

## **RUSHY GROUND SWALLET**

**Wednesday 5 October 1994** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley

Decided to commence digging in the left hand side bedding plane chamber two thirds of the way along the high level passage. The approach to this 10' by 5' decorated grotto is very low, and work started on deepening the floor to avoid damage to the roof formations. Several large slabs of rock were shifted.

**Wednesday 12 October 1994** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley, Richard Witcombe

Continued clearing slabs and mud from the threshold of the grotto. Two very large rocks defied efforts to shift them, even after a slight reduction in volume by sledgehammer. The spoil was stacked in alcoves along the main passage.

After the exertions of digging, RW and DM felt short of breath - probably due to the presence of CO<sub>2</sub>.

**Wednesday 19 October 1994** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley, Richard Witcombe

Shifted the large boulders with the aid of DM's tow rope, and continued deepening the floor of the bedding plane. The air seemed fresher - atmospheric pressure was low compared to last week.

**Wednesday 26 October 1994** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley, Richard Witcombe

A small stream was entering the cave after heavy rainfall.

Removed a large quantity of dryish compacted mud and a few rocks from the dig area. The mud at the far end of the bedding plane is noticeably yellow compared to the reddish mud found in much of the cave.

**Wednesday 2 November 1994** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley, Richard Witcombe

Removed more mud from the bedding plane and started following the end wall downwards. There is a slight undercut but it is too soon to say if this is a way on. Spoil is being dumped in the sides of the main passage.

**Wednesday 9 November 1994** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley

Cleared more compacted mud and reached an area of large rocks. The end wall is dropping more or less vertically.

**Wednesday 23 November 1994** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley, Richard Witcombe, Simon XXX

Cleared mud and rocks down to a depth of about 5'. There is now a mud filled undercut in the end wall.

**Wednesday 30 November 1994** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley, Richard Witcombe

Another dozen or so buckets of mud and a few rocks dug out. The end wall undercut is negligible and a potentially more interesting one under the right hand wall is now being probed.

**Wednesday 7 December 1994** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley

One large rock broken up and removed together with the usual yellowish clay and occasional small stones. The end wall undercut again looks interesting.

In the absence of the third digger, some spoil was stockpiled temporarily in the main passage.

**Wednesday 14 December 1994** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley, Richard Witcombe

Filled the bedding plane dumping area from last week's stockpiled spoil, and switched to a partly boulder filled alcove just beyond the dig on the right hand side.

The diggers concentrated on the end wall undercut and probed upwards into a small airspace, about 1' high, 1' wide and perhaps 2' long. The "far" end cannot be seen clearly because of the awkwardness of the U-tube access and a largish rock in the mud needs to be removed next week to properly assess the prospects.

**Wednesday 21 December 1994** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley, Richard Witcombe

Dug around the large rock - a tooth shaped piece of lightweight, perhaps chemically "degraded", white limestone - and eventually removed it to the top of the bedding plane chamber. Further digging revealed a right hand wall to follow, but the exact nature of the "airbell" is still unclear.

Some spoil was thrown into the holes among boulders on the left hand side of the chamber.

**Thursday 29 December 1994** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley

Continued digging below the airbell and located an end wall broken only by a choked narrow slot. We must assume that the way on lies at a greater depth.

**Wednesday 11 January 1995** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley, Richard Witcombe

Continued digging below the airbell, following rather indeterminate walls. Towards the end of the session, a layer of rocks was uncovered, with a number of very small airspaces between them.

**Wednesday 18 January 1995** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley, Richard Witcombe

Enlarged the digging area in the search for a way on. The right hand side (the dipping strike) looks the best prospect, but it is still solidly choked with only an occasional tiny airspace between rocks.

Some of the muddied formations were cleaned with an artist's paintbrush and water, and a few photos were taken.

**Wednesday 1 February 1995** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley, Richard Witcombe

Found that the plastic bag containing the paint brush and bottle of water, left about sixty feet inside the cave, had been extensively chewed, as had the paper label on the bottle. There were droppings nearby - almost certainly those of a mouse. The animal is either starving or building a nest!

Continued digging downwards following a slightly undercut end wall.

**Wednesday 8 February 1995** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley, Richard Witcombe

Shifted a small amount of mud and stones, and one very large boulder which had to be broken up by sledge hammer and chisel.

Some accidentally damaged formations were "modified" with a small metal file to give them a more natural appearance.

**Wednesday 15 February 1995** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley, Richard Witcombe

Shifted a large amount of mud and small rocks. The dig is now about 8' deep, and is following the rather irregular end wall downwards. At the bottom there is a small choked inlet on the right and straight ahead, another undercut.

**Wednesday 22 February 1995** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley, Max Midlen

Excavated more dryish mud and small rocks, following a right hand wall and the undercut end wall.

**Wednesday 1 March 1995** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley

Continued digging downwards, exposing what may be the roof of a passage ahead.

**Wednesday 8 March 1995** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley, Richard Witcombe. Later Max Midlen and Pete Haigh sightseeing and then helping.

Clearing mud and rocks from the undercut ahead.

**Wednesday 15 March 1995** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley, Richard Witcombe

Digging in the fairly uninspiring undercut, hemmed in with solution "decayed" rocks.

More stal washing and "repair".

**Wednesday 29 March 1995** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley

Various walls and elements of "solid" rock channelled the dig into a small pit.

**Wednesday 5 April 1995** - Dave Morrison, Graham Bromley, Richard Witcombe

Continued clearing out the pit, removing small solution decayed rocks and the resultant grey mud.

More stal "repair".

**Wednesday 19 April 1995** - Graham Bromley, Richard Witcombe

More uninspiring digging in the pit. Spoil is now being dumped at several points in the cave, some of them quite a long way from the dig. The end may be nigh.

**Wednesday 26 April 1995** - Graham Bromley, Dave Morrison

Shifted one large rock and a few buckets of fill.

**Wednesday 10 May 1995** - Graham Bromley, Richard Witcombe, Sharon N/K. Later Dave Morrison

Tourist trip for Sharon, a friend of one of Jim Young's daughters. Two token buckets of fill were removed from the dig.