

(31)

Plan B

	in	out
Tuesday 21	(4) Fleur & Gavin	
Wednesday 22	(5) Huw & Rich	Paul & Lew
Thursday 23	(6) Rhys & Alee	
Friday 24	(7) Pete & Tom Tony	F & G
Saturday 25	(8) Tom Dave & Tom Harvey	H & R
Sunday 26		R & A
Monday 27		P & T
Tuesday 28	Keith &	D & H

20/7/98

○ 72/5 On slope overlooking Jon la Cistra, about 150m W of normal Juktayu path. Bearings: base of Jon, 0°; Grotto 276°. 2m diameter, 5m deep pit; might have rift leading off at bottom.

20/7/98 Monday Pete, Alec, Huw 2/7 Portering

4 Bags taken in. 4 Bags collected towards end of rift. All 8 deposited at head of Pesamits. In 10:10. Out 1:45.

17/7/97 → 20/7/97 DISCARGO CAMP Tony & JC

→ What we did briefly on our camp
 Friday. Down cave at 2, at camp by 6. Surprised by general lack of Kik to pick up so thanks to peters. I set up camp / brewed tea whilst Tony rigged the final pitch at JA and dived Reed or Mine into the London Underground, we'd missed the climbing rope of Armageddon so he had a slightly more grippy time. Whilst Tony rigged I had a patch around the ledge. Had a little look at the uncracked ice on

the far side then decided to see where the
 i-ld' on the near side (Dye found from the shafts)
 came from. One hold more and I was on a ledge.
 Followed the streamy for a short while until it
 petered out but **MORE IMPORTANTLY IT**
LOOKED AN EAST BOLT TRAVERSE TO THE
ST.MTS OR THE CONDON UNDERGROUND; i.e.
 no down 50m, up 50m and on how of the trip
 to the end.

Bo Tony back at 9:30. Susie's stew for supper
 Bad dr ~~12.11~~ .11.

Saturday: Up dr 9 and off down the ice dr 11.
 Rerigged J A 3 to give a superb free-hug from
 pit-way down the wall and no dodgy hanging
 rebays. Pookled up the ladder - Underground to
 2-way (ended with a 2). Tony's big light was
 used to pick out leads at the top. Rerigged
 2-way with 6-7 new bolts and much nicer hangs
 ? HAS ANTONIE FOLLOWED 2-WAY AHEAD ROCK
 LEAVE RATHER THAN DOWN TO THE STREAM.
 THIS COULD BE ROUTE.

Carried on post Primula Pit to look for
 our climb in Postman Pit. Concluded climb had
 been in BOD as we got to the dodgy drift
 at the top of PP with no sign. Well gipped. Back
 to camp by midnight and v. late night.

Sunday = Friday. Headed upstream! Round the L.O.I.E.
 Some construction as to whether to drop the pitch or
 try to traverse as Tony + I had seen hold different
 stories. Went for the pitch, which is only a 7-8m
 drop "TOUCHING CEILING" to a couple of fine cascades
 then 100 → 200m of fine classic stream passage.

(23)

It's really excellent. Someone must go back because it is beautiful. Turned back by deep water, but this looked really good especially as there is a Snow seal near the W-ly Soap. On the way back Tony divided into an inlet "COAM INLET" in a large channel "COAM COANRA" where the passage continues. Back at the point down stream hit's deep water after 30m or so.

On the return we decided not a few more miles with the big boat then climbed up above Barnes Light Loop to some windows over SA. Saw Lights (Lew + Paul) something like 100m below us. NAUSE THOSE CRUISES BROWN POSTER TO A CONCLUSION. Rashed down to see it Paul + Lew were struggling with us, but they had bigger fish to fry and went off to ~~the~~ Prindle Point. These lights flickered during all 11pm as we looked into Breakfast + Pasta + Raven Chili.

* See Page 42

Monday, Sept 8 Up at 8 and on our way out at 10. Thought I'd wait out possibility except not with a bag. Took my time and was out by 1:30, only about an hour + 1/2 behind Tony.

S.L.


P.S. I'm off to FRANCE for 10 days or so. Hope everyone has a good time while I'm away. I'll be thinking of you all.

KEITH: "WAIT A MINUTE, ISN'T FLEUR A WOMAN?"

19/7/98 PORTENING TRIP: FLEUR, JO, LYNN & BILL

RELATIVELY EARLY START; BEATEN TO THE TOP OF THE HILL BY LEN AND PAUL WHO LEFT AFTER US. GITS. AFTER LEN AND PAUL HAD SET OFF (CAMPING), WE FOLLOWED.

LOVELY COURSE OF PITCHES, FOLLOWED BY A SQUEEZE, SWEAT. MORE PITCHES, SQUEEZES AND SWEATING FOLLOWED ON FROM THIS, I FINALLY WIMPED OUT AT THE TOP OF GRIPPER PITCH (WAS OUT OF HARDNESS - I ONLY HAVE A V. LIMITED SUPPLY); LYNN AND JO CRAWLED ON WITH THE FOUR TACKLE BAGS, WHILE FLEUR BABY-SAT ME OUT. AFTER THE VARIOUS SQUEEZES, THE ENTRANCE PITCHES WERE EASY MONEY, AFTER THE VARIOUS SQUEEZES I WAS DAMN NEAR SINGING SEPUKANO.

HARDEST CAVING I'VE DONE, BUT ACE NONE THE LESS - THANKS TO MY BABY-SITTERS. 

Jo and I had a really good grip. Neither of us had had good grips last time, but this time we were in control. We didn't have much trouble route-finding and the rest of the rifts went easily even with four tackle bags between us. We had to turn back just before the end of the rifts purely due to lack of time. We had arranged a sub-call-out with Fleur and so had to get out before she came back down the pitches. After Paradise Jo powered full speed out of the cave and I followed. After going through Seventh Heaven in full-ascending gear I would recommend to anyone to at least take off the chest strap. We were completely knackered on the way but, I was too exhausted to even eat. But it was a great grip and I'm looking forward to the next Lynn.

(33)

The caves up on the Verdelluanga / Curruente ridge that JC / Keith / Lynn found (25/a a, b, c, d) have been ~~re-tagged~~ re-tagged. ~~The cave that was~~ The cave that was 25/a a was ~~tagged~~ 25/a c, or possibly 25/a b or 25/a d but has now been reinstated as 25/a a - this being the pot with the bridge that isn't a bridge but is in fact a bridge & may warrant further explanation. 25/a a is also still 25/a c, or possibly 25/a b or 25/a d because the tag for 25/a e (or b or c) which was on what way & is now 25/a a could not be found, & therefore 25/a a is still also 25/a ~~c~~, or b or d. The cave that must 25/a a but was 25/a a for a day is no longer 25/a a but is not 25/a b or 25/a c or 25/a d either, because the tag on 25/a a ^(when it wasn't 25/a a) could not be found for this cave. Hopefully the other 2 caves are correctly tagged. I hope that clears up any confusion.

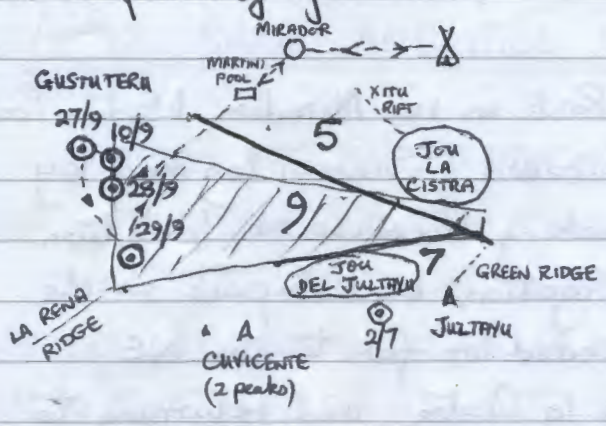
Keith ;
—

Everyone "What have you done to that sheep?"

Keith "It dribbled ---"

Bill (or Olly's totty): "Apparently Nobby's met him and she's very nice."

20/7/98 Shaft-bashing, John, Keith, Rich to Gustuturu / Trapezium. Route in and out was via the Mirador, Martini Pool and round the SE flank of Gustuturu (contouring - a path exists), which takes only half an hour from camp - note the route via Trea path, then Jou la Cistra or Cuvicente flank can take up to 2 hours. The border between Area 5 (Aric) and Area 9 (Gustuturu) is the line between the end of the green ridge on Jultayu and the SE flank of Gustuturu.



Keith's cave 26/9 is still "missing". (see 17/7/98).

Bill's cave (see 18/7/98) is now numbered 27/9. Two more leads were found, and 10/9 was happened upon, is re-described below, since it is of interest and not fully descended.

10/9 Below rillenkarran on W wall of rift valley between two rocky shakeholes. Rift valley heads due N-S below summit of Gustuturu, with view N to Lagos path and view S to Cuvicente. Small rectangular entrance into small chamber with very strong draught from narrow squeeze at far end of chamber. Ledge 2m below, and quite large passage continues down, 2s rattle. Obvious second hole above right of entrance goes nowhere. Jultayu 126° mag., Cuvicente 161° & 172°. Cabeza Hambria & La Verdelluenga obscured by walls of rift valley.

27/9 Rectangular depression with rift entrance on E side, on SW upper slope of Gustuturu. 10 m pitch in rift to squeeze which needs enlarging. 2s drop beyond this has not been entered. Jultayu 118° mag., Cuvicente main peak 156°, La Verdelluenga 218°. The temporary rigging placed on 18/7/98 has now been removed (see Bill's description)

28/9 Large rillenkarran - ringed depression on S slope of Gustuturu, c. 100 m below obvious rock shelter (blind). Small rift blocked by rocks 2m depth. Cabeza Hambria central boss 67° mag., Jultayu 124°, Cuvicente main peak 168°, La Verdelluenga 227°.

29/9 Large rectangular (30m N-S, 40m E-W) bouldery depression with rillenkarran on E slope of La Verdelluenga. Various ways into meandering rift with strong draught. Stones rattle for up to 10s. Cabeza Hambria central boss 63°, Jultayu 115°, Cuvicente 152° & 172°, La Verdelluenga 236°, Gustuturu 350°. NO HIT JACKING!! (could be 5/9?) John

(37)

21/7 Martin L & Lenik carry 3rd green tent up following the ICONA warden's observation that 8 tents at Ario + 4 tents at Escina = > 8 tents. Decided to have 1 permanent base camp tent (other small personal tents should be taken down after one or two nights or 'discarded') & to minimize personal tents at Ario (e.g. take them down if occupants are camping in the cave). Good weather for a first carry - cloudy & cool, but not claggy.

Clag appeared with John & Harvey - but only about 10 vacas visibility. We had about 2 vacas vis on the road up from Covadonga after last night's storm, but it turned out nice again at Lagos.

21/7/98 John & Harvey shaft labelling. Route in via Mirador, Martini Pool & Guotutern SE flank. 28/9, 27/9 and 29/9 labelled. Since clag had by then descended ~~we~~ we could do no shaft-bashing because no location bearings could be taken. Interesting navigation by compass on the way out - we could see nothing and ended too far to the NE, ending up by crossing the W end of Jou la Cista, and returning to Camp by the Trea path. On talking with Keith, it was perceived that 29/9 has been incorrectly labelled, but this will be rectified at the next visit. In any case the large daylight shaft with trees where the 29/9 label temporarily rests is of interest (may be Trea la Jayada - will be checked). John

22/7/98 Day 6 of the "IRIS14" expedition, brought the best out in the way of weather.

"ruddy steaming", "it were", having required composure. We find that nature has outwitted us all. We find a slug ebbing down a fine ~~size~~ line of slime produced by his own secretions. An ingenious corruption of human techniques. There ~~is~~ he followed the line of the bread bag to reach the "big ledge" (vegetable box) at - ^{(This is equivalent to -24m for a human).} 10cm. We believe he/she probably traversed down the rift and is now feasting on our vegetables. "The hunt will be resumed later." "your an in mine stergygy boy"

The secret of the case could surely save money next year on new rope. Burn
Is it resistant to rub points?

If anyone goes down to base camp, please could you bring up the antiseptic cream from the 1st aid kit there, for the top camp one doesn't appear to have one bit more in demand up here. (Keep kit)

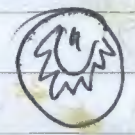
Also Some Dettol for disinfecting hands (we are nearly out) - John

22/7/98. BARRY AND BILL IN 27/9. (X)

FIRSTLY, WE BOLTED THE PITCH: TWO BOLTS MAKE A DOABCE Y-HANG; THINGS NOW A BIT SAFER!

WE: THE SQUEEZE: WITH A BIT OF DIGGING AND BASHING OFF THE ODD PROTRUSION, THIS IS NOW PASSABLE. THERE IS A PITCH THE OTHER SIDE, WHICH IS INTO A MORE OPEN PATCH OF RIFT, ABOUT 10-12 M DEEP(?). IF ONE CHUCKS ROCKS DOWN AND TO THE LEFT, THE DROP IS 2-3 SECONDS.

THERE ARE A COUPLE OF GOOD NATURAL BELAYS AT THE TOP OF THE SECOND PITCH; NEXT JOB: UP AND DESCEND.

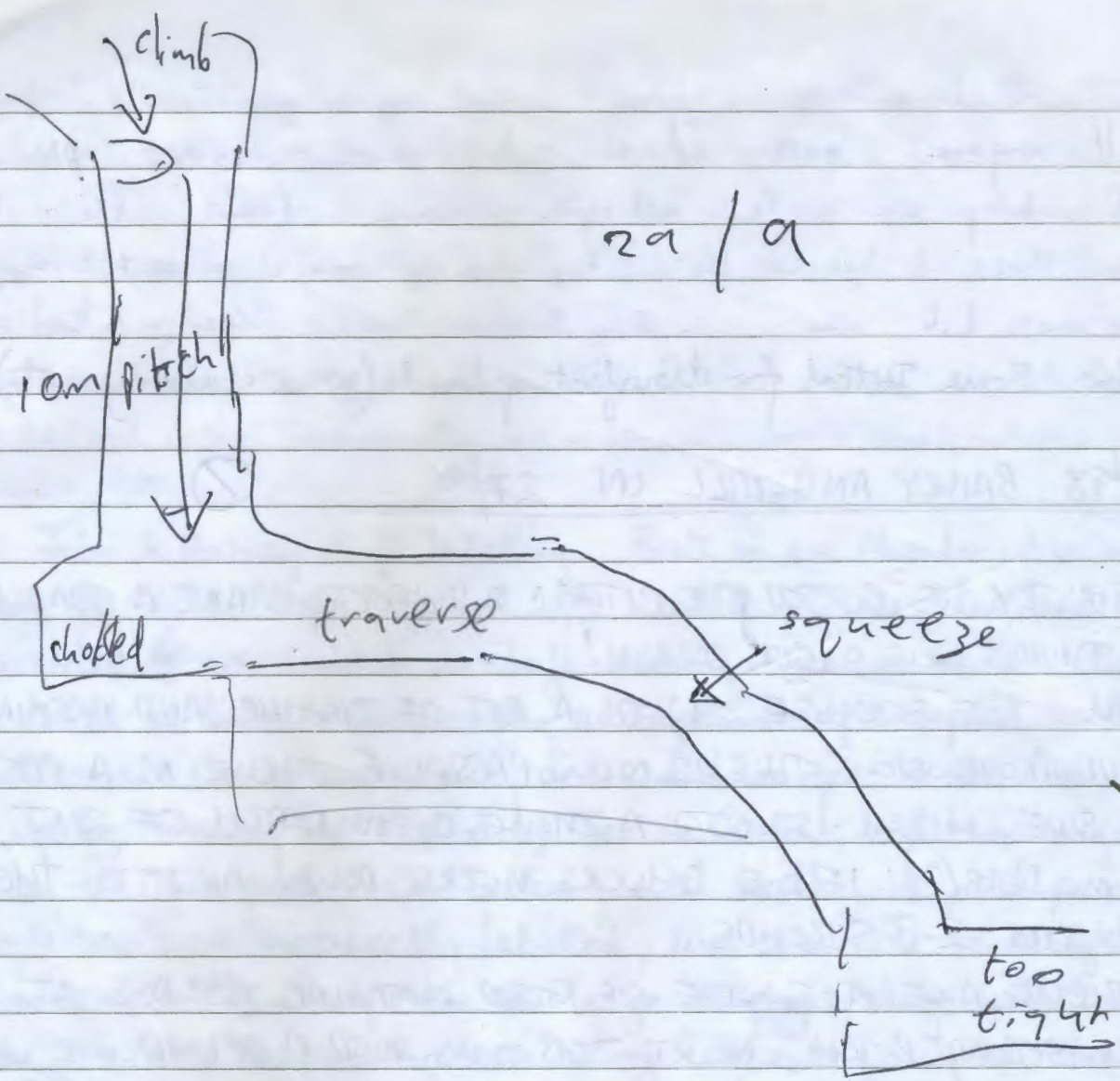


22/7/98 Keith, John & Harvey's excellent adventure (bogus journey?)

29/9 (X)

Went back to the promising pitch hole found a couple of days ago by Keith (29/9). Rigged 10 m pitch/free climb down to bouldery floor. Rift continued over short traverse to a squeeze & tight climb down, with rift too tight leading off from bottom. Nice little came though anyway!

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2a/a

0 1/9

We then tried to find 1/a, a very promising lead which I found somewhere around there yesterday but couldnt find today.

SIE (X)? There's also a couple of SIE caves around here (trapezium/bottom of Gustekeras) which warrant further investigation.

0 31/9

Found an excellent drafting dig at the bottom of a shake hole. Removed large numbers of boulders to reveal a promising pitch (drafting). Unfortunately there was one sod of a large boulder that refused to move (though skinny types may be able to squeeze through) easily - I'd nearly

shifted it when the bastard grabbed hold of my crowbar & lobbed it down the pitch! Barnacles → Crowbar needs retreating

Worth going back to with a fresh crowbar. Be aware that the 2 large rocks above the dig are also loose & need knocking down to make the dig / squeeze safe.

Good leads left on the Kusteterna side of the 'trapezium' (area 9):

- ⊙ 1/9 (Previous description: "A large shakehole in the middle of the valley" + no bearings (good, eh?), but apparently has once 1/9 in red paint)
- ⊙ 10/9 (see 20/7/98)
- ⊙ the above dig. (31/9) not yet labelled
- ⊙ ~~27~~ 27/9 (see 20/7/98, 22/7/98)
- ? 26/9 (Keith's first cave - when found again!)
- ⊗⊗? SIE caves.

Also ~~30~~ 30/a¹ - Not worth talking about - shakehole by path, block-filled rift

Keith