



WESSEX CAVE CLUB JOURNAL – VOLUME VIII

SUPPLEMENT

THE HILLGROVE LOG BOOKS

(26th June 1954. - 7th October 1963)

Edited by P.M. Giles

W E S S E X C A V E C L U B

October 1964



## Introduction.

Hillgrove has been the headquarters of the Club since 1952 and since then much of the caving done from the H.Q. by members has been recorded in the log books which are kept at the hut. As a result, these log books now constitute a valuable record of the Club's caving activities and of exploration on Mendip generally over the past twelve years.

Unfortunately, but naturally, some of the older log books are becoming illegible and are tending to fall apart from constant use. Since inevitably further deterioration will occur, even actual loss is possible, and in order that the original records can be properly stored, yet the useful information remain generally available, it was decided to extract such information and publish the result as a supplement to the Club Journal.

At the time the only known log books were those at Hillgrove which ran more or less continuously from June 1954 to the present. The problem of selecting the right material for publication was difficult, ultimately only extracts from expeditions which contain accounts of digging, new exploration, surveying, photography, diving, archeology, flora and fauna, rescues and rescue practices have been included, which keeps the supplement down to a reasonable size. Whilst appreciating that this does not include a very large number of valuable trips made by members when no original work was accomplished, it is felt that it does provide a good review of the Club's activities.

A index has been compiled under both cave and subject headings, and an appendix provided with the names of cavers who sign themselves or their companions with initials only.

It is hoped at a later date to publish in a similar way, any other hut log books as they are completed or as they come to light. It was mentioned before that some of the earlier records are becoming illegible, which might have occasioned certain transcription errors, any such errors that might be spotted are regretted.



Log Book: 26th. June 1954 to 6th. August 1955.

26th. June 1954.  
SWILDONS.

An attempt on Swildons III. The party consisted of 2 divers - Bob Davies and Graham Balcombe - and five sherpas-tiger sherpas, Oliver Lloyd, Oliver Wells, Phil Davies, Derek Thorpe (U.B.S.S.) and Struan Robertson (U.B.S.S.).

The baggage - about 23 packages - had mostly been taken down on the 19/20th. June and again on the 24th. June - St. John the Baptists' day: then whose name knows more of total immersion in sumps!

The base was the sandbank by the bend of the streamway just short of Creep II. We arrived there at about 7 pm. after starting at 3.50 pm.

The two divers spent 2½ hours - from 9.50 pm. to 12.30 am on the 27th. June exploring the waterways beyond Sump II and (i) reached a new small bell chamber - Bob's bell - west of Sump II. (ii) reached the Great Bell Chamber and continued by a duck to a Southward continuation of similar general size - St. John's Bell - followed the streamway a further 25 ft. approx under the West wall of this new chamber and showed it to be impassably low at about 15 ft. depth. (iii). re-visited the Little Bell and confirmed that no outlet exists on the East Wall at or beyond Sump II.

The conclusions from a complete circuit of the sump system are that the divers are satisfied that no way on exists which is passable and the main stream passage of Swildons Hole can be written off. The terrain is very muddy and visibility is only about 2 inches: this in spite of the fact that precautions were taken to avoid disturbance of the higher streamway. The circuit of the sump system is about 300 ft. and greatest radial distance reached about 100 ft. The system explored is a shallow one, about 5 ft. below the water level, except at the final hole.

Party repacked kit and left base at 3.5 am. and by 6 am. had got all kit through Sump 1, emerging into fresh air and sunlight at 9 am.

O.C. Lloyd.

A thousand thanks to O.C.L. and everyone of his magnificent party. To the undaunted baggage party, at this moment struggling with the enormous pile of weighty bags:- my conscience is seared when I think especially of AFLOTOP, but alas not yet to the extent of going right down after that nights work to give a hand. (Perhaps later on they'll forgive me as a relatively old and decrepit caver and rejoice that at least this chapter of Swildons explorations has been satisfactorily concluded).

To Bob Davies, trusted companion of many dives and leading diver on this trip:- my deeply felt commendations on his courage and tenacity in pushing his way through this intimidating murky system. I am proud to have accompanied him.

Graham Balcombe 27.6.54.

In as far as I have any strong emotions left at this time (4 pm) they are of satisfaction that Graham was able to return to the scene of his astounding efforts of 18 years ago and help write 'finis' to the direct route in the stream passage of Swildons, of astonishment at the cheerful competence of O.C.L. and his men, of relief that I need never crawl through that blinding mud again and apprehension about the next few hours of exhausted driving back to Sheffield.

Many thanks for all your efforts and hospitality.

R.E. Davies 27.6.54.

27th. June 1954.

SWILDONS - Diving Op (continued).

... and we carried the baggage out. It was to be left for us at the sump and sure enough we found it, including a thing as big as a coffin and proportionally heavy. We chained everything together at the bottom of the 20ft. Pot and then got it by drips and drabs to the bottom of the 40. Here the trouble really started. Everything went through the keyhole except the AFLO. It took about 4 of us well over an hour to get it over Suicides Leap, as the rope jammed in a crack. We eventually surfaced in quite an exhausted condition.

Party consisted of Wessex, including Beechen Cliff Speleos, and many others.

4/5 July 1954.

WHITSUN HOLE.

Digging at Whitsun Hole, several smaller passages penetrated to finality, other blanks also drawn. Not really encouraging weekend.

Phil Davies.

11th. July 1954.

SWILDONS HOLE.- Mayday Passages. (See survey preceding p. 5).

Mayday Passages were discovered on May 1st. by Davies, Chambers and Wells by excavating a mud choke in Swildons II. This choke is mentioned in the top line of page 16 in Journal No 26, and seems to fit quite well with that account.

This discovery adds about 150 ft. of passage to Swildons.

O.Wells and Keith Chambers completed the exploration of open passages in the Mayday Passages.

O.C. Wells.

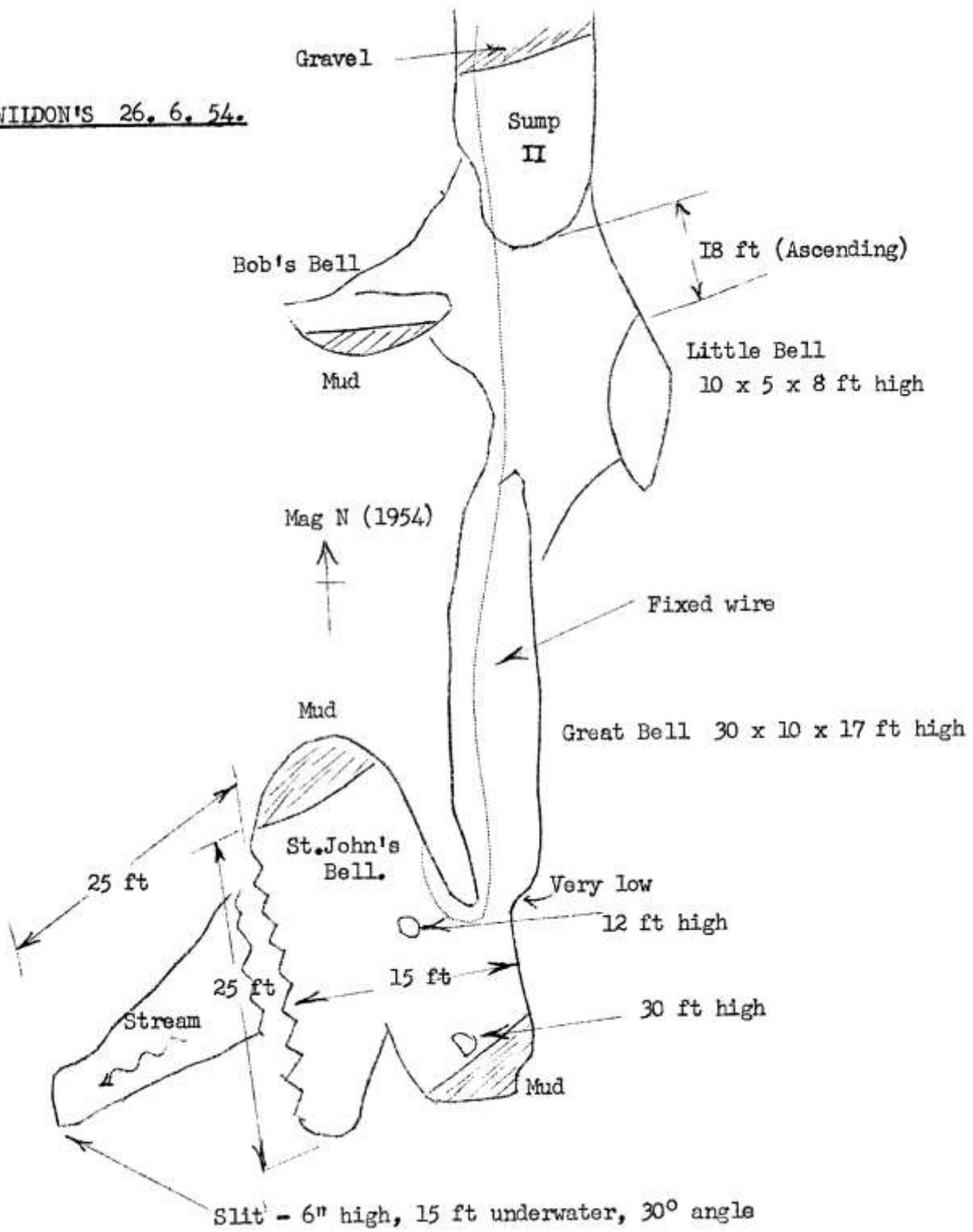
10th. July 1954.

SWILDONS.

With the help of Joe Candy, drilled 1 ¼" holes in Priddy Green Stream.

O.C. Lloyd.

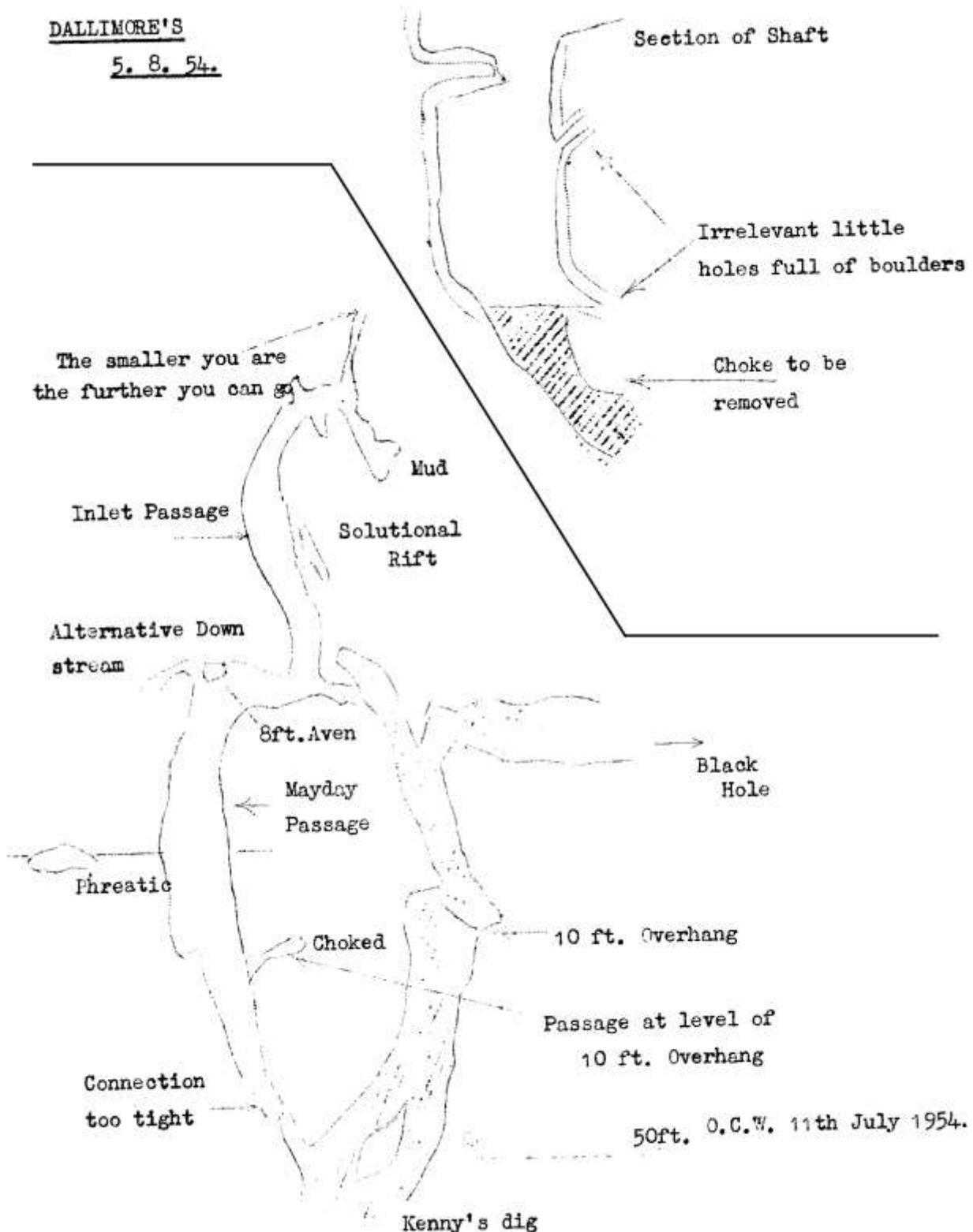
SWILDON'S 26. 6. 54.



R.E.D. 27.6.54.

DALLIMORE'S

5. 8. 54.



SWILDON'S - MAYDAY PASSAGES - 11. 7. 54.

24/23 July 1954.  
WHITSUN HOLE.

Keith H. Evens and Phil Davies arrived at 4 p.m. and dug in Whitsun Hole from 6 p.m. until 11.0 p.m. Progress strictly limited to the removal of a few boulders and plenty of mud.

31 July 1954.  
EASTWATER.

O.C.W. - D.W. - O.C.L. - P.D.  
Surveyed Jack Brownsey's passage and upper system. Ascended Dolphin chimney and discovered Davies Detour.

1 August 1954.  
WHITSUN HOLE.

Surface Survey of Whitsun Hole.

2 August 1954.  
EASTWATER.

O.C.W. - O.C.L. - D.W. - P.D. Party of 4 explored and completely surveyed Davies Detour.

3 August 1954.  
DALLIMORES CAVE.

O.C. Wells and D. Warburton examined the entrance to Dallimores to find it blocked 12 ft. down. Did a surface survey.

4 August 1954.  
EASTWATER.

D.W. - O.C.W. Surveyed far part of Ifold's Series and the upper end of Harris's Passage. This, according to D. Warburton, completes the Eastwater Survey.

5 August 1954.  
DALLIMORE'S CAVE. (see sketch survey preceding page 5.)

D.W. - O.C.W. Digging in Dallimores approx 60 buckets. Another 2 hours digging straight down through sand choke would re-open the cave.

20 August 1954.

"For various reasons we have had to abandon the Cuckoo Cleaves Project for the moment, but I hope to continue collection together stuff for the entrance shaft so that I can (eventually) get the job done.

O.C. Wells.

21 August 1954.

EASTWATER.

Party of four, D.A.W., D.F., D.W., and a visitor descended Eastwater to complete investigation of Jack Brownsey's Passage. D. Ford entered a new extension, unmarked, tight and very difficult. A ladder is recommended on the step bedding plane.

D.W.

25 and 27 August 1954.

SWILDONS.

Went down Swildon's and drilled holes in the P.G. Sream - accompanied on the 27 th. by Bob Lawder - total of 4 holes - 8", 5", 8" & 8" - now awaiting Howard Kenny to come and bang them on Sunday (29th.). Till then the cave is laddered with narrow gauge rope and wood ladders. I borrowed the U.B.S.S. drill and hammer.

28 August 1954.

STEEP HOLM.

M.N.R.C. party to Steep Holm included such Wessex characters as Howard Kenney, Derek Goldie, Vincent Stimpson, Ashworth, Devenish and Prof. Palmer, the Rev. Mr. Lord, vicar of Priddy also came, but did his caving with E.J.Mason, also in charge of the digs there showed us around and encouraged us to enter every possible hole. These have not been well described in literature. They are mostly on the North Side.

Turning North, therefore, from the landing beach and going West, they are in order:

(i) A low bedding plane, about 30 ft. deep and 60 ft. wide.

(ii) A cave half filled with boulder ruckle, through which one can climb to two small-chambers in the same rift.

(iii) The 'Hall', which is entered by wading through water about 3 ft. deep, where Balch's friends in 1910 'divested themselves of ell unnecessary attire'.

(iv) A window about 25 ft. up the cliff approached by a v. difficult climb. This has only once been climbed as far as I know. There is an overhang above it, so it cannot be entered by ladders from above.

(v) to (ix). A series of coloured rift caves. Of the most beautiful is the first. It is approached by a fairly easy climb of c.15 ft. and has a pool in the floor in which the walls are reflected. It should be called- the Mirror Cave. The walls are various shades of sea green, mostly dark, veined with calcite partly coloured russet. In this and many other of the Coloured Rift Caves there are also purple veins.

The second Coloured Rift Cave also needs to be climbed to. The fourth has interesting spikes in the walls pointing seawards, like a hedgehogs back and has a double entrance. The third has a crawl to the left leading to a small grotto with stalagmite on the walls. The fifth is quite small.

On the South Side of the island there seems to be only one notable cave, about 200 yds. west of the old jetty.

This has a well at its entrance (the Well Cave) formed by an artificial wall of stone which dams up the flow of water from the cave above. In this there is a narrow aven which we did not explore more than 10 ft.

Further west is another bedding plane cave about 30 ft. in extent in two parts separated by a fault. There are some holes high up in the North face which can be entered from above. About 50 ft. of ladder and a long belay is required for this. One is called '3 John's Cave' and the belay is an old concrete septic tank. We had no time to ladder or enter these.

O.C. Lloyd.

29th. August 1954.

SWILDONS.

Into Swildons with Howard Kenny, Bob Lawder and Ian Dear. Blew the 4 holes and the one that we drilled to-day (in P.G.- Stream - ed.) and made a great impression.

O.C. Lloyd.

29/30th. August 1954.

EASTWATER. - The Mud Escalator.

Following the entry of a new extension to the 60 ft. rift in Jack Brownsey's Passage in Eastwater last week Bertie Bate, Brian Prewer, Bess and I came up to Mendip with the intention of following this discovery as far as we could.

Taking 50 ft. of Dural ladder, a long tether and 120 ft. of light lifeline for the rift besides the usual Dolphin Pot tackle we entered the cave at 9.20 pm. Saturday night. On arrival at the rift first myself then Bate climbed down forty feet of the 60 degree rift to a point where last weeks find can be seen coming in on the right (as you lie on your stomach). With a taut lifeline from above it is simple to traverse from the ladder into it.

The way was forced up a rift at 60 degrees, five feet wide with a stalagmite flow floor and two rather pretty gour pools. There are (by Eastwater standards) some very nice formations in the series. This rift soon ended at an impassable squeeze beyond which Prewer's light, shining through another impassable squeeze in the floor of the passage at the end of tether chamber could be seen reflected. Just below the squeeze it is possible to traverse right into an incoming tributary passage five to eight feet wide, up to 18 inches high with a floor of smooth stalagmite covered with from one to six inches of thin mud. The roof is holdless and the whole system inclined at about 60 degrees. After more than thirty minutes of struggle upwards, when only about 25 ft. of new ground had been gained we deemed it necessary to quit since there was a good deal of tackle to be brought out.

The crawling up this rift is very hard, against the tide so to speak, and we had no hesitation in christening it the Mud Escalator. It escalates only in one direction! The known length of passage is about 100 ft. at present but we hope to return with a larger support party soon.

D.C. Ford.

5th. September 1954.

WHITSUN HOLE.

R.E. Lawder arrived 11.30 am. and eventually persuaded 'Prof' Ford, Joe Candy and Rebbeck to accompany him into Whitsun Hole. A new bedding plane - vertically below that marked on survey 'too tight'- was prospected.

6th. Septombor 1954.

WHITSUN HOLE.

A 6 lb. sledge hammer lent by Dev was used for 'gardening' and eventually Joe got through (the bedding plane - ed). and prospected to the foot of a 12 ft. aven beyond. As no one else could manage the squeeze he then came out, not without difficulty. In the afternoon Denis W. was enlisted as a second ferret and Joe and Denis went through the squeeze and Joe got stuck in a corner in a stream passage. 'Prof' got through after more rock-bashing and pulled him out. The passage- widens beyond the squeeze beyond the corner.

It seems to be a continuation of the muddy dig. A rope is essential in the aven.

R.E. Lawder.

3th. September 1954.

DALLIMORE'S CAVE.

D.C.F., G.J.C., Rebbeck & Prewer arrived 4.30 pm. Saturday and met Bob Lawder(see above). With Bob as the crane we took twenty five buckets of mud out of Dallimore's and it is now almost clear.

6th. September 1954.

DALLIMORE' S CAVE.

Sunday afternoon Reb and Prow took out a further 20 buckets and have a way through which is not yet negotiable, A further dozen buckets should finish the job.

13th. September 1954.

STOKE LANE.

Carried out water tests at Stoke Lane again. Probably spoilt again by undue turbulence in the morning, due to rain.

O.C. Lloyd.

11th. September 1954.

WHITSUN HOLE.

Denis Warburton arrived at 12.30. R.E.L, A.G.A., D.W., & Brenda Willis went down Whitsun Hole. Denis and Brenda took another look at the constrictions beyond the aven, while the other two continued rock-bashing in the first squeeze. The top of the aven was also gardened. Brenda Willis had a bit of trouble with the squeeze and we emerged very close to closing time.

R.E. Lawder.

13th. September 1954.

WHITSUN HOLE.

R.E.L. and Denis went down Whitsun Hole - more gardening and line survey.

R.E.L.

14th. September 1954.

WHITSUN HOLE.

Mr. & Mrs. Murrel, R.E.L. & Denis down Whitsun (twice) letting off bangs.

R.E.L.

15th. September 1954.

COW HOLE.

Digging in Cow Hole with Dave Willis and Jim.

R.E.L.

18th. September 1954.

DALLIMORE'S CAVE.

D.C.F., G.J.C. and Brian Prewer spent 90 minutes clearing in Dallimore's which is now completely re-opened. Much of the original, mud squeeze has been dug away and half an hours work would make it almost a walk through.

19th. September 1954.

SWILDONS.

Bob Lawder and I went down Swildon's to knock holes in the P.G. Stream. New star drill and hammer. Rock unusually hard. Only 9 inches drilled in 2½ hours! Five hour trip.

O.C. Lloyd.

25th. September 1954.

EASTWATER.

G.J.C. - D.C.F. - Bob Lawder, Rebbeck and John Moss went down Eastwater at 10 pm. for another attempt to ascend the Mud Escalator. We arrived at the Tether Chamber in good order and shortly afterwards Ford and Candy went down the 60 degree Rift and traversed into the new passage, on this occasion a regular though small stream was running down the initial passage. It was raining heavily above ground and we were quickly soaked.

Trailing a rope, Ford was able to reach a rather unsatisfactory belay at the mouth of the squeeze which closes the Escalator. Saving the rope for the future we retired and very nearly came to grief traversing from the bottom of the Escalator into the initial passage back up the 60 degree rift loose material constantly falling on us we were landed like exhausted fish by Bob the lifeline man. The return was naturally slow and we emerged at 6 am.

21th. October. 1951.

EASTWATER.

D. Warburton, D. Ford, J. Swithenbank & P. Davies went to Eastwater & reached Terminal Rift in 40 minutes via Dolphin Route. Started a dig in the Upper Sand Chamber. Anyone who wishes may continue said D.W.

P.D.

5th. November 1954.

SWILDONS.

D.A.W., K.A.C. and O.C.W. dug between Sump 1 and Sump II.

K.A. Chambers.

31st. October 1954.

CHEDDAR.

Dr. R.E. Davies went to Cheddar to have a look at the resurgences with a view to future diving operations, accompanied by Oliver Lloyd, Frank Frost, Luke Devenish and Phil Davies.

The best holes, as expected, the Skeleton Pit in Goughs and the Lake in Saye's Hole. The small holes in the ox-bow at Gough's are no good. The 1st. feeder (by the Cave Man Restaurant) is fairly promising, but more of a second line of approach. It is not known how much of the opening is artificial. The 2nd. feeder is smaller and blocked by a roof fall, so is better left alone for the present. Mr. Saye drew the dam for us so that we could look at the other six feeders entering the pond from under the road, They are all much too small.

The meet at Cheddar was at 8.30 am. so in the afternoon Frank Frost and I went up to Gough's Old Cave to help Tratty disinter the pottery and flints of our Neolithic ancestors, embedded in a matrix of rodent bones.

O.C. Lloyd.

7th. November 1954.

SWILDONS.

O.C.L. - A.F. - Howard Kenny and C. Cullingford to Swildons for P.G. Stream dig. Four holes banged - good result.

O.C. Lloyd.

27th. November 1954.

HUNTER'S HOLE. (see survey following p. 12)

I.A. Dear & R.M. Smith joined Alan Thomas, Alfie Collins, and Derek Ford in the second exploration trip of Hunter's Hole. The main pitch was laddered from the first ledge down Sago's Pot; this proved to be just under 50 ft. Work was started on a dig at the bottom of a stal flow, which looked very promising and having a large chamber, but due to lack of tools it was not possible to force an entry. A little work at the end of the main passage showed that this is going to be a major operation. At the end of the mud series a small chimney afforded an entry into another series as yet unexplored.

I.A. Dear.

4th. December 1954.

SWILDONS.

O.C.W. - D.M.M.T. and G.J.C. visited Swildons.

(i) Recent floods have changed several things. For instance at the over or under rift at the top of the 40ft. pot it is now necessary to do little more than stoop to get underneath.

(ii) Using a 38 watt spotlight we searched the roof of the streamway between Sump 1 and the 40 ft. pot. Looking for possible Maypole pitches. Several places are worth a try but no-where is really promising,

(iii) The trickle of water that enters by the 20 ft. pot is seen to come out of a slot perhaps 18 ins. long by 4 ins. high, but it would seem to open out. It is in rock (top) and stalagmite. It could be reached using a 30ft. Maypole, I think it would need to be blasted.

O.C.W.

4th. December 1954.

HILLIERS CAVE.

D.W. - P.D. - and D.C.F. assembled at Fairy Cave Quarry at 2 pm. for a survey trip in Hilliers Cave. After fixing some surface detail and note a tiny cave in a fault in the main quarry face, the party went underground at 3 pm. to emerge shortly after midnight, having surveyed 800 ft. of main passage, plus offsets.

The area surveyed was from the entrance downstream to the grotto's and third boulder choke, thus completing much of the known cave. As plotted this portion of the cave tends N.E. to a point just beyond the tar sheds on the surface, then swings sharply East and South of East, which direction is maintained by the main stream passage to its present closure.

D.C. Ford,

6th. January 1955.

EASTWATER. (see survey following p. 12)

O.C.L., - C.R. and O.C.W. took a 38 watt spotlight into Eastwater above the various verticals. Above the 35 ft. pitch in the Dolphin route the rift extends up about 20-25 ft. to a sizeable opening c. 5 ft. x 2 ft.

The cross-section of the 1st. Rift Chamber is seen in the diagram. Opening A measures 3 ft. by 18 in., (O.C.W.) or 3 ft. by 9 ins. (O.C.L.). Opening B is smaller.

In the second rift chamber the spotlight was not much use.

O.C.W.

8th. January 1955♦

LAMB LAIR.

Visited Lamb Lair with O.C.L., and 38 watt spotlight. Saw an open passage waiting for a Maypole 30 ft. above Murrells dig.

O.C.W.

9th. January 1955.

HILLIERS CAVE.

D. Warburton, D. Ford, P. Davies - surveying.

P.D.

12th. February 1955.

HILLIERS CAVE.

D.W., D.F. and P.D. Colour Photographic expedition. Discovered a new extension leading to stream passage.

5th. March 1955.

SWILDONS.

A large party spent a few hours baling St. Pauls second mud sump.

6th. March 1955.

SWILDONS

Another party went and baled the St. Pauls second mud sump - success! Bill Youden, Keith Chambers, D.C. Ford, Keith Murray, Tom Andrews, Oliver Wells, B.E. Prewer, Denis Kemp, Eva Waller.

6th. March 1955.

SWILDONS. The Discovery of Paradise Regained. (see survey preceding p. 13)

Discovered by a party consisting of W.C.C., B.C.S.S., B.E.C., N.S.S. (America), Derbyshire Orpheus, Cave & Crag.

Entered through a mud sump in St. Pauls, this new series consists of a number of large rift passages and loose boulders. Progress brought to a halt by a ladder pitch (Shatter Pot - ed), also small hands and knees' passage.

O.C. Wells.

12th. March 1955.

EASTWATER. (see survey preceding p. 13)

D.C.F. - & J.C. and David Walkinshaw (guest) descended Eastwater at 6.30 pm, and a little later a determined attempt succeeded in forcing the squeeze which makes a fitting culmination to the Mud Escalator.

The new series entered took the form of a small chamber floored with brown stalagmite. A fine passage leads steeply up to a pretty grotto and a boulder choke. Lower down the roof soars away into a magnificent aven. At the bottom of a little passage leading from the base of this Nether Aven a tiny rift leads back to the Tether Chamber and Walkinshaw was able to pass acid drops through to the bemuddled explorers who spent a good hour trying to find an alternative return route to the dreaded Escalator. No such route could be found, however, and a very tired party returned over the ground they knew so well and left the cave at 1.20 am.

The new discoveries are sufficiently different in character from any other part of Eastwater we have seen to merit the description of a series. They have accordingly been called the Beechen Series.

D.C. Ford.

G. J. Candy.

D. Walkinshaw.

19th. March 1955.

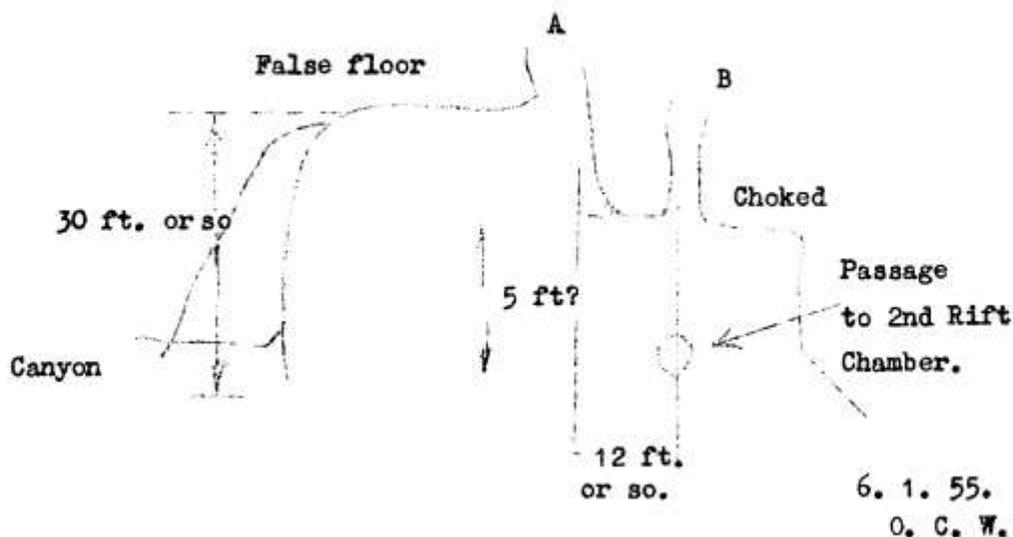
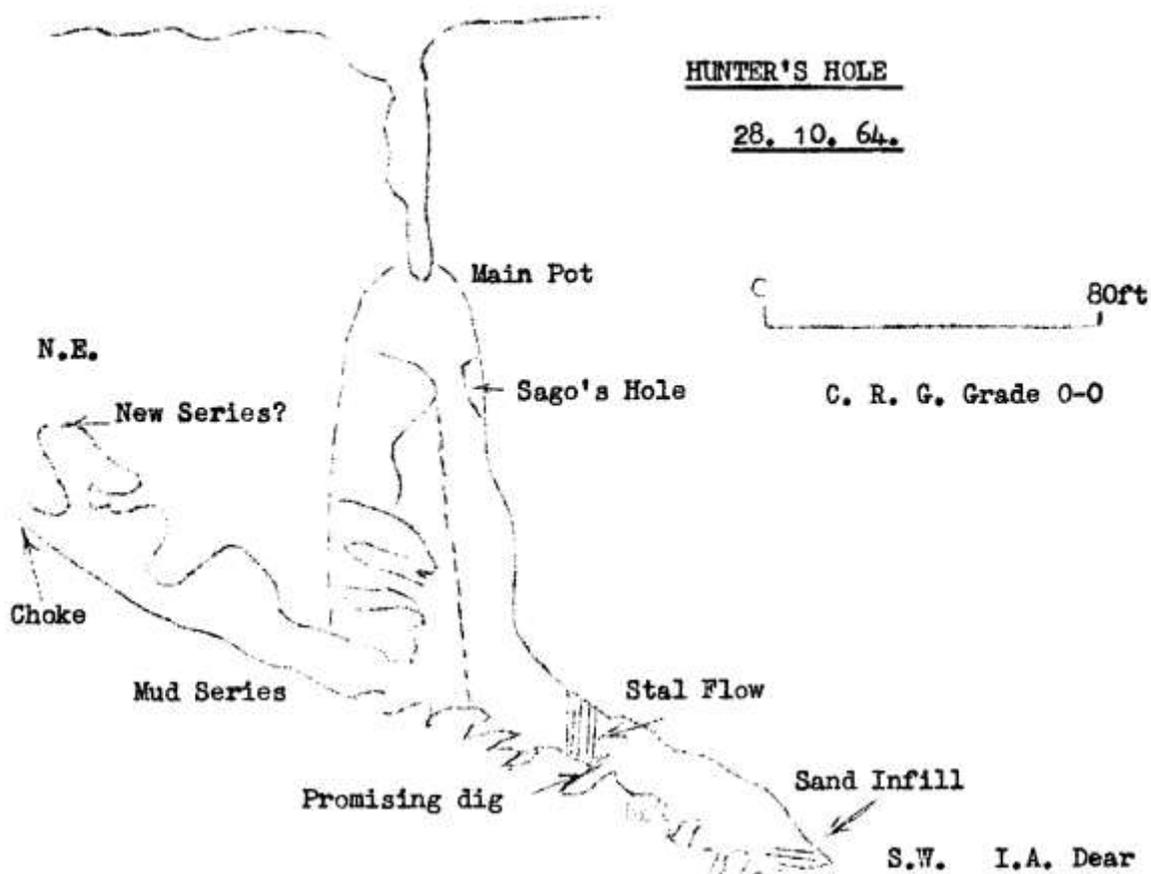
SWILDONS.

Went to Swildons. Looked (!) at the entrance to Paradise Regained then watched O.C.L. and his men drilling in the P.G. dig.

O.C.W.

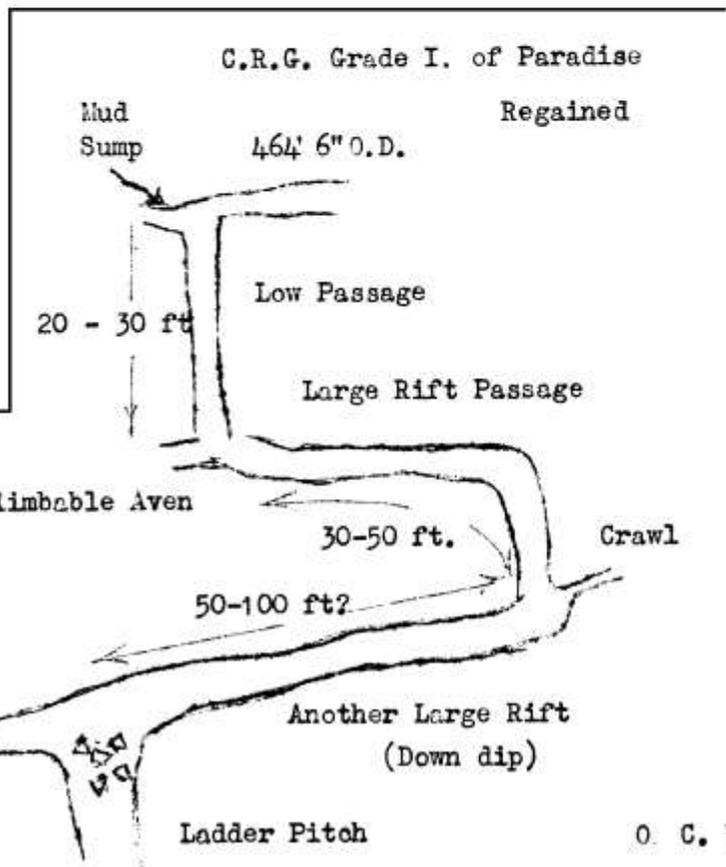
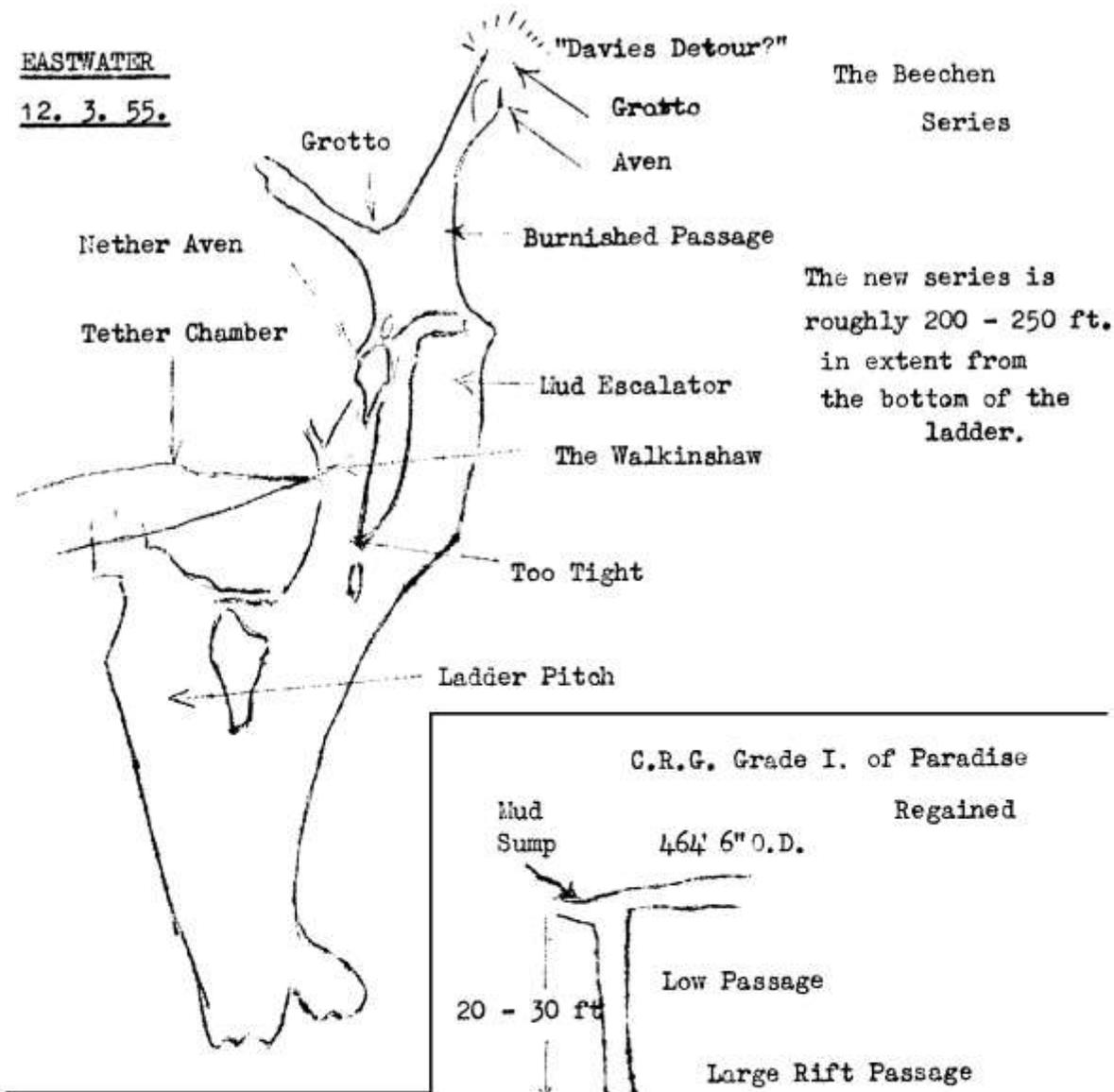
HUNTER'S HOLE

28. 10. 64.



EASTWATER: 1ST RIFT CHAMBER - 6. 1. 55.

EASTWATER  
12. 3. 55.



SWILDON'S - 6. 3. 55.

O. C. W.

19th. March 1955.

HILLIERS AND FAIRY CAVES.

P. Davies and D. Warburton to Hilliers joined later by Ford at quarry. Fairy Cave was surveyed and surprised the team with its length. After a hot meal on the surface the extension discovered on 4.12.54 surveyed, yielding some 150 ft. of new cave.

D. Warburton.

3rd. April 1955.

SWILDONS.

Keith Evans, Malcombe Lewis and I set off for Swildons with various digging tools and started work on that part of Trat's Temple (Nov. 12th. grotto) which O.C.L. told us to leave alone. Here there is a bank of stalagmite which we thought we might get over. This was impossible and we attacked the rubble on the left of this, quickly getting into a very wet shale band. Altogether we made about five feet.

D. Thompson

10th. April 1955.

LONGWOOD SWALLET

D. Willis, I. Dear, T. Austin, A. Fincham, M. Holland (visitor) on rescue operation in Longwood until 10.0 am.

14th. April 1955.

EASTER HOLE.

am. Toyed with idea of digging in Whitsun Hole field and saw farmer about it. pm. 2½ hours digging next door to Whitsun Hole in air spaced ruckle. Broke into small chamber with promising hole in one corner obstructed by flake. Walked to Dev's and back for tools.

15th. April 1955.

EASTER HOLE.

Flake yielded after one hours' struggle. General clearance operations. Hole plumbed with rock and rope - 6 ft. deep and apparently negotiable when initial squeeze has been blasted. Blasting session at 8 pm. Shape of cloud may start rumours of A-bomb tests on Mendip.

16th. May 1955.

EASTER HOLE.

Permanent fence erected. Gardening and more blasting.

17th. May 1955.

EASTER HOLE. (see survey following p. 14.)

New shaft sunk to eliminate poor roof and bypass sporting squeeze. Abominably sharp razor rocks in 6 ft. airspace mentioned above. Dig christened Easter Hole.

A. Fincham. R.E. Lawder.

30th. April 1955.

EASTER HOLE.

With regard to Easter Hole Alan Fincham and I have no wish to reserve the dig and anybody who feels like taking a bash is welcome\*. The present out look is quite reasonable, the bottom of the shaft - of which 6 ft. or so was dug - being gravel between large rocks.

R.E. Lawder

\* Easter Hole, owing to the original digging rights being vested with the M.N.R.C. Hywel Murrell should be consulted first.

7th. May 1955.

EASTWATER.

D. Warburton, D. Ford, B. Prewer, G. Candy assembled at Hillgrove at 3 pm. intent on blasting operations to open up the Walkinshaw link in Eastwater. Dave Willis and a friend stopping at the Eastwater Hut agreed to come down and fix the bang. The party went underground at 4.45 pm. Considerable trouble was experienced in placing the bang in the very awkward Walkinshaw's link but to everybody's relief the thing did go off.

Half the party left the cave but D.W., D.E. & G.C. stayed on to drain puddles and brew up in Sand Chamber, afterward returning to the link. After a little work it became apparent that another bang of similar size placed in the hole already made was needed.

The party left and emerged at 10.0 pm.

D.C.F.

15th. May 1955.

SWILDONS

Denis Kemp, Keith Chambers, Elizabeth Ridges, Rie Leggett, Alan Simpson, David Newman and Jim Hanwell went into Paradise Regained. D.K., K.C., E.R. & R.L. blasted in Blue Pencil Passage.

21st. May 1955.

CHEDDAR.

Bob Davies and his wife, J. & B. Buxton, Frank frost, Oliver Lloyd, Sybil Bowden-Lyle. Three resurgences dived but no progress made. Skeleton Pit 74 ft. deep.

O.C.L.

22nd. May 1955.

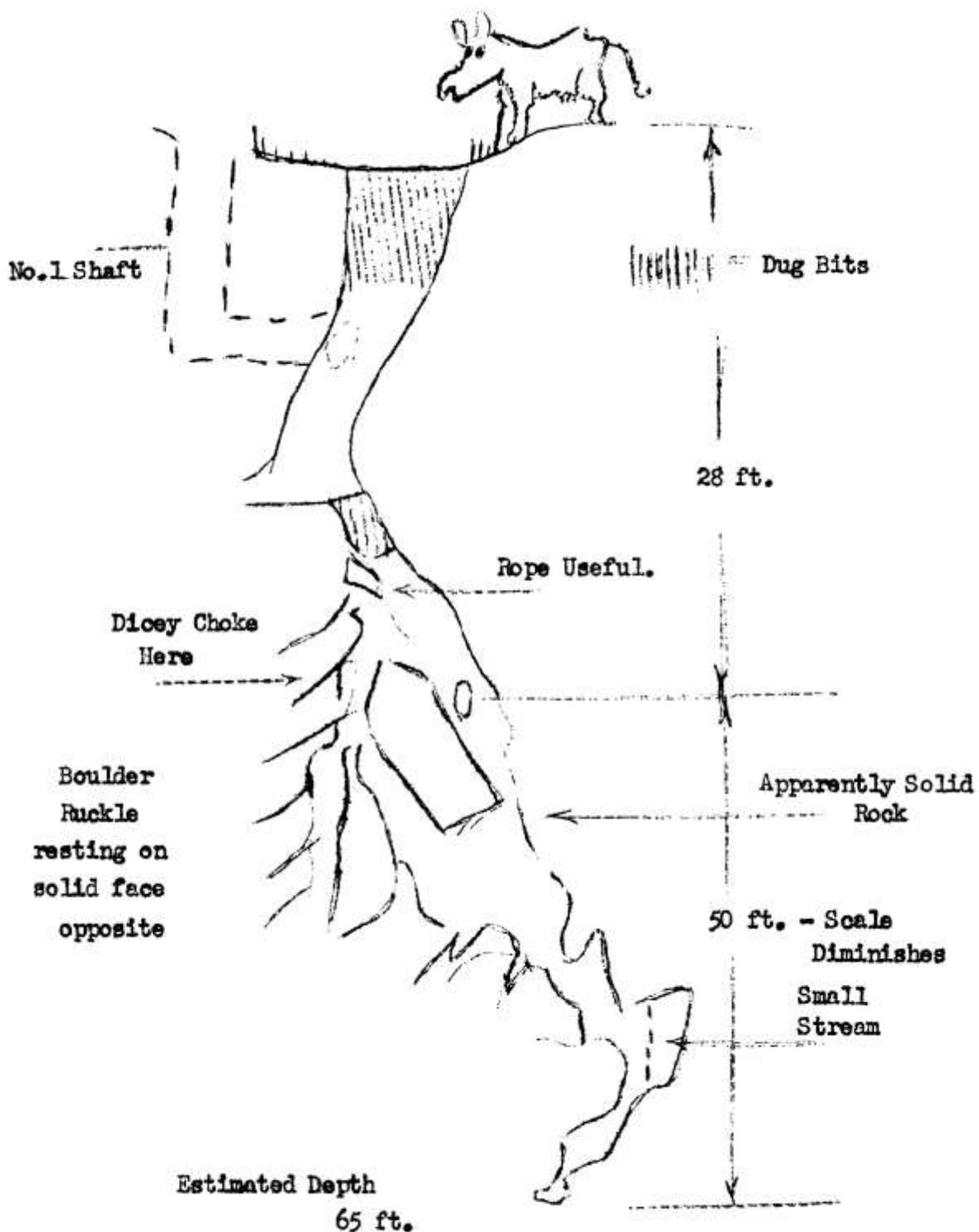
RICKFORD RISING.

Rickford Rising explored for 15 ft. or so - no go.

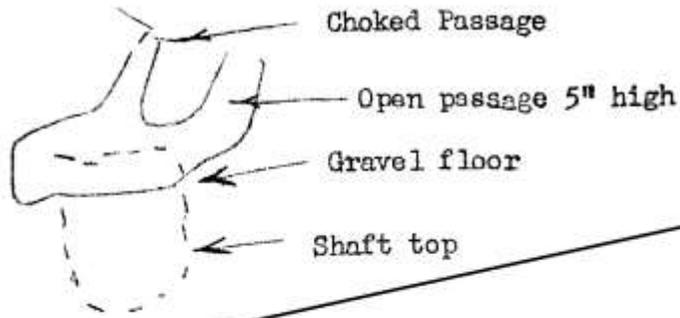
28th. May 1955.

EASTWATER.

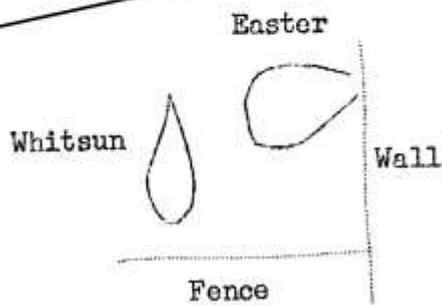
Candy, Prewer and Ford put ½ oz. of flourscein in the main stream in Ifold's Series. Within 80 minutes the stream in the Terminal Rift showed fair concentration. Stain in pools was traced back to the tiny stream which comes into Harris's Passage just above the junction with Balch's route. This stream, however, was considerably smaller than that in Ifold's,



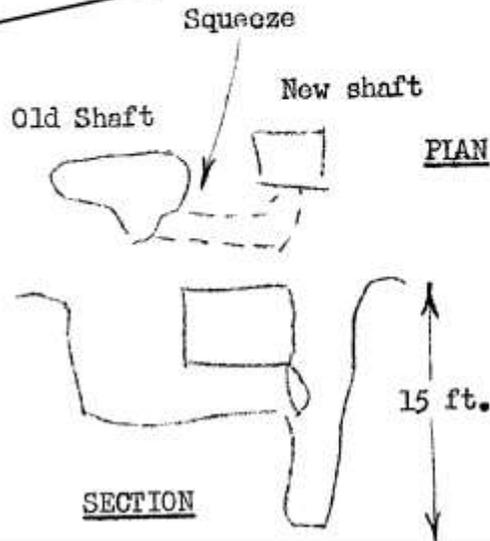
EASTER HOLE - 28. 5. 55.



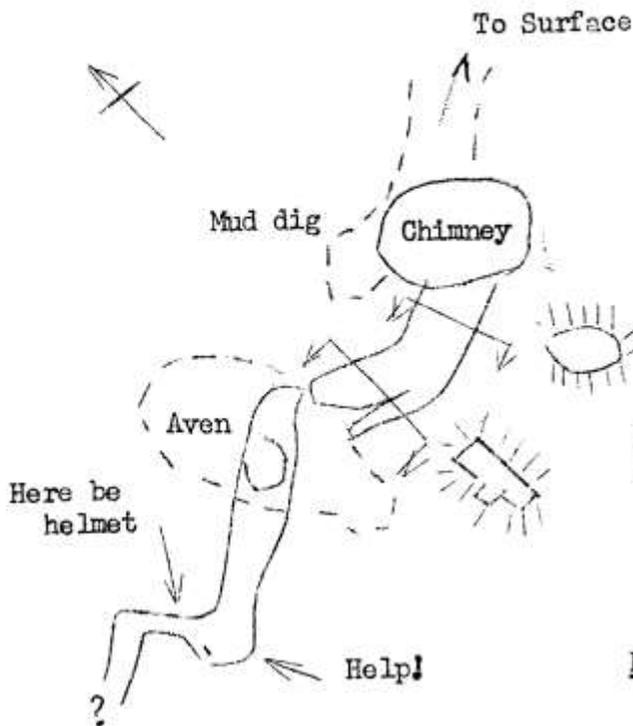
EASTER HOLE 30. 4. 55



EASTER HOLE 17. 5. 55.



PLAN



C.R.G. Grade "0"  
(drawn from memory  
from someone else's  
description)

Total new length of passage  
to restricting point - 60'ft.

R.E.L.

EASTER HOLE 4. 6. 55.

29th. May 1955.

EASTER HOLE. (see survey preceding p. 15)

After another 19 buckets in Easter a hole appeared with a healthy draught, which opened up to give access to an open shaft. After a very short recce we re-organised and set off down prepared for anything. Joe Candy and Prof. Ford disappeared to a depth of 60 ft. while R.E.L. tried an upper stage. In doing so a part of the roof parted company nearly trapping him and scaring the pants off the ferrets. However, we emerged O.K., without having definitely stopped by anything more than the imminent danger of being crowned from a great height.

The cave is at present very dicey, as no reliable cover is available from missiles for 30 odd feet below the bad bit.

R.E.L.

The lowest point reached is in solid rock, well fluted but directly at the base of the remarkable ruckle above. It takes a small stream.

D.C. Ford.

Having nearly killed Joe Candy by:

- (i) Jamming him in a squeeze in Whitsun.
- (ii) Showering him with rock in Easter.

I am looking for a sump to drown him in!

R.E. Lawder.

3rd. June 1955.

EASTER HOLE.

R.E. Lawder and G. Weston banged at a choke.

4th. June 1955.

EASTER HOLE.

R.E.L. and G.W. gardening in Easter. J. Fetters arrived by thumb. Another bang was found to be desirable and a goodly conclave of cavers gathered to watch the fun. The bang was successful and we set to work gardening. In the process a ½ ton chunk of 'solid rock' peeled off so we had a little look and called it a day.

The geography is now very different - if anyone wants a perfectly good 60 ft. deep cave with further possibilities they are welcome - but I don't advise it. The trouble is that a small 4 x 4 shaft debouches into a 10 x 10 shaft - two sides solid (?) rock, and two sides ruckle - with no visible means of support; for the shaft or 2/3 of the roof.

5th. June 1955.

HUNTER'S HOLE.

With the cessation of action in Easter Hole, Sunday was a vacant date, and it was found that it was possible to arrange a trip down Hunters Hole with Ian Dear. Party descended at 10 am, spent 2 hours shoring in the ruckle, then looked around the bottom. Dug in a boulder choke which shows promise.

18th. June 1955.

CUCKOO CLEEVES.

Dug in Cuckoo Cleeves all day, joined later by D. Warburton, P. Davies, O.C. Lloyd, Alan Merrit, Bob Woolley. Anne Leeves joined the party later while the steel shaft was being lowered and assembled. A surface survey to pin-point the entrance was also made, by Denis Warburton.

J.M. Fettes.

19th. June 1955.

CUCKOO CLEEVES.

R. Woolley and O.C. Lloyd spent 8 hours working at Cuckoo Cleeves, digging and shuttering the shaft. The West wall is very dicey, but the other three will soon be all right.

O.C.L.

24-26th. June 1955.

CUCKOO CLEEVES.

On the Friday evening, Robert Woolley and I found that the West wall had fallen in and that it was not going to be possible to fit the cage we had made on to that side of Well's shaft over the hole with the draught. So we started shoring up that wall to make it safe. On Saturday, with Derek Ford and others we did most of the shoring, but left for Sunday the top part of the South wall. This needed straightening, first of all, by removing rocks from outside the corrugated iron work.

After we had done this on Sunday morning we went ahead with digging at the foot of the shaft. Progress was rather slow as the space is narrow. However, we removed 50 buckets of earth and stones and then put in some iron work and props to prevent the South and West walls falling in during the coming week.

O.C. Lloyd.

2nd. July 1955.

EASTWATER.

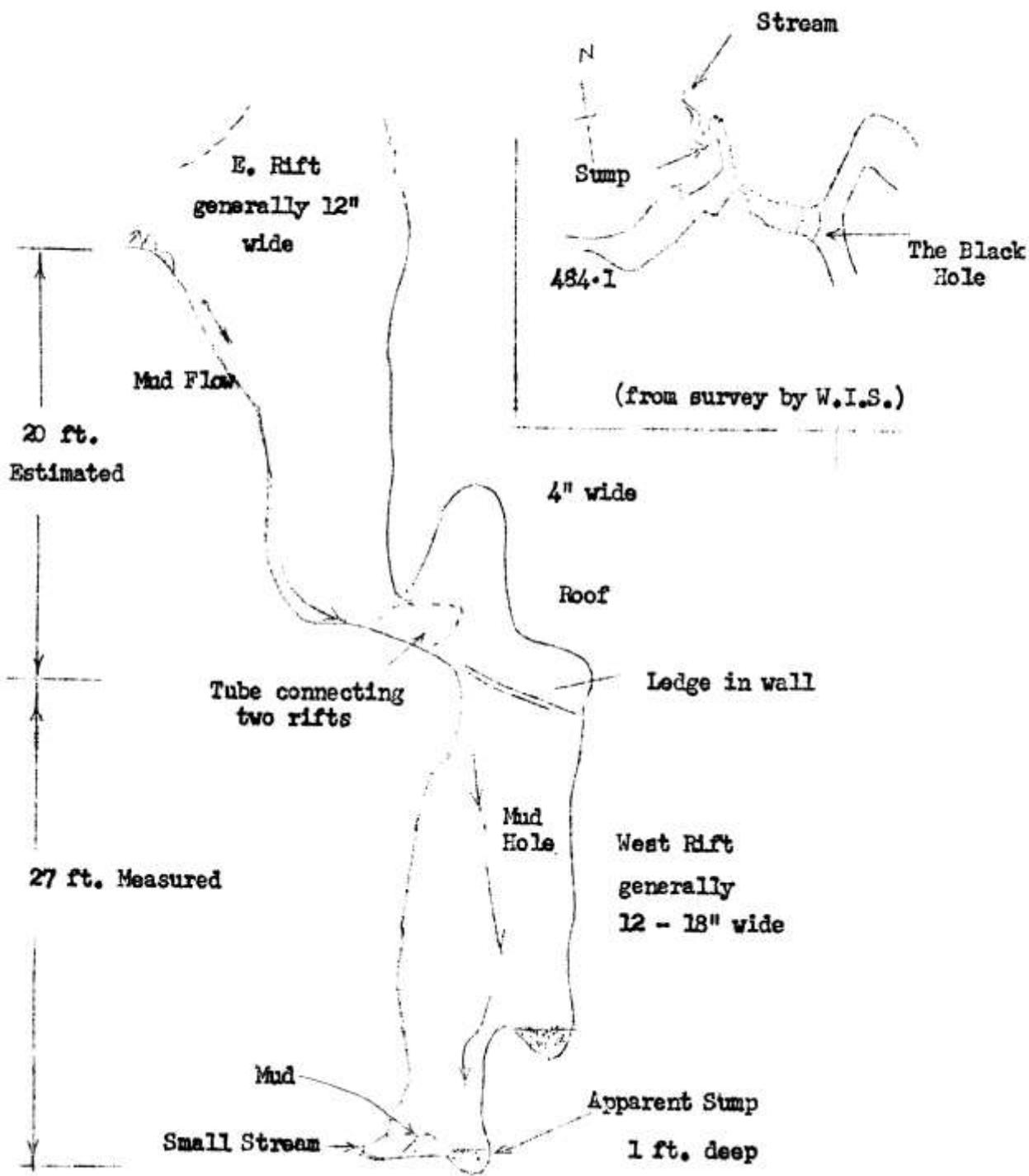
Beechen party awaited the arrival of two more members B. French and G.J. Candy who turned up two hours late; then departed for Eastwater and the Escalator. Down at 7pm.

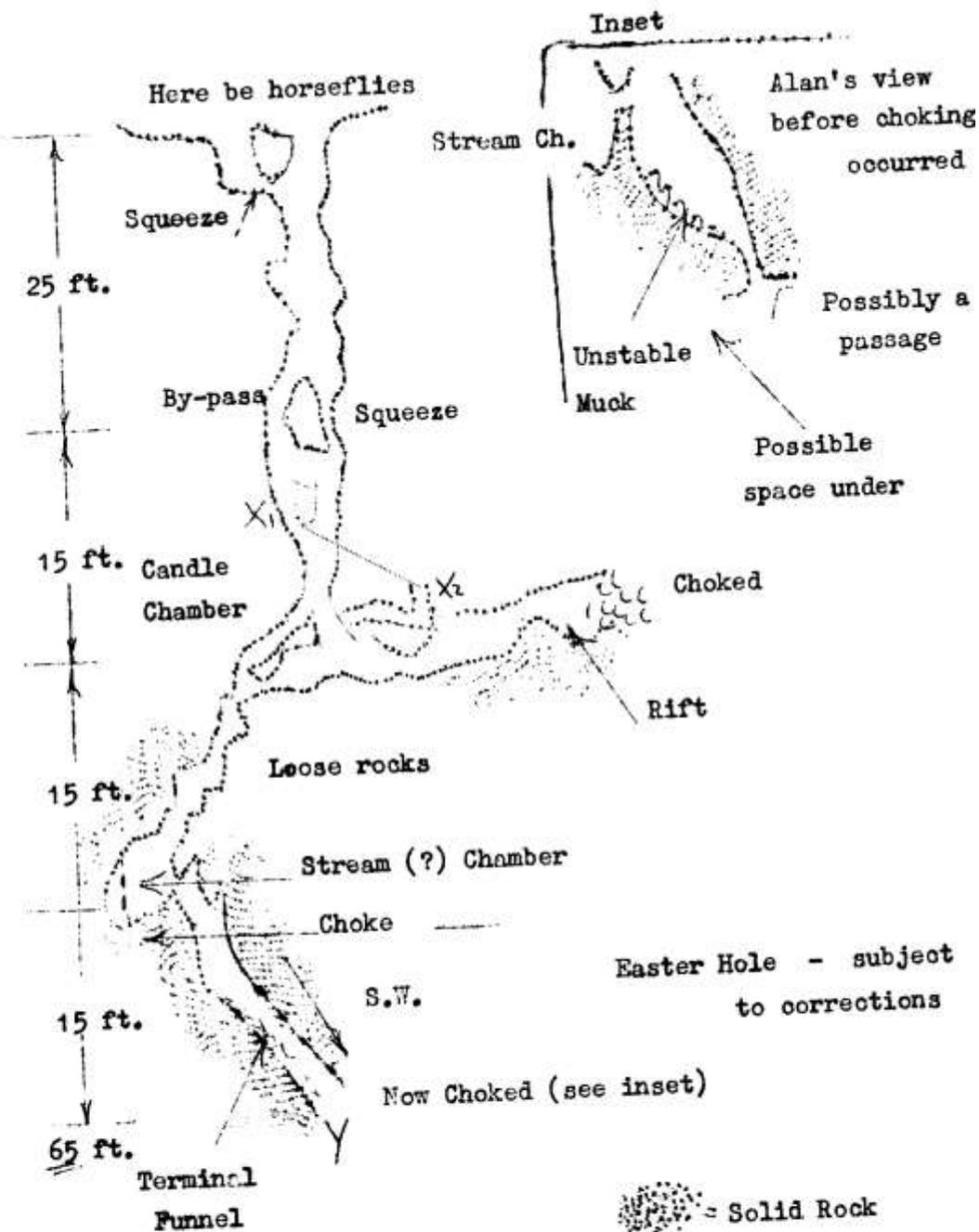
The Walkinshaw's Link, recently blasted, was cleared with comparative ease and with three unfortunates still struggling in the Escalator, Ford announced the opening of a simple by-pass. This was soon to prove invaluable; a member of the party had a bad time in the Escalator and rope and ladder had to be brought through the link to extricate him.

Following up a suggestion of the Hon. Sec. the bottom of the Dolphin pitch was examined and it was found that the very useful boulder down which one slid prior to alighting on the flake had fallen out. A rope is now a very useful aid on this section.

D.C. Ford.

SWILDON'S - 9. 7. 55.





Correction:

Suggest 50 ft. deep

14. 8. 55. A.F.

EASTER HOLE - 14. 7. 55.

3rd. July 1955.

CUCKOO CLEEVES.

Oliver C. Lloyd, Robert Woolley and Keith Evans to Cuckoo Cleeves. More maintenance work done. Floor deepened. 28 buckets of earth removed. A small hole with a draught is open but impassable. This hole needs care.

O.C. Lloyd.

8th. July 1955.

EASTWATER.

D. Ford, B. Prewer and H. Johnson arrived from Bath at 9 pm. and went down Eastwater to recover tackle from Beechen Series. Looked at the end of Burnished Passage and concluded that it needs bang. Out at 2 am.

D.C. Ford.

9th. July 1955.

SWILDONS. - The Mud River Rift, Black Hole Series. (see survey following p. 16)

Party consisting of Mark Lane, Fred Davies and myself, only three out of an original party of eight assembled at Hillgrove in the afternoon. The proposed trip was about to be cancelled through lack of support when Derek Ford and Mike Grimmer saved the situation. Underground by 6 pm rapid trip to sump. Changed into dry clothes near the 10 ft. overhang in the Black Hole Series, thence to the brink of the Black Hole itself, We established a base kitchen, ate well and smoked well (by courtesy of Fred). We could procrastinate no longer.

The 'Rift' was thoroughly examined and a series of estimated and measured dimensions were recorded in writing, the compass failed to unscrew itself, the resulting section was later drawn approx. Very small trickle of water entered at the North end of the rift to sink with mud flow at South end. Depth approx. 47 ft. No ladder required, lifeline not necessary but very nice.

After further eating and drinking exit with all speed. Tackle left in pile this side of Sump I. Cave remains laddered. Saw moonlight 1.45 am.

n.b. Pitons have various uses:-

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| (i). To stir soup.     | (ii). Opening tins.                      |
| (iii). Cutting string. | (iv). Occasionally to belay ladders etc. |

Phil Davies.

11th. July 1955.

TANKARD HOLE.

Spent afternoon removing rocks from Mike Grimmers dig - this dig is defended by horseflies.

13th. July 1955.

EASTER HOLE.

A. Fincham arrived at 4.0 pm. to probe Easter Hole. Penetrated to terminal choke and did some digging and gardening in the shaft. Did not have any mishap. It is essential that only one person should move in the shaft at a time as he is almost certain to dislodge small chunks of rock.

Below 30 ft. satisfactory safe shelter points can be found. However, in its present state Easter Hole should be treated with respect.

Alan Fincham

14th. July 1955

EASTER HOLE. (see survey preceding p. 17)

T. Austin, Colin Thursfield (visitor) A. Fincham down Easter Hole, A large flake of rock was smashed up to make a by-pass to the very nasty vertical downward squeeze, down which the rope may well hang; and then leaving the rope to descend the hole just beyond the top of the squeeze and rejoining the rope through a hole which opens just below the squeeze. (This new route is now 'Lawder Size').

The first safe station is directly below the squeeze where an overhang is found - Candle Chamber - from this point up not more than one person should be in the shaft at a time.

From this point facing the last drop into the Candle Chamber there is a way between the rocks on both left and right. The right way leads into a fairly stable rift very mud choked which appears to be the original inlet. The main way down is to the left where an assortment of crawls under or over boulders leads down to a fairly stable chamber which has a small trickle of water sinking in the floor - Stream Chamber!

At one point between the Candle and Stream Chambers there is a high aven with some rather ominous boulders jammed part way up. From the Stream Chamber the solid rock is reached and over a ledge on the left one enters a steeply dipping funnel passage with a choke in the bottom. There is a good belay for a rope, which is helpful, on the lip of the ledge.

Before we started work there was a nice hole on the left at the bottom of the funnel down which one could see for some 4 ft. to the choked floor and with an indication of a rising passage coming in on the opposite wall. Stones dropped through went for a short distance and some seemed to find a small pool of water. The hole on the right is still open but is in solid rock and not even 'ferret' size.

Several beasts of boulders were shifted out into Stream Chamber and a real swine was lodged in a pocket in the wall where it will be well left alone.

The floor of the funnel is a mass of loose debris, lubricated by a trickle of water and during our rock shifting operations the lower part of the funnel effectively blocking the hole.

An extensive clearance operation is now necessary but this should not prove very difficult. Debris can be very well dumped in the Stream Chamber. However, care will be needed to prevent more muck sliding down the funnel floor.

The whole cave has been extensively gardened and provided it is treated with respect is fairly safe.

Lump hammer and entrenching tool left on ledge in terminal funnel for Lawder's party's use.

There appears to be a draught out from the funnel choke.

Alan Fincham.

16th. July 1955.

SWILDONS. (see survey following p. 40)

G.J. Candy, D.C. Ford, P. Davies arrived at Hillgrove at 4 pm. Joined by Fred Davies of Shepton Mallet and went underground at 6 pm to Paradise Regained with a pole five feet long to test the practicability of transporting Maypole in 5 ft. lengths into the new series (Paradise Regained - ed.).

It was forgotten at the Mud Sump. No difficulty was experienced in transporting it thus far.

After a brew at the base above Blue Pencil Passage the upstream continuation of this horror was looked at. After a, short crawl one arrives at the foot of what appears to be a very large pitch in rotten rock. An open chimney starting 15 ft. up appears to lead in 20 ft., to possible passage off, with other higher entrances also visible. The climb was considered too dangerous without pitons.

The area around the Mud Formation was then examined and P. Davies found an interesting Ox-bow. A passage off may yield to blasting.

A pot-hole in the floor near the squeeze was enlarged and when the stage was reached where tools were necessary, stones could be thrown into an apparent crawl passage about 6 ft. below.

An inlet passage on a corner a little higher up was next examined. It yielded Phil 40 ft. of very tight crawling before Chippolata Squeeze, through which further passage could be seen, caused him to turn back.

Finally the 'Tedious' passage near the 25 ft. pitch was examined by Ford. It soon takes the familiar 'T' cross-section and rises gently. A puddle which seemed to mark the limit of previous exploration was squirmed through. Ten body-lengths beyond, the passage turned sharply and became very low. An entrenching tool is needed here, Ford returned. Party was out at 3.30 am. and spent a lazy Sunday in Mineries and elsewhere.

D.C. Ford.

20th. July 1955.

EASTER HOLE.

Shoring in Easter Hole. Horseflies lascivious.

R.E.L.

22nd. July 1955.

WHITSUN HOLE:

Dug in Whitsun.

R.E.L.

30th. July 1955.

TANKARD HOLE.

M. Grimmer and A. Leeves (visitor) arrived Hillgrove and immediately shopped in Wells. Encountered R. Lawder in Hunters and after lunch started on the dig, so far nameless, under the left-hand wall on the road to Hunters (from Hillgrove - ed.) R. Prewer shortly arrived - and the work continued over Sat. and Sunday. Were kept awake by an eflux of B.E.C. at 1.30 am. on Sunday.

1st. August 1955.

TANKARD HOLE.

Digging continued on Sunday, when A. Leeves departed. On Monday, while M. Grimmer was enjoying the Blagdon Show with the Sealy's Bob Lawder and B. Prewer encountered a positively ferocious draught in the West side of the shaft - this draught continued unabated, to everyones surprise, until early on Wednesday.

On Tuesday the dig continued vertically in the shaft until, after a couple of more feet of tenacious clay, it was decided to abandon the glorious ideal of a vertical shaft end pursue the draught in the side. Many large rocks were removed - by shear-legs and the huge strength of the Lawder right arm - until a definite airspace was revealed. Activity temporarily eased at this stage in order to obtain shoring materials which had become horribly necessary - both A. Leeves and Bob Lawder had been menaced by falling boulders.

By now M. Widdicks had arrived and on Wednesday he and M. Grimmer went to an auction sale at Halcombe and luckily obtained a large amount of timber quite cheaply. Corrugated iron was collected piece-meal at the Minories and elsewhere for a grand attack on Thursday.

The shoring enabled the team to enlarge the airspace vastly on Thursday. Lots more large blocks were removed - most of which were delightfully water worn. By the afternoon a way on was visible. On the side away from the shaft it consisted of a fluted area of bedrock - at last! But to the left was a rather menacing choke, and work ceased in the evening, with a very promising way on open down which pebbles rolled for a highly satisfactory distance. At this stage t'was felt that all we required was a brave man.

We thought carefully and decided to do something to the choke before entering. Fred Davies has arrived on Mendip and will join us at the dig tomorrow. Hopes are high.

It has provisionally been decided to call the dig TOAD HOLE - owing to the superabundance of what are probably frogs in the hole.

6th. August 1955.

TANKARD HOLE.

To-day the cave was entered. The team augmented by Fred Davies, began by further shoring and choke removal. More large rocks were removed, and by lunch time the way was open. A short trip in was not extended - because of the lure of the Hunters. But we went down to the entrance mud-slope, through a squeeze to the left into quite a large bedding chamber containing a delightful little aven. Two three-inch straws were greeted with the cry 'formations'! At bottom right of this chamber the way on led through a squeeze. Here it became obvious that we were in a ruckle - of the Eastwater type - whose intersices were filled with a very loose sub-ruckle the whole thing looked very promising - but rather dangerous throughout, pebbles dropped in the ruckle went down a very long way. We adjourned for lunch.

On returning a very essential bit of shoring was done, and the cave re-entered, by M.G., F.D. and M.R.W. A point some 20 ft. below the morning position was reached by F.D. who pronounced - to general acclamation - that t'was rather a dangerous ruckle. The party left the cave.

The general opinion is that a way can be forced through the ruckle - making safe every stage as we go - but probably a lot of work is necessary.

The bed-rock face against which the ruckle rests on the West side exhibits fine fluting, and is of almost black limestone, quite unlike that nearer the surface.

A map would be meaningless at this stage, although the depth reached is in the region of 40 ft. the way on is open, but dangerous.

I am quite prepared to take anyone down, and indeed hope to collect a party to force a way this weekend.

M.G.

LOG BOOK. 6th. August 1955 to 2nd. September 1956

6-7th. August 1955.

CUCKOO CLEEVES.

Oliver Lloyd and Robert Woolley to Cuckoo Cleeves. Retrieved tripod, which had crossed the road. As regards the dig - 'two steps forward, one step back'. Will be there again on the 14th. D.V.W.P. Frank Frost joined us on Sunday morning.

O.C.L.

11th. August 1955.

EASTER HOLE.

M. Hooper, A.F. and visitor down Easter Hole. Shifted 10 buckets of muck from terminal funnel. Later a new extension was found by descending through the boulders directly below the top shaft. We found a small rift in solid rock with a clean washed gravel floor. About half way along the rift there is a small tunnel going off; the entrance to which was soon opened by shifting gravel. Aural connection was made by sending a man back to the funnel end and it seems now that this tunnel is the upstream end of the rising passage which was seen through the choked hole in the bottom of the funnel (see Log entry dated 14.7.55 - ed.). It should be possible to force this tunnel fairly easily and a round trip may then be possible.

The new extension seems to indicate that the drainage of the hole is all directed to some point below the funnel.

Alan Fincham.

12th. August 1955.

EASTER HOLE.

M.J. Lane and A.F. down Easter Hole. New passage definitely looks interesting. Very heavy toll on clothing.

13th. August 1955.

TANKARD HOLE.

D.C. Ford and M. Grimmer arrived late Hunter's time, Friday night. Saturday morning with A. Fincham and M. Lane went on working in Tankard Pot. Two large flakes removed then progress barred by a large block beyond which pebbles rattled for a satisfying period. Returning in afternoon with P. Davies, the rock was reduced and stowed away. The way on led 12 ft. to an 18 ft. chimney, consisting of an airspace in blocks piled against a cliff which forms a reassuringly solid wall. The floor consists of very loose comparatively small material with a variety of very nasty ways on apparent.

D.C. Ford.

14th. August 1955.

EASTER HOLE.

M. Lane, D.C. Ford, M. Grimmer, P. Davies, A. Fincham descended Easter Hole with intent to force a ferret (P. Davies) through the newly discovered tunnel mentioned in report of 11th. August. M. Grimmer was on a return 'tourist' trip for A.F.'s visit to Tankard Pot. M.L., D.C.F., and 'ferret' Davies went into the new rift to start ferreting. A.F. went into the 'funnel' end of the tunnel, M. Grimmer looked round, decided it was a thoroughly vile place, and wisely retired.

Phil made a stout effort to pass the funnel but was unable to make it go. During these operations A.F. found it was possible to dig a way down in the bottom of the funnel at a point where the loose muck was less prone to slide into the hole, and was very much surprised to find he had opened a way down which seemed passable. The rest of the party rapidly joined him. A short jagged, tight slide led into a little cross rift with a tight, muddy meander passage on the left-hand side. The slide continued down a short way further to a little vertical gulley in the floor. After juggling with a large block it was possible to drop stones through a right-hand side continuation of the gulley. These fell for a very satisfactory distance. It was found that there is a narrow shaft here of cruciform plan. The way in at the top was too tight at first, but a little hammer work enlarged it enough to allow P. Davies through with difficulty. Hammering on the far side then much improved the squeeze and A.F. was able to follow Phil to the bottom of a 20 ft. chimney. The chimney is easy but has loose stuff in the sides. At the bottom is some loose material and a further slide down under the entrance to the top of the shaft of about 6 ft.

Here a repetition of the earlier structure seems to take place and a small sloping passage was seen choked both ways the downstream way is, however, fairly loose, it is a very awkward dig.

The muddy meander passage was investigated by Prof. Ford and seems to enter a sloping passage of reasonable size, but a squeeze has yet to be forced.

The new extension maintains the high standard of bloodiness common to Easter Hole.

A.F.

14th, August 1955.

CUCKOO CLEEVES.

Oliver Lloyd, Robert Woolley, and Tony Burlerton to Cuckoo Cleeves. We used a pulley with a 3:1 mechanical in order to dislodge large rocks. One of these at the foot of the shaft ('the shelf') was moved bodily and deposited on the South side of the shaft, the other, which I call 'my boulder' because it gave me so much pain and trouble, was dislodged and sent on down the cave where it kept on sticking. It has now been settled in the fairway, where it causes no blockage and can slip no further, about 34 ft. from the bottom of the shaft.

By the time this was done (4 pm.) the cave was open, and we started a grade three survey. We did 24 stations and 269 ft. of passage; all easy going and except for some rock and chimney climbing.

We turned back with the work unfinished. At 72 ft. from the entrance - top of O.C.W.'s shaft -there is a 13 ft. pot where the dip rift splits diagonally, and at the foot of this we found some tools: a 4 ft. crow, a 2 ft. chisel-bar, a digging tool with a long handle, a large shovel, a domestic coal shovel, and a trowel. These we retrieved and have presented to the Wessex Cave Club, and deposited them in the tackle shed - all except the 2 ft. chisel bar which Robert is refurbishing. He has obtained a new one for the club.

The cave has been fitted with a temporary gate and padlock, and Robert and I keep the keys. We hope that club members will excuse us if we do not invite parties down, until the work of exploration, surveying and photography has been done, and until the cave has been made safe.

Oliver Lloyd.

15th. August 1935.

EASTER HOLE.

Took party of bods staying at Eastwater hut down Easter Hole with the object of examining Prof's passage and the bottom of the chimney. A little digging & hammering soon made entry possible. This is indeed a muddy passage. The passage can be seen to go forward for about 15 ft. at least but is rather tight and obstructed by flakes from the wall and roof. A ferret with a hammer should pass quite easily. Is this the end of the final passage in Whitsun? We hope not.

The squeeze to the chimney was further enlarged and is now quite easy.

A series of fantastic helmet removings and handstandings and contortions makes it possible to look into the choked passage at the bottom of the chimney. If a large block of rock can be broken up progress may well be possible.

The visitors were impressed by the vile nature of the place.

A.F.

20th. August 1955.

CUCKOO CLEEVES.

O.C.L., R.W., and Mark Lane with Phil Davies surveyed the rest of Cuckoo Cleeves and explored some of the passages. It ends at a little stream, entering from a sump about 20 ft. up a narrow rift to the right and disappearing along the floor in a strike rift too narrow to follow. Total passage length to this point is 486 ft. Total depth 250 ft. below the gate.

O.C. Lloyd.

20th. August 1955.

SWILDONS.

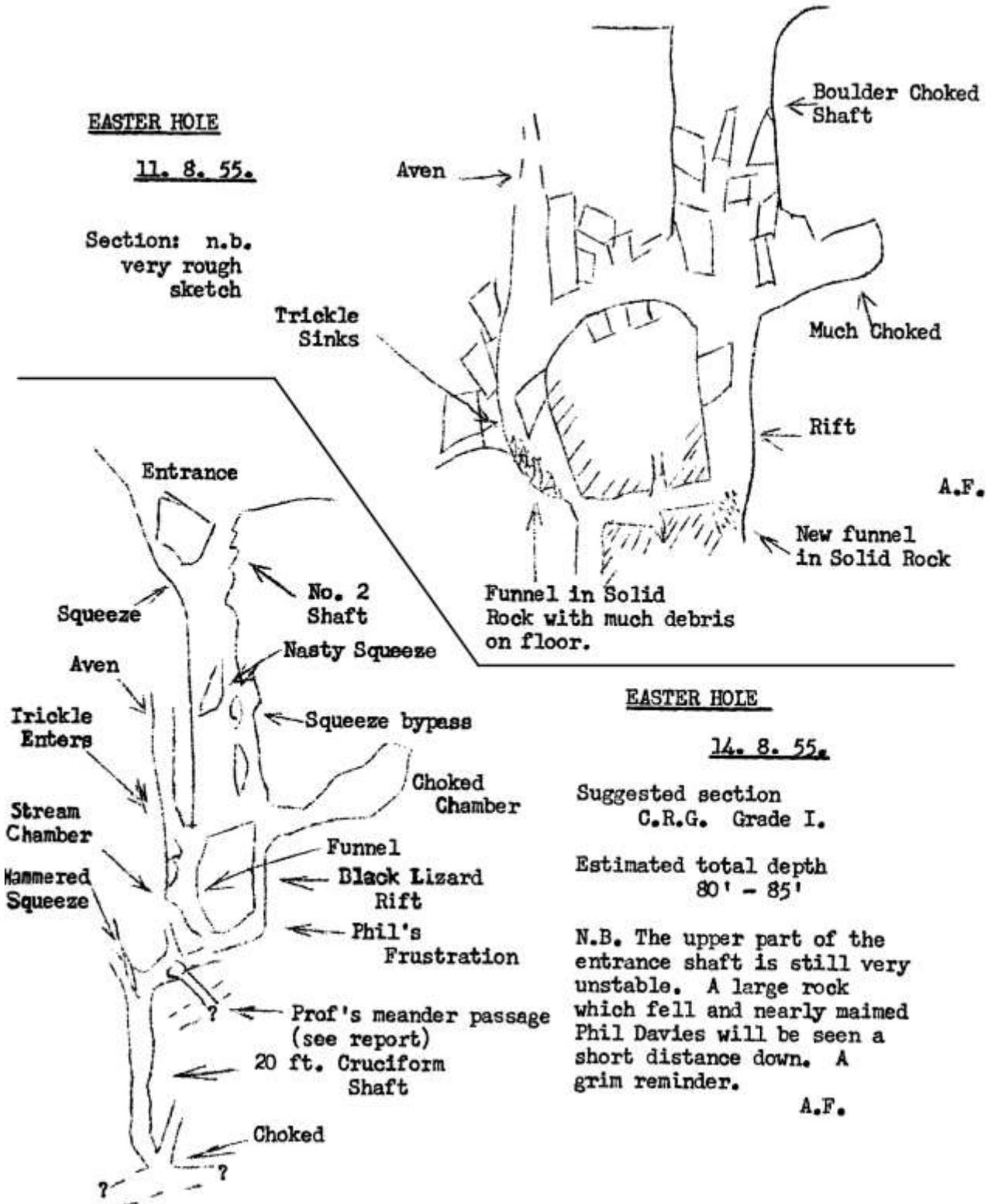
A 'tourist' trip to Swildons II. However, we ended up, as usual, by digging (in Crystal Passage - ed.) including the concealing of the rubbish left by O.C.L.'s diving trip rather more than a year ago.

O.C. Wells.

EASTER HOLE

11. 8. 55.

Section: n.b.  
very rough  
sketch



EASTER HOLE

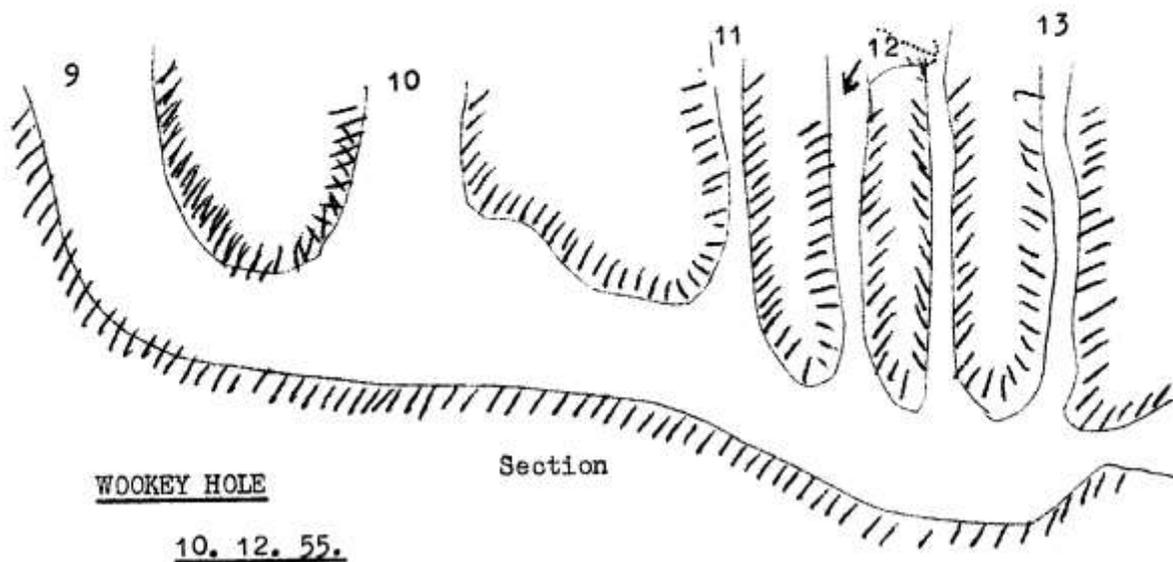
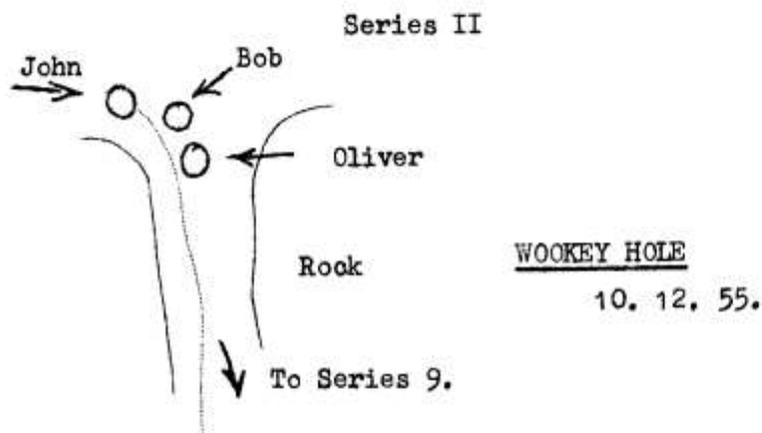
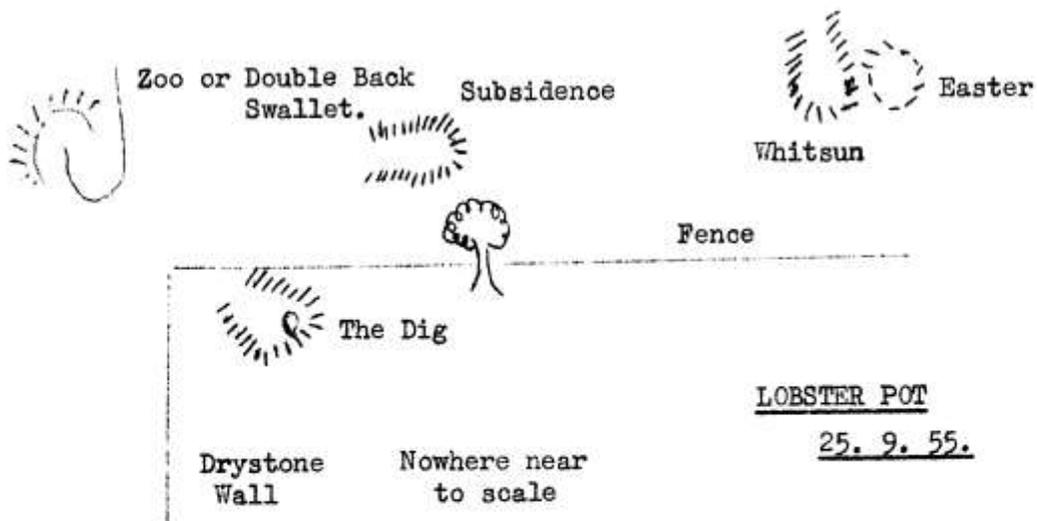
14. 8. 55.

Suggested section  
C.R.G. Grade I.

Estimated total depth  
80' - 85'

N.B. The upper part of the  
entrance shaft is still very  
unstable. A large rock  
which fell and nearly maimed  
Phil Davies will be seen a  
short distance down. A  
grim reminder.

A.F.



21st. August 1955.

SWILDONS.

Oliver Lloyd, Robert Woolley and Mark Lane on a banging party down Swildon's to P.G. Stream. Quite satisfactory progress along the shale band, but it takes rather more banger, because it is soft. Used 6 sticks of gelly and 2 dets.

One interesting observation I made is that although the water in the main streamway is reduced to a trickle, the volume of water in the P.G. Stream is only slightly less than normal.

O.C.L.

27th. August 1955.

LAMB LAIR.

Took a party of the Bedford School Club down Lamb Lair: this included 6 boys and Jack Carlton, who came as far as the top of the 70 ft. pitch. Mainly a tourist trip. One of the boys - Pascal - climbed up into the hole above Murrell's dig mentioned by O.C.W. in the log entry dated 8.1.55. and found it was merely an alcove. There were plenty of scratch marks there and it must have frequently been entered before. He also reported that another of the columns in Trat's Temple has been broken. This is very regrettable.

looked for again in the Main Chamber, but none found.

O.C. Lloyd.

28th. August 1955.

CUCKOO CLEEVES.

Oliver Lloyd and Mark Lane to Cuckoo Cleeves. Practically no subsidence at foot of entrance and no repairs had to be done before going in. Five-hour trip, photography and exploration. The grotto above the Canyon is quite pretty and shows solution of empty crystal pools.

found there (3).

Climbed into the roof of 1st. flat roof chamber with pitons. The passage on the East goes 12 ft. turns South-East and is soon choked. No good.

O.C. Lloyd.

3rd. September 1955.

SWILDONS.

A. Fincham, Mark Lane, Phil Davies, Derek Ford, O.Wells tried to bail the Muddy Sump in Swildons II. No progress, no prospect, conclusive. Way on too small and too deep.

On the way in we observed C. Kenny and L. Devenish in the Wet Way. Way on in Crystal Passage is too small, 'ferret' needed.

O.C.W.

8th. September 1955.

MIDWAY SLOCKER.

pm. dug at 'Midway Slocker', Oakhill. This slocker is in the cabbage patch in the back garden of the cottage.

In wet weather a considerable stream sinks here and apparently, due to silting up of the slocker, often floods the garden and house.

The slocker is now quite dry and heavily silted up. In two hours work much rock and silt was removed to the satisfaction of the cottage occupants.

The dig is reasonably promising but will need much more work. Fred Davies should be consulted for any further information.

A. Fincham.

8th. September 1955.

MINESHAFTS - GROVE FARM - EAKER HILL AREA.

Later - mineshaft prospecting in Grove Farm - Eaker Hill area.

Noticed whacking great shaft beside track from Wigmore to Eaker Hill Farm. Water is now being pumped from it. Depth - 140 ft. Learnt from H. Murrell that he descended it in 1936 and found it totally flooded. An old haematite mine.

A.F.

10th. September 1955.

MIDWAY SLOCKER.

am. Dug in Midway Slocker.

A.F.

10th. September 1955.

HILLIER'S CAVE.

Tourist trip in Hilliers - noticed that Suicide Passage is now obstructed by a roof fall.

A.F.

10th. September 1955.

MINESHAFTS - GROVE FARM AREA.

A. Fincham - mineshafting near Grove Farm. Descended the three open shafts near the farm.

West Shaft. - 20 ft. ) All three choked up. Not much of interest.

Centre Shaft. - 47 ft. ) East shaft provided a good climb.

East Shaft. - 54 ft. )

A.F.

11th. September 1955.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

F. Davies, M. Pittard, I. Dear, M. Hooper, A. Fincham, in Stoke Lane Slocker - tourist trip - but the small inlet sump by Sump II was examined and would seem to be of cave diver size and interesting.

A.F.

13th. September 1955.

CUCKOO CLEEVES.

Oliver Lloyd, Trevor Shaw, Robert Woolley and Frank Frost visited Cuckoo Cleeves. Found the bottom of the shaft blocked. Entry impossible.

Party cheered up by the usual Oliver Lloyd meal.

F.F.

15 September 1555.

EASTER HOLE.

F. Davies, A. Fincham surveying in Easter Hole. Three hours. Wretched place! Removed all tools.

A.F.

16th. September 1955.

SWILDONS.

F.D., A.F., M.L., A.G., on a trip to Paradise Regained in order to see the place and to determine if, with a small scale colour test, it would be possible to determine whether the small trickle of water in Blue Pencil Passage goes into Swildons I or II streamway or not.

It was found that the trickle is very small and the problem is to get enough water to wash the colour through. With the object of building up a pool a mud dam was built at the top of Blue Pencil Passage and it is hoped that a pool will collect and make a test possible.

The mud sump was found to be in excellent condition.

A.F.

17th, September 1955.

MINESHAFTS - GROVE FARM AREA.

F.D., A.F., M.L., and several W.S.G. members visited shaft 117 (Murrell's numbering) near Grove Farm - 58ft. deep, choked bottom - and another shaft at the top of Eaker Hill G.R. 563530. This was descended to a depth of 118 ft. to water. The total depth is said to be 148 ft. and the water has been tested to the Sherborne spring by the Bristol Waterworks Co. It is an old haematite mine and is said to be the last mine worked on Mendip. It is now being used as an emergency water supply for a number of farms in the area.

M.G.L.

17th. September 1955.

HILLIER'S CAVE.

Dennis Warburton, Keith Evans, Phil Davies accompanied by N. Brooks. Visit to Hilliers to open squeeze into Suicides Passage, where we examined the final choke: we note that the stream is entirely dry. The sump too is still passable.

P.D.

18th. September 1955.

HILLIER'S CAVE.

Dennis W. and Phil D. surveyed the remainder of Hilliers, approx. 100 ft. of passage. During our stay on the other side of the sump the water level rose  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. It was 3 inches higher than the previous day. There was a small trickle entering the other side and a draught blowing out of that part of the cave.  $1\frac{3}{4}$  hours.

P.D.

22nd. September 1955.

Following a poke around in a small dry valley about 100 yds. North West of Zoo Swallet yesterday Alan and Rita Ash with Nick Barrington removed a quantity of boulders from the base of the valley. Got down about 15ft. in a boulder ruckle with little mud infill. Way on looks promising with plenty of air-space. Work stopped after about 2 hours in order to get permission for continuation to dig. This may have been dug at before. Has anyone any knowledge of this?

25th. September 1955.

Hywell Murrell and an interested lady together with A.G.A. and R.H.A. visited the scene of excavation near Zoo Swallet mentioned in the log entry for 22.9.55. It appears that it was dug by Luke Devenish in the past. On seeing Luke he said that they (Luke and Frank Frost) had dug down about 16 ft. into a clay bottomed ruckle of loose boulders. There they had stopped.

I have not filled this dig in but I have covered it with timber pending the erection of a fence by D.A.W, by arrangement with Mr. Thorm the landowner I do not have any wish to reserve the dig but I will gladly assist if any party is interested in further digging.

There is another interesting hole which has subsided in the past year to a depth of about 10ft. by about 3ft. across. This is in the plantation about half-way between the large standing dead tree in the fence. At the moment it is being used as a rubbish tip so it is quite easy to find.

A.G. Ash

1st. October 1955.

SWILDONS.

D.C. Ford, J. Fettes, M. Hooper, M. Philpott, A. Merry and M. Dale (guest) to Paradise Regained, Swildons. In the nature of a tourist trip as only Ford had previously been through the Mud Sump. However, a dig discovered in July was attacked and proved a dud, ending in a 4 inch vadose trench. Party noted other spots up towards Blue Pencil base then returned. Sump was lower than on previous occasions. Party out at midnight.

15th. October 1955.

SWILDONS.

Eleven of us took a Maypole into Swildons. Discovered 50 ft. of passage in Paradise Regained - and a formation! Out by 1 pm. M. Grimmer, J.Fettes, G.J. Candy, D.C. Ford.

O.C.W.

16th. October 1955.

TANKARD HOLE.

J.M.F. and M.G. put Tankard Hole to bed for the winter. The sides of the shaft have fallen somewhat, but we have closed the oriface proper with tin etc. and hope that a minimum of digging will yield entrance next year.

M.G.

22nd. October 1955.

HILLIER'S CAVE.

D.W., G.H., P.D., Descended Hilliers. 200 ft. of new passage explored, and a very successful first trip for G.H.

23rd. October 1955.

HILLIER'S CAVE.

D.W., P.D., with M. Hartham and R. Rebbeck continued exploration of Suicides passage, Hilliers. Total estimated length - including off-shoots, 300 ft. Perhaps straight line survey measures 120 ft. from the old end of Suicides Passage. The squeeze now quite open but care is needed on account of a loose flake on the left wall. Throughout the new extension the numerous boulders are to be treated with suspicion, little gardening having been done.

A feature of the new passages are the remarkable redness of the formations, or rather the mud covering them. In a few places tree roots are visible. The end lies amongst boulders, with many possibilities particularly at a low level. Duration of the trip 3¼ hours.

If the passage runs North, as it might well do, the end must be within 100 ft. of St. Dunstans Well.

If, however, it runs more East then it will have passed the Well to the South. A survey will be made in due course.

P. Davies.

30th. October 1955.

LAMB LAIR.

C.R.G. party down Lamb Lair. .... Aubrey Glennie and 4 M.N.R.C. bods were down there as well, digging in a muddy hole just below the ladder leading to Beaumont's Passage. A good time was had by all.

O.C.Lloyd.

3th. November 1955.

SWILDONS.

Trevor Shaw, Tony Locke, Oliver Lloyd, Cobber Johnson, Len Garraway, and John Middleton (the last two from the Monmouth School Caving Club) celebrated the occasion (Guy Fawkes Day - ed.) by going down Swildons to the P.G. Stream and letting off ¼ lb. of banger in the deep hole which was already there in the shale band (see Log. Entry for 21.8.55.). Though well tamped this did not raise the roof as well as expected. I started a new vertical hole about a foot back but the hammer head broke off the handle and put paid to further useful efforts; whereupon we returned. We could not, however, on such a day waste the remaining two sticks of banger, so we did some gardening near the entrance; As one goes out of the Wet Way, just where one reaches the 'Tombstone', there were two large boulders on the right, partially blocking the main passage. These had fallen from the floor above during the floods of last winter and were a nuisance. We put the gelly under the bottom corner of the larger of these and blew it. This made it sink vertically about 1½ ft. With a little more muscular effort (chiefly Tony's) we dislodged both boulders, and the way on is now clear and safe.

O.C. Lloyd.

3rd. December 1955.

EASTWATER.

Willis, Willis, Warburton, Davies and Surrall, banging trip to Mortons Pot in Eastwater.

D.A.W.

7th. December 1955.

SWILDONS.

O.C. Wells and party of C.U.C.C. visited Sump II, Black Hole - in by original route, out easy way. Discovered a miserable oxbow in the Approach Passage.

O.C.W.

8th. December 1955.

SWILDONS.

D.C. Ford, Bill Marks, George Mitcheson and Dave Bowen to the Maypole in Paradise Regained. Mud Sump up 3 inches on last time. All the party negotiated the Maypole easily by using a 12½ ft. ladder. After 50 minutes digging the squeeze at the end of the new bit was passed, but the way on looked most unpromising as compared with many other P.R. digs so the party returned. 5¼ hours.

D.C.F.

17th. December 1955.

SWILDONS.

Oliver Lloyd, Robert Woolley, Jim Swithenbank, John Gosling and Michael Dale to Swildons. Two bangs in P.G. stream. Down 5¼ hours.

10th. December 1955.

WOOKEY HOLE.

DIVERS LOG SHEET.

Serial: Wookey 2.

Operation: 13.

Diver: Oliver C. Wells. Place: Wookey Hole. Date: 10.12.55.

Recorded by: Oliver C. Lloyd. Water temp: Not recorded.

Underclothing: 4 vests, 2 pants, 1 trousers.

Dress: SHAWAD 2. Respirator: SGAMTU 3.

Weights: 5. Absorber: Scrag end Bradwell loft. Absorbtion Capacity.

(Not previously used). 37.5%

Dust blown at 1600 hrs. Line tested and secured to drum by O.C.W.

Gas pressures: Main, 6 ft. cylinder, 120 ats. Flow: 0.8 l/m.

Reserve, 4 ft. cylinder, 117 ats.

Apparatus inspected by diver and passed as correct at 1700 hrs.

Tested for leaks: passed correct by O.C.Wells at 1950 hrs, (signed).

Air Expulsion Drill: Oxygen On: Oxygen off: Mins.

2057 hrs. 2100. 2103 3

2111 hrs. 2115.

## NOTES.

21.17 disappeared from 3rd. chamber.

21.70 [sic]arrived at 9th. chamber. Bob Davies checked aqualung in 9.1.

It was then necessary to climb boulders and down the mud slope on the other side to 9.2 Carrying all the equipment about 6 journeys were made, using chain method.

23.45. Left 9 for 11 in the order: Davies, Buxton, Wells. John Buxton was laying a line. Bob waited for us in 10. John had difficulty in getting his line off the reel. Mud getting stirred up, so O.C.W. went 2 ft. ahead in clear water, while John was getting it sorted out. Meanwhile Bob went onto 11. He was in clear water, but the mud was rising rapidly from our feet. According to records of a previous visit the bank between 10 and 11 is sand, but we found it to be muddy. Bob's line had not been fixed yet - by arrangement. The other two were going to beacon him out.

He was wearing fins.

At this time everything seemed O.K. Bob then swam up to us and tried unsuccessfully to fix his line to the line we were holding - John's Aflo, Olivers left hand holding line, Bob was picking away at the end of his line with his fingers, trying to get it undone, He was trying to fix the end of his line onto the side of John's line. Bob was then two feet away from me. Visibility about 2 ft. Bob then went towards John. Visibility worse. (Zero).

I then felt a steady pull on the wire. The wire went very close to the left hand wall in a sort of niche. It then felt as though one or two people bumped into me. I thought I saw Bob's aqualung cylinders near my face, but no-one could have got back along the line to 9. I was about 2 ft. from the edge of 11. I moved back towards 9 about 2 or 3 yds. and held the line above my head, so that Bob could flip along it in order to get past to 9. In moving back I lost contact with both the other divers. Visibility about 1 ft.

About a minute later John arrived along the wire and gave me a push back to 9 - a distance of 75 ft. from 11. No Bob, I unmasked in 9 but John didn't. After about 1|- minutes we returned to 11; John laying out the guide wire again. Visibility about 2 ft. Shone lights. No sign of Bob. After an interval John said he was running out of oxygen. I had noticed that I was getting a bit low too.

24.20 hrs. - estimated to within 2 or 3 mins. Returned to 9. Switched off main cylinders, dived using reserve cylinders and returned to 11. The place where I stopped was probably about 6 yds. short of 11. John was leading the way and laying out the guide wire again. Visibility about 3 ft. Returned to 9.

24.35., arrived back in 9. Changed cylinders.

02.50., left 9 for home. Time of arrival in 3 not noted but must have been between 0300 and 0305 on 11.12.55.

## Personal Notes.

In 6 on way in, trouble with pressure equalization in ears. In 9 Bob complained that his ears were slow.

## WOOKEY HOLE DIVING.

10/11th. December 1955.

Soon after 3 am. on the 11th., two of the divers returned to the third chamber, having lost Bob Davies in 11. They had concluded that either he had reached an air surface and was waiting for rescue, or that he was dead. His aqualung was calculated to last for 1 hour at atmospheric pressure, 30 minutes at a depth of 30 ft. of water or 15 at a depth of 90 ft. Frank Frost then rang up the Wells Police and the Rescue Programme was put into action. Graham Balcombe was contacted successfully, but not Jack Thompson. The Marines at Plymouth were prepared to send a party equipped with deep sea rescue apparatus, by helicopter if necessary. Three sherpas were left in 3 and the rest of the party left the cave. At about 05.30 they were unexpectedly joined by Bob Davies himself. The following is the account of his adventures which he gave on his return to the Wing Co's house.

### FROM BOB DAVIES' LOG.

Tested aqualung in 9.1, carried all rest of gear to 9.2.

11.45 pm. left 9.2.

12.24 pm. reached 12.

I swam to the rim of 11 which used to be rock and is now a steep slope. Not recognising it as 11 I went to the bottom and realized it must be 11, since my depth gauge read 47 ft. of water. It is known that the rim of 11 is 24-25 ft. below the water level, so I had gone some 22-23 ft. below this. I found the way ahead was on the opposite wall under a flake of rock, so I then returned to the beacon divers to tie on the wire as previously planned. On reaching them I found it impossible to pull the wire through the stop hole in the bobbin, so I cut the wire. I then found that my Aflo had opened, the bolts apparently pulling undone. Numerous attempts to close it failed. The extra energy expended caused me to breath deeply and thus became buoyant. I had one arm around John's wire but let go of it in my efforts to close the Aflo. Almost immediately I found myself against the roof of 11 at a depth of 10 ft., visibility 6 inches,

I descended but found no way backwards, reascended and still found no way backwards, nor found the divers. It is now clear that I descended to the bottom of 11 and ascended the other side of the flake in the mud (12). During this time I was still rather despairingly trying to close the Aflo, which had to be held together by hand. At this stage my first cylinder became empty (clock invisible). I continued to spiral around the walls, attempting to find divers, exit or clear water, all of which were unsuccessful. I had equalized the pressure in the cylinders and one cylinder again became empty, thus leaving me with one quarter of the original, supply.

I decided that since something must be done soon and all attempts to return had failed, and since I had reached clear water upstream, that I should go upstream in the hope that another chamber with an air space (12) existed and was accessible.

At 25 ft. I came under a rift which seemed to go high, so I ascended and was pleased to find an air surface (in 13); moreover, that it was possible to climb out of the water, ditching the aqualung, to a passage going backwards for 30 ft., where it entered a cross rift in which was another water level. This must be called 12, but it is by no means certain that it is the same as the 12 that I had previously ascended. If not, then they must be called 12.1 and 12.2. (see diagrams from Bob's aflo pad).

I towed my aqualung out of the water by one of the straps and pondered on the eternal verities. I checked the aqualung cylinders and found they contained 35 ats. (I started with 120 ats.) I then recorded the following on the Aflo pad:

"11 is 47 ft. deep".

"There are 3 major rifts in the roof and the 3rd. gets up to 12". (n.b. this is really 13, according to the numbering decided upon later on the 11th. December).

"I had 40 ats, (really 37 as stated) in each of the two cylinders and will lay a line until one of the two cylinders is empty and will then go on or over, wherever I am then at the time. Signed, 0250 hrs. 11.12.55.

I waited altogether 3 hours in the expectation that the water would clear, and that no rescue attempt could be laid on before this time. The alternative was to wait and be rescued, which might take 2 days and cause a certain amount of nuisance; or attempt to return, according to the plan. I decided to try to return.

I set the compass for 10 deg. South of West with the intention of following it; fixed the wire to a rock and started off. By now the aqualung cylinders were nearly empty, and it was only possible to descend by swimming head first vertically downwards. The compass bearing proved correct and I recognised the slope to 11, but found no wires. There were two alternatives; I chose the right, which was wrong, so slithered down in the mud to find the left, which was right.

At this stage I saw the wire left by Coase in 1949 and my first cylinder gave out. Although less than half way I decided to continue. I pulled on the wire to increase speed and it snapped. Visibility 4 ft. In 15 ft. my line reel jammed, but I had thought of this possibility in 13 and had put my Aflohonk in its standby position. So I removed the line reel, which is still there, on the 11 side of 10.

I progressed to the second loop, which I recognised and started to ascend from 20 ft., at which stage breathing became difficult. I ascended as fast as was reasonable, dropping the Aflo en route and hit an air surface in complete darkness. I hoped it was 9. I removed the aqualung, waded ashore, fished out my emergency torch and confirmed that it was 9.2. After 5 minutes the mud cleared sufficiently to see the light of my Aflo about 12 ft. down.

Several coils of wire had 'grown' beside the belay point. I removed the weight belt, swam out on to 9.2. and fished for the Aflo with the wire. This was successful. I considered returning cleanly with all kit, but decided to return as soon as possible, in case anyone was eating my sandwiches.

I climbed over to 9.1 and put on a P party set; (Oxygen breathing apparatus) single handed, which I am sure has never been done before; turned to say farewell, hit a rock and knocked my by-pass open. Having lost what I estimate to be 20 ats. I closed it and decided that not much more could happen and that if it did it didn't really matter, and returned uneventfully to 3. Visibility 3 ft.

## LESSONS.

1. Fix bolts on Aflo properly.
2. See that line reels work smoothly.
3. Swimming is a hazardous technique, because of the danger of floating away, in unknown territory.
4. Spit on the witch.

29th. December 1953.

SWILDONS.

Working trip to Black Hole with the object- of fixing a rawlbolt at the top of the same to provide an alternative to the objectionable peg. information suggested that there was a hammer in Swildons II but this appeared to pass the Sump an equal, number of times end could not be found.

O.C.L.'s hoard at the P.G-. stream was then inspected but no hammer flould be found. The trip then resolved itself into a tourist trip to spit dorm, the Black Hole. This was accomplished. ^

Sorry, Alan, but I've broken the handle of that hammer 3 times, so I don't keep it down there now.  
opt

7th. January 1956.

CUCKOO CLEEVES.

O.C.Lloyd and Robert Woolley to Cuckoo Cleeves to take measurements and see that it was in order. There has been no further mud slip since our last visit with F.W.F. in September (1955 - ed.). q ^ ^ ^

2nd. January 1956.

CROSS SWALLET.

M.C. and A.F. examined Cross Swallet above Westbury on the advice of the Murrells. A lovely great hole with a large drainage area. A nice fluted shaft about 20 ft. deop,twice dug and abandoned for no obvious reason.

It is hoped to dig this in the Summer on the camp basis, moderate manpower would be needed with suitable mechanisation. . \_

7-8th. January 1956.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

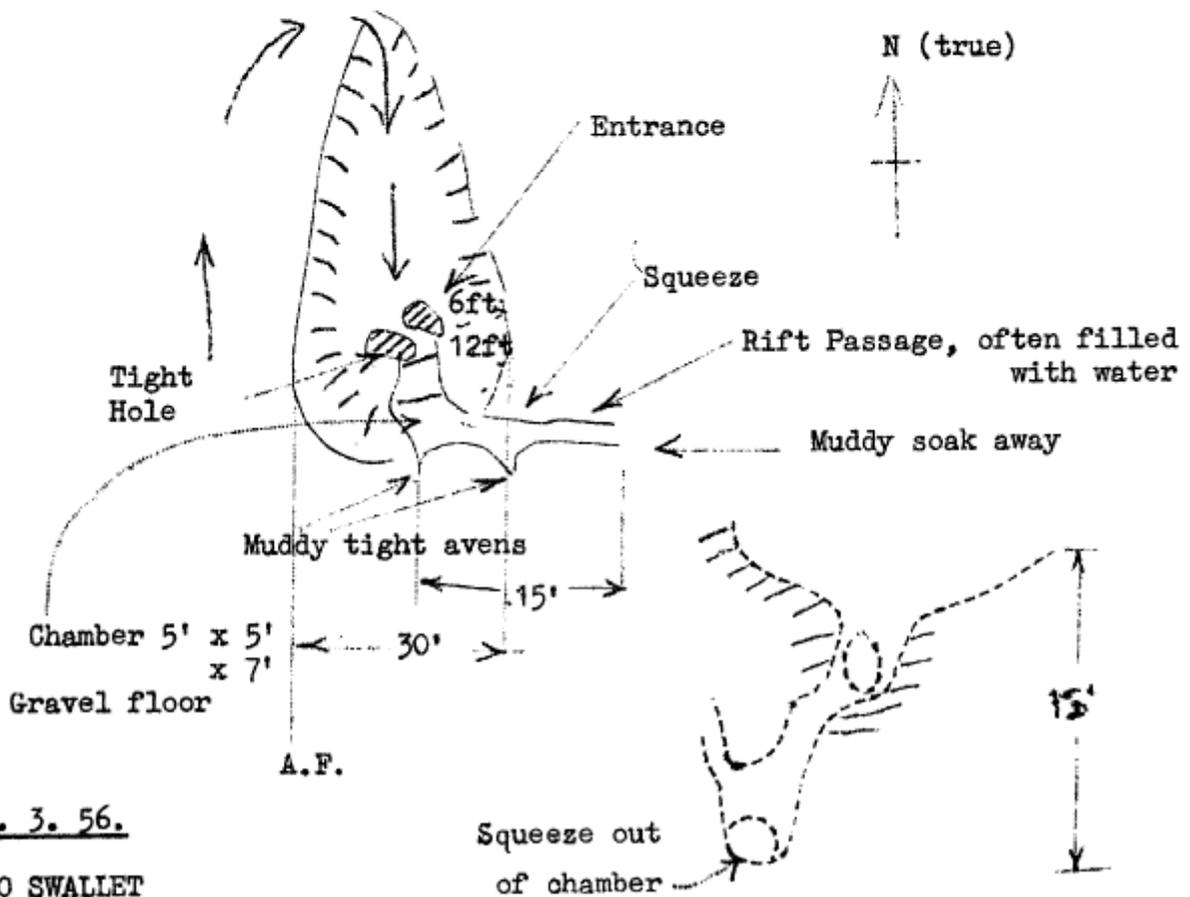
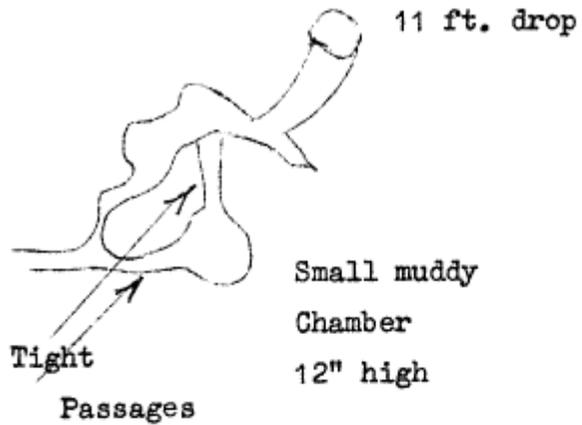
Brenda Willis, D.Warburton, P.Davies, R.Kennedy (guest) and D.Ford, operating as two survey teams in Stoke Lane. Down at 6 pm. out at 3.45 am. Water higher than in Summer. David Willis' oullinary achievements very much appreciated. t\ r a

SWILDON'S

7. 12. 55.

See W.I. Stanton's survey  
of Approach Passage.

C.R.G. Grade I.

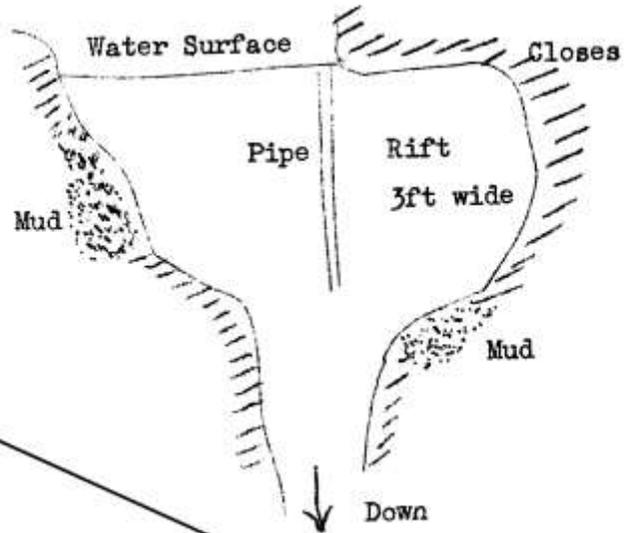


30. 3. 56.

ZOO SWALLET

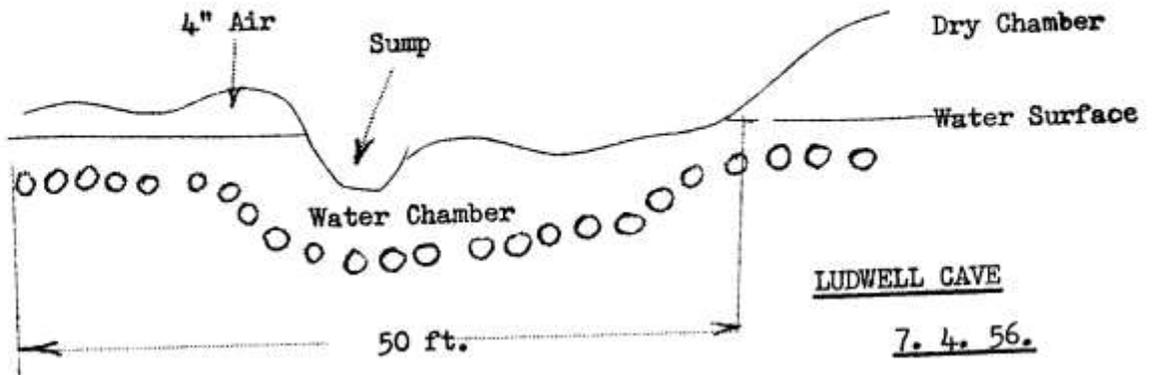
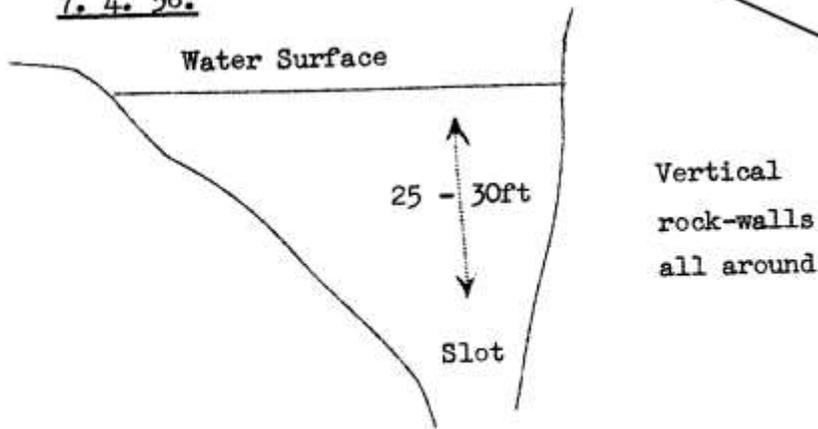
SKELETON PIT.

7. 4. 56.



SAYE'S HOLE

7. 4. 56.



28th, January 1956.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

Denis W., Brenda W., Phillip D., Oliver W., Bill M., Derek F.  
8 hours surveying in Stoke Lane — Did 600 ft. of passage.

O.C.W.

28th, January 1956.

SWILDONS.

O.C.L., R.W., M.L.H., to Priddy Green Stream. Taking the Hon. Sec's advice we packed a 10 inch hole with ½ lb. of gelly, and it was very effective.

Would members take to note that I am arranging a Swildons scavenging party on Sat. 11th. February. Anyone who would like to join in will be welcome. Bring if possible a canvas bucket, trowel and scrubbing brush.

O.C. Lloyd.

11th. February .1956.

SWILDONS. - Swildons Scavenging Party.

The Wessex were represented by Oliver Lloyd, Mick Dale, Mike Hooper, Alan Clarke, Chris Hawkes, Marjorie Seeley and even Howard Kenny who also represented the M.N.R.C. A later party of some 12 students from the U.B.S.S. also came down, of which 8 did some work in the Sump I neighbourhood and 4 went through to fix a rawlbolt this side of the Black Hole. The Wessex party cleaned up the cave thoroughly from the 40 ft. pot down to the last pot-hole and up through the Temple as far as Balch's Beautiful Grotto. Upper Swildons was cleaned up to some extent, but needs going over again, particularly the wet way and the top of Jacob's Ladder.

O.C. Lloyd.

3rd. March 1956.

WOOKEY HOLE.

Diving at Wookey Hole (Archeological). John Buxton, Luke Devenish, Phil Davies, Oliver Wells. Dived in 1, 2, 3. & 4. Luke found more bones in 4.

10th. March 1956.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

D. Warburton, B. Willis, Surveying trip to Stoke Lane. Departed 4 pm.

25th. March 1956.

RED QUAR.

M. Hooper and A. Clarke began digging at Red Quar permission having been obtained. Stream diverted out of dig but work was suspended for want of a spade. Tools left near site.

Tools brought back to Hillgrove for safety. 7.4.56. O.C.L.

30th. March 1956.

ZOO SWALLET.

Examined Double Back - or Zoo - Swallet, beyond Whitsun Hole, outside corner of wall.

No water flowing and no water in the cave. It was found possible to penetrate the squeeze out of the chamber which is so frequently full of water.

A very narrow passage was entered and there were signs of extensive recent flooding - straws etc. The end choke consists of surface washed mud and no air-space continues. It appears to be a simple soak away and on occasions the pool here must be some 6-8 ft. deep due to the restricted outlet. The whole cave is in the triassic conglomerate which can be seen on the surface in this and nearby Swallets. Possibilities of extensions are very limited unless one is good at working standing on ones head, or is prepared to blast a cave...

On occasions this swallet takes a considerable amount of water.

A. Fincham.

2nd. April 1956.

CROSS SWALLET.

Preliminary ? (part of this entry could not be read due to log-book having been allowed to get wet at some juncture between 1956 and 1963 - ed) operations at Cross Swallet.

7th. April 1956.

CHEDDAR - Diving in Skeleton Pit.

There are no passages underwater except for the small slot entered by John Buxton (at a depth of 30 ft.).

8th. April 1956.

LUDWELL CAVE.

Diving at Ludwell Cave. There are no underwater passages except those already known. The water would seem to come out of small holes in the boulders.

O.C. Wells.

14th. April 1956.

St. CUTHBERTS SWALLET.

Cuthbert's trip to complete laying of telephone cable from Curtain Chamber to Dining Room - 6 hours.

Excellent reception can be obtained between Dining Room and Belfrey.

A.F.

15th. April 1956.

CROSS SWALLET.

Surface negotiations on Cross Swallet dig successfully executed. All departed late afternoon.

A.F.

29th. April 1956.

SWILDONS.

Party of 5 to 'P.G.' Stream, Swildons. 1 bang, 5 buckets, 5 inch hole waiting to be deepened.

O.C. Lloyd.

29th. April 1956.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

D. Warburton, P. Davies. No. 8 Survey trip to Stoke Lane - completed line survey.

26th. May 1956.

CROSS SWALLET.

C. Hawkes, Brenda and David Willis fenced the Cross Swallet dig.

26th. May 1956.

CROSS SWALLET.

R.E. Lawder arrived 3 pm. Went to reconnoitre Cross Swallet to gauge wire requirements.

27th. May 1956.

TANKARD HOLE.

Installing shaft at Tankard Hole.

R.E.L.

27th. May 1956.

SWILDONS.

Bailing Swildon's Mud Sump, about 40 buckets removed. Air space now about 6 inches.

M. Dale.

2nd. June 1956.

MINESHAFTS - GREEN ORE.

Investigated mineshafts at Green Ore.

A.D. Oldham.

16th. June 1956.

CROSS SWALLET.

A.D. Oldham went over to Cross Swallet with R. Lawder.

24th. June 1956.

SWILDONS.

Went to Swildons with O. Lloyd and K. Evans to fix a bar above the 'Forty' for rescue work. 4 hour trip.

R. Woolley.

8th. July 1956.

MINESHAFTS - Eaker Hill

P.D., P.C., M.G., G.W., M.L., investigated a mineshaft on Eaker Hill (G.R. 5635,5295) which recently had been uncovered by bulldozing operations. At the moment the top is covered with slabs and a holly bush. The shaft is 70 ft. deep with 2-3 ft. of water in the bottom at present. A rift leads off from the bottom but due to water was impenetrable in our non-caving clothes.

7th. July 1956.

TANKARD HOLE.

M.G., A.F., P. Davies, Tony Rich descended Tankard Pot. Estimated depth: 150-200 ft., all in boulder ruckle, practically all vertical. Had a hazardous time trying to find the way on from present terminal chamber. While cave very dicey descents by the uninitiated not recommended.

A.F.

8th. July 1956.

SWILDONS.

A.P., D. Willis descended Swildons. Investigated inlet passage on right hand side just beyond Kenney's dig to Black Hole. This will be dug in the near future.

A.F.

9th. July 1956.

Mr. SEALY'S WELL.

Descent of Mr. Sealy's well by M.G. and A.F. to determine chances of obtaining more water. Tackle required - 25 ft. ladder. Tricky entrance squeeze.

A.F.

9th. July 1956.

CROSS SWALLET.

Rigged main cable for Cross Swallet dig in afternoon.

A.F.

10th. July 1956.

CROSS SWALLET.

Serviced winch at Lukes and shifted all tackle to Cross Swallet. Rigged tackle and experimentally raised and dumped our first boulder. About 1¼ cwt.

A.F.

15. July 1956.

CROSS SWALLET.

Went to Cross Swallet. Murrell did some banging.

A.D.Oldham.

14th. July 1956.

SWILDONS.

A. Fincham, D. Willis, L. Dawes dug passage in Swildons II. decided it required special equipment. Passage, however, very interesting. Trip approx. 3 hrs. Party tackled cave and reached Sump I in 23 minutes.

22nd. July 1956.

TANKARD HOLE.

C. Hawkes and A.F., descended Tankard Pot, depth estimated with aid of Aneroid: 160 ft. approx. Dip: South East at 30-40 degrees approx.

The whole cave is in a ruckle graduated from mere several hundredweight chunks at the top to cottage-size boulders at the bottom. (Quaking Chamber).

The cave is very dangerous, especially at the top - shoring- at the bottom, and anywhere in the ruckle off the main route down.

The present final chamber is promising but a very dicey proposition indeed.

Keys to the cave are held by: Prewer, M. Grimmer, Tony Rich (B.E.C.) and A. Fincham.

22nd. July 1956.

CROSS SWALLET.

Digging continues. Hywel Murrell assisted matters greatly by means of his 'rapid chemical process' and much shattered material now awaits removal. The roof, however, threatens to collapse. Prospects: fair to middling.

A.F.

23rd. July 1956.

CROSS SWALLET.

Four hours digging at Cross Swallet.

24th. July 1956.

CROSS SWALLET.

A further session at Cross. Moral: If you went to dig a hole, dig a big hole next to the intended site first!

25th. July 1956.

CROSS SWALLET.

R.E.L. digging at Cross with Mark Lane and 2 others. Slow progress in a tight rift.

25th. July 1956.

SWILDONS.

Alan Fincham and P.D, to Swildons, digging in 'back passage' till we got tired of it. Some progress, still large quantities of liquid mud to be removed.

28th. July 1956.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

D. Warburton, P. Davies, B. Willis, G. Weston, A. Fincham, survey trip in Stoke Lane I - Tributary passage.

With the aid of a little rock hammering and ferreting a passage was entered going off the Tributary Passage just by the Corkscrew. This was explored by A.P. and G.W. to an obstruction of rock, curtains and slabs.

It was suggested that this was the end of Ridyard's Wriggle and with some more forcing from both sides this proved to be the case - finger tip connection being possible.

The passage contains a good mud stalagmite, a few straws, and much muddy sand, Some 50 ft. of new passage was surveyed.

With a little hammering a through passage should be possible and thus provide a sporting alternative to the Stoney Crawl.

A.F.

5th. August 1956.

SWILDONS.

Black Hole trip. Swildons. Fixed Rawlbolt on far side of Black Hole.

5th. August 1956.

SWILDONS.

3 visitors from Stoke and G. Weston sherpa'd to Paradise Regained camp with Len Dawes (W.S.G.) Delivered 1 pint of milk - in bottle, intact- and one copy of 'News of the World', both provided by Mr. & Mr. Willis. Bob Lawder enlarged the St. Paul's squeeze to his own enormous dimensions. Richard Kenney passed Mud Sump then returned to keep R.E.L. company. Stoke visitors claimed to have enjoyed this, their first visit to Mendip.

12th. August 1956.

CUCKOO CLEEVES.

Cuckoo Cleeves is now open again.

19th. August 1956.

CUCKOO CLEEVES.

Too much rain to do effective work at Cuckoo Cleeves but the shoring and packing is complete up to the level of the top of the Wells (O.C.) shaft. Still some loose patches at the bottom of the Wells (O.C.) shaft to the South. Rebuilt this morning.

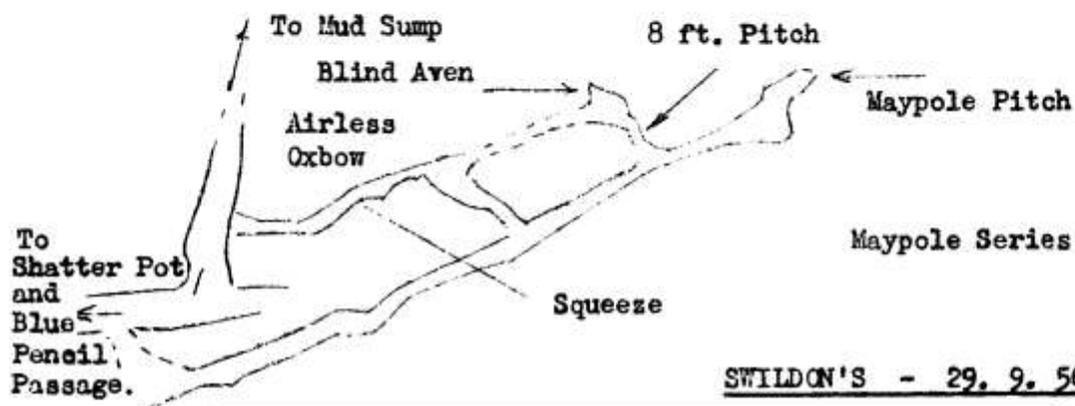
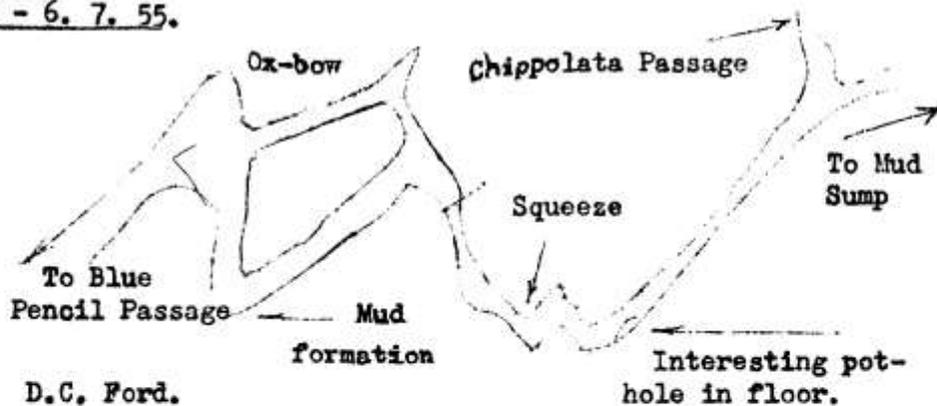
O.C.L.

18th. August 1956.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

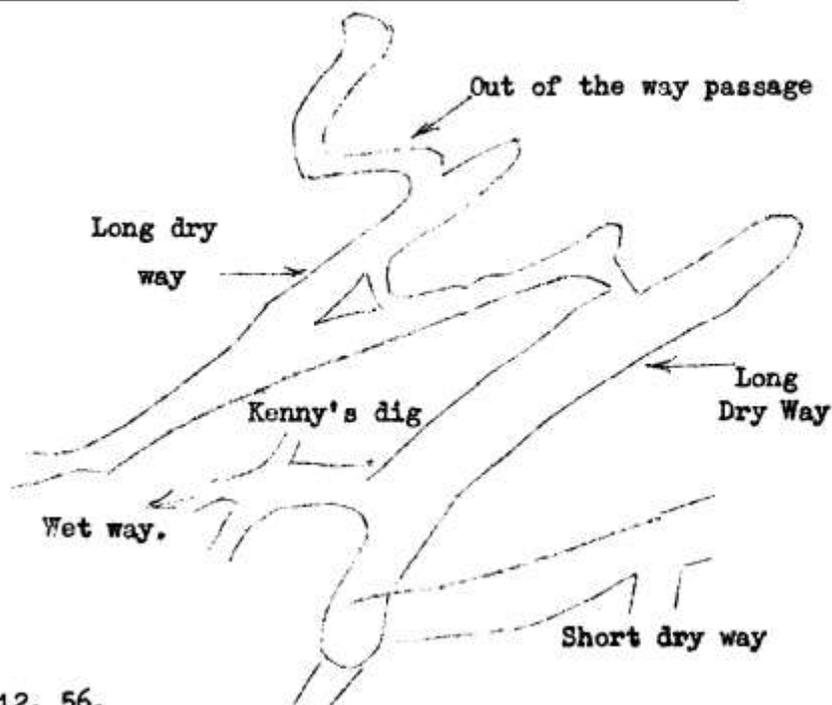
D.W. and P.D. to Stoke Lane for 11th. survey trip. Finished Tributary and did a little exploration. Heavy storm at 5.30 pm produced interesting effect on stream. Also a little gardening in the way of odd corners removed making the way less awkward in various places.

SWILDON'S - 6. 7. 55.

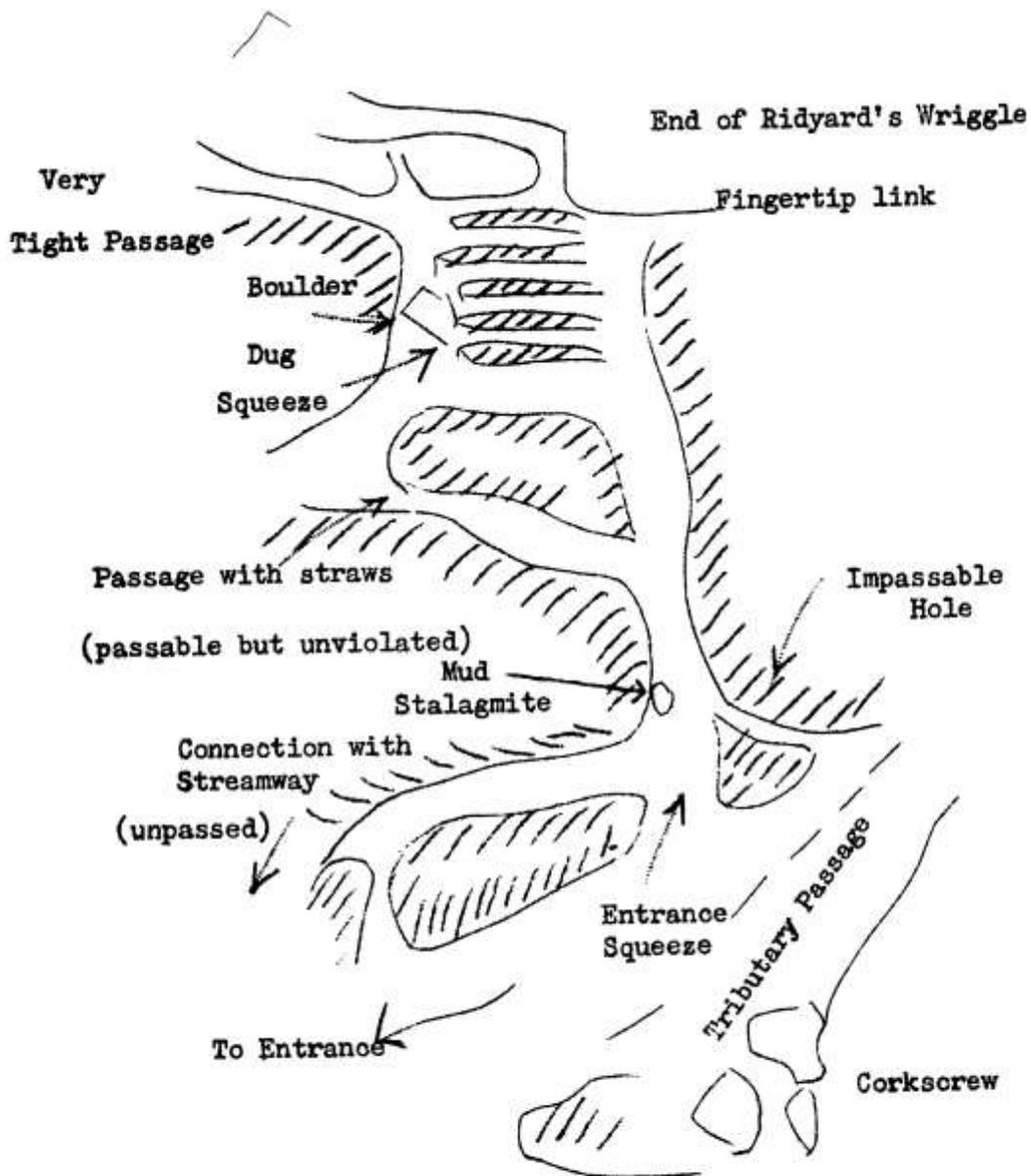


SWILDON'S - 29. 9. 56.

Swildon's Upper Series showing out of the way passage.



SWILDON'S - 30. 12. 56.



New Passage in Stoke I - 'Blackpool Sands'.

discovered 28. 7. 56. C.R.G. Grade I

A.F.

28. 7. 56.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER

26th. August 1956.

CUCKOO CLEEVES.

O.C.L. and A.F. looked at Cross Swallet and Cuckoo Cleeves. At Cuckoo Cleeves things appear all right, but a lot of liquid mud is soaking through everything and will take a long time to settle.

O.C.L.

25th, August 1956.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

'In' party to Stoke Lane, in preparation for the C.D.G. diving op. next Saturday. Party of 14 sherpas and about 12 bags. Sherpas included: Oliver Lloyd, Tony Morrison, Struan Robertson, Richard Kenney, Luke Devenish (as far as Nutmeg Grater) Tony Burleton, Alan Merry, Malcolm and Vincent Watts, Christopher Hawkes, Chris Incam, Robert Pyke, 'Taffy' Austin, Trevor Shaw, 'Spud' Murphy and Alan Fincham.

O.C.L.

1st. September 1956.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

First diver's attempt on Sump II in Stoke Lane. J.S. Buxton diver, had misfortune to get water from flooded Soda-lime canister into his mouth. This put an end to any real diving. Opening explored while breath held. Reasonable size; must try again.

O.C.L.

2nd. September 1956.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

'Out' trip to Stoke Lane to remove 10 packages left at Base last night. Led by Trevor Shaw it included Howard Kenney, Tony Dunn, Tony Burleton, Derek Thorpe, Robert Woolley, Brenda Willis, Rosemary Mines U.B.S.S. and 5 members of the Bedford School Caving Club.

O.C.L.

LOG- BOOK - 8th. September 1956- to 5th. January .1958

13th. September 1956.

EASTER HOLE.

'Bang' trip down Easter Hole: P. Davies, A. Fincham.

14th. September 1956.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

P. Davies, P. Berry (B.P.C.) and A. Fincham surveyed Stoke Lane II (Sump II back to Bone Chamber). N. Barrington, D. Warburton took a look at surface features and two other local caves.

15-16th. September 1956.

CUCKOO CLEEVES.

Work on Cuckoo Cleeves by O.C. Lloyd, Robert Woolley and Tony Burleton.

On the 14th. Luke had loosely assembled the metal framework for the top 3 ft. of shaft, making holes where necessary in the iron rails with his oxy-acetylene apparatus. On the 15th. we put it in place and bolted it up tight. For the shoring we used partly corrugated iron and partly the wooden fillets cut last year. We started filling in around the shaft, jacking up the railings.

O.C.L.

22nd. September 1956.

CUCKOO CLEEVES.

O.C.L. and Derek Ford to Cuckoo Cleeves; finished turfing it over and replaced the fourth wall of the fence; showed it to farmer Dyke, who approved; planted Cuckoo Flower (Cleeves are already there!); took down sheer legs etc: and piled them against the wall ready for Luke to collect and bring back to Hillgrove. Did a trip round the cave. Toffee papers are beginning to appear in it already. I suspect the Londoners as not many others have been down yet.

O.C. Lloyd.

29th. September 1956.

SWILDONS. (see survey following p. 40)

D.C. Ford, G. Witts and Brian Colingridge arrived Hillgrove, Descended Swildons 4.30 pm. bound for Mud Sump, with which the latter two were unacquainted. 8 inch airspace made the passage of the obstacle easy: indeed it is now almost as unpleasant to pass the minor lake which has formed in Balch's Forbidden Grotto. It must be 14 ft. long and one foot deep now.

Once beyond the Mud Sump, party proceeded to Maypole Series with 25 ft. of ladder and a lifeline to examine the two passages in the left hand wall of the main rift. The first quickly gave onto a rotten aven which was descended easily in two stages, being about 20 ft. deep. From here a narrow low mud-floored creep led on for 30 ft. before becoming too tight.

The constriction was cleared by Ford and Witts, panting all the while. Evidently there was no draught circulating here - we found it distinctly stuffy and developed headaches. Beyond the constriction the passage led up for a further 30 ft. (approx.) to drop into a large and seemly rift passage - here we found a survey point. We were back in the rifts about 100 ft. from the Mud Sump. This new ox-bow is tedious and of no practical value:- decidedly a collectors piece. We called it 'Airless Oxbow'.

The second passage was even more disappointing. A descent of 25 ft., (the last eight, an overhang, being laddered) led to the floor of an imposing rift aven. But everything quickly closed down - no prospects. Party out of Swildons at 9.30 pm.

D.C.Ford.

30th. September 1956.

BARROW RAKE SWALLET.

Robert Savory and Robert Woolley called and went to see the Farmer at Ston Easton about Barrow Rake.

6th. October 1956.

BARROW RAKE SWALLET.

R. Woolley and M.L. Hooper removed 10 buckets of muck from Barrow Rake Swallet.

M.L.Hooper.

7th. October 1956.

BARROW RAKE SWALLET.

Robert Pyke, Robert Savory dug at Barrow Rake and removed large quantities of material. Robert Woolley joined them later and gave encouragement - mostly verbal.

18th. November 1956.

BARROW RAKE SWALLET.

R. Pyke and R. Savory at B. Rake.

18th. November 1956.

CUCKOO CLEEVES.

Proceeded to Cuckoo Cleeves with R. Woolley, A.D. Oldham, R. Leggett, N. Tuck, D. Long, T. mart. Therein was found a skeleton. This unfortunate creature appeared to have contracted some disease . It was a mammal of a species which we were unable to determine. It is in the small chamber at the top of the Canyon. A.D. Oldham also found one bone at the bottom of Canyon.

Now in possession of same.

A.D.O.

24th. November 1956.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

After most other members of the Wessex Survey Team had unsuccessfully sought 'Ford's Fabled Passage' in Stoke Lane. I, the creator of the myth was inveigled down, with Phil Davies.

After a prolonged search we found a twenty feet long ox-bow, not worth surveying, which struck a cord in a memory of 4 years ago. This was all that the 'fable' consisted of! By way of atonement Ford delved into the constricted passages of the 'Lloyd-Thompson Sump' area. If Ll. and Th. had indeed contrived to find a sump in these nasty little crawls they must have been men of lesser eminence than their present stature suggest.

2nd. December 1956.

CUCKOO CLEEVES.

A.D. Oldham, B. White went down Cuckoo Cleeves. Identified skeleton as Fox or Dog. (See log entry for 18.11.56.).

18th. December 1956.

SWILDONS.

Oliver Lloyd and Richard Kenney spent 1½ hrs. at the P.G. Stream deepening a drill hole from 5 to 11 inches, Now ready for banging.

O.C.L.

28-29th. December 1956.

EASTWATER.

Various trips to Primrose Pot with the intention of (a) digging two slots for an iron bar to keep first ladder out of the crack, (b) fixing a rawlbolt on 2nd. ledge.

In actual fact the hammer broke after 2½ inches of hole for (b) was drilled, and after (a) had been accomplished. The bar was duly kicked down the pitch by the last man out. Those involved were O.C. Lloyd, A.J. Morrison, M.L. Watts, V. Watts, A. Walker (guest). 1st day: 4 hrs. 2nd. day: 7 hrs, all very wet and unpleasant.

That squeeze is too tight for me.

O.C.L.

30th. December 1956.

SWILDONS. (see survey.)

i

Richard Kenney, Gary Witts and Oliver Lloyd to the P.G. Stream, where we blew an 11 inch hole with 6 oz.s of gelly and removed 11 buckets full of rock. Started a new hole - 4½ inches. Cave very wet; water not actually over the top of the 40, but appearing in all sorts of unexpected places. The Cave-God seems to have raised his rents rather sharply, he took my wrist watch. 3½ hours.

O.C.L.

3rd. January 1957.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

Stoke Lane survey with D. Ford and two others from Bath. Cave extremely wet, water very high indeed. The 'ledge' by the sump was totally submerged by about 2 inches.

A.F.

30th. December 1956.

SWILDONS. (see survey following p. 40)

A.D. Oldham, Blackwell-Jones. and guest did an Upper Swildons. It was a, tourist come bating trip, but although a careful search was made none were seen. A passage was found which none of us had seen before and not many people had been up it. As shown in the sketch it is in the upper dry series with an entrance not easily seen. The passage itself is ascending to the surface all the time but has a choked downward passage There are some quite nice formations, in particular a stalactite and stalagmite which are about ½ inch in diameter and ¼ inch out of true, to each other. The passage is about 50 ft. long ending in a moderate size chamber.

A.D.O.

n.b. This passage and grotto were found by Howard Kenney about 7 years ago, surveyed by him (and later by Stanton) and were described in his article on Upper Swildons, published about 1950 in the Wessex Journal. Too many people visit it. In February 1956 I spent a long time on a scavenging expedition cleaning carbide out of an elegant pool in the grotto. It has not yet been given a name by Howard Kenney.

27th. January 1957.

BARROW RAKE SWALLET.

R. Pyke and R. Savory at Barrow Rake.

16-17th. February 1957.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

Wessex Survey and Photographic trip to Stoke Lane. The party - P. Davies, D. Ford, O.C. Lloyd, T. Morrison, D. Walkinshaw and G. Witts - met at Mr. Stock's at 3 pm and descended at 4.15 pm. The water was a little high, the sump a little cold, but spirits were revived when dry clothes were put on in C.B. Chamber. The party worked for seven hours, the survey being taken from Pool Chamber, through Bone Chamber, Throne Room and Traverse to Main Chamber, completing a circuit.

Phil Davies, enthusiastically assisted by O.C.L. and T.M. took 30 colour shots, exhibiting a rare genius in selecting angles which coincided with the line the surveyors were trying to take. After soup, a quick return through the sump which seemed lower and warmer, refreshing almost, and the party emerged around 2 am. to a cold, clear sky and a dusting of snow. My thanks to the extreme patience and goodwill of the survey assistants D.W. and G.W.

D.C.Ford.

30-31st. March 1957.

SWILDONS.

Grand photographic and exploration trip to the Black Hole Series, with sherpas. Tony Morrison, photographer. Oliver Lloyd, and Pete McLaren, stooges; Garry Witts and Trevor Shaw, intrepid explorers; plus 7 in-sherpas to Sump I on the 30th. and 7 or 8 'out' sherpas on the 31st.

Dry clothes taken for all 5 Black Holers, also banger. Dry clothes are essential for any serious work beyond the sump. They take all the sting out of it and make life comfortable. They also make it obvious that the Black Hole traverse is quite easy. It is only 3 ft. wide and the rocks are conveniently placed for leaning against. We laddered the pitch and took 4 photographs there and 2 on the traverse. Also 2 photographs of some very fine mud pinnacles and 2 of the shattered column beyond the Well Chamber.

The intrepid explorers went to the final boulder choke at the end of Fool's Paradise. The left hand side of the lower part of the ruckle was forced for a further 6 ft. the cable was then laid for banging the right side of the choke, when a rock slid down from above and neatly severed one strand of the cable. This stone came from a high level passage which they next explored. Much stalagmite and cemented boulders were then removed, and the upper passage was forced for a further 20 ft. It then looked as though everything was going to fall in and block the hole they went in by, so they decided (a) that any banging done would be unfair to the M.R.O. and (b) to pack up and clear out.

The party reassembled at the 10 ft. Overhang at 11.10 pm and were out of the cave by 12.50 am. after 9½ hours underground.

A further 26 ft. of known passage has thus been added to Swildons, and if anyone wants them, they can have them.

O.C. Lloyd

4th. April 1957.

MINESHAETS - GREEN ORE.

The sun was shining, and so, feeling lazy we went a mineshafting with all the wooden ladders. We laddered a 120 ft. shaft at Green Ore, but became less interested after one of us had held up the dry stone walling at the top with his shoulder for 5 minutes. On removal of the said shoulder half the stones went down the hole. We promptly tried another, but the ladders were some way short, and the stone walling also displayed a tendency to fall out at the crucial moment, so we adjourned to the hut for tea and spent a short evening digging at Barrow Rake.

R. Pyke, R. Tudway, N.Cleave, D.Legg.

6th. April 1957.

EASTWATER.

Operation 'Rawlbolts' in Eastwater. Object: to make it easier to lug a body up one of the pitches next time - but as Bertie Crook says, "Next time is always different".

Two of the rawlbolts were fitted: one at the top of the Dolphin Chimney and the other at the head of the Second Vertical.

O.C. Lloyd.

19th. April 1957.

SWILDONS.

M. Hooper. A. Merry. B. White, B. Roach, A. Duckett, A.D. Oldham arrived at Swildons at 1 pm. and filled acetylene lamps with a stirrup pump. The stirrup pump was for the Mud Sump. A quick and

uneventful descent was made to the Mud. Sump and there we met Richard Kenney with some Bedford boys. When they had started out, we tried some pumping which was quite successful. M.H., A.M. and B.R. Trent through the Mud Sump while the rest went out to be joined later by the 'Sumpers'.

A.D.O.

20th. April 1957.

SWILDONS.

Descended Swildons with Chris Hawkes and Willy Stanton who surveyed Paradise Regained.

M. Holland.

20th. April 1957.

BARROW RAKE SWALLET.

M.L. Hooper, A. Merry, B. White and B. Roach went over to Barrow Rake Swallet and removed about 40 buckets of muck and improved the shoring,

27th. April 1957.

SWILDONS.

O.C. Lloyd, Richard Kenney and Patrick Thomas -guest- to Priddy Green Stream. One lovely bang in a 12 inch hole produced 12 buckets full of rocks.

O.C.L.

28th. April 1957.

SWILDONS.

R. Woolley was engaged for the whole of Sunday in repairing the entrance to Swildons. It is now arranged so that no-one can get locked in.

4th. May 1957.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

D.C. Ford, J. Swithenbank arrived at 1 am. Sunday after completing prolonged survey of Stoke Lane. Upper Grottos and Stillicide, 7½ hours. Water level low, water warm.

D.C. Ford.

4-5th. May 1957.

BARROW RAKE SWALLET.

M. Hooper, B. Harvey, R. Woolley dug at Barrow Rake Swallet for about 2 hours on Sat. evening (after some delay) and removed 40 buckets of mud.

Work was continued on Sunday and during the day 100 bucketfulls were removed. The estimated weight of mud and rocks removed during the weekend was something over 3 tons.

This dig is now rather promising but unstable and dry.

11th. May 1957.

BARROW RAKE SWALLET.

Bob Woolley, Norman Tuck, Mike Hooper, Barry Harvey and Alan B.-Jones removed about 50 buckets of mud and stones from Barrow Rake Swallet. The going is still quite promising.

18th. May 1957.

BARROW RAKE SWALLET.

R. Woolley and B. Harvey to Barrow Rake Swallet. We fixed up a chain in the tree for holding the pulley block. Work continued on Sunday 19th. and about 30 buckets and one large boulder were removed. M. Hooper, A. Merry and B.-Jones present.

1st. June 1957.

SWILDONS.

A.D. Oldham and B. White arrived at 3 am and descended Swildons with 3 members of the Aces Rucksac Club at 12.30 pm. Descended to Old Grotto via Long Dry, going up into the out of the way passage (see log-entry dated 30.12.56) and explored some very tight squeezes.

After the Old Grotto we went down the Water Rift where a search for bones started. Numerous bones and pottery were found. We came out via the Wet Way and 2 frogs were seen. The ascent of the entrance of Swildons was made easier by a piece of chain kindly put there by the hutwarden.

A.D.O.

7th. September 1957.

WOOKEY HOLE.

am. Fourteenth Chamber at Wooky entered.

pm. A repeat visit to Wooky 14 failed to materialise.

O.C.W.

20th. October 1957.

R. and M. Glover visited Hollowfield Swallet area, near Priddy Hill Farm. Located Hollowfield Swallet and were amazed at the large numbers of digworthy spots - especially one just North of a large rhododendron clump. Wandered over Wigmore Farm area in pm. Even larger numbers of inviting looking shakeholes including a giant one with windpump and reservoir!

22nd. October 1957.

BURRINGTON COOMBE.

Walked up to East Twin Swallet. Reasonable amount of fill removed from walls and roof of the 2nd. chamber in the last 4 years. Walked further up the valley, and then down the stream - rather like the Wet Way in Swildons. Noticed a deserted stream sink about ½ way down - worth an exploratory dig although it is in the limestone shale series.

23rd. October 1957.

BURRINGTON COOMBE.

Over once again to Burrington Coombe plus shovel and entrenching tool and canvas bucket. Made for the above mentioned 'deserted stream-sink' Which M. christened for the time being, 'Minnie-Ha-Ha' for obvious reasons.

Dug for about 1½ hours (i.e. until dark) removing masses of rich soil, lumps of shale and old tin cans. Hope to continue tomorrow. Then down stream to East Twin. R. went down via rope. M. took a deep breath, then retreated to stream entrance, which she also used on the way out, saving much energy. n.b. draught detected in bedding plane fissure on left of 2nd, chamber of E. Twin. Judging by the quantities of twigs etc. the water must back up to 10-15 ft. during floods.

3rd. November 1957.

BIDDLE COMBE.

Went to Biddle Combe and found a small mine with a Greater Horseshoe bat contained therein.

B.S. Roach.

13th. December 1957.

BIDDLE COMBE.

A.D. Oldham and B.S. Roach arrived and changed, braving the storm, and walked to Biddlecombe, near West Horrington. After walking in small circles in the dark the entrance to the mine was found. A.D.O. remarked how tight the entrance looked and that it must be a squeeze. B.S.S. replied in the negative saying that there was plenty of room. A.D.O. entered and found that he had to take his rucksack off, so the entrance must be a squeeze. Eight bats were seen, one already ringed. There were 3 long eared, 3 lesser horseshoe and 2 greater horseshoe (one ringed). The rest were duly ringed. We arrived back at the hut too late for Hunters.

14th. December 1957.

HIGHER PITTS FARM.

A.D. Oldham, B.S. Roach and R. Horton had breakfast, changed and went to Hunters for dinner. Thence proceeded to Higher Pitts Farm via the wood near Lower Pitts Farm looking for mineshafts etc. On arrival at Higher Pitts Farm permission was sought to explore. This was duly granted so we went over to a nearby refuse tip (left by the old man) to investigate some Ochre workings. The first one was a shaft some 15 ft. in diameter and 7 ft. deep. A rope was tied to a nearby tree and B.S.R. descended. It looked as if it was a farm refuse tip by the 'Weetabix' packets etc. but B.S.R. soon informed us that it was a cesspit so it was promptly named Goufre de la Merde. Two more small workings were then explored in quick succession, the osseous remains of two sheep being found in one of them.

A nearby working with a small lake in it was then inspected, after which we went down Ebbor Gorge via Dursden Wood, inspecting small caves and rock shelters on the way. On arrival at Wookey Hole village the bus was taken to Wells and then to Hillgrove.

n.b. a mineshaft was also descended by B.S.R. in Dursdon Woods, Grid. Ref. 533/492.

LOG- BOOK. 1st. February 1958 - 30th. July 1958.

8th. February 1958.

SWILDONS.

A.D. Oldham, B.S. Roach and G.E.S. Morris arrived and descended Swildons for Oliver Lloyds Scavenging Trip. We chose the cleanest part of the cave (!), the part between the bottom of the Forty and the top of the Twenty. Even then we brought out a tremendous pile of assorted caving equipment. C. Hawkes and N. Burgess cleaned from the Twenty to Trat's Temple, most of the time being spent in the Temple cleaning up an atrocious mess left by some campers, believed to be Wessex types. B. Harvey and R. Woolley also joined the scavenging trip and were given the Upper Series to clean out. We inspected many small side passages and removed a colossal pile of rubbish, which we won't list, but contained a large quantity of flash-bulbs. (3 condensed entries - ed.).

15th. March 1958.

WOOKEY HOLE. - (see survey preceding p. 57)

O. Wells and P. Hubbard arrived after an all night session at Wookey Hole. The roof of the Fifteenth Chamber lies at a depth of 70ft., and the extent of this chamber is not yet known.

11th. April 1958.

SWILDONS.

Two successive weekends to do a little work on a small side passage in P. R. Weekend 1: a few boulders removed - 12ft. of new cave!

19th. April 1958.

SWILDONS.

Weekend 2: dug small hole. This dig may go on or back into Paradise Regained main route, i.e. the route to Blue Pencil.

Christopher Hawkes.

27th. April 1958.

LOBSTER POT.

P. Hancock and P. Worsfold arrived. Dug new cave and departed in peace.

3rd. May 1958.

LOBSTER POT.

P. Hancock and P. Worsfold arrived Saturday and spent weekend in a dig which has now gained the name Lobster Pot. This is because it takes half an hour to get out - about 30 ft., daylight seen all the way! If it ever grows it will have the worst entrance on Mendip. At present it has the worst entrance, the worst exit and nothing much else.

17th. May 1958.

BIDDLE COMBE.

B.S. Roach and M.A. Yates went on a mine hunting expedition. Went to Wells and up Biddle Combe. Leaving our bicycles halfway up we continued by foot following a dried up stream bed. We suddenly discovered it was not a dried up stream, but a stream flowing into a hole in the ground. After walking a long way we returned to Hillgrove.

16th. May 1958.

LOBSTER POT.

R. Woolley and B. Harvey spent afternoon with P. Hancock at Lobster Pot making a 'rustic shaft'.

17th. May 1958.

THRUPES SWALLET.

Accompanied by N. Tuck the three above mentioned travelled to Thrupes Swallet. We there worked very hard for several hours.

24th. May 1958.

LAMB LEER.

B.S. Roach, A.D. Oldham, P. Hood, Mike Woods, W.Hanson, Marcel and various odd bods from Birmingham, went down Lamb Leer. W. Hanson and B.S. Roach looked at all the small shafts in the main chamber, nothing except a straight shaft one 40 ft. and another 20 ft. and several smaller ones, including a passage in Eastern, left looking at the Cave of Falling Waters, corner which was fairly tight and went on through a Saint Paul's type squeeze which was not followed.

26th. May 1958.

BIDDLE COMBE.

A.D.O., B.S.R., and Simon Banks went out on a field expedition to Biddle Combe and the surrounding area to search for mines etc. We left Hillgrove at 10.0 am. and went along the Wells-Bristol road to Haydon Drive and on to the Lower Haydon Farm. We followed the stream down to a small wooded valley at 57325/4825. We arrived at Biddle Combe at 11.50 am and inspected the Bundle House. We went down to a swallet which is in the bed of the stream (See Log entry dated 17.5.58 - ed.). The N.G.R. of the swallet is 31/567875/47125. It is situated 50 yards below a ruined hut which in turn is situated below a bridge N.G.R. 31/567875/47125. In the floor of the aforesaid hut there are some manhole covers which are thought to be connected with a sewer like hole by the aforementioned bridge. The aforementioned hole goes in a direction roughly parallel to the stream.

24th. May 1958.

LOBSTER POT.

B. Harvey, P. Hancock and R. Woolley arrived late in the afternoon, and shortly after left for Lobster Pot to complete some work on the shaft.

25th. May 1958.

THRUPE SWALLET.

Above mentioned journeyed to Thrupe Swallet with N. Tuck to carry on with some interesting work started last weekend. A lot of hard work was done

30th. May 1958.

BIDDLE COMBE.

A.D. Oldham and B.S. Roach went to Biddle Combe to investigate a dig there (Log entry dated 26.5.58). A small hole was dug in the stream bed but this was much too energetic so a dam was made and the stream encouraged to enter the dig and enlarge the hole. Further on down the woods at a point where the cliffs are about 10 ft. high a very small cave was found. This proved to be a very tight passage sloping uphill. A distance of 10 ft. was reached. The passage still goes on but is rather smaller. Further on down stream high up on one bank near the road, opposite the Mendip Hospital, a small sewer like tunnel was found containing 8 *Rhinolophus hipposiderus minutus*. These were duly rung. We then made our way down to Wells and returned to Hillgrove.

1st. June 1958.

BIDDLE COMBE.

R. Horton, S.Wynne-Roberts, B.S. Roach and M. Yates went to Biddle Combe. Found 1 Greater Horseshoe bat in mine U.B.S. 752. Examined swallet.

B.S. Roach.

21st. June 1958.

THRUPE SWALLET.

N. Tuck. B. Harvey, R. Woolley spent the afternoon at Thrupe digging. About 1½ tons of material was removed. We later joined many others working on the extension at Washingpool.

14th. July 1958.

A. Fincham, J. Thurston, R. Horton spent best part of the day digging a shaft in the next swallet after Whitsun Hole. We finally dug to a depth of just over 9 ft., the other measurements being 2 and 4 feet. Apart from a few assorted stones, we did not reach any boulders or solid stuff.

Apart from a thin layer of dark grey clay about five feet down, the only thing of interest was a few small pieces of charcoal which I found at a depth of a good 8 ft.

23rd. July 1958.

St. CUTHBERT'S SWALLET.

R. Horton, B. Prewer, A. Fincham started digging in St. Cuthberts. At the bottom of the entrance shaft (the original wooden shaft - ed.) there is a little, muddy rift with a few slabs in it. We cleared a lot of muck and smashed the blocks up with a hammer.

24th. July 1958.

St. CUTHBERTS SWALLET.

Went back to St. Cuthberts as yesterday and we managed to force past these boulders , through a very tight hole into the top of a new rift. This rift is very muddy with an abundance of Ochre. We wallowed for some time, found a beautiful little grotto with pure white formations. Also there were some black stals.

Estimated length: 80 - 100 ft. We called this Ochre Rift. Comments: dangerous entrance owing to loose slabs, tight entrance and horrible filthy walls. There are many formations in this rift that are just mud and Ochre. Way on seems to end in a choke.

27th. July 1958.

EASTWATER.

Rescue at Primrose Pot - one member stuck in squeeze.

LOG- BOOK. - 7th. March 1959 to 9th. February 1963.

7th. March 1959.

SWTLDONS. - Discovery of Oxford Chamber.

Oxford Cave Club decided to investigate the outlet at the bottom of the blind pot (Shatter Pot - ed.). Dug through loose clay about 6 ft. and entered a new section. This consisted of a rift about 15 ft. long and 6 ft. wide and 12 ft. high. Original bedding plane continued out of floor of chamber but was blocked with boulders and clay. Four small passages led out of various places in the roof but were too small to be followed. Rift ran at 19 degrees to original bedding plane dig by which it was entered, ie. about North West. Not much prospect of further extension in Oxford Chamber. 12 noon - 10.30 pm. Swildons 6 ?

P.W. Crabtree.

8th. March 1959.

EASTWATER.

Phil Davies called in and went off to Eastwater to attempt by 'Chemical persuasion' to continue passages in Morton's Pot.

28th. March 1959.

LAMB LAIR.

Dug up in St. Valentine's Landing and got through to a small clear passage - East-West - dangerous in parts but with possible places for digging.

John Aulman.

30th. March 1959.

THRUPE SWALLET.

R.W. Horton and F. Harris (guest) arrived and went over to Thrupe Swallet to dig with N. Tuck. Dig is promising, we are down about 12 ft. and have come to our first large boulder.

5th. April 1959.

THRUPE SWALLET.

Messrs. Tuck and Bywater went over to Thrupe Farm to continue their dig.

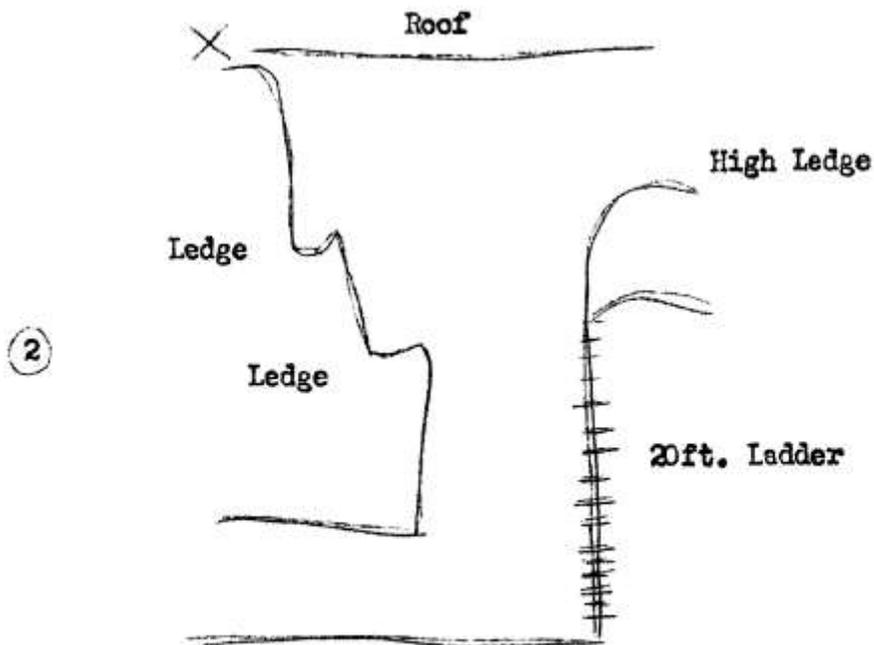
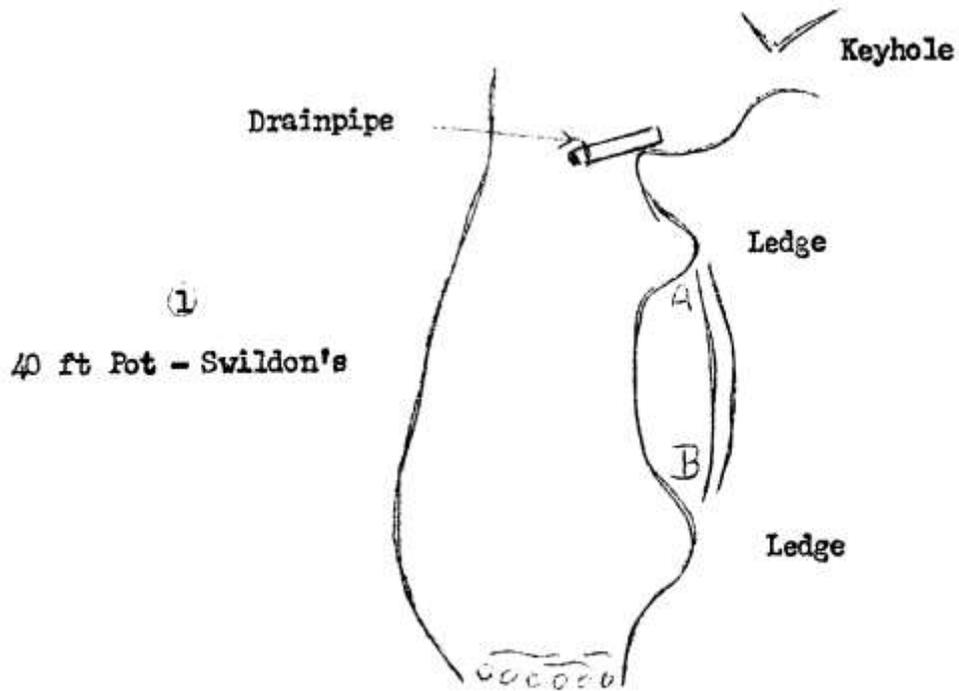
M. Holland.

7th. April 1959.

STOKE LANE AREA FIELD WORK.

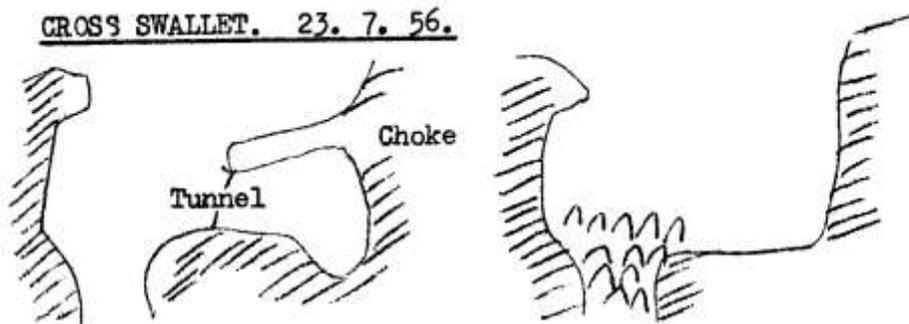
Margaret and Derek Ford arrived for a three week session. With the help of Mike Pym, who transported the large amount of gear brought, the rates of flow of Withybrook and Stoke Lane streams were measured at points of sinking and at St. Dunstons Well, below the rise. It had rained heavily during the preceding 36 hours and there was slightly more water sinking at Stoke Lane than was rising at St. Dunstons Well.

The Stoke Lane Stream has been diverted down the caver's entrance, by whom it is not known.

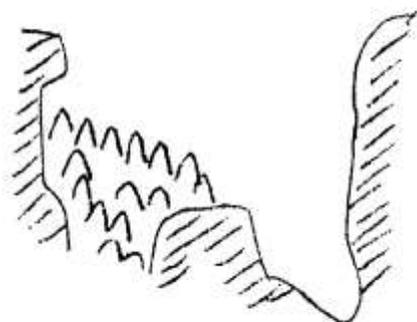


SWILDON'S - 1. 5. 59.

CROSS SWALLET. 23. 7. 56.



S - W Sections



Profile Changes

to

(Moral if you want to dig a hole, dig a big hole next to intended site first!)

24. 7. 56. CROSS SWALLET

10th. April 1959.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

Michael Pym drove out from Pensford to pick up D. and M. Ford and run them to Stoke Lane. In the morning a check survey was run from the bench mark G35-8 on the village church to the cave entrance. In the afternoon this was continued - using a steel tape and clinometer - to the beginning of the Stony Crawl. The object is to pin down the height of the water in Sump 1, from which all points in Stoke II are assessed. The three-man team worked quickly, being out of the cave by 5 pm and returned to spend the evening computing.

11th. April 1959.

SWILDONS.

Derek Ford went to Swildons IV with K. Dawe, M. Thompson, G. Wright and F. Davies, and established a survey and provisions base there. With K.D. began a survey of the Main Stream Passage at the upstream sump (III). After 300 ft. had been covered the clinometer jammed and further work came to a stop. M.T., G.W. and F.D. went climbing and recovered a W.S.G.ladder from one of the larger avens: its sidewires were quite rotted. The party returned together, noticing a distinct smell of chlorine all the way up the streamway in Swildons I. Down at 11 am. out at 6.30 pm.

15th. April 1959.

SWILDONS.

Graham Candy drove out from Pensford and assisted D. Ford in carrying out a structural and fluorophological survey from Sump I to Barnes Loop. Some very interesting features were noted. True dip was found to vary from 20 degrees to 25 degrees which contrasts with the mean figure of 15 degrees quoted by Dr. Stanton. The water in 'Priddy Green Stream' was ½ degree warmer than in the main stream. Air temp, was 52 degrees F. Party out at 4.30 pm. after a five hour trip.

3rd. May 1959.

SWILDONS. – (See survey following p. 54)

Went with Chris Hawkes to Sump II in Swildons in Short Dry Way, out Wet Way, Noticed:-

- (i). Previous W.C.C. party had hung ladders incorrectly, with wires bent at top rung.
- (ii). At the 40 ft. pot there seemed to be a rock tube from top ledge (A.B. in diagram). If the water could be sent down it the trip would be nice and dry - or would it.
- (iii). At the 20 ft. pot in. Swildons there really is an opening at X with a stream coming out (see Log entry dated 4.12.54 - ed.) which would need to be enlarged to enter. 15 ft. pole plus odd rawlbolts would be needed to reach it.
- (iv). The wire through Sump I needs to be replaced. I think about 60-80 ft. would be required.

(v). This trip through Sump I being my first since I took up diving I found that I no longer felt the need to pull on the wire even slightly, and went through it quite slowly. There is no difficulty in going through wearing an exposure suit, even unweighted, if you go slowly enough.

(vi). Tools and Food in Swildons II.

There are two depots in Swildons II, mostly my own property. They looked to be in good condition, and it is hoped will remain there until genuine need for them occurs.

(a) In my dig just after Creep 1 there is:-

1 jar of glucose.

1 jar of sweets.

24 candles.

1 jar of waterproof matches.

1 rock drill (at end of dig).

(b) By bend in streamway before Creep II there are:-

1 crowbar (Phil Davies').

1 trench tool.

1 lump hammer (my own).

1 bucket.

(vii). At sump II, R.E. Davies' line appears to be still sound, so is the cotton-reel thread put in after the discovery of Swildon's Four. We shone a 36 watt spotlight around underwater in Sump II and it looked a big place, until the mud went in.

Oliver Wells

2nd. May 1959.

SWILDONS. (See survey preceding p. 57)

Messr's Bywater, Causer and Holland investigated tunnels above the Mud Sump. Horrid, tight, narrow passage leads to a muddy pool after which comes a short easy climb and a fair sized passage with a drop to the left leads to an extremely muddy pool - Mudsump ? - followed by mud filled tight passage, tortuous ! This seems to be in a calcite vein. Phreatic tube cuts the floor of this passage, right hand side has beautiful cross section of stream washed gravel and mud completely filling the tube, left hand side has small vadose trench in floor. M. Bywater went feet first down this for about 20 ft. but found it very tight, however, it sounded very promising.

2nd. May 1959.

BIDDLE COMBE.

A.D. Oldham and J. Barrett (M.N.R.C., C.D.G.) went down to a 'Sewer like Tunnel' in Biddle Combe (see Log entry dated 26.5.58 - ed.). In half an hour we had found 9 Lesser Horseshoe bats - 4 of which were re-finds.

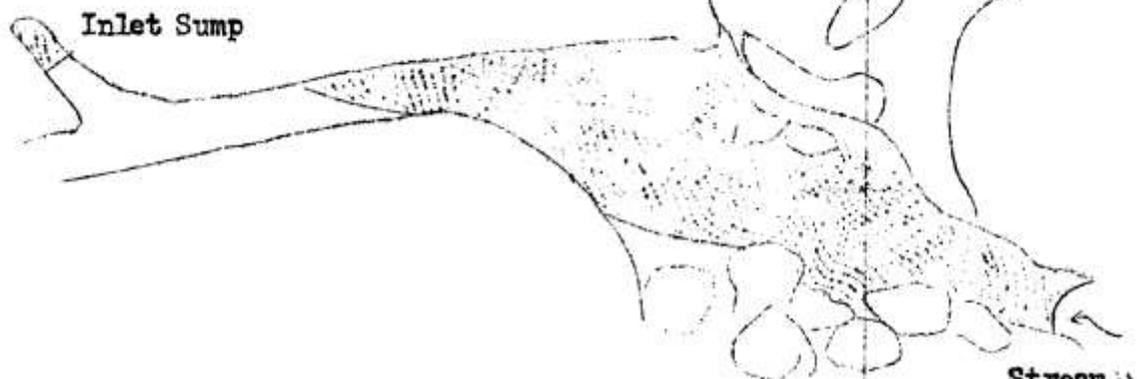
Section of Inlet Sump



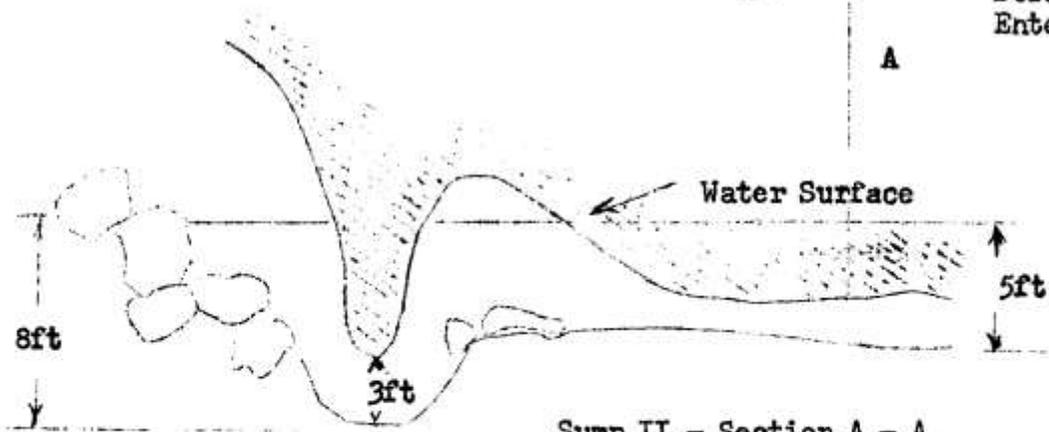
PLAN: STOKE LANE SLOCKER

SUMP II

Inlet Sump



Stream  
Enters

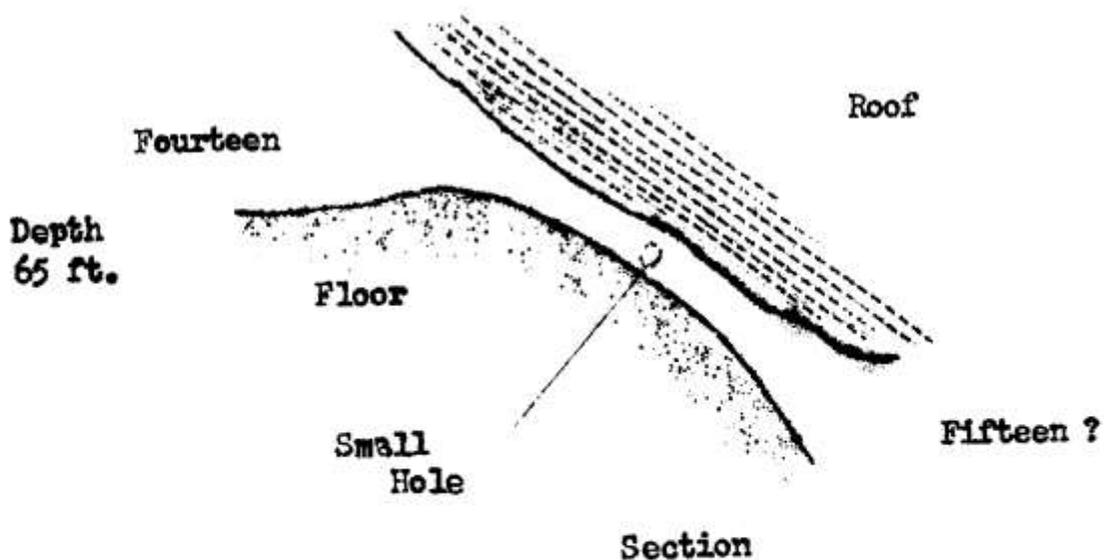


Sump II - Section A - A

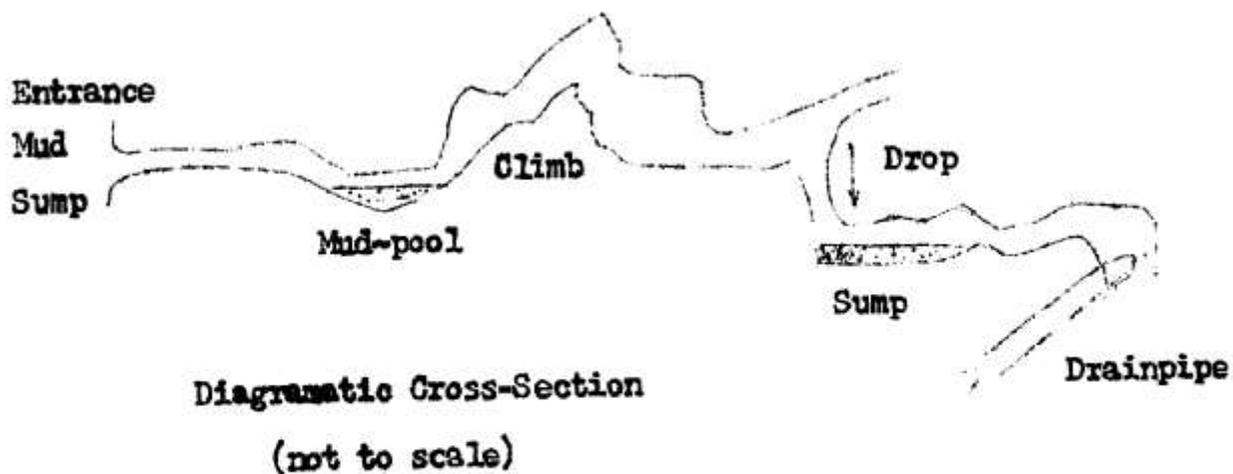
STOKE LANE SLOCKER

9. 5. 59





WOOKKY HOLE 15. 3. 58.



SWILDON'S - 2. 5. 59.

3rd. May 1959.

EBBOR GORGE - FIELD WORK.

We went, regardless of the rain, to Ebbor Gorge. There we took part in an Archeological excavation. We found 2 Paleolithic flints and numerous animal, bones. The site is under the directorship of Ted Mason.

A.D.O.

9th. May 1959.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER - Joint C.D.G.-Wessex-Shepton and U.B.S.S. Expedition to Stoke Lane Sump II. (See survey following p. 56)

A mixed party of these four clubs, examined both the 2nd. sump of Stoke Lane and the nearby inlet sump (see Log entry dated 11.9.55 and also 1.9.56 - ed.) the former with breathing apparatus, the latter without.

Ken Dawe, Mike Thompson, Mike Holland and Derek Ford made up the first sherpa party, entering the cave at 3.20 pm. The remaining equipment was carried in by Oliver Lloyd, John Buxton, Chris Hawkes, Norman Tuck, David Farr and P. Davies, who entered at 4.10 pm. The two parties joined at Pool Chamber, where diving kit was assembled and food prepared, Oliver and Chris having returned to the surface.

Two short dives revealed a short oxbow and an air surface 4ft. by 2ft. by 18 ins. high, the way on was not obvious and the water very murky. An underwater light was more of an encumbrance than useful.

Derek next immersed himself in the inlet sump to the North West of Pool Chamber. The water was noticeably colder. He found a steeply descending mud floor with two rock walls closing down to form a triangular aperture of 1 ft. by 9 ins. at a depth of 7 - 8 ft. He considered that progress was quite impossible.

Two further dives with breathing apparatus in the second Sump eventually revealed the way on beyond the small air surface at a depth of approx. 5 ft. The passage was nearly 4 ft. wide but uncomfortably low, the roof rotten, flakey rock, the floor mud and gravel. This passage is the only practical way on, the left and right hand walls closing down all round. Furthest point reached - 18 ft. from Pool Chamber. The dive was abandoned pending a second supporting diver to be posted in the airspace to maintain adequate communications.

Party returned with all but two diving packs, base at 8.20 pm. and emerging between 10.30 and 10.40 pm.

On Sunday morning Oliver Lloyd and 4 U.B.S.S. members recovered the remaining kit.

16th. May 1959.

THRUPE SWALLET.

N. Tuck, B. Harvey, R. Woolley arrived and after a meal departed for Thrupe Swallet where an afternoon was spent very actively.

17th. May 1959.

THRUPE SWALLET

Continued at Thrupe. Much mud and stones were removed and good progress made. We were disturbed during our dinner hour by a report of the entrance of Swildons falling in from a Scoutmaster. We went to Swildons entrance but could find no evidence of a fall.

23rd. May 1959.

SWILDONS.

Sidney Alford (visitor) and Eric Hensler left hut to visit Swildons Upper Series. Found two interconnected grottoes in Pretty Way in rocky floor of passage after Kenney's dig on way to Second Grotto, just before reaching large boulder.

Then poked around first Grotto; a tunnel, very muddy, in floor and very narrow - Sid made about 40 ft. to a choke in rift 20 ft. high - first time passed?

We then continued with Hensler's dig in the Water Chamber, deepening floor at far end and then driving forward for 4 to 5 ft. getting lower all the time.

13th. June 1959.

CROSS SWALLET.

Mr. Stock, who owns Cross Swallet - a Wessex dig - turned up to enquire if the Club intended to continue work on this swallet. We ventured the opinion that no further work was envisaged. Mr. Stock then expressed the desire that the swallet should be filled in to make it cow-proof. We promised to have a look at it the next day.

M. Holland.

14th. June 1959.

CROSS SWALLET.

Together with a party of B.E.C. members we went over to Cross Swallet and managed to partly fill it in with tin, poles and turf. However, more work will have to be done to make it safe.

M. Holland.

28th. June 1959.

SWILDONS.

10.30 am. entered Swildons - party of 9 to attempt Sump IV. At 20 ft. pot number reduced to 6 including Mike Thompson, Ken Dawe, E. Hensler, P. Davies and 2 others - Len Dawes and Derek Ford went out with one other. Had speedy trip through to Swildons IV where we picked up lead weights from depot upstream, also pick head. We had also brought through from Blue Pencil two unequal halves of 2 inch Dural tube which we saved to get around the corner of Blue Pencil

Diving party of 4 in goon suits, M.T., K.D., J.W., and E.H., the two others waiting in IV. Ferried lead weights as necessary through sump in bag on running line, also 2 poles, pole coupler, pick head - all left in Series V or right - and 20 ft. ladder.

All passed Sump IV OK except that towing line end got pulled through and M.T. had to dive back with it, also E.H. made an abortive attempt first time and at 6 ft. in had to back out - kept too far left and jammed helmet. OK second attempt.

Erected Maypole using 2 new sections end the four already through and climbed up to a hole on left hand wall. Another 5 ft. up from ledge at top of pole was a tube, heavily filled with mud in floor. Crawled as far as possible - 12 ft? Saw bend left at end - good echo and sound of dripping water in fair space out of sight. Other three all had a good look and it was decided to be practicable to dig mud in floor and get through.

We then all went to Sump V to have a look. E.H. had a bad time at Buxtons Horror - first attempt cut head a bit but wire reduced buoyancy, made second attempt with success. Water level in this area very stable and probably fluctuates only a few inches except in flood when whole passage in V, at least, fills up 20 ft.

We had a fast return trip through Sump IV, the other two being glad to see us - they had looked well into Sump III from lower end while waiting. We returned lead weights to upstream depot and had an uneventful journey out of cave. Maine's Barn at 7.30 pm.

27th. June 1959.

EBBOR GORGE FIELD WORK.

A.D. Oldham went excavating in Ebbor Gorge under the dictatorship of Ted Mason.

5th. July 1959.

THRUPE SWALLET.

N. Tuck, R. Woolley, Pete Hancock, G. Peckham spent the day digging at Thrupe Swallet. Much useful work done.

12th. July 1959.

SWILDONS.

G. Candy, D. Farr and D. Ford concluded a structural and morphological survey of Top of Swildons. 3 hrs. Cave very dry.

13th. July 1959.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

Farr returned early with a hired car and he and Ford went over to Stoke Lane and completed the topographical survey began there in 1956! - cross sections and floor deposits in the early passages. Pushed the active entrance passage to its limit, this is a sump 6 ft. high in a low rift type passage. The passage is roofed with clay through which grass roots protrude.

14th. July 1959.

SWILDONS.

Farr, Candy and Ford to Swildons again after looking at the Thrupe Swallet dig. Completed structural and morphological survey in Double Pots - Barnes Loop area - now finished with Swildons I. Farr took a comprehensive series of temperature measurements (air and water) from entrance to Sump I.

Water at entrance: 59 degrees F.  
do. do. forty: 50 do.  
do. do. Sump I: 50 do. (including P.G. stream).

Still pools also read 50 degrees F. A five hour trip in extremely low water conditions.

15th. July 1959.

SWILDONS.

Completed a topographical survey of Swildons IV: from the C.D.G. depot to Sump IV and the tributary passage. 9¾ hrs.

17th, July 1959.

SWILDONS.

Surveyed Blue Pencil Passage, Grade 5, thus linking series IV to Stanton's map. An awkward job it was too. 7½ hrs,

15th, August 1959.

FIELD WORK.

A.D. Oldham, B.S. Roach and Neil Thomas (non-member) first went to Tynning's Farm. We inspected a rather interesting and promising dig which was being dug by the boys of Weston Grammar School. They have now abandoned it. The site is some 200 yds. South West of Tynning's Farm.

Next was a mineshaft in a field about ½ mile from Tynning's Gate, on the Warren Hill Road. The shaft is about 10 yds. East of the road and 50 ft. deep. It contains, amongst other things, the remains of two sheep. The older of the two had its skull removed by A.D.O. (the younger one will also have its skull removed in 3 years time).

After refreshments at the Miner's Arms, Shipham we went to Compton Bishop. First we went in the Devil Hole then after a quick look at Supra-Sandy Hole we went to Fox's Hole. Like all of the Compton Bishop caves it would have quite large chambers if the small boulders which mainly form the floor were removed.

Going about 6 yds. down the ridge we entered Denny's Hole, in the 'lower series' we disturbed a *Rhinolophus ferram equinum insulens*.

Going further down the Cross-Weston road we arrived at the village of Loxton and following a narrow road up the hill we arrived at Loxton Cave, We used a 25 ft. ladder to descend the aven, in this way we did a round trip. Some chicken bones were found in the chamber below the aven. After a quick look at the Loxton Quarry Caves we went to Brean.

At Brean we went looking for Pliocene remains and after a few minutes we had about half a dozen minute Vole type remains.

We stopped at Cheddar for tea. The swim at Brean had given us quite an appetite. We had a look at Cooper's Hole. This cave is being dug by the Mendip Caving Group; it is probably one of the most exciting digs on Mendip. To quote Historia Anglorum circa 1125-50, "Henry of Huntington wrote: Cheder Hole, where is a cavity under the earth, which though many have often entered and there traversed great spaces of land and rivers, they could never come to the end".

Even allowing for exaggeration (as these historians are similar to our present day Americans) it can be safely concluded that there is quite an extensive system there.

We eventually arrived at Hillgrove at about 7.30 pm.

22nd. August 1959.

SWILDONS.

Robert Pyke descended Swildons again with Mike Thompson and we bailed a sump in St. Paul's (one at the end of Main Passage in St. Paul's Grotto). The level was low initially and an hours dredging and bailing allowed Mike to get in another 3 ft. odd. Sump beyond appears to be getting lower and choked almost completely with mud.

Also investigated stream inlet at top of stal bank on left side of St. Pauls Grotto. Went only a few feet - partly blocked by stal, but a small person might push it.

26th. August 1959.

PRIDDY GREEN SWALLET.

Dug at Cowdung Swallet, Priddy, sinking a 15 ft. shaft. This receives water from trough on Priddy Green and is seen entering in aven, climbed for 100 ft. odd, in Series IV of Swildons. Hence a link here would enable a rescue from Series IV and beyond, and ease burden of getting diving kit down. Horizontal distance on Stanton's survey to IV about 250 ft. Vertical distance 400+ ft. ie. a mighty vertical pothole.

Colouring matter inserted in Swallet takes less than 2 hours to IV, also indicating steep gradient of pot.

Digging commenced at 5.0 am by a small multi-club party; halted in afternoon by unpromising progress in large boulders. Shaft filled in

R. Pyke.

27th. August 1959.

PRIDDY GREEN SWALLET.

Continued at 'Cowdung', sinking another shaft. A good draught emerging between boulders but at time of writing (8 pm) prospects not too good, with no man sized way on.

R. Pyke.

5-6th. September 1959.

PRIDDY GREEN SWALLET.

"- digging at Priddy Green was main occupation-

M.Holland.

13th. September 1959.

PRIDDY GREEN SWALLET.

Weston mènage left after further digging at Priddy Green and completing paths as far as kitchen door.

26-27th. September 1959.

PRIDDY GREEN SINK.

A.D. Oldham dug on Priddy Green.

3-4th. October 1959.

PRIDDY GREEN SINK.

A.D. Oldham dug on Priddy Green.

14th. November 1959.

MR. SEALY'S WELL. (See survey following p. 62)

A.D.O descended an unusual subteranean cavity. The purpose of this trip was to conduct certain hydrological investigations. The cavity was approx. 3 ft. - 6 ft. in diameter and some 35 ft. deep (see log. entry dated 9.7.56. - ed.) the descent of which is assisted by two ledges placed at strategic points. Due to there being 9 ft. of aqueous solution in the cavity the last mentioned section was not explored. The walls of this cavity are brick lined with limestone walling near the top. The entrance consists of a very tight squeeze, so tight that A.D.O. had to be forcibly extracted. Mr. Sealy informs me that the above mentioned cavity is his well!

28th. November 1959.

RICKFORD CAVE.

"Early in the day A.D.O. inspected 'A new cave at Rickford', to quote B.C. News, Friday evening. This cave consists of a rift 1-2 ft. wide, about 10 ft. deep and 25 yds. long, the first 15 ft. having been uncovered whilst levelling the ground for a cowshed.

6th. December 1959.

CUCKOO CLEEVES.

A.D.O., J.B. to Cuckoo Cleeves. Entrance found to be blocked.

13th. December 1959.

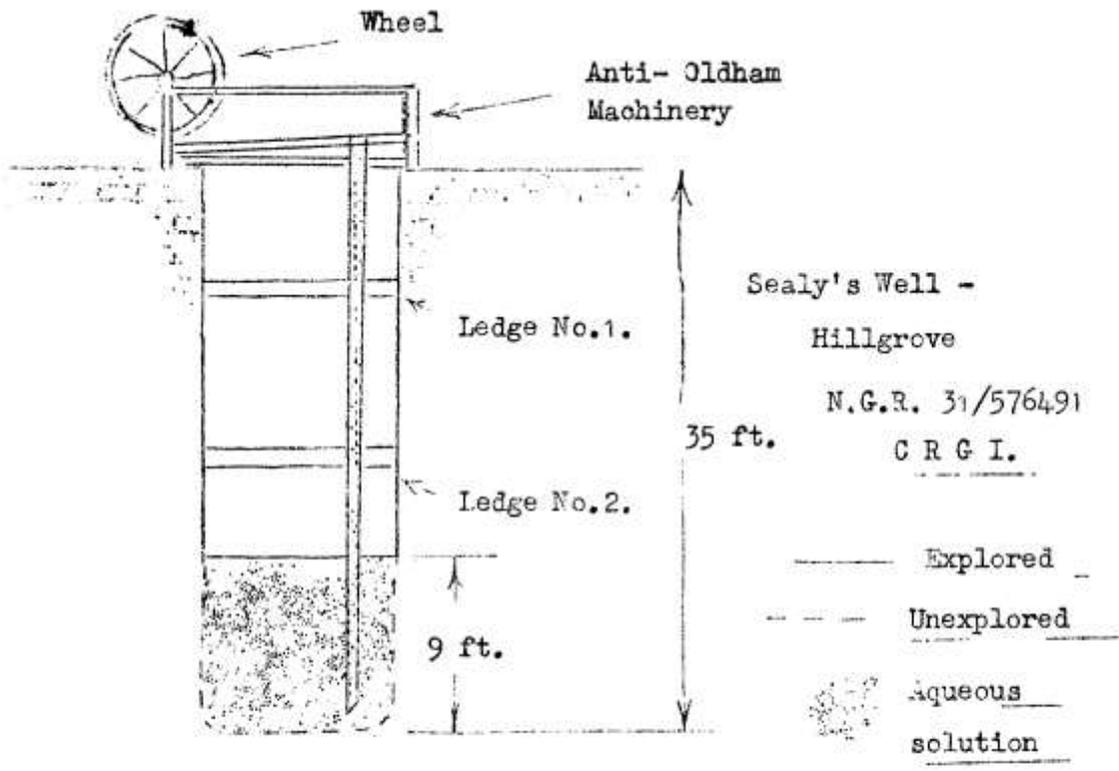
THRUPE SWALLET.

George Pointing, Dave Berry, A.M. Gully, I.S. Moodie (B.G.S.), G. Meader (non-member) spent a successful day digging at Thrupe.

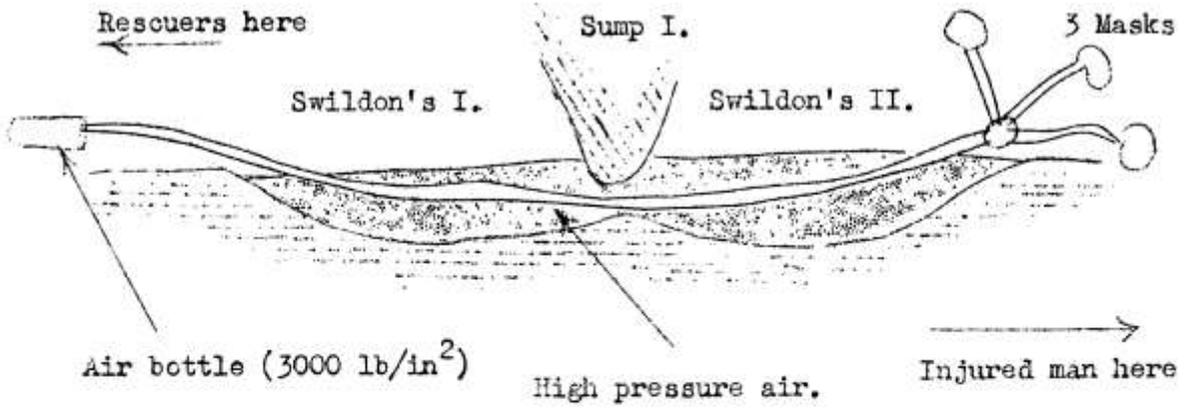
13th. December 1959.

CHEDDAR.

A.D.O., Roger Ransome, P.F. Bird, John Barret, Miss. B. Smith, 3 Aces Rucksac Club members + 2 school boys. Great bat ringing trip to Cheddar. First the long climb to Long Hole was made, then a 30 ft. ladder gave access to Goughs Old Cave. Here a colony of 120 Greater Horseshoes were seen, only 80 odd were caught. The upper series of Long Hole was visited along with Great Oones, Cooper's White Spot, Reservoir Cave, Bone Hole and last, but not least, Aquarium Cave. About 100 bats were caught.



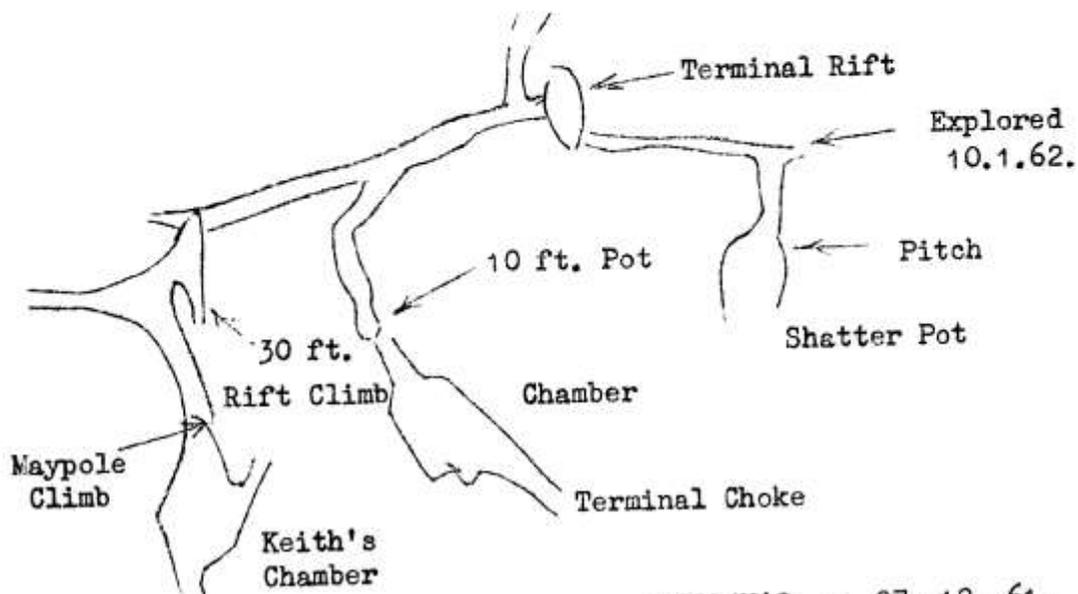
MR. SEALY'S WELL - 14. 10. 59.



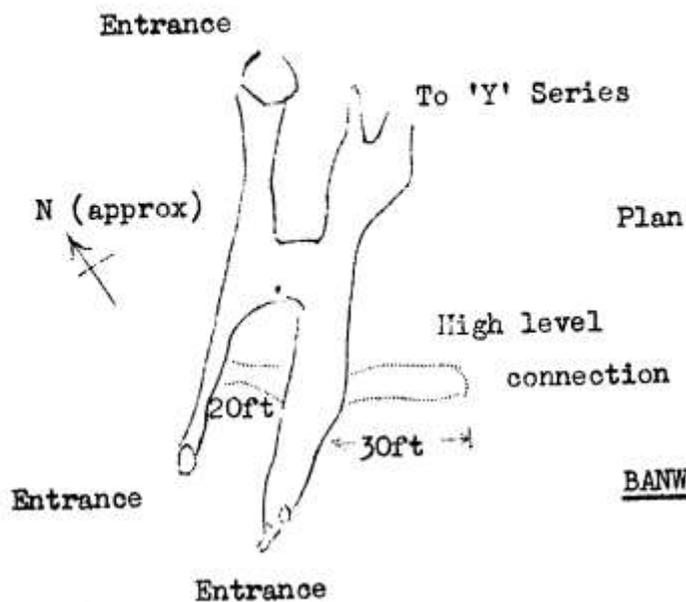
SWILDON'S - 13. 3. 60.



SWILDON'S - 11. 11. 61.



SWILDON'S - 27. 12. 61.



BANWELL OCHRE CAVE

18. 5. 63.

17th. December 1959.

EASTWATER.

Roger Lloyd arrived and with R. Banks and N. Cleave descended Eastwater. We intended to go down by the Dolphin route, but discovered that the near wall has landslipped into the bottom of the pitch, which now appears to be about 20 ft. deep. The rawlbolt on the far wall is well out of reach. Not only the chockstones above the pitch have gone, but also the entire wall. There is now no flat place to stand on above the pitch. We retreated and went down the verticals. There was a fair stream flowing down the 13 Pots so we avoided them. We went to look at the 'first bold step' and it seemed unchanged. The hole leading to the bottom of the Dolphin is blocked. 4hr. trip.

2nd. January 1960.

NINE BARROWS SWALLET.

David Causer and Michael Holland started work on a new swallet situated North of Eastwater Cavern. The new dig was named Nine Barrows Swallet. Vast quantities of earth and debris were removed and a promising opening was revealed.

2nd. January 1960.

READ'S CAVERN.

A.D. Oldham, Bill Hansom and John Burnett descended Read's Cavern (in U.B.S.S. territory) on a bat ringing expedition, we found 29 *Rhinolophus Hipposiderus minutus* and 1 *Rhinolophus Ferrum Equinum*. We also visited Foxes Hole, Tratty's Crack and Johnny Nashe's Hole.

3rd. January 1960.

NINE BARROWS SWALLET.

Work continues on Nine Barrows Swallet. Bill Hansom (guest), Brian Prewer, Causer and Holland made up the driving force.

M. Holland.

3rd. January 1960.

THRUPE SWALLET.

Dave (Berry) and George (Pointing) assisted by Gully and Padfield inspected Thrupe Swallet but it was found too wet to dig.

M. Holland.

3rd. January 1960.

NINE BARROWS SWALLET.

A.D.O. inspected Nine Barrows Swallet: it shows promise.

10th. January 1960.

HILLIERS CAVE.

Der Fladermousfanger and Ron Teagle and 5 off-bods went to the 'end' of Hillier's Cave. We found a Flying *Mystid*, this was duly caught by Der Fladermousfanger and banded. Fairy Cave (no relation to the rhyme) was also descended, an attempt to go into Hillier's was found to be just impossible. A *Rhinolophus ferrum equinum* was found. A rather unusual combination.

17th. January 1960.

THRUPE SWALLET.

G. Pointing, D. Berry, A. Gully, M. Padfield and M. Bonner (guest) dug at Thrupe Swallet. We removed a considerable amount of debris and found a promising hole leading down at 30 degrees from the last chamber. Unfortunately digging had to be discontinued due to an accumulation of loose rocks which we removed from their precarious position.

31st. January 1960.

EAST HARPTREE COMBE.

12.30 am. Sleep interrupted by the arrival of Emperor and Hut Warden. A.D.O. and J.B. explored mines in East Harptree Combe and found twelve *Rhinolophus Hippersideros Minutus*, two *Rhinolophus Ferrum Equinum* and one *Myotis Mystocinus* which is rather a rarity.

4th. January 1960.

ST. CUTHBERT'S SWALLET.

Dave Kinsman, Brian Young, George Pointing, J. James, Mike Holland and Mike Palmer (B.E.C.) went down St. Cuthbert's as far as the Dining Room after seeing some really fine formations. A return to surface was made at 4.30 pm. Very wet!

After leaving St. Cuthbert's we disrobed at the Belfry and after some discussion concerning the safety of a party of Gloucester Speleological Society cavers who we had met in Mud Hall, we returned to Hillgrove for tea. George Pointing, David Berry and myself went back to the Belfry in order to find out if the party had come out all right.

Upon arrival, we were greeted with a scene of great speleo pandemonium; it would appear that a number of the G.S.S. party were trapped below the entrance rift (which was very wet and horrid).

The M.R.O. was summoned at 7.45 pm and after half an hour Luke Devenish arrived with 10 exposure suits which were rapidly sent down the shaft to the cavers below.

The Fire Brigade was summoned to pump the stream into Plantation Swallet. After an hour or so the stream dried up completely and the task commenced of persuading the blokes that 10 inches was not too tight to squeeze through and at 2.00 am. the last man came out (Ken Dawe).

The Press, B.B.C. and ITV were there in hordes, not to mention Police and Firemen.

The admiration of most cavers went to Rowena Lewis who went down the cave alone to maintain contact with the entrapped.

M. Holland.

31st. January 1960.

NINE BARROWS SWALLET.

The Nine Barrows Combine did further good work at the cave, the boulder ruckle phase seems to be in full swing now. N.R.Barrington predicts 90 ft. of boulders followed by shattered pots. We have ordered a dozen rawlbolts for the pitches !

6th. March 1960.

FIELD WORK.

R.Whittle went on a 'mad geological venture' to Green Ore etc: Found galena and brown iron oxide.

13th. March 1963 [sic].

SWILDONS. (See survey following p. 62).

A party of cavers sponsored by the M.R.O. met at Maine's Bam at 10.30 am. The trip was organised by Oliver Lloyd in order that the new apparatus for rescuing people trapped in foul air conditions or on the wrong side of a sump, could be tested. The U.B.S.S. supplied the Labour force as well as the cine film coverage.

Struan Robertson was the first 'victim'. He was strapped in a canvas stretcher and a mask strapped to his face. O.C.L. and Phil Davies were the 'rescuers'. With much splashing and speleophotoneurosis they dived through. A success first time although the method of coiling 60 ft. of high pressure tubing was not very good. The next 'victim' was foolish enough to volunteer. David Willis and Alan Rodgers went to II where they strapped the victim in the stretcher, placed the mask on him and went back into I with no trouble at all. It was the first time Alan Rodgers had been through the sump, a convincing demonstration of the usefulness of the apparatus!

19th. March 1960.

BIDDLECOMBE.

A.D.O. and Raymond Deazy went Chiroptera banding (bat ringing - ed.) on the Biddlecombe circuit.

20th. March 1960.

ST. DUNSTAN'S WELL CAVE. (See survey following p. 66).

A.D.O. and R.D. went to Howe Wood and inspected Challenger Cave, Badger Cave and Rock Face Rift. A trek was then made to St. Dunstan's Well Cave. Here is rather an interesting dig being carried out by the Cerberus Speleological Society. The cave is situated immediately above St. Dunstan's Well and it is said that in wet weather water resurges from the entrance of the cave. The cave is approx. 30 ft. long and has a lot of formations which unfortunately are rather broken.

Withybrook Swallet, which is a sink for St. Dunstans Well was also investigated.

23rd. April 1960.

PRIDDY GREEN SWALLET.

Inspected the public works dept. on Priddy Green and lent a hand. Over the weekend a further 20-30 ft. of passage has been gained here, this being the first actual cave passage to be found; it thus caused quite a stir. Pleased to see William Stanton back in caving clothes so soon after his return from Darkest Africa.

C.J. Hawkes.

3rd. May 1960.

EASTWATER.

D.J. Causer arrived 0530 hrs. joined D. Ford, K. Dawe and J. Mossman and descended Eastwater in search of the two missing Sandhurst men. Down 6½ hrs., searched all of the cave below the pitches thoroughly, and emerged at midday to find the search in full operation still.

By late afternoon news came that they had been located in Jersey, apparently having gone absent without leave there, after leaving word that they were going caving on Mendip.

A feeling of general disgust on Mendip at the time, effort and money wasted by everyone involved, and hope the two responsible get what they deserve.

D.J.C.

George Pointing and Dave Berry arrived at 10.00 am. on stand-by after ringing M.R.O. from Bristol, having heard the news on the radio.

A.D. Oldham and B.S. Roach arrived on Mendip a little late at 7.00 am. We then proceeded to investigate the following caves:-

Blakes Farm Swallet and/or U.H. Swallet.

Little London Swallet.

Withybrook Swallet.

Waterlip Caves.

St. Dunstons Well Cave.

Downside Swallet.

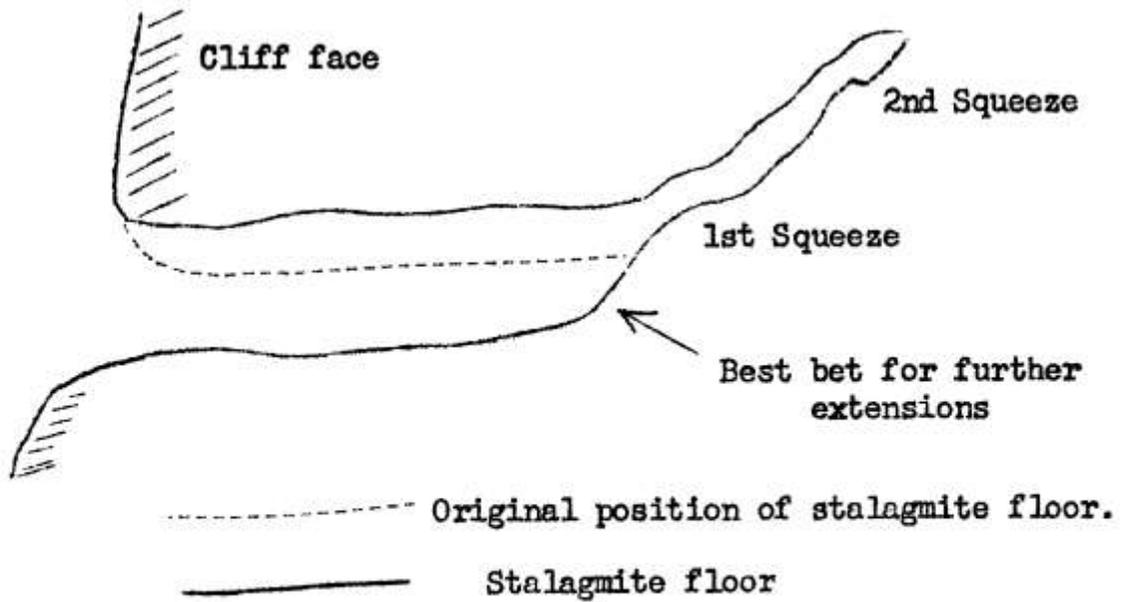
Midway Slocker.

Thrupe Swallet.

Also checked with Mr. Garlick of Fairy Cave Quarry for Fairy Cave, Hillier's Cave and Duck Hole. At 2.50 pm. when check with Howard Kenney at Wells we were told that the rescue was off. We made arrangements to charter a plane to Jersey!

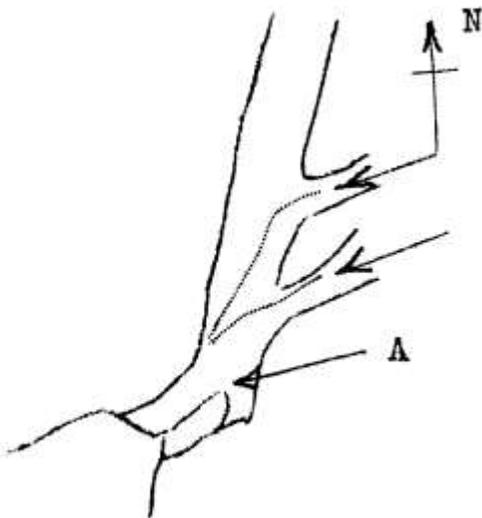
It is interesting to note that within two days practically every cave and every part of the major caves of Mendip has been explored.

This shows how very well the M.R.O. worked. It also brings to light again the vital importance of leaving word which cave or caves one has gone down. Remember, even a coat left outside a cave will act as a marker, in case of difficulty.

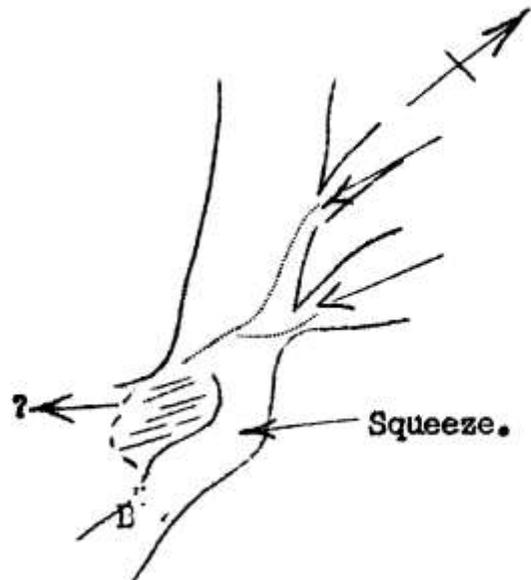


Section on N - S plane C.R.G. Grade I

ST. DUNSTAN'S WELL CAVE 20. 3. 60.

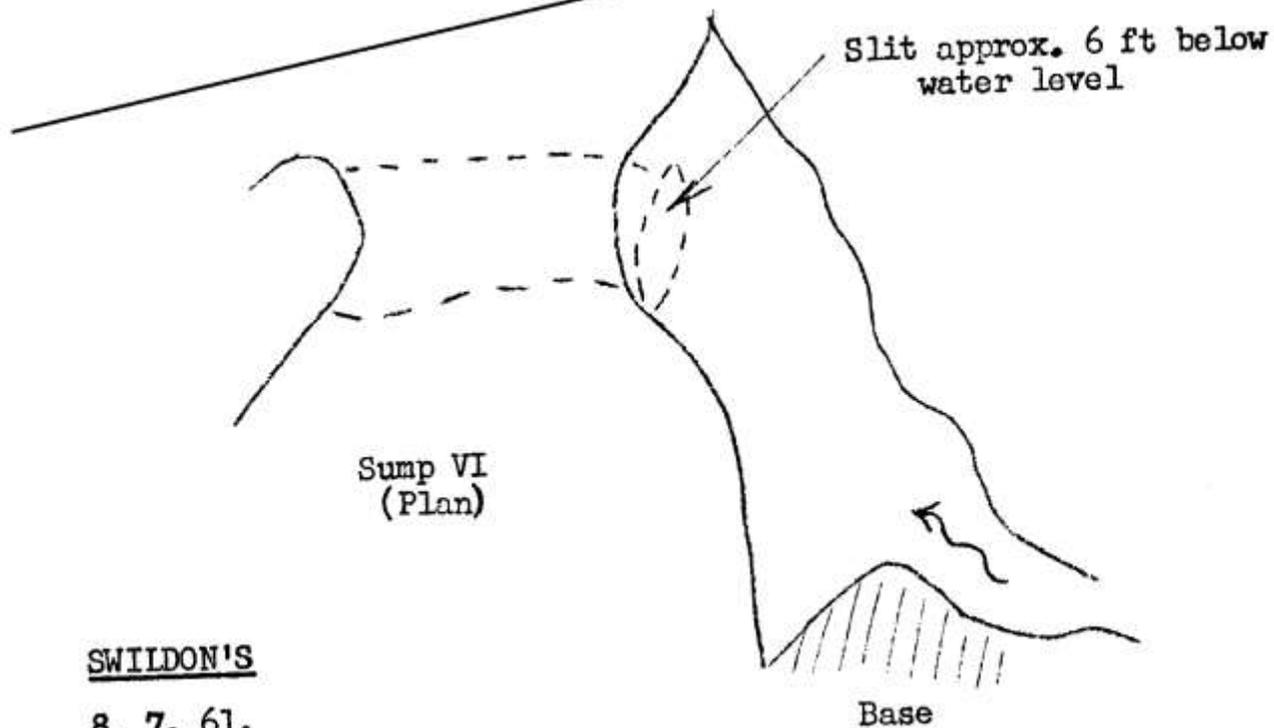
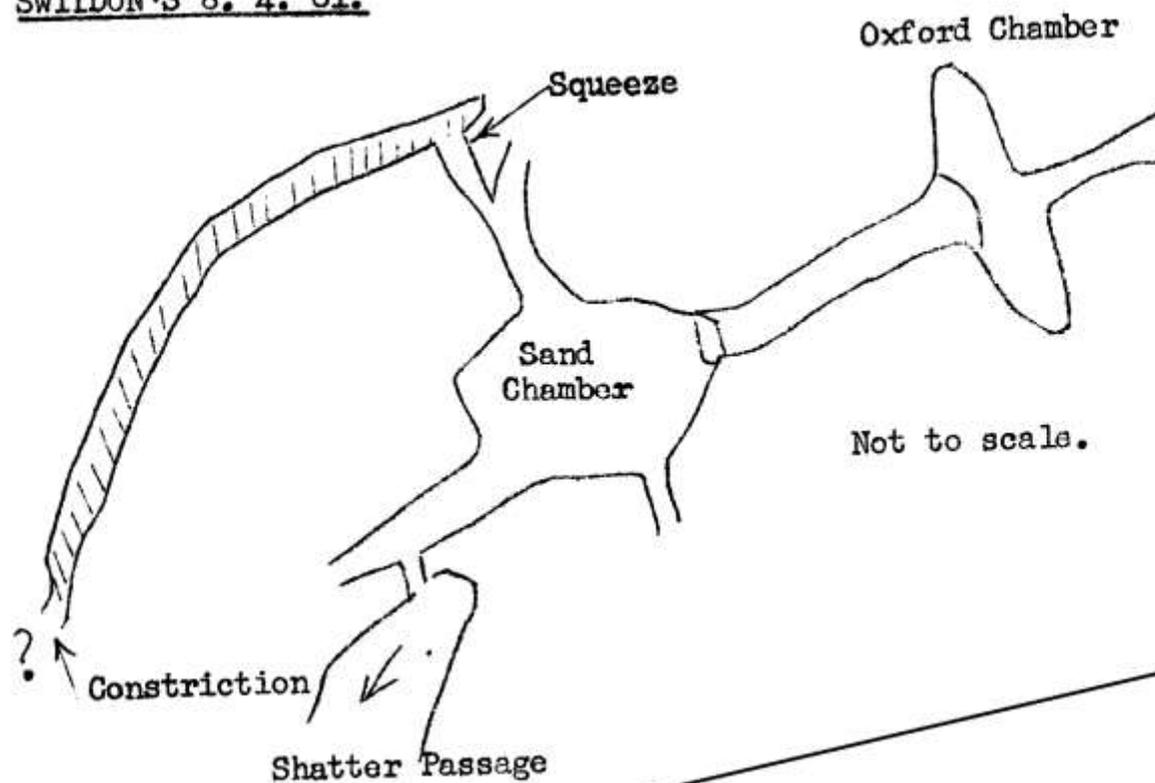


SWILDON'S 4. 2. 61



SWILDON'S 11. 2. 61.

SWILDON'S 8. 4. 61.



SWILDON'S

8. 7. 61.

SWILDONS.

D. Farr arrived at 11.00 am. - searched Paradise Regained and side passage to Blue Pencil. Remainder of party, 4 B.E.C. members, assisted and searched in Swildons IV to no avail. Were greeted on the surface by B.S. Roach at 3.00 pm. with the message that the rescue was off.

8th. May 1960.

BARROW RAKE SWALLET.

Mike Hooper and John Paterson went to Barrow Rake Swallet to continue digging. Some sheets of corrugated iron are restricting progress, which is all the more frustrating since an airspace can be seen below going off to the North having all the signs of a small stream passage without the stream. The sides of the passage seem to be solid rock but the roof is of earth held together by tree roots. The floor is sandy with small stones strewn along it. Departed at about 5.00 pm.

14th. May 1960.

PRIDDY GREEN SWALLET.

R.E. and A. Lawder dug at Priddy Green.

23rd. May 1960.

SWILDONS.

M. Holland, P. Duck, D. Mill and son (prospective members) went to the 40 ft. pot in Swildons to try out a telephone for M.R.O. use. The experiment was fairly successful but the equipment will have to be modified in order to make it a truly portable phone.

M. Holland.

28th. May 1960.

SWILDONS.

A M.R.O. practice in Swildons was arranged. Luke Devenish, suffering from 'speleoneurosis' was found at the bottom of the 40 ft. Pot and a large hauling party was waiting on top. With the aid of telephones the limp loose lump of Luke was hauled up and down three times to the delight of the haulers, the amazement of the film technicians and the professional pride and joy of O.C.L.

Films; moving, were taken by Tony Morrison. Telephones were laid and operated by Michael Holland and two Axbridge members.

A lot of blokes, hauled, climbed ladders, pulled lifelines etc: etc:

5th. June 1960.

SWILDONS.

D.J. Causer arrived Saturday evening, retired to the Hunter's and was conscripted by Derek Ford for a proposed working trip to Swildons, Sump II on Sunday.

The original intention was about a 6 hour trip to lay a new heavy line in Sump I, collect water samples, and spend some hours performing further mysterious scientific rites.

However, encountering some five parties in varying stages of lost-ness between the entrance and the Forty, and an uncountable number below, made us decide to lay the new cable, collect the samples, and beat a retreat while it was still possible to find room to overtake the multitude. It seems that the Bank Holiday traffic and parking problem has extended not only to Mendip, but also beneath it.

D.J.C.

11th. June 1960.

SWILDONS.

Tony Morrison aided by Oliver Lloyd continued taking pictures of rescue work on the 40 ft. pot on Swildons.

11th. June 1960.

SWILDONS.

D. Ford and D. Causer went on another Swildons working party, this time to St. Paul's. Water and air temp's. and water samples were taken at various stations between the Blasted Boss and the Mud Sump. The back sump to the left of the main route was also investigated (See log. entry dated 22.8.59. - ed.). Time of trip 6-7 hours.

D.J.C.

10th. July 1960.

PRIDDY GREEN SINK.

Joe Candy, Willie Stanton, and Mike Holland assisted in the excavation of Priddy Green Dig. Considerable quantities of 'stream detritus' were removed.

Event was enlivened by thunderstorm which caused very rapid flooding, to the alarm of everyone concerned. Mike Thompson reports that a way can be seen beyond the present rubble, Will this be the real thing?

M.H.

8th. July 1960.

SWILDONS.

Candy and Ford joined by Willie Stanton to take Dr. Sweeting, Prof. Peel and David Smith (Dept. of Geog. Bristol) down Swildons. Visitors went as far as Trats Temple. Stanton and Candy brought the mighty sewer-boat from the old 'Priddy Green Stream' dig to the surface, and thence to the new Priddy Green Dig (Swallet - ed.) where it later was proven to be too large for the passage.

D.C.F.

10th. July 1960.

PRIDDY GREEN SWALLET.

Candy digging at Priddy Green.

12th. July 1960.

SWILDONS.

D.C. Ford and Willie Stanton engaged in survey and morphological work in the Maypole Series of Paradise Regained.

14th. July 1960

SWILDONS.

Ford, Candy and Stanton working in the Maypole Series - 35 Ft, Pitch Aven - Paradise Regained. Ford dug for 2 hours and added 3 ft. to Swildons, Candy scratched for 10 minutes and added 70 ft., 'Candy's Calamity'. All three then descended the pitch. Much of loose rock which made this a dangerous climb has now fallen, and only 20 ft. of ladder is required plus 20 ft. belay to rawlbolt, but there are still some awkward looking blocks. Further parties are advised to take the 4 ft. steel tube lying waste in the approach to Blasted Boss and wedge it to keep ladders clear of the loose stuff. It would then be a very pleasant pitch. The rock scenery is very striking and photogenic. The mud is sticky. 10 hours.

23rd. July 1960.

BARROW RAKE SWALLET.

R. Woolley and M. Hooper met the R.A.F. cavers from Colerne. Visited Barrow Rake Swallet, which, to our horror, has fallen in somewhat.

16th. July 1960.

ST. CUTHBERTS SWALLET.

D. Causer, M. Holland and D. Ford surveying in St. Cuthberts: from Duck to Rat Run. Seven hours.

20th. July 1960.

ST. CUTHBERTS SWALLET.

D. Ford with two guests from S.M.C.C. extended St. Cuthberts survey to Wire Rift.

21st. July 1960.

SWILDONS.

Candy and Ford returned to 'Candy's Calamity' in Paradise Regained. Its length was reduced to 46 ft. and a choke previously thought promising at its end pronounced hopeless. A choke in the Maypole Series was pushed a little further.

D.C.F.

23rd. July 1960.

SWILDONS.

Howard Kenny, Willie Stanton, Mike Boon (S.M.C.C.) and Derek Ford visited Paradise Regained. Ford worked in the Fault Chamber aven and discovered a 15 ft. wet pitch of unpromising appearance. The others dug in a mud choke elsewhere to discover another 50 ft. of fine passage with a beautifully draughty choke at its end.

D.C.F.

13th. August 1960.

EASTWATER.

Roger Horton and David Mogg went to Eastwater to investigate the state of the boulder ruckle. As neither of us was aware of the actual scene of the accident we had to regard the whole of the ruckle as potentially unsafe (as it was, is, and always will be). About 120 cubic feet of rock has peeled off and a lot more looks dicey. Further investigation seems necessary.

13th. August 1960.

ST. CUTHBERTS SWALLET.

Finished survey of St. Cuthberts Swallet, (Entrance to duck - ed.).

D.C. Ford.

27th. August 1960.

SWILDONS.

R.E.L. and A.L. descended Swildons at 12 noon intending to do a 6 hour trip to base camp and back. After passing through an ominously wet Paradise Regained we found the main stream very high. Laid up at Tratman's Temple, 1½ hours; moved to Barnes Loop and collected with the others in the cave. More waiting until the stream was low enough to make a thrust for the forty. Many thanks to the M.R.O. for their moral and physical support and to the makers of 'goon suits'. Emerged at 4 am. Sunday.

27th. August 1960.

SWILDONS.

D.J. Causer arrived about 8.00 pm. Sat. evening, found a flap on at Swildons, finally went down at about 10.00 pm and was lowered, together with D. Ford and F. Davies (Shepton), down the Forty - a very wet ride. We rigged a telephone on the pitch, which functioned fairly well, made contact with 3 people at the bottom, and established that there were a further 8 in the cave, 4 at the Double Pots and 4 at Barnes Loop. These were all brought to the bottom of the 40 ft. Pot, the water (level - ed.) now falling rapidly, helped by the Waterworks pumping and the Fire Service. All were able to climb the ladder this time, and were out by 4 - 4.30 am.

27th. August 1960.

BADGER HOLE.

A.D.O. went to Biddle Combe and Badger Hole, was surprised to find that Badger Hole is being used as a cow shed and that the cows have entered as far as the dark zone.

1st. October 1960.

TOTTY POT.

M.J. Holland, R.E. and A. Lawder and C. Hawkes spent the afternoon digging in Totty Pot. A small amount of progress was made.

2nd. October 1960.

SWILDONS.

Messrs. the Lawder, Mike Holland and Jim Borchard (B.E.C.) descended Swildons to go draughting in Paradise Regained Series. Plenty of water was in evidence, which is the ideal condition for draughts. Investigated boulders on slope to Fault Chamber and found a rift about 20 ft. deep with a trickle from Fault Chamber in it. A thin man could get down it but there is nowhere to hang a ladder or lifeline as yet. Anne Lawder rather 'worn' on way out. Much water in cave.

M. Holland.

15th. October 1960.

PRIDDY GREEN SWALLET.

Dug at Priddy Green. Thompson and Co. laid bang but did not investigate result.

M. Holland.

23rd. October 1960.

PRIDDY GREEN SWALLET.

Moved a few boulders at the face of Priddy Green Dig after the smoke had subsided from a little banging.

30th. October 1960.

SWILDONS.

D.J. Causer, M. Holland, G. Pointing and M. Boon (Shepton ) went down to Shatter Pot in Paradise Regained and continued digging below Oxford Chamber (see log. entry dated 7.3.59 - ed.). About another 6 ft. of progress was made, still going down parallel to the bedding, removing sand and fine gravel. There are now signs of a faint draught and a small airspace - about 2 inches - can be seen going on down. The Mud Sump will need bailing soon if there is much more wet weather.

n.b. Anyone looking at Shatter Pot is warned of the dangerous state of the boulders at the extreme edge of the top of the pitch. These have already moved once, and may easily go again!

29th. October 1960.

PRIDDY GREEN SWALLET.

Jim Harwell, Mike Boon, Mike Holland and a party of 6 Fleet Air Arm cavers went down Priddy Green Dig and shifted piles and piles of rocks.

5th. November 1960.

RODNEY STOKE RISINGS.

D.J. Causer and M. Holland went to observe the diving at Rodney Stoke Risings. No significant advance was made, the way on being blocked by boulders, with spaces in between, too small to pass with B.A.s although it was thought possible with ordinary kit.

6th. November 1960.

TOTTY POT.

Went to Totty Pot with G. Pointing, D. Berry and M. Padfield and dug for the afternoon. Rapid progress was made, and an estimated 40 ft. of cave - mostly bedding plane - is passable: this after about 3 hours of digging with bare hands. A small chamber, quite well decorated with stal., and white straws is entered via a nasty squeeze and the way on appears down a rift, choked at present with loose stones.

19th. November 1960.

SWILDONS.

D.J. Causer, S. Wynne-Roberts, Mike and Lao Holland and Mike Boon (Shepton) went to Shatter Pot to inspect the boulders at the top of the pitch (see note 30.10.60) and continue digging below Oxford Chamber.

Close inspection of the edge showed the large boulders which were used for stepping on to the ladder to be very insecurely held, and these were finally dislodged. The situation is now that there is a lot more very loose material hanging near the edge and the pitch is not safe to descend until this has been dealt with.

10th. December 1960.

SWILDONS.

Ken Dawe, Phil Davies, J. Hanwell, D.J. Causer, R. Pyke and L. Holland tackled the boulders at Shatter Pot. D.J.C. laddered the cave and was joined by Ken Dawe and Bob Pyke and about 1 hour was spent bailing the Mud Sump. Remainder of party arrived and moved on to Shatter Pot. Three charges were used under the large boulder at the top which has now settled by some two feet altogether, but is still not solidly jammed. Some more work is necessary before the pitch is safe.

17th. December 1960.

SWILDONS.

D.J. Causer, R. Pyke and P.M. Giles to the Trouble Series. Down about midday and out at 6.15 pm. On the way in an hours work was done on the boulders at the top of the Shatter Pot pitch, which is now a bit more stable. We then moved on to Base Camp. Two then went through the sumps, which were just and only just, passable without bailing: and had a look at Trouble Series while a brew up was set going at Base Camp.

17th. December 1960.

TOM TIVEY'S CAVE.

A.D. Oldham went to Tom Tivey's Cave and excavated for a couple of hours.

21st. December 1960.

SWILDONS.

D.J. Causer and R. Pyke again to Shatter Pot, carefully inspected the boulders, decided the pitch was relatively safe now and descended. Several hours work was put into the dig beyond Oxford Chamber and a further 4-5 ft. of progress made. The passage is still going down, parallel to the bedding at approx. 30 degrees to the horizontal in a South West direction. The small air space in the top of the passage which we have had hitherto has ended, but the passage still seems to be as large as ever, though completely choked with fine gravel.

Time down - mid-day, out: 6.00 pm. Water volume average.

D.J.C.

29th. December 1960.

PRIDDY GREEN SWALLET.

R. Pyke and P.M. Giles pulled a few rocks out of the Green dig.

14th. January 1961.

SWILDONS.

D.J. Causer and S. Wynne-Roberts to Shatter Pot, Swildons. Down at mid-day, out at 8 pm. Several more feet of passage excavated, now showing signs of turning upwards. Although no rain during afternoon, there was a noticeable increase in the amount of water going down the pitches on the way out.

4th. February 1961.

SWILDONS. (See survey following p. 66).

D.J. Causer, M. Holland, K. Dawe and Dick Dunster (Shepton) to Shatter Pot and the 300 ft. of passage broken into last weekend (by M. Boon and Don Crown - ed). This passage is very impressive; on average 10 ft. wide and 20 plus in height with a tricky 10 ft. overhang to climb. After this overhang, the passage descends, following the dip at about 30 degrees, for, perhaps, 80 or 100 ft. to a choke, where the boulder floor meets the roof. Just before this, two small streams enter from the left, cross the passage, and sink through the floor on the right, (see sketch). Digging was started at A and pushed to the point where an apparently large passage could be seen ahead, the roof rising rapidly about 18 ins. away. Conditions were bad for digging; lying in water up to the neck, though it should be possible to drain from the downstream side when through.

The party was joined by Mike Boon, Phil Davies, Fred Davies and Brian Ellis (Shepton) at about 5 pm. the first to continue digging, the others to run a survey from the bottom of Shatter Pot pitch to the present end of the passage. In all possibility they will break through in a few hours digging. The point now reached is about 300 ft. from Swildons VI and 100 ft. above it - more accurate figures when results of survey are known.

Original party entered cave at 10 am. and out at 8.30 pm. leaving second party down.

D.J.C.

Note: Survey shows Shatter Pot Passage to trend South Easterly, i.e. parallel to Swildons V and VI rather than Westerly (towards VI) as originally estimated. This makes the furthest point reached some 500 ft. from VI instead of 300 ft. as supposed before surveying - somewhat disheartening.

D.J.C.

11th. February 1961.

SWILDONS. (See survey following p. 66).

Shatter Pot has had its lot! D.J. Causer and 1 B.E.C. member went down and inspected the end choke. (See note 4.2.6l). Found that through the squeeze dug out last week the passage is almost completely choked and appears so indefinitely. The streams referred to previously disappear downwards to the right entering the squeeze, and the passage, B can be followed upwards for about 10 - 15 ft. to where it is almost completely choked. Could be dug out further but looks a long job, and would be very hard work; spoil having to be taken back through B squeeze.

D.J. Causer.

15th. February 1961.

SWILDONS.

Party from University College of Swansea descended Swildons to Sump I in the morning. On the way out had a small accident. One bloke fell down the 20 ft. Pot; he was uninjured apart from a few bruises and a cut nose. Made way to surface and out at 4 pm. In future I think a life-line on the Twenty might come in handy.

26th. February 1961

BLAKES FARM SWALLET.

With diverse divers - M.M. Thompson and K.R. Dawe of S.M.C.C. - a descent of Blake's Farm Swallet was made, however, water level was too high to continue work, silting up prevents further exploration at present. More work to be done in the dry weather.

M. Holland.

18th. March 1961.

SWILDONS.

N.H. Cleave, S. Wynne-Roberts, R. Banks, P. Coulson, N. Bing went underground at 9.30 pm. We went to Shatter Pot and explored Shatter Passage and then on to Series IV. Returned to Trat's for a rest and a brew-up. Took some photographs. Down to the Sump. Cleave and Wynne-Roberts were tempted - the sump looked very attractive - and so they went through and chuntered up over the Black Hole and had a look at the Well Passage and Fool's Paradise. Bing, Banks and Coulson having left from the Sump, Cleave and Wynne-Roberts eventually emerged somewhat later, 9.20 am. to be exact. An extremely pleasant 12 hours. Water very low, but lacked energy to see if Troubles needed bailing.

N.H.Cleave.

4th. April 1961.

SWILDONS.

D. Causer and P.M. Giles went down to Shatter Pot to have a look at the side passage which needs blasting - leading off from Sand Chamber. We measured up for wooden packing for the charge and surfaced by 8 pm.

8th. April 1961.

SWILDONS. (See survey preceding p. 67).

Combined Wessex and Shepton trip to blast at Shatter Pot and Double Trouble.

D.J. Causer and P.M. Giles worked at Shatter Pot, laid one charge, fired it, and retreated to Blue Pencil base camp for a brew for 2 hours while the fumes cleared (partially). Some 40 ft. of new passage was found.

The passage is a high, narrow rift running uphill from the entrance squeeze and turning slightly left halfway along - estimated roughly parallel to Shatter Passage. At the furthest point reached the rift is about 15 - 18 ft. high and ends with an 'over or under'. The 'under' is too tight, but the 'over' may go further. The rift appears to widen slightly about 6 ft. further on.

D.J.C.

The party to Double Trouble were: Mike Thompson, Fred Davies and Ken Dawe of the Shepton Mallet Club and Mike Holland and Bob Pyke of the Wessex, The Troubles were passed by syphoning and bailing, with the help of 3 Sandhurst cadets and the Shepton trio went on to lay the first charge. We stayed a while longer to bail and then joined them.

The blasting point was at the far end of the passage beyond the Doomed Grotto, in a stalagmite and pebble choke high in the right corner. This choke had a small hole in it, through which the sound of a small stream could be heard.

Four 4 ounce charges were fired, allowing access to a small chamber. An aven in the roof discharged a small stream into a perfectly circular hole in the floor, about 18 ins. in diameter. Descent might be possible by a small person with a ladder, but looks unpromising.

The party had a look at Crystal Passage and left the cave - 8½ hour trip.

15th. April 1961.

SWILDONS.

D.J. Causer and P.M. Giles went to Shatter Pot to try and push the new passage further, with no success. We decided that more blasting will have to be done if it is to go further, but it looks worth some more work.

D.J.C.

23rd. April 1961.

SWILDONS.

D.J. Causer and P.M. Giles went to Swildons intending to reach Sump II and look at the Black Hole. Sumping antipathy caused a premature retirement at Sump I and we were out after about 3 hrs.

29th. April 1961.

SWILDONS.

N. Cleave, S. Wfynne-Roberts, K. Dawe (Shepton), F. Darbon and D.J. Causer to Swildons.

Objectives of the trip were to blast in Shatter Pot, to check digging and diving equipment in the cave - at Shatter Pot, top of Blue Pencil and in Series IV - and to obtain further experience in Sump IV and Swildons V.

Kit was checked in Shatter Pot and the charge set off, after which the party carried on to IV and V. Sump IV appears to have silted up considerably at the bottom, and there is now an estimated 15 inches between roof and floor. Trouble was again experienced in Buxton's Horror which needs care! Three oxygen cylinders were taken from near Sump III and are now at the top of Blue Pencil Passage. On the way out thick gelignite fumes were encountered before reaching the top of Shatter Pitch. The previous bang (see note 4.4.6l) caused fumes no further back than Oxford Chamber!

Surfaced by 8.00 pm.

D.J.C.

7th. May 1961.

SWILDONS.

D. Causer and P.M.Giles went down as far as Shatter Pot to inspect the results of last weekend's blasting. A useful amount of damage was done, and it was estimated that another 4 or 5 bangs will be needed before the constriction is passable - at least. More tools were brought out of the cave for renovation before the June diving operations.

D.J.C.

14th. May 1961.

SWILDONS.

D. Ford, D. Causer and 1 B.E.C. member went to Shatter Pot, entering the cave at about mid-day. A further charge was laid in the side passage while D.F. inspected the major Shatter Passage. Professional opinion on further extensions was 'unpromising'. Out by 7.00 pm.

D.J.C.

21st. May 1961.

SWILDONS.

Derek Ford and Noel Cleave to Trouble Series. Derek stayed in Trouble to make notes and Noel Cleave carried picks and entrenching tools etc. down to the 'kitchen' in Series IV for the diving op. Out after 6 hours. V. pleasant. The sumps in Trouble Series needed no bailing.

11th. June 1961.

SWILDONS.

M. Holland, M. Thompson and K. Dawe went down to Swildons IV carrying kit for the diving trip next weekend. Messrs. Dawe and Holland went through to Swildons V and laid telephone cables. Trip took 9½ hours.

Whilst down in IV the party met F. Davies, D. Ford, N. Hallet, J. Church, R. Hobbis and P. Harris, also portering.

M. Holland.

17-18th. June 1961.

SWILDONS. - Diving Op.

F. Davies and Bob Pyke in at 8.30 am, to establish and maintain a kitchen and telephones in IV to be linked with V and VI.

Divers: M. Thompson, D. Dawe, J. Wright, P. Davies (all on O2) and M. Boon (on air) entered cave at 10.0 am. and all proceeded to dive to Swildons VI where they started digging to attempt lowering the sump.

Support party of D. Causer, S. Wynne-Roberts, N. Cleave, and F. Darbon entered at 18.00, reached IV by 19.30 and soon received news that Sump V was now considered passable with a small airspace all the way through to VI. Party moved through to VI and took over digging, while divers did a preliminary exploration of VI.

Streamway was found to run roughly South for 250 ft. before sumping again in a most uncompromising situation. Side passages and an aven proved interesting, and were explored, but not surveyed.

First tributary on left reported by O.C. Wells in 1958 was followed for perhaps 150 ft. before choking and an aven above Sump VI gave 200 ft. of low muddy passage, exploration not being completed. Other possibilities for future work and digging were noted near the sump, and a passage on the left half way down VI was not explored.

Divers surfaced by 02.30 hrs. on Sunday and support party by 05.30 am. Telephones brought out of the cave; some digging tools left in IV and VI.

Oliver Lloyd provided an excellent kitchen - a rival establishment in IV which fed the support party royally.

D.J.C.

27th. June 1961.

MINESHAFTS.

Ian Lennon and party explored 2 disused mineshafts. The bottom of the first pitch of the first mine was made rather unpleasant by the presence of two deceased sheep: though putrefaction was almost complete, the smell lingered. Further along the passage we found specimens of smithsenite blende, and galena, in the calcite veins.

8th, July 1961.

SWILDONS. - Discovery of Swildons VII. (See survey preceding p. 67).

A party of 6 consisting of Derek Ford, Steven Wynne-Roberts and Robert Pyke of the Wessex and Mikes Thompson and Boon and Ken Dawe of the S.M.C.C. descended Swildons at 11 am. bound for Swildons VI.

The purpose of the trip was (a) to survey the newly opened passages in VI and (b) to probe the terminal sump at the far end (see D.J.C.'s description).

The party went through to VI uneventfully, and while a kitchen was established, Derek and Steve began the survey, while the divers began work on Sump VI using lightweight B.A.'s that they had carried in with them. Mike Thompson investigated the far end of the sump, and the right hand wall. He found it to be about 9 ft. deep and with no way on evident. Dawe then investigated the left hand wall and found a slit, floored with mud, about 24 inches by 48 inches. Visibility in the sump was now zero, the water being of pea soup consistency. Boon, using compressed air apparatus, was led to the appropriate wall of the sump by Thompson floating along the surface holding the lifeline. He (Boon) entered the slit, and after moving along some 30 ft. of constricted passage, emerged into an open pool. On his return he reported that he had seen a passage large enough to stand erect in, inclining half-left out of sight, there was an encouraging sound of free running water beyond. Caloo-calay!

Derek and Steve had meanwhile completed a survey of the streamway from Sump VI to Buxton's Horror, and of the first tributary passage on the left in VI, reported by Wells in '58. It was hoped that this might be ultimately connected with Shatter Passage. However, the passage was only some 100 ft. in length as surveyed by Derek, leaving a long way to go.

We brewed up and moved back into IV, the divers using their B.A.'s in Sump IV to help ferry the packs through. This sump was shortened by the low water conditions, but still gave several people a fright, as it appears very constricted on the right hand side, facing downstream, nowadays.

A stop was made in IV to pack up the B.A.'s and gear for ferrying out. We then went out in 2 parties of 3 getting out at approx 11 pm.

R.P.

17th. July 1961.

SWILDONS.

R.P. and D.C.F. went to the dig in the Maypole Series of Paradise Regained to continue digging where Derek Ford and Joe Candy left off last year (see log entry 14.7.60 - ed.). Did 3 hours work, without reaching any suggestion of an airspace.

22nd. July 1961.

ST. CUTHBERTS SWALLET.

D.C. Ford and Peter Miller (B.E.C.) working in the Rabbit Warren extension, St. Cuthberts. 3 hours.

23rd. July 1961.

ST. CUTHBERTS SWALLET.

D.C. Ford, B.M. Ellis, Mike Grimmer, Chris Grisson (S.M.C.C.) and P.M. Giles descended Pulpit Pitch route (St. Cuthberts) to Lower Traverse Chamber. D.C.F. worked back from here to Pulpit (survey and geology) whilst the others followed the main stream to the duck and left via, the ordinary route.

The little used Pulpit route makes a fine sporting trip. Cotton dye-detectors collected from a variety of sites in the cave provisionally demonstrated that the stream which sinks at Plantation Swallet is that which appears at Plantation Junction, so the name is correct.

5th. August 1961.

SWILDONS.

The diving op. was cancelled so self and D. Causer went to dig beyond Keith's Chamber in Paradise Regained. No air problem - no air at all - very easy dig though. We excavated 3 ft. of passage - anyone can have it.

N.H. Cleave.

7th. August 1961.

PAYNE'S FARM SWALLETS.

Mike Thompson and D. Causer had a look at some swallets in the yard of Payne's Farm - opposite the New Inn, Priddy - and started a bit of tentative work on one. Six feet of progress, leaving 424 ft. to Swildons VII +++.

27th. August 1961.

BOTTLEHEAD SLOCKER.

Continued digging at Downhead on Eastern Mendip. Broke into bedding cave followed by old stream passage, finally choked by boulders in the floor - should go further with work. Total length: about 200 ft. estimated.

M. Thompson and D.J.C.

2nd. September 1961.

SWILDONS.

N.H. Cleave arrived Friday night. On Saturday dug in the gash pit and in the afternoon joined up with Oliver Lloyd to scrub the carbide and sooted names out of Swildons from the Forty to the Sump. Derek Ford and Bob Pyke went down earlier and, in fact did the lion's share of the work. We scrubbed some of the mud off the stal in Trats Temple and Bob and Derek took all the soot off the stal in Barne's Loop. We brought out 3 large bags of garbage.

2nd. September 1961.

BOTTLEHEAD SLOCKER.

Dave Causer continued work at Downhead with Mike Thompson, to some 8 ft. but decided .blasting will be necessary.

D.J.C.

14th. October 1961.

SWILDONS.

S.Wynne-Roberts, R. Pyke and K. Dawe (S.M.C.C.) descended Swildons at 12 noon, and went through to Swildons VI without incident. We went first to the tributary passage at the top of the aven by Sump VI, and crawled wetly along it to the far end. The passage terminates in a low sump, but overhead there is a rift, which had previously only been climbed halfway by Noel Cleave.

Steve managed to get up it a bit further this time, dislodging chunks of chert, and leaving bits of goon suit adhering to the walls. However, the climb became a bit too risky for such a remote part of the cave, and he called it a day without having confirmed that the rift did/did not close down completely. We returned to the streamway, had a quick brew-up in kitchen chamber and then transported all the kitchen equipment back to IV where we met D. Causer and F. Davies on their way in. We left the cave carrying as much of the cooking equipment as possible, and emerged at 9.15 pm. The cave has now been cleared of most of the kit used on the diving op's this summer.

R.P.

D. Causer and F. Davies (Shepton) entered the cave at about 3.30 pm. and started for VI. Before leaving the sight of daylight we were involved in a short rescue - a lad stuck at the bottom of the 15 ft. pitch in the Wet Way. He was tired and not helped any by incompetent leadership and we managed to talk him up and through the squeeze at the top under his own steam. Saw him safely out of the cave and proceeded to VI without further incident.

Met the earlier party in IV, moved through to VI after they started out, and surveyed the north branch of the North East tributary at the top of the aven above Sump VI. This is the dirtiest and foulest bit of survey work I have ever experienced - liquid mud up to the ears! On the way out we carried 3 packs between the two of us, and deladdered the cave. Very tired and made a slow trip out, surfacing by about 1.15 am. Sunday.

D.J.C.

11th. November 1961.

SWILDONS. (See survey preceding p. 63).

R. Pyke and M. Luckwell (B.E.C.) went to Maypole Series in Swildons, with the intention of investigating an apparently unclimbed aven above the entrance to the series. This turned out to be quite hairy, and without a rope we decided to leave it alone.

It should be noted that the corner of Keith's Chamber is now extremely dangerous. This corner was seen to move, en masse, when a person set foot on the floor of the chamber close to it.

1st. December 1961.

SWILDONS.

Phil Davies, Howard Kenny and Oliver Lloyd broke into another 400 ft. of Swildons II - Vicarage Passage.

27th. December 1961.

SWILDONS. (See survey preceding p. 63).

Bob Pyke, and Steve Wynne-Roberts entered Swildons at 1.15 pm well loaded with packs, ladders and Maypole, Made steady progress down to Keith's Chamber picking up a further 5 ft. of maypole by St. Paul's squeeze making a total of 14 ft. This was left in Keith's Chamber. The 'Maypole Climb' was free climbed in less than one minute!

The passage from the top of the climb led gently up for some 30 ft. where it entered a rift with a small solutional passage leading away to the left. This passage was investigated; it is about 5 ft. wide and of elliptical form. A triangular constriction some 10 ft. in proved impassable owing to the mud infill - very similar to Shatter Pot - easy digging. It was possible to see about 15 ft. beyond the constriction. Attention was then turned to the rift. This proved climbable with much struggling and swearing. A passage of similar type and size to the one already described met the top of the rift at right angles. The passage was followed to the right, sloping down at an average gradient of 5 degrees plus. For the greater part of its length of 100 ft. it was necessary to crawl on the stomach. 30 or so feet from this rift a large tributary joined on the right. A vadose trench in the tributary continued on down the main passage to the terminal rift. This rift was not climbed down but looks about 20 - 25 ft. and an easy climb.

On returning, a passage on the right was noted but though it obviously 'goes', the mud infill needs digging. The vadose trench was followed up the tributary after several meanders (all corners in it appeared to turn left). The passage entered a pot which was climbed and the passage followed at a higher level for about another 100 ft. when it entered a small chamber some 30 ft. high and 15 ft. across. The passage continued down a flowstone bank for 10 ft. and closed with a mud choke after a further 20 ft. A few feet before the choke are two entrances into a rift on the left, but these were not pushed.

27th. January 1962.

LAMB LAIR.

D. Warburton, A. Surrall, B. Brisland, P. Davies - to Lamb Lair to continue the survey below the Main Pitch to the Cave of Falling Waters. Pitch 67 ft. 2 ins.

4th. February 1962.

BALCH'S HOLE. (See- survey following p. 82).

B. Prewer, P.M. Giles, G. Pointing, D. Berry, M. Baker, M. Boon, G. Selby, R. Teagle and other M.N.R.C. and Cerberus Types.

Exploration and photography of the Maypole Extension off Pool Hall. Estimated length of new cave to be in the region of 1,000 ft. plus, thereby doubling the length of existing cave. A survey of the cave is still on the drawing board, but a rough plan follows.

P.M.G.

n.b. Apparently the Hut War den is taking up caving again. In one weekend: Lamb Lair, G.B. (Rescue) and Balch's Hole. He will be buying his own beer next.

17th. February 1962.

BALCH'S HOLE.

B. Prewer, P.M. Giles, G. Pointing, D.J. Berry: working trip, to fix ladder and chain in Maypole Chamber.

G.P.

24th. February 1962.

SWILDONS.

Robert Pyke and Ken Whimster on a trip to survey the new passages in the Keith's Chamber area of Swildons. Surveyed 241 ft. of passage, with a considerable amount still to be done. Down 7 hours.

24th. February 1962.

SWILDONS.

N.H. Cleave, S.G. Wynne-Roberts, O.C. Lloyd. Sump trip with a difference: we came up sans illumination. V. enjoyable.

2nd. March 1962.

SWILDONS.

R. Pyke, M. Luckwell (B.E.C.) continued the survey of the South-East Inlet Series. Surveyed another 250 ft. odd.

10th. March 1962.

DENNY'S HOLE.

T.C. Bryant, R.A. Philpott and W. Edwards met Jim Hanwell at G.B. who opened the cave. We went by the quickest route to the Ladder Dig to photograph the Helictites in this (new) grotto. Met J.H. again in Gorge and all returned to surface together. Later T.C.B., R.A.P. and W.E. went to Denny's Hole for preliminary work on survey. The entrance is very overgrown and difficult to find. Within a few yards (say 50) there are 4 more caves, 3 of which appear to be under excavation at the present time.

11th. March 1962.

BALCH'S HOLE.

G. Pointing, D.J. Berry, L. Teasdale, R. Pyke, S. Roberts, B. Prewer: working trip to Balch's Hole.

17th. March 1962.

ST. CUTHBERTS SWALLET.

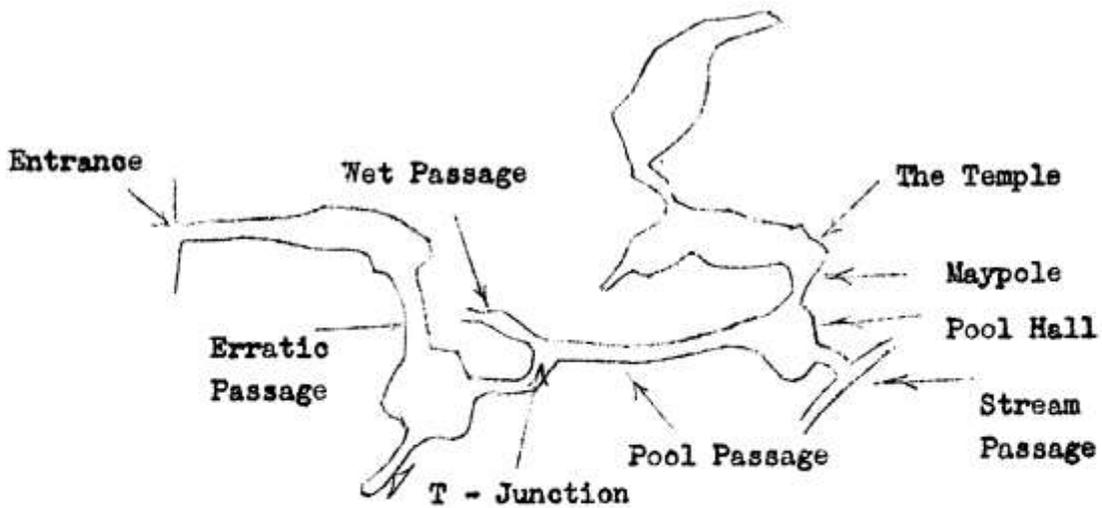
P.M. Giles and Mike Holland with various B.E.C. members descended St. Cuthberts to collect maypole from Hanging Chamber. After an abortive attempt to climb a 36 ft. pole or at least a ladder attached there to, the trip was called off. Maypole is required to investigate passages in Lake Chamber.

M.H.

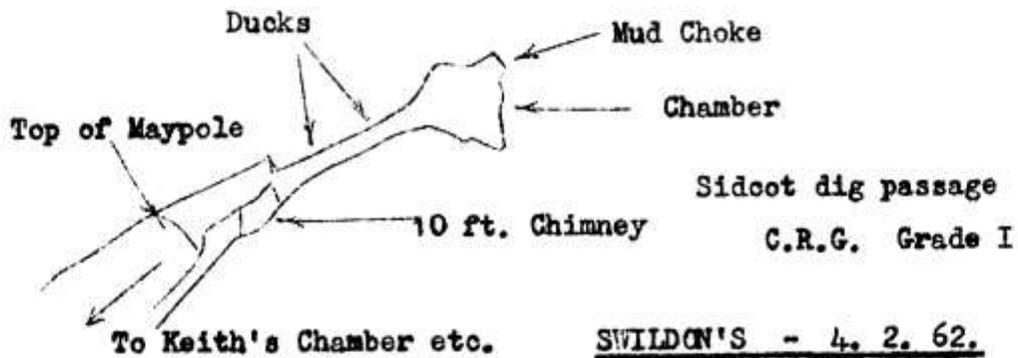
7th. April 1962.

SWILDONS.

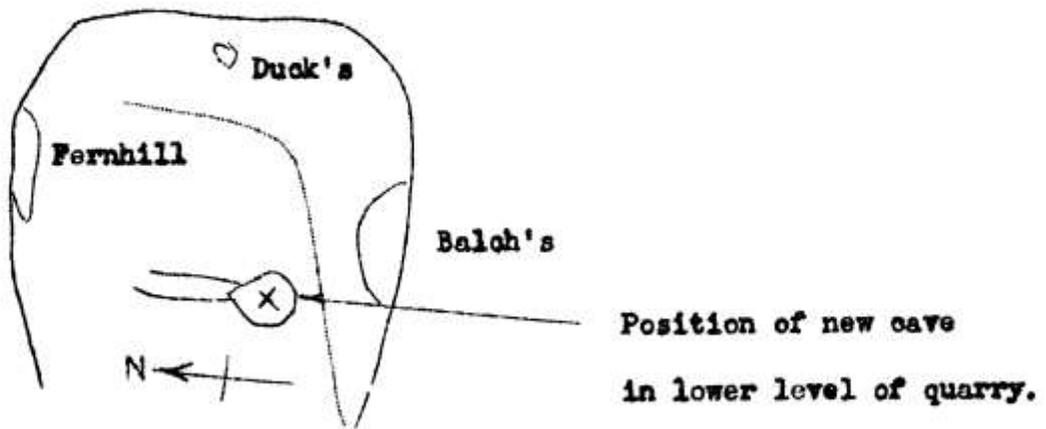
L. and M. Holland in to Paradise Regained, Swildons, to investigate passages. Went down a small pot at the bottom of Dining Chamber, although the two passages were blocked by mud and very small, one could hear running water through them, probably they connect with Series IV but may connect with Priddy Green Swallet and aven series. Also investigated passages leading off to the South, but all were too tight.



BALCH'S HOLE - 4. 2. 62.

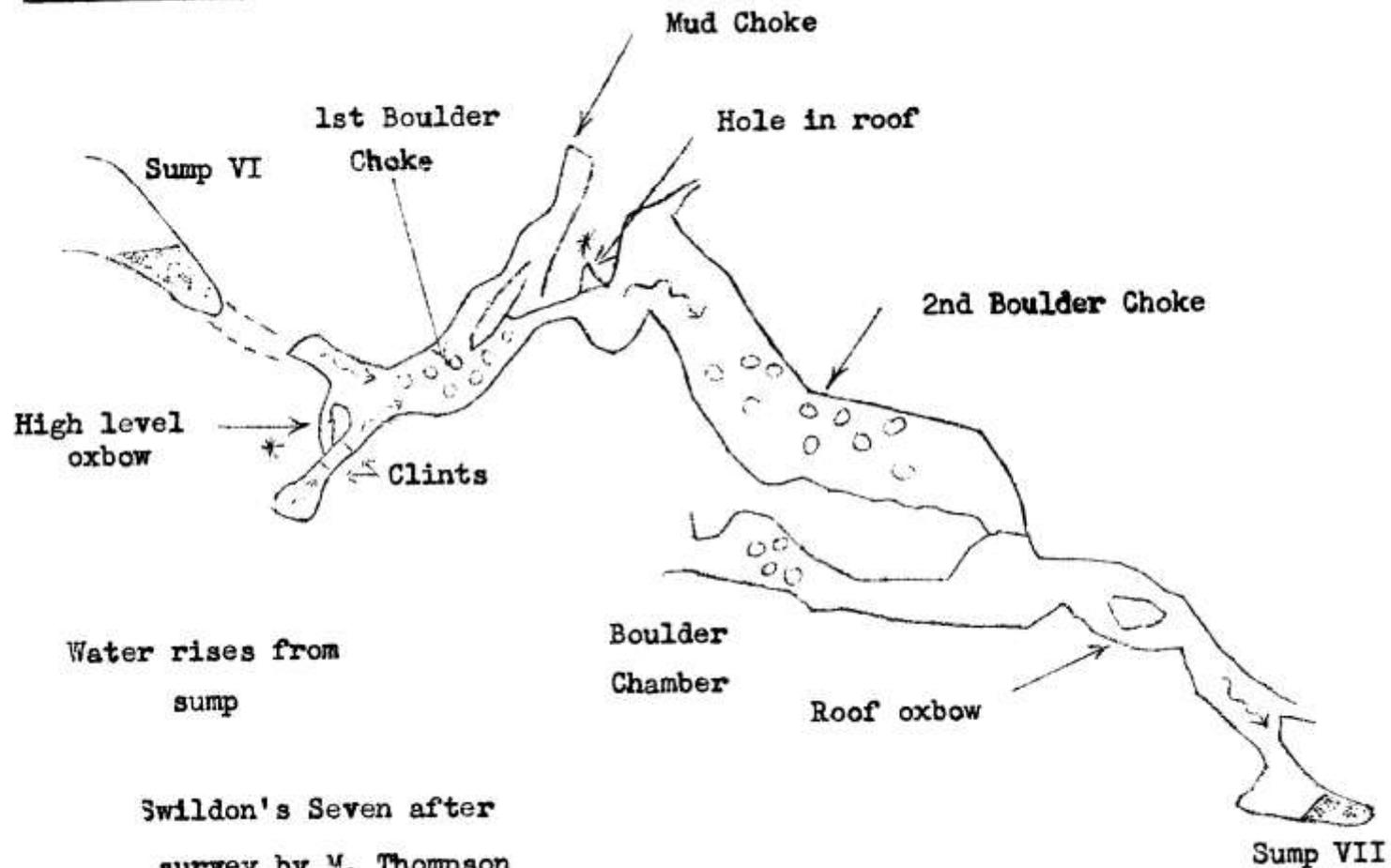


SWILDON'S - 4. 2. 62.



FAIRY CAVE QUARRY - 12. 11. 62.

SWILDON'S - 2. 6. 62.



Swildon's Seven after  
survey by M. Thompson  
to C.R.G. Grade III - no clino  
used. Scale: 1" - 40 ft. (2nd tracing)

15th. April 1962.

BALCH'S HOLE.

M. Holland, P. Davies helping CDG dive in Balch's Hole. Little progress downstream was made under very difficult conditions; very tight, muddy and 'orrid.

5th. May 1962.

SWILDONS.

R. Pyke and S. Wynne-Roberts accompanied P. Davies and M. Boon to Sump II with a view to (i) Proving the feasibility of sending divers into IV via Sumps II and III, and (ii) to rigging a decent handline all the way through. All went O.K. and a Courlene line now runs from II into IV.

On the way in, we met 2 characters coming out. They announced that they had dived into Sump II, thinking that it was a short, easy sump; and had got into St. John's Bell - all without air kit. This was a free dive of some 30-40 ft. in a constricted passage, with a rotten handline which had been there 7 years. Both are very lucky to have escaped drowning, and this mistake must NEVER be made again. Sump II is for fully equipped cave divers only.

R.P.

13th. May 1962.

ST. CUTHBERTS SWALLET.

P.M. Giles, M. Holland, D. Willis. Hanging Chamber re-entered using 18 ft. of Maypole placed across the top of the first Maypole pitch from a ledge 36 ft. above the bottom of the pitch.

P.M. Giles.

20th. May 1962.

SWILDONS.

R. Pyke accompanied Mike Boon (S.M.C.C.) and Ron Teagle (M.N.R.C.) and assorted other bods to Cowsh Aven in Series IV, heavily loaded with tackle and assorted iron-mongery. Using the M.N.R.C. maypole, which Mike Boon had previously transported into IV via Sumps II and III we started up the aven. The first pitch (30 ft.) was climbed without trouble, and the sections of Maypole carried to the foot of the big pitch which had not been fully climbed on earlier trips. 40 ft. of pole was erected and a ledge reached where a rawlbolt was fixed. The aven continued on upwards, and, after 2 hours struggling, another 30 ft. was scaled. The aven appears to be closing down, but it is not obvious where the water is coming from. To be continued ..... Trip took 14½ hours during which time a thunderstorm quadrupled the water flow down the aven and made things a bit lively.

R.P.

27th. May 1962.

ST. CUTHBERTS SWALLET.

P.M. Giles, L. Holland, P. Forte. Another look at Hanging Chamber, and a wire pulley fixed up. Continued up Maypole Series to the bottom of Pulley Pitch.

P.M.Giles.

2nd. June 1962.

SWILDONS. - Diving Operations. (See survey preceding p. 83).

The object of the trip was to send 4 divers into Swildons VII, previously entered only by M. Boon on July 8th. 1961. (See log entry - ed.).

The 4 divers went down the streamway by way of the Sumps - they were: F. Davies, M. Boon, M. Thompson and S. Wynne-Roberts.

They were accompanied to Sump II by a support party led by R. Teagle (M.N.R.C.)

In IV they were met by another support party composed of P.M. Giles, R. Pyke, M. Holland, D. Turner (M.N.R.C.), C.A. Marriott (B.E.C.) and P. Frenklyn (B.E.C.); B. Johnson (S.M.C.C.) and P. Mellor (S.M.C.C.)

The gear was humped down to Sump IV and the diving party carried on into VI accompanied by Turner, Pyke, Holland, and Marriott. Mike and 'Mo' then returned to the surface, having done great work in transporting kit into V, leaving the other two to operate the kitchen and support the diving party.

Three divers got through the tight Sump VI, but Fred Davies (whose kit was a little too bulky to get past the underwater squeeze in the middle of the Sump) had to retire. While awaiting the returning diving party, the supporters dredged the drainage trench at Sump V, and knocked a rawlbolt in at Sump VI. After 3 hours the divers returned with great news (see below), and a very tired, but cheerful party started for the surface. Three of us went out via Paradise Regained, and three via the sumps. A party of Sandhurst cadets gave us great help in carrying gear up the streamway. Down at 11 am., out at 1 am.

In VII the explorers found a remarkable change in the structure of the cave. They reported v. big caverns, with two big boulder chokes of about 40 ft. and 100 ft. high, respectively. A large tributary passage comes in on the right, and there are big avens in the roof. The bedding is almost vertical, and the entire area very shattered. The stream sinks in a sump that only Mike Boon saw, and which he said looked tight. To be pushed on June 23rd.

Robert Pyke.

24th. June 1962.

ST. CUTHBERTS SWALLET.

P.M. Giles assisted by D. Greenwood (B.P.C.) and D. Smith (B.E.C.) passed the duck and proceeded to the terminal, sump, A brief inspection of this obstacle and one or two side passages was made but all looks rather uncompromising, in spite of the Gour Rift symmetry.

P.M. Giles.

28th. June 1962.

EASTWATER.

I.G. Lennon and J. Ellis (guest) to top of 2nd. Vertical which could not be descended owing to lack of time. Couldn't those bedding planes be prised open with a crow-bar or something?

6th. July 1962.

PRIDDY GREEN SINK.

am. Robert Pyke arrived after a misguided night spent digging in Priddy Green.

21st. July 1962.

SWILDONS.

R. Pyke and K. Dawe and M. Boon (S.M.C.C.) to VI to retrieve kit. Gear brought out to head of Blue Pencil, with the help of Mike Thompson and Bruce Johnson. Two cylinders removed from the cave and the remainder left, to be removed by the Sidcot party on Sunday.

22nd. July 1962.

SWILDONS. (See survey following p. 82).

Sidcot party of T. Atkinson, B. Guttridge, A. Reddington, E. Morland, H. Parrott, P. Clarke and T. Reynolds to Base Camp to collect diving tackle.

The party split up into two and the first section reached Blue Pencil and started back and met the second party, who had been held up at the 40 ft. and the 20 ft. pots, at Shatter Pot.

There was a reorganisation and T. Atkinson, F. Morland, and T. Reynolds went up to the Sidcot dig, theoretically to collect some kit. However, at the top of the Maypole in the new extension, after ducking through a tight squeeze it was possible to enter a small chamber, circular in shape with a radius of 5 ft. and about 15 ft. high, not entered before. There was a mud choke at the far end. After a bit of digging it was reckoned that the choke might go. All the rock in this area is in a very rotten state and crumbles easily. The party then collected the ladders from the Maypole pitch and returned to the surface.

T.E. Reynolds.

5th. August 1962.

COW HOLE.

R. Pyke spent the day helping at Cow Hole. There is now a good solid rift to work in, with a draught !

12th. August 1962.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

N.H. Cleave, R. Pyke, R. Staynings, M. Hooper, 'Attie', P. Davies, Rod Hobbs, S. Wynne-Roberts and T. Hall took 100 lbs. of lead to Stoke Lane Sump II in preparation for the diving op. A good trip; well organised etc; and enjoyable to boot. A large number of rather red faces now exist due to the fact that we all got lost at one point or another in the cave!

N.H. Cleave.

14th. September 1962.

SWILDONS.

T. Atkinson, A. Redfern, Nick Hart went to Swildons to take tackle down to the Sidcot dig above Keith's Chamber. After some trouble with a piton in the chamber above the maypole, Nick gave up and came down again. We proceeded out emerging at 1.30 am.

16th. September 1962.

SWILDONS.

Nick Hart took Mr. and Mrs. Linfoot and two Northern bods to Sump I, Swildons. Very slow and uninteresting trip was unfortunately livened up when Eileen Linfoot fell from half way up the 20 ft. Pot. She hurt her back and was tired as well. Got a rope and hauled her up. Roy Staynings (who was leading another party in Swildons - ed.) and his party helped us haul her up the 40 ft. Pot, and so on out. This work was hampered by two other parties meeting at the 40 ft. Pot. Roy had decided to try and get her out straight sway before any shock or fatigue set in, but Brian, her husband went to get coffee and cigarettes. As we were coming out we met some B.E.C rescuers coming over with stretcher first aid boxes and all. They were disappointed but seemed satisfied to hear that the Wessex were proud to be rescued by the B.E.C.

P.S. Hospital inspection revealed only severe bruising.

N.H.

16th. September 1962.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER. - Diving Op.

Stoke Lane III and IV discovered and explored, 1,000 ft. plus of streamway with several high level possibilities not examined. Good formations.

Sump II approx. 25 ft. long, not at present a free dive, but it is hoped that with some work it might be possible to make it a non- divers cave.

P.D.

16th. September 1962.

SWILDONS.

A. Redfem, T. Atkinson went to Keith's Chamber and dug at the end of Sidcot Extension. After approx. 4½ hours digging a small hole was opened into a new passage and about ten feet of steeply sloping passage could be seen filled with stoney infill to a level of within 3 ft. of the roof. After a further hours digging the hole was enlarged but entry into the passage was still impossible, after which time returned to the surface after 10½ hours. Digging time was reduced due to a 50 minute hold up at 40 ft. Pot.

A.R.

3rd. November 1962.

COW HOLE.

Owing to heavy rain Stoke Lane diving trip off so T.E. Reynolds (prospective sherpa) went to Cow Hole dig. At about 4.30 pm., after digging through liquid mud most of the day, Denis Warburton broke into a chamber with some pre-war blasting wire in it. Everyone descended to the chamber to admire prospects and then set off to the Hunter's to celebrate.

T. Reynolds.

11th. November 1962.

SWILDONS.

R. Pyke, N. Hart and M. Clarke(guest) to Shatter Passage dig. Cave wet with lots of cavers in it.

12th. November 1962.

FAIRY CAVE QUARRY. (See survey following p. 82).

P. Davies with George and Dave to Fairy Cave Quarry to examine a new cave before it is filled in by quarrying. It consists of a natural rift about 25-30 ft. deep, boulder filled at bottom, with sound of active, strong stream. No obvious draught. Approx. 15 ft. wide, little in the way of formations. Is the stream the same as the one that appears in Duck's Pot ? Most probably, but not likely to be proved?

12th. November 1962.

SWILDONS.

Bob Pyke, O.C. Lloyd, Mike (U.B.S.S.) and Nick Hart went to Shatter Passage dig. The prospects of this dig are none to good in winter conditions. However O.C.L. discovered a likely dig in an old stream passage on the left so the trip was not a complete failure.

N.H.

17th. November 1962.

SWILDONS.

Nick Hart, Paul Duck, P. Davies, O.C. Lloyd and 3 U.B.S.S people going through the sump for the first time. Visited Vicarage Passage with two tasks planned. Both were successfully accomplished.

(i). inserting a rawlbolt at the near side of Vicarage Pot. (How many bolts has O.C.L. put into Swildons now?).

(ii). Draining and trenching the pool (very nearly a sump) that had formed in the 'Birthday Squeeze Dig'. This took about 3 hours. Approaching from the Double Trouble end the first person through will push all the water in front of him which will spill into the new trench, making it almost dry for subsequent persons through.

15th. December 1962.

SWILDONS.

Oliver Lloyd led a party of Eric Hensler, Dave Turner and Nick Hart to a new dig in Shatter Passage. We dug for 1½ hours in 12 inches of mud and determined that the passage went on. An interesting find was the skeletons of three bats: new white bones on top of the mud, scattered over approximately two feet square. Did they get in before Shatter Passage was opened, or were they planted by some fiendish hoaxer? The dig is now called Bat Hole or Mole Hole.

N.H.

18th. December 1962.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

T. Atkinson and T. Phillips (Sidcot) arrived 10.50 am, stoked up and proceeded to Stoke Lane. After some trouble finding the Sump, Main, C.B. and Sand Chambers were visited and the streamway explored.

Formations were awe inspiring, if a trifle muddied! Several bats were observed in flight but were unidentified, (in Stoke I - ed.).

21st. December 1962.

SWILDONS.

Checked on water level at Swildons in morning. River had shrunk to a rivulet.

Set out for Swildons in afternoon with intention of digging at Keith's Chamber. Entered cave and arrived at 40 ft. Pot. As the water level was such that a short storm could render it highly dangerous, we retired.

9th. February 1965.

ST. CUTHBERTS SWALLET.

John Cornwell took George Pointing, Dave Berry, Malcolm Padfield, Bob Gannicott and Nick Hart to the new series of St. Cuthberts.

After crossing a crumbled traverse we took a look around. The whole area is very shattered but we found a few likely places to push for new cave and discovered a large and fairly well decorated rift chamber, leading down in the general direction of Curtain Chamber. A enjoyable trip lasting about 4 hours.

N.H.

LOG- BOOK. 16th. February 1963 -

16th. February 1963.

LAMB LEER.

Party to Lamb Leer to examine condition of platform, ladder, and reputed boulder fall. Apart from one rawlbolt fracturing on entrance ladder all appears to be as usual.

P.D.

17th. February 1963.

COW HOLE.

Alan Surrall and P.D. to Cow Hole to see what the winter had done to the dig. No further falls since work was postponed in November (1962), though the chamber opened in September is no longer accessible.

P.D.

9th. March 1963.

SWILDONS.

George, Dave, John Cornwell, Kevin Abbey (B.E.C.), Glenn Tomkinson (guest) and Tim Reynolds to Sump I to see if a report that the guide wire was broken was true. Phil Davies, Nick Hart and Bob Gannicott to Shatter Passage dig (Bat Hole - ed.). There was a large quantity of water going down the cave, and at the time of entering the water was up 1 ft. of the entrance (outside - ed.). After meeting various parties in the Water Rift, both parties went to their respective destinations. The party at Sump I found that the guide wire was, in fact, in one piece so proceeded to do a sumping exercise and returned to the surface picking up Glenn en route, who had been taking pictures. Tim Reynolds then went to Shatter Passage and met the others in time to 'help ' them out. Resurfaced at 11.0 pm. to find the water level had dropped 1 ft.

T. Reynolds.

16th. March 1963.

SWILDONS.

Nick Hart, Tim Reynolds, Bob Pyke and Mike Boon (S.M.C.C.) visited the Black Hole Series, and searched the roof thoroughly from Fool's Paradise to the Black Hole, looking for Derek Ford's fabled connection with Vicarage Passage (Journal No.87, Vol. VII, Page 126 refers - ed.) Let no one (but, no one!) deny that it exists, but it hides itself pretty thoroughly, and we found nothing new of note. Possibly the heavy floor debris near the last bend to the Black Hole hides it. Left the cave at speed, leaving a cursing, unfit R.P. carrying all the ropes and ladders up the Wet Way, without light, emerging in an unspeakably evil temper! About 6 hours.

R.P.

28th. March 1963.

SWILDONS.

Nick Hart and Bob Pyke visited the top of the South East Inlet Series and dug at the sand dig beyond Terminus Chamber.

It is now possible to get a boot into a rising space beyond the lowest point of the dig - still a lot to do though. 6 hours.

R.P.

3rd. April 1963.

SWILDONS.

Tim Atkinson, B. Guttridge went to Sidcot Dig, Keith's Chamber. After 2 hours digging, a hole was sufficiently large for T.A. (less goon suit and boiler suit) to squeeze through. On far side 10 ft. of narrowing, steeply ascending passage leads to final mud choke. Very disappointing. Exited slowly. Time: 5 hrs.

8th. April 1963.

SWILDONS.

Wilma Fox, Timothy Atkinson, Timothy Phillips and Bryan Guttridge had a happy time in Swildons - 6-7 hours.

Details as follows: Timothy's both went to 20 ft. Pot to examine the walls and ceilings of that area (see Log entries dated 4.12.54 and 1.5.59 - ed.). Found a small passage way up in roof on far side (down stream). A small trickle comes from it; and its end is not in sight. Too small to enter. Surrounded by formations; may go, but at what price?

Then proceeded to Trat's Temple and on through St. Paul's to Paradise Regained, ending up at the Greasy Chimney - examining all side passages en route. Found (= re-found) an oxbow, too small to crawl right round. Proved connection by crawling as far as possible and talking from either end. It is shown on survey as two unconnected passages going from left side of main passageway, one just before Lower Damascus goes off on right; and the next (alternative way) one on the left of the main passage is the other end of it. Makes one feel like a lump of toothpaste when descending it at a forced rapid speed. The end near Lower Damascus is part filled with a partly removed (dug) mud-bank.

Penetrated to the bitter end of the tour: tight and awkward passages going off to the left (up a tricky climb) just before the Greasy Chimney. Came out after an energetic and, er, exhilarating trip.

W. Fox and B. Guttridge proceeded at slow pace to Keith's Chamber and thence to the Sidcot dig. The passage at the top of the aven near the dig was thoroughly explored. The passage was very tight with a trickle of water in it. After about 30 ft. it opened out into a small chamber, 10 ft. high, 6 ft. across; the passage continues in the roof of this chamber but is too tight to follow.

After this exploration and a tin of soup we left the cave after 7 hours underground.

13th. April 1963.

TOTTY POT.

Tony Oldham and A. Court (guest) arrived. Sunday and Monday were spent at Totty Pot in the company of Chris Hawkes and associates. A large quantity of bones were found in the course of exploration. They include:

Homo Sapiens. Dorsal Skull fragment, part of mascilla and two vertebra.

BoS Sp.	Includes many bones, also an extra large humerus.
Moles.	Skull nearly complete, mandibles, limb bones.
Felis Catus.	One mandible (now missing).
Sus Scrofa:	Teeth and limb bones.
Ovis, or Capri, sp.	Teeth, limb bones, vertebra.
Lepus Cuniculus:	Teeth, limb, pelvis, vertebra.
Mus Musculla:	Mandible, (one)
Rhinolophus sp.	Skull
Canis Lupus:	Canine??

And many more not yet identified.

16th. April 1963. QUAKING- HOUSE CAVE.

Tony Oldham and A.Court visited Quaking House Cave, Milverton.

Added AO ft. to length I Pound 15 Rhinolophus hipposiderus and many fleas.

18th. May 1963.

BANWELL OCHRE CAVE . (See survey preceding p. 63).

Tony Oldham returned Maypoles after a successful visit to Banwell Ochre Cave. We explored a couple of roof passages (see sketch) and confirmed a suspect high level connection which plays an important part in the circulation of air.

31st. May 1963.

SWILDONS.

Farnham group took 50 ft. of 8 mm. colour film in Swildons, between 40 ft. and 20 ft. Pots. For once all went well.

2nd. June 1963.

COW HOLE.

Tony Dingle and Tim Reynolds to Cow Hole. Found party under the direction of Alan Ash and John Church cleaning up after a couple of bangs. Way on through floor of loose mud and rocks held up by ?? Right hand wall of shaft also very dodgy. Whilst dislodging stones from the floor and sending them down the drop, John Church threw the crowbar down after them, so rest of afternoon spent drilling hole for rawlbolt. Hopeful ?

T. Reynolds

3rd. June 1963.

COW HOLE.

Tony Dingle, Tim Reynolds, Glenn Tomkinson (guest) to Cow Hole, followed later by Jim Giles (who slept) and Dave Causer. At the cave the ladders were put down and John Church made a preliminary examination. When the roof had been declared safe, Alan Ash made the first complete descent. After that, everyone went down and had a look around. After some time, more ladders were lowered down and John Church, Glenn Tomkinson and Tim Reynolds pushed on down to what they thought was the bottom, but took a wrong turning.

When they had extracted themselves from the resulting muddle, John Church had to return to the surface, and so the other two went on and finally reached the bottom. They then returned and met Tony Dingle, Dave Causer and Alan Ash on the way down, who also reached the bottom. The main chamber is very spectacular, but after that the cave is a vast boulder ruckle with razor rock everywhere which makes movement uncomfortable. Still it was worth digging 15 months for.

T. Reynolds.

15th. June 1963.

SWILDONS.

D.Causer, P.M.Giles, N.Hart digging in Shatter Passage (below overhang): proceeding satisfactorily. Excavating completely silted passage of fair size, dipping down approx. 20 degrees.

16th. June 1963.

LAMB LAIR.

Lao Holland was bamboozled into helping an Oxford University group on a rescue practice op in Lamb Lair. 'Subject\*' suffered much discomfort.

22nd, June 1965.

LONG-WOOD SWALLET. (See survey following p. 92).

Tim Atkinson and Andrew Parfitt returned Maypole after using it with little success in Waterfall Chamber, Longwood Swallet. There is a passage at the top of the waterfall, but we didn't manage to reach it. We hoped to climb to the ledge, A, which looked continuous, but in fact turned out to be very rotten in the middle section, and non-existent at the head of the fall. Accordingly we attempted to climb under the fall, but as large pieces of wall showered rather persistently upon us, we desisted until drier weather makes gardening of the loose rock at the top of the fall easier.

The passage going off looks about ten feet high.

22nd. June 1963.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER.

J. Cornwell, Dennis Kemp, Stoke Lane to help 3 divers with kit to Sump II.

22nd. June 1963.

SWILDONS.

R. Hobbis, P. Harris, Oliver Lloyd and David Houston digging in Bat Hole, Swildons.

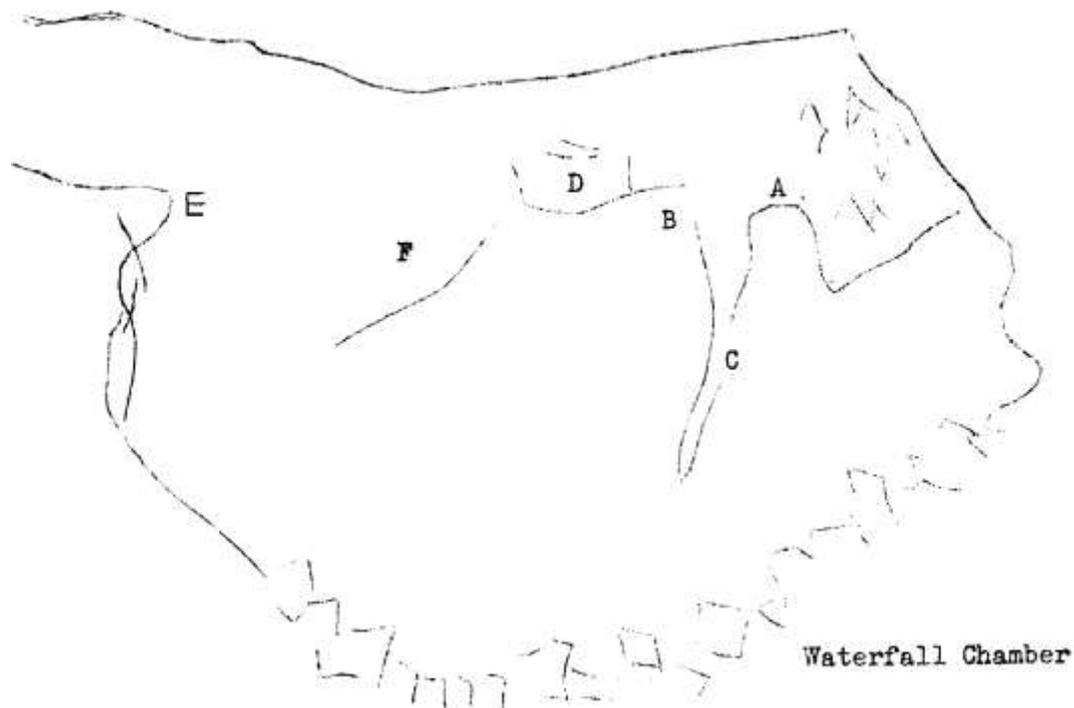
29th. June 1963.

SWILDONS.

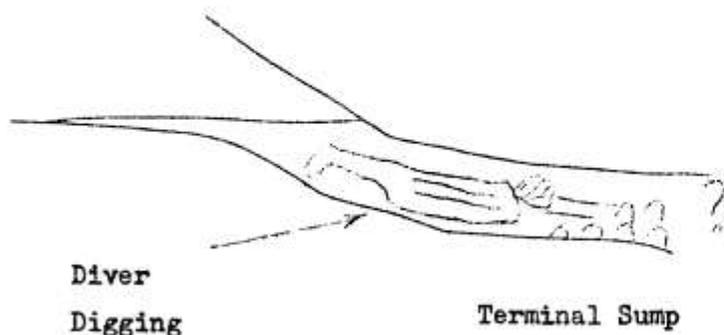
D.J. Causer, P.M. Giles, P. Davies, I. Burke (guest). A digging trip to Shatter Passage, down at 5 pm. out at 11 pm. Took 3 ft. boring auger down and experimented with blasting in the mud/grit infill, fired two charges well tamped in 3 ft. deep shot-holes. Successful technique for removing and loosening for digging - try again with deeper holes and bigger charges. About 3 or 4 ft. progress made.

D.J.C.

LONGWOOD - 22. 6. 63.



- A- Stal bank with good helicites. B- Overhanging shale ledge - unsafe. C- crack; possible climbing route.  
D- Block resting on B and still attached to wall.  
E- Large overhanging mass of loose rock.  
F- Discontinuous jutting shales.
- 



ST. CUTHBERT'S - 31. 8. 63.

24th. July 1963.

ST. CUTHBERTS SWALLET.

P.M. Giles, M.M. Thompson and F. Davies clad in neoprene rubber suits, descended St. Cuthberts Swallet, bent on examining the possibilities of extending the cave further at its terminal sump. The Duck was quite clear and passed with ease - neoprene suits make caves bigger! - and each member of the party inserted himself into the wide letter-box aperture that is the sump, to a depth of 6ft. The roof of the sump was found to be quite solid rock, dipping at a very shallow angle (approx. 10-15 degrees), but the floor turned out to be cobbles and pebbles in a stiff matrix of sand and clay.

It was concluded that this sump is probably a very short one, considerably choked throughout due to the slow flow rate of the water and its (usually) small volume, and one that might well be forced by digging, perhaps in the near future.

27th. July 1965.

SWILDONS.

D. Causer, P.M. Giles, D.C. Ford. Back once more to Shatter Passage with high hopes and much 'bang'. Causer and Giles cleared out the dig after our last efforts and prepared two shot-holes with a 3 ft. auger.

Meanwhile, D.C. Ford probed about, geologically, and concluded that Oliver Lloyd's Bat Hole dig and the choke at the end of the Passage would 'go' before ours. He then left the cave.

However, in spite of Ford's cheering 'news', Causer and Giles pressed on and fired two small charges in two deep shot-holes with the object of making a cavity or cavities in which to place a large charge. The technique develops.

Alas, it was one of 'those' days. In order to quickly clear the fumes resulting from the small charges, we set fire to some rags, which had been previously soaked in paraffin, to get convection currents going to circulate the air. As it turned out convection currents were produced as were large quantities of thick smoke which completely filled the passage and made further work impossible. The density of the smoke was so great that visibility was down to about 3 ft. with strong light.

Defeated, we returned to the surface followed by Phil Davies, Nick Hart and Tony Dingle who joined us during our retreat from Shatter Passage and who came down to assist in the dry re-entry of Swildons VI.

P.M.G.

30th. July 1963.

ST. CUTHBERTS SWALLET.

P.M. Giles, M.M. Thompson, P. Miller (B.E.C.) Digging started at the terminal sump and a considerable amount of material removed. The sump was probed with a rubber ball on a string, fed into the sump on a rod but the ball was lost. It was hoped that the ball could be floated on through and thus an idea of its length gained. By more old fashioned methods it was found to be at least 7 ft. long.

P.M.G.

3-5th. August 1963.

TOTTY POT.

Tony Oldham, Anne Court, Steve Gisbourne (guest) spent most of the weekend digging at Totty Pot (ibid: 13.4.63) with the Hawkes of Leicester and occasional assistance from Barry Lane (B.E.C.) and Tim Reynolds, and four other gentlemen of substance. Many mammalian remains were exhumed and (by kind permission of the Hut Warden) washed and exhibited on the bunks at Hillgrove. A total of 12 ft. of passage was added to the system.

11th. August 1963.

ST. CUTHBERTS SWALLET.

John Cornwell took Tony Dingle, Jeff Phillips, Ian Walker and Nick Hart to St. Cuthberts Sump where we dug for a while. John wearing only a boiler suit and up to his neck in water was talking all the time about his Quality Street toffees, and making our mouths water.

N.H.

10th. August 1963.

SWILDONS.

Nick Hart and Rod Hobbs joined a party of D.C. Ford, W. Stanton, O.C. Lloyd Bob Craig and the M.N.R.C. to dig and explore in the new extension of Vicarage Passage. We found a new tributary passage back tracking, about 200 ft. long with a choke at the end, but a healthy sound of water. The main dig looks as though it will be a long hard job. Willie cemented in some pegs on the far side of Vicarage Pot and intends putting a nobbly dog or similar above these. Ray Deazy and Nick Hart searched the sump for carbide lamps and found one each. A member of our party also lost a lamp, which we could not find. Little water in the cave.

17th. August 1963.

ST. CUTHBERTS SWALLET.

P.M. Giles and N. Hart. Another attempt at determining the length of the Terminal Sump without actually getting into the darned thing. On this occasion a float made from a short length of plastic tube, suitably weighted and sealed so as to float upright, was released by a very clever method from the end of an 8 ft. long pole, which was inserted as far as possible into the sump. The object was to detect a free surface and the method electrical.

The float was electrically connected to an ammeter (F.S.D. 1 mAmp) by means of a long flexible and very light insulated wire. The end of the wire connected to the float was bared, and whenever the float floated upright (as it would with a free water surface) the end of the wire was clear of the water. From the other terminal of the meter another lead went to a battery and the other terminal of this battery was connected to the stream. While the float was submerged in the sump the circuit was complete and a small current flowed, as soon as the float surfaced the circuit was broken, since the bare end was free of contact with the battery via the stream. Thus, airspaces could be detected and their distance away corresponds to the length of wire paid out.

Prior to going down the cave the device was tested in the Hillgrove hath and a reading of 0.3 mAmps obtained with the float deliberately submerged and zero mAmps when released. These differences in readings were considered suitable for airspace detecting.

In the cave, at the scene of operations, the deflection with the float submerged increased to 0.5 mAmps: an even better value. After several unsuccessful attempts to get the experiment to work it was concluded that the sump is one of the following types:

- (i) Short sump with an uneven roof on the far side (due to bedding) which prevented the float from surfacing.
- (ii) Short sump which changes direction underwater.
- (iii) Long sump with roof climbing at a low angle.

Of these three possibilities, the first is the most likely, with heavy silting restricting the flow of water. This would account for the float jamming under the slightest irregularity in the roof.

Bearing in mind the characteristic 'line ' of the Gour Rift, the second possibility is not so mad. The sump is an opened out bedding plane which is heavily silted. What is to stop the water moving to the right, along the strike at the bottom, instead of following the bedding? Since the system is very flat in the sump region, silting is inevitable and if the sump did feed along the strike back into the Gour Rift (produced from the Duck) it wouldn't take much to build up to the present termination of caving activities in this direction. If this could be cleared of silt it could be kept permanently passable.

A long sump would indeed be long, due to the flatness mentioned above, and would be very caver-proof. Time, and perhaps, more gadgets will tell: meanwhile digging goes on.

P.H. Giles.

18th. August 1963.

ST. CUTHBERTS SWALLET.

Steve Wynne-Roberts, Noel Cleave, John Cornwell, John Attwood, Nick Hart, Kevin Abbey and Jeff (B.E.C.) went down for another dig at the sump. Steve had a dive and went about 6 ft. in and reported that digging was possible. From this side digging has just about finished for the non-diver. A very good trip was had by all.

N.H.

31st. August 1963.

ST. CUTHBERTS SWALLET. (see survey following p. 92).

N.H. Cleave, S.G. Wynne-Roberts, M.M. Thompson, J. Attwood and P.M. Giles. Following last weekend we went to Cuthberts sump to dig. While Steve and Mike did alternate ten minute dives to dig in the sump, N.H. Cleave and Jim Giles dug the foul, muddy side passage by the sump. Both digs progressed, but the sump is the obvious way on. It seems to be a job for the divers now, and the far end is about ten feet in now, and has levelled out. The floor is easy digging - mud over gravel.

14th. September 1963.

SWILDONS.

John Attwood, Nick Hart, carried for 3 divers: Fred Davies, Steve Wynne-Roberts, and Noel Cleave, to Sump II, Swildons. Swildons VII was successfully surveyed: approx. 400 ft. long. John and Nick went to the Black Hole on the way back.

21st. September 1963.

SWILDONS.

N. Hart and P.M. Giles stogged for Willie Stanton while he surveyed the Sidcot Dig and the South-East Inlet Series from Shatter Pot to Terminus Chamber. The drop from the South-East inlet to Shatter Pot was laddered for the first time by P. Davies, C. Hawkes and R. Hobbs and they took these ladders out once Stanton and Co. were safely up. The survey was to the standard Stanton Grade VI and it took 12 hours.

P.M.G.

27-28th. September 1963.

SWILDONS.

Black Hole: Second Boulder Choke. Phil Davies, Tim Reynolds and Nick Hart went to the 2nd. choke to dig and camp. We left on Friday night with a good supply of carbide, food, and Polar Ammon, and took 4 hours to reach the camp site. After looking at the four possibilities at the choke we decided the upper left hand corner was the one to work on. Phil took the first shift sleeping in a bag supplied by Tim (good lad!). We had all taken a change of dry clothing for sleeping. The fumes took a long time to clear, and Tim and I were becoming rather chilly in wet-suits, but not unbearably so. Phil was wearing a conventional goon suit and was not so badly off.

Tim took second shift sleeping, but by this time the li-lo had punctured so he didn't sleep very well. I took last shift and slept like a log for 4 or 5 hours. I had my wet-suit under the sleeping bag and this made it warm enough to put on without too much discomfort.

We ate the 'Horlicks' M.R.O. 1 man, 2 day packs which were edible but not really enjoyable. By now (Sat. 7.00 pm) the place had filled with bang fumes and we all had headaches, so we placed a large charge and packed up to leave. We left all the tackle except the bang at the Priddy Green Stream for collection on Sunday and got out of the cave at about 12.30 am. Sunday morning. Not much progress was made at the dig, but the trip was invaluable experience for further weekend trips. Conclusions: (i) Wear gloves, (ii) Put everything dry in 2 polythene bags (iii) Keep carbide in really good containers - the lid came off one coffee tin. (iv) Sleep all at the same time, (v) Employ sherpas, if possible. Underground 28 hours, we had planned 40 hours but smoke, coldness, and tiredness drove us out.

N.H.

29th. September 1963.

SWILDONS.

Allan Rigg, Tony Fuller and Nick Hart went down Swildons and brought up the tackle from yesterday's trip. Some kind caver had left 6/- in a plastic bag tied to the 20 ft. Pot ladder for tackle fees.

N.H.

7th. October 1963.

PINE TREE POT.

R. Woolley, T.C. Bryant, N. Hart, R. Staynings, R. Hobbis, P.M. Giles.

After Oliver Lloyd had demonstrated the method of using the M.R.O. rescue blanket with the aid of a victim and a tree, the above bods descended Pine Tree Pot for some rescue practice.

A caver (Giles) was 'found ' at the bottom of the first pitch suffering from the dread speleoneurosis. He was duly wrapped up in the rescue blanket and after some delay, hauled up the pitch, dragged, pulled and pushed up the crawl to the bottom of the entrance shaft, and then hauled to 'safety '. Soup was not forthcoming!

The following conclusions were reached: (i) The blanket must be really tightly wrapped around the victim (with due regard to injuries in the actual event) in order that the victim's weight is evenly distributed and not directed on the groin, (ii) The victim should be very careful when trying to assist his rescuers, to avoid disturbing loose and dangerous material unwittingly in the cave. In to-days practice I dislodged a chockstone in a narrow part of the pitch during a lull in the hauling when I tried to take the weight off my bonds. This crashed to the bottom of the pitch, landing on a spot vacated only minutes previously by two members of our party. A very lucky near miss. (iii) The addition of a polythene sheet to the blanket to protect the victims face from rope dust and those inescapable drips would be of great advantage, (iv) In caves with pitches with restricted take off points and approaches, hauling would be easier from below using a pulley block fixed to a rawlbolt or a section of Maypole secured across the top of the pitch. Transfer of the victim from hauling rope to the top of the pitch would be much simpler, (v) The gathering together and subsequent publication of all information connected with the equipment and practice of cave rescue on Mendip would be a major step forward. Common sense is one thing, but experience gained by other people is another, as no two caves, or pitches or sumps etc: are alike.

P.M.G.

INDEX.

Supplement to Vol. VIII.

Compiled by T.E. Reynolds.

INDEX TO HILLGROVE LOG BOOKS 1954-1963.

- Aquarium Cave: 62.  
Archeological digs, Brean Down: 60.  
    Ebbor Gorge: 57, 59.  
    Gough's Old Cave: 10.  
    Swildons Hole: 48.  
    Totty Pot: 90-1, 94.  
    Wookey Hole: 35.  
Badger Cave: 65.  
Badger Hole: 70.  
Balch Cave: 81, 82, 83.  
Banwell Ochre Cave: 91.  
Barrow Rake Swallet: 43, 45, 47, 48, 67, 69.  
Bats, Biddlecombe: 49, 52, 56, 65.  
    Cheddar: 62.  
    Denny's Hole: 60.  
    East Harptree Coombe: 64.  
    Fairy Cave: 63.  
    Hillier's Cave: 63.  
    Quaking House Cave: 91.  
    Read's Cavern: 63.  
    Stoke Lane Slocker: 88.  
    Swildons Hole, bones in: 88.  
Biddlecombe: 49, 51, 52, 56, 65, 70.  
Blakes Farm Swallet: 66, 74.  
Bone Cave: 62.  
Bottlehead Slocker: 79.  
Burrington Combe, dig in: 48-9.  
Challenger Cave: 65.  
Coopers Hole: 60, 62.  
Cow Hole: 9, 85, 87, 89, 91-2.  
Cross Swallet: 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 58.  
Cuckoo Cleaves: 5, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 34, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 62.  
Dallimore's Cave: 5, 8, 9.  
Denny's Hole: 60, 82.  
Devil's Hole: 60.  
Diving, Balch Cave: 83.  
    Cheddar Risings: 10, 14, 36.  
    Ludwell Cave: 36.  
    Rickford Rising: 14.  
    Rodney Stoke Risings: 72.  
    Stoke Lane Slocker: 41, 57, 86.  
    Swildons Hole: 3-4, 77, 78, 83, 84, 95.  
    Wookey Hole: 30-4, 35, 48, 50.

Downside Swallet: 66.  
Ducks Pot: 87.  
Dursdon Woods, mineshafts: 49.  
Eaker Hill., mineshafts: 26.  
East Harptree Combe, mineshafts: 64.  
Easter Hole: 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 27, 42.  
Eastwater Swallet: 5, 9, 11, 14, 30, 44, 46, 53, 54, 63, 66, 70, 85.  
    Beechen Series: 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 17.  
Ebbor Gorge: 57, 59.  
Fairy Cave: 13, 63.  
Eairy Cave Quarry, cave in: 87.  
Fox's Hole, Burrington Combe: 63.  
Fox's Hole, Compton Bishop: 60.  
G.B. Cave: 82.  
Gough's Cave: 10, 14, 36, 62.  
Gough's Old Cave: 10, 62.  
Great Oones Hole: 62.  
Green Ore, mineshafts: 37, 46, 65.  
Grove Farm, mineshafts: 26, 27, 38.  
Higher Pitts Farm, mineshafts: 49.  
Hillier's Cave: 11, 13, 26, 27, 29, 63.  
Hollowfield Swallet Area: 48.  
Hunter's Hole: 10, 15.  
Johnny Nashe's Cave: 63.  
Lamb Leer Cavern: 11, 25, 29, 51, 54, 81, 89, 92.  
Little London Swallet: 66.  
Lobster Pot: 50, 51, 52.  
Long Hole: 62.  
Longwood Swallet: 13, 92.  
Loxton Quarry Cave: 60.  
Ludwell Cave: 36.  
Midway Slocker: 25, 26, 66.  
Mineshaft, unnamed: 77.  
Nine Barrows Swallet: 63, 65.  
Paynes Farm Swallet: 79.  
Pine Tree Pot: 97.  
Priddy Green Sink: 61, 62, 66, 67, 68, 71, 73, 85.  
Quaking House Cave: 91.  
Read's Cavern: 63.  
Red Quarr: 35.  
Rescues, Eastwater: 53.  
    Longwood: 13.  
    St. Cuthbert's: 64.  
    Swildons: 70, 74, 80, 86.  
Rescue Practices; Lamb Leer: 92.

Pine Tree Pot: 97.  
Swildons: 65, 67.  
Reservoir Hole: 62.  
Rickford Farm Cave: 62.  
Rickford Rising; 14.  
Rock Face Rift: 65.  
Rodney Stoke Risings: 72.  
St. Cuthbert's Swallet: 36, 53, 64, 69, 70, 78, 82, 83, 84, 88, 93, 94, 95.  
St. Dunstan's Well: 65,66.  
Sandhurst Cadets, search for: 66-7.  
Sayes Hole: 10.  
Mr. Sealey's Well: 38, 62.  
Steep Holm Caves: 6-7.  
Stoke Lane Slocker: 8, 26, 41, 43, 44, 54, 57, 85, 86, 88, 92.  
Survey of: 34, 35, 37, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 55, 59.  
Supra Sandy Hole: 60.  
Swildons Hole, Black Hole Series: 17, 30, 34, 38, 40, 45, 46, 74, 75, 89, 95, 96.  
Blue Pencil Passage: 14, 19, 27, 40, 60.  
Cowsh Aven: 83.  
Crystal Passage: 10, 24, 25.  
Entrance: 47, 58.  
Filming in: 68, 91.  
Flooding: 70, 88.  
Forty Ft. Pot: 37, 55, 67.  
Keith's Chamber: 79,80.  
Mayday Passages: 4.  
Morphological Surveys: 55, 59, 68.  
Mud Sump: 12, 37, 46.  
Paradise Regained: 12, 19, 28, 30, 40, 42-3, 47, 50, 56, 67, 68, 69, 71, 78, 82-3, 90.  
Priddy Green Stream: 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 25, 29, 30, 35, 37, 44, 47, 68.  
Rescue Practices: 65, 67.  
St. Paul's - Damascus: 61, 68.  
Scavenging trip: 35, 50, 79.  
Shatter Pot, dig at bottom; 54, 71, 72, 73.  
Shatter Passage: 73-4, 74, 75, 76, 87, 88, 89, 92, 93.  
Sidcot Passage: 85, 86, 90, 96.  
Swildons I: 11, 13, 68, 82.  
Swildons II: 39, 56.  
Swildons III: 3-4.  
Swildons IV: 55, 60, 74, 77.  
Swildons V: 58-9, 76, 77.  
Swildons VI: 77, 79-80, 85.  
Swildons VII: 77-8, 84, 95.  
Swynne-Puke Passage: 80-1, 82, 89, 96.  
Sump II: 56, 83.

Trouble Series: 72, 75, 76.  
Twenty Ft. Pot: 11, 55, 74, 86.  
Upper Swildons: 10, 29, 45, 48, 58.  
Vicarage Passage: 80, 87, 94.  
Water samples and temperatures: 60, 67-8, 68.  
Tankard Pot: 17, 19, 20-1, 22, 28, 37, 38, 39.  
Thrupe Swallet: 51, 52, 54, 57, 59, 62, 63, 64, 66.  
Tom Tivey's Cave: 73.  
Totty Pot: 71, 72, 90-1, 94.  
Tratty's Crack: 63.  
Tynning's Farm Area: 60.  
Waterlip Cave: 66.  
White Spot Cave: 62.  
Whitsun Hole: 4, 5, 8, 9, 19.  
shaft near: 52.  
Withybrook Slocker: 65, 66.  
Wookey Hole: 30-4, 35, 48, 50.  
Zoo Swallet: 36.  
Swallet near: 28.

APPENDIX.

Supplement to Vol. VIII.

Compiled by P.Davies

A.G.A.	Alan Ash.	D.K.	Denis Kemp.
R.H.A.	Rita Ash.		
		A.L.	Ann Lawder.
J.B.	John Barret.	M.L.	) Mark Lane
T.C.B.	Charles Bryant.	M.G.L.	)
		O.C.L.	Oliver Lloyd.
D.J. C.	Dave Causer.	R.L.	Rie Leggett.
G.C.	) Joe Candy	R.E.L.	Bob Lawder.
G.J.C.	)		
K.C.	Keith Chambers.	T.M.	Tony Morrison (U.B.S.S.)
P.C.	Pat Chard.		
		A.D.O.	Tony Oldham.
F.D.	Fred Davies (S.M.C.C.)		
K.D.	) Ken Dawe (S.M.C.C.)	G.P.	George Pointing
K.R.D.	)	R.P.	Bob Pyke.
P.D.	Phil Davies.	R.A.P.	Tony Philpott.
R.D.	Ray Deasy (M.N.R.C.)		
		A.R.	Alan Redfern.
W.E.	Will Edwards.	B.S.R.	Brian Roach.
		E.R.	Elizabeth Ridges.
D.F.	) Derek Ford.		
D.C.F.	)	D.M.M.T.	Don Thomson.
A.F.	Alan Fincham.	M.T.	Mike Thompson.
F.F.	) Frank Frost.		
F.W.F.	)	D.W.	Denis Warburton.
J.M.F.	John Fettes.	D.W.	Dave Walkinshaw.
		D.A.W.	Dave Willis.
M.G.	Mike Grimmer.	G.W.	George Weston.
P.M.G.	Jim Giles.	G.W.	Garry Witts (U.B.S.S.)
		G.W.	) Jerry Wright (S.M.C.C.)
E.H.	Eric Hensler.	J.W.	)
G.H.	Gillian Horn.	M.R.W.	Mike Widdicks.
J.H.	Jim Hanwell.	O.C.W.	Oliver Wells,
M.H.	Mike Holland.	R.W.	Bob Woolley.
M.L.H.	Mike Hooper.		
N.H.	Nick Hart.		