

Tony Jarratt's Caving Log

**Volume 4, 1988-1992**

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United States of America Virginia	<b>Skyline Caverns</b> 9/9/88 Jane, guide + tourists	40m	Front Royal	Flew from Gatwick via Newark (NJ) to Washington on 8/9/88, stopping in a hotel in Fairfax. After finding a copy of "Caverns of Virginia" (1933) in a Front Royal book shop we entered our first North American show cave. This is an obviously extensive phreatic system in very light, chalky limestone. In the show cave section there is relatively little in the way of stalagmite formations – the main attraction of the system being the hundreds of large anthodites in one short segment of the tourist route. The other attraction was the young girl cave guide full of sparkling American wit and repartee. An odd, tape-recorded recitation on the Glory of God was another novelty. At one point a shallow streamway is seen and there are doubtless many thousands of feet of "wild" passages below. Thence to the "Knolty Pine Lounge" in Front Royal for "Redeye" beer, followed by a journey along the boring Skyline Drive to Endless Caverns where we camped for two nights. (Skyline Caverns also have much algae and poor coloured lighting in parts).
Virginia	<b>Luray Caverns</b> 10/9/88 Jane, guide + tourists	1hr 10m	Luray	One of the world's great show caves, this one couldn't be missed. In contrast to the previous day our guide turned out to be a short, fat lad with an amazing southern drawl. Some of his jokes were the same, though. The cave appears to be essentially made up of large phreatic chambers absolutely full of immense formations, to the extent of dividing the chamber up into smaller areas. The colour, variety and profusion of formations is incredible with some very fine examples of "shields". Possibly the most novel item here is the Great Stalacpipe Organ – a genuine organ wired up to rubber trip-hammers which are attached to a variety of stalactites which are tuned to concert pitch. The guide set the organ to play automatically and the result was really weird as the notes of "Shenandoah" filled the chamber with an eerie harmony, interrupted by droplets of water splashing all around. Other curiosities in the cave are an underground war memorial to 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and Vietnam war veterans from Luray town and a large sheet of board bearing camera lighting setting for anyone wishing to photograph one of the huge flowstone formations using the specially provided floodlights! Well worth a visit.

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Virginia	<b>Endless Caverns</b> 11/9/88 Jane, guide + tourists	1 ¼ hr	New Market	Another extensive phreatic system in light grey rock – beautifully eroded in many places and with some superb formations, especially "shields". A young lad guided us this time and he was quite knowledgeable, though many of the customary American cave guide jokes re-appeared. Pointing at a large hanging rock he stated that if it fell there would be no need to
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				<p>worry about the Show Cave Company's insurance – as you would be fully covered!</p> <p>Throughout the cave there were both flying and resting bats and these helped to enliven the spirits of the tourists. On the way out the guide performed his party-piece of walking backwards nearly all the way – God knows why! An excellent cave.</p> <p>In the 1920s the Explorers Club of New York did some exploration in this system and work is still going on by the owner and his son Gary, who are both cavers. Books, postcards and assorted bat souvenirs were purchased in the cave shop, including a Bat Hat and rubber rock!</p>
Virginia	<b>Massanutten Caverns</b> 11/9/88 Jane + guide (Mr. Rudd)	2 hr	Keezletown	<p>Yet another very well decorated cave but all on a much smaller scale with only a ¼ mile tourist route to follow. Unfortunately this took us two hours as the guide/cave owner, Mr Rudd, was crippled by a stroke and arthritis and hobbled manfully along on two sticks at 1/8 mph. Luckily he was such an entertaining character that this helped pass the time as we gazed at the thousands of small, cone shaped stalactites and other formations such as straws and peculiar, bulbous stalactites. When anything of interest loomed up Mr Rudd would point it out and discuss it at length (usually saying “weird, weird, weird”). His continual damnation of cave vandals and apologizing for burned out light bulbs varied the conversation, though while he rambled on Jane and I were slowly freezing to death in the cold cave air. It was really a relief to emerge into the warmth, though an interesting preying mantis seen at the entrance on the way in had by now gone. It was certainly a privilege to meet Mr Rudd – an oldtime caver, grotto member and tremendously dedicated cave owner with two ambitions – to live long enough for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of Massanutten Caverns in 1892 and to see the Mulu Caves! Stayed outside Staunton that night.</p>

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West Virginia	12/9/88 Drove from Staunton (after collecting parking violation) into West Virginia stopping at Sam Snead's Tavern in Hot Springs for a pint of ice-cold Bass. From here to Lewisburg and then to the Friar's Hole cave preserve owned by NSS member Gordon Mothes – another amazing character, obviously much better off than Mr Rudd but still a dedicated cave owner in his own right. He kindly let us stay in his personal caving hut on his 600 acre farm which contains five of the seven entrances to this 47 mile long system.			
West Virginia	<b>Snedegar's Cave (Saltpetre Ent)</b> <b>Snedegar's Cave (North Ents)</b> <b>Cruikshank Cave</b> <b>Toothpick Cave</b> <b>Rolling Stones Cave</b> 13/9/88 1) Jane (and two cows!) 2)-5) alone	1hr 1hr 5m 5m ½ hr 5m	Renick Renick Friar's Hole Cave System FH Cave Sys FH Cave Sys FH Cave Sys	<i>See below</i>
	There was an unfortunate lack of other cavers around at the time of our visit and so I didn't get much done in this reputedly fine cave system. Jane and I had a ramble into the Saltpetre Cave entrance of the Snedegar's Cave part of the system, avoiding the cow pats in the entrance and carried on down the misty, huge main passage for a few hundred feet to a low section, admiring the many bats en route. Also spotted a cave cricket and a crayfish. Nice, big easy going trunk passage with great			

masses of breakdown over the floor and no formations. When Jane got fed up we returned to the Saltpetre entrance to find a couple of “spelunking” cows inside, sheltering from the heat. After a cold beer I then entered the upper of the North Entrances to Snedegar’s Cave, leading directly into the Saltpetre Maze where I rambled round for a couple of hundred feet vainly looking for the wooden saltpetre mining remains. I returned towards the entrance and dropped down to the lower entrance while I followed the main phreatic passage downstream until stopped by a large pothole with a slippery traverse ledge on the RH side. I did not attempt this alone and contented myself with a fag before heading back out up this obviously flood prone and attractively waterworn swallet passage.

Rejoining Jane, we walked back up towards the caving hut but I took a brief diversion to have a look at the huge and impressive entrance to Cruikshank Cave with its 100’ pit in the floor and a nearby sign warning SRT cavers that “Rats may chew the rope”!

Later in the day I ambled down from the cabin to look at the entrances of these two caves and ended up exploring both as far as possible in my best trousers and boots with T-shirt, flat cap and Petzl Zoom!

Toothpick has a huge, overhanging entrance with a floor blocked with silt and tree trunks. Nearby is a small hole leading to some 400’ of Yorkshire-style canyon passage to the head of the c.50’ Toothpick Pot, where I was forced to halt. There were a couple of bats and many cave crickets inhabiting the entrance series.

Rolling Stones Cave has a steep slippery entrance just upstream of Toothpick which leads to a small collapse chamber with various ways on under the boulders. Here I retreated, partly due to the imminent arrival of a heavy thunderstorm. Staggered back up the steep valley side to the cabin and a welcome gin and tonic. Well done Jane! Stayed another night in this excellent timber caving hut, well known to many Canadian and British cavers.

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West Virginia	<b>Lost World Caverns</b> 14/9/88 Alone (tourists in cave)	25m	Lewisburg	This was a self-guided tour in a very brightly lit show cave – 30’ high double lamp standards throughout! The hand held torch given to visitors is hardly necessary. A sloping, concrete lined tunnel leads into a long and wide breakdown chamber packed with very fine formations – pillars and tall stalagmites being in the majority and all in a living state giving them an attractive finish. At one point one can look up 115-120’ to the original shaft entrance, first entered by cavers in 1942. A pile of rotting cable ladder with 1” thick alloy rungs lies nearby. There is an interesting 6” wide basalt-like rock stratum in the walls of the chamber, just below ceiling level. A short but very impressive show cave.
West Virginia	<b>Organ Cave</b> 14/9/88 Owner / Guide (George)	1hr 20m	Ronceverte	Organ Cave is one of the longest American systems with over 40 miles of passage and plenty of exploration still in progress. The main entrance and associated trunk passages are a rather tatty show cave with the ticket office and shop very much in the old style of American tourist caves – probably unchanged since the 1930s. The passages visited are basically two huge phreatic bore tubes forming a Y-junction with a smaller gallery leading off containing 37 wooden saltpetre leaching vats installed in 1861 when Confederate soldiers worked the sand deposits for nitrates to make gunpowder. The wood is still in excellent condition. All of the tourist route is lit by bare light bulbs hanging on obtrusive cables strung from rotting wooden poles and several of the bulbs sport tatty lamp shades. A few mediocre formations are displayed in the upper of the two main passages. What made the tour worthwhile was the “Deputy Dawg” southern drawl of the owner/guide and his fund of tall tales told very wittily – another great American cave character! A long phreatic roof pocket was pointed out as the site of a

				<p>dinosaur skeleton removed wholesale from the cave for exhibition in an unnamed museum! The generally old fashioned grubbiness and bullshit really made this trip a refreshing change from the usually well lit and modernised show caves like Lost World. A must.</p> <p>Drove on from here to the border with Kentucky where we camped in a state park. The road down is a vast, wooded, dissected plateau where there is much coal mining activity.</p>
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Kentucky	15/9/88 Drove down through the coal mining regions of Kentucky (having no insurance for this state!) eventually arriving at the horrendous Cave City and the much more dignified Mammoth Cave National Park where we camped for two nights.			
Kentucky	<b>Mammoth Cave</b> 16/9/88 Jane, 2 guides, 44 tourists	2hr 25m	Park City	<i>See below</i>

	<p>Another ambition accomplished! The longest cave in the world, with 325 miles surveyed so far and with about one mile a month being added on, has to be a must for any show cave collector! With a selection of about eight different tours, Jane and I selected two that would cover the most extensive and interesting regions without doing any sections twice. Our first trip was the "Echo River Tour". A short and attractive female National Parks guide and a trainee male guide, both in smart "Baden Powell" uniforms, shepherded our large party on this trip. Entry was via the original Historic Entrance, near the Restaurant, Hotel and Ticket Offices. A large horizontal passage led to a junction at the Rotunda, where the remains of the 1812 War of Independence saltpetre mining operations were viewed. These consist of large, square wooden hoppers and hollowed out tree trunks to bring in water and carry out the leached nitrate juice. From here we passed a side passage once used as a church; various displays of Indian artefacts and the huge boulder known as the Giant's Coffin. Leaving the main trunk passage we then gradually descended via the infamous (but exaggerated) Fat Man's Misery to emerge in a lower level at Relief Hall – where, apparently, these are underground toilets! A roomy phreatic bore passage was then followed to the Dead Sea and along a series of paths and walkways above Echo River – passing over or through Lake Lethe, Shakespeare's Galleries and the Sahara Desert – the latter being some 6" deep in fine sand deposited by winter floods. This last section of passage had all been done with everyone wearing bright orange life jackets - except the guides whose jackets were a suitable National Parks khaki! At the boat dock on the bank of the sluggish, murky Echo River we split into two parties for the "highlight" of the trip – a 50 yard long boat trip which was hardly worth the effort as it returned to the dock after about ten minutes. When all were safely ashore we returned to the Dead Sea, thankfully ridding ourselves of the uncomfortable life jackets and turned left, through River Hall, to the Mammoth Dome. Here we all climbed a series of steps up a "fire tower" to the top of the Dome – a superb vertical corrosion feature with attractive formations – then again reached the Rotunda and headed out.</p> <p>My main impressions of the cave were of the magnificent flat roofed trunk passages and the phreatic tunnels – mostly dry as a bone and completely devoid of formations, though in the upper level there are vast layers of smoke discoloured gypsum crystals – once mined by the Indians. The cave is discretely lit to give one the feel of actually caving. In fact, due to electrical faults, Mammoth Dome was hardly lit at all! The guides are well trained, and informative. And capable of dealing with sarcasm or genuine curiosity. They stress the difficult of parts of the tourist trails and the short length of the boat trip. A good first visit to a tremendous cave system followed by an excellent meal in the Mammoth Cave Hotel restaurant.</p>			
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Kentucky	<b>Sand Cave</b> 16/9/88 Alone	10m	Cave City	<p>Made famous as the cave where Floyd Collins was trapped and eventually died, Sand Cave lies on the edge of the Park, a couple of hundred yards from the road. I visited it during heavy rain and Jane elected to stay in the car. With the wet, misty weather and in my solitary state the somewhat eerie atmosphere of the wide and low cave entrance was enhanced. To the left of the entrance a short passage led to a welded grid – the cave passage proper – leading to the site of the abortive rescue attempts. Immediately in front of the rock-shelter like entrance is the now</p>
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				collapsed shaft driven by miners before Floyd died and later used to bring out his body. The main point of interest here were the hundreds of large cave crickets walking upside down under all the convenient ledges in the entrance chamber. Several photos were taken of these. It was difficult to visualise the 10,000 onlookers on Sunday Feb 8 <sup>th</sup> 1925, halfway through the rescue attempt.
Kentucky	<b>Mammoth Cave</b> 17/9/88 2 guides (Duke, Hank), Jane and 200 tourists!	3 hr 55 m	Park City	Lasting from 11.20am to 3.15pm this was the Half Day Tour. Following a bus ride from the Ticket Office we all entered the cave via the artificially enlarged Carmichael Entrance, where a stepped incline drops down into Cleaveland Avenue – a superb, mile long phreatic trunk passage, covered in gypsum crystals and various arrays of gypsum flowers. Walking along this impressive tube gave some indication of the vast extent of the Mammoth Cave System. This passage ended abruptly in the Snowball Dining Room – where an underground restaurant provided rest for the weary and packed lunches for the gluttonous (most of the 200 tourists!). Another underground toilet block gave relief of its own sort. After the enforced wait here we continued our route march along Boone Avenue, similar to parts of Doolin River Cave – occasionally enlarging into breakdown passages and chambers. After 1.6 miles we reached Mammoth Gypsum Wall and yet another set of underground bogs. Beyond here a large pile of boulder breakdown was surmounted by flights of steps and the Grand Central Station reached, just below the New Entrance to the cave. Here we had another rest and a lecture from Duke, the chief guide. He has been a ranger and guide here for some 20 years and was a great character – very witty but capable of being authoritarian with errant tourists. The last part of the trip consisted of a visit to the fairly spectacular flowstone cascade of Frozen Niagara – a beautiful ochre colour and with many other fine formations nearby – before exiting from the Frozen Niagara Entrance and taking the bus back to the ticket office. A very impressive tourist trip covering much of the portion of Mammoth Cave open to the public. Quite an effort for some of the less fit in the party.
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Virginia	<b>Natural Tunnel</b> 19/9/88 2 Train drivers! 2 Train guards!	20m	Duffield	Drove up to Va. on 18/10/88 and camped at Natural Tunnel, where we had the whole site to ourselves. On the following day Jane and I walked down to the Tunnel overlook for a view of the huge cave entrance with the emerging Stock Creek and running alongside it the rails of the Southern Railway which takes a short cut through this providential Natural Tunnel. I later clambered down the steep tourist rail from the State Park buildings to inspect the cave at close hand. The Tunnel is 850' long, 100' high and from 100'-75' in width. As I was taking photos some 200' in from the entrance, a vibration in the rails heralded the approach of a train and soon after it suddenly appeared at the entrance, with

				<p>headlight blazing and pulling well over fifty freight trucks. The impression given by this massive train halfway through the huge cave passage is difficult to describe but definitely awe-inspiring! As the engine passed I got a friendly wave from the driver who must have been used to seeing tourists rambling about in the tunnel – not quite British Rail safety standards! After some ten minutes the train passed and explored the rest of the cave, noting the apparent lack of side passages. On my way back from the exit a rail inspection train appeared with two men aboard – and waved greetings were again exchanged. A short caving trip but a hell of an experience – even better than Mas d’Azil. (We then drove across to Bristol, on the Tennessee/Va border to see :- )</p>
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Tennessee	<b>Bristol Caverns</b> 19/9/88 Guide (Wayne) + 4 tourists	50m	Bristol	<p>A very attractive show cave once used by Cherokee Indians as a water supply and hiding place, the original entrance being gridded and access now by an official entrance (with another entrance in the course of being excavated to provide a through trip). The present entrance drops into a large and superbly decorated chamber formed in smooth, grey, vertically bedded limestone and ending in a breakdown choke. From here a descent leads to a very scenic underground stream running the length of the cave with explorable ways on at both ends. We then retraced our steps admiring the fine formations en route. Wayne, the guide, is a member of the local Holston Grotto and was quite friendly and knowledgeable, though not a great raconteur like other cave guides. Well worth visiting if one is in the area.</p>
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Virginia	<b>Dixie Caverns</b> 20/9/88 Guide, 5 tourists	45m	Roanoke	<p>Yet another attractive lady guide led this trip, though the cave is mediocre by US standards – not helped at all by the profusion of coloured lights throughout. It is a ¼ mile long trail through narrow passages and larger chambers on three levels. When the guide found out I was a caver I ended up doing much of the explaining of cave formations and also pointed out helictites and some example of boxwork which she did not know were there! Also spotted a “Dixie” (?) salamander on top of a stalagmite. These are rarely seen in the cave. So ended the cave visiting part of our holiday. The next week was spent visiting Washington and sea fishing, snorkelling and boozing in the Florida Keys. All in all, a superb month’s experience. Next time Carlsbad!</p>
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 2/10/88 Gonzo, Kev Gurner, Nick Gymer, Sarah McDonald, Steve Tooms (CSS) a girl (CSS) (Henri, Seb (CSS) and	1hr	Priddy	<p>Back to reality and a hangover following the BEC dinner of the previous night. Removed about 20 skip loads following a bang by Nigel Taylor in the morning. The way on is low but interesting and the air was not nice.</p>

	visitors)			
Somerset	<p>9/10/88 During an idle Mendip weekend I looked at several flooded cave streams caused by heavy rain over the previous couple of days. At Bowery Corner Swallet the water was halfway up the overflow pipe and was flowing over much of the spoil heap and sinking under the tree to the left of the entrance. Much of the cave would have been impassable, the entrance pipe being a maelstrom of water from the three entering streams. Photos were taken.</p> <p>Wigmore Swallet was taking a large stream and the depressions in the gruffy ground, between the cave and the marsh/pond were full of water which was not apparently sinking anywhere. More snaps taken here.</p> <p>Waldergrave Swallet appeared to be dry but the entrance is now quite overgrown so I did not examine it closely. A good stream was sinking on the other side of the road, halfway back towards the Miners' Arms.</p> <p>The swallet at the end of the Hunters Lodge Inn was surprisingly taking very little water, the road drainage having presumably already disappeared by the time of the my arrival. Gave up thoughts of caving and went to the pub!</p>			

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Somerset	<b>Twin Titties Cave</b> 12/10/88 Brian Prewer, Brian Workman, Albert, John Ham, Don, Eric, Alan and Dave Turner	1¾ hr	Priddy	Much of the session was spent smashing up the remains of a large boulder, banged by Fred at the weekend. Several bags of spoil also winched up the last "pitch". Things are looking good here and it is expected that the dig will "go" by Christmas..... where have I heard that before?
Buckinghamshire	<b>Hell-Fire Caves</b> 13/10/88 2 tourists	½ hr	West Wycombe	Another visit to this peculiar artificial chalk cave – now "improved" by the addition of several well decorated grottos made by spray on polystyrene in multi-colours! This is actually very effective I places and almost convincing. What gives it away are the odd shapes of stalagmites (vertical straws!) and the "melted" effect – very like lava tube formations. Some cementing and general shoring has been poorly done all along the system. My main impression is that it would be far more interesting if it was in its original state and could be visited only by candle light.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 14/10/88 Alone	1 hr	Priddy	Damp. Spent some time hacking down the roof and generally tidying up in preparation for the next bang. Removed one sledge load of spoil. (Evening trip on following page).

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Somerset	<b>Twin Titties Cave</b> <b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 14/10/88 Nigel Taylor	25m 15m	Priddy	A late evening trip to bang these two sites using Nigel's "wonder marzipan". The last stubborn piece of boulder at the end of Twin Ts was easily eliminated and we then rushed over to Bowery where Nigel removed yet another limestone pillar at the end of the crawl. Out by ten pm and still managed to get rigid at the pub!
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 15/10/88 Snablet, Nick Sprange, Simon, Andy Middleton, Rich Payne, (Zot on surface)	1 hr 50m	Priddy	The previous night's bang had only partially removed the pillar. Some 20 loads of rock and silt were removed and the site generally tidied up and prepared for the next bang. A good morning's work.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 21/10/88 Alone	2 hr	Priddy	Nigel's bang of the previous Wednesday night had merely shattered about a foot of the pillar. This was removed and a lot of hammer, chisel and crowbar work got rid of some more. One load was removed to surface and four loads left in (three bagged up). One more bang will remove what's left of this extremely hard pillar. The way on is low and wet but the roof seems to come down easily. Started composing the "Bowery



				Corner” song to the tune of “Old Man River”.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 22/10/88 a.m. Gonzo, Martin Grass, (Blitz, Karen, Bassett) p.m. Gonzo (Nigel Taylor)	½ hr ¾ hr	Priddy	a.m. Pulled out 6 loads and then Gonzo, instructed by Martin, laid a 4 oz charge on the pillar. Retired to the pub. P.m. Gonzo went to the end while I pulled the sledges back from the corner. Fortunately Nigel appeared and he hauled from the surface. Removed another half dozen loads. I was about to go in and lay another charge when a distressed Gonzo shouted out that he was about to faint and was coming out. I shouted at him to keep going and he eventually crawled out and reached the surface unaided but feeling very groggy. He had a bad case of bang fume poisoning and was despatched to the Belfry where Karen did her nursing bit. He was quite shocked by his experience.

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 23/10/88 Alone	20m	Priddy	Laid and fired 4 ozs Gelamex on LH wall at end. Everything went like clockwork.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 28/10/88 Alone	1hr 35m	Priddy	Gonzo had cleared the site and laid another bang on 26/10/88. I removed as much debris as possible, which involved a lot of hammer and chisel work, then laid and fired 4 ozs Gelamex in the LH wall/roof. Looks bloody good ahead – some 8’ of relatively open passage and a small black hole that may be the start of open passage. No bags brought out but plenty filled p for the next hauling team. Got bloody cold lying in the stream in a furry suit.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 29/10/88 Andy Cave, Gonzo, Mark Simms (SMCC)	1¾ hr	Priddy	Gonzo and Andy cleared most of the spoil and when I and Mark arrived we removed about 20 loads in total. Laid another 4 ozs Gelamex (underneath the parked vehicles of the Mendip Farmers’ Hunt!) and fired same. A good morning’s work.

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 30/10/88 Gonzo (Ted Humphries)	1 hr	Priddy	Found that the last bang had done a superb job – creating a vast amount of lumpy spoil. This was all pushed aside and another 4 ozs Gelamex laid (by Gonzo) at the end. Looks extremely good.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 1/11/88 Lugger, Gonzo, Simon (NCC), Wendy	1¼ hr	Priddy	About 12 loads removed. Gonzo reckons he can see 100’ along almost passable crawl – tomorrow will tell! Simon was quite impressed and Lugger had a cold so he pulled from the surface and looked at the entrance passage. Wendy didn’t like the crawl!
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet Swildon’s Hole</b> 2/11/88 a) Alone b) Jean Claude (Jack) London, Francoise Esser – Belgium, Simon Brown (NCC) c) Jean-Claude, Francoise, Gonzo, Steve Milner, Blitz, (Karen)	1 hr 1½ hr	Priddy	a) To assess Gonzo’s “100’ of passage”. On arrival I cleared some of the roof and eventually managed to remove the sack blocking the view on. It was then evident that only some 20’ of small passage was visible. This will not be easy to enter. Spent an hour widening the passage – mainly by crowbarring a large limestone slab from the LH wall. Pulled out one load. b) Took the Belgians and Simon on a very pleasant tourist trip to Sump 2 in damp conditions. Francoise chickened out at Sump 1 as she only had dry grots on. Everyone was suitably impressed. c) Spent the evening hauling buckets from the

				surface at Bowery Corner, assisted by Karen Jones. Removed about 15 loads. Occasionally popped down the entrance shaft to natter to Francoise and get out of the cold! The end could probably do with a bang.
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 4/11/88 Alone	½ hr	Priddy	Put 4 ozs Gelamex on the LH wall at the end (2 separate connected charges). Very little water in the cave. Satisfying thump!
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 5/11/88 Andy Ward (NWCC), Mark Simms (SMCC), Lugger (NCC) Surface:- Wendy, Simon (NCC) odd WCC [Trev Hughes, Dick-Ed]	2hr 10m	Priddy	am. Cleared out a dozen or so bags of spoil and two very large boulders despite the unpleasantly bad air conditions following the last bang. After the pub Trev and Dick-Ed cleared a load more while I hung about on the surface. Another good days work.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 6/11/88 Snablet	1hr 10m	Priddy	Cleared half a dozen bags left by Trevor then went to the end and after chiselling off some loose blocks laid a 4 oz Gelamex charge on the LH wall. Dragged out a few more bags before firing. Hopefully by Wednesday night we will have reached the vadose trench or junction which can be seen some 15' ahead.
Somerset	<b>Welsh's Green Swallet</b> <b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 7/11/88 Graham Johnson (WCC) Rachael Clarke, (Zot on surface)	¾ hr  1¼ hr	Milton  Priddy	First to Welsh's Green where I fired off a 1 ½ lb charge of Gelamex on the rock bridge at the end of the lower crawl. This site is draughting outwards strongly and there is the sound of falling water ahead. Looks good. Another find for the "Choke Busters" is in the offing. Then to Bowery Corner where about 10 bags of spoil were removed. Graham thinks it is almost passable and will probably "go" by Wednesday. Another sledge is needed for the last section of Skid Row.
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 8/11/88 Alone	¾ hr	Priddy	Went to the end for a look, with the option of banging. Took down a new sledge for the final crawl and a new hoe. Dragged back a couple of loads and decided to place 4 ozs Gelamex behind the shattered limestone pillar on the LH side. Should be able to reach the "vadose bit" tomorrow.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 9/11/88 Tony Boycott, Trev Hughes, Rich (Dick Head) Stevens	1 hr 50m	Priddy	Removed a total of about 16 bags. Gained roughly 10' of passage. The "vadose bit" was not reached and now seems to be a washed in digging bag! It looks like the bloody place is still going on in its own inimitable way! Another useful digging session. (Also took over concrete blocks and cement ready to fit the A.R.D.C. lid).
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 10/11/88 Alone	25m	Priddy	Nipped down to lay a 1 metre cordtex charge on the LH wall/roof at the present easily passable limit. Brought out one small rock!
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 12/11/88 a.m. Gonzo p.m. (Trev, Karen, Gonzo. UND –	2 hrs	Priddy	a.m. Gonzo and I moved about ten loads of spoil from the end into the chamber. Two loads out to surface. In the afternoon Trev and Karen did a surface techy survey, Loopy and Dick Ed dragged the other eight or so bags back to the entrance and Gonzo and I cemented the ARDC

	Loopy, Dick Ed, and Hannah)			lid on. Hannah the dog made a bloody awful row in the background. All in all, a good day's work. The lid looks a treat!
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 13/11/88 Trev Hughes, Gonzo, Ivan (SMCC), Mark Simms (SMCC) (Loopy – surface) [visitors:- Clive North +1]	1hr 5m	Priddy	Trev and Gonzo surveyed the whole cave (approx 36m) and Trev then dug at the end. Due to the nature of the passage he only managed to remove a couple of bag loads so everyone soon got fed up and mutinied. Probably needs another bang to widen the end. (In the morning Gonzo, Gwen, Stuart, Nick Sprange and I completed the concreting of the lid).

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 14/11/88 Alone	¾ hr	Priddy	To the end of Skid Row where I removed two digging sacks which had been flushed in. I then laid 2 x 2 oz Gelamex charges on limestone pillars on the LH wall. Brought out one load of spoil. There should now be something for the team to do on Wednesday night.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 18/11/88 Pat Cronin	50m	Priddy	Damp conditions! Pat went in and cleared several loads of spoil from Tony Boycott's bang of Wednesday night. I then took over and laid 2 separate 2 oz Gelamex charges at the very end, on a low limestone pillar on the LH side. Very low, wet and cold. Plenty of work to be done now as long as the weather holds out.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 19/11/88 Gonzo, Trev, Dick-Ed, Graham Johnson (WCC) (Tim Large on surface)	1hr 10m	Priddy	The lads had dug out a load of spoil in the morning so in the afternoon Trev and Dick Ed dug at the end and the rest of us hauled out about 20 sledge loads. Trevor thinks the cave is about to go down the dip, but could be choked. Another good day's work.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> Gonzo, Ivan (SMCC) (Mark Simms (SMCC) – SURFACE)	¾ hr	Priddy	Very cold weather and a good sized stream were not encouraging for a long digging session. Gonzo cleared up at the end, Ivan had a quick look and then I went in and laid 2 x 4 oz charges on two limestone pillars on the LH side. If the cave gets much wetter we might have to leave it and go down Hallowe'en Rift!

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 22/11/88 Gonzo	50m	Priddy	Quick Tuesday evening trip. Gonzo found that only one of the 4 oz charges had gone off and that the other was lying in the stream – he was not amused and came out rapidly! I went in and gently laid the old bang aside before removing three sledge loads of good sized spoil created by the other 4 oz charge, which had done a good job. I then laid a fresh 4 oz charge (together with the old 4 oz charge) on a rock pillar directly ahead. A further 2 oz charge was placed on a fragile looking limestone pillar on the RH side (above a possible small choked sump). The whole lot (10 oz) was successfully fired – I hope! Thankfully not a completely wasted trip.
Somerset	23/11/88 Surface hauling at Bowery Corner Swallet while Gonzo, Wormhole and Tony Boycott dug and hauled underground. Tony also put in an 8 oz Gelamex charge on the terminal pillar – supposedly untouched by my bang of the previous day. 4 bags hauled out.			
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 26/11/88 Dave "Wobbly" Shand (Steve Milner –	2 ¼ hr	Priddy	Cleared out nine loads of spoil to surface and placed an 8 oz Gelamex charge on the rock pillar at the end. There is a tiny sump under this pillar. Not too much water today.

	surface)			
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 27/11/88 Trev Hughes, Stu Lain	2hr 10m	Priddy	Shifted 11 loads from the end and left several loads ready for bagging in the “chamber”. There is no way on straight ahead but there is a silt choked sump on the RH side. This will be dug and pumped or alternatively we will bang over the top.

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 3/12/88 a.m. Alone p.m. (Trev, Nick, Simon – visitors Jos, a groom)	1 hr 40m	Priddy	Went down alone in the morning and filled 11 bags with spoil, hauling 2 to the surface. In the afternoon the lads loaded up the bags and I pulled a total of 11 out to the surface. Trevor then laid a 12 oz charge at the end, above the sump which seems to be going along the strike. We will have to blow the roof off this and drop in into the sump. There was a large toad at the end but he escaped before I could reach him. He now has a bad headache! One of the horse box drivers from the Mendip Farmers’ Hunt came over to watch. Another useful day’s work.
Somerset	<b>Swildon’s Hole</b> 4/12/88 Nigel and Mike Walker	1 ½ hr	Priddy	Nigel was on his first trip and Mike on his first real trip. Down to Barne’s Loop in dry grotts - fairly damp conditions. Met loads of BEC, COW, KEG and assorted weegies. Both lads enjoyed it, especially Nigel, who is a natural and will doubtless come again.
Isle of Wight	<b>Freshwater Cave</b> 7/12/88 Alone	10m	Freshwater	Could not reach Watcomb Bay due to high level of tide. Pottered around “Freshwater Cave” photographing various entrances. I am not convinced that this is the cave illustrated in various 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> Century engravings. I hope to be able to sort it out when the photographs are developed. A beautiful, warm winter’s day but lack of time and a bad cold prevented full enjoyment of it!
Somerset	9/12/88 Took 8 oz (4 sticks) Gelamex to Bowery Corner Swallet. Gonzo, Graham Johnson (WCC) and Jos (MCG) were having a quick look and preparing the end for the bang. Gonzo laid the charge while I sweltered in the car. There is almost too much water for comfort at this time of year.			

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 10/12/88 Alone	1 ½ hr	Priddy	Gonzo’s bang of the previous night had cracked up the limestone “pillar”. I removed several bags of spoil and dug up-dip for some 4 feet into a muddy alcove / passage. No one else appeared so I laid 8 ozs Gelamex in a natural shot hole behind the pillar and retired to the surface with one bag of spoil. There is almost certainly a slight draught and the situation is looking better.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 16/12/88 Murray Knapp (WCC)	40m	Priddy	8 oz Gelamex fired above sump at end and c.8 bags dragged out to first chamber. Low water.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 17/12/88 Snabiet	1hr 5m	Priddy	Hauled out the eight bags from the previous day’s shifting session then went to the end and filled a further eight bags. These were eventually dragged out to the surface. No bang was laid as there is still a lot of hammer and chisel work to do at the end.
Somerset	<b>Twin Titties Cave</b> 21/12/88 Albert, Prew, Don T + 1, Roger, John, John Ham	1 hr 35 m	Priddy	Went to the bottom, after digging my way in and loaded up four bags. Albert, John H, Prew, Don + 1 cemented up various bits of ginging. I then hauled the four bags to the top of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> shaft. Looks very good – there is an at least 12’ deep hole going on straight down from the end. A fair

				bit of boulder shifting needs to be done before the bottom can be dug in earnest.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 24/12/88 Snablet	1 hr 25 m	Priddy	Hammered and crowbarred at the end while Snablet dug out the debris from the sump and bagged up c. 6 loads. Laid 8 oz Gelamex behind the second rock pillar at the end, just before a mud-filled high level passage. Brought out one load.

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Ireland Co. Clare	<b>Doolin Cave System (St. Catherine's One – Fisherstreet Pot)</b> 29/12/88 Mongo, Tim Gould, Pete Hopkins, Andy Lovell, Wobbly, Martin Ellis (SMCC)	1 ½ hr	Doolin	The usual drunken through trip from the top to bottom entrance to ease the conscience on a holiday in Clare. Nice water conditions with two foot of airspace at the Pot. Tim unfortunately deeply gashed his hand on one of the sharp slabs of limestone near the Aille River section. Pleasant quick trip followed by more Guinness at Gus o'Connors.
Ireland Co. Clare	<b>Coolagh River Cave (Polldonough)</b> 30/12/88 Wobbly, Mongo	1 ¾ hr	Lisdoonvarna	The aim was to enter via Polldonough and emerge from Polldonough South but entirely due to not reading the description properly we did not realise that the particularly low, wet and froth-filled section at the Second Bedding Cave was the way on and after trying various side passages gave up in disgust and returned to the Guinness. In our defence, though, the debris from obvious recent flooding ensured that we didn't stay down too long. Hungover but vaguely refreshing!
Ireland Co. Clare	<b>Coolagh River Cave (Polldonough South [B9a] Polldonough North)</b> 31/12/88 Mongo, Martin Ellis (SMCC)	2hr 20m	Lisdoonvarna	Decided to go back and do the bugger properly as the weather was so fantastic. In via the small hole of B9a into the Polldonough South streamway and down Double Passage and Gour Passage to Balcombe's Pot. Mongo and I went upstream to reach the missed connection of the previous day and then all three of us followed the Lower Main Drain down the magnificent streamway to the sump, noting the froth 50' up in the roof! Back out via the wet and sporting Polldonough North streamway – much to the disgust of the furry suit clad Martin! A real cobweb-remover of a trip thoroughly enjoyed by all of us.

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 4/1/89 Alone	2hr 10m	Priddy	An appropriate first trip of the year ... Not feeling too good due to a badly bruised left eye gained while chopping firewood (a poke in the eye with a sharp stick!). Dug at the end through about three feet of mud and shattered rock above the sump pool and suddenly broke through into open space. This was cleared to reveal the end of the sumped section – total length about six feet – and a low, partly choked streamway heading off into the distance for at least 10 feet – difficult to judge with one eye! There is a good, definite draught and it will take little work to progress further now that we have passed the obstruction. The water can be heard running away. Almost dry conditions today but as wet weather is forecast all spoil should be removed as soon as possible and the cave prepared for a wet spell. Looking better than ever! (Later that day a team cleared all the spoil and gained a couple of feet).
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b>	2 ¼ hr	Priddy	Wet conditions following heavy rain the previous day. Cleared a small amount of spoil from the

	6/1/89 Alone 2 ¼ hr (M.Bishop visitor)			sump area before deciding that a bang would make progress easier. Dragged one bag and a large rock to surface then returned to the end and laid 2 x 4 oz charges on limestone pillars on the LH wall. Dragged another bag and a smaller rock to surface before firing the charge. The way on looks good but signs of froth in the roof may indicate another blockage further on, though the stream runs away nicely at present.
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 7/1/89 Gonzo (p.m. Trev Hughes, Ted Humphries)	2hrs 35m	Priddy	Shifted 16 bags and two rocks from the end to the “standing up bit”. The way on is low and ends in an archway or sump (?). Not as inspiring as appeared yesterday but still hopeful. Beyond the c.6’ sump section there is perhaps 15’ of open passage. In the afternoon Trev went underground and loaded up all the bags while I hauled them to surface. Ted visited and lent a hand. Trev also removed a large slab from the end which Gonzo had loosened earlier. A good day’s work.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 8/1/89 Trev Hughes	2 hr	Priddy	Trev cleared up at the end and laid a 4 oz Gelamex charge on the roof just before “Sump II”. Six loads of spoil dragged out to surface. The passage before the second sump is low but diggable.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet Swildon’s Hole</b> 14/1/89 Trev Hughes	10m  50m	Priddy	Quick trip in Bowery due to very heavy water conditions. The end was backed up and Trev had to dig through froth to reach it. He gave up thinking of digging and rescued a large frog instead. (the “toad” of 9/12/88 – survivor of several “bangs”). We also pulled out all the loose bricks whose use as shoring was unnecessary. Being kitted up we decided to burn off the “Burton Bridge Brewery Bitter” down Swildons. Down to Sump 2 and back in 50 minutes overtaking loads of people on the way back. An excellent refresher and sobering up trip.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 15/1/89 Rick Beharrell	½ hr	Priddy	8 ozs Gelamex laid on LH wall 8’ before Sump 2. Fairly wet conditions with much evidence of backing up.

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Sussex	<b>Hastings Caves</b> 18/1/89 Alone	10m	Hastings	Had a quick look at two (possibly three) of the caves surveyed by Terry Reeve (CSS Records Vol.11 p.13). They are quite complicated artificial/natural sandstone caves obviously well used by local kids and possibly tramps. There is some potential for digging through the soft infill into further passages. Their origins may be quite ancient. The fourth cave surveyed by Terry was not accessible due to barbed wire fencing across the path.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 20/1/89 Gonzo	1 ½ hr	Priddy	Dragged several loads out to the “standing up bit” and eventually two bags and two rocks to surface. Laid 2 x 4 oz charges of Gelamex on the LH wall four feet before “Sump 2”. Fired from surface but the only just discernible noise may mean that it was a misfire with only the detonator going off. Let’s hope not. Damp conditions.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 21/1/89	1 ¼ hr	Priddy	Hangover curing trip in order to check the supposed misfire of the previous day. Got to the end (fairly wet conditions) and was greatly

	Alone (visitor – Mark Simms)			relieved to find that the bang had gone off – doing an excellent job in the process. Dragged out several bags of spoil and a few large slabs. It is now possible to get to Sump 2 and the next bang will be the start of its removal. Dragged one load out to surface.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 27/1/89 Alone	1 ¾ hr	Priddy	Intended to bang the end but because of Nigel's bang of Wednesday there was too much spoil to clear. Bagged up several loads and left them this side of Sump 1. Brought one load and a large boulder to surface. Needs a clearing session.

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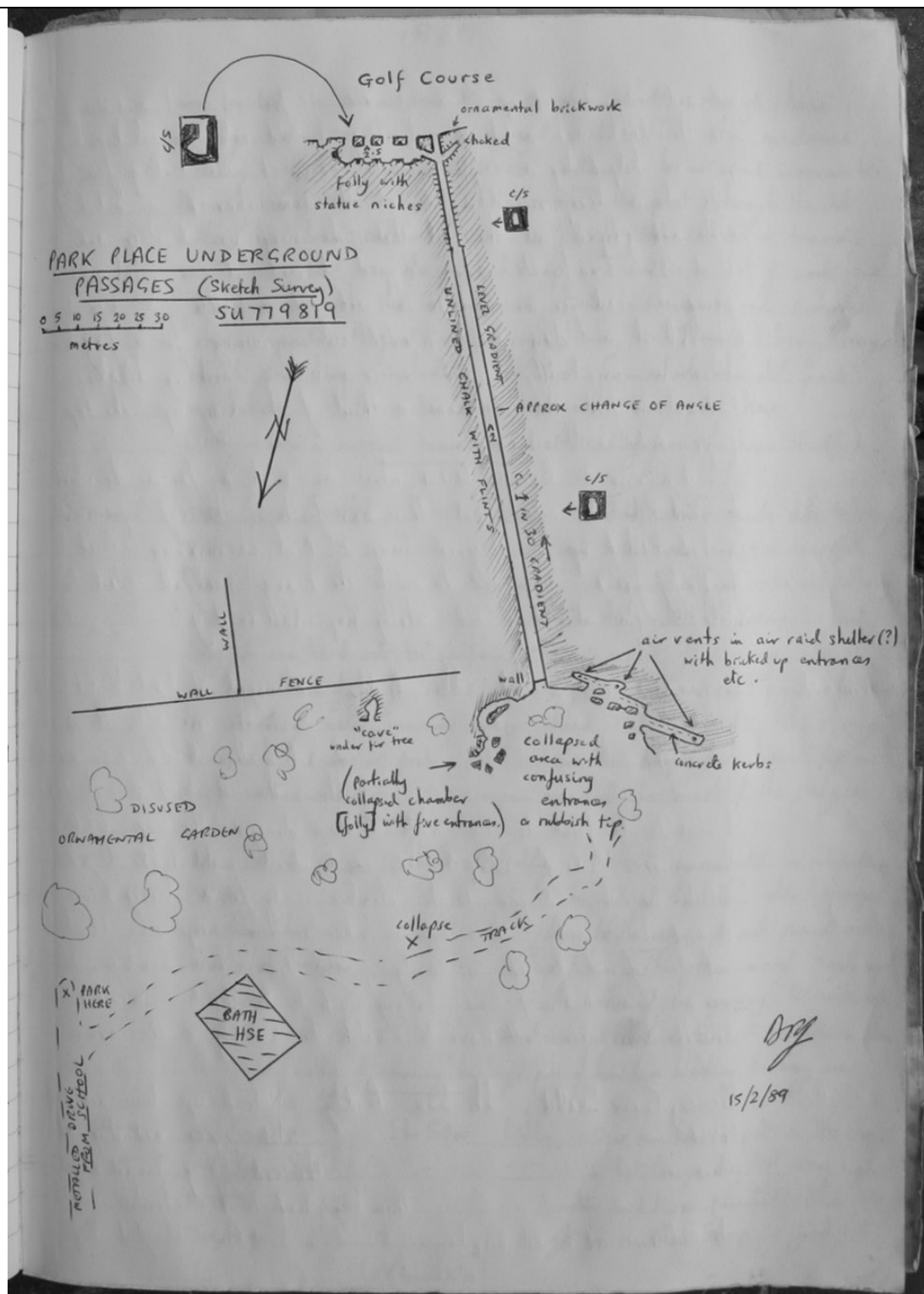
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 28/1/89 Trev Hughes, Pete Rose, Pete's 2 kids (Mrs Rose)	1 hr 50m	Priddy	High water. Dragged out about a dozen bags and rocks – very slowly due to the inexperience of the team! Trevor did some digging at the end but the high water eventually put him off. Pete's kids weren't very impressed – and neither was Pete!
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	<b>Swildon's Hole</b> 29/1/89 Jeff Price, Babs, Alan Taylor, Gonzo, Duncan, Pete Hann, Nick Pollard, Lee (victim) + 1, Quackers, Snablet, Pete Moody etc (Keith Fielder, Prew etc)	1 hr	Priddy	Sunday afternoon callout to rescue a trainer clad small boy who had broken his lower leg at the "Well". Duncan fitted a neoprene splint on his leg and he was fairly gently dragged out – alternating between groaning and laughing! Cave quite wet but no great problems encountered.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 3/2/89 Alone	1hr 40m	Priddy	Cleared out several bags of spoil from the end and laid an 8 oz Gelamex charge above the sump. Laid a new wire as far as the rift where it was tied onto a section of the old wire. Dragged out one load. Low water conditions, so much so that there was a 1" – 2" airspace right through "Sump 1".
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 4/2/89 Geoff Newton (WCC)	7hr 25m	Priddy	"Tourist" trip to the top of Cenotaph Aven! It seems I am the seventh man to get there. A superb bolting exercise by Geoff, Graham and Nick and some interesting and well decorated passages at the top – the last section being very similar to Regent St. I am still not convinced that the two aren't connected. Poked about in various side passages and Geoff took a few snaps. Then to Aberfan Passage where I fired a 1 ½ lb Plaster charge on a low section just before the impassable squeeze. It will need a few bangs here before the squeeze can be reached comfortably. Excellent noise and shock wave felt at Charing Cross! Dragged ourselves out in the usual manner, sore, cramped and knackered. A superb, remote trip. (Pete, Alison and Murray did not do their intended Whitehall extensions trip as Murray felt ill).

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 6/2/89 Alone	45m	Priddy	Graham and Gonzo had cleared most of the bang debris on Sunday so I went in to tidy the end up. After crowbarring out several large chunks I managed to open up an airspace on the RH side. It is possible to see some 3' of open passage here. Put on 8 oz Gelamex charge above the hole to make it more easily accessible. Had a misfire due to a bad connection between the two lengths
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				of wire. Sorted it out and fired the charge successfully. One load brought to surface.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 11/2/89 Alone	1 ¼ hr	Priddy	Cleared out several bags of spoil from the end and stacked them the far side of Sump 1. Put an 8 oz Gelamex charge on the LH wall – a limestone pillar – halfway through the (late) Sump 2. A good draught and the sound of falling water ahead bode good for future prospects. Dragged out one load to surface.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 12/2/89 Mark Simms, (Ivan <b>Hellis</b> )(SMCC) Gonzo, (Visitor: Wesley Vokes)	2 hr	Priddy	Clearing trip. I brought down a huge heap of roof slabs and the bang of the previous day had also shifted piles of debris. There is about ¼ ton to come out! Dragged a few loads back to Sump 1 then the others arrived and we removed about a dozen loads to the surface, including a very big limestone slab. Left Gonzo and Mark to have another clearing session at the front. Mr Voke stopped for a friendly chinwag. Looks good.
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Berkshire	<b>Park Place Underground Passages</b> 15/2/89 Alone	¾ hr	Henley-on-Thames	<i>See below</i>
	<p>Having recently purchased an antique engraving showing “The Cottage from the Chalk Cavern at Park Place” bearing a pencilled note saying “E.Berks”, I was intrigued to find out more about it. Park Place (sch) appears on 1:50,000 map 175 at SU778822. Having some time off from work I drove over to find that it was a large old mansion, recently used as a school. The caretaker was contacted and he was most helpful, informing me that the school and an adjacent golf course was for sale by Hillingdon District Council, and that I was welcome to roam around. He did not recognise the cave in the print but knew of several chalk tunnels on the school grounds, bordering onto the golf course, one being of a good length and open at both ends. He inferred that there may be other tunnels in the grounds and possible chalk mines on the other side of the A423 road. Someone had visited recently with vague intentions of restoring the tunnels which opened onto the golf course. The main tunnels are situated in a disused and rhododendron-overgrown ornamental garden behind the school baths (SU779819). The first I came across appeared to be a collapsed chalk mine 8m long x 2m wide x 2m high, with a floor of chalk rubble and rubbish. This was surveyed with compass and tape. Nearby a collapsed, chalk block lined “folly” with five entrances was found. By scrambling over the rubbish blocking some of the entrances I reached a collapsed area with many entrances leading off, one of which was the main tunnel – 130m long and emerging on the golf course adjacent to several other entrances to which it was connected – these all having formed an ornamental folly which is now in a sorry state. This system was sketch surveyed. Back at the Park Place entrance I investigated all the other tunnels which seem to have been interconnected at one time in the form of a maze like folly, now badly collapsed. It is possible that this was all originally a chalk or flint mine as flints are plentiful in the walls. Bat guano was evident in places and it is possible that some of these passages were used as an air raid shelter (?) – the evidence being roof vents, concrete “kerb” and old brick and ironwork. None of these resembles the “Chalk Cavern” in the print, though the old cottage has almost certainly gone. A collapsed culvert or tunnel was also noticed near the rubbish heap. There is a lot of work here for someone with the interest and time to research and survey these tunnels. A good look through Henley-on-Thames library may reveal something – including the book from which the old print was taken. An interesting hour or so was spent here. (There is also a supposed tunnel or culvert leading from the house itself.)</p>			





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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 17/2/89 Alone	1 hr	Priddy	Didn't achieve much due to very wet conditions and the desperate cold. Cleared a few rocks and a bag load from the end to Sump 1 and dragged one load out to surface. There is a lot of clearing and prising down of roof slabs at "Sump 2" before we can progress further. The sound of water running away ahead had stopped. There may be another sump or pool just below the drop which backs up in high water conditions. New ropes needed for most of the sledges.
Somerset	<b>Twin Titties Cave</b> 22/2/89	1hr 50m	Priddy	Albert concentrated on cementing his walls at the bottom while I squeezed down to the very end

	Brian Prewer, John Ham, Eric Dunsford, Dave Turner, Albert Francis			and passed rocks up to him. The others moved bags up to the bottom of the runway. It will be sometime yet before the site progresses due to the difficulty of removing the large pile of boulders blocking the way on.
Somerset	<b>Swildon's Hole</b> <b>Bowery Corner</b> <b>Swallet</b> 25/2/89 Tim Large	1hr 50m	Priddy	Our aim was to put a 3lb charge in Bat Passage dig but very high water conditions prevented this. We got to the Mud Sump to find it well and truly sumped up. Tim decided to free dive it and disappeared into the depths with a lot of thrashing. I could not contact him by voice so helped by a couple of other cavers I tried baling from this side into a temporary dam. Eventually Tim returned in a bit of a state and gasped out the fact that the sump was 6' deep and about 35' long! He nearly copped it and at one point was going to wait for me to go out and get a bottle! We decided to call it a day and headed out, pausing for a fag break when we eventually found someone with a working lighter. Got out to find the stream a third of the way up the top pipe and still rising. Then over to Bowery Corner where we went as far as the start of Skid Row to note that there was froth in the roof – presumably it had backed up from beyond Sump 2. Not encouraging. Back to the Belfry for a brew and to watch the heavy snowfall start to settle. An interesting and totally unproductive day!

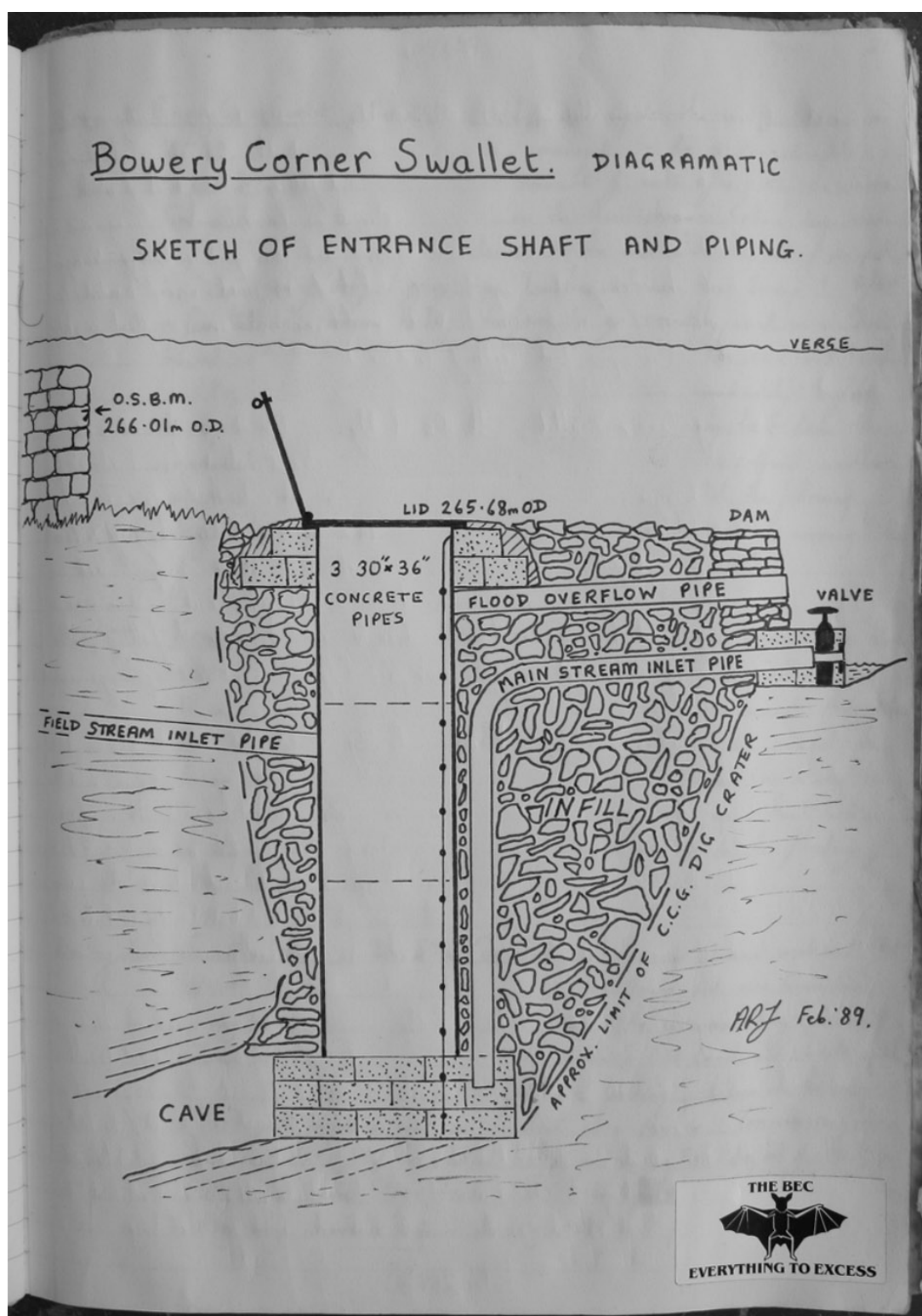
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner</b> <b>Swallet</b> 1/3/89 Graham Johnson	1 hr	Priddy	Managed at last to get down the cave after the spell of wet weather. Bits of grass and froth on the roof testified to flooding. I went to the front to dig while Graham dragged the bags back to the entrance side of Sump 1. We moved about eight loads altogether which we then dragged to the "chamber" ready for a clearing team. A good hours work. There appears to be a third sump some 10' ahead and the roof at the end is easily pulled down with a crowbar. There was a loose section of roof halfway back to the "chamber" which I brought down. We will have to watch the stability of the cave!
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner</b> <b>Swallet</b> 4/3/89 Alone	1hr 35m	Priddy	Closed up sluice and two inlet pipes and dug at the end, filling several bags. Three bags back to the "chamber" and one to surface. Found a 2lb lump hammer buried in Skid Row. Useful trip.

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner</b> <b>Swallet</b> 8/3/89 Gonzo, Blitz, Graham Johnson	1hr 50m	Priddy	Despite the wet conditions we managed to do a considerable amount of work after putting the dams in on the three streams. Graham dug and cleared at the end while the rest of us put in a new heavy duty digging rope from the entrance to Sump 1. After a few teething problems hauling began to go smoothly and we eventually hauled 20 loads to surface. I then went to the end and laid an 8 oz Gelamex charge on the LH wall pillar immediately before Sump 3. Unfortunately this misfired and after going back down to reconnect the wire at the start of Skid Row we suffered another misfire. It was decided to leave this problem until the following day. (Heavy rain during the night flooded the cave on the morning
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 9/3/89 Alone	5m	Priddy	of 9/3/89 – the flood overflow being almost full). Put all the dams in to give me ten minutes respite and nipped down to reconnect the wires. Back to the surface and pressed the bang box tit – no joy! In desperation I attached the wires to my Petzl battery and there was a satisfying thump – thank God. Plenty of foam on the roof of Skid Row testified to the flooding of the morning.
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AT A MINERY COURT holden at Chewton Mendipp the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Feb<sup>r</sup>y in the Year of our Lord God 1661 it is Ordered by Richard Adams & his Fellows as followeth.

93. *For drawing the water at Pucksudds.*—WHEREAS there hath been complaint made unto us of this Minery Grand Jury by William Redman of great wrongs and abuses done unto him by Severall disorderly persons as touching a washing Pond or Pool and another watering place for Cattell both lying and being adjoyning to a place commonly called by the Name of Puck Suds, which Said Ponds or Pools as doth appear unto us of this Jury have been made at the Proper Cost and Charge of the Said William Redman but for the publique Good as well of the rest of the Borderers as himself; And further it doth appear unto us that the Said Places do not hinder the buddling place of any water that usually did come to the Said place but rather help them to more; wherefore we of this Jury taking the p<sup>r</sup>ises into our Consideration do Order and make this decree with the Consent of the next ensueing Court, that if any person or persons whatsoever belonging to this Occupation Shall presume to draw any Water or cause to be drawn or wash with that Water there out of either of the Said Pools at any time but what doth naturally run in its Course, without the Special Licence and Consent of the Said William Redman or his Assigns, Shall forfeit for the first Offence 20<sup>s</sup>. the One half to the Lord of this Liberty and the Other half to the partie grieved that Shall make just proof thereof, and for the Second offence 5<sup>l</sup>. to be paid as afores<sup>d</sup> and if he or they Shall be found to offend in the like nature the third time, they Shall be banished from this our Occupation, always Provided the Said Offence or Offences be found by Verdict of a Grand Jury. And to this Our Order we all agree and have Subscribed our hands.

Derbyshire	<b>Giant's Hole</b> 11/3/89 Jeremy Henley, James Cobbett	2hr 50m	Castleton	Pegasus dinner weekend. Met Ivan Young and nine Grampian men at the entrance. Very pleasant trip down to East Canal and back with a few route finding problems on the way. I had quite forgotten what an excellent cave this is. Consciences clear we spent the rest of the weekend boozing and digging Fish's dog out of a badger set. The "Three Stags' Heads" has been excellently done up without losing any character and is obviously still "the" pub in the Peak.
<b>Page 32</b>				
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 15/3/89 Graham Johnson, Gonzo	2hr 10m	Priddy	I went down early and dug at the end, noting the draught and falling water – both of which stopped as the water rose. Gonzo and Jake appeared and during bag hauling Gonzo widened the passage at Sump 1. A total of 13 loads were hauled to the surface (in record time!) Wet conditions but an excellent night's work. (Dug up a foot length of Cordtex!)
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b>	1hr 10m	Priddy	I went to the end and cleared about five loads which were taken to the surface. Tony then laid

	18/3/89 Gonzo, Rich Payne, Andy Middleton, Martin Grass, Tony Boycott			an 8 oz double charge of Gelamex on the roof above “Sump 3” and on the LH wall (?) further back. There was a 2” airspace at the end emitting a draught and the noise of falling water. New bang wire put in and awkward ledge in entrance passage removed.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 22/3/89 Tony Boycott, Gonzo, Jake, Carol White (MEG), Pete Hillier	1¼ hr	Priddy	Cleared about seven loads of spoil from Sump 3 which were despatched to the surface. Tony then handled me a 6 oz Gelamex charge which I laid above the sump. Conditions not too wet but bloody cold. Not a lot of progress but at least we made the pub early.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 24/3/89 Alone	¾ hr	Priddy	Hardly anyone around on this Good Friday so after a pleasant lunchtime session I dammed the streams and went down for a look at the results of the last bang. Not too much obvious debris but I managed to crowbar a few good lumps off before feeling it politic to retire – it was also bloody cold. One load out to surface. Still haven’t passed Sump 3 but it should go next bang.

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 26/3/89 Ted Humphries	50m	Priddy	Removed a few more slabs at the end and then laid a double 8 oz Gelamex charge with the intention of blowing down the archway into the next section of open passage which can be seen ahead. Good gurgling noises ahead also. Five loads removed to surface. Conditions much drier than they have been recently.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 27/3/89 Pat Cronin, Alan and Gary Taylor (SMCC)	1hr 40m	Priddy	A trip where nearly everything went wrong! The small Shepton boy (Gary) didn’t like it, my light went flat, Andy was not “au fait” with the sledge system, etc. Crowbarred out a few rocks from the end and laid a split 8 oz Gelamex charge. The way on is open, waterlogged and small for some 10-15 feet with the sound of running water much clearer now. Still looking good but needs a few bangs yet. Seven loads to surface. Past “Sump 3” at last!
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	28/3/89. Rescue callout for girl with asthma attack in Swildon’s Hole which was all over by the time we got to the Green, the girl having recovered. The noteworthiness of this callout is the fact we’ve had one two years running whilst dining at the Wessex hut, midweek, courtesy of Ric and Pat Halliwell (CPC) ! A new Mendip tradition?			
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 31/3/89 Alone	1½ hr	Priddy	Chiselled out various bits of rock at the end – needs a bang. Bagged up about eight loads and dragged one load to surface. A strong team is now needed to remove all the spoil before work can continue.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 1/4/89 Ted Humphries, Tony Hollis, Terry Phillips	1 hr	Priddy	Tony didn’t like the look of the crawl so Terry came in behind me. Shifted 14 loads to surface and set another 8 oz Gelamex charge at the end. Dry conditions and a very useful hour’s work.

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 2/4/89 Ron, Trebor, Stu Lain, (Wormhole, Joanie) [surface, Pat, Ted, Nicky, and visitors: Jane, Debbie, Cliff, Audrey & baby!]	1½ hr	Priddy	Trebor went to the end and cleared up the bang debris. 6 loads were then removed to the surface and I went to the end to lay an 8 oz Gelamex charge. Damp conditions.
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Dorset	<b>Seacombe Quarry</b> <b>W.Winspit Quarry</b> 3/4/89 alone	5m 5m	Worth Matravers	GPS work in the Wych Farm area. After work I parked at Worth and took the footpath to Seacombe to look at the “Cave” shown on the 1:50,000 map. This turned out to be a disused Purbeck stone mine – access to which was not permitted (by Nat. T) due to its dangerous state. Nobody about so I went in for a look and to confirm that it is indeed in a pretty hairy condition. The quarrymen robbed the stone to such an extent that many of the supporting pillars are merely 10’ high piles of boulders a couple of feet wide. With the sun shining in through the entrances three rows of totem pole like pillars create quite a weird effect. The workings are about 60’ deep and follow the edge of the cliff and because of the many entrances a light is hardly necessary. I then followed the coastal path to Winspit and explored a similar, but more stable series of workings. Other quarries nearby are gated to protect the Greater Horseshoe bat population. The coastal scenery is quite impressive here with quarry workings everywhere and right down to sea level making them look like natural sea caves. A pleasant evening’s 3 mile walk with added speleological interest.
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> <b>G.B. Cave</b> 8/4/89 1) Jeremy Henley 2) Ken James, Pat, Biffo, Andy And Rich (VCG), Butch, Prew, Mac, Tony B, Graham, Linda and many many more!	2 ¼ hr 35m	Priddy Charterhouse	1) Jeremy had a short burst of claustrophobia at the start of Skid Row. He then followed me in and we spent some time clearing the spoil from the last bang and dragging it back some 20’ from the end. Jeremy then left and I carried on alone, clearing the end and bagging spoil. The terminal section of passage was quite aquatic and at one point I made a rapid retreat as I thought it was flooding. Decided not to bang the end as more clearing needs to be done. Out to surface, very wet and cold, with one load of spoil. 2) Just after lunch there was a callout to the CCC meeting (and barrel!) at the Hunter’s. Graham – one of the Victoria CG lads, had fallen from the Ladder Dig climb in G.B. and had, amongst other things, a broken jaw. Tony Boycott rushed off to join the team already there and I followed on later. Most of the available Mendip regulars turned up and Graham was brought to the surface after three hours – a bloody good time considering his injuries. Graham waved to us as he was put in the ambulance and all then retired to the rest of the CCC barrel which was by now back at the Belfry. The rest of the day involved two more barrels.....
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 9/4/89 Phil Collet, Ivan, Mark, Adrian Edwards, Megan (SMCC), Gonzo, Tony Boycott, Arthur Griffin (Surface: Wormhole, Q.John)	1 hr	Priddy	Arthur and Tony worked at the end while the rest of us dragged 16 loads to surface. Tony then laid a split 8 oz Gelamex charge at the end. He stated that the air was getting stale. Onwards, ever onwards!
Dorset	<b>Dancing Ledge</b>	5m	Worth	The main openings at Dancing Ledge merely led

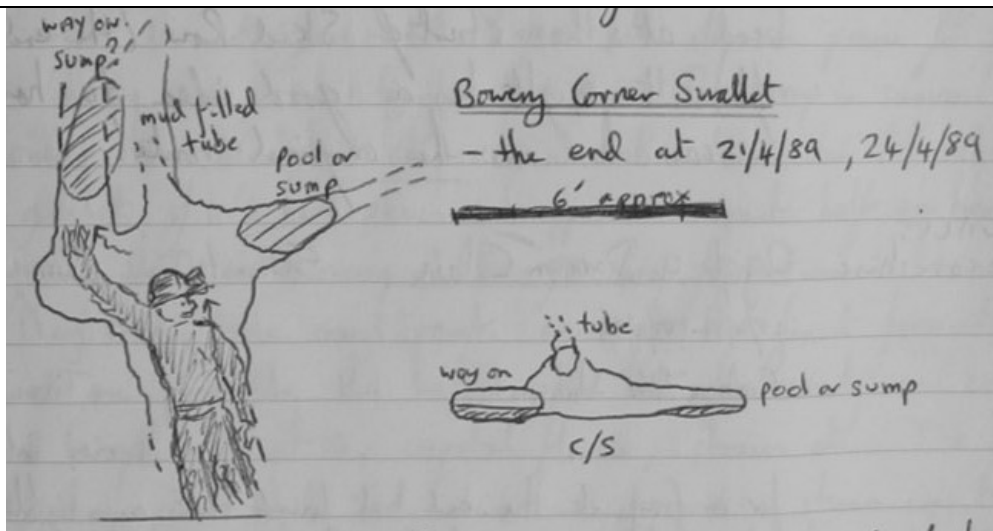
	<b>Quarry</b> <b>Eastington Quarry</b> <b>Seacombe Quarry</b> 12/4/89 Alone	10 m	Matravers	to litter filled shallow workings, as did other quarries nearby. Similarly the quarries below Eastington Farm were of little interest, though spectacularly situated in the sea cliffs above some large sea caves. I then went on to spend some time taking photos of the entrances and stone pillars in the Seacombe Quarries. Another nice walk about.
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Dorset	14/4/89. Walked the length of Kimmeridge Bay cliffs looking for the remains of the "shale-oil adit". No sign, but a landslide near the western end, below the BP oil rig, might be the place.			
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 15/4/89 Trebor	2¼ hr	Priddy	Trebor shifted several loads from the end then I went in and cleared four more bags before firing an 8 oz Gelamex charge at the end. 2 loads to surface. Spent ages disentangling the bang wire. The way on is still small but the passage seems to be veering to the right.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 16/4/89 Gonzo, Gwyn, Snablet, Wormhole (Ross)	2 hr	Priddy	Twenty loads to the surface. Cold, wet and miserable. Needs another good clearing session before the next bang.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> <b>Welsh's Green Swallet</b> 20/4/89 Graham Johnson	50m 45m	Priddy Milton	First trips as a permanent resident of Priddy! Cleared up the end of Bowery, laid a 12 oz Gelamex charge at the "T-junction" and brought two loads to surface. The "T-Junction" consists of a 3' long cul-de-sac pool to the right and a low 3' long section to the left which then goes on low and presumably straight ahead. The results of this bang should give a clue as to the future. Then to Welsh's where I laid a mixed charge of 3 slabs of plaster and 4 ozs Gelamex in the rift at the end. A very nice "crack" noise resulted. A few more bangs will be needed here before the tempting sound of falling water will be reached.

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 21/4/89 Alone	1hr 40m	Priddy	Yesterday's bang had done a good job on the working face and I spent most of my time filling eight or so bags, some of which were dragged back to the site of "Sump 3". The rest of the time was spent hacking at the face and trying to get a good look at the way on. We seem to be at a junction of small passages and the obvious way on is slightly left and straight ahead. This is a low, approx 6' long section to what is probably "Sump 4". By blasting straight ahead we should be able to progress easily as there is a small rift or tube in the roof, full of superb tamping mud. One load out to surface. Lots to be moved.



Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 22/4/89 Alone	40m	Priddy	Gonzo, Jake and Carol had cleared most of the previous day’s bags during the morning. In the afternoon I went down and laid a 12 oz Gelamex charge in the LH side of the mud filled tube. Hopefully this will blow the intervening wall into the way on. Dragged out one load to surface. (The falling water noise has gone – we must have passed it without realising!)
Somerset	Spent half an hour helping on surface at Bowery Corner Swallet with Ivan Hallis and Ross White. Snablet, Gonzo, Mark Simms and Steve Tomlin (GSS) cleared 12 loads from the end and sent them to surface. Clive North, Rich Witcombe and a couple of passing tourists stopped for a natter. Steve got a bout of claustrophobia – he also thinks that the RH sump pool is the way on. Will bang it tomorrow.			
Pages 38-40				
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 24/4/89 Alone	1hr 20m	Priddy	The intention was to bang at the end but not enough had been cleared from the way on (straight ahead) to be able to do this. I suspect the RH passage doesn’t go. Cleared as much as I could easily do at the end – about five sacks and several rocks. There is still a great deal to clear and bag up. The last bang had done exactly as hoped for and the sump pool of “Sump 4” is easily attainable. Probably the best route now is to dig straight on in the mud-filled tube which may go over the sump as has happened before. No loads out this trip. (c.8 loads taken out by SMCC on 30 <sup>th</sup> ) On the way out I had a close look at the right angle bend at the start of Skid Row (the end of the “standing up” rift.) It might be a good idea to have a trial dig here in case this was the original route!
Wales Breconshire	<b>Ogof y Daren Cilau</b> 25/4/89 – 27/4/89 Graham “Jake” Johnson	50hr 40m	Llangattock	<i>See below</i>
	Entered the cave at 11.10am on Tuesday, passing the entrance series with relative ease. Stopped for a fag at the end but found that my lighter had run out of fuel. On to the ladder climb – now a pleasant free hanging 65’ pitch – and into White Passage where we rifled someone’s dumped BDH containers to find a cigarette lighter. A glorious smoke was then enjoyed before setting off along the vast, but slightly disappointing, Time Machine. This led to the superb Bonsai Streamway with its magnificent straws and helictites. Stopped for a drink at Crystal Inlet then on to the smelly Hard Rock Café for a welcome Cuppa Soup, some chocolate and a fag. We reached the Café sooner than I expected. Then came the crunch. The attractive sandy crawls of the Hard Rock area soon became too much of a good thing, seeming to go on for ever. I was soon to find out that they were preferable to the next section of the Rock Steady Cruise – Acupuncture Passage! With its floor of small, sharp stones and constant			



crawling it really is a bastard. Past this at last we went for a quick look at the unique Blockhead formation then dropped down through the Micron into Ankle Grinder Bypass – another desperate bit of passage! This awkward place really wore me out and I was very relieved to reach Jacob's Ladder – the climb up into the Restaurant at the End of the Universe. Here we changed into dry clothing (thanks Nick), drank tea with rum/whisky, smoked and listened to the stereo. Bloody marvellous. Back to reality when we unpacked the food stores to find that Gonzo had sent in a turd. This was later secreted in his camp shoes as revenge. The trip to the camp from the entrance had taken seven hours and had been hard work dragging a tackle bag plus a BDH picked up before Acupuncture. The diggers and divers all deserve praise for their work in finding and “civilising” this series. The camp is surreal! Following more alcoholic tea, cheese and Branston-filled Pitta Bread as a goblet of Archers peach schnapps we spent half an hour or so looking at the mind blowing “blue-greenies” formations in Leonie-Jayne's Play Pens. These must rank amongst the finest formations known and are probably the best in the UK for variety and colour. Huge and lengthy helictites, crystal flowers, straws etc. The blend of blue/green, pure white and occasional brown is stunning. No photo could ever do them justice and it's worth the agony of the trip to be privileged to see them. Looked at various other pretties on the way back to camp where Graham cooked a dreadful “curry” using pasta, mustard and lime pickle! We quickly gave up on this and washed it down with Black Beer and Raisin Wine before retiring to our pits at 11.10pm. What a day....

Day Two (26/4/89). After a surprisingly warm but restless night we got up at 9.30am for coffee, fags, muesli, assorted toiletries, sausage and bacon, Pitta, tea and more fags. Left camp at 11.30am, and headed up the Inca Trail, through Big Chamber, Machupicchu and Trouser Filler Passage to Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> Passage. We then took Still Warthogs After All These Years (!) and ended up at the furthest extremity of Daren (and probably the furthest part of any cave in Britain from the entrance) – Spaderunner. We surveyed the last 72m of this to Grade 2. At the end it was found that Pete Bolt's 1½ “liver sausage” bang had misfired. The two dets had exploded but the bang and tamp was still in one messy piece. With some trepidation I laid a 12 slab plaster charge, plus the 1½ juicy sausages, connected to a Y-junction of Cordtex. This was fired from a hundred feet back up the passage and was very effective – blasting clouds of sand along the passage,

After a cursory look at the suicidal choke of Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep we returned to Bad Bat Passage where I started digging the terminal sand choke while graham banked up the spoil behind me. After about half an hour I managed to squeeze through into what seemed to be a large passage. Alas, this was only a 8' x 10' chamber with a large mud cone in the centre. The way on is under the far wall and appeared to be a longer term dig. At least there is plenty of spoil dumping space here.

Having had enough we returned slowly to the Restaurant for lemon tea, reaching there at 6p.m. after a 6½ hour trip. We were both very sore and exhausted after the assortment of sand swims, crawls, climbs and grovels in this remote series. The “curry” was re-incarnated, this time with actual curry mix in it but it was still unpalatable and later ended up in the stream. To follow we had coffee and de-hydrated N.A.S.A. spaceman's ice cream – all the way from Washington D.C. Retired at 9 p.m. with a copy of Porterhouse Blue and a goblet of Archers. Asleep at 10 p.m.

Day Three (27/4/89). My Wedding anniversary! We got up at 6 a.m. much to Graham's horror, and after the traditional sausage pitta bread cleared up the camp and left at 9 a.m. Carried a tackle bag and three BDHs each – the latter being left at the Micron for Gonzo and party who were due in at the weekend. The going was much easier now with a single, light tackle bag and we made excellent time, pausing occasionally for a drink of Appeal and a smoke. Staggered out of the cave at 1.50 p.m. Had a brew and wash at Whitewalls then walked down to the Horseshoe for a couple of well deserved pints. We then took a taxi to Abergavenny and trains to Weston-Super-Mare where Jane collected us.

A fantastic trip and altogether an experience! I was very impressed with the cave and the work put in by the explorers. It will go a long way yet and the connection with Agen Allwedd is imminent. Next time I will go in that way! Many thanks to Graham for his very skilled leadership.

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Somerset	<b>Welsh's Green Swallet</b> 29/4/89 Graham Johnson	40m	Milton	8 oz single Gelamex charge on the RH wall. Looks quite good beyond and may be opening up a bit. Tomorrow will hopefully reveal all. Brought back two scaffold poles.
BAT	1/5/89. Today I became a full-time professional caver! My first day as the owner of Bat Products! Major champagne etc, celebrations on Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> !			
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 2/5/89 Alone	½ hr	Priddy	4 slabs of plaster in a single charge at the end – placed on the floor of the mud tube to blow down the roof of the sump below.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b>	1¼ hr	Priddy	Poor turn out for a Wednesday night. The previous night's bang had demolished the end

	3/5/89 Pete Hillier			and much of the LH wall, back down the passage for several feet! Pulled eight good loads back to the “chamber”. The bang fumes then took effect and we both came out feeling pretty grim. Looks good but needs a lot of clearing. I must learn not to go back to a bang too early – it almost ruined our beer!
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Somerset	<b>Welsh's Green Swallet</b> 5/5/89 Graham Johnson	1hr 10m	Milton	Graham removed some of the bang spoil and decided that the breakthrough was not, after all, imminent. Put a 3 slab plaster charge on the loose flake at the end. Lovely, hot, misty summer evening.
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	<b>Drunkard's Hole</b> 6/5/89 Andy Sparrow, Gerald (victim) + 1	¼ hr	Burrington	Call out for victim stuck in Drunkard's. The professional cavers – Andy and I – arrived first, both in Landrovers! The victim was a middle aged YMCA caving instructor who had been jammed but was coming out slowly, getting stuck on the way. Andy and I talked him out with a modicum of pushing from Andy. We probably didn't even get 50' into the cave!
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> <b>Welsh's Green Swallet</b> 8/5/89 i) alone ii) Graham Johnson	2 hr  1hr 40m	Priddy  Milton	Installed a new heavy-duty bang wire as far as “Sump 1”, hanging it on pitons and through oxbows. Dragged out four loads from the “chamber” to surface.  In the afternoon Graham and I went down Welsh's to check on the results of the last bang. This was excellent with the five foot long loose flake completely shattered and much of the RH wall also shaken up. Dragged out eight loads to the pitch chamber. There is twice as much again to clear before the way on down in the floor can be looked at.
Somerset	During lunch break I had a walk around the grounds of the Bishop's Palace in Wells and at last got to look at the impressive resurgence of St. Andrew's Well. The water was clear and inflowing springs could be seen pushing up sand spouts on the bottom. One day Welsh's Green Swallet may get this far!			

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Somerset	Surface hauling at Bowery Corner Swallet while Gonzo, Tony Boycott, Carol White and Dave (?) (MEG) dug and hauled below. Twenty two loads were brought out. Tony noted that there was a CO <sub>2</sub> build up at the end.			
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	<b>Welsh's Green Swallet</b> 15/5/89 Graham Johnson, Gonzo, Snablet, Carol White (MEG).	1hr 35m	Milton	Gonzo, Carol and Kevin Gurner had been down Welsh's on Sunday and reckoned that it would “go” on the next trip. By luck we fielded a good team on the Monday morning and off we went for the big breakthrough. Graham led and after a short clearing session he squeezed down some 4 feet into relatively roomy passage developed in a clay bed. I followed him down and slightly widened the squeeze before the others joined us. Graham had by now gone a hundred and fifty feet or so and found an inlet passage leading to a 20' long by 40' high aven – very similar to the pitch in the old cave. We all joined him and after going on down the main stream passage – a low crawl in grey mud/clay – for some 50' or so we returned to the aven leaving the way on open for the other members of the Welsh's Green digging team. Snablet succeeded in climbing the side of the aven for some 15' to avoid the very loose, rubble wall in front – and myself and Graham followed him up. We spent some time digging in a side passage while Carol went back to the pitch

				for a rope. Decided it was time for a celebration in the Hunter's and headed on out, pausing to attempt to stabilize the breakthrough squeeze en route. This needs a good crowbar or bang job. Came out rejoicing with clear consciences and some 200' of new passage under our belts. Looks good for a lot more cave yet. There are a few attractive, small formations which need to be taped off. After 9½ years of digging by Graham and Co the place has at last gone big! It gives us a lot of new hope for our other digs. (On Tuesday Graham, Scotty, Aubrey and Pete Hann pushed another 3-400' including a large aven.)
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 15/5/89 Alone (visitor – Carol)	1 hr	Priddy	Evening trip to bang the end. Cleared the ledge above "Sump 4" and placed a 3 slab plaster charge. Connected it to the new wires and came out with one load to surface where Carol was waiting, having seen the Landrover parked as she passed. The wires were connected to the battery and nothing happened. Even the Landrover battery failed to fire the charge so I had to go back to the end and re-wire the detonator using only four of the eight strands of wire to cut down the resistance. Brought out another load to surface and successfully fired the charge. A fairly adrenalin-filled day's digging (which also included an hour or so down "Septic Tank Hole dig" in my back garden!
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 17/5/89 Gonzo, Carol, Tony Boycott	1hr 20m	Priddy	Removed at least 15 loads to surface and laid a 6 oz Gelamex charge on a limestone pillar at the end. Opened up a draughting tube on the LH side. Mud filled tube on the RH side. A good evening's work.
Devon	<b>Beer Quarry Caves</b> 21/5/89 guide	1hr 5m	Beer	This relatively recently opened show mine is well worth a look at. The stone was worked in an identical way to that of the Box area and indeed, at one time, by the same company. There are different styles of workings in the main items of interest are the old signatures going back to the 1700s and the remains of a mushroom and rhubarb growing operation. Well informed guide. Not a place to enter on a hot day in light clothing as it was distinctly chilly.
Somerset	<b>Welsh's Green Swallet</b> 23/5/89 Graham, Gonzo	1hr 55m	Milton	The intention was to dig through the terminal bedding squeeze. While Graham attacked this Gonzo dug a route around some straws in the inlet leading to the second aven. Meanwhile I dug in a possible passage opposite the inlet in the main stream. This later appeared to close up after some 8'. I had a look at the attractive aven and then took over at the terminal dig, managing to clear a few rocks and lumps of clay from the LH wall. I then failed to pass the squeeze even by going in feet first. This site needs either a good digging session on the LH wall or the use of bang on floor or roof. The new extension is definitely a collector's item – swimming in grey mud all the way! At least there was a small stream to clean it up a bit. With fears of impending thunder storms we left the cave early for a few pints at the Hunters. The cave pearls and selenite needles reported by the last team are attractive but hardly awe inspiring. The draught

				at the end would seem to indicate that there is a lot of cave to be found yet.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 26/5/89 Alone	¾ hr	Priddy	Cave dug but wet and muddy at the end. Laid 2x4oz plaster slabs on the remains of the pillar above "Sump 4". One bag to surface.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 28/5/89 Alone	1¼ hr	Priddy	The last bang had done an excellent job – a large heap of rock and mud lay at the end. I bagged up several loads of spoil and dragged one load back to the "chamber". A small rift on the RH side near the end may be worth digging, but the main way on would appear to be the body-sized but completely mud filled tube leading on straight forward over the remains of "sump 4".

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 31/5/89 Gary Jago	1½ hr	Priddy	Dragged the bags at the end back to "Sump 2" and then had a bash at the end. Opened up the small tube that takes the stream. This echoes well and can be looked along for about ten feet – still very small. The mud-filled, almost body sized tube above this seems to partly close down some 6' ahead. Loads of spoil needs to be removed and banging may be necessary. Dragged out one load to surface.
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	<b>Swildon's Hole</b> 1-2/6/89 Mac, Bish, Biffo, Fred, Phil, Robin Brown, Ashley, Jake, Nigel T, Nigel G, John (CSS), 2 army lads, 2 Bath UCC (one, Doug, the victim), G.Price, 2x A.N.Others, Snab, Batspiss, Pat, Andy Sparrow, Dany, Bob, Aubrey, Max, 1 MCG, Tony Boycott, Ted, Brian W, etc (surface: Jim, Brian, Brew, Rich etc)	8 hrs	Priddy	Call out about 9.15pm for two Bath Univ CC members – one of whom had fallen down the Black Hole after a boulder belay had failed. (These two were my last customers of the day!) Dany and I arrived on the scene fairly early, following John (CSS), one Army caver, Jake and Mac. Tony Boycott arrived soon after and the victim – who had a painful back and left hip and a presumed broken right wrist – was assisted up the Black Hole pitch in a harness. At the top he was inserted into a drag sheet and taken slowly to the main streamway where he was put in the Mayer Stretcher. Being in reasonably good form and tough, he decided that he would be pulled through Sump 1 without the sump rescue kit. This was quickly and surprisingly easily achieved and the long slog out of the cave began. There were no real problems and the Grunter phone worked perfectly. Everyone out at 6am Friday to be greeted by Nick Barrington, Clive North, the rest of the local press, frost and a gloriously sunny morning. A good rescue but a bit like being on the night shift. The victim did very well all the way out and despite great pain hardly moaned at all.

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Somerset	<b>Welsh's Green Swallet</b> 4/6/89 Graham, Trev Hughes, Stu Laine	2hr 5m	Milton	Dug at then end after trying unsuccessfully to squeeze through. Moved a couple of bags of mud and prised out a few rocks before getting completely pissed off with the atrociously muddy conditions and longing for the warm sun outside. The journey out was indescribably filthy. We need a bloody good rainstorm to flush this place out a bit as it must be one of the muckiest caves I have ever been in. Bang would be useful at the end to enlarge the passage quickly.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 5/6/89	3hr 10m	Priddy	Graham dug at the end while I dragged the bags back to the chamber. I then went to the front and after a clearing session laid 8 ozs plaster on the

	Graham Johnson			LH wall and floor. We then spent a long time dragging 22 loads out to surface. A useful morning's work. The air at the end was decidedly bad and no draught was evident.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 11/6/89 Tom Chapman (Zot, Carol)	1hr 25m	Priddy	Tom dug at the end and filled several bags which I dragged back a few feet in between enjoying warm and comfortable sessions of sleeping! Zot and Carol got as far as the chamber (?) in their cycling clothes ... The air rapidly deteriorated so we hauled a few loads to "Sump 2" and one load to the surface. I spent most of the time with either a dim light or no light at all. Not an overproductive session.
Somerset	Eastwater Cavern 12/6/89 John Stanniland	3hr 10m	Priddy	Apart from giving John a trip the aim was to bang various sites which have been neglected lately. Our first visit was to the bottom of Morton's Pot where flood debris was found to have blocked about ten feet of the steeply dipping bedding plane at the end. I decided to have a bash at the tight rift just above this and laid a 12 oz Gelamex charge on the RH side/bedding plane roof. Fired this using Tim's old bang wire from the Upper Traverse. We then went down the Primrose Path and through the Lower Traverse to the 1 <sup>st</sup> Rift Chamber. While John went to look at the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rift Chamber I investigated "East End Series" to find that the terminal pool had dried up and there was no way on. This dig should be cleared and abandoned. I then laid an 8 oz Gelamex charge on the LH wall in the tight passage with the vocal connection to Weaver-Bowen Extension and fired this from the Crossroads. From here we continued up the Canyon to the Boulder Chamber and another 12 oz Gelamex charge was laid in the dig heading towards Ifold's Series "55' Aven". An attempt to fire this was made from the top of the Boulder Chamber but only the detonator went off necessitating another visit to attach a new det. A successful explosion resulted! Out just in time to miss a lunchtime pub session! A useful morning's work which I think quite impressed John.

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 14/6/89 Gonzo, Carol, Pate Hillier, Gary Jago, John Stanniland	1½ hr	Priddy	Gonzo and John dug at the end. 16 loads out to surface. Replaced the first Skid Row skip as it was completely worn out.
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 15/6/89 John Hill (Casualty Union), Graham Johnson	1hr 20m	Priddy	Took John down to the Rift Chambers as a tourist trip in preparation for the forthcoming rescue practice. Jake had a look at Morton's Pot where the last bang seems to have been useless [no – see page 113] – as was the one at the Weaver-Bowen connection dig! The Boulder Chamber dig bang seems to have loosened up the access passage – all in all a bit of a failure! Back out via Lower Traverse.

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 19/6/89	3hr 20m	Priddy	I went down earlier than the others and dug at the end, filling several bags and breaking up a large slab. There was a very slight draught from the
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	John Stanniland, Graham Johnson, Ted Humphries			<p>tiny, low stream passage but I concentrated on the mud and slab filled, body-sized tube leading straight on. Eventually John arrived and pulled the bags back, sending them on to Graham who was in the chamber. Ted was digging in the angle bend at the start of Skid Row which I had had a cursory dig at on the way in. He had to give up and exit when overcome by nausea due to too much ale over the weekend!</p> <p>Back at the front John and I soon began breathing heavily as there were now two of us sucking up the limited amount of fresh air. As I smashed up another slab my breathing became very fast and I suddenly knew that I had to get out quick. Fighting rising panic and shouting to John to get out I desperately reversed over the pile of bags behind me and followed John out as far as "Sump 2" where I began to feel a bit happier. We then decided to carry on hauling and eventually cleared 16 loads out to surface. I had another quick look at the "Skid Row Bend Dig" on the way out. It was possible to poke a stick down into the mud for some 4 – 5 feet and it is possible that the stream is sinking here. It might be a good idea to open this dig out properly if we can get rid of the water. A useful but somewhat hairy trip (Gonzo took out 10 bags on Wednesday).</p>
Somerset	<b>Twin Titties Cave</b> 21/6/89 Prew, Fred, Albert, Eric, Brian W, Dave, and Alan Turner, John Ham	1 ¾ hr	Priddy	<p>Had a night off from Bowery to see how the NHASA were progressing. Since my last visit in February they have sunk another shaft down through the terminal boulder pile for 15' or so. An open rift in the floor emits a very strong draught and open passage can be seen below. It should go in a week or so, as soon as Albert has finished cementing up his shoring. While Albert worked at the bottom the rest of us took out bags of mud, lowered bags of cement and buckets of rocks, and added various clamps to the top of the final ladder.</p>
<b>Page 50</b>				
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 25/6/89 Gonzo, Snablet, Garry Taylor (SMCC) (surface Mark Simons(SMCC), Alan Taylor (SMCC)) (visitors: Rich Payne, Andy Middleton)	1hr 20m	Priddy	<p>11 loads out to surface. Mud-filled tube closing down to solid rock at end. Needs a bang to remove pillar between tube and miniscule stream passage.</p>
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 26/6/89 Graham Johnson (Jingles)	1¼ hr	Red Quar	<p>Back down Wigmore for a change of scenery! The whole cave had been scoured out by winter floods and was (relatively) nice and clean. Unfortunately all the sand, gravel and small rocks had been swept to the end which was partially blocked. We spent an hour moving half a dozen bags of spoil to the Acro-supported area. Jingles wimped out at the bottom of the entrance shaft when his Micro light gave up. We will return to carry on this neglected project as soon as possible.</p>
Somerset	<b>Twin Titties Cave</b> 28/6/89	50m	Priddy	<p>Albert and four of the others went straight to the end to carry on with the wall building. Brian,</p>

	Julian, Prew, Eric, John and friend, Albert, John Ham, Brian Workman, Phil Hendy (Don Thompson on surface)			Prew and I mixed up a load of cement then I took 2 bags down to the bridge. I then stayed there lowering bags of cement and hooking on rubble bags for the hauling team above.
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 5/7/89 Garry Jago, Gonzo	1 hr 40m	Priddy	Gonzo dug at the end and Garry and I pulled the buckets. 9 loads out to surface. "Nice" and cool in the cave compared to the hot and humid weather outside.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 10/7/89 Alone	2hr 10m	Priddy	Tidied up the end, filling several bags ready for removal on Wednesday. One bag dragged back to the chamber. Air flow was not brilliant. At the end there is a tiny stream passage leading onwards on the LH side and a mud filled tube on the RH side. A large limestone pillar lies between these and will need banging on Wednesday. Dry conditions. Ted Humphries has had a poke in the dig at the start of Skid Row – sticking drain rods in for some 10' or so. This is presently sumped up and will need a major floor lowering job to enable it to be dug properly.
Somerset	<b>Twin Titties Cave</b> 12/7/89 Garry Jago, John Ham, Albert, Paul, Don T, Dave and Alan Turner, Eric, Fred Felstead, (Richard Kenney – surface)	1¼ hr	Priddy	Gary and I went over to Twin Titties after no-one turned up to dig Bowery. Dave, Alan and Albert dug at the end while the rest of us hauled several bags up all the shafts to the surface. While the diggers then drilled a couple of holes with the Bosch drill I went back to the Landrover for some "bang" which I luckily had with me. Back down at the bottom I inserted 1/3 of a slab into the two shotholes together with Cordtex and the other 2/3 under the offending boulder and on top of a second large rock - a total of 4 oz plaster. Fired from the surface, apparently quite successfully.

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 13/7/89 Alone	25m	Priddy	4 oz plaster gelatine laid on limestone pillar at end. Detonator inserted directly into bang.
Somerset	<b>Swildon's Hole</b> 16/7/89 James Cobbett, Mark Simms, Martin + 2, Stu Laine, Dick, Fred (Mr Pratt + Mr Bragg)	1hr 40m	Priddy	Drunken stroll to Sump 2. Did sump 1 in a fleece suit – cold but not too uncomfortable. Martin enjoyed himself. Messrs Pratt and Bragg waited at the "20" to avoid leaving us without a ladder!
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	<b>Twin Titties Cave</b> 19/7/89 Don and Julian Thompson, Paul, Bri, Prew, Eric, Albert, Dave, Garry, Rich Kenney, Phil Hendy	1hr 40m	Priddy	Dave and I dug at the bottom after the very successful bang of the previous week. After sending up several bags and buckets of spoil, and moving a couple of very large slabs, I managed to get into some 20' of steeply descending and VERY hairy boulder ruckle. I stopped because of a possible loose slab just before another 10' of feasibly open passage. The whole lot was exceedingly grim and likely to slip at any time – listening to possible rock movements was not helped by the continuous paternal advice of those above! A lot of work needs to be done in the way of cementation before this dig will go further (A nice day was had at Phil Dor's funeral).
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b>	55m	Priddy	Good results from the last bang. Filled four or five bags and dragged them, and a selection of

20/7/89  
Alone

rocks, back about 15 feet. Needs another bang  
and a good clearing session.

# TWIN TITTIES PLAN —

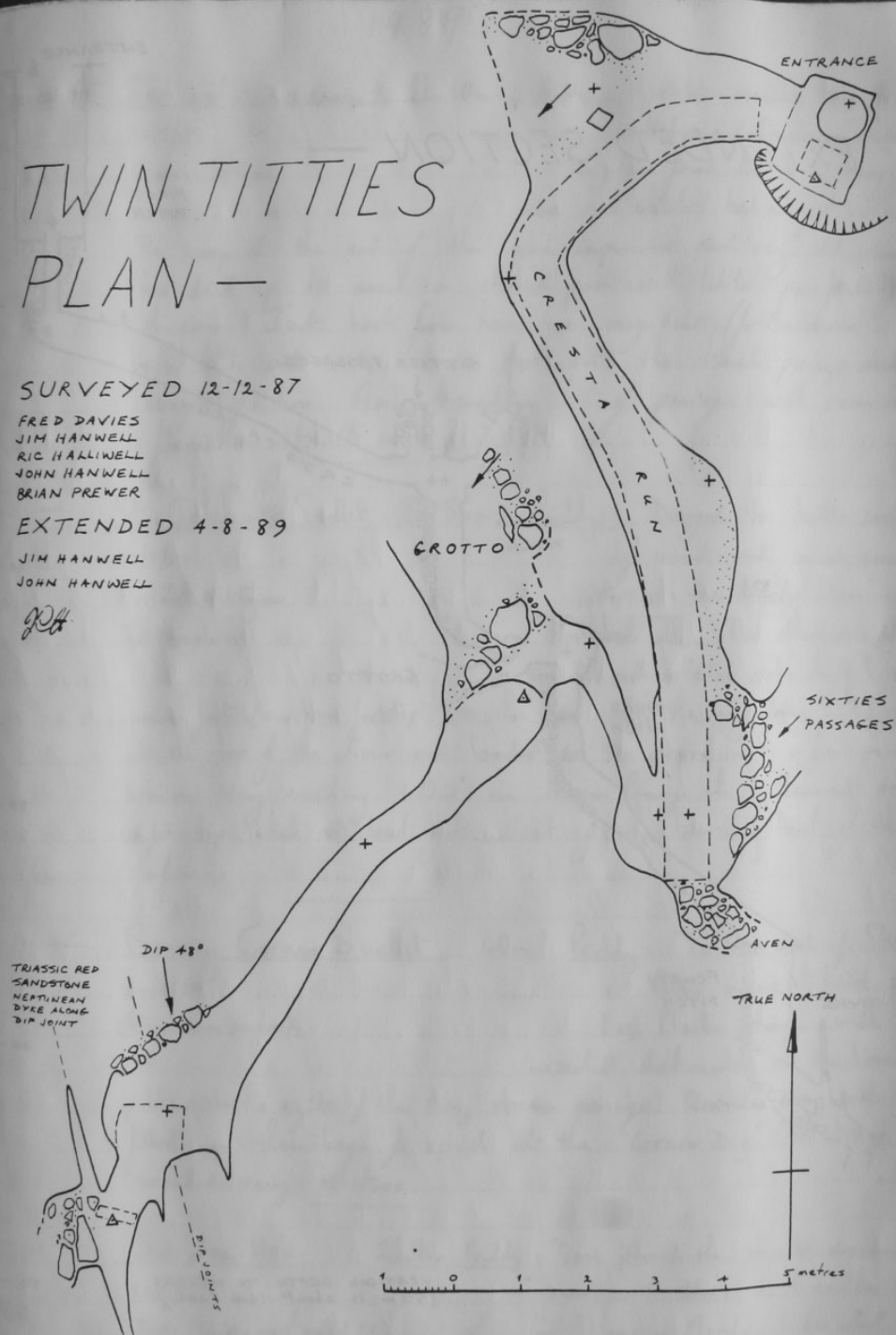
SURVEYED 12-12-87

FRED DAVIES  
JIM HANWELL  
RIC HALLIWELL  
JOHN HANWELL  
BRIAN PREWER

EXTENDED 4-8-89

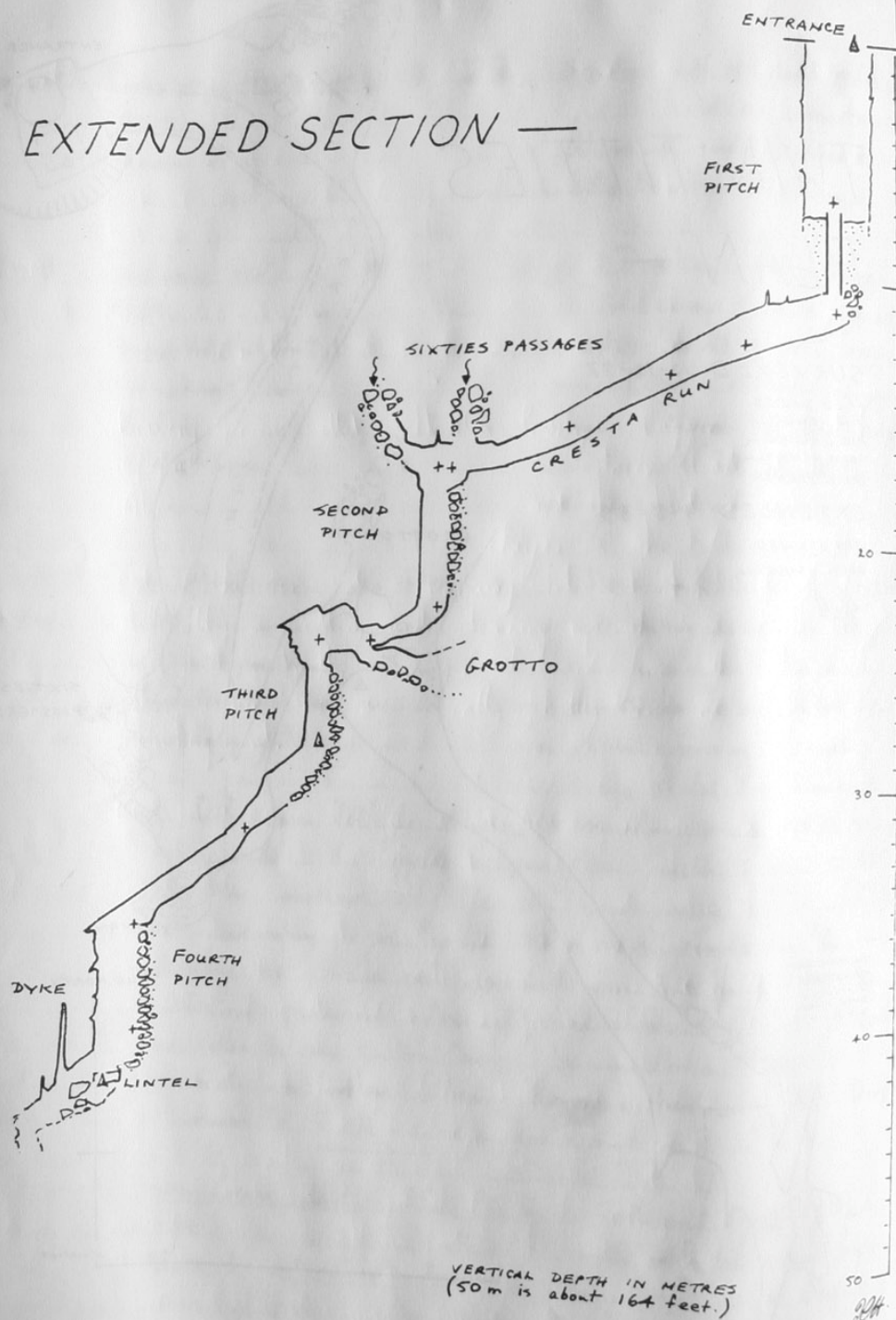
JIM HANWELL  
JOHN HANWELL

*RH*





# EXTENDED SECTION —



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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 21/7/89 Graham Johnson	1hr 10m	Priddy	Quick evening trip to see "Dark Cars and Sunglasses" extension – a place found due to a bang of mine but which I had not yet visited. The sump at the end of this quite impressive and very old passage had dried up to reveal a choked pool with little prospects for digging. Just back from here is a magnificent (for Eastwater) stalactite and 'mite. We took out the hand pump and a length of hose. An interesting bit of passage with some nice formations. Well worth a visit.
Somerset	<b>St. Cuthbert's Swallet</b>	2hr 55m	Priddy	Dragged two tackle sac loads of cement and several iron foot steps to the "Kariba Dam" in

	23/7/89 Mac, Zot, Nick Gymer, Ted Humphries			Cuthberts II. The others mixed the concrete and collected rocks while I added over a foot (and two footsteps) to the dam. On the way down I slipped at the top of the Gour and landed up 30' down with a few minor bruises. Very exciting. Out via Harem Passage etc. Pleasant and useful trip which at least got us out of the burning heat of the surface.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 27/7/89 (Quackers on surface)	40m	Priddy	To the end of Skid Row where I laid an 8 oz Plaster charge with an inserted detonator on the limestone pillar to the right of the tiny stream passage. On the way out I filled up three bags of spoil at the "Corner Dig". The bang sounded effective.
Somerset	<b>Swildon's Hole</b> 25/7/89 Dave Blenkinsop ("Kendal CC")	2hr 10m	Priddy	Dave phoned the shop to assess access for Swildon's, as it was his first time on Mendip. I decided to take him down on a tourist trip and we had a superb Tuesday evening run around, visiting Swildon's 4 and exiting via The Troubles and Sump 1. Hardly anyone in the cave – nice and fresh and a refreshing interlude from the hot weather. The Mud Sump was as dry as a stick!

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 26/7/89 Pete Hiller, Chris Castle	1hr 35m	Priddy	Dug at the "Corner Dig" until it got too unpleasant due to the amount of water – needs pumping into Skid Row before we can progress any further. It is possible to poke drain rods in for about 15'.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 1/8/89 Alone	1¼ hr	Priddy	Took the black BEC hand pump down and after a lot of hassle I managed to pump out most of the water from the "Corner Dig". I then filled up a couple of bags which I later dragged halfway to the entrance. The passage here is low and roomy and descending fairly steeply but filled completely with mud and gravel. An awkward place to dig which may need banging to give us room to work. The pump needs priming before it works properly and is awkward to use in the confined space.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 2/8/89 Pete Hiller, Chris Castle, Tony Boycott, Gary Jago, Mark Lumley	1½ hr	Red Quar	I went to the end and dug about 5 feet of loose cobbles and mud which Pete bagged up. He also bagged several trays of spoil filled by Tony who was immediately behind me. All the bags were dragged out to Santa' Grotto area by the rest of the team. We are now back at the "working face". Needs one more good clearing trip and then a careful bang job. Rescued a large frog from halfway out of the cave. Pleasant trip.

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Breconshire	<b>Llanelly Quarry Pot</b> 6/8/89 Chris Castle (BEC), Nick, Dani, Peter, Wolfgang (SGH), Nick (TSS – Plymouth) (Quackers, Tony Williams)	3hr 40m	Clydach	Day trip to Wales in Chris's car followed by two Swiss motorbikes – one bearing Nick dressed in full Petzl gear! and "followed" by the English Nick. Stopped at Gilwern Little Chef but no sign of Nick, whom it later transpired had driven to Ystradfellte! The rest of us went to the cave where Chris, Nick (SGH) and I descended. Quackers and Tony chickened out due to the tight and loose entrance rift and the other three Swiss lads had no kit as it was in Nick's car! The three of us carried on down the tight entrance rift, being covered in quarry spoil dropping from above, until we reached more roomy passage. An easy section led to the top of a short free climb
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				and 50' pitch followed by a 30' dug and scaffold-shored section. This superb bit of digging leads to nearly a mile of quite attractive streamway ending downstream in low and graunchy passage and a tight impassable sump to Shakespeare's Cave. Upstream is more pleasant, fairly easy going and with lots of nice pretties. We started off by going downstream and got fed up in the low bits. On returning we met Wolfgang, Peter, Dani and the errant Nick. The former two accompanied us upstream as far as the duck where we had had enough. Back out to surface, missing the other two en route! Everyone later assembled in, or near, the Drum and Monkey, from where we returned to Mendip via the Star of India – losing Nick yet again on the way! A good trip despite all the cock ups. The Swiss lads seemed impressed and amused by the whole affair!
Somerset	<b>Hallowe'en Rift</b> 8/8/89 Trevor Hughes	1hr 5m	Wookey Hole	Cave completely dry! Trevor drilled 2 shotholes which I filled with 4 ozs plaster. Another 4 ozs laid on LH wall. Sounded like a good one.
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 9/8/89 Gary Jago, Gonzo, Pete Hiller, Tony Boycott	2hr	Priddy	Three loads to surface from the "Corner Dig" and eighteen loads (!) from the end. I cleared out the tiny stream passage to let the water through as rain was imminent. A lot of spoil still needs to be bagged up before the next banging session. As we left it started to rain – later on quite heavily. A good night's work.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 14/8/89 Alone	1hr 40m	Priddy	Bagged up about half a dozen loads at the face and then laid 2 x 4 oz Gelamex charges on the left and right hand sides of the terminal streamway tube. I then had considerable difficulty in cutting and cleaning up the ends of the bang wire but eventually managed it and fired the charge from the surface. The cave is really shitty now and needs a good flushing out.
<b>BEC 1989 CAVING HOLIDAY TO THE APUSENI MOUNTAINS, TRANSYLVANIA, ROMANIA.</b>				
	17/8/89 After beer in the Hunter's and Tucker's Grave, Tony Boycott drove Rich "Dick Fred" Stephens, Gonzo and I to Florica and Andrew's house in Orpington. Got well pissed on ale and Romanian fire water!			
	18/8/89 Early in the morning Rich Payne's brother and Andrew drove the seven of us, Tony B, Mark L, me, Rich S, Rich Payne, Nick Sprang and Brian Van Luipen to Gatwick airport where we were just in time to catch the Vienna plane. In Vienna, 2 hrs later we got the bus to the railway station and dumped our kit. We then bought our food for the next two weeks and sampled the local Gösser beer. 4.22 pm – left Vienna on a packed Orient Express bound for Budapest, Hungary. Played cards and drank ale until Budapest where we dragged all the luggage to the back of the train and then had to leave that train, cross through a second and into a third for the continuation of the journey! Nearly lost Loopy at this point. The drink was starting to tell! The trip through Hungary was drunken, tiring and somewhat exciting – at one point I "sleep-walked" off the train in the middle of the night / nowhere and woke up, pissing on the track, when the train started off! I suddenly woke up and jumped back on (I had no passport on me.....) and disappeared into the night, still pissing and being shouted at by some Hungarians! Entering Romania we had no problems with Customs / Border guards and after a 2 hour wait continued on to Arad, getting there at 5.30 am Saturday.			
<b>Page 57</b>				
	19/8/89 At the station we were met by Laina – an English speaking caver(ess) and Florica's parents. A huge rucksack with legs arrived next – Polo – another member of the Aragonite Club from Arad and a Romanian version of Throstle! The square outside the station was grey, drab and grim – also well covered in Ceasescue political slogans. Bought some awful "meat patties" and "coffee" then waited for the 9.10 am train to Holod.  After 50 km of flat, boring agricultural country we reached Holod – a large village with a pub near the station. Here we spent the next 6½ hrs drinking grim beer and eating sardines, cheese and bread –			

	<p>with peppers and tomatoes.</p> <p>Next train was packed and took us to Sudrijo through some fine limestone country. Here we managed to bribe a bloke driving a contractor's tractor and workman's trailer to drive us 36 km to near Padiş, at an altitude of 1150 metres. This cost us about £1.50 and two packets of fags! The driver was not a happy man. We were – it would have been an almost impossible walk with all our kit. We reached this spot at 9.30 pm in the dark. I looked after half of the gear while the others staggered off to find a campsite. 3.4 hr later they returned, having camped 25 mins walk away. Had a beer, food etc; put the tents up and got some well-deserved sleep.</p>
	<p>20/8/89. Woke up on Sunday at 9 am to find that we were in a superb site in an Alpine valley amongst fir tree covered mountains. We organised the camp and got acclimatised, some of the lads building a drystone fireplace and Polo heading off for a 50 km walk to try and find some carbide! Our camp was situated in the Valea Cetăţilor near Grajduri. Walked through the woods to look at a couple of "nearby caves":-</p>

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Romania Transylvania	<p><b>Peștera Neagră</b>  <b>Peștera Ghețarul de la Barsa</b>  20/8/89  Liana, Gonzo, Dick, Rich, Tony, Nick, Loopy (6 Romanian "cavers")</p>	<p>5m 45m</p>	<p>Padiş Padiş</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Black Cave</li> <li>- Barsa Ice Cave</li> </ul> <p>We set off for the ice cave but took a wrong turn and reached the Black Cave where several large entrances led to a pitch. Here we met several young Romanian lads carrying a hand-held carbide lamp and a couple of torches. Nick looked at the first few feet of the cave as far as the pitch. As we were only dressed in shorts and T-shirts with no equipment we carried on a few hundred metres to the Ice Cave. Here we followed the locals in, using their rope as a handline on the ice slope at the entrance. Beyond this we visited a few hundred feet of roomy but not particularly impressive passage. A traverse line led to the head of a short pitch where a streamway could be seen below. We came back out via a second entrance, below which the streamway could still be heard. There were no ice formations in this well used cave and only a few calcite formations, most seeming to be made of hardened moonmilk.</p> <p>Walked back to the camp, picking wild strawberries and puff balls en route. "Goulasch Curry" for tea, washed down with Vodka (courtesy of a carbide-less Polo), Whisky and Gin and Appeal! Heavy rain that night following several hours of lightning all around the hills.</p>
	<p>21/8/89. Monday. Up early to the sound of sheep bells. A fine breakfast of frankfurters, cheese, bread, peppers and tomatoes followed....</p> <p>We then went for our first days caving, stopping after an hour's walk to look at the large active swallet entrance of Peștera Căput. This dries up occasionally but was quite wet at the time and looked to be well worth a visit. (This was done later by Nick and Loopy who were stopped a couple of hundred feet in by a traverse/pitch). From here we walked up the next hill to find a series of potholes in the woods, two of which (Avenul Gemănata and Avenul Pionier) were examined in the company of a horde of Romanian ramblers. We eventually found the pot we intended to descend:-</p>			

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Romania Transylvania	<p><b>Avenul Negru</b>  21/8/89  Polo, Gonzo, Fred, Nick, Loopy</p>	<p>3hr 40m</p>	<p>Padiş</p>	<p><i>See below</i></p>
	<p>Black Pot. This was a vast open pot with a fine rock bridge spanning it a few feet down. The shorter side looked grim being a steep scree slope and a possible 80'-100' pitch. We decided to rig it from the far side giving an almost complete free hang of some 240' onto a huge, sloping pile of jammed "logs" – actually trees up to 50' long! Gonzo rigged the drop and despite a couple of rub points where rope protectors were used we all followed down to the log jam. There then followed a delicate traverse between the awe-inspiring trees and debris and a 50' sloping abseil down an ancient fir tree trunk to reach a large stream passage where the log jam had dammed the stream to form a deep upstream lake. We followed the passage downstream for several hundred feet to a log filled sump</p>			

	<p>pool with the names of several Polish caving clubs written in carbide above it. On the way back Gonzo found a side passage which led to a three way junction where two streams entered. Nick, Fred and Polo followed the RH stream while the rest of us took the LH one. Both passages were again followed for several hundred feet to where they both ended in avens. The passage which we followed was very reminiscent of Veshtucoe in Mexico – a fine, inclined and beautifully eroded streamway. This led to a low crawl with a difficult climb above. I scaled this for about 40’ to where it became a high vertical aven, as mentioned earlier. This looks good for a possible link to the surface. On the way back to the entrance shaft Gonzo pushed another side passage to reach yet another aven. It is just possible that some of this stuff was new exploration. Short of time we carried on out. On the main shaft I had to hang suspended some 30’ from the floor while Gonzo abseiled partway down on Polo’s Romanian climbing rope (!) to replace the tackle bag rope protector on the lowest rub point. In this very exposed position I had some 20 minutes to admire the impressive shaft and the small figures clambering up the log pile below.</p> <p>All out at last after a few delays and there followed a mad rush away from the pot as lightning and thunder became increasingly threatening. The rain thankfully kept off and the long, tiring walk back to camp was followed by a tasty meal of macaroni cheese, sardines and Angel Delight!</p> <p>A good day.</p>
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Romania Transylvania	<b>Peștera Focul Viu</b> <b>Cetățile Ponorului</b> 22/8/89 Polo, Liana, Rich, Gonzo, Nick, Tony, Loopy	1 hr 2hr 20m	Padiș	See below
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	<p>Living Fire Cave Citadel Sink</p> <p>Up at 8.30 for another Frankfurter and cheese breakfast before the hour’s walk to the rubbish strewn entrance of Focul Viu – affectionately known as “Fuckall View”. A steep ice slope led down through a roomy passage into a large, ice-floored clamber, partly open to the surface. Here there were a couple of fine, 20’ high ice columns which are supposedly very impressive when the sun’s rays shine directly on them through the entrance – hence the name of the cave. On the RH side of the chamber a low gap opened directly onto an ice pitch which we could not descend for lack of tackle. Beyond the main chamber a short ice climb with the traditional “fixed logs” led to a second chamber containing another excellent ice pillar. There was no way on beyond but a low passage on the RH side led to an eyehole with open passage beyond. This would need a hammer and chisel to gain entry. Polo climbed up 15’ at the end of the chamber to no avail.</p> <p>The lads took many snaps in this cave before we left and walked for another hour (including a steep 300m drop) down into a valley with an enormous entrance at the bottom. This was one of the huge portals to the famous Cetățile Ponorului and was some 300’ high by 100’ wide, taking a large stream and with rotting wooden fixed ladders leading down to a massive passage where another gigantic entrance opened on the RH side.</p> <p>From here we followed the vast river passage (very reminiscent of Skocjanske Jama in Yugoslavia) for some 600 feet, past a couple more huge entrance – one with a sloping, 60’ pine tree leading up to it! – and into more huge river passage with another entrance on the left. It was somewhat embarrassing to be fully kitted up and in the same company as hordes of T-shirt and shorts clad tourists carrying hand torches! We lost these at the last entrance and continued down the river using a series of “fixed aids” consisting of logs, wire and string traverses until we were stopped by a deep lake about 2/3 of a mile from the main entrance. We were told that it was possible to go “right through the mountain”, but surveys later studied in the UK indicate that it sumps a few hundred feet further on. Liana managed to fall in the river on the way back and some of us climbed up into a large side passage ending in an impressive hanging false floor and a few grubby but large formations. All then exited the cave and staggered back to camp in very good form after a superb trip. This is an excellent river cave and a very nice place to have visited. At camp we finished off the day with Austrian soup, corned beef hash and Angel Delight – all washed down with whisky ---- ahhhh.</p>
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Romania Transylvania	23/8/89. We all walked across the hills towards Padiș, looking for caves en route. A 20’ shaft on the sloping pasture directly above the camp looked interesting (“Avenul Mahmur”). Eventually we reached the singularly unattractive pub – the Cabana Padiș – and after a couple of pints of piss poor draught beer we got stuck into the Vodka, Banana liquer, red wine, etc. A local soup dish full of scrawny bits of lamb failed to soak up the booze! Everyone got completely plastered – well, it was Priddy Faire Day .... We later met some local cave rescue lads who, it seems, offered us a trip into a 20km long cave system – still going; sadly we never got there!
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	At last, in ones and twos, we began to meander back to camp. Tony and I ended up lost, pissed, falling over and benighted – all at once. We managed to find a couple of local farmers who gave us directions and in the early hours we staggered into camp – cut, bruised and minus a couple of bottles of wine which had got broken in my rucksack. Had another few drinks in camp before collapsing into our pits. Gonzo later turned up after having walked through the woods for miles.			
Romania Transylvania	24/8/89. All awoke with stinking hangovers but Nick, Tony and Loopy got themselves together enough to investigate the shaft on the hill, finding it to lead to quite a large cave with the sound of a streamway leading to an undescended pitch. Not knowing the official name of this cave it was christened:			
Romania Transylvania	<b>“Avenul Mahmud”</b> 24/8/89 Tony, Nick, Loopy (Liana)	2hr 20m	Padiş	<b>Hangover Pot</b> In the afternoon I recovered enough to join the others on a trip. We descended the 20’ entrance shaft into a series of large, phreatic, sloping passage – beautifully eroded and with fine deposits of splash or coral stalagmite and some small stalactites. Several passages joined up at the head of the second pitch which Nick bolted. A muddy slope led to the bolt and a 15’ pitch got us to the streamway. Immediately downstream was a fine 30’ wet pitch which we left while Nick pushed on upstream and through a very cold duck into some two hundred feet of passage ending in a sump. There were several possible climbs to upper levels which Nick did not attempt. When he returned we tackled the downstream pitch which Loopy had (badly) bolted. This was abseiled into a muddy chamber with a deep sump pool at the end. I squeezed into a filthy little chamber with no way on. All this area was extremely cold due to the draught created by the waterfall. Nick took a few snaps before we all headed out leaving the cave rigged for a future visit. A very nice little cave system, conveniently located. Unfortunately it all seems to have been previously explored.

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Romania Transylvania	<b>Peştera Gheţarul de la Barsa</b> <b>Peştera Zăpodia</b> 25/8/89 1) Gonzo, Rich, Dick, Nick, Loopy, Polo, Tony 2) Gonzo, Polo, Tony	2 ¾ hr 2 ¼ hr	Padiş	1) Back to the ice cave to continue with the exploration beyond the “1 <sup>st</sup> pitch”. This was rigged with 20’ of rope but could be free climbed. A winding stream passage, not unlike Faunarooska, led on for a couple of hundred feet to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> pitch. This was about 15’ deep. Then followed several hundred feet of attractive streamway interspersed with some technical climbs and a 30’ deep 3 <sup>rd</sup> pitch. I free-climbed this by traversing down the rift. The passage terminated in an attractive, deep and clear sump pool. Everyone then returned to the sunny surface for chocolate, fags and sunbathing after a very pleasant trip. 2) Four of us later went down the nearby Zapodia after Polo had finally tracked down the entrance. This was large and square cut and situated in a deep doline full of the usual logs. We fixed a rope into a peg stuck in the end of a relatively small jammed log and abseiled/slid down some 50’ to a level section where Gonzo re-belayed the rope and we slid down the next bit to the top of an ice pitch some 30’ deep. Below here we followed several hundred feet of awkward meandering passage with plenty of awkward climbs, crawls and squeezes which, after picking up a couple of inlets debouched into a large gallery leading off into the distance. Here Polo
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				and I at last caught up with Tony and Gonzo. They had followed this large passage for another hundred feet or so to a very well decorated section in the style of the Berger. As it was getting late we fought our way back out, having some fun on the climbs and ice slopes and vowing to return to explore more of this fine, sporting cave.
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Romania Transylvania	26/8/89. Got up late – intermittent rain. Nick and Loopy went to rig Peștera Caput and Polo, Liana and Fred went to the Cabana for bread and booze. (They returned with no bread but plenty of white wine, vodka and bloody awful sheep's milk cheese!) Tony, Gonzo, Rich and I pratted around camp, cutting wood etc, then started a couple of digs in the two filled in potholes between the camp and "Avenul Mahmur". The nearest one of these to the road was cleared for about 4' to reveal a descending tube showing little promise. I later pushed this for about 15' to a complete choke.			
Romania Transylvania	<b>"Avenul Mahmur"</b> 27/8/89 Tony, Nick, Loopy	1 ½ hr	Padiș	Decided to finish off this cave and attempt the climbs beyond the duck. I donned my wet suit and off we went, all passing the duck easily. Nick took several snaps while I tried in vain to find a route to the upper level. The walls were so thickly coated in mud deposits that it was too risky to get past some of the trickier bits and I had to reluctantly give up. The upstream sump was looked at but appears to be deep – not a free dive. It is a shame that this cave is so short as there is obvious potential here – particularly upstream. In the evening Tony and I recce'd the area above the cave finding little of interest apart from loads of wild strawberries. A possible dig was found near the other two digs previously looked at – a low arch with a good draught. We never had a chance to push this due to bad weather.

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	28/9/89. Early start. All except Polo set off on a long walk down valley to the end of the logging track then directly over the ridge into the valley of Girda Seacă – only managing to find the best route down by asking a couple of local hill farmers. After three hours of hard going amongst some fine scenery we reached the entrance of:-			
Romania Transylvania	<b>Peștera Coiba Mare</b> 28/8/89 Tony, Liana, Dick, Nick, Loopy (Gonzo, Rich)	2hr 25m	Casa de Piatră	<i>See below</i>

	The river Girdisoara sinks near the immense (60m wide by 30m high) entrance to this system. The entrance is supposedly the largest in Romania. From the vast portal several smaller passages lead off. We followed a large gallery on the RH side which led to a low crawl and a soaring, moonmilk covered ramp heading upwards. I climbed this for over a hundred feet of somewhat slimy and exposed going to a point where I decided it was not the main way on. It was still heading up dip when I stopped. An unpleasant but quite unique bit of passage. Meanwhile the others had pushed the crawl and found it to be the way on. Beyond, a pleasant stream passage was followed for a couple of hundred feet to a large chamber where the main stream entered from a large tunnel on the right. The combined streams flowed off along a beautiful phreatic streamway which we followed for several hundred feet, using a rope at one point on a dodgy, slippery traverse / climb. The streamway ended in a wide and deep sump pool full of floating logs. All then headed back out with Liana and I taking the wrong route and ending up in some high level phreatic tubes which terminated high above the floor of the entrance chamber. Then followed another 3hr walk back to camp – this time via the head of the valley and into the Ursului valley. Arrived in camp well knackered just as it commenced raining (6.30pm). Gonzo braved the storm to cook supper in the rain.			
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	29/8/89. Woke up to find it still raining. Spent all day in our tents apart from brief forays out to look at the rapidly rising river. Polo unfortunately rescued the sheep's cheese which had been swept			
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	downstream and it was only by luck that an SRT rope, left to soak, was saved. 6.30pm that night it was still raining!			
	30/8/89. Awoke to thick mist and the distinct possibility of more rain. Mice had invaded the camp and nibbled the tent and the Angel Delight. A dog had thankfully ate the sheep's cheese. Everyone was generally pissed off with the weather and caving would have been dodgy in the flood conditions prevailing. We packed up all our wet kit and de-camped, giving much of our gear away to Polo and a couple of passing shepherds who thought all their birthdays had come at once. A desperate 15 mile, 6 hour walk down the hill took us to Pietrosa where we just caught a very tatty bus to Beiuș. Here we walked miles trying to find an open pub. Then followed a grim train ride to Oradea and a 4 hr wait before the train back to Arad was taken. Another 4 hr wait ensued.			
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	31/8/89. Bid farewell to Polo and Liana and took the morning train to Budapest – a nice looking city in daylight and a place where we should have stopped for a day to look at its famous caves. (I will return). Took the train from here to Vienna and had a superb meal on board. The next four days were spent eating, boozing, shopping and generally festering in the flesh pots of Vienna, though we did manage to get underground.			
Austria Niederer Osterreich Wien	<b>Seegrotte</b> 3/9/89 Tony, Nick, Gonzo, Rich, Dick, Loopy + guide & tourists	55m	Hinterbruhl	17km south of Vienna, this old flooded gypsum mine was once a factory for Heinkel 162 jets. It is a fairly boring tourist trip with a few smashed up bits of aeroplane and mining tools on show. The lower level is flooded and a short motor boat ride is taken on the “largest underground lake in Europe”. It is situated in quite a pleasant area with attractive rock formations and medieval villages and a pub that sold 100 different beers!
	So ended a particularly interesting but completely exhausting caving holiday. The Romanian caves visited were excellent, but would have been even more so if we had had more information and surveys. The political system and the cities are shit. Our thanks must go to Florica, Liana and Polo for all the time and effort they put in to organise this trip for us.			
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 6/9/89 Pete Hillier	1hr 20m	Priddy	Back to reality! Pete dug at the end and filled several bags while I tidied up and dug at a rift on the RH side 20' back from the face. I then took over at the face and brought down loads of spoil from the well-shattered pillar ahead – the result of the last bang. The air conditions were not good but we struggled on until thirst drove us out.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 11/9/89 Graham Wilton-Jones	3hr 55m	Red Quar	To the end where Bassett went in for a look at filled a few skips. I then took over while Bassett filled the bags at the start of the final crawl. Digging in the constructed terminal section became gradually easier as I widened and deepened the passage until I was able to remove large rocks and many skiploads of gravel. Almost immediately I opened up an open bedding on the RH side which goes on forwards along the line of the main passage. This is draughting strongly and looks promising though there are a lot of large boulders to remove or stack under some of the dodgy looking roof slabs – not the place to use bang! After a lot of hard work we left the place looking the best it's been for years. One large slab needs removing to give us a good digging face. A bloody good days work.
	16/17 <sup>th</sup> /9/89. Attended the 1989 BCRA Conference in Manchester where I had a Bat Products trade stand. Also gave a jocular slide show on Mendip! Fame at last.....			
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 18/9/89 Graham Wilton-Jones	2hr 50m	Red Quar	Moved the last load of filled bags up into the “Smoke Room” then continued digging at the end. Half a dozen bags filled and a few rocks pulled out. A low, gravel filled passage leads on below large, black and loose boulders. There is a



				tiny open rift in the floor following in the same direction. A lot of work to be done here before we find anything. Draughting strongly. Removed bang wire on way out as it is too unstable to use explosives.
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 20/9/89 Trebtor, Simon Loader, Jake, Snablet, Pete H	1 ¾ hr	Priddy	22 bags of spoil out to surface. Dug at the end and cleared the streamway in preparation for the winter floods. Air good for a change. A very good night's work.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 25/9/89 Alone	2hr 10m	Priddy	Dug at the end, filling about half a dozen bags and generally tidying up in preparation for the next bang, which will be behind yet another limestone pillar blocking the way on. At least there is plenty of working space at the end. I also had another brief dig at the side passage 20' back from the face. This needs a good clearing session and may need widening. It seems to lead to a small open rift containing clean washed cobbles and may be draughting slightly. One bag dragged out to surface where it was yet another beautiful day.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 27/9/89 Tony Boycott, Gary Jago, Trev Hughes, Pete Hellier	1hr 20m	Priddy	19 loads of spoil were removed to surface and Tony B laid an 8 oz charge on the limestone pillar at the end. Conditions still relatively very dry.
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 29/9/89 Graham Wilton-Jones	1hr 10m	Priddy	Several bags of spoil filled at the end and one bag eventually dragged out to surface. The last bang had done a reasonable job but another will soon be needed. Air conditions not too good. Another sledge has been installed to cover the last twenty feet.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b>  <b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 2/10/89 Alone	2hr 40m 50m	Red Quar  Priddy	Dug at the end of Wigmore and managed to clear a large boulder. Most of the debris was stashed in the sides of the bedding as to get it out needs assistance. I eventually managed to progress some three or four feet forwards to a point where the low bedding continues and a loose roof section will be of use in future for some much needed headroom. It is all unfortunately surrounded by huge, loose marl slabs which encroach on the bedding plane making it tight and awkward. No obvious draught today. I also moved several bags up to the Acro jacks and dragged one bag to Santa's Grotto. Tidied up a few things on the way out. Then to Bowery where I filled one bag at the rift dig 20' from the end and laid an 8 oz charge on the terminal limestone pillar. The bang wire is in a poor state and after dragging one bag back to the "chamber" I was thoroughly pissed off to find I had a missfire! This will be left to tomorrow to rectify as I've had enough for one day.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 3/10/89 Alone	20m	Priddy	Laid new detonator on misfired charge of previous day. Ran out new line and, thankfully, successfully fired from surface.

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 9/10/89 Alone	1 ¼ hr	Priddy	Didn't get down here over the weekend due to severe hangover from excellent BEC Dinner of Saturday night! Went down on Monday and after clearing a couple of bag loads from the RH rift 20' from the end I laid a 2 x 4oz charge – one on each side of this rift to widen the entrance for future digging. I then went on to the end to check the results of the last bang. Another two or three feet had been gained and a heap of shale and bits of rock were dragged back from the face and bagged up. Another good clearing session is needed here before we continue banging or digging our way onwards. Possible slight draught. Back out to the surface connecting up the detonator to the 8oz charge on the way. Fired satisfactorily from the surface. A short but useful trip.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 11/10/89 Trebor, Gary, Biffo, Simon Loader, Tony Boycott	1hr 50m	Priddy	Removed a total of 31 loads to surface! Simon dug first at the RH rift and then at the end as he was wearing a wet suit. I then took over digging and roof removing at the RH rift. All set for the next bang session at the end and digging/bang session at the rift. An excellent night's work.
Breconshire	<b>Ogof Ffynnon Ddu</b> 16/10/89 Chris Castle, Andy Sparrow, Graham Wilton-Jones, Graham and Lillian (CSS or GLS)	4 ¾ hr	Penwyllt	"Monday C.C." trip kindly arranged by Bassett. In via O.F.D. I entrance and along the streamway until leaving it for the dug connection to O.F.D. II. On to Diver's Pitch, Picadilly etc and eventually back down to the main streamway which we then followed up as far as the Top Waterfall – over 1 ½ miles of superb, wet passage. At one point I wrenched my bad elbow while being held by Andy over a deep pool. Chris Castle also had problems when he fell off a ledge and severely bashed his leg. He needed a bit of rope assistance to enable him to get out of the cave. From the streamway we left the cave via Maypole Inlet, Edward's Short Cur and Gnome Passage to Top Exit. A most excellent trip and nice to be back in O.F.D. after all these years.

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 23/10/89 Alone	1hr 10m	Priddy	Landrover broken down so I started to cycle over but got a puncture on the Green. Left the bike at Alan Thomas' and walked the rest of the way. Due to the recent heavy rains there was a fair sized stream entering the cave and being in dry kit I was in for a soaking. Went to the end and layed an 8oz Gelamex charge above the tiny stream passage – no sins of backing up here! Also dug a bit at the RH rift. Fired the charge successfully from surface. Walked from here to the Hunter's looking at various depressions on the way. A short trip but hopefully quite useful.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 25/10/89 Trevor Hughes	1 ½ hr	Priddy	Trev cleared the end whilst I dug at the RH rift – where I eventually got to a point where I could see vertically upwards for about 10 feet – definitely worth pursuing. The terminal dig is now ready for another bang. Removed the bang wire on the way out. Another good evening's work. Lots of bang to be removed.
Somerset	<b>Welsh's Green Swallet</b>	2 hr	Milton	Did this trip in wet suit socks as I forgot my boots! A fair sized stream was flowing through

	30/10/89 Graham Johnson, Chris Castle			the cave and this made conditions slightly more pleasant – we were almost clean when we came out! Down to the large dropped slabs at the end which Graham is attempting to shore up. We managed to get one length of scaffold bar in place before the hacksaw broke. Giving up here we moved on to the 1 <sup>st</sup> Aven where half an hour or so was spent digging “March of the Gherkins” – no obvious way on here but if it gets a spot of digging on every trip it may go somewhere. Back out to surface after a shower on the 20’ pitch. If the water level had been much higher in the cave the “duck” at Compost Corner would have been almost impossible on the way out. I will try and have a look at the Bishop’s Moat tomorrow to see if it’s turned grey!
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 1/11/89 Simon Loader, Pete Hellier, Graham Johnson	1hr 25m	Priddy	I volunteered to stay in the “chamber” and pull buckets. Jake and Simon went to the end and Pete got the short straw – “Sump 1”. Pulled all the bags back to the “chamber” and then everyone moved back to eventually remove 21 loads to surface – we were even late for the pub!
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 6/11/89 Alone	2hr 50m	Priddy	Cave quite damp. Dug lots of spoil from the RH rift near the end and bagged it ready for removal. I was soon able to get right in to the vertical bit and look up into a low passage (?) above with a distinct draught. The cold and uncomfortable nature of the spot eventually force to give up and head on out for a welcome drink of Coke to combat the dehydration caused by vast amounts of booze at the West’s the night before! This dig now looks very promising and we may be able to get up into the new bit on Wednesday, though there is still a lot of spoil to come out. The end of the cave has recently been completely sumped judging by the leaves etc on the roof. This may mean that there is another sump not too far ahead.

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Yorkshire	<b>White Scar Cave</b> 11/11/89 John Swift (CSS), Simon Loader, Zot, Nigel Taylor, Carol White, Mac, Martin Grass	4hr 20m	Ingleton	Hill Inn boozing weekend to celebrate John and Sue Riley’s takeover of the pub. I arrived in Yorkshire just in time to grab a swift pint and join the others on a trip into this fine system. We passed through the show cave and followed then main streamway to the sump at the end, pausing to look at some fine straws up a climb on the LH side of the passage. After a quick look at a large inlet nearby we carried on back down the streamway – Zot, ‘N’ and White Meg leaving the cave. The rest of us went a couple of hundred feet along Sleepwalker Series until we got fed up and we also had a look in the rather unimpressive Battlefield Chamber – about to be turned into a show cave in its own right. The management have recently bored a hole into the chamber to take electric cable for operating lights etc inside. It will need good lighting to make anything of this rather uninspiring spot. Back out down the streamway – nice and wet – and into the café for tea before getting down to the serious business of the weekend which we did to excess. An excellent time was had by all.
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 15/11/89 Tony Boycott	1hr 20m	Priddy	Pulled a few bags back from the streamway near the RH dig to give us a bit of room. I then dug out several bag loads of spoil from the RH dig face and Tony bagged them up. I managed to get in far enough to almost kneel and removed enough spoil for Tony to fill several more bags until we ran out of available stacking space. The open way on is smaller than I imagined but when excavated should still be enterable, though a solid rock wall seems to be in situ at right angles, below the bedding. Time will tell. It was obvious that the whole of Skid Row has recently been flooded to the roof.
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 20/11/89 Alone	2 ¾ hr	Priddy	Jake failed to turn up – as usual. I took bang and empty bags to the end and then started clearing the RH rift dig and moving full bags along the passage to give me stacking space. After four or five loads I was able to get my head up into the open passage to find that it closed down to a tiny, clean washed hole almost immediately. This was bit of a disappointment but nothing new for Bowery! At least this passage is easily diggable and will be quite roomy when all the solidly packed stream debris is removed. I can't really understand why such a large passage has developed here. It may be due to a couple of small inlets and the fact that it is now going down the dip. Anyway, it's still a promising site. I then went to the end and laid an 8oz charge above the tiny stream passage. A separate 4oz charge (all plaster) was placed on the LH wall some 10' back from the end where a large rock bulge makes life awkward. Out for a fag then back down with a reel of new bang wire. Connected this charge then returned to the surface with one load of spoil. The charge did not fire on a brand new 4.5 volt battery so I drove to the shop for a 9v battery which was also not powerful enough! Get fed up and connected the wires to the car battery – success! Hopefully we can get a strong team down on Wednesday to clear the bloody place out.
Somerset	<b>Ridge Lane Swallet</b> 24/11/89 (Tav, Vince)	5m	Ridge	This is an interesting dig in a large shakehole full of conglomerate boulders and is currently being dug by Tav and Vince. They have installed a wood and corrugated iron shored shaft at the bottom of which, 15' down, was a large conglomerate boulder. 4oz of plaster was inserted/stuck on and the offending rock blown to bits, probably to the annoyance of the local badger population!

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 26/11/89 Jake, Keith Savory (WCC)	2 ¾ hr	Priddy	An after pub(s) trip to try and clear out some of the backlog of bags. Moved most of these back to the chamber and after a few minutes of digging in the RH rift we dragged the loads back to the first bend and eventually got five loads to surface before the intense cold caused us to call a halt to the job. At least we have some room for the next digging session.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b>	1hr 20m	Priddy	Cleared several bag loads from the RH rift dig., including several large rocks from the easily

	29/11/89 Alone			removable roof! Then went to the end dig and filled two or three more bags. Cave relatively dry. One load dragged out to surface where a crystal clear and freezing night was illuminated by parachute flares on the firing ranges. Needs yet another good hauling session.
Cornwall	<b>Polberro Mine</b> <b>St. Just United Mine</b> 3/12/89 1) John Eyres, Gareth Brown, William (?), (Camborne School of Mines), Paul Deakin (EPC) 2) As above less William	2hr 55m	St. Agnes St. Just	i) The adit to Polberro emerges on the beach at St. Agnes and is the entrance to several hundred feet of easily explored and relatively safe workings. The first section of adit has a low, wet bit which helps keep out some of the tourists. We first followed the RH fork at a junction, into large stopes and a climb down a ginged ore-shoot into a lower, wet level with dangerously poised deads. This led to the foot of a c.200' shaft to surface. Paul took several "snaps" and on the way out we had a brief look up the LH fork – the main stream inlet – to a side passage where a few years ago some CSM students set up a jigging system to rework the mud in the passage for tin. Out of the adit to a liquid lunch followed by a drive down to Cape Cornwall and a trip into:- ii) St. Just United Mine. We parked at the car park for Cape Cornwall and took a footpath down to the north coast where a short climb back up took us to a hole dropping into a large adit level with knee deep water. This was followed through a series of tunnels and stopes, again for several hundred feet of easy going, to reach a long, narrow stope where a traverse over deep flooded workings eventually brought us out to grass via another adit level, this time on the south coast of the cape ("The north to south Cornish coast through trip"!) During the trip Paul took more photos and I suffered from a sudden dose of the squits forcing me to leave a selection of souvenirs in one of the side passage! Two interesting trips and a good day out.

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Cornwall	<b>Great Condurrow Mine</b> <b>South Crofty Mine</b> 4/12/89 i) John, Paul, 10 students and 1 assistant (CSMines) ii) John, Paul, John (S.Crofty surveyor)	1hr 10m 3hr 5m	Beacon  Pool	<i>See below</i>
	i) Great Condurrow is the "education" mine for Camborne School of Mines. We joined John and his students on their practice mine surveying exercise and one of the lads, Chris, modelled for Paul's photographs. The mine consists of a short shaft and ladderway into a couple of super imposed levels and is not particularly imposing – though it is an ideal site for the students to practice surveying, drilling, etc. Paul took several snaps of tramming, ore chutes, drills etc. (In the morning we looked round the CSM geological/mining museum and Paul gave a 2 hour slide show on underground photography as a recording medium. In the evening, immediately following the Great Condurrow visit, we drove across to Robinson's Shaft of South Crofty Mine. Here we met John, a mine surveyor, and then changed in the miners' "dry" near the shaft top. Wearing light clothing with a jacket over the top and with a self-rescuer on our belts we waited at the shaft top for the banksman to let us in the cage. As we waited a load of drill bits was wound up for re-sharpening. To one side of the headgear the old Cornish pumping engine stood – soon to be hopefully opened to the public when the shaft is closed down and a supermarket built on the site. Eventually, at 5.50pm we were ushered into the cage and dropped swiftly but smoothly down the 400 fathom (2,400ft) shaft to the landing at the 380 fathom level			

(below adit). Here the shaft drops a mere 5 fathom more into the sump. The adit level for this part of South Crofty is at 20 fathom below the surface.

From the landing we walked along a roomy tunnel or roadway for several hundred feet and across a crossroads, the left hand passage of which led to New Cook's Kitchen Shaft. Further along the 380 fathom level we reached the first incline – a steep descending roadway equipped with a conveyor belt. We descended this steep tunnel to the 420 fathom level – a long way below. All the way from the shaft bottom (where we left our jackets) the atmosphere got more humid and rapidly warmer. A short roadway from the base of this incline led to the head of the second incline – with its own conveyor belt and far down in the distance the twinkle of helmet lights. As we marched in single file down into the depths the oppressive heat and distant engine noises increased. The bottom of the incline – and of S. Crofty Mine – was reached at about 480 fathoms below adit (some 3,000 feet below surface!) Here a team of four miners were extending the roadway downwards, following a laser beam. A huge Jumbo drilling rig stood idly back while the spoil from the last blast was shovelled up with a side tipping bulldozer operated by one miner while a second worked a compressed air winch to help in dragging the loaded machine back up the passage to where it could tip its load onto the hopper above the conveyor belt. Paul took a large amount of snaps of this impressive scene truly deep in the bowels of the earth – the glistening naked backs of the miners, the roar of the engines and the waves of almost overpowering heat all making for a profoundly impressive experience. Having photographed everything to death we began the long, hot and tiring haul back up the incline, stopping en route to examine a short development heading at 470 fathoms where an ore chute was in process of being put down ready for the working of veins yet to be opened up from this heading.

Staggering on up the incline wishing that we could have jumped onto the conveyor belt to avoid the hard work and gallons of lost sweat on the ascent towards relatively cooler and fresher air.

Back at the 420 fathom level, after a short rest, we rounded a corner to find several men hard at work tipping ore tubs onto a “grizzly” – a large steel grid designed to limit the size of chunks of ore passing into the chutes below – the grids being about 18” – 2ft square. Lumps too large to fit through were demolished in the time honoured way with a sledge hammer. Photos were duly taken and we set off on the next stage of our travels – me carrying a 2” lump of railway line as a present for Cheg. Staying on the 420 level we traversed hundreds of feet of large roadways taking photos as we went. At one point a series of short cross-cuts led to a parallel lode where rock drills were in position ready to start upward drilling into the roof as the commencement of stoping the vein – Roskear Vein A. At the end of the roadways were two culs de sac – one with a rock drill (put into brief operation for a photo) and the other leading for some distance to a development heading with another Jumbo in situ. Here the vein of tin could be seen and small sticky black patches of pitch – an extremely curious geological phenomenon at this extreme depth in a Cornish mine. After the Jumbo rig was duly committed to film we returned along the roadways via the Roskear B Vein, draughting gusts of superheated air into the roadways where the temperature changed continuously due to the complicated ventilation system of the workings.

Returning to the grizzly we photographed and nattered to the three loaders who had stopped for “croust” and a fag. Nice blokes and not at all averse to being photographed. From here we returned to the foot of the 1<sup>st</sup> incline and I was just about to prepare myself for the dreaded ascent when the other three started leaping on to the moving conveyor belt from a landing stage! I quickly and fearfully followed their example but with both hands full of heavy weights I missed my footing, luckily landing on the conveyor belting but unfortunately upside down with my legs facing up the incline! I managed to right myself after a time and kneeling on the belt began to enjoy the rapid transit upwards – suddenly curtailed when my mine conscious colleagues leapt off one by one onto another alighting platform. Gritting my teeth I grabbed for the platform and yanked myself off the belt – surviving but pulling my bad elbow at the same time. A short walk up the incline and chat to a passing miner and we were off again on the next section of man rider. This time I was a little more adroit and jumped on early, travelling rapidly upwards on my knees – not standing up on the belt like the others who had ridden more conveyors than I'd had hot dinners. It was certainly a million times better than walking though. I solved the problem of getting off by hurling Cheg's bit of rail onto the alighting platform in front of me.

From here we returned along the 380 level towards shaft bottom. At the crossroads we photographed passage junctions and lines of trams and a bunch of miners at “croust” – again – all of whom were more than happy to be film stars. Another miner riding a small electric tram was stopped and snapped on the way to the shaft, as was the loader, before we crammed into the cage for the rapid and damp ride to surface. The shaft walls flashed by through the half open and decidedly dangerous sides of the cage as we shot upwards into the cold night air over 2,000 feet above.

A quick visit to the winding house was then made where the winder explained and demonstrated the operation of the winding engine. Then back to the “dry” for a very hot shower before three well earned pints in the Plume of Feathers. A fairly amazing and instructive experience. The difference between an old, abandoned mine and a working metal mine is quite phenomenal! (S.Crofty has 95

	miles of accessible roadway)			
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 6/12/89 Alone	1hr 20m	Priddy	Dug out several bag loads from the RH rift dig, stacking them in the streamway. The passage here may well be deteriorating into small small tubes but a lot more debris needs to be cleared before this will be proved. Dragged one load out to surface. Practically nothing can now be done without a major bag hauling session.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 8/12/89 Vince Simmonds	1 ½ hr	Priddy	Vince's first Bowery trip. We dragged a total of 24 bags of spoil from the two digs at the end of the cave as far as the "chamber". One load was taken out to surface. Cave very dry and I think Vince was suitably impressed. A good evening's work.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 10/12/89 Alone	1hr 55m	Priddy	My hauling team failed to turn up, so, as usual, I dug on my own. I cleared half a dozen bags of spoil from the RH dig and dumped it in the streamway. Suddenly, a hole appeared at the dig face and with a bit of clearing I could soon see into a small, open and dry stream passage with a tiny sump pool to the left which I assume connects back to the tiny passage in Skid Row just downstream of the RH dig. To the right the passage continued for 8' or so to where it seems to become body sized. A bang or two should get me into this or it may even be possible to dig and chisel along underneath. This cave looks far more promising now than it has done for a long time. One load to surface.
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 11/12/89 Alone	1hr 50m	Priddy	Cleared about eight loads from the RH dig and then laid an 8oz charge on the RH wall. One load was dragged out to surface and then I wired up the charge to the Land Rover battery. There was no obvious result so I hope that the bends in the passage actually baffled the noise and that the charge did go off. Otherwise it's yet another bloody misfire – almost certainly due to the lengthy coil of bang wire at the end. Will check tomorrow or Wednesday.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 11/12/89 Alone	1hr 50m	Priddy	Took the two new BEC lads digging – or rather bucket hauling 48 loads to surface – is this a record? I went to the RH dig, which as prophesied, had not had the benefits of a good bang, and cut the wire. While the others hauled spoil I spent a long time trying to sort out loads of knitted wire. Eventually I got fed up and fired it – hopefully successfully (there was a bang!) from 20' downstream of the "chamber". Cave extremely wet! A good night was had by all .... ?
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 15/12/89 Alone	55m	Priddy	Cave wet and had obviously been completely flooded in the last couple of days – foam all over the place. On reaching the RH dig I found that only the detonator had gone off and that the bang and Cordtex had been washed forwards into the new passage – just out of reach! I cleared four or five loads of spoil before rapidly leaving before the prophesied heavy rainstorm hit Mendip. Martin + Bassett arrived but Martia only got as far as the first bend being only dressed in a furry suit. Looks like I might get a few days off until the weather settles!

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 19/12/89 Alone	½ hr	Priddy	At long last the rain stopped enough for me to get down and bang the RH dig (in the same place as the last, failed bang). This time it definitely did go off! Cave very wet and only really safely passable due to putting the dam in. Cave has again recently been flooded almost to the roof. Started raining again as I left the cave ... (8oz bang used).
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 21/12/89 Alone	1 ¼ hr	Priddy	Put the dams in and went to the RH dig to check on the results of the last bang. About three feet of the wall has been well shattered and I was able to remove the debris and got a better look at the open passage some four feet beyond. The old bang is still lying there and has not been washed forward. After about six feet of passable crawl the way on degenerates to a narrow rift and is open for at least another ten feet. Small pools of clear water can be seen on the floor. It would seem that a lot more blasting, or digging in the floor, will be necessary to get along here – not much hope for winning the digging barrel this year! I then filled half a dozen bags of spoil and dragged one load out to surface. Needs a good clearing trip again.
Somerset <i>Rescue</i>	<b>Goatchurch Cavern</b> 23/12/89 Fred Davies, Nigel Taylor, Dany, Tim and Joe Large, (+ Scouts and victim – Paul)	10m	Burrington	Unsocial evening call out for 15 year old Scout with dislocated knee at the bottom of the Giant's Steps. The unfortunate one was placed on the drag sheet and quickly removed from the cave. An ambulance "paramedic" did an excellent job of re-locating the lad's knee. It seems these Scouts were having some sort of "paper chase" in the cave and the victim, for one, had piss awful footwear on. Will they never learn!

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Somerset	<b>Lodmore Hole</b> 27/12/89 (Zot, Jake, Roz Bateman, Dave Pullen, Andy?, small boy, Jim Smart)		Priddy	Took the heavy duty tripod from West Cott over to this interesting dig on the firing ranges – looked at on the Boxing Day walk of the previous day. The site has been dug by Dave, Roz and Company (EMI Wells) with help from the BEC Sub-contracting Division (Jake, Vince and Tav). They have dug a 15' deep, roomy shaft in a collapse at the base of a large, circular shakehole. The shaft has two solid limestone walls at right angles and a mud fill. It is said to draught. Looks good as long as the third wall can be made secure from collapse.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 27/12/89 Martin Grass, Zot, Bassett, Hugh Tucker, Rich Chaddock	1 ½ hr	Priddy	Rich pegged the bang wire to the wall and we then hauled 15 loads to surface. I laid a 12 oz charge in the RH dig – 8 oz on the wall and 4 oz on the piece of bang lying in the new passage! The latter was stuck on the end of a tent pole with the Cordtex running through the pole into the main charge. This was successfully fired from the surface using Martin's bang box. We came out to a bottle of Champagne provided by Martin to celebrate his 1,000th caving trip. Another good nights work.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 28/12/89 Tony Boycott	1h 35m	Priddy	The last bang seems to have done a reasonable job but the smell of plaster was very strong so the old bang may only have been splattered about. We removed a few loads from the dig and dragged over half a dozen back to the "chamber".



				Needs another hammering session and possibly more bang to make any progress. One load brought out to surface.
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1989-1990				
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 29/12/89 Alone	1 ¾ hr	Priddy	Cleaning up session at the end of the RH dig in preparation for the next bang, which is necessary as it is not quite possible to chisel into the new bit due to solid limestone walls. Several bags were loaded up and one load removed to surface. There is a good “echo” at the end and it looks like it may just open up again about 10 feet further on. No chance for breaking in this year!
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 31/12/89 Alone	35 m	Priddy	Drunken solo banging trip? Laid 8 oz plaster on the RH wall of the RH dig. Fired from surface – no problems. Goodbye Eighties – roll on the Naughty Nineties – (we lost the barrel!)
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 3/1/90 Gonzo, Tony Boycott	1 ¾ hr	Priddy	About 36 loads were removed from the end to the “chamber” and the first bend. The last bang had opened the way on but this would have only been just passable for about six feet to a constricted rift. I cleared some rubble out with the hoe and then spent most of the time making the general area of the RH dig a little more luxurious. A good night’s work resulting in absolutely no bags of spoil left at the two ends.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 4/1/90 Alone	1 ¾ hr	Priddy	Cleared four bags from the end of the RH dig and placed a 1 lb split charge on the LH wall of the dig in order to gain us some digging space at the end. Dragged one load out to surface and successfully fired the bang. Cave quite dry. The next digging session will hopefully give us a clue as to the future of this section of passage.
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 5/1/90 Matt Tuck, Graham Johnson		Priddy	Jake and Matt hauled bags back from the chamber and I stayed, most of the time, on the surface and hauled them painfully out. 27 loads were brought out. A miserably wet and foggy evening.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 7/1/90 Alone (+ Graham Johnson)	1h 55m	Priddy	Filled seven bags in the RH dig and dragged them back to the streamway. I then dug out the inlet passage and let the whole of the main stream flow into the dig, where it ran away easily. Hopefully this will freshen up the air which is saturated with the stench of splattered plaster gelatine. The way has closed down to a narrow rift as far as you can see and it will be another long drawn out banging job to progress along it. There is no obvious open hole to account for the echo but this may be caused by a layer of shale in the roof.
Somerset	<b>Dallimore’s Cave Draycott Cave</b> 8/1/90 1) Dave Lennard 2) Alone	1 hr 10 m	Green Ore Draycott	<i>See below</i>
	At last managed to explore Dallimores! An interesting and fairly extensive system with many fine vertical and dipping phreatic passages. There are two fairly obvious ends to the cave – both of which deserve to be dug. The first is the end of the main, sloping passage which, after narrowing to an awkward descending tube, ends in a tiny muddy chamber. I may dig this at a future date. The other dig site is the bottom of the large main rift in the lower part of the cave – previously dug by WCC and MNRC. This is a very muddy area but digging and spoil disposal would be easy. There is at least one place in this rift where water can be made to sink easily away. The cave also has a few nice			

	<p>formations in places but it's classic features are the many striated avens in various parts. A nice little trip and nowhere near as muddy as people say. The concrete entrance tubes seem to be well settled in and look good and safe from both the surface and below.</p> <p>After a couple of pints at the Hunter's, Dave left and I went for a drive in the beautiful prevailing weather conditions – like a spring day – to Draycott. A short walk and search around the Sleights area eventually revealed the wide open entrance to Draycott Cave. This is a roomy phreatic remnant once dug by Geoff Baynes and later, Wessex. It is over 80 feet long and contains plenty of red mud and animal droppings. It may be worth a dig but would be a long term project and is probably not worth it. A very pleasant day out. (I also cleared several digging trays, steel trackway etc., from Draycott Cave – my bit for conservation).</p>			
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 10/1/90 Hugh Tucker, Tony Boycott	1hr 20m	Priddy	Tony and Hugh went to the end of the RH dig and Tony laid a 1¼ lb plaster charge. We then removed 18 loads to surface and one load of boulders into the hole at the foot of the entrance ladder. Cave quite wet. A good night's work considering that we arrived late and there were only three of us.
Somerset Rescue	<b>Thrupe Lane Swallet</b> 13/1/90 TonyB, Dany, Duncan?, P.Hann, Carmen, Nick Gymer, Zot, Mike Wilson, Mac, Rob Harper, Jeremy Healey, Nick Williams, Trev Hughes, Fred, plus many others!	2h 50m	Thrupe Lane	Called out from the shop about 4 pm. Blitz took over. Drove to Thrupe Lane and went underground with Tony Boycott at 5pm. After getting lost at the bottom of Perseverance Pot we eventually reached the head of Atlas Pot where the victim was by now sitting. He had fallen, lifelined, on Atlas and the girl lifeliner was unable to hold him – he was a very big lad. He had fractured his right leg above the ankle but after being put in a neoprene splint he was able to pluckily walk out most of the way, being hauled up the pitches in a “baby bouncer”. There were no problems on the way out and we emerged to the attentions of Harlech Television and welcome hot soup. One of the easier and more pleasant rescues which could have turned out to be an all night major epic!

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 14/1/90 Garry Douglas, Mark Simms (MNRC) Trevor Hughes	2h 40m	Priddy	Trevor dug at the end of the RH passage and filled several bags full of bang spoil from Tony's successful charge of Wednesday. In the meantime the rest of us hauled everything out to the “chamber” and later got 8 loads out to surface. Cave wet and particularly cold. Needs more banging. (I hear that Lodmore Hole has “gone”!) <i>note</i> : Not yet 5/2/90!
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 17/1/90 Alone	1 ¼ hr	Priddy	Removed four bags of spoil from the RH dig – hereinafter called “Dipso” – it goes down-dip and you have to be a maniac to dig it! Put 8 ozs plaster on the RH wall. Fired from surface at 9.13 – heard by the Lodmore diggers, approximately ¼ mile away! A pleasant evening trip. (On 21/1/90 Tony and Trevor dug at the end and Tony also fired another charge 1lb E104 they report a very strong echo)
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 24/1/90 Pete Hellier	1h 50m	Priddy	Went down alone and filled a few bags of spoil. My light began to fail so I laid a double 8 oz plaster charge (1lb in all) on the left and right hand walls of Dipso. The way appears to sump about 8'-10' ahead but it may swing off to the left. Pete appeared and we spent some time dragging bags back to “Sump 1”. Fired the charge from surface. Cave quite wet. Yet another useful trip but could have done with more diggers / spoil removers. There are a lot of bags

				to be taken out. (The bang of last week heard at Lodmore may well have been Concorde!)
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 5/2/90 Alone	2h 5m	Priddy	At last managed to get back down to the dig after the dreadful storms of the last couple of weeks. Not much signs of recent backing-up though the cave was almost certainly completely flooded. Removed several loads of spoil resulting from the last bang and stacked them in the streamway and first part of Dipso. The last bang had done a reasonable job and had shattered enough rock from both walls to enable me to reach the supposed "sump pool" some 8' ahead. This in fact turned out to be a right angled bend in the passage which now heads to the left; along the strike again. Subsequently it is very low and will require blasting all the way – so what's new? I could not get around far enough to judge its length but it seems to go for at least 6 feet and does not appear to back up when the stream is let in. I laid a 1lb plaster charge on the LH wall at the corner and fired this from the short side passage just inside the cave entrance. No problems and a useful trip. We desperately need a hauling team throughout the cave.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 7/2/90 Hugh Tucker, Tony Boycott, Tony Williams	1h 55m	Priddy	The "three Tonys" commenced operations by hauling bags from "Sump 1" to the entrance passage until Tony W's light went out. I went on to the end and, later assisted by Tony B, cleared eight or so bags of bang debris from the corner in Dipso. The last bang had completely demolished the corner and quite a lot of the roof! There is still a lot of spoil to shift before we can bang again. Tony B got a good look at the ongoing passage which is about 6" high by 8" wide and seems to turn again in no great distance. Hugh then arrived and we moved a few bags back to the "chamber" before suspected rising water levels drove us out. On the way back to the Belfry a mighty downpour occurred! We got out just in time ... The cave was very wet and gave us quite an adrenalin buzz! Several loads out to surface (Interesting noises from intermittent sump at end of Skid Row!)
<b>Page 90</b>				
Somerset	<b>Twin Titties Cave</b> 14/2/90 Fred Davies, Brian Prewer, Dave Turner, Albert Francis, Don Thompson (Vince Simmonds, Tav)	1 hr	Priddy	Dave and Don worked at the bottom of the 4th Pitch while Albert and I hauled the bags out. All then moved up the passage to eventually get about 30 loads to surface. Tav and Vince arrived (after being lost in the mist for an hour!) and went down for a look. Prew drilled and banged at the end. A standard night's NHASA digging.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 18/2/90 A + G. Taylor (SMCC)	1½ hr	Priddy	Attempted to shift loads from the "chamber" to the surface but gave up due to the uselessness of A & G! I then left them to their own devices and went to the end of Dipso alone where I bagged up two loads of spoil and placed a 1 lb plaster charge on the corner. Feeling cold, damp and generally pissed off I headed out and fired the charge from the first side passage. Got out to find that A&G had actually managed to get four loads to the surface. There is little at the end to

				encourage us on, the echoing sound being almost certainly due to the loose shale roof.
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 19/2/90 Alone	1h 55m	Priddy	Down to the end of Dipso where the air was remarkably fresh considering it was only 24 hrs since the last bang. This was encouraging, as was the large heap of bang debris which, when cleared will give us plenty of working space. I pulled back about half of the spoil, including many fair-sized rocks, and got a good look at the way on. Though low, the passage is a good three feet wide and the echoing is very impressive – perhaps it is not the shale roof after all! There is a definite feel of open passage somewhere very close – possibly up above. I decided that the easiest way to progress was to bang the LH wall/roof so I laid another 1 lb charge and made my way out, removing one load to the surface. Fired the charge from the first side passage. Hopefully this bang will bring down enough of the shale roof to allow me to get into the open passage which I very much hope is so close. I am very optimistic.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 21/2/90 Gonzo, Tony Boycott, Garry Taylor (SMCC) Andy Farrant, Steve Cottle (UBSS)	2h 5m	Priddy	Gonzo and I went to the end to clear the debris while the others moved the bags to surface. In total we estimate that about 40 loads were removed. A small bit of excitement occurred when the inept small boy – Garry – managed to almost break his fingers when moving a large rock – pity it wasn't his neck. The last bang has brought down lots of pillar and roof to give us plenty of working space. Unfortunately, after a gain of six foot or so there was yet another small section due to limestone pillars. Beyond these the passage has degenerated to its usual size. At least the draught was definitely present. Back to the earlier theory of the echo being caused by the loose shale roof though it is still possible that there is open passage ahead. I fired a split 1lb plaster charge on the two offending limestone pillars at the working face. A very good night's work.
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 23/2/90 Graham Johnson	2 ½ hr	Priddy	After a good Friday lunch in the Hunter's Jake and I staggered down the cave with bang loads of empty bags and a new tub for the Dipso dig. On the way down we moved several loads back along the passage at every station. In the dig we cleared about eight loads of bang spoil – the last bang not having had a great deal of effect. The cave was strongly draughting and the echo as good as usual. After pissing in my wet suit I later got very cold and Jake took over digging. Once he had cleared the end I went in and laid another 1lb charge on the RH shale wall. One load was removed to surface. (On 24/2/90 Trebor, Biffo and Jake removed 26 loads to surface.)
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 25/2/90 Trevor Hughes	2 ½ hr	Priddy	Trevor cleared the debris at the end of Dipso and I pulled it back and bagged it in the "standing up bit". There is no large, open way on so I laid a 1lb charge on a limestone pillar and we left for the surface and pulled one load out. The passage at the end is quite roomy but most of this is under

				water! Nice steady draught. Work continues.....
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 28/2/90 Trev Hughes, Hugh Tucker, Rich Chaddock	1h 55m	Priddy	Late start. Most of the evening was spent moving bags from here to there. Eventually 19 were taken to the surface. I did a token amount of digging at the end. About 10 bags are ready to be moved out from the first “roomy” bit. Little else to report! (On 2/3/90 Graham Johnson, Vince Simmons, Brian Johnson and friends cleared out the last 16 loads left in the cave).

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 5/3/90 Alone	3h 40m	Priddy	Filled up several bags as I crawled through the cave in order to keep a good water flow going. The next three hours were spent re-arranging the bang wire and putting in new pegs, digging and bagging spoil at the end and dragging it back to the streamway and “standing up bit”. A lot of time was spent barring down chunks of the shale roof and clearing the LH wall and floor in order to place a split 1lb plaster charge – one half of which was under water. Back out the surface with one load, successfully firing the charge on the way out. A good morning’s work but certainly not easy solo digging. The way on looks the same as ever but is quite roomy under water. Cave quite dry. (On 6/3/90 Graham Johnson and Nick Hawkes (WCC) dragged 14 loads back to “the chamber”).
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 7/3/90 Tony Boycott, Simon Loader, Andy Farrant, Steve Cottle (UBSS)	1h 50m	Priddy	The others hauled bags to surface while I went to the end to view the disappointing results of the last bang and then cleared roof and floor. Simon then dug at the end for a while. We eventually got 25 loads to surface. The way on is roomy but split by limestone pillars and the answer may be to dig out the deep underwater portion and dig in a wetsuit. A satisfying nights work.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 9/3/90 Ian Gregory, Vince Simmonds, Graham Johnson	1h 10m	Priddy	I dug the floor out at the end while the others hauled 5 loads back to surface. A lb of plaster was then laid on the LH wall/roof and fired from near the surface. Hopefully this will give us more working space at the end.

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 12/3/90 Alone (visitor: Frank Jones)	2h 40m	Priddy	Cleared over half a dozen loads of roof and floor debris at the end of Dipso. These were dragged back and stacked in the nearest “standing up” bit. I then laid a 1 lb plaster charge on a the large limestone pillar at the end. This separates the tiny stream passage from an open but small phreatic tube heading off about 3’ above the stream – hopefully this will be the right one to follow. One load dragged out to surface. Fired from below the entrance using my new super-sonic exploder made in Portugal by Phil Romford. All perfect! Came out to a warm, sunny day and a visiting Frank Jones. A good morning’s work.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 13/3/90 Hugh Tucker	1h 20m	Priddy	A planned Stoke Lane trip was cancelled as it was late so Hugh and I had another go at the dig. I cleared a few loads at the end and Hugh dragged them back. The pool at the end made digging very miserable. The last bang has shaken the place up and a bit of crowbar work needs doing. One load out to surface.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner</b>	1h	Priddy	Tony was delegated to go to the end where he

	<b>Swallet</b> 14/3/90 Tony Boycott, Steve Cottle (UBSS), Pete Hellier, Simon Loader (visitors: Mongo, Skippy)	10m		laid a ½ lb plaster charge. In the meantime the rest of us dragged 20 loads to surface. A pleasant trip. (16/3/90 – Vince & Jake removed 7 loads) (17/3/90) Snablet, Jake, Rich Blake removed 2 loads)
Somerset	<b>Rowberrow Cavern</b> 15/3/90 (Jane)	5m	Rowberrow	Taking advantage of the fine weather and lack of vegetation I decided to at last have a look at the archaeological cave. Jane and I parked at Rowberrow and after a pleasant walk of half a mile or so easily found the cave by using the 2½” O.S. map. A large and imposing entrance – very picturesque and “cave like” led to a once well decorated chamber in Dolomitic Conglomerate with no obvious ways on and half a dozen or so Lesser Horseshoe bats in residence. Took a few photos. Worth a visit once if only to cross it off the list.

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Somerset	16/3/90 Evening stroll from Deer Leap Stones down into the valley to look for <u>Ramspit</u> . This was found fairly easily and looks to be a most attractive dig. It is a choked swallet in a primrose bedecked, cliff-lined depression taking a small stream from a muddy area. Dug in the past by MNRC and BEC, the cave has been filled since before 1968. I am sorely tempted to have a go at this one – it’s nice and convenient but also well off the beaten track.			
Somerset	<b>Banwell Bone Cave</b> 17/3/90 Mac, <b>Marelyn?</b> , Percy Baker (ACG), Colin Rogers (ACG) plus many others.	¼ hr	Banwell	On the occasion of the 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the A.C.G. held at “The Caves”, Banwell, we partook of a swift tourist trip into this cave. Percy Baker, an amazing old A.C.G. character, was showing people around and reminiscing. We looked at the first chamber and its stacks of bones built by William Beard. We didn’t have the lights or clothing to venture further. The rest of the afternoon and evening were spend fortifying the inner man and watching old caving films. A bloody good do, thanks to A.C.G. and the cave owners.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 18/3/90 Tim & Joe Large, Trev Hughes, Martin Grass	2h 20m	Priddy	Tim and Trev dug at the end while Joe and I hauled the sledges. I also spent some time clearing up various bits of passage. Eventually twelve loads were taken out to surface and Tim fired a 1 lb Gelamex charge which Trevor laid on the limestone pillar at the end of Dipso. Cave very dry. I have commenced landscaping operations on the spoil heap.

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Somerset	19/3/90 Gave Tim and Joe Large a hand with their dig at <u>Vonpitt</u> – in the grounds of the Swallet Farm training centre. It is a collapse at the bottom of a large depression which is now partly occupied by a dammed pool. It is capable of taking a lot of water. We cleared the first six feet – in mud and rocks, and erected a tripod and hauling system. This dig will need a lot of shoring and will be quite problematical due to a distinct lack of any solid walls. The centre itself is a superbly renovated old barn. There are many other depressions in this area including Vee, Battery and Vonpitt Farm swallets.			
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 21/3/90 Tony Boycott, Steve, Andy, Alison Gerrard (UBSS)	2h 55m	Priddy	I went down early, tidying up the bang wire and putting in a new boat. I then commenced clearing at the end. The last bang had smashed up the first part of the pillar and the debris was easily removed and pushed back to Tony who sent it back to Steve for bagging up. I then laid an 11oz plaster charge which Tony later fired. 15 loads were removed to surface. The rest of the pillar is at least 6’ long. Beyond this there appears to be change in passage shape. Not much hope but

				time will tell!
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 25/3/90 Trev Hughes	2h 10m	Priddy	Trev dug at the end and I dragged bags back to the streamway and “standing up bit”. I then laid a 13 oz charge (2 large sticks gelatine) on the pillar at the end. We dragged one load out to surface then fired the bang. Sounded good.
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Gloucester-shire	<b>Haylane Farm Well</b> 26/3/90 Alone (Jane, Pauline, Ernie, Jenni, etc at surface)	20m	Horsley	This well is situated on Ernie and Pauline Hemming’s farm – adjacent to the front door and sporting a hand pump with winding wheel. In front of this is a manhole cover set into the top of a domed, beehive shape drystone ginging at the top of the c. 70’ deep well shaft. The pump rods and pipe reach to almost the bottom of the well and there is a rusty pump on a beam at 50’ depth. At this point the hand cut shaft in rock, about 6’ diameter, narrows to about 4’ due to drystone ginging which reaches to the bottom, where there is about 4’ of clear water. No side passages anywhere. I tested the air with a candle before abseiling down the shaft to collect a bottle of water for sampling. Prussicked out after looking at the pump and having to redescend the bottom 20’ to unknot the rope from the pump bore. Situated at ST843973. (I notice on the map that at ST878945 there is marked “Hermit’s Cave” I’ll have a look when we go back to pull out the pump).
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 28/3/90 Tony Boycott (surface visitors: Wig, Steve, Brian, Gonzo)	2hr	Priddy	I cleared the debris from the last bang, which had done a superb job – at least 3’ of progress. Tony hauled the skip back to the “Standing Up Bit” and bagged the spoil. I then laid an 11oz plaster charge on the last (hopefully) section of limestone pillar which Tony later fired. We also dragged a good half dozen bags back to the roomy bit near the entrance. Noticed that there seems to be a tiny airspace or water outlet at the “Corner Dig”. Being thoroughly pissed off with the end of this cave I am tempted to blast this site just to make life easier. Cave very dry. The air conditions at the end were good which is vaguely encouraging.
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Somerset	<b>Ridge Lane Swallet</b> 30/3/90 (Tav, Jenny)	5m	Ridge	3½ oz Gelamex charge fired to get rid of large boulder at bottom of 15’ entrance shaft. There is no obvious way to follow in this dig but it has as good a chance of going as anything else!
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 1/4/90 Garry Douglas (SMCC), Dave Yeandle	2½ hr	Priddy	Shifted loads of bags from the start of Dipso to the “Chamber” and I then cleared the end enough to lay a mixed charge of 22oz plaster and 4oz Gelamex. Unfortunately this misfired, even though I went back in to check the wire and connections. I will have to go back in tomorrow with fresh wire and detonator. What a pisser! I have also found out that the Bowery Corner area is locally known as “the Splotts”. (Heavy rain on 2/4/90 meant that I could not go down to refire the charge)
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 4/4/90 Chris Castle (Trev Hughes – surface)	1h 50m	Priddy	Chris and I dragged several loads back from the Skid Row/Dipso junction to the “1 <sup>st</sup> Sump” I then went to the end of Dipso and after testing the duff bang wire, laid a new wire to the detonator and headed out. I sat in the “chamber” while

				Chris and Trev hauled to surface. We eventually got 29 loads out and I successfully fired the offending charge. A bloody good night's work.
Somerset	<b>Milton Hill Cave</b> 5/4/90 Alone	5m	Wells	Lunchtime trip to this small cave behind "Split Rock". Entrance crawl leads to two small, moonmilk covered chambers separated by a low creep. 1 Lesser Horseshoe bat in residence. Maybe worth a dig.

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 11/4/90 Alone	2h	Priddy	Took the morning off to prepare the dig for the Wednesday evening session. I filled about eight bags of spoil at the end of Dipso ready for dragging out. Also chiselled and crowbarred the pillar ready for the next bang. The way on in the top tube does not look at all promising and we may be forced to follow the miniscule stream passage. I hope tonight to commence blasting the "Corner Dig" near the entrance as the dry weather seems to be continuing.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 11/4/90 Chris Castle	1h 40m	Priddy	We dragged about 10 bags back to the "chamber" and I laid a 6½ oz Gelamex charge on the Croner Dig (near the entrance). Little else to report!
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 16/4/90 Alone	40m	Priddy	Cleared three bas of spoil from the first bang at the "Corner Dig". Laid and fired an 11oz plaster charge – well tamped. This is a promising site. One load out to surface.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 18/4/90 Alone	55m	Priddy	Filled four bags from the debris of the last bang at the "Corner Dig" and then fired another 11oz plaster charge on the LH wall. I am now in about four feet here and the passage is quite roomy. Unfortunately half of it is underwater making conditions quite unpleasant. A hoe and crowbar are needed here.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 20/4/90 Martin Grass (Chris Smart)	1½ hr	Priddy	Wet-suited, I dig in the pool at the Corner Dig while Martin dragged the bags back and he and Blitz hauled them out to surface. A total of 17 loads were eventually removed, much of this being sloppy mud which the last bang had caused to drop out of the roof. I also poked some 10' or so of drain rods into the mud filled rift ahead to try and drain the pool, to no avail. Fired another 11oz charge (plaster) on the RH wall to give us some working space. A cold, wet, muddy and thoroughly miserable digging session but definitely a good site.

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 23/4/90 Alone	2 hr	Priddy	1) To the end of Dipso where I filled up a few bags with spoil then laid a mixed 11oz plaster / 6½ oz Gelamex charge on the tiny upper passage at the end. Then back to the Corner Dig taking a hoe and entrenching tool from the end. Fired the charge from Corner Dig. 2) Filled several bags with mud, gravel and rocks from the last bang in Corner Dig and dragged them back to the "standing up bit". I then laid an 11oz plaster charge underwater on the LH wall. Out to surface with one load and fired the charge. A good 2hrs work pushing the dig on two fronts. There is now plenty of spoil to come out from both sites. Quite an enjoyable trip.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b>	40m	Priddy	"White Meg" loaded the buckets in the rift and I hauled to surface. I then cleared out eight bags



	25/4/90 Carole White			from the Corner Dig until the dampness put me off. Returning to the surface I hauled three out – a total of 17 loads. Not bad for just the two of us. The way on is roomy enough but full of claggy mud and partly submerged. The pump will be needed to dig effectively here.
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Somerset	29/4/90 After some hesitation I jumped off Windsor Hill Viaduct. Wicked!			
SCOTLAND Sutherland	<b>Smoo Cave</b> 1/5/90 Brian Johnson, Pete Glanville (Colin Coventry, dog+1)	50m	Durness	<i>See below</i>
	<p>Drove up to the G.S.G. hut on 30/4/90 and taking advantage of the incredible weather conditions, on 1<sup>st</sup> May, we drove up to the North coast and visited Smoo Cave, having had a brief look at an area of limestone at Drochaid Mhór en route. At Smoo we had a quick look in the entrance chamber then abseiled in through the most southerly pothole entrance while Pete took photographs. From the lake chamber we went up the inlet streamway to the sump where Brian donned a mask a stuck his head in, noticing its steepness, siltiness and general nastiness. He did not fancy a proper dive so we started on out meeting the “show cave boatman” Colin – with dog and customer – floating across the lake in a rubber dinghy. Photographs were taken and we had a natter with this young Highland “character”. Brian and I then free dived into the entrance chamber. The cave is now adorned with wooden steps, viewing platform and a bridge over the southern pothole. This all detracts from the atmosphere of the cave but keeps Colin in business!</p> <p>Pete then had a dive in the sea inlet looking for non-existent “Tartan Holes” while I looked at the main sink to the cave – a mass of large cobbles in the river bed with no prospect for entry. Previous to the trip we had strolled around the eastern headland looking at sea caves and generally festering in the unaccustomed sunshine.</p> <p>We next drove to Ach a’ Chorrain and Pete and I walked round the limestone outcrop looking at various sites. Cave No. 1 was draughting very strongly. The top sink in the most northerly valley was particularly dry and looked well worth a dig. A small cave opposite this was also draughting and there are small swallets on the moor to the north of this. I still rate this area for a good site to find a small cave system.</p> <p>We then returned to Drochaid Mhór where the limestone outcrops on the west side of the River Dionard by the bridge. Brian dived along the base of the outcrop, in the river, finding nothing of interest – disappointing. There are a few small shakeholes on the moor to the west of the river. A superb day out.</p>			

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SCOTLAND Sutherland <i>discovery</i>	<b>Uamh an Claonaite Creag nan Uamh Bone Caves</b> 2/5/90 Brian, Pete	3h 40m 5m	Inchnadamph	Continuing superb weather made the walk up the valley very pleasant and the lads were suitably impressed. We had a relatively dry and enjoyable trip to the Hole in the Floor where I laid a split ½ lb Gelamex charge in order to enlarge the slot for normal sized cavers. Pete took a series of snaps as we laid the wire towards Brandonburg Gate until it ran out not too far from the charge due to it being strung round via Sump 3! Fired successfully – sounded good. On into East Block for a look round, stopping at the beginning of Infinite Improbability Inlet. At one point I dug into about 18 ft of small, phreatic, gravel floored tunnel up dip of the main chamber area. Sadly there was no way on. We then spent some time being photographed by Pete. Headed on out after a couple of hours to meet the bang fumes at Brandonburg Gate. We decided to rush through them to the fresh air upstream of Sump 2. A pleasant trundle out of the cave followed. Following a sunbathe and look at the dug entrance to Heidbanger Hole we visited the entrances of the Bone Caves, Lower and Upper Otter Holes (both draughting strongly) and then walked back down the valley at high level,
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				Another good day.
SCOTLAND Sutherland	<b>Uamh an Claonaite Toll Fear A'chradh Chinn (Heidbanger Hole) Allt nan Uamh Stream Cave</b> 3/5/90 Brian, Pete	3h 20m 25m  45m	Inchnadamph	<i>See below</i>

Walked up the valley in extremely hot weather, having to go via the Bone Caves to get a bit of time in the shade! The aims of the Claonaite trip were manifold – diving, banging and photography. I took in a crowbar and after finding that the previous day's bang had done very little damage, I laid another, single, ½ lb charge which was later fired from Sump 2. In the meantime B.J. had kitted up and after being duly photographed dived into upstream Sump 3 which he easily passed after 7-8 metres to emerge practically below my dangling legs at Hole in the Floor! This is the first time this particular section of sump has been passed. He had a look upstream but decided not to dive in Sump 2 due to the constricted nature of the passage leading to it. All then back out to surface, Pete taking snaps all the way. After a warm up in the hot sun and a snack we had a brief dig at a waterworn rift full of boulders on the upstream side of the Claonaite depression. Looks interesting but will need a lot of hard work.

Thence to the appropriately named new cave, Heidbanger Hole. A loose, dug pit leads to a foul crawl in peat mud leading to a large phreatic bedding passage liberally coated with black slime. We followed this to the upstream sump, noting that downstream the water flows away into a tiny bedding plane. Had a look at a couple of uninspiring side passages both of which could go with a bit of work. Not too impressed by the cave though it is roomy in places and would be quite attractive if the filthy peat deposits were washed away! We came out looking like three heaps of black jelly but managed to wash most of it off in a tiny, sphagnum moss lined lochan.

With loads of evening sunshine left we walked over the hill to A.N.U.S. looking at depressions and sinks on the way. In A.N.U.S. we had a fairly comprehensive tourist jaunt and Pete and I explored the series of passages beyond the now dry Static Sump. Beyond the murky excavated crawls is a quite large phreatic tube with a strongly draughting tube at the end. A brilliant bit of digging by Julian and Co. Next to Sink Chamber for a brief look at Julian's other dig – not too promising. Staggered on out to the last of the sun and walked down the valley as the sun set. Another brilliant day's caving.

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SCOTLAND Sutherland	<b>Cnoc nan Uamh Cave Inclined Rift Cave Lower Traligill Cave Firehose Cave</b> 4/5/90 Brian, Pete	2h 10m  5m 25m 45m	Inchnadamph	Photography in Cnockers. Followed the streamway all the way from Landslip Chamber to the Waterslide. At one point Pete disappeared into a very deep plunge pool. Came out to light rain. Walked down the dry valley to Lower Traligill Cave after pausing for a quick examination of the uninteresting c. 30ft long Inclined Rift Cave. In Lower Traligill Cave we had a quick sprint to the upstream sump admiring the straws and helictites in the first part of the cave.  Avoiding a dead stag in the river we continued on down to Firehose Cave, noting the strongly resurging Waterfall Rising en route and putting it down for further investigation at the first opportunity. In Firehose Pete and I went to the bitter end and a kneepad-less Brian about a third of the way. A low arch on the left just prior to the terminal chamber may be worth a dig for anyone who can face this cold and aquatic – and strenuous – cave. Another good day's caving – can we keep it up?
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SCOTLAND Sutherland <i>discovery</i>	<b>Lower Traligill Cave Waterfall Rising</b> 5/5/90 Pete, Brian (BEC) Pete Dowswell?,	1 ¼ hr	Inchnadamph	Dragged bottles etc, to the sump for a proposed dive by Pete, backed up by Brian. After they had set off Derek, Liz and I left the cave. Pete appeared sometime later to say that the dive had been aborted after 5 mins due to bad vis.,
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	Derek Jamieson, Liz Ellis (GSG)			<p>problems with the line, etc. Pete was diving with a single set and no arms on his wetsuit. The exited, leaving most of the kit in the cave for a possible dive the next day.</p> <p>I had carried on down to Waterfall Rising and with the aid of a mighty crowbar borrowed from John Ron the local shepherd, started to clear rocks from the resurgence. After a couple of hours it was clear enough for Brian to get his head in for a look. He could see in for over 20 ft in a roomy passage, all underwater, but rocks on the floor need to be cleared before this could be entered. On a nice day this should be a good project for a couple of divers and the potential is excellent – the water issuing here coming from the main Traligill system. Weather awful – back to normality and a change for Pete and Brian to see what Assynt is usually like!</p>
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SCOTLAND Sutherland	<b>Cnoc nan Uamh System</b> 6/5/90 Brian, Pete, John (Ian) Horton	1h 35m	Inchnadamph	<p>Tourist trip for Ian, a collier and fisherman from Bannockburn who fancied going caving. He was taken up to the Static Sump and thoroughly enjoyed it. Brian kitted up and had a dip in the lake in Landslip Chamber but the very high water conditions had stirred up the visibility and he gave up after getting down to 5 metres. I had a look at upper level passage here and found one promising crawl which I will bear in mind for the future. Back out of the dry entrance to admire the impassable Waterslide (Brian's Kit was by now marooned in Lower Traligill Cave – the entrance of which was now a resurgence!) The rising looked at yesterday – Waterfall Rising – was flowing a foot or so deeper.</p> <p>So endeth an excellent week's caving. A treat to be back in my second favourite limestone area.</p>
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 9/5/90 Chris Castle, Pete Hellier	1h 20m	Priddy	<p>Dug in the Corner Dig – a 15' long swim in mud/porridge. Eleven bags filled and removed to surface. Horrible conditions but reasonably sized passage – even bigger underwater. Pumping may make life easier here.</p>
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 14/5/90 Alone	2h 25m	Priddy	<p>Took in one of the BEC pumps and after a lot of bugging about I eventually managed to pump a few gallons of mud/water out of the Corner Dig until the pump gave up. It is very awkward working the pump in the confined space available. I then gave up and decided to get wet. Several bags of mud and rock were cleared from the dig and dragged back to the first bend. Two loads were eventually removed to surface. I also laid a split 1 lb charge (4 small Gelamex sticks on each side) in the dig and fired it from the surface. Little else to report.</p>

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 16/5/90 Alone	1h 35m	Priddy	<p>Dug in "Corner Dig" and filled about 15 bags of porridge like mud and stones. One load eventually taken to surface. "Water" level down 8". P.S. I know a man (Jim Hanwell) who knew a man (Norbert Casteret) who knew E.A.Martel! Jim also knew H.G.Balch, who got a "trouncing" from Boyd-Dawkins, who, in turn got a "trouncing" from Darwin!!! The generations are not that far apart.</p>
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 17/5/90 Alone	1h 5m	Priddy	Had a quick look at the Corner Dig which was flooded up to normal level, before going on to the end of Dipso. The whole way there was like crawling in cold melted chocolate – the result of the pumping session on 14/5/90. At the end I filled a few bags with debris from the last bang. There is no obvious way on here – very disappointing. We may have to bang down to the streamway. Back to the Corner Dig where I crawled into the pool to lay a 1 lb Gelamex charge on the LH wall at the end. Fired from surface. One load removed to surface.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 20/5/90 Garry Douglas, Ivan Hollis, Nick Webb, Gordon Duncan (SMCC)	1¼ hr	Priddy	Overjoyed and amazed by a sudden influx of semi-sober Shepton men I rushed them across to Bowery. All the bags near the entrance were hauled to surface and the Sheep then went on to the end of Skid Row and Dipso to haul the bags from there. In the meanwhile I dug a couple of loads out of a very wet Corner Dig and spent some time enlarging the site. More bags were then hauled to the surface – a total of 28 in all. Everyone got very muddy but a good job was done.
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 21/5/90 Alone	3¼ hr	Priddy	After a lot of trial and error, I eventually got the pump to work and managed to empty most of the water from the Corner Dig, sending it all off down Skid Row. I then filled about a dozen bags, mainly from the floor area which was still a foot or so under water. Three loads were taken to surface. This passage is easily 6' high but quite narrow. I intend to keep pumping it out and digging out as much of the floor as possible in the hope that I will reach a wider section. To improve access I laid and fired a single 2oz Gelamex charge on the roof slab at the junction with Skid Row. There should be plenty of spoil to heave out on Wednesday night.
Somerset	<b>Smitham Hill Cave</b> 22/5/90 Steve Redwood, Rob Taviner, Vince Simmonds	½ hr	East Harptree	Gave the lads a hand with their new, illicit dig in the Forestry Commission woods at Smitham Hill. The collapsed entrance (now a concealed oil drum) is in one of a series of depressions running through the wood. A short climb down below the drum brings one into an excavated “chamber” between either solid rock or huge boulders! Various possible ways on exist here, all choked with clay and rocks. The rock is a peculiar iron-stained limestone (?) and is unlike anything I have come across before. Taking turns of ten buckets each the four of us dug in the upper part of the “chamber” eventually removing 41 loads to the camouflaged spoil heap on the surface. Peculiar cave, superbly peaceful wooded depression but bloody awful local midge population!
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 23/5/90 Alone	1h 10m	Priddy	Found a dead rabbit in the first “standing up bit”! Rabbit plus one load later pulled to surface. This could well be the animal that appeared to be suffering from Myxamatoxis and was hopping about round the entrance just before the last bang. How did it get down the cave and did the bang or fumes finish it off? The last bang had done a superb job on the loose roof flakes at

				Corner Dig and after clearing out a few bags of spoil and some large rocks I found it possible to sit up at the junction. This will make life a lot easier for future digging. Next jobs – pump out the dig again and haul all the spoil to surface. I may call this passage (and including the entrance passage) “Down and Out”. (On 25/5/90 Vince and Graham Johnson removed 21 loads to surface).
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 27/5/90 Alone	1hr	Priddy	After the usual “trial and error” I got the pump working and drained most of the pool. Filled five bags and hauled one out to surface. Beautiful day so got pissed off digging and went to lie in the sun. New hauling bucket installed on entrance rope.
Somerset	<b>Swildon’s Hole</b> 30/5/90 Tom Chapman, Miles Barrington	2hr	Priddy	A night off from Bowery! Fast trip down to Bat Dig in Shatter Series where Tom laid a 6 oz Gelamex charge in this horribly wet and muddy site. I fired it from the bottom of the climb up. Sounded loud and sharp, so we hope it went off okay. Fast trip out again. An exercise in getting fit quick! Cave quiet and fairly dry.

(On 30/5/90 Tony Blick (CPC) again dowsed at Bowery Corner Swallet. He confirmed all of his previous results and also found another supposed low passage at about 50’ depth running from the edge of the layby / junction with supposed “main” passage off towards the depressions in the field to the N.E. The “main” passage (Corner Dig?) supposedly soon drops down steeply to reach the enormous passage or chamber crossing the field at a depth of c.240’. Time will tell!)

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 4/6/90 Alone	3½ hrs	Priddy	I first went to the end of Dipso, tidying up the sledges all left at the chamber by the Shepton, en route! Here I placed a 22oz plaster charge on the pillar between the upper level and the streamway in order to give us plenty of working space and to gain access to the stream passage itself. Fired the charge from Corner Dig. Several loads of spoil were bagged up in Corner Dig after I had pumped most of the water out. Made about a foot of progress but essentially the digging was done in the floor in order to make the passage as roomy as possible. In one place it is now possible to use the entrenching tool like a garden spade! The fill at the end is soft mud and we need to go deep all along this passage, and possibly widen it in places by blasting. Looks good though. Killed several flies at the dig which presumably arrived from the unknown dead thing somewhere near the entrance which is detectable by its smell! Two loads were brought out to surface. A useful trip.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 6/6/90 Tony Boycott, (Mike Wilson), Steve Cottle (UBSS), Ed Bailey (UBSS), Nigel Lester (UBSS)	2 ¾ hr	Priddy	All bags from Corner Dig and the “Chamber” removed to surface – 25 loads in all. After pumping, Corner Dig was cleared a bit more and at the end of the session I laid and fired a 22oz plaster charge along the LH wall near the end of the dig. A good night’s work.

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 7/6/90 Alone	1 hr	Priddy	Tried in vain to start the pump then gave up and waded in to knock a few lumps off the walls following the bang of the previous day. Filled one bag which I later took out to surface. Laid a
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				1 lb charge (plaster) on the RH wall at the end of Corner Dig and fired from surface.
Devon	<b>Rocky Acres Hole</b> 11/6/90 Pete Glanville, Pete Rose	1h 25m	Kingsteignton	Down to Devon to bang his site for the Peters. Similar to Afton Red Rift, this c.100' long dry cave goes down to a tight rift where some previously drilled shotholes were filled with 1lb plaster gelatine and fired from the surface. Several large rocks were passed back along towards the entrance. A low inlet passage was looked at and could be dug further but contained a very active bat. This site is on an area of limestone, cleared of topsoil when the nearby by-pass was built. There are lots of other small caves nearby including the now blocked Rydon Cave. A large resurgence situated near the adjacent housing estate shows that there is a large system waiting to be discovered. This particular cave has been dug by a couple of DSS lads and the landowner – a character called Mr Jones – who, though not actually a caver is very keen on getting cavers to dig and explore this lost system. He has a travelling welding business and is quite happy to provide a compressor and rock drill for the dig! If only all landowners were like that! To cap it all there is an excellent pub just opposite the resurgence, with good ale and food. Even the ladies seem to like this digging site so I am sure we will be returning here whenever possible – though it will need a great deal of work to gain access to the system. NGR SX874739 (Results checked by P&P 20/6/90. The bang had done a good job and they were able to enter the next bit and put in some shotholes)

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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 13/6/90 Mike (Trebor) McDonald, Chris (Blitz) Smart, (visitors:- 2 cyclists/cavers)	2 hrs	Priddy	Pumped out the Corner Dig and removed about a dozen bags of spoil. Six loads out to surface. Widened the passage a bit and laid an 11oz plaster charge on a protruding lump to give us a bit more hauling space. A tiny airspace appeared at the end but I doubt if it is significant.
Somerset	Attended the opening of “Candles in the Dark” – a caving exhibition organised by Leslie Anne, the curator of Wells Museum. This was opened by Stephen Morland (a man who had <u>met</u> Boyd Dawkins!) who was on the second trip to Sump 1 in Swildons Hole with Balch. An excellent exhibition and a pleasant event.			
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 18/6/90 Alone	1½ hr	Priddy	Pumped most of the water out and filled half a dozen or so bags – in between squashing flies. I needed assistance to continue with pumping so gave up and came out with the drain rods to mend my kitchen sink drain.
Somerset	<b>Swildon's Hole</b> 19/6/90 Dany Bradshaw, Bob Cork, Fred Davies, Rich West, Bill Cooper, , Stu McManus, Nigel Taylor, (+Gordon? Lynch – Phil (SMCC))	1 hr	Priddy	MRO “practice rescue” from below Jacob's Ladder to experiment with our borrowed M.A.S.T. Trousers on a real body inside a drag sheet and on a stretcher. Bill's apprentice was trussed up and taken to the surface in about 50 minutes with no real problems apart from a few minor ones with the pressure gauges and hoses on the trousers. These could be relatively easily solved. This kit could be a very real benefit for a casualty with pelvic injuries or similar. A useful exercise if only to give the assembled an excuse

				for a night out!
<b>Page 112</b>				
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 20/6/90 Steve Cottle (UBSS), Trebor, Blitz, Tony Boycott	1½ hr	Priddy	Pumped and dug until we eventually got 25 loads to the surface. Tony and I then laid and fired a split 11oz charge on the roof and RH wall of “Corner Dig”. Despite the atrocious weather the cave was surprisingly dry.
Somerset	<b>Welsh’s Green Swallet</b> 25/6/90 Davey Lennard, Graham Johnson,	2¼ hr	Priddy	To the end of the cave where Jake removed bits of rock from Nick William’s bang of the weekend and I stacked them. I then laid a 27½ oz plaster charge (5 slabs) on the fallen roof slab and fired it from further up the passage. The usual gruelling crawl out followed, not helped by the excesses of the weekend. This has to be the filthiest cave in Britain. Hopefully a useful trip.
Somerset	Brian & Brenda Prewer, Graham Johnson and I drove over to Ubley Hill Pot to inspect the infilled entrances of Nettle Hole and Foot and Crutch Swallet. These should be relatively easily opened up with the aid of the JCB which Graham is borrowing at the weekend. After a quick look at the, thankfully still clear, Pinetree Pot, we dropped the Prewers off and Jake and I drove to Brimble Pit where we met Willie Stanton. He has bought £21,000 worth of field here and is busy getting the infilled depressions dug open again! Perhaps this may be the start of the reclamation of the Mendip landscape.			
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 27/6/90 Mike McDonald	1h 40m	Priddy	Trebor and I pumped and bailed the “Corner Dig” and then we filled about 10 bags of spoil. Two loads were dragged out to surface. The passage was widened a bit. The way on would appear to be straight ahead but there also seems to be some development to the left. Time will tell.
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 29/6/90 Alone	1¼ hr	Priddy	Being alone there was no point trying to pump at the Corner Dig so I pressed on to Dipso to assess the results of the last bang. This had done an excellent job and removed great masses of pillar and roof so there should be plenty of working space when it is cleared out. I dragged out one load to the corner and two to the streamway. One of the latter was then dragged to “The Chamber”. A load from Corner Dig was taken to the surface. Very “chocolatey” all the way to Dipso! Still not looking over hopeful at the end and there is a lot of work to be done to shift all the spoil. (Jake and I have just bought a Bosch battery-powered drill so watch out limestone!!!)
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 1/7/90 Graham Johnson	55m	Priddy	To Morton’s Pot dig where we checked the results of the bang of 12/6/89! Jake had not looked in the right place last time and the bang had removed quite a few large chunks of rock. These were cleared and “the Kaiser” – our filthy Bosch drill – was used on its first outing to drill a 4” x 16mm hole which was filled with a “finger” full of Powergel and a det. and fired successfully from the top of the 380’ Way. Cave clean and dry. Nice little sobering up trip.
Devon	<b>Rocky Acres Hole</b> 2/7/90 Chris Castle, Nick Williams (WCC) Graham Johnson, Pete Glanville, (Pete Rose, Roger Burt) ( John Jones – owner)	4h 20m	Kingsteignton	Good turn out for this Monday trip to Devon. On arrival we took down the necessary and Nick filled up the four pre-drilled shotholes with Powergel inserted with a mastic gun and stemmer. We then returned to surface carrying the odd rock and fired the charge. Off to the local while the fumes cleared and the Rydon Ale was imbibed.

				<p>In the afternoon the debris was cleared and another three shotholes were drilled – two using the Bosch drill and one the compressed air CP9 which John Jones had provided. I then inserted a few ounces of Powergel in the holes and went out to fire them. Lack of a bang showed that the wire was broken – probably by rock trundling Pete Glanville! After checking the wire it was decided to cut it in half and use the top half further down, firing from inside the cave. This was all done successfully. The compressor was then turned on to clear the fumes in order that the two Petes could clear and drill more holes for Roger Burt to blast that evening. A good day out was had by all and the hot sun was enjoyed by those not working underground. The rift at the end of the cave seems to drop vertically and is tight and full of debris, with black spaces between. It draughts well and should go somewhere with a bit more hard work. A good dig.</p>
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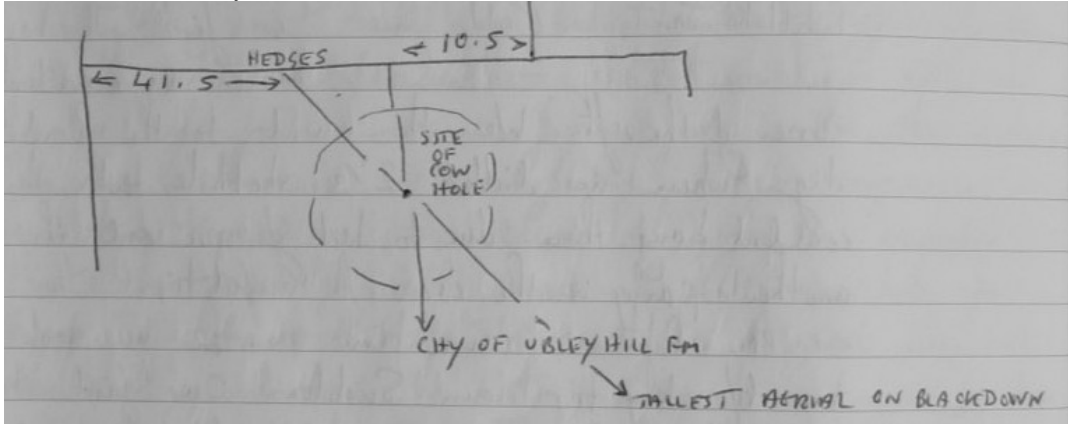
Bristol	<b>Goldney Grotto</b> 7/7/90 Roger + Jackie Dors, Roy White, Ted Humphries, Rachel Clarke, etc, etc	5m	Clifton, Bristol	<p>On the occasion of Nicola and Wormhole's wedding we attended the booze up held in Goldney Hall. In the grounds of the hall is this famed and very attractive grotto – recently restored after the deprivations of vandals. The “main chamber” is classic – flowing stream passage, shells, corals, stalagmite, lions, river god etc. It was built from before 1737 to 1764 for Thomas Goldney, a rich merchant. Unfortunately we were prevented from exploring all of the passages by a boring female student who looked after the place and took great pleasure in locking it up! Must visit another time for a better look.</p>
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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> <b>Swildon's Hole</b> 9/7/90 1) Rich Blake 2) Vince Simmonds, Graham Johnson, Rich Blake, Jan Tencer (Czech)	1h 10m 3 hr	Priddy	<p>A.M. Rich and I went to the Morton's Pot dig where the two shotholes put in by Jake were filled with Powergel and fired. The last bang had done an excellent job on the corner of the rift. We then went to the Boulder Chamber dig where we drilled 2 1/3 shotholes with the “Kaiser”. We couldn't bang these due to lack of wire and the presence of another party in the cave. A useful trip.</p> <p>P.M. After a lunchtime session we took Jan on a tourist/working trip down Swildon's. Out first stop was at Bat Dig where Graham laid a 2/3 packet charge of Powergel on an awkward lump of rock. Jan fired this from just down the passage and was most impressed with the noisy results! Vince, Jan and I then completed a Short Round Trip which was most enjoyable, our Czechoslovakian caver proving to be quite at home in ducks and sumps. Rich and Jake had meanwhile visited the dig (“Ivan's Dig”) near Tratman's Temple. A good trip.</p>
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner</b> <b>Swallet</b> 11/7/90 Chris Batstone, Tony Boycott, Les Williams	1h 25m	Priddy	<p>A long time was spent in pumping out the Corner Dig with the other hand pump. Ten loads were removed to surface. I then laid a 1lb plaster charge (Tony's) on the LH wall at the end which Tony fired. The dig is fairly uninspiring. I need a change of scenery.</p>



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Somerset	<p>12/7/90 Brian &amp; Brenda Prewer, Tav &amp; Jen, Vince and I went to Ubley Hill Farm to inspect a recent collapse above the infilled entrance of Ubley Hill Pot. An impressive hole some 6' across by 12' deep is gradually getting larger and suggests that the floor of the original depression has given way. Cow Hole was inspected – the whole depression again being levelled. It is likely that this will also collapse with time. It's going to be a mega job gaining entry to these two caves. An intersection was measured on the likely site of Cow Hole entrance.</p> 			
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 15/7/90 Alone	2¼ hr	Priddy	Pumped out the Corner Dig and filled about ten bags of spoil. Two loads were removed to the surface. The way on would seem to be still straight ahead. I propose to bang my way along the roof and see what happens.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 16/7/90 Alone	1hr	Priddy	AM Took "the Kaiser" down and drilled 2 shotholes (13mm) at the end of "Corner Dig" after pumping it all out again – it fills up very quickly. Used ¾ oz Gelamex (½ a stick) to fill up the shotholes and also a surface charge behind a rock flake. One load to surface and a good bang.

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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern St. Cuthberts Swallet</b> 16/7/90 1) Vince Simmonds 2) Vince, Ray Mansfield (WCC), Jan Tencer, Adreana Tencerova (Czech)	1 ½ hr 55m	Priddy	P.M. Vince and I went to the Boulder Chamber dig in Eastwater and one more shothole was drilled with "the Kaiser". Vince then went to Morton's Pot to drill more holes while I laid a ¾ oz charge in 3 holes and fired it from top of 380' Way. Then down to join Vince who had drilled seven holes 6 of there were filled with another ¾ oz charge (total – I stick of Gelamex) and fired from top of 380' Way. We then joined the others who were on a tourist trip in Cuthbert's. They went to Sump 1 and we met them at Arrete Pitch. All then back out to surface. A good day.
Wiltshire	<b>Box Stone Mines</b> 17/7/90 Liz & Chris Batstone, Tony & Roz Williams, Roy Farmer, Bob & Rachel?	1h 20m	Box	Evening trip. Chris took us on a stroll from Backdoor, along Clift passage to see a winch on rails and a crane. From here we headed for Cathedral and then back out of Backdoor. At one point I found a small clay figure of a man sporting a mighty phallus. This looked to be of quarrymen's vintage. It was left in situ. The old place is beginning to get a bit loose in places as ancient pit props rot away and caving traffic increases.
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 18/7/90 Chris Batstone, Roy Farmer, Simon Taylor, Les Williams,	1hr 55m	Priddy	Firstly to Boulder Chamber dig where ¼ shotholes were drilled and ¼ stick of Gelamex fired. Then to Morton's Pot dig where 1 shothole was drilled and another ¼ stick of Gelamex fired – total ¾ ozs. Unfortunately we were caught by

	Graham Johnson, Tony Williams			the bang fumes of the first explosion on the way out and must use more common sense next time!
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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 23/7/90 Mick Hogg (Orpheus CC), Martin Wright (Orpheus CC)	1 ¼ hr	Priddy	Down to Morton's Pot where the 3 shotholes drilled by Vince and Jake were filled with Gelamex. (Jepson's old dig had been excavated by Snablet at the weekend and closes down to a 6" tube). I then went to Boulder Chamber Dig via the Upper Traverse, the Derbyshire men wimping out, and filled the other 3 shotholes here with more Gelamex – a total between the two sites of about 7 ozs. Both were fired from the head of the 380' Way.
Somerset <i>Pirate trip</i>	<b>Maesbury Swallet</b> 23/7/90 Graham Johnson, Vince Simmonds, Max (WCC).	¾ hr	Maesbury	Arrived at the entrance to find a new lock in situ – probably courtesy of G.Price! Gained access with a crowbar and because it appeared that the Cerberus may have started digging again we left all our drilling and banging equipment at the entrance. Then followed some 400' or so of awkward grovelling along rifts and around blocks to eventually reach a small stream passage which looks a good digging site and does not seem to be actively dug at present. Graham is thinking of taking it on as he has had permission from all of the CSS Committee except G.Price! Struggled back out again to bask in the glorious weather. An interesting and promising little cave but a bit too much like all our other digs.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 25/7/90 Trevor Hughes, Trebor, Simon Taylor	1h 35m	Priddy	Trebor went down first and pumped out the Corner Dig. We then joined him and removed to surface 23 loads of spoil. A 10 oz Gelamex split charge was laid on both sides of the passage at the end and fired from the surface. This dog goes ever on .....
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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 27/7/90 Alone	1 hr	Priddy	Laid a 2¾ oz charge in the Boulder Chamber dig (2 shotholes) then carried on to Morton's Pot and laid another 2¾ oz Gelamex charge in the two shotholes there. Fired both charges from the top of the 380' Way and buggered off out. Both digs look good but still need a lot of work doing.
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 29/7/90 Phil Romford, Chris, Paul Starr	1¾ hr	Priddy	Down to Morton's Pot where Phil drilled two holes which I filled with 2 oz Gelamex and fired from the top of the 380' Way. We then cleared a large amount of spoil from the Boulder Chamber Dig, which was draughting strongly. There were no fumes from the bang on our way out so we must assume that Morton's was also draughting strongly!
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 30/7/90 1) Phil Romford 2) Vince Simmonds, Graham Johnson	3h 5m	Priddy	In the morning Phil and I went down to the Boulder Chamber where I laid a 2 oz charge in 2¼ shotholes which I had previously drilled. Fired from the "Woggle Press". Then down to Morton's Pot where we cleared the results of the last bang – an impressive result leaving a roomy digging area. Back out to the pub meeting the bang fumes en route! In the afternoon Graham drilled and fired 3 ozs at Morton's Pot while Vince and I dug at Boulder Chamber and after Vince had drilled 4 assorted holes we fired another 3 ozs Gelamex here (8 ozs in all). The Boulder Chamber dig has now entered a short piece of open passage containing

				loose boulders and cascading gravel. Looks good for an early breakthrough.
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 1/8/90 Les Williams, Ivan Sandford, Trebor	1h 25m	Priddy	Too many people in the cave to use bang so we went to Boulder Chamber dig and while I dug at the new open bit, Les filled buckets of spoil from further back and passed them on out to the Boulder Chamber. After a lot of hard graft I opened up a black space which revealed a 6-10' deep open rift in the floor. Before too much clearance could be carried out several pounds of loose crap dropped out of the roof onto my head and after a bit of tidying up we decided to head on out to the pub. At last – a going dig!
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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 2/8/90 Phil Romford, Graham Johnson	2h 25m	Priddy	Took the afternoon off to carry on with Boulder Chamber dig! We fired a 5½ oz Gelamex triple charge on the boulder floor and shothole in RH wall and then carried on down to Morton's Pot where a single 1½ oz Gelamex charge was fired in one shothole. We then went through the Upper Traverse to the head of the Canyon to avoid the fumes. Here we found that the Boulder Chamber was full of fumes but the dig was clear. After half an hour or so of digging and dropping spoil down the 2" wide rift I managed to open up a larger hole in front. Despite the still dodgy roof I was able to squeeze through into a 6' high open section with the partly blocked rift continuing on down below and strongly draughting. Another really promising breakthrough dwindled back to a nasty little grotty dig! A great deal of clearing and boulder shifting/splitting will need to be done before we can tackle the rift. Also, another voice test is desperately needed to find out where the bloody hell we are!
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 3/8/90 Vince, Graham	1¾ hr	Priddy	Friday evening trip. Graham dug at the Boulder Chamber while Vince and I carried on down the cave to the "55' Aven" reaching its base in 20 minutes. There was no rope in situ so I free-climbed, hauled up the bags and was followed by a free-climbing Vince; who was quite taken with the place. Halfway up the aven we could clearly talk to Jake somewhere above and upon reaching the top it was easy to hold a normal conversation with him. He seemed to be about 5 feet away! Vince then dwindled 3 shotholes in the roof of the tiny bedding plane (still the obvious connection) and I then laid a 5 ½ oz split Gelamex charge in them. This was fired from the bottom and made an ear-splitting bang followed by a shower of loose bits! Just as well there were no tourists rambling about above the Canyon! Jake, meanwhile, had gone to clear the Morton's Pot Dig. We met him near there and he reported that the last bang – a single shothole job – had been a real "good 'un" and that there was still a lot of rock to knock away. All out by 8.30 pm for showers, grub and booze. An excellent, pleasant and worthwhile trip.  (On 4/8/90 Vince, Jake and Co visited the Aven and Morton's Pot twice to drill holes and fire 2 x 5½ oz Gelamex charges – one at each site). (At least one other banging trip occurred during the

				period 5 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> August.)
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FRANCE Dordogne	<b>Gouffre de Proumeyssac</b> 7/8/90 Rich & Eleanor West, Guide + tourists	¾ hr	Le Bugue	On arrival at this show cave we found that the guide was English, though obviously not a caver. This cave is very similar to Aven Armand, but lacking the immense stalagmites. It was originally entered through a pothole in the roof 40m deep. Tourists were lowered into the cave in a 3-4 man cage which is now suspended in mid air and used as a platform for lighting. Access is now via a mined tunnel. On entering the chamber is in pitch darkness and a “son et lumiere” display is used to display the cavern to advantage. The original debris cone in the floor of the chamber has been removed and replaced by racks of pottery which is left to “fossilise” in the drips from the roof. This detracts from the scenery! A path is followed around the circumference of the chamber so the visitor can admire the excellent stalactites, helictites and a patch of superb triangular crystals forming the base of a pool. Well worth a visit. Another attraction can be found in the tiny adjacent museum. This is an old postcard of the original discoverers of the cave, one of whom is crapping in a bucket held by his mate! Very odd- a case of early French caver’s humour?
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FRANCE Dordogne	<b>Grotte de Domme (Grotte du Jubilé)</b> 8/8/90 As above	35m	Domme	This through trip show cave runs from a unique artificial entrance under the town market hall to an exit in the cliffs 450m away. It is an old phreatic tube – very dry and full of old formations – and descends gently all the way. Coloured lights in places are used to enhance the pretties. It is also worth a visit, as is the superb but very touristy mediaeval town/bastion in which it lies.
FRANCE Dordogne	<b>Grotte de Cougnac (des Concretions)</b> <b>Grotte de Cougnac (des Peintures)</b> 9/8/90 As above plus Anne West and Jane	½ hr ½ hr	Payrignac	One of the famous sites of Palaeolithic art, this cave is actually divided into two parts by an impassable – presumably ancient filled section. Our first visit was to the Grotte des Concretions – a very well decorated cave but entirely lacking in cave art. After this we all walked some 400m to the Grotte des Peintures to admire even more fine formations and an excellent series of Magdalenian wall paintings of mammoth, deer, etc. Unfortunately the guide, a young girl, was particularly boring but the tour was enlivened by the appearance of an inquisitive mouse from a hole directly below the paintings. It paraded about for several minutes and created great amusement though the guide seemed rather worried about it shooting up her trouser leg!
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FRANCE Dordogne	<b>Fort du Roc de Tayac</b> <b>Rivière Souterraine de la Reille</b> 10/8/90 1) Rich, French caver, tourists 2) Rich, Andrew Kaye (S.C. de Perigueux)	40m 2¼ hr	Les Eyziès Nailhac	Caving day! Our first visit was to the Spéléo-Club de Périgueux museum in the old troglodyte fort of Roc de Tayac – an English stronghold captured by the French in 1410 and later used as a restaurant in the early 1900s by a local “character” and show cave entrepreneur – one Monsieur Galou – the bare-arsed individual of the Proumeyssac postcard! This cliff fort is fairly extensive and holds an interesting collection of

				<p>caving bric-a-brac including helmets, carbide lamps, diving gear, dummy explosives, club stickers, archaeological remains etc. A BEC sticker was duly emplaced. The young caver looking after it gave us some useful information and sold me a pile of club journals, etc. One of the display boards featured a series of photos and cartoons illustrating “cavers’ humour” – much the same worldwide! Fancy dressed drunks featuring prominently.</p> <p>We then drove across to the Chervaux-Cubas area and managed to find Andrew Kaye of the Périgueux Club. Andy is an English ex-pat with a French wife and is a mate of the Palmers (BEC). I delivered his order of two carbide lamps and he responded with a couple of pints of Ruddles – which we drank on the patio in the blistering summer heat. Lovely. Another French caver also popped in.</p> <p>Time pressing, Rich and I headed off some 8 KMS down the road to the open pothole entrance of the la Reille system. This is easily free climbed down to a short entrance passage into a roomy streamway which we followed downstream for 1,000 m to a dry oxbow leading to a continuation of the streamway and 2nd sump at 1400m. Much of the cave is huge trunk passage, similar to parts on Agen Allwedd but in a chalky, light coloured limestone and lias. Halfway down we met a party of French cavers who all shook hands and stopped for a natter. On our way out Andy appeared and came out with us only to find his hidden tin of beer had been pinched! An excellent and easy trip highly recommended as a “conscience clearer” and suitable cave for fat, nicotine-filled, unfit Richards! Mind you, he did enjoy it and soon got into his old stride despite a lot of puffing, blowing and sweating. I have proof of his presence in a series of photos taken on the trip.</p>
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FRANCE Dordogne	<b>Grotte du Grand Roc</b> <b>Grotte de Font-de-Gaume</b> 11/8/90 1) Jane, guide + tourists 2) Rich, Anne, Eleanor, Jane, guides + tourists	35m 35m	Les Eyzies	<p>1) Situated in the cliff of Laugine-Basse, the cave of Grand Roc is some 50m long and reached by a 40m mined tunnel. It consists essentially of a single, low chamber absolutely crammed with superb formations:- helictites, crystals, calcite flowers, etc etc. A very impressive sight despite the chicken wire protecting everything from the visitor. Unfortunately the trip is so short that one gets the impression that it is not worth the entrance fee. More triangular crystals as in Proumeyssac.</p> <p>2) After queueing for tickets in the morning we eventually got some for an afternoon visit, there being only a limited amount of people allowed in per day. This is another of the top painted caves of France and is reached by a footpath from the road. Situated in a high level of the cliffs the fine double entrance leads to a narrow passage opening up into a high, dry gallery where there are friezes of bison, horse, reindeer, mammoth etc. The superb ibex with long, curved antlers is one of the finest. The two women guides were very officious and made sure no-one touched the</p>
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				cave walls – even in the well polished entrance passage! It is sad that many of the paintings are covered in 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> century graffiti. Many of the paintings are not visited by tourists being located in the further reaches of the cavern. It is good that some of these amazing paintings can be viewed without causing too much damage, by the ordinary visitor. Again, a short trip but very worthwhile.
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FRANCE Massif Armoricaïn	<b>La Grotte à Margot</b> 14/8/90 Caver guide, tourists	¾ hr	Saulges	On the way back through France I noticed a cave symbol on the map and looking it up in the book found that the Saulges area had a patch of limestone with two show caves and some 18 or so other caves. The show caves, Margot and Grotte de Rochefort are situated in an attractive limestone “gorge” bisected by a stream and adorned with a restaurant. A very nice spot. I only had time to visit the Margot cave. This consists of an ancient phreatic system with some 200m open to tourists. There is a fair amount of old, dry and vandalised stal and a lower level with a clear sump where exploration continues. To liven up an otherwise dull trip the guide, a caver, continuously cracked jokes in French and bad English and also flicked water all over a bunch of fat Dutch ladies. Très amusant. This cave contained archaeological material but seems to have been well cleared out. A nearby, non-tourist cave contains 20,000 year old paintings of mammoth, bison and horse and is one on the most northerly cave art sites in France (and in that case relatively close to Britain – perhaps a link should cave art ever be found here).
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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 15/8/90 Tony Boycott (Les Williams, Simon Taylor +1)	50m	Priddy	The boys went for a tourist trip to Ifold’s Series while Tony and I visited Morton’s Pot dig. This had been banged recently (by Nick Williams) but some of the bang appeared to have been pulled out of a shothole. This shothole was still in situ and was filled with 2ozs Gelamex by Tony. Another 3½ ozs was laid on the rock in the rift and the double charge fired by Tony from the top of the 380’ Way – to the delight of some passing cavers. We then had a quick look at the Boulder Chamber dig and removed a few rocks as a gesture.
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 17/8/90 Graham Johnson	¾ hr	Priddy	Morton’s Pot dig. Shattered rock from last bang cleared and 2 10 mil holes drilled. 1½ ozs Gelamex inserted and fired from 380’ Way. Sounded good.
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 19/8/90 Alone (Graham)	3 hr	Priddy	Solo Sunday afternoon blasting trip to “55’ Aven”, cleared and drilled earlier in the day by Jake and Vince. Used 3 ozs Gelamex in three shotholes and fired from the base of the Aven – very loud with lots of shrapnel. While the fumes cleared I had a poke about in various bits of Ifold’s Series, finding about 6’ of new passage, and also went down Harris’s Passage to the base of the Twin Verticals. A fascinating area of the cave. I then reclimbed the Aven and, despite plenty of fumes, spent an hour or so clearing the

				<p>shattered rock from the bang and throwing it down onto the ledge. A couple of feet of progress was gained but there is still a great deal to do. The lads did not turn up with the drill, having gone to Morton's Pot instead, so, I wandered on out visiting an interesting dig at the bottom of the Canyon (straight on at the Crossroads). A brief look at Boulder Chamber dig did not reveal the end of the crowbar which I had poked through from the other end. On the way out through the Ruckle I met a relieved Graham who had been despatched by Phil Romford to search for me as I was presumed to be overdue! Zot and the Cardiff girls were also in attendance at the surface, later joined by Phil. An entertaining and productive afternoon.</p>
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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 20/8/90 a.m. Les Williams p.m. Les, Graham, Vince	4h 20m	Priddy	<p>Two almost identical trips of 2h 10m each! In the morning Les and I went to the Aven and drilled and fired a 3 oz charge. The ledge was also cleared of rubble. Then to Morton's Pot where previously drilled holes were filled with 2½ ozs Gelamex and fired.</p> <p>In the afternoon Vince &amp; Graham cleared and drilled at the Aven until we arrived to bang the holes with another 3 ozs. The others went for a look at "Proper Job" and "East End Series" while Les and I returned to Morton's Pot where we cleared and drilled before firing the fourth and last charge of the day – another 2½ ozs.</p> <p>Knackered, but pleased with the amount of work done. The Aven/Boulder Chamber link up is imminent(!)</p>
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 26/8/90 Jim Smart, Graham, Vince	2 hr	Priddy	<p>Jim and I cleared Morton's Pot dig and drilled, laid and fired a 2¼ oz Gelamex charge. Meanwhile, Vince and Jake went to clear the Aven dig and drill a couple of shotholes. We joined them later and I laid another 5 ¼ oz charge which we fired, noisily, from the bottom of the Aven. A good trip. Back put to listen to the telephone communications at the "St Cuthbert's Swallet Pump-in II".</p>

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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 27/8/90 Vince, Jake	2 hr	Priddy	<p>We went first to the Aven dig where two 3" shotholes were drilled using two batteries – very hard rock and a suspected duff drill bit. These were filled with 3 ozs Gelamex and noisily fired from the bottom of the Aven. Then to Proper Job above the 1<sup>st</sup> Rift Chamber where an 8oz charge was fired to remove a lump of rock/stal which made entry to the passage beyond difficult. Jake and I came out via the Lower Traverse – very slippery. Another useful trip.</p>
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 29/8/90 Tony Boycott, Hugh Tucker, Andrew	2h 5m	Priddy	<p>To 55' Aven – from now on re-named Hard Rain Aven. The three "new boys" to the site were a bit over-awed by the climb. Hugh free-climbed the lot without too many problems, Andrew (14 years old) got up with a lifeline – which he at first did not want – and Tony didn't make the top ledge. Without knowing the climb the exposure factor is certainly a bit oppressive! While everyone sorted themselves out I drilled 2¼ one foot holes at the top using Tony's drill and bits. I</p>

				then laid a 2¼ Gelamex charge (also Tony's). This was again noisily fired from below before a mad rush to the surface took place due to the imminence of closing time. I had a good trip but I'm not sure about the others – perhaps in retrospect!
Somerset	<b>Hallowe'en Rift</b> 31/8/90 Alone	55m	Wookey Hole	Trevor and Jake had previously drilled six assorted sized holes at the end of the, at presently not very dry, dig. I filled all the holes – plus a 4" long natural one – 7 in all and connected them up with Cordtex. The charge was fired from the entrance and took a second or two to go off. There was no mighty bang but a most impressive blast of air and gravel erupted from the entrance rift! Looks like we're in for another long, hard session of Hallowe'en digging. N.B. 24 ozs Gelamex used in the seven holes. One det.

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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 3/9/90 Nick Gymer, Karen Ashman	2 hr	Priddy	Karen, a novice, was very slow and stopped at the top of Dolphin Pot. Nick and I continued to the top of Hard Rain Aven and I laid a 4 oz double charge in the two shotholes drilled by Vince, Jane Evans and Angie Gerrard at the weekend. Various climbs and holes in the Dolphin Pot area were investigated – none of any real interest but one of which gave me a bad back! Too painful to cave in the afternoon so the Rock Steady Crew – “fresh” from Darren – were joined for a long booze up!
Somerset	<b>Ridge Lane Swallet</b> 4/9/90 (Vince)	5m	Ridge	Laid and fired a 2½ oz double Gelamex charge in two shotholes in wedged boulders in the floor of the dig. Surprised by a hot air balloon passing by just above tree level!
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 5/9/90 Tony Boycott	1½ hr	Priddy	To the Boulder Chamber dig where I drilled two shotholes – one in the overhanging wall and one in a loose boulder. Tony then filled these with Gelamex and also laid a charge behind a large, loose flake – 7 ozs in all. Tony Perret, Alex, Barry Perret and Alan appeared and were escorted out via the “Woggle Press”. I then fired the charge from the Boulder Chamber due to a wire tangle which necessitated shortening it. The breakthrough would now appear to be imminent but time will tell!

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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 9/9/90 Jake, Rich Blake	2h 10m	Priddy	Jake went to Morton's Pot where he drilled a couple of holes and laid a split 4 oz Gelamex charge. Rich and I went to Boulder Chamber dig to find that the last bang had brought down a vast heap of the roof leaving a large boulder blocking the entrance to the final bit. Back we went to the “Woggle Press” for the bang and I then put a 1.5 metre length of cordtex around the boulder. Forgot the detonator so back to Boulder Chamber again and then back down the dig. Fired from Boulder Chamber. Rich and I then joined Jake at Morton's. The charge was fired from 380' Way and after a fag break we all returned to Boulder Chamber Dig. The large rock was split into pieces – very successful. Loads of rocks were then shifted out of the dig and piled in the passage. Unfortunately there is a hell of a lot of rock, mud and gravel filling in the drop which
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				will have to be removed from the other side. We'll have a look here tomorrow. (All the hard we put in on these digs is getting little reward, unlike the Oxford University lads who have found 200m+ in Dallimore's Cave! Good for them.)
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> <b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 10/9/90 1) Ivan Sandford, Scot Adams (Aust.), Graham Johnson 2) As above + Vince Simmonds	2h 5m 1h 35m	Priddy Red Quar	a.m.: - To the top of Hard Rain Aven where the broken rock from the last bang was removed – no sign of the debris from Boulder Chamber or a passable way through even though Jake did another voice connection. Two holes then drilled and 4 oz split Gelamex charge fired. Ivan and I took a few snaps on the way out and our Australian visitor, Scot, free climbed up an aven near Dolphin 35' pitch by mistake! Out for a couple of pints and the gathering of the rest of the "Monday Club" – i.e. Vince. Later in the afternoon we descended upon Wigmore with freshly charged drill battery and more bang. Vince shifted several loads of washed in gravel from the end of the cave and these were bagged and dragged out to Santa's Grotto. I then went in with the drill and put two extremely easily drilled shotholes into the large slab on the LH side. A split 3 oz Gelamex charge was laid and this was fired from Santa's Grotto. Hopefully it will have demolished the slab without doing too much damage to the other massive boulders forming the roof and walls at this point! Back out for lots more beer. A bloody good days caving.

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Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 12/9/90 Jake, Rich Blake, Tony Boycott, Andrew the Apprentice	1h 35m	Red Quar	Down to the end to find that the bang had done a good job on the offending slab and had brought down and shaken up a lot of the roof – though this was inevitable and both fortuitous and safer than leaving it. I did a clearing stint at the end then let Jake have a go. Some 15 loads of rubble and gravel were dragged back to Santa's Grotto and stacked by Tony B. Various bits of passage also tidied up. A large and awkward loose slab at the end may need a bang but otherwise it looks like we are back to digging. At present this is a very nice little cave but just wait until it rains! (12/9/90). Vince and Steve Redwood drilled 1½ shotholes at the Hard Rain Aven dig in Eastwater Cavern. There is still no sign of a breakthrough and more banging is necessary)
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Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 14/9/90 Jake	1¼ hr	Red Quar	Quick trip to remove part of a slab on the LH wall. 6 holes (!) were drilled in the block of marl and a triple corded charge totalling 2 ozs of Gelamex was fired from Santa's Grotto. One load of spoil removed to Santa's Grotto.
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 16/9/90 Rich Blake, Simon Taylor	2h 35m	Priddy	To the top of Hard Rain Aven where Rich and I drilled one more shothole and completed the half shothole drilled by Vince. I then laid and fired a 4 oz Gelamex charge split between the three available holes. While the fumes cleared we went for a trundle down the 13 Pots and back up the Muddy Oxbow. We intended to free climb the Twin Verticals but on looking at the lower one we decided it would not be a good idea! Back to

				Hard Rain Aven where Rich climbed up through the fumes to see what had happened. There are traces of the muddy gravel seeping through from the Boulder Chamber Dig and Rich thinks that another double charge should see us in. Left drill and bang in the cave ready for tomorrow. Out via Baker's Chimney and Upper Upper Traverse.
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 17/9/90 Scot Adams	2 hr	Priddy	To Hard Rain Aven where the debris from the last bang was cleared. A strong draught was issuing from the rift to the left of the dig so two shotholes were drilled here and a split 4 oz Gelamex charge fired. It is possible that this may be an easier way than following the bedding plane. All tools and bang left in the cave for the next trip. (Jake and Scott went down on 18/9/90 and after clearing the debris Jake entered the rift and drilled two more holes in a protruding section. 3 oz split Gelamex charge was laid and fired) (Kit taken out).
<b>Page 133</b>				
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 19/9/90 Vince (Simon Taylor, Les W, Andy +1)	1½ hr	Priddy	Vince and I took all the kit back to the top of Hard Rain Aven where we listened for a voice connection with Simon & Co who were clearing boulders from the Boulder Chamber Dig. When we heard them the connection came clearly from the RH side of the blasted bedding plane and indistinctly from the LH aven and calcited choke directly above the bedding – i.e.: straight up the Aven. The actual connecting hole is minute and would be a long job so it was decided to fire a split 3 oz charge in two holes drilled into calcited boulders at the very top of the Aven in the hope that the loose looking debris behind these rocks could be dug or blasted over the top of the bedding. The bang was laid and fired with great sound effects and big lumps of rock flying everywhere. A real Hard Rain! Back out meeting the others at Dolphin Pot on their way to the 13 Pots. Fast, sweaty and satisfying trip even though the connection is a bloody long way away yet!
Somerset	<b>(Smitham Hill Cave)</b> – 25/9/90. Vince, Tave, Scot, Jake and I dug and hauled 30 loads to surface. I avoided going underground!			
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 26/9/90 Vince (Jake, Rich)	1h 55m	Priddy	Jake and Richard cleared Morton's Pot dig while Vince and I went to the Aven. Here we found that the last bang had done an excellent job on the calcited rocks at the top of the Aven. There was about ½ ton of "hanging death" which Vince and I very carefully prodded down with crowbars. At one point a large boulder was left perched in the hole and only held up by a pebble. It was difficult and dangerous to reach this and we could dare not descend the Aven in case it suddenly followed us down. Although able to talk to Jake and Rich, they could not understand our message and left for the pub. Eventually I decided it had to go and after Vince had squeezed into the side rift I reached out and prodded the boulder. The results were instantaneous and boulder, rubble and long crowbar all hurtled together down the Aven, almost taking my arm along with it! The adrenalin was now pulsing round and when Vince finally cleared the hole I climbed up to a collapsed false floor with huge rocks above and a

				view up for some 10' or so. A lot more wet gravel and boulders was cleared and I laid a 3 oz Gelamex charge in a crack in the centre of a large boulder which seems to be holding everything up. Fired from Harris' Passage with the usual spectacular sound and shrapnel effects. A nerve twisting trip!
<b>Page 134</b>				
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 30/9/90 Vince Snablet, Matt Tuck	1h 40m	Priddy	To the top of Hard Rain Aven where it was found that most of the huge boulder banged on the last trip had disappeared. A few large lumps were left in situ and most of these were removed and dropped down the pitch. One very large and obstinate rock was dropped onto a wedged crowbar but could not be moved any further without the possibility of severe personal injury! A 2 oz Gelamex charge was laid behind it and fired effectively from below.
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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 1/10/90 Ian Marchant, Aley & Doug (BEC II)	2¾ hr	Priddy	The Brighton Explorers Club contingent joined me on a Monday digging outing on which they all struggled a bit! I left them at Dolphin 35' pitch and climbed up Hard Rain Aven to find that the boulder resting on the crowbar was still intact and in position!! The rock behind it had been well smashed up so it was removed and the obstinate one eventually dropped – unfortunately wedging and sealing me in the dig. After a bit of manipulating the rock I was able to squeeze past and get a crowbar and hammer. The rock was then dropped further and yet again wedged. After a lot more effort it was dropped to the level of the bedding plane dig where it wedged again and was left as a convenient platform. I then laid a 14oz split Gelamex charge on the next huge boulder up. This was fired as spectacularly as all previous bangs and a lot of rock came down. God knows where this aven is going but it looks suspiciously like the floor of the Boulder Chamber and if so we haven't got far to go before we break through and have a nice 100' pitch! Desperate for another voice test. Slow but pleasant trip and just made it out for a couple of lunchtime pints.
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 3/10/90 Vince, Ivan	1h 40m	Priddy	Vince and Ivan went to Hard Rain Aven to clear the debris. Vince reckons that he reached a point some 25' above the bedding plane! In the meantime I went to Morton's Pot dig and drilled a c. 6" shothole, filling it with 2 ozs plaster and firing from the top of 380' Way. I then went to Boulder Chamber dig and established a vocal connection (again), before rambling all over the area listening to the sounds of hammer blows from Vince. It was almost impossible to detect where the noise came from but after conversation in the pub it would seem that the area around Baker's Chimney By-Pass is the favourite. I entered a couple of passages that I never knew existed! We will have to continue banging from below to establish this bloody frustrating connection (Out via Upper Traverse).
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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b>	2h	Priddy	Day off! To the top of the Aven where a VERY

	4/10/90 Matt Tuck	10m		large boulder blocked the way on and supported lots more. Laid a triple 30z plaster gelatine charge (3 No.8 dets wired in series and three lots of 2x slabs) in a triangular pattern on the available faces of the boulder. Fired from Dolphin Pitch after putting in a new wire. Very effective. Came out via Upper Traverse collecting a tackle bag full of rubbish en route. Good trip.
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 10/10/90 Vince (Ivan, Gary (?), Andy (?))	2 hr	Priddy	Vince and I went to the top of Hard Rain Aven to clear the debris from the last bang and lay a split 2lb 1oz plaster gelatine charge using 2 dets in series on what remained of the large boulder blocking the way on. We then retreated to Dolphin Pitch spending a lot of time clearing the ledges en route. In the meantime Ivan, his mate Gary and Andrew the Apprentice cleared spoil from the last Morton's Pot bang – poking a crowbar into narrow empty spaces below. At 9pm we were supposed to fire the bang while Ivan waited at the “Smoke Room” near Baker's Chimney, the others having gone out. Unfortunately there was a broken wire (hardly surprising) so we fired the bang about 9.05. Suitably noisy. Ivan felt a good crack below and to the right – presumably below Baker's Chimney. Another sporting and successful night.
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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 12/10/90 Vince	1h 10m	Priddy	To Hard Rain Aven. At the top it was found that the last bang had removed about a third of the huge boulder leaving two very shattered thirds supporting a vast amount of loose stuff. Vince went up for a look and decided that it was too hairy to remove any more spoil so I laid a split 2lb plaster charge (2 dets in series) and “fucked off quick”. Fired from near Dolphin Pitch with the usual effects (despite a temporary misfire). Good trip. Vince and I cave very well together and I personally find this trip incredibly physically enervating. It'll almost be a pity when it goes!
Somerset	<b>Dallimore's Cave</b> 14/10/90 Gavin, Tim, Stewy, Jenny (O.U.C.C.) & Vince	4h 10m	Hillgrove	Vince and I joined the Oxford University lads and lasses on a digging/surveying trip into the new Curious Love extensions. These lead off from the top end of the main rift and the initial squeeze in is a real bastard – only passable with a certain sequence of movements and unfortunately too tight for Vince who was forced to retreat. The rest of us carried on down a very tight and awkward, almost vertical rift, into a series of more roomy and pleasantly decorated passages joined by the odd tight bit. The next major horror was the Ant Lion – a very tight vertical squeeze with a 5' drop below and some fine curtains just within foot range. From here the passage gets taller and much more pleasant – most of it being walkable and with a free climbable 12' pitch en route to the present end where Gavin and Tim carried on digging out the lower part of the 20' high rift. The girls and I surveyed back up cave – a mucky job with much licking of the tape being necessary. We probably completed some 15 or so legs. The squeeze back up the Ant Lion was murder and I got a scraped

				<p>chest for my pains. The lads then arrived, having failed to pass the dig and we made an agonising trip out to the surface after a very sporting and useful afternoon's work. I will not wear a cotton boiler suit in this place again. I got wet and very cold – most unpleasant.</p> <p>The new extensions are well worth seeing and a real tribute to Gavin who pushed the frightening entrance squeezes. There seems to be a steady draught and the whole place has a feeling of being part of something much bigger. Great hopes for a big system here especially with the closeness of Hillgrove Swallet. Not the best cave to have to be rescued from – a practically impossible job.</p>
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Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> <b>Ubley Warren Pot</b> 15/10/90 Chris Castle, Jim Smart	5m  1h 5m	Priddy  Nordrach	Popped down Bowery to collect assorted digging tools then over to Nordrach to attempt an Ubley trip – the entrances having been reclaimed at the weekend by Tusker and Co. We first went down the superbly dry stone walled Nettle entrance (menhir like boulders have been positioned here by the digger driver!) to find it blocked at the bottom. 20 or so bucket loads of soil, cow muck etc were hauled out and I squeezed through into the bedding/rift clamber opened from the surface at the weekend. Some time was then spent here moving large and small boulders until I was able to squeeze down into some 10' of new rift passage – unfortunately blocked below and not obviously a part of the old cave. We gave up here and Chris continued digging below the entrance while I had a look in the newly piped Foot & Crutch. This is also well blocked with soil and will need a lot of digging to re-open. Difficult to make out which is the way on or the "Ugh" passage. An open, tight rift on the right draughted strongly. Shifted a few more bucket loads from Nettle before leaving the tools in and departing to the Hunter's.
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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 17/10/90 Vince Simmonds (Steve Cottle (UBSS) Tony Boycott)	2 hr	Priddy	Tony and Steve drilled and banged at the Morton's Pot dig while Vince and I went to Hard Rain Aven. A vast amount of hanging boulders were the result of the last bang. An hour or so of very desperate prodding (using wedged crowbars to slow things down a bit!) resulted in the clearing of the bang debris. I then went up to bang the horrific several tons of rock still blocking the way on but was somewhat embarrassed to find a distinct lack of detonators.... We decided to call it a day but upon reaching the floor of the Aven I found the plastic container containing 3 dets – the container having suffered 1) a 100' fall and 2) close contact with a lot of flying rock. We decided to get on with the job so I re-climbed the aven and started to lay the charge. Unfortunately I dropped a four pack of plaster back down the Aven. Vince recovered two of the slabs and eventually a 5 slab (27½ oz) plaster gelatine split charge (2 x No.8 dets) was fired on the hanging death above. A "Comedy of Errors" trip but extremely
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				adrenalin producing. This bloody place is getting to be very dangerous. The lads upstairs could here falling rocks but did not stay around long enough to locate the bang. Good trip!
Somerset	<b>Ubley Warren Pot</b> 21/10/90 Snablet	1 ½ hr	Nordrach	Following a post 2-30 pint of Murphy's at the Wells Way, Snablet and I visited Nettle Hole to continue digging out the choked entrance. In the re-roofed chamber just inside the entrance I found a large boulder being the only obstacle to prevent access to the top of the 17' pitch. This was soon reduced in size with a hammer and removed. The pitch was free climbed and were quickly back into Nettle! Following a quick look at the old Pike's Chamber Dig (interesting) we free climbed up to the gravel choked "UGH" squeeze. Here I left Snablet and went back out of Nettle – most awkwardly due to the cable on my Oldham coming adrift! I then descended the new piped entrance of Foot and Crutch and was able to talk to Snablet and to establish where the two ways on are. The beer then got its way and I had a kip while Snablet continued digging! We later gave up and left it to be dug from Foot and Crutch at a future date. Useful little jaunt. I like this cave and will probably be back for a dig.

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Somerset	<b>Hallowe'en Rift</b> 22/10/90 Trevor Hughes	½ hr	Wookey Hole	6½ oz split Gelamex inserted in the shotholes and fired using 2 No.8 detonators in series. Cave very dry. No obvious way on!
Somerset (Rescue)	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 24/10/90 Vince	1h 25m	Priddy	To Hard Rain Aven, finding the lost bang and "bodger" on the way up. There was very little debris in evidence so hardly any clearing was necessary. We laid a 2lb plaster charge between large lumps of "hanging death" and fired from Dolphin 35' Pitch. A lot of large rock seemed to have been shifted. Gentle stroll out looking at Pete and Alison's old dig near Baker's Chimney on the way. (Rescue callout to Swildon's Hole from the Hunter's at about 10.30pm. When we reached the Green the victim was just coming out, helped by his mates so we returned to the pub!)
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 25/10/90 Alone	¾ hr	Priddy	Having a couple of hours to spare I decided on a quick, dry banging trip down Bowery. Unfortunately, on arrival, I found that a reasonable stream was flowing so by the time I got to Dipso I was quite damp. After a small amount of clearing I laid a ½ lb plaster charge on a fractured limestone pillar at the end which I fired from "the Chamber". A loud crack and rush of air verified that at least the detonator had fired and hopefully the charge. Cleared the pump and tools out of Corner Dig as there is now little hope of digging here until the next dry spell.

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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 28/10/90 Vince	1h 50m	Priddy	Cave very wet following continued heavy rain – large stream in entrance. Plenty of water in Boulder Ruckle. Up Hard Rain Aven where Vince cleared c ½ ton of debris with a bit of delicate crowbar work! I then joined him and laid a split charge on the desperate hanging death – 2 No.8 dets to an 11oz plaster gelatine charge and a 13 oz Gelamex charge. A new wire was laid
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				and the charge was fired from Dolphin Pitch – sounded good. Staggered out with only a Mitylite for illumination. Pleasant trip with different atmosphere due to the noise of the streams and the falling water.
Devon	<b>Rocky Acres Hole</b> 29/10/90 Paul Thompson	55m	Kingsteignton	Paul and Jud were on their way to Cornwall for a week's holiday so Jane and I diverted them via the dig! We went in to the cleared out rift at the end and I drilled one deep shothole and a couple of useless short shotholes. I then filled the deep hole and also put over a full stick in a natural hole nearby – a total of 13 oz Gelamex with 2 No.8 dets wired in series. Fired it from near the entrance. There is still a lot of banging to be done here before we get a breakthrough. There is now a portable tea and wad shop at the site! Very convenient.

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Somerset	<b>Smitham Hill Cave</b> 30/10/90 Gonzo, Tav, Vince	35m	East Harptree	Assisted Vince and Tav with their dig. Gonzo and I took first underground shift and sent 20 loads of sticky mud and rock to the surface. Tav and Vince then took over and another 20 loads reached the rapidly heightening spoil dump. A lot of infilling has been removed here and there is now a respectable chamber with lots of possible ways on. The country rock is not limestone. Time will tell on this one.
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 31/10/90 Vince, Jake, Rich Blake	1h 25m	Priddy	A bit of an abortion. Vince and Jake went to Hard Rain Aven where the only detonator was unfortunately dropped down an inaccessible crack. Meanwhile Rich and I had re-established the voice connection at Boulder Chamber dig and then Rich had attempted to listen for a connection near Baker's Chimney with no real luck. Vince and Jake cleared the debris from the last bang and this was heard by Rich but not by me – though I could hear their voices – very odd. The muddy sinking stream in Boulder Chamber dig was not seen at the voice connection below. This is all very frustrating. On the way out Rich and I looked at the Upper Upper Traverse area and the other two cleared the Morton's Pot dig. The 360' Way stream was all sinking at the hole on the left above the Pot and the dig was dry. After inserting his head into the rift, Jake could distinctly hear the stream off to the left. This is good news and hopefully means that we are on the right track.
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 2/11/90 Scott Adams, Jake	1½ hr	Priddy	Friday evening trip to bang the roof after the abortive Wednesday session. 2¾ lbs Gelamex was laid amongst the boulders, connected in three lots by Cordtex and fired with one No.8 detonator. A new wire was also put in. The effects of this bang were spectacular and it sounded like all the loose stuff left in the Aven had been removed! It looks like we have reached the roof of the Aven. It now seems as if there could be "horizontal" passages going off in both directions but this is not definite. A good trip.

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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 4/11/90	1h 50m	Priddy	Rich and I went to the top of Hard Rain Aven to find that most of the loose rocks had been
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	Rich Blake, Jake, Trev Hughes, Scott Adams			<p>removed leaving about half of the huge boulder in situ. 2 x 13oz Gelamex charges were placed on it – one each side. A third 6½ oz charge was placed at the side of a large, semi-loose slab at the very top of the aven where a solid(ish) roof with a 6” wide rift going on up is the present state of play. There is still a lot of work to do here. Back down the aven to Dolphin 35’ Pitch where we had a look at a narrow aven near the pitch bottom. A hole partway up here led back to the pitch.</p> <p>Jake then appeared with the drill battery and we fired the charge with the usual results. Trev, Scott and Jake had been to Morton’s Pot where a lot of clearing was done and a 6½ oz Gelamex charge placed in a scraped hole – drilling being unnecessary. On our way out Trev fired this from the head of the 380’ Way. A very useful afternoon’s work.</p>
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 7/11/90 Rich Blake, Vince	1h 10m	Priddy	<p>Vince went to Morton’s Pot where he drilled 1½ shotholes and fired a split 6½ oz Gelamex charge using 1 x No.8 det. Rich and I went to Hard Rain Aven to find a large rock sitting on the wedged boulder at the bedding plane. Behind this, and seemingly hanging in mid-air was the remains of the huge boulder. Too far away to reach. As we were debating what to do we heard cavers below returning from Thirteen Pots. Another party were also in the cave and on their way to West End so I decided the safest thing to do was use a 6½ oz Gelamex charge on the wedged boulder. It was hoped this would also be noisy enough to dislodge the hanging death above. Fired from below with the customary sound effects. Another good, fast trip.</p>
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Yorkshire	<b>Bull Pot of the Witches</b> 10/11/90 Martin Grass, Wormhole	1h 40m	Ease Gill	<p>This trip started off as a cock-up when I arrived at Bull Pot Farm without a helmet – left at the Hill Inn! Borrowing a flat cap from the farm I carried on with Oldham headset in mouth. Martin had done the cave before but couldn’t find the extensive and well decorated upper series. (After an hour and a half on this trip he still couldn’t so we eventually emerged after only doing the free climbable pitches, and Long Gallery and Cavern 32). Lots of others in the cave. It transpires that the upper series leads off from a separate hole at the bottom of the surface shaft (down which we abseiled in). The rest of the weekend was dedicated to drink!</p>
Somerset	<b>Hallowe’en Rift Eastwater Cavern</b> 14/11/90 1) Alone 2) Vince, Rich Blake, Jake	20m 1h 40m	Wookey Hole Priddy	<p>1) Quick trip on way home from work to put a No.8 det in a shothole which misfired on Trevor – the cord having been crimped. This was easily done though the cave is now damp again. Saw a leech halfway along the crawl!</p> <p>2) Vince and I went to Hard Rain where a single 6½ oz Gelamex charge was <u>very</u> carefully placed in a mass of wedged “hanging death” at the top of the Aven. Fired with the usual results. We hope this is the end of the loose stuff and we can now get in for a look at possible ways on.</p> <p>We then joined the others at Morton’s Pot where Jake was still clearing debris and digging at the floor of the rift. A few bags of spoil were hauled</p>



				up to the old dumping area. Last weekend's rain had left froth marks and inwashed spoil in the dig. Didn't need to bang it this trip. Cave quite damp.
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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 18/11/90 Vince	2h 25m	Priddy	The cave was very busy today – tourists everywhere! We went to the Hard Rain Aven and I gingerly inserted one 6½ oz stick in the wedged “hanging death” still left in the top. Hopefully this is the last lot! Fired from below. Sounded good. We were going back for a look but there were too many fumes so we went to Morton's Pot dig and did a considerable amount of clearing and rock stacking. Bang is not needed here and there is a lot of digging, bagging and stacking to be done.
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> <b>Ubley Warren Pot</b> 19/11/90 Jake	1h 40m 1h 5m	Priddy Nordrach	i) Back up Hard Rain Aven, clearing tons of debris from the ledge on the way up. The wedged rocks had finally been eliminated and only a minimum amount of clearing was necessary. There is now a nice, roomy chamber at the top with the only way on a narrow rift in the ceiling. 19½ oz Gelamex (3 sticks) was laid in the rift – against a shattered roof block and fired from below. Out to pub. Cave damp. (Aven measured at 75' (25m) to rift at top). ii) In the afternoon we went over to Ubley Warren and spent an hour or so hauling mud, rocks and cow shit from Foot and Crutch entrance. Plenty more work to be done here. A tourist trip down Nettle Series then followed. Jake was quite impressed. A good day out.
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Somerset	<b>Totty Pot</b> <b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 21/11/90 1xAlone 2xVince, Simon Leader (Jake, Rich)	5m 1½ hr	Cheddar Priddy	1) Brief visit (in ordinary clothes) to this interesting site. Free climbable 10' pitch to well developed bedding passages. Bat in residence. Looks like a good digging site if permission from the archaeologists could be gained. Nothing else of note in the immediate vicinity. 2) Vince, Simon and I went to Hard Rain. Simon gave up on the free climb so waited below while Vince and I went up, dragging two lengths of scaffold bar which we wedged across the chamber at the top to provide a working platform. The last bang had brought down some of the loose roof but there was plenty left so a split 19½ oz Gelamex charge was laid and fired as effectively as usual! There is a good draught in the rift at the top of the aven but the way on seems to be very tight. All out to the pub for some birthday beer as the “birthday breakthrough” was not to be. (Jake and Rich meanwhile had dug in Morton's Pot until it flooded up on them).
Somerset	<b>St. Cuthbert's Swallet</b> 22/11/90 Jake, Rick Blake, Nick Pollard (WCC)	2h 25m	Priddy	Naughty leaderless trip to push the new stuff found by Jake and Rich last weekend. The route to Marble Hall was found relatively easily though we did end up visiting Long Chamber on the way. At the bottom of Marble Hall, just “upstream” from the recently re-started dig in the floor, is the entrance to the new extensions. This is some 80' long or so and runs along the side of the solid hanging wall of Marble Hall. The right

				hand side of the passage is all huge loose boulders. At the “end” of the new bit is a horrifically unstable mega boulder choke which it was deemed too dangerous to push even though large voids could be seen beyond. Rich dug and squeezed into another 30’ or so along the base of the hanging wall but this ended in more dodgy boulders. A disappointing result here and not much gain for the digging barrel! Found our way out quite easily. Nice trip.
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Somerset	<b>Read’s Cavern Draycott Cave</b> 25/11/90 1) N.Taylor, Doug, Prew, Mac, J.Price, M.Grass, P.Hann, J.Hill, M.Bishop, R.Cork, T.Boycott etc 2) As above (less J.Hill but plus another casualty union lad).	35m 10m	Burrington Draycott	<p>Somerset-Avon Constabulary/Search and Rescue Ass. Exercise (SAREX). 1) 6.20am callout for victim injured in a Burrington Cave. As we already knew it was Read’s this was no problem and the casualty – John Hill – was located in the Main Chamber with a broken leg. He was quickly patched up by Tony and brought out in the Mayer stretcher via the impressively wet sink entrance. We bundled him in the Land Rover to Rod’s Pot area where the exercise ended. Good fun playing with our Land Rovers but not much of an exercise.</p> <p>2) At 11am another callout was received at the Belfry to look for someone heard screaming in Draycott Cave following an explosion. The lad was found 20’ or so inside the entrance with a realistically burnt right arm following the supposed eruption of a petrol stove. Tony treated him and put a drip up and he was brought out of the cave on a drag sheet.</p> <p>All then, thinking their part of the exercise was over, returned to the Hunter’s but after only one pint were called out for a missing persons search in Stock Hill woods. This went on for a couple of hours until the supposed lost ones were eventually found by a police team just before the official ending of the event. Very difficult searching here, especially through the areas of storm destroyed trees. In the event of a real rescue here we would be in for a hard time. In conclusion the cave rescue incidents were of little use to us as M.R.O. Wardens and due to weather conditions etc, we didn’t get a helicopter ride or learn how to assist in its landing – though it was flying over us during the forest search. Still, not a bad day out and I think that the M.R.O. passed with flying colours.</p>
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Somerset	<b>Ubley Warren Pot</b> 26/11/90 Jake	1 hr	Nordrach	An afternoon’s digging in Foot and Crutch entrance. We removed 111 bucket loads to surface in 2 hours! Easy digging through rotten cow shit! Lots of holes opening up and draughting strongly outwards. Next digging session should see Foot and Crutch Series open again. Tusker has provided a superb welded lid for the entrance and we took over a heavy duty 10’ alloy ladder.
Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 28/11/90 Vince, Simon?, Nick, Steve (Oz) (Pete Hellier)	1¾ hr	Priddy	Simon and the Australian lads accompanied Vince and I to Hard Rain Aven. I then took them as far as the start of West End Series before joining Vince up aloft. There was little debris to clear but the roof was well shattered. Vince got

				<p>his head up through the rift to find that two 3” wide and strongly draughting. A noise like that of people caving in the distance could be heard but we eventually decided it was dripping water or the echo thereof. It is unlikely that it was Pete Hellier who, unknown to us, was poking about in the upper series above.</p> <p>I laid a split 13 oz charge on the shattered roof and after gathering up the others we fired the charge from below. Pete, up above, felt it as a heavy sledgehammer below him. At this time he was in Pete &amp; Alison’s dig near Baker’s Chimney. We now desperately need a radio-location on this point before we do much more banging.</p>
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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 2/12/90 Pete Glanville, Ian “Wormhole” Caldwell	2¾ hr	Priddy	<p>To Hard Rain Aven – the first time for Pete &amp; Ian. Loads of others in the cave. Pete was a bit nonplussed with the Aven and Wormhole gave up halfway due to an eyeful of mud and falling bits of debris. Unfortunately he decided to stay in the Aven and later got severely bombarded when we cleared the debris from the last bang – one huge rock missing him by a couple of feet. As he clambered down the Aven to escape, a large rock peeled off the wall at the top missing both Pete and Ian by inches! Ian was convinced his number was up as it bounced down towards him! Back at the top I laid a split 13 oz Gelamex charge while Pete failed to take photos due to a damp flashgun. On the way down the Aven he tried again – this time semi-successfully and a few snaps were taken. Pete also dropped his lens cover! Bang fired from below and prompt exit made. Exciting trip! Deladdered Dolphin Pitch.</p>
Somerset	<b>Smitham Hill Cave</b> 4/12/90 Vince, Jake, Tav, Gonzo	40m	East Harptree	<p>50 skip loads out. On Gonzo and my shift – the first one – we opened up a loose and open section of passage at least 6’ long. Looks interesting. The others dug the approaches to it ready for the next session. Started building a ramp up to the spoil heap (This dig was later abandoned after major collapsing of the walls and roof – AJ 4/12/91).</p>

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Somerset	<b>Ubley Warren Pot</b> 5/12/90 Jake, Vince, Rich Blake	¾ hr	Nordrach	<p>Vince and Jake dug in Pike’s Chamber, Nettle Series while Rich &amp; I continued removing spoil from the Foot &amp; Crutch entrance shaft. After 40 buckets were pulled out I broke through into the rift leading to the “Ugh” squeeze. We then got a vocal connection with Jake &amp; Vince. Rich tried to pass the squeeze but failed. Another 10 bucket loads were pulled out (total 50). In the meantime a large boulder had fallen from below our temporary ladder – blocking the digging route to Foot &amp; Crutch. This needs banging. To finish off this very pleasant evening we added another section of concrete tube to Foot &amp; Crutch entrance shaft. Another useful trip and a nice change from Eastwater.</p>
Somerset	<b>Ubley Warren Pot</b> 9/12/90 Vince	1¼ hr	Nordrach	<p>Sunday afternoon digging trip in freezing, snowy weather. I went down Foot &amp; Crutch shaft first and drilled a couple of shallow, wide holes in two offending boulders at the bottom. These</p>

				<p>were then filled with a 6 ½ oz split Gelamex charge and well tamped with rotten cow shit! Upon firing from the surface there was a loud crack suggesting that only the detonator had gone off. I went back down to find hardly any fumes and shouted for Vince to send down a new det. It was suddenly apparent that this was unnecessary as two well shattered boulders appeared out of the rapidly dispersing gas! It seems that old cow dung is the best tamp ever! We then took it in turns digging and hauling and removed 60 bucket loads of rock and crap from the shaft. Conditions were very cold both at surface and underground – due to the terrific draught whipping the air into Nettle Series. When we eventually packed it in we were down to a shaft of buried corrugated iron which ahs hopefully kept out most of the infill. Left the tackle in ready for another bash tomorrow – weather conditions permitting.</p>
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Somerset	<b>Ubley Warren Pot</b> 10/12/90 Jake	2h 40m	Nordrach	<p>Jake and I cycled over to the site and continued hauling buckets of cowsh, mud, stones, dead cow, dead chickens etc to surface. A piece of corrugated iron and a fence post were also removed. A couple of large boulders which had to be prised from the wall were turned to gravel using a split 6½ oz Gelamex charge. As we neared the bottom of the shaft a large wedged boulder appeared completely blocking the passage. This was disintegrated with another split 6½ oz Gelamex charge. After both of these bangs the fumes disappeared almost instantaneously, to belch out of Nettle Hole some time later. Following the last bang it was found that the way on below was wide open – the boulder having fortuitously acted as a dam preventing the ingress of much of the cow shit and rotting carcasses. After Jake hauled the 95<sup>th</sup> load to the surface I squeezed down into Foot and Crutch Series to find a bat flying about. Jake joined me and we had a tourist trip to Ruckle Grotto and the end of the cave – an uninspiring dig site. The old place hasn't changed at all – still as tight, sharp and entertaining as ever!</p> <p>A bloody good day's hard graft with a well deserved breakthrough. On Wednesday we will tidy up the site and get stuck into the Pike's Chamber dig. (I must be one of the few people to have discovered the same cave twice!)</p>
Somerset	Ubley Warren Pot 12/12/90 Jake, Vince	1¾ hr	Nordrach	<p>Jake took over surface control and ended up hauling 45 heavy loads out from Foot and Crutch shaft. There is little cowsh left and the route to Nettle is wide open. Meanwhile Vince drilled four shotholes in Pike's Chamber dig. I then failed to get through the "Ugh" (severe tightness on the chest) and handed the bang through to Vince. He laid and fired a 1 lb Gelamex charge split into four. He then came out via Nettle with a severe dose of light pox. Another useful session.</p>

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Somerset	<b>Ubley Warren Pot</b> 19/12/90 Jake, Vince, Nick	40m	Nordrach	<p>Jake and Nick had gone over early to clear the bang debris. I arrived at 7pm and entered Nettle Series via the "Ugh" without undue difficulty –</p>
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	Hawkes			though it is still bloody tight. I then helped drag out half a dozen loads of spoil. Graham drilled a shothole in the RH wall and I laid a 9½ oz split charge in the hole and behind a rock flake. Nick and I came out via the “Ugh” and Vince and Jake raced out via Nettle, narrowly beating us! Fired from the surface and left the others to their own devices in Foot and Crutch Series. Short and sweet trip.
Somerset	<b>Ubley Warren Pot</b> 24/12/90 a.m. Vince p.m. Vince, Jake, Roz Bateman	2h 25m	Nordrach	Vince and I went over at midday to clear the last bang. The results were good and about eight loads were stacked ready for removal later that day. A small, choked rift was opened which seemed to be draughting but was not easily accessible due to large slabs of rock. A 13 oz Gelamex charge was laid between the blocks and fired from surface. In and out via the now horribly muddy Nettle Series. After the pub the four of us went down again (Graham and I via the “Ugh”). The bang had done a good job and about 20 loads were dragged out to the Main Chamber. Large slabs again prevented access so two holes were drilled and a split 6½ oz Gelamex charge was fired from surface. Roz and I came out via the “Ugh” – Roz getting well stuck and having to have her arm excavated underneath so she could get out. A useful couple of trips.

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AUSTRALIA New South Wales	<b>Jenolan Caves (Grand Arch) Mammoth Cave</b> 28/12/90 1xJane, Trebor 2xTrebor, Justin Wilkinson (SSS)	-  2 hr	Jenolan	<i>See below</i>
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	<p>Flew into Sydney via Bombay and Singapore. Jane met us at the airport and we headed straight out to Jenolan via the attractive Eucalyptus covered hills of the Blue Mountains. After a drink at the pub in Hampton we drove into the Jenolan Caves area through the Grand Arch – the spectacular old main passage of the system, from which all of the separate show cave trips lead off, to meet Justin near the Caves House. He took us to the “cavers cottage” where we met a few more of the lads and partook of a few beers.</p> <p>Later that evening he persuaded us that, despite jet lag and booze, we should do a quick trip to the wild Mammoth Cave in the nearby McKeown’s Valley. We drove down the steep, winding track in a borrowed 4-WD vehicle and walked the ¼ mile or so to the entrance just above the dry creek bed. A locked gate seals the entrance crawl which leads directly into the Entrance Cavern where daylight streams in from the original shaft entrance above. From here we followed Horseshoe Cavern to the impressive Railway Tunnel where we dropped down to the winding Snake’s Gut eventually reaching Ice Pick Lake. We then returned and climbed up to Naked Lady Chamber where we failed to find the Hell Hole connection back into Railway Tunnel despite a T-shirt and shorts clad Justin inserting himself (painfully) into every available orifice! Due to jet-lag I fell asleep on the floor and was rudely woken by Trebor so that I could extract Justin from one of these holes where he had become wedged head first. Now fed up we exited via Snake’s Gut to the now cooler surface. The cave is much like the central sections of St. Cuthbert’s Swallet and has some fine formations. A large bat in the entrance was probably a Bent Wing. Back to the (surface) for beer and a bit of a party with the SSS contingent (Pete, Justin, Simon Blend, Adrian Lehman, Chris Kemp) the N.S.W. C.R. team (Fran and Ron Paulton) Bob Crowe (SUSS, BEC), Sophie Crook (BEC), Steve Milner (BEC and CEGSA) and Keith “Biff” Ayland (Southern SS). Justin nursed his battered and blood-soaked knees while getting even more pissed! A good trip and excellent evening.</p>			
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New South Wales	<b>Jenolan Caves (Carlotta Arch, Devil’s Coach house, Grand Arch/Lucas</b>	2¾ hr	Jenolan	<i>See below</i>
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	<b>Cave/River Cave)</b> 24/12/90 Adrian, Ron, Fran, Bob, Sophie, Justin, Jane, Trebor, Biff, (Bill McGuire – GUIDE) students			
	<p>After breakfast and a quick look at the huge Huntsman spider hanging in the kitchen window, most of us walked down to the show caves via a very scenic footpath overlooking the lowest part of McKeown's Creek. I had a quick dash under the impressive Carlotta Arch to the closed entrance of Nettle Cave. The footpath took us down into the valley and through the huge, dry Devil's Coach House – where we admired some old, dry “cray back” stalagmites – or as they are now realised to be – stromatolites. Through the Grand Arch again to the ticket office where Justin arranged us a free show cave visit due to the kind offices of Ernst (Ernie) Holland and Anthony Harding of the caves management.</p> <p>Our trip was to River Cave – reached via the Grand Arch and part of Lucas Cave. This is a series of large and impressive chambers with many superb formations (especially flowstone) and an attractive river section where the clear and green slowly flowing water reflected the phreatic erosion of the roof. A superb tourist cave. Beer in the bar of the Caves House hotel followed – as it was to do after every trip for the rest of our holiday!</p> <p>The huge Elizabethan-style hotel is of historic significance and a reminder of more genteel days – the only things spoiling it being the lurid juke-box and masses of tourists. It was here I was taught how to make a motorbike from four Coopers Ale beer bottle caps! Incidentally, Bill McGuire, our show cave guide, was one of the best guides I have met. He is very knowledgeable and clearly does a lot of caving and exploration himself in the tradition of the Jenolan Caves staff.</p>			

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New South Wales	<b>Mammoth Cave</b> 24/12/90 Biff, Steve, Ron, Chris, Adrian, Justin, Bob, Sophie, Trebor	2h 40m	Jenolan	Back to Mammoth Cave where Adrian, Steve and I went in via the not particularly tight but quite awkward Mammoth Squeeze, meeting the others near Conglomerate Cavern. We then went down to the Lower River where a tricky traverse got us to a higher level which was followed to the muddy Slug Lake – a 30m+ deep static sump pool. Back out via Lower Oolite Chamber where the multi-coloured and very attractive flowstones and other formations were admired. Adrian had enjoyed Mammoth Squeeze so much that the three of us reversed it as well! Another pleasant trip with much climbing and scrambling.
New South Wales	<b>Jenolan Caves (Devil's Coach House, Grand Arch)</b> 30/12/90 Chris, Simon, Justin, Steve, Jane, Trebor	10m	Jenolan	We all walked up McKeown's Valley as far as the top sink looking at various entrances and dig sites – Simon's knowledge of the area being very evident. Wildlife seen included Crimson Rosellas, Kangaroos, etc. On returning back down the valley we continued on through the gorge and Devil's Coach House to Grand Arch and the bar of the Cave House again! Thence back to the cottage to fester.

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New South Wales	<b>Wiburd's Lake Cave</b> <b>McKeown's Hole</b> 31/12/90 Trebor, Steve	2½ hr ½ hr	Jenolan	<i>See below</i>
	<p>All the local lads having dispersed we had to walk down from the cottage. On the way up the valley we saw a large male, grey kangaroo (6' tall) which we studiously avoided! Then followed a pleasant walk up the valley to Wiburd's Lake Cave which we entered through J58 (one of eight entrances). A maze of routes exits here through a huge boulder ruckle. Following the draught we came to a squeeze which I passed, followed by Steve but too tight for Trebor. The two of us carried on through a very low streamway section – dry at present but obviously sometimes active – to reach the large and beautifully scalloped Lake Chamber – dry at the time. Steve took some photographs and then we proceeded to a junction where we followed “22 Passage” for quite a way to a c.15' drop which needed tackle and was not descended. A short and muddy tube near here led down for some 15' or so to a gravel choke. We then retraced our steps and followed Dyke Passage until a low, muddy section</p>			

	<p>put us off from going further (we were not allowed to continue anyway due to areas of conserved mud cracks). Back to Lake Chamber where a side passage at high level led to large phreatic tubes and a high level entrance, (J92) reached via a dodgy 30' rift climb (later by-passed). I climbed out to a sun lit ledge and shouted for Trebor who had been searching for J92 or J101 for the last hour, but despite reaching the large openings below had failed to find them. He then accompanied us into the cave and together we followed various passages and climbs in the Maze.</p> <p>One of these led to a low and silt filled tube which I followed for some scores of feet by pushing aside the gravelly silt and literally forcing myself through. After a great struggle I eventually gained a larger upward passage with fresh boot prints in the mud. I followed this for a short way to see the passage continuing and strongly draughting. On the way back a short side passage led to a c.15' drop which I suddenly recognised as that reached earlier from "22 Passage" ! I had dug through the bottom of the gravel choked tube! Back out to Lake Chamber where Trebor was given a guided tour and then after a look around various high level stuff we left the cave via J92 entrance.</p> <p>Muddy, gloomy and hard work but quite impressive and enjoyably sporting. A good 2½ hours of fun. On the way back down the valley we visited McKeown's Hole (Bushranger's Cave). A high, dry and well decorated little cave where Steve took several photographs. Walked back up to the cottage after a good day's caving and just in time to avoid a 4 pm thunderstorm.</p>			
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New South Wales	<b>Jenolan Caves (Binoomea Cut/Temple of Baal)</b> 1/1/91 Jane, Trebor, Steve, tourists & Kevin (guide)	1h 5m	Jenolan	New Year's Eve was spent very pleasantly at Caves House where much beer and free champagne was enjoyed to the accompaniment of an excellent firework display (sod the extreme fire hazard in the paper-dry gum-tree forest!!) Following recovery we staggered down for a show cave trip to the superb Temple of Baal – basically a high dome chamber reached via a mined tunnel (Binoomea Cut). This fabulously decorated hall is filled with curtains, helictites, flowstone etc and beautifully lit. A real classic. Short but <u>very</u> sweet.
New South Wales	<b>Junction Cave Fig Tree Cave</b> 1/1/91 Jane, Steve, Trebor, tourists Steve Reilly (SSS guide)	1 hr ½ hr	Wombeyan	<i>See below</i>

Drove down from Jenolan to the attractive Wombeyan Cave area. After phoning the Belfry at mid-day to wish them a Happy New Year we undertook a couple of show cave trips. Our first was Junction Cave – led by our guide Steve Reilly – a SSS member and friend of Simon Bland's and Chris Kemp's. The cave is formed in white marble and is spectacularly decorated with multi-coloured formations – particularly flowstones in chocolate, white, brown, orange and yellow. Much of the darker colouring is due to heaps of bat guano located in chambers above. The bats were very obvious from the ammoniacal smell and the presence of several flying specimens, all of which added to the trip. Below the decorated upper level is an active streamway which is passable by diving to Fig Tree Cave. Steve was an excellent guide – very laid back, letting visitors think for themselves rather than giving them the usual nonsense. He had once taken Graham Wilton-Jones caving and was obviously very keen. On finding that we were cavers he persuaded us to camp here for the night and accompany him on an evening trip.

Our next show cave, Fig Tree, is a self-guided tour and was entered through a turnstile in an entrance near the path to Junction Cave. Another spectacularly decorated and much large passage was followed through a series of large chambers (Opera House) to an area overlooking the presently dry underground creek bed. This is a particularly finely eroded canyon in white marble which is followed on a hanging concrete pathway some 30' above. The path finally leads to daylight where a large collapse doline is passed under and the sink entrance of Victoria Arch opens up in front. Several fine "craybacks" can be seen in the daylight zone here. Yet another very good Australian show cave. Many photos were taken.

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AUSTRALIA New South Wales	<b>Pom's Pot Gurong-atch Cave</b> 1/1/91 Steve Reilly (SSS) Steve, Trebor	¼ hr 1 ¼ hr	Wombeyan	<i>See below</i>
	Evening trip to the area above Wombeyan camp site on the road to Golbourn and near a marble			

	<p>quarry. We drove down a track to reach the square cut quarry where we changed on the flat, polished marble floor as if in a rich man's bathroom! Marching into the Eucalyptus bush country behind the quarry we soon came to a tiny pothole entrance which Steve had found but not descended. He very generously offered us the chance of the first descent. Trebor being too large to get in Steve and I tossed up for the honour and I won. After wiggling a stick in the hole to discourage the local venomous wildlife I squeezed down through the very tight hole on Steve's ladder and began the descent of the pot. About halfway down the pitch I suddenly realised that my breathing was very difficult and the stuffiness of the air indicated a heavy CO<sub>2</sub> concentration. I paused on the ladder to weigh up the situation and worry about the chance of blacking out and falling down the pitch where I would be unable to be pulled out due to lack of rope and the extremely tight entrance! It was obvious that the pitch ended some 15' lower and that the only way on was blocked after about 6' so I decided to gamble on a quick climb down to the floor and back out to surface. With rising feelings of panic (another CO<sub>2</sub> symptom) I squeezed gratefully out into the fresh air above to regain my breath and nerves. A piece of burning paper was dropped down the hole and it became extinguished almost immediately. Another close call!</p> <p>We then carried on to Gurong-atth Cave (2NW321) looking at the entrance of Glass and River Caves en route. At the top of the pitch entrance to Gurong-atth there was a southern leaf tailed gecko which pleased Steve as he is making an inventory of cave entrances where this species is found. The cave is named from an aboriginal legend about a "tiger" hunting a lizard/turtle monster and spearing the ground which resulted in the numerous holes in the hillside!</p> <p>The short entrance pitch led to a tight squeeze which Trebor failed to pass. The rest of us carried on down a steep section of passage and dodgy 15' climb leading to a low and very well decorated streamway. After a cursory look downstream we turned to the very wet upstream section. This involved much crawling and several severe ducks where "roof sniffing" with the eyes and nostrils just out of the water was necessary. Quite gripping and bloody cold in a fleece suit! Between the aquatic bits were roomier "dry" areas with fantastic bunches of huge helictites – some of the best I have ever seen. After 150' or so of this we decided to retreat as the cold was getting us down. This cave was pushed by Steve who deserves a medal! "Wetas" or cave crickets were seen in the entrance. An epic little trip!</p>
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AUSTRALIA New South Wales	<b>Mares Forest Creek Cave</b> <b>Tinted Cave</b> 2/1/91 1) Steve, Trebor 2) Steve, Trebor, Jane	25 m 25 m	Wombeyan	<p>Walked over the hill from the camping ground to the Mares Forest Creek running through its attractive gorge. Here we entered a small resurgence cave near the pump house. Some 300' of roomy wading passage was followed ending in a calcited inlet and low, choked sump. This was all explored in shorts, T-shirts, Panama hats and using Zoom lamps. Loads of photos were taken. The next cave was a little further up the creek and is almost certainly part of the same system though not physically connected. (I believe that Mares Forest Creek Cave is also connected hydrologically with the nearby Bullio Cave). Trebor and Steve entered the very large entrance further up the creek by swimming while I went in via the small entrance which led to an ascending passage winding up to a window overlooking the main entrance. Here there are superb pink, orange, brown and green algae covered flowstone and stal and also at least one "cray back". Photos were again taken. From the window a climb up led to another large window high up in the gorge and a passage from here containing a wooden bridge crossing the lower passage led to another gallery winding upwards to a third entrance. I exited here to collect Jane who came in for the through trip and we met a couple of tourists on the way out. Great little cave – a real playground!</p>
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AUSTRALIA New South Wales	<b>Grill Cave</b> 2/1/91 Steve, Trebor	1 hr	Bungonia	Drove on down to the Bungonia State Recreation Area – an arid, Eucalyptus covered plateau well endowed with snakes, Funnel Web Spiders,
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	Duncan, Paul, Tony (Novice cavers)			Redback Spiders, ants and kangaroos! Not the nicest camp site I have ever stayed at. We met three young lads here who were also doing a bit of caving and invited them to accompany us on an evening trip to Grill Cave. This ex show cave is a particularly odd place. The grilled entrance in a large doline leads to a series of slopes, pitches and climbs fitted with old iron ladders and stairways which eventually brings the explorer to a depth off over 400' In our case we reached probably just beyond 300' (to where a red painted "Out" sign was noted) due to the presence of CO <sub>2</sub> . This was tested for using a cigarette lighter and matches and is a regular occurrence in these peculiar caves. Due to its excessive use by many cavers there is little in the way of untrodden formation in the cave. It seems to me that it is a miracle that there are so few rescues from here due to the easy access, CO <sub>2</sub> and slippery nature of the passages. The lads who came down with us wore only T-shirts and shorts and carried weak headlamps and though keen enough were typical rescue cavers! A gloomy and uninspiring system. (Tagged B44)
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New South Wales	<b>Drum Cave</b> 3/1/91 Steve, Trebor	1h 35m	Bungonia	Tagged B13 – Drum Cave is another one of the deep Bungonia systems. A large entrance opens onto a boulder slope leading to the head of a 15' and 135' pitches. This we rigged for SRT and Trebor went down for a look, clutching a cigarette lighter to test for CO <sub>2</sub> . As he abseiled down he was buzzed by loads of bats whirling round the impressive circular shaft. About 20' from the bottom he ran out of rope and had to prussic back up again. The pitch was re-rigged and I went on down to the bottom followed by Steve. No CO <sub>2</sub> was evident but we only went a few feet downstream, being put off from further exploration by the quantity of bats flying through a low passage. The ammoniacal stench of the bat guano was very evident. Cave crickets (weta) were also in residence. Another unpleasantly atmosphered Bungonia cave but at least the pitch was good value and good practice for the three of us. Following this we left Bungonia without too much regret!
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AUSTRALIA New South Wales	<b>Glory Arch</b> <b>Glory Hole Cave</b> <b>Tillabenan Cave</b> 4/1/91 1,2) Jane, Steve, Trebor 3) as above plus tourists and Dave (guide)	- 20m 40m	Yarrangobilly	<i>See below</i>
	Drove on down through NSW to the edge of the Snowy Mountains – again all covered with the ubiquitous gum trees. On climbing up into the hills we reached Yarrangobilly where a visit to the cave area for a swim in the natural thermal pool (27°) was had and a superb campsite found near an old drover's shed or homestead in a remote backwater reached down several miles of dirt track. The following morning we visited the show caves. Glory Arch was passed under into the Glory Hole Cave proper, where a strong and cool draught made conditions very pleasant. A large passage full of			

	<p>dry and algae covered formations led to a high chamber with a daylight hole in the roof. From here a tunnel driven by prisoners from Cooma leads to the surface near the Caves House. A self-guided trip in this large but not over inspiring cave.</p> <p>Jillabenan was a complete contrast to the above. Only a short cave, it was packed with superb multi-coloured formations of all types – especially straws several metres long, helictites and “cave coral”. One notable feature here is the equipping of the cave for visits by wheelchairs. A very attractive show cave and supposedly one of the most beautiful in Australia. The guide, Dave, is an ex Birmingham Cave and Crag member and was on one of the Greek expeditions in 1967.</p> <p>Drove on south through the Kosciusko National Park and Snowy National Park in Victoria. A vast range of wooded mountains and scenic river valleys. Followed the dirt road for scores of miles through this amazing area until we reached Buchan.</p>
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AUSTRALIA New South Wales	<b>Honeycomb Cave</b> <b>Oolite Cave</b> 5/1/91 1) Trebor, Steve Bill James (ex Worms), Scott Adams, Mik Lepp, Ken (DEDCAT) 2) as above less Ken	1h 20m 2 hr	Buchan	<p>Arrived in the attractive village of Buchan in the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> and immediately found the Caves Hotel – a grand little pub where we met Bill and Fran James, Fran Milner and Scott, Mik and Ken of the Doncaster Scouts from Melbourne. Beer and pool followed until it was time to camp at the nearby “Stonehenge” rockhounds caravan park. In the morning we visited the reasonably well decorated novice cave – Honeycomb. Despite the local knowledge the lower series of pitches could not be found so we spent some time festering around in the top series admiring whatever formations had not been trampled. A particular feature of this cave was the number of blow flies present.</p> <p>Oolite cave had an attractive phreatic upper series in clean washed grey limestone. This led to parallel pitches. The LH one was laddered for 30’ to the head of a blasted second pitch which was not pushed due to the extreme tightness and awkwardness of the blasted squeeze. We then went back to ladder the RH pitch which was descended for almost 100’ down a vertical then sloping rift to reach a nasty tight crawl which I followed for about 15’ before getting fed up. Blow flies and crickets were also present here. Not a bad cave and the pitch was quite good fun but the tiny little belay bolts on the pitch heads were downright dangerous. An interesting area of farmland absolutely pock marked with cave entrances and dolines. There are lots of large and small caves here thought few seem to connect.</p>
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AUSTRALIA New South Wales	<b>Royal Cave</b> <b>Fairy Cave</b> 6/1/91 Bill, Fran, Steve, Fran, Trebor, (guides + tourists)	50m 50m	Buchan	<p>Visited the two main Buchan show caves in the reserve near the village. Royal Cave and Fairy Cave are part of the same system but each has separate entrances and exits. Royal is a very beautifully decorated dry stream passage entered by a mined tunnel. There are many fine shield formations amongst the multiplicity of other formations, all protected by wire netting due to their proximity to the tourist path. The young girl who led the tour was unfortunately not a very inspiring guide. A very well lit show cave. Exit via another tunnel.</p> <p>Fairy Cave is entered via the natural entrance and is similar to Royal but not as attractive though there are some very fine formations in places. Our guide was a “funny man” and continuously told nauseating puns and jokes, much of this to amuse a couple of kids in the party. He seemed</p>
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				to have a fetish about gnomes! Later, at the house of a couple of the guides, we met Paula Morrison and Adam Johnson of the Burren Crawlers. Adam's father owns Aillwee Cave.
New South Wales	<b>Dalley's Sinkhole</b> 7/1/91 Steve, Trebor, Mike Lepp, Scott Adams (DEDCAT), Adam Johnson, Paula Morrison (BC)	1½ hr	Murrindal	<i>See below</i>
<p>After a long drive down a dusty track we reached the "Pyramids" area where towers of limestone poked out of the eucalyptus forest above a winding river. This was waded across and we trekked through the bush to the impressive doline entrance of Dalley's Sinkhole, narrowly avoiding a 6' long black snake which Mik nearly stepped on! A rather loose looking entrance was gingerly entered to a rift and exposed traverse down into a large chamber with a few nice formations at its upper end. Downdip led to a wide stream passage. This was followed upstream for about 200' to a collapse and low crawl leading back round to a point opposite where we had first reached the streamway. We waded across here to the joy of the photographers and followed the downstream section for 100' or so to a sump (probably due to recent flooding as it was obvious that there was further open streamway beyond). We then returned to the large chamber for a good look around. This system is formed in very horizontally bedded limestone which gives rise to lots of collapse. The valley where the stream sinks into the system is on the limestone / basalt boundary. On leaving the cave a low crawl passage in the doline was looked at but smelt strongly of Wombat so was not pushed! Saw several Weta.</p> <p>We then left the doline to walk around to look for the resurgence but were interrupted by a cracking in the bush and the arrival of a startled 5' long Goanna lizard which, despite being prodded with a stick, did not feel inclined to pose for photographs. After an hour or so of river wading and bush whacking we eventually arrived back at the cars after an excellent and novel excursion. A blue tongued lizard was seen on the track back to the road.</p>				

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New South Wales	<b>Shades of Death Cave</b> 7/1/91 Paula, Adam, Ken, Scott, Mik, Steve, Trebor, (Geoff Rebbelch – guide and tourists)	20m	Murrindal	<p>This is a private, family owned show cave with the reception building buried underground beside the pothole entrance. It is rather a "Mickey Mouse" concern and some of the souvenirs are rather poor though the red and black "Shades of Death" beer can coolers were rapidly snapped up!</p> <p>From the entrance a hanging concrete stairway built partly on mid-air false floors drops down into a large and well decorated chamber with a big passage leading off which is not yet opened for tourists. A few bats were flying about here. Unfortunately visitors are encouraged to handle any formations within reach – a doubtful philosophy of the owners. Not the finest show cave in the world but worth a visit.</p> <p>Later, in the pub at Buchan, we met our guide Geoff again with his cousin Graham Show(?) and they very kindly invited us to do a trip beyond the show cave. They are an ex-Melbourne family who have been exploring caves in the area for over 30 years and are desperately trying to operate their show cave against the pressures of bureaucracy and environmentalists. Good luck to them.</p>
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New South Wales	<b>Shades of Death Cave</b> 8/1/91 Scott, Mik, Ken, Bill, Steve, Trebor	2¼ hr	Murrindal	<i>See below</i>
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	(Rebbechi family + tourists)			
	<p>Having accepted the offer of a trip we turned up at the cave the following day. Beyond the tourist section a squeeze led into the large passage at low level. A short rope climb from here dropped down to a stream passage – fairly dry at the time. Here I passed a very tight 4’ vertical squeeze leading to a flat out section and was joined by Mik, the others not following us. After digging Mik out of a wet bedding plane where he had taken the wrong route we headed on for several hundred feet along the streamway to where it got higher and wider. Things were looking good when it suddenly became a dead end at a too low section, probably sumped further in. Heading back upstream we came to a roof climb which we scaled for over 40’ to reach a horizontal, winding and awkward upper passage. This was followed to the left for 100’ or so to a point where we could hear Trebor in the large chamber visible from the show section, directly above us. A suitable hole was found and we squeezed up to join him. Most of us then squeezed back down and returned to the head of the climb down to the stream. Mik and I followed the continuing dry passage while the others went down to the stream. Our route soon enlarged and became a high and wide gallery packed with fantastic formations, notably enormous helictites. Several hundred feet of this mind boggling passage was explored to a large collapse (which we were later told is by-passable). It was unfortunate that we had no camera but hopefully Steve will return one day to photograph the place to death. The others failed to follow us into this section so missed the best part of the cave. Eventually we all returned to the surface to be met by the Rebbechi family with a huge plate of barbecued sausages and a Polaroid photography session. Very generous people and a superb caving trip.</p> <p>So ended our stay in Buchan where the pub, caves and locals were all great. Steve introduced the Doncaster lads to the art of bridge-jumping, much to the amazement of the locals and several farewell drinking sessions were held in the Caves Hotel.</p>			

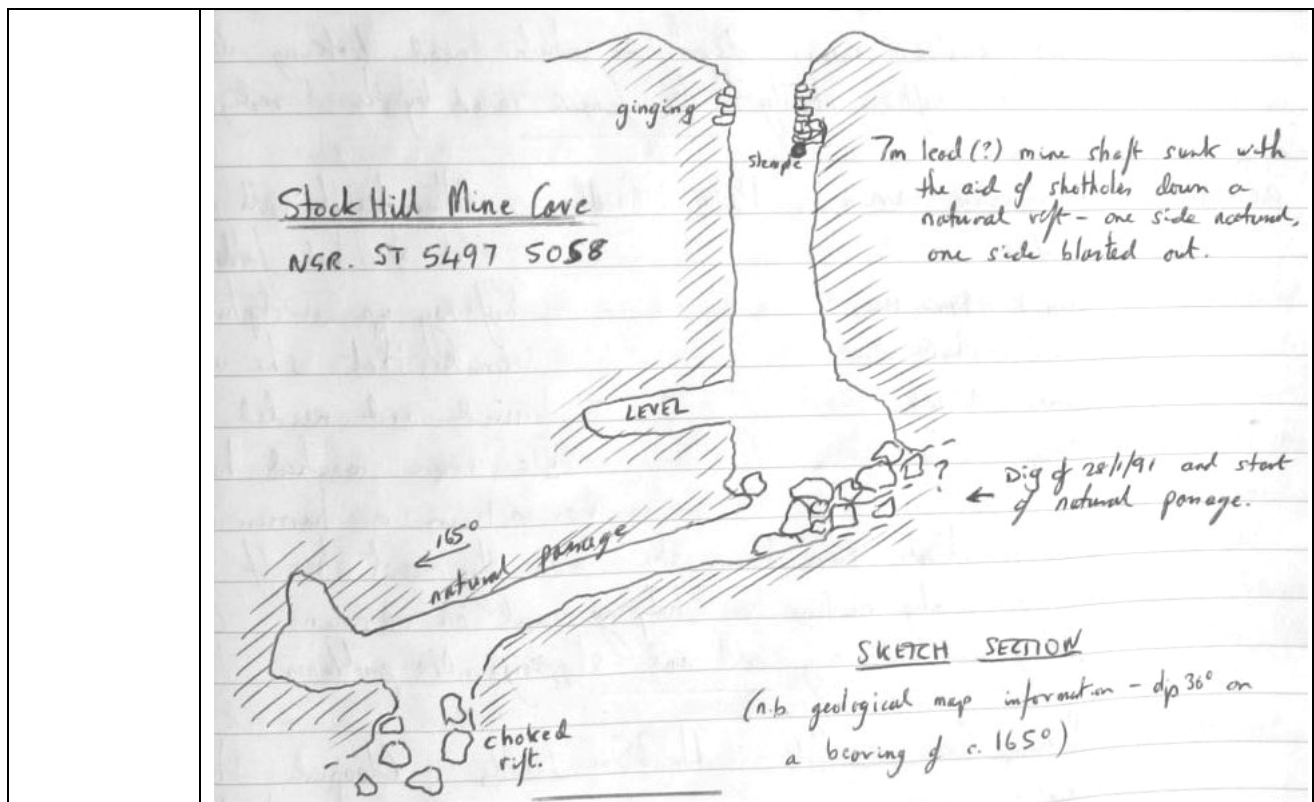
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New South Wales	<b>Sea caves</b> 10/1/91 Trebor		Bermagui	On the way back to Sydney we slept one night on the beach here where a few small and uninspiring sea caves were explored. Spent the next week festering around Sydney, sightseeing and visiting Clare, Damian and Nan Coase, Ben Nune (SSS) and Ross Ellis (SSS). A pleasant end to a great holiday (Oh yes, on the way out to Australia I was accosted by a bloke in Bombay Airport, in the middle of the night who recognised me as the “Bat Products” man!!!)
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Somerset	<b>Dallimore’s Cave</b> 21/1/91 Alone	2h 50m	Hillgrove	Those present at the Belfry were unconscious after a heavy night so I had to drag 2 sledges, 2 crowbars etc, down the cave on my own. My intention was to dig the ramp passage just beyond the annoying puddle. In the small chamber below the tight incline I noticed a tight crawl passage which I had previously not noted. Ignoring it for the time being I struggled to get three loads of stones out from the chamber. After a time (still suffering from jet lag) I decided to push the squeeze and was surprised to struggle into about 100’ of passage! A 15’ crawl leading to a larger passage, 18’ deep rift and roomy inclined ramp leading to a choke. Some bastard had beaten me to it!! (Probably Pete and Alison). Thoroughly fed up but glad I hadn’t found this obnoxious section of cave I struggled back out with all the gear. Another digging site crossed off, thank God.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 23/1/91 Pete Hellier, Vince Simmonds	1h 25m	Priddy	To Skid Row and right, into the Dipso Dig. Cleared much of the bang spoil of 26/9/90 and Vince and Pete hauled the bags back (about 20) to the largish bit at the start of Dipso. The cave was reasonably wet. The last bang had done a good job and there is still a large amount of spoil to clear from here. The way on is the usual tiny little streamway and doesn’t look over

				encouraging though the is a definite draught.
<b>Page 170</b>				
Somerset	27/1/91 On an otherwise abortive day Vince and I walked across the Mineries looking at the sites of Waldergrave Swallet, Wheel Pit, Snake Pit Hole (blocked), Associate's Pot (filled in?) and Stock Hill Swallet (filled in?). We met Bob Elliot near his house and he told us of an open mineshaft about 50' away! He lent us a lamp, helmet and ladder and his son and friend showed us the open hole. Vince went down for a look reporting it as some 30' deep and probably worth a dig. It is in limestone.			
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner</b> Swallet 28/1/91 Alone	2h 20m	Priddy	To the end of Dipso where I bagged up about 10 loads of spoil and spent some time enlarging the digging face and general area. At the face I opened up a couple of holes between limestone pillars with encouraging open space beyond. A 13oz Gelamex charge was placed between two of these pillars and fired from just downstream of the first "chamber". Very noisy! Tidied up bits of wire, rope and digging gear on the way out. A damp and quite enjoyable trip.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 28/1/91 Jake	40m	Priddy	After lunch trip to look at the shaft descended by Vince on 27 <sup>th</sup> . The shaft was measured at 7m to a rubble choke. A few minutes digging opened up a hole in the floor which I passed into 7m of sloping, phreatic tube/bedding plane with an open but boulder filled hole in the floor. This looks well worth a major digging project so permission will be sought ASAP. It is a dry and pleasant site – unlike most places we are working – and needs to be capped. A winner!
<b>Page 171</b>				
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 30/1/91 Vince, Trebor	1h 40m	Priddy	Pulled out a few twigs etc, to surface. We then spent an hour or so removing boulders and mud from the natural passage – Vince digging at the end. We left it with a very promising lead going down for some 6' or so draughting. A definite "winner". Al the spoil was temporarily stored in the short level near the shaft bottom. The passage is definitely a solutional natural tube/bedding place with possible lower development. It seems to go also "upstream". See below.



Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 31/1/91 Phil Romford	1hr	Priddy	<p>Following telephone conversations with Forestry Commission officials (who seem to look favourably on us exploring this site) I decided on a quick evening trip to confirm the potential of the dig. Phil joined me and we spent a very sticky hour shifting clay and boulders from the choke and stacking them anywhere within reach until there was little stacking space left. At this point I squeezed down into the available space to see that all ways on continued full of rocks – with a lot less of the incredibly gooey mud. This means that a major dig will be necessary here. During the digging I pulled out a 6” cube of stalagmite which would seem to be more proof of a cave existing here! It is difficult to day if the infill is purely natural or dumped mine spoil – possibly from an adjacent shaft?</p> <p>Digging gear was removed from the mine. Bob and Simon Elliot joined us on the surface and a short walk through the wood revealed various depressions which need looking at in daylight. The shaft is shortly to be fenced round by the Forestry Commission.</p>
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Somerset <i>rescue</i>	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 3/2/91 Dany, Fred Davies, Mac, Andy (?), Heather (victim), James (?), Bob Cook, Mongo	1½ hr	Priddy	<p>After lunch call-out for a girl who had fallen, lifelined, halfway up Dolphin Pot. It seemed that she was only bruised and needed a hand out. We soon reached her and she was put in a harness and hauled up the climb. From here she basically got herself out to the surface, only needing a helping hand on occasions. Entrance full of ice and very cold and slippery. No problems.</p>
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 4/2/91 Alone	1h 25m	Priddy	<p>Cleared the debris from the last bang at the end of Dipso and then laid and fired another 13oz Gelamex charge on a limestone pillar. The way on looks as unpromising as ever. Lots of spoil to be shifted. On the way out I moved several bags</p>

				to various "staging posts".
<b>Page 173</b>				
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 11/2/91 Alone	5h 20m	Red Quar	Superb ice formations in entrance area including extruded ice "flowers", 'tites and 'mites and helictites. Unfortunately more of the lower icicles were in the way of progress and were booted off! At the end I dug out some 20 loads of boulders and gravel and dragged most of it back to the "chamber" below the Acro-jacks, Hard work but the only way to do it with one person. I cleared about 10' of passage down to bedrock and the way on is now along a low bedding plane. Two slabs will need to be banged down to improve access. Good inward draught in dig and howling gale in rest of cave! Very cold if one hangs around too long. A good trip and plenty of work done ready for banging and hauling on Wednesday.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 13/2/91 Trebor, Phil Romford, Jake, Vince, Rich Blake	1h 25m	Red Quar	Wednesday night digging trip to remove the spoil from Monday and bang the end. 30 loads (!) were dragged back to "Santa's Grotto Chamber" while Jake drilled one third of a shothole at the end due to a dodgy drill bit. He then laid a 3 ¼ oz Gelamex charge at the end which was fired from the chamber. I tested the draught in the chamber with an anemometer. It seemed to read almost a metre a second. A good evening's work.
<b>Page 174</b>				
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 15/2/91 Jake	1 ¼ hrs	Red Quar	On arrival it was found that the thaw had turned a nice, dry cave into a cold, muddy streamway. We struggled on to the end to find that the last bang had done a good job. Some eight or nine loads of broken marl boulders were dragged back to the "Acros" by a cold and wet Jake. I then drilled and fired another 3 ¼ oz Gelamex charge in the large slab at the end. This should now give us plenty of working space to attack the next slabs. Water can be heard rushing away, if not falling, ahead. Strong draught. Swift exit in very damp conditions to the succour of hot coffee and whisky. Good trip.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 18/2/91 Trevor Hughes, Les Williams	4h 10m	Red Quar	Trev and I went down at lunchtime having waited 3hrs for a non-existent Jake! We spent a lot of time clearing the remains of the last successful bang and dragging it back – some to Santa's Grotto and most to the Acro Jacks. Les then arrived and dragging continued to below Santa's Grotto. About 30 loads in all were removed from the end leaving a large boulder which Trevor hammered to bits. I then went in and drilled two shotholes in large roof and floor slabs obstructing the way on. A split 3 ¼ oz Gelamex charge with two dets wired in parallel was laid and fired. The way on now looks much more promising. A low bedding on the RH side looks diggable and the stream can be seen and heard dropping down a small open rift in the floor. The next digging session will hopefully see us getting a better idea of what lies ahead. Cave damp and very cold due to the strong inward draught. Another good session.
<b>Page 175</b>				
Somerset	<b>Simond's Mine</b>	1hr	Biddlecombe	Tuesday night visit to Vince, Tav and Jake's new

	19/2/91 Jake, Rich Blake, Vince, Rob Taviner			<p>dig in a choked shaft near the end of this pleasant and relatively extensive mine level. An hour was spend hauling mud and boulders from the, by now, 10' deep shaft and stacking in the level above. Two star drills and a mason's hammer of reasonably modern date were found and later the carbide smoked letters "BEC DIG" and "N.T." proved to the lads that they were digging an abandoned site of Nigel Taylor's – probably in the early seventies. His tools and a bit of polypropylene cord were taken to the Hunter's and left in his beer mug. The surprisingly strong cord was used to tow my "courtesy car" back to Mendip Garage.</p> <p>I noticed very little sign of natural passage in this mine. It is a roomy working developed along a vertical vein and driven with the aid of two different sizes of shotholes. It's worth another few evenings digging. Long but pleasant walk down to it from Pen Hill lay by.</p>
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 20/2/91 Phil Romford, Blitz, Trebtor, Trev Hughes	2hr 5m	Red Quar	<p>So many diggers turned up this Wednesday that we split into two teams – Jake, Vince, Rich Blake, John(?) and Rose went to clear Bowery Corner and the rest of us went down Wigmore. I descended first to check the results of the last bang. The "parallel" charges had done a good job and obliterated the two slabs. Ten or so loads were skipped out to Trevor who passed them on to the others who were gradually filling up the main chamber and starting on Santa's Grotto! After a time I re-opened the small rift in the floor and suddenly found it to be a lot bigger than expected. Because of the angle I couldn't see into it properly but it seemed to be a large chamber or passage with a drop of about 5-6 feet to the floor. Much hammering and crowbarring followed until the help of Trevor was enlisted. Together we managed to break up and haul out the last couple of large boulders and I was able to squeeze down into a chamber some 10ft long by 5' wide and 4-5' high. In the floor a 4" wide rift dropped down for about 8' and took the stream. The usual strong draught is still encouraging. Trevor came down for a look and then we sprinted for the pub to gloat to the Bowery team! A nice little find – a bit disappointing "size wise" but at least it's a useful stacking space for the next onslaught. It's also a change of scenery from the bedding which we have been lying in for several years! Hopes of better things to come.</p>
<b>Page 176</b>				
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 22/2/91 Ivan Sandford, Biffo, Vince, Rich Blake	1 ½ hr	Red Quar	<p>Very wet trip. Rich and Vince went to the end where they managed to widen the rift to c 14" and got down about 4' – looking good. A possible bedding plane below should be reached after a "few shotholes" bang. All the spoil was hauled back to Santa's Grotto area where the main chamber s now full up. The "Acro Jack" area was also fully packed. A superb trip in the prevailing wet conditions. A real classic. This is going to be a damn fine cave!</p>
<b>Page 177</b>				
Somerset	Wigmore Swallet	4h 40m	Red Quar	Trev and I went down in the morning clutching



	25/2/91 Trev Hughes			the drill, bang, flask of coffee, sledgehammer and heavy pointed chisel. At the end Trevor tried to widen the rift by hand but failed. Two shotholes were then drilled into the sides of the rift, both rapidly filling with water as they were drilled. I then inserted a split 9 ¾ oz Gelamex charge using two detonators in parallel. This was fired from the Santa's Grotto area. A few loads of rocks were also pulled back to here. After coffee and fags Trevor made his way out to the surface and I went back down to the Acro Jacks to await a flood pulse created by Trev who was to open the surface dam. The pulse eventually arrived and I followed it down to the end to find no bang fumes and a reasonable job done to the rift. I spent some time chiselling the walls and digging upside down to make the rift passable, a way into the bedding plane below being gradually engineered. This bedding plane was entered for a body length but is choked with gravel and boulders and will need paint tins for clearing. By now I was cold and wet and had had enough. I retreated to the surface pausing for coffee and a fag at Santa's Grotto en route. It will need a couple of digging trips before we get an idea of how passable is the way on.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 27/2/91 Trebtor, Biffo, Blitz, Vince, Jake, Tony Boycott	1h 40m	Red Quar	Damp. About 30 skip loads were removed from the terminal chamber to the main chamber. The bedding passage was found by Jake to be too awkward to dig so another bang is needed. Most of the "main chamber"/Santa's Grotto area is now full up and our next storage space will be what is left of the Smoke Room. Tidied up various bits of passage on the way out.
<b>Page 178</b>				
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 1/3/91 Jake	1h 50m	Red Quar	Friday evening trip to avoid "Karaoke Night" at the Wells Way Inn. Drilled two shotholes at the end and fired a split 3 ¼ oz Gelamex charge using two dets wired in parallel. We then surveyed back down to the dig to find it relatively free of fumes. Not a great deal of damage done but a lot will come off with chiselling. A few bags were removed to the "main chamber". Digging is still awkward at the end but another great session will make it easier.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 3/3/91 Alone	2 ½ hr	Red Quar	To the terminal chamber – now known as "Baghdad" due to the use of high explosives to "soften it up". I dug in the bedding plane below the rift and pulled out about twenty paint tin loads of gravel and various assorted boulders. I eventually ran out of sacks and will all available tins full up I packed it in. There was a very strong inward draught and I rapidly got very cold in the damp conditions. The floor of the bedding is now relatively easy to dig and will prove to be nice and roomy. The way on is not obvious but is more likely as not along the bedding plane, down dip though there seems to be some development to the RH side – probably just the edges of the bedding plane. Roof, wall and floor slabs are easily prised off. This has to be one of the most promising digs on Mendip at present. One load dragged back to the Acro Jacks.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b>	1h 40m	Red Quar	Expecting very wet conditions we dressed

	5/3/91 Trevor Hughes, Mark Lumley			appropriately. There was a small stream but not as much as expected. Gonzo and I went to the end and hauled the bags up from Baghdad into the passage above. We then carried on digging in the lower bedding plane – Trevor turning up on cue with another load of digging bags. Despite the wet and cramped digging conditions I managed to empty the bedding plane of spoil. There is no obvious main way on. To the right there is a 2” high bedding plane some 4-5 feet deep which takes the stream and is wider upstream. Straight ahead the main bedding is choked. Digging and blasting will be necessary to make this accessible. Trevor has started a new tradition – everyone has to take a large rock from Santa’s Grotto back out to the pitches below Hesitation Chamber. Gonzo overdid it and took a bag of spoil from the end to the entrance!
<b>Pages 179 and 180</b>				
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 6/3/91 Jake, Vince, Biffo, Blitz, Trebor, Gary Jago, Andy Smith, Chris Castle.	1h 50m	Red Quar	A large and enthusiastic team with the main aim of spoil hauling back to the pitches below Hesitation Chamber and clearing some of the Santa’s Grotto area. Vince, Jake, Andy and I dug and hauled from the end to, eventually, Santa’s Grotto. We shifted about 25 loads and the others, after re-arranging the skip way, got some 15 loads back to the pitches. At the bottom two holes were drilled in loose roof slabs and a split 3 ¼ oz Gelamex charge using 1 det and Cordtex was fired. Another good Wednesday night’s bash.
Derbyshire	<b>Doe Lea Colliery</b> 8/3/91 Trev Hughes, Jack Kay and 3 colliers	1h 20m	Doe Lea, Bolsover	Trevor drove me up to this private drift mine to purchase some Oldham lamps and spares from Derek Brown, one of the officials and a mate of Paul Deakin. As we were there we asked if there was a chance of an underground visit and were very pleasantly surprised when Ken, the under manager said “yes”! We joined Jack and the lads of the afternoon shift and headed off down the inclined drift, with its single set of tub rails. After about 300’ the face workers turned off to the left leaving us to follow Jack down to the loader at the bottom of the incline where two or three men were filling tubs from a conveyor belt. We then followed the belt along the lowest road and then up a raise with another conveyor belt in – a new roof fall about midway lying on the belt. The heading where the lads were working was then followed to the face where the three colliers were drilling a round of 16 x 4’ deep shotholes in the 6’ high coal face and packing them each with 4 sticks of explosive (about 26 ozs) already loaded with detonators (piles of bang lay in heaps all over this mine – strictly illegal!) After the holes were stemmed using clay and a broomstick, we all headed about 80’ or so up the heading to hide in a side gallery. The charges were fired in three separate rounds so as to throw out the coal towards the conveyor belt. Between each bang a couple of the lads ignored the fumes and went back to inspect the results. Following the third bang we waited for a few minutes and then staggered through the dense fumes to the now highly smashed up coal face. We then bade

				farewell to the lads and Jack took us to a muddy raise leading to the drift. We thanked him for the trip and made our own way out up the steeply ascending passage to the surface. The coal produced is a good steam coal and amongst other customers is British Rail who use it to fuel the Flying Scotsman. A good crowd of blokes work here some 15 in all. Their current favourite song would seem to be "Wild Thing". A superb trip of great, almost historical, interest. The mine is one of the few still worked by pillar and stall methods due to it lying mostly below a slip road of the M1 ! Much coal is left in leaving the pillars but they hope soon to be working the remaining seams of an adjacent abandoned colliery. And excellent day, Duck!
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Devon	<b>Rocky Acres Hole</b> 11/3/91 Graham Johnson	1 ¾ hr	Kingsteignton	Pleasant drive down to the dig via Taunton, the Exmoor Brewery at Wiveliscombe and the Old Rydon Mill pub. When we eventually arrived at the face we used John Jones's CP9 drill to put in four shotholes – one on the LH wall, two in a ledge on the RH wall and the fourth in a boulder in the floor. 13 ozs of Gelamex was then shared around the holes and all were connected to a No8 det. with four lengths of Pentaflex. The lot was fired successfully from near the entrance, using a Zoom battery. Nice sounding bang. This site now looks really promising – the two Peters and Co. having cleared most of the rubble and packed/cemented up the sides of the rift on scaffold bars. Some 4' below the level of my last visit there is a bedding plane – open on the LH side and floored with damp, red cave earth. There is a reasonable airspace and I suspect that one or two trips will see the lads into open cave. Good inward draught. Bought a small hand winch for a fiver from John Jones. Another good day out.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 13/3/91 Trebtor, Gary Jago, Andy Smith, Trev Hughes, Vince, Stu Laine	1h 55m	Red Quar	I dug flood spoil and bang debris from the end while the others hauled it back as far as possible. By removing the roof slabs on the RH side I was able to make some 4' of progress into a parallel bedding/rift which will need considerable hammer and chisel work to make passable. The surface dam was plugged which made the cave almost totally dry but Trevor, as is his style, opened it up as we approached the surface. At least the flood pulse washed off some of the crap! It looks like we have another session of hard work to do before we get anywhere.

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Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 17/3/91 Trevor Hughes	2h 20m	Red Quar	Trevor was excited about prospects here, having cleared loads of rock from the bedding plane the previous day. On this trip we broke up and removed a large roof slab and many more assorted rocks and tins of gravel to reveal a c 5' wide by 1' high bedding continuing along the general trend of the cave and partly blocked by large roof slabs all typical Wigmore stuff. Got fed up after a couple of hours and left the dig for the Wednesday team. A few rocks were taken from Santa's Grotto area to the "climbs spoil
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				dump". Santa's Grotto formations were taped off.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 18/3/91 Jim Smart, Max Midlen (WCC)	2hrs	Red Quar	I dug at the end while the others hauled several sledge loads of rock and gravel back to the "Acro Jacks". I dragged out and broke up a large slab and after a lot of awkward digging I decided to bang a large roof slab which was blocking the way on. A single shothole was drilled and 3 ¼ oz Gelamex inserted. This was fired using a single No8 det and a short length of cord. The cave was damp and draughting well. About 6' of progress made. The way on ahead is a very low and gravel filled bedding plane but a hole on the RH side may also be worth digging out as it draughts and seems to widen out. The large roof span here could give cause for worry but it can always be propped up if necessary. Out in time for a couple of lunchtime pints and to avoid the abominable afternoon weather conditions. Good little trip.

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Somerset	<b>Gough's Cave</b> 19/3/91 Chris Castle	5m	Cheddar	While passing through Cheddar I spied Chris Castle and stopped for a natter. He kindly took me into Goughs to see the flood waters from the downpour of the previous day or two. Skeleton Pit (complete with its new plastic skeleton) was flooded to about 12' above normal. Some 40' or so into the cave a placid lake had formed stretching into the distance. Lovely. The resurgence, and that at Wookey Hole, were pushing out thousands of gallons of red/brown floodwater. Let's hope it has cleaned up Wigmore!
	(On 20/3/91 Trebor, Trev Hughes, Gary Jago, Andy Smith and Tony Boycott cleared 28 loads from Santa's Grotto to the climbs – in Wigmore Swallet)			
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 24/3/91 Trebor, Biffo, Vince	2h 20m	Red Quar	Clearing trip following the last bang which had totally destroyed the roof slab. Several rocks and some 15 or so bags of gravel and debris were removed and stacked in Baghdad and Blitz Passage. The way on is a low bedding with a deep mud and gravel floor and will be relatively easy digging when water conditions are a bit lower. Draughting strongly and the sound of running or falling water can again be heard ahead. Looks good. On the way out, pushing the traditional boulder, I succeeded in dropping it on my left thumb. A sore exit after another useful trip.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 26/3/91 Gonzo	1h 50m	Red Quar	Gonzo dug at the bitter end while I filled and stacked the bags in Baghdad. Over ten bags filled. I also split up several boulders and added the remains to the heap which is ready to be removed tomorrow. Usual strong draught.

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Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 27/3/91 Vince, Trebor, Andy Smith, Biffo, Pete Hellier, Tony Boycott, Simon Taylor	1h 50m	Red Quar	Most of the spoil in Baghdad was cleared out to Santa's Grotto area. I had a brief dig at the end and removed a few rocks. Lots of spoil needs moving from Santa's Grotto – preferably to the surface. A good night's work.
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> <b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 28/3/91	5 m 2 ¼ hr	Priddy Red Quar	Nipped down to get digging bags.  Trevor dug in the tight bedding plane at the end while I bagged the spoil and broke up rocks in

	Trevor Hughes			<p>Baghdad. Trevor had a hard job, much of the spoil being porridge like gravelly mud. Eventually, he had enough and I spent a short time digging at the end and dragging back a few slabs. The way on is low and miserable and will take some hard and uncomfortable digging to pass. A couple of large roof slabs above the bedding may need to be blasted. A good flood should improve matters here. A few rocks were dragged out to the climbs.</p>
Devon	<b>Rocky Acres Cave</b> 31/3/91 Vince, Phil Romford, Keith Savory	1 ½ hr	Kingsteignton	<p>Down to Devon for the remainder of the Easter holidays. Set up camp in the Rocky Acres scrap yard – surprisingly pleasant! On the first trip down Vince drilled holes in a slab blocking the way on and Keith laid and fired a Powergel charge. Phil and I meanwhile cleared loads of boulders left over from the last bang of mine – which was obviously very effective. After a break to let the fumes clear we went down again and Vince shifted some debris before drilling another shothole in a rock rib blocking the way on and supporting heaps of loose rock. I then laid a 3 ¼ oz Gelamex charge which was fired on the way out. Various bits of debris were transported out of the cave. We then joined Nick Williams and the girls at the Rydon pub for a Hoo Norton session. Superb.</p>
<b>Page 185</b>				
Devon	<b>Rocky Acres Cave</b> 1/4/91 Vince, Keith	2h 10m	Kingsteignton	<p>(Incidentally the dig is now called CAVE and not HOLE due to its being published as such in the latest “Caves of Devon”) We went down to see the results of yesterdays bang and found it to have done a good job. Many buckets of spoil and a few large rocks were hoisted out and most of this was stacked in the rift above the dig. A large loose boulder and a wedge shaped flake then blocked the way on so Vince drilled shotholes in both of these and I placed a 6 ½ oz split Gelamex charge which was effectively fired. After a fag and tinned beer break on the surface we returned to find the rocks completely demolished. Heaps of gravel, small rocks and a few boulders were hauled out and temporarily stacked on the floor of the rift while we dug onwards towards open black spaces ahead. After an hour we had cleared enough to enable me to get my head into some 4’ of open, mud floored tube which will need lots of digging to make passable. This site looks very promising now so it is up to the locals to dig like buggery and clear the vast amount of spoil which we have left for them. An excellent couple of days work with about 10’ of progress made.</p>
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 3/4/91 Biffo, Rachel Gregory, Trebor, John Riley (EMI), Dave Pullen (EMI), Stu Laine, Vince, Andy Smith, Tony Boycott	1h 40m	Red Quar	<p>A very good turn out and lots of work done. Vince drilled two holes in the slabs at the end while the rest of us hauled loads back to the Santa’s Grotto area and several boulders as far back as Hesitation Chamber. When Vince had completed his very awkward task I squeezed into the terminal low bedding plane and after a lot of acrobatics succeeded in laying a split 6 ½ oz Gelamex charge in the two slabs. This was later fired from the Acro Jacks and sounded effective. In all some 40 loads were shifted from Baghdad, Blitz Passage and the Acro Jacks, A good</p>

				evenings digging followed by a shower on the entrance pitch where Biffo, as usual, let the dam out!
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Somerset	<b>Goatchurch Cavern</b> 4/4/91 Rich West, Prew, Dany, Fred Davies, Tim Large, (Jim Hanwell, Brenda Prewer)(MRO) 2 Policemen, Jane (?), Photographer	10m	Burrington	Public relations job. A Bristol based Chief Inspector wanted an MRO photo for his P.R. magazine so met us in Burrington with a police officer model, a photographer and an office girl – who ended up as victim. Several photos were taken in the main entrance to the cave to demonstrate stretcher carrying before we all retired to the Burrington Café for a couple of pints.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 5/4/91 Jake, (Trev Hughes)	2h 10m	Red Quar	Friday afternoon trip. Cut off most of the streamway again using the football. Jake and I took a turn each at clearing the small amount of diggable bang debris at the end. Due to the loss of the small chisel we were unable to bring down much of the shattered slabs so there is plenty of work still to be done here – by one, two or three diggers. We then dragged about eight loads back to the Acro Jacks and using hammer and long drill bit we managed to enlarge the hole here to enable us to bring through a 5' length of steel ladder which we had brought down. This is destined for the drop into Baghdad. Cave cold, damp and miserable but a useful bit of work was done. A couple of rocks were brought out as far as Hesitation Chamber. At the entrance we were greeted by Trevor who kindly removed the football enabling us to have a cold shower on the pitch!
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Somerset	7/4/91 Saturday afternoon:- Joined the mob of Hunter's regulars, led by Tuska, Mr. N and Biffo, who were digging in the field opposite Mendip Garage. Digging, that is, using a Hymac to excavate a shakehole to over 30' depth! There being no sign of rock they moved the Hymac to a spot where Walt Foxwell had once filled in a hole with cow shit and sunk a 20'+ deep hole until a fortuitous rift was encountered. Pipes were installed and the hole backfilled to leave an inconspicuous lidded shaft. Once it settles and the bottom concrete layer dries the real diggers will be allowed in to continue the job. A bloody fantastic (and expensive) bit of work!			
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 8/4/91 Alone	2h 5m	Red Quar	Took the 5' steel ladder from the Acro Jacks to Baghdad. I then spent the rest of the trip chiselling the roof slabs at the end and removing about half a dozen skip loads worth back to the end of Blitz Passage (just above Baghdad). A couple of rocks were dragged back to the Acros and another couple taken from Santa's Grotto to Hesitation Chamber. The cave was again draughting strongly inwards. Hard work but worthwhile. Probably needs a bang at the end to save time.
Somerset	<b>Ridge Lane Swallet</b> 9/4/91 (Vince), Tav	¼ hr	Ridge	Tav bailed out loads of water from the shaft bottom before I drilled and fired a 6 ½ oz Gelamex charge on a large boulder.
<b>Page 188</b>				
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 10/4/91 Biffo, Andy, Garry, John Riley II, Blitz	1h 40m	Red Quar	Low water conditions. I went to the end and did a bit of cursory chiselling before laying a 6 ½ oz Gelamex charge between two lumps of the right hand roof slab. In the meantime the others removed about ten loads from Baghdad and the Acro Jacks to Santa's Grotto. Some 25 loads were then dragged from the Grotto to the top of the spoil bank at the head of the first of the two

				climbs below Hesitation Chamber. These climbs need the attention of a geologist!
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 15/4/91 Dave Yeandle, Chris Castle	3 ¾ hrs	Red Quar	On the way down we cleared three loads of rocks from the Acro Jacks and got a few bags and rocks up from Baghdad. I then went to the end to find that the last bang had done a good job and smashed up the offending slab. This was then sent back in lumps and skip loads via Chris to Dave in Baghdad. I continued digging and rock removing and in a couple of hours had made over 10 feet of progress along a bedding plane to a slightly wider part where, on the RH side, an open rift was found down which stones fell for about 4-5 feet. Chris and Dave left to have their lunch and I carried on dragging out large rocks from the end. I was unable to clear enough to get a good view of the rift but it would seem to need drilling and blasting to make it wide enough to descend. Heaps of boulders will need shifting to make access easier and this will be done on Wednesday night. A very successful days work with good hopes for another breakthrough soon. Cave almost dry.

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	15/4/91 Had a look at the new cave entrance in the bottom of the valley opposite the Mendip Garage. The second of Dave "Tusker" Morrison's "Hymac discoveries" it consists of a well decorated phreatic alcove/passage which was opened up at a depth of about 25'. Other decorated bits of passage exist nearby. This one looks like a real "goer" and is going to be very popular with the "Hunters Lodge Digging Team"! Several photos were taken (Hymac Hole)			
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 17/4/91 Gary, Andy, Trebor, Roz Bateman	2 ¾ hr	Red Quar	I went down ahead of the others and took a new skip to the end. I then started breaking up the large slabs blocking the rift. When the rest of the team arrived we commenced hauling rocks from the end and moved at least ten heavy loads giving us working space at the head of the rift. This can now be seen to be at least 15' long by 5' deep by about 4" wide. Blasting was not resorted to as it may be possible to chisel away the sides of the rift at one point where a cross joint has created a fractured area. A lot of good work done on this trip but the whole cave is now getting clogged up with tons of spoil!
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 17/4/91 Richard Whittington (victim) and John (MCG) Dany, Mac, Jim Smart, Graham Johnson, (Rich West, Prew)	50 m	Priddy	Following the Wigmore trip I boozed, went home, showered and got into a warm bed. Then the phone went and within half an hour I was back underground! The victim, Richard, had entered the top eyehole at the far end of the traverse head first and become firmly wedged – unable to go forward or back. I went down with a Stanley knife to cut his belt but on arrival found that his mate, John had already removed the belt. I got behind him and, while talking him into relaxing, pulled on the rope attached to his ankles while John pushed him up by the shoulders. In this way we moved him an inch or so. The others then arrived and using the same techniques he was moved sideways and downwards to be safely spat out into the Traverse. After a short rest he exited under his own steam feeling a bit sore and lightheaded but extremely grateful. This was another lucky rescue which could so easily have ended up with a fatality.

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Somerset <i>discovery</i>	<b>Tusker's Folly</b> Alone 19/4/91	½ hr	Priddy	Someone was needed to clear the bang debris from this new site of Tusker's. Having a couple of spare hours I went over and did the job. A couple of open ways on were then easily accessible so I naturally went in for a look. The main rift leading down was choked at about 15'. To both sides of it there is open passage. One of these was gained by squeezing in the RH passage just below the entrance where an c.8' square chamber was entered with a passable passage going on, for at least 15'. This I left unentered despite the temptation which was to prove a good move as I was later (jokingly?) accused of dig pirating in the pub. The cave is very sharp due to solutional features and fossils and has lots of eroded formations. It has the feel of being the start of something big.
Somerset	21/4/91 Spent the afternoon at Tusker's Folly where we ginged up 15' or so of the entrance using rough concrete slabs which had been tipped near the depression. Meanwhile, Dave Gibbons continued infilling the depression. By the end of the day it was all just about up to surface level. A large crowd of assistants were present including BGC, WCC, ACG, OUCC, SMCC, NHASA etc etc. Hymac Hole was also being dug at the same time. Both sites looking good – Pete Hann and Vince Simmonds having each pushed on a bit further in Tusker's Folly – now with about 80' of passage. Looking good.			
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Somerset	<b>Hymac Hole</b> 24/4/91 Pete Hellier	¼ hr	Priddy	After having recovered from a badly strained back caused by lifting slabs on Sunday, I decided I was up to banging a couple of slabs blocking the way on in this dig. Pete joined me and he went down first with the wire and moved a few smaller rocks which were in the way. I then went down and laid a split 6 ½ oz Gelamex charge on a large slab and the LH wall. On surfacing I was accosted by Nigel Taylor who accused me of poaching "his" dig and then went off in a huff. Nonplussed I fired the charge with a satisfying crack. The dig is in a reasonably roomy descending rift and despite the lack of an obvious draught seems quite promising. It is a bit sticky but at least the mud makes bloody good tamp.
SCOTLAND Sutherland <i>Dive</i>  <i>Discovery.....</i>	<b>Waterfall Rising</b> <b>Traligill Rising</b> <b>Uamh à Bhrisdeadh-Duile</b> <b>Tree Hole</b> <b>Lower Traligill Cave</b> <b>Cnoc nan Uamh System</b> 28/4/91 Tav, Vince, Jake, Pete Rose, Pete Dowswell, Brian Johnson	10m 10m 15m 20m 20m 45m	Inchnadamph	Tony Boycott and Pete Glanville went to Firehose and Brian Johnson and Pete Dowswell dived in Lower Traligill. I went straight to Waterfall Rising and after practicing with my new demand valve in the river I had a go at digging in the sump. Tav, Vince and Jake arrived, followed by Pete Rose and they assisted. Because of the extreme cold we soon called a halt and all headed off up the valley looking at various sites. Traligill Rising was explored as far as the sump. It is a typical thrust plane passage with a few small straws. Our next stop was Uamh à Bhrisdeadh-Duile which we had to dig into. The sound of the river was very obvious at the end but a lot of banging would be necessary to reach it. Tree Hole was visited next and while the others went upstream I headed downstream to a flat out squeeze which I managed with difficulty to pass. Beyond was a hundred foot or so of big passage with the stream flowing at the bottom and ending in a narrow rift with a possibly sump into which I got my boots. Running parallel to the cliff there is a possibility of opening a second entrance to this section. On



				<p>later reading up on the cave I found there was no mention of this passage so it could be a new find! I then had a look at the attractive upstream section to where it ended in a sump. On to Lower Traligill Cave where we helped Pete and Brian out with their bottles – Brian having pushed the sump a further 20' but not going further due to problems with meandering passage and no lead weights to tie off the line. Vince, Jake, Tav and I then went on to Cnoc nan Uamh and after visiting the static sump at the end we did the usual wet through trip and down the Waterslide – everyone suitably impressed. Back down to Waterfall Rising where Jake and I continued digging using DV, snorkel etc. We eventually removed enough rubble to leave open sump going on – tight but possibly passable – a job for the real cave divers. Tav and Vince donned the diving kit and went in for a look. Very strong water flow made diving interesting. Bloody cold. Leaving Tav, Vince and Jake for finish the day off with a Firehose trip I departed for the car. An excellent day's caving.</p>
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SCOTLAND Sutherland	<b>Ach à Chorrain Caves</b> <b>Smoo Cave</b> 1) 29/4/91 2) 29-30/4/91 1) Tony B, Vince, Tav, Jake, Julian Walford, Pete Rose 2) Pete Mullholland, Pete Glanville, Pete Cox, Brian Johnson	50m  8 hrs	Ach à Chorrain Durness	<p>After a scenic ride up from Lochinver and a couple of pints at the Rhiconich Hotel we spent the afternoon investigating lots of potential sites at Ach à Chorrain. In the left hand valley the wet sink No.6 on the RH side (facing upstream) was entered in a flat out crawl/duck for 15' to where it became too tight. A rift cave just below it was chiselled to allow access and I squeezed in for 15' to where it became too tight – a tiny rock tube leading on – No.9. Immediately opposite this a dig was started in a rift but this immediately became too narrow (no number). Just above this, again in the LH side facing upstream was a double entrance (No.5) "The Nostrils" with the sound of a stream noted last year. Tony Boycott pushed this along a small but attractive streamway for 30' to a standing sized aven. Just beyond this the low stream passage continued for some 10' until too tight and partially gravel choked. Next door to this Tav dug out another entrance (No.7) which led to 5' of low passage and a right angled bend to ten foot of passage running upstream, parallel with the valley before becoming too tight. A window led out to the valley. The stream from this cave entered No.5. Opposite this cave on the RH bank yet another dig (No.8) led to 10' of tight rift to a small chamber. Another dig at the bottom of the LH valley on the LH side (looking upstream) was started but soon collapsed. This could be the continuation of No.1 straight into the hill and would be worth pursuing. In No.1 I pushed the squeeze at the end into 15' of low streamway which I later found I had already pushed some years ago! This seems to be under the LH valley. A long way upstream in the RH valley Jake found a low stream sink which we entered with difficulty for some 20' before becoming too tight. Tav and I could not push this further and I had to be helped out by Vince. This could be</p>
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				Uamh as Eugmais Crioich but I doubt if it was ever pushed for 200'! Adjacent to this entrance another dig led to 15' of passage to a small, peat filled chamber. All then went to Smoo Cave where Brian and Julian abseiled through. After a session in the Smoo Cave Hotel and Sango Bay Oasis (with Colin Coventry) most of us bivouaced in the cave. Cold but dry and not too unpleasant.
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SCOTLAND Sutherland <i>discovery</i>	<b>Tree Hole</b> 30/4/91 Julian Walford, Tony Boycott	2h 25m	Inchnadamph	While most of the team went off to dive in Cnoc nan Uamh I returned to Tree Hole and enlarged the squeeze in the streamway with a hammer and chisel. I then explored the extension more thoroughly than on my first visit and pushed beyond the end for 15' or so to a definite sump containing a few loose boulders but probably diveable. Above this is a loose boulder choke with big black spaces visible. It would be a dodgy site to dig and may have to be banged and left to stabilise. The large main stream inlet waterfall – a superb feature – was then looked at. Rock flakes could be broken off to gain access to the stream but this would spoil it so a roof tube nearby was dug in the hope of getting above the waterfall. After chiselling off some 4' of sandstone-like rock I got my head in the tube to see that it closed down after about 5' but may be worth entering and digging. I then went out for a fag and met Tony and Julian. We then surveyed the whole cave to Grade 4 – the total amount of new passage being 40m. Not bad for a start to the week. (Meanwhile, in Cnockers, Brian had got 35m into the downstream sump before calling it a day due to equipment problems etc).
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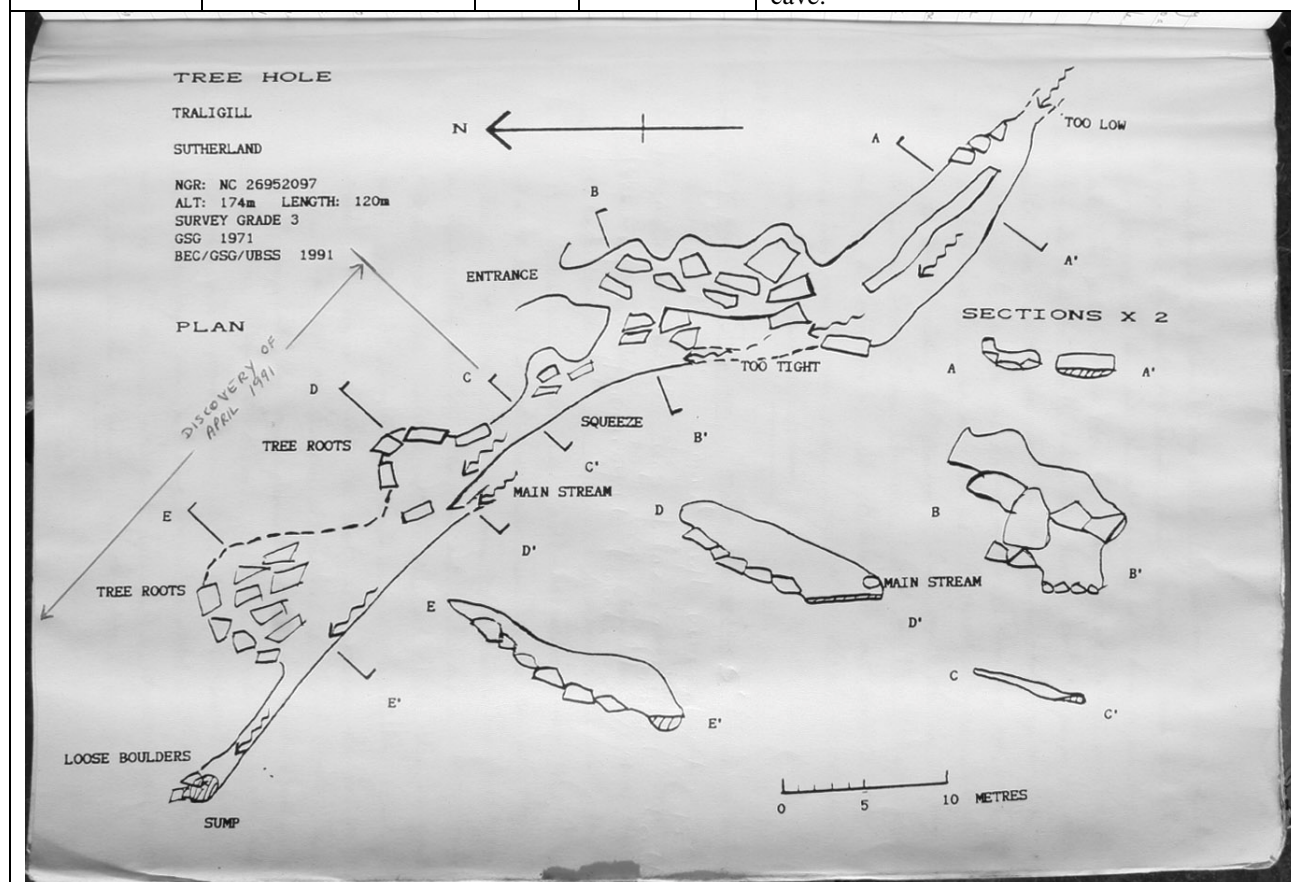
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SCOTLAND Sutherland	<b>Otter Hole</b> <b>Allt nan Uamh</b> <b>Stream Cave</b> 1/5/91 1) Tony Boycott, Julian Walford 2) Tony Boycott, Julian Walford, Tav, Pete Cox, Pete Mullholland, Pete Glanvile, Vince Simmonds	1h 10m 2h 40m	Inchnadamph	Three of us went to Otter with intentions of banging the loose boulders in the extension. I had lots of route finding problems having – perhaps luckily – forgotten most of the cave. On reaching the end it was fairly obvious that it was far too loose to bang and, despite the draught, not over promising. A low duck with a siphon tube near the end was not pushed due to its unpleasantness. Not a nice cave and well worth giving a miss in future. Recovered several tools left in there years ago. Met Tav, Jake and Vince at the entrance and walked back down to the cars before going to the Inch for lunch. In the afternoon we staggered back up the hill carrying bottles for the divers. In Allt nan Uamh we let Pete M and Pete G get on with diving the upstream sump while I gave Tony a quick tourist trip. We also went to Second Stream Chamber to assess the site for banging. Julian and the rest headed off down to his dig and Tony and I returned to the upstream sump entrance at The Pit. Here we found that Pete M had suffered from a burst high pressure hose and couldn't dive. He then accompanied me on another tourist trip while Tony waited for Pete G. Tony and I then went into Julian's dig and, leaving Tony at the
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				<p>"Wallows" I carried on to the end. A superbly impressive bit of digging in atrociously shitty passage. Our next job was to bang the sink in Second Stream Chamber. I laid a 19 ½ oz Gelamex charge with 3m of Cordtex in a tight rift below the final cascade. Fired successfully from the main passage. Left all the kit at the entrance ready for a digging trip tomorrow.</p>
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<p>SCOTLAND Sutherland</p>	<p><b>Allt nan Uamh Stream Cave</b> 2/5/91 Pete Glanville, Pete Mullholland, Brian Johnson, Vince, Tav, Jake, Pete Rose, Julian, Tony Boycott</p>	<p>5h 50m</p>	<p>Inchnadamph</p>	<p>Big diving and digging trip. PG, PM and BJ dived the upstream sump and BJ dived the upstream sump and BJ pushed the passage running south from Sotanito Chamber to what seems to be a few feet from the surface. They also surveyed this extension. JW, TB and I looked at various dig sites in Breakdown Cavern and then settled on the active sand and cobble dig in Parallel Crawl. A second skip was installed most of the rest of the day was spent here gaining 3-4 metres of progress in a reasonably sized crawl. There was no draught to start with but one developed as we dug. The spoil was dumped at the end of Oxford Street. This is an excellent, dry and pleasant dig with good chances of reaching the divers' extensions. Jake, Tav and Vince also dug at various sites without success. Pete Rose took several photos around the large passages using me as a model. A good Day's work by all concerned with great hopes for a dry way into ANUS II and III either via the surface or the old cave.</p>
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<p>SCOTLAND Sutherland</p>	<p>3/5/91 Tony Boycott, Julian Walford and I went up Traligill valley in heavy drizzle. I dug for an hour at the site above Tree Hole where the underground river could be heard. The dig soon became wet and is a longer term job than we had time for. It needs a hot weekend and a few keen diggers to</p>
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	push this one. Tony and Julian did a surface survey from Lower Traligill Flood Sink to Uamh à Bhreisdeadh-Duile taking in Tree Hole etc en route.			
SCOTLAND Sutherland	<b>Allt nan Uamh Stream Cave Nutter's Rift Waterfall Cave</b> 4/5/91 1) Adam Rope, Pete Rose, Pete Glanville, Julian Walford, Tony Boycott, Pete Reynolds, Alan Jeffreys, Pete Mullholland 2) Alone 3) Goon	1h 35m  1h 5m	Inchnadamph	Pete M dived in the upstream sump in ANUS to check the survey. He actually resurveyed the whole sump! Meanwhile Pete Reynolds, Pete Rose, Julian, Adam, Goon and I dug another couple of metres out of Parallel Crawl dig. A quick visit to the Waterfall Cave dig was made to leave a skip and shovel. Then over to Claonaite where everyone except me went on a tourist trip. I spent an hour or so digging in Nutters Rift and after throwing out heaps of boulders I reached a solid rift with limestone flakes across. I laid a 19 ½ oz Gelamex charge between the flakes and when the lads came out of Claonaite I fire it with fairly spectacular results – bits of rock shooting 30' into the air. A good day's work by all involved. Another great caving holiday in Assynt.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 8/5/91 Jake, Pete Hellier, John Riley II, Tony Boycott, Trev Hughes, Andy Smith	2 hrs	Red Quar	Several loads of rock and mud removed from above the terminal rift. A 6 ½ oz Gelamex charge was laid on a wedge shaped slab in the rift and fired from the Acros. The way on seems to be along a low bedding plane above this rift. Cave very dry.
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Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 10/5/91 Jake	1h 50m	Red Quar	In the morning I did some landscaping at Bowery Corner Swallet where a large amount of fine silt was dug out from behind the dam. After a lunchtime session Jake and I headed for Wigmore, pausing en route to inspect the still unfenced Stock Hill Mine Cave. In Wigmore we dug out a heap of smashed rocks from the well demolished slab blown up on Wednesday. After clearing about a ¼ of the slab it was decide to bang the far end of the rock in the hope that it will enable us to get down into the hopefully open rift below. A view along the rift ahead looks good – clean washed and strongly draughting. Fired a 6 ½ oz Gelamex charge from the Acros, before heading for the sunshine and a fag.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 13/5/91 1) Alone 2) Jake	2 ½ hr	Red Quar	A.M. Jane and I cycled over to Wigmore. I went down to the end and laid a 3 ¼ oz Gelamex charge in the shothole drilled into an offending boulder by Jake and Vince the previous day. Fired from the Acros. We then cycled to the Hunter's for lunch. P.M. Jake and I went to the end and removed about three square feet of rock from the partially demolished boulder. Despite a lot of hammering we were unable to get past the remains of the slab into the open rift/bedding passage visible below. A 12 ¾ oz Gelamex charge was laid on the slab and again fire from the Acros. A few loads of spoil were dragged back at various places. I free climbed the entrance shaft to the surface. A useful day's work. (Debris cleared by Jake, Tav and Vince on 14/5/91)
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 15/5/91 Alone	2h 25m	Priddy	Took the afternoon off with the intention of doing Eastwater but the trip failed to materialise. Went down Bowery instead and filled a dozen or so bags with spoil at the end of Dipso. There is a

				great heap of stuff here ready for removal to the surface. With nowhere here accessible to bang I then went to the very end of Skid Row and after drilling a couple of shotholes in the LH wall I laid a split 3 ¼ oz Gelamex charge. After wasting a lot of time trying to untangle my reel-less bang wire I eventually fired the charge from near the “chamber”. It was not as loud as expected so it’s possible that only the detonator fired. Cave fairly clean following the winter floods.
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Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 15/5/91 Jake, Biffo, Andy, Tony Boycott, Dave Yeandle, Rich Blake, Phil Romford	1h 20m	Red Quar	While the rest dragged some 35 loads back from the end, Baghdad etc, Trevor and I erected the shear legs and hauled 29 bags and rocks from Hesitation Chamber to the surface. Lots of good work done throughout the cave.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 17/5/91 Jake, Rich Blake, Snablet	1.05m	Red Quar	Jake and Rich went down early to clear spoil back from Santa’s Grotto. Snablet and I got there as they reached the climbs below Hesitation Chamber. A large amount of rocks and three bags was then hauled halfway up the climbs. We then hauled a load of stuff from Hesitation Chamber to the entrance and finally 25 loads were hauled to the surface.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 20/5/91 1) Rich Blake 2) Rich Blake, Jake	4h 55m	Red Quar	In the morning Rich and I took down the drill and two batteries and I placed four shotholes in the floor and loose slabs at the end. I then placed a 9 ¾ oz Gelamex charge using four lengths of cordtex and fired it from Baghdad. Loud and effective. Much of the spoil in Baghdad was dragged as far as the Acros before we went back for a look at the end. The bang had demolished the two slabs and loosened up the floor section enabling us to dig out enough to gain some 6’ of progress. We then left for lunch at the Hunters. In the afternoon lots of spoil was dragged back from various stations and I drilled two more holes in the floor at the end and fired 3 ¼ oz Gelamex in a split charge. Retired from the cave cold, muddy and miserable. A good day’s work. It was also noticed that a bird’s nest halfway down the entrance shaft now contained three eggs. This morning it had two and on Saturday only one. The resident bird was spotted leaving the shaft through the scaffold bars.

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Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 22/5/91 Jake, Rich Blake, Andy Smith, Gary Jago, Biffo	2h 10m	Red Quar	Garry and I went to the end and removed part of the shattered remains of the ledge banged on Monday. There seems to be two ways on – the main rift bearing to the right and a bedding plane to the left with the sound of a small stream about 5ft ahead. The roof of this bedding was easily brought down by chiselling but after progressing two or three feet it was decided to save time by using bang. A 16 ¼ oz split Gelamex charge was laid – partly on the bedding plane roof and partly on a slab obscuring the view along the rift. This was fired from Baghdad. Meanwhile the others had shifted a vast amount of spoil from Santa’s Grotto to the bottom of the climbs below Hesitation Chamber – 35 to 40 loads in all. On the way out we shifted another five loads to the
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				surface. Another good night's work. A lot of spoil now needs moving from the end so that shoring of a large hanging wall section can be done. The blackbirds' nest in the entrance shaft now contains 5 eggs – one a day since Saturday!
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Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 24/5/91 Jake, Rich, Vince	2h 10m	Red Quar	Loads of spoil removed from the end of Baghdad to the Acros. We then left Richard to dig at the end while we carried on spoil shifting. A plaintive cry revealed that he had dug and chiselled his way along some 10ft of bedding plane crawl and could see the elusive stream dropping into a stooping sized chamber. By this time he was knackered so I went in for a look and managed to squeeze into the new bit. Unfortunately it ended in solid "rock" after 5 feet! At least it was a place to stoop and turn round and was quite attractive with its waterworn, oxidised black, marl. The way on must be down in the floor – following the rift to a deeper level. This bloody place never lets up! (3 eggs in nest – 3 have been thrown out by agents unknown!) Good night's work. The new bit was named Gandhi's Pyre.
Somerset	27/5/91 Assisted three students from Middlesex Polytechnic to do a resistivity traverse above Bowery Corner Swallet and in the field behind the lay-by. Giles and Jiz (from Nice) and Jim went looking for a flat piece of ground, with a shallow, surveyed cave and this seemed to be the ideal location. We await the results with interest to see how they tally with both the survey and the dowser's results.			
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> <b>Swildon's Hole</b> 28/5/91 Mark Lumley, Gary Woodcock (CEGSA)	1h 10m  40m	Priddy	Gary, an Australian mate of Steve Milner's, turned up at the shop looking for a trip. Gonzo and I had already planned a banging trip in Bowery so we invited him along. In Bowery Gonzo drilled a couple of short holes at the end of Skid Row and laid a split 5 ½ oz plaster charge which I fired from the "chamber". I suspect Gary was not over impressed with the cave! To make up for this we then took him on a trip to the top of the Twenty Foot Pot in Swildon's Hole. In via the dry way and out via a particularly dry Wet Way. No stream in the entrance series. Gary was much more impressed by this trip.
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Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 29/5/91 Trebor, Andy Smith, Jake, Martin Delemore (DUG), Rich Blake, Vince, Steve Redwood, Trev Hughes	1h 50m	Red Quar	On Tuesday night Biffo and Jake had made some 10' depth of progress into promising open rift blocked by boulders. Tonight we hauled from the end to various stations – most spoil ending up in Santa's Grotto. A large amount of spoil shifting was done and at the end the way on sounds very promising – some 7' of boulder chipping to open passage. Not long now folks!!
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 31/5/91 Rich, Jake, Vince	2h 10m	Red Quar	By the time I arrived Richard had got into 15-20 ft of new passage after he and Jake had shifted several rocks. The way on was blocked by another fallen slab but looked very promising. Black, oxide coated mud (?) formations draped the LH wall and small white calcite formations could be seen ahead. We spent some time clearing rocks back from the new bit and then I went in for a look and to lay a charge. A 22 oz split plaster charge was placed on the LH wall

				and the slab and fired from Baghdad. It sounded effective. On the way out we shifted loads of spoil from Baghdad and onwards back to Santa's Grotto. Another bloody good working trip. The new section is very interesting. It runs steeply down dip at the base of the final rift and is relatively roomy. In high water conditions the whole of the end of the cave as it is at present will be most sporting and spectacular! (on 2/6/91 Trev Hughes and Tim Large banged the rocks again following a visit by Rich, Dany Bradshaw and Jake on 5/2/91)
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Somerset Major discovery	Wigmore Swallet 3/6/91 a.m. Rich Blake, Trev p.m. as above + Jake, Vince, Snablet	4 ¾ hr	Red Quar	See below
	<p>In the morning Rich and I went down to check the results of the last bang and to lay further charges if necessary. On arrival at the end it was obvious that the way on was open! The last bang had blown the big triangular slab forwards – it was wedged over the top of a 25' deep pitch!! We hammered and barred the heap of rock at the top and had soon hurled about ½ ton down the 20' long, 4' wide pitch. I then free climbed down to the bottom where some 20' of upstream, large passage ended in a dodgy boulder ruckle under the dug rift above. Downstream was wide open with a superb phreatic type Gothic arched roof. Rich took the lead and after about 40' came to the head of a c. 30' pitch. An obvious way on continued on the far side of this pitch. Feeling extremely elated after having broken in after 14 years of digging we headed for the surface to meet Trev who had just arrived at Baghdad. He hardly believed us! On the way out we cleared spoil from Baghdad back to Santa's Grotto. Tins of beer were cracked on the surface and a few pints sunk in the Hunters in celebration. After a couple of phone calls we gathered the afternoon team and rapidly returned to the extension in very high spirits. Trev, Vince and Snablet were suitably impressed! The first pitch, Blackbird Pot, was descended and the second pitch, Vindication Pot, rigged with 30' of ladder to where it ended in a large boulder floor. I squeezed down into this to espy another pitch below! Thence ensued a session of frantic rock hauling and we soon opened up the top of the third pitch – Hernia Pot. Vince rigged a ladder and descended this for 25'. At the bottom a low passage led to some 20' of muddy inlet ending in a boulder choke and a way on to the left emitting a howling draught – too tight at present to push but with a "feeling" of big cave beyond. A couple of banging trips should see us continuing here. In the meantime the two "cripples" – Jake and Snablet – were engaged in traversing across the top of Vindication Pot. Despite a badly damaged leg from a climbing accident Snablet succeeded in doing a very exposed and difficult traverse on calcite ledges for some 20-30' to reach the far side. Here he found a blocked parallel shaft and a climb into more open passage which he was unable to reach. I also found some 20' of inlet passage above the near side of this pitch. With a total of some 200'+ length and 90'+ depth we decided to call it a day.</p> <p>The extensions are basically developed in a calcite(?) filled mineral vein. The eroded calcite is very spectacular in places. Almost to the bottom of the extension the development is in the red marl beds but the last few feet seems to be in a limestone/conglomerate layer. A geologist is needed to check on this. The extension is so far over 200' long and over 90' deep giving a total cave length of over 500' and a depth over 220'. This is the start of a major cave system – the only one in this area of Mendip. A tremendous event after all the work put in but strangely tinged by a hint of almost disappointment that we don't have to dig the entrance series any more! One gets quite attached to such a monumental project and it's difficult to accept that that part of it is over. Watch this space for further exciting developments!!! (On 4/6/91 Jake and Richard got about 8' into the passage at the lowest point and laid a 13 oz Gelamex charge. The draught here blows OUT! This could indicate that the way on is via Snablet's traverse. Time will tell. The banged dig echoes well and has all the signs of being a major extension. It is also developed in solid limestone*. Got there at last!!!)</p> <p>* Incorrect.</p>			
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Somerset discovery	Wigmore Swallet 5/6/91 Trev Hughes, Rich Blake, Chris Castle, Snab	7h 5m	Red Quar	See below
	Trev, Chris and Snab surveyed the cave from Santa's Grotto to the end (Chris having to leave before			

	<p>reaching the new stuff). Meanwhile, Rich and I went to Hernia Pot equipped with drill batteries, bang etc to continue with the dig here. On arrival at the head of the pitch it was obvious that we had problems. It seems that following the bang of yesterday the whole top of the pitch (consisting of tons of boulders through which we had previously laddered!) had collapsed. By dint of digging and carefully re-rigging the ladder we got down about 15' and were able to rescue the rolled up ladders and the detonators. A bag of tools is still buried below. A major dig here is now necessary to regain the draughting way on! Thank God the lot didn't come down on the four of us on Monday!!! With care we climbed back out and back up Vindication Pot – which I free climbed by chiselling out a way into a small pool chamber below a rift which brought me out at the top of the main pot. It was decided to try and get back to the dig from the pitch beyond Snablet's traverse. Rich crossed over the decidedly hairy traverse first and rigged two ladders as a "bridge". Held on the traverse line and using the ladder as a foothold I followed him over to the large chamber beyond. The 30' crater-like pitch was free climbed but found to be choked at the bottom. Our next project was to climb the 8' high mud wall which defeated Snablet. Rich pulled on the sling with which Snablet has lassoed a two foot long boulder and got it straight on his head. He was very lucky to escape with just a headache and the shakes! After a lot of effort and using Rich and a crowbar as footholds I managed to scramble to the top where I fixed a ladder for Rich to follow. At the top of a short boulder slope a blocked crawl led on to a big black space. After a bit of digging I squeezed through to reach a large chamber (c.20' high x 15' wide x 50' long). This ended in a boulder collapse and much else of the floor and walls was also incredibly loose – Rich again getting a narrow miss when a load collapsed on him. It was decided to name this sombre and impressive place "Drake Hall" after Bob Drake, who died a year ago.</p> <p>By now the survey team had arrived and while they were at the bottom of Vindication Pot I managed to establish a voice connection with the bottom of the blocked pitch just beyond the traverse. While they continued the survey Rich and I dug from both sides and later, with the help of Trev, I managed to ooze through to give as a by-pass to the Traverse. Everyone being very tired we squirmed our muddy way back to the surface after a hard but successful day's caving. The large chambers beyond the traverse seem to be part of a huge worked out mineral vein (much like a mine stope), and are extremely impressive. I have seen nothing like them before on Mendip. This cave is a unique feature. NB The chamber and pitch beyond Snablet's traverse is named "Don't Feed the Ambulance" and the by-pass to the traverse is called the "M25" !</p>			
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Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 7/6/91 Jake, Steve Redwood, Tony Boycott, Rich Blake, Vince, Dave Yeandle	2 ½ hr	Red Quar	The main aim of this trip was to re-excavate Hernia Pot and also give Tony B. and the Boy a tourist trip. It was decided that the Acros taken down to support the boulders in Hernia Pot were too short and it will be necessary to build a scaffolding frame and backfill it. In Drake's Hall I climbed into the large roof inlet near the entrance to the chamber. It ended in a horrific loose choke after ten feet with a good draught whistling up into it. The other roof inlet will need a more technical climb. With little else to do we all returned to Santa's Grotto where we formed a chain to haul spoil out as far as Hesitation Chamber. Tony and Dave were suitably impressed with the new stuff. The three baby blackbirds in the entrance still seem to be okay.
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Somerset <i>discovery</i>	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 10/6/91 Rich Blake	2h 50m	Red Quar	The aim of the trip was to construct a scaffold cage in the collapsed Hernia Pot using the assorted lengths of scaffolding taken down by the lads at the weekend. On the way in I stopped at the head of Blackbird Pot and pulled a few rocks out of the RH wall to reveal open space beyond. I managed to squeeze through into some 15' or so of roomy but very loose inlet passage – possibly the lower end of the Smoke Room dig. Due to its unstable nature there is still little hope of any extension here. On down to Hernia Pot where Rich constructed a scaffold framework to (hopefully) hold back the large unstable boulder threatening further work
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				here. We then chiselled out a few feet at the top of the rift leading to the end dig of the cave but decided that the use of the Bosch drill would be necessary to make this job a lot easier. Slithered out for a couple of lunchtime pints after a reasonably useful morning's work.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 12/6/91 Davey Lennard, Trev Hughes, Andy Smith, Dave Yeandle, Jake, Rich Blake, Steve Redwood, John Riley II, Gary Jago	1h 10m	Red Quar	Suffering from a bad cold I went as far as the climbs below Hesitation Chamber where I spent an hour solo rock shifting. The others all went into the new stuff for either tourist trips or to enlarge the Hernia Pot collapse by-pass rift. It seems that this is now a banging job.
Somerset <i>Discovery</i>	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 15/6/91 Jake, Rich, Pete Bolt, Henry Bennett, Sarah MacDonald	2h 40m	Red Quar	Rich and Jake had been down several hours banging the way on at the bottom which they had regained the previous day in company with Biffo and Steve Redwood. When the rest of us arrived the place was full of bang fumes and a second bang was about to be fired (10 oz Gelamex in all). After the bang we waited about ¼ hour then went in for a look. Rich suggested that more bang was needed and after removing the debris he and Jake left for the surface. I went in and after digging mud out of a wider roof section I managed, with extreme difficulty and a push from Pete, to squeeze through into a wider section of passage above a 20' deep, 4" wide rift. The section of passage found was just large enough to turn around in and also had two side passages – each about ten feet long to partial chokes – these need another good look at. The total length of this new section is about 20' and it is somewhat of a disappointment after the encouraging draught and echo. A lot of work will be needed to blast either down or along this rift. It was noticeable that upon emerging from this section into the Hernia Pot choke the extreme coldness of the cave became much more apparent – perhaps we have missed the proper way on?

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Somerset	<b>Swildon's Hole</b> 17/6/91 Rich Blake, Shinji Sakurai (West Japan Cave Diving Club)	4h 10m	Priddy	A tourist trip for Shinji but the opportunity of banging Bat Dig could not be missed. The cave was very dry and Shinji, though Japan's top cave diver, is not a very fast caver. At Bat Dig I put a 16 oz Gelamex / 5 ½ oz plaster bomb on the roof near the end in the hope that it will give some working space. Fires, noisily, from the tube below. Long slow trip out via the short round trip. Shinji knackered but impressed! Reached the Hunter's at 2-20pm to find it shut!
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 18/6/91 Gonzo	40m	Priddy	Built a dam at the entrance to the Corner Dig out of two breeze blocks and concrete. The footings had been prepared by Gonzo on an earlier trip. Despite heavy rain the cave was still dry. (Meanwhile Jake and Rich were checking out the end of Wigmore. After following the LH passage in the new section they reached a point after some 30' or so where they swear they can hear an underground river! Time will tell.) 3 loads to surface.

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Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b>	5 hr	Red Quar	Jake, Rich and I went down early to dig the
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	19/6/91 Jake, Rich, Roz Bateman, Snablet, Tony Boycott, Pete Hellier, John Riley II, Andy Smith, Steve Redwood			<p>muddy crawl leading to the “river”. Conditions were terrible with the clayey mud sticking to everything and very difficult to dig and pass back. We struggled on and eventually I was just able to get my head under the low roof section at the end to see into a high rift with a wall of mud covered cobbles directly in front which prevented access. By now we had had enough so Jake pulled me out by the feet and we went back to Vindication Pot where we met Tony, Roz, Snablet and John. Tony had bang with him so he was despatched to the end to hopefully blow off the roof. We headed out after fags and Gaelic coffee to met the rest of the team and get them organised on spoil hauling near the entrance. On this trip we also rescued the only baby blackbird out of the three which had at last flown from the nest. This one had ended up at bottom of the entrance pitch and was hauled out in a bucket. The ladder on the climb up to Drake’s Hall was replaced with a rope.</p> <p>The end of the cave is, as the lads stated, extremely promising with a reverberating echo and the sound of a fair sized stream beyond. Hopefully one or two more digging and banging trips will get us into the big stuff.</p>
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Somerset	20/6/91. Assisted Gonzo at Bowery Corner Swallet where he was completing the dam. I stayed on the surface and mixed a load of concrete. One load of spoil out to surface.			
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 22/6/91 Jake, Vince, Trebor, Andy Smith, Trev Hughes, Steve Redwood	2hr	Red Quar	<p>A highly excited team descended the cave at 7.15pm on a Saturday night – even prepared to miss their beer whilst exploring the vast caverns which lay ahead – with only 10 seconds of digging to get in! Alas, the reality was far from this.... I went in front as it was thought that I would get through easiest. The horrible, sticky mud U-tube (Butch’s Arse) was still too difficult to pass and so twenty minutes or so was spent painstakingly clearing out more mud before I was able – sans helmet, light and wellies – to squeeze up into the new stuff, aided by pushing and digging by Jake (exactly as was done in Uamh à Bhreisdeadh-Duile on 28/4/91). Vertical at last I was able to drag my lamp through (which had gone out) and aim it into the vast echoing spaces before switching it on. As a burst of light illuminated the scene it was painfully obvious that yet again we were in for a lot of hard work. A 12’ high by 4-5” wide, scalloped rift in conglomerate led on into a distance where the noise of the stream still lured us. It would need to be blasted for about 20 ft to progress further. A great disappointment. I was just able to turn around and after a bit more digging and help from Vince, who was now on the far side, I squeezed back out to the disgruntled diggers. In the meantime Trebor, Trevor and Steve had been modifying the squeezes leading to the dig.</p> <p>The next plan is to temporarily ignore this passage and to bang down the open rift at the junction in the hope that we meet the streamway below. There’s hours of fun in the place yet, and at least we got to the Hunter’s for a beer!</p>

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Somerset	<b>Welsh's Green Swallet</b> 24/6/91 Trev Hughes, Jake, Rich Blake, Phil Romford	2h 5m	Milton	Suffering the after effects of the weekend's boozing we staggered off down Welsh's in high water conditions to dig at the end. A lot of the mud has been washed away and the cave is relatively clean now, even Compost Corner not presenting any problems. At the end a few rocks and skiploads of mud and gravel were dragged out and the way on seen to be almost passable. Unfortunately the high water conditions were not conducive for pushing this low crawl. We intend to return in drier weather and dig a bit more of the floor out of this unpleasant spot. This cave is definitely not as bad as it used to be but is still a collector's item.
Somerset	26/6/91. Vince, Jake, Rich and I took the welded lid from Ubley Warren Pot (Foot and Crutch entrance) to Stock Hill Mine Cave where it was temporarily installed in the entrance pending concreting and re-ginging the top of the shaft.			
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 28/6/91 Andy Smith,	1h 35m	Red Quar	Andy and I met Rich and Jake returning from an afternoon trip. Rich suggested that it would be a good idea to bang out Butch's Arse squeeze and carry on along the rift as the noise of the stream was today much louder. Having the suitable gear at hand we carried on down to the squeeze which I passed with difficulty for the second time. I turned round and on the way back through the U-tube I managed to stick a split 19 ½ oz Gelamex charge on the roof of the lowest point. It was then a difficult operation attaching the detonator with one hand and I ended up sticking it on with a ball of mud! The charge was fired successfully from the top of Vindication Pot. The plan now is for the "little" blokes to continue banging here while the "big" blokes carry on down the vertical rift. Cave dry but slightly cleaner due to flood pulse of earlier in the week.

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Somerset	<b>Eastwater Cavern</b> 1/7/91 Trev Hughes, Andy Smith, Jake	2h 5m	Priddy	Jake and Andy visited Morton's Pot dig where they drained away a pool but found it too wet to work. They then went to Baker's Chimney area to listen for noises of our drilling. Trev and I went to Hard Rain Aven where Trev drilled two shotholes at the top and a third in the bedding plane crawl. I loaded the two upper shotholes with a split 13oz charge which we later fired from Dolphin pitch. We established a long distance sound connection with the other two but still don't know where the aven is likely to go. Next time we will also bang the bedding plane. Despite the recent heavy rain the Aven was relatively dry. Nice Trip. (After the pub we made a brief visit to see the superbly emplaced lid on Stock Hill Mine Cave).
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 2/7/91 Zot, Gonzo	¾ hr	Priddy	Zot and Gonzo pumped at the Corner Dig and added a concrete kerbstone to the top of the dam. Despite an initial lack of helmet and light and a dose of unknown illness I assisted as well as I could.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 3/7/91 Andy, Trevor, Vince, Pete Hellier, Ian Cooper (SUSS- OZ)	1h 40m	Red Quar	Spoil shifting from the bottom of the two 10' climbs to the surface. At least 30 loads were brought up to Hesitation Chamber and about 15 loads reached the surface. There are another two eggs in the blackbird's nest.

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Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 8/7/91 Trev Hughes, Dudley Herbert	2h 35m	Red Quar	Dud's light fell apart on the way in so he carried on with a Mitylite (which failed on the way out!) Down to "Butch's Arse" where it was obvious that the last bang had done a reasonable job. As the place still stank of bang I didn't clear any debris but drilled two shotholes and laid a split 6 ½ oz charge on the roof of the squeeze. Meanwhile, Trev dug at the "big boy's dig" at the junction. My lamp then failed and after firing the charge from the top of Vindication Pot we crept out with one usable light and a glimmer. Useful, if dark, trip.
JAMAICA Westmorland	<b>Roaring River Cave</b> 12/7/91 Jane, Glenys, Martin Grass, Steve ("guide"), Eunice ("guide's friend"), The Dragon Men (entertainment!) plus other "guides" and tourists.	35m	Petersfield	<i>See below</i>
<p>Jane won a free weeks Holiday in a luxury beach hotel in Jamaica! Martin and I took our kit and got in a bit of caving! Our first visit was to the Roaring River Cave – a long standing "tourist" cave with 4-5 month old concrete steps, lighting and walkways due to the increasing holiday makers. Arriving at the village we were accosted by a young Jamaican on a motorbike – Charlie – who ditched his girlfriend and escorted us to the cave where his mate, Steve, offered his services as guide. The entrance area was milling with would be guides "security guards" and small boys. We affixed our Zoom lamps and off we went. The cave was an old phreatic network covered in soot from the torches of earlier visitors. It consists of a couple of large chambers with passages leading to a low stream passage on the RH side, one leading to a large sump pool which has supposedly been dived out to surface. A "skylight" aven is passed under and the main route ends in a stal choke with roots entering from the surface. A large pile of old bottles here is evidence of the lighting used until the electric was installed – basically Molotov cocktails!!! Bats (Rat-bats) and cave crickets were seen throughout the cave, one Ratbat bumping into my head as I climbed up an aven. The cave was well endowed with graffiti dating back to the 1800s. Old electric light sockets were also noted testifying to earlier use as a show cave. Off the beaten track a nice phreatic tube led eventually to a low crawl which Steve, Martin and I pushed for a few yards. Some attractive crystals were noted here. In general a rather poor show cave, though the bit above the sump pool was impressive. The "piece de resistance" of the trip though was probably unique to this cave – in the main chamber a Jamaican gentleman known as the "Dragon Man" appeared. He filled his mouth with either rum or paraffin and after lighting it, breathed it out with spectacular effects!! Not very good for the environment but definitely one of the most impressive show cave novelties I have ever seen! Following this he rolled a burning brand across his teeth and posed for photos. He was given a good wad of tips and the proceeded to crow about the success of the West Indies cricket team beating England in the test match. On exiting the cave it was noticed that a large stream passed the entrance and nearby a short section of stream passage was entered which sumped almost immediately downstream. Upstream was very low but maybe passable in dry conditions. This could be a link between the stream passage off the show cave main chamber and the sump pool near the entrance.</p> <p>Just above the cave a large spring bubbles up from a blue hole and a two or three hundred yards walk through the village brought us to another "bottomless" blue hole with a strong resurgence above it. There is a large cave system waiting to be discovered here. The walk through the village was most interesting, giving us an idea of how Jamaican country folk lived. We stopped in a minute bar about 6' square, mostly occupied by a huge ghetto blaster and run by a young Rastafarian. Great stuff. A great little place about to be wrecked by tourism and spoilt by the hassle for tips from almost everyone involved in the show cave operation. Martin was not impressed and made the point strongly to Steve – who ignored it!</p> <p>We then drove on to Black River where a boat ride was taken up river into the Mangrove swamps. A crocodile and various birds were seen and it was interesting to note that further upriver the bedrock is limestone. Probably a good blue hole area. Back to Negril via lots of "cockpit" type limestone country with large depressions. Good potential but dense vegetation could make prospecting difficult. A great day out.</p>				

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<p>JAMAICA St. Elizabeth</p>	<p><b>Me No Sen Cave</b> <b>Sea me no more</b> <b>Duanwarie Cave</b> <b>No.1 (Ipswich Cave)</b> <b>Duanwarie Tunnel</b> <b>Cave</b> 14/7/91 Martin Grass, Tony, Wayne, Maxwell (guides)</p>	<p>25m 10m - 10m</p>	<p>Ginger Hill Ginger Hill Ipswich  Ipswich</p>	<p><i>See below</i></p>
	<p>Drove from Negril to the village of Ginger Hill via Frome, Savanna-la-Mar and Stonehenge. Much of this route was through Karst cone (cockpit) areas with lots of cave potential. From arrival at Stonehenge it took about an hour of questioning locals to find out the whereabouts of Me No Sen Cave – known to them as River or Water Sink. We eventually stopped in the village of Ginger Hill where a bunch of local lads were idling the day away and having an outdoor haircut. One of these, Tony, owned a nearby bar/shop where we had a drink before heading off down a rough track towards the cave, having politely refused Tony's offer to guide us. At the end of the track, near the railway line from Montego Bay to Kingston, we were accosted by a tip-demanding old lady who would look after the car. At this point Tony reappeared having taken a short cut from the village so with thoughts of being ripped off we reluctantly accepted him as guide – just as well as it turned out! The three of us grabbed kitbags and started to walk down the railway line towards the next village, Ipswich. We were soon joined by another lad, Wayne, and Maxwell – a small boy who had a home-made “railway line skateboard” and was used by me as a travelling hat stand!</p> <p>From Ginger Hill we walked down the track for about ¾ mile then scrambled down the SW bank to reach the large sink entrance of Me No Sen Cave. The entrance was gained via a climb down old bamboo poles to the stream – Martin ending up sliding on his arse down the bank and ending up in the water – having brought the wrong footwear and spending the day in things akin to bedroom slippers! The huge, tunnel-like entrance passage was followed for 300' to where the usually sumped end was today a muddy, choked sink full of rotting bamboo poles. A passage on the RH side was entered by scrambling over a huge heap of rotting, stinking bamboo to reach a couple of filthy, muddy crawls which were not pushed. There was no obvious sign of the slit leading to the rest of the cave. Because of Martin's poor footwear, our three lightless locals and the generally unpleasant and intimidating nature of the cave it was decided to try and find the other entrance – Tony and Wayne informing us of another nearby cave.</p> <p>After munching a freshly picked guava fruit we scrambled back up to the railway and continued walking down the track through a railway tunnel to a point where a steep path to the NE dropped down a couple of hundred feet to an area of large sinkholes. Wayne, in the lead, bashed his way through the jungle-like bush using his fists and Tony assisted with his sharpened bread knife! After some confusion we arrived at a large 30' deep shakehole with a big cave entrance at the base. The hole was descended with the aid of a handline and the cave Seemenomore, found to descend at an angle straight into a deep sump pool with no dry passages leading off. Most annoying after the jungle bashing and hard work to get here. This cave is not specifically mentioned in Jamaica Underground, though “See menomore” is listed as an alternative name for Me No Sen Cave. The lads said that “50 American cave divers” had visited this site in 1980 (?). The locals occasionally use the cave as a fishing hole. Loading the tackle bags on to the boys we made the hot, sticky climb back up to the railway, having now realised we were unlikely to find the back entrance to Me No Sen Cave.</p> <p>Another 1 ½ mile walk down the track, admiring the tree covered hills of the Cockpit Country surrounding us, brought us to a second tunnel. Halfway through this a cave entrance was seen in the NE wall (not in Jamaica Underground but referred to hereon as Duanwarie Tunnel Cave).</p> <p>From the end of the tunnel we climbed up the SW bank looking for a “nice cave with Jesus Christ on the cross” – possibly Duanwarie Cave No. 2. This could not be found, “It slipped me, man” said Tony.</p> <p>On the other side of the track was the tourist cave, Duanwarie Cave No. 1 – better known as Ipswich Cave. This is visited by tourists arriving by train en route to the Appleton Rum Distillery. We were amused that as it was Sunday the cave was locked up but that we could get under the door. This was not so and only the entrance porch was visited – another annoyance!</p> <p>We then returned to the Tunnel Cave, after throwing stones down the 75' deep “undescended” pot near Ipswich Cave, and the five of us entered to see if it connected to the show cave. It was a roomy passage with a few nice helictites, crystallised stalagmites and parasite infested Rat Bats ending in a stal choke after 100'. As there was no way into Ipswich Cave we were yet again disappointed.</p> <p>By now time was running out, Martin's shoes were killing him, we were knackered and desperate for a drink. We decided to head back to the car despite the enthusiasm of our guide to see the “bottomless” Bando Hole (Breadnut Hill Hole, 200' deep). We told them we'd come back another</p>			

	<p>day and see the rest of their local caves – maybe! Back to the car noting lots of small entrances in the railway cuttings. A wash in the stream and a chew on a lump of sugar cane refreshed us. Maxwell was given 23 Jamaican Dollars for carrying my Akubra hat on his head and Tony and Wayne got 250 JD (about £17 between them for being such entertaining if not wholly understanding guides! Despite all the cock-ups this was a great day out with friendly and helpful characters, real Jamaican hill dwellers who knew how to use the fruits and herbs of the bush. (Tony had also been locked up for burglary and possession of Ganja!)</p> <p>Drove back to Begril via the atrocious “main road” past the Ipswich turning and the track to YS Falls to reach the main drag at Middle Quarters. To do any serious caving in Jamaica needs guides and much more time than we had available. Despite the lack of a decent caving trip it was a great holiday!</p>
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Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 19/7/91 Jake, Vince	1 ½ hr	Red Quar	Back to reality! Spoil shifting from the bottom of the two 10’ climbs to the foot of the entrance shaft. About thirty loads moved. The newly hatched blackbirds in the shaft were dead due to a flood pulse so were removed, together with the nest, from the cave. To make up for this it was found that a wren had built a nest in Vince’s oversuit hood which had been hanging for some time on a nearby tree! The depression with the pump house was also looked at but little of interest found. Mr Booth told us of a dowser who had predicted a strong stream running vaguely in the direction of the surveyed cave passage. Time will prove or disprove this.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 22/7/91 Trev Hughes, Andy Smith, Max Midden (WCC)	5 hr	Red Quar	Trev removed a vast amount of spoil from the “big boy’s dig” at the junction beyond Hernia Pot. Last Wednesday’s bang had done an excellent job and we eventually gained some 3’ or so of progress down the cross rift, opening it up in the process to give a view down some 20’ of open and almost passable rift. Max, Andy and I chained the rubble and mud out to Hernia Pot. Trevor then drilled a couple of shotholes while I spent some time at “Butch’s Arse” making it larger and also creating a turning space on the far side by cutting down the mud bank and throwing it up the passage towards the sound of the roaring stream. I managed to squeeze along this passage for some 10’ or so but blasting or drilling will be necessary to make it easily passable. A split 6 ½ Gelamex charge was laid in the cross rift and fired from the top of Vindication Pot. Two skips were removed to the surface, being no longer necessary. An exceptionally good days work that may well yield results on the next visit. Trevor is convinced that the rift is now passable and suggests that there could be a further pitch below it, offset to one side. There is no sound of the stream from below but both dig sites were draughting strongly outwards. Much of the cave had been cleaned up a bit by the recent downpours and in places the eroded passage floor is very attractive.

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Somerset <i>discovery</i>	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 24/7/91 Georg Leupolt (Höhlenforscher-gruppe Dresden), Andy Smith, Trev Hughes, Vince, Jake,	1h 50m	Red Quar	Took and East German friend on a tourist/working trip. He seemed to enjoy it despite problems with his carbide gobbler – not ideal for Wigmore! Vince and Jake cleared the spoil from the last bang to make the cross rift wide enough to enable me to squeeze down to reach the bottom at about 20’ depth. As the cave
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	John Mayne			<p>was very wet on this trip, the main stream was entering the rift behind me and flowing onwards at an angle along a tight rift with the floor choked with mud and bang debris. This will need a major digging and blasting operation to progress further. In the meantime we will pursue the tight rift with the noisy stream beyond. All are of the opinion that there is a sizeable chamber some 15' ahead here. On the way out a few loads were shifted from Santa's Grotto to the climbs and one load actually made it out to surface. The wet conditions made this a sporting trip, though not as good as it will be in the winter!</p> <p>Surprisingly there was little extra water at Gandhi's Pyre. As the mud is gradually washed away the floor and walls of the cave become more attractive – white potholed rock appearing in many places. A good trip.</p>
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Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 26/7/91 Vince, Jake, Rich Blake, Steve Redwood, Alastair Koliassnikoff-Keath (South African S. Ass.)	2 ¼ hr	Red Quar	<p>Tourist trip for Alistair. Wigmore still seems to be keeping up its reputation for the number of foreign visitors! Vince, Jake and Richard cleared bags from Santa's Grotto while Steve, Alastair and I went to the bottom. Steve drilled three shotholes in the RH wall just beyond Butch's Arse which I later filled with 4 ozs Gelamex. Fired from the base of Vindication Pot. Cave dry again. The place is cleaning up nicely now but Jake has forecast a tidal wave of fermenting cow shit approaching at a steady rate from the "mangrove swamps" above the entrance! Late trip – out at 10.07pm!!</p>
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 28/7/91 Trev, Vince, Steve Redwood, Mark Simons (SMCC)	2h 35m	Red Quar	<p>Trev, Steve and Mark continued with the survey as far as Butch's Arse u-tube. Vince drilled a couple of holes at the end. (He had been down in the morning with Jake to re-bang a misfire of the previous day – a 3 oz charge). I then went in to lay another 3 oz Gelamex split charge which we would have fired – had not Vince gone out with the three Bosch batteries!! (Vince and Jake later went down and fired the charge). Brought an Acro jack out from Blackbird Pot.</p>
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 29/7/91 Keith Savory (WCC)	2h 20m	Red Quar	<p>Keith came down to start a geological survey of the cave and also to bang at the end. I went to the dig beyond Butch's Arse and drilled a couple of shotholes, the last bang having gained us some 3' of progress. Keith later came in and laid a triple ½ lb Powergel charge (a Mastic tube full) in the holes on the RH wall. Fired from the bottom of Blackbird Pot. (Jake and Vince fired a split 4 oz charge in same area on 30/7/91 – the Powergel charge had not done as great deal of damage).</p>

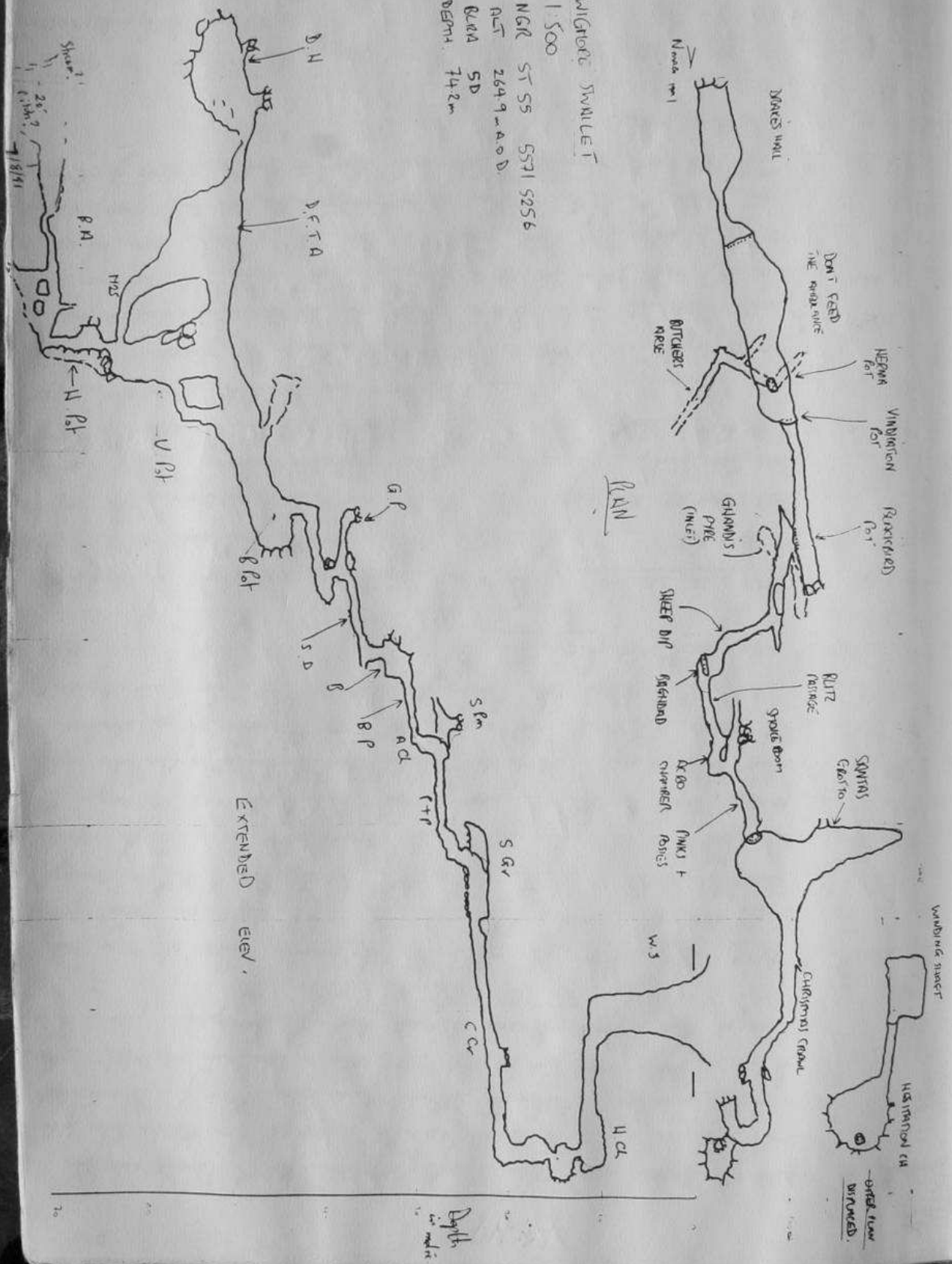
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Somerset	Wigmore Swallet 30/7/91 Jake, Vince	1 ½ hr	Red Quar	<p>The last bang had done a good job and I was able to squeeze along into some 6' of wider passage but could not easily get any further. The way on still looks too narrow. I came out and Vince drilled two shotholes in the RH wall. I then laid a split 4oz Gelamex charge which we fired from Blackbird Pot. Plenty of work to be done here before the big breakthrough.</p>
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 31/7/91	1h 40m	Red Quar	<p>Vince and Jake drilled at the end and laid a split 4 oz Gelamex charge. The echo, I am told, was</p>

	Dave Seiker (N.Norwich BP Scouts), Vince, Jake, Steve, Tony B, Pete H, Rachel G.			superb! The rest of us hauled spoil from Santa's Grotto to both the 10' climbs and into Santa's Grotto proper. The cave is getting tidier by the minute. Another good evening's work. Dave, a young Norfolk scout who enjoys caving was taken on this digging trip during his holidays. He quite enjoyed it but found it to be the filthiest cave he has yet been in! (3/8/91 On three separate trips – Nick Sprange/Rich Blake, Trev/Legg (WCC), Vince/Jake/Rich Blake, three sets of holes were drilled and a total of 8 ozs Gelamex fired).
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 5/8/91 Alone	2 ½ hr	Red Quar	Solo trip to drill and bang beyond Butch's Arse. Drilled three holes, two in the RH wall and one in the LH wall. Had a few problems with "light pox" and a jammed drill bit. Eventually I was able to lay a triple charge of 6ozs Gelamex which I fired from Blackbird Pot. Not an easy trip on one's own, another man is very useful for passing kit etc. One load out to surface. The echo and roar of the stream are still very encouraging and getting closer every trip!



WIGMORE SWALETT  
 1500  
 NGR ST 55 571 5256  
 ALT 2649 m A.O.D.  
 AREA SD  
 DEMO 74.2m



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Somerset	<b>Hillgrove Swallet</b> 5/8/91 Les Williams	¾ hr	Green Ore	Sub-contracting job! Drilled two shotholes in bedrock boulders at the end of the dig and fired a 5 ½ oz plaster gelatine charge from the surface. An interesting dig site and even though it has been dug since 1903 (oldest dig in the world?) without getting anywhere, it is obviously an extremely good prospect. The bedding is steeply dipping – much like Dallimore's – and there seemed to be a draught. Best of luck to Al Mills, Les, Barry Weaver and Co.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 7/8/91 Trev Hughes, Keith Savory (surface), Andy Sparrow, Steve Redwood, Pete Bolt, Pete Hellier, Rachel G, Pete, Pete, Dave (Thundergrounders)	2h 10m	Red Quar	I went to the end and drilled two poor holes in the RH wall. Pete Bolt assisted and also took photos. Andy and the Thundergrounders had a tourist trip as far as the crawl leading to Drake's Hall. The rest spent their time spoil hauling, though Steve appeared at the end at one point. After the usual hassle I laid a split ½ lb Gelamex charge (part in the shot holes, part laid on the rock) which I fired from the top of the Vindication Pot by-pass. For me, tonight was hard work. I don't fancy trips like that on a Wednesday night in future! At the end, following the last bang, I was able to see round the corner to where, some 10-12' of 5" wide rift ahead, there is a c.20' deep pitch. A week or so of difficult blasting will see us there. Hopefully it gets a bit bigger. Time will tell.

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Somerset	8/8/91 Tidied up the surface at Wigmore Swallet. Jake and Vince went to the dig but were foiled by blunt drill bits (8-9 <sup>th</sup> /8/91 – Jake and Vince, on two trips, drilled and fired a triple plaster charge). (On 10/8/91 Trev Hughes and Leg (WCC) fired a 3 oz plaster charge. Trev suspects a 5' wide, 40' deep pitch ahead with the stream at the bottom! We shall see.)			
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 11/8/91 Trev, Vince, Jake, Steve, Rich Blake	2 hr	Red Quar	Vince, Jake and Rich had banged the end in the morning and had reached the top of the pitch – estimated at 10' wide and at least 40' deep!!! Following a lunch time celebration (and log hauling from Stock Hill forest – courtesy of the Irish lads) we all descended the cave for the big push. Unfortunately this was an abortion. The last squeeze leading to the head of the pitch was too tight and though Rich could get into the pot he thought it would have been impossible to get back out! The howling draught made everyone cold and so the trip was aborted. Hopefully we will bang it tomorrow and get in. The roaring stream is some 40' blow and some distance away. This will hopefully be a real winner.
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 12/8/91 Rich Blake, Phil Romford	3 ½ hr	Red Quar	Rich drilled three holes at the end, just before the head of the new pitch. His moans and curses revealed how awkward the passage is. I then went in and loaded one hole before admitting defeat due to a debilitating hangover. Rich then had to go back to the end to complete the charge laying. He was not amused. Eventually the job was done and we retired to the head of Vindication Pot to fire the triple charge of 8ozs plaster gelatine. It sounded like a good one and hopefully the next men down will be able to descend the pitch. Phil and I crawled painfully out of the cave still suffering from the effects of the dreaded booze. (In the evening Rich, Vince and Jake cleared the top of the pitch and Rich

				<p>was able to squeeze through. The lads descended two roomy 30' pitches to reach a roaring stream about twice the size of a normal Swildon's stream entering a 10' wide sump pool at a depth of some 300' below the surface! They halted exploration here but say there is plenty left to explore. It would seem that this can only be the water from Tor Hole Swallet*. If so then this is the upper end of the Cheddar Master Cave and could be a very large system. Vindicated yet again!!) *Later found to come from Attborough Swallet.</p>
<b>Pages 224 and 225</b>				
Somerset <i>discovery</i>	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 13/8/91 Jake, Vince, Trev	2 hr	Red Quar	<p>Despite painful elbows and knees and the residue of the hangover I could not resist a trip to the latest extensions. We followed Jake and Vince down the fine Black Pudding Pot and Yeeo Pot to a (for Mendip) magnificent view into the streamway of the "Upper Yeo". I was wet-suited and so led the team across the knee deep traverse around the sump pool to the inviting 4-6' wide by 4' high stream passage heading upstream. This was followed in a beautiful conglomerate phreatic tube for some 250'+ to a low section – bravely passed by a furry-suited Biffo – and an upstream sump. This should be an easy dive. Back downstream to the main sump which is at least 10' deep and would be a fairly serious proposition, especially due to the atrocious visibility when the red mud is stirred up. There are a few possible aven climbs in places but nothing very promising. This section of large stream passage in such an unlikely spot is extremely interesting. It is the head of the Cheddar Master Cave! A fine 350' extension to Wigmore Swallet. On the way out Jake laid an 11oz plaster gelatine charge on an awkward bit at the head of Black Pudding Pot. Fired from the top of Vindication Pot. Felt great coming out. A bloody good trip. An extra novelty to this trip was being questioned by the Minister for Health, William Waldergrave, as to our intentions! His police followers also questioned the rest of the team and I presume were suitably confused!! We now need to learn or re-learn diving skills to add to our 14 years of digging expertise! Will the bloody place ever let us away??</p> <p>All of the new extension – as the whole of the cave so far – is in Dolomitic Conglomerate. The vertical development has formed in mineral veins or joints which were filled with solid calcite and re-eroded leaving beautifully scalloped white walls in places, contrasting with the red and black of the country rock. The streamway may be developed in another manner. It is a classic phreatic tube, though with some areas of vertical development where there are apparently blind phreatic avens. The whole passage fills completely in wet weather as evidenced by mud and flood debris on the ceiling. Not a nice place to be if it is raining heavily! The size, potential power and altitude of the stream all indicate that it is the Tor Hole water. It is hoped to dye trace this sink and other swallets such as Attborough.</p>

				There is potential for a mile + of passage upstream and WELL OVER five miles downstream (excluding inlets like GB, Longwood, Manor and Tynings!) The conglomerate plateau is now a prime digging site for other ways into this potentially deep and extensive system. It is not every day that one is privileged to wade through an unknown and untrodden river beneath Mendip. Long may it last.
<b>Page 226</b>				
Somerset	15/8/91 Lunchtime visit to Tor Hole Swallet, at the NE corner of Lower Bishop's Pond, Chewton Mendip. Only a trickle of water was entering the swallet (?) which is situated in a collapsed culvert. Not enough to account for the flow in Wigmore but there are lots of small streams in this highly disturbed area which could sink and combine.			
Somerset	15/8/91 Evening visit to Stock Hill Mine Cave to assess and partially erect a spoil hauling wire and aerial ropeway. The wire was strung from a few trees but will need tightening. There is a very good draught issuing from the bat hole in the lid.			
Somerset <i>Discovery Dive</i>	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 18/8/91 Vince, Jake, Pete Bolt, (Dany Bradshaw, Trebor, Steve Redwood, Malcolm Stewart (GSG), Ted Humphries, Tony Boycott, Arthur Griffin)	4 hr	Red Quar	The main team went down in the morning with the intention of inserting Trebor into the downstream sump. Unfortunately he was unable to pass the inclined squeeze beyond Hernia Pot and his diving gear went on to the bottom. Dany then struggled down and would have dived but did not realise that there was a wet suit available so struggled back out. Pete and Jake then had a brief exploratory dive in the downstream sump and got to a depth of c. 10'. Vince and Jake then went to the upstream sump and after a few exploratory dives Vince passed the sump after a length of about 8'. He happily popped up into a roomy airbell and the others, Jake and Pete, free-dived through to join him. A brief exploratory dive was done in the next upstream sump before the lads retreated to Yeeo Pot for a fag break. I joined them at this point and they were easily persuaded to return to the sump and let me have a bash at it. In the passage before upstream sump 1 I kitted up and dived through to the airbell with Pete's camera box. The others joined us and Pete took a photo as I entered Sump 2. Once underwater I was back in time some 15 years or so as an active cave diver and, relatively happy, pushed the sump in reasonable visibility to reach a vertical upward section in clear water. With thoughts of a "Toricellian Chamber" I headed upwards and broke surface after a distance of some 12-15 feet. A roomy stream passage led on so I tied off the line on a flake and after a cursory look upstream dived back to the airbell. Having warned the lads of the depth (c.6') and nature of the sump I dived back and waited for the three of them to free-dive through and join me, Vince losing Jake's weight belt in the process! We then joyously followed some 150' of fine streamway, through a couple of interesting ducks, to a deep sump. I climbed a narrow phreatic aven above the sump for about 22' to a very tight horizontal squeeze (not passed) with open passage beyond. Having felt that we had done enough for the day we headed on out with a fag stop at Yeeo Pot. Most of the diving gear was left in the cave for the next diving team. Pete Bolt took lots of photos during the whole exercise, including one

				<p>of me entering Sump 2 and some of the actual exploration beyond. A superb trip, in a superb bit of classic Mendip streamway – as Jake put it “that was my best Mendip trip ever!”</p> <p>Judging by what we have found so far there are likely to be major extensions beyond both the upstream and downstream sumps. This system is now over 1000 feet long and a real classic. Suitable celebrations were held in the Hunter’s in the evening.</p>
<b>Page 227</b>				
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 19/8/91 Max Midden (WCC) (Jake, Vince)	1 hr	Priddy	<p>Not content with our success in Wigmore, and having gained official permission to dig, we started work on the next project. Max and I spent the afternoon hauling mud and rocks from the bottom of the shaft and dumping them in the nearest depression. A total of 70 skip loads were removed and also a large boulder when Vince and Jake dropped in on their way back from work. The haulage system works well but a small winch would be a decided advantage.</p>
<b>Page 228</b>				
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 21/8/91 Vince, Jake	½ hr	Priddy	<p>Priddy Fair Day. Took a couple of hours off from boozing to remove another 60 skip loads from the bottom of the shaft. Very strong draught evident.</p>
FRANCE Dordogne	<b>Grotte de Barq-Bahau</b> 24/8/91 Phil Romford, guide + tourists	40m	Le Bugue	<p>Drove through the night from Cherbourg to Le Bugue, arriving at 7.00am. After breakfast we drove the short distance to the cave and at 9.30am Phil and I joined a French family for the visit. A door through the walled up entrance led to a huge, dry and abandoned resurgence cave in horizontally bedded pale limestone, layered with flint. Various pits in the floor of the entrance (one 14m deep!) were archaeological digs. Various artifacts from prehistoric to mediaeval times were on display here. After a couple of hundred feet of easy progress there is a dug out section leading to the “second chamber”. This avoids the crawl originally pushed by Norbert Casteret on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1951. In this “chamber” a vast debris cone blocks the way on. The walls here are superbly decorated with a frieze of engraved animals superimposed on the hundreds of bears’ claw marks covering the accessible areas. Some of these “griffades” have been adapted into representations of human hands. The engravings represent horse, bison, deer, phallic symbols, hands, aurochs etc. The use of flint nodules for eyes and hooves is clearly shown. An excellent work of prehistoric art and well worth a visit.</p>
<b>Page 229</b>				
FRANCE Dordogne	<p>25/8/91 The weather was so hot it was almost impossible to move! Eventually Phil and I took the girls to the local restaurant/swimming pool and went off in search of the only notable local cave, the Grotte se Sait-Avit-Sénieur. This was finally tracked down at the side of the main road, above a tiny resurgence and washing place on the opposite side of the road. Unfortunately the cave had an (unlocked) gate and an “Interdite” sign, so not wishing to disturb the householder on a scorching Sunday afternoon we left it for future reference.</p>			
FRANCE Dordogne	<b>Grotte de Presque</b> 26/8/91 Jane, guide + tourists	½ hr	St. Céré	<p>Still bloody hot. Dropped off Lil and a sun-stricken Phil at Padirac and continued to this show cave situated literally at the side of a main road. A large and very well decorated passage</p>

				<p>was followed for several hundred feet. Many fine formations – notably the 8-9m high columns and an attractive “shield”. The main attraction of the cave on this particular day was its coolness!! Phil was too ill to go caving so a quick recce of the entrance to the Gouffre du Saut de la Pucelle, located at the end of a dry valley below the main road from Gramet to Martel. An attractive, COOL and 10’ high entrance leads to an extensive system. We planned to return and do this cave when Phil recovers.</p>
FRANCE Dordogne	<b>Fort du Roc de Tayac</b> 27/8/91 Jane, Lil, Phil, local caver + tourists	½ hr	Les Eyziez	<p>Visited the caving museum here to donate a prototype (Scottish made!) descender and tatty old krab. In return we had a free visit. We also tried to visit the Grotte-abri de la Mouthe (closed) and the Grotte des Combarelles (too busy). Still bloody HOT!</p>

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FRANCE Dordogne	<b>Stone quarry (ancienne carrière souterraine)</b> <b>Font-Anguillère</b> 28/8/91 Phil	20m  3 hr	Beaumont  Rouffignac-de-Sigoulès	<p>An underground stone quarry was noted on the map 1KM west of Beaumont. This was visited during a morning bread collecting trip. Situated in the woods at the side of the road this quarry has 9 entrances leading to a particularly clean and rubble free version of Box Mines. Several hundred feet of c’15’ square passages were explored, all within easy reach of a view of an entrance. Not particularly exciting but worth a visit. Various graffiti dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>Our first major caving trip of the holiday was to Font-Anguillère – a resurgence cave located in the Bergerac wine growing area. Access is via a dry gallery above the resurgence – a disused “lavoir” or washing place. Almost 100 ft in the dry gallery rejoins the stream and the trip then involves some 2-3,000 metres of somewhat monotonous walking, stooping and a bit of crawling in a generally large stream passage with plenty of meanders and oxbows – a bit like a smaller version of Doolin River Cave. The further we progressed upstream the lower it got and the presence of assorted debris, spider webs etc encouraged us to think there was a top entrance (either direct to the surface or via the cave of Perte Tinlante – the main feeder to the system and supposedly connected to Font Anguillère by a sump). Alas this was not to be and after having to reverse some 100’ out of a small, muddy tube I decided to retreat. Phil was still fairly ill so we staggered back downstream amongst the numerous bats flying in and out of the cave. All in all a trip well worth doing but would be a lot more inspiring as a through trip.</p>
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FRANCE Dordogne	<b>Lascaux II</b> <b>Two stone quarries</b> 29/8/91 1) Jane, Lil, Phil, guide + tourists 2) Alone	45m 5m	Montignac Beaumont	<p>It goes somewhat against the grain to have to visit a man-made concrete cave in order to see some recently painted copies of Magdalenian art, but I’m glad I did. The reconstructors of the first two chambers of Lascaux have done a phenomenally brilliant job. As the (English) lady guide said “only the lack of cave smell is the main difference”. It is said that there is only some 5 millimetres of error between Lascaux II</p>
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				<p>and the real thing. The phreatic outlines of the cave, scallops, paintings, colours and even flaked areas have all been faithfully reproduced in concrete and buried in an old quarry some 200m from the original. The paintings are spectacular hence the originals must be real works of art. It's almost a shame they haven't reproduced the complete cave and thrown some mud around for effect. Well worth a visit.</p> <p>In the afternoon I explored the other "ancienne carrière souterraine" marked on the map some 1.5 km NW of Beaumont. On the N side of the road a double entrance was spotted. The LH passage was some 60' long to a blank wall and the RH passage full of straw bales. In the woods on the S side of the road another level about 60' long was followed to a dead end. Little of obvious interest here though there are almost certainly many more of these old quarries scattered around the surrounding area. It was too hot to go looking for them though!</p>
FRANCE Dordogne	<b>Gouffre du Saut de la Pucelle</b> 30/8/91 Phil (assorted Brits and Frogs)	6 ¼ hr	Gramat	<p>Phil had recovered sufficiently to attempt the trip. On arrival at the lay-by we found a group of French cavers kitting up and a family of Brits doing the entrance passage. We followed the French lads along the huge entrance passage, through various scummy fish infested pools to the main streamway. This is like a mega version of Swildon's and is a superb trip – "a very sporting series of pools, pitches, free climbs and a couple of swims."</p> <p>The Froggies were obviously on some sort of training trip as the rigged traverse lines everywhere and studiously avoided the water. Phil and I hacked off bits of SRT rope and hung them on convenient bits of stal or bolts to go directly down the climbs. We "abseiled" down (and scrambled up). A couple of short pitches were laddered. On and on we went, leaving the French behind, and after 2-3 hours we eventually reached the sump at the bottom of this magnificent streamway. It must be extra good value in high water conditions! The return journey took a long time as Phil had by now suffered a relapse and had no strength left. I helped him up most of the climbs on the way back but we still made reasonable time and left the cave only ¼ hr after our planned ETO to meet the girls near the entrance. Phil found a nearly new etrier in a pool so he was somewhat compensated for his loss of dignity! A definite "must" for anyone caving in the Dordogne and well worth the 2 hrs drive from Montferrand-du-Périgord.</p>
<b>Page 232</b>				
FRANCE Dordogne	<b>Grotte de Villars</b> 31/8/91 Phil, Lil, guide + tourists	40m	Villars	<p>Had a look at this show cave on our way home. It was discovered by cavers from the Spéleo-Club de Périgeaux in 1953 and now has over 8 kms of passage. The show cave section is very well decorated and has a few poor quality prehistoric paintings and engravings – one of which, a small horse, has gone an attractive blue colour due to chemical changes caused by a later of calcite covering it. Several bats were seen flying round</p>

				the cave. Not as impressive a show cave as I had expected but worth a visit if you are in the area.
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FRANCE Deux-Sèvres	<b>Mine d'Argent de Melle</b> 31/8/91 Phil, Lil, Jane, Guide	25m	Melle	On our way back through France we decided to visit this recently(?) opened show mine. A pleasant young French girl who spoke good English guided us round a couple of hundred metres of labyrinthine tunnels where a continuous tape recording of hammering, fire-setting and falling rock noises provided quite an effective atmosphere. The mines were worked for lead and the silver extracted to make coinage from the Fifth to Tenth centuries and were rediscovered in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century. There is supposedly some 20 kilometres of passages below the town of Melle. A display of coin manufacture is in the process of being set up.
FRANCE Maine-et-Loire	<b>Les Perrières</b>  <b>Caverne Sculptée</b>  <b>Restaurant Les Cave de la Genevraie</b> 1/9/91 Phil, Lil, Jane	5m  20m	Doué-la-Fontaine. Denezé-sous-Doué. Rochemenier	Les Perrières is a collection of typical underground dwellings and storehouses converted from "talun" quarries – identical to those of the nearby Rochemenier. Some of these have been recently restored and seem to be part of a tourist complex – offices, etc. Unfortunately these were closed at the time (Sunday) but we managed to find a few "unimproved" caverns to amble through. These were typical wide and long rooms with pointed ceilings to a roofed over trench where the original excavations began. A few miles up the road we visited the famous Caverne Sculptée. This was an ancient subterranean quarry which had been used in the 16 <sup>th</sup> century by a group of politically oriented freestone masons (?) to carve hundreds of weird sculptures of men, women, red Indians, anthropomorphs etc, many as a political satire. With a long history of being discovered, unearthed and re-filled the cave now boasts a permanent roof to protect the fragile carvings. Great piles of sculptures lie in boxes – hopefully to be restored to something like their true position one day. There are supposedly another couple of infilled chambers which could contain many more sculptures. These await excavation. The figures and cavern are all very weird and though the presentation is rather tatty this enigmatic site is of great interest. Our next intention was to partake of an omelette in the underground restaurant at Rochemenier. This subterranean gastronomic site was entered and briefly studied before we realised that the whole place was fully booked for a birthday party or similar. Pity!
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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 3/9/91 Jake, Vince	35m	Priddy	Back to reality. 50 skiploads of gungy clay and rock hauled out of the shaft. During the previous week the lads had removed 120 loads and the bottom of the shaft is now very roomy. A wall of deads and stemples is appearing from under the clay. Very interesting.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 4/9/91 Trev Hughes, Trebor	40m	Priddy	Another 60 loads to surface. Needs a winch or a thicker rope. Lots more to do yet. (Vince + Jake fired a 11oz charge in Wigmore).
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Somerset	5/9/91 Following a phone call from the owner of Tree Tops, The Batch, Priddy, Zot and I went to look at a fist-sized hole draughting fairly strongly which he had uncovered at the back of his house. Though only a couple of inches wide the rift can be seen to be over 5 feet deep. Interesting but difficult to gain access to as banging may be necessary. If nothing else it will provide the householder with an excellent natural drain to help prevent damp in the back wall of the cottage!			
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 6/9/91 Jake, Vince (Pete Bolt, Rich Blake)	50m	Priddy	60 loads of clay out. Nothing else to report!
Somerset	<b>White Pit</b> <b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 8/9/91 1) Trev, Jim Rxxx, Tusker etc etc 2) Trev Hughes		Priddy	9.00am – Quick look at Tusker’s new Hymac dig – White Pit. This is the large, uniform shakehole on the LH side, just up the road from my home, towards Ebbor. On the Saturday a typical huge crater had been excavated with a fairly solid limestone wall on one side. A strong, cold draught issued from the rubble on the floor. In the afternoon I was summoned from the mineshaft to lay a 16 ½ oz split plaster charge on a couple of boulders unreachable by Hymac. They were satisfactorily granulated! In the meantime Trev and I hauled out another 45 loads of rock and clay from the mineshaft. We were visited by Bob Elliot’s small boy and the UBSS. New buckets installed. These work much better than the carved down plastic drums. A good afternoon.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 9/9/91 Max Midlen (WCC), Rich Blake, Trevor Hughes	4h 10m	Red Quar	Trev and Rich surveyed from Butch’s Arse to upstream Sump 1 with Max and I assisting them in the streamway. I also climbed a 7m high aven between downstream Sump 1 and upstream Sump 1. There is a small passage at the top which I couldn’t quite reach but it doesn’t look very promising. The “Polish Trangia” stove was fired up to provide hot coffee to accompany our lunch of pork and leek sausages. Unfortunately the fumes and steam ruined the visibility and this was not helped by fag smoke! On the way out I banged the bit that keeps Trebor out of the extensions using a split 11 oz plaster charge. The streamway between the first two sumps is some 220’ long. By adding 100’ for downstream Sump 1 and about 180’ for upstream sump 1 to upstream sump 3 the total is about 500’. Quite a pleasant trip.

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Somerset	10/9/91 Assisted Jake and Vince for an hour at Stock Hill Mine Cave. 20 buckets out while I was there, another 32 later.			
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 11/9/91 Steve Redwood, Chris Tozer	½ hr	Priddy	45 loads of clay and rock to surface. We are now going down between two walls of deads - a winze? The clay has nearly run out. There is clean washed rock below. Where did all the infill come from? It is not feasible that it is spoil from the short level 20’ down the entrance shaft and there are no signs of other workings in the immediate vicinity. Perhaps it was dumped in by the Forestry Commission when they planted the ground – this may account for the mass of sticky clay. (wrong – see p.238)/
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 12/9/91 Ted Humphries	2 hr	Priddy	Day off work. Solo trip in the morning to bag up a few rocks and check out the possibility of installing a winch. 1 load out to surface. I then spent a lot of time driving back and forth to home and the Belfry collecting the heavy duty

				<p>blue winch, spanners, nuts etc. The winch was attached to a steel grating which was then fixed to the ground with steel stakes and loaded with rocks. It was then pub time!</p> <p>Having recruited Ted I returned to the site and got the winch organised while he did a drunken visit to the bottom. First he bashed into the dodgy ginging, then he got stuck in the bottom of the dig while poking about in the boulders, next an empty bucket and load of empty bags were sent up, then he overloaded the bucket with precariously balanced rocks – and finally free-climbed all the way (underneath the bucket!) and straight up the dodgy ginging. He must have a charmed life!</p> <p>I then went down to load up the buckets and find a safe spot to hide when Ted hauled them up. A total of 7 full bucket loads were hauled out – about 21 normal loads – and the winch worked superbly, if very slowly. A rock with a 1” diameter shothole in it and a piece of original timber were brought out for Wells Museum. Rope grooves and holes cut in the sides of the shaft to take horizontal timbers (climbing shaft steps?) were noted all the way down the shaft. A good days work done. This mine gets more interesting on every visit. (Also met Stan Herman, BEC member No. 25? in the woods and showed him the dig).</p>
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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 13/9/91 Rich, Jake, Vince	55m	Priddy	A total of 50 loads, 3 large loads and 1 large boulder were hauled out by hand and using the winch (equivalent to 62 normal loads altogether). Most of the sticky clay has now been removed and a sloping limestone floor is appearing. A small iron nail head attached to a pebble of rock was found. We are now using standard galvanised buckets on the rope hauling system and they are ideal for the job.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 14/9/91 Rich Blake, Trev Hughes	45m	Priddy	The winch was used to remove 12 large boulders and bags of rocks.

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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 15/9/91 Steve Redwood, Trev Hughes (Jake, Vince, Rich)	50m	Priddy	14 loads of large boulders winched out. There is a wall of deads appearing at the end and a possible faulted area. Looks good. The “lads” appeared from a prolonged boozing spree and assisted with hauling.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 16/9/91 Alone	2 hr	Priddy	Solo digging day, in the course of which I took down a 15’ aluminium ladder and a 20’ wooden ladder and also winched out 10 large loads. Attempts to winch two loads out at a time were doomed to failure! On observing the stemple holding up the entrance ginging it was suddenly obvious that the stemple holes all the way down the shaft had originally been employed to hold timbers which kept back another 20’ or so of ginging all the way to the first ledge. It seems that these had eventually given way and that the shaft has not in fact been infilled but is full of collapsed deads. The clay layer on top came from a clay filled natural rift just below the entrance

				lid. In this case there is probably not a great amount of boulders left to winch out. It is somewhat laborious digging the shaft alone but it can be done. Today I must have done several hundred feet of ladder climbing! (On 17/9/01 Jake, Vince and Rich brought out another 40 skip loads).
Somerset	<b>Bowery Corner Swallet</b> 18/9/91 Alone	20m	Priddy	Fired an 11 oz plaster gelatine split charge in four shotholes drilled by Gonzo earlier in the week. He has filled in most of the Corner Dig passage with debris. Thos could be a mistake. Lunchtime trip!
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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 18/9/91 Tav, Steve Redwood, Pete Hellier	1 ½ hr	Priddy	9 big loads to surface. The “Old Man” has mined down a steep slope between walls of deads – partly in natural passage. Most interesting! (On Friday Vince + Jake pulled out a further 40 loads – small ones) (I also gave a talk on Wigmore at BCRA).
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 23/9/91 Rich Blake	2h 50m	Priddy	10 large loads (including a “Rock of Gibraltar”) were hauled out by Rich while I loaded at the bottom. We are right in the fault here with slickensides showing on the hanging wall. The floor is a mass of collapsed deads as far as one can see. Work continues.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 25/9/91 Vince, Jake, Pete Hellier, Taffy the Tree Fellow	55m	Priddy	(On Tuesday Vince, Trev and Jake pulled out 20 small loads and 2 large loads – they also found an artefact – an 8” (c) long wrought iron spike with a hammered circular end – possibly a candle holder?) When I arrived on Wednesday night I was suddenly joined by a Welsh forester who was more than happy to assist. The team arrived later and a total of 10 large loads were winched to surface. It pissed down with rain all evening making conditions at surface somewhat unpleasant. Several wheelbarrow loads of deads were removed to the roadside.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 27/9/91 Alone	40m	Priddy	Two large loads out to surface and a couple of loads of small stuff bagged up for the next shift. We still have a lot of deads to remove before we reach any open passage here. Time will tell.
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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 30/9/91 Alone (visitors – Rog and Jackie Dors)	2 hr	Priddy	Hauled out a total of 9 large loads and 13 small loads – the latter from the level at 15-18’ down the shaft. A frog was also rescued from the bottom! There is still a vast amount of rock to come out. Looking down through the deads one can see various bits of wood, small pools of water and mud covered rocks. Could this be the bottom of the shaft which occasionally floods? The deads forming the wall on the LH side of the shaft at the bottom seem to be blocking an old level.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 2/10/91 Pete Hellier, Brian Johnson, John Whitely	1h 5m	Priddy	(On Tuesday Jake, Vince and Co got 6 large loads to surface). We removed another 8 large loads to surface. It looks like the shaft is about to “bottom out”. We may have to try the natural passage half way down or remove the deads at the bottom. This is an odd place.
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	Swildon’s Hole 4/10/91 Sarah (victim), Dany, Brian Johnson, Pete	½ hr	Priddy	I had just gone to bed after an evening in the Hunters when the phone rang. A 17 year old girl had fallen off the 20 Foot Pot and was possibly injured. I rendezvoused with the police on Priddy

	Mulholland (DSS), Mick Nunwick (NCC), Simon Brown (NCC), (Rich West, Paul Hodgson, Robin(?) etc)			Green and waited for the lads to appear. Brian and Pete came first so were despatched to check on the situation. Dany, Mick and Simon then arrived so I joined them and we followed the others down. The girl was found to be shaken and bruised but otherwise okay. The cave was very dry. A piece of rope was found left as a sling on the "20" free climb. This was used to haul her out and she made her own way to the surface encouraged by Dany (who took her out via the Wet Way for sport!) She had not been lifelined and her father, the trip leader, was suitably admonished.
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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 7/10/91 Alone (visitors – 2 tree fellers)	1h 5m	Priddy	5 large loads and 10 small loads out to surface – one of the former and all of the latter from the top level. As a result of the excellent BEC dinner weekend of the previous two days I had had enough after this and festered for the rest of the day. (On 8/10/91 Vince worked alone at the mine in pouring rain. He got 6 large loads to surface and found that the "bottom" of the shaft is still going down, full of mud and rocks).
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 9/10/91 Vince	1 ¼ hr	Priddy	Ten small loads and two tyres (!) out from the first level and five large loads (bags of mud and stones) from the bottom. The weather has been atrocious and there was a two foot deep puddle in the bottom of the shaft. It looks like the mud filled natural passage is the way on. Brought out another stemple.
Somerset	10/10/91 Quick visit to White Pit where Tusker and the Gibbons Hymac digging team have re-excavated the depression to reach a narrow, blocked rift. This was their best hope so they have installed concrete pipes and backfilled the dig. A tremendously expensive project, let's hope it eventually yields a cave!			
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 14/10/91 Jeremy Henley, Jim Smart	3h 10m	Red Quar	Tourist trip for Jim and Jem. Had a look at DFTA before descending to the streamway for a visit to Upstream Sump 1. Everyone was suitably impressed. I then sorted out my diving gear and three packs of kit were brought out. On the way I laid a split 11oz charge halfway down Piss Pot and fired it from the top of Vindication Pot. The Wigmore stream was surprisingly absent but clean washed rock testified to recent flooding. A good trip which Jeremy found hard work.
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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 16/10/91 Tony Boycott, Pete Hellier, Snablet	¾ hr	Priddy	12 large loads and 2 small loads and 2 small loads out to surface. Conditions very mucky. A frog was rescued from the bottom and Snablet found a couple of wooden tool handles (?) which he left in the mine.
Somerset	20/10/91 I accompanied Bob Mackin, Lisa, Brian Prewer, Fred Davies, Rhys (?) and Nick Williams to Wigmore Swallet where two Molephones were used to locate the coil being operated by Steve Redwood at Yeo Pot. A good fix was obtained under a large pine tree near the pheasant feed troughs. Meanwhile Dany, Pete Bolt, Vince, Jake, Mike and Ruth Merritt and Rich Blake were leaving the cave following a successful dive in Downstream Sump 1 by Dany. He passed the sump after some 35 metres (c.114 ft) to emerge in some 10 metres of open streamway and a possible Downstream Sump 2. He was understandably elated – as were the rest of us. With a bit of refresher training the rest of the team will be able to follow him through and continue with the exploration. An inlet on the left in the new streamway might be significant. A good day's work by all involved. Celebrations ensued at the Wells Way Inn!			
Gloucester-shire	<b>Clearwell Caves</b> 21/10/91 Jane + tourists	20m	Clearwell	Quick tourist trip round this rather tatty show cave/iron mine.

Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 22/10/91 Snablet	½ hr	Priddy	4 large loads and 4 small loads to surface. It should have been 5 large loads but one split open at the entrance and bombed Snablet who was a bit bruised. At that point we gave up and went to the pub. A couple of wooden “wedges”, which may have been used to plug freshly drilled shotholes in wet conditions, were brought out. A good foot of water lay at the bottom of the shaft.
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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 23/10/91 Trev Hughes	35m	Priddy	6 large and 6 small loads out. The small loads came from the first level and included a wooden post and a couple of the large loads came from the phreatic tube level which Trev commenced digging. A loading platform will be built here.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 28/10/91 Trev Hughes, Chris Castle	3 ½ hr	Red Quar	The aim of this trip was to start work on the dig at the bottom of Piss Pot where the Wigmore streamway is (theoretically) last seen. The bang of 14/10/91 had done a good job and the pot was much easier to get up and down. I dug while Trev, and later Chris, hauled the bags out and moved them towards Hernia Pot. 26 bags of gravel, rock and mud were eventually removed and we chained them to the bottom of Vindication Pot where they were emptied in a blind side passage. The bottom of Piss Pot is narrowing down and a banging trip is necessary to give us working space and to progress along the descending rift passage. Chris visited the Upper River Yeo streamway and had some interesting moments at the top of Black Pudding Pot! He was suitably impressed. A good and useful trip. Just made the pub for a couple of pints.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 30/10/91 Alone	1h 20m	Priddy	2 small loads out. Being alone there was little I could do in the way of hauling much out so I concentrated on digging the mud-filled phreatic passage halfway down. Two or three feet of progress was made by digging out the extremely sticky infill and stacking it behind me. This passage continues, either as a phreatic tube or pot (it is directly below a small aven and has a natural mud/clay/sand filling – it has not been refilled by the “Old Man”. This could be a long term dig and a platform may have to be built over the excavated shaft where filled bags can be loaded.

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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 1/11/91 Jake, Vince	1 ½ hr	Priddy	I spent some time filling bags in the phreatic tube. The lads arrived and we eventually got 20 “small” bags to surface. One large load slipped its leash and fell into the pond formed at the shaft bottom by the day’s heavy rain. This will be an interesting dig.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 3/11/91 Trev Hughes	2h 40m	Priddy	22 small loads out from the natural dig. Little else to say:- the infill gets drier and has more bits of angular rock in the further we go. A long term dig but very interesting.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 4/11/91 Trev Hughes	4 ¼ hr	Priddy	A total of 17 large loads were painfully winched to surface from the ledge. Most of the spoil was dug from the natural passage. This is a gently dipping phreatic tube completely filled with coarse stream debris including angular sandstone pebbles. This fill seems to be finer at the bottom.

				So far the passage is roomy enough to dig with ease and we are now in about 6'. The walls are composed of an attractive white limestone – almost like chalk. The lip of the passage was also lowered and the ladder/dragway repositioned. The wooden ladder was employed in the lower part of the shaft. This is now an excellent digging site and can be worked with as few or as many people as are available. A bloody good day's work.
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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 6/11/91 Pete Hellier, Andy Smith, Trev Hughes	1 ½ hr	Priddy	Another good night's work. Most of the bags loaded by Jake and Vince the previous night were removed plus some eight skip loads from the face – a total of 15 large loads. We are now some 8-10 feet into the phreatic passage and the digging is for Mendip, superbly pleasant. The fill is sandy, dry and relatively clean. Long may it last.
Somerset	<b>White Pit Hallowe'en Rift</b> 7/11/91 Trev Hughes	10m 40m	Priddy Wookey Hole	4ozs Gelamex (2 small sticks) and 2m Pentaflex fired in split charge with one det on a boulder at the bottom of the concrete entrance pipes. This bang was for Andy Sparrow who has started digging the site. It seems to be draughting well and may hold a lot of promise. Then to Hallowe'en Rift to bang the end for Trev. The place looks even more uninspiring than usual. There is no obvious way on apart from a couple of minute rifts that Trevor insists draught. He has an even more optimistic imagination than I have! 8 ozs Gelamex (4 small sticks) and 2m Pentaflex in a split charge were laid in pockets in the roof. Back at the entrance my 9v battery failed to fire the charge. Trev went back up with a 24v Bosch drill battery and succeeded in firing the charge "after a bit of coaxing". I personally think other parts of this cave now hold greater promise than the end. (On 9/11/91 Vince and Jake enjoyed a wet trip into Wigmore Swallet, following a good sized stream all the way to Piss Pot. This stream was later seen emerging some 12' up the wall of Yeo Pot – thus solving this mystery and making any further work at Piss Pot a waste of time).

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Yorkshire	<b>Yordas Cave</b> 11/11/91 Dudley Herbert	10m	Kingsdale	Arrived at the Hill Inn on Sunday night in torrential rain. Several rescues were in progress including a fatality (heart attack) in Sell Ghyll. On Monday we socialised at Daleswear, Bernie's Café and Inglesport before taking a walk in cold but sunny weather around the base of Ingleborough. The entrances of Braithwaite Wife Hole, Sunset Pot, Meregill Hole, Black Shiver Pot and Tatham Wife Hole were investigated and all found to be very wet. From Tatham Wife we climbed to Ingleborough summit and back down the wooden path across the fell to the Hill Inn, for a couple of well deserved pints. A visit to the newly opened Battlefield Chamber in White Scar Caves was cancelled as the last bit of passage was flooded so we drove over to Kingsdale and had a quick look in the two entrances of Yordas Cave. The main chamber had obviously been
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				almost full the previous night – leaves and froth all over the walls to a great height. The waterfall was still extremely impressive as was the first pitch in the top entrance. An excellent day out.
Yorkshire	<b>White Scar Cave</b> 12/11/91 Dud + guide and 2 tourists	55m	Ingleton	Atrocious weather was still sweeping the Dales but the water levels had dropped enough to White Scar Cave to be open to the end. When we paid our entrance money the guide realised that we were cavers and allowed us to go on ahead. Much of the wooden flooring/walkway has been replaced by scaffolding and steel mesh enabling the stream to be seen blow. This is quite effective but as obtrusive as any metalwork in a cave. The electricians have left rubbish and bits of wire everywhere. Battlefield is now a mass of scaffolding walkways and bright lamps, totally destroying its atmosphere and creating green algae on the formations – even after such a short time. The only good thing that can be said about this unfeeling development is the revealing of the vast amount of straws on the Battlefield ceiling. In general the cave is a complete mess but I suppose it keeps the tourists happy.
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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 15/11/91 (Dudley Herbert) Trev Hughes	2h 5m	Priddy	During the week Trev and Davey Lennard had removed 24 skiploads from the dig. In the morning Dud and I went over and wheelbarrowed a couple of tons of boulders to the main road. We also tidied up the site and camouflaged the spoil heap. Trev failed to appear with the key until lunchtime. In the afternoon Trev and I dug in the phreatic passage and eventually removed another 12 skip loads. The dig unfortunately now contained a pool of water and the previously dry conditions had reverted to ones similar to that suffered by the troops on the Somme! The passage is dipping more steeply and could be getting narrower. It may also be turning sharply to the right. Time will tell. Another good day's work but I suspect this dig is not going to be the easy and pleasant project we expected!
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 17/11/91 Trev Hughes	1 ½ hr	Priddy	Continued digging in the phreatic passage. To encourage the enthusiasm of the digging team I thought it a good idea to enlarge the passage as much as possible by excavating the floor. Eventually the passage became high enough to literally walk along! Trev then took over and dug at the end and in the floor – where he found a small lump of primary galena, some attractive samples of which were brought out. IT seems that the “Old Man” was on to something after all. A total of 18 skiploads of spoil were hauled out in miserable weather conditions.
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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 20/11/91 Vince, Jake, Trev	1h 10m	Priddy	20 skip loads and 1 boulder to surface, the latter being prised from the side of the natural passage by Vince. There seem to be other loose rocks in the infill ahead. The passage may be going more vertical but it is difficult to say what we have until all the clay is removed. The skip loading area was also deepened. Another good shift!
Somerset <i>rescue</i>	23/11/91 Callout from Mac on Saturday evening. Two lads from Midsomer Norton overdue from the Twin Verticals in Eastwater. They had been in the shop earlier and were obviously clued up.			

	Reached entrance and got changed only to find them emerging after a good trip but unaware of the time due to a lack of watches. They were suitably embarrassed, especially by the police presence. Nearly one at Rhino Rift the following day also!			
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 24/11/91 Trev Hughes	1h 40m	Priddy	10 skiploads and two boulders out to surface. This is hard work for just two people. By removing loose rocks embedded in the sediment infill we are able to make the passage a reasonable size.
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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 25/11/91 Alone (visitors: two tree fellers)	3 ¾ hr	Priddy	2 skiploads and 1 bag to surface. This was at the end of a sustained digging and bagging session when I managed to clear out just about everything removable at the end. There are at least 20 bags awaiting removal from the shaft. A large boulder or section of wall on the LH side needs drilling and banging before we can proceed further along the infilled passage. Much of the dug out spoil contained orange, red and brown ochres and calcite crystals. There is still a good draught from the hole halfway down the lower section of the mineshaft. Ladder removed for cleaning.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 27/11/91 Pete Hellier, Trev Hughes, Tony Boycott	40m	Priddy	The 23 “small” bags which I had filled on Monday were hauled to surface. A split charge consisting of 4 ozs Gelamex and 11 ozs plaster gelatine was fired with 2m Cordtex and one No.8 det. on the offending boulder on the LH side. We then wheelbarrowed all remaining surface boulders to the roadside.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 30/11/91 Alone	½ hr	Priddy	Laid a 16 ½ oz split charge (plaster) using 2m Cordtex and one No.8 detonator to demolish a medium sized rock (left over from the results of the last bang which was cleared by Jake and Vince on Friday) and to split another boulder looming ahead in the dig face.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 1/12/91 Trev, Pete Bolt, Nick Wall, Jake, Rich Blake, Vince	1 ½ hr	Priddy	The last bang has demolished the two rocks and turned them to gravel and dust – a bit of an “overkill”! Beyond and probably below them lie more large boulders and a narrow, sediment filled rift continues ahead on the LH side. Some 30 small loads of infill and rocks were winched to the surface. Pete Bolt took loads of photos of the dig and the mineshaft which will provide a good record of the site. Plans to install a short girder below the entrance ginging were shelved due to the difficulty of placing it properly without disturbing the rotten “200 year old” stemple. We must put in a couple of Acro jacks and then cement it up. Another good afternoon’s hard graft.
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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 2/12/91 Trev Hughes, Rich Blake, (Max Midden(WCC))	3 ½ hr	Priddy	Trev, Rich and I dug in the morning and Max joined us in the afternoon. A total of some 30 skip/bag loads of sediment and rock were winched to surface. The way on is apparently straight ahead but has narrowed down to a 4” wide x 3 – 4ft high rift full of clay. It is necessary to dig out the clay and then drill and bang the RH wall so that the rock is blasted into the dug out space. Two short holes were drilled with Trevor’s Bosch drill and a split 2oz Gelamex charge (1m Pentaflex, 1 No.8 det.) laid by Richard and fired from the surface. I suspect that



				this dig is going to give us a few problems. Yet again, a large amount of good work accomplished. The steel girder was cut to size and installed below the loose ginging. It needs cementing.
Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 3/12/91 Vince, Jake, Rich	2h 10m	Red Quar	Some 40 skip loads of spoil were removed from the bottom of the two free climbs and hauled to surface. The skips were also taken out as we will not be doing any more digging over the winter. These were taken to the Stock Hill Mine Cave site. The large jammed boulder at the head of the lower free climb was removed by Vince (the Harptree Boulder Thug) and wedged at the bottom of the upper free climb.
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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 4/12/91 Trev, Vince, Rich	2h 10m	Priddy	(During the day Trevor went over and mortared up the ginging. He also attempted to clear the vast amount of debris left from the bang of 2/12/91. This bang had done a superb job and there was a lot of broken rock to clear) In the evening we removed 25 skip loads of rubble and laid a 2 oz Gelamex charge using 1.5m Pentaflex and one no.8 det. The charge was shared around four shotholes, two deep at high level and two shallow in the lower bed. This well bedded, multicoloured limestone breaks off easily into nice square blocks – as evidenced by the miners' deads. In fact our 1990s Bosch drill and gelignite work is achieving much the same result as that of the Old Man in the first level of this mine where he followed a narrow natural rift back in the 18 <sup>th</sup> Century (?) using hand drills and black powder. Judging by the results of the last 2oz bang though, we are able to progress at a much faster rate (albeit on a part time basis!) I hope he found his lead and that we find our cave.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 6/12/91 (Jake)	1 ½ hr	Priddy	PM. Trev went down and cleared the last bang debris from the working face. A reasonable job had been done. In the evening I went down (and assisted by Jake on surface we hauled out two skips) drilled 5 shotholes. There were packed with 4ozs Gelamex and fire using 1 No.8 det. and two metres Pentaflex in a 5-split charge, well tamped. A nice dull bang resulted (24 skiploads brought out by Snablet and Rich on 7/12/91)
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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 9/12/91 Trev Hughes	3h 10m	Priddy	AM. 2h 10m 14 skip loads out. PM. 1hr 4 skips out. At first there appeared to be no obvious way on with only tiny mud filled bedding planes and rifts above the solidly bedded rock floor. In the afternoon Trev had a bash at the tiny tube directly ahead. With a bit of rock bashing and mud removal he had soon opened it up to reveal it as possibly the main way on. It is still too small for progress and will need banging but at least it is a possibility for future progress. Lunchtime was spent at the Old Inn, Congresbury and the Hunter's Lodge.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 10/12/91 Trev Hughes (visitors: Bob Elliot and his lads)	40m	Priddy	Trev nipped down an hour before me to clear the working face and drill three shotholes. I then loaded these with 2 oz plaster gelatine, one metre of Pentaflex and a No.8 det – fired from surface. 2 skip loads of broken rock were hauled out. Lots

				of hauling will need to be done tomorrow night.
Somerset	<b>Wookey Hole Cave</b> 12/12/91 MRO – Prew, Fred, Trev, Tim, Eric, Bob Scammell, John Swift, Rich West, Snab, Dany, Phil Romford, Mac, Mr.N BBC – Penny Shules, Clive North, Elmer Postle, Steve Shern, John Chilcott, Suzie Sampson, Nicki Young, Jann Hicks, Steven McEachran, Andy Foster Casualty – Philip Rowe etc, etc	9 ½ hr	Wookey Hole	“Rescue 999” is hopefully to be a new BBC TV series based on an American programme showing re-staged actual rescue operations of different types. The MRO had been asked to re-enact a typical cave rescue and the Swildon’s Black Hole episode of 1-2/6/89 was chosen. The original rescuee (Doug) and his mate (Kevin) were contacted and gave interviews of their experience. On 11/12/91 several of us were filmed being “called out” from the bar of the “Hunters”. On the Thursday many of us were booked for a days acting in Wookey Hole Cave where the actual Black Hole sequences were being filmed. An incredibly harsh frost made conditions outside extremely cold, as they also were in the start of the show cave, though from 3 to 9 the excessive lighting warmed things up. Several of us were filed above a hole in boulders near the “Goatherd” (just inside the cave) where the top of Black Hole was simulated. This all took a long time so at one point I went off to explore as far as the Grille, off Chamber 1. Following a free lunch at “the Galloper” another team of us climbed to the pre-rigged abseil above Chamber 9 (some 80’ or so). After a long wait further sequences were filmed here, including the dropping of one Henry (a dummy!) down the pitch – narrowly missing Clive and his camera! (I abseiled this superb pitch twice just for the fun of it). The final sequence was acted out in the upstream end of Sump 2 where Dany was put in the stretcher and immersed a couple of times, not without a few near drowning problems, in a re-enactment of Swildons Sump 1. All went extremely well, if very slowly, and the instant video replays looked great. Everyone seemed very pleased with the day and most appreciative of the efforts of the MRO.

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Somerset	<b>Dallimore’s Cave</b> 15/12/91 Tony Seddon (OUCC), Nick Hawkes, Snablet	3h 25m	Green Ore	For a long time I had been promising the Oxford University lads that I would bang their dig at the end of Curious Love in Dallimore’s. Today I couldn’t find any more excuses! After a few lunchtime pints to deaden the nerves Tony led us down this grim cave with Bosch drill, bang, wire etc. Snablet and Nick were suitably impressed by the horrifically awkward squeezes and I was definitely unimpressed by the partly flooded crawl ending in a right-angled bend which I was expected to demolish. It being too wet and awkward to use the drill I laid a split 11b Gelamex charge using 2m Cordtex and 1 no.8 det on the roof and RH wall at the end. As I was only wearing a fleece suit and a lightweight Daleswear oversuit I soon go bloody cold and shivered uncontrollably. After a few cock-ups with the wire laying the charge was eventually fired from below the nasty bits leading to the Extension. It sounded OK. We all then thankfully left the cave after an unpleasant and difficult trip – but not QUITE as bad as the first time! I really hope that this bang has opened up enough passage to keep these buggers occupied for years
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				– but I doubt it! Good draught at the end, blowing outwards. As hard a cave as any on Mendip.
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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 16/12/91 Trev, Rich Blake	4 ¾ hr	Priddy	42 skiploads of rock and clay to surface. The last bang had done a good job and tiny clay filled tube ahead had been enlarged to some 4' across by 2' high, although the actual dimensions cannot be truly envisaged until the clay filling is completely removed. We seem to have reached a cross joint and it is possible that the main way on is to the right. A narrow rift in the roof is also clay filled. The whole place looks a much better proposition now than it did last week! The spoil heap is well over halfway across the depression now (As the Festive Season is nearly upon us a small, spiny arboreal item was removed for replanting elsewhere). A very good days work indeed. No more bang needed now until the clay is all dug out.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 18/12/91 Trev, Steve Redwood, Nigel Burns, Neil Scallon	1h 5m	Priddy	Mud digging and hauling in horrid wet conditions. The end of the dig had pools of water in it reducing the previously pleasant site to one of utter squalor. 18 skip loads were brought to surface before the lure of the Hunter's called a halt to proceedings. Trevor reckons that we are now back into caveable (but still sediment filled) passage. A couple of sections of crinoid stem, resembling bits of clay pipe, were removed from the dig. (On 21/12/91 Trev removed another 4 skip loads).
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Somerset	<b>Hallowe'en Rift</b> 20/12/91 Jake, Vince	55m	Wookey Hole	Vince and Jake had re-started Quiet John's dig in the lower part of the cave – now known under the pisstaking name of "Not the Blank Wall Dig"! A low, muddy crawl had been dug out but a short section of floor needed banging to progress further. The new BEC Bosch drill was taken in and Vince easily drilled four full length holes on one battery! I then laid a split 6 ½ oz Gelamex charge using 2m Pentaflex and one No.8 det – fired from the entrance. At the base of the entrance shaft the lads are also digging a crawl. This seems to be the up-dip continuation of the entrance crawl – Not the Blank Wall Dig passage and could be quite interesting.
Somerset	Stock Hill Mine Cave 23/12/91 Alone	1h 25m	Priddy	Digging in very awkward conditions at the end of the natural passage. Although of a reasonable size the passage is so steep that the digger has almost to be upside down. The incredibly stocky mud does not help matters! We may have to blow off the LH wall to give a bit of working space. Two skiploads of mud and rick were hauled out to surface.
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IRELAND Co. Clare	25/12/91 Christmas Day. Phil, Jeff and I did some surface prospecting to the north west of Roadford finding little of speleological interest. An open pond (spring?) with a hand pump, a souterain and a circle of stones (ring fort?) were amongst the items of interest spotted. Superb area of limestone pavement though.			
Co.Clare	<b>St. Catherines One/Fisherstreet Pot</b> 26/12/91 Jeff Price, Phil	2 ½ h	Doolin	Nice and steady through trip, not breaking any speed records. We had a look at the Smithy on the way. This cave is always more impressive and superb than one remembers and an excellent

	Romford			trip was had. Lots of eels were seen in the streamway. Our only problem was when we emerged at the base of Fisherstreet Pot to find the ladder too short by some 10' or so! I free climbed halfway up the far side of the pot to end up stuck on a ledge. Phil managed to climb to the bottom of the ladder and struggled out. Babs didn't fancy the climb out so Phil rescued me and we walked back to the house for more ladder and lifeline. Jeff and Babs were soon retrieved and most of the rest of the day was spent in O'Connors Bar.
Somerset	<b>Pollnagollum/ Pouelva</b> 29/12/91 Mongo, Ben, Skippy	2h 5m	Lisdoonvarna	Phil, Jeff and Babs abseiled into the system via Pouelva while the rest of us rigged a handline on Pollnagollum entrance and then entered the cave via the crawl to the base of the pothole. We then had a very pleasant ramble through the cave, meeting the others in the Maze. Prussicked out of Pouelva, Ben on his first SRT trip. A great time was had by all.

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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 3/1/92 Trev Hughes, Nick Williams (WCC), Struan McDonald (WCC), (Mac, Martin Grass)	1h 40m	Priddy	Mac and Martin winched and passed messages at surface – Martin's hernia preventing him from doing heavy work. Nick drilled 2 shotholes (1 x 19 mill x 420 mill, 1 x 14 mill x 150 mill) with Bob Mackin's generator powered Hilti rock drill. He then laid a split charge of my explosives, using 1 No.8 det., 1, Pentaflex and 10 ozs Gelamex. In the meantime 11 skiploads of mud were hauled to surface. The charge was fired from the surface and sounded very good.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 5/1/92 Trev, Jake, John Sheppey (Wells Diving Gp) (Sue Sheppey (WDG)m Jon Attwood)	2h 10m	Priddy	Nick's bang had done a superb job and the ledge was demolished, one large rock having to be broken up by hand. Most of the spoil was passed back to the landing and eventually 20 skip loads were hauled out to surface. There is now plenty of room to dig at the end.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave (Snablet's Dig) Whitebeam Slitter Cave</b> 6/1/92 1) Dave, Mike (Cotham Caving Group) (Snablet, Jake, Trev) 2) Trev, Snablet 3) Snablet	2 ¼ hr 20m 10m	Priddy Cheddar Cheddar	1x After a pleasant lunchtime session, where we met the two Cotham lads (who had been down Welsh's Green), we carried on with the dig. 16 skip loads were hauled out to surface – the two new lads working hard and thoroughly enjoying themselves. When it got dark Trev, Snablet and I went to Snablet's illegal dig adjacent to Whitebeam Slitter Cave. This is a tight but promising tube with a banded constriction after 12' and possibly open way on beyond. Trev had drilled this in the morning so I laid a 3 ½ oz split Gelamex charge using a No.8 det and 1m Pentaflex. This was fired from below Whitebeam with spectacular acoustics! The mighty bang echoed around the Gorge for several seconds, despite plenty of tamping. It will be a job keeping this dig a secret! To round off the day we had a quick inspection of Whitebeam Slitter Cave – a hundred foot or so long and nicely decorated with pink and white formations and moonmilk. At least one bat was seen and the inscription "1885 June R.C.Gough" noted near the end. A nice little cave and a good afternoon's entertainment.

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Somerset	(On 10/1/92 John Attwood removed 4 skip loads from Stock Hill Mine Cave and on 11/1/92 Trev and John hauled out another 4 skips)			
Somerset	<b>Hazelnut Swallet</b> 4/1/92 Tim Howell (ISG)	25m	West Horrington	This Independent Speleo Group dig is adjacent to Knapp Hill Swallet. The lads were a bit short of room and wanted a bang doing. I took an hour off work and accompanied Tim to the cave. It is roomy and some 20' long. Near the end I drilled a shothole in the roof and another in a large boulder lying on the floor. A split 3 oz Gelamex charge with 1m Pentaflex and one No.8 det was laid and fired from the surface with a loud and satisfying bang. This is an interesting site which can take a lot of water and also has a draught. There should be quite an interesting and wet cave system below this valley.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 12/1/92 Trev Hughes	1h 55m	Priddy	8 more skips out. The face is about 3' square but the sticky clay is a bastard to move out to surface. We need half a dozen new, small, strong buckets and we may have to install a wooden skipway right to the face. The passage is still going down. Lots of work to do.

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Somerset	Stock Hill Mine Cave 13/1/92 Alone	1h 35m	Priddy	2 skips out. Took down several short lengths of steel ladder, one of which was propped up in the phreatic passage to make life easier. Spent some time digging at the face, filling bags, buckets and skips and hauling a couple out. Good intentions of returning in the afternoon were thwarted by a great lunchtime session in the pub in the company of Vin Garbutt, and after lunch Vin and I went for a walk across the Mineries and North Hill.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 15/1/92 Trev, (John Attwood)	2h 35m	Priddy	A good night – 16 skips to surface – John hauling out ten of them. I got there early and dug at the end. I noticed that a large area of roof sounded “not right” – rather hollow compared to the rest of the solid rock. I dug underneath and around this block and luckily had just moved my leg out of the way when a firkin sized rock dropped out of the roof with no warning at all. It was later broken up by Trev with a sledge hammer and removed to surface. There is now a lot of room at the end and the place is getting bigger ( a possible aven ?) The mud does not get any less sticky but some new plastic buckets proved to be a boon as it came out of them like sand castles. Unfortunately they are too fragile to last very long. This place would be an ideal NHASA dig!
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 17/1/92 Alone	¾ hr	Priddy	Filled a load of buckets. The passage may be heading to the left. We definitely need to keep on going down dip.
Somerset <i>Rescue</i>	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 19/1/92 (Trev), Tony Boycott, Mike, Paul (CCG)	1 ¾ hr	Priddy	15 skiploads out, Trev doing all the hauling until the Cotham lads arrived. Wet and sticky conditions made the digging and hauling miserable, so we were almost pleased and relieved when a shout came from the surface to get out of the mine as there was a rescue at G.B. Cavern which probably needed experienced diggers due to boulder collapse. We all went across the G.B. but after waiting for an hour or so were stood down as Fred Davies and team had managed to break up the single offending rock

				and release the four Outcasts trapped beyond. (At the same time there was a Box Mines callout due to an overdue party of partly Downs Syndrome kids.) An entertaining afternoon!
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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 20/1/92 Max Midden (WCC)	2 hr	Priddy	4 skips out. Most of our time was spent in digging and bagging clay at the end ready for a major hauling session. In the afternoon we couldn't face the atrociously sticky conditions again so we went for a walk over Stock Hill.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 22/1/92 Pete Hellier	1h 50m	Priddy	4 skips and 4 bags to surface. 3ozs of Gelamex, one No.8 det and 0.25 metre of Pentaflex was fired on a boulder at the end. He use of digging bags is now much preferable to buckets as the mud can be extracted much more easily. The present hard frost is useful for knocking the mud off clothing and digging gear left on surface. <u>Hard going with just two of us.</u>
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 27/1/92 Ian Marchant (Doug Cunningham, Matt Tuck)	2h 5m	Priddy	18 bags to surface. The way on seems to be trending leftwards – big and full of mud. We may soon have to mechanise the haulage system as it is a pain in the arse at present. Bags are definitely the answer for the time being. The last bang had destroyed the offending rock. There is a vast amount of spoil to come out of the dig. There are tiny sinuous airspaces in the top of the mud infill where miniscule flows of water have carved their way through the mud.
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Somerset	<b>Hallowe'en Rift</b> 28/1/92 Vince	50m	Wookey Hole	6 ½ oz Gelamex, 1 no.8 det and 1m Pentaflex used as a triple charge in three fairly deep shotholes drilled by Vince. The aim is to lift the calcite floor out of the passage to enable the way on to be found. This site, the “Not the Blank Wall Dig” is beginning to take on the familiar aspects of Trevor's “Blank Wall Dig”! Deja Vue!! I just hope we don't have to struggle here for the next few years with no reward. Trevor has built a loose fitting manhole cover lid on this cave. Some concreting is necessary to secure the packing around the lid. (It did a good job – Vince and Andy went in on 29/1/92)
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 29/1/92 Trevor Hughes (John Attwood, Sian McNab)	2 hr	Priddy	19 bags to surface. John and Sian did most of the winching and emptying, Trev filled the bags with spoil dug on 27 <sup>th</sup> and I was the middle man. A useful night's work.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 30/1/92 Alone	1 hr	Priddy	2 bags to surface. I also filled ten bags at the end and removed a hefty rock. In the tiny “anastomotic” tube between mud and rock, near the end, are unique (?) “fish scale” calcite (?) crystals – very tiny but like nothing I have seen or read of before. The passage at the end is some 4-5 ft wide and at least that high.
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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 3/2/92 John Attwood	3h 10m	Priddy	25 bags and one rock hauled out by John. A large amount of 8” – 4ft lengths of scaffold pole, a short wooden ladder and a couple of boards were lowered down the shaft and stored for future use as a skipway. Several bags were filled at the end. A good day's work which would have been a lot easier with more than two of us. (In the morning I placed and fired a split 13 oz Gelamex charge

				using 1m Pentaflex and one No.8 det behind a large slab of rock in Split Rock Quarry, Wells. This was to assist Martin Ridell and Alex – local climbers and access engineers – who are engaged in cleaning loose rocks from the quarry face. A fairly spectacular and efficient bang which completely cleared the slab from the face. Photos were taken.)
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 5/2/92 Andy Dennis, Jon Attwood, Alex Livingstone, (Martin Riddell, Sian McNab)	2h 20m	Priddy	Martin and Alex had been persuaded to come digging and Martin gave us a large pulley wheel which was rigged from a rope above the steel winch cable. Andy, Jon, Alex and I dug and bag hauled below while Martin hauled the sacks and Sian emptied them. A total of 50 sacks were taken out by this much faster and efficient system. We should soon be able to stand up at the end! An excellent night's work.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 9/2/92 Pete Rose, Paul Evans, Dave Shipton (CCG)	1h 50m	Priddy	29 bags to surface. We took it in turn to fill 5 bags each and then all changed places. A few extras were filled and hauled out. Little else to report!
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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 10/2/92 Andy Dennis	2h 35m	Priddy	2 sacks to surface. At least 20 sacks were filled from the working face and dragged back to various ledges. We also took a couple of feet of deads out of the blocked level at the present bottom of the mineshaft. This was pushed for about 10' to where it appears to be a dead end. The indications are that we need to carry on down the shaft – a summer job.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 12/2/92 Trev Hughes (Jon Attwood, Sian McNab)	2 hr	Priddy	31 bags and 2 attractive rocks to surface. Following the recent brief spell of heavy rain there was a large 6" deep puddle at the end. This will have to be pumped or bailed out before further forward digging is contemplated. Trev and I filled a few bags and then dragged everything as far to the shaft as possible. Jon and Sian then arrived and Trev joined them on the surface to help in hauling the lot out. All bags emptied out ready for the next session. Very mucky.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 17/2/92 Paul Evans, Dave Shipton (CCG)	2h 10m	Priddy	A general tidying up trip. The two pumps were taken down but failed to work correctly. We must get some practice in priming them properly! Lots of junk was removed from the surface and stored in the level near the bottom of the entrance shaft. The Cotham lads then arrived and at least 20 bags were filled with clay from the nearside of the puddle at the end. The whole aim of this is to completely clear out the passage to give us an idea of its dimensions and encourage more diggers! A nice calcite crystal was found. All the bags were dragged up to the bottom of the entrance shaft ready for removal on Wednesday night.
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Somerset	<b>Hazelnut Swallet</b> 18/2/92 Tim Howell (ISG)	20m	West Horrington	The aim was to bang a calcite/rock intrusion at the end of a crawl as the lads only had 6 weeks of official digging permission left. The crawl was deep in mud and surface debris and fairly unpleasant. I decided it was a wiser move to blow out the calcite/rock ledge some 2' before

				the end to give them a bit of working space. A 13 oz split Gelamex charge, one No.8 det and ¼ metre of Pentaflex was noisily fired from surface. A promising site.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 19/2/92 Jon Attwood, Chris Castle, Martin Ridell, Steve Redwood, (Trev Hughes, Sian McNab, Tony Boycott)	2 hr	Priddy	A good turn out. Martin rigged up a headframe from scaffolding left over from his Split Rock Quarry job. This worked very well. The underground team bailed out the pool at the end, pouring the water into the mineshaft. We then filled a dozen or so bags. A total of 25 bags were hauled to surface.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 21/2/92 Alone	1h 5m	Priddy	Filled several bags at the end. Due to a constant trickle of water the puddle at the end had again risen some 6”.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 23/2/92 Trev, Paul Evans, Dave Shipton, Mike (CCG)	1 ¼ hr	Priddy	52 bags to surface. A tough afternoon’s digging, bailing and hauling in shitty conditions – above and below ground. Trevor deepened the floor at the end. Pumps removed for cleaning. Back to the grindstone tomorrow!

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Somerset	<b>Wigmore Swallet</b> 27/2/92 Andy Dennis, Matt Tuck	2h 20m	Red Quar	A change of scenery! Andy and I went down with 10 x 5’ lengths of chain (which were once used to hold up kids’ swings in Luton) and left them at the climb to Drake’s Hall in preparation for making a fixed chain ladder. We then had a look round in the Hall noting that the left hand side at the far end is the best place for a long term dig. We then went for a tourist trip to the streamway and Andy free-dived Upstream Sump 1. On the way out we met Matt at Vindication Pot and together we hauled out a couple of tackle bag loads of digging bags and two roped up skips. All the old oversuits on the surface were also removed. The upper series of the cave was draughting strongly inwards. There must be major cave to be found somewhere above Vindication Pot/Drake’s Hall area. A pleasant, energetic and refreshing trip made sporting by the small stream from the entrance to the Upper River Yeo.
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Somerset	29/2/92 Trev and I went to Stock Hill Mine Cave where Trev spent some time installing the steel ladder, which I had previously rigged at the top of the shaft, at the bottom of the shaft! He did a good job of bolting it to the wall. One load of rocks was brought to surface.			
Somerset	2/3/92 Trev, Rich and I removed a 10’ section of ladder from the entrance of St. Cuthbert’s Swallet despite being pissed!			
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 3/3/92 Dave Shipton (CCG) Rich Blake	2h 35m	Priddy	16 loads to surface. Lots of bags were filled from the near side of the terminal puddle and dragged to the bottom of the first sloping ladder out to the big ledge before the last ladder. At the point “upstream” of the terminal puddle I dug into the LH wall and there is a definite phreatic, clay-filled passage. This may be either an inlet or outlet – it is not possible to tell without digging out more clay – but it is a very roomy passage and well worth digging when the main face is too wet to work. A couple of large rocks were also dislodged from the wall and sent on their way out. Despite our limited numbers we managed to do a lot of work on this session.

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Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 4/3/92	2h 35m	Priddy	30 bags to surface. Trev semi-installed two more sections of rigid ladder in the entrance shaft.
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	Trev Hughes, Andy Dennis, Pete Hellier (Martin Riddell)			Pete, Trev and I pumped the water from the end down the shaft – the pump working to perfection! Pete and I then dug many bag loads from the floor of the end dig (plus a few from the other dig) and Andy sweated away hauling bags. Another good night's work.
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 8/3/92 Trev Hughes, Snab, (Quackers)	3 hr	Priddy	32 bags to surface. Trev finished bolting the next 2 sections of rigid ladder to the walls of the shaft while Snab and I filled bags at the end. Most of these were hauled to the shaft bottom. Before this could be accomplished the puddle at the end was pumped down the shaft. Several "diamonds" found hence Snab suggested the name "Diamond Passage".
Somerset	<b>Stock Hill Mine Cave</b> 9/3/92 Rich Blake (Jon Attwood)	2 hr	Priddy	4 skip loads of rocks to surface. We dug and filled some 30 or so bags at the end and recovered a lot of dog tooth calcite crystals. Jon arrived late to assist in hauling.
VIETNAM	BRITISH SPELEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION 1992 QUANG BINH PROVINCE, N. VIETNAM			
	The Team:- Howard and Debbie Limbert, Paul Ibberson, Dave (Noddy) Nodding, Dany Bradshaw, Bob Cork, Carl Maxon, Rupert Skorupka, Mick Nunwick, Simon Brown, Tony Jarratt, Pete Ward. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Quang My, Phan Duy Nga, Nguyen Xuan Truong, Nguyen Minh, (the Driver). <u>Security, Boatmen, Guides etc</u> Nùng, Kháng, Tiêm, Huy Du, Khwang <u>Video Team</u> (The two Syds)			

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VIETNAM	 <p>13/3/92 6am Left Priddy in Dany's van to reach Heathrow at 8.30. Flew out at 11.15 am for Bangkok. 3 hr wait before taking smaller plane to Hanoi. Both flights, Thai Airways, were excellent and luckily there was plenty of room for me to spread out in relatively isolated quarantine due to my severe dose of Chickenpox! At 6am (UK time), 1pm (Vietnam time) we descended through thick cloud to appear a couple of hundred feet above Hanoi Airport, the flat paddy fields alongside the runway peppered with flooded bomb craters. "Good Morning Vietnam".</p> <p>After struggling through customs we met Howard and Debbie with Truong, Phyl and the Driver from Hanoi University and out 32 seater Russian built coach. Then followed an entertaining hour as we chugged along the busy and narrow road between paddy fields which led to Hanoi city. The roadsides were lined with small brick and wood houses and shops with goods of every type, notably bike spares and beer! The driving style is unique – there was just enough room for two lorries to pass and steep drops each side of the road. A continuous stream of bikes, mopeds, cattle, bullock carts, tractors and occasional jeeps, lorries, cars and coaches made life interesting, everyone being</p>
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	desperate to overtake and signalling this by continuously blowing their horns – a real racket! Noisier than Africa, Mexico, Jamaica or even Spain!			
Page 269				
VIETNAM	14/3/92 On arrival in Hanoi we threaded our way through the bicycles and cyclos to the Phuong Mai Hotel where I got a single, en suite room with air-conditioning, radio and fridge to shower and rest in in quarantine. The housemaid, Miss Bang, was extremely polite and efficient.			
VIETNAM	15/3/92 Festered – literally. Howard brought me breakfast of orange juice, 2 omelettes and a small tasty “French” loaf. Spent the day sorting kit, washing clothes and reading. In the evening I was suddenly dragged out to a piss-up in the local bar where draught Vietnamese beer was supped to excess, and the local soup was tried – excellent. This was followed by a rowdy session in the hotel.			
VIETNAM	16/3/92 Hungover. Took cycle rickshaws (cyclos) into city centre (about 40p). Riding in one of these through the teeming streets of Hanoi is an experience in itself – especially at busy cross-roads where all the traffic intermingles and crosses without stopping. Walking across the road is also an acquired skill. The day was spent going to the bank for 3 rucksack loads of Dong (the local overinflated currency) and shopping. In the fascinating “old town” area we had a Chinese meal which bore no resemblance to the stuff in the UK. We found everyone to be helpful pleasant and continually smiling – the characteristics of everyone we met in Vietnam,			
VIETNAM	17/3/92 Lectures by Prf. Dr. Phan Van Quynh and Prof. Dr. Nguyen Quang My on geology and karst research followed by more shopping. A couple of embroidered cave pictures were commissioned in one of the tourist shops. Stamps depicting the karst and caves of Halong Bay were also purchased. At 4pm we were taken by coach to visit the head of Union of Construction Enterprises No.1 – Pham Al Nhan – in his boardroom. Coffee, lemonade and fruit were consumed while we discussed his plans to develop parts of Quang Bish province for tourism. A French style meal was later had at Restaurant 202.			
VIETNAM	Up at 6 am. Packed the coach and after saying goodbye to Jim Abbott, Tim Allen, Dave Gill, John Palmer, Steve Thomas, Andy Quinn, Bob North and ( the Chinese border team), we drove off down highway No.1 on the 8 hour ride to Vinh, stopping for lunch at Than Hon en route. Rice paddies, brick works, flooded bomb craters, destroyed bridges and unexploded bombs in scrap merchants premises were to be seen all the way. Coracles, motor boats and Doc Mocs were seen on the many rivers of the country. Vinh had been almost totally flattened by American bombers and is now a large sprawling modern city with little charm. A very basic hotel was found and a good meal eaten nearby.			
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VIETNAM	20/3/92 After breakfast we all trooped next door for an official meeting with the Quang Binh People’s Committee. Magazines, photos and whisky were exchanged for permission to cave in the area and a session on free beer and grapes! At 2.30 pm we left for the Phong Nha area where the superb limestone towers could be seen from miles away. On arrival in the village we were met by the local People’s Committee and base camp was set up in the “village hall”. A magic bit of country. Situated in the Truong Son Mountains.			
VIETNAM	21/3/92 Up early. Boiled eggs and doughnuts from the market for breakfast. Three oar-propelled Doc Mocs were then hired to take us up river for our first caving trip.			
VIETNAM Quảng Bình	Hang Phong Nha 21/3/92 Noddy, Rup, Simon, Mick, Bob, Howard, Dob, Paul, My, Ngha, 2 Syds, 6 boatmen + 2 others	6h 5m	Phong Nha	See below
	An hour boat ride led us to a tributary to the Son River. Not far up this loomed the bomb damaged entrance to this spectacular river cave – a major local attraction which the locals are hoping to develop and publicise more. This is an important site and potentially one of the world’s classic show caves. The three Doc Mocs paddled straight into the entrance and up the huge river passage for some 1.5 km to land us at the foot of an enormous dry chamber where the river emerged from the foot of a massive breakdown pile. We all disembarked and the Syds took a few snaps and bits of video film. Rup, Simon, Bob, Howard and Mick carried on to push and survey the ongoing river cave beyond the chamber using the two <b>Sevy lor</b> dinghies. Noddy, Paul and I surveyed from the main chamber (Uncle Ho’s Chamber) to the start of the upstream river passage and then back on the far side of the dry stuff to close a loop and establish the correct size of the chamber. The dry section is basically a huge gallery with breakdown on the floor and the river flowing below and to one side. There are many spectacular formations – especially pillars. A couple of 4” diameter spiders and some amblypyysi were seen, as was a bat. The latter was in a 60’+ flowstone coated aven which I climbed to a point where it was still going up but too difficult to easily scale. The names of a party of Vietnamese explorers who entered the cave in March 1941 were found smoked or painted on the			

	walls on the RH side, going in, beyond Uncle Ho's Chamber. Another name, B.Truong, was found carved in flowstone nearby. I am told that the cave was originally explored by a Brit in 1924 but unfortunately do not know his name. There are theories of occupation/religious rites in the entrance area (above river level?) in the distant past but I know of no evidence for this. Supposedly some Europeans stole artefacts(?) from the entrance earlier this year – again not confirmed. Any removable objects would in any case be under water (like American bombs, rockets and ammunition!) Paul, Noddy and I then left the cave in one Doc Moc to join Prof. My and the Two Syds at the entrance. One boat was left behind for the exploration party: A tremendous cave system, similar to Padirac but without the gours thus giving a superb boat trip. There is doubtless miles more upstream passage to be found. This is a great introduction to the major river caves of the Son Trach area. (The name signifies “Wind and Teeth” – i.e. the draught and stalactites)
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VIETNAM Quảng Bình <i>discovery</i>	<b>Hang Phong Nha</b> <b>Hang Tôi</b> 22/3/92 1) My, Simon, Deb, Pete, Rup, Dany, 2 Syds, Carl, Paul, 6 Boatman, Head man of Son Trach 6 plus below) 2) Ngha, Howard, Mick, Truong, Bob, Nuong, 3 boatmen, Khwang	¼ hr 4h 50m	Phong Nha	<i>See below</i>
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	<p>We travelled upriver in a motor boat with two Doc Mocs in tow. The captain of the motor boat was Khwang – an incredible character:- boatman, publican, disco-dancer, traditional singer, percussionist, entrepreneur, pisshead, dirty-playing footballer etc etc. All three boats went into Phong Nha entrance where the two Doc Mocs took the first team on into the cave. The Two Syds had a generator running for their video lighting and a brolly over the camera – an amazing sight as they were paddling into the cave to the screeching of the swifts in the entrance! The rest of us continued on upriver in the motor boat for ½ km or so until a major inlet on the left of the Chay River – was followed. About one KM up this river we reached the cave of Hang Tôi on the LH (looking upriver) bank. The name means Dark Cave. The 20m wide by 30m high entrance is only a few feet from the river bank. We unloaded the boat, changed and entered the cave, followed by the boatmen who insisted on having their photo taken inside. We soon came to a lake which we waded/traversed leaving the locals behind. Most of this cave had been explored and surveyed by the 1990 expedition but there were a few loose ends to tie up. As we followed the huge entrance passage all possible inlets on the LH side were checked out. Nothing of great interest was found apart from minor oxbows, large spiders and Mick found a nest of “civet-cat” like animals. There are the size of a large cat with a pointed snout and striped – they live on fish.</p> <p>We eventually reached the huge collapse at The Dragon and puffed and panted our way up the 80m high boulder slope and down the other side to the immense chamber below. Here we split up, Mick and I descending to the left to find a 25-30m high by 15m wide passage unexplored on the 1990 trip. Mick followed this by swimming “downstream” to reach a static sump after about 100m. Howard and Bob joined us and we followed the “upstream” section – all new stuff – for some 200m with me pushing on ahead to find the route and the others surveying. This passage emerged in the wall of the main streamway found in 1990 and is obviously a flood overflow, trees and bamboo poles being wedged in the gigantic clints in the floor.</p> <p>In the main streamway (The Ho-Chi Minh Trail) Bob and Howard checked side passages upstream to find a massive oxbow and little else. Mick and I surveyed a few legs downstream (unnecessary as it had been done before!) to a point where the stream was lost. I managed to find the continuation of this and followed it through a series of partly flooded and collapsed rifts until it showed every sign of an imminent sump. Tide marks some 2' above water level indicate that it is connected to the Chay River which backs up this amount when the tide comes in over 25 km downstream! (On a later trip upriver I noticed two resurgences just a hundred metres or so upstream of Hang Tôi which are almost certainly the risings for the stream.)</p> <p>At this point everyone got lost in different parts of The Dragon – one of the biggest chambers known and with a Karren floor made up of 10m+ clints and grikes! I climbed some 16m up these clints to rejoin Ngha and Truong who had been waiting for us at the top of the chamber. Everyone finally got together and we all made a leisurely exit with Ngha fishing for freshwater prawns on the way out. Lots of cave crickets were also seen. An excellent trip in a spectacular cave. There is more work to be done here on a longer trip. (The Phong Nha team pushed another 300m of river passage).</p>
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VIETNAM Quảng Bình	<b>Hang Phong Nha</b> 23/3/92 (Dany, Carl, Noddy) Howard, Deb, Paul, Nga, Nhung, Kháng	5m	Hang Phong Nha	<i>See below</i>
	<p>Khuang's motor boat and a Doc Moc were taken to Phong Nha where the Doc Moc was loaded with Dany, Carl and Noddy, plus boatmen and sent off into the cave for a 24 hr pushing trip. The rest of us took the motor boat up the Chay River and past Hang Tôi to a point in the limestone gorge where rapids prevented further progress by boat. Here we disembarked on the RH (looking upstream) bank and followed a wide track used by locals to drag logs out of the forest behind water buffalo. This very scenic track soon degenerated to a path which was followed for some 2 hrs, across a dry section of river to another wet section of river. This was a welcome place for a rest as the heat was almost too much. From here the fun began. The next section of path led through pleasantly shaded, cool jungle which was great until we realised it was the home of thousands of leeches. These obnoxious little bastards heaved themselves onto one's boots and rapidly made their way anklewards. I managed to flick them off but both Nga and Deb were bitten. There were also large stinging leaves to avoid and a constant eye to be kept open for snakes. After 8 km we reached the haven of a rock shelter (the Betty Ford Clinic!) where we were to bivouac for the night. This idyllic spot (relatively) had a good water supply and a 20' diameter leech-free sleeping area. Nhung and Kháng our security men, soon had a fire going and as we had brought the wrong fuel this came in useful! Vesta curry and pasta followed by rehydrated apple and custard was washed down with tea and Vietnamese rice vodka. Settled down to sleep to the noises of the jungle – particularly the monkeys, frogs and "Fuck You" bird. An amazing experience.</p>			

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VIETNAM Quảng Bình <i>Major discovery</i>	<b>Hang Vom</b> 24/3/92 Deb, Howard, Paul	4 ¼ hr	Chay River	<i>See below</i>
	<p>After an alfresco pancake breakfast in the middle of the jungle (!) Nhung and Kháng took us to the head of the Chay River, some ½ - 1 km from camp. We were not over enthusiastic as we approached the area – a minor trickle of a stream rose below a confusing area of jungle covered boulders. Threading my way through these I suddenly saw a Hang Tôi sized cave entrance with a large static lake disappearing into the distance and all our hopes were fulfilled. The others caught up and Nhung celebrated the find by firing his police revolver into the air – the same one he used to try and shoot fish or tigers when he and Kháng got pissed on Lang Son (rice vodka) and went hunting in the middle of the night! We were told the name of the cave was Hang Vom – Arch cave, though the arch was not particularly distinctive. A nearby small cave entrance was looked at by Paul and Deb but didn't go far so we were forced to swim into the main entrance, surveying as we went. After about a 100m swim the tunnel broke out into a huge collapse doline on the LH side. By climbing over huge vegetation covered boulders we suddenly became aware of an enormous arched cave entrance (Hang Vom proper) with one of the world's largest underground lakes covering the floor of the tremendous chamber beyond. Totally awestruck we gazed in amazement at the 100m x 80m lake, a beautiful green colour in the daylight pouring in from the doline.</p> <p>A long swim across led to a tall, active stream passage some 50m high entering the lake at the far side. A tricky climb led up some 10m to where the passage developed into 20m high by 20-30m wide and floored with yet another huge lake. Some walking passage with superb eroded limestone and a third lake saw us about 1km into this obviously huge system. By now our carbide stocks were running out and I was freezing, my caving gear consisting of Rohan shorts, T-shirt and life-jacket, the others having the foresight to bring wetsuits. We headed out to the welcome hot sun after the discovery of a lifetime. This tremendous cave has some stunning features apart from the lakes – underground karren, a striped, waterworn rock chute, huge stalagmite bosses, gours and flowstone and lots of bats in small side passages on the RH side. A real world quality system with no sign of ending. The sinks are believed to be 8-10km away according to the map and the evidence of a strong draught and pieces of inwashed timber leads us to believe it is a through trip. Classic caving!!</p> <p>Back to the "Betty Ford Clinic" for festering and food. We listened to the noises of the jungle and Nga told us of tiger and wild boar which can still be found in this area. US paratroops were dropped here and there are crashed aircraft and many bombs in the forested mountains, hence the jungle scrap metal men often encountered. Dead MIAs have been found and their dog tags returned to the States. One of the villages in Phong Nha became a rich man from selling the precious metals in the electrical system of a downed US plane which he found. He has his own vehicle, video machine, generator etc.</p>			

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VIETNAM	After a long (12 hr) and restless night we awoke at 7am for the now traditional jungle pancakes. Deb,
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	Howard and Paul left to push Hang Vom while Ngha and I walked back down river. During the hours walk through “Leechy Lane” Ngha collected four of the little shits and I got three. He won, I have to buy the beer...			
VIETNAM Quảng Bình <i>discovery</i>	<b>Hang Trong</b> 25/3/92 (Ngha and five foresters)	1 hr	Chay River	On our walk down, just after the river crossing, we met loads of forest workers. We had planned to look at several potential caves in this area, one of these having a wooden ladder in the short vertical entrance. I kitted up and went down for a look. 50m of constricted, unpleasant boulder ruckle above static water led to a second entrance. I popped out for a breather then re-entered to push 20m of static “streamway” including a duck. All very horrible with no obvious way on. Below the cave is a large rising. Back up the track some 50m the foresters showed us a boulder ruckle entrance leading to a collapse doline and some 80m of large stream passage. A further entrance acted as a sink for the Chay River which flowed through this passage to sump or enter boulder collapses at the downstream end before passing through the ruckle cave explored earlier and emerging at the spring. This minor system is an oxbow to the Chay River and merely takes an underground route to cut off a corner. The cave has lots of entrance and a series of unreachable upper level passages which probably lead to the surface. It was well plastered with bird shit and all generally uninspiring.
<b>Pages 278 and 279</b>				
VIETNAM Quảng Bình	<b>Hang <span style="color: red;">Nuoc Moc</span></b> 25/3/92 Alone	10m	Chay River	Further down the track a large resurgence below track level poured its green waters into the Chay River. Above this, on the cliff side of the track was a 30m long, tall, draughting rift cave (Fountain Cave). I poked about in here, climbing up and down the rift but could not find a way into the large system which must exist here. A tiny, bat inhabited crawl was not pushed as it was too sharp for by T-shirted body. This area needs a good look at by someone with an oversuit on. By this time Ngha and I had had enough so we walked on down the track to the loggers’ beach where Ngha said beer was available. This turned out to be Vietnamese “ginger” beer but was consumed anyway as we were very thirsty by now. Luckily we managed to buy a lift back to Phong Nha village (or Son Trach village?) on a motor boat.
VIETNAM	26/3/92 Festered around the village and drank beer in the local bas. Also had a wash and swim in the river.			
VIETNAM Quảng Bình <i>Major discovery</i>	<b>Hang Phong Nha</b> 27-28/3/92 (8 Vietnamese, Ngha, My, Deb, Howard, Carl, Bob, Paul) (3 Vietnamese, Simon, Mick, Rupert) Dany, Noddy, Pete	24h 50m	Phong Nha	<i>See below</i>

	<p>Eighteen of us entered the cave in two Doc Mocs. We staggered to the first camp site, just before the second section of streamway and kitted up. Howard, Paul and their entourage were left in the dry section for a major photographic session with the locals and Hanoi University team. (They had some epic moments – especially with Prof. My who insisted on using his Mickey Mouse flash camera during the multiple-flash exposures!)</p> <p>We went straight off up-river to do a 14 hr trip before getting back to camp at 11-30pm that night. The huge river passage we followed through many lakes in the classic 20m diameter tunnels typical of this area to the final survey station. En route we collected one of the <b>Sevylor</b> dinghies and portered it forwards, using it on some of the lakes. From the last survey station we mapped a further 1300m of huge river cave, as usual some 20m high by 15-20m wide. Gob smacking stuff. Several huge formations were noted and some fine rapids formed on lines of eroded gour pool dams. At our furthest point was a heap of huge boulders with the cave heading onwards as big as ever. Cave crickets, millions of gnats, a couple of beautiful dragonflies and an abundance of bats skimming the surface of the underground lakes testified to the possibility of an upstream entrance. Pete found a tin screw cap and an old toothbrush in the stream – obviously washed in from surface.</p> <p>Eventually we were worn out and turned about for the long, tiring swim and stagger back to camp. At least we had the current in our favour. We only used the dinghy on one lake on the way back, leaving it for future pushing trips. Luckily the air and water temperature in these enormous systems is just about perfect so no fear of exposure.</p> <p>Back at camp Dany cooked tea, soup, noodles and chicken supreme. Another great day underground. Kipped down at 1.30am for a lousy night's sleep with the gnats.</p> <p>Woke unrefreshed at 8.30am for tea and a fag before setting off out to meet our Doc Moc just arriving at the chamber with Simon, Rupert and Mick aboard. They were the next shift to push the cave. (It later transpired that they had a major epic. They pushed the river passage for another several hundred metres to a couple of boulder choked dry inlets only metres from the surface but with no obvious exit. A live snake blocked the way in one of these. Mick felt very ill and on the way back fell and badly hurt his leg. He spent the next week or so, mostly in Dong Hoi Hospital with severe Typhoid or Weil's Disease and a practically paralysed leg. He almost died).</p> <p>We had a leisurely ride out of the cave, sharing the boatmen's fags and biscuits to find someone had carved "Good Luck" on a large boulder in the entrance. A nice touch of friendship by the Vietnamese.</p>
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VIETNAM Quảng Bính	<b>Hang Tôi</b> 29/3/92 Howard, Paul, Carl, Noddy (Deb, Dany, Bib, Pete) (Khwang, Nhượng, My + 1)	6 hr	Phong Nha	<p>(Bob, Dany and 6 went on through the known cave to look for possible new stuff in the doline at the upper end. They crossed this (disturbing a shocked young local who was asleep in the forest!) to find some 500m of very wet cave which they didn't push to a conclusion. It was nicknamed "Full Neoprene Jacket")</p> <p>Paul and Howard undertook a major photographic session of the cave from the entrance to the main streamway with the rest of us as models and assistants. In one side chamber we found a perfectly preserved snake skeleton lying across drip pockets in the mud. This was a very pleasant, easy going trip which gave us some time to look around and admire the scenery in this spectacular cave.</p> <p>On our return to the motor boat, Captain Khwang had thoughtfully brought up several bottles of beer – thus setting a standard for all future river trips!</p>
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VIETNAM Quảng Bính	<b>Hang ?</b> 30/3/92 Khwang and others	10m	Phong Nha	<p>Festered round the village all day and got well pissed with Khwang. At one point he dragged me off up the nearest limestone tower, through thorny vegetation, to a dry cave some 20m above the paddy fields. Lots of local kids appeared but none of us had any lights so all sat down for fag. This cave should be looked at again on the 1994 trip.</p>
VIETNAM Quảng Bính	31/3/92 Dany, Pete, Paul, Carl, Simon, Rupert, Noddy and I, accompanied by Nhượng, Kháng and Tiem for security, headed off in Khwang's motor boat for another trip to Hang Vom. Our first			



	<p>attempt was foiled when after an hour's travel upriver we realised our three young porters (paid for!) were not on board! Back to the village to organise three more for a second attempt. (On the way down river we passed a motor boat full of dignitaries heading for Hang Phong Nha. One of these was the famous Vietnamese General Giap, organiser of the defeat of the French and very involved in the war against the USA. He later met several expedition members and offered to write the preface for the Expedition Journal but unfortunately opened his mouth too loud and was put under house arrest in Hanoi!)</p> <p>By lunchtime we had three new porters aboard and were back off up river. A mountain of kit was painfully carried in burning sunshine up through the leech infested jungle to the "Betty Ford Clinic". I was knackered. A brew was put on but cock-up No.2 now occurred. The 5 litres of fuel was the wrong stuff! Once again the locals saved the day with a wood fire. Spent an hour or so drinking Lang Son and listening to the jungle before tucking down for a reasonable night's sleep.</p> <p>CONTINUED IN LOG VOL.V</p>
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