

16.2.62

to  
2.5.65



EX LIBRIS



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File No 20

~~THE HUTTY~~ Log Book.

Please write down date of entry into  
Cared Visited Events of importance or  
otherwise!

Members are earnestly requested to  
refrain from removing pages of their  
Log Book, for the purpose of  
writing messages, etc.

THANK you,

THE HUT WARDEN AT PRESENT - But not for long!!

G. POINTING.

10 GREEN LANE,

AVONMOUTH

BRISTOL.

LEVEL-ARSE FART.

POINTING  
HAS GONE!

100<sup>o</sup> Long  
100<sup>o</sup> S. Long



GONE!!

16-2-62 to 2-5-65

16<sup>th</sup> Feb. Post to haul bear to examine condition of platform. Ladder & refilled boulder fell. Apart from one nail bolt fracturing on entrance ladder all appears to be as usual.

17<sup>th</sup> Feb Alan Sorrell & P.D. to Coal Hole to see what the winter has done to the dig. No further falls since work was postponed in November, though the chamber opened in September is no longer accessible.

24-2-62 All blanteks & follows removed from lastwater to Hillgrave for airing and stocktaking.

09 March - George, Dave, John Cornwell (B.E.C) & Kevin (B.E.C) ~~Glenn Thompson (Guest)~~ ~~sump 1 to 2~~ to ~~sump 1 to 2~~ Ian Reynolds to sump 1 to see if a report of that the guicke wire was broken was true. Phil Davies, Nick Hart

Bob Gaircett to Shalter Passage dig. There was a large quantity of water going down the cave & at the time of entering the water was up to within 1 st. of the entrance. After meeting various parties in the water right both parties went to their respective destinations. The party to sump 1 found that the guide ~~was~~ 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 photos. Tim Reynolds then went to Shalter Passage & met the others when he was in time to help them out. They resurfaced at 11:00 pm to find that the water level had dropped 1 st.

T. Reynolds

Sat 18th March

Nick Hart, Tim Reynolds, Bob Pyke +  
Mike Boon (Mike) visited the Black Hole Series,  
and searched the roof thoroughly from Fools Paradise  
to the B.H., looking for Deck Fall's fabled  
connection with Vicarage Passage. 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 B-H hides it. Left  
the cave at speed, leaving a cursing, unfit R.P.  
carrying all ropes and ladders up the wet way,  
without light, emerging in unspeakably evil temper!  
About 6 hrs.

Sat 28th March

Nick Hart + Bob Pyke visited the top of S.E. 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 of work to do  
though - - - 6 hrs.

Tues. 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

T. Atkinson, B. Cuttidge arrived variously in morning. Waited & waited for O.C. L. to come to go down Swallow's. He didn't materialize so went to inspect Hillgate Scarlet Line. Very fascinating, particularly when Bryan lost his primitive compass, and we spent an hour looking for it. Found, Zoo wallet. Went to see 'This Spotty Life' in Wells in evening, also fascinating, particularly laughable film on 'Sunshine Island' with it.

Wed. 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

T. A., B. G. went to Sidcot Dig, Kielth's Ch. After 2 hrs. digging a hole was sufficiently large for T. A. (less good suit & boiler suit) to squeeze through. On far side 10 ft. of narrowing, steeply descending passage led to final mud choke. Very disappointing. Exited. Total time, about 5 hrs. B. G. left morning for Tam.

Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> April

T. A. went down Upper Swallows to collect ladder left on 40 on 3.4.63. B. G. returned in evening.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April

T.A. & B.G. to G.B. Took numerous photos  
in Grot and Main Ch. and explored side passages.  
About 4½ hrs. William Fox and Tim Phillips  
arrived in evening.

Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> April

St. Cuthberts

P.H. Giles Esq. led a party of 7  
Leeds University speleos on a tourist trip  
of the caves including Custom Chamber &  
Rabbit Warren

St. Cuthberts

J. Cornwell Esq. led P.H. Giles, N. Hart & T. Reynolds  
on a tourist trip of the new extensions  
off Long Chamber & Rocky Boulders Series. V.  
Frightening. Glad to return by the "safety"  
of Quarry Corner & Arches Pitch

A Spoon

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> April

T.A., B.G., T.P., W.F. to Lamb Lair. Existing, muddy.  
3 photos. About 2 hrs.

8th April.

The following Wessex Tigers, undaunted by prospect  
of missing opening-time, bottomed Hunters Hole at  
2.15 p.m., this day 7th April, gr-q award, 1963.

Mike Simmais, Alan Rigg, David Bryant, Roger Briddle,  
~~Tony~~  
~~Alan~~ Dingle, Robert Pyke.

7th April.

T.A., BG., T.P., WF. to Castwater, intending to bottom the  
car. However T.A.'s lamp was put in circuit wrong  
way around by garage and was thus flat. He cussed off  
to Hillgate to fetch carbide while others went to  
Baker's Chimney and waited. He caught them up  
but due to lost time it only descended as far as head  
of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vertical. (4 hrs.-3 hrs. (T.A.))

Mon 8th April

Willow Fox, Timothy Atkinson, Timothy Phillips &  
Bryan Cuttridge had a happy time in Smidgors - 6 hrs. th.  
Details as follows:- Timothys both (ugh!) went  
to 20', to examine the walls & ceilings of that area.  
Found a small passageway up in roof on Far side  
(down streamway). A small trickle comes from it.

& its end isn't in sight. Too small to enter. Surrounded by formations. May go, but at what price?

Then proceeded to Trajan's Temple & on through St Paul's to P.R., ending up at Greasy chimney, - examining all side passages en route. Found (=re-found) an oxbow. Too small to crawl right round. Traversed connection by crawling as far as possible, & talking, from either end. Is shown on map as two unconnected passages, going from left side of main passageway, one just before Lower Damascus goes off on right; & the next one <sup>alternative way</sup> on the left of main passage in the other end of it. The end near Lower Damascus is <sup>Makes one feel like a lump of toothpaste when descending</sup> at <sup>dug</sup> <sup>a forced rapid speed.</sup> partially filled by a partly removed mud bank.

Penetrated to the bitter end the last, (in both cases), tight, & awkward passages going off to the left (up a tricky climb) just before Greasy Chim.

Came out after an energetic and, er, exhilarating trip

W, Fox and B. Guttidge proceeded at a slow pace to Kiettis Chamber and thence to the Sidot dig. The passage at the top of the aver near the dig was thoroughly explored

The passage was very tight with trickle of water in it. After about 30' it opened out into a small chamber 10' high, 6' across, the passage continues in the roof of this chamber but is too tight to follow.

After this exploration and after consuming a tin of soup we left the cave having spent 7 hrs underground.

Wed. 10. April.

Tim Phillips and William Fox spent 1 hr exploring the majestic caverns of Pallinor's cave and then had a brief look Hillgrove Swallet. The shoring in Hillgrove swallet did not appear too safe.

15<sup>th</sup>. April , Honey. Borrowed 30' rope until Thursday.

13th April 1963. Saturday.

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

*Homo sapiens* ... dorsal skull fragment, part of  
maxilla and 2 vertebrae.

*Bos* sp. .... includes many bones, ~~as~~ also  
an extra large humerus

*Melus* ~~thelphusa~~ ... Skull nearly complete, mandible,  
limb bones.

*Felis catus* one mandible (now missing!)

*Sus scrofa* teeth & limb bones.

*Ovis* or *Capri* sp. teeth limb bones vertebrae

*Lepus* *cuniculus* teeth, limb & pelvis, vertebrae.

*Mus musculus* mandible (one)

*Rhinolophidae* sp. skull.

*Canis lupus*. canine ??

and many more not yet identified.

16th April 1963. Tuesday.

Tony Oldham & A. Court visited Quaking House Cave, Milverton added 40 ft to length! Found 15 Rhinolophus pipistrellus and many fleas.

May 9<sup>th</sup> 1963 Thursday.

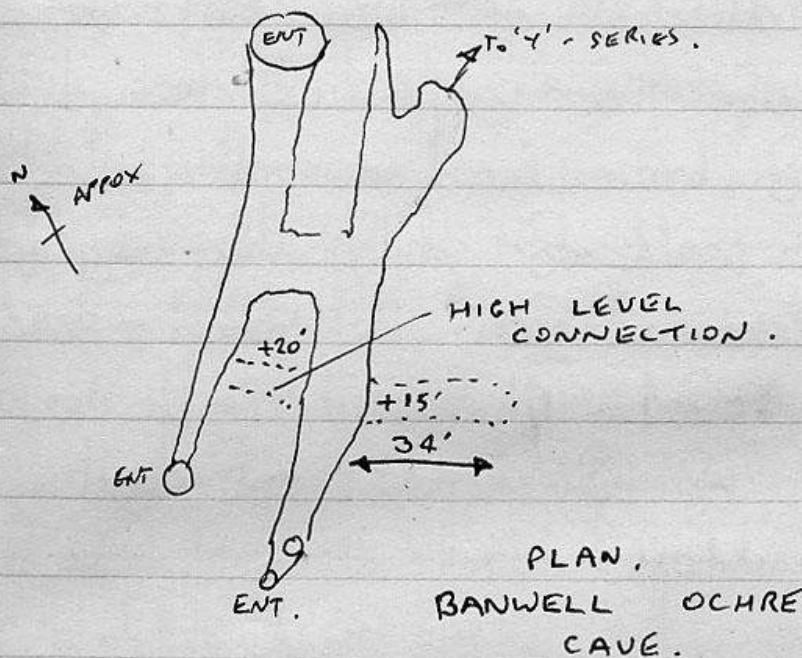
P. Weston and Bill Hanson proceeded to lose themselves down G.B. cave.

SAT. 18th May. Tony Oldham borrowed May Poles!

18th May. DK Harris & CRH Oldham to Brownes Hole in the morning to do some Photography. With Alan Pyle & Cornwall & F. Hanson of ladder climbing in Bone Hole in the afternoon (Entrance Series 1).

SAT eve. Tony Oldham returned May Poles after a successful visit to Banwell Devil's Cave. We explored a couple of roof passages (see sketch) and confirmed a suspected high

level connection with plays an important part in the circulation of air.



Tues. 21 May. Postcard Borrowed & returned  
two ladders. Removed 2 Courlene robes. L.D evened.

Friday 23rd. Bought out 3 new nylon robes. 40 ft.  
70 ft + 100 ft. ~~old~~

June 1st: Giles arrived W/dp? :

Friday 31st May Farnham group took 50 ft 8 mm  
colour film in Swilday between 1,000 and 2,000 ft.  
For once all went well

June 2nd. Tony Dingle & Tim Reynolds to Cow Hole.  
Found party under direction of Alan Ash & John  
Church clearing up after a couple of bangs. Way  
on through floor of loose mud & rocks held up  
by ?? Right hand wall of shaft also very dodgy.  
Whilst dislodging stones & from the floor & sending  
them down the drop. John Church threw the crowbar  
after them. So rest of afternoon spent drilling  
hole for rawball. Hopeful?

Van Rapold.

June 2nd.

Borrowed 50' nylon rope & 40' ladder. — till Wed. am

R. Johnson.

Dr. Cannicott (M.O or M.R.O) & others of Arbridge cc. doing  
Lands Lass next Saturday, & probably, absenting down  
big pitch — might be worth watching!

June 3rd Gills left. Thank god;

June 3rd.: Tony Dingle, Tim Reynolds, Glenn Tomkinson (quadrill to Cow Hole followed later by Tim Gates & Dave Causes.

At the cave the ladders were put down and John Card made a preliminary examination. When the roof had been diagnosed safe Alan Fish made the first descent. After that everyone went down & had a look around. After some time more ladders were lowered down & John Cheesbrough, Glenn Tomkinson & Tim Reynolds pushed on down to what they thought was the bottom but took a wrong turning when they had extricated themselves from the resulting muddle John Card had to return to the surface & so the other two went on and eventually reached the bottom. They then returned & met mot Tony Dingle & Dave Causes & Alan Fish on the way down who also reached the bottom. Everyone got out safely. The main chamber is very spectacular but after that the cave is a vast boulder rubble with razor rock everywhere which makes movement uncomfortable. Still it was worth digging 15 months for.

Tim Reynolds

June 9th.

Surdons

R. Kenny, P. Yuck & P. Giles against formidable odds at the hole pot (many people - one ladder) succeeded in visiting vault chamber.

June 9th

O.C.L. & R. Hobbs & 3 (Elton). The 'Roma Trip' in Surdons from the P.R. side.

Although there was some water in Mud Swamp the troubles were fairly free - Excellent trip.

June 15<sup>th</sup> Lao Holland, Tony Dingle, Pete Forte & Tim Reynolds to Swamp 1 Surdons. Tim & Pete went through for a quick look & then they returned. Lao declined to go through to look at the Black Hole. Returned towards the surface & when Tony & Pete were well on the way to the surface Lao & Tim returned & went to Shutter Passage where Dave Cawes, Tim Giles & Nick Haint were digging. A vicious mud fight ensued when the two groups met & nearly filled the dig in. However digging continued for about an hour & then when everyone returned. However a diabolical

trap was laid for Yin & has by the other who erected a wall in the U-tube. After cursing & explaining peoples heritage, the obstruction were finally cleared & the ladder rolled up. However when the top of the 40 was reached Cecile Peney arrived & said he wanted the ladder for Shatto Passage. However surface was eventually reached Moral. If in doubt always leave tackle behind.

June 16<sup>th</sup>

<sup>15/6/63</sup> Shatto dig (below overhang) proceeding satisfactorily. Excavating completely silted passage of fair size dipping down  $\approx 20^\circ$ . Basal layer

Nich Hart & Yin Reynolds + party of 4 not very experienced cavers to sump 1 & back. This quite enjoyable. Cave remarkably free of caver

June 15<sup>th</sup>. Cavers & others digging in Shatto Pass. Progress.

June 16<sup>th</sup>.

St. John's - Big bikes led 11 bodies on a club trip to the far reaches of Haypole Series

Les Holland was bamboozled into helping Oxford University group on a rescue practice op in Lamb Lee. However the enormous discomfort of the 'subject' being saved more than repaid for the unpleasantness & again sorting <sup>his</sup> hands

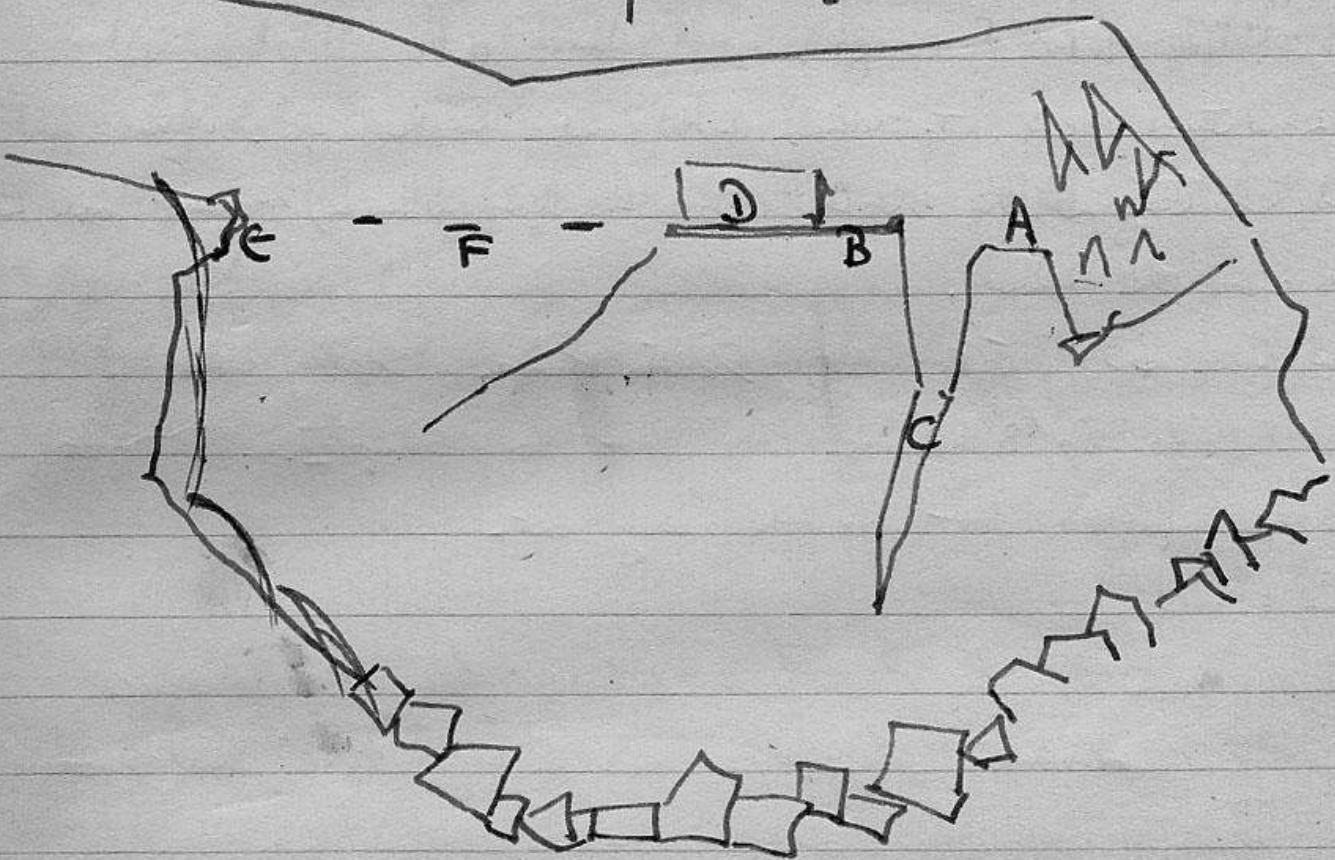
It is seriously doubted whether the Black Hole still in fact exists. However, before 'death do us part' this fact will be established once and for all.

22<sup>nd</sup> June '03

Tim Atkinson and Andrew Parfitt attempted 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 instead turned out to be very rotten in the middle section, and non-existent at the head of the fall. Accordingly we attempted a climb under the fall, but as large pieces of the wall showered rather possibly among us, decided until dry weather makes gathering of the loose rock at the top of the fall easier.

The passage going off looks about ten feet high.

Waterfall Chamber  
Longwood-August System



- A - finely cemented shale bank with good helictites
- B - overhanging shale ledge - unsafe
- C - crack, possible climbing route.
- D - block, resting on B and still attached to wall
- E + ~~tangs~~ large overhang mass of loose rock
- F - discontinuous jutting shelves.

22 June 63. ✓ Reynolds arrived & he & Cow Hole  
- a complete descent mining borer suit in process.  
Nothing new found.

22nd June 1963 T. Oldham & A. Court looked in. After putting  
a silencer in the electric (no blankets please) we were able to  
inspect the library.

22 June 63 J Cornwall, Dennis Kemp. Stoke Lane  
to help 3 divers with kit to Sump II. Got  
rather lost on the way out.

22 June.

R Hobbs P. Harris Oliver Lloyd & David  
Houston digging in Bat Hole, Suckley

23rd June.

R Hobbs, P. Harris, Oliver Lloyd, P. Davies  
✓ Reynolds, A. Cornwall, A. Ash, Bob White  
plan Burke to Cow Hole. Complete descent  
& exploration. One hopeful draught found.  
All out safety.

29th June '63 D.F.Cawse, P.M.Giles, P.Davis & Dan Burke (group).

A digging trip to Shitter Passage - down at 5pm, out at 11pm.  
Took a 3' boring auger down and experimented with blasting  
the mud/grit infill. Fired two charges well tamped in  
3' deep shot-holes. Successful technique for removing  
and loosening for digging - try again with deeper holes  
& bigger charges!

About 3 or 4 feet of progress made.

13 July 1963 Tim Reynolds + Nick Hanment

down Swildon's for the round trip.

A dicey mob through the first trouble as we  
were too lazy to bale for more than a  
air space. Howard Kenney found  
Stanton & Bob Craig at Vicarage Passage  
dig. The air at the dig was awful it  
put out candles etc. Dig progress OK  
though trip took 9 hours enjoyable caving.

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24 July 1967

St. Cuthberts.

P.M. Bates, H.H. Thompson & F. Davies clad in neoprene rubber suits descended St. Cuthberts Swallets bent on examining the possibilities of extending the cave further at its terminal sump. The deck was quite clear & passed with ease (neoprene makes caves bigger!) & each member of the party inserted himself into the wide letter box aperture to a depth of 6ft. The roof of the sump was found to be quite solid rock dipping at  $\frac{1}{2}$  a very shallow angle of about  $10-15^\circ$ . The floor however, was found to be made up of cobbles & pebbles in a stiff matrix of sand & clay. The conclusion reached was that this sump is probably a very short one considerably choked due to the slow rate of water flow & (usually) small volume of it & one that might well be forced by digging - perhaps in the near future.

17th July  
Sundays.

J. Caesar. P. G. Biles J. Ford.

Back once more to Shatto Passage with high hopes & much bang. Caesar & Biles cleared out the ~~passage~~ dig after our last efforts & prepared two shot ~~large~~ holes with ~~the~~ a 30" auger. Meanwhile J. Ford probed about geologically - wise & concluded that Oliver Wogels dig would go before ours as would the chisel at the end of the Passage. However, in spite of this news Caesar & Biles pressed on & fired two small charges with the object of making a cavity in which to place two large charges. Alas, it was one of those days. In order to clear the resulting bang fumes we lit fire to some rags soaked previously in paraffin to produce explosion smoke. This was successful but the fumes & smoke produced

By the passafin rags while burning completely  
filled the passage & gave birth to man  
unpolled so soon in fact were the cradles  
arising from this error that it was impossible  
to see for ~~heat~~ smoke may lift. Debeared  
we returned to the surface followed by  
Phil Davis & D. Hart & T. Dingle who come down  
later to assist in the re-embark of Surelous VI

30th July  
St. Cuthberts

Pd Grnos. H. H. Thompson P. M. M.

Tugging started at the terminal sump  
& a considerable amount of material removed.  
Sump ~~had~~ poked with a rubber ball on a  
string fed into the sump on a ~~rod~~ rod  
but the ball was lost. Sump at least 8ft long

4th Aug. St. Cuthbert's John Cornwall - from Tim  
Reynolds to Terminal sump to do digging However  
no digging implements so returned via Rabbit Warren  
Series.

4-5<sup>th</sup> August Robert Lyke, Jim + Margaret Watson (Middlesex  
Hospital Mountaineering Club), spent the weekend making  
a wet-suit, and fitted in an Upper Swildon and a  
Goathurst (with John Cornwall). Better than staying in  
London.

3rd-5th August 1963. Tony Oldham, Anne Court, Steve  
Gisbourne (guest) spent most of the weekend digging  
at Tolly Pot. (ibid 13th April 1963) 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 Hunt Warden) washed and exhibited on the  
banks. A total of 12 ft of passage was  
added to the system.

11/8/63. John Cornwall took t. Dingle, Jeff Phillips, Ian Walker & Nick Hart to St. Matthew's Sump where we dug for a while. John, wearing only a sailor suit and up to his neck in water, was taking all the time above his Quality Spec coffee & making us drowsy at the mouth. A kinda fun around on the way out was much enjoyed by all.

(MH)

10/8/63 Nick Haug joined a party of D. Ford, W. Stanier Oc. Lloyd, Bob Jaing & the MNRG to dig ~~and~~ and explore in the new extension of Vicarage Passage. We found a new tributary passage back tracking about 200' " long with a choke at the end but a healthy sound of water. The main dig looks as if it will be a long hard job. Willie commented in some Regs on the far

side of drainage Pot & intends putting  
a Notchy dog or ~~or~~ similar a bone there.  
Ray, Deegy & Nick Hart & searched the sump  
(an inside lump). Found one each.  
A member of our party also lost a bump  
which we could not find. No water  
in the come.

16/8/63. DELIVERED FULL CYLINDER OF GAS.  
D.W.H.

17th Aug  
St. Cuthbert's

P.O. Boxes. N.H.A.T.

Another attempt at determining the length  
of the benthic sump without actually getting  
into the darned thing. On this occasion a  
float made from a short length of plastic tube,  
nimbly weighed a sealed flo at its float  
upright, was released from the end of  
an 8 ft long pole inserted as far as possible

into the pump. To the float a long ~~test~~  
length of light single flexible wire was connected  
with its end buried. The other end of this  
wire was coupled to an ammeter (F.S.D.) 1mA.  
& the circuit completed via a battery to  
earth (this being the sheen). The base end  
of the wire was fixed to the float in  
such a manner as to be a part of  
the electrical circuit <sup>only</sup> when the float was  
submersed - hence airspaces would cause the  
float to break the circuit & enable the  
length of the pump to correspond to the  
length of wire paid out.

Prior to going down the cave the  
device was tested in the Billgoove bath  
& a ~~read~~ing reading of 0.3 mA obtained  
while the float was deliberately submerged  
and zero mA when released. This ~~extra~~ difference  
was considered suitable for airspace detecting.

In the cave, at the scene of operations,  
the deflection, when the float was submerged, increased

to 0.5 m<sup>t</sup>; an even better value.

After several unsuccessful attempts to get the best to work it was concluded that theump has one of the following characteristics

- i) Shortump with uneven root on one side thereby preventing float from reaching free surface.
- ii) Shortump changing direction under water.
- iii) Longump with root climbing at a low angle

Of these three possibilities the first is the most likely (~~the second~~) with heavy setting restricting the flow of water. This would account for the float jumping under the slightest irregularity in the root.

Bearing in mind the characteristic line of St. Cuttings the second possibility is also likely. This would make theump just a semi blocked bedding plane feeding back into the an extended root ribb. If the

present bill of the hump were removed then  
it could be permanently fallable.

A long hump would indeed be long &  
very user proof. Time & perhaps more gadgets  
will tell. Meanwhile digging goes on.

MH

8-8-63. Cuttibanks Sump (continued)

Steve & young Roberts, Noel Koenig,  
John Connell <sup>John Thompson</sup>, Rich Hart, Kevin Blasen,  
Jeff (PEC) went down for another  
dig at the sump. Steve had a dive  
& went about 60' in + reported that  
digging was possible. From this  
site digging has just about  
finished for the non-divers. A very  
good trip was had by all. MH

24.8.62.

Bob Fyke + Charles Bereford + Andrew Sanders of  
the Middlesex Hospital Mountaineering Club had a fine  
taist-top to Swildas IV - unusual to be able to do it  
without the usual few cut. of lead, bottles and other  
during nonsense. Stream average. 5 hrs.

24.8.62

Rod Robbins, George + Dave, Pete Harris  
Jeff Phillip + Ian Walker made their debut  
as actors for the B.B.C. Film was taken of them  
descending Easter Mole on a ladder (?) +  
coming out of one of the upper chambers  
of Woofrey 2 hours later. Further shots  
were taken of crawling etc. We had a quick  
look round the show cave + returned to Millgor

24th August.

Agen Alweed.

P. Davies, N. Hart, R. Stagings. by Giles.  
7 hour circuit of the Summerhouse  
Series under the leadership of  
the Hon. Soc.

Also in the cave were two other  
parties, led by Howard Kenny &  
Paul Jack. The former did the same  
trip as us but were about 30  
minutes ahead, & the latter went only  
as far as Turkey Junction.

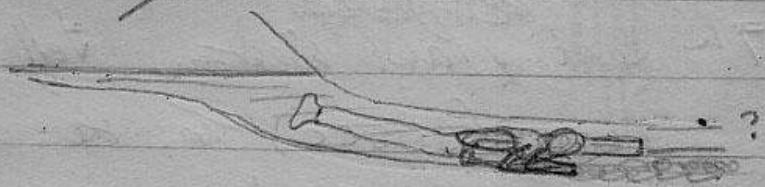
Two parties of C.S.S. cavers were  
doing some survey checking at the  
Footh Boulder Choke while the Webbs  
were enjoying the coolness of Turkey孔  
Treatment bags were fired by each  
party at pre-arranged times - an upper  
tide of the boulder choke & we understand  
that sonic contact was made. This  
most diminishes the severity of the

bony boulder choke being in the  
region of soft loam. He regards it as  
an usual route through the boulders  
choke the c.s.s. seemed slightly  
hopeful.

31st August.

N.H. CLEAVE, S.G. WYNNE-ROBERTS & MM. THOMSON & TANWOOD. Following  
last weekend we went to Calthorpe camp to dig. While I drove  
Mike did alternate ten-minute doses to dig in the camp.  
N.H. Cleave and Jim Giles dug the foul-muddy ride passing by the  
camp. Both diggs progressed, but the way is still abominable  
on. It seems to be a pile for too low to move, just far  
enough about ten feet in now and has levelled out. The  
floor is easy digging, mud over gravel.

Roughly it looks like this -



Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>.

Paul Weston arrived finally at Millgrove via  
Neath, Cardiff, Bristol, Bath to Chippenham. A long walk.

7th September 1963

St Lawrence Church - Piddal

David John Caesar, member of this Club  
died, on this day, at the hour of 11 am  
in the above church wed his Katherine  
George. The ceremony was witnessed by  
P. Davies & spouse, S. Wynne-Lobeste, R.P. Pyke  
G. Pointing, J. Berry, P. Gibbs, T. Cornwell,  
H. Thompson & spouse. H. Thompson performed the  
duties of best man.

The bride radiant in white, was attended  
by one bridesmaid.

The reception was held in the  
Red Lion, Wells

~~7th Sept.~~ Paul Weston, Jeff Phillips, Alan Rig. Robbins  
Chris (BSCC) to the top of Rad. Vatia  
& top of 35' in Sophia Pot.

7 Sept. 1963. Club trip to Primrose Pot. Phil

Davies led a party of small cavers to the pot.  
Jack Johnson did the honours by staying

outside the squeeze. Phil descended to the 1<sup>st</sup> ledge and Tim Reynolds, Ian Walker, David Bryant & Nick Hunt went to the bottom. We came out at 2.00 am and were treated to soup and tea by Pat Davies. Very nice! ~~Well~~

Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. P. Weston's better half arrived.

9.9.63.

### Stoke Lane Shocker.

F.G. Davies (S.N.C.C.), S. Wayne-Roberts, P.M. Giles and A. Hegg (Burnley C.C.) entered Series II at about 8pm and traversed most of the chambers in time for a quick 'un before 'they' closed. First time through a sump for Giles

laff

10<sup>th</sup> September.

P Weston & Co., looked over archaeological sites including small caves in Ebbor Gorge.

10.9.63

Swindons.

S. Wynne-Roberts, P.Q. Giles and A. Clegg (Bunleg) had a quick look at the streamway to Sump II. First time in Swindons for Alan Clegg and success, at last, for 'Jim' Giles at Sump I

*Puffin*

PLEASE NOTE:

The log-books covering the period 6.8.55 to 16.2.63 have been removed from the Hillgrove library for lace Register work. They will be returned as soon as possible

11<sup>th</sup> September, 1963, Wednesday

A pleasant little mid-week trip. Clive Lloyd, George Somers-Hall, Ian Standing, Nick Hart, Rodney Hobbs, Nick Barnett to Eastwater, where we did a pleasant upper round trip: down through the Hallelujah Hole, up the Canyon & round

by Kentish's Canon. 1½ hours  
of pleasantly expended sweat, allowing  
room for certain pints of beer. Met  
up with some of the saving B.E.C. types, so it  
looks as though the next mid-week trip  
will be a mixture of those U.B.S.C. & B.E.C.  
Cross fertilization.

OCL

11<sup>th</sup>. September.

Mid-week trip to Longwood - August  
Hole with Bill Henson. Mr. Young the  
farmer seemed alarmed at our  
late (?) hour of arrival for the  
key, 9:00 p.m.: However a short but  
pleasant trip to the upstream series  
ensued and we arrived back on  
"Terra Firma" at 10:45 p.m. (Missing closing time!!)  
Participants. Paul Weston & Bill Henson.

12<sup>th</sup>. September.

Trip to Swindon, fairly dry and  
warm, first trip for better half.  
P. Weston.

13<sup>th</sup>. September.

Hillgrove Hut cleaned from top to  
bottom", lack of polish to shine  
floor with.

14<sup>th</sup>. P. Weston & Co, departed for Welsh  
Wales. Passports in order.

The first-aid box has no real antiseptic  
- Savlon is a disinfectant - T.C.P or Dettol perhaps  
In fw.

Did Browns Holes - not a pretty cave  
In fw -

14-9-63 John Offwood Nick Bent caving for  
3 divers, Fred Davies, Steve Wayne Rebeard &  
Noel Cleare, to Lump II Swindon. Swindon  
III was successfully surveyed & approx 400' long.  
John & Nick went to the Black Hole on the  
way back. It was still there so we left. AA

21.10.63Swindons

Nick Haat & Jim Cicles stooged for Willie Stanton while he surveyed the South West Inlet Series from Shelter Pot to Terminus Chamber and the Sideot Dig. The drop from SE Inlet was laddered by Rae Hobin & Phil Davies (and party) and they removed the <sup>Chris Knott's</sup> baffle once we were up. The survey was the standard Stanton Grade II and time down 12 hrs.

P.H.B.

22/10/63 Swindons.

Elkito, Frank Barnes Nutt and 7 B.C. visited ~~both~~ both swamps - and both were very wet!



27/10/63 Black Hole - Second Backdoor Choke.

Phil Davies, Jim Reynolds & Nick Haat went to the 2<sup>nd</sup> choke to dig camp. We left Friday night with a good supply of caribou food and Polar Bear meat & took 4 hrs to reach the camp site. After looking at the four possibilities at the choke we decided the upper left hand

was the one to wake up. 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 Punges took a long time, even an hour, to clear & they were becoming rather chilly in wetsuits, but not unbearable so. Phil was taking conventional gear and was not so badly off. Tim took second shift sleeping but by this time the i-lo had punctured so he didn't sleep very well. I took last shift & slept like a log for 4 or 5 hrs. I had my wet suit under the sleeping bag & this made it warm enough to put on without too much discomfort. We ate the Harlech's MRE (more 2 day packets which we didn't find very enjoyable). By ~~the~~ now ~~time~~ (Sat 7-00) the place had filled with bugs, limes & we all had headaches ~~so we~~ so we placed a large changes packed up to leave. We left all the dackets ~~so~~ except the bags at the Duddy Green stream for collection.

on Sunday & got and finished up about 12-30  
Sunday morning. Not much progress was  
made at the dig, but the trip was invaluable  
experience for further weekend trips. Conclusion:  
1/ wear gloves 2/ put everything dry in 2 polythene  
bags 3/ keep coal/oil in really good containers.  
The lid came off one coffee tin & I kept all the same  
time. 4/ employ sheep if possible. Under ground 28 hrs,  
we had planned 40 hrs but smoke, coldness  
& tiredness drove us out.

29-10-63. Alan ~~Pet~~ Rigg, Tony Fuller & Mick Hart went  
down Swindon & brought up the tackle from  
yesterdays trip. Some kind carer had left 6/-  
in a plastic bag tied to the 20' 8" tackle for  
tackle fees.

30.9.63. O.C.H. John Cornwell, Vic Hobbs, Kevin Abbey, Gant  
& others went down Cuckoo's for a 2hr  
evening trip as far as the snow.  
Returned via Everest Passage and after  
liquid refreshment at Hunter's had an

excellent dinner at the Belfry.

6-10-63

The log-books for the period 6-8-54 - 16-2-63 have now been returned to the Hillgrove library.

P.G.F.

7-10-63.

Pine Tree Pot: "████████ - █████"

R.Wooley, T.C.Bryant, N.Wark, R.Stagnnings,  
R.Hobbs, P.N.Giles, J.Iles, L.Wicks, P.Harris

After Oliver blogd demonstrated the method of using the Q.R.O. rescue blanket with the aid of a victim (K.Jeffrie) and an unpaid tree the above named boids 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 blanket and after some delay hauled up the pitch, dragged, pulled and pushed up the crawl to 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 on the victim (with due regard to injuries in the actual event) in order that the victim's weight is distributed evenly ~~in~~ and not directed on the groin. (ii) The victim should be very careful when trying to assist the rescuers to avoid disturbing loose, and dangerous material in the cave. In today's practice I dislodged a chockstone in a narrow part of the pitch during a bit lull in the hauling when I tried to take the weight off my bonds. This crashed to the bottom of the pitch, landing at a point vacated only minutes before by two members of our party. A very lucky near miss. (iii) The addition of a polythene sheet to the blanket to protect the victim's face from rope dust and 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 and a ~~swivel~~ bolt fixed to a nailbolt or section

of Maypole placed, if possible, and secured across  
the top of the pitch. Transfer of victim from  
hauling rope to top of pitch would be much  
simpler. (v) The gathering together and subsequent  
publication of all information connected  
with the equipment and practice of cave rescue,<sup>on Mendip</sup>  
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 are alike

P.O.G.

13/10/63 Under the watchful eye of  
"George" Willgoose hat well donned.

13-10-63

Jim Giles, Jack Bond, Tim Prouell & Mick  
Hart went down Suidone to look at the  
result of the last bang at the 2nd boulder  
chamber, Black Hole & clean up the mess.  
The last bang was satisfactory in that  
it had blocked the passage with 2 cut  
boulders instead of 1 cut over. There were

cleared out and we made a change on  
a large boulder they impeded further  
progress. It is interesting to note that  
Jack & Jim went thru the sump without  
goon a wet suit. Jim & I are so tough.  
I had a splitting headache when I went down  
→ Puked when I came up, silly! ~~WTF~~

26. 10. 63.

6 blokes from B.C.S.C.C. (aff.) did a nice  
easy st. Cuts down to the sump in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs  
led by John Stough (B.C.C.) Entrance not  
much rap. Member's clothing was very  
indecent when we came out. (razor rock)  
~~(Rap)~~ Thought cascade in Boulder Chamber  
was fabulous.

26. 10. 63.

~~WTF~~

R. Harding, M. Henesey, 3 Hardwick  
did a quick four hour trip to Swildons  
4. Led two keen cavers from Southampton

who had hiked here, and a party of six who had lost the way. Had little difficulty in blue pencil passage and we were pleasantly surprised at the streamway contours. The bones were unexpected.

R. O. Harding

B.C.S.C.C.

28.10.63. A reasonable short trip to Eastwater was experienced by six of our members.

B.C.S.C.C.

9-11.63. Messrs Persdale, Evans (guest), Gammie, Hall & Hart went to look at Shatto Passage. Mr Persdale (Great Girth) found the tube very tight. Moral: - must take up ~~recto~~ <sup>lax</sup> enema. What does one do with a break presented <sup>lax</sup> & prolapsed <sup>lax</sup> gon seat?

- ? ←  
· general anaesthetic (acetylene), with forceps delivery (entrenching tool) ?



16-11-63. I, Conwell Esq, lead Nick & Andy Bob Gaunicott down St Cuthbert's to September Series. John went off on his own & claims to have found a chamber in the boulder rubble from which there was no easy exit. Bob & I went to the top of the chambers had a look up some of the holes in the roof. If either of us had been a climber we should have found some new cave but neither of us are so we found no new cave. We had a look at Soapstone Pool & pronounced it VE (very enchanting) met John again in High Chamber & left for the Hunter, which was as crowded as usual.

15-11-63

John Phillipott, Carlton Pickstone, ~~#~~ ~~the~~ S. Lumb, Guests R. Hobson, D. Martin arrived during the night.

16-11-63. Intended to do Stoke Lane, but unable to enter owing to high water level and pollution, so went to Swallows IV. Over-filled trip.

17-11-63. Spent the day recovering. Remo:  
must get fit before doing a trip like that.

19-11-63. P. Weston plus J. Jones (Guest) arrived from Wales. Walked (1) to Priddy to view Swildons entrance - very damp indeed. Stream also running down Eastwater entrance shaft. Short but essential stop at Hunters to renew lost body fluid.

Retired to "tip" at 11 p.m. after being up for 33 hrs.!

20-11-63.

P. Weston, J. Jones & Chris Elwell visited Lamb Lair, did not find mythical large chamber. Arrived back at Millgove at midnight.

Morning of the 20<sup>th</sup>. P. Weston & J. Jones visited Pine Tree Pot, photographed Moonlight Grotto (Note:- New moon tonight) Walked to Pine Tree Pot & back, via Castle of Comfort (of course!)

A most enjoyable stay. Back to Wales today. Diolch yn fawr. Cymru amae Byth. Hone

Sat Nov 23rd

Fernham party assisted by Les Teasdale Tim Reynolds Nick Hart Tony Dingle and A.Graham Visited Sildon to dump 1 mainly for taking 50 ft of colour cine film. This mission was accomplished without hitch in 6 hrs.

After departing Fernham party, N. Hart ("Copper-bottom") & Tim Reynolds visited Sump 1, then followed other assistants to Slatter Passage, to be greeted by A. Graham, Tony Dingle & L.Teadale. Despite previous difficulties (9-11-63) L.Teadale valiantly again attacked U-tube and conquered the problem. Sorry to say that despite his great speed Nick was still beaten by the water!

Nov 24<sup>th</sup> N. Hart T. Reynolds Tony? & R. Hobbs visited Cuttsents. A pleasant trip to Planerdown Junction - Lake clarke.

High Changer & Specimen Lenses.

Nov 23. George, Ponting, Dave Berry, Phil & Pat Down  
rehearsed well at the Jewel Cutters breakfast  
at the Cliff Hotel Cleddon. A fair spread  
and moderate service. The meal was followed  
by the B.B.C. film taken in Belcar  
Cave, run at half speed. Altogether  
quite an entertaining evening.

Quite paroxysm of the P.S.S. after dinner speakers  
"In the Cutters you never know who  
your friends are" —

Nov 24  Dave, George and friend spent most of the day fixing entrance lid to Hyne H. Hole (humb bottom) supervised by Phil Down & John Penwell. The party later assisted the local farmer to remove boulders in a field ~~across~~ <sup>near</sup> having had been causing obstruction to farm implements etc etc.

Rec. 1sr. One chair removed for reupholsterization  
SW.

7-12-63. Nick Haut took Ron Handing, Jeff Pregory & Rod Hobbs to SJ Cuthberts. Ron fell from the end of the sewer into the streamway & badly sprained his ankle. We had to help him crawl out of the cave & were helped at the entrance rift by some obliging BEC members. He was sent for an X-ray. W.H.

P.S. X-ray showed a fracture of the bone at the point where it turns into the ankle joint. At present, Ron Handing's leg is encased up to the knee and he is using crutches for mobility. He is cheerful, should live, and claims that that leg is the only part left of him really warn!!! P.M.Y. 13/14. 12. 63.

17 Dec. 1963

Tim Atkinson arrived with 3 Sidcot School lavers, Nick Skeaping, Andy Morland, James Atkinson at 11.0 a.m. Found hut locked but forced entry with aid of Mr. Stedley's key. Set off to Swildens at 3.30 and did Kitch's, Sidcot dig, S.E. Inlet, Shatter Passage. Due to unfitness of all concerned the trip was a triple show. Times:- In 4.30, Out 9.40

18.12.63

 Tim Atkinson and 3 Sidcot plus Andrew Partitt to Sanatorsd Hill and did work at the Saville Row group of shafts. on the North side of the hill in Lynchcombe Wood. Shaft 120, the most westerly of the shafts was desirably, and pronounced to be only 100ft. deep. There are two crossroads at - 30ft. and - 85ft. approx. leading to passages 40ft. and 60ft. long. The shaft is of rift form with the two sloping walls solid and aligned along the galena vein represented by the Saville Row line of shafts. The other two walls were of loose muddy material. The choke at the bottom could well be dug, as stonework on the walls runs continuously below it.

When the shaft was first explored by School School Spelrs Soc. (1958) it was thought to be 120ft. deep, hence the name. This error was probably due to an assumption that 9" spaced rings were spaced 1 ft. apart. I have included sections as I believe the caving and mining on Sandford Hill are relatively unknown to the majority of members.

19.12.63

Tim Atkinson and Andrew Morland working in Upstream Scribe, August Hole 5 hrs. Had to come out before time due to light failure.

20.12.63

Tim Atkinson and Andrew Morland to August Hole to pick up tackle and work at scallops in Upper Scribe 3 hrs.



21-12-63 Phil Davies (sec), Bob Gannicott (had), Rich Hart (good chap) went down Cuttibent with 24'0" maypole intent on discovery. We erected the maypole at flatmayjunga to explore the passage from where the water drips into the jam jam



N  
TREES

S O

Shaft 120

Sandford Hill

20

30

40

50

60

70

80

90

100

galena  
Stained  
flimestone  
W

ROOTS IN REEF

40ft.

Shaft 120

Sandford Hill

E-W section

0 E

10

20

30

40

50

60

70

80

90

100

Galena stained flimestone

BOULDER  
CHOKE  
GOOD  
POSSIBILITIES

WALL  
15'

? CHOKE OF (POOLS)  
LEAVES AND CLAY POOL

? DIG

We found about 500 feet of passage  
against the main bedding roof of Quarry  
Caves & Boulden Chamber bringing  
us into Long Apam Cave extension.  
Another round trip in ~~the~~ Caves as  
yet unnamed.

MAP



21.12.63. M. Thompson, S. W. Roberts & F. Connell  
to Beldi cave for a second dive in  
the downstream sump. The duck dive  
to the <sup>sump</sup>~~above~~ had rilted badly and proved  
difficult, however. M.T. diving in a line  
from a bare ~~the~~ side of Sump I  
entered the bell chamber and proceeded to  
a point approx 15-20' into Sump II  
where the passage became too tight  
(lack of height but little width) small  
air spaces were encountered. The  
consiliction appeared to be short & the  
diver fancied he could feel the passage

widening, perhaps feasible for rubber boat  
 Boan! but seems to be little point  
 in pushing it further since the  
 stream is almost certainly the same  
 as is encountered in Plummer's Hole  
 and again in Ducks Pot.

P.D. lesson  
by J. Cannell.



31 Dec.

Tim Atkinson, Tim Phillips, William Fox working in August  
 Hole. Discovered possible dig in roof opposite stream  
 gallery entrance. 8 hrs.



1 Jan.

Tim Atkinson, Tim Phillips, William Fox went (ie  
 proceeded at low velocity) to Sidcot Passage. Pround  
 to everybody's satisfaction that entrance crawl should  
 only be negotiated by thin men (that is to Pointing!)  
 on their fronts. Dug at choke for 5 hrs. and sopped  
 well. Came out again and caroused at washing  
 pot. Carbide in Bamts hoop deplorable; In wet  
 way spectacularly lost remaining carbide 25 oz.,  
 no damage done. 9 hrs. P.S. Very slow exit due to  
 other parties



2 Jan.

William Fox, Tim Atkinson went (i.e. proceeded at high velocity) to August Hole - what did work exceeding in Upstream Series. 4 hrs.  
K & M Holland descended Suddas to South in ar. Midgill

3 Jan.

Mike and Kira Holland, William Fox, Tim Phillips, Tim Atkinson went for a walk on Nine Barrows Hill and looked at Nine Barrows Swallow. Very promising considering position etc., right in a line of swallows running down to E' water.

Tim Atkinson and William Fox then went and did yet more work in Upstream Series, August Hole.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

4 Jan. Tim Reynold, Bob Gurnett & Nick Hart.

To Shatto Pass egg overhang steep dug. Joined later by Davey Steve Causen & Steve Wayne Roberts. Had big bang & left. Some sods had taken the ladder out but Steve W.R. (SEN1) climbed 400' & brought back a ladder. missed the pub!

4 Jan.

Nick and Kira Holland, William Fox, Tim Phillips, Tim Atkinson to Sidcot Passage dig. After 2 hrs. there Nick, William and I went to Shatter Pot. Meanwhile (see below). On arriving at Sidcot Passage, after leaving Holland at Shatter we went out and found that someone had pushed the ladder. After waiting for Steve W-R to arrive and climb the 40' (GENT) we got out at 11:30 p.m. missing the pub!  $11\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. T.A.:

Kira Holland & Tim Phillips dug on at Sidcot Dig, breaking through into body vized near vertical cavity with mud floor. ~~dig~~

We were digging in a tunnel ~~dig~~ new passage  
It was an old water channel ~~passage~~  
When we came across an arch  
Most recently manufactured!

Proving T. Atkinson entered new verticalish section about a year ago.

Wookey Hole 11 Jan. 64

J Atwood, J Cornwell, B. Pyke, S. W. Roberts,  
M. Thompson. S. W. Roberts, J. Atwood, J. Cornwell  
climbed to the first block. J. Cornwell lost  
light when all three climbers returned to four.  
then passed back in to three. B. Pyke, J. Cornwell  
later returned to four. J. Cornwell.

26.1.64 

St. Cuthbert's

P. G. Davies, S. W. Roberts, F. Davies (Saerford) &  
Warren (?) (Gwent) to September Series with 16 ft  
of Maypole. Aven above Nelson's Column entered  
by Steve & Fred and pot scaled for 20ft. Prospects  
of further exploration fair with further  
engineering in the near future. Aven, or  
pot as it surely must be, estimated to be  
at least 65 ft high. P.G.D.



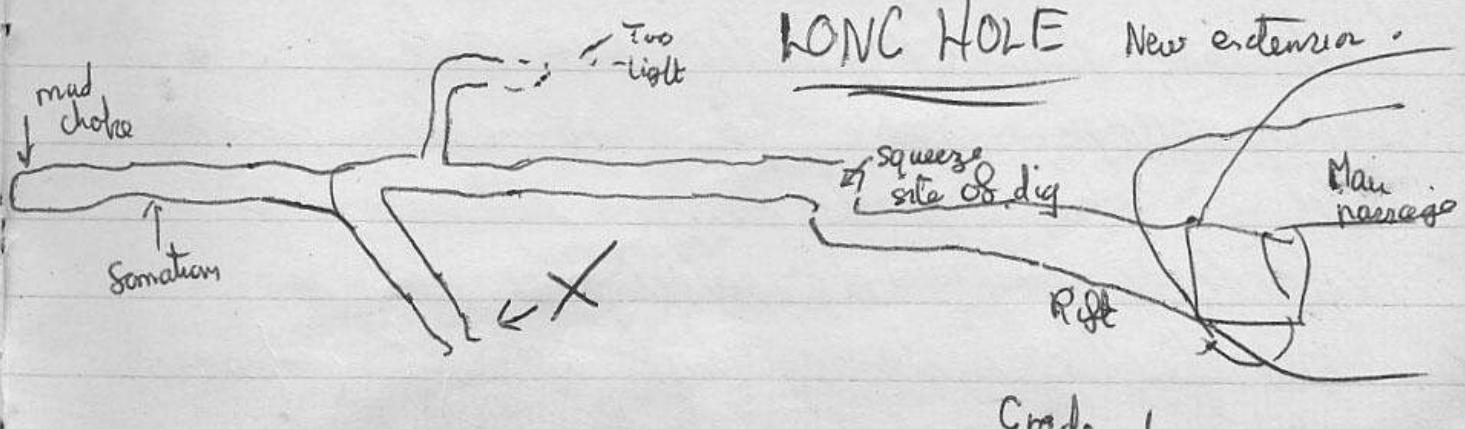
25.1.64.

R. Cannicott, N. Hart, T. Reynolds to Shatter Passage. 2½ hrs digging - mainly clearing out passage so that it is easier to work at the far end. The bang earlier in the month has been very successful - two 2" holes off into the face and all the surrounding ~~or~~ mud broken up. But the air was very foul at the bottom. Then moved out via Double Trouble. Both the Troubles being dry. A quick trip to Sump II and then back to Sump I. In Creek 1 a small plant was discovered on the left hand side facing downstream. A wall was built round it to protect it. At the sump R. Cannicott successfully performed and the ~~the~~ we moved out to the surface. Surfaced about 11.0pm.

2/2/64.



Club trip to Cheddar. M. Neurin, T. Hall, O. C. 2. Dave Hobbs (U.B.S.S.) Attic + 2 guests. P. Smith + 1 guest, T. Reynolds. Non show cave portions of Caves visited the party then repaired for refreshment to the cliff. Then Old Caves & Long Hole were visited. In Long Hole, by traversing back over the climb up into the chamber, after a bit of digging a passage was entered by T. Reynolds & Dave Hobbs. This passage, previously not entered, ran along the dip in roughly the same direction as the entrance passage. The passage off to the left (Marked X) was too tight but a draught was felt & the passage continued beyond. All the other passages were too tight. The party split up & had a bit in Great Ones while H.H. visited Pride Evans Hole.



1.8.64

WATERDOME DALE - YORKS

D.S. Cawse, G. Davies & P.M. Gill assisted members of the Yorkshire & Somerset C.D.G.'s in a caving foray to a cave at Yockenthwaite. This cave is a resurgence with about 300ft of passage before the Flint Pump - 35ft long which is followed immediately by a second of 12ft. Beyond these is a large chamber with a high arched roof which the steamer passes through. This was the object of the mission. However the result of our labours was disappointing, & little progress was gained up the arched.

8.8.64

P.M.G.

Broadon's 

D.S. Cawse, G. Davies & G. Gillies, & S. Cawse continued work at our dig, under the overhang in Shatter Passage. Three 3ft shot holes were drilled in the floor of the dig & filled with explosive & fired. The object was not to progress further inwards but to give us more

room to work in next time. We hope to return next week to inspect the damage. T.O.C.

9.2.64 \*

### St. Cumbold's Swallow

S. Wynne-Roberts, N. Hart, & P. D. Lewis, took 3 further lengths of maypole to the scene of operations (26.1.64) in Trafalgar Chamber, September Series, & added it to the 4, previous already there. Thus we had 12ft altogether but this was rather too much & so we reduced this to 10ft.

First pick was stationed on the small ledge, at the bottom of the over. He then pulled up the maypole so that the end was near another ledge & steadied the pole while Steve climbed to this next point.

Steve then pulled up the maypole & fixed it in position for a third leg. He then climbed up the ladder & as the over became less of an incline, free climbed the last 36ft.

Regrettably, the oven closed down except for a short passage off which is by night to follow but along which a small chamber was seen. The maypole was brought out of the cave.

After the trip we looked at the extended section of the cave & estimated that the top of the oven (85ft to the point Steve reached) was in the 100ft region from the surface (laqueuse level).

n.b. the Club riteon, <sup>"Peg"</sup> was taken down but not used, however.

15-2-64, ~~St~~ Giles & Hant (injured) went to Caen's Shatter dig & cleaned up the streamway of cambic deposits en route - Dug for about 3 hours cleaning up the mess from last week. We must have cleaned out about  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton of sand & clay (Hence) this is now a 3 man dig in length - working power. More bags next time.

PS. SHATTER MATTERS.

14/2/64. R E Harding. M. Henessy. D Washington  
and ~~Ike~~ Test (B.C.S.C.C.) were led on a round trip.  
of Swildons i.e. paradise, troubles, sump!  
by. Bob Lewis of S. V. C. fame. Some experienced  
more difficulty at the troubles than the others  
got lost around vicarage but the right  
passage was soon found and we slithered  
(with great speed) into Swildons 2 streamway.  
Shivering with anticipation we arrived at  
the sump. (for most the first attempt). The  
Leader put us at our ease by nearly drowning.  
(Quote "silly really"). After a sustaining  
meal of chicken and sausages we proceeded  
to the entrance. Many energy ~~sustaining~~ tablets  
were consumed on the whole trip which took five  
hours and was done without the aid of  
artificial water-resistant clothing. (It's great.  
To be young!).

R E Harding. (B.C.S.C.C.).

16th February.

S. Cuthbert's Swallet

R. Hensler accompanied by Nick Hart and Tim Miles visited the Haypole Series of St. Cuthbert's and also looked at the Pump & Porpoise Series via the Catgut-Rabbit Warren Extension link. The Folly Pitch in the Haypole Series was free climbed after the intrepid Hart had pioneered a route, but others are not recommended to follow our (bad) example. Comedy was provided by Miles who could not get out of the Rat Hole into Everest Passage until the nth attempt, despite a flow of speleological terms known to be invaluable on such occasions.

Caving, however, was demonstrated by Hensler.

A.J.C.

22nd. Feb. 1964.

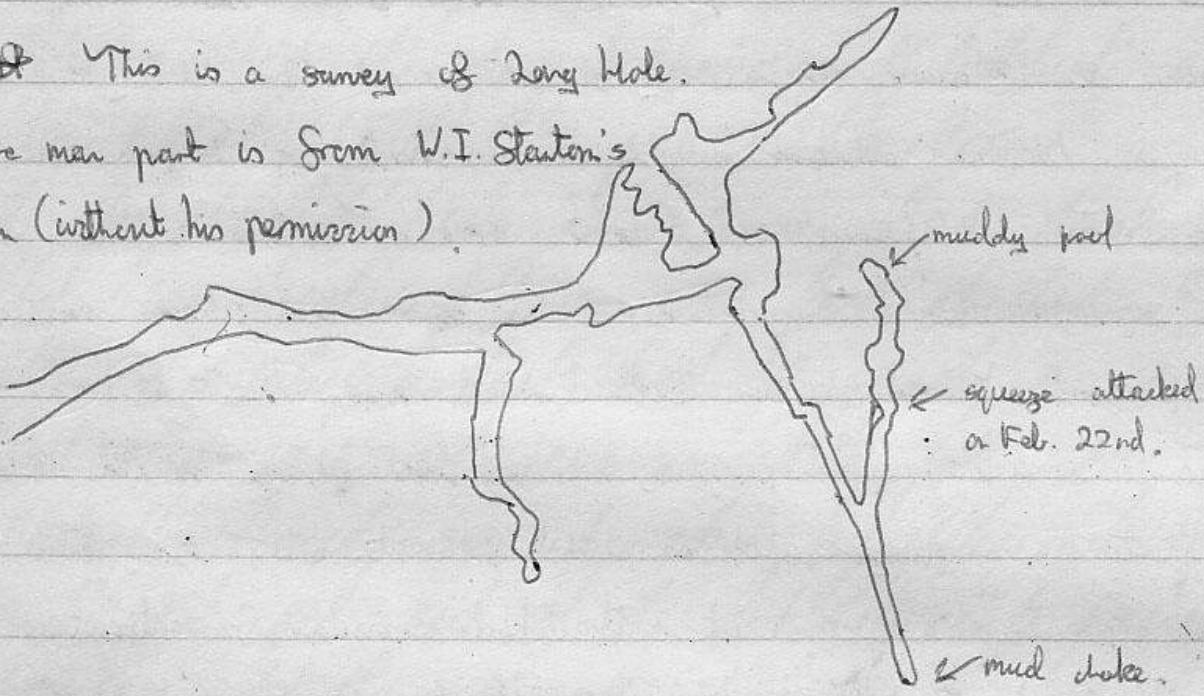
Zony Hole.



P. Davies & T. Reynolds to Cheddar. After changing and climbing the hairy v. diff. ascent to Zony Hole we were greeted by a Mr. Atkinson. The climb over the boulder was speedily reached and the extension entered on Feb. 2nd was re-entered. The entrance squeeze was enlarged and all the digging tools carted to the squeeze. This was attacked and after about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. was passed and new passage was entered. This descended steeply into a squeeze into a pool of water. T. Reynolds, who was wearing a wet suit, thrashed around for about a hour and enlarged the squeeze till he could enter the pool. We then slid through a chute into a very muddy pool of water with no apparent way on. However, after a little examination a three inch diameter hole, under water, was found leading off. This ~~was~~ too had too solid sides to enlarge. Meanwhile P. Davis had been doing grand work enlarging the squeeze further. T. Reynolds then gave up the prospects and thrashed out of the pool. The party then returned to the surface carrying out a Grade II Survey using T. Atkinson compass for bearings and

P. Davies as a standard CSt. gd. stuck.

# This is a survey of Long Hole.  
The main part is from W.I. Stanton's  
plan (without his permission).



22 Feb. 1964.

Nick Hart and Bob Gannicott went to Swindon to do a "Master Throat". The Cave was laddered and we were able to do a very fast trip to Sump II; we cooled off in the sump pool after severely overheating in our wet suits. We had a quick look at Sump III and then made our way up Blue Pencil to the Troubles which were extremely dry having been haled by a party from Exeter whom we

met at the top of the next slide from Uccorage Passage to Swindons II. We had a look at Sump II and as none of the Exeter party had done the Sump I before, we helped them through and then returned to the far side of Duck I for a meal of Sardines, sweets and a five-year-old bar of chocolate. We reached the Black Hole and crossed it after much gibbering and quaking by Bob who had not been across before. The formations on the far side of the hole were very impressive. After looking at the Second Boulder Choke we returned to the entrance without incident. The entire trip took  $4\frac{1}{4}$  hours which was too fast for comfort in a  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inch wet suit and would be unbearable in a goretex suit.

RGG

P.S. The idiot above fails to mention that the last bang at the 7<sup>th</sup> Choke was quite successful. What is needed is a crowbar and more bang.

MM

Sunday 23rd Party of 5 (Tim Reynolds, Russ. Hay  
 Staynies, John Illes & Bill Davies) to  
 Eastwater for a change. Had a look at  
 the Dolphin boulder slope from above before  
 taking the Rodders to the twin verticals, then  
 down to muddy surface, up the 13 pats back  
 to Harris' passage & into field series. Looked  
 at the Dolphin boulder pile from below (nasty)  
 Uneventful trip out.

3

SAT 29.FEB Nobody proposed to me! ☀

SATTER PASSAGE. Causer D. Causer S. Giles PM.

A H and D. went to dig again. Progressed well  
 in dig under overhang & laid fire & shot (one  
 hoped). Also blasted lip of pool in Q.C. Bat (not v.  
 office) easy (only)  
 He dug to try to eliminate pool. This  
 obliges him to dig at new dig. Well, this  
 is the way we see it. NTD

SUN. 30th MAR. ☀ Giles, Hart, Gammeter Davies to SATTER  
 to clear some of the debris, following the efforts of

Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, forward progress was somewhat deterred by the presence of sulphurous gas in the working face. To hang in occ's bat hole dig seems to have dried the place up, but this might be due to dry weather rather than ~~the~~ improved drainage, probably further lowering of the ell will be necessary to keep the pools clear in wet weather.

P.D.

SAT 7<sup>th</sup> MAP John Cornell, Phil Davies, Phil Roper to Cottagers to look at a few of the newer discoveries, none will probably be written about this trip later.

P.D.

73.64

Hongwood Spellet: Nick Hart, Tim Gales & Tony Meadow assisted Prof Tatham & various spellos in the construction of the blockhouse over the entrance. Most of the concrete foundation was laid and about half of the blocks ~~cliffed~~

19. 3. 64. Paul Weston and wife  
spent two days. ~~■ ■~~  
~~■ ■~~ walking in the  
snow.

21st March, 1964

St. Catharines saw Messrs Haot, Davies, Giles,  
Fife & Bulbridge limbering up for Pen-y-ghent  
for next weekend (Easter.) From Arête Chamber  
Pulpit Pitch was laddered and a double  
lift-line rigged & the ledge pitches were laddered  
in one from the window in Arête Chamber (45 ft)  
and the party then went on to the bottom  
of Doug Passage Pitch via the Wet & Waterfall Pitches.  
Corey Passage Pitch was climbed & then laddered,  
& followed by Pulpit. Down the ledge pitches,  
again to the ladder Wet & waterfall & then back  
up the to the ledges for several ups & downs  
on the 45ft ladder. The party after knocking up  $\frac{1}{2}$  of  
about 200 ft of climbing retired.

Wed 26 March

Henry Hall and Thomas went to Tatty not to dig. It was found that the shaft contained a dead foul. A5 copies (in moderately good state of repair) was subsequently removed on 26th and interred in a shallow grave nearby.

14th. March.

Surdens. R. Pyke, N. Hart, T. Reynolds to Shatter to deal with unexploded charge of bang. A stick was placed alongside and set off. The result was most satisfactory - all our lamps were blown out. However it proved possible to relight from Nick's cigarette. We then moved onto Surdens II via the Round Trip. After a walk off we moved towards the Approach Passage. There we had the misfortune to meet P. Davies, T. Atkinson & R. Hannicott. We then went up to the Black Hole which was descended and formations admired. The intrepid Hart then reascended and traversed across the very top of the Black Hole to enter a new passage. He was stopped by a drop. However he reckoned that it had been entered before. The party then moved out

as fast as possible leaving all the tackle for the UBSS to remove. There was a slight hold up at the 70' but the surface was gained in time to get to Wells for the film evening.

Thurs 26 March

Hewins, Hall, Thomas, Reynolds and Ringle to Shildon 40'. Filmed 40' from ledge opposite. 25' of Kodachrome II A. Safety in the camera. Out with 3 cans.

SAT 28th MARCH

Pen-y-ghent Pot: Gilen, Piffke, Hart, Davies, Hollands, Thompson & Cuttridge, backed, belayed & detached said pot in 11½ hours. V. Wet, Noisy & beautiful pot.

SUN 29th MARCH. Bar Pot

Ian Walker, Bob White, Richard MARKHAM, Brian Houston, Davy, to Cappy Gill main chamber and Sand Caves. Looked for short cut to Disappointment Pot, but no luck, explored most small and large passages to no avail. Good and worthwhile trip 5-6 hr trip. Main Chamb. G.G. really wonderfully impressive. R. MARKHAM FOUND  
NEW HENSLEYS

PASSAGE (MARKED BY RED TAPE & SYMBOL H&P) BUT DID NOT  
CONSIDER IT TO BE CORRECT PASSAGE

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April

T. Atkinson took 2 others round Top Sirdars.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April

Oliver Loyd & Nick Hoad went to  
Vicarage Passage to pull a tape down the  
escape route. Now a 50' ladder is required  
which can be hauled up.

Tues. 7<sup>th</sup> April

T. Atkinson, N. Watson-Jones to Downstream  
Series, August Hole to look at fill, and Fault  
Chambers and Great Chamber to look at  
faults ~~etc.~~. About 5 hrs. Thanks to Giles, J. for  
Wed. 8<sup>th</sup> April Transport.

About 2 to Upper Series, Longwood -  
August System. About 6 hrs.

Thurs. 9<sup>th</sup> April

T. Atkinson, N. Watson-Jones to above  
earr measuring fill sections 4 hrs.

Thurs. 9<sup>th</sup> April

Nick Cawth & Francis Morland to St. Cuthbert. Tourist trip  
for Francis going to all the usual sights - 5 hours.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April

T. Atkinson, N. Watson-Jones to Longwood - August to take out tackle and finish details of previous day's work - 2 hrs.

Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> April

T. Atkinson, N. Hart, P.M. Giles, R. Pyke, S. Caesar, R. White to Shatter Passage. Dug for 2 hrs. in dig below 10' overhang, hammering yet another nail in Willie Stanton's coffin. First two and last out via Troubles + sump 1. Abseil from Vicarage Passage surrounded by loose boulders which have now been "gardened". T. A.

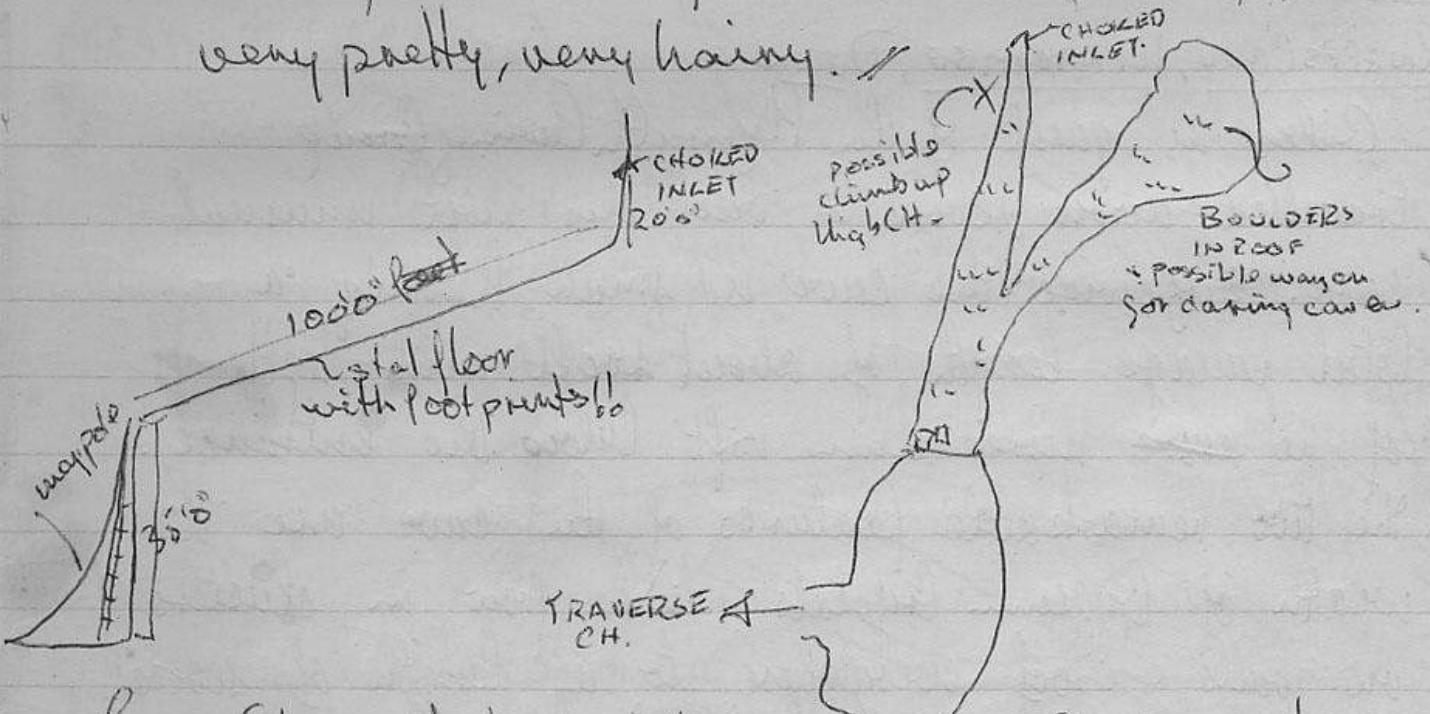
Sun. 12<sup>th</sup> April

[REDACTED]. A. Snell, J. Church, Atty (+2 others), G. Phillips, T. Atkinson to Purple. 4-5 ft. of progress. Sun 19<sup>th</sup> A.E. Angle, J. Thomas and J. Gregory to Barnes Loop with 60' of ~~the~~ plastic hose to siphon the large gorse pool. The nature of the submerged walls and floor may be ascertainable by next weekend.

18-4-64 Nick Hunt took S. Cawser on a quick trip to S<sup>1</sup> Cuttbents. Saw a possible climb in High Chamber & a lot of carbide spewed about.

MAB

19-4-64. Nick Hunt, John Connell, Steve Cawser,  
 (✿) Tony Meadow & Bob Waddell carried 24' o" maypole to High Chamber. Erected maypole (plus BBC Maypole) & climbed to ledge above cave pearls. Nick found 200' o" passage, very pretty, very hairy.



Tony, Steve & Nick went thru Coral & Rocky Boulders to awns in lower Stream Way. We will return w. Maypole!!!

MAB

19.4.64

After a start delayed by the unavailability of one member, Dave Perry and Richard Markham and an affiliated member Robert Burne descended Eastwater for the second time in three days with 100 ft of ladder. After a quick visit to Dolphin Pot, the twin verticals were laddered and we passed by the muddy elbow to the Breach Series. The Mud Escalator was viewed and then we returned. Matrix Pot was reached by 380' way. Emergence at 10 p.m.

19.4.64

Knappa's Cave, Ilfracombe, Devon

Biles as guest of the Plymouth Caving Group travelled across Devon to visit this most unusual cave. Sizewise the cave is small, having a total passage length of about 100ft and a depth of no ~~more~~ more than 15ft below the entrance. The two remarkable features of the cave are its wealth of Cyprium Crystals which grow in clusters on walls & roof everywhere to a length of several inches in places; and the fact that the cave is in its own tiny band of Devonian limestone

amid several cubic miles of Slate! In fact the cave is at the bottom of a disused slate quarry and less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile away at the bottom of the high N. Devon cliffs there are several sea caves in the slate ~~itself~~ itself, one being Watermouth Cave - mentioned in the last Wessex Journal.

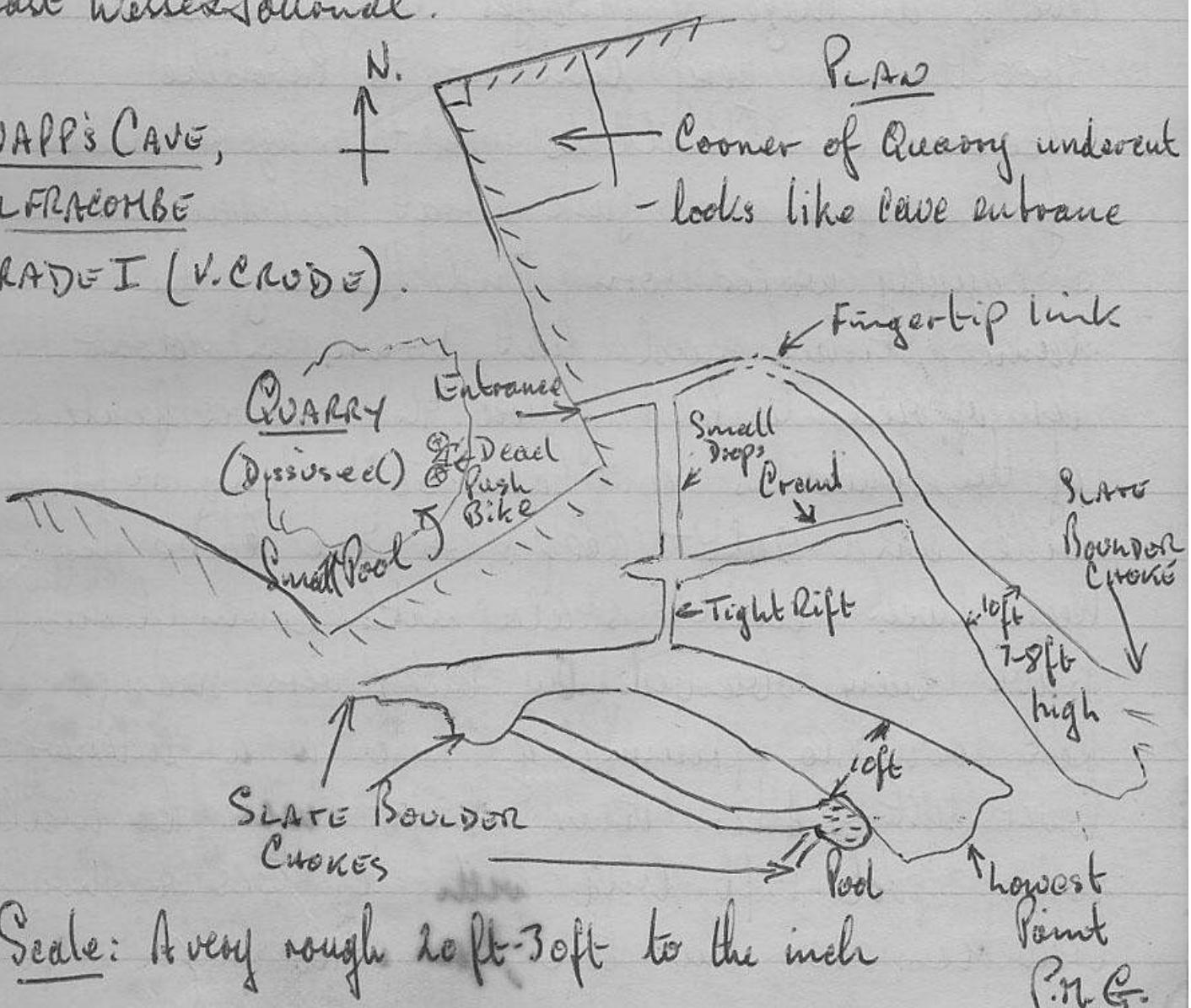
KNAPP'S CAVE,  
ILFRACOMBE

N.  
↑

P.M.C.

Corner of Quarry undercut  
- looks like cave entrance

CORADE I (V. CRODE).



19.4.64

Priory Anvil Caves: Buckfastleigh, Devon

Still with the Plymouth Caving Group Ift. was conducted around Priory Anvil Cave which is in the same patch of limestone as Bakers Pit Reeds, Taint Milnor etc at Buckfastleigh. The cave is a maze of passages totaling some 3000ft and very similar to Paradise Regained in \*Swildons : ie the size & shape of passages are just about the same & equally water worn, and having the same sticky mud but brown in colour as opposed to P.R.'s yellow. The main feature of the cave is a lake 50ft long 12 ft wide and 90ft + deep! The lake has been dived and stalagmite formations, on the sides have been observed by the divers many feet down so presumably there is a submerged lower system. Other items of note were the well a deep pool 15ft long with a toes & shoulders traverse over the top, a water filled rift,

and what appeared to this cavers blind geological eye, marble walls in several places. Whatever this cave lacks in decoration it certainly is very sparkling and well worth a visit when in Devon.

\* It even has a mud sump!

P.H.C.



2-5-64. Atkinson (Atkinsvine), Gannicott, Giles & Hawt dashed down to the Black Hole with 100" of food.

Hawt & Gannicott had a look at a passage by traversing across top of B.H. This passage expanded out after a few feet & had been entered before by one or two peoples. It ended in a tight rift with scalloping coming out towards the B.H.

We crossed & went to the dig in Second BC digging for a couple of hours. Gannicott (Fool!) burnt some bang wine & stunk us out. We left in haste & ate for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. This dig is 50' shorter than when it was first entered. In 20 years time the dimensions will only be 5000' long at this rate of digging.

W.H.

3-5-64 Nick Hart took 2 SWETC to Stokesdown  
St. Cuthberts with my Maiden. Had  
a pothole round below September  
Chamber looking for places to dig  
when the rest of the cave dried up. ~~W.H.~~

9<sup>th</sup> May

B.B. Roach arrived from Gate(?) via Tiverton  
Limpley Stoke, (How did I get there?) Frome,  
Radstock, Midsomer Norton, Farrington Gurney  
& etc. At Guest B. Towle I went for walk  
over to Barrow Rakes for Shurte. Went to Wells  
and saw Cathedral Illuminations (very pretty)

10<sup>th</sup> B. Roach B. Towle went to "Balch"  
Caveous. Guide didn't turn up, (as usual)  
<sup>we</sup> went to "Mellybrook Swallet" as far as "light  
bit" before waterfall. Back to ~~Roasted~~  
Swallow

9th May

Coker, T. Headed (B.C.) down (B.C.) led about  
18 Wessex members on Club trip down  
St. Cuthberts. Many parts of cave visited.

16<sup>th</sup> May.

Coker led two beginners down to Sump I in Swildons. Club tackle left down by Sunday's intrepid explorers of this hole retrieved  
*P.D.C.*

17<sup>th</sup> May.

T. Atkinson, T. & A. Thomas taken on tourist trip of Cullercoats by John Cornwall. Cornwall, Atkinson joined Gres, CAUSER, THOMPSON, ROBERTS at sand Pitt Hole and dug 'shaft' 3' deep.

Much cleaning done.

18<sup>th</sup> May

ATKINSON CORNWALL BROTHER THOMAS THOMAS, more digging at sand pit.

16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> May. large party digging at Thrope Swallow, between sun-bathing.

A good turn-out enabled a large amount of spoil to be removed and entry to a promising passage was made looks as if we are out of the

boulder were at last. with the stream  
sinking into a rift in the floor.

There was a large camp  
nearby, (six tents) and incredibly  
decent weather to go with it. A barbecue  
on Sunday evening was attended by  
some 20 members. 1/- per head - beer extra.

Sat. 16th. May. 1964.

Digging at Tatty Pot :- Tony Oldham, A. Court,  
Bob Lawder, & the Hawks! Lawder uncovered the  
extension at the entrance.

Sun. 17th.

Continued digging at Tatty with T.O; AC;  
B.L.; H's'; Roy Mansfield, Phil Romford &  
Tim Reynolds. Lawder's extension looks very  
promising.

Mon. 18th.

At Tatty. T.O; AC; H's'; T.R.; P.R.; ~~P.R.~~  
Paul Allan, Ian Kelly, Bob Lewis (last 3 succ) &  
Patrick Horton; & Jim Knipe. Lawder's extension was

enlarged but still requires a little more work to effect an entry. The entrance passage was  
deepened and the terminal chamber enlarged. Many  
more bones were found including femur,  
tibia, & pelvis of *Homo tattersilis*. (Tatty Pot  
Man).

Sun. 17th.

Swindons Hole with Maurice Hevin and the Farnham  
chaps, O.C.L. etc., ~~and~~ pleasant 4 hour trip to the  
40 ft Pot ..... filming Bob Lewis free-  
climbing!

Tues 19th.

B. Cuttridge. R. Lascelles. C. Pickering descended  
August - Longwood via Longwood & from there to  
Upper & Lower August leaving a few faint symbols  
for the Attawas. Ascended via August.  
B.G.

23<sup>rd</sup> May.

George Pointing joined us in the evening  
& drank our beer, our tea & crushed our  
cigarettes. He is a ~~bastard~~!

30 May R & A Lawder did a stiff upper  
Swindon and a fine Goatshank. The  
drainpipe seems to be smaller.

14th June. T. Oldham borrowed "Expedition Fernhöhle"  
by Manfred Keller, from the library.

13/14 June Las Holland Tim Reynolds and C Hawke  
assisted by Alan Snarell who brought his  
climbing set and Barbara, on Saturday and  
The Lawder Factor and AD O Fledermausfänger  
and Anne Conniff <sup>on Sunday</sup> dug at Tally digging  
quite a few entrances stiff - a great deal  
of spoil and few bones in this area. Las  
broke into and entered a vast new system  
at least - well all of 15 ft long - perhaps  
a little more. C Hawke

<sup>4th</sup>  
28 June 1964

Paul Weston and "Waster" Thorne explored  
the mud of Ubley Hill Pot, the  
smell seems to be a cross between

the club Elan and decomposing  
caics. Returned to Hillgore for a  
wash!!!

17.2.8.16/64

Giles led a party of 9 Plymouth Caving Group  
tippers down to Lump I in Swildons &  
took 3 Spartan members through to  
Lump 2.

On Sunday 4 P.E.C. bobs with some  
energy left after Saturday's caving  
& haymaking went on a tourist  
trip to St. Cuthbert's duck. *P.M.*

4.7.64 

### St. Cuthberts

P. G. Giles, C. Pickstone, R. Lascelles took 22ft  
of maypole from High Chamber down to  
Lake Chamber to investigate an aven.  
This aven had been noted before but  
no attempt made to climb it. From  
the bottom a horizontal passage appeared

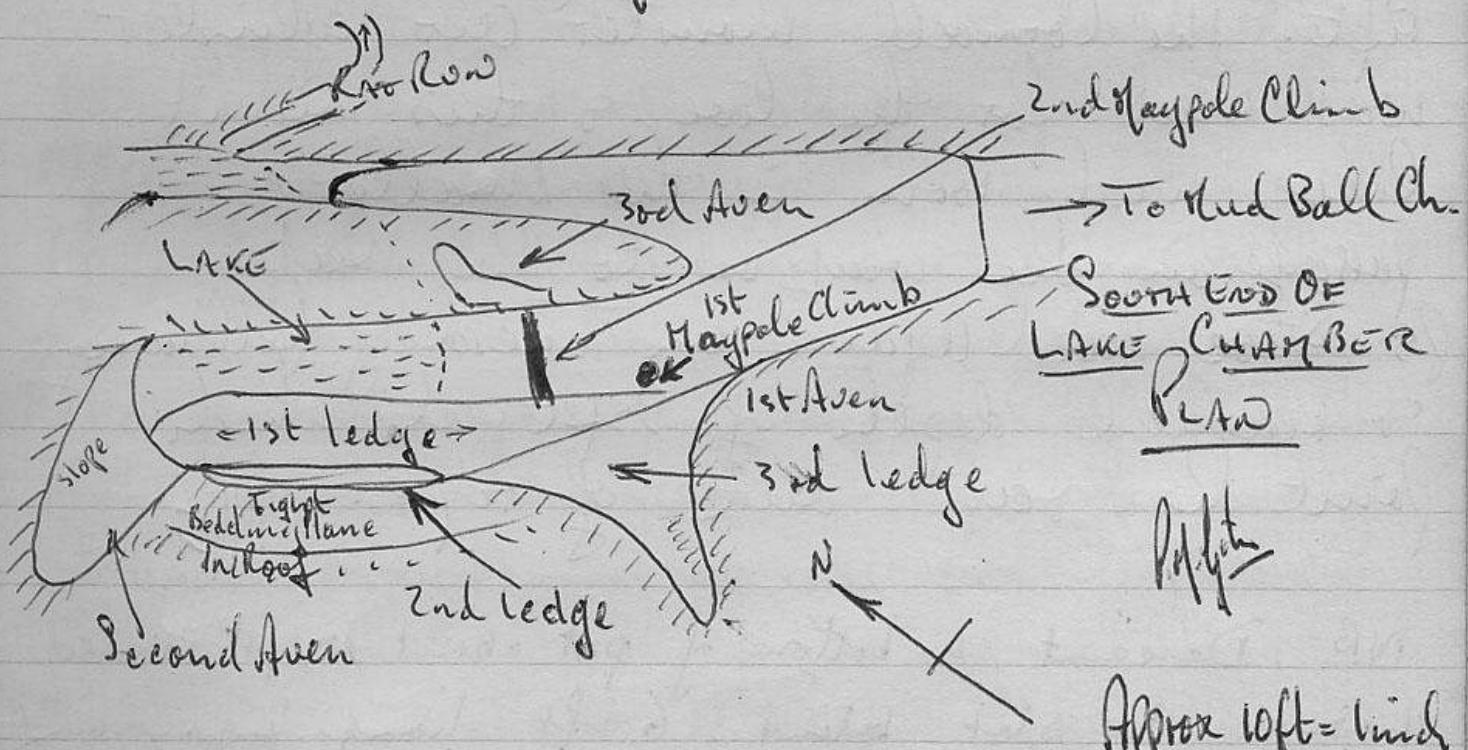
to go off at the 50 ft level

The maypole was assembled and used to reach a stal ledge which forms a false roof to the lake. From here a large flake about 12 ft further up & to the right was lassoed & a ladder rigged. This gave access to a second, smaller ledge. From here another piece of smart lassoning, this time fishing for a short lump stalagmite below & to the right of the next ~~ledge~~ ledge, allowed us to reach the horizontal passage leading off which we had observed from below. As expected this passage closed down after a promising start after 10 ft. Above the aven closed in to an impossible squeeze.

\* From the second ledge it was possible to observe the top of another passage leading off at the 45 ft level around to the right and this too closed down to an impossible squeeze.

From the first ledge the maypole was used to enter a third solution tube in the wall behind as ie on the other wall of the aven. This ascended vertically for about 8ft, turned left & clamped down to nothing after a further 10ft.

A good afternoons entertainment and three more questions arrived!



<sup>nb</sup> Maypole now at Quarry corner - no spanner.

5.7.64

Pridhamsleigh Cavern - S. Devon.

S. Wiffen-Roberts was accompanied by Tim Giles, Bob Craig (<sup>MNR</sup>~~SAC~~) & Bill Watkins (DSS) to the lake wherein he dived twice to a depth of 50ft. Further descent was prevented by ear trouble. Steve reckoned that at this depth the pot-like chamber changed into a rift. The Cornwall monster air cylinder was used for the dive & this didn't leave much room in the smaller passages on the way in to the lake.

P.S. Steve dived again on Tuesday following & reached depth of 95ft at which point he ran out of rope. ~~After~~

N.B. Descent to bottom of pot about 90 ft. Passed through the slot blind. 6 ft horizontal swim under rock arch. Entered large chamber, excellent visibility but could not see floor or far wall - at this point ran out of rope. ~~Stuck.~~

4-7-64.

August Hole + Langwood.

This weekend being Dave Cawse's last on Menalip prior to his departure to the U.S.A. on 16th July it was decided that he should spend his last subterranean menalip hours leading a party down the Langwood - August system.

On reaching the Steon sink at the bottom of August Giles raced off to Reginald's Passage leaving the rest of us to freeze and smoke. After injecting the upper steon series galleries the party made it's way out via Christmas Crank and the Langwood series. Our intrepid leader then spent an amusing half-hour locking the cover on the entrance. The trip was a high spirited affair and the cast was as follows:-  
Leader: D. Cawse.

Frogs: N. Mart, T. Giles, M. Thompson, P. Dr, R. Pike, S. Cawse  
R. Garbett.

PJG

18. 7. 64.

Solidens Hole.

W.I. Stanton, W. Kenny and T.E. Reynolds to Sidcot Passage to dig. At 100 buckets of earth were removed from the end ~~check~~ choke and a trench 2ft deep made. At this depth the earth was very hard - similar to the Overhand Dig in Shatto Passage. Party resurfaced in time for quick one at Hunters

T.E. Reynolds

18. 7. 64.

Pete Cousins and Sandy Clark hauled the permit system and made for Longwood August. Having forgotten key and tackle we eventually collapsed in boiling sun at the entrance. Longwood main chamber was streamless but the August stream was much as usual. We then spent  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr moving loose gravel & pebbles from the main stream with which can be penetrated for 2-3 ft and extends tightly for another 6-8 ft. Exit was in bright sunshine to Miners Pool.

E

18.7.64

Guldon's

Replaced line through sump I which had come adrift. Brilliant end of a tegginness trip - we reached Shatter Pot, the beginner wanted to go to 4 but the rest objected

- R.P. Hancehill

29.7.64. - Where has all the water gone?

A short but pleasant wander around the upper regions of Eastwater Canyon adjourned to Hunter's afterwards. J. Jones - P. Weston - Jones - Weston to Easter o ~~A~~ Whitson Hole's

29/7/64 ☀

T. Atkinson, A. Rigaud (Speleo Francais) & T. Phillips, (arrived yesterday), went to Sidcot dig, & were duly surprised by the palatial ~~—~~ dimensions then achieved by W. Stanton & others. Proceeded to remove 36 more bucketfuls. Next task is to extract large stone, probably embedded in the mud floor. T. Phillips was wearing <sup>his</sup> new wet suit

for 1<sup>st</sup> time. Formidable! Thurs.

30.7.64

Exhausting day's tourism showing André Rigaud (Spcéto-Club de Montpellier) the sights of Glastonbury, Wells, Cheddar and Mendip top. In the evening, T. Phillips and T. Atkinson went down longwood Swallet. Got out from close to the bottom in 20 mins., wearing wet suits. We emerged suffering badly from heat exhaustion at 10 p.m., after 2 hrs. below. Some photos taken.

Friday Bob Lyke arrived from Yorkshire, bringing 20ft ladder, 5 tethers & 1 pulley.

Simpson-Swinsto conquered at last!!

Cave under semi-flood conditions after a night of heavy rain. The conditions delayed the Swinsto party for an hour at the fourth pitch which was very wet indeed - apart from this all went smoothly, and the exchange was completed in about 8 hours by:- Phil Davies, Ian Walker, Alan Wicks and Bob Lyke, who went back Swinsto, and Jim Giles, Nick Hart,

Bert Elkins and Carl Pickstone, who went into Simpsons.

Slit Pot was laddered via the bypass route, thus avoiding the fearsome Slit of evil reputation, and giving a free climb of 120ft. Beer at the Merton Arms in the evening. Another fine bit of organization by Jim (Perrygent) Giles. 3 of us (I.W., A.W., B.P.) stayed on for a few days and

1) Bottomed Jingling Pot - the daylight pitch of Bott & free climbing swinging ladder must be one of the best in Yorks.

2) Did Bull Pot, in Kingsdale - all but the last pitch which we couldn't find (and didn't have the ladder for it, had we found it!). Very fine clean-washed straightforward pothole - would make a good trip next Easter

3) Examined Meregill Hole entrance - FANTASTIC, evil-looking chasm with lake at bottom of, which is black, cold and deep - i.e. ideal for a trip at Easter!

U.C.C.C (London) YORKSHIRE FORTNIGHT Leader: J. HAWKES

Nessex members: R.H.C. Marshall, J.D. Perry,

Places negotiated: Hardraw Force, Grange Rigg (2)

Alum Pot : Simpson's : Lost John's (Hammer & Centipede Routes) : Little Mud Pot. Donker Gill  
1/2 days down Gaping Ghyll. V.D.P.

31.7.64 SWILDONS HOLE

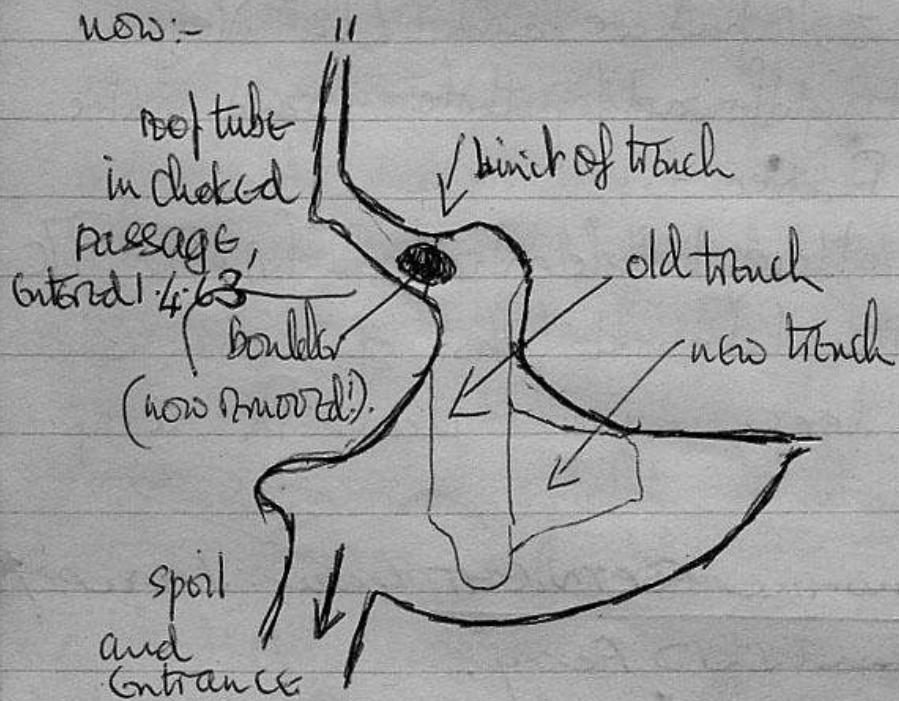
Tim Phillips and Tim Atkinson to Sidcot dig.

40 buckets removed and floor behind boulders lowered by over one foot. 7 hrs.

31.8.64 SWILDONS HOLE \*

W. Stanton, H. Kenney, D. Thomson, T. Reynolds, A. Rigaud  
T. Phillips, T. Atkinson to Sidcot dig. 232 buckets  
removed!! That is, 142 from the bottom of the dig  
and 190 from the top. Now we are enlarging the  
trench to see whether the passage leading on  
and down is [still] leading in the direction  
in which we think it is. The plan of the dig is

now:-



The trip lasted 6-7 hrs

Sat 1st Aug. '64

Tony Oldham, A. Court & The Hawkers digging at Totty Pot. The entrance passage was further deepened.

Sun. 2nd Aug.

T.O.; A.C.; The. H's; Lawlers digging at Totty. Willie Stanton inspected the various ramifications and approved our methods; Luke Devensh assisted by enlarging the rather narrow entrance rift with "bang". After the 2nd charge the dig was abandoned for the day to let the fumes clear.

Mon 3rd Aug.

T.O.; A.C. removed a token basket full of spoil at Totty and retired to allow the bang fumes to disperse.

Sun. 2nd Aug. Evening trip to "a cave near Bridgewater"

T.O.; A.C. John Cornwall; R. Lassell; C. Pickstone; N. McSherry & C. Hawkers. Dentist Hunter 8.00 p.m. arrives at cave 10.30 p.m.! A most interesting trip. The cave is about 400ft long and contains some rather rare "Botroyal Stalagmites", and a considerable collection of bones, of which Cave Bear & Wild

Cat predominated. This cave is/will be excavated by the Cambridge University and probably contains the finest collection of Pleistocene mammals in the country.

2.8.64 SWILDONS HOLE \*

M. Holland, K. Holland, T. Phillips, T. Atkinson, to Sidcot Dig. 262 BUCKETS REMOVED!! Mandip digging Record claimed. lack of oxygen and proximity of closing time prevented any further dry heights from being achieved. Just made it to Huntors in time.

3.7.64 T. Atkinson, M. Holland did some climb or other in the Avon Gorge, starting from the Ark and luneham ledge.

At Huntors in the evening word came that three Gloucester Spelers were stuck down Sidbons without tackle. M.R.D. was put on stand by as they were possibly injured or lost. Alan Thomas, Noel McShane, Tim Phillips and Tim Atkinson went down to find them at the foot of the Co. One was very tired and had to be talked out.

Otherwise all was well.

T.A.

9.8.64

N. Hart, P.M. Calkin, T. Thomas (R. Pyne), P. Cousins  
T. Clark spent several hours scrubbing  
 hut floor, cleaning windows, washing  
 walls, lighting else & drain the  
 the delight of the hut warden. The  
 arrangement of 2 big blokes who called &  
 the professional provide a joy of <sup>\*</sup> Dr Pyne who  
 medically inspected the proceedings & changed  
 calor cylinders in Wells without protest.

15.8.64. 

Sundown Hut.

W. J. Stanton, T. Thomas & T. Reynolds set off armed with an  
 assortment of bits of ironmongery. At the 20' a chain  
 was inserted to finish off the engineering done last week.  
 This means that in order to get up the 20' it is possible  
 to climb up the side and then traverse across by the  
 chain. So making the a very easy climb. We then  
 pushed onto the Keith's chamber overhang where a position

for a spike was agreed on. So a six inch deep hole was drilled and the spike cemented in. We had already been disturbed once by Barry Dane (BEC) and two mates who were collecting tools from Puka-Suryn. Just as we were leaving Romford and his nailbottwackers turned up. Curses, and nay, nearly blows rent the air, threatening to start a massive collapse of Keith's Chamber, but order was restored by OC2, ~~the~~ sitting in state in a lofty niche, begging for reason. After a further exchange of courtesies, we proceeded to the surface. Out 8pm.

15.8.64.

Bob Pyke + Paul Allen (S.M.C.E) took 5 sections of the W.C.C. Maypole to Sump II, in preparation for further impending assaults on Caith Aven. It is to be hoped that the C.D.G. will drag the poles through into IV soon. The clamps, which will rust easily, remain in the tackle shed until required.

On the way out we inspected, and used,

the new cement-walks at the loft. Controversy rages very furiously, and tempers ran high at the Hunters in the evening! The look of the pitch has hardly been improved, and the average Mendip caver gets very little opportunity to climb ladders anyway. ~~the~~

A loft electron-ladder doesn't exactly overload one's back-pocket----?

Bob Pk

ADo returned Fernhills to club library.

22.8.64

W.I. STANTON, R. KENNEY, P.M. GILES, T. ATKINSON  
Ogof Gough. Dug Boulder Ch. In :14.60 Out. 18.30

16.8.64

Jim Fussell, Frank Maines-Nutt, Ray Cleaver + 3 cathedral. Found a toad about 10 yds above sump +! It appeared quite lively and was quite fat. It was a pale colour and appeared to have normal eyes. We caught it and when we released it headed straight for a small crack, where it stayed.

23/8/64 SIVILDONS HOLE. \*

W.I. STANTON, P.M. GILES, T. ATKINSON to Sidcot Dig. 130 buckets removed. Sand is hard because so dry, so we wetted it with water from a lake made by damming the trickle from the maypole. This was not immediately successful as time was needed for much sand to be dampened. We pounds on 10-12 buckets before leaving. 6 hr. T.A.

28.8.64.

R. lyke to loft, armed to large file, in order to tidy up an allegedly messy job. Not as bad as expected. Toured upper series with R.A.F. party.

6.9.64 \*

W.I. Stanton, Richard Witcombe & Deoch Trimbale to Sidcot Dig. 90½ buckets moved, thanks to water treatment on previous occasion. Needs bang to remove awkward corner. Cave overcrowded as usual.

W.I.S.

14/8/64 - 4/9/64 Bob Garrowell + M. de Haan did a

quick trip down Roussette River, France, with  
some Derbyshire lads. It's not at all like  
Switzerland / About 200 hours. 1964  
19.9.64 Bob Gammie at the mouth of the  
B.C.L. Survey end of Viamago  
Passage. Very muddy. Measured 1111

26.9.64. HAWKES, STANTON, ATKINSON to Gaughe.  
Planned 1' 6" earth (140 buckets) from bottom of 20 ft.  
man made shaft in Boulder Ch. In 12.30 out 6.00.

• 21.9.64

### Extracts

Phil Davies & Tim Miles, after introducing  
Graham Davies to Caving with a  
short trip to the end of the Boulder  
puddle, went to dig at Morton's  
Pot. Certain amount of digging done  
and 12 ounces of banger successfully  
fried.

27.9.64

C.B.

Tony Cades led 5 members of the  
Plymouth Caving Group on a short  
trip of the Cave. They dug at the  
lump looks very promising indeed -  
the lump is as at the moment.  
I.M.C.

28.9.64

Early Leek.

5 Plymouth Cavers taken down  
by Bob Cannicott & Nick.

27-9-64. A. Atkinson, P. Coxon & Willie Stanton  
dug in Sidcot dig. 6 lbs. 120 buckets. PP.PA.

28-9-64. Nick Hart took Pam Davis & others.  
down P.B. Very good, very quick. WAA

27-28/9/64. Hot working week end. Routine  
crossing & bituming roof done together with  
all areas sprung clean & new paint to ceiling with  
fish & chip supper then films by John & Peter in Wells.

4-10-64. Nick Haw took 4 blokes from  
Birmingham down & Cuthberts.

Duck, Cat gut, September up  
Pulpit. Very sporting trip. Lack  
of water caused among the drought.

4-10-64

W. I. Stanton, T. Atkinson, R. Coppins + A  
Parrott to Sidcot Dig. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours, 137 buckets.  
W.L.S.

10-10-64

T. Reynolds to Sandford Hill for club trip - only one person  
Alan Trickey, turned up. Enjoyable afternoon in which  
Shaft 120 and the heavy descended.

11-10-64.

J. Cornwell W. I. S. and T. Reynolds to Coughs. 150  
buckets moved - dig still man sized.

10-10-64.

G Pointing J. Cornwell B. Lane R Romford Duggeroy  
in Priddy Green.

10-10-64. Davies, M. Thompson, K. Lyke, N. Cleave, N. Hart  
T. Atkinson + P. Giles need to Yorkshire a descended  
Littlehell Pot in lieu of Juniper Cull - permission arrive for 56  
from 12-10-64!

26.10.64. On the morning after the night before Chas Hawkes & Holland & Atkinson and P Hague undertook a strenuous attempt to clear out ~~Toty~~. Removed vast quantities of spoil (5 cubits) but made little impression. Closed afternoon by opening cave known only to Baugh's brother.

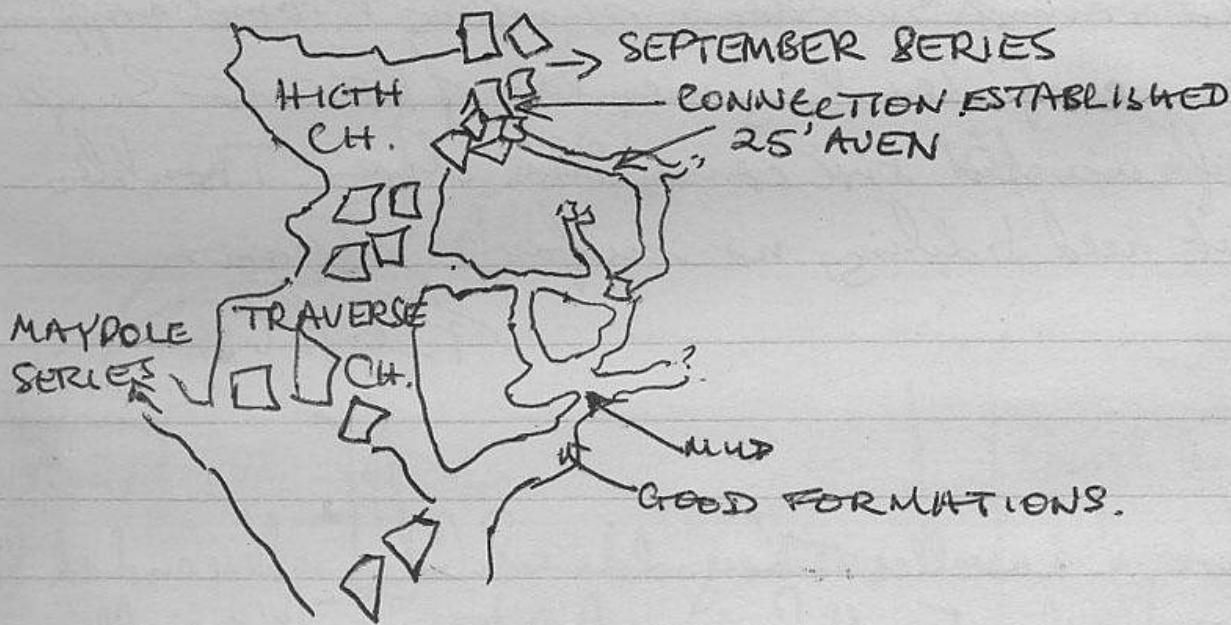
31.10.64. Gough's ⚙

W. Stanton, W. Edwards, J. Ray went down at 10.0 am. They were joined at 12.30 p.m. by T. Atkinson and at 3.0 p.m. by Howard Kenney. Four Sidcot carts lent their help during the afternoon. It was rather like Picadilly Circus in the Boulder Chamber dig! 280 buckets removed, all twin record!

T.A.

1-11-64 ST. CUTHBERTS.

J. Comwell, I. Walker, T. Atkinson. First to High Chamber when we poked about in the floor and eventually found a complex of stream trenches and phreatic passages on the R/H as one ascends to High Ch. from Traverse Ch.



We then went on to the passages above Kachbjinga discovered last year. What pushed openings among the boulders. Two rooms, very narrow, were climbed

to heights of 20' and 35' before closing down to impossible cracks. We went down to the Beehive but found that the "provincing arch" there was the entrance to pyroclastic series. About 6 hrs.

T.A.

1. 11. 64

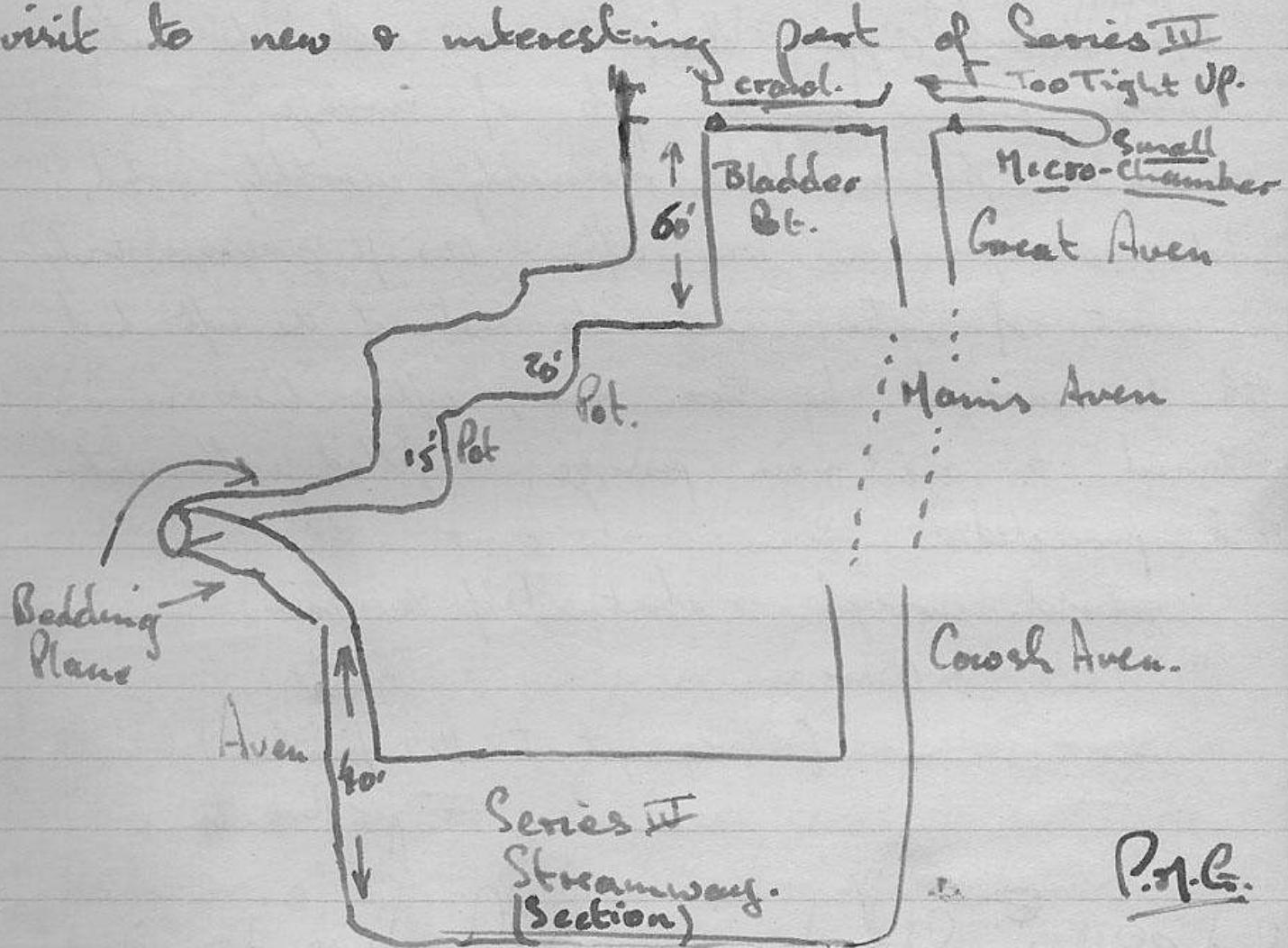
P. Cousins & 11 guests from Exeter University SS tramped round Swildon's sumping & sand trapping. In course of teaching members of BEC to Sump some of us did five consecutive dives. Troubles did not need bailing, no surface stream.

Pethill Caves.

7. 11. 64

W. Hart, L. Larcelles, T. Reynolds & P. Cutler descended Swildon to the Fourth Series bent on chemically removing a boulder for the S.V.C. to allow exploration of the Cowsh Aven extensions to continue. However it appears that we were too late, the boulder having been moved already by

the v.b.s.s. with the result that a micro-chamber was entered with which went nowhere very quickly. Despite this set-back, the trip was very enjoyable - coupling a little much needed exercise with a visit to new & interesting part of Series III



15 Nov. 1964 SWILDONS HOLE, N. WEST, P.M. GILES,  
T. ATKINSON to Sidcot Dig. 65 buckets. 5 hrs.

15th. Nov. '64. Cuckoo Cleaves (surveying).

O. C. L., Ian Standing & A. J. Rose.

After slowly going down to the end the rather awkward and painful job of surveying was commenced. All proceeded reasonably smoothly until, while surveying a long rift - 125 ft. - yours truly ran out of water, and the rest of the rift had to be surveyed by two men, after which we returned to the main passage, refilled with water and proceeded.

Total surveyed - about half the cave

Time - 4 hrs

(survey yet to be finished).

A. J. R.

Sat 28 Nov. ~~Stanton~~ & his faction digging  
in Goonals. 303 buckets removed  
(Who put all these buckets in there) 1111

Nov 28th V.C.C.C. Leader: J. HALLAM Esq.)

Cleared sump system on Saturday. Descended again on Sunday. (J. Hallam tried swimming in final canal but found water excessive. Pulled in. Exit after 54

Sun 29 Nov O.C.L. Ian Standing & Nick Hau<sup>nd Pei</sup>  
continued surveying Cuckoo Clovers  
What a grubby hole!! Almost  
finished in 4 hours. It snowed last  
night & this morning. Very cold. 11th

Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> Dec

T. Atkinson, W. I. Skerton, BEC, Sidcot  
SS. digging in Gaugh's. 220 buckets. 12

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> S.M.C.C. Dinner, attended by meas.  
lesser tykes who kept up the Club tradition  
of tootsie-ee by winning the boatrace  
against two Slepton & one BEC team  
N.T.H. + O.C.L. & Ian Standing to  
Cuckoo Clovers to finish the new Survey.  
Canal found to be nasty & wet, and the  
bottom of the new slott in rather a  
precious condition again.

Sunday afternoon ladder climbing practice  
in a quarry near Wootton Hede where a

Clear 80' climb is possible up an overhanging wall for the first 50'. rock is reasonably firm & stable.

Cart ~~was~~ unfitted for the winter & left drying in the hut for the week.

T. Atkinson, P. Reynolds (SSSS) to Sidcot Dig. Dug until nearest tipping space to dig filled. 50 buckets. Way on it in perfectly elliptical passage (top half at least) with sand fill. — T.A.

Spent 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. digging a hole in Willie Stanton's garden. He called it landscaping. T. Atkinson.

30<sup>th</sup> DEC. 1964

T. Phillips, M. Peach, F. Morland, T. Atkinson, + Guest, went with intention of digging in Sidcot Dig to Priddy Green. Unfortunately the cart was in flood due to

The recent thaw, two of us went to  
the 40.  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. T.A.

2nd Jan 65 ☀

W. Stanton, D. Waddington, T. Rosser  
M. Hennessy, M. Cadman

Moved 250 buckets in  
210 minutes from Gough's no. 6  
dig, following the sand.

2<sup>nd</sup>. JANUARY '65

The following members descended Notts Pot.  
G. Pointing, T. Phillips, I. Walker, N. West,  
and T. Atkinson. We took the left hand  
staircase to the main straway and reached  
the top of 7th pitch. Ian Walker tried  
this but it was too wet so we turned  
back. A very enjoyable trip.

4<sup>th</sup> January 65

O.C.L + ~~3~~, A.J. ROSSER, M. CADMAN, M. HENNESSY

Ferned bottles hit etc. ~~out~~ from Sump I. Oliver  
etc. 4pm till 7.50. The latter 3 descended 4.45  
to Sump I picked up some equipment already brought  
thru the Sump and returned to the surface 7.15.  
Oliver & Co bringing the rest of the equipment.

MR.

### 3RD JAN. ATKINSWINE ARRIVED

4th. W. I. Stanton, T. Atkinson mapped depressions  
near Castle of Comfort for an hour then loaded  
50 buckets of spoil from Pride Evans  
Hole.

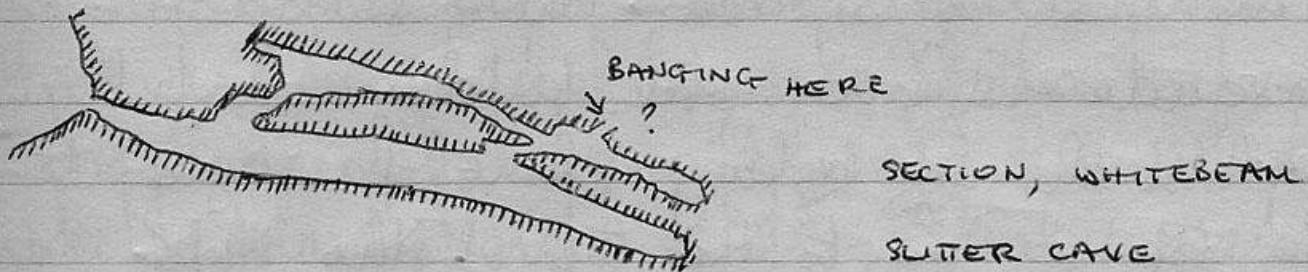
2.1.65

Juniper Gorge was bottomed by Messrs  
Gunnicott, Davies, Warburton Ward, Dingle, Pyle,  
Thompson & Giles. - a Pot with 2  
very impressive big pitches - 8ft or 170ft.  
in one long rift.

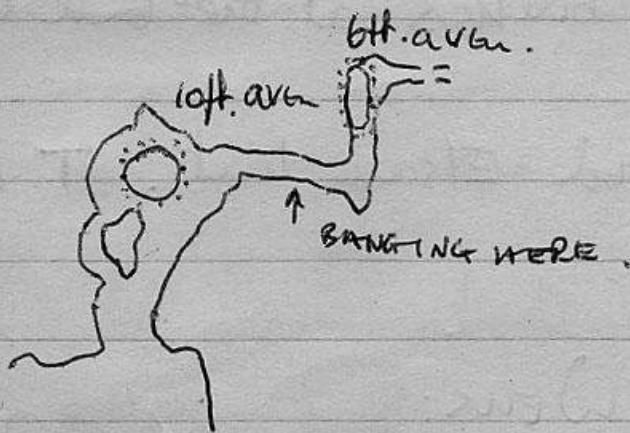
~~the~~ 5<sup>th</sup>. JAN

W. I. STANTON, P. M. GILES, T. ATKINSON  
let off bang in Whitebeam slitter Caves. The object  
of our aspirations was a constricted squeeze

in the upper "series" of the cave. More bang will be needed.



We went on to an unnamed cave in the cliff to the SSE. A 15 ft. climb up to the entrance led into a small chamber with a fireplace at the base of a 10 ft. chimney. On the R+L a passage led off to an impossible squeeze after 8 ft. We banged this, only to reach an impossible narrowing 10 ft. and 2 right angles later. After some argument it was decided to call the cave Swint's Cave.



7<sup>th</sup>. JANUARY

W. I. Stanton, P. M. Giles, T. Atkinson to Goughs.  
We went first to St. Paul's where scaled the  
cascade with a metal ladder and fully  
explored the wide bedding plane passage at  
the top. Then to the top of the steps  
where we explored two chambers behind an  
artificial boulder choke, which was v. hairy  
aore the less. A connection with the  
Black Car Chamber was established by  
shortening. Then on to Flat Roof Offshoot  
where we scaled a narrow rift type  
down to within 6 ft. of the top. It got too  
narrow. A very interesting helignite was  
found in the boulders at the end of the  
car.

8<sup>th</sup> JAN Painted Elsan hut. T.A.

9.1.65

Red Lion Hotel - Wens:

A monumental 15th night Pv.

Party was held at the above establishment to the delight of the Wessex Cave Club, the Amazement of our guests and the unbounded disgust of the entire managerial population of the whole hotel, bloody nits! The party was also in aid of Tim Reynolds' wretched life span attaining 21 years, the event was well marked, & we may now cross the Red Lion off our short (very short!) list of friendly boozing grounds.

10

P Cawing → Sesame Smith (SMP) (SMP)

Initial contact from 1972 (continued from 1972)  
- with help from most of committee plus  
Belinda (who is probably dead -  
left small amount written in all four

16.1.65

R.F. on a semi-flooded upper Siodas trip - 30BSS rods.  
Verticalumps at 2 places in out way, and at  
second duck in water-int. Followed by trip to  
Rods to P.D. and D.W., to continue survey. Trip  
marked mainly by edges of above at Waterton, the  
end of whose nose forms survey station No 6. It  
is suggested that this should be permanently marked  
with a Star-dill.

24.1.65

Nick Hart & Tim Reynolds to Cuthberts. A couple of hours was  
spent wandering around in the High Chamber and Railway  
Tunnel area. Then pushed on down to the <sup>Duck</sup> ~~sump~~ - it is  
possible to climb down Stal Pitch without tackle.

6/2/65

Small party (5 members) spent Saturday Surveying Sandford  
Way. Total length 1500ft of passage - paper, this  
a follow up to the survey ~~at~~ school (23/24-1) A  
most interesting system.

13/2/65 DSO & JEAO carried coffee from Bristol in Thermos  
for the inhabitants of Hillgrove.

14/2/65 Digging at Cuckoo Chimes,  
Entrance passages re-enlarged,  
entrance shaft, straightened.

Digging in upper grotto,  
P. Weston, G. Weston - Westinghouse carav.

13/2/65 Nick Hart & Tim Reynolds to Shutter Passage. The end choke was examined, and digging commenced the other side of the sump. Unfortunately, it was not possible to remove the boulder that forms the squeeze on the other side, and in the struggle, it shifted its position, so making the squeeze tighter. But, the dig looks fairly promising but calls for 'man sized' treatment. After partaking of refreshment we went to Faint Chamber where the SNCC were at work. But owing to the showers of boulders, life in the vicinity was dangerous, so we retreated towards the surface. EFO out at 10.15.

20.2.65.

R. Pyke + H.H. Thompson → Stoke Lane IV, a CDA trip.  
 Entered cave at 7.00 A.M.! - 200 ft. of new or low  
 passages explored on R. side of main stream in W.  
 Fine passage architecture, more like Swildens IV than  
 Stoke II.

C. Hawkes, L. Holland, G. Tonkinson, T. Repsold  
 T. Atkinson intended to go to Black Hole  
 + Sildens 4; held up 2 hrs. at 40'  
 by party which went down and  
 came straight out again. Finally  
 hunted for lamp in sump (1 found)  
 and brought out 2 lengths of maypole  
 from close to Barnes Loop. Found  
 it in Washing Pool, having been  
 brought down from Barnes.

20.2.65. D. Warburton & P. Davies to Red's Pot  
 to finish the resurvey in a 3½ hr. trip. 14  
 survey stations. Total survey time amounts  
 to about 10-12 hrs in 3 trips. Results  
 ought to have been completed by now (See

as indicated by Dr. in recent Journal) but they <sup>w</sup>  
aren't.

Bob & Anne Laddes to Reservoir Hole  
& walking in Cheddar on Sat and  
R.E.L. on a short (due to hangover)  
trip in Eastwater on Sunday.

27.265. Lyke & Wynne-Roberts got up at same time  
hour, and tramped off down Stoke Lane at 8.30 am,  
armed with diving kit, to look at Stoke IV  
[discovered by Steve last year - At the time, due to  
lamp trouble he was unable to investigate it properly].  
Dived Sump II, using lead in a depicted at sump,  
and was equipment on the journey downstream to Sump  
IV. Steve dived first, and had uneventful journey.  
R.L. made a haul of things, and appeared from the water  
along a flat-out crawl over shingle. Stoke IV seems  
to have about 300 feet of passage, the stream running  
in an undeveloped bedding plane, and inaccessible for the  
greater part of its course. Progress is made by

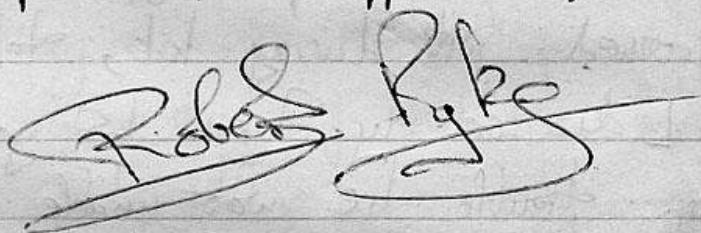
climbing over boulders, and following dry Shingle-flord  
exposures, as far as a large pool at Sump V.

A couple of high rifts in roof. There is  
evidence of flooding at several places, with extensive  
sand and gravel fill, and organic debris on the floor.

Returned through Sump IV with much greater  
ease. One small jockey out. Underground  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

Next task, to be started shortly, is an accurate  
survey to correlate the cave with surface features.

High avens at several points must approach quite  
closely to the surface.



6-3-65 Tony Oller borrowed "Caves of Gyros."

6-3-65 D. Savage, M. Worthing, D. Drew. C.D.G. trip.  
Discovery of Suidors' ~~X~~, ~~XI~~, ~~XII~~. Little wings

6/3/65

Discovery of Swildons I & XII. (& XIII?). C.D.G. trip.

M. J. Wooding Dave Drew & Dave Savage accompanied by Nick Hart & J. Hallam as far as rump II descended the cave at 11 a.m. An uneventful trip to Swildons VII where a 20ft ladder and a rope were installed at a couple of places rendered awkward when carrying diving gear. A relatively uneventful trip through rump 7, though the place is still awkward & tight despite removal of the first portion a few weeks ago. With one person in VIII, it was quickly established that there is a talking connection from VII to VIII via large boulders to the left of the rump pool.

Rump 8 quickly passed (first passed by Mike Wooding the previous Saturday) and began preparing to dive 9. Dave Drew dived first on the end of a 150ft courlene line & returned after 50ft had been payed out. Reported large steeply descending passage with very soft muddy floor but failed to clear ears & had to return. D. Savage dived next & after dropping about 15ft the large passage levelled out and it was possible to reach

an air surface about 80ft from base, returned.  
Mike Wooding dived next & passed beneath  
air space at a depth of 15-20ft, traversed  
another 60ft following gravel on floor &  
found several smaller air spaces, (one of these  
may be below "water level") eventually reaching  
dry land in Swildons X. After 20ft a short  
(3ft) rump leads to Swildons XI and 100ft of  
tomy stream passage to rump ~~XII~~. D Savage dived  
next into XI & XII after Mike Woodings return,  
& poked a short distance into rump ~~XII~~ which  
looks easy. More interesting though, to the right of rump XI  
is a steep slippery climb of about 30ft, at the top  
of which is an opening ~2ft by 4ft through which  
can be heard the sound of a large stream falling about  
half a dozen feet. This opening obviously provides a bypass  
to rump XII and the noise is coming from Swildons  
12!

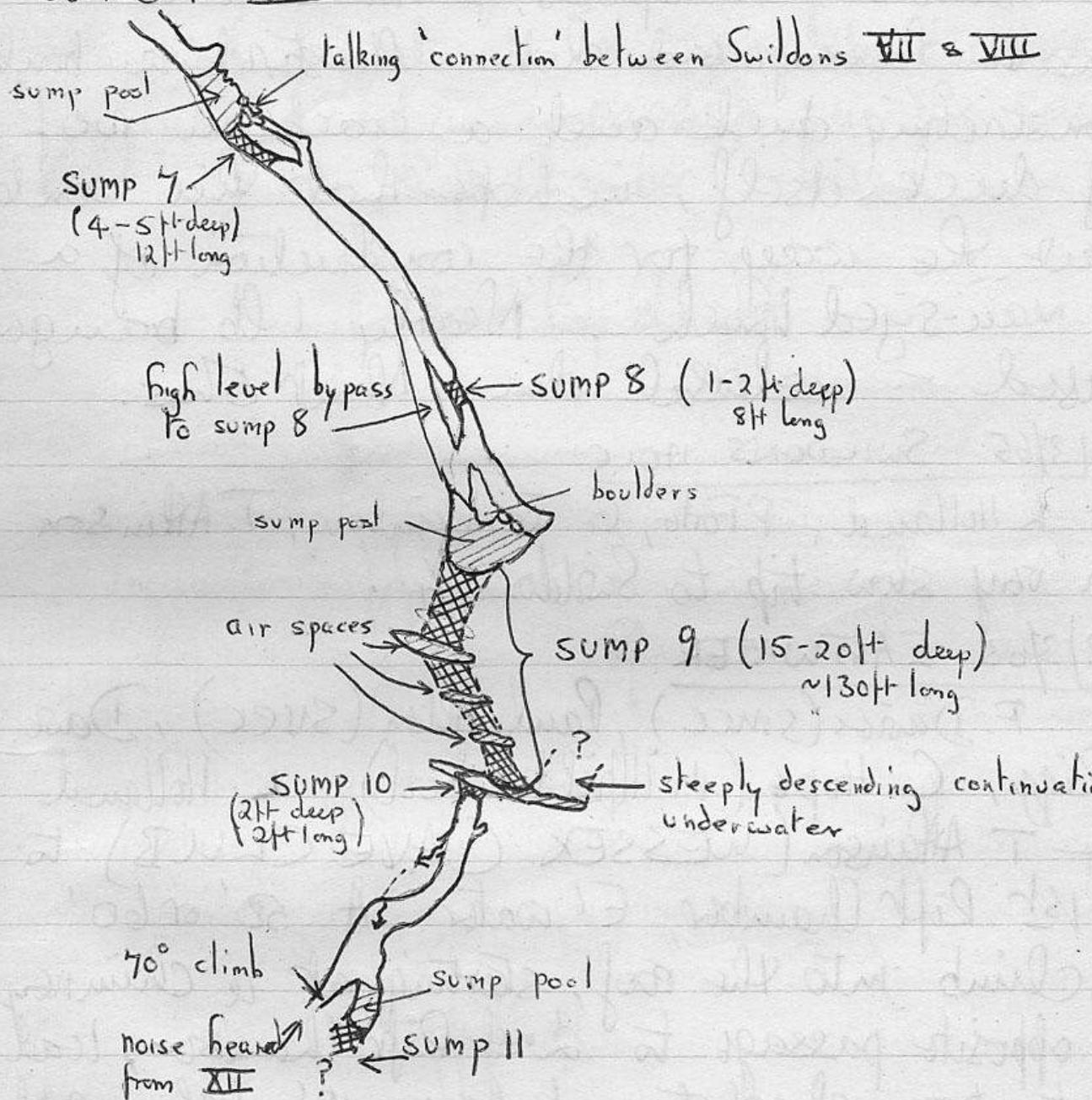
To be continued

An uneventful journey out  
Total time for trip 9 hours.

D.S.

GRADE 0 SKETCH OF SWILDONS 8, 9, 10 & 11  
(BEG GRADE I.)

SWILDONS VII



Total length  $\approx$  350-400 ft

8/3/65 D. Drew - A. Oldham - night trip to recover Drew's cylinder from below 40'.

6/3/65 Swildens Hole, \*

P. Davies, T. Reynolds, T. Atkinson to Shalter Passage end choke. Plastered a boulder constricting duck and a crack in roof of deck itself, in hope that he would pass the way for the construction of a "man-sized trench". Nearly 1 lb banger used - colossal din. About 5 hrs.

12/3/65 SWILDENS HOLE

L. Holland, P. Forte, G. Tomkinson, T. Atkinson. On very slow trip to Swildens 4.

13/3/65 EASTWATER \*

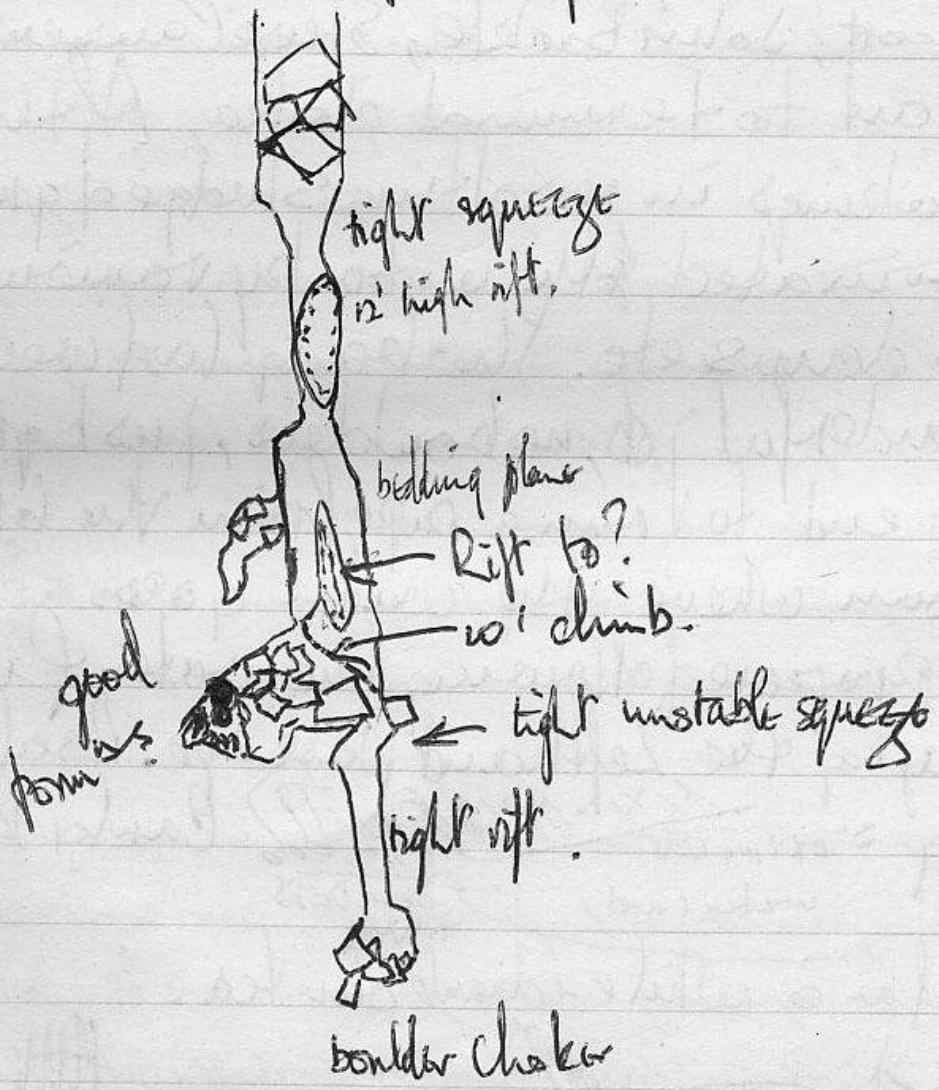
F. Davies (since), Paul Allin (SVEC), Dave Rigg, C. Hope (Millfield School), L. Holland + T. Atkinson (WESSEX CAVE CLUB) to 1st Rift Chamber, E' water. A 50' or so' climb into the roof, starting at a chimney opposite passage to 2nd Rift Chamber, leads to two chockstone ledges 10' below roof.

On the side away from entrance is a hole at roof level, blocked originally with curtains.  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour's work with a

hammer opened a squeeze through which Fred and I went to discover about 100' of rather academic passage, in the same joint as the Rift Chamber below.

### Roof of 1st Rift Chamber.

#### PLAN



After a full investigation of this passage, Paul trawled off head of 1st Rift Chamb and investigated 2 openings which were too tight. They might be passed by a thin man.

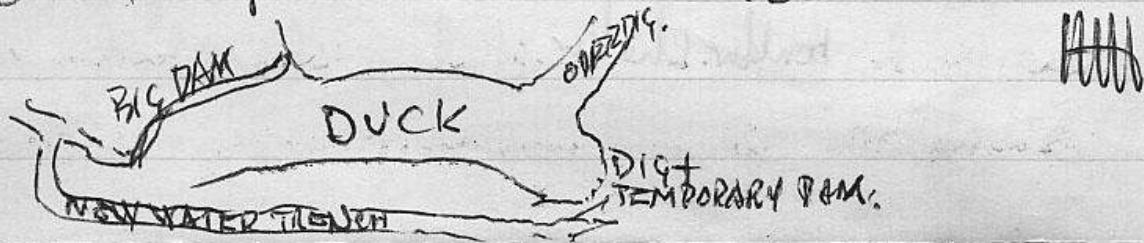
T.A.:

12-3-65 SHATTER PASSAGE. ☀

Bob Gannicott, John Bickle, Steve Lauer & Nick had to terminate choke. After a few soakings in revolting sludge of grit we eliminated the water by various trenches dams etc. The hang (and week did a wonderful job, no boulders, just grit. We in turn had to run a pipe from the 1st dam down where the water goes.

would propose following the water first before trying the left hand passage. Result of todays day ~~EXTINGUISH~~ ~~BOULDERS~~ ~~WWD~~ Banks Robin

joined us for a while & drank our tea.



20-3-65. T.O. returned Cars of Caves.

ref. 6-3-63.



20/3/65. C.D.G. trip Dave Savage, Mike Wadding, Dave Drew  
Swildons - deepest cave in the country!!

Uneventful trip down via sumps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,

Put permanent electron ladders on 2 climbs in VII & on  
by-pass climb to sump 8. Swildons never explored  
carefully (high level by-pass to a duck pond), no  
side passages of consequence found. The steep climb  
by sump 11 was tackled (permanent line) a find to  
be v. awkward, 30' high & muddy. A gentler slope  
on the far side led down to the streamway  
of Swildons where the stream issuing from sump 11  
some 30' away. Twelve proved to be 110' of  
very impressive passage some 10' wide and up to  
60-70' high with fantastic 'Tate Gallery' effects  
and 'windows' splitting the passage at several  
levels. The roof of the passage was not  
reached but many wobbly tubes a were laid  
off. Sump 12 is an unimpressive looking

pool developed along the strike. Immediately downstream of sump 11 the gradient of the floor steepens abruptly for a 60' stretch including one 4' pot (a feature not seen in Sullivans since II), Sump 12 was then attempted. Savage lived first and reported a steeply descending passage ( $45^\circ$ ) extending for 50' at which point he reached the edge of an underwater pot and returned. Drew lived & appeared to spiral down very steeply, descended the pot & continued steeply down with no obstruction but as the passage showed no signs of rising returned to base. Wooding went 10'-20' beyond this point and reported that the passage became choked with mud, however, he thinks there is an alternative route to be tried. Around 90' of rope was paid out & with the passage descending at such a gradient the depth attained was 40' at least. The only reason for not pushing the sump further was

The high rate of air consumption at this depth which would have left us with an inadequate safety margin for the return trip.

A grade 3-4 line survey was then made from sump 12 to upstream sump 7 (will be inserted in journal shortly). This shows a total of 780' of new stream passage over this distance + side passages to give a total of 1,000+. The gradient maintains the steeper grade established in VII and drops approx 30' to sump 12, with the depth of sump 12 being 40'+ The minimum overall drop is i.e. 70', depth at sump 7 = 469' ∴ present depth is 539' i.e. 12' deeper than Penyghent Pit.

- ① Any further progress will require spare cylinders, but it seems unlikely that sump 12 is on the water-table.
- ② The divers gratefully acknowledge the assistance of W.R.C.C. transporting the gear to camp 2, & River Lloyd - Van Standing for bringing it up again  
Dave Dicks afterwards.



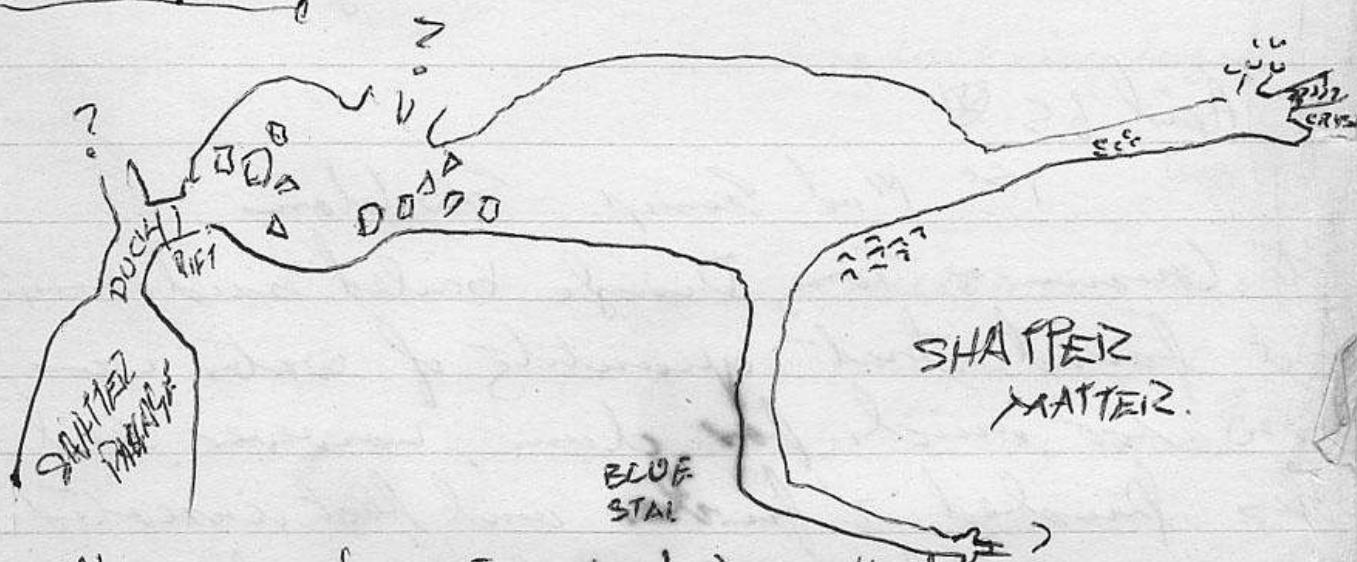
21/3/85 Wording & Drew. Took party of Brothers & schoolboys to 20' sandstone honey trap, care packed with tools.

20/3/85 Moses Hand, Gannicott, West, Penagle, Cadman, Lansen & Hennessy struggled to shatter intent on discovery with last of food, staves, plates etc. The deck was still dug from last week & we attacked the face talus left of the damns built ~~to~~ last week. After 5 or 6 hrs digging up hill in a soft talus boulders out the tool we obtained smashed hands & faces. We entered a small chamber with a mud & boulder floor. Up a slope to another ~~the~~ chamber with a mud floor & stal banks, STAL /N SHATTERED Then a passage 5' x 8' overhang ending in a stal choked a stal pool that we didn't want to cross until photoed Tony D. took a few photos but didn't have the equipment for close ups. We had a horrid meal of beans & rice & burnt curry & left.

coming out in day (light) after 13 hours  
caving

MAN

ONE GRADE 1.



as this was done in 4 trips. The food is  
Gammie's hands off.

25<sup>th</sup> March Wooding, Drew, Oldham to Shatter Extension

31st March 1965.

+ Surrie - Park  
+ Fault Chambers

Important 5 members of Leicester Univ. Caving Club spent  
a very pleasant afternoon in Lamb Lair exploring  
the new passage - found the mud shite very sporting.

AGEN ALLOWED!

27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 1965 D. Penny and R.H.C. Markham  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours down Agen a. Midsummer Series  
Inner circle and Swiss Passage completed.

1st April 1965

Same party as yesterday descended to Sump 4  
in Sirdens via St. Pauls & Paradise Regiment etc. ( $7\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.)

2nd April 65 ☀

1st Mud Sump - Sirdon

Pete Conrad & Tony Denagle bailed said sump  
but found strat - quantity of water was  
now too much for them however and  
they pushed 2' further and feet descended  
to cross rift - air - hence gloomy  
view. 1/2 Biddle pump can be primed by  
using water into input hose. But main  
tun must be deepened if salt removed.

*Conrad*

3 April 1965

T. Atkinson, A. Parfitt, F. Mortland, M.D. Mortland surveyed  
the upper extension to the 1st rift chamber, Eastwater.

6 April 1965

D. Tringham. C. Hill to Shatter Extension via 5<sup>th</sup> Pauls - Flash Gun not functioning so no photos of crystal pool! Out long day - nice lags trip 5 hrs.

7th April 3 hour trip Bristol - Willigore and it would seem impending return. What happened to St Bartholomew's <sup>Hospital</sup> Carving Club?

- D. Penz (Hampshire). Eastwater Extension.

✓ D. Tringham - Whitlow Hole throtted! 2 bats.

3<sup>rd</sup> April Dave Drew + bird, seasonal Upper Swildons.

4th April 1965 Tony & Anne Oldham, Mike Wooding took a party from Bedminster Boys Club on a hard Upper Swildons.

\*  
4th April 1965 W. I. Stanton, T. Atkinson, Mark Norland, Frank Norland, Nick Hart + Mike Wooding to Shatter Passage to survey the extension. While the rest of the party were busy feeding themselves Hart + Wooding broke through an obstruction to meet open, virgin,

gleaming white passage. The Atkinswine et al. were soon on our heels and the party dug through several more mud/boulder blockages to log up several hundred feet new in toto.

M.J.W.

7th April 1965 M. Wooding to Shatter Passage extension. Several hours strenuous digging at the end, and in the upper loop. Four ounces of plaster band used on the boulder blocking main way on. Someone seems to have been eating Gannicott's food,

M.J.W.

10th April 1965

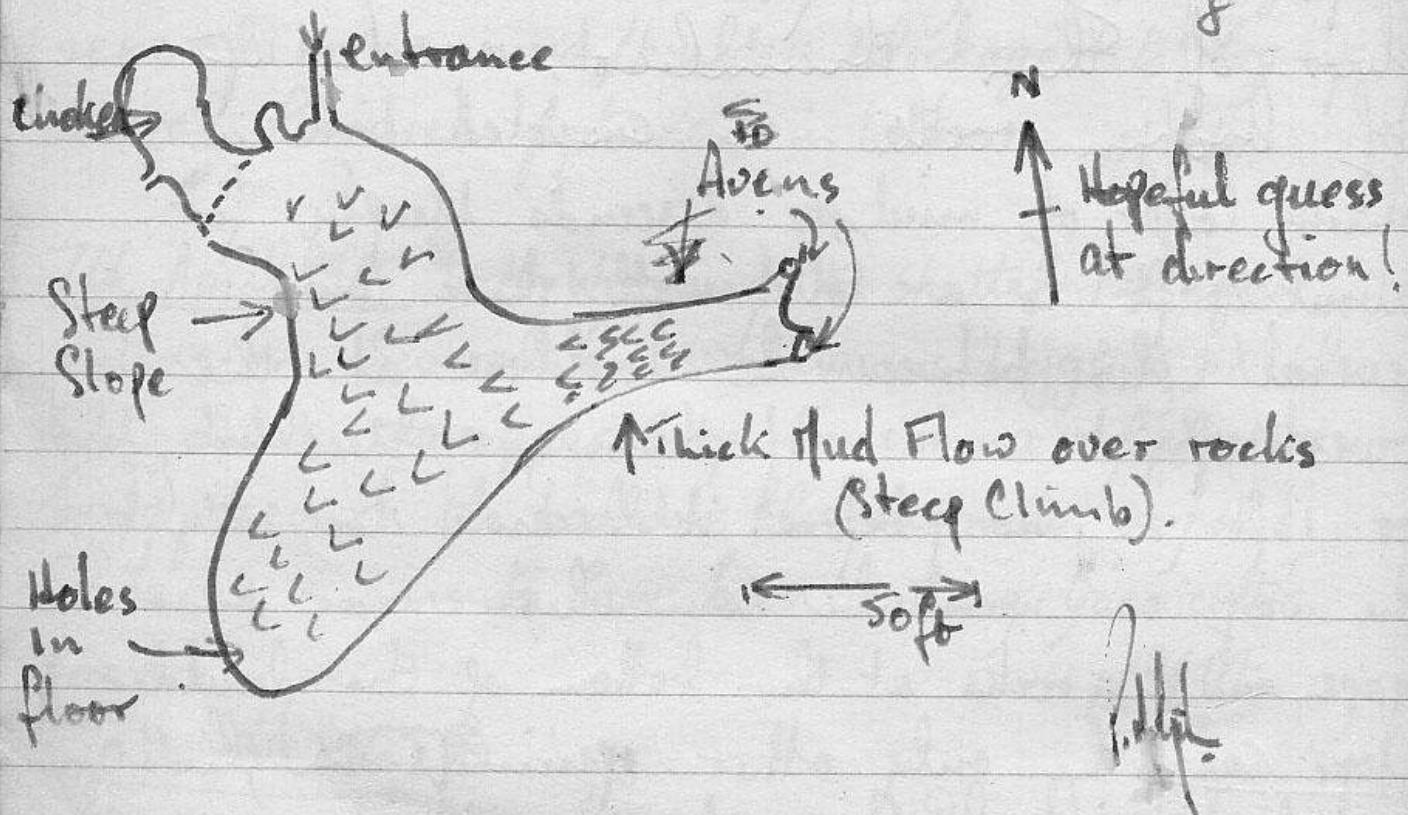
swindos: Further progress at Shatter Pot. Nick West, Tim Ciles, Dave Savage were joined by P. Collins & his party & the recent digging activities at the end of Shatter Passage were continued.

Today we passed the obstacle which Wooding unsuccessfully branced on the 7th, but not without some difficulty. Beyond this there a short crawl opened out

into a large chamber about 100 ft long & 50 ft or so wide. The floor of this chamber, made up of broken rocks & carpeted with a thick layer of mud, descends steeply for about 20 ft to a solid wall. There are several holes between the boulders at the lowest point & one of them we pushed for 10 ft or so before it became too tight. The way on must be somewhere near these gaps in the rocks at the bottom of the boulder slope as the only other openings in the chamber are in the roof:—one an oven which we climbed up to about 50 ft before it grew too tight; the other a choked high level passage above the entrance to the chamber.

The next step is to continue digging in the boulders, a job which looks rather unpleasant, & hope that results come soon, & at the same time produce a survey so that

we may see where the end of Shatter Series lies in relation to the main streamway.



11 April. — St Cuthberts —

→ Cornwall & P. Cousins started digging in earnest this side of Duck, following interesting scallops down. Spoil disposal a problem.

18<sup>th</sup> April.

As above, pit now to '(5)' steep & difficult to bail. Toy 3' large pebbles to mud then

"gravel band, other mud again. Looks interesting but will soon need shooting.

*JK*

16th April Sat Easter Friday. Also AD on a photographic trip Reservoir Hole. At the end of the cave a mine passage called "Stanton Drive" leads to a New chamber containing some interesting formations. The question is how did they know where to blast where no signs were visibly beforehand. Proceed to Tolly Pot, later to be joined by C.J. Hawkes and family & W.I Stanton and family, Will Edwards & George Brown. An interesting biological specimen (a horse foetus) was removed from the bottom of the shaft. Turning the stomach of all went as it was just before lunch. The specimen had been deliberately put in the cave by the farmer to discourage the digger. The rest of the day was spent in fence making. cont over.

A new form of Vandalism:- Carelessness is rife on Mender. Late on the evening of Easter Friday three shoddy figures were to be seen in the vicinity of Totty Pot with paraffin, petrol, broken and dried grass.

The resulting inferno, resembling a volcano could be seen for many miles until the red flames turned into a thick choking grey smog.

17th April. Went down to Aucklines and played a transistor radio. Also went down Reservoir Hole (without radio).

Totty Pot. The foul animal smell is now replaced by an even ~~worse~~ worse stench of burnt grass. Still no digging done but fence fully erected.

18-4-63. SUN. W.C.C. G.B. only two members turned up. (ASS & JGAD) The inhabitants of the Eastwater Hut had intended to come also but fail to turn up after dead-line + 15 min. In the afternoon Cuckoo Cleanes was

visited. Interesting try except that entrance passage was made impassable by a Mr Roach who blocked it with loose mud and stone. This rather "sick" joke added an hour to an otherwise pleasant try.

18-4-65 ST CATHBERTS

J CORNWELL D. CAUSER. P. C.

J MOORE. T GILL. STILL DIGGING AT DUCK.

. 20-4-65

B. S. Roach visited hut to pick up his battery charges and noticed Mr Oldham's rather distic remark regarding Cuckoo Cleavers. Must ~~the~~ <sup>Mr</sup> Oldham continue these rather childish outbursts? Has he no intelligence? <sup>YES!</sup> I must point out that two persons went down Cuckoo Cleavers after myself and would suggest that he think before making <sup>deceitful</sup> accusations against fellow members as I am not in the childish category as Mr Oldham and do not

block caves.

Had a brew up 6° in kettle.

N.B. THE LIBRARY HAS BEEN ATTACKED BY VANDALS

~~Geobuck~~

8 March 20-4-65

CORNISH CAVES

NN.B.B. - Coincidence!

20.4.65 A BARWICK AND FARNBROO' FRIENDS, INTERESTING CRAWL AROUND STOKE LANE TO IT, SINCERLY SUGGEST ALL WESSEX MEMBERS TAKE PRIMUS STOVE AND CRICKET PADS, HOT WATER AVAILABLE FROM FARMER IF YOU ASK NICELY.

17th April Wooding, Boon, Livesey to Swildons VII

21st April Wooding, Savage to Swildons VII - 150' new passage.

EASTER WEEKEND - CWB YORKSHIRE MEET.

About 20 members travelled North for this year's meet and despite some pretty miserable weather, succeeded in making worthwhile visits to Longkin (West), Lingle Hill Cave, Hound's Gill, Bell Gill, Tingling Pot, Jingling Cave, Long Churn & Bull Pot of the Witches.

B.G.C.

25th April 1963 - ☽

Swindon's

W. I. Stanton assisted by messrs. Hart  
Coles & Cousins a Pickstone continued surveying  
in the new extension to Shatto Passage.

The survey was completed as far as the  
first junction in the main passage  
after the crystal crawl & included the  
side passage leading off at this point.

While the main passage appears to  
be the way on the results of the survey,  
to date, indicate that the main passage  
heads<sup>so</sup> for Series 4-5 & descends fairly  
steadily, the other passage mentioned  
above heads in the direction of Series 7  
but it seems, at a higher level. Any  
leads as to the way on?

Also in the new extension during  
the survey was Steve Caesar <sup>when</sup> with Atkinson  
Mark 1 & Mark 3 discovered a further  
length of passage described as being

200 ft long running above & parallel to the  
main route. P.M.C.

(A 9 hour trip which left us quite, er  
shattered!)

2-5-65. sun. Bating trip to Wooley Hole - not  
many bats - also visited MNRE dig -  
Aveline Hole - shows promise

also.

1-5-65. SAT. 9 C.I.C.C. thru Round Trip in 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

2-5-65. SUN. 6 C.I.C.C. walked in Shatter Series,  
as far as the Chamber. 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

2.5 lbs Willie Stander, Giles, Dingle,  
Coors and Hunt to Shattock Series  
again. We have now completed  
the survey of all the new stuff including  
side passages, oxbowes etc there is  
about 1000 feet of passage. General  
direction today was SOUTH  $\frac{1}{100}$   
towards Sweetfjord Seven probably  
very diff even from the Grade I off  
in pencil on W.S.'s Tracing of L. 3.  
We are all getting a bit choked off with  
the place. It's tight, winded up boofkum  
slush. Fine appx 10 hours of hell.

Note pages 143 and 145 are blank



R. P.



SWILDONS EIGHT-TWELVE

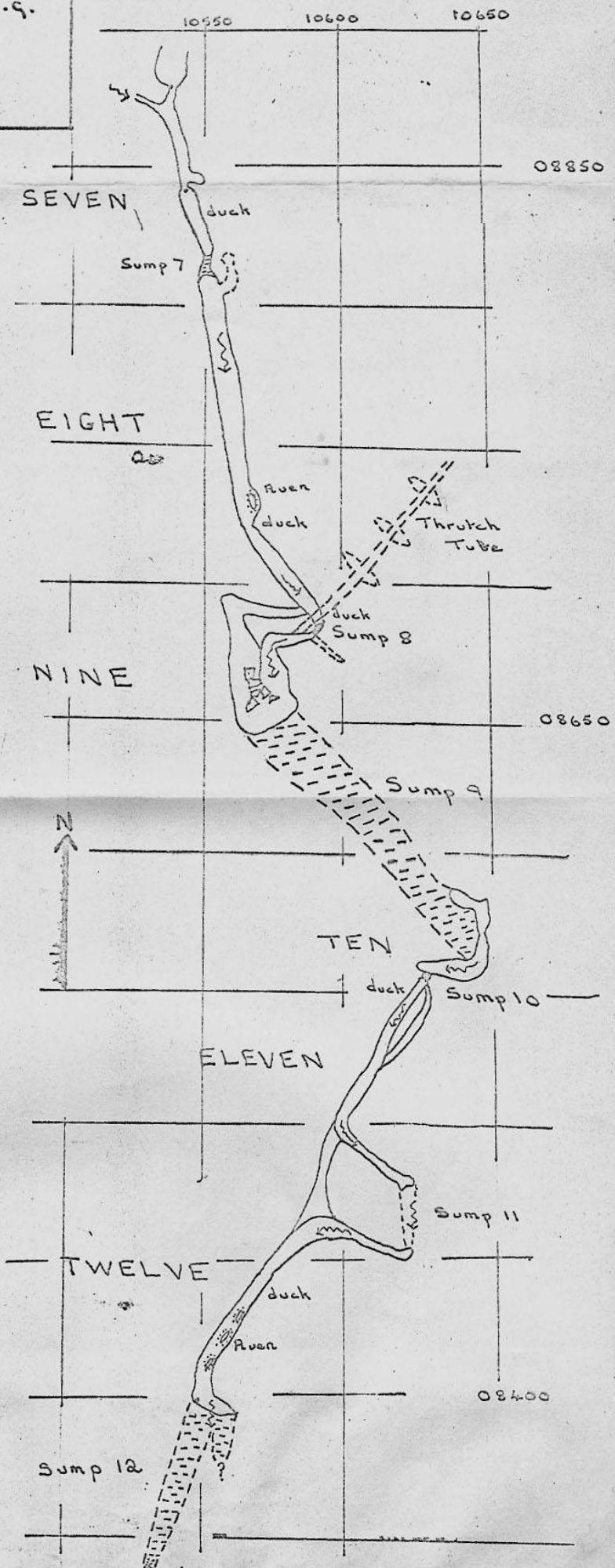
Surveyed 20.3.65 by C.R.G.

D. Savage  
M. Wooding  
D. Drew

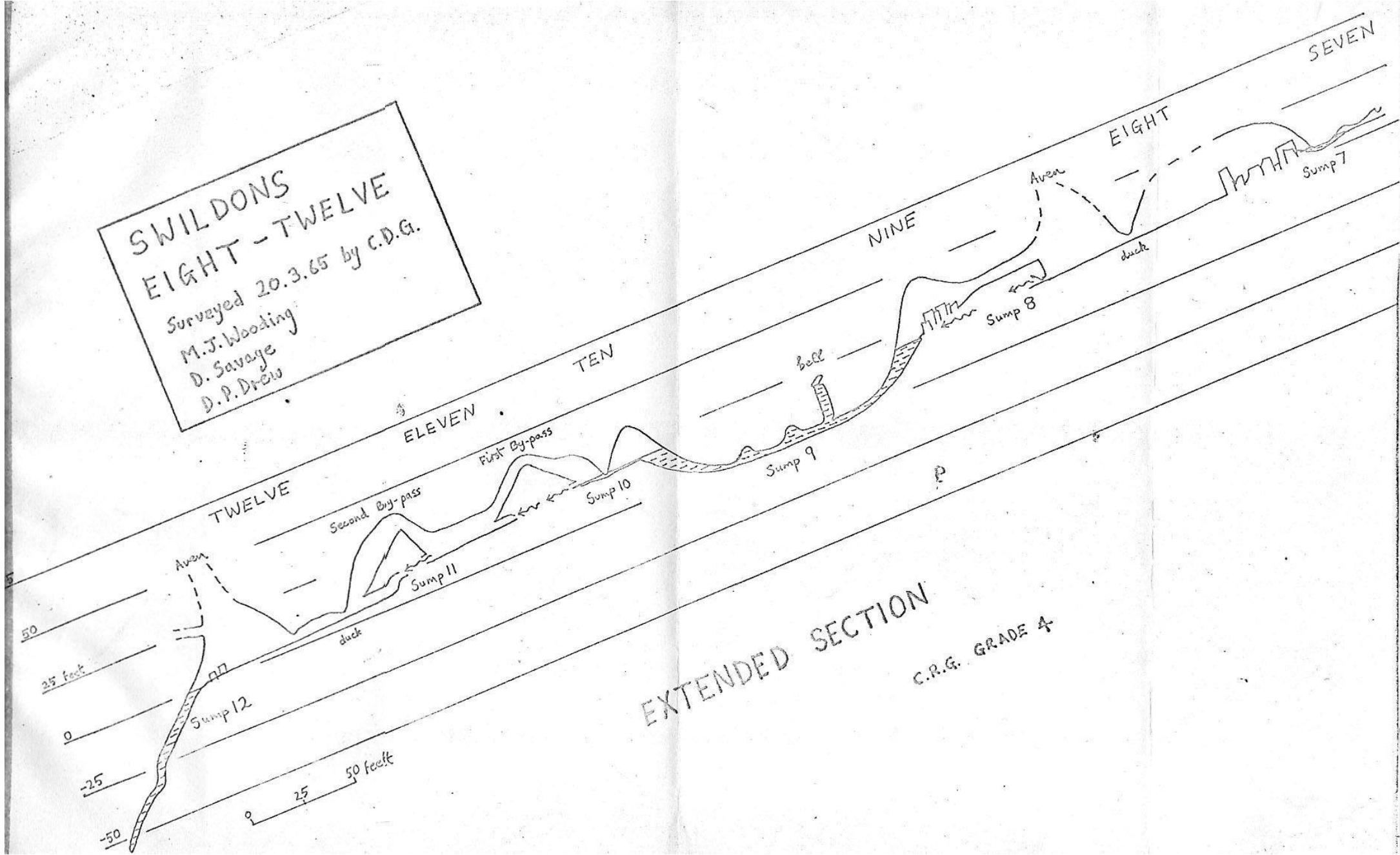
PLAN

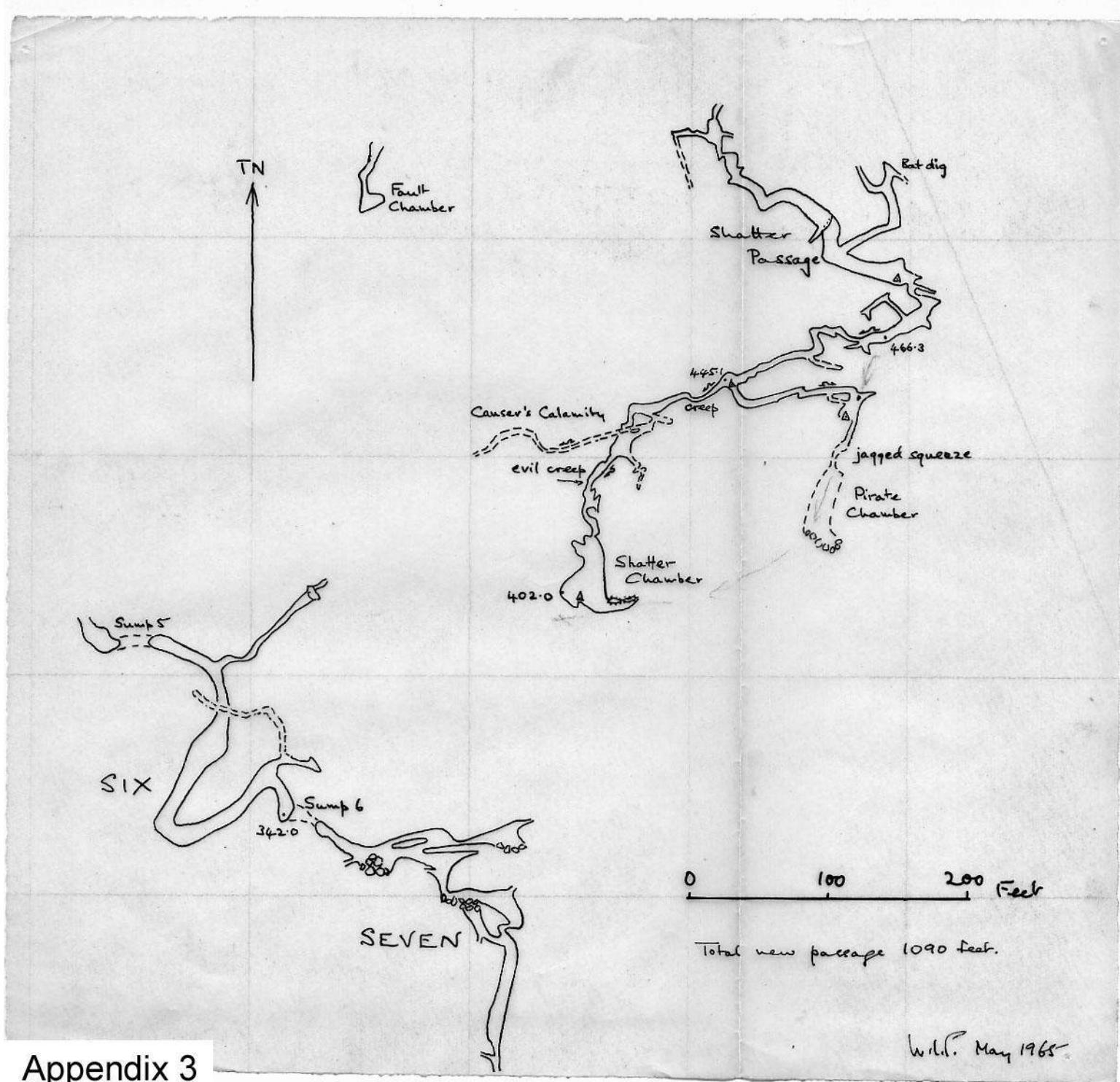
0 25' 50' 75' 100' 125'

C.R.G. GRADE 4  
Grid lines from W.I.S.  
master plan



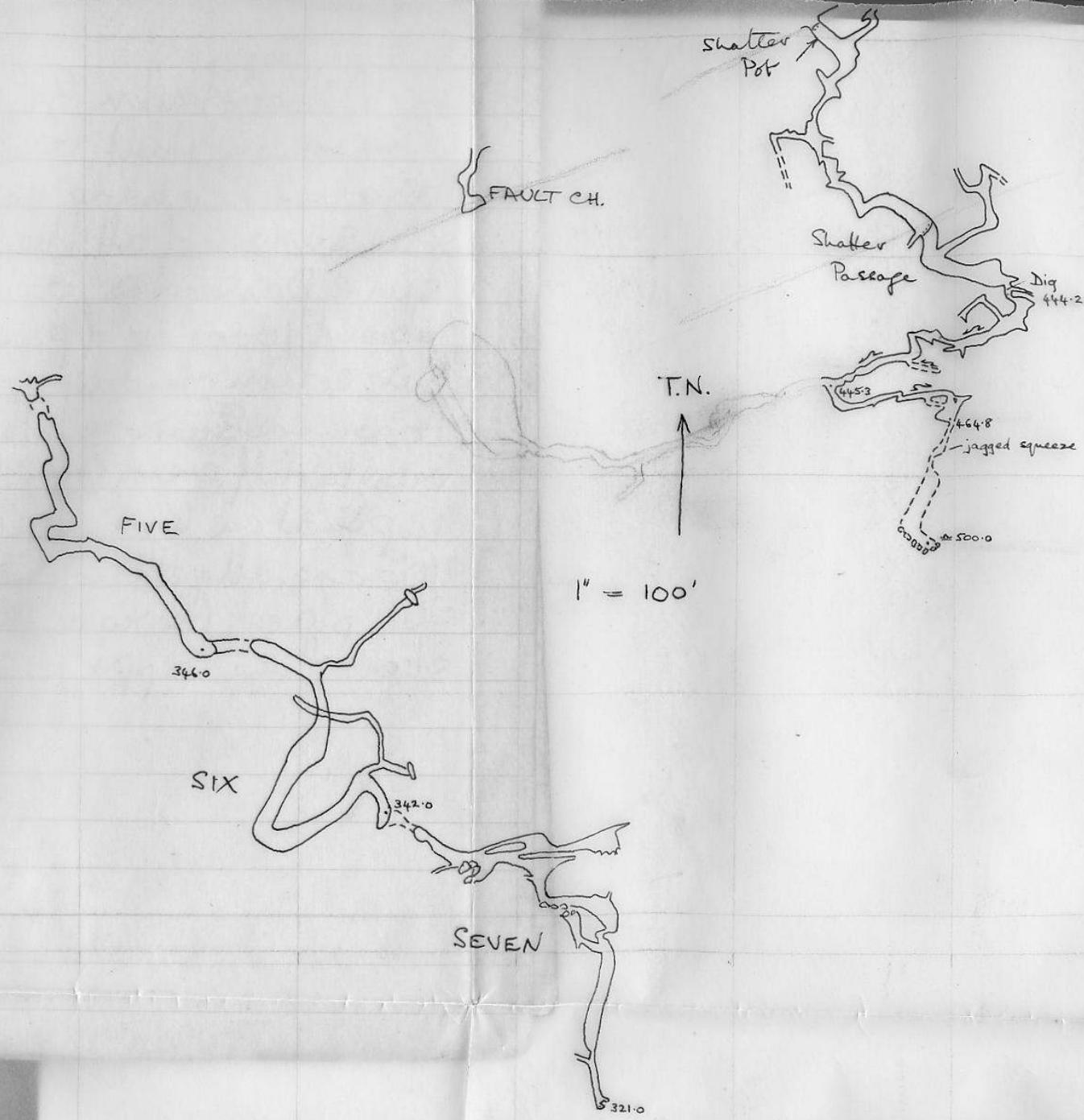
**SWILDONS**  
**EIGHT - TWELVE**  
 Surveyed 20.3.65 by C.D.G.  
 M.J. Wooding  
 D. Savage  
 D.P. Drew





Appendix 3

## Appendix 4



30<sup>th</sup> April 1965 W.I.S.