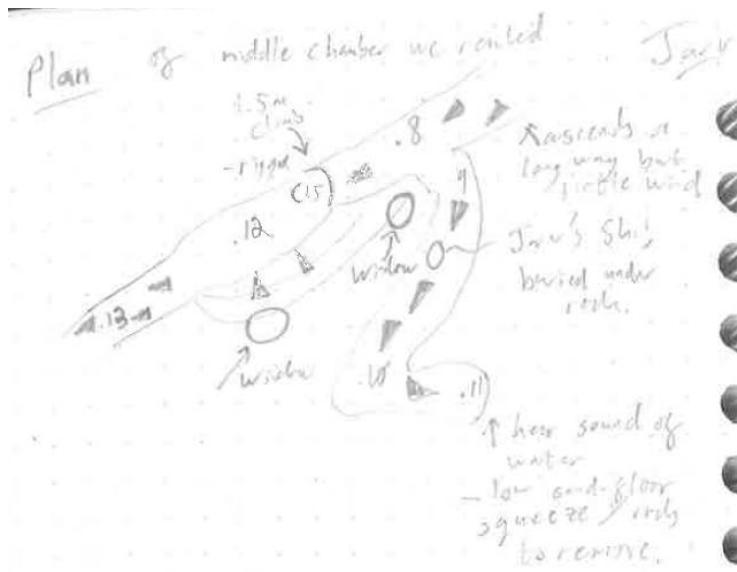
[Little cartoon by Jarv of him and Clare bolting]

Place 8 rawl bolts with the tiny 10-cell Nimh battery.



[Jarv's sketch of the Throne Room]

Strong draught over traverse, mostly disappears after climb (stations 1-8). Suspect goes into window, about 4-5m above PSS.8 in chamber. Easy climb but should preferably protect with bolts. Might be easier to traverse back from .8



[Jarv's sketch plan of the Throne Room]



[Jarv's cartoon of Kate and Jan cooking]

27-7-11 1am Jarv

Jarv and Clare. Finally off – to push Round Pond! callout Noon 26-7-11, should be back earlier to cook some breccy for K & J. See ya!

26-7 Jan

Arrived after ~10pm waking Jarv and Clare, who were happy to see people. Had food and tea, went to bed after Kate danced to Duran Duran. Jarv and Clare set off to Serpentine. Slept well, woke 9am. Jarv arrived, had tea, Mexican rice + coffee.

26-7-11 Noon Jarv

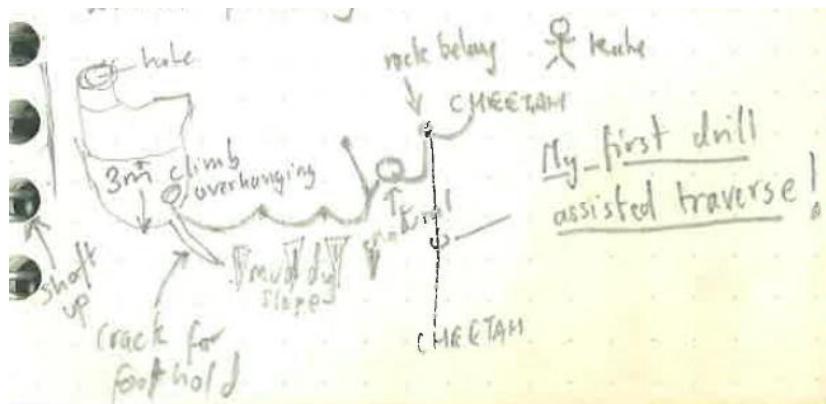
Ensconced in the comf, watching Kate & Jan get ready. Today we did pitches – pushed round pond → The Long Water. 40 cm straws in first chamber, way on via boulder choke then pitch up water to small 6m pitch. Follow stream to cascade chamber – very pretty. Water goes down a pitch, also climb to b/choke (a bit small for humans) which prob goes to same pitch. Also, Clare found 'Rotten Row', continue past the first little dried pool with pretty grey sediment into body-sized phreatic which leads after a few twists to another pitch. You can see 10m down onto ledge. Big sound of water but no sign of it. Good stuff! Left tacklesack with ~50m of 10mm at foot of 2nd pitch, before cascade climb.

26-7-11 10pm Jarv

Woke at six & couldn't get back to sleep, accepted this reality at 8 & got up to warm some vitaminski in time to receive Myles and Mike. Sent them off in the direction of Kate & Jan.

27-7 10 50 am Jan

Woke for a piss after a warm nights kip, Kate, Michael + Myles also in residence at Chateau X-ray. Yesterday I spent 3.5 hrs bolting across a traverse at Cheetah, Kate waited patiently at top.



[Jan's sketch topo of Cheetah traverse.]

The last thru-bolt only went in halfway, so the Spirit of Elvis was with me as I scrabbled for a foothold and reached for the lip of the window... and my light shone to the back for the first time, sadly it wasn't another exhibition Road but the bottom of a cascade. Still an exciting traverse nonetheless!

We did a tourist trip to Red Baron chamber then back to camp, meeting Myles and Michael. Watched RARG on the video player with Jarv + Clare + Kate in a cosy ball of comf.

27-7-11 11:30 am Myles

Mike and I arrived last night and after a brief visit to camp, went to look at Throne Room. Nice cave! When we returned to camp we found 4 comf-covered creatures refusing to leave! I cooked 7.3 Kg of smash for Mike + I before settling in for bed. I had a "Goonies" style dream, and now Kate is cooking breakfast... Hopefully we're off to push Serpentine.

Weds 27 July? Kate

Yo Yo Yo. Jan & myself are pushing Throne Room, expect to be back by 10, callout 12. Same times for Mike & Myles who are Serpentine way. Lots of love Kate.

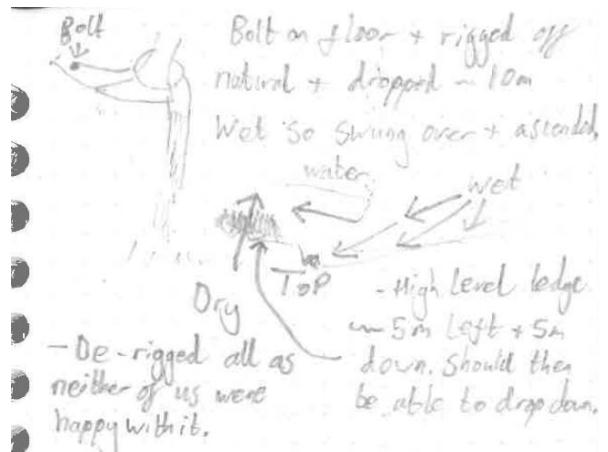
27/7/11 Mike

Mike + Myles. Leisurely start at 1 ish and headed off to Serpentine. Admired the extra pitches dropped since last year and followed Jarv's directions to Rotten Row. Looked at two pitches and bolted the easier one with natural back up.



[Small topo by Mike]

Water headed on down, small hole + climb on left or follow water (1.5m drop). Next pitch approx. 30m? – Didn't descend whole way. Bolt on floor+ rigged off natural + dropped ~10m Wet so swung over and ascended.



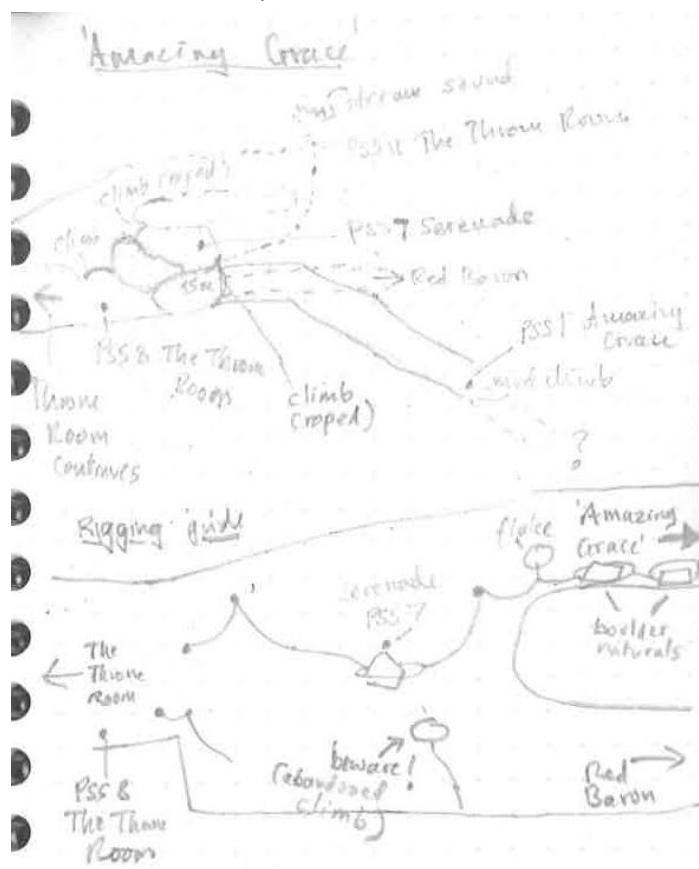
[Another small sketch topo by Mike]

Derigged all as neither of us were happy with it. 50m of 10mm and ~10m of 10mm left at top. Returned to camp 8:30 ish after quick survey.

Thurs 28/7/11 11.15am Jan

Jan and Kate. Just contemplating heading out. Had a great trip down The Throne Room yesterday came back to camp to find Myles + Mike in bed after an equally exciting push down Serpentine! Lots happening☺

We did two climbs in The Throne Room which lead to a storming passage called 'Amazing Grace', after Kate played it on the harmonica while I climbed, thanks Kate! You took my mind off the scariness + rapture.



[Jan's sketch of Amazing Grace]

A good draught is going down 'Amazing Grace'... We turned round at a muddy climb so someone else could enjoy the push too! Go! Go! Go!

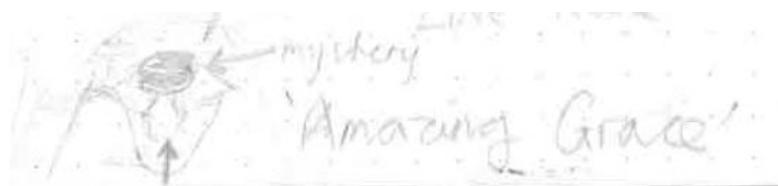
24/7/11 Kate [Incorrect date!]

My hands are extremely fucked so this may be short. Had a wonderful few days underground. Camp is as lovely as ever. I've even taken to eating smash which I thought would never happen after the incident with the sleeping bag last year.

Had two pushing days, the first of which, despite Jan's heroic effort, was not so successful although we did answer the unanswered potential of the window off Cheetah. Later that day after sitting at the top of Cheetah freezing my bollocks off we went to find the location of the Red baron and the pushing front where Clare & Jarv had an uninvestigated window.

It was on Jam and my second pushing day that we went there. After much prodding around Jan climbed and bolted a window above the Throne Room. Meanwhile I played Jan's harmonica. Annoying we found this window led to a small passage running parallel to the easily accessible passage in which Jarv had a shit and that these passages connected via a small crawl. There was however another window as well. Jan climbed and bolted this one which led to a wide horizontal passage. We excitedly stumbled up the passage which then turns 90° to a downward slope. Quite nice and passable with mud resembling bird poo coating the rocks. With time running short and Jan wanting to leave it open for the next team (this want I did not share) we stopped at a muddy easy climb. Could see another 15-20m but after there who knows.

It's wide, it's horizontal and it's blowing so what are you waiting for? Go discover some motherfucking cave! Leaving now, Love Kate.



[Small cartoon/sketch by Kate]

27/7/11 Izi

Izi, Kletnik (nočna ptiča) Sva šla plezat okna v Albert Hall in Minotaur rift ni blo uspeha. Pol sva šla pa v Serpentine zlezla okno in po kratkem rova dobila majhno brezno na dnu po blatnem rovu naprej do večjega... se nadaljuje (kletnk je predebel). Novi del se kliče: Let na drugi svet

Camp was perfect!
Hope to be back soon.
HVALA ZA USE©



[Sketch survey of Let na Drugi Svet]

29/7/2011 4pm Tetley

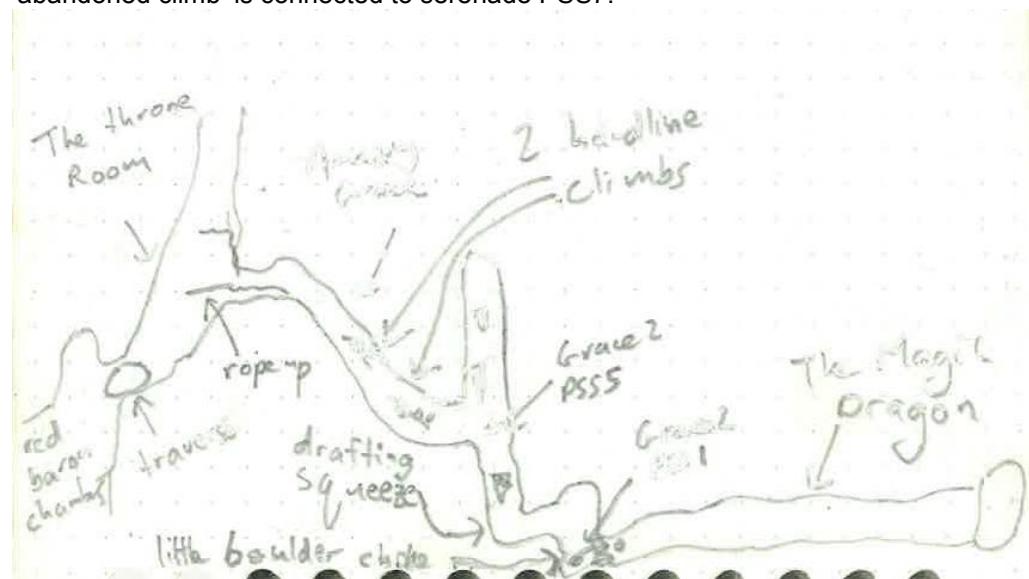
Back again – smooth sub 2 hr trip down. Good to see Izi + Samo. Off now to Amazing Grace. Tetley and Clare

1:25 am 30/7/2011 Tetley

Clare and I have returned with 260m in the book – the new find, after Amazing Grace is called the Magic Dragon! Gergely + Jana also here, in bed, Jarv + Dan off pushing – more tomorrow after sleep!

8:30 a.m. 30/7/11 Tetley

Dan + Jarv have returned, listening to Ella Fitzgerald, reminiscing about our great day yesterday... We rerigged Jan + Kate's 'Amazing Grace' climb (see 3 pages back) so now the 'abandoned climb' is connected to serenade PSS7.



[Sketch survey showing cave from Red Baron to the Magic Dragon]

30-7-11 23:58 Jdrv

Night train Jdrv and Dan. Tet & Clare finally back from pushing below Republica – starting to get worried. Mike, Z & Stane passed during the night – first at 3pm to drop stuff off & check in, then at 5pm to say goodbye! Stane popped back to take a photo of the tent, and then off. Nice to see them all, but disturbed sleep.

Yesterday we visited Magic Dragon – nice crystals/quartz. Degraded rather horrifically after PSS.1 ; we started to bolt the pitch but the rock was appalling. Broken & soft, quartzite broke the Spitz teeth. Got a bolt in & natural back up, went over the edge in the horrific muddiness. The obv natural over the edge turned out to be mud. The whole pitch lip in fact sticky mud & white cheesecake boulders. From the position I was in, sliding around with nasty muddy 9mm, I plumbed the depths – 15.5m & then we bowed out. Slow return with cold SNOOZES on the boulders to not be too early.

00:17 Jana's here! Tales of horrifically muddy pitch leading to massive pitch.
Tet & Clare have left 'Daydreamer' at a nice lead above a pitch in stream.

01:45 31/7/2011 Tetley

Another top trip! Clare and I went down to push below Republica. Dropped 3 pitches and a climb, left big lead – nice 15+ pitch going down, white rock, nice stream. Surveyed about 75m, PSS at end. DON'T go there if water levels are high. X-Ray → pushing front about 3hrs ditto for the return journey. It's going, going, going!
p.s. Our new finds below Insomnia pitch are called Daydreamers.

01:56 31/7/2011 Gergely

Good pushing trip today with Jana at the end of the Magic Dragon! We named the pitch 'Stuck in Paradise', referring to the muddy awkward terrible nature of it. At the bottom there are two ways on, one pitch is dead while the other drops to something big, big wind and echo. It gonna be hard to push though because all you SRT kit is just a big lump of mud! It will be fun... Nice new extensions, big sizes, crystals and so on. Good to be back. I wouldn't have thought last year that Wonderland will lead to such big things! To the new extensions, Gergely.

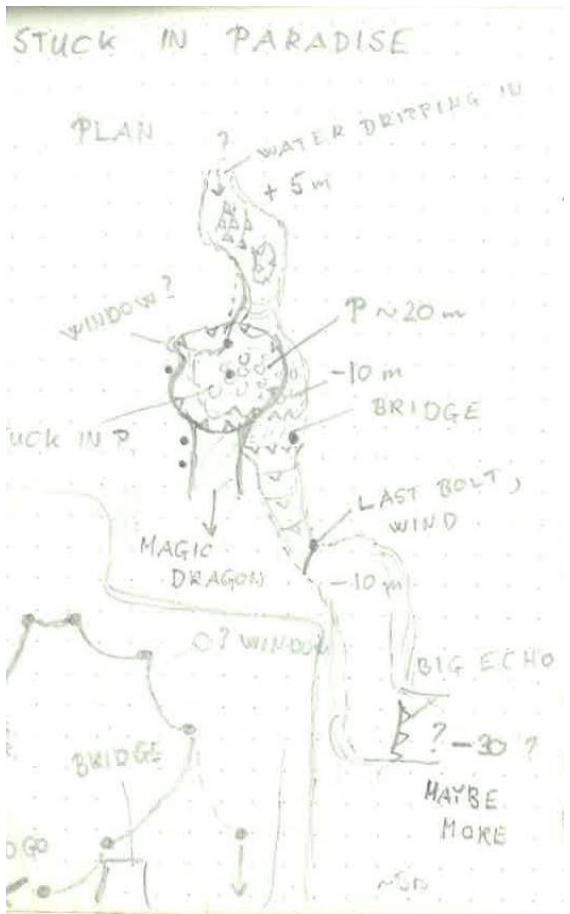
29.7 – 31.7 2011 Jana

Jana + Gergely. Started late from the surface, we only had like 4hr pushing. We pushed a small – on the right bottom – first chamber at the beginning of Prince Albert Hall. Small passage went for about ~30m. Did a small climb and looks it goes on. Climb not safe to check. Overall not a massive great lead. After we went to Serpentine, where we checked Samo + Izzy's push. Also de-rig the original rope at the beginning of Serpentine as it got fucked.

Back at camp and soon Clare + Tet joined, followed by Jdrv + Dan (night train). Amazing Grace goes and pushed to the Magic Dragon. Clare and Tet stopped at a ~15m pitch, which Jdrv + Dan decided to push. Sleeping time! ☺

Woken up by Jdrv + Dan, muttering about a muddy, horrid pitch. They could not descent due to mud and then run out of time to bolt around.

Gergely and I decided to push it plus see all the new stuff. Clare + Tet went to push insomnia. Amazing Grace + Magic Dragon is super pretty. Loads of crystals again. The pitch to push is super muddy indeed. having a drill made job a bit easier and Gergely did a great job. At the bottom pitch splits in two by rock bridge. One way dies (sort of – a climb?) and other is a big pitch (~50). We named the place "Stuck in Paradise". Was so muddy you could not see your kit. Not very pleasant SRT. On the end was completely covered in mud and looked like one big mud blob. Ha, ha.



[Sketch survey of Stuck in Paradise]

31/7/11 11:17am Clare

Amazing two pushing trips with Tetley down Magic Dragon and Daydreamers – Vrtnarja is now deeper than ever before! Put in my first bolts and properly dropped first pitches; cheers Tet for an incredible camping trip and great company. Top tip: hot brews at -800m is the absolute dogs bollocks. Now all that's left is a final prusik to the surface. I hope Tetley goes nice and slow! he chased me up Big Rock yesterday. Till my next camp, happy pushing to all.

31/7/2011 Tetley

So, July draws to a close, as does another great camping trip. Thanks to Clare, you've been great. Looking forward to sunset and entering $\frac{1}{3}$ km of survey data.

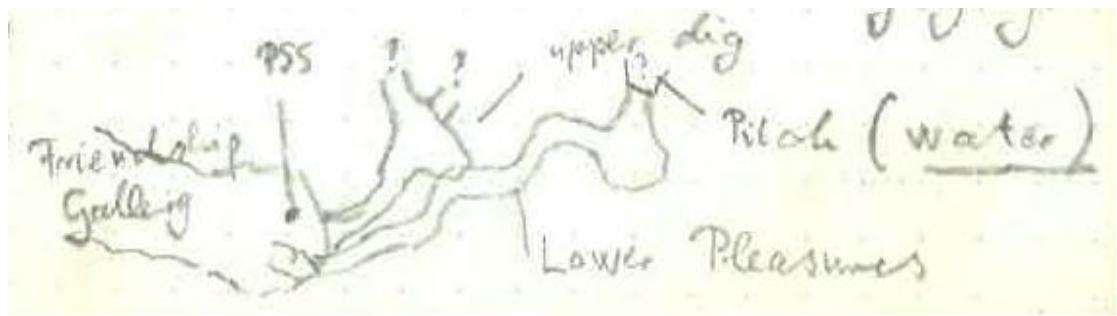
31/7/ 18:30 Jana + Gergely

After a muddy project yesterday, a muddy digging project today, where again left at the top of the pitch. Great stuff, Jana

Good pushing and have fun. Watch out for the rapture. Gergely

31/7/2011 Gergely

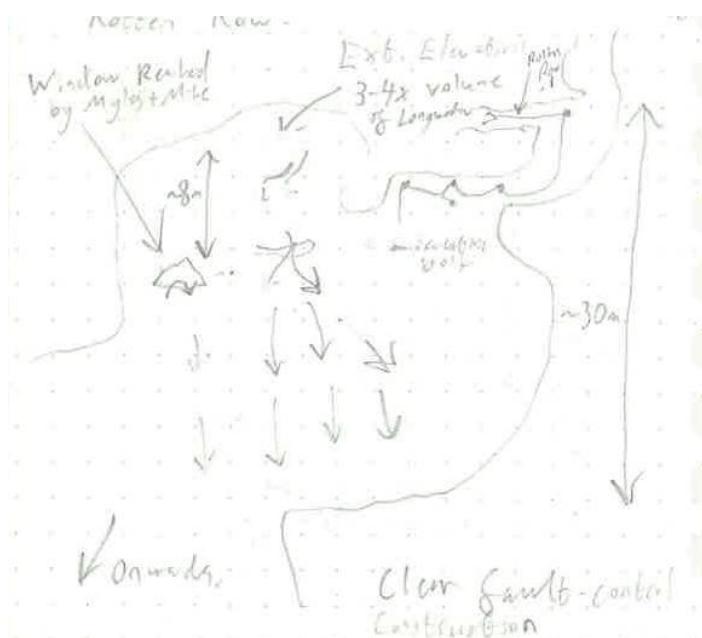
Two digs at Friendship Gallery (don't turn left after the rope, but keep straight on). Upper one needs explosives; bottom one – the 'Lower Pleasures' leads to a pitch (cca 20m). Quite good draught, a bit tight (no SRT kit). Direction $\sim 210^\circ$. To get to Lower Pleasures, climb down between boulders next to the PSS in the last chamber of Fri. G. It goes slightly towards Sys Mig; but worth giving a check for the wind also watch out at the end, don't fall down the pitch \odot



[Gergely's small sketch of Lower Pleasures]

1-8-11 Jarv

Jarv and Dan. What a sleep! From 2pm – 10:30 am, Wowser. However with our surface callout in less than 24hrs and us having failed to delay it we must head out today. Yesterday we worked on the pitch below Long Water. Didn't much like the wet way pushed by Myles & Mike, we went off Rotten Row.



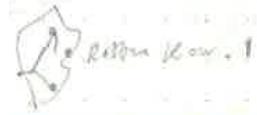
[Jarv's ext elevation of pitch]



[Jarv's plan of pitch]

Suggestion to keep on rigging is to keep on deviating on left wall, then bounce to right wall into continuation of rift for the final hang.
The Y-hang gives a perfect hang to the spray lashed ledge – one could just throw caution to the wind & zip down, slam in a bolt in the wet and continue.

The rotten row PSS 1 was knocked off its corner, I hid the label in the roof – it sits on the little ledge on the right about halfway down the traverse.



[Jarv's small diagram showing location of Rotten Row.1]

1-8-11 12:40pm Jarv

Much dead ringers later, and a spot of lunch & it's time to go. We're both pretty stiff & sore – getting so cold on the wet pitch & the caving back to camp clearly isn't good for the body. Water levels still very low – I hope someone gets down in time to push Daydreamers and Longwater before it pisses down again!

Excellent clear up operation by the previous two teams – little left to take out so we'll tidy up a little, photo inventory & the elopc (After some hot vitaminski)

Good luck team August!

Get the bolts & the metres in!

1.8.2011 21⁰⁰ Tjaša

Grega & Tjaša. We are going down the stuff (Let na drugi svet?) which found Samo and Izi. We did some digging and heard a loud water noise. There was a big draft. We came to water but we had no time to check its way (we leave it for next day probably). Night! ☺

2.8.2011 22:00 Karin

Nejc & Karin. We came down around 4:00 had some tea and then we went to Lower Pleasure. We tried to bolt it but we just couldn't. We came back and sleep. Nejc is sick so we're going out. There is some rope in Lower Pleasure left (I think 2 pieces about 10-20m long).

3 August 20:30 (morning) Gergely

Yesterday we went climbing to the Queen's bed chamber. No good luck, the layers of good rock are separated by muddy layers which are unsuitable for anything really. Despite the heroic efforts of Izi, he managed to climb about 7m and came down. We left a rope in for further attempts (which may involve some mud-stick operation). The window on the left seems to be going.

Strangle, that now there was no wind at all in the end of Minotaur rift, although last year it was a huge draught there. The reason may be the difference in the water level. Today off to Stuck in Paradise! Good luck, Gergely.

3 August 2011 Jonny

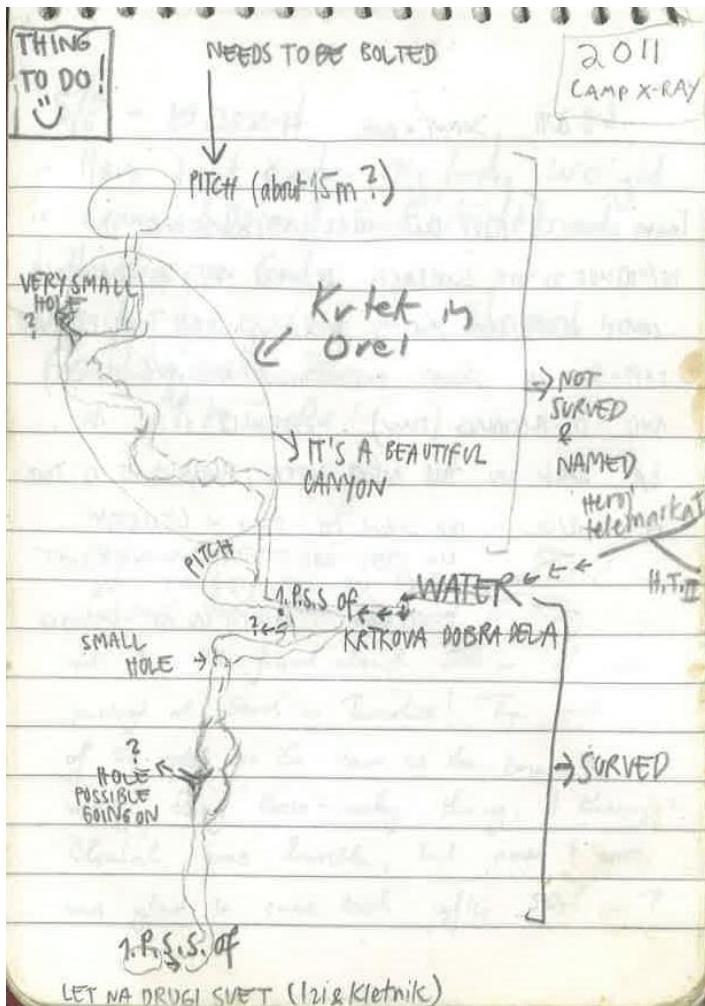
Jonny + Dave. Arrived 9 o'clock last night after faffing all day, 3 hours down. Woke at 8 this morning and set off to tackle Big Rock candy mountain. I sat shivering whilst Dave bolted wind; too muddy, taking too long, Headed down; nasty rebelay but looks like a large parallel chamber/shaft! Same dimensions as BRCM. Too late, let someone else climb up.

Camp super comfy and I feel very comfortable; no rapture☺



[Jonny's sketch of Big Rock Candy Mountain]

[Here ends the original white covered logbook – all the following entries are from the red covered supplementary logbook]



[Sketch by Tjaša/Karin showing things to do]

4.8.2011 9:50am? Jonny

Jonny and Dave. Fairly restless sleep but here I am, awaiting the departure to the surface. Despite not discovering much yesterday, it's been a great trip, especially experiencing some expedition bolting (cold) and de-rigging (fun). Hopefully I'll be back in the next week, even if it is for a de-rig. No sign of Izi + Gergely on the night train – hopefully they've found something exciting at Stuck in Paradise.

5/8 – 10:30 ish Mike

Mike + Ari. Have just eaten my body weight in couscous (Dave decline b/fast) and am both Happy + Sad. Off to go caving down the push on Friendship Gallery soon.

4/8/2011 13:20 Gergely

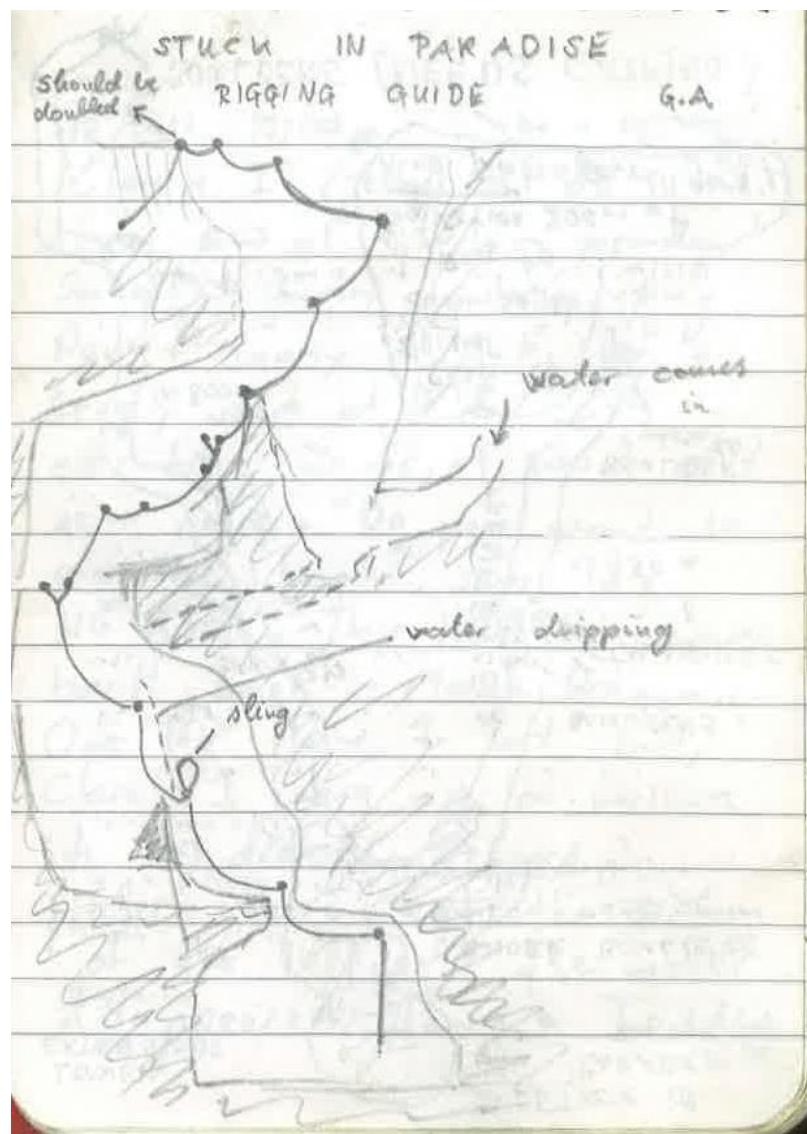
Just got back from a good pushing trip with Izi. We found about 500m of new passage at Stuck in Paradise! The rest of the pitch is the same as the top: a muddy slopy loose-rocky thing. I thought Cheetah was horrible; but now I was glad to come back after Stuck in P. The bolting was fairly OK with some compromises; the who pitch – especially the top – is quite loose, and it should be 1 person at a time! At the lower bit, the rocks come down at the clear rock section, watch out.

At the bottom of the pitch a phreatic tube starts. This is similar to Friendship Gallery in size. Plenty of crystals, very nice walking passage for about 300m. Then a boulder choke blocks the way, but we almost managed to climb through in the middle – there is a crack between two large boulders which is just too small because of a ledge in one of them, about 10cm big. This needs a chisel or capping. The passage seemingly continues on the other side. Watch out for crystals please!

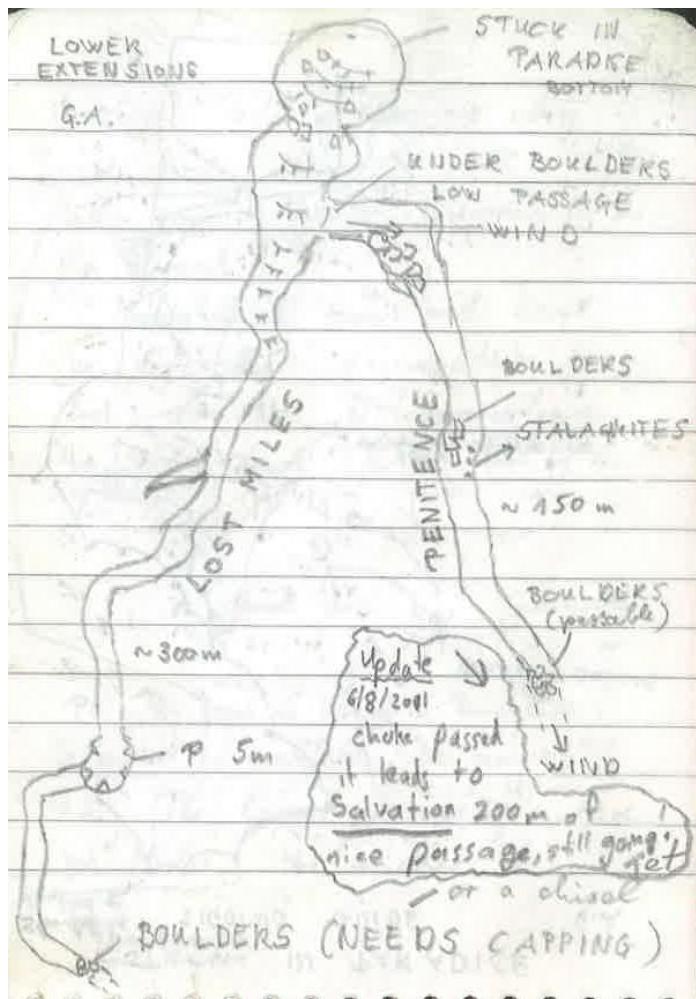
the other passage opens on the left of this one, it is quite low, but this is the one that sucks the wind. Generally it is about 4m wide, but filled with mudstone, and not higher than 1m (usually less). We followed it for about 150m. At the end there is a boulder choke, which seems passable on the top, but we ran out of time. Strong draught! Crystals here too and STALAGMITES: about 5 stal columns about 20cm high, 5cm wide. I think both of these are very good leads, although getting there takes effort – this adds to the fun though! Meanwhile it turns out that we left the instruments & survey book somewhere, so tomorrow we have to go back for it. Part of the fun.... Good pushing, Gergely.

ps. The rope in Stuck in Paradise is exposed to rockfalls, be aware!

ps2. The longer passage is called Lost Miles, the windier is Penitence.



[Gergely's Stuck in Paradise rigging guide]



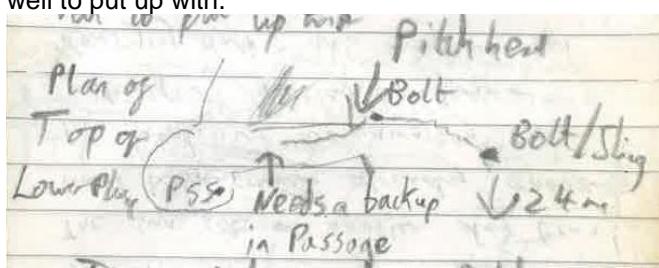
[Gergely's sketch survey showing extensions below Stuck in Paradise]

5/8/2011 13:00 Tetley

Clare and I set off down GW at 9:30am yesterday. Smooth journey down, meeting Dave + Jonny in Pink. Izi + Gergely were at X-Ray with exciting news of 500m of new cave. "Do you want to see the book?" says Izi. NO BOOK! They left the survey book back in Magic Dragon... One for them to sort out, Clare + I were on a mission to Daydreamers. Dropped 3 pitches there, but at the bottom of the last one the water disappeared down a bedding plane crack... Grr, still I said we'd find a bypass and we did. Left a good drafting lead, 'The Penguin's Egg'. Met Fratnik, Jarv + Jim at Red Cow. Back to X-Ray for some much needed sleep. Thanks again Clare, 140m in survey book.

5/8/11 9am Mike

Mike + Ari: below 'Lower Pleasure', "2nd Time Lucky"
Went back Fr. am to drop our pitch with correct length rope. Epic faff on my part which Ari did well to put up with.



[Mike's plan of Lower Pleasure]

Two windows down pitch. 5m drop with water at bottom and rift going over 5m drop. Tightish but air fresh – no draft. Sorry Ari! Happy caving all.

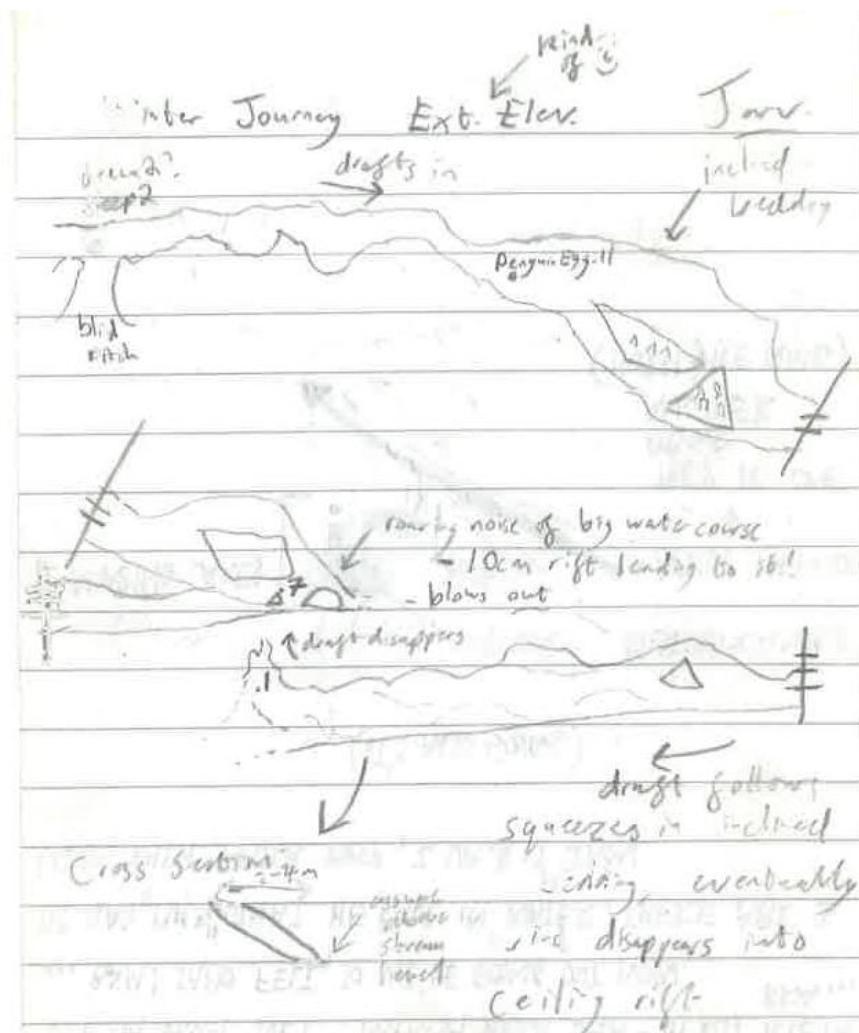
5/8/11 15:30 Tetley

Clare + Tetley heading off to Penitence, below Magic Dragon

6/8/11 Midnight Jarv

Jarv, Jim, Fratnik. The sun sets on another day train! Karin & Samo are already snoozing in bed, we are awaiting the return of Tetley & Clare while carrying out experimental cooking research.

Pretty tired and stiff after our long trip yesterday – we went to find the Penguin's Egg on our Winter Journey.

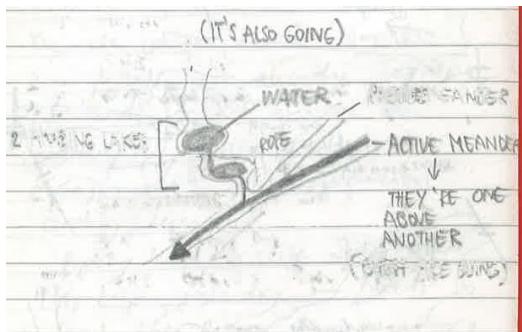


[Jarv's sketch survey of Winter Journey]

Draft follows squeezes in inclined bedding, eventually wind disappears into ceiling rift. Heavy silt deposit in lower region of chamber – near backing sump? Mud stalagmites on rocks.

6/8/2011 9a.m. Karin

Samo & Karin. Let na drugi svet – Krkova Dobra Dela – Herj Telemarka.... BAM! Samo fell, so we're going out now. He had "luck" that he fell in water. There are 3 leads with water way, 2 up & 1 down.



[A sketch survey by Karin]

6/8/2011 4:20 a.m. Tetley

Firstly, respect to those, especially Gergely, who pushed Stuck in Paradise. Amazing push... truly heroic etc. Praise to to the electric drill!

Clare and I went down to push the extensions beneath. We dug through the boulder choke at the end of Penitence to find Salvation – 200m of mostly walking horizontal passage. Drafting lead left. Forgot to take water, despite my own 'top tip' early this expo, hence pretty dehydrated after 10 hrs caving, no water to be found. Grade 1 survey to follow after sleep. A great day, only marred by news of Samo's injury, I hope he's OK.

6/8/2011 9:45a.m. Tetley

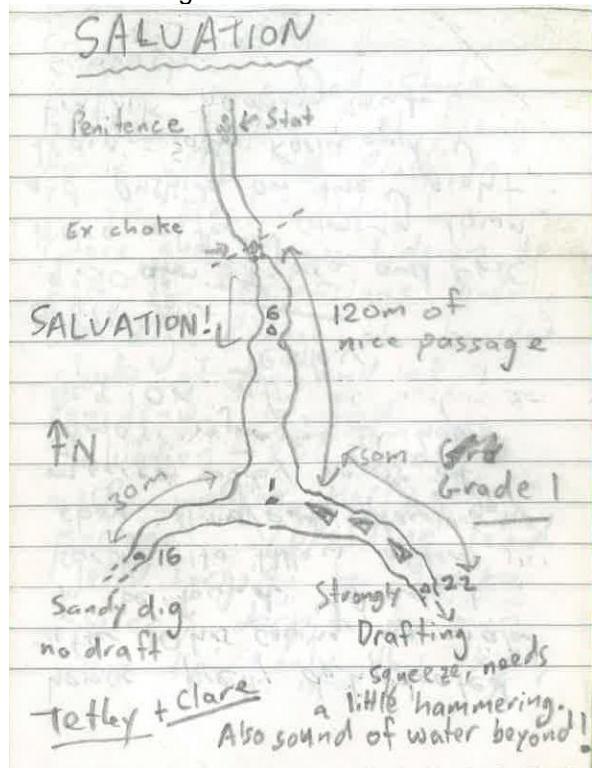
Note re: Stuck in Paradise

Only one person should be on the pitch at a time. It takes 30-40 minutes to ascend or descend.

If you shout 'rope free' at the top, you won't be heard at the bottom and vice versa.....

6/8/2011 9:50 a.m. Tetley

Tjaša and Eric here after coming down and pushing on the night train. Samo, Karin and Fratnik heading out soonish.



[Tetley's sketch of Salvation]

6/8/2011 1:20 pm Clare

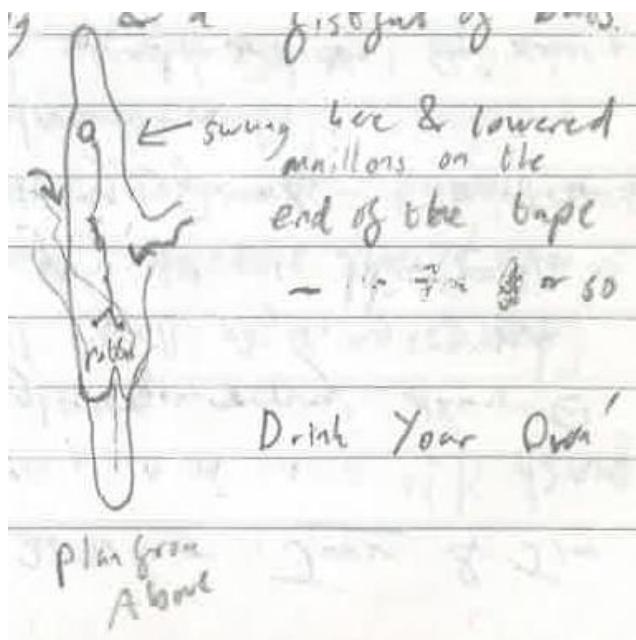
Another camping trip drawing to a close, quite probably my last pushing trip of the expo! Just waiting for Jarv and Jim to return before we start our bid for the surface. Once again, two successful pushing trips down below Daydreamers and in the kamikaze extensions below Stuck in Paradise. Another 340m in the book, and caving with Tetley's always a pleasure. Special thanks to Gergely & Jana & Izi for bolting and rigging and surveying the worst pitch in the world (Stuck in Paradise) so beautifully. We left a strong, draughting lead in Salvation below the pitch, go push it!

6/8/2011 13:30 Tetley

Time soon to head up for tea + medals. Another great trip!

6-8-11 22:00 Jarv

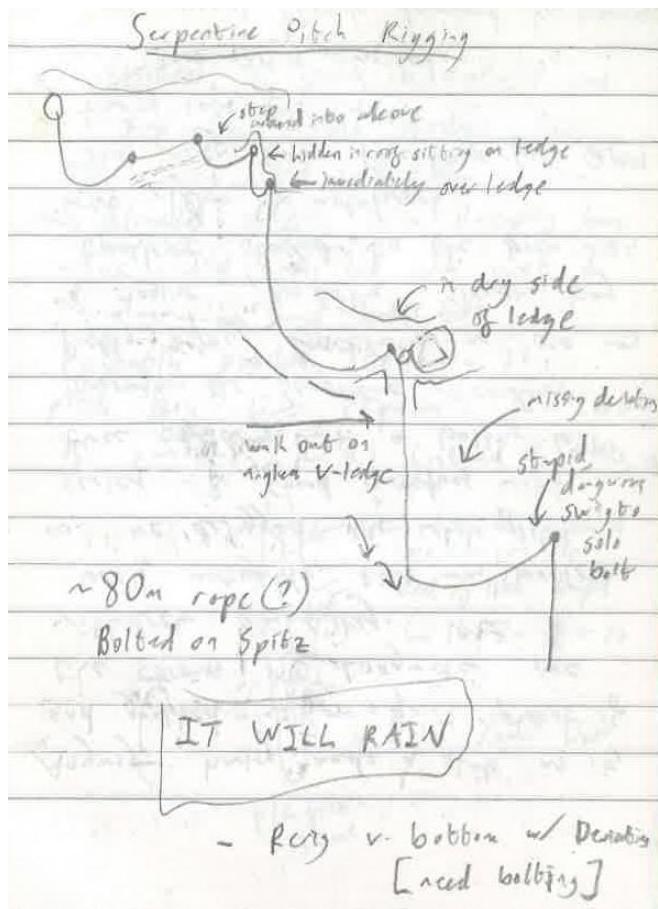
Jarv & Jim. Another glorious morning down @ Camp X-Ray! Well, it is night but who cares? Only hit the sack @ 16:00, thanks to sliding forward in sync with Tet & Clare. Just had a strange dream for caving – searching amongst Hipster pubs in London with Jim; we were looking for other cavers but mainly for 1st class toilet facilities. Here, alas, the piss BDH is full. Yesterday we went to the Serpentine to try & drop the wet pitch. Didn't quite make it – needed a belay & found a natural but it was just too dodge for the swing I'd undertaken. Jim was also shivering in a sleeping bag, where I'd swung too was wet & NO PLACE TO HAND BOLT. Perfectly possible to rig this pitch dry, but requires a fair bit of swinging & a fist full of bolts.



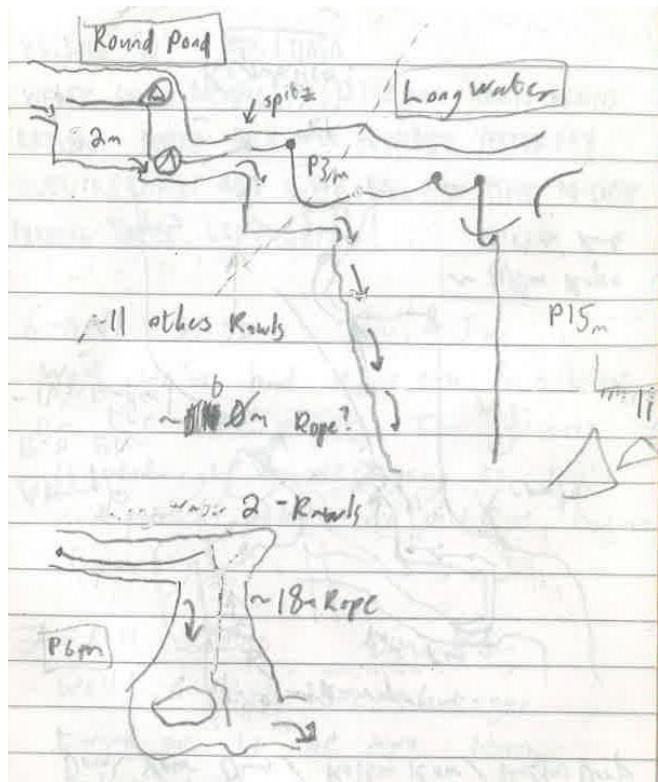
[Jarv's sketch of 'Drink Your Own']

Anyway, having made a stab at it, and grabbed a few quick photos of the straws in Longwater we withdrew gracefully.

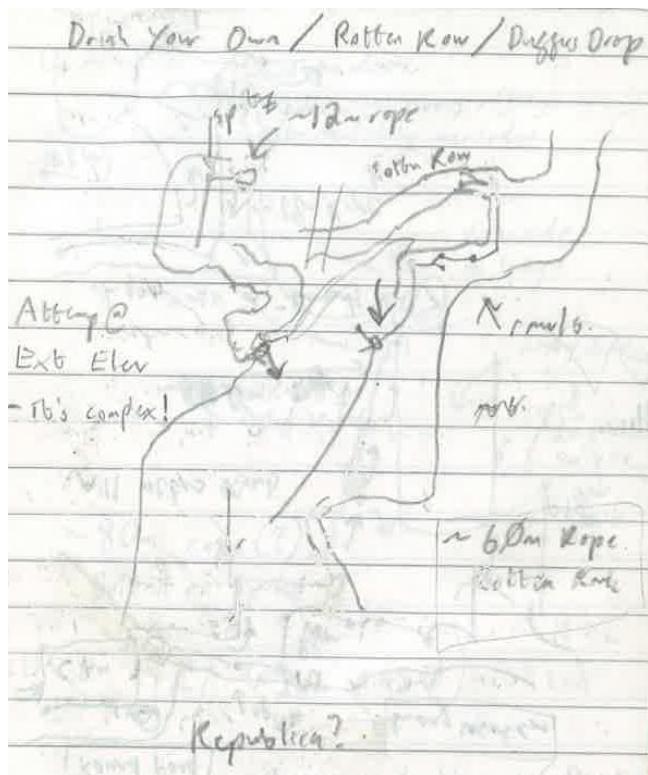
Well, actually that was bollocks as we derigged the whole pitch series & found ourselves with three tacklesacks + a bolting kit through the Serpentine meander. Pretty epic, as one was a massive 'Big Bertha' sleeping bag tacklesack stuffed to the brim with wet 10mm & metalwork. Still, made it to Friendship for 2pm, having left @ 5am. A few plates abandoned in-situ, as rawl threads damaged by hammer.



[Jarv's sketch of Serpentine pitch rigging part 1]



[Jarv's sketch of Serpentine pitch rigging part 2]



[Jarv's sketch of Serpentine pitch rigging part 3]

6.6.2011 23⁰⁰ Tjaša

[For the next few entries, the recorded month changes, from 8 (August) to 6 (June)!]

Erik & Tjaša. We are going surveying (?) ☺ The new parts around Krkova Dobra Dela we founded yesterday Kletnk & Karin and if we will have time do some pushing there. Lep pozdrav!

6-6-11 22:50 Jarv

Jarv & Jim. Well, we've had Hippy tea & a blast on the music player. The gizmo is recharging & we're going to try and get a little more shut-eye before departing.

7-6-11 13:00 Jarv

Well! A bit more shut-eye turned out to be more than anticipated!

Erik & Tjaša came back very quickly from surveying – they got cold & wet and crawled into bed with us!

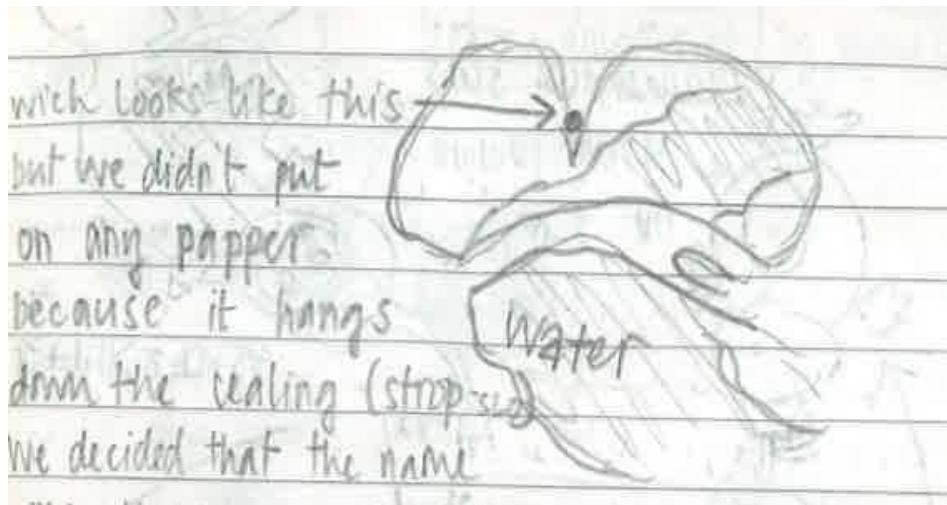
A very long sleep but worth it. Jim is feeling a lot less stiff & my back is popping less. Certainly the derig yesterday exacted its toll. Camp is looking rather bare, nil shitbags, meths, sugar, hot choc, rice. The train is crashing & it's time to get off.

14:48 Jarv

Good luck Erik & Tjaša, see you on the surface!

7.8.2011 17⁰⁰ Tjaša

We were surveying and get very wet. We had surved Heroj Telemarka that found Samo & Karin yesterday. Samo falls into the waterand there is also our surveying stopped. That is on the left side (part on Karin's drawing where are "two amazing lakes"). Then we went to the right. Karin had written that there are 2 meanders but is only one. It just looks like there are 2 because they're one above another but after a few metres they become one. That meander ends after 30 meters. There is water so we couldn't get over it. I think it is possible but you get all wet. So we end after 30 meters. We do the last station on a rock wich looks like this but we didn't put any paper because it hangs from the cealing (strop – SLO).



[Tjaša's sketch referred to above]

We decided that the name will be the same as Karin & Samo gave it to the nearer part and because they told us to go there. So, it's named Heroj Telemarka.

We eat 2 frutabelas there and go surveying the part which founded I and Grega few days ago (that little canyon). We named it Krtek in Orel. The last station is above the bigger pitch. We didn't surved it down because we didn't want to get wet. Anyway, when we went back + swing on a rope accidentally under the waterfall and get wet. And Erik get wet in the squeeze in Krtkova Dobra Dela. So, we were all wet in the end.

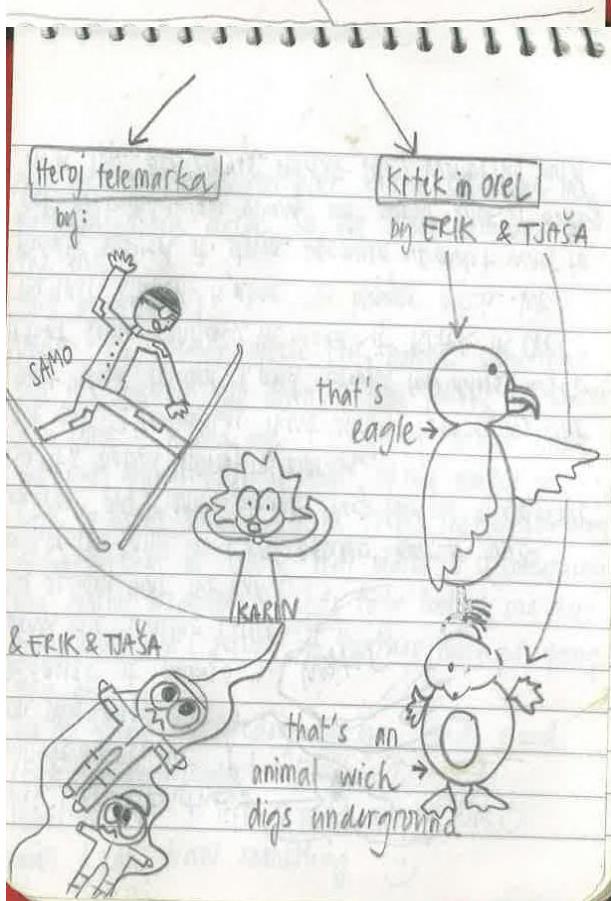
Shit happens :)

Under the bigger pitch Erik bolted something and it's possible to go down. If you follow the water you come to a lake and it's impossible to get there without getting wet (the level of the water is high to knees, something like that). The possible way going further is above the water. It's something like passive meander, it needs to be looked one more time to see if it's possible go further without going into lake.

We're going out today. See you and good luck to everybody! ☺

Now I see that I left 2 pages empty. Ups ☺

Well I can draw something ☺



[Tjaša's drawing]

7.8.2011 21⁰⁰ Tjaša

Erik and Tjaša. As it seems we are staying in camp because there is a waterfall in Zimer. So, good night ☺

8.8.2011 11⁰⁰ Tjaša

the water calms down slowly but there is still a lot of it in Zimer. We hope that on the surface cavers don't panic because we won't come out at the callout.

Today is Erik's mother Maria birthday. It seems that he will miss the party ☺

8.8.2011 14⁰⁰ Tjaša

Much more water than in the morning.

9.8.2011 14⁰⁰ Tjaša

Finaly! ☺ Gergely and Tetly come in camp. It means we can go out.
Thanks for nice & warm camp! Tjaša & Erik.

9 Aug 2011 13:45 Gergely

This tear the last time in Camp X-Ray! We wanted to come down with Karin to push Salvation, but the storm put us off. So today we came in 1.5 hours with Tetley to check if Tjasa and Erik were good, after 24 hours their callout. Luckily, everything is all right and the camp is rocking with music! Great times! The cave is still wet but it is time to go. Another year, another expo, another success. See you next year!
To the connection and the new passages and to infinity.

9/8/11 Tetley

Exactly 10 years after the discovery of Friendship Gallery we're packing up and leaving for another year. A great year – over 2km of new cave. Looking forward to returning in the future.

LEFT at X Ray 2011

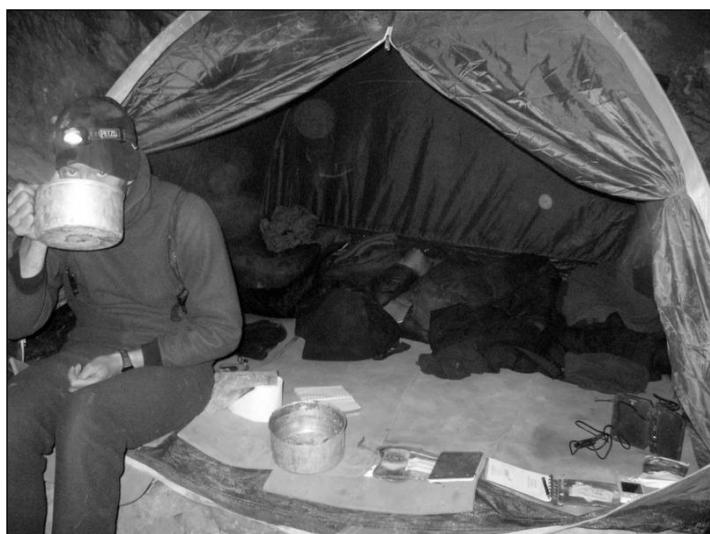
5x 4.5 Flatcell
6x AAA bats
4x AA bats
1 kg carbide
20+ choc bars
12 tins fish
some nuts/noodles/soup
1 full power gas cylinder
+ 1/3 full power gas cylinder
1 large blizzard bag
1 tent
1 good 30m tape measure
500m + rope
+ 50m dynamic
10 slings
1 pair of Samo's pants
25 spits and cones
40 stainless hangers
15 stainless rawl bolts



[2011-07-31-01.11.35-Jarvist M Frost-CanonA520-IMG_0167 - Jana and Teteley Cooking Lnd Exposure]



[2011-08-01-13.24.46-Jarvist M Frost-CanonA520-IMG_0175 - Food Reserves and Stove at Camp X-Ray]



[2011-08-01-13.24.09-Jarvist M Frost-CanonA520-IMG_0173 - Dan Drinking Tea in the Tent at Camp X-Ray]



[2011-08-03-10.31.54-Grega-Panasonc DMC-FT2-105-camp x-ray]



[2011-08-07-12.10.52-Jarvist Frost-CanonG5-CRW_0178 - jim at camp]

[Editor's note: Everything in square brackets has been added by Tetley. I thought it was best to type up the writing; it took a lot longer than I thought it would when I started but it's been good reliving the memories! I've tried to keep original spelling etc., but a few typos may have crept in – sorry! Scan quality of drawings not the greatest, again apologies. I added the photos to the document just for the memories....May 2012]

Sledi Vatra 2012

11:45 Weds 18/7/2012 Jonny

Back in underground camp one year later!

A smooth trip down, everything has now been de-moulded in camp. Tea ready, about to cook.. It's good to be back!

Niko

Finally back in camp X-RAY, mental! Last time I was here two years ago. Journey here was generally alrite, just Jonny sort of started leaving tace sacks as he started rigging, so more load 4 us, but he did a good job rigging. Zimmer annoying. Camp was quite mouldified, but Jonny covered with sand. Cooking now, everything is alrite. Definitely less rapture than 2 years ago. I just sort of thought that it's a pretty unique situation here. Cos normally whatever you're doing in life (eg smoking weed) there must be a lot of people at that same instant around the world doing the same thing, but I think at this moment, we are very likely the only people in this world living in a deep underground camp, like us. Crazy thought. We are truly alone. Waiting for cous cous. Everything is alrite. So yea, Camp X-Ray 2012 is again in operation. Enjoy!

Oli

Gone down more pitches than I can remember.. Underground camp is actually much warmer than I thought it would be. Time for dinner – Ainsley Hariets cous cous.

1:47 am Friday 20th July Rhys

Nice easy trip down to camp. Left at sunset, down for about midnight. Have eaten cous cous, smash and sausage. I don't know what I thought camp would be like but I'm here and I like it. Hopefully shall have nice long sleep.

2:30 a.m. 20/7/2012 Tetley

Back at X-Ray – the 4th year we've had a camp here ('03, '10, '11, '12). Rhys and I had a smooth journey down – now drinking Žganje and listening to Blackadder. Now some sleep!

11:40 a.m. 20/7/2012 Tetley

A decent kip, slight headache though. I'm thinking of tea, and the pushing front.

12:47 p.m. 20/7/2012 Rhys

Sleeping was good, camp is comfy. Breakfast soon, yum. Really excited about pushing. Where else can you doss about in the sun one day and be at the limit of human exploration the next day? Its going to be good.

2:40 p.m. 20/7 Tetley

The classic 'Cheesy, soupy, fishy smash' for breakfast. Almost finished packing food, brew kit, bolting kit, rigging kit, survey kit. Had a shit. Cup of tea then time to put caving kit on....

Tet

It's 20⁰ Celcius down here – or so says the thermometer I bought in Tolmin! Dr. Tim, a rubber chicken (and Samo's pants!) are watching over us!

"It's not just about the pushing, it's also about the journey."

"Yeh"

3:50 pm 20/7 Tet

Rhys and I are finally heading off to Salvation. Back by 8 a.m. at the latest.

4:10 pm 20/7 Clare

Good trip down with Jarv, great to be back at X-Ray! Nothing's changed, it's like coming home. Had a quick chat with Tet and Rhys just as they were leaving to push Salvation. We will be off to kill Winters Journey and derig the Insomnia/daydreamers series. May also check out Red Cow and Strap in the Nitro. Expect to be back 9am on 21/7, callout noon.

4:15 pm Jarv

Great to be back! Off to kill the deep stuff.

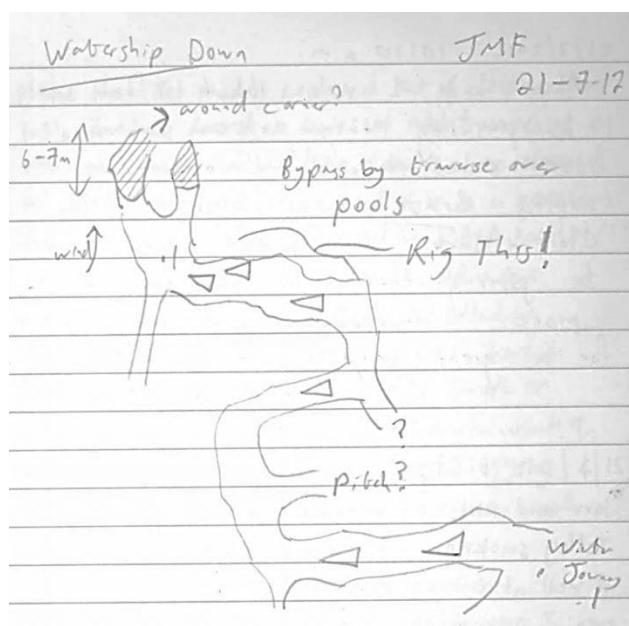
21-7-12 6 AM Jarv

Back!

Pushed: PERFIDIA, a tight dry alternative to Republica (pitch). We were hoping for a Red-Cow sump bypass.

Then went to the bottom & pushed WATERSHIP DOWN from beyond WinterJourney.1 (where Fratnik & Jim opted not to squeeze) down a [STUPIDLY] freeclimbed slope to a beautiful deep static sump.

The cave is thus deeper – perhaps 20-30m so.



[Jarv's sketch of Watership Down]

Most is steeply inclined bedding.

Sump (or Lake?) has no water flowing into it. Crystal clear & could be percolation water. Obvious windows above sump/lake that could be gained by traverse from slope-pitch.

21/7/2012 10:10 a.m. Tetley

Rhys and I are back from a 17 hr pushing trip - ≈100m in the book. Cave beyond Salvation named Brave New World. Clare + Javv in bed, we'll soon be joining them in the tent – more tomorrow. Thanks Rhys for a great trip!

21/7/2012 6:57 pm Clare

Javv and Rhys are asleep on either side of me, Tetley smoking a fag in a corner of the tent – all is well at Camp X-Ray! Excellent push yesterday, even if everything we found (~150m total?) seemed to be body-sized or smaller!

PERFIDIA is a cool connection between Red Cow (pitch rope) and the start of Insomnia. Saves a fair bit of time, though only go there if you aren't carrying lots of tackle and are shorter than Javv!

Tried to kill Winter Journey but it won't die. Amazing that there is so much cave off an abandoned bedding plane that Tet and I explored out of desperation last year! We found a series of rabbit warrens – little crawlways at a bedding plane incline. Named it WATERSHIP DOWN. At the end of it is a gorgeous terminal sump (or lake?). Named it MALA BOHIN (?? Whatever that famous lake is called). Still a few unexplored leads in Watership down, including what looks like a pitch. Take some rope. There is loads at Red Cow Roundabout, and a length or two at the start of Penguin's Egg. If you want to get down to the sump, I'd recommend rigging a rope down the final slope – I'd have been stuck there if not for Javv to stand on!

Right, going to try and grab more shut eye.

11:36 pm 21/7/2012 Rhys

Just woke up from 12 hour sleep, feeling good. Camp is nicer with 4 people. Tea now, hopefully breakfast soon. Selective memory has already turned yesterday from mostly slogging through Penitence and Stuck in Paradise to an amazing trip.

At end of Salvation we (mostly Tetley) hammered our way through squeeze to cool chamber and then Tetley entombed himself digging into boulder choke. This eventually led to weird streamway. Very drafty all the way! Definately two leads up and down streamway. New discoveries called Brave New World. Looking forward to going back.

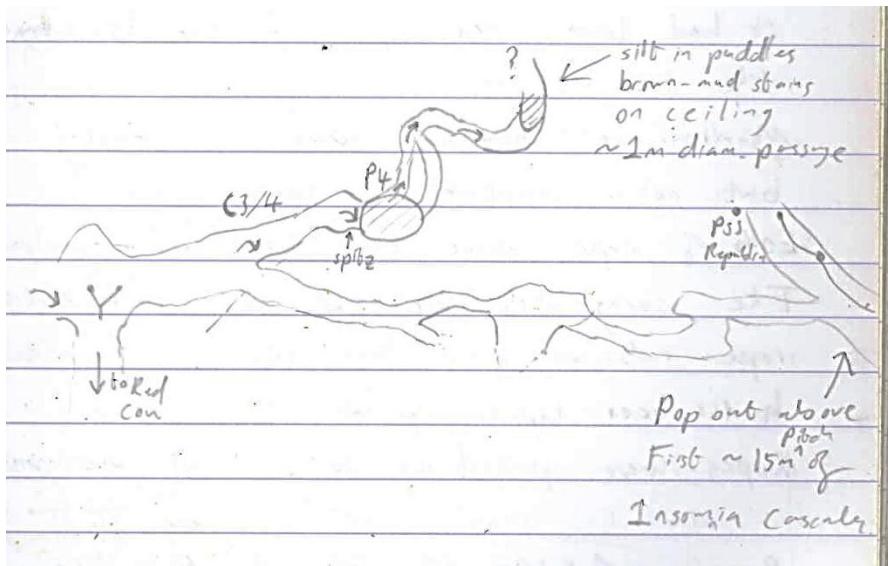
21-7-12 11:47 PM (says my watch – feels like 10 AM) Javv

Fairly cool night (buf + a fleece liner with an irritating feet-sized hole in the bottom. Legs kept on cramping – it's a lot of exercise to the new new bottom of the cave.

No nightmares about not being able to climb back up from Watership Down.¹ In fact I didn't dream much at all. Just daydreamed of the beautiful sump & the crystal clear water.

You wake after a push & rub the mudstone-sleep out of your eyes, sore knees, stiff muscles & odd bruises in strange places. Hmm, anyway – back to the cave.

Perfidia, the attempted Mad Cow Sump Bypass



[Jarv's sketch of Perfidia]

I hate Republica & Insomnia (pitches). Both are wet, perversely rigged & make me very unhappy on return from the deep. In a sane world both would be rerigged – but this would require time, bolts & new rope. Thus unlikely to happen unless a serious effort is made on the sums.

Daydreamers rope was actually all OK – inspite of being left rigged last summer. Insomnia I had to reverse prussic as it had been tied off (I suspect) by the last climber last year.

Maillons in Dreamers were v.rusty but not structurally so.

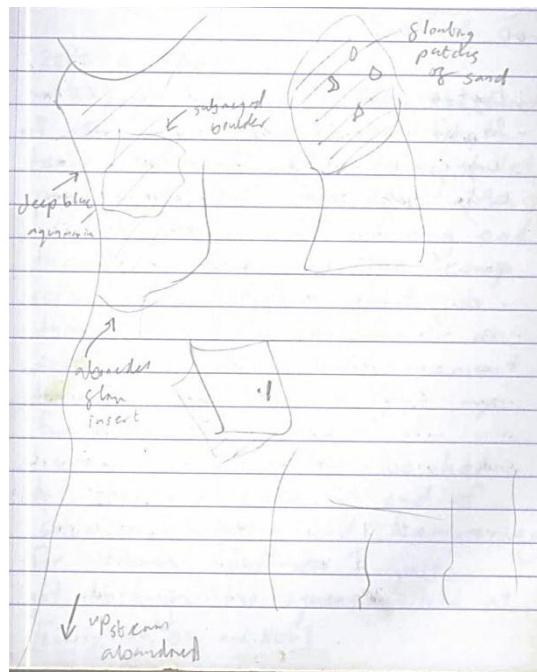
Ends of rope where cut had been pulped. The swing-pitch above the pool had extreme rope rub on where the horizontal section had been tap-tapping on the floor. Ropes were pulled up & tied off were possible.

Rope:

- 1 x 10m, 15m, 20m 9mm @ Red Cow (taken from X-ray on this trip) + unknown-length old 9mm
- 20m excess 9mm on Red-cow Y-hang
- 10m excess @ end of Insomnia
- 20m new 9mm & 15m old 9mm @ Penguin's Egg

Big Rock – hangers were rather corroded. Didn't like it much – substitute soon? All bolts were very loose – does someone come & loosen them over winter? Odd.

Left a few dirn. arrows for Red Cow & back to Big Rock (as far as Leprecaun pitch) Not sure if they help much, but we do try...



[Jarv's sketch of sump chamber]

22-7-12 1:24 AM Clare, Rhys, Tetley & Jaru

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PETE!

22/7 2:18 am Tetley

3 pages are missing from the back of this logbook.... The first team down forgot to bring toilet paper. Apparently the paper I'm writing on is soft, strong and thoroughly absorbent! The camp setup team* did a great job though, X-Ray is as homely as ever, too nice at the moment to make me want to put my furry on too soon.

[*Jonny, Mike, Olly and Nico]

Great trip yesterday, we had hot tea and cake at end of Salvation. Digging and hammering for 40 mins, and I just got through the squeeze left at the end of last year's expo.

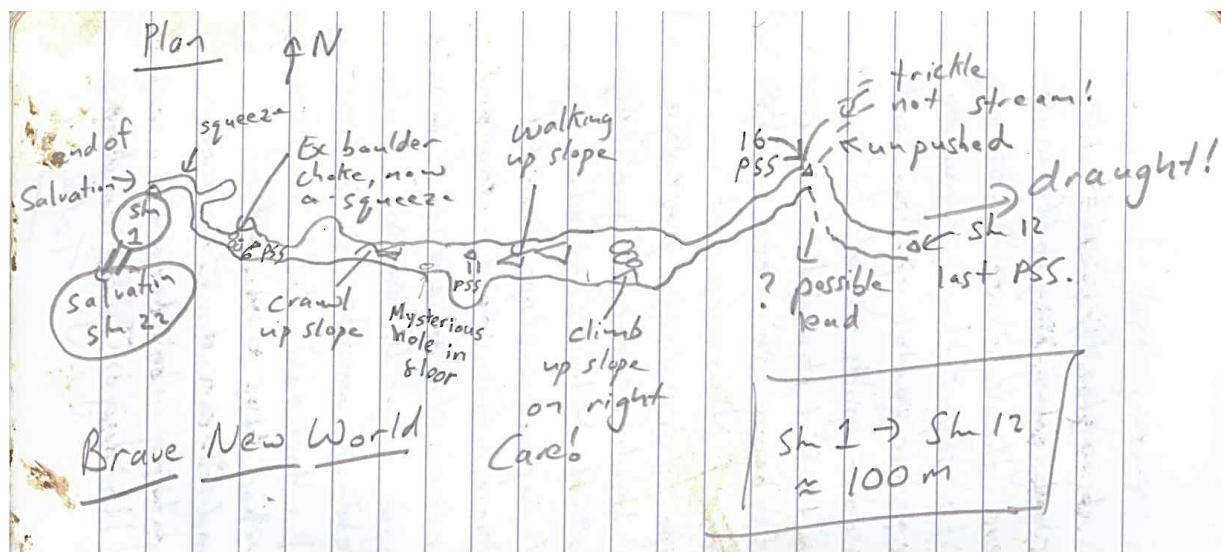
Back in new territory. More digging and hammering enlarged the squeeze. Rhys and I were now in a small chamber. Wind so loud through squeeze it sounds like the roar of a stream.

Damn, no way on, big boulder choke. Wait... maybe up there, no... yes... hanging death above. Tried to dig up but scary boulder led to a change of tactics, went right, horizontal, under said boulder. Scary digging up, but I had the draught and could see big passage above....

Soon I had a hole large enough to squeeze through. Told Rhys to smoke all my tobacco if I should die and went for it. Crash. Collapse, I was trapped. Well past the point where rescue is possible... Could just move left hand... slowly, with the help of Rhys, I dug myself out and we were through.

Its true to say that we weren't in the huge, horizontal passage with stals and gour pools that I'd dreamed about. But it didn't matter! The thrill of being in new, unexplored passage never wears off.

Up a slope (crawling) passage gets bigger heading east going up at $\approx 40^{\circ}$ to horizontal. We climbed up a slope until passage broke into what looks like an active streamway (though it only has a tiny trickle of water in it – not even enough to collect to drink). Upstream left unpushed, downstream has the draught! We surveyed ≈ 20 m down stream. Left draughting bedding plane crawl as the going lead.



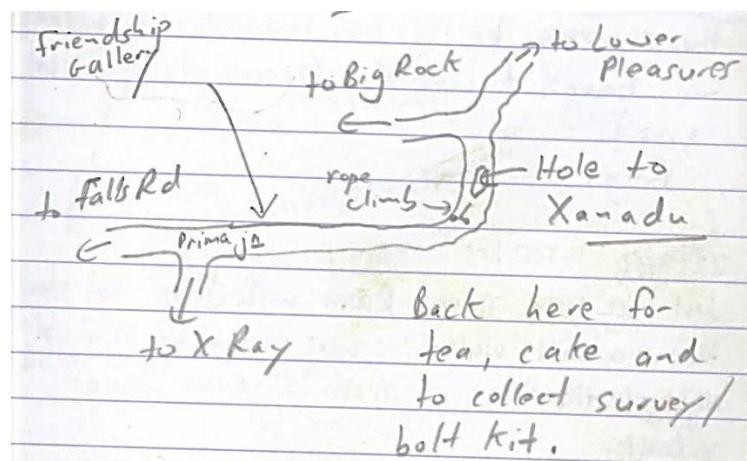
[Tetley's sketch of Brave New World]

22/7/2012 5:20 am Clare

Clare + Jarv off to push Throne Room. Expect to be back by 2pm.

22/7/12 6 a.m. Tetley + Rhys

We've found Xanadu!



[Tetley's directions to Xanadu]

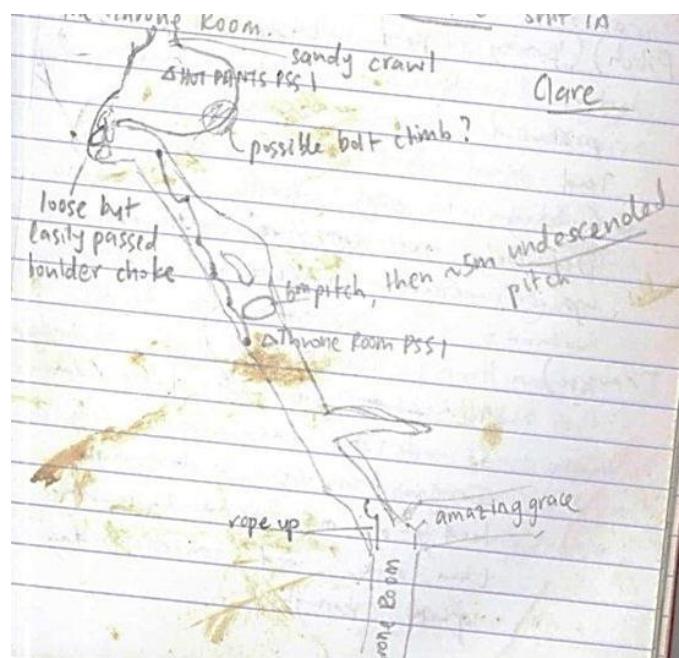
22/7/12 noon Rhys + Tetley

Back from Xanadu for tea (a pushing front 5 minutes from camp is great!). It goes! There's a deep narrow rift with a stream at the bottom. We descended right down to the stream and followed it down to a sump and followed it up to an impassable waterfall. At higher levels in the rift we may have found a sump bypass (going to explore that now) and there may be a waterfall bypass but we haven't looked. Great trip so far!

22/7/12 14:00 hrs Clare

Just back from Throme Room with Jarv; he's having a shit, water for cous cous is heating up, Night of the Proms on stereo – another day at X-Ray!

Exciting stuff from Rhys and Tet above! They aren't back yet, Xanadu must be going in a big way. And so the leads keep multiplying.... Jarv and I returned from Throme Room with two new leads: a pitch and a sandy crawl – both draughting. About 50m more in the book after Jarv bolted across the pitch at the end of Throme Room and up a slippery slope. The pitch goes, and at the end of the slope you get to chamber with a sandy crawlway. Our new finds are called HOT PANTS ("I've a plan, and it's as hot as my pants!"), after Jarv had another shit in the Throme Room.



[Clare's sketch of Hot Pants]

22/7/2012 14:38 Jarv

Mmm, oil-less couscous. It's been a while.

The Uneo proved its worth again attacking the two 'sort of leads' we left at the end of the Throne room.

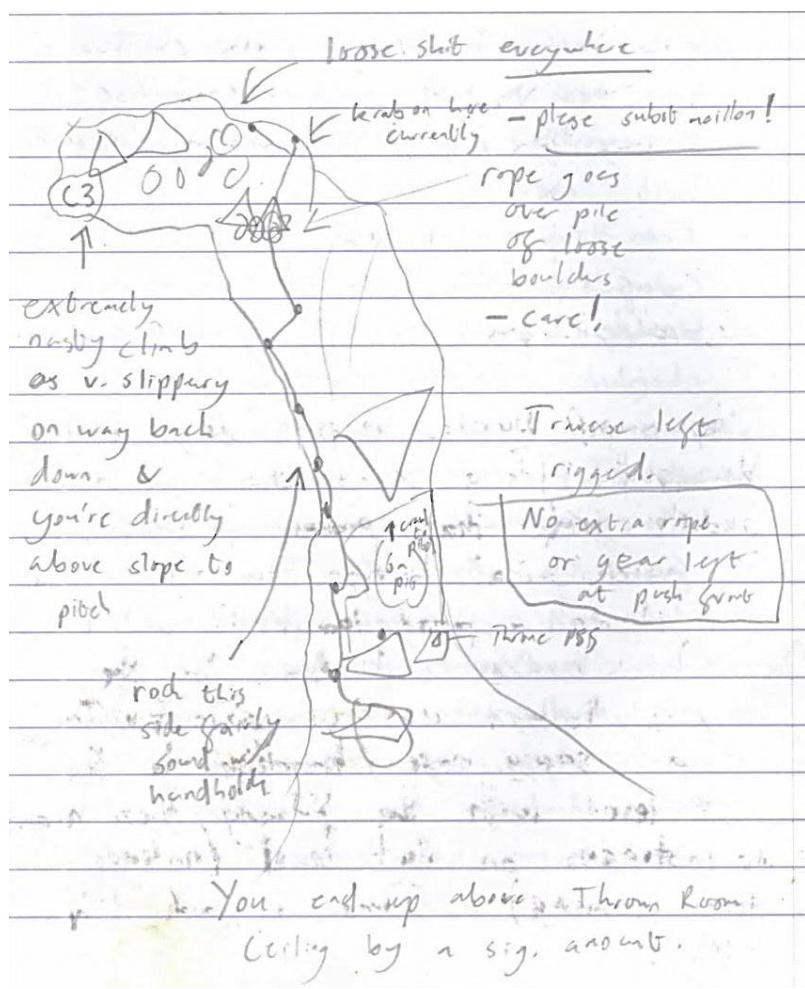
Pitch) Easily dropped with bolt on large boulder & tackle-bag rub protected descent. Crawl opposite lead immediately to ~4m draughting (sucking in) pitch. Possibly free climbable. Definitely goes somewhere, I returned up to attend the traverse.

Traverse) Horrific to bolt. Rock v. dodge. All foot holds loose/dubious. So much shit came down/on me. I found myself unintentionally landing on my cows-tails more than once, and once a day is quite enough.

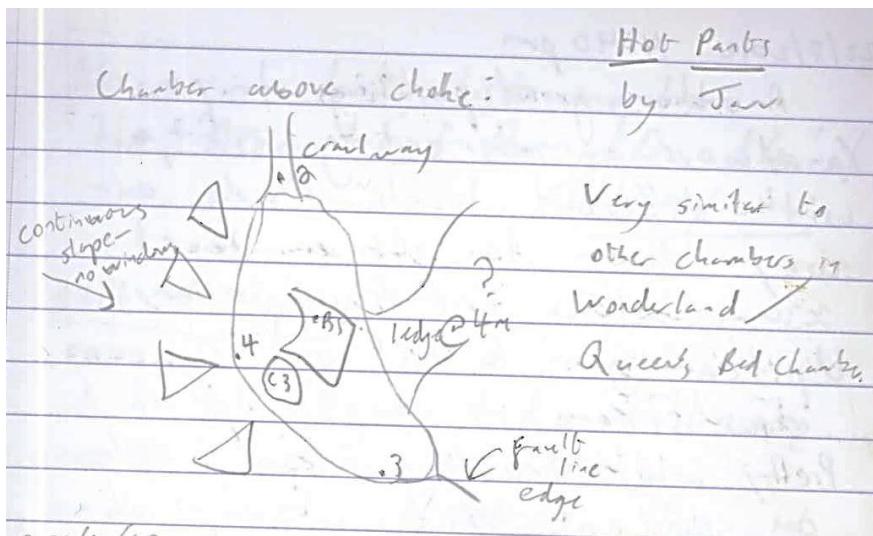
Traverse proceeds up 60° inclined slope of death. Minimally gardened to avoid slicing rope. Top section is a jammer/abseil section that goes over a massive pile of boulders, extreme care & possibly a re-belay bolt required.

From top of traverse (phew!) careful climb up slope & through boulder choke to a fairly impressive chamber ~7+m high with passage leading of at about ~4m above floor.

More importantly, a crawl goes from the edge of the chamber blowing into your face over a white mud/stone blockage that is easily diggable (Clare just slipped over). Apparently it continues on & on. Perhaps ideal for the small wrigglers amongst us.



[Jarv's Hot Pants Rigging Schematic]



[Jarv's sketch of Hot Pants chamber]

22/7/12 3:00 pm Rhys

The sump bypass goes! Its got a big draught. It's a muddy crawl with a puddle that proved too much of a psychological barrier to pass so we left it as a good lead. To get there go to Xanadu and down to the top of the rift, descend using the red rope as a safety rope/handline to the rift level with the Y-hang, then head downstream on that level (no leads down y-hang). T'was a good trip.

22/7/2012 4:40 pm Tetley

Another great pushing trip. Xanadu is an interesting rift, with different levels. Made our way down to stream level ≈30m below Friendship Gallery. Upstream goes to a wet squeeze, downstream to a sump. Pretty white rock, lovely ripples on pool of water, found what we think is a sump bypass. Two possible leads –

- (1) Push up high up stream
- (2) The strongly draughting muddy tube with puddle (sump bypass?) – sketch to follow later

Interesting surveying, Rhys did book for half of our 18 or so legs. ≈90m new cave found. A great change from last pushing trip to have X-Ray 10 mins from pushing front. Now in bed, listening to 'the Ascent of Run Doodle'.

22/7 8:50 pm Tetley

3 hours of (Žganje induced?) sleep and I'm awake again. No sign of a day train.... One would be good on the deep pushing front but bad for me, don't want to get kicked out of bed. On Saturday the stream sounded pretty loud (but not of the apocalyptic level Jonny and I heard last year. Now it sounds fairly normal.

22/7/12 9:01 pm Clare

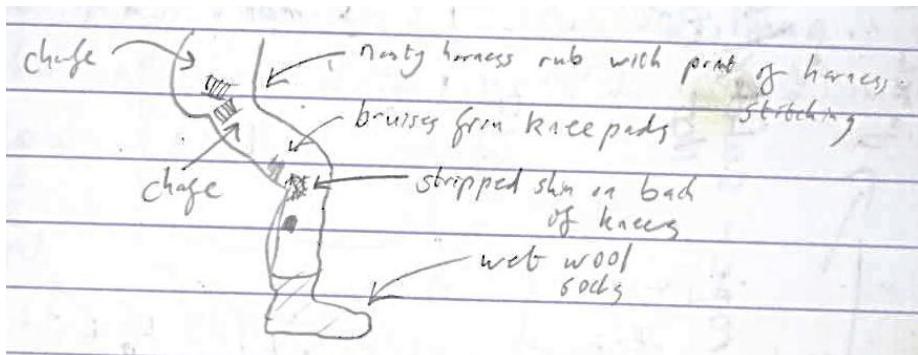
Really should be asleep, but am just on the wrong side of restless to do so! Fingers crossed the day train doesn't arrive to kick us out of bed... Rhys has just got up for a piss, only to find the piss BDH full... so he promptly went to Zimmer to empty it. What a trooper!

23/7/12 1:22 am Rhys

Sam and Mike have arrived looking for beds. Tetley has used jedi mind tricks and convinced Clare and Jarv to leave now. More sleep for us then out I think. I wish I could stay and push more but the surface and dossing calls.

23-7-12 1:34 AM Jarv

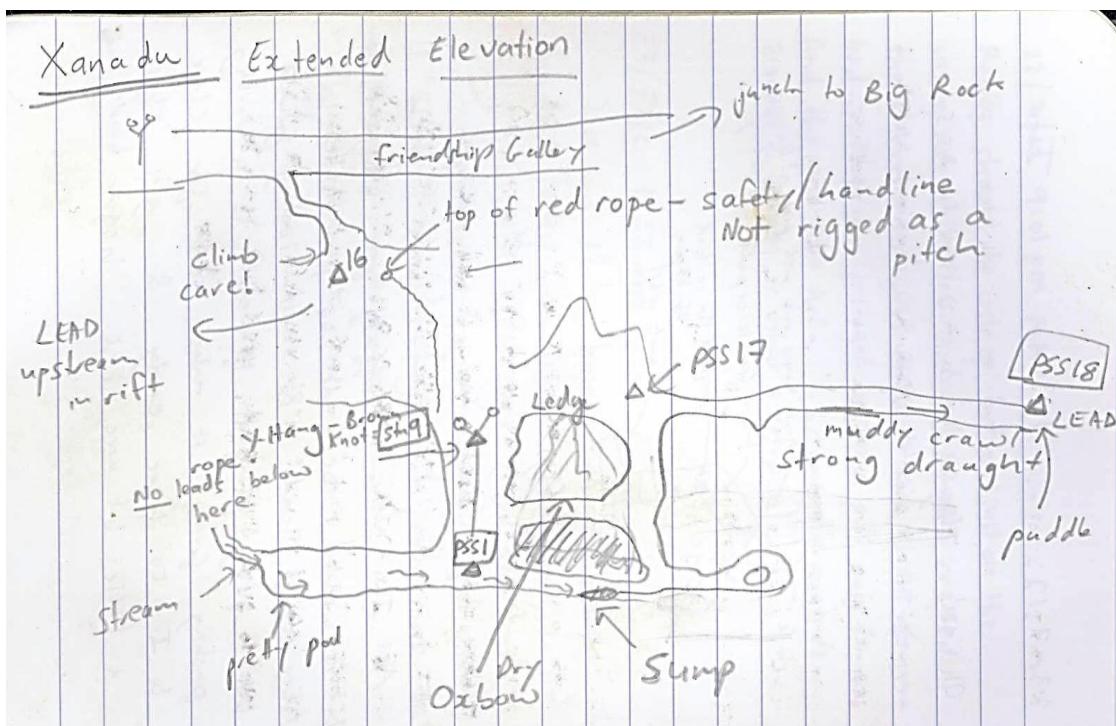
Oh no! They're here.... Mike & Sam arrive, in search of comfort from the storm.



[Jarv's drawing of his chafed legs]

Note to self: Wear leggings to avoid pain

As I'm rather suffering from the waste-down & it would be rude to push the near-camp leads & not looking forward to a long painful traverse to a worthy pushing front, it makes sense for Clare & I to leave early & give Rhys a little more rest before heading out.



[Tetley's extended elevation sketch of Xanadu]

23/7/2012 3:30 a.m. Tetley

A strange very broken night.... Jarv + Clare are now getting changed ready to go out (Blondie playing quietly). Mike + Sam in sleeping bags, together with Rhys + myself. Jarv drilling with electric drill..... (to make extra clothes rail).

23/7/2012 3:30 am Clare

Alas, Mike + Sam came down on the day train around midnight, just as we thought we were going to have another 8 hrs in bed... Oh well, guess we have to hit the surface sometime. Will be good to see the sun again. It's been a great camping trip, cheers Jarv! And Tet + Rhys for making X-Ray fun. Excited to enter our survey data! Will be back soon to push more leads, good luck team 2012!

Tetley

Some thoughts on pushing beyond Brave New World

- It's a very serious trip – don't underestimate it, even a club rescue might not be feasible, a major injury would be a disaster best to think RESCUE IMPOSSIBLE
- Take Water. Rhys + I took 1.5 litres each, this was about right. No water in cave from Zimmer onwards.
- Recommended: a brew kit, (meths + fish tin). Hot tea and hot fish sandwiches went down a treat!
- Allow a minimum of 4.5 hrs each way between X-ray and the pushing front.
- Stuck in Paradise – Rhys + I went down and up in sections, one at a time, i.e. I went down to a point where I was safe from falling rocks then stayed at rebelay until Rhys joined me, we then repeated this. This worked very well!
- On two sections on way down rope had caught around rock/flake so was very taut. Down prussiked/Italian hitched down.
- ≈20m of yellow rope is at top of Stuck in P.
- ≈40m of rope has been left at end of Salvation.
- Rhys and I had a 17 hr trip.
- Some draught from Amazing Grace all the way through to Brave New World pushing front. What's driving it????

23-7-12 03:52 Jarv

So long X-Ray!

Another fine 60 hour stay (check-in till check-out).

Some great pushing, we've left some good leads – just treat the Throne Room traverse & new deep bits with respect – they're not as protected as should be & rescue from both would be difficult if not improbable.

Off with the camp rubbish & flat drill batteries, and a too-exciting mix of methanol & petrol (that first day in the Bivi mix up still haunting us).

Safe caving, good luck pushing & see you again as soon as my sores heal!

23/7/12 9:45 a.m. Tetley

Rhys and I left the surface 85 hrs ago. Rhys throughout has seemed utterly unfazed by his first camp, deepest trip, longest days pushing, caving with me (!) etc. etc.... Mike snoring on and off, Rhys + Sam lying silently in pits. I'm fully awake now, listening to Bach (and Mike's nose) and drinking tea. This cave and the cavers who push are truly amazing, the combination of the two is something very special indeed! It's strange, normally after this much time underground I'm very keen to see the sun; on this trip, however, I haven't really even thought about it. Is this a good thing or a bad thing???

23/7/12 10:24 am Rhys

Weird 19 hours in bed, was awake for about 9 hours of it I think. Tetley making tea. Inevitable trip to surface rolls closer.

23/7/12 10:30 am Sam

Don't think I got a great deal of sleep last night. I was plenty warm enough... but it was difficult to drop off. Perhaps because of Mike's snoring? Anyway camp is a pretty cool place, and I don't feel quite as weirded out as I thought I would be. Trip down was ok, but long, because I got caught up on the last couple of pitches. Up to then, everything was fine, and motivation was high. Enthusiasm did start to flag... until camp was reached. I like it here...

23/7/12 12:50 pm Rhys

Finally kitted up and heading out. It's been an epic experience and I'm looking forward to coming back, perhaps to push Brave New World.

23/7/12 1 p.m. Tetley

A great trip – thanks Rhys! Beer (and hopefully good weather) up top. Happy cave hunting everyone!

23/7/12 13:30 Mike

Breakfast followed closely by lunch with the Flaming Lips providing a 'spaced-out' soundtrack; Nice to be back in camp, my best nights sleep in X-ray as witnessed by my proud snoring! (Just prod me...)

Off for two gentle pushing trips this afternoon (I didn't think SAM or I want more at the moment) but it feels good to be surrounded by Tetley/Jarv's enthusiasm and successes, hopefully we can provide more answers to this Mountains mysteries!

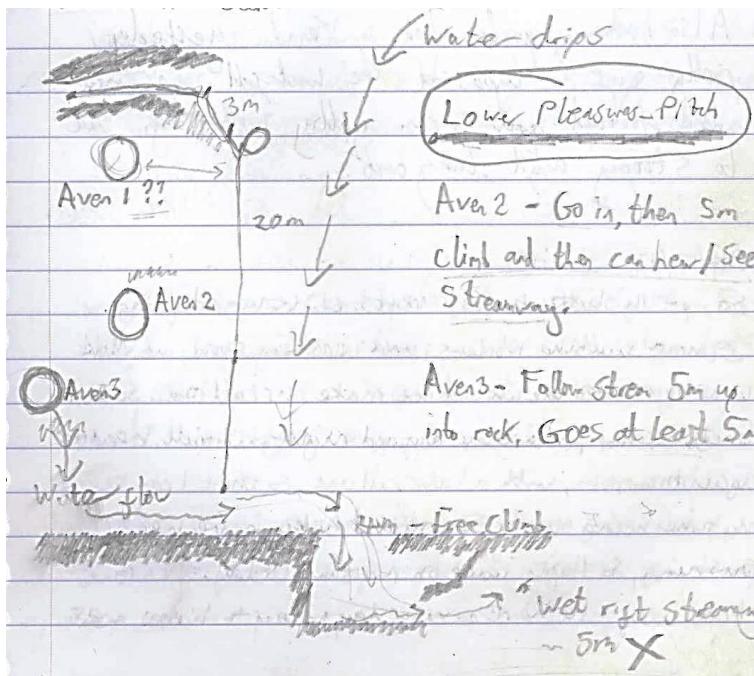
- Lower Pleasures (check bottom pitch, Avens ok)
- Xanadu: check higher rifts etc

Back at Camp by 10pm

23/7 20:00 Mike

Back from a simple pushing trip with a few positive leads found at Lower Pleasures.

Worth another trip see overleaf for two avens that are going leads.



[Mike's sketch of leads at Lower Pleasures]

23/07/12 20:05 Sam

Mike and I just got back from our trip. Although not particularly successful, as the first trip of its kind for me it was hugely valuable. We first headed off for lower pleasures. Getting there was smooth enough except a fair amount of time was spent removing a boulder from one of the crawls. Once at the bottom, I poked my head around the potential lead. Sloping up to the right was too tight; the only possible way was ahead through a small rift with water at the bottom. (wet rift streamway). Although I got a little way, the streamway narrowed so that to continue one would have to be on their side, lying in water. Further on, there was a very sharp corner which made it even more implausible to try and pass. So, my first lead and a dead end! I then went up the first rope and waited while Mike checked out another couple of leads, in a couple of avens. Apparently these are promising leads, along with a third aven which is harder to get to.

We then on our way back had a look around Xanadu. Nothing more was found but it was fun to root around in such recently discovered passages. So, I enjoyed the trip. It was short and relatively simple, which I definitely required. I'm beginning to realise that I have a long way to go before I can consider more serious trips. But these past couple of days have been an amazing experience, and maybe one day I'll be able to come back. Camp is still awesome. Hopefully tonight I'll sleep better than last night, especially for getting to the surface tomorrow...

24/7/12 Sam

Second night at underground camp was better... I got a lot more sleep. Looking forward to being back on the surface, despite feeling so immensely comfortable down here right now.

24/7/12 Mike

Also had a quick look in Xanadu yesterday; pretty sure I bypassed the waterfall upstream and followed for 20m getting wetter legs due to stooping until turning back.....

24/7/12 13:00 Sam

So, pretty shitty turn of events. I struggled going up Zimmer until the rebelay, and was very slow, and Mike was concerned we would not make our call out. So I'm back in camp for another day and night, and will head out again tomorrow, with a later call out, so that I can

take my time being slow. Jonny and Niko have headed out pushing, so I'm in camp on my own today. It's the best way; to have an easy day today to have max energy for tomorrow. My enthusiasm towards caving is at a minimum right now. I would much rather be up top, but I'm ok lying around down here. Hopefully when I am out, I'll be able to laugh about all this, but right now I feel pretty damn awful.

6ish Oli

Camp X ray once again! It's far more pleasant than the surface has been. Time for a quick smoke, piss, and 3 hours sleep to prepare for an unexpected night train.

Niko comes back about 9:20 I haven't really slept much, but some nice sugary tea is coursing through my veins

P.S. Thara snored for about an hour also, somehow, he managed to squeeze in a sleep.

24/7 Thara

Nico: I don't want to see Gergely now. I'll be with another caver and he'll be with another. It feels like cheating (on him.)

Oli: (answering the question of switching to night train) more caving for the same amount of sleeping

Sam: When Oli and thara got here, I slept with them.

24/7 22:40 Sam

My afternoon was spent in camp, watching videos – Withnail and I, comedies, cartoons. I was pretty happy eating and watching. When Olli and Thara arrived, I tried to get some sleep whilst they did; I reckon I got about an hour and a half of sleep. Nico and Jonny back now, and food.

25/7 10:01 Oli

Thara and I got back about 8:30, cooked some cous cous with large quantities of ghee (someones genius addition to camp) resulted

[I CAN'T READ THIS SHIT.]

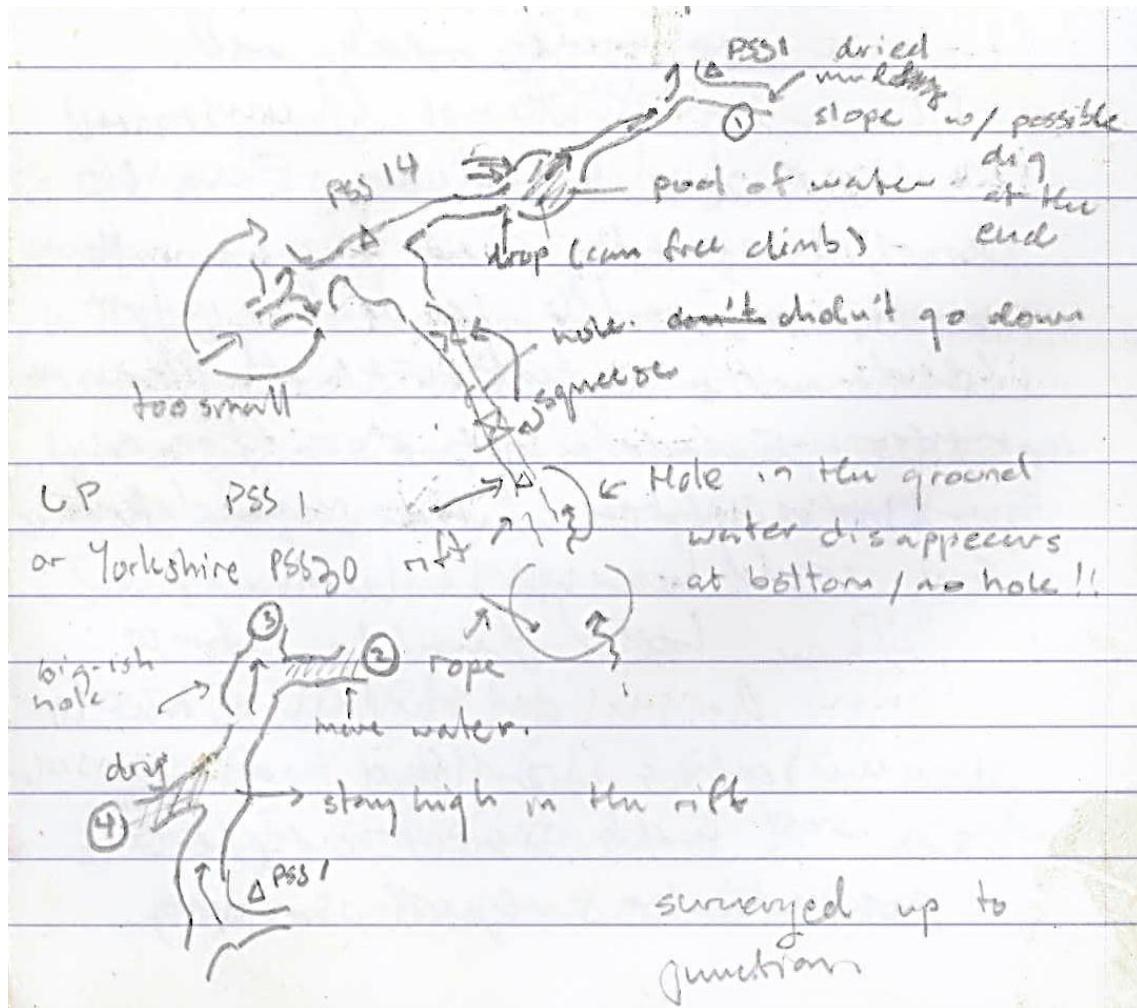
25/7/12 830 Thara

Back from lower pleasures.

Still going horizontally if you are inclined towards Captain K.

Killed Sam's Aven 1,2,

Possible wet climb up Aven 3?



[Thara's sketch of Lower Pleasures]

at the bottom it is like Yorkshire cave!

12:15 25/7/12 Jarv

Here for a spot of Tea & to escort Sam out. I've always wanted to run an escort service.

12:40 25/7/2012 Tetley

Back again! Rhys and I got out fine 2 days ago – we had 93 hrs underground in all. Now here for daytripping, quick cup of tea and then back up top with Jarv and Sam.

11:24 Jonny 26/7/2012

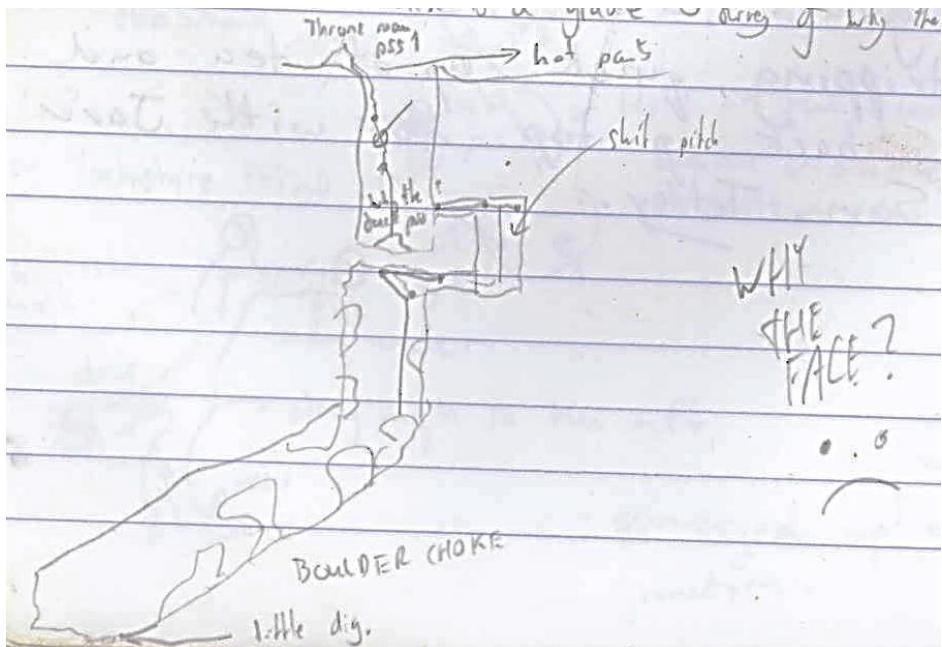
Woops, haven't written anything in the logbook yet... Been down for 3 days and I've had a great time. Helped Sam out on our first pushing day so had ~1/2 a day in the throne room, not too much got done.

Went back yesterday and dropped 2 pitches to a boulder choke. Big wind but it died at a dig ☺

The lead at hot pants seems promising.

Overall, learnt a lot, had a good time and I feel I could stay down for a few more days. To be honest, that probably would not be healthy.

The surface is calling!!



[Jonny's rigging guide for Why the Face?]

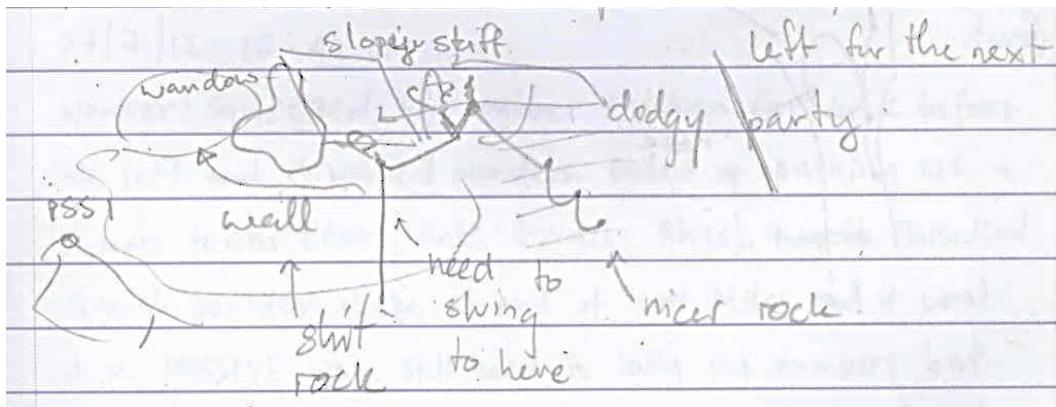
26/7 12:20 Thara

Oli + Thara went to Throne room / Hot pants to bolt climbing – Epic Fail!

- 1) Our BDH for water leaked = only had 1 Lt to share $\frac{1}{2}$ of which was drunk without this knowledge (~2:00)
- 2) Oli lost a spanner at Red Baron crawl (found later).

-left at 12:30 after mega faff

Attempted bolt climb at the top at Hot Pants. Left for the next party.



[Thara's rigging guide for Hot Pants bolt climb]

Left there: ~80m rope + tackle sac

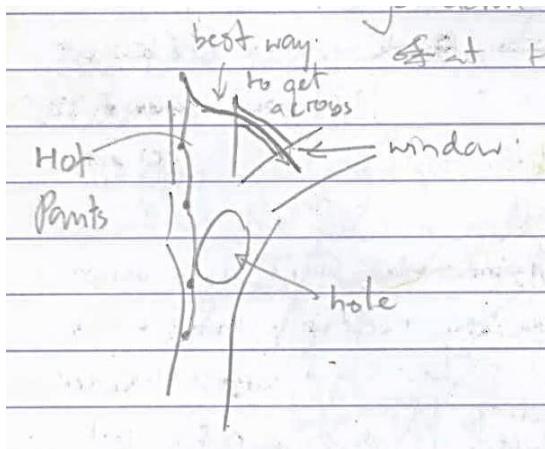
Hopefully someone can finish bolt climbs.

Back by 10:30

Possible name: Peep Show

Note: there is a lead in the floor near PSS Throne Room 5 need checking.

Also haven't set rope up to go down to the right window at Hot Pants.



[Thara's sketch of Hot Pants window]

26/7/12 5:40 pm Clare

Arrived with Kate, Rhys and Gergely appeared shortly after. Water crisis at camp! Just put 3 daren drums at Zimmer. Gergely cooking now, we will push Lost Miles and/or Brave New World once we have eaten meat.

26/7/12 10 pm Thara

After 54 hours underground time to surface and rise like a phoenix! Thanks Oli. Good caving all round.

27/7/12 10:42 AM Clare

Wowser! Squeezed the rubber chicken for luck before we left and it worked wonders. Ended up pushing as a 4 man team (Clare, Kate, Gergely, Rhys). Chiselled through boulder choke at end of Lost Miles and it went in a MASSIVE way. Still need to tally the numbers but I wouldn't be surprised if we topped 500m! And it's still going. Found lovely lovely stal chamber too. Lots to write up, surveys/maps to draw, but tea and food first I think. And sleep.

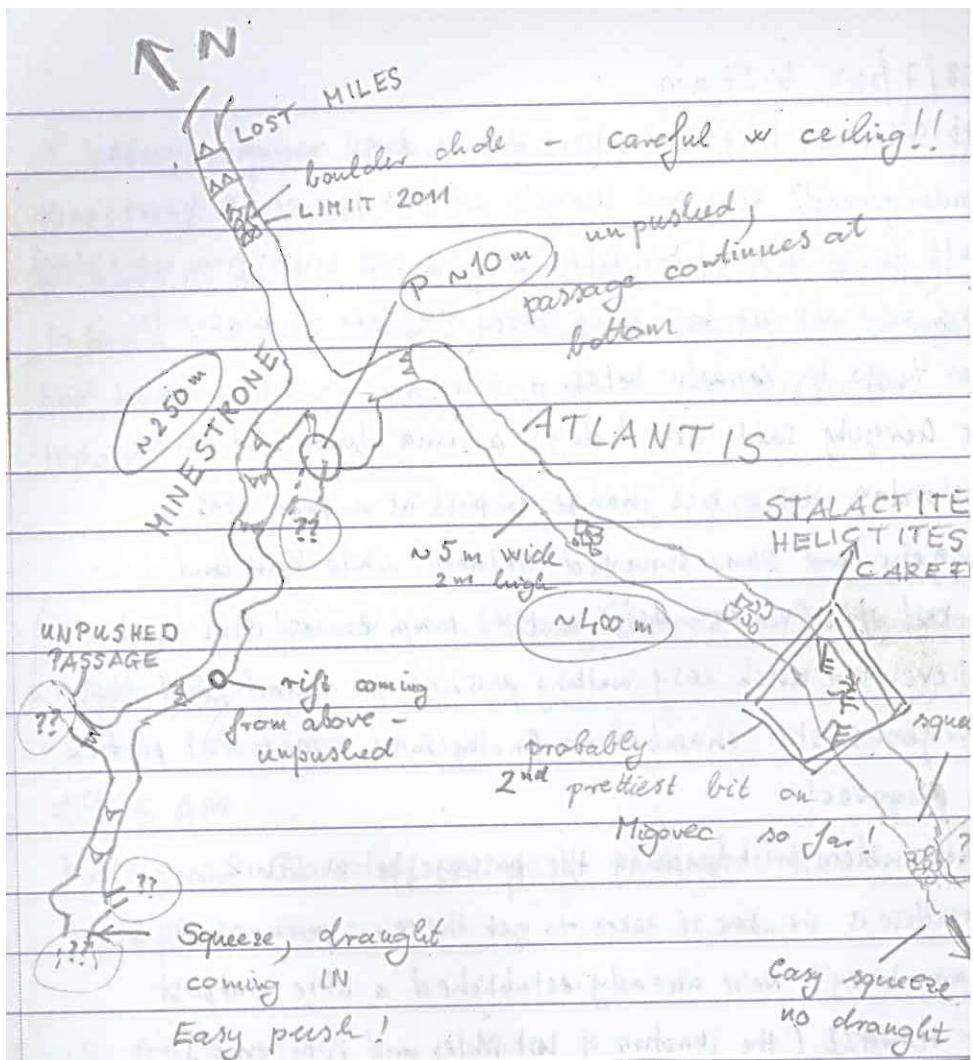
7/28 6 am Gergely

Yesterday pushed through the boulder choke we left w Izi last year, the trick was to have a chisel w us. The passages down there seem to be endless! Found about 650m; mostly surveyed with the laser by Rhys & me (loads of 30m legs). Still loads of leads (map to come). Found water at the bottom of Stuck in Paradise & named that chamber Hawaii – a possible campsite. A bit epic trip of ~21 hours.

Now off to Minotaur rift, checking out the squeeze at the end which follows the fault line. Also changing some rope and checking the wind.

Good luck!

No music – too bad.



[Gergely's sketch survey of Atlantis and Minestrone]

Clare

LEFT AT HAWAII (PSS Junction between Lots Miles/Penitence)

- 1.5 L water
- 100ml meths
- Empty fish tin (for burner)
- 5 choc bars, peanuts, ginger cake, marzipan

There is also a drip/trickle below Stuck in Paradise that will fill up a daren drum (muddy water though)

28/7/2012 6:27 a.m. Clare

It's Saturday already! Where do the days go when you're underground? Rhys and Gergely are just beginning their faff to go to Minotaur Rift. Kate is still broken from yesterday's trip so I will let her sleep more. May try to persuade her to go to Xanadu later.

As Gergely said, grand day's pushing down Lost Miles yesterday. Was a nice change to push as a four, plus Gergely and Rhys surveyed Atlantis while Kate and I fucked off (very slowly!) back to camp. Bonus! Still can't believe how much easy walking passage we found. And that gorgeous stal chamber – finally some proper stal pretties on Migovec!

The problem with pushing the passage below Stuck in Paradise is the time it takes to get here... perhaps a little 2 man bivvy? We've already established a little outpost at HAWAII (the junction of Lost Miles and Penitence) – there's a brew kit (meths (100ml), fish tin burner), bits of choc/food, at least 1.5l of water. There is a trickle of muddy water that fills a daren drum quickly at the bottom of Stuck in Paradise. Maybe a 4 man team to bring down buff bags, roll

mats and pots, candles etc, then 2 push while 2 sleep, before swapping? Hmm... well, I know I'm going back to Brave New World/Atlantis/Minestrone regardless! We have no music at camp – came back from pushing to find a note from Thara + Oli saying the charger had broken and they were taking it to the surface for repairs.

(Rhys + Gergely callout 8pm, expect to be back 4 or 5 pm)

9:15 AM Clare

Kate and Clare off to push Xanadu. Back by 4pm.

2:00 pm Kate

After some route finding in jungle rift found the pushing front of Xanadu. By this time already I had foolishly got wet and got even wetter crawling through puddle at end of Xanadu. Passage quickly gets bigger after puddle and after a small climb there is a pitch left unrigged that can be pushed. We started surveying the ~30m of new passage but before we could connect to Xanadu got too cold and instruments too muddy to carry on. Only 2-3 legs to connect but unfortunately there will be a station in the puddle. V. cold still so writing illegible & unintelligible. Defo learnt my lesson though. Don't get wet whilst pushing! Xanadu is cool though, you should go.

28/7/12 2:10 pm Clare

Kate and I went to Xanadu for some easy pushing. Named our finds EUPHRATES. It is possible to not get too wet crawling through the puddle. Unfortunately what was nice dryish sandy passage after the puddle is now a muddy crawl!

* EUPHRATES PSS 11 and Xanadu PSS 18 need to be tied in. It is only 3 survey legs. Kate got hypothermic and instruments got too muddy too read so we turned back. At the end of Euphrates is a 5-10m pitch, draughting. Bring rope!

Will try to sleep now in case a day train arrives to kick us out of bed.

28/7/2012 9:20 pm Gergely

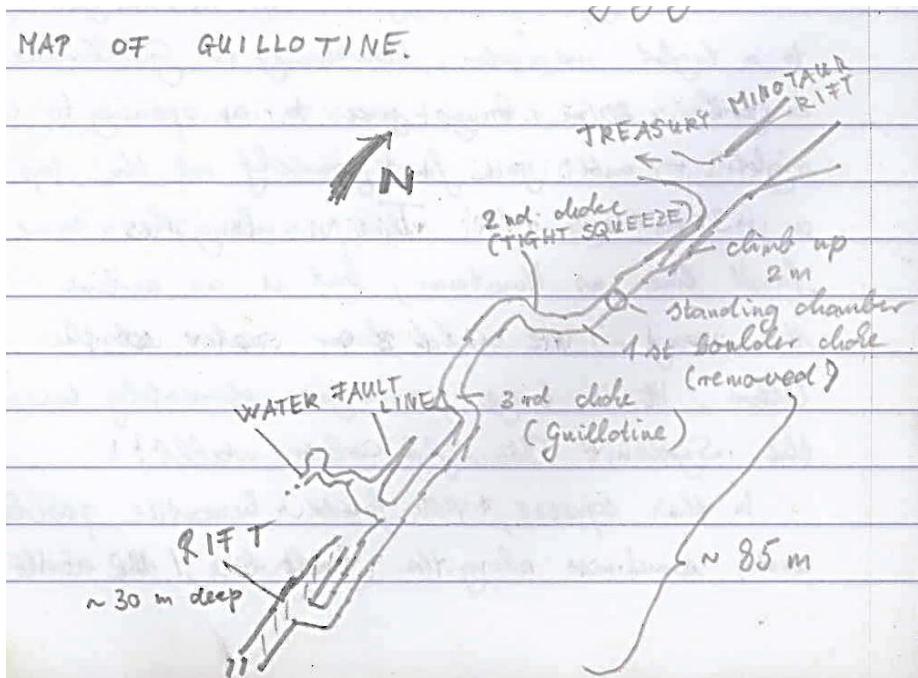
Just got back & had dinner & tea & Vitaminski with Žganje, which is great. Today we pushed the squeeze at the far end of Minotaur rift. It was pushed by JKP to a boulder choke before. The place is interesting because it directly follows the fault line of Minotaur rift. So we headed there with Rhys. On the way there, we rerigged the handline to Leopard, the top rebelays of Cheetah, and the traverse in Prince Consort road. And had a look at Queen's Bedchamber – the climb seems to be doable! So, the crawling passage goes. But not easily. The passage is usually 0,5-1m high, 1m wide, full of sharp rocks, and both the ceiling and the side walls tend to fall off. We got through the first boulder choke in about 2 hours. Then, immediately after, found a squeeze with 3 large boulders, which we couldn't remove. Luckily, there is just enough space to squeeze through (but it is tight for us as well!).

The third choke gave the name to the passage. So there the continuation goes down on the left. However, large bits of rock are on top. A fat rock of size ~1.5m x 1m was just in front of the passage, but when we tried to move it, it started to slide down & almost blocked the continuation. We managed to stabilise it somewhat, but as you go down, your head is just below it... Good luck! So, the name is GUILLOTINE.

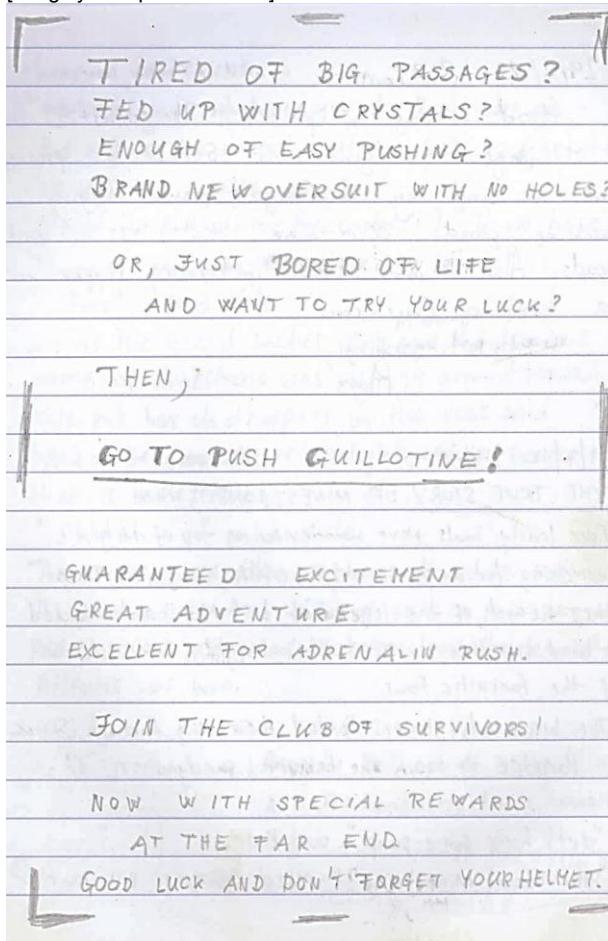
Altogether, we found about 85m of squeezing passage. Then, first we found a small chamber off to the right with water, and the fault line ~10m long, ~5m high. The stream goes off to a tight meander. Continuing in Guillotine, a further 30m brings you to an opening to the right – and you find yourself at the top of a ~30m high rift! This is along the same fault line as Minotaur, but is an active streamway. – we could hear water at the bottom. It is large, and goes directly towards the System. Beautiful white walls!

In the squeeze, we found hematite pebbles and sometimes along the fault line, the rock looks like marble, which would be very nice apart from the fact that it constantly falls on your head.

So, altogether, we are ~100 m closer to the System on this level, and the continuation is at the bottom of a large, open rift – sounds quite good...
Now, time to sleep and hope nobody comes.. We managed to shift back to the day train.
Good luck.



[Gergely's map of Guillotine]



[Gergely's recruiting pitch for Guillotine]

29/7/12 8:27 am Rhys

Good 2 days of pushing. The fantastic 4 managed to find over 600m of passage and me and my 1 Gergely-power digging machine found 80m more! Left lots of good leads. Also I made dinner yesterday 'Pepper with a hint of Cous-cous!

Good luck pushing.

29/7/12 9:36 am Gergely, Kate, Rhys, Clare AKA The Fantastic Four

THE TRUE STORY OF MINESTRONE

Four lonely souls were wandering on top of Migovec searching for a cause worthy of fighting for. Then they heard of the legend of Lost Miles and decided to band together to create the almighty caving force of the Fantastic Four.

The brave adventurers battled their way through Stuck in Paradise to reach the beautiful sandy shores of Hawaii.

"Let's have some soup," said Kate.

"How about Minestrone?" asked Gergely. All four cheer in excitement.

"Now guys, whatever you do, don't step on this rock or the minestrone will go everywhere," Kate said in a superior air.

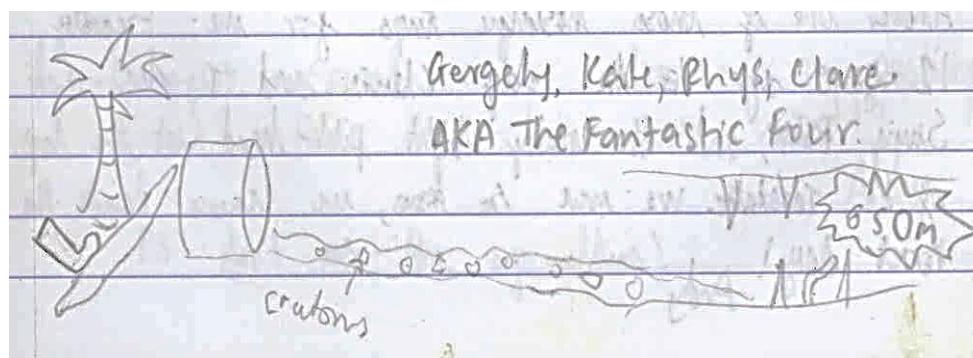
"Should we put one or two sachets? If we have one we can save the other for later."

"Two!" said Kate.

Just as the second sachet went in and the delicious aroma of minestrone was wafting around Hawaii, Kate put her clodhoppers on the rock and toppled the almighty power source that is minestrone.

"Ohhhh..." said Kate.

The rivers of spilt minestrone flowed towards the promised land of 650m of walking passage. And thus the passages of Minestrone and the beautiful Atlantis was born.



[Kate's illustration for The True Story of Minestrone]

30/7 8:30 am Clewin

Andy Jurd & Clewin Griffith

So Andy and I just finished probably my comfiest night at an underground camp so far. Camp X-Ray has come a long way since the first cold & draughty version I stayed in with Rik back when we pushed Big Rock Candy Mountain and Highway 32.

We're off to push Minestrone and hopefully not get lost on the way. It's going to be a long day...

29th July 2012 – Andy

Andy + Clewin

Another one of those nostalgic trips for me: Exactly 12 years ago to the day Clewin and I discovered Swing Pitch, and the really tight pitch-head at the top of the Tessolater. We were so keen, we came back the next day!

30th July 2012 – Andy

Clewin and Andy

15 hours to the pushing front and back...

Even if we didn't get lost on numerous occasions, there still wouldn't have been time to do any actual pushing! What a waste of a trip – but good exercise taking rope/drill/electric bits and bobs/survey stuff there and back!

That muddy pitch with the forgettable name is a bit rubbish too – yuk! (there is a water bottle under the drip to the left of the last rope).

The lead at Minestrone is a bit rubbish too – the passage becomes completely blocked with rubble, but even though there is a draft, it would need more than the two available (plus a JCB) to clear it!

Suggest a second camp closer to the pushing front! – But there's not much water!!!

PS don't use the eye-lotion!

PPS – too cold for the class to work – suggest taking the cylinder to bed with you!

Jarv 31-7-12 3:51 PM

Dropping by on a solo bounce.

I deliver:

1 fin
1 faber 7L 232
w/ 220 bar air
8 kg lead on a belt

Trying to squeeze 1 lukewarm coffee out of the gas canister – gobble a few midgets & then depart for the surface.

Mmm, gas died – onto the meths!

Interesting trip down – rope work was OK but arduous.
Freeclimbs were scary – 20 kg of extra weight made stepping down to a foothold v. dodge!

Camp seems nice – a pity to see it so empty though ---

So:

Welcome Team August

- Good pushing & fun times

1/8 /2012 JONNNY (+ NICO) 19:00

Ahhh!! Back in camp!

Had a morning/afternoon working super-hard in the bivi (ahem...) and a faltering of enthusiasm when entering the cave. As such, our pushing for today shall be limited to pushing play on the music player.

Checked that the drill is ready for a trip to Throne Room tomorrow and it all appears to be in shape

OH NO, can't get music player to work ☺

Nico:

"I stopped listening for 3 seconds because I was desperately trying to get my cock out"

2/8/12 Izi

Mawer in Izi

Prvo sva splezala enih šm v Minotaur Rift, gre še naprej, samo je plast zemlje enih km na dolyem, ki je nisva vspela preplezat. Pol sva šla v Queen bed chamber, tam sva splezala 6m višje od lani, že zmer je do vrha enih 6m + je treha traverzo da prides do dobre skale.

2/8/12 JANA

JANA and GERGELY
GUILLOTINE -> RAZOR

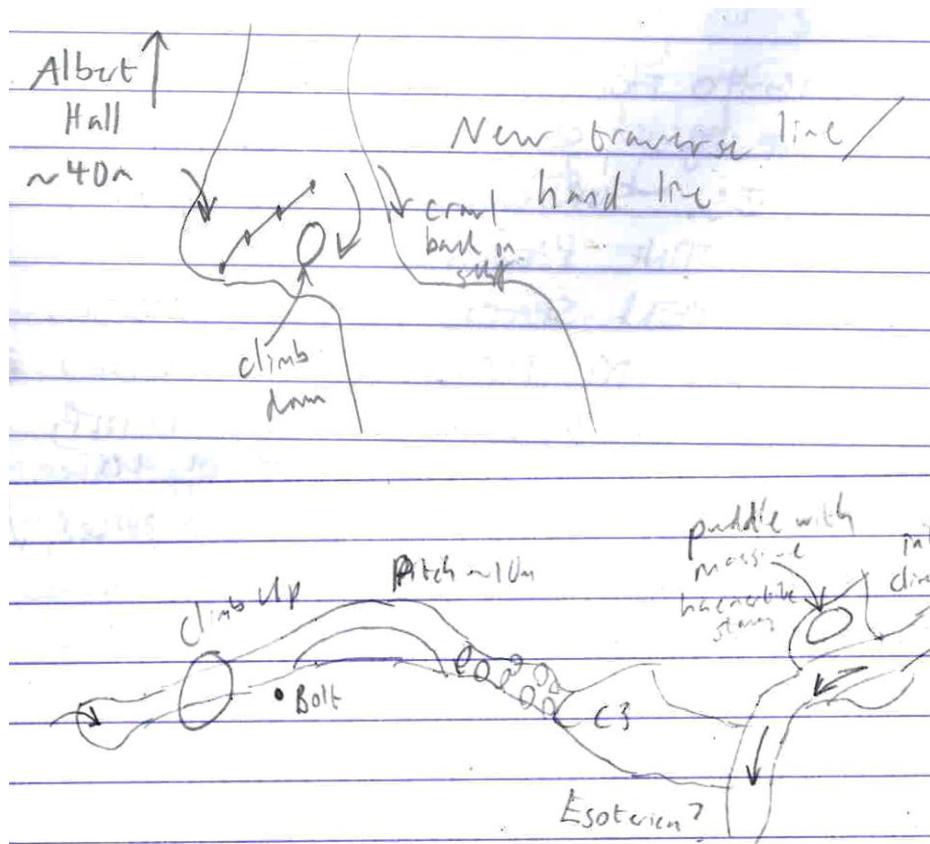
Amazing to follow the fault line in such way, so close. Very tight in places. Surveyed about 60m. From Guillotine passage you pop out in open space, called Razor. "Dead" as to tight to follow the crack, possibility to climb up (~20m) look like could be a higher passage. Way back was shitty, dragging 2 bags up 100m tight slope.

Time to rest now.

Jarv – 2/8/12

Frustrating time down 'Esoterica' – if that is where we were.

I think that Jan & James traversed over the pitch we wer trying to get down. We failed – driver broke.



[Jarv's sketch of Esoterica]

All rather curious really – very interesting. Beautiful pure Haemertite & I believe two independent streams within 10m.

3/8/12 9:30 pm Jonny

Awaking form their slumber.
Jonny + Nico are
THE PISS BANDITS.

We had a productive day in Hot Pants / Peep Show / Undercover Squirrel and left a drafting climb for people.

Now we must head to the Surface.

3-8-2012 Niko

Alrite wackos, my last morning in UG camp. Quite a trip. Doing these couple of pushes Johnny & me formed this deadly & amazing combo "the Piss Bandits!". Overall we found 3 passage thingies "Why the Face?" "Peep show" "Undercover squirrel". Loads fun, glad I was part of it this year. Rock on UG camp, Sayonara from Niko

3-8-12 Jarv

Another glorious morning at Camp X-Ray – this one actually a morning. Bowie on the fixed stereo. Our plan: Watership Down, below Daydreamers/Insomnia/Republica/Mad Cow. A long way down – to -900m.

- Be very careful with the AA->MP3 lead – just charge the player & then put it somewhere safe
- Don't use comf for a pillow – it get soaks with condensation!

3/8/12 Jana

JANA, IZI, MAWR, GERGELY = The Eastern EU team

WENT TOGETHER TO HAWAII CAMP, WHERE WE SPLIT IN 2 TEAMS:

GA + NM -> BRAVE NEW WORLD
JC + IM -> ATLANTIS

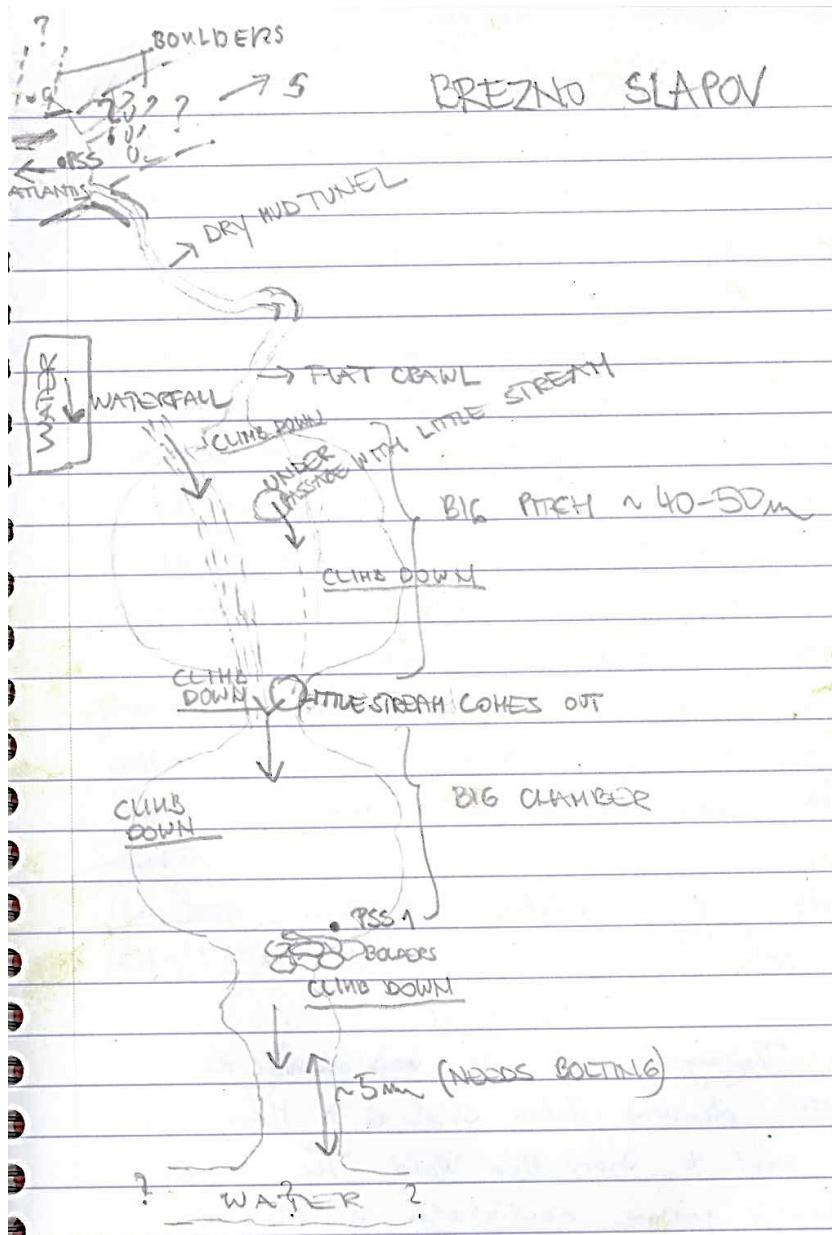
JANA and IZI

We have not seen the new stals etc, so we went to have a look + to take some photos. According to Gergely the way on was ? and tight. We found 2 ways on we chose the Right one as it looked less tight. After a squeeze we went down a small dry muddy slope popping into very small "chamber". From here a super tight squeeze (between rocky ceiling and floor) for about 10m. A water was heard already from the beginning now the noise just getting louder. We came out like at the bottom side of a very big pitch above. A new big waterfall coming down and a good amount of water going down. We free-climbed down to the bottom of it. Got wet under the waterfall. Very big place, looks like a canyon, we continue climbing down, following water and eventually stop as rope is needed to get down. As far as Izi could see there were water pools.

Very interesting finding after so many dry passages.

A place where we need to go back!

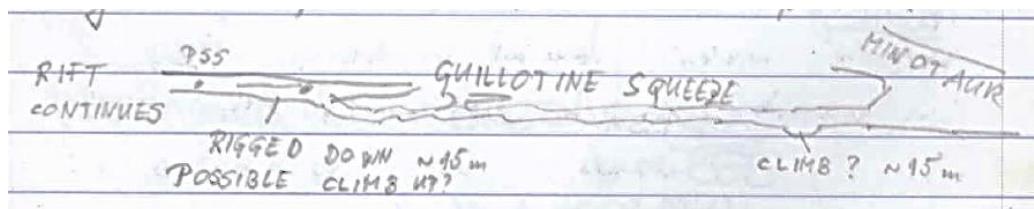
We named it: BREZNO SLAPOV -> Waterfall Pitch



[Jana's sketch of Brezno Slapov]

3 August 11.30 am Gergely

Once again, in camp, with 'Team Eastern Europe'! the first day, we went to Minotaur Rift. Izi + Zejc climbed the window on the right and then continued the climb in Queen's Bedchamber; both projects are to be finished. Jana and me went to Guillotine to rig the rift at the end. We managed to get there with the 2 tacklesacks and rigged the pitch, but it dies at the bottom. However, above us in the ~10m height a wider space is visible. The rift is ~30m high. You can also see a window of the continuing rift towards South. Another possibility would be to gain the height at the beginning of the crawl; one can see ~15m up here.



[Gergely's sketch of Guillotine]

On Thursday/Friday night, we checked the lower extensions below Stuck in P. Mawer and me went to Brave New World. The obvious phreatic passage continuation is blocked badly by collapsed ceiling (massive boulders). Possible way should be towards the left, but we did not manage to get through. It will be hard work. Strangely, we think that the draught going out there is less than before. Part of it also goes up in the rift/stream on the left, that we climbed ~10m, but it gets too small after a small pool. We also tried to find a bypass to no avail. I think that the eastern front will be hard to push.

On the other hand, Jana + Izi's find is super interesting. The main S passage (Atlantis) continues the same direction; I checked the pitch at Atlantis & Minestrone (free climbable) and the passage goes at the bottom! Plus the unwalked passage off Minestrone. Great leads there! The southern front goes goes!

Good luck.

3/8/2012 15:00 Tetley

Back here with Rhys after 4 days of holiday in London! We're off now to look at Brave New World, may then check out other leads below Stuck in Paradise.

We'll leave note(s) to say where we are! Back here by 11am (4/8/12) at the latest!

3/8/12 18:00 Dan

DAVE +DAN off to Big Rock. Back ≈20-00

4/8/12 1100 Izi

Gergely, Mawr, Jana in Izi

Prenooil 2 dni v kamp. Potiskal guillotine, Queen bed chamber in Minotaur rift. Pri plezanhe nam ni vspek prit do vrha, tko da naslednje leto. Zej je pocas cas da gremo wn, tho da blo je lpo kikr zmera, dobro spanje, hrana in klapa.

HVALA ZA VSE....

3/8/12 23:55 Dan

A predictably faff-heavy start meant we didn't get underground till about 3:30. Down at X-ray at 6, stopping to faff + fettle + wake the lighter sleepers of the night train (sorry ☺).

Got to Big-Rock and I started down with the drill etc to find glory. In fact, I found a scary-arse traverse which I got about ½ way across. Dave came down to join me and we made a tactical descision to approach the remainder tomorrow, also ensuring we got back before buffalo-hour. Meaty, cheesy, soupy smash consumed with relish.

Night train got out of the tent with surprising eagerness.

Comf donned, Jarv + Ollie returned from the deep. Great to be back at camp (finally). Sleep now. Where is the whiskey?

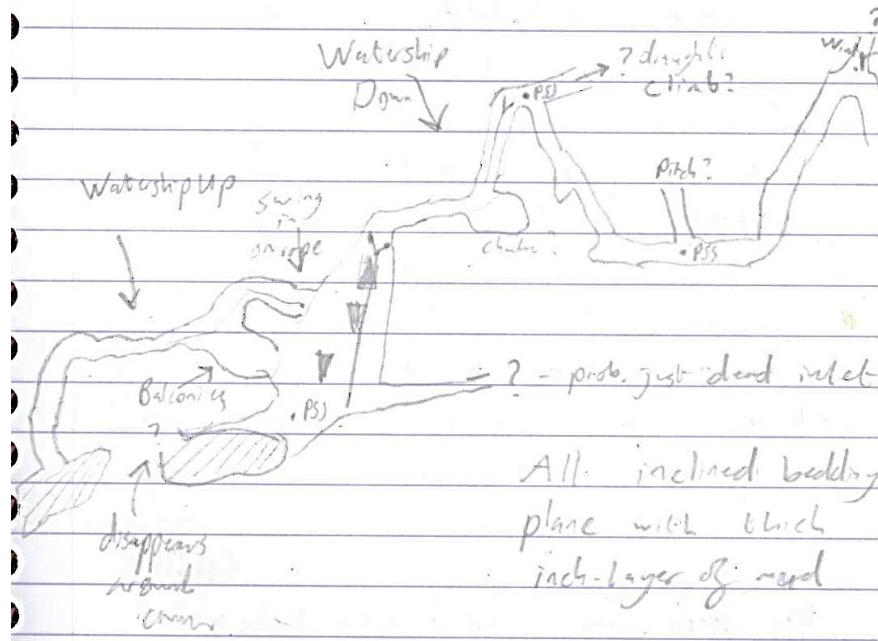
Sat 4th 9:28 Jarv

Tetley & Rhys arrive at an eye-watering 7:30 AM. We (Oli & I) returned from the depths at two minutes to midnight.

We rigged two climbs down to the sump – BUT removed the natural backup to the first one (we had sewn slings). So take +3m of webbing to rig.

All ropes below Republica were pulled up into a state OK to leave for a year.

We also moved Tetley's brew kit bits to Red Cow itself + left a Daren of ~4L water. About ~200ml meths left in the 2L sigg, a mess tin & fish tin burner.



[Jarv's sketch of Watership Up]

A little plastic label we placed ~2cm above the level of the sump had floated off into the sump itself – clearly the level changes.

So about to leave X-Ray & the expedition.

A pity the diving didn't work out – perhaps some other time. I think an attack on the Watership Down sump will require a capable & committed team of Four with a week-fortnight to dedicate.

As part of this I think taking 100m of rope & a drill to protect all the climbs in Leprecaun/Memory lane, setting a proper camp at Red Cow & rerigging Republica + Insomnia (the terrible twins) in a suitably safe fashion will be necessary steps. This is all obviously rather far-fetched on a student expedition where everyone has their own plans & intrigues.

So goodbye for this year – respect each other & the cave, and best of luck with all your pushes.

4/8/12 10 a.m. Tetley

26 hrs after waking up (on the surface) I'm making final preparations before sleep, drinking Long John and writing this. It's been a long day, but a great one. Brave New World goes! Squeezed through boulder choke to reach INVICTUS – 70 odd metre of very fine sandy passage ending in a wet pitch. About 20m to floor.... Left unpushed does the draught go up it or down it? Slow journey back, deliberately so not to disturb day train. Sleep now, at last!

00:02 5/8/12 Tetley

Tetley + Rhys have gone to push below Lower Pleasures. Callout: 11 a.m.

5/8/12 10:30 Dan

Great day yesterday finished the traverse to Big Rock's big brother. Very wet, quite sketchy but really fun. There's a new way up from the bottom of Big Rock, so no one needs to go there again. Except to derig it ☺ The pitch on the other side is huge. We didn't get very far down, there's ~60m of 9 ½ at the top for someone else to enjoy. To the surface!

5/8/12 11:00 am Rhys

Back for second night at camp. Strange day, I didn't think Tetley or I appreciated how knackered we were from our Brave New World push. We started off with the idea of pushing Yorkshire but once into Lower Pleasures we couldn't work out where Oli and Thara had gone. We ended up bolting down a small waterfall at the bottom of the big Lower Pleasures pitch. We found an incredibly twatty immature streamway and decided to get out because it was so rubbish. We then did a tourist trip to Cactus Junction and the Fridge camp, which was really nice to see. Also looked at the Big Rock parallel shaft that Dave and Dan were pushing. There's some heroic bolting there to get to what looks like (and sounds like) a reasonably big pitch. Hoping to sleep for a while and head out early Monday morning.

5/8/12 18:00 Tetley

Left at HAWAII (junction below Stuck in P.)

1 empty fish tin (a.k.a. meths stove!)
1 mess tin
1 daren drum full of water (can refill by placing under drips at bottom of Stuck in Paradise)
600ml of meths

N.B. There is NO lighter there – Bring one if you want hot water!

~20m of yellow rope

Climb in Brave New World now rigged using ~40m rope length (only about 8m is actually needed for this). Suggestion: rerig climb using short rope and use the 40m length for exciting pitch at end of INVICTUS.

5/8/12 21:00 Tetley

Consciousness is slipping away again. We've been awake for 3 ½ hrs, watched Withnail and I, and Red Dwarf. Only Rhys and I here, now back to sleep hopefully.

6/8/12 7:00 a.m. Tetley

Excellent, another 9 hrs in bed! Feel well rested, Van Morrison's 'Gloria' blasting out on the stereo, a big pot of tea is in front of me..... life is good!

6/8/12 7:20am Rhys

Why is camp downwind of the shit area? Why?!

6/8/12 8:20 a.m. Tetley

Another meal of cheesy, soupy, fishy, smash. Classic! Only pepper missing, I can see what drove the spice trade.

6/8/12 10 a.m. Tetley

We're off to the surface. Thanks Rhys for another great weekend in the underground. Good pushing all!

7/8/12 8:30 am Thara

Tim and I (dreamt team) went for the glory at Big Rock (soon to be called Stagger Lee). After arriving at the camp around 830pm, faffed around cooking, eating, drinking. We soon found that the camp was without a drill bit.

Nevermind, old style bolting mission. Set off around 10pm to Big Rock. After the first bolt we soon have a fucked driver. Rock here was pretty, two bolts wasted as a proceed. However we managed to bolt down to the second level, where Tim braved the drizzle (like Zimmer) and tried to bolt down to the lower level.

Left

- a bolting kit
- ~50m 11mm rope

Going back tomorrow to go down and survey!
Hopefully, string of bad luck won't continue...



[Thara's sketch of Big Rock traverse]

7/8/12 15:45 pm Gergely

Once again in camp! With Oli we had a smooth 2 hr journey down, now some tea and choc, and then off to push the Queen's Bedchamber climb and maybe Guillotine (beginning of rift). Maybe meanwhile the connection already happened...

Good luck, Gergely

ps. our callout is midnight

7/8/12 JONNY (+ KATE) 23:00

Nice trip down to camp before going to push Euphrates. Really shit rock – 4 attempted bolts + lots of broken rock. However, super strong draft + the pitch looks very promising.
! GO BACK ! (someone, not me...)
Surveying was a pain (cold, muddy, shit) BUT – Euphrates is now tied in which is v. satisfying.
Looking forward to pushing elsewhere tomorrow.

UG dance routine:

Walk around the tent to Daft Punk's Around the World!

7/8/12 JONNY 00:30

OLI on tacklesacks:

"It's good, it's like walking with a massive cock in my hand

Me on people not missing their callouts:

"Good, I can take off my furry"

8/8/12 1:45 Gergely

Pushing Queen's Bedchamber was great; put in ~12 bolts, now we are at the bottom of the rift, and ~8m higher the end of a phreatic can be seen (maybe?) PLUS everything is covered w black dust, as the beginning of King Minos palace! It really looks exciting. Altogether ~30 bolts in the climb so far, one more session needed.
Whisky is good.

8/8/12 3 pm Gergely

Tim & Thara just got back from connection to Soda stream. Olli & me are about to set off to Minestrone, trying the connection to Balamory. Our callout is 10am on Thursday. Kate is still hesitating but probably she and Jonny are going to come to the Atlantis area as well.

8/8/12 4pm Thara

Officially, we (Tim and I) are the connection makers (loopers).

We surveyed from the bottom Big Rock b/c we couldn't find any Pss station. Hopefully, we make a connection at the right place there.

- Bottom of Big Rock Rope
- A pile of spitzes (~3)

Continued bolting down the pitch, Dan planned to descend. Tim put two quick bolts (thanks to drill bit) and dropped down to the bottom which is filled with human-size boulders stacked Jenga-like.

We looked for the obvious chamber by following the streamway.

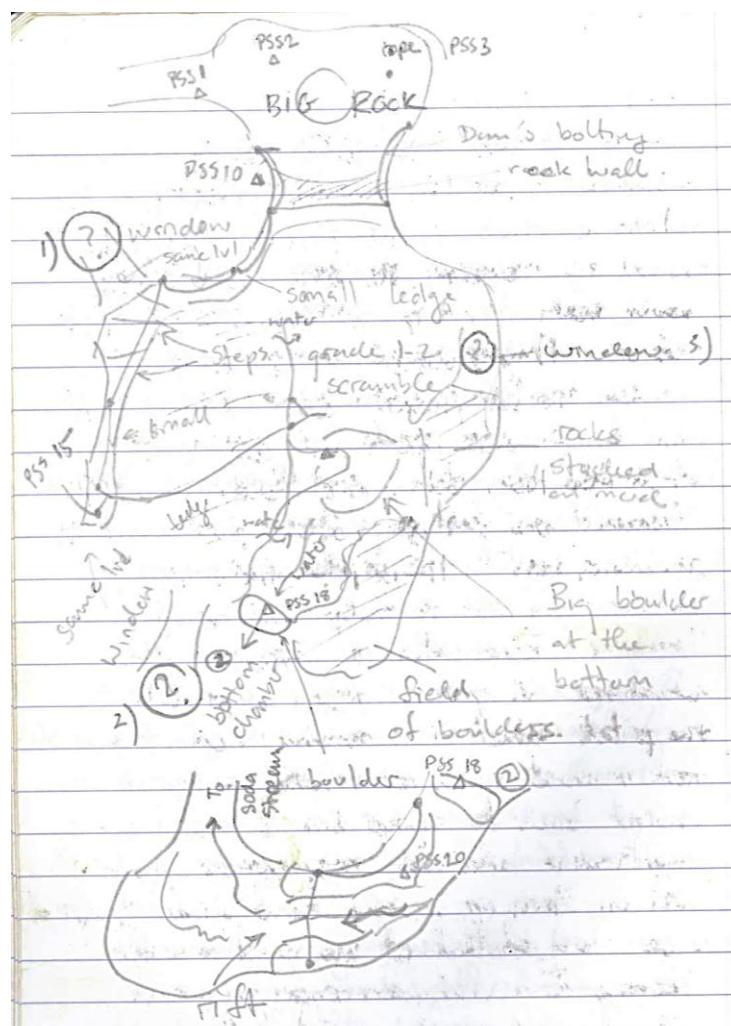
3 bolts and we were at the bottom followed the stream for a few more minutes until we realised that we were in Soda Streamway – CONNECCION! Again.

Slow surveyed the rest and derigged all the ropes.

3 possible leads (Not that exciting)

1. Window at the same lvl as rock wall
2. Window at the same lvl as traverse ledge
3. Window ~3 metres above the bottom

The first two seem to head back into the rifts already explored. The third seems to head towards Balmory.



[Thara's sketch of Big Rock, with leads]

8/7/12 16:45 Kate

Well, Jonath and myself set off from the Bivi yesterday and I realised at the entrance that I just wasn't that keen, we set off anyway thinking that I was being silly and the enthusiasm would soon set in. Unfortunately in the Urinal Series the fun had not begun, dear dear Jonath was lovely and made me feel ok so we got to the big pitches and things got better. It wasn't any sort of extreme fear, just an unwillingness to be in the fun caving state. We eventually got to camp and set off to Xanadu/Euphrates to connect the survey which was v. grim. Jonny tried to bolt the pitch which is v. blowing & cold but the rock is shit and kept breaking. We headed back to camp but I still wasn't comfortable and was very shaky. After lots of dancing, which me & Jonath happened to be very skilled at, we went to bed. Today I wasn't keen to go as far as Atlantis but really wanted to for Jonny so just as we were about to set off Jonny realises that he's also raptured and just wanted to head out. Much to Gergely's confusion we realised that neither of us were super enthused then we should cut our losses and head out, freeing up bed space for the mega-keen. We still accomplished the Xanadu/Euphrates connection and have had a pleasant time. We shall definitely be coming back super-pumped and ready for action, just this time wasn't meant to be.

Peace out

Kate x

Besides I quite need a shit and I have sworn to never poo underground.

9/8/12 Thara 8:40 am

After two pushing trip, it is time to head up again. Have a good one!

9/8/12 Gergely 8:45 am

We were badly defeated by the Almighty Chokes. Fighting w 2 today, the Minestrone one seems to fill up the whole passage; the Inglorious Basterd (starting at pitch at Atlantis/Minestrone) seems to be more pushable, but we ran out of time & enthusiasm. Spent cca 7 hours digging. Now time for sleep and maybe catch the sunset! Good luck.

4:45 pm

We head off & hope more dinner is left for us! Good times again, see you one more time, Camp X-Ray!

10/8/12 Erik/Matjer/Maffi

We come to CAMP X RAY 00.30 sleep

8.00 we go to Queen CAMBER to climb a [illegible]. We climbed 20m and finde a galerije more than CCA 400m

We don't measure because of time.

In the end is a big chamber in wather is coming down. The gallery is very muddy. In the end where is a chamber is a hole down cca 30m where the wather is going. Now we are going out.

10/08/12 9:50 pm Sam

SO happy to be back – finally. Was apprehensive about coming down after the adventures of last time – both coming down and going out turned into mini epics, but coming down today just took us 2 ½ hours. Compared to last time's 5 hourish trip down, this felt like such a jolly. The 5 hours were due to an hour stuck at the top of skynet and another hour on Zimmer's rebelays, but the rebelays posed to problem today. I was fully expecting to have to faff with footloops etc to pass the rebelays, but no such thing was needed. Camp is as homely as I remember.

We passed the 3 Slov's coming up at Tesalator – they had found a lot of horizontal passage ending in a pitch; all of which they hadn't surveyed. Can't remember where they had gone – I'm sure Clare will write in more detail. We're both interested in seeing and surveying the stuff

they have found – probably tomorrow's mission. I think it will be good to do more surveying – apparently the novelty wears off however...

10/8/12 10:55 PM Clare

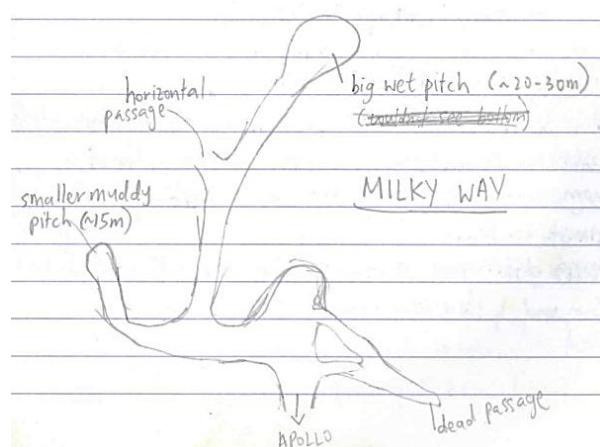
Enjoying my first ever cigarette at UG camp while listening to Lou Reed's Walking on the Wild Side – a momentous occasion! Great to be back at X-Ray, almost forgot how much I love underground camp after being distracted by M2 for the past week. Just Sam and I here now. Whisky + Blackadder then bed.

11/8/12 10:52 AM Clare

Sam and Clare off to Queen's Bedchamber. Back by 2AM, 12/8/12.

11/8/12 11:09 PM Clare

Great day of pushing! Surveyed the passage found by Eric & co. and pushed some new stuff. Almost 500m in the book! Named the bolt climb APOLLO (as suggested by Gergely), and the horizontal stuff after that is MILKY WAY. Three main leads in Milky Way – two pitches and one wide open horizontal virgin passage (!!).



[Clare's map of Milky Way]

Apollo was a super bolt climbing effort by Gergely, Izi, Maver and Eric! It's like Cheetah/Stuck in Paradise in reverse. Good to see their efforts have paid off with so much passage. Immediately after Apollo is a shitty handline/pitch climb down a muddy slope. Belay's aren't great so take care!

Now in bed ensconced in TWO nitestars.

12/8/12 9:20 AM Sam

Had a great day yesterday. Clare mentioned that the amount of surveying we did yesterday may be a record for a virgin surveyor. Hmm... data will reveal all, but it definitely felt like a lot of surveying! Did get a bit fed up with using the instruments towards the end. But the stuff we found was very exciting – and there are existing leads that we left. Today, we are heading out. Should be ok – long but it needs doing...

12/9/12 9:25 AM Clare

Maffi and Tjasa are here on the night train! They bottomed the big wet pitch at end of Milky Way, leads to a narrow rift that's still going. It's been a fantastic camp, can't wait to be back next year!

13.8.12 Tjasa

We were at the end of Milkyway bolting the pitch. And everytime when we are together in the cave we find some rifts ☺

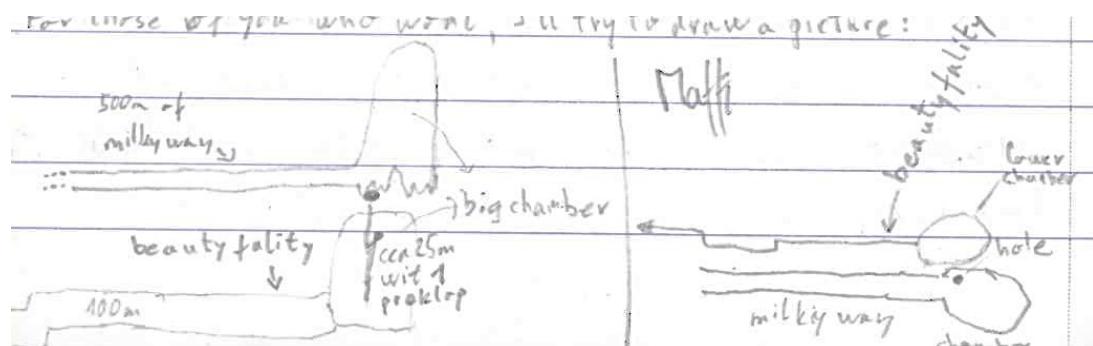
Then we woke up and it was around 3 at night. First we were confused and then we realized that nobody comes in to the camp. We were a bit late to go back to the end of the Milkway so we decided to wait until somebody comes inside, we thought that that will be at 9 in the morning. But now its 10³⁰ and still nobody here.

Now: drinking tea, not knowing what to do & wondering what's going on outside... it's pretty same every year at the underground camp ☺

Aja: hvala za dobr kamp!

13.8.12 Maffi

I don't know what to hope: That this underground adventures with Tjasa will become a tradition or not! Like last year (my first time down here) we found the narrowest and the longest wet passages possible again. But those places are also so beautiful, that I hope someone will discover big chambers with a lot of new leads on the other side, and maybe a shortcut to get there ☺, so many of you will have the motivation to go there and see what we saw! For those of you who want, I'll try to draw a picture:



[Maffi's sketch of pitch at end of Milky Way]

14/8/2012 1:15 am Karin

Long John time! We deserved it, we pushed the Vrtnarja for 70m (that's what Gergely said) down ☺ That means also that we found around 12km "new" cave -> it has a name -> Sistem Migovec. I still can't believe it.

We wanted to bolt to the right window in Queen's Bedchamber, but the drill broke. That's why we went up left into Milky Way to check out the unpushed passage. The direction and draft (+ cristals ☺) were showing us that we'll get somewhere near Sistem. But we didn't expect that we're going actually find the connection. Gergely said that we had luck. For a few moments I also believed so (that's when I saw the PSS13 – Waterloo) but I don't believe in luck, OK there is possibility that we had luck, but that's just a rare moment when you can't explain it differently than saying it was luck (if you ask me). However I don't care what it was, we found the connection and both of us are very happy ☺.

Aja! I forgot, we called the passage Dreams for the Soul (or in SLO: Sanje Za Duso) LP!

Gergely

Once upon a time, a black and a red furry went down to a cave and came out at -70. So today everything worked out like in a perfect fairy tale. We wanted to climb, but the dwarves broke the cable. Then we followed the crystals which eventually led to the hidden treasure: a bolt in the wall! Waterloo is a nice chamber. We also found the continuation of Guillotine/Minotaur rift. What a glorious end to this successful expo! The connection is a proper teamwork, and we happened to be the lucky ones, a great honor from Vrtnarja... Now it is only 2 of us + the hot choc whiskey in the cave. Candle lit dinner and happy times. It is like a home in the mountain. All the best until next year!

p.s. hot choc w whiskey is a great recipe!

14/8 1pm Gergely

The morning I felt absolutely shit, probably Karin illness ☺ My stomach is still not too good, hopefully no problem on way out. Happy cavers emerge from Friendship Gallery, packing up starts, it will be hard to go out... But everything is illuminated by the Connection! Good-bye until next year, Gergely.

14/8 1pm Jonny

So, an ordinary derig was made much less ordinary when Gergely + Karin told me that the cave is now 70m deeper. Hooray for sys-mig.