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20/7/99

Pip 'n' Dick

10/9

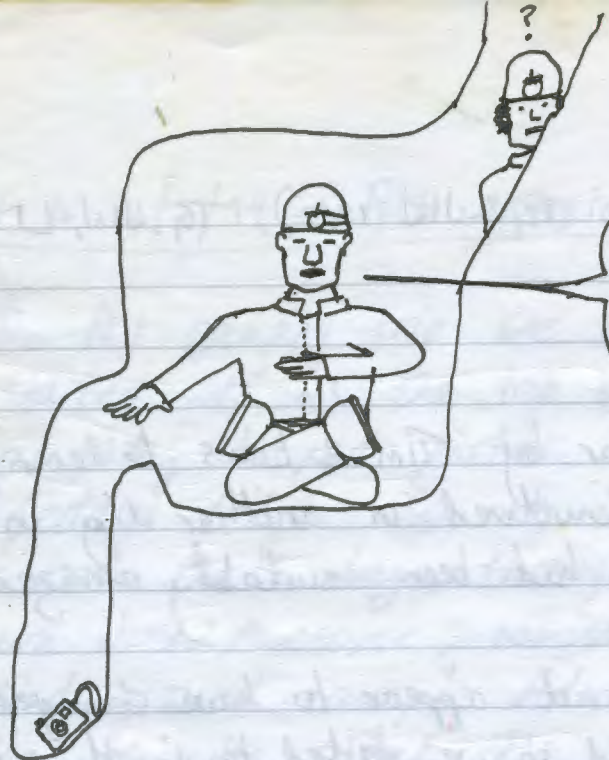
After portering upto 2/7 in the morning both of us were fairly whacked and enthusiasm for more activity was fairly low. After much eating, drinking and resting we finally managed to stagger off into the clog in search of 10/9, which was found surprisingly quickly. Spent a long time getting changed and finally entered the cave at about 6.30. We negotiated the first pitch with ease and were soon confronted with the tight sections. Oddly enough the squeezes proved to be the easiest part partly I think because we treated them with more respect than the rest of the cave.

At the head of the second pitch we decided to turn round when we realized time was getting on a bit. It was at this point that disaster struck...

My camera had fallen down a very narrow slot in the wall and despite looking like it was just out of arms reach was in fact just out of arms reach even after I had removed my helmet, overcoat and a number of rocky projections surrounding the hole. My second approach involved the age old "turn the air blue levitation trick" and this too failed miserably. Finally a combined effort involving Pip providing light from above and me launching a surprise attack from the side armed with a Hilti rod thingy we finally managed to retrieve the sacred chalice of Dobar...? I mean my camera!

We then returned to the clog and approaching darkness to make our way back to Anjo.

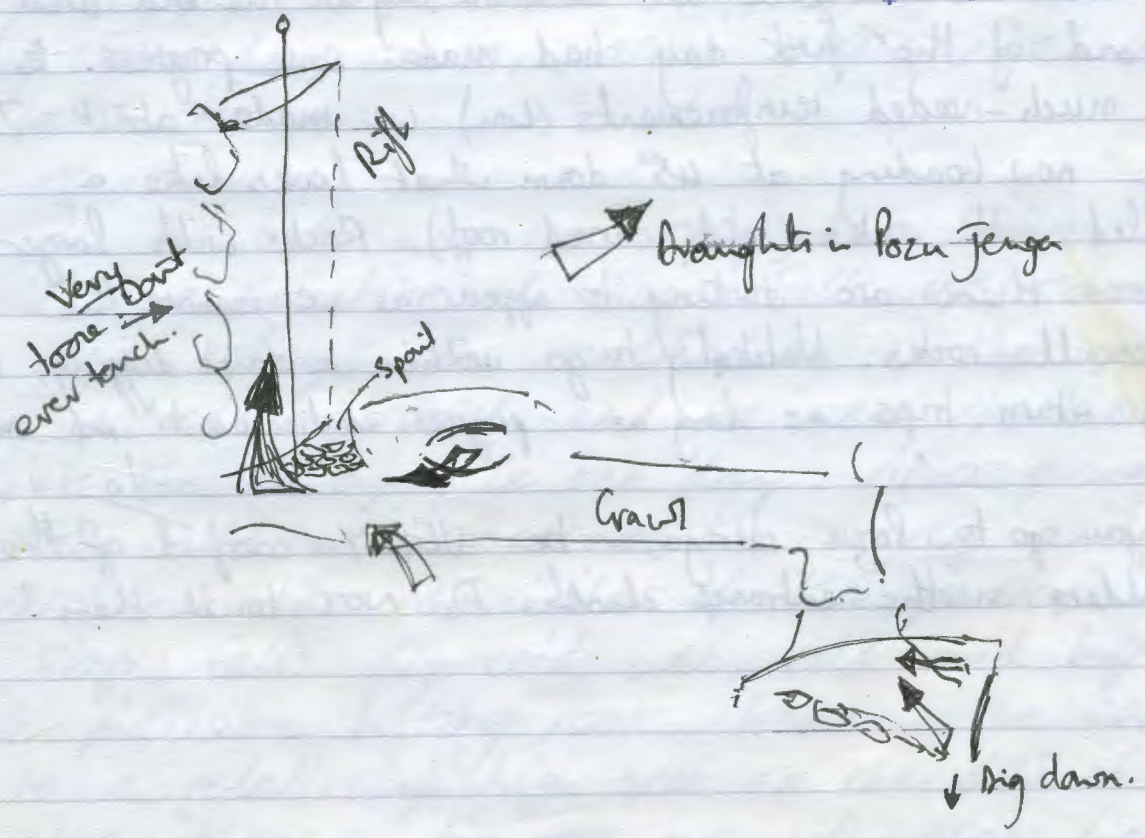
RG



F**king, B***ard, C**ting piece of s**ting, w**king, bo***cks!

21/7/99.

POZU JENGA



TK.

(m?)
19-20/7/99 - Pozu Jenga. TG&JW (19/7), TG, JW, LM (20/7)

See diagram on previous page.

I had been intrigued all year by Tim & Louis's descriptions of Pozu Jenga. I had been involved in another dig in the Valley of the Dry Bones and had been suitably amazed by the stonking draught.

The entrance climb did not appear to have changed significantly (according to Tim) and so we started to dig the most promising ^{lead} ~~dig~~ This first possible way on heads under the cliff that Jenga is at the base of. The situation ~~and~~ draught were promising, but a few hours' excavation later it was looking rather less hopeful. We turned ~~our~~ our attentions to a flat-out crawl with an awkward dig at the end and at the end of the first day had made some progress. ~~to~~

With much-needed reinforcements (Lou) we made about 2m of progress, now heading at 45° down what looks like a passage filled with rocks (solid, curved roof). Rocks with larger spaces between them are starting to appear as we remove the gravel & small rocks. Unlikely to go within a day's digging, but well worth return trips as long as progress continues to ^{be} made.

PS. If you go to Pozu Jenga, be VERY careful of the loose boulders on the entrance climb. Do NOT touch them!

18/7/99 to 21/7/99 - first camping trip down 2/7 JC + Hilary

Day 1 The first camping trip. We were the Chosen Ones. Wooooo. This started off as the trip written up by Pip + Rich 6 pages ago, as they helped porter the camping gear down to Armageddon ledge. Beyond this our load increased slightly as we took the 5 bags through Guzano's (!) Grovel, then 7 down Just Awesome, which was aptly named.

Underground camp? Advisors had told me you can't possibly imagine what it's like till you've been there. As a general sceptic I reckoned - been camping, been underground, stick two together, how much else can it be? This was about right. The only bit I wasn't sure what to expect from was the actual sleeping bit, which could have been (a) cold, wet, muddy, squalid and miserable or (b) warm, dry, warm, warm, snug + nice. It was the latter. 😊

Day 2 Our task was to survey the 500m up to the limit of exploration at Viagra Falls upstream, which we began today. The route finding on the upstream route proved nontrivial and we were short of time to complete the surveying in one day. After going as far as we could we suspended the survey and quickly checked out the remainder of the passage to look at Viagra Falls. Big, cold, wet, cold and big. The most plausible bolting route looks to be easy walking up to a relatively high spot on the RHS of the chamber, then a traverse out leftwards (needs bolting). The traverse ends about 10ft below the waterfall and this last bit could be bolted straight upwards - a much shorter easier task than trying to bolt up from floor level. However this place is, as

mentioned, cold, wet & draughty, so you probably wouldn't want to hang around here (long enough to put bolts in by hand - better to use drill).

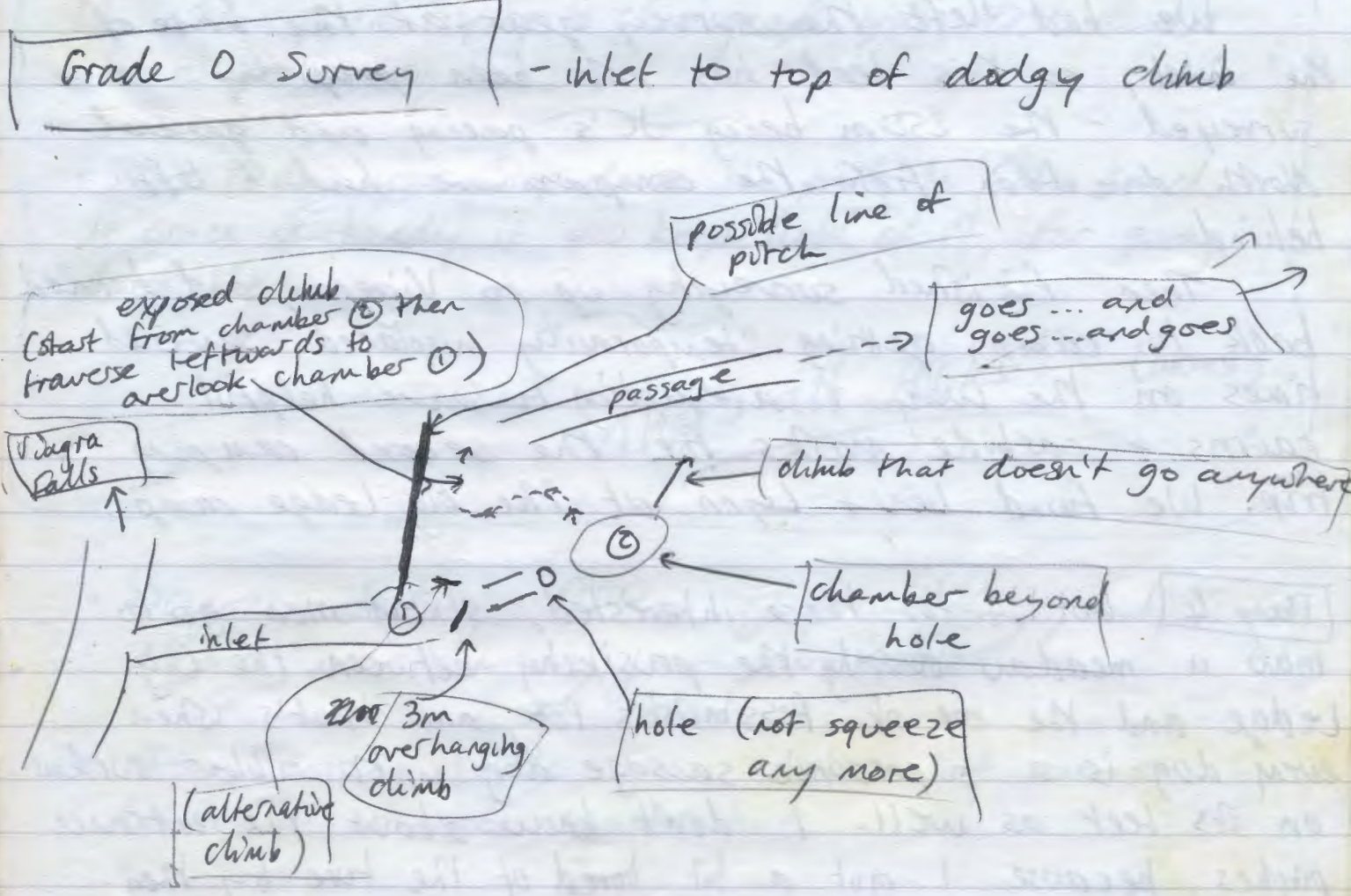
Day 3 finished the surveying up the main stream. We also ~~pushed a couple of inlets~~ and had a closer look at "Fear and Loathing in las Brujas" to see if any other leads went off it. We found a dubious-looking climb down 5m or so (didn't push it) and surveyed up the chamber to a big boulder. Then pushed a couple of inlets on the upstream route. Save the best for last...

(1) Cold feet - so named because we'd been standing around surveying for a while and were ~~F~~ING FREEZING, particularly in the foot region. (JC had no wetsuit socks and had just made himself the survey station by the inlet, standing in just-over-welly-deep water. I had a few minutes earlier been traversing over a bit of rift with a metre or so of water when a crucial foothold went and I found myself lying in a COLD stream saying some very naughty words.) So anyway - cold feet. It didn't go - just ~ m or so, through a brief bit of narrow rift to a chamber. Surveyed.

(2) Stairway to Heaven - God, this is the good bit. Inlet on RHS looking upstream, 50-60 m before Viagra Falls. Walk up inlet 30m or so to a slightly overhanging climb up 3m. We had had a look at this the day before & didn't fancy it, but this time JC was armed with a shing which provided the crucial foothold. I went up the climb and found the water coming out of a small hole, with what appeared to be a chamber beyond. Knocked some shit out of the edges of the hole, to make it squeezable (and fuck - I - wish - I'd - either - persevered - a - bit - more - or - taken -

my-harness-off-able). The chamber beyond had a couple of promising-looking leads, so JC came up to join me, making the wise decision to hammer the living bollocks out of my squeeze before attempting to fit his arse through it.

A climb up a rift ahead ended at roof level and didn't go anywhere. We went up the somewhat more exposed climb overlooking the original inlet chamber. A planned climb up here would definitely warrant a rope, either as a line or to make the whole effort into an SRT pitch.



At the top of the climb a passage led to a dry chamber. A lead up and leftwards was left untouched. We chose a smaller passage ahead and found ourselves

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in a series of phreatic tubes. The line we chose headed more or less North for 250m from top of original climb and ended in a rising sump, viewed as a pool 3m-ish in diameter, with deep, clear green water, draughting towards us. JC's guess is that this could well be the other side of the C4 sinking sump.

As we chose only one line through this series of passages, ignoring leads at several junctions, it is quite possible other routes may go somewhere (even) more interesting - definitely worth a look.

We had left the survey gear at the base of the inlet, so this lead has not been properly surveyed - the 250m being JC's pacing and general North direction from the compass we hadn't left behind.

Then finished surveying up to Viagra, and headed back to camp, getting "temporarily misplaced" several times on the way & attempting to leave helpful cairns + carbide marks for the second camping trip. We found Lev + Lynn at the Big Ledge camp.

Day 4 Out!!! For those interested, sixty men go to mow a meadow during the prositing between the Big Ledge and the top of Pessimist's Pot, and that's when every dog is a supersonic sausage dog with rubber suckers on its feet as well. I don't know about the entrance pitches, because I got a bit bored of the tune by then.

Ace trip. Absolutely fantastic. Big smiley face.

Hilary

TOP TIPS

FOR UNDERGROUND CAMP

So you've heard the ones about drying your furry by wearing it over your Alpinex, and eating lots of food, but did you get the really important stuff??

- When going on a trip orders of magnitude deeper than anything you've ever done before, take your Croll with you.

- If camping with JC, take lots of bogroll. If the stress doesn't make you physically sick, it'll give you a nose bleed (a profuse one) at a really inopportune moment, like when you're trying to choreograph your first dump into a plastic bag.

- Don't throw your Stop down the pitch to Echo Beach. It comes in handy if you keep hold of it, for going down the rope.

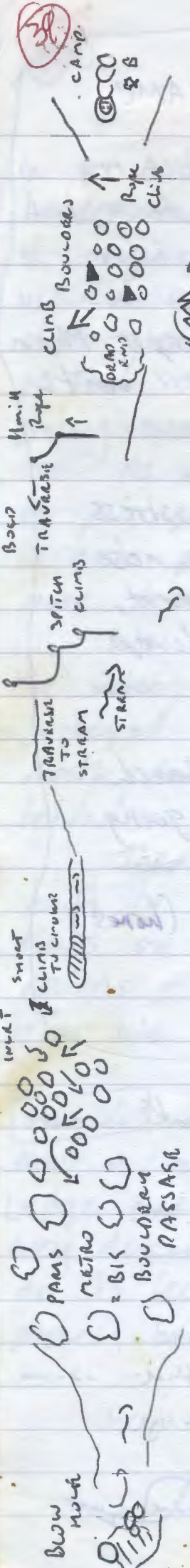
That's all folks! (honest)

- Before starting 800m of prussiking, make sure you are wearing your ownivellies.

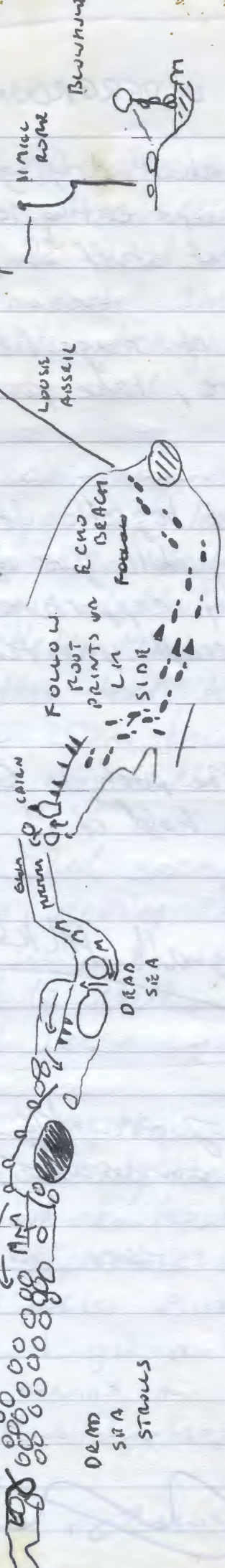
- After camping fettle your carbide generator before it cements itself shut.

- Make sure you have spare pair of knickers, so that no-one sees your bum should you rip your overalls + furry.

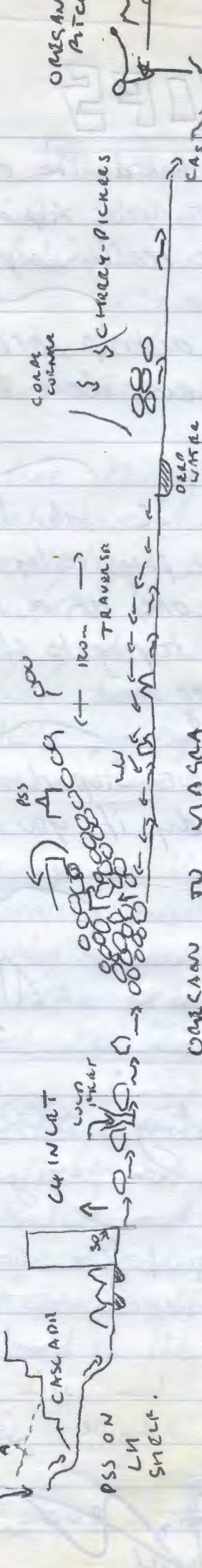
- Before attempting 800m of prussiking, make sure your furry is clean & dry.



CAMP TO BLOWHOLE



BLOWHOLE TO DEEP SEA STROLLS



~~STAIR~~
"CL" INLET

PHRATIC.

Diary - Belvedere.

"Contracts" Pto

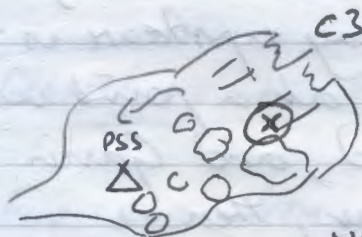
Date 18/7/99 Time 24:00 pm Place BL Contract / Boat Number C 1

BAG	POSITION	In	OUT	Notes
1	Big Ledge	24:00, 18/7/99	10:00 20/7/99	
2	"C4 INLET"	18:00 19/7/99	18:00 20/7/99	
3	VIAGRA	18:00 19/7/99	19:00 20/7/99	
4	Big Ledge	10:00 20/7/99	12:00 28/7/99	(Two Ties)
5	C4 INLET	18:00 20/7/99	20 26/7/99	(Odd Bag)
6	VIAGRA	19:00 20/7/99	22:00 26/7/99	(see Day Kusttal)

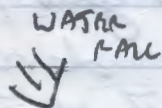


BIG LEDGE. (4)

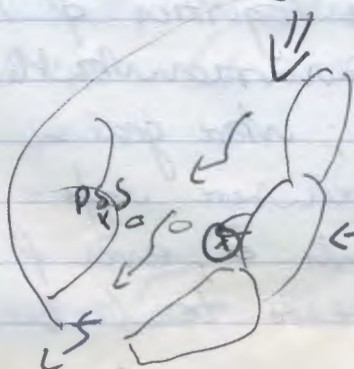
DIARY BAG LOCATIONS



C4 INLET (5)



VIAGRA



(6)