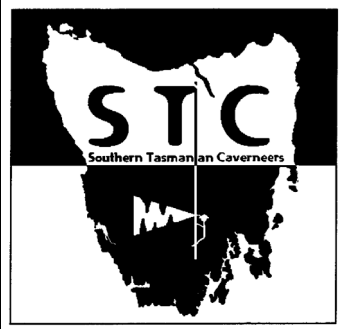


SOUTHERN CAVER



No. 67

December 2013

**In this issue:
Jeff Butt's reports
on exploration of
JF-341 1988-1995**

Occasional Journal of Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Inc.

PO Box 416 Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7006, Australia ISSN 0157-8464

Editorial

This issue presents the original material contained in the late Jeff Butt's unpublished trip reports relating to the exploration of JF-341, Threefortyone, a large cave in the Junee-Florentine karst area of Tasmania.

The entrance was discovered in 1979 and exploration was gradually extending it, prior to Jeff taking an interest. It must be remembered that there was plenty of competition for the time of active cavers in those days – just in the Junee-Florentine, Owl Pot, Tassie Pot, The Chairman, Growling Swallet, Bone Pit, Slaughterhouse Pot and others were also “on the go”. But Jeff took a serious interest in JF-341 right from his first trip to it in March 1988 – and he enjoyed great success in pushing it over the following seven years or so, as documented in his personal trip reports, presented here for the first time. Apart from detailed descriptions of where he had been, Jeff included his thoughts on what places seemed most prospective, what gear was needed and how best to rig it, notes (generally to himself) about what was required for the next trip and, frequently, his meteorological observations, especially of temperatures at various points, water levels and local rainfall. He also prepared sketch maps along the way prior to the drawing up of his surveys – these are also included here, though generally in reduced format (we apologise if some are difficult to decipher).

We believe these reports amply display Jeff's thoroughness and attention to detail when it came to documenting caves. They are a part of the great legacy he left us.

Greg Middleton
ozspeleo@iinet.net.au

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STC is the modern variant of the oldest caving club in Australia, founded 1946.



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Cover photo:

Jeff Butt (on right) and Lindsay Hicks above an early 10 m pitch in JF-341 on 13 March 1988. This was on Jeff's first visit to the cave. The photo was taken with his camera but either he set up a timed shot or someone else pressed the trigger.

Photographs

All photographs in this report were taken by Jeff Butt, on 35 mm slide film. We thank Sarah Boyle for permitting access to Jeff's photographic collection and for allowing reproduction of these images.

Digital scanning by Greg Middleton.

Introduction

In 2008 I decided that a sequel to the Tasmanian Caverneering Club's 1992 publication, *Tasmanian Cave Exploration in the 1980's*, Volume 1 (generally referred to as the *TCC Explorations Journal*) was required. The original intention to produce a sequel is evident in the title itself – "Volume 1". The intention was also clearly stated in the Foreword and Acknowledgement sections of Volume 1 –

More recent finds at Precipitous Bluff, Judds Cavern, Niggly Cave, Cauldron Pot, Burning Down the House, Warhol, Flick Mints Hole, Dribblespit Swallet, Porcupine Pot, Threefortyone, Splash Pot, Peanut Brittle Pot, Lost Pot, Sesame, Udensala, were among possibilities for inclusion. But the size of the thing needed to be contained somehow, and hopefully these omissions will appear in a regular output of journals in future.

Threefortyone was included on the wish list even then, as a ~150 m deep and ~1 km long cave, and was high on my list for Volume 2. Soon after publication of Volume 1 Threefortyone became a hot pot of exploration and extensions and by the mid 1990s the cave was 249 m deep and ~8 km in length.

Jeff Butt (then a Southern Caving Society member) was the protagonist of the period and unfortunately SCS wasn't particularly proficient at providing detailed accounts of all its trips in its (ir)regular publication, *Southern Caver*. Several summaries were published outlining key finds and statistics but all the juicy details of individual trips appeared non-existent. Jeff Butt died from cancer in April 2004 and, I assumed, took most of his Threefortyone knowledge to the grave. Several others had been involved during the major exploration period but only Dave Rasch had been on the majority. Dave, for his own reasons, was not keen to help me piece the history together. I figured the idea was dead and I scratched Threefortyone from my Volume 2 wish list.

In early 2010, while bemoaning the situation to Janine McKinnon, Janine mentioned that she'd seen a pile of Jeff's hand-written trip reports in the Threefortyone folder in the STC archive. I was ecstatic to discover that these were the detailed trip-by-trip accounts of the progressive exploration of the cave. I am often seen and heard heralding the importance and value of recording and publishing everything we do in the caving club. It may seem like a waste of a day at the time but that lead you spotted, crappo 10 m extension you made or surface feature you

stumbled upon may prove to be the key to triggering an important discovery or theory in the future (be it weeks, years or even decades later). The following trip reports will be invaluable to me now that I've placed Threefortyone back on the Volume 2 wish list.

I've tried to remain true to the style and formatting of Jeff's original notes throughout this issue. Some words were difficult to decipher and not every statement makes sense to me. Greg Middleton and I have made a few very minor changes (spelling, punctuation) but have avoided changing anything where we thought the change may misinterpret the author's intentions.

Alan Jackson

Footnote: Alan Jackson has done all the hard work to get this report together, painstakingly deciphering and transcribing Jeff's original notes and scanning his numerous sketch maps and drawings. My part in laying out the text and graphic elements has been relatively minor. I have added a few notes where I felt they were required. My apologies for the delays that have occurred in finalising this work.

The last trip reported by Jeff in this series was on 20 January 1995. It seems he didn't get back to JF341 until September 2001 (Butt 2001) when he added ~240 m to the survey. This was followed by two cleaning (and surveying) trips in November and December (Butt 2002a, 2002b) and a trip to re-survey the entrance series with Phil Rowsell (Rowsell 2002). His last visit to the cave seems to have been 20 Jan. 2002, to derig it (Butt 2002c).

We note that Jeff wrote (Butt 1995)*: *It is envisaged that an issue of the Southern Caver will be devoted entirely to describing this work.*

This, dear Reader, is that issue – it just took 18 years to get into print.

Greg Middleton

*The article in which Jeff wrote those prophetic words is an excellent summary of work on the system and his observations up to the end of 1994.

BUTT, Jeff 1995 The Threefortyone (JF341) System – an update. *Southern Caver*, 58: 6-9.

BUTT, Jeff 2001 Back to good old 341. *Speleo Spiel*, 326: 17.

BUTT, Jeff 2002a JF341 Cleaning trip #1: some tidying of the survey and flowstone. *Speleo Spiel*, 328: 20.

BUTT, Jeff 2002b Cleaning trip #2. *Speleo Spiel*, 328: 19

BUTT, Jeff 2002c Rift Cave/Threefortyone derig. *Speleo Spiel*, 328: 21-22.

ROWSELL, Phil 2002 Threefortyone: Entrance survey trip. *Speleo Spiel*, 329: 3.

Historical Background

As a background to Jeff's reports it might be helpful to provide a bit of historical detail.

It appears that the cave that was to become known as JF-341 was discovered by Chris Davies on 26 May 1979 (Fisher *et al.* 1980). Geoff Fisher reported: *Chris had found the cave a couple of months earlier but didn't have the ladders required for the entrance pitch ... Although fairly spacious and consistently descending, the cave gave the initial impression of being a series of gaps in a large rockfall.* (Fisher 1979a)

Further exploration was carried out on 8 September 1979 when a small pond, "visible from the top of the pitch" was reached and "It then became obvious the cave was much more extensive than we'd imagined" (Fisher 1979b). On their return to the surface this party attached the "341" tag and the cave was declared "a 'must' for further attention".

The next trip (14 Oct. 1979) was equipped with 120 feet (~36 m) of ladder, thought to be enough for the third pitch. After a number of difficulties this was found not to be enough but the report author was fairly sure the cave continued beyond the floor he had seen (Fisher 1979c).

The next stage of exploration involved a group from the National University Caving Club. Early in 1980 they descended the "200 ft." pitch, whereupon "a spacious and beautiful cave revealed itself" (Taylor 1980). A rough survey was done and subsequently extended by TCC (see *Speleo Spiel*, 157: between pp. 4 & 5).

TCC conducted its first SRT trip into the cave on 17 February 1980 and pushed it to the "fabled crystal pool described by NUCC". The next weekend a lot more surveying was carried out and the reported 200 ft. pitch was "taped at 38.2 metres freehanging" (Fisher *et al.* 1980). Still the crystal pool was not crossed, rock bolting having been rejected, but nevertheless, it was believed the cave had been bottomed.

The crystal pool was found to be dry on 4 April 1981, and "was negotiated as carefully as HUME-anly possible", leading to further passages and a sizable chamber blocked by a "massive block" (Hume 1981).

Work started on a dig in a phreatic maze beyond the crystal pool on 6 September 1981, spurred on by "large-stream type noises" (Nicholas 1981).

Steve Bunton and Phil Hill visited JF-341 on 24 January 1984 and, using "palaeolithic technology" extended the dig by half a metre (Bunton 1984). After more digging on a solo visit in March 1984, Hill extended the passage a further 20 m and then declared it impossible to fol-

low further (Hill 1984). Despite this, another TCC team was back about 9 July 1988, digging [blasting] at other prospective sites beyond the crystal pool and anticipated reaching "the major streamway" in one more trip (Hume 1988). Hume had noted the name "Threefortyone" had been accepted but suggested the cave deserved a 'real' name; he suggested "Caramello Cave" after Bunton's description of the mud. A breakthrough was achieved on the next trip (23 July) with another, much better, crystal pool and other decorated areas being found, together with a stream, though a smaller one than had been expected - and it sumped after a short distance (Eberhard 1988). Two more sections of stream were located, but both sumped. A main drain was hoped for and a connection to Rift Cave was speculated on.

It was just prior to this that Jeff Butt took an interest in Threefortyone and Rift Cave, JF-34; now read on ...

Greg Middleton

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- FISHER, Geoff 1979a Florentine Valley, Saturday, 4-8-79. *Speleo Spiel*, 148: 34
- FISHER, Geoff 1979b Florentine Valley (Junee Ridge) - Saturday 8.9.79. *Speleo Spiel*, 150: 6-7
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- FISHER, G., DAVIES, D. & DAVIES, C. 1980 History of JF-341. *Speleo Spiel*, 157: 4-5
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- NICHOLAS, Stuart 1981 Junee Ridge JF 341. *Speleo Spiel*, 170: 5
- TAYLOR, Gordon 1980 NUCC trip to Tasmania. *Speleo Spiel*, 154: 4

The Exploration of Threefortyone

Jeff Butt

JF-341/JF-34 13 March 1988

Reference: *Vertical Caves of Tasmania* pp. 31, 33

Party: Greg Jordan, Lindsay Hicks, David Rasch, Tom Porritt, Jeff Butt

Aims: to have a look at both [caves] – touring around

Photography: OM1, F400 slide film

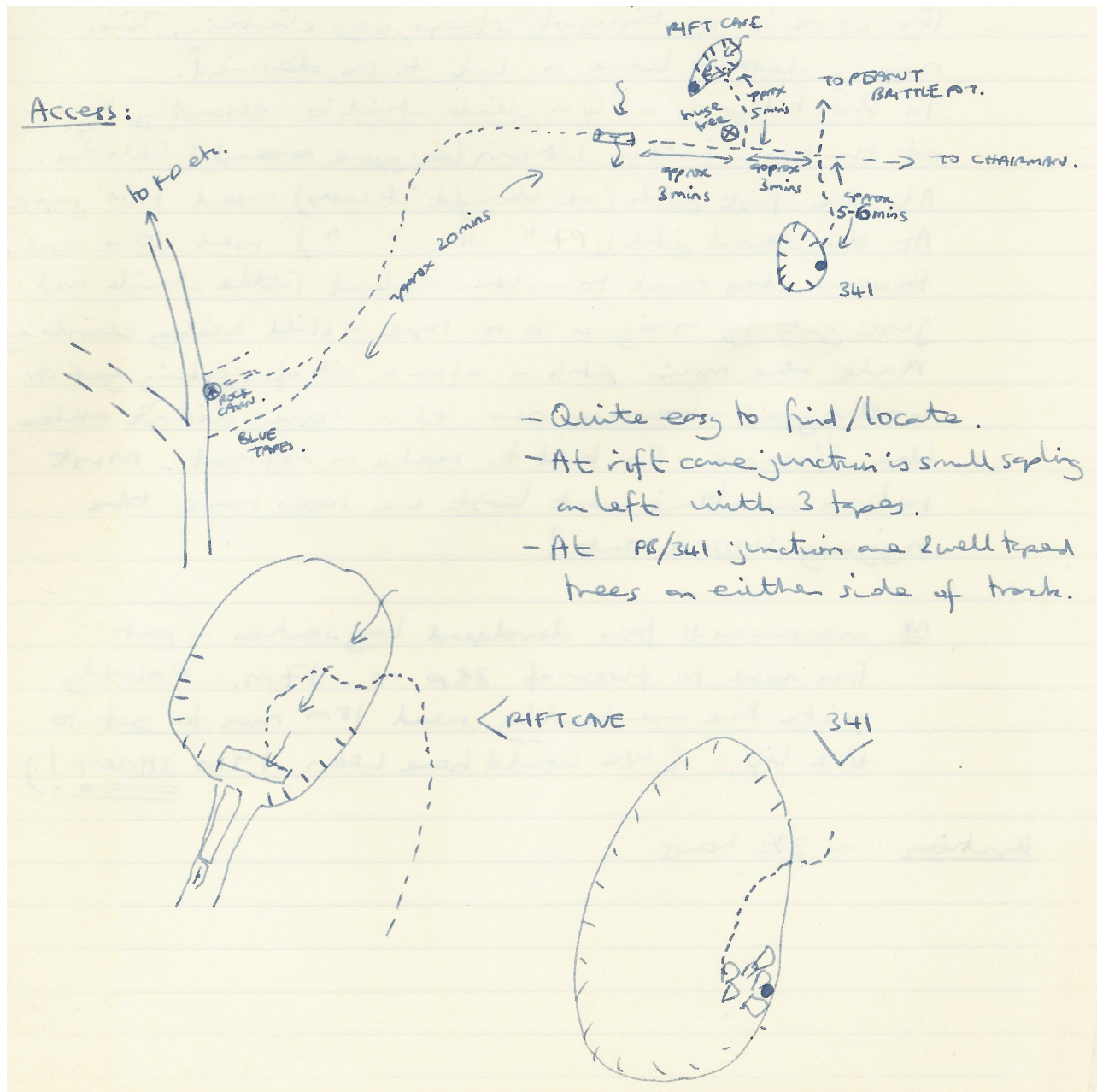
Meteorology: temp. traverse done of both [caves]

Threefortyone (JF-341)

Entrance is through a small hole and into a sizeable entrance chamber. From then it is basically steep and fairly small and quite grotty (white moonmilche

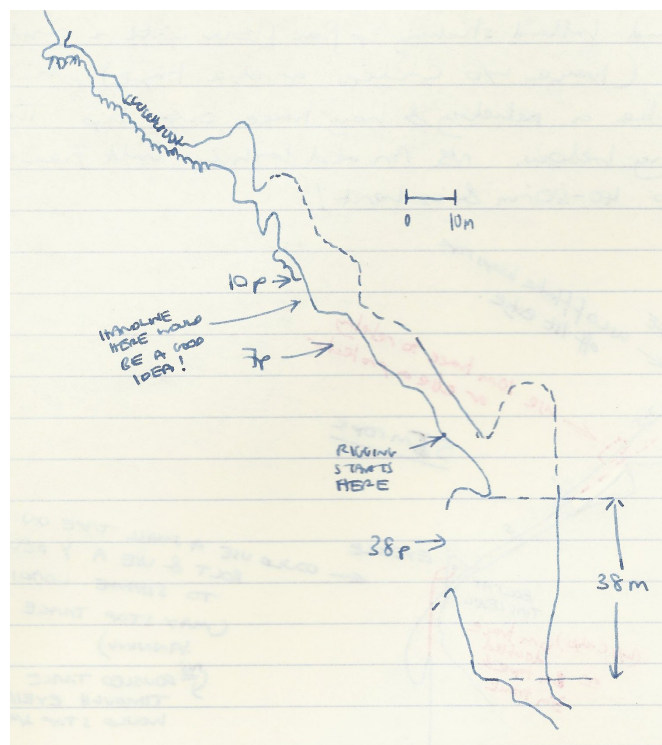
everywhere). The survey doesn't do the steepness justice really – nor the small diameter of the passages.

The cave is continuously steep, very climbing. The rigging details leave a lot to be desired. In the talus is a 4 m climb which is reasonably tight at the top – bottom bit can be gone around I believe. At the first pitch (we thought it was) used 11 m rope. At the second pitch (we thought it was) used 10 m rope. However then came to another wicked little climb and just got by using a 6 m tape – still tricky climbing. Made the main pitch – after a bit of seeking got it well rigged – however our 43 m rope didn't make the distance. So had to make a retreat. Must return sometime – at least we now have the rigging sussed out!



NB: measurements from developed long section – put from nose to floor of P38 as 37 m. Probably quite true – actually need 18 m rope to get to the lip. (We would have been 19 m short!)

Duration - ~3.5 hours



Rigging required [see sketch at right]

8 m handline 4 m tape around jug and 8 m rope (or 12 m rope).

10 m pitch 2x3(4) m tapes around rocks (boulders) and 15 m rope. Some of the climbs at the base of the pitch are a little tricky, a 30 m rope wouldn't be a bad idea at all.

7 m pitch #7 hex in crack on left (hex on end). Hang trace (6 m smidgin too long, 3 m trace + extra rope for alpine butterfly good) on knob 2 m above pitch LHS. 8 m rope minimum. Need 14 m if using small trace on knob.

38 m pitch huge hex (#10) in crack on RHS small crack at edge of 2 m step before pitch. 2 m tape around flake on RHS. 10 m trace from chock to cover 2 rub points. However due to other rigging could use protectors here as can rebelay (traces) further on. At the lip of the pitch is a sound bollard sticking up from floor with a small eyehole (trace without C-clips or else tape) which could take a rebelay and hang trace over lip. Then a free hang below. NB: an old bash in bolt near here, protudes 40-50 mm and is bent!

Rift Cave (JF-34)

Just a look – Lindsay found an extension – very exciting stuff – through some low crawly passage – lots of dolerite boulders there. Through a drippy region and get into a small stream passage (serpentine like valley entrance, KD), follow it ~10 m to the edge of a ~25 m waterfall pitch. Could be something major!

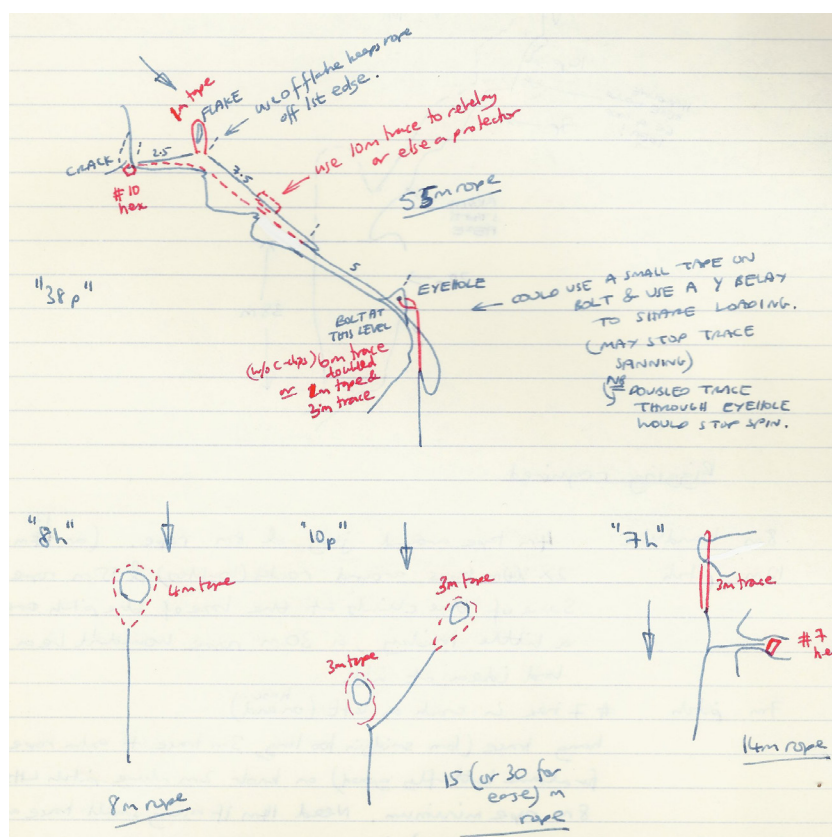
Rigging – bollards ~4 m back from pitch edge – take trace; knife blade crack on flake RHS – needs rounding with hammer; requires two bolts about 2 m out from edge – chimney to them. [See sketch plan, top page 7.]

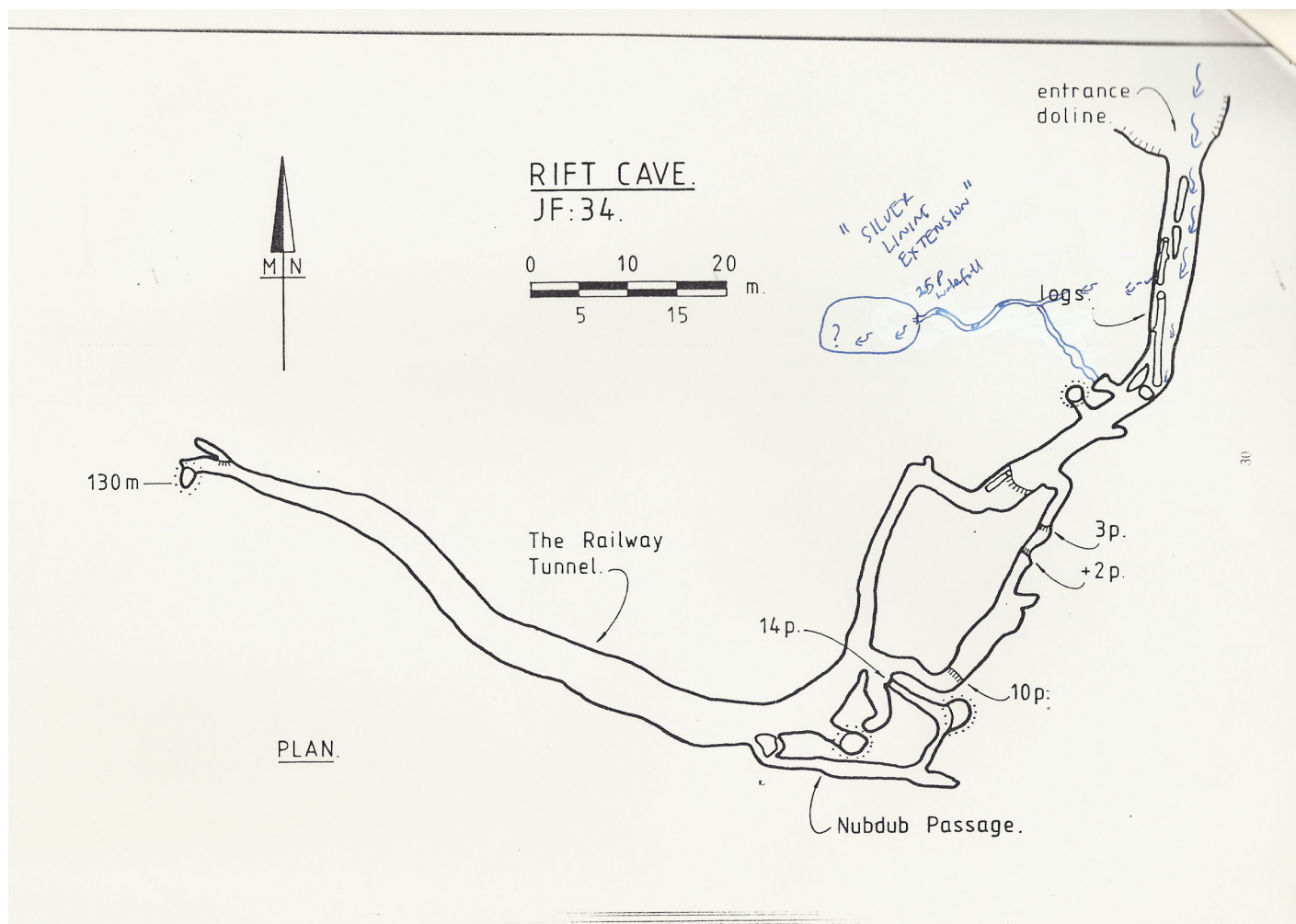
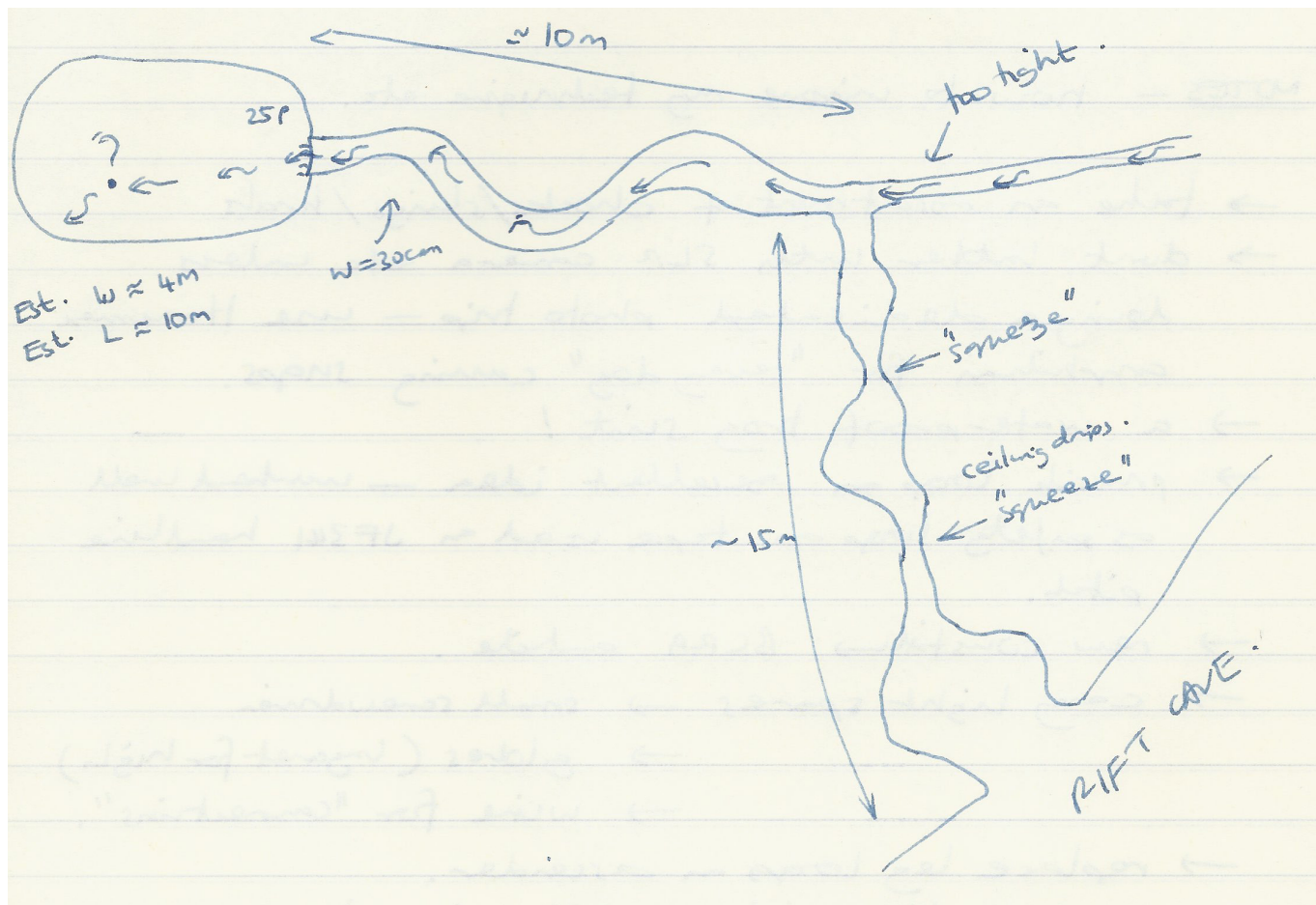
[A report on this JF-34 trip, by Lindsay Hicks, appeared in *Southern Caver*, 55: 7-8]

Lindsay said the find was “our sliver lining” to make up for the 341 fiasco!

Notes – how to improve my technique etc.

- take an assortment of chocks/slings/crabs.
- don't bother with SLR camera etc unless doing a dedicated photo trip – use Hanimax Amphibian for “every day” caving snaps.
- a waterproof trog suit!
- prusik loop an excellent idea – worked well as safety loop on tape used on JF-341 handline pitch.
- new cowstail (BCRA article)
- carry light spares: small screwdriver; globes (bayonet for high); wire for “connections”.
- replace leg loops on ascender and better safety cord (hero loop).





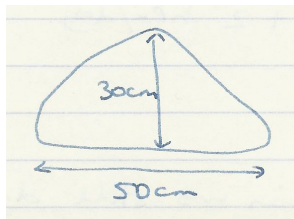
[Base map from Bunton & Eberhard 1984 *Vertical Caves of Tasmania: A caver's guidebook*. p. 30.]

JF-341 Meteorology

At vehicles on Junee Quarry Road ~10 am – 9.1°C

341 doline – outside entrance – 7.6°C (~11 am)

Entrance “squeeze” – cave breathing, exhaling stronger and for longer duration to inhaling. Maximum exhale – 4.2 mph. Maximum inhale – 1.3 mph. Period ~ 20 s out and 5 s in. Breathing in response to wind gusts (it was very gusty)?



Entrance chamber – immediately inside squeeze – 7.9°C

Midway down rockpile (above 5 m slot/climb) – 7.8°C

Between H8 and P10 – 7.4°C

Top of P38 – 7.5°C

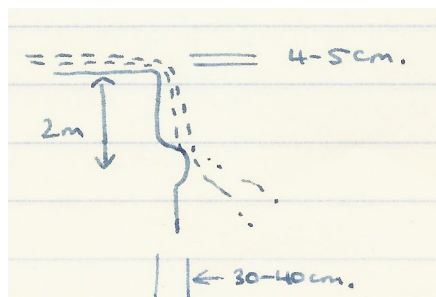
JF-34 Meteorology

Start of dark zone – just after large slippery boulder – 7.3°C

Termination of railway tunnel – 7.0°C

Water temperature at start of dark zone (not in full flow of extension creek) – 8.2°C

New extension – water flow – at lip of P25 approximately ankle deep, water overshooting was hitting protuberance ~2 m below.



Synoptically

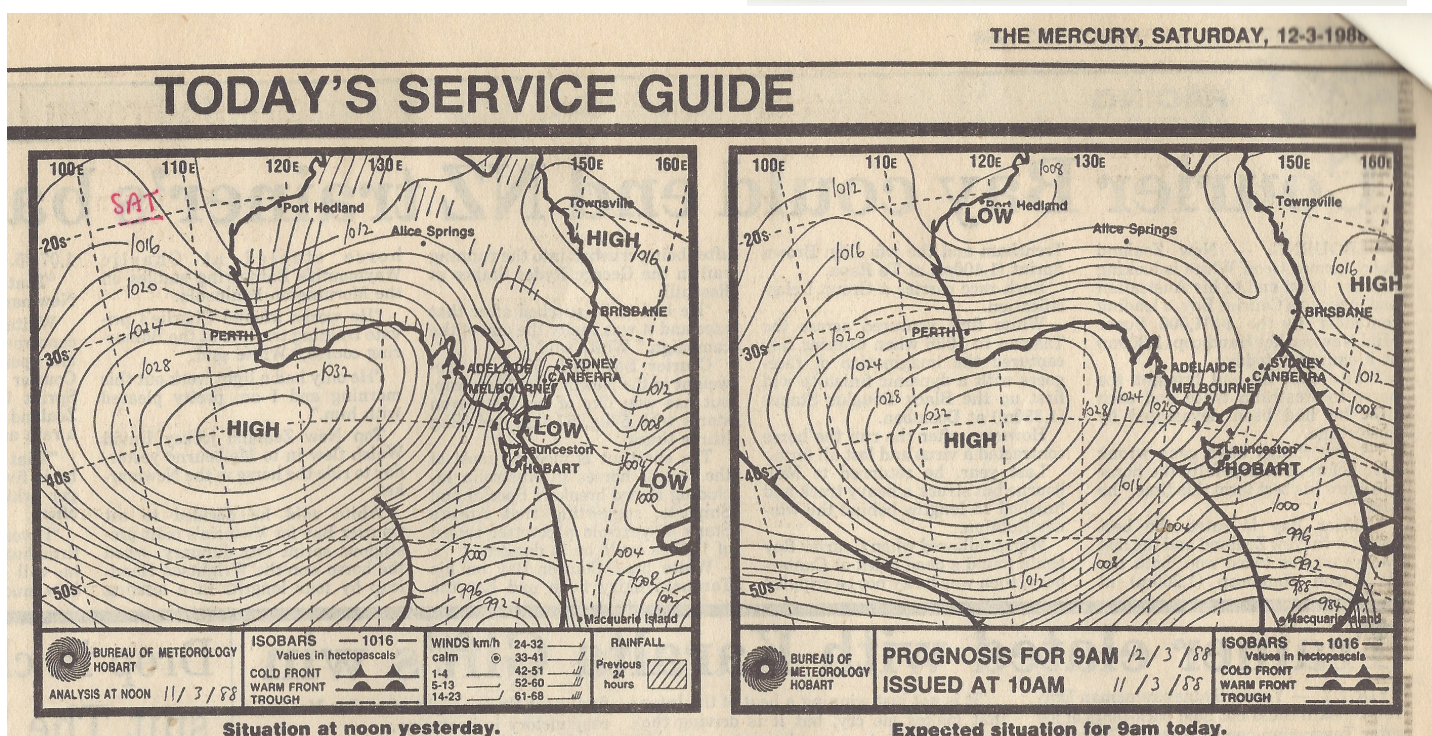
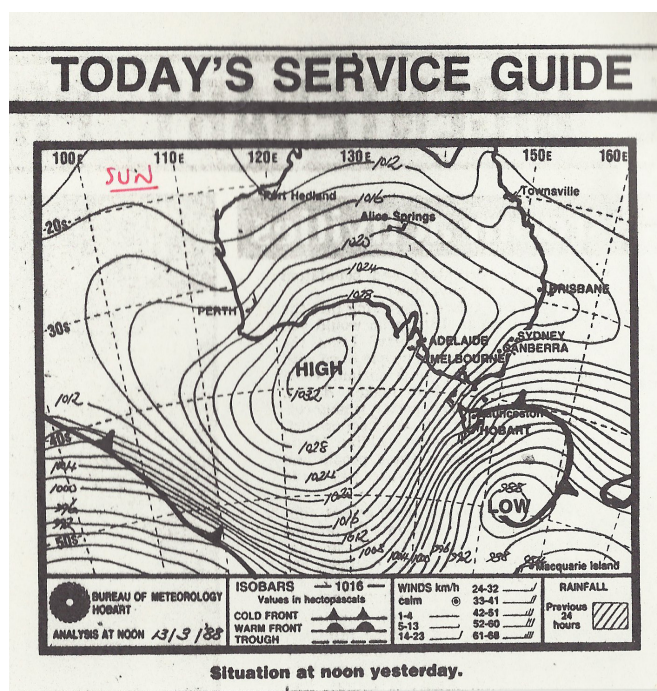
Very strong S/SW ly stream, very gusty conditions

Light drizzle/showers off and on all day.

$$dP/dt \sim (1008-1006)/1 = +2 \text{ hPa/day}$$

Junee road – rough section was still dry, only a minor surface puddle. SDI is still very high.

Rainfall 24 hours to 9 am (Maydena) Fri 7 mm; Sat 12 mm



JF-341 25 September 1988

Party: Dave Rasch, Jeff Butt

Photography: Hanimex Amphibian, Fuji 1600 ASA print film

Meteorology: temperatures only

Reference: Previous trip 13-3-88, *Vertical Caves of Tas* pp. 33-35

Quickly we made our way down the cave. Rigged a 13 m rope for 6-8 m climb (easier to SRT it, though could be freeclimb). Also a rope down the second pitch (used 24 m rope – only need ~10 m for pitch, but it is useful for the way out on all the steps beneath the initial drop). We arrived at the 6P to find it rigged (& 38P) with TCC gear.

6P – rigged 2 m tape through thread at head height or above on LHS. End of rope through a thread (above other thread) on RHS, about 2 m out.

38P – tied back to 6P, tape around flake on LH wall. Second tape around flake on sloping ceiling [providing] ‘free hang’ to edge of lip. A bolt here on the LHS up quite high ~head height when standing on lip. This gives a free hang to the bottom.

It had rained quite a bit over the last 24-36 hours [so] stream was up (~2x flow Dave Rasch observed on a previous trip ~2 months ago – drier conditions). The 38P was a little wet, only drippy really.

Once at the lower levels we fully explored the place. The formation room was quite impressive, straws 4 m long! The crystal pool was very full – level approximately 20 cm down from top of crystal border. According to Dave the pool was only a couple of metres in diameter last time (cf. 10 m this time).

Grovelled around the lead at the deepest point – evidence of TCC hammer work and blasting (jelly etc)¹.

After following the passage and going through a flattener (hammered floor and ceiling) get into a small chamber. About five ways to go from here – the correct one is off to the right into a T passage – floor littered with broken stals. On the left leads to small descending passage – no way through – however can hear a stream flowing below. The correct way on is back at the junction to the T climb up ~4 m to a false floor level – the last move is a little awkward. Then one gets into a fairly straight and low passage (good breeze – passing jelly, spade) where

digging has been carried out. Through one squeeze and get into some sizeable passage. Soon emerge into a huge chamber at the base of a flowstone (large mud component, therefore slippery) terraced mountain. Near the top of this mountain on the left is a huge crystal pool – approximately 4-6 times the size of the other. [One of these is shown in Photos 11 & 12] Right at the top of the chamber near the wall in front is a ~6-8 m pitch – a howling breeze coming up – could see water droplets being blown upwards! Looks like it hasn't been descended!

The chamber is huge and [you] continue down to your right – get to a huge dinosaur's foot rock/formation on the floor [Photos 1 & 2] – here can enter a stream passage with a raging river (cf. Prohibition size). Continued downstream ~50-100 m, little climbs, chimneying – lots of water going down. After an acute corner gets much smaller – to continue [would be to] get very wet, but still goer and descends quite steeply/steps etc. The point I reached there was a narrow dry route, but didn't pursue this.

Back to the dinosaur's foot one can continue upstream ducking under a waterfall and then chimneying up 3-4 m get to a second level, and then 3-4 m waterfall here. Could climb up here (dry way) too, but didn't. Exited the cave. 5 hour trip.

[See plan, p. 11 and continuation (A-A'), top p. 12]

NB Check out the pitch at the top of the flowstone climb. Check out the stream – best in low water!

This new piece of cave certainly has a very airy feel about it. All the formation [is of] some age. Such formation not seen elsewhere in the Florentine except Welcome Stranger, Junee Resurgence “For Your Eyes Only” region. I would speculate that 341 Extension was originally cut by the master cave/system? Maybe this one makes it!

Meteorology/Hydrology:

Surface $T_a = 8.2^\circ\text{C}$

Base H1, top P2 $T_a = 6.9^\circ\text{C}$

Base big pitch $T_w = 6.9^\circ\text{C}$

Crystal Pool $T_w = 7.3^\circ\text{C}$
 $T_a = 7.6^\circ\text{C}$

Crystal Pool – water level ~20 cm down from top of crystal rim.

Rainfall: 24 hours to 9 am

Fri – none in state

Sat – Strathgordon 20 mm, Port Davey 16 mm, Strahan 12 mm, Queenstown 20 mm

¹ Nick Hume reported a TCC trip to JF341 (no date specified) during which excavation was undertaken in the July 1988 Speleo Spiel, 239: 8-9; Rolan Eberhard reported a further digging trip a fortnight later (23 July) - Speleo Spiel, 239: 11-12. They thought a connection to Rift Cave was likely. -GJM



Photo 1. The Dinosaurs Foot rock and stalagmite formation became a popular spot to pause for a 'brew' on Jeff's visits to JF-341.



Photo 2. Close-up of the three stalagmites making up the 'toes' of the Dinosaurs Foot formation.



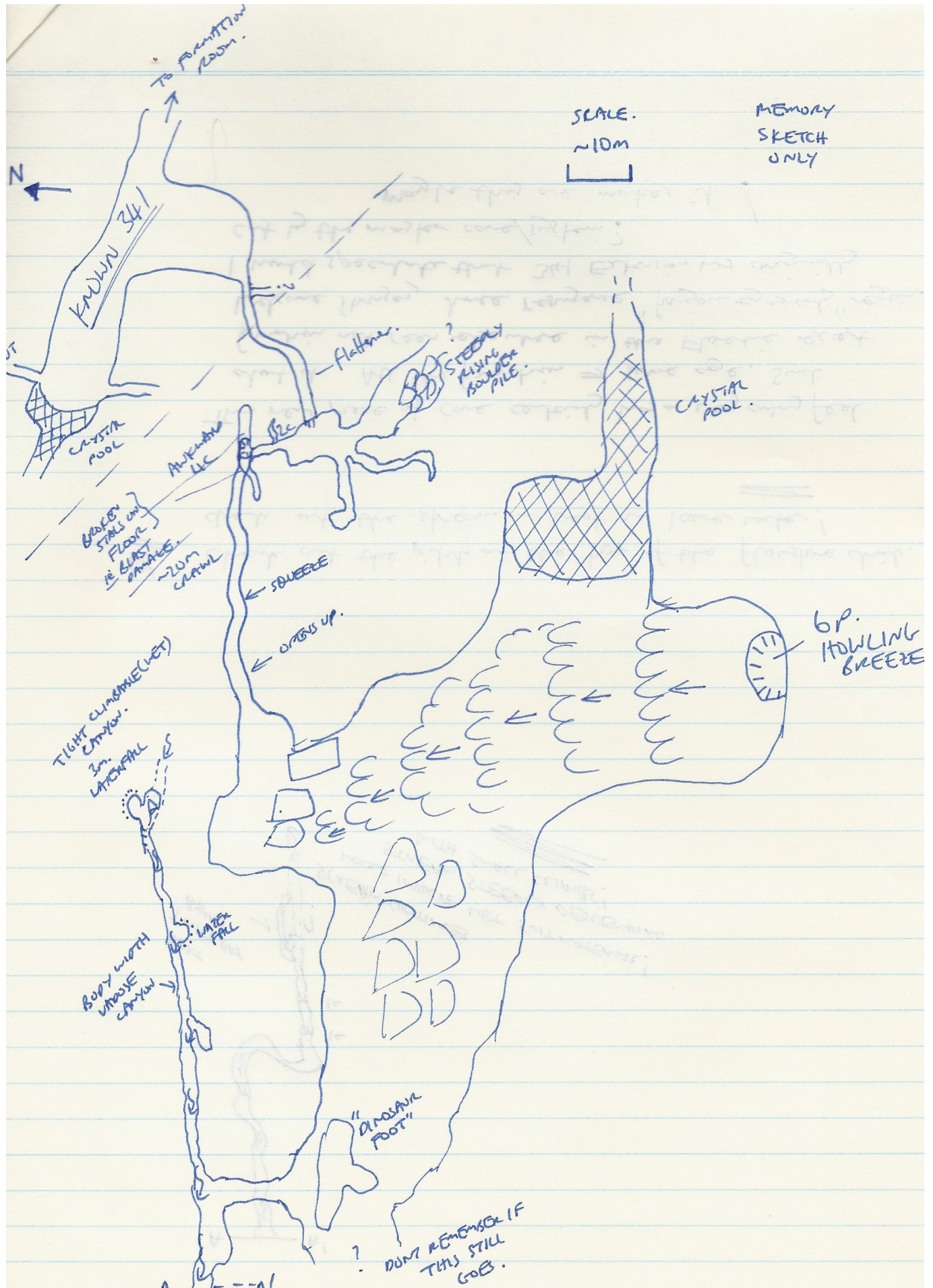
Photo 3. Sarah Boyle abseiling in JF-34, 9 July 1994.

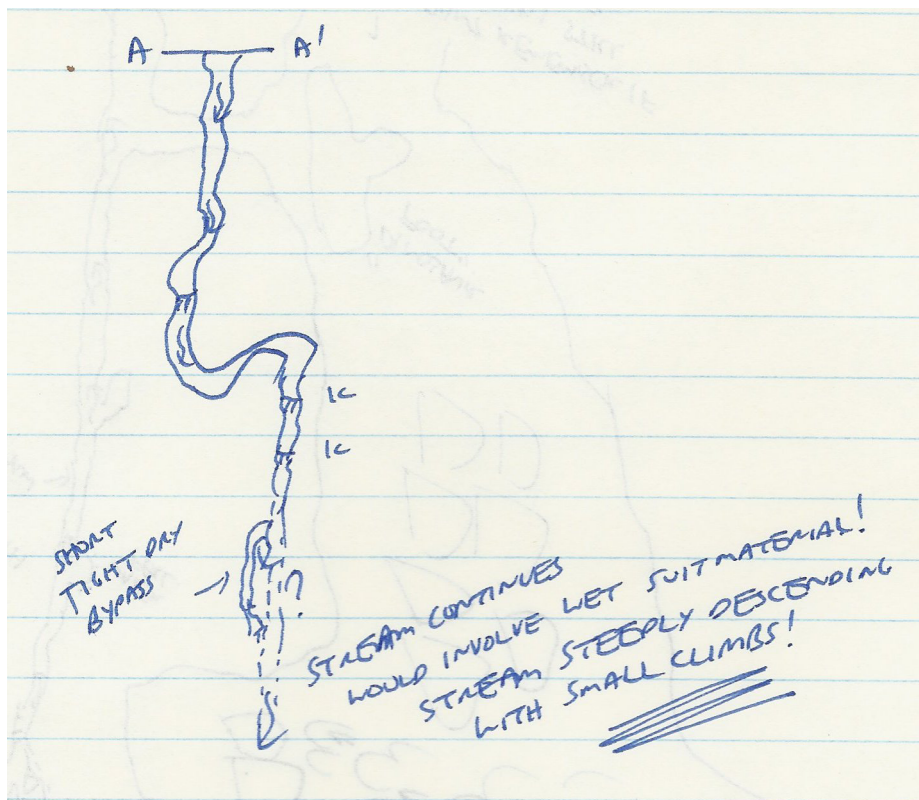


Photo 4. Sarah on rope, JF-34, 9 July 1994.

At the carpark on Sunday – body weight caused water to squelch out of the ground. Washout [JF129] was well and truly gushing. Small stream under some of the squeeze

bits in the top of 341. Stream from base big pitch in 341 ~ “sporting-sized”. Downstream stream in new extension ~ calf/knee deep, but pools deeper!





tical section below the passage (?), and the other accessed by traversing along the steep sloping LH wall – can go reasonably easily along a small ledge, though what's underfoot is very chossy/friable. This leads to ancient stream level passage of Exit dimension (see my sketch). After the initial climb descend into a large chamber with a pool/lake on the RH side. Not far along a rift heads off at 90° on the right (visited this on the way out – excellent – fully flowstone buried, some pools in the middle and a small stream flows along it. Very beautiful – felt a little guilty about carrying muddy boots/clothes through!)

Another rocky ridge is ascended and descended, again excellent formation on the RH wall. Two ways on here – the main drag continues and a small stream goes off on the left.

JF-341

2 October 1988

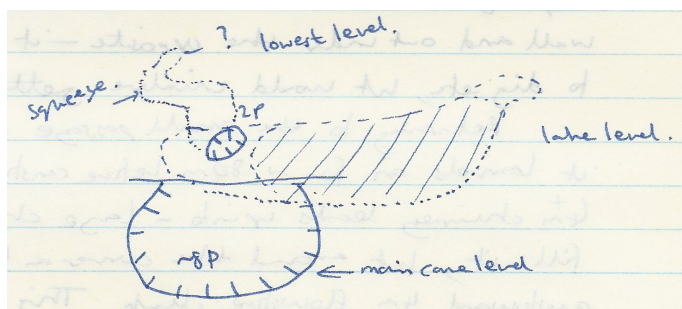
Party: Dave Rasch, Greg Jordan, Jeff Butt

Photography: H.A. Fuji 1600 prints

Meteorology: temps only

Reference: trip 25/9/88

Trip: Speedily descended the cave (we rigged P6, P10, TCC gear still remains on other pitches). Made our way into the new extension – headed straight for the drafting hole. Today there was barely a draught at all. Rigid a rope (~10 m) and descended to a small chamber containing a small pool. A “mouse hole” on the left edge of the lake was enlarged to body size to reveal a 2 m drop into a tiny chamber. A muddy lead heads off steeply down at 45° involving a squeeze and mud too. No real progress here.



Back in the main cave headed along the main drag, instead of dropping down to the Dinosaurs Foot and stream level noticed two high level passages on the left. One “unreachable”, need to cut steps into 70° mud wall and climb some ~10 m (pretty dicey) to reach a near-ver-

After going over the next pile of rocks a second break on the left leads to the same stream (climbing down). On the way down pass a small passage on the right (see notes shortly). The stream passage heads down for ~50 m before becoming low/tight. The water can be seen to flow in from one wall and out under the opposite – it may be possible to dig etc, but would involve getting very wet.

Returning to the small passage mentioned earlier – it leads on for ~80 m before constricting, however a 4+ m chimney leads up into a large chamber. Rockfall fills it, but around the corner on the left is an awkward 4 m flowstone climb. This leads back to the main chamber. Skirting around the LH wall leads one down to the sound of water. Through much flowstone one gets to a small (2 m) climb down through a flowstone hole. Another similar climb leads one into a “flowstone race” – ~4-5 m wide, 3-4 m high and ~50 m long, heading down steadily at ~30°. At the base a large chamber could be seen with a main stream (black) snaking through it. The race is too slippery to descend more than ~10 m, one could go further however the gradient appears to steepen and a point of no return being reached acquiesced my desire to head on down. (*need say 30-40 m handline (6 mm cord))

We retraced our route (flowstone climb interesting – a 6 m tape would have been handy here). Back in the main drag found that it is possible to continue on through a few boulders to presumably reach the other end of the large chamber we were recently in (looks similar) – a survey? cairn here.

Anyway JF-341 is a substantial cave now, represents

main stream (master cave) pathways of the past. I'd estimate the main passage to be ~500 m long, with the flowstone rift passage ~80 m, the small stream passage ~60 m and the flowstone race ~50 m. So there is easily 1 km of cave here – more than likely many more km too!

NB: On Return – some survey gear to check out headings etc. Handline for flowstone race – this has got to be a goer! Upper levels continue on?

NB: Surface survey JF-341 into Rift/Washout loop.

Meteorology/Hydrology

Between P6 and P37 $T_a = 8.0^\circ\text{C}$

First crystal pool brim full and overflowing. $T_w = 8.0^\circ\text{C}$

Large chamber of new section $T_a = 8.3^\circ\text{C}$ (near crystal pool and near P8)

$T_{\text{pool}} = 7.8^\circ\text{C}$

No breeze on the P8 (maybe just a detectable breeze).

Rainfall – 24 hours to 9 am

Sat 1/10 Strathgordon 2 mm

Mon 3/10 Strathgordon 43 mm, Queenstown 24 mm, Strahan 13 mm

The ground was rather sodden, it rained reasonably heavily during the day (June Homestead road was just passable).

The water going over the P37 was less, say half as much in the stream below it. (cf. last week).

[See JF341 - Sketch of Extension, p.14; 6/10 Dave's thoughts, p. 15 and 6/10 Greg's thoughts, p. 16]

JF-341 13 November 1988

Party: Greg Jordan, Jeff But

Reference: previous trip reports (25/9/88, 13/11/88), *Vertical Caves of Tasmania* pp. 33-35

Photography: Hanimax Amphibian, Fuji 1600 print film

Meteorology: temp traverse done

Surveying: Rough survey of extension – Suuntos and estimated distances.

Duration: 8 hrs

Entered the cave (20.5°C in the forest) and made a speedy descent (cave still TCC rigged – though we rigged the first two handline pitches)

NB: only need 10 m rope for H1/P1

Quickly made our way into the new extension and proceeded to the end – went via the main drag rather than via the canyon and flowstone climb. Into the flowstone race – used a 14 m handline to descend. The chamber

proved to be rather small with a rising river on the left and a sinking river on the right – i.e. twin sumps – both look diveable.

Back in the main drag investigated another lead (up a flowstone slope) and headed left – got into a narrow canyon – a right hand bend and 4 m downclimb put us into serpentine stream passage – ~body width that just went and went! (160 paces, ~120 m) (passing a small chamber en route) to come to a pitch – used 6 m tape tied to a thread on the left. At the base of the handline pitch was a huge chamber 10-15 m diameter – all coated with thick mud. In the floor found a way through a boulder pile and got into about 40 m more of stream passage this time sloping downwards more & until lots of mud. No evidence of anyone in the region (there was above the H6). The passage terminated in another sump (probably downstream of the other two).

Retreated, surveying roughly once back into the main chamber.

A good trip, quite sporting.

NB new leg loops proved to be bothersome – they stretched somewhat when wet – prusiking was much harder – only ~30 cm gain with each stroke (cf. ~50 cm normally).

Meteorology

10:30 am

Forest above doline $T_a = 19.5\text{--}21.5^\circ\text{C}$

Doline floor $T_a = 8.5^\circ\text{C}$

Entrance – periodic breathing out ($T_a = 7.5^\circ\text{C}$) with lulls in between. Hot NWly wind gusting above)

Base of P1 $T_a = 7.5^\circ\text{C}$

Base of P4 $T_a = 7.8^\circ\text{C}$

Crystal pool $T_a = 8.2^\circ\text{C}$, $T_w = 7.3^\circ\text{C}$ – full, gently overflowing.

Flowstone ramp leading to twin sumps $T_a = 9.6^\circ\text{C}$

Twin sumps $T_a = 9.6^\circ\text{C}$, $T_w = 8.2^\circ\text{C}$

Lunch place at end of last huge chamber $T_a = 8.2^\circ\text{C}$

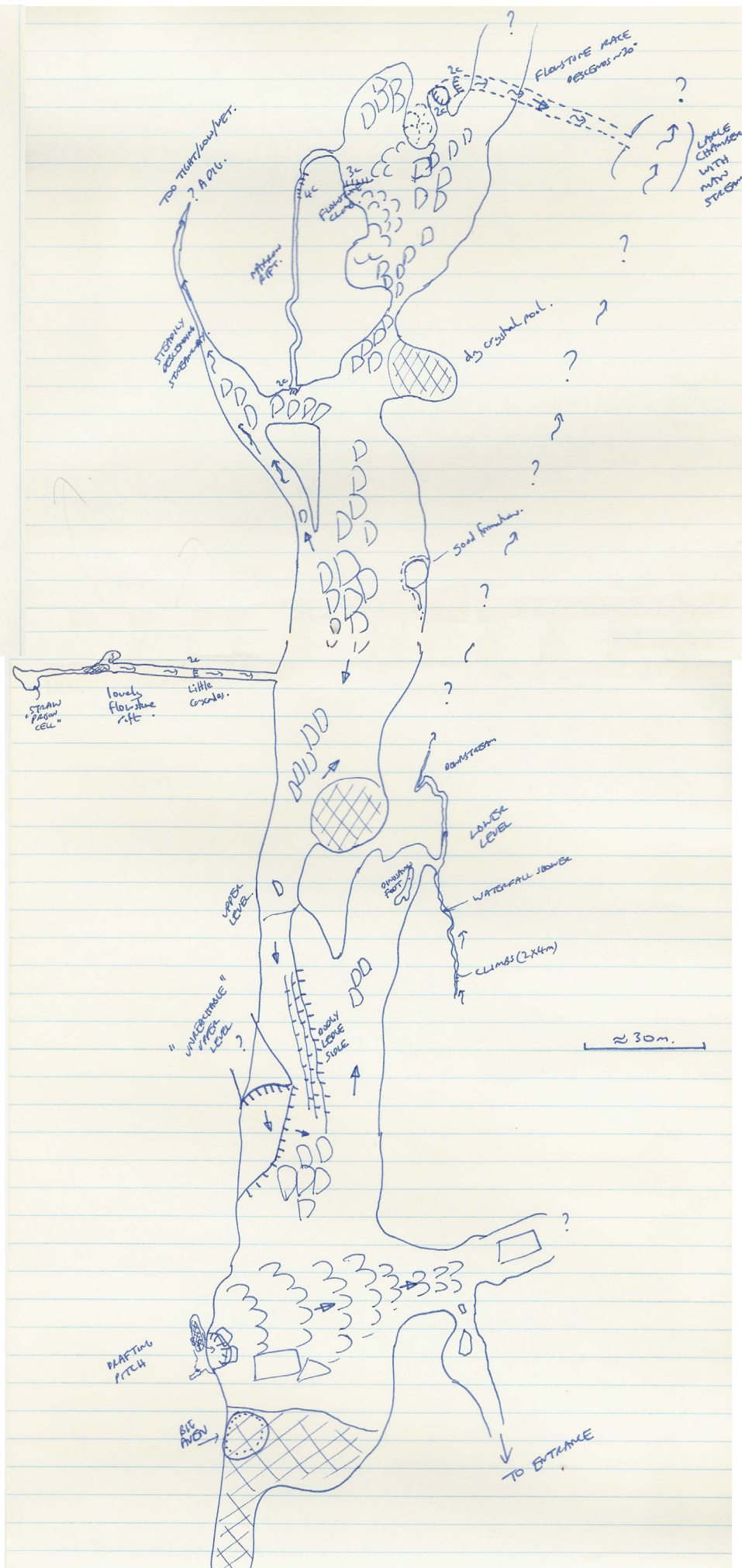
5:30 pm

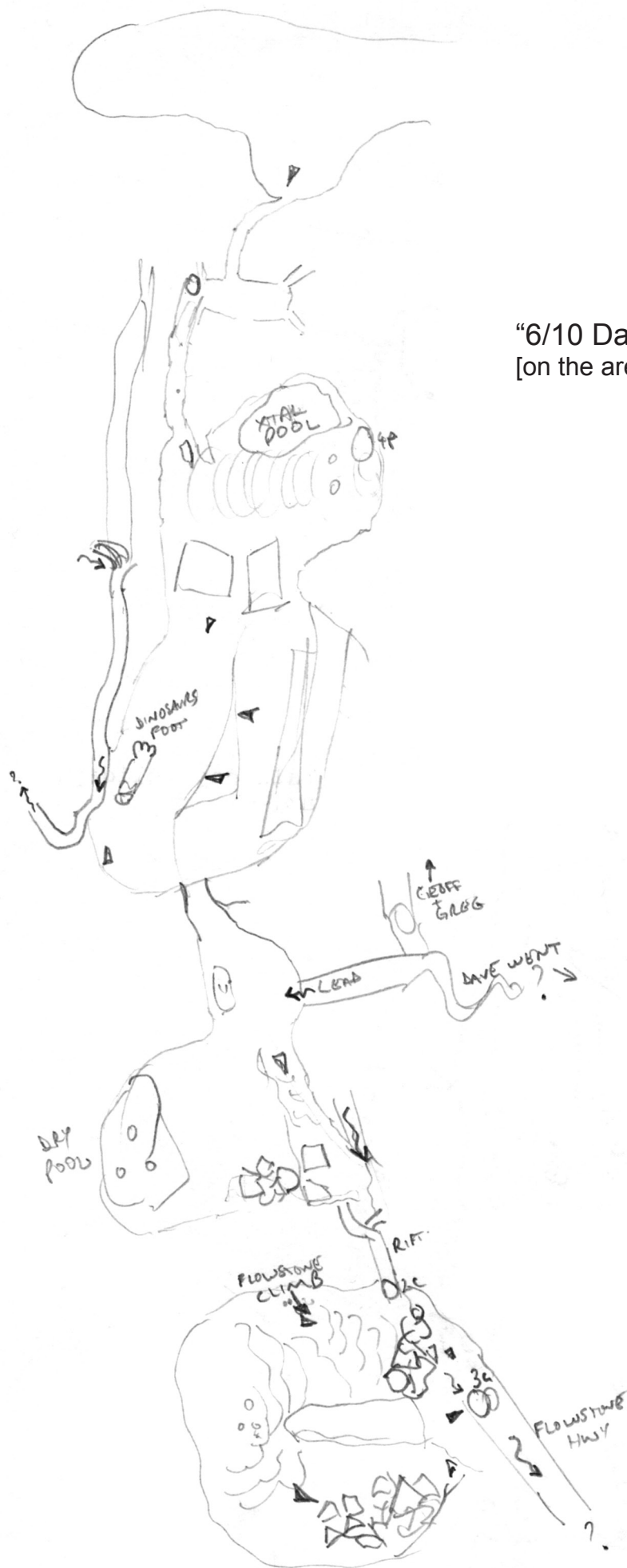
Main cave near where extension starts $T_a = 7.8^\circ\text{C}$

[See JF 341 - New Extension, plan and section, p. 17]

Approximate scale:

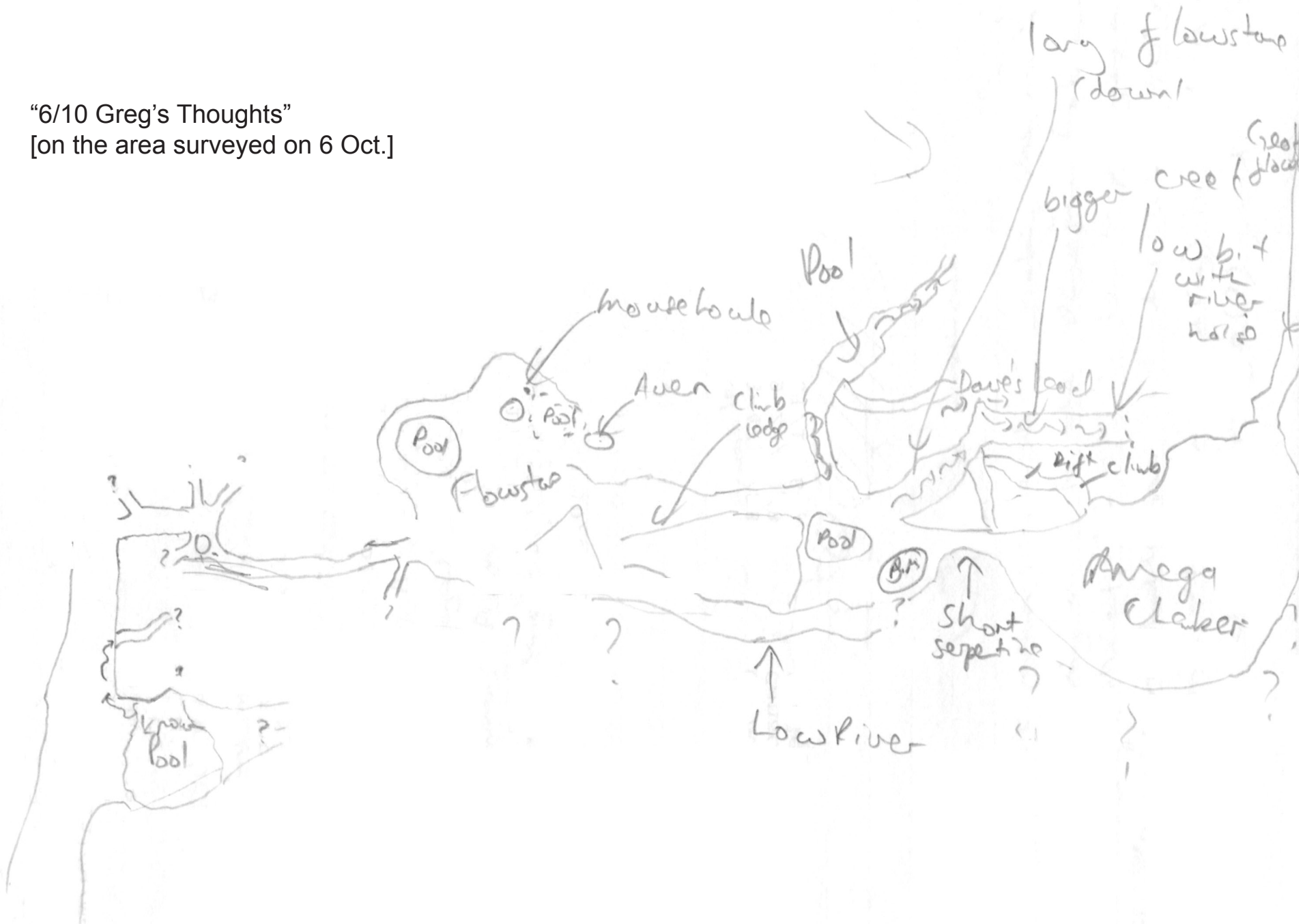
(NB - note Greg & Dave's sketches done 6/10. - attached).





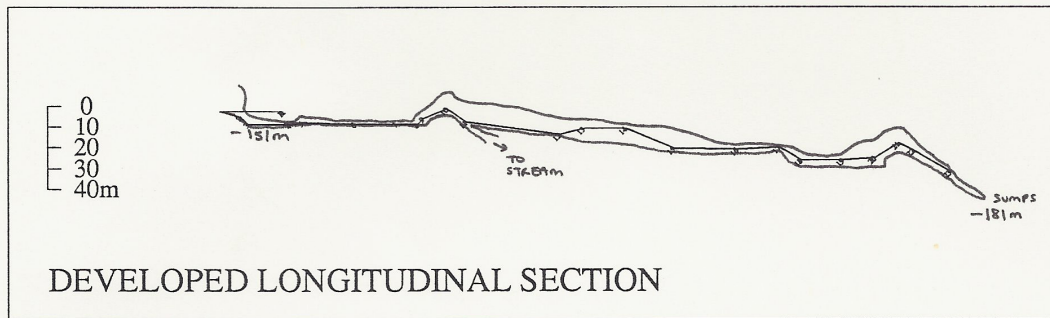
"6/10 Dave's Thoughts"
[on the area surveyed on 6 Oct.]

"6/10 Greg's Thoughts"
[on the area surveyed on 6 Oct.]

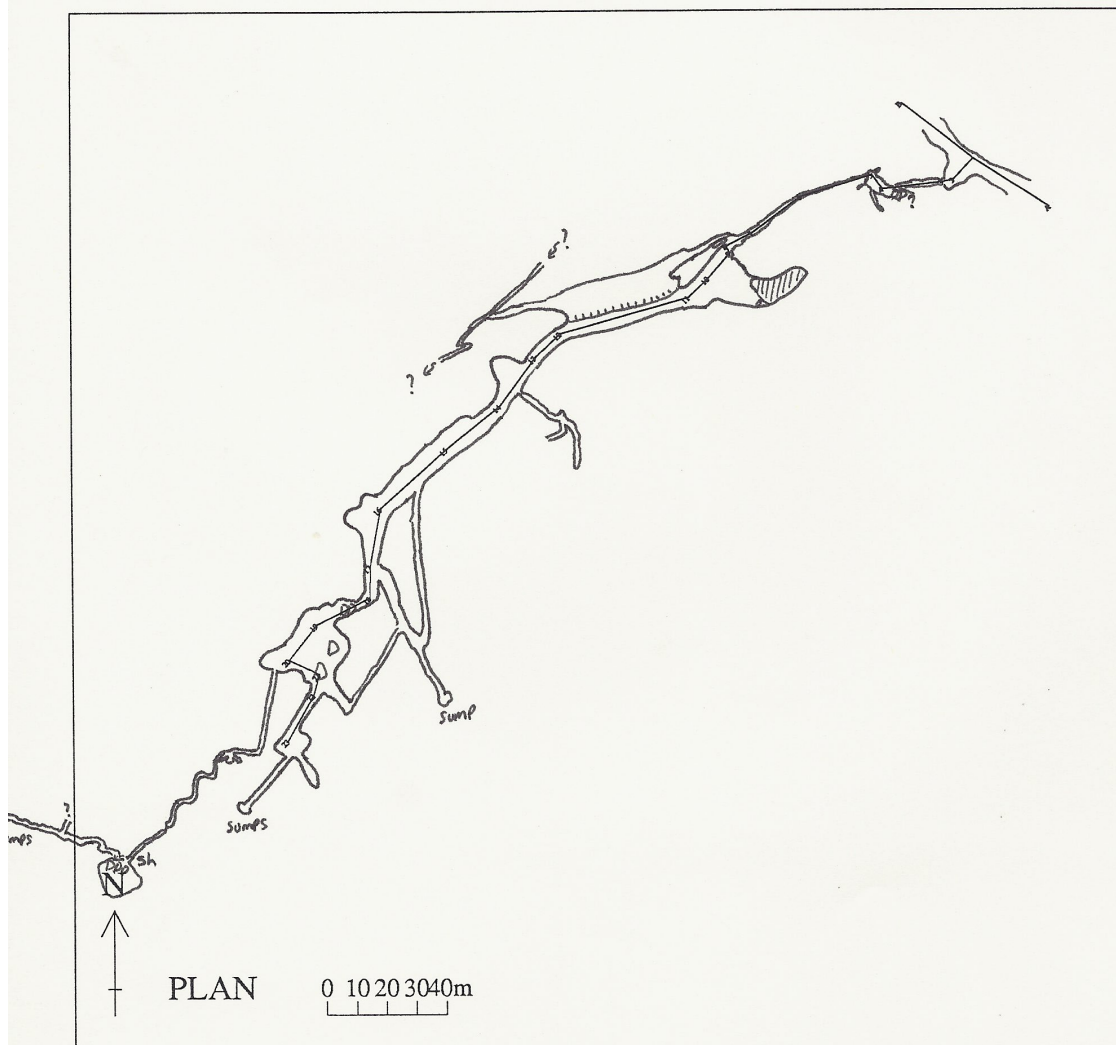


FLORENTINE
JF 341-NEW EXTENSION

JEFF BOTT } 13/11/88
GREG JORDAN }
SUNTO COMPASS & CLINOMETER.
ESTIMATED (PACED) DISTANCES.
GRADE 33



FLORENTINE
JF 341-NEW EXTENSION



Cave extends ~400 m along 22° True [N]

Florentine – Cave Hunting 27/11/88

Party: Greg Jordan, Dave Rasch, Jeff Butt.

NB: Lindsay Hicks, Helen Beggs, [another], Ken Hosking, Trevor Wailes, Martyn Carnes (two parties in 341)

Surveying: Peanut Brittle chain of dolines to Chairman via track.

Surface thrashing: East of access track south of JF-149, JF-129 (see later).

Made our way to JF-149 – approximately opposite Rift turnoff head down gully (a few scavenged blue tapes). ~50 m to JF-149 – large entrance (cf. Pendant Pot, Big Tree Pot) in rocky outcrop on right of gully. A small pool (5 m x 2 m) in gully a little further downhill.

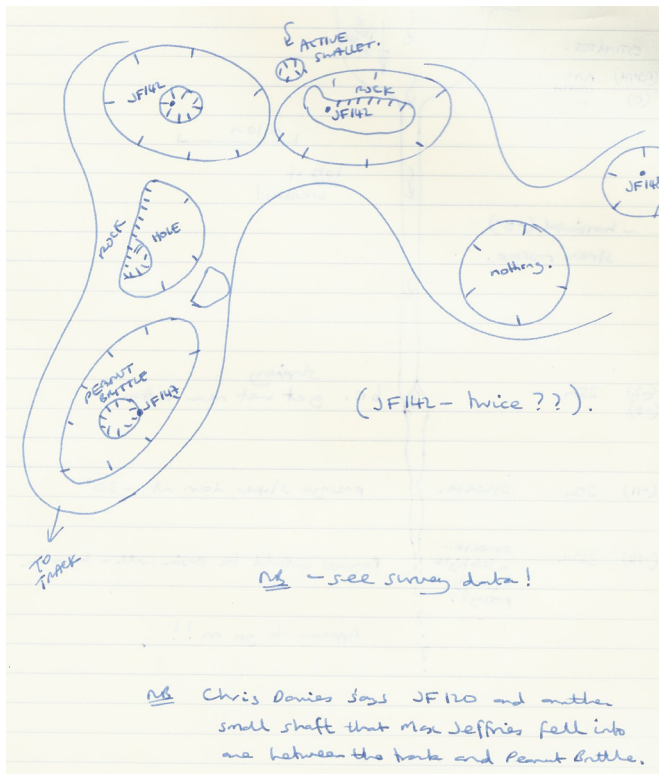
Had a thrash in JF-149, lots of loose boulders/fill. Made some progress in two places (see map) – minor promise – only slight draughts. Potential for accidents is high – dodgy boulders etc => extreme care!

Up to Washout [JF-129] for lunch – i.e. a drink. Decided to have a look within. Maybe it has been washed out – because I went ~50 m into a cave – narrow but quite negotiable. Remember reading Rolan Eberhard's article in a recent *Spiel* (? Summer 88) saying it only went ~10 m.²

Was quite good (see sketch), not too wet either. Worth a visit with a hammer!

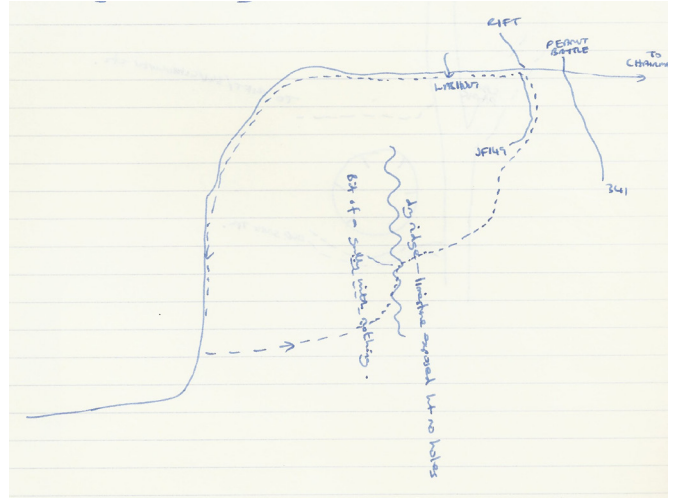
[See JF-149 map, p. 19 and JF-129 map, p. 20]

Surveyed up to Peanut Brittle (only 2 minutes from turn off). An amazing chain of dolines here!



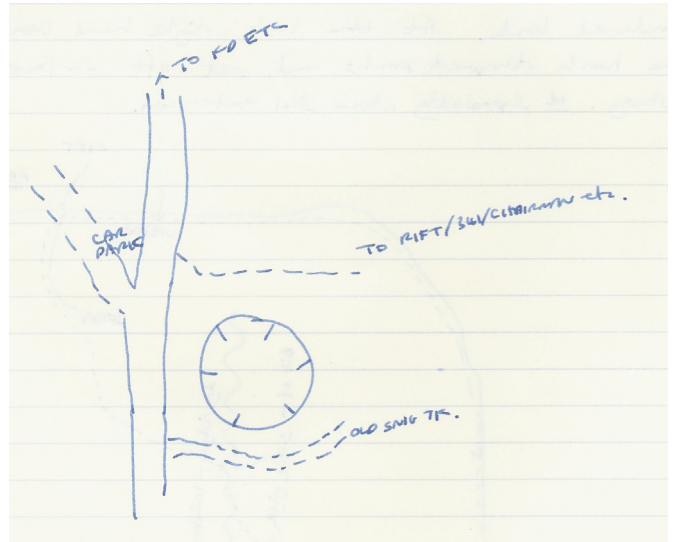
After Peanut Brittle doline continued along the 'contact'. Didn't see any more holes. Hit the Chairman track and decided to go see it! Very impressive. Surveyed our way back to the 341/Peanut Brittle turnoff.

Wandered back. At the last right hand bend in the track



dumped packs and set off surface bashing. i.e. supposedly above 341 extension.

Found nought – regrowth scunge only – too dry, never had the water – karst surface without holes. Made a gully – headed up it to JF-149, the track and out. Quite a good day!

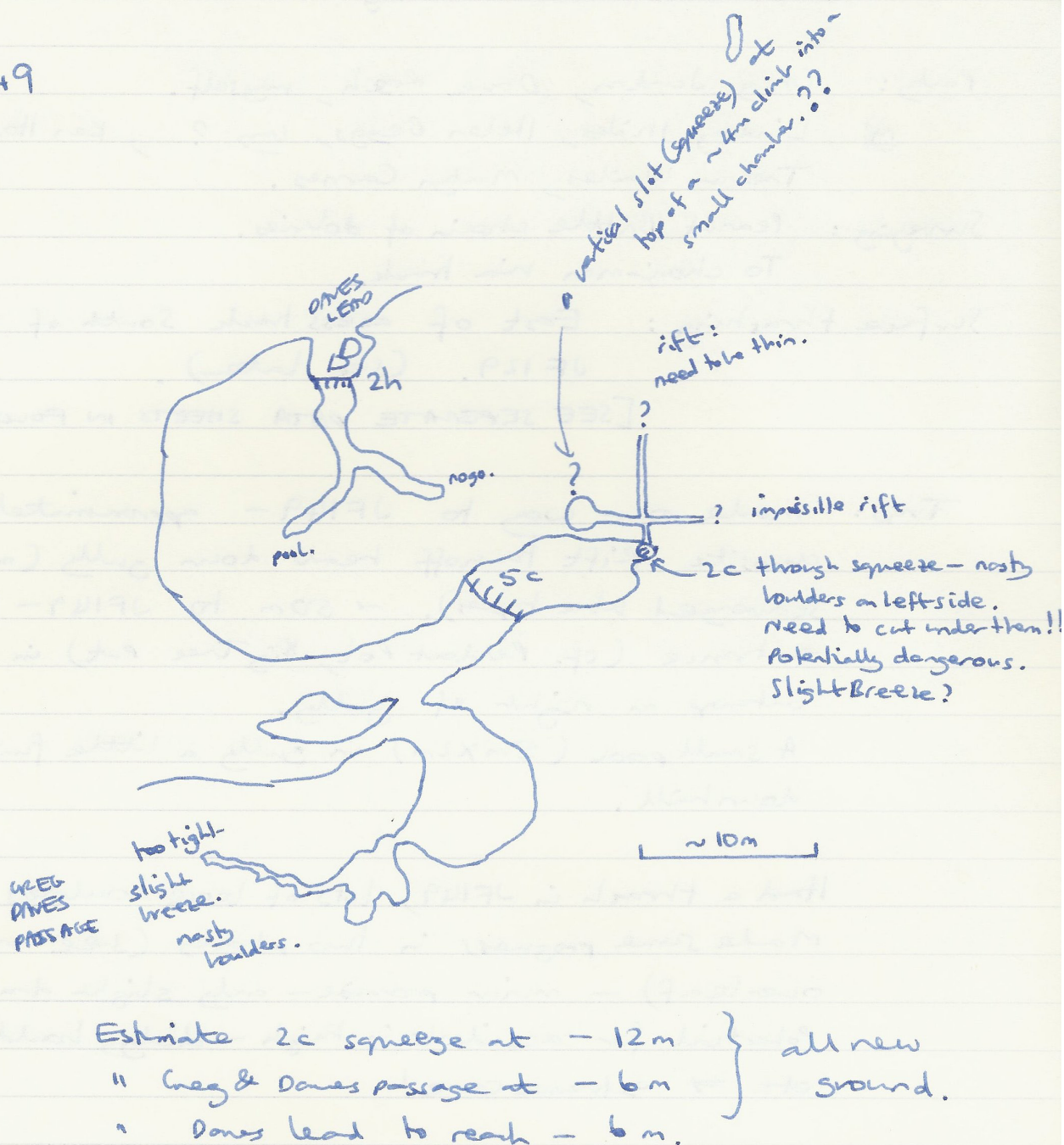


Also checked out the huge doline marked on Maydena 1:25,000 map SE of the carpark – nothing.

[See surface survey, Rift-341-Peanut Brittle-Chairman, bottom, p. 20.]

² EBERHARD, Rolan 1987 Washout Cave - JF129 Speleo Spiel, 234: 5 – does not give length but gives total estimated depth as 15 m.

JF149

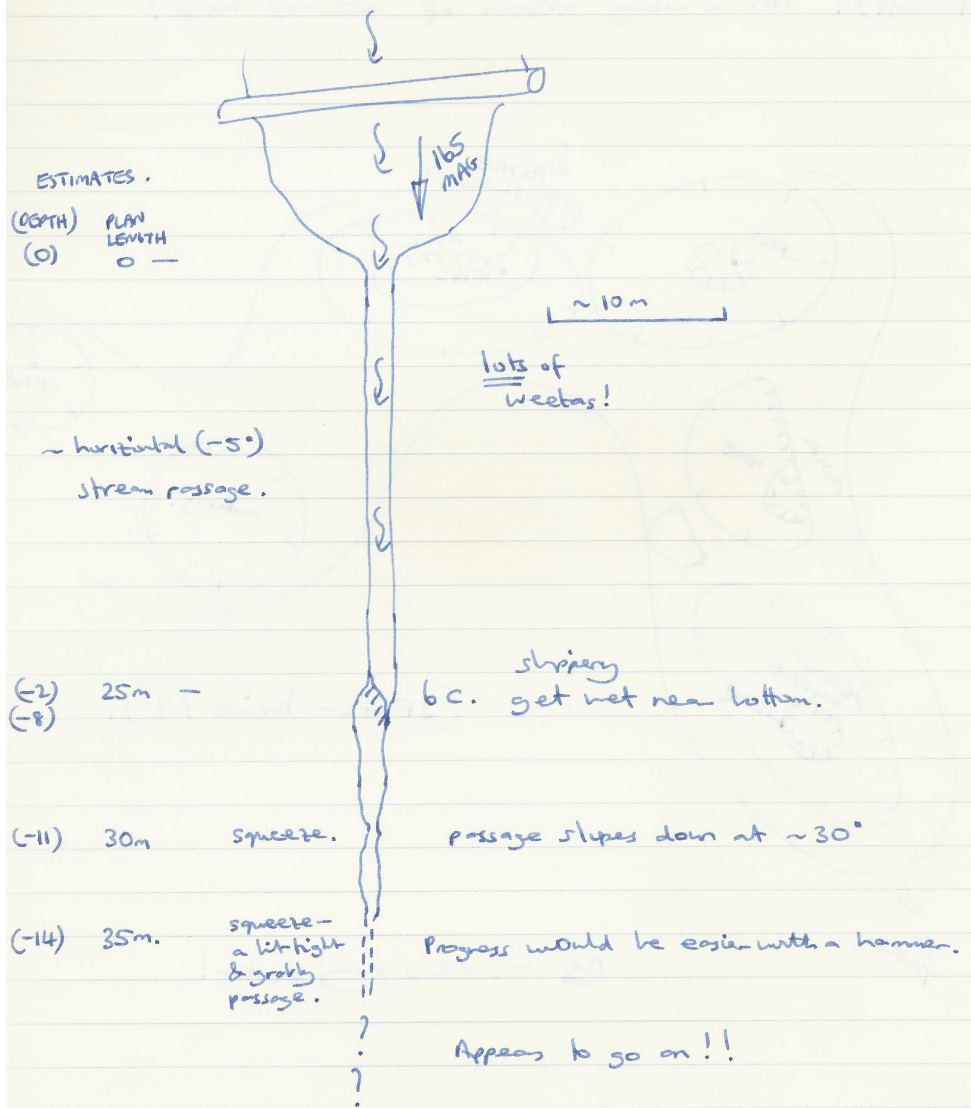


Surface surveying in the JF-341 Region 27/11/88

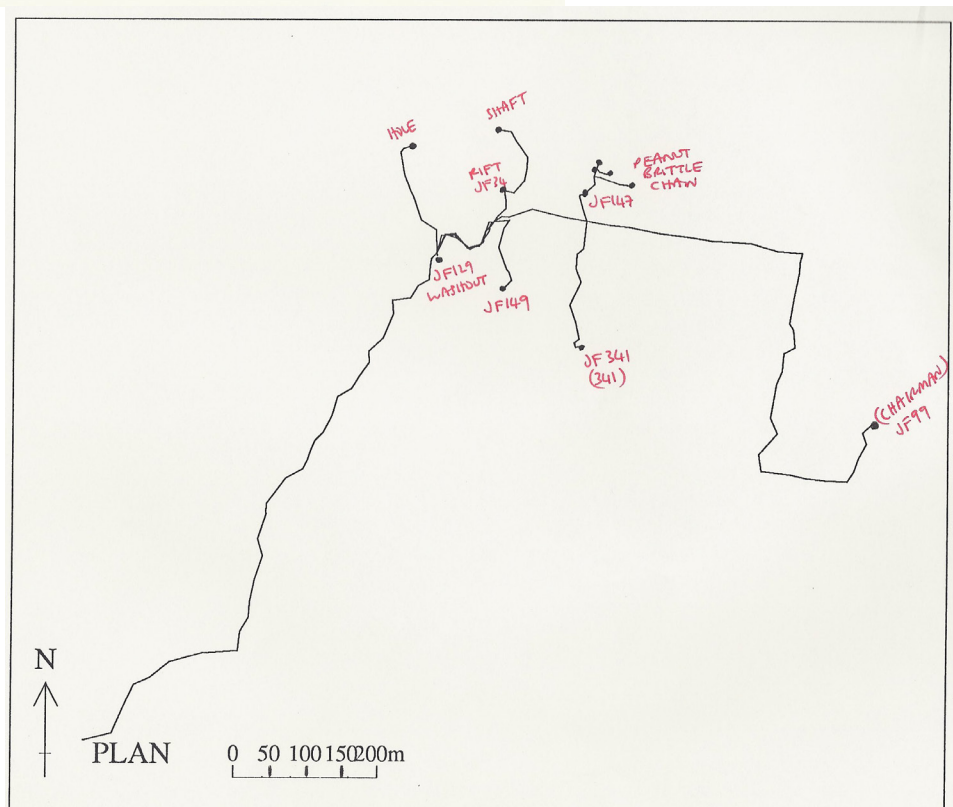
Party: Greg Jordan, Dave Rasch, Jeff Butt using Suuntos (read by Greg), 50 m tape. Also eye-eye level stations except where noted (i.e. ground ~1.6 m beneath station).

[This report comprises survey data and sketches which are not reproduced here. The survey plan at bottom of p. 19 seems to have been a result.]

JF129 Washout Cave



Junee-Florentine: Rift-341-Peanut Brittle-Chairman Region: Surface traverses



Saturday: JF341

Party: Donald Hudspeth, Jeff Watson, Steve Summers, Greg Jordan, Nathan Duhig, Jane Best, Helen Beggs, Jeff Butt

Photography: OM 1, 50 mm lens, F100 film, gellcell flash

Helen, Jane and I followed the others after a brief visit to Rift. Greg piked early due to hangover. Took everyone through into the new bit – very dry – the huge crystal pool almost dry (the old crystal pool totally dry) and the cave seemed warm (was 8.8°C on the dirt slope to new bit – guess it seemed warmer due to being dry). The others exited leaving Helen, Nathan and I – headed into the cave – to the end of the main drag. Took ~20 photos, mainly on the way out. A slow trip as Helen was totally knackered. Out ~9 [pm] (8 hours underground) and a dark walk out.

Sunday: JF-34

Party: Arthur Clarke, Bob Reid, Greg Jordan, [another], Simon and Dean Morgan, Jeff Butt

Visited Rift – showed everyone around, no-one descended the new bit. Found a few useful/interesting things when we were poking around.

Opposite the new extension is a passage heading up on the left. A difficult 3 m climb gets one into it, the passage continues for length ~60 m and gains ~30 m height, therefore close to surface.

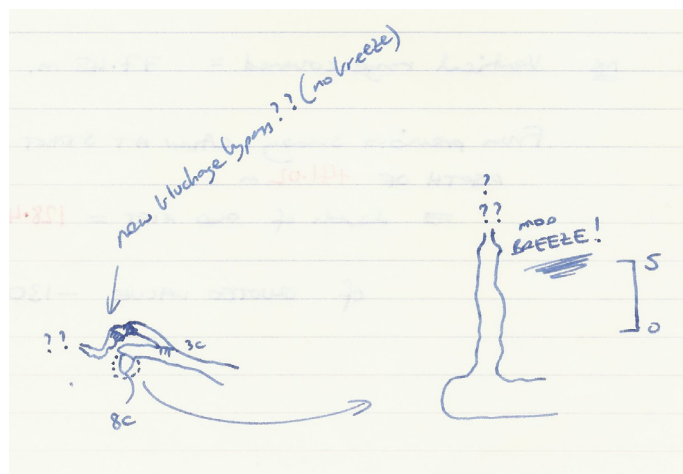
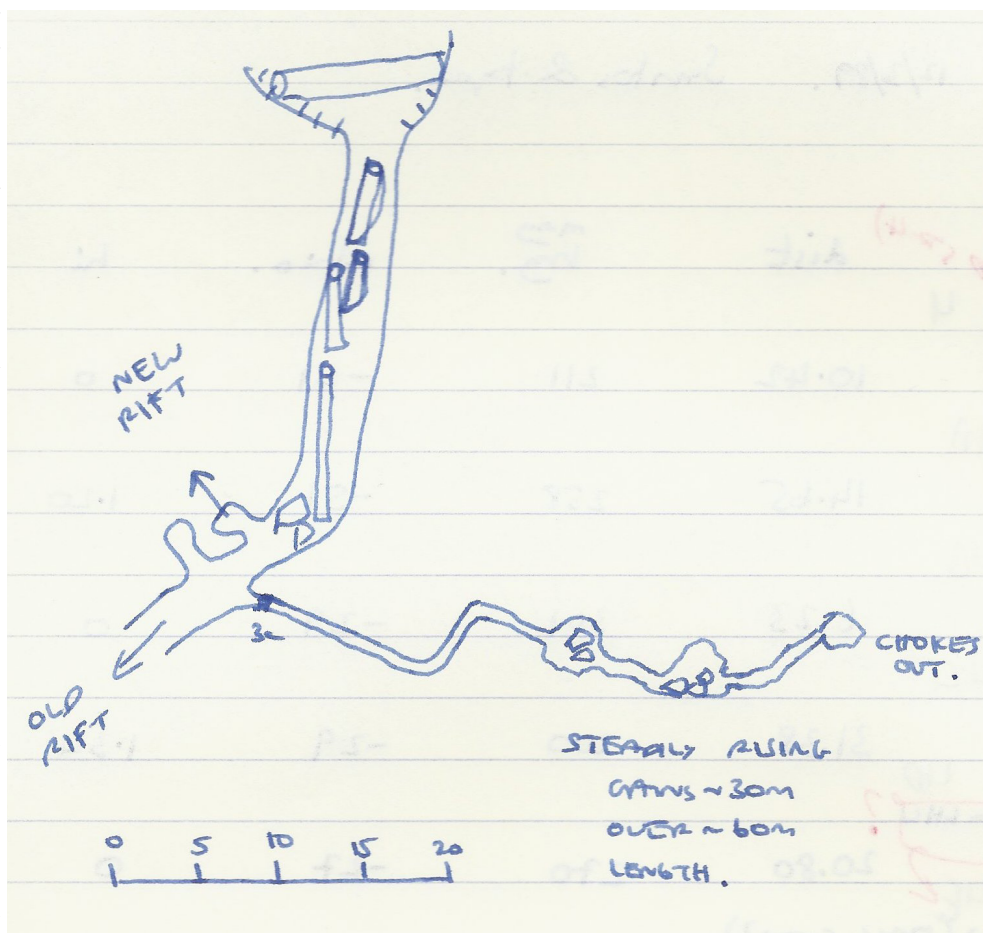
At the end of the railway tunnel the side passage on the RH wall (3 m above ground) was entered, some rocks removed and it is possible to squeeze down 4 m to an earth-floored passage. Stones dropped onto here can be heard to roll down an earth floor for 5-10 seconds, therefore could be a bypass. Greg was the only one who got down to this dirt level through two squeezes, said it was pretty horrible below, would need some digging. It is amazing just how much more can be found by having a decent look!

I climbed the terminal aven, ascended 8 m, fairly difficult going up, but easy getting down. Good threads near the top so could affix a handline rope easily. At the top (~8 m above the deck) the tube becomes a vertical flattener. Holes with dirt/chockstones exist. A breeze exists

too, therefore could be worth pushing this bit – the next move would be pretty awkward. Suggest take a ladder next time, tie to a thread and then get a second person to help the top person in/out of the “next bit”.

Did a straight line survey of the old bit of Rift so we can relate the old and new pieces of cave in the vertical sense.

After Rift, Arthur, Bob, Simon, Dean and I headed into JF-341 to derig the TCC ropes. Heavy rain during the walk and whilst in cave. Removed all ropes. The entrance rockpiles were running streams during our exit. Crystal pools may have filled over the next 12 hours. Exceedingly heavy/steady rain continued for the walk out/drive out and drive home.



JF-34 Rift Cave 24 September 1989

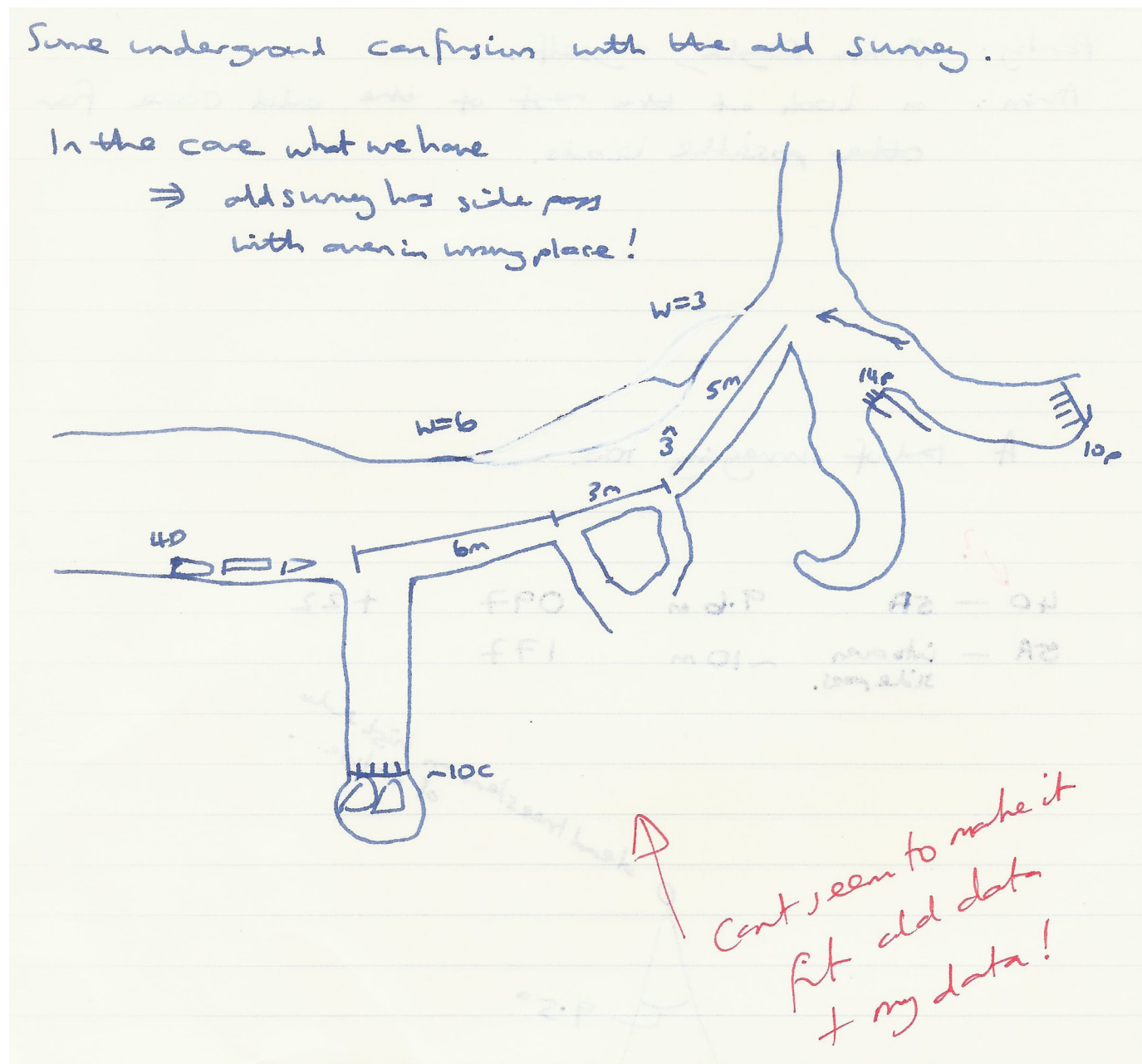
Party: Mark Doyle, Jeff Butt

Aim: a look at the rest of the old cave for other possible leads.

A tad of surveying too.

Some underground confusion with old survey.

Well, headed into JF341 – surveying from the point near the access flowstone climb. Surveyed the canyon rift and along the serpentine stream passage to the hand-line pitch. Headed off exploring from there. Through the muddy gloppy bit, but stayed up high and it was better, not quite so gloppy/awkward. Checked out an upper level and through a crawl/squeeze led into continuing upper levels – old mud-filled (quite beautiful) passage like “Dreamtime” in Growling Swallet. Several “funnels” down to the stream. Accessed the stream in one point to



Caving – JF341 18 June 1993

Party: Rolan Eberhard, Jeff Butt

Ref: Diary entry for the 18/6/93, previous trips (4/6/93)³

Purpose: to recover charcoal bags placed 4/6/93 and to explore the new cave.

place a charcoal bag. (No handline needed). Continued on – found a route through a rockfall section (avoided a “ladder required” piece). Got into huge Xanadu style cave chamber/passage. Mega formations – 3-4 m straws everywhere. Also masses of broken straws littering the floor (9/7 – as I’m writing this we know that this region is beneath the Junee Quarry). At the end of the big stuff started a survey back. Five legs to do 200 m => big stuff. (Hard to sketch!)

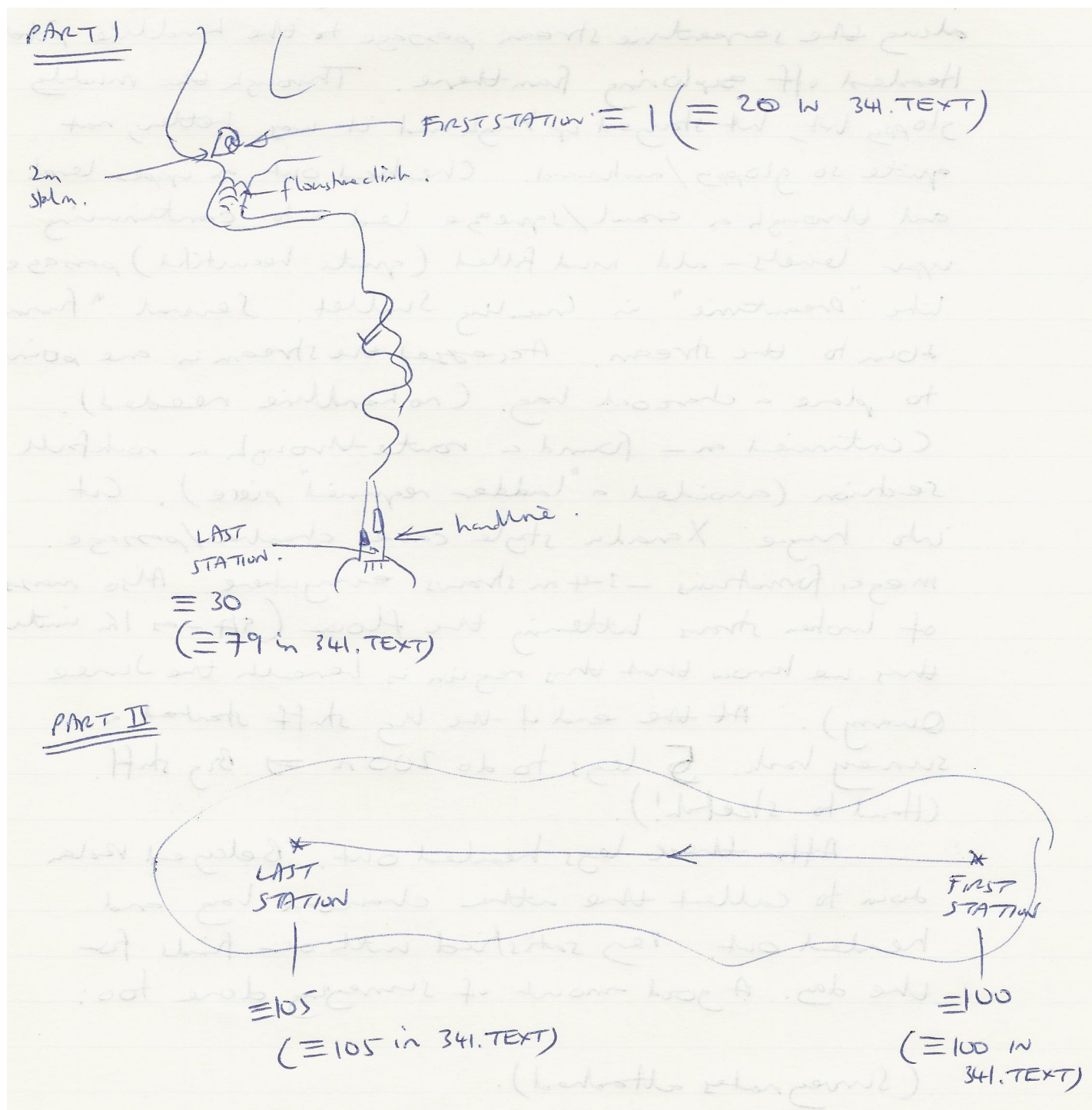
³ There does not appear to be a report of this trip – GJM

After these legs, headed out. Belayed Rolan down to collect the other charcoal bag⁴ and headed out. Very satisfied with our finds for the day. A good amount of surveying done too.

(Survey notes attached) [not included here].

NB – survey – Rolan reading instruments and leading. All backbearings/inclinations.

(In survey part I Rolan holding his instrument reading torch close – may have some errors in the compass readings (~10°)).



⁴ This was reported as Experiment 6 in EBERHARD, Rolan 1994 Inventory and management of the Junee River Karst System, Tasmania. Report to Forestry Tasmania. pp. 44, 110-111.

Caving – JF341

1 July 1993

Party: Rolan Eberhard, Jeff Butt

Ref: Previous trips (18/6/93, 4/6/93)

Purpose: Recover charcoal bags, surveying, exploration

Headed into the now all too familiar 341. Started surveying from the handline station (79). Continued on our way till we reached the other survey station (105). Also dropped a leg down to the streamway. A look downstream there not terribly encouraging – low and wet. (Need to look at point to the stream further downstream – several holes in the floor near stations 230-231. Also need to have a look around the big chamber – good to get a few survey legs to tie size down better).

Put a handline on the flowstone climb – now getting pretty greasy and a slip coming down would drop into the floor holes!

Survey data attached [not included here].

The processed data confirms that the new stuff lies under the Junee Quarry. Still need to redo Butt/Jordan estimated section. A few survey trips required to complete JF341. (Survey length now 1263 m, so estimate 2+ km is not impossible for it all).

Survey Part I (only part) – Rolan leading and all readings taken as backbearings/inclinations.

Ref: Previous trips (18/6/93, 4/6/93, 1/7/93)

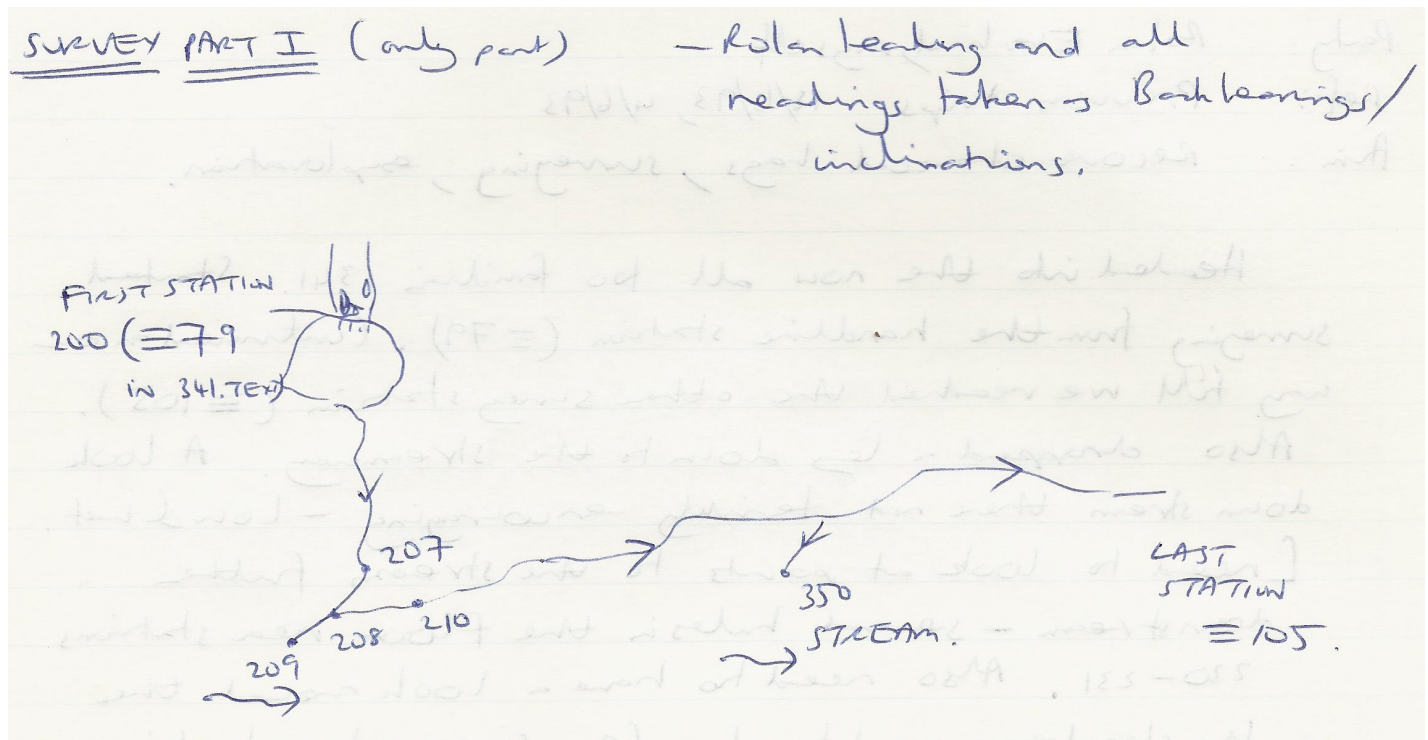
Purpose: to accurately survey the Butt/Jordan rough survey, have a look upstream, recover charcoal detectors.

Well – the survey progressed very well – completed in under 2 hours – commenced from the base of the “38p” – most accurate place to tie into old TCC – circa 1980 survey (copy of data transcribed from old field notes – old notes difficult to read, evidently).

Continued to the streamway – managed to get a handline around a semi-wedged block and that held OK – so down the ‘original’ route to the stream. About 30 m upstream to rockfall – found a way through at stream level – good open stream. Just kept going – two other rockfalls to negotiate (some dodgy blocks there – care!) – also thigh deep in water at times. Just kept on going – no obvious major stream feeders (one small on the left noticed). A quite large stream – too much water for Rift/Washout, so ? Niagara (Rolan’s detectors may help tell this!) – detectors confirm Rift water previously. (Rift water could enter under a rockfall etc and easily [be] missed).

More or less an end at stream level, but a high sloping passage on RHS noticed – good lead on. Also, rockfall at “end” not really pushed. Probably much more cave!! About an hour to get back to the handline – estimate 1 km new passage! (definitely >500 m!)

Wow – 4 trips to 341 in recent months and more to come!!



Caving – “341” – JF341

25 July 1993

Party: Rolan Eberhard, Jeff Butt

(Gut feeling is that Butt/Jordan rough survey is not too bad), analysis of the data will determine this. (A rough look at the distance shows the error is no worse than 10%!)

Caving – JF341 29 August 1993

Party: Dave Rasch, Jeff Butt

Aim: to survey the new upstream stuff and have a look at leads there.

Well – bombed down the cave rigging as we went.

29 m for step/handline good

16 m for the first pitch good

61 m for the ramp and 39P also good. The 77 m about 5 m too long [for first and last pitch combined] – i.e. ~72 m ideal length.

Down to the streamway – started surveying* from #209. A little slower going on account of Dave's out of practice and he didn't want to do anything – so I read instruments and took notes. Through the first rockfall and continued on. Only made it to the small tributary stream though – about half the way to the “end” found by Rolan and myself last trip.

Did however find another upper level passage (cf. downstream) which went for ~200-300 m – i.e. must almost have gone back to #209! (maybe to the flowstone ramp??) Headed out – a 9 hour trip.

The length of the cave [*means we*] need to do longer trip i.e. (work time)/(transit time) is getting small! Next trip will be a longer one – aim for 12 (to 14) hours to get more done!

*also – checked first 4 legs - directions correct, old TCC survey is suss! Rolan also checked one bearing.

	Our original* survey	Rolan check	Our checks	[Error]
Base pitch (39 p)	159°		156	3
Small streamway	194.5		190	4.5
Passage wall	216		210	6
Wall next to crystal pool down chamber	139	141	140	-1

NB: *Rolan reading and holding small torch too close – seems to make readings high.

Caving – JF341 10 September 1993

Party: Dean Morgan, Jeff Butt

Aim: to show Dean around and further the surveying.

09:45 into the cave, 18:15 out – so 8.5 hours. (my battery a little dodgy - has been close to failing?) A smooth trip – bombed down and headed downstream.

When we got to station 105 decided to survey our way along near the right hand wall of the chamber. (Dean leading and backbearings – NB Dean using small torch close to compass? Effect on it). Checked out a couple of small passages as we went. 13 legs and we made station 100 (will be interesting to see what sort of closure we get). The formation in the end of the chamber a lot better than I remembered – really like Kubla Khan.

Headed back and dropped down to the streamway (only about 16 m downstream to sumps – no go. (This is where station 350 is!!) Surveyed upstream – only made it about 40 m to a rockfall.

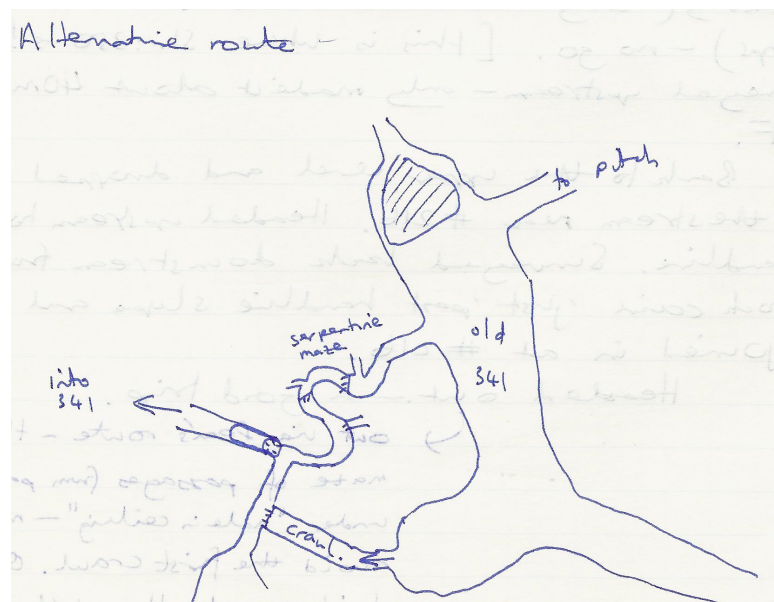
Back to the upper level and dropped down to the stream near #216. Headed upstream to the handline. Surveyed back downstream from a rock cairn just past handline slope and joined in at #216.

Headed out – a good trip (out via Dean's route – through a maze of passages from passage under “hole in ceiling” – means avoid the first crawl. Quite a climby route through the maze (sketch overleaf).

Some notes about the survey.

P2 Rock cairn – 310. Yes rock cairn = 400. [*i.e. station 310 synonymous with station 400*]

#216 was a floor cairn (see notes 1/7/93). (Now 216 is on the edge of the wall – put it there on 10/9 – as it was “lying on the ground nowhere”). So 216 is not in correct place – remove it! The stal top 320-321-stal top is OK, but the stal top is ~215 (about 1.5 m from it).



Caving – JF341 25 September 1993

Party: Rolan Eberhard, Jeff Butt

Aim: to look at leads upstream and to survey the known upstream stuff that hasn't been surveyed yet.

Well – back at JF341 again – headed in and upstream – the name Klingon Way (from Star Trek) seemed to throw itself at me. Also thought of several other good names to use:

Beneath the lake – Reactor Room

Serpentine route – Spacetime (or scientific word for a path through spacetime)

Muddy rift – KlingOn Way

Warp drive

Impulse

Beam me up

Almost 2.5 hours in (2 charcoal bags to Dinosaurs Foot streamway) – Rolan had added fluorescein to a swallet east of Rift Cave yesterday – no visuals!⁵ I feel that the Dinosaurs Foot streamway comes from Washout (JF129).

At the end of Dave and my survey we surveyed our way along the dry upper level. At the formation end got into a huge chamber – we stopped surveying there – the streamway can be heard – 10 [m] back to near the handline (or so we assumed).

Continued surveying our way upstream – made it all the way. Hit upon substantial side passage about 50 m from the “terminal” rockfall. Rising streamway (dry) – into large chamber(s). A rifty thing on right hand side headed back to the stream – near #469.

Went to the terminal rockfall for a look – no obvious way on – but still a lead 5 m back on the right hand side. Still need to look at it.

See the attached survey notes [not included here].

Also – several small tributaries come in on the left hand side as we headed up.

A possible bifurcation of the streamway near #464.

After the survey data processed:

“341” is heading for Rift Cave. Dye tracing shows both Rift and Niagara. Wonder if the bifurcating streamway represents these two sources? It's all very interesting! I believe Washout Cave stream swallet is Dinosaurs Foot streamway.

⁵ Reported as Experiment 13 in EBERHARD, Rolan 1994 Inventory and management of the Junee River Karst System, Tasmania.

Report to Forestry Tasmania. pp. 44, 113.

Now length ~2730 m – JF341 is rapidly becoming a significant cave! A connection with Rift Cave is reasonably likely? – it's about 40 m above and <200 m away! (perhaps <100 m away after the large chambers are added to the survey).

Caving – JF341 17 October 1993

Party: Heather Kirkpatrick, Dave Rasch, Jeff Butt

Aim: upstream surveying plus checking for leads.

Well – 8th trip to 341 for me this year!

To the cutting edge – surveying in the large chamber region. Most done, though a slower trip so less achieved. About 180 m surveyed. Now length is almost 3 km.

Recovered charcoal bags from Dinosaurs Foot stream passage. (Tested negative to rhodamine W.T. placed in Washout Cave).

A 10.5 hour trip – 3 move more slowly than 2. Heather went really well for her first caving (in Tas) trip.

First hole in trog suit – needs a patch.

11 hour cycle of gell cell. $11 \times 0.4 = 4.4$ Ahr, i.e. 63% discharged.

Now – need to draw the survey; derig the cave; answer final survey questions; surface work in the region – need some new impetus.

Caving – JF341 25 March 1994

Party: Dave Rasch, Jeff Butt

Aim: to check out some leads in the streamway

Well – headed in and found the cave rigged! (TCC rope, though no krabs/slugs there). Left our ropes, but retrieved the 60 m x 10 mm for the last pitch (didn't like the 9 mm rope left there). Also – noted that the top rope (handline) was a Czech one, a distinct smell of carbide emanates as one uses it! Maybe decomposition products?? Certainly hope not!!!

Down the bottom the Crystal Pool totally dry – also the footsteps had been reused recently (a Dean we suspected). Went over for a look and justified our excursion by surveying all over there.

Then down to the Dinosaurs Foot streamway for a look – surveyed upstream. Dave poking around and climbed the stream canyon to discover an upper serpentine stream passage that ends in the main chamber about 6 m up. Enthusiasm upstream – a big chamber, a rockpile drafting well and several other leads. Located the Dinosaurs Jaw [Photos 5, 6] – some excellent formation in



Photo 5. Dave Rasch at the Dinosaurs Jaw formation.



Photo 6. Dinosaurs Jaw formation.



Photo 7. Decoration in Dinosaurs Jaw region.

this region [Photo 7]. Also a couple of dead mammals/ animals. Makes one wonder about the proximity of vertical entrances nearby!! 341 is growing.

As it was so dry checked out the downstream branch too

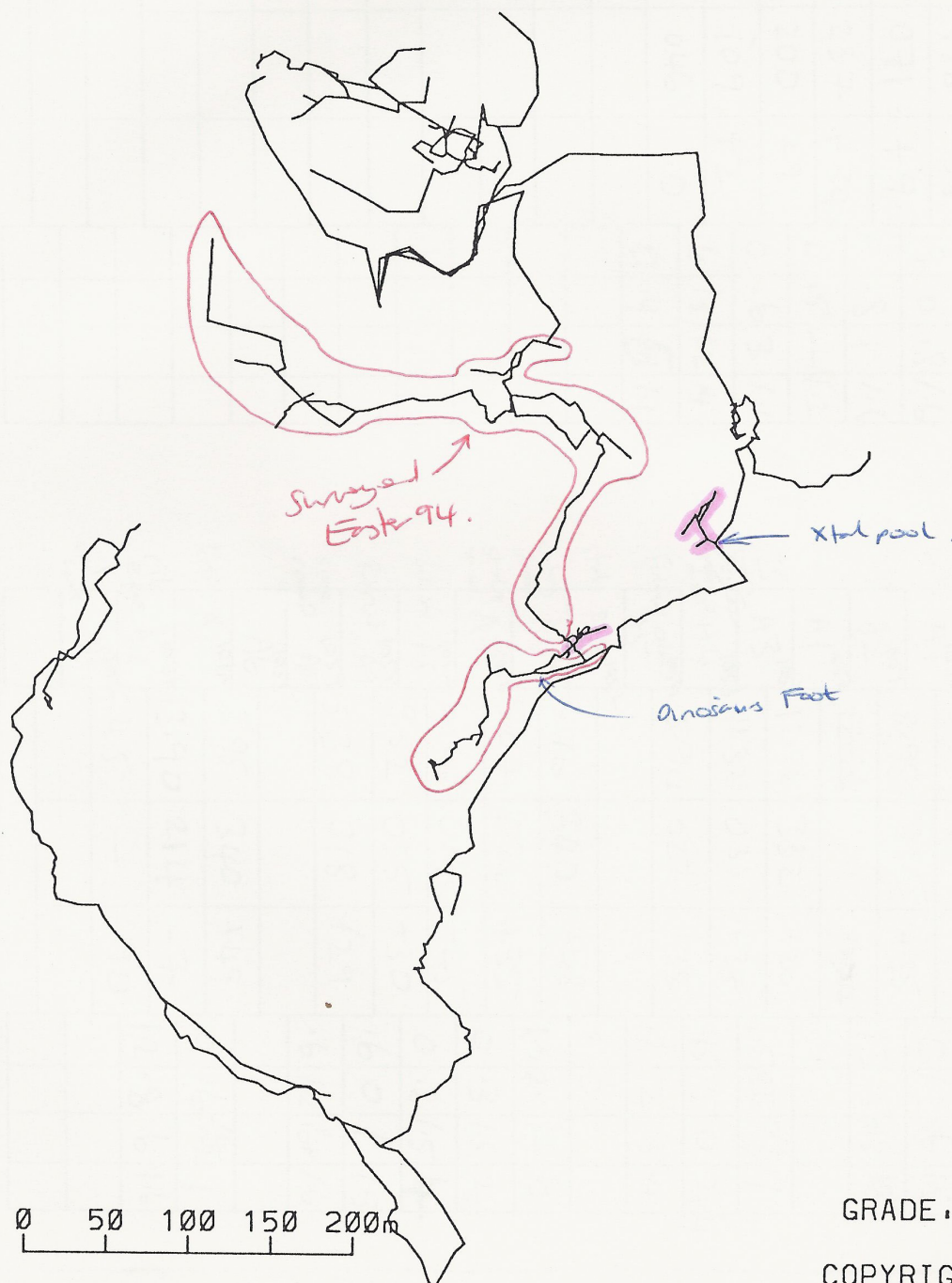
– about 20 m progress till it sumped out. A lead in the ceiling – phreatic tube.

Headed out, derigging as we went. Vowed to return soon, Easter being a likely time.

The pits we surveyed on 25/3/94

JNEE_FLORENTINE

orthern end of JF341, Rift Cave, JF129 and JF149



GRADE . 5

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Caving – JF341 Easter Expedition

1-3 April 1994

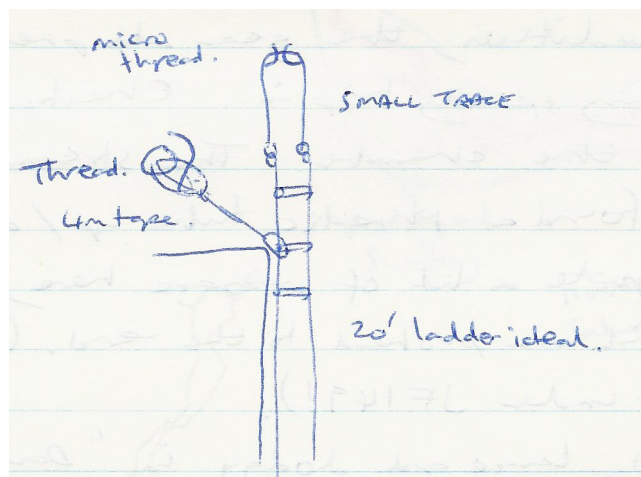
Party: Dave Rasch, Andrew McNeill (2/4 only), Jeff Butt

Aim: to fully explore and survey the new stuff located on 25/3/94

Reference: trip report 25/3/94, my diary too.

NB: Some photos taken XA1, Fuji 400 ASA film, single slave unit.

Friday: 9 hours underground, surveyed ~320 m. Rigged as we went in (used TCC ropes for all but ramp and 38 pitch). Down into the “new old” bit. Surveyed a loop from #16 around to pick up the previous upstream survey and out to the “pitch”. Closed the loop and rigged a ladder to make access easier. (The small thread ideal for a rope to allow ladder retrieval on the derig trip).



Back for lunch and decided to survey downstream of the Dinosaurs Foot whilst waiting for the kettle. Lots of passage found down here; this kept us going for the rest of the day. The lightweight exit out was pretty easy – very nice indeed!

The tent fly over the [car] boot a good little arrangement. Car battery charger good too. See the photos of the set up – very congenial. Set the tent up nearby, on soft grass (I forgot my Thermarest) and headed to bed fairly late.

Saturday: Bear [Andrew McNeill] up for the day. A lightweight trip in. Surveyed ~400 m, 7.5 hour trip.

Headed in, straight up the ladder and into some rapid surveying. Moving fast as a team of 3 in good conditions. Surveyed to the new chamber and a loop around it and out. Also found a new route to the Dinosaurs Jaw. Still haven't surveyed this region. A cuppa and Dave in sandshoes checked out the flowstone ramp downstream of the Dinosaurs Foot. Didn't get to the end – so still an unknown there. Used Dave's (Sharp) calculator to look at some data. Close to being under JF149.

Sunday: Day 3 of our expedition, the gear all pretty grotty now. A very speedy trip in. Checking out leads at the end of the chamber. The stream on the left too low, but found a phreatic tube up/down to bypass it. Found quite a bit of passage here, also a small streamway which we pushed to the end. (According to the data right under JF149!)

Into rockfall, large and dodgy in “Daves Aven” region. Didn't like it much. Found a better way through (still need to survey Daves Aven) and into more big stuff. The Theatre Royal, the orchestral stream pit down to a little stream – probably Washout (JF129) or perhaps Rift. Perhaps JF129 is the drips coming down the aven (JF129 just flowing on the surface).

Into big stuff near the end of the day – 50 m leg in the huge chamber. More leads too – must be close to Rift (JF34). Both tired – a long afternoon. Lunch at 8:30 pm; a coffee good too. Headed out and derigged. A 12 hr trip, surveyed ~550 m!! A late night data processing session. WOW!

[See plan showing surveyed passages, p. 30 upper]

Caving – JF341 10 April 1994

Ref: Easter '94 Expedition

Aim: to check out the possibility of a JF341 & JF34 connection (Dave Rasch and Meredith doing a simultaneous JF34 trip)

Party: Andrew McNeill, Jeff Butt

Rigged and headed in, surveyed the serpentine stream passage beyond the large chamber.

After that found more new stuff, surveying as we went. Headed back to the serpentine passage for the 2:25 – 2:35 noise connection attempt. We whistled/yelled for 5 mins and then awaited a response. Nothing (except for a continuous ringing in the ears). (Actually, we could have been in a better spot, but that's life!) Kept on surveying – more huge stuff found – the “Entertainment Centre” beyond the Theatre Royal. Headed out, leaving 100 m+ easy surveying not done. A good trip, about 10.5 hours underground, surveyed ~440 m.

341 now ~200 m from Niagara; ~30 m from Rift.

If connections are made:

JF341 ~ 5 km

Rift ~1 km

Niagara ~1 km

Total ~7 km cf. Growling Swallet ~ km!!

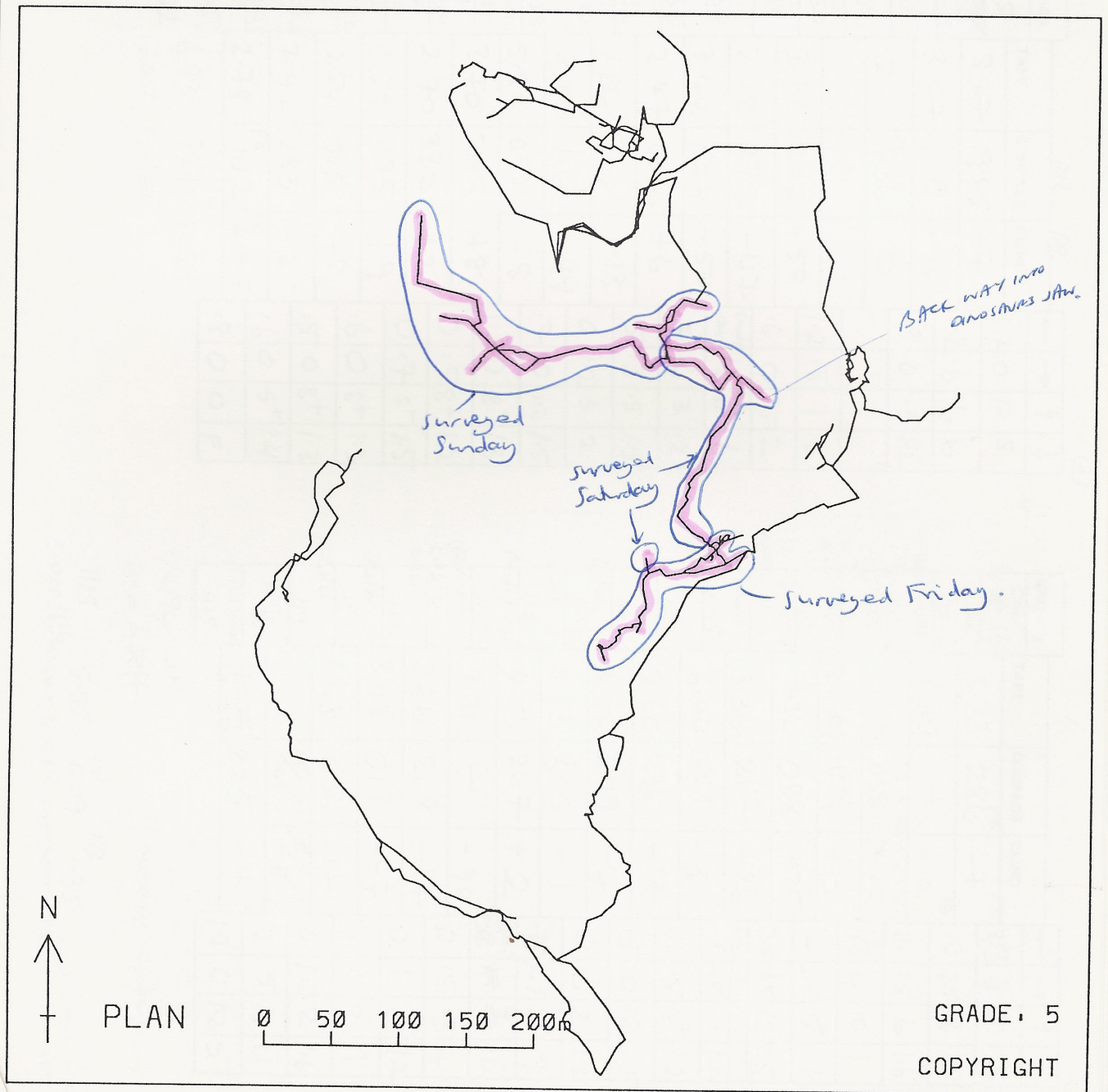
NB. Rift and 341 only about 25 m apart.

Dave Rasch – Rift leads near the sand passages are likely to connect into 341 near the mini labyrinth Bear and I surveyed on 10/4 (this trip).

[See plan showing surveyed passages, p. 30 lower]

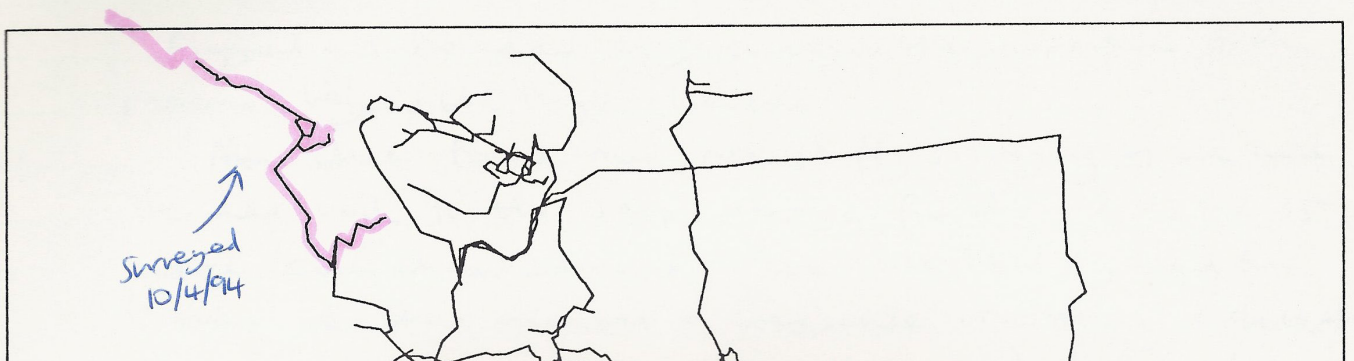
JUNEE_FLORENTINE

Northern end of JF341, Rift Cave, JF129 and JF149



JUNEE_FLORENTINE

Area around 341/Rift/Chairman



JF-34 Rift Cave

18 April 1994

Party: Dave Rasch, Jeff Butt

Aim: to push Rift in view of the proximity of JF-341

Ref: JF-341 work

Duration: ~9 hours

At the sand passage entrance did a 6 m climb (easy to protect) to the phreatic level. Good breeze. Along a passage then two pitches – the furthest lead to a chamber (also accessed via the tight phreatic tube that Dave climbed last week). A big high rift passage ascending steeply surveyed. The other phreatic tube pitch lead to a stream that comes out in the other region of the cave, also routes to the entrance to the sand passages.

Another look at the end of the other [??] – did the 7C that was noted – into big aven/rift country. Probably heading towards old Rift Cave. See attached survey work.

Rift still 167 m deep, but now 1133 m long. (181 m deep from doline lip). Probably closer to 1200 m in reality.

NB the rough sand passage survey now superseded. Good.

Prospects for leads pretty slim now – though the breeze in the lower reaches is still tantalising. Just where does it go???

[See sketch plan, p. 32 and plan showing surveyed passages, p. 33]

Caving – JF341 – Expedition #2 29 April – 1 May 1994

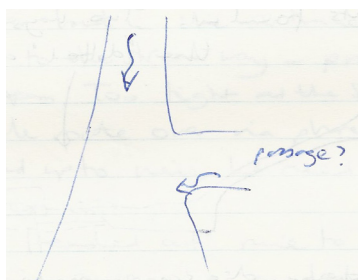
Party: Dave Rasch, Andrew McNeill (30/4 only), Sue Baker (30/4 only), Jeff Butt

Aim: to continue the work.

Ref: Expedition #1 (Easter 1-3/4/94), my diary, Rift (18/4/94)

Friday: 8.5 hours underground. Rigged as we headed in, the new brew room in the stream passage just outside the Pearly Gates.

The cave much wetter, stream (Heaven's Drain) running well, Theatre Royal pumping – noticed here two streams falling in, with some evidence of passage where the lower stream plunges in (? Washout stream).



From 1368 kept on surveying to the end. Dave headed down the holes in the funnel in the Entertainment Centre (mega gypsum ropes etc in this place) to reach a small stream and emerged in the Woodchip Passages. Surveyed these to a “terminal chamber”. One interesting descending phreatic tube at the end – found a BAT there [presumably dead].

Had a play at the climb at the other side of the Woodchip Passages (but this just heads to same chamber as we found on Saturday).

The dry wide stream also flowing today. Above the waterfall (where piece of manfern found) managed to climb in and along a small stream passage – but soon got pretty small/wet.

Total surveyed for the day ~260 m. Calculations in the car suggest we are about 80 m from Niagara Pot.

Saturday: joined by Sue and Bear – headed to the end, a couple of minor excursions en-route in. (Hole on LHS up slope, just past Theatre Royal isn't a hole). But there is passage on the left in the “tent” chamber. Headed to the end, used the 30' ladder to get down the tube (also 7 m rope + tape to tie off outside). Two more bats found. Two ways on down below, [see diagram] the “dotted” a tight squeeze passage. Surveyed along this, a slight breeze.



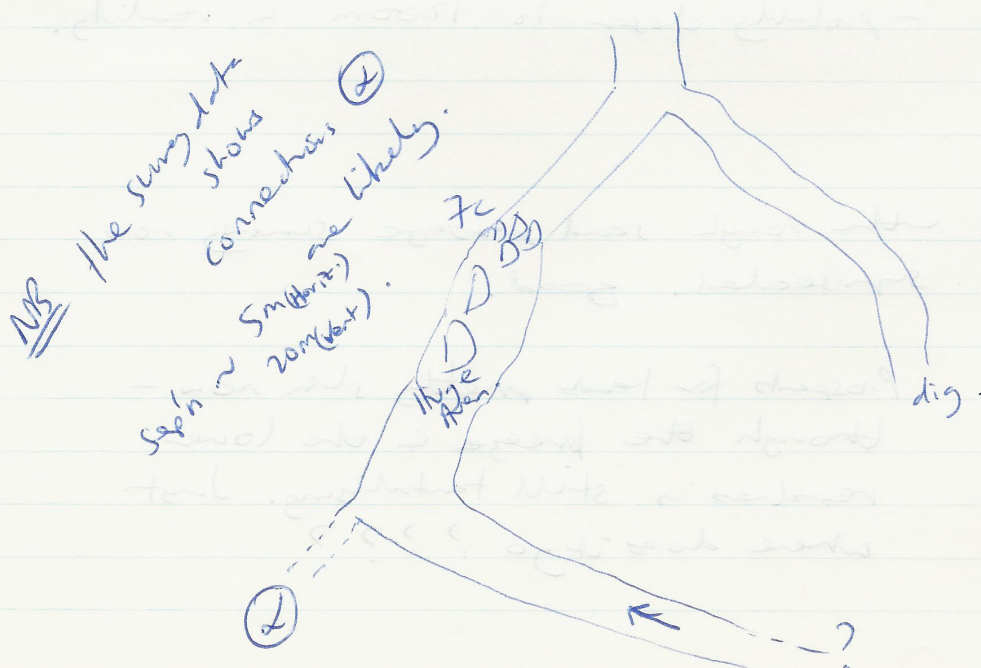
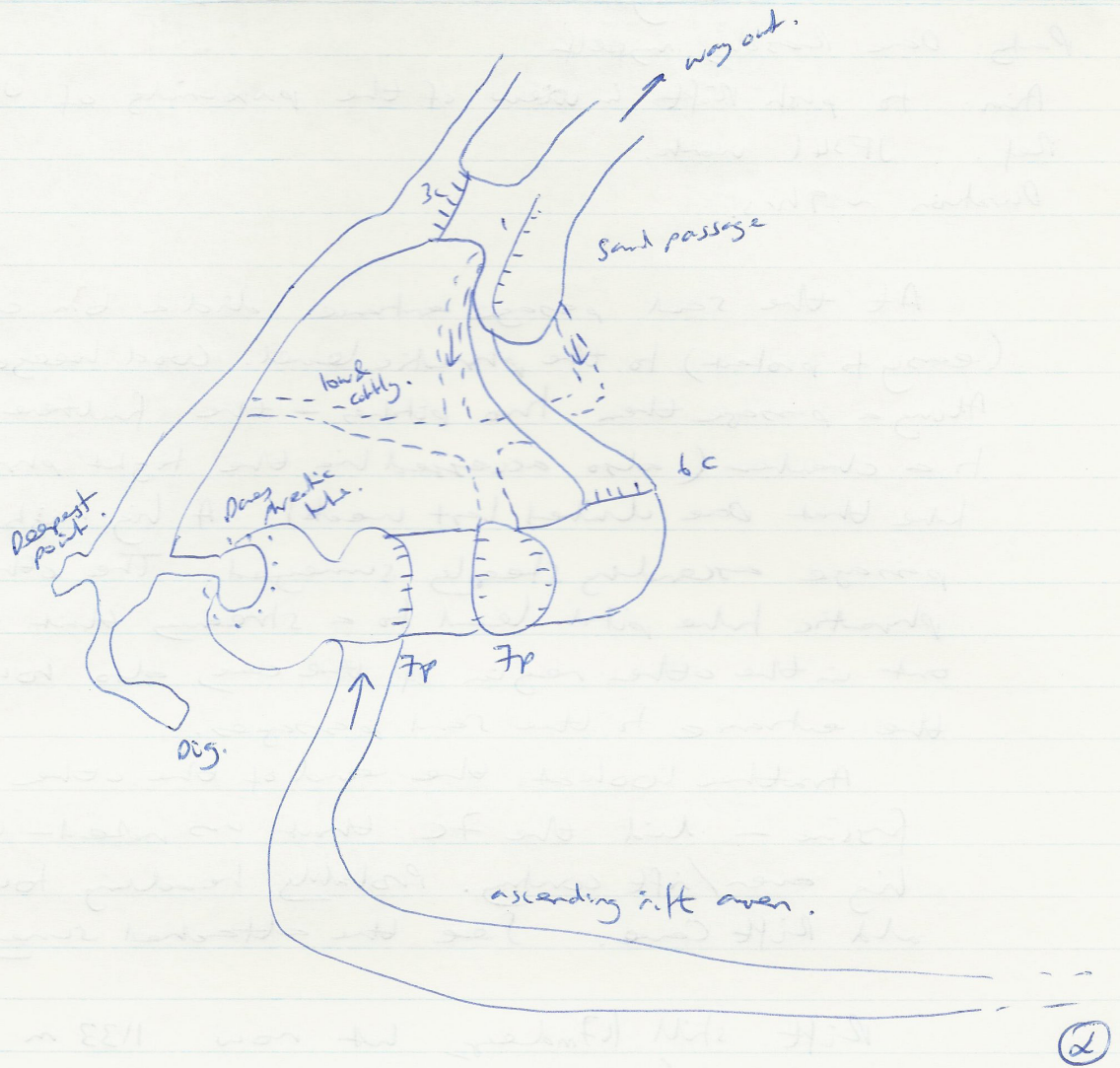
The other a dig scene – made progress but decided our time better spent elsewhere.

Also checked out the two down leads – no joy there. From the first (near 1316) can hear a stream down below, but no way to reach it. Exited; a 10.5 hour trip. Surveyed ~120 m today; made it 40 m closer to Niagara. Now only about 40 m away (so our rough calcs say).

Sunday: Day 3, the finale for our 3 day stint. Headed in to the passage off the “tent” chamber. Surveyed these, descended to rockfall chamber, also ascended high up a bedding plane rift – no real joy, but still a breeze in the upper stuff.

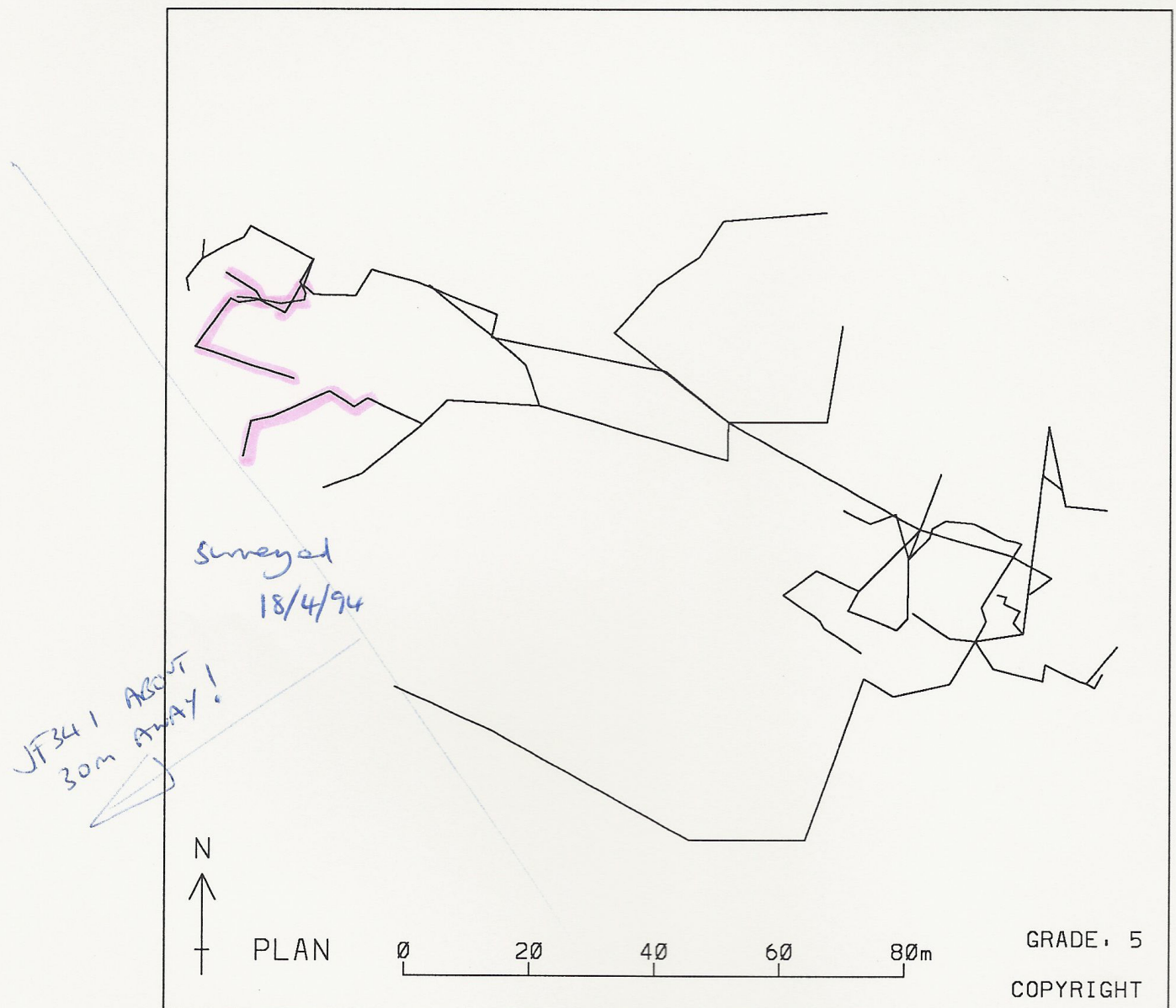
We must have saved the best for last – checked out the serpentine stream passage near 1351. Straight to a 20 m pitch into Rift Cave!! Didn't descend, but pretty sure it's where we got to on our Rift trip. Surveyed out to the main drag.

At the other side lead – a quick look around led to a



JUNEE_FLORENTINE

Rift Cave (JF34)



strongly drafting hole – hopped through into the bottom part of Old Rift – climbed way up, to the other side of the plug[?].!! Also a look downstream – no go. However back in the entrance chamber another route to the streamway – progress made downstream. Too tight at the stream, but a possible route over via phreatic stuff exists. Climbed up to new view, but need a ladder to progress in.

Headed out, nice to have such a positive experience on day 3 => we shall return!

NB: Need to get going with the survey drawing!

Also need to annotate all leads. Have checked many out – need to be sure our thoroughness and systematic approach continues.

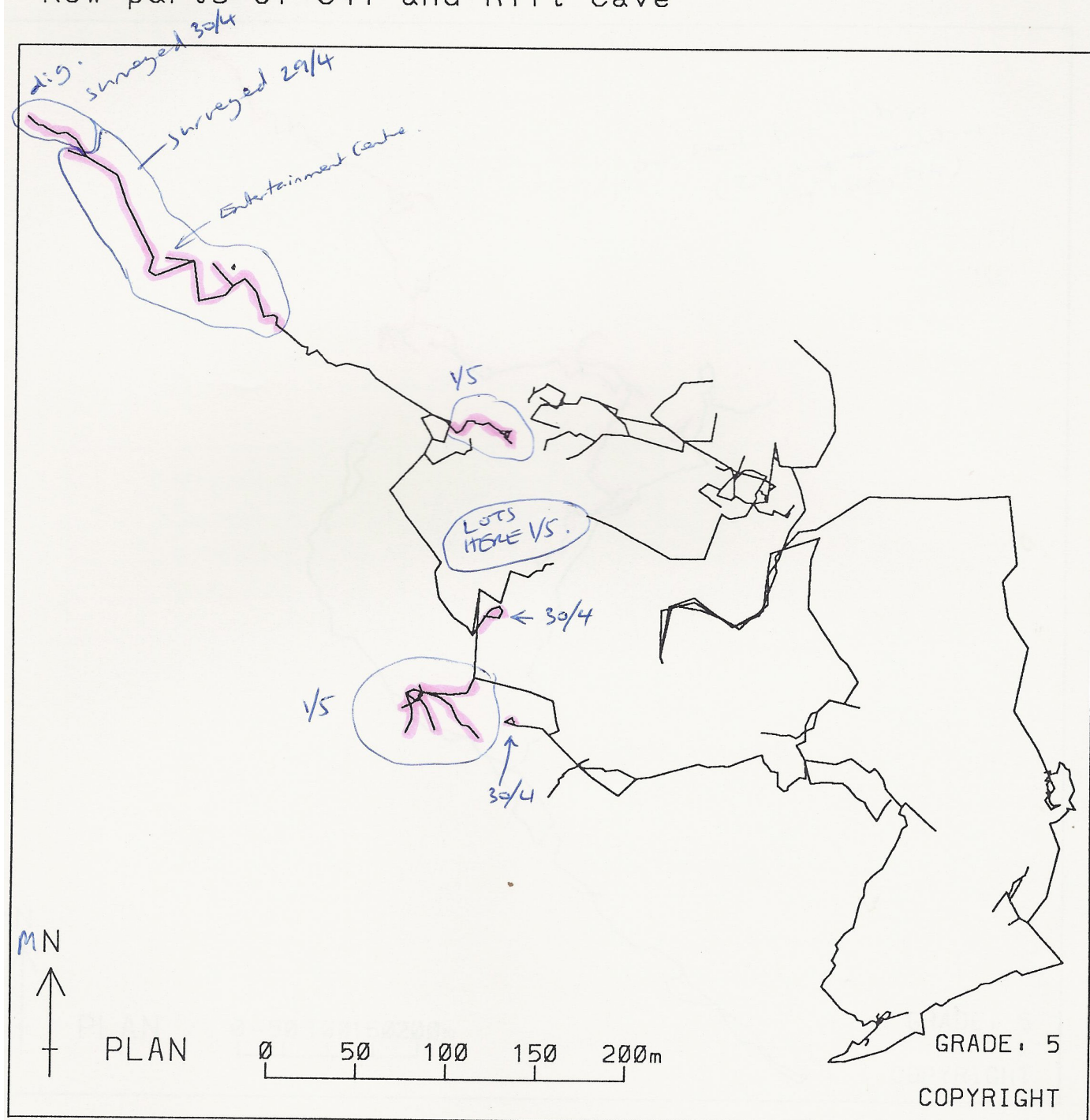
NB: Need to look at surface hole above end of new Rift – may drop straight in to where the action is.

Also – the >>>>>* old stream passage of huge proportions is really interesting. By “droop”[?] analysis maybe able to suss out where the cave is heading (used to go) – may lead to more finds.

*[This conjectured passage is shown, marked >>>>>> on the plan on p. 37]

JUNEE_FLORENTINE

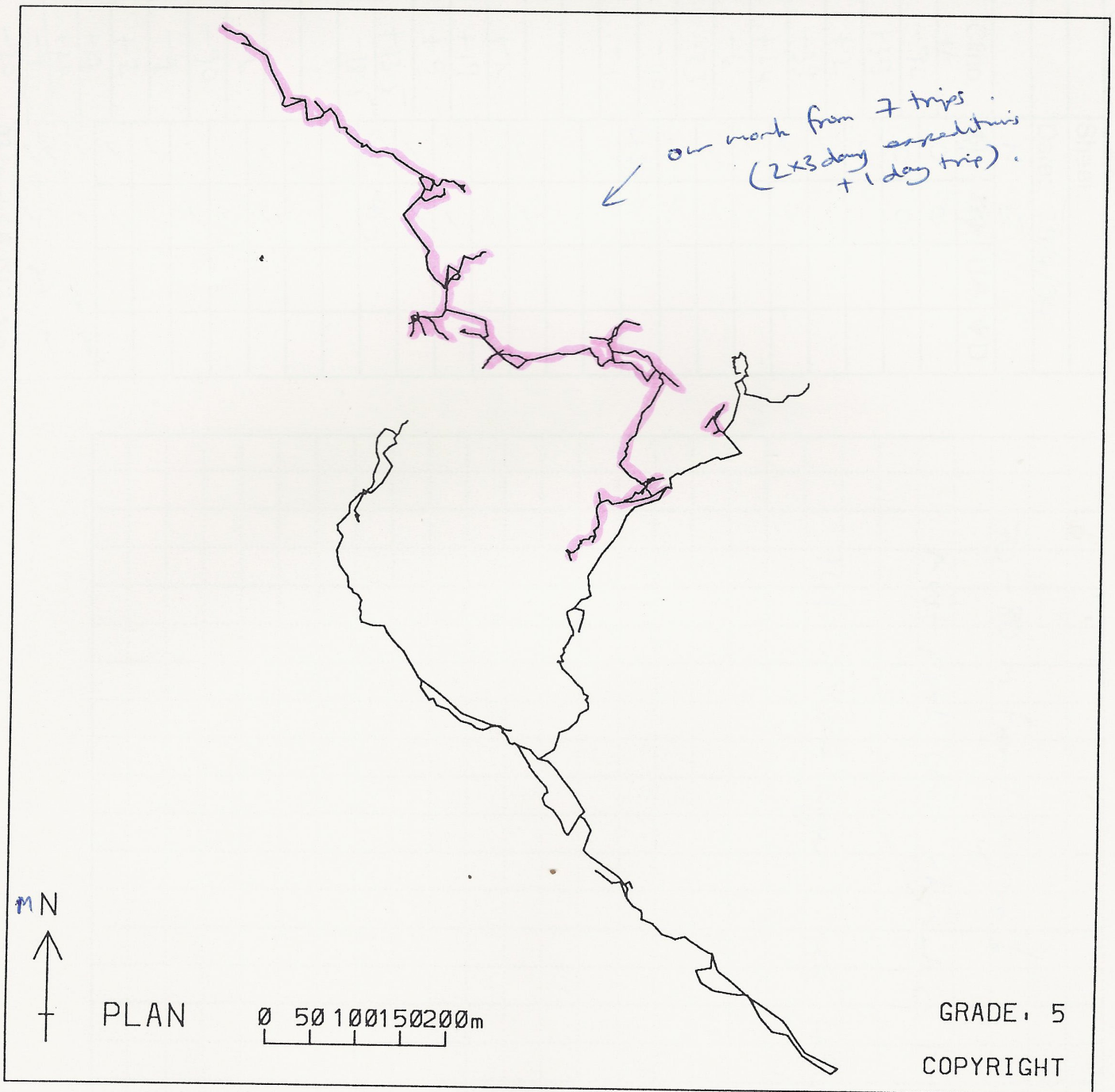
New parts of 341 and Rift Cave



The Cave grows!

JUNEE_FLORENTINE

Three-fourty one (JF341)





CAVE DATA: JUNE QUARRY ROAD AREA

12-03-1994

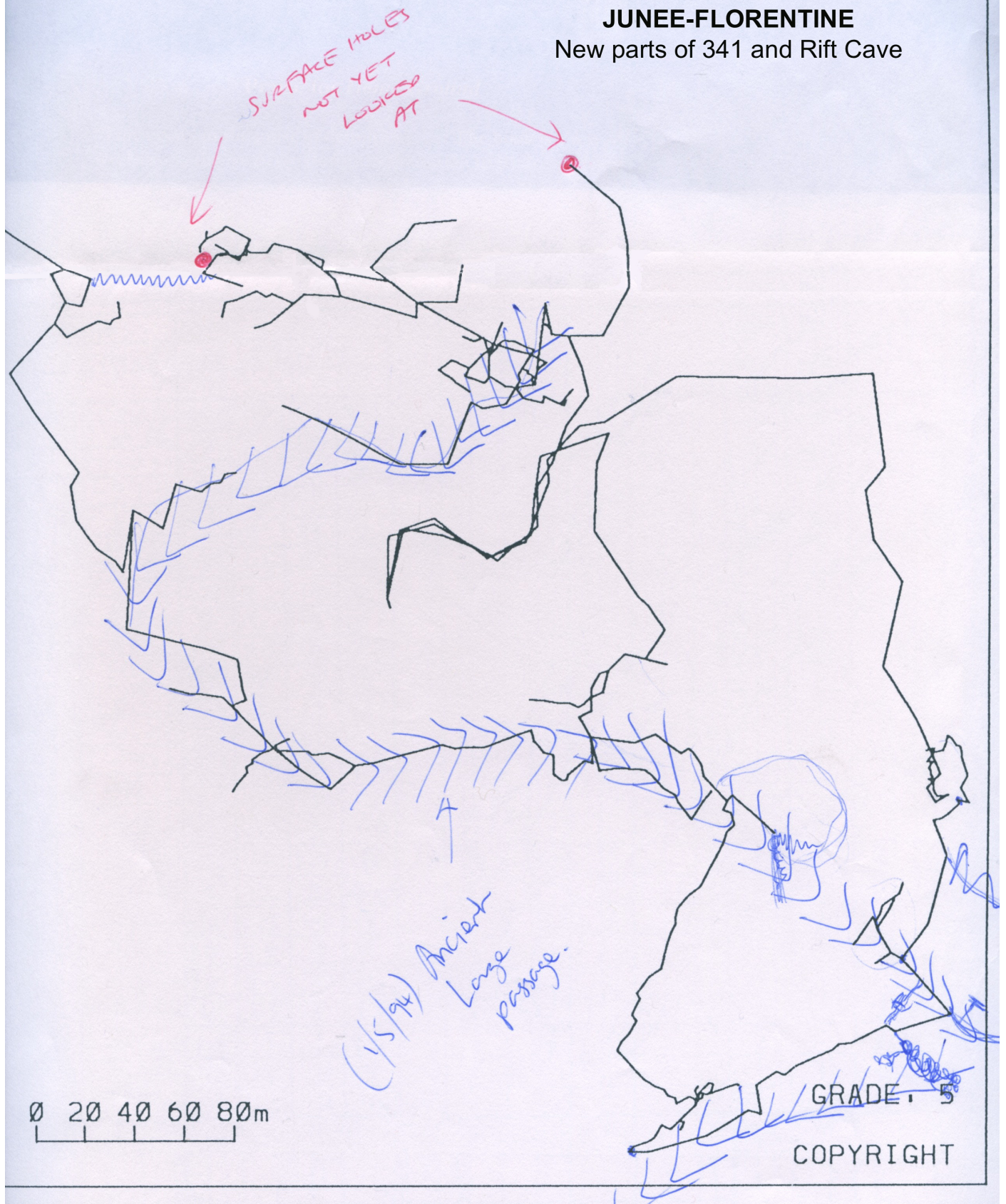
200.0 M/Cm

Az: 180

El: 90

Map Type: All

JUNEE-FLORENTINE
New parts of 341 and Rift Cave



Caving – JF341 29 May 1994

Party: Paul Wohler (Lancashire Underground Group), Jeff Butt

Aim: to drop the undescended pitch (to Rift); to survey the passages heading towards Old Rift; to do some tracing of Washout.

A very wet week, flooding at Glenora, houses evacuated at New Norfolk.

Rainfall figures for Maydena. 24 hrs to 9 am:

Fri 20	4 mm	
Sat 21	3 mm	
Sun 22	?	
Mon 23	12 mm	
Tue 24	12 mm	
Wed 25	11 mm	total
Thur 26	20 mm	90 mm
Fri 27	32 mm	
Sat 28	3 mm	

Washout and Rift pumping away. The top of 341 going well too – raging stream down the flowstone at the base of the 40 m pitch. Crystal Pool full and overflowing. Dinosaurs Foot stream going really well. The side stream (LHS) entering it (i.e. from our area?) gushing.

Theatre Royal waterfalls and stream down below raging too – too wet to gain access.

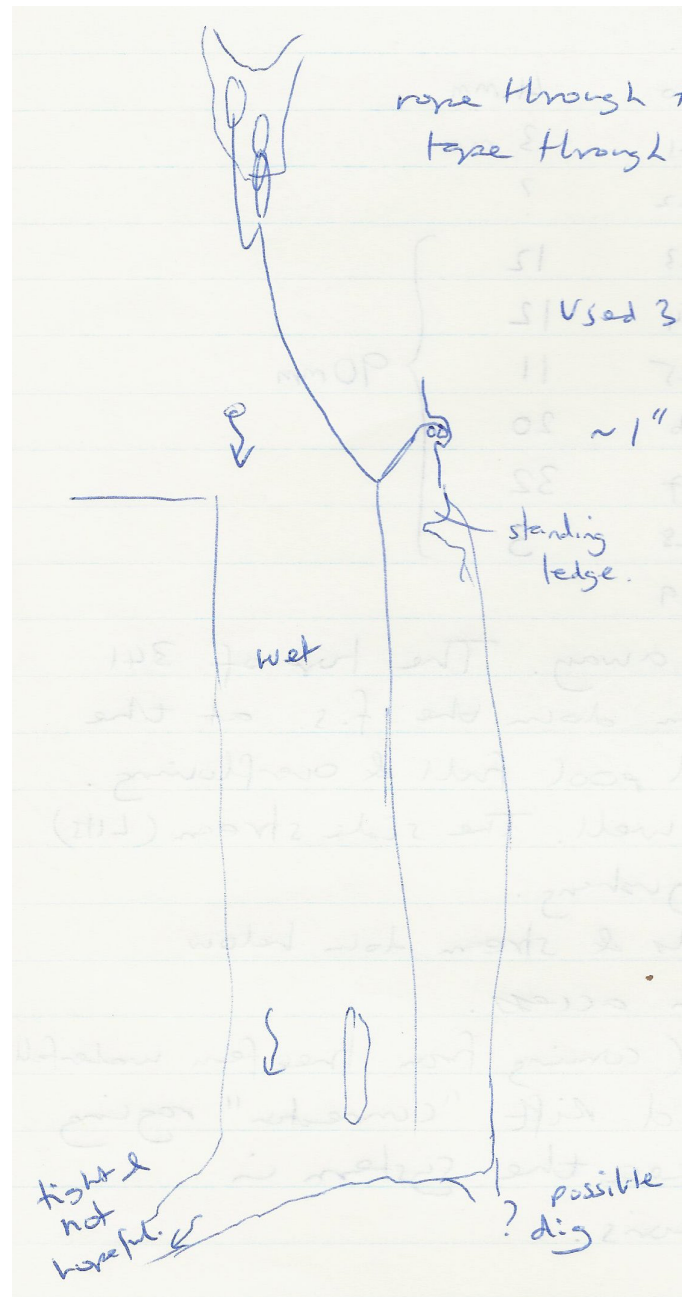
Overflow stream passage (coming from treefern waterfall region) flowing well. Old Rift “connection” raging as well. Interesting to see the system in very high water conditions.

En-route to the entrance dropped the flouroscein “tea bag” in Washout (but really raging and probably emptied very quickly) – added 10:20 am. Paul an SRT novice so didn’t make the Theatre Royal (lunched and a brew en-route in) until three hours later. No sign of green in the two waterfalls. No hope of easily (and dryly) getting a look at the stream. So – nothing could be inferred from that one. (I suspect the dye was long gone!)

Made it to the new pitch – rigged it (as per section sketch, opposite>). Used 32 m rope; need 30 m. ~1” chock placed behind small thread (cord passed through – good anchor).

Headed down (18 m about it) and ‘ended’ in a blind shaft as per sketch. It’s not Rift Cave!! Oops – Rule 1 “Never make assumptions”!!

Left it rigged, need to have another look. Where oh where is the breeze going?? There are still a couple of options – the passage that sources the stream, up high, the passage...



Need to draw up the surveys of both Rift and 341 in the region to get ideas.

En-route out placed four detectors (see “map”>):

- (1) Large streamway (overflow) just up from where it goes into rockfall.
- (2) Stream from Old Rift – just in the passage.
- (3) At the entrance to the wet crawl.
- (4) In the stream just above the ladder.

Dye – added the full whirl[?] pack of fluoroscein to the thumping Rift streamway.

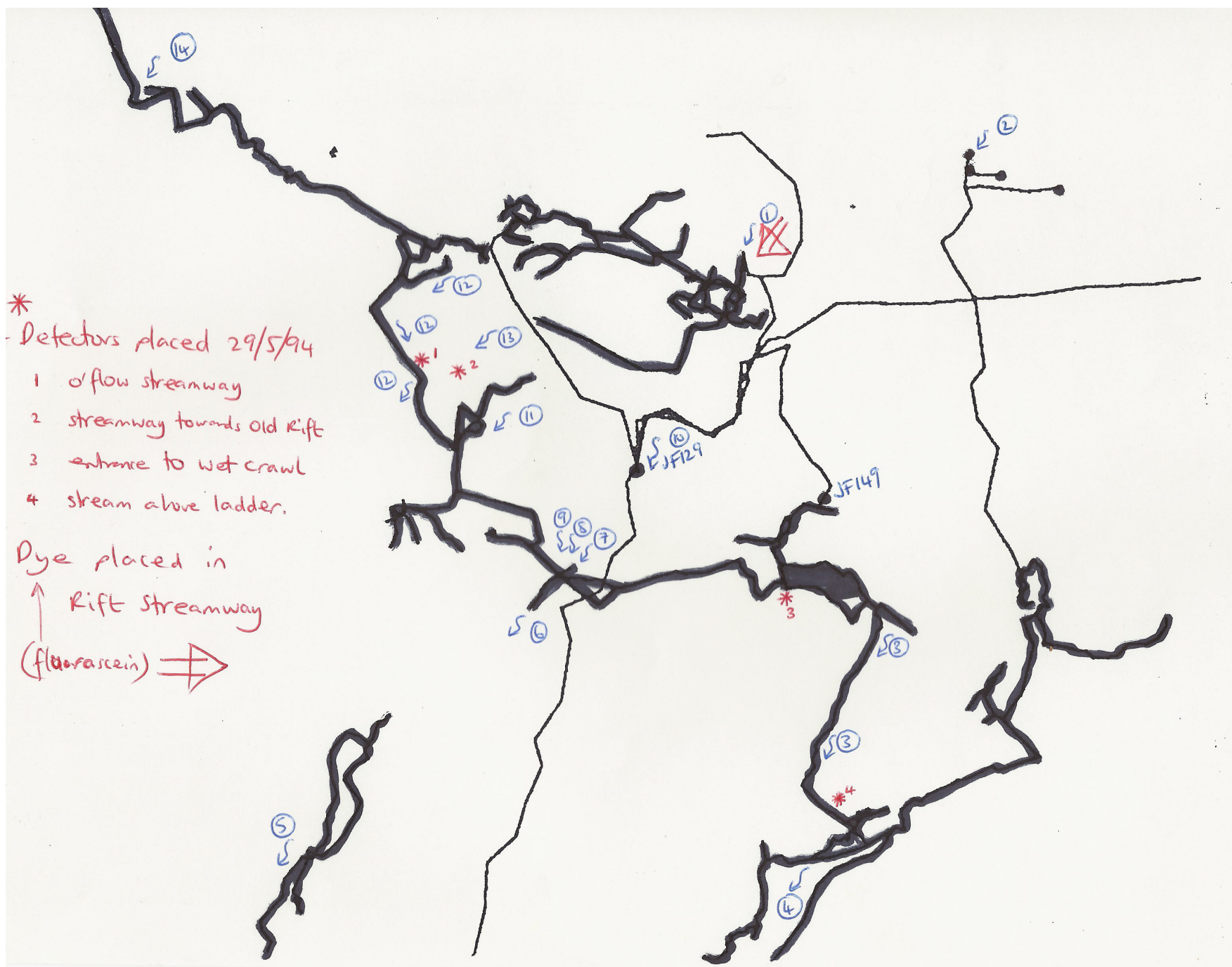




Photo 8. Sarah in flowstone-floored section.



Photo 9. Flowstone over a rockpile.



Photo 10. Sarah in decorated passage.



Photo 11. Fine flowstone over crystal pool (low level).

Caving – JF341

3 June 1994

Party: Dave Rasch, Jeff Butt

Aim: to link in Rift Cave and leads/surveying and retrieve four bags placed 29/5.

Ref: the entire series of trips, esp 29/5/94. My article to Rolan re dye tracing (dated 6/6/94). Rolan's write up.⁶

Headed down, a very smooth trip. Lost Dave at "Daves Aven", busied myself collecting the four charcoal bags.

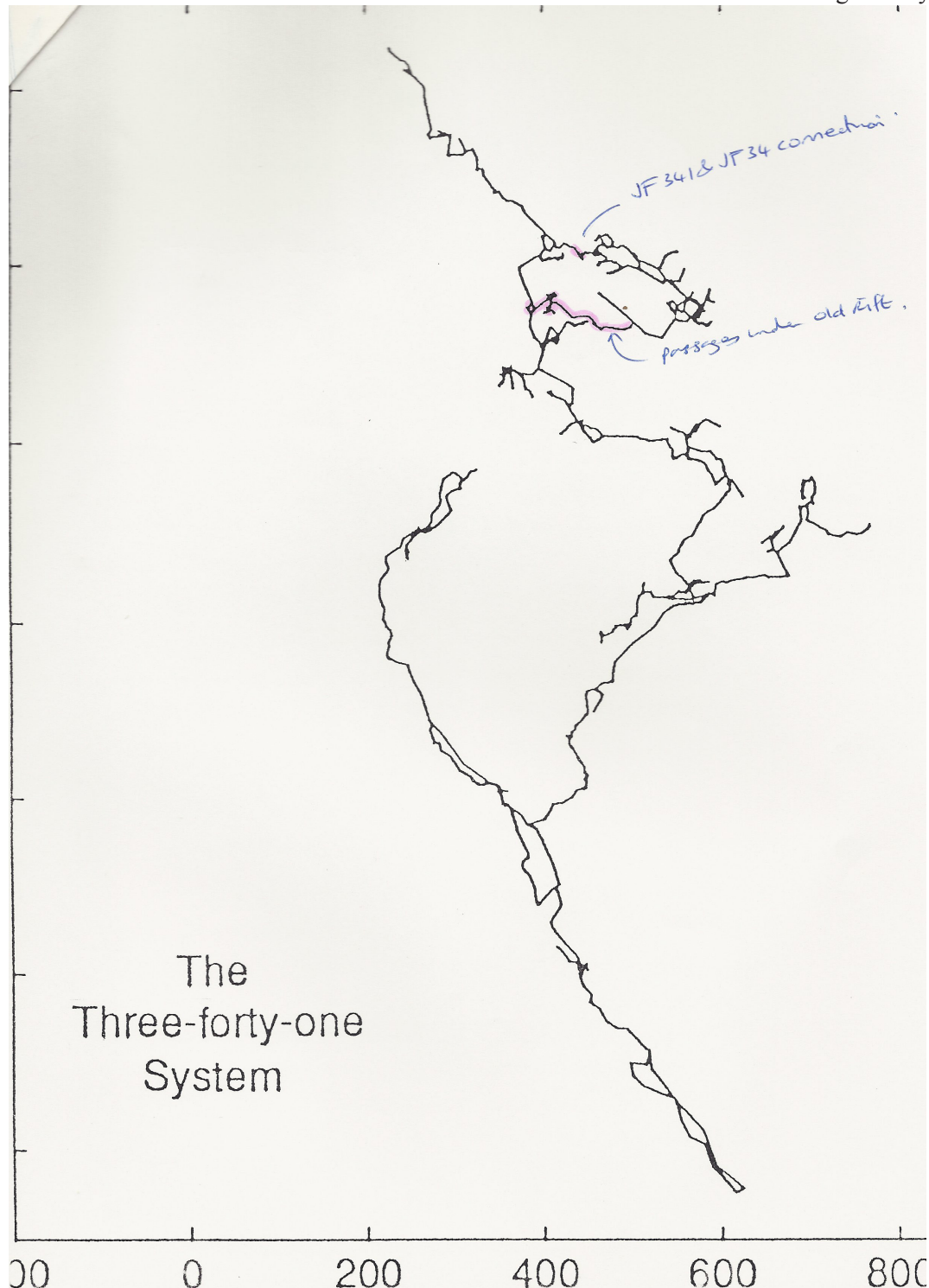
⁶ Possibly a reference to EBERHARD, Rolan 1994 Inventory and management of the Junee River Karst System, Tasmania. Report to Forestry Tasmania. 125 pp. –GJM

Found Dave and headed to the pitch. Dave down for a look. Decided to check out the passage around the corner – traversed around, got into ~10 m horizontal passage (evidence of having been visited before, carbide marks on wall, old luggage[?] (unreadable) tag) - at the other side a similar sized pitch heading to Rift #504, exactly where we expected it. **So JF341 and JF34 R1!** This pitch had been free-climbed from the Rift side (wide bridging up rift, exposed) but obviously they didn't get around the corner! Lucky for us!!

Surveyed our way back to #1456.

A big survey effort in the passages heading towards Old Rift before heading out – 11 hr trip.

Added a total of ~300 m to the length today.



Caving – JF341 18 June 1994 (Sat.)

Party: Dave Rasch, Jeff Butt

Aim: to look at our list of leads (a smorgasbord from a wide menu!) and finalise some. Also to do the first Rift-341 through-trip.

Quite a dry week in Hobart, but flood warning for the upper Derwent (above New Norfolk). Derwent and Tyenna flowing close to bankers.

From the papers – Maydena 24 hrs to 9 am:

Mon	4 mm		
Tue	21 mm		
Wed	16 mm		total
Thur	12 mm		62 mm
Fri	9 mm		
Sat	? mm		

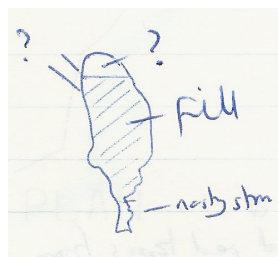
Headed down Rift, quite wet, a good dousing slipping under the large boulder and down the streamway leading to “Silver Lining”.

Rigged it and headed down to the sand passages. Followed the active stream to the end of the cave for a look – the deepest hole filled with water, also the dig stream flowing.

Up the climb and along, down and up and into 341, a pleasant change.

Checked out leads (see list >) 7, 13, 4, side passage (not listed), 2, 11, aven near tent chamber.

7 – through the rockfall to another hole (easier to access from main passage – through dodgy rock stacks (~8 m hand-line). Only ~25 m to nasty narrow streamway taking water, but possible routes on at the top of the 4 m fill in the old passage, also another ascending phreatic on the left to check out.



13 – up it, ended up popping into the roof of the main drag.

4 – surveyed, possible upper level passage to check out.

Side passage – surveyed, had been looked down, but not fully done.

Aven near tent chamber – have looked before, still a climb to do. Surveyed from the blade tip to join in.

11 – ascending lead – through roof drops into breakdown region. No joy, no breeze.

2 – wimped out at the unprotected climb, but found more passage via the rockfall on the left – into huge dimension passage, a streamway (? Same as the Dinosaurs Foot feeder – brew place etc) – nice formation covered cobbles in it. Steeply ascending (estimate 30 to 40 m from surface). Wrist sized piece of wood too. Lots of side passages to check out. Headed along main drag, surveyed out. Lots to do in this region.

Surveyed ~430 m today – length now 7.2 km.

Also – found “Jeffs Aven” – need to survey. From Theatre Royal follow RHS, get into small streamway, steeply ascending. Leads to a ~20 m groove-walled aven – should be pretty easy to climb, some protection/rope for descent useful.

NB. Removed tapes from stations #1130, #1134

[See plan showing surveyed passages, p. 43]

THE LIST: “341 Jobs (only in Into the Dinosaur)”

- (1) the dig
- (2) Daves Aven + associated passages (18/6 - more to do)
- (3) Dinosaurs Jaw + associated passages
- (4) Jeffs Fall passages (18/6 - upper level passage to do)
- (5) downstream phreatic zone[?] (under Old Rift)
- (6) treefern waterfall passage
- (7) push rockfall that takes stream (overflow) (18/6 - a climb to resolve)
- (8) upstream below Theatre Royal
- (9) Dave & Sue’s lead in “tent” chamber
- (10) 5 tubes in Torpedo Room
- (11) ascending passage beyond rock moving place (18/6)
- (12) main chamber above Ben & Jeff’s connecting stream
- (13) ascending phreatic stuff opposite connection to Old Rift (18/6)

JNEE_FLORENTINE

rea around 341/Rift/Chairman

Surveyed 18/6



Caving – 341 25 June 1994

Party: Dave Rasch, Rolan Eberhard, Jeff Butt

Aim: to show Rolan around, dye tracing Theatre Royal streams, continued exploration, derig 341

En-route in added a fluorescein 'tea bag' to Washout (10:50). Headed down Rift, lowest water levels for some time (Rift overflow streams in 341 dry) – smooth going. Up to Theatre Royal to check – yes – the waterfall produced a positive result.⁷ But also the upstream branch of the lower streamway also positive (possibly Washout sinks in its bed further upstream – likely). [NB – upper passage above route down to this stream. Can see it from the balconies – almost look across into it].

Surveyed Jeffs Aven – animal bones, big avens, not too far from the surface. Headed back the other way – to the dig. Rolan and Dave dug it through – went through too to see – all that resulted was a small chamber. About the only possibility = a tube in the roof, but low prospects.

This took a bit of time. All headed back to Theatre Royal. Took Rolan through to the bits of 341 he knows and he headed off taking the 60 m TCC rope (we hope) out with him. After a brew headed back to the streamway of last week. Headed upstream (surveying as we went) up the tributary stream (heading ~060° towards Peanut Brittle?), not a lot in it though.

Another brew – and it was about 8:30 we set off for the surface. (We'd promised ourselves to be home by midnight, but time slipped during the day and another 12 hour trip eventuated.) Derigged en-route out. The TCC/Czech rope on the pitches above the 39P decidedly dodgy and definitely junk. Good to get them out of the cave – they shouldn't have been used in the first place! (We've certainly hammered them recently too!) – 12 trips = 28 person uses.

A smooth exit, Rolan had taken the TCC 60 m rope, all went well.

NB – two detectors placed in streamway at base of Theatre Royal (some fluorescein contamination). I placed four detectors en-route out [see diagram >] Also, Rolan added dye (Rhodamine-WT) to Peanut Brittle swallet en-route out.⁸

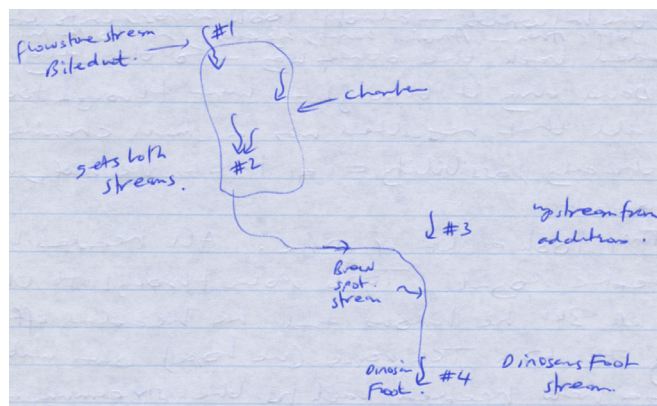
Surveyed approximately: 110 m – Jeffs Aven passages
70 m – stream side passage
off stream passage of
last week
180 m total.

⁷ Reported as Experiment 19 in EBERHARD, Rolan 1994 Inventory and management of the Junee River Karst System, Tasmania. Report to Forestry Tasmania. pp. 44, 116.

⁸ Experiment 20 in EBERHARD, Rolan 1994. pp. 44, 116.

Length now ~7.4 km (closing on Growing!)

[See plan showing surveyed passages, p. 45]



Caving – 341 9 July 1994

Party: Sarah Boyle, Sue Baker, Dave Rasch, Jeff Butt

Aim: some photos, to show Sarah and Sue the cave (via Rift), to survey the Dinosaurs Jaw region, to recover charcoal bags placed on 25/6/94

En-route in, a large tree fall into the Rift doline – get a view of the cave entrance heading down. New log ends under the log one ducks under at the first downclimb/handline. A few bits of new debris in the rift entrance. Water levels up a little, not as high as two trips ago, but more than 25/6

Maydena rainfall figures – 24 hrs to 9 am

Mon 4/7	29 mm
Tue 5/7	24 mm
Wed 6/7	14 mm
Thur 7/7	11 mm
Fri 8/7	NR
Sat 9/7	0
Total	78 mm

Both Rift overflow streams flowing

A slow trip in, taking 3.5 hours. Nothing on the trip out, taking 5.5 hours. Ended up being a bit of an epic – 14 hour trip.

Got another 3 hours of surveying/exploring done in the Dinosaurs Jaw region. Also some photos – Olympus XA Fuji 400 ASA film.

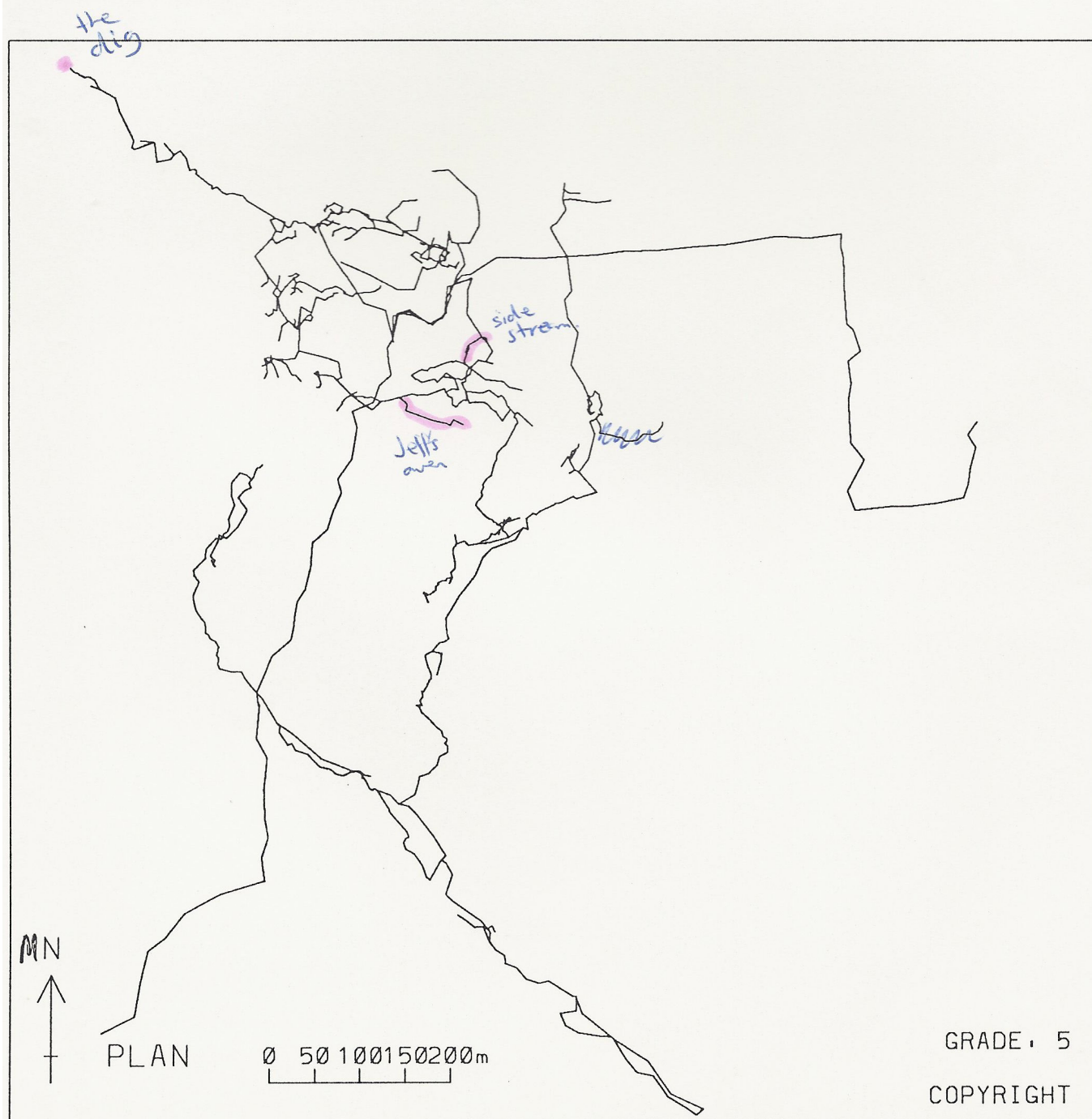
Recovered six charcoal bags, added two new ones to stream at base of Theatre Royal (see attached e-mail, p. 46).

In the Dinosaurs Jaw region added some tape/signs re boots off etc. Also 'alternative route' around the brew corner shortcut (to avoid formations). (Easier to go around the stream route). Similar tapes on the Milky Way.

Surveyed ~240 m, cave now 7.5 km

JUNEE_FLORENTINE

Area around 341/Rift/Chairman



Looking at the data:

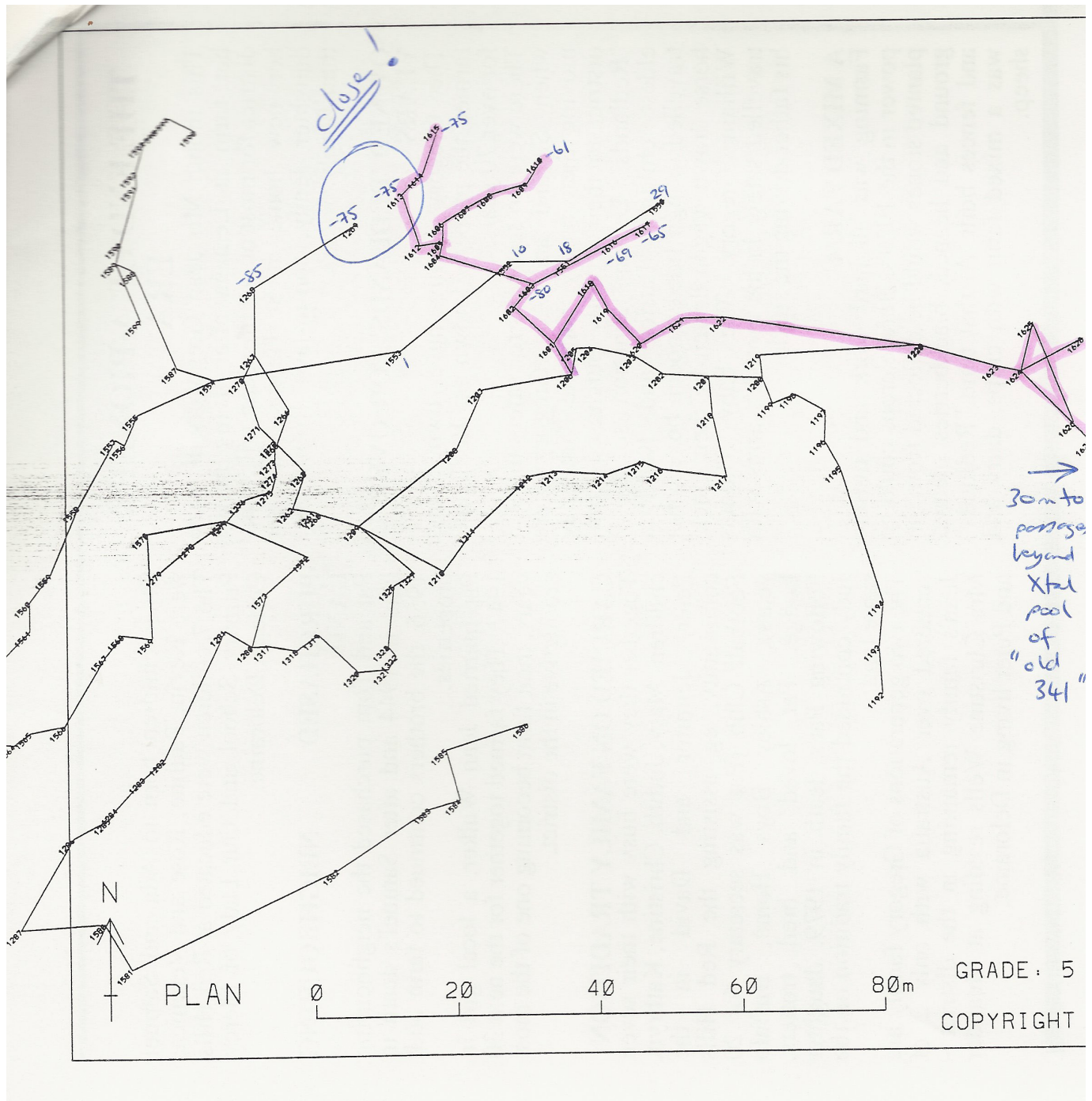
Dinosaurs Jaw is heading close to Crystal Pool in old 341. Same height, horizontal separation of <30 m.

Milky Way passage goes close to passages from corner of chamber (opposite Bile Duct)

Ascending flowstone cemented passage lies below Daves Aven side stream passage too.

Lots of potential for interconnections.

[Photos 3, 4, 8, 9 & 10 were taken on this trip as it was the only time Sarah Boyle visited the cave -GJM]



E-mail Jeff to Rolan Eberhard, 11 July 1994

Rolan, on Saturday I recovered the detectors placed in JF341 on 25/6/94.

For interest, conditions were reasonably wet, Maydena had about 80 mm of rain over 3/7-7/7. Both of the Rift overflow streams (as per the previous tracing) were flowing well.

Detectors 1 and 2 (in the same bag) were recovered from the streamway at the base of the Theatre Royal. (NB. these detectors were contaminated with fluorescein from the dye added to Washout (JF129) surface stream on 25/6.

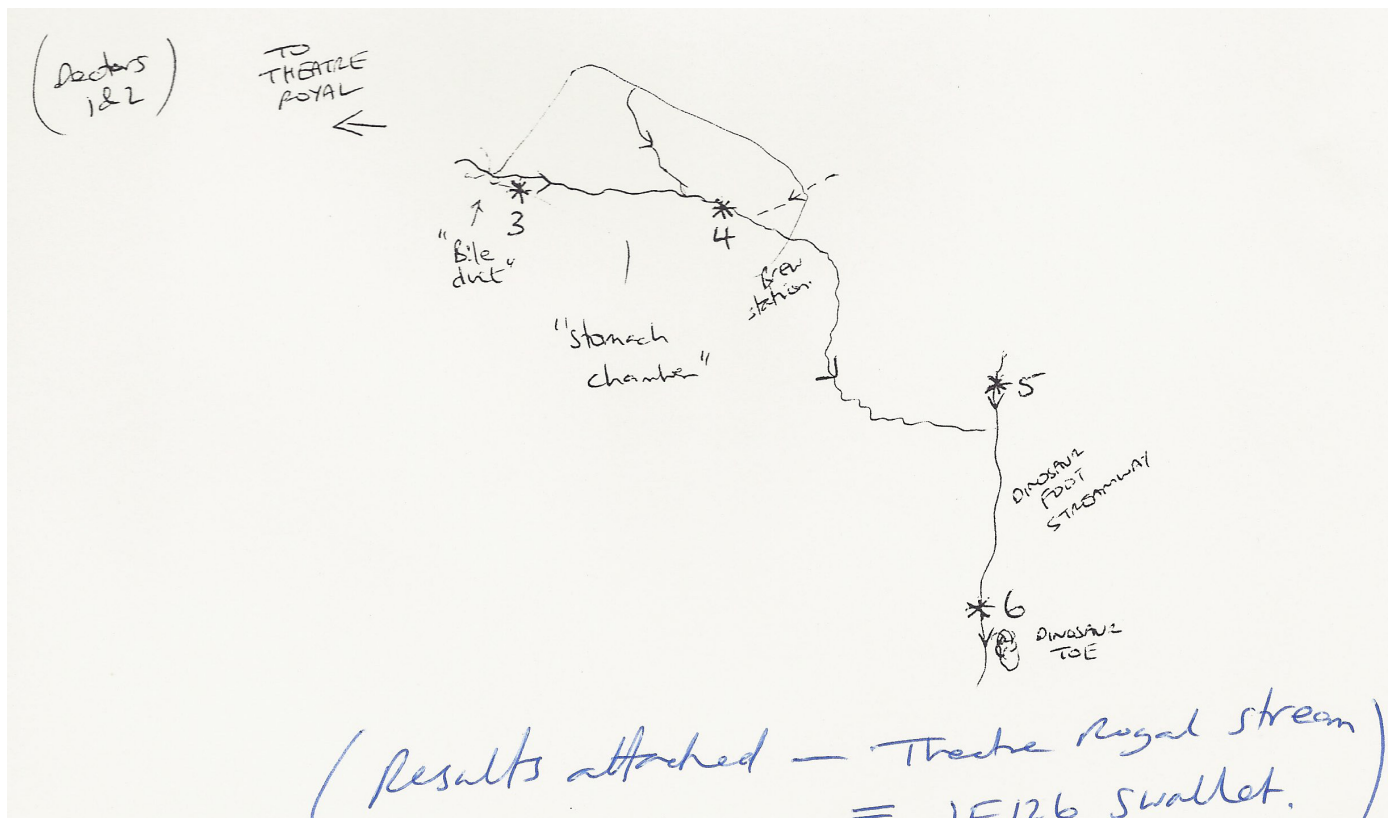
Detectors 3 and 4 were recovered from the large chamber ('Stomach') between the 'bile duct' and the 'brew station'. Detector 3 was placed in the stream coming

through the bile duct. Detector 4 was in the same stream, but downstream of a tributary entering from the NE corner of the chamber (see sketch below).

Detectors 5 and 6 were recovered from the Dinosaur Foot streamway. Detector 5 was placed near the upstream limit of the stream, upstream of where the tributary stream coming from the brew station enters. Detector 6 was placed at the Dinosaurs Foot.

Two new detectors were placed in the streamway at the base of the Theatre Royal (in the same position as you placed Detectors 1 and 2 mentioned above). If there is no positive result from Detectors 1 and 2 I'd be interested in dosing the Rift stream to see if the stream at the base of the Theatre Royal represents the baseflow of the Rift water.

Jeff, 11/7/94.



Fax response from Rolan to Jeff, 22 July 1994

Jeff, the results of the JF34/341 detectors were as anticipated, i.e. positive for 1 & 2 (Theatre Royal), negative for the others.

The possibility that water from JF147 reached the site via the waterfall rather than the horizontal streamway is not excluded, but does seem highly unlikely of course. Definitely worth a push upstream sometime!

Cheers for now, Rolan

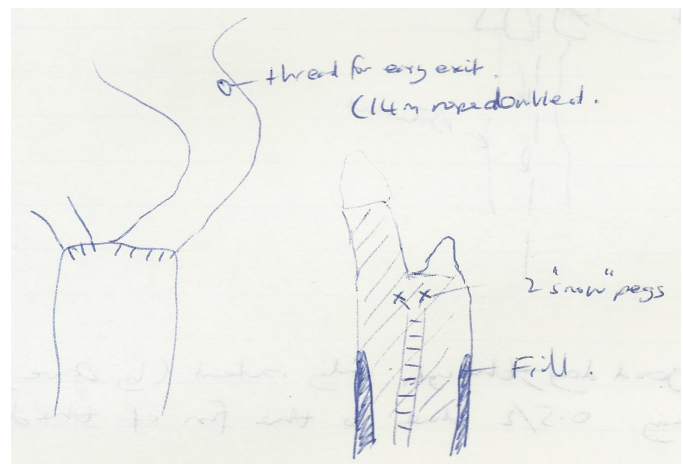
[Annotation (by Jeff)]: "Swallet east of 341, near where track to Chairman heads downhill steeply (JF126) – positive to Dinosaurs Foot."

Caving – JF341 31 July 1994

Party: Dave Rasch, Jeff Butt

Aim: Lead checking – tidying up

Smooth trip down, water level OK (but went up during the day). Down to the site of the 4 m fill blank wall. Used two pegs in the bank to secure ladder. Dave had a good dig and got into a tight passage and through. Came through too. Surveyed a bit of passage. A body-sized hole (5 m) down to stream. I found it too hard on a ladder (long legs) – Dave did it OK, but a micro-conduit – no go. Surveyed our way out.



Then headed down for a brew and late lunch. After checked out the ascending passage – the continuation of the Dinosaurs Stomach. Ascending steeply to become too small/steep. Left it there.

Enroute back – Dave played around and bypassed the Bile Duct (over the slab on the RHS). Also a look at the small streamway – sort of delimits the lower chamber reaches. Needs to be surveyed sometime.

A good day, though only rated (by Dave) as 0/2, or maybe 0.5/2 due to the fun of the dirt bank etc.

About an 8.5 hour trip, approx 1 hour in, 1.5 hours out, not dissimilar to JF341.

Only gained ~130 m new passage

Survey length now ~7.63 km

Caving – JF341 – at the Niagara end 4/12/94

Party: Dave Rasch, Greg Jordan, Jeff Butt

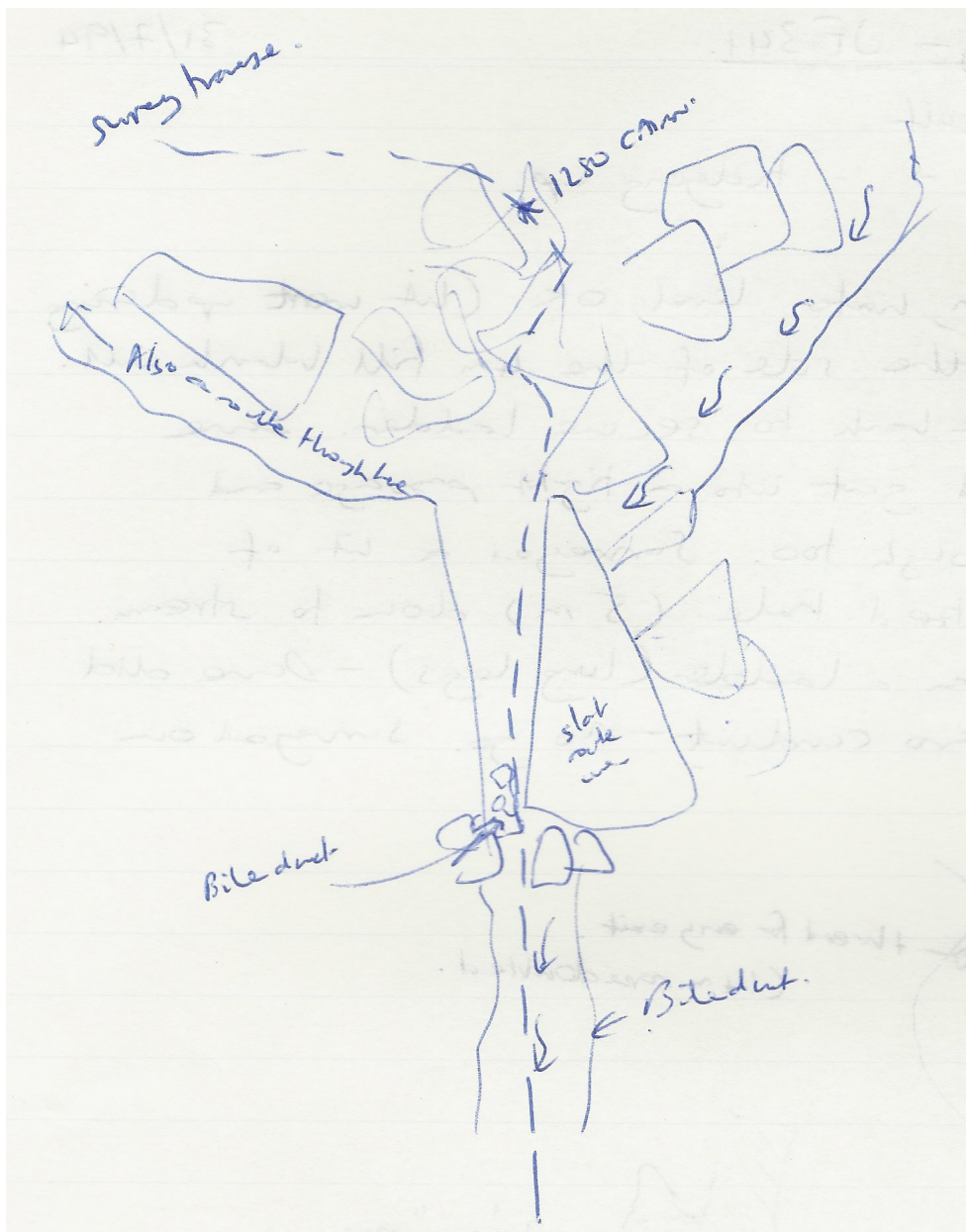
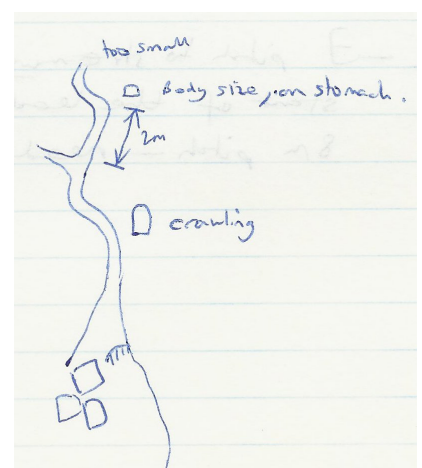
Aim: to have a bit of a look at a lead that Dave and Dean looked at recently, and some other tidying.

Headed down, from Dave's lead – in the Woodchip Passages, essentially an upper route into the Jade Stream vadose passage. Surveyed our way along it, past the 50 cm gypsum needle and the 25 cm gypsum curl. Down to stream level at one stage and tracked along (upstream) it to a 3 m waterfall climb – the survey ended here. Also one side passage (nice formations) looked at by Greg and we surveyed it. Approximately 50 m of passage beyond the waterfall, not surveyed. Also some leads in the ceiling/above to be checked out too.

Also – en-route into the area added orange taped path through the Entertainment Centre plus a tape around the 'rib' bones.

On the way out checked out the (dry) waterfall streamway above the wrist-sized piece of manfern. The return bridging manoeuvre is difficult.

Roughly the passage is as shown [below]. Approximate length is 8 m from the waterfall.



Our small additions 31/7/94:

JUNEE_FLORENTINE

Three-forty one (JF341)



Also, in the interests of “drinkability” of the Rift water, I removed the rotting wallaby from the Rift entrance streamway. A rather unsavoury task – a good use for one of my emergency garbage bags – only just up to the task. Hoping for some good rain to flush out any dregs left.

Work on 4/12/94

A good little trip.

The data collected represented ~180 m of passage. 341 and Rift now surveyed at $6718 \text{ m} + 1133 \text{ m} = 7851 \text{ m}$.

Approximately 50-100 m from Niagara, but the two surveys still floating a little, i.e. our survey only approximately meshed in with the TCC data.

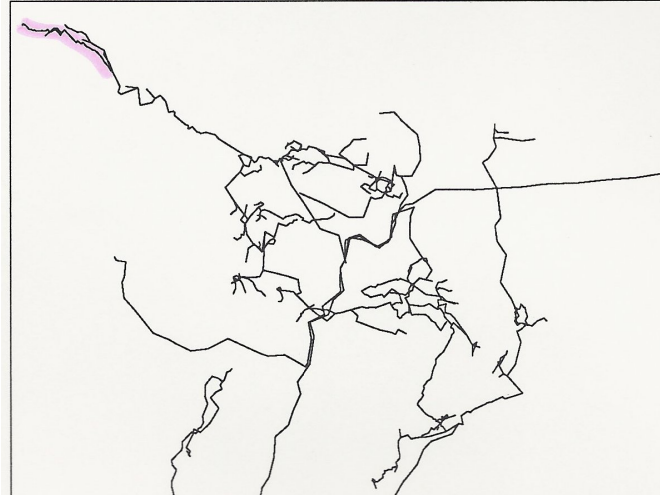
Interesting that the new stuff essentially parallels the bat extension but extends ~50 m west – towards Niagara.

NB – pitch to streamway in the chamber near the start of the lead we did today – about an 8 m pitch – needs to be checked out.

Also today put orange tape path through “The Entertainment Centre” + 2 “use path” signs.

JUNEE_FLORENTINE

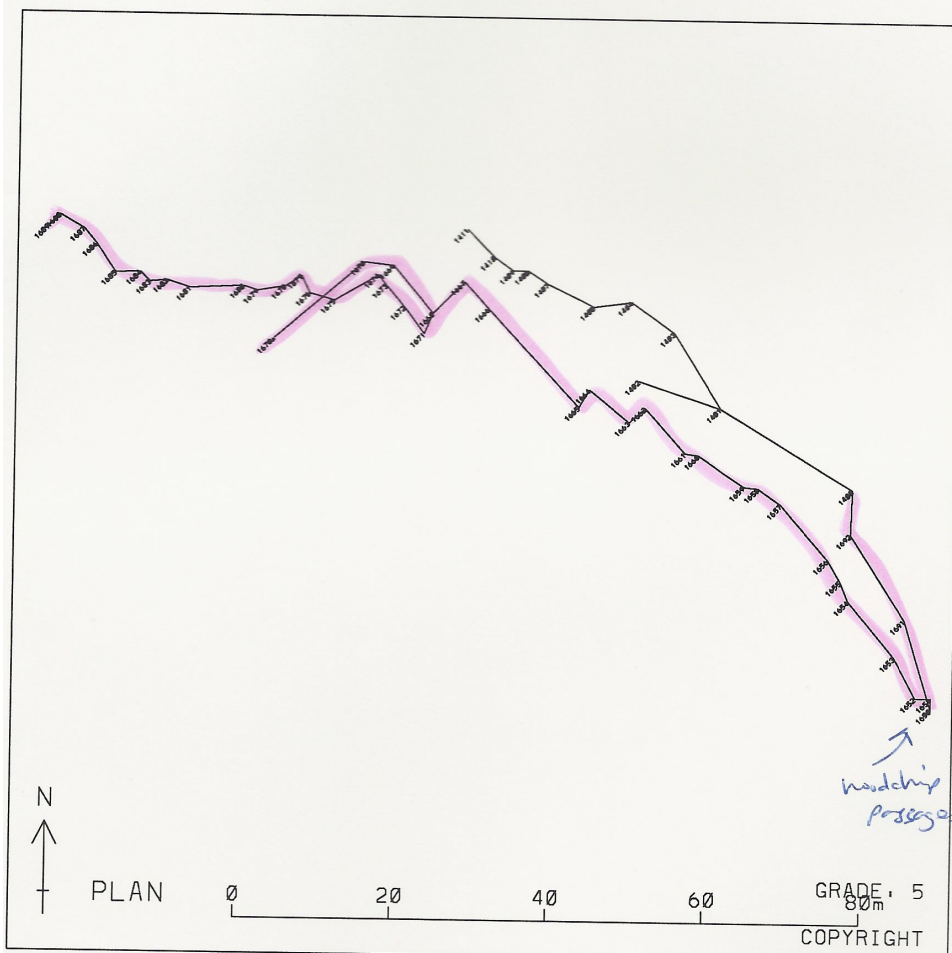
Area around 341/Rift/Chairman



WORK ON 4/12/94

JUNEE_FLORENTINE

Three-forty one (JF341)



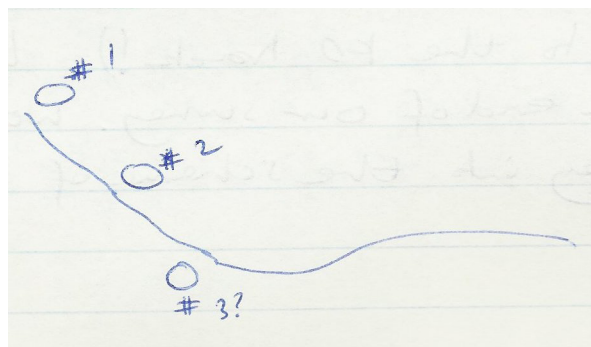
Caving – on the surface 10 Dec. 1994

Party: Dave Rasch, Jeff Butt

Aim: further work in 341 and some rigging economising.

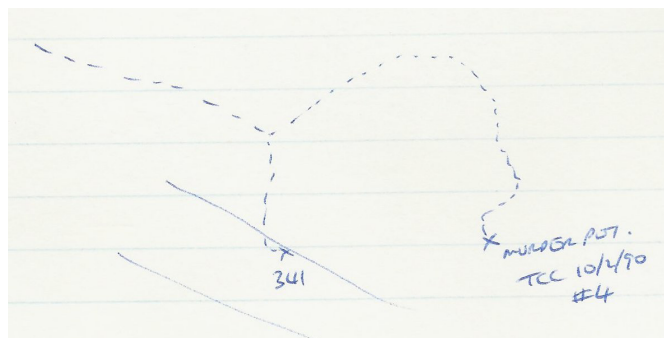
But JB forgot his helmet – so surface work was the order of the day!

Up to see the “TCC 10/2/90” holes. My first visit on this track. Dave dropped #3 whilst I waited. About 20 m rope – no go, grotty muddy hole.



Then up the valley to the contact, headed east, picked up the Washout gully, up to the “western Rift” hole, around above Rift to the “eastern Rift” hole. Along to the Peanut Brittle series.

Next headed down to survey Murder Pot [JF-127] into the scheme of things. Seemed a long way to get there. Checked out the nearby gully and there was JF-341, so surveyed to it overland – the short way. Rock drop testing shows that it is quite a deep sort of hole, though reportedly little gruntish (i.e. tight).



Headed back to the three TCC 1990 holes and had a go at linking the survey to Niagara. Hit the same horizontal scrub that Greggles and co. hit. Detoured around the southern margin of it, keeping on trying to head NW again, not a lot of luck. Came across a single yellow (old) tape above an old track (? The Bridle track); one leg up it, then back to heading west. Up a hill into dead tree/log highway country – looked like the region near

the start of the KD track – so instead retraced (unsurveyed) our steps out. Got out OK. (The data shows we were damn close to the KD track!!) Left an orange tape at the end of our survey. Would be good to link the survey into the scheme of things at some stage.

NB – Also – attached is copy of surface data collected by Greggles on 9/12/1994. Surveyed from the tape on the Washout log back down to track to a small myrtle (broken) at a big eucalypt. Added an orange tape there with an “11” on it.

[See plan of localities surveyed, p. 51]

Caving – JF341 – the Niagara end 17 December 1994

Party: Vaughn Andrews, Jeff Butt

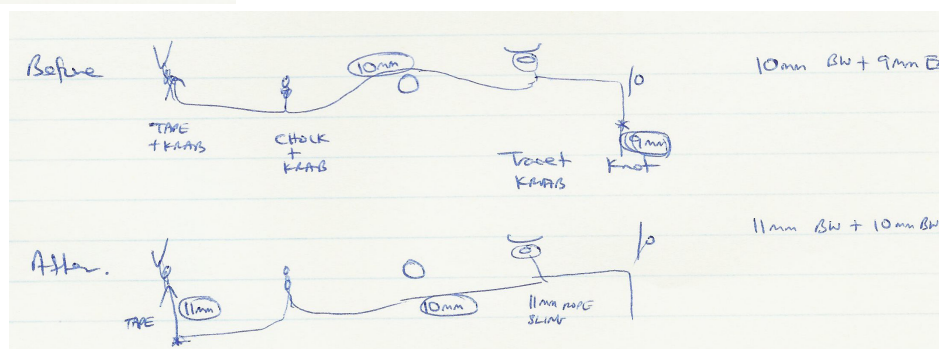
Aim: to give Vaughn some real SRT/in cave practise, introduce him to surveying, survey to the end of the cave and rationalise some of the rigging.

Cruised in OK, for a learning experience chose to survey the side passage on the left just after the 3 m climb down (en-route to the Niagara end). About 50 m of passage here – good breeze blowing actually. Passage ends in rockfall and is more or less below the main drag above. Could be worth more of a look??

Headed to the end of the survey – at the waterfall. Surveyed to the “end”, where the passage becomes a flat-out crawl. Approximately 40 m made here.

En-route back checked out some climbs in the ceiling, chiefly where flowstone patches come down, suggestive of cave up above, but no joy there. Also checked out the rockfall in the chamber, but not totally – didn’t negotiate the squeeze – could be something up above, but no breeze noticed.

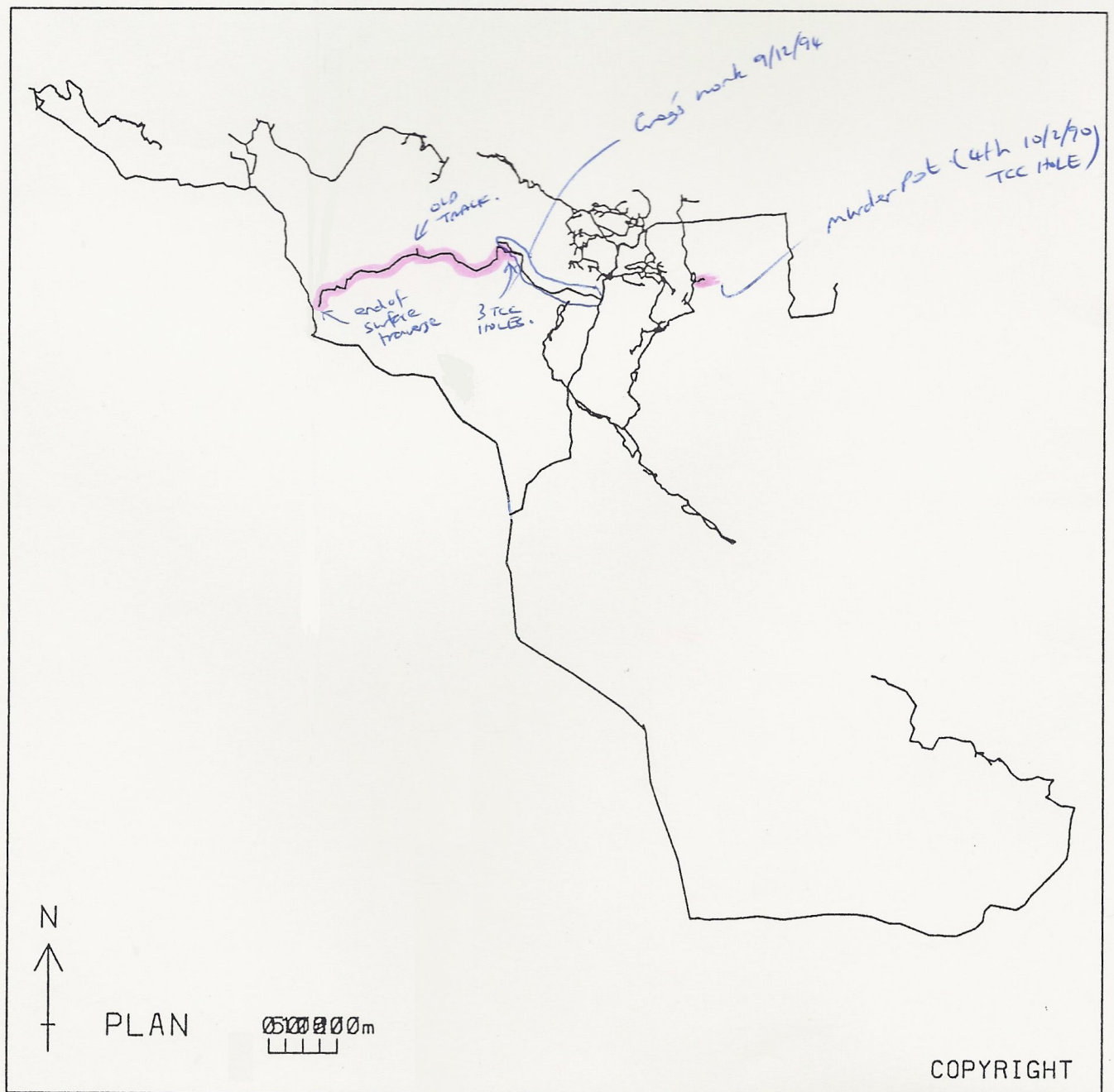
Played with the rigging to enable the removal of some hardware ↓↓↓.



[See plan of localities surveyed, p. 52]

JUNEE_FLORENTINE

SMAPS DATA FOR KD, JUNEE, NIAGARA



Caving – JF341 6 January 1995

Party: Dave Rasch, Jeff Butt

Aim: rig the cave and survey old 341.

Smooth rigging – P1-13 m (perfect); P2-24 m (perfect); P3&4-75 m rope – 5 m spare.

(Bolt at top of 39P looking a little corroded – bolt itself rusty and white 'corrosion' products on the hanger).

Started surveying from the Crystal Pool (now permanently dry!) Has been a lot of water down the cave in recent times – the section below the 39 P looked pristine!

Good.

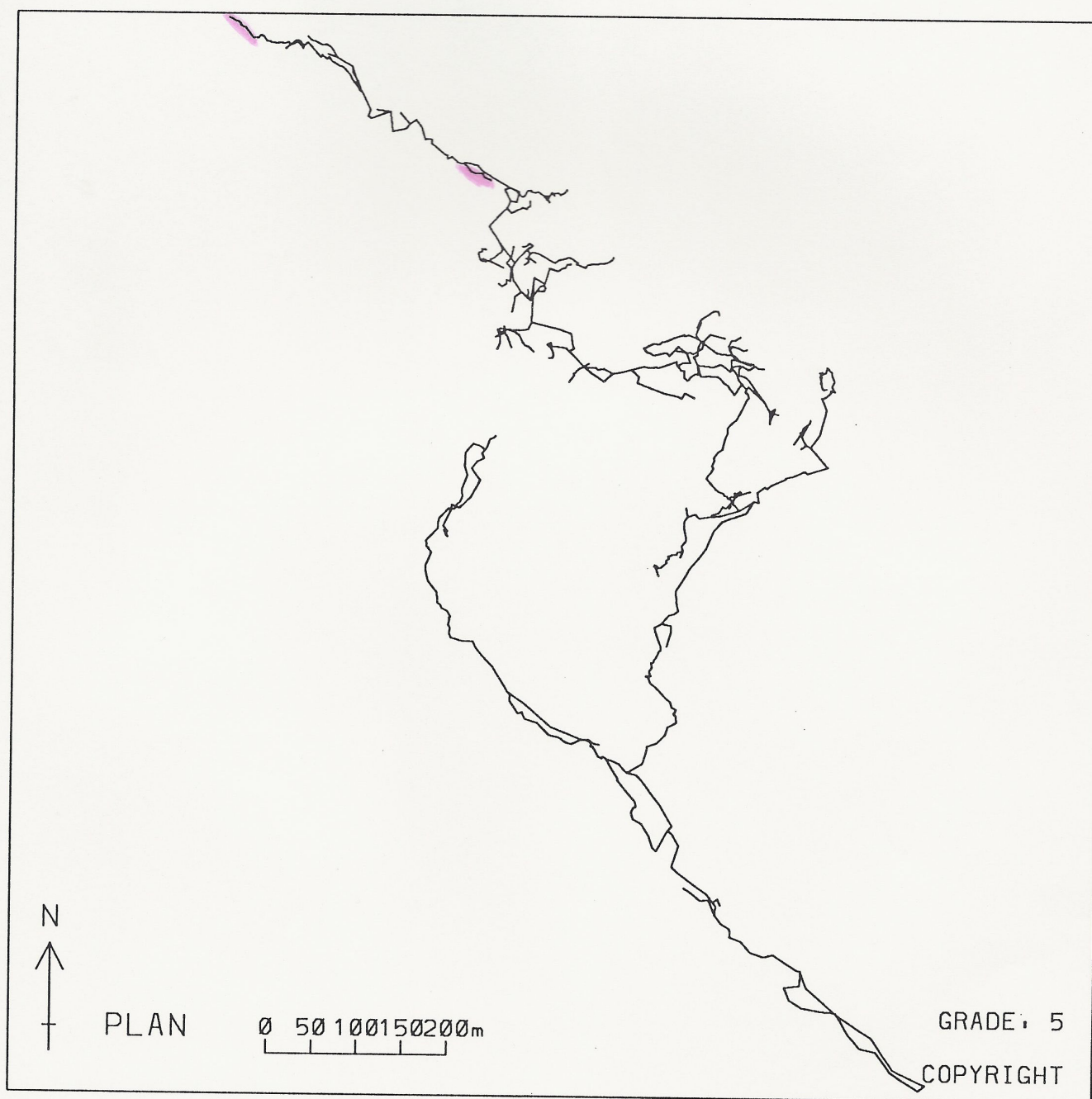
Basically surveyed the main drag of old 341. Found more than I knew was there. An interesting rift chimney. Good to finally get old 341 survey going.

Checked out data against that published in *Vertical Caves of Tasmania*. Agrees pretty well w.r.t scale, but not great w.r.t. TN/MN orientation!! Makes me wonder how the top part of the cave is too! Wouldn't hurt to survey this sometime too!

A speedy smooth sort of trip – 6 hours.

JUNEE_FLORENTINE

Three-forty one (JF341)-Best Data as at ^{17 12}~~11/7~~/94



Caving – JF341 13 January 1995

Party: Vaughn Andrews, Jeff Butt

Aim: to continue surveying old 341/TCC extension and to check out a couple of leads.

Things went smoothly – worked in two areas. Firstly the nice flowstone rift (A [see plan, p. 53]) boots off. Quite a lot more cave here than I remember! Up to the junction – headed left first up flowstone river between mud buried walls. Up to the base of a climb – need boots for it. Pretty delicate area (one booted person been there before and probably up climb too). Back at the junction – boots on to do the mud, then off again – formation room (good

photo region). A possible flowstone climb, but not done.

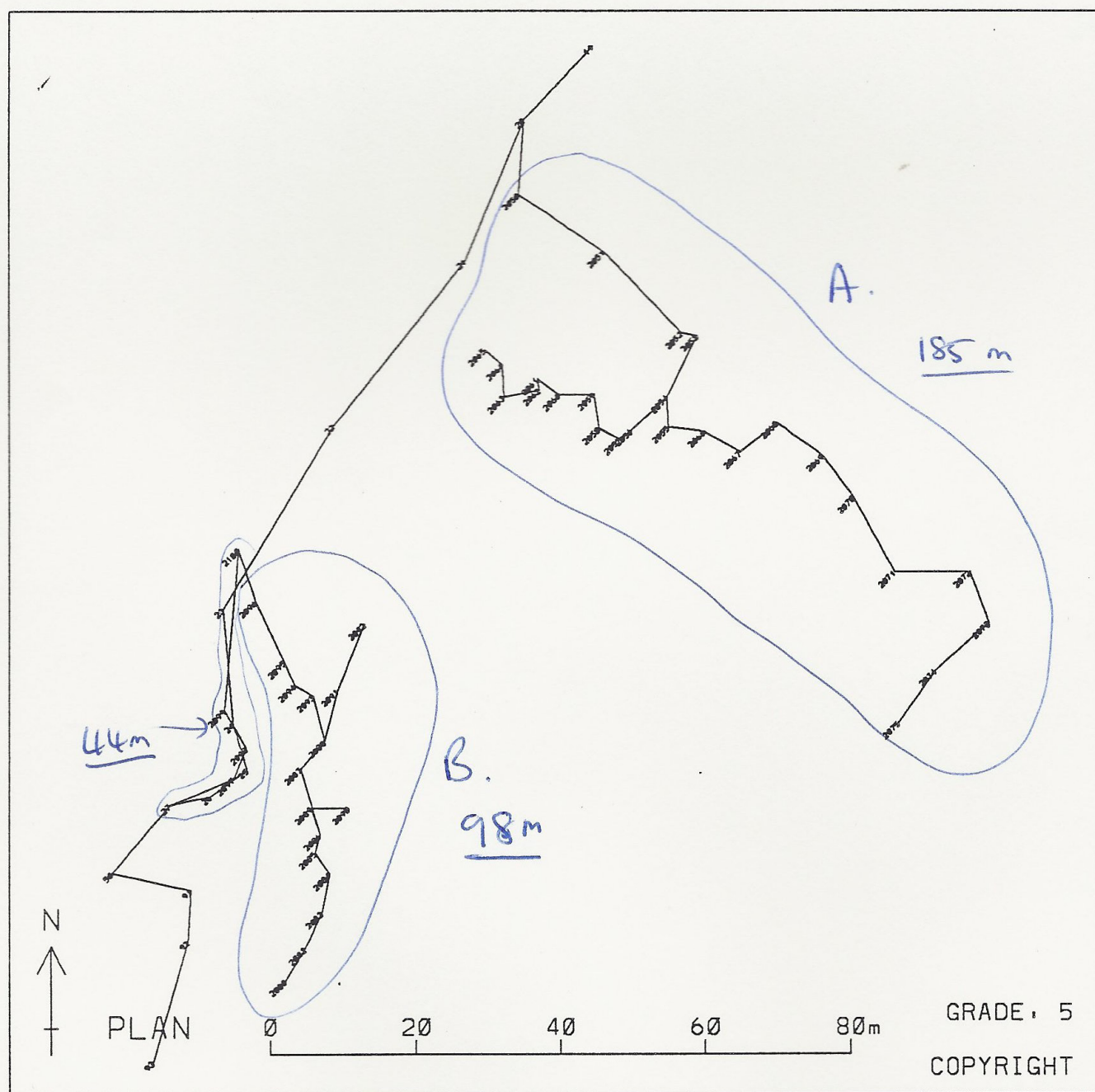
Late lunch (4 pm), then checked out the laundry shute near the Crystal Pool/waterfall – goes down ~5 m and checked out phreatic passages.

To the flowstone rift and into the chamber. Surveyed our way out, past the ~10P (not checked; ladder ideal – stream below). (Actually – this would be a good low impact way of getting to the stream – i.e. not on the flowstone).

Surveyed out to the lunch spot, then down to the “way on” for a look – checked out 50-91-92-93 before going back to cairn #27 and surveyed back to link surveys.

JUNEE_FLORENTINE

Three-forty one (JF341)



(Today's data fits well with Rolan's and mine from recently).

Headed out – the phreatics climbing route and an easy exit from the cave – 9.25 hour trip.

The track back could do with some pruning (the tree falls) and some re-taping.

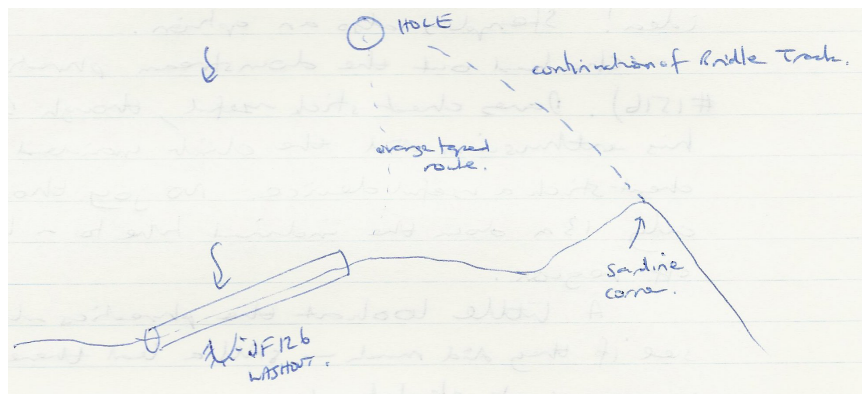
[Plan above refers to areas surveyed.]

Caving – Threefortyone 20-21 Jan. 1995

Party: Dave Rasch, Jeff Butt

Aim: to check out a few more of the leads, surveying, tidying up and derigging Rift Cave.

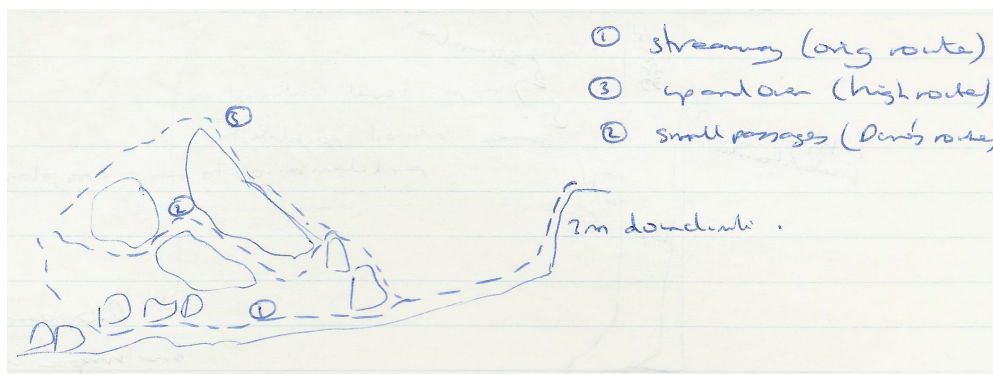
Saturday – En-route in, two very recent treefalls – one just before the 2 m diameter, 40 m long log – the second just before the “corner” past the log ride. Need to come in with a bow saw to clean up these regions. Dave showed me the location of the hole Megan and he found in December – surveyed to it from Washout log.



high point and lo and behold – a pitch. Can hear water dribbling steadily, but not see it – in a continuation of the upper level passage opposite (= the source of the flowstone stream that comes in below and feeds the Bile Duct region etc). Down the pitch (13 m), nice flowstone pitch walls and floor.

Also – on Saturday three ways to connect through just after the 3 m down climb.

The hole, ~5 m diameter, 10 m deep and beckoning black hole down lower is more or less on the continuation of the old Bridle Track. (Data analysis puts it more or less above the “water connection” between Old Rift and 341 below).



Headed down JF34 – about 1.25 hours to get down. Dave scrambled up the sloping tube with streamlet above 1456 – at the end of the rope traverse. Approx. 15 m to an end.

Headed to the Woodchip Passages and Dave dropped the pitch (6 m) to the streamway. It was the same stream from the Jade stream – also accessible from the other holes in the floor nearby. Surveyed our way down this passage to the doline in the Entertainment Centre – linked the survey. The downstream continuation not looked at, but must connect with the stream passage on the right before entering the Entertainment Centre.

Also looked at the three phreatic tubes above the Woodchip Passages – some aid climbing techniques needed here. Small bolts, conjecture on inflating tyres on a stick, then using them for aid and protection to gain access – a novel idea! Stemples also an option.

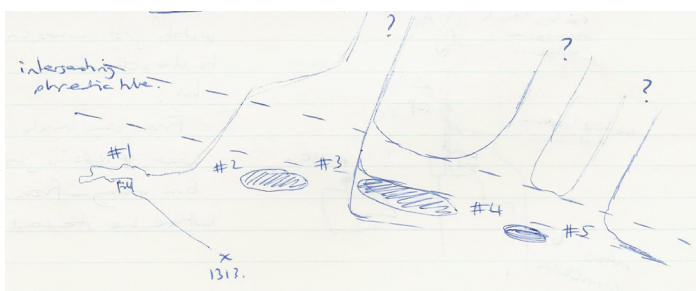
Checked out the downstream phreatics (near #1516). Dave's cheat stick useful, though Dave in his enthusiasm did the climb unaided. The cheat stick a useful device. No joy though – only 13 m down the inclined tube to a blocked off region.

A little look at the phreatics above to see if they did much – still a lead there. Didn't survey, just sketched.

Decided on a better name for the ‘tent chamber’ = “Denial Delta”, full of puns and double meanings – good name!

Next to Daves Aven – the cheat stick used to get a tape on the projection on RHS. Protection via chocks just near. Belayed Dave up. Fixed a ladder for me. Up to a

Also – on Sunday a look at the Torpedo Tubes



#1 leads to nothing

#2 easy access, could drop a rope in #2 and out #3 and use to protect for access to #3.

#3 access via rope from #2, some protection possible on RHS as ascending.

#4 and #5 not really looked at.

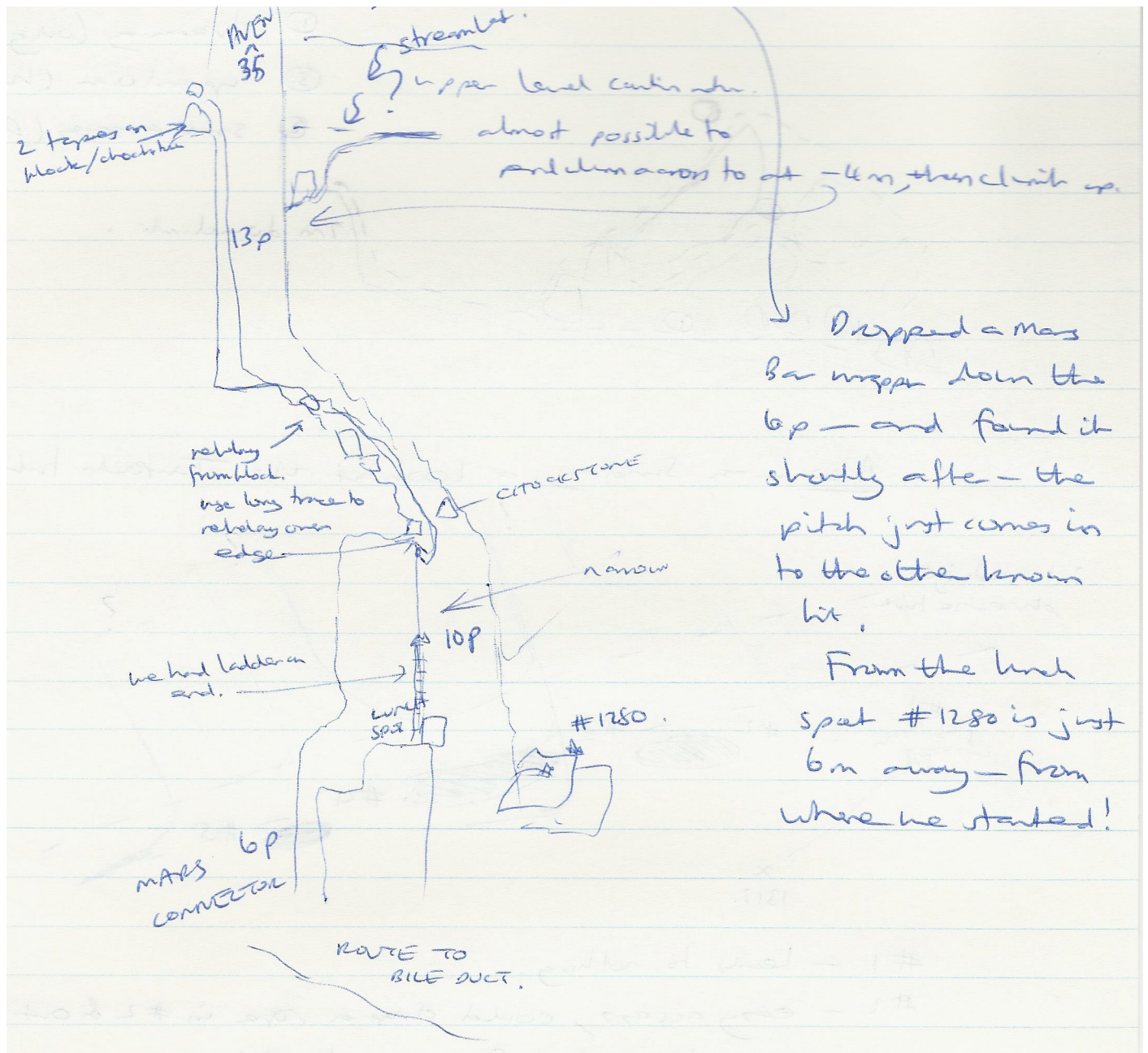
Did note that all tubes are linked by a perpendicular tube.

Also, a brew at the stove and packed it all up and took out. An area of mould about the place – rubbed it out. Guess it came from spilled milo/sugary stuff etc. Another pitch below – clean washed limestone.

Headed out for the day. A 12.5 hour trip.

Sunday – Returned, back to Daves Aven pitch series.

Headed down – see sketch [p. 55]



Dropped a Mars Bar wrapper down the 6 p – and found it shortly after – the pitch just comes in to the other known bit. From the lunch spot #1280 is just 6 m away – from where we started!

Also – the water source 5 m away from the retrieved Mars Bar comes from the upper level continuation at the top of the pitch (other side).

Headed out, derigged the 2 x 9 mm ropes – Old Rift phreatic connection (22 m rope) and Silver Lining pitch (27 m rope – 5 m too much; need ~22 m)

A leisurely 8 hour trip.

And – finally, floor material, i.e. dolerite cobbles useful for determining route of Ancient Rift streamway.

No dolerite cobbles on the Niagara side of Rift-341 connection. Lots of dolerite cobbles on the 341 side though. The survey should show floor composition better, useful for plotting the old Rift stream route.

A good weekend – both bodies a little sore!

Things still to do (34 side of things)

Woodchip Passages phreatics – difficult.

Torpedo Room phreatics – do-able.

Upper passages in Theatre Royal – very difficult! (except from above!!)

Thoroughly check out the cave from Daves Aven towards Peanut Brittle – haven't looked at this area very much at all.

Post a rope through the wet hole in the ceiling beneath Old Rift and see if a connection is possible this way (work from both ends?)

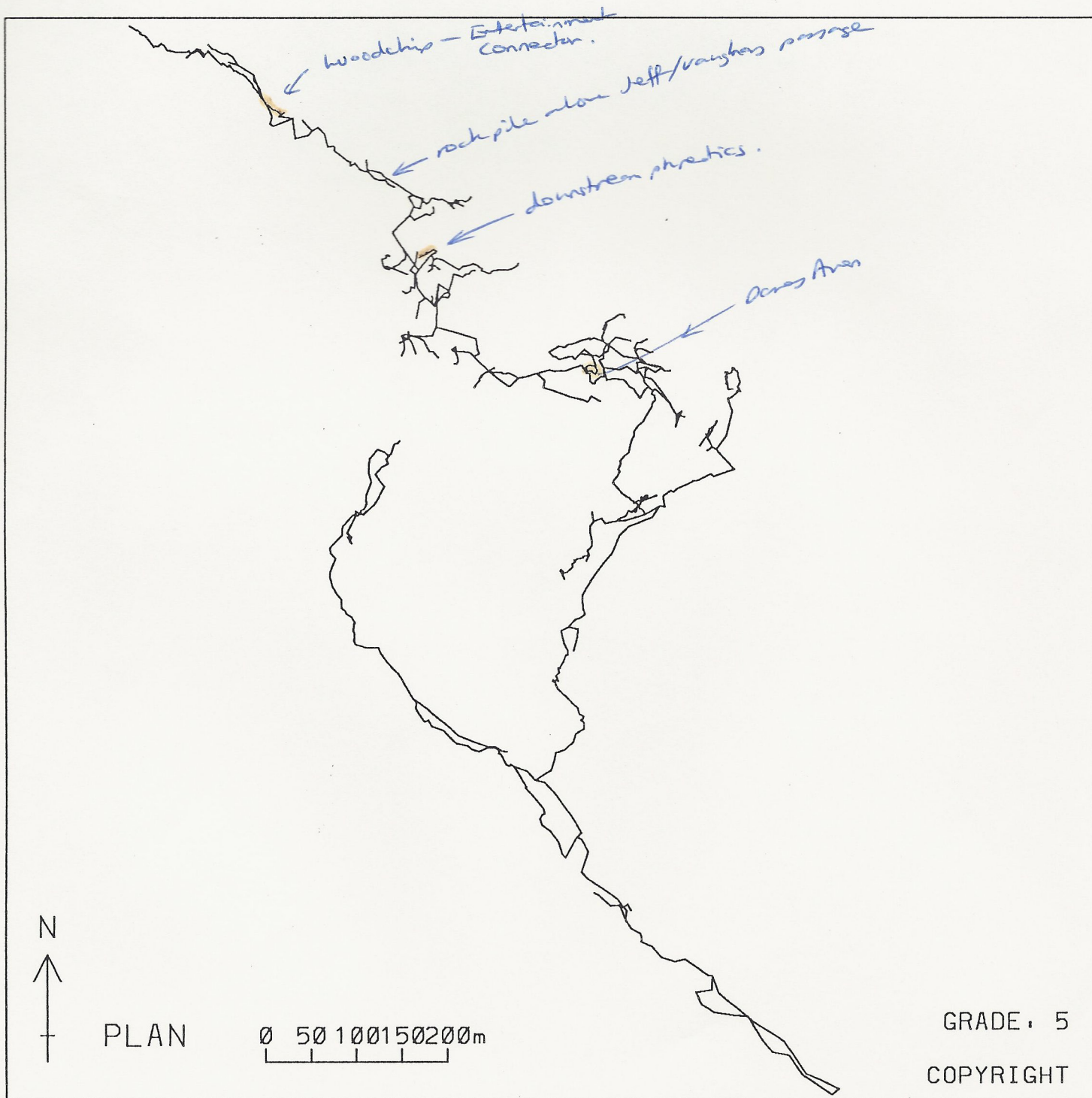
Surveyed ~130 m. Length now 6963 m + Rift 1132 m = 8096 m.

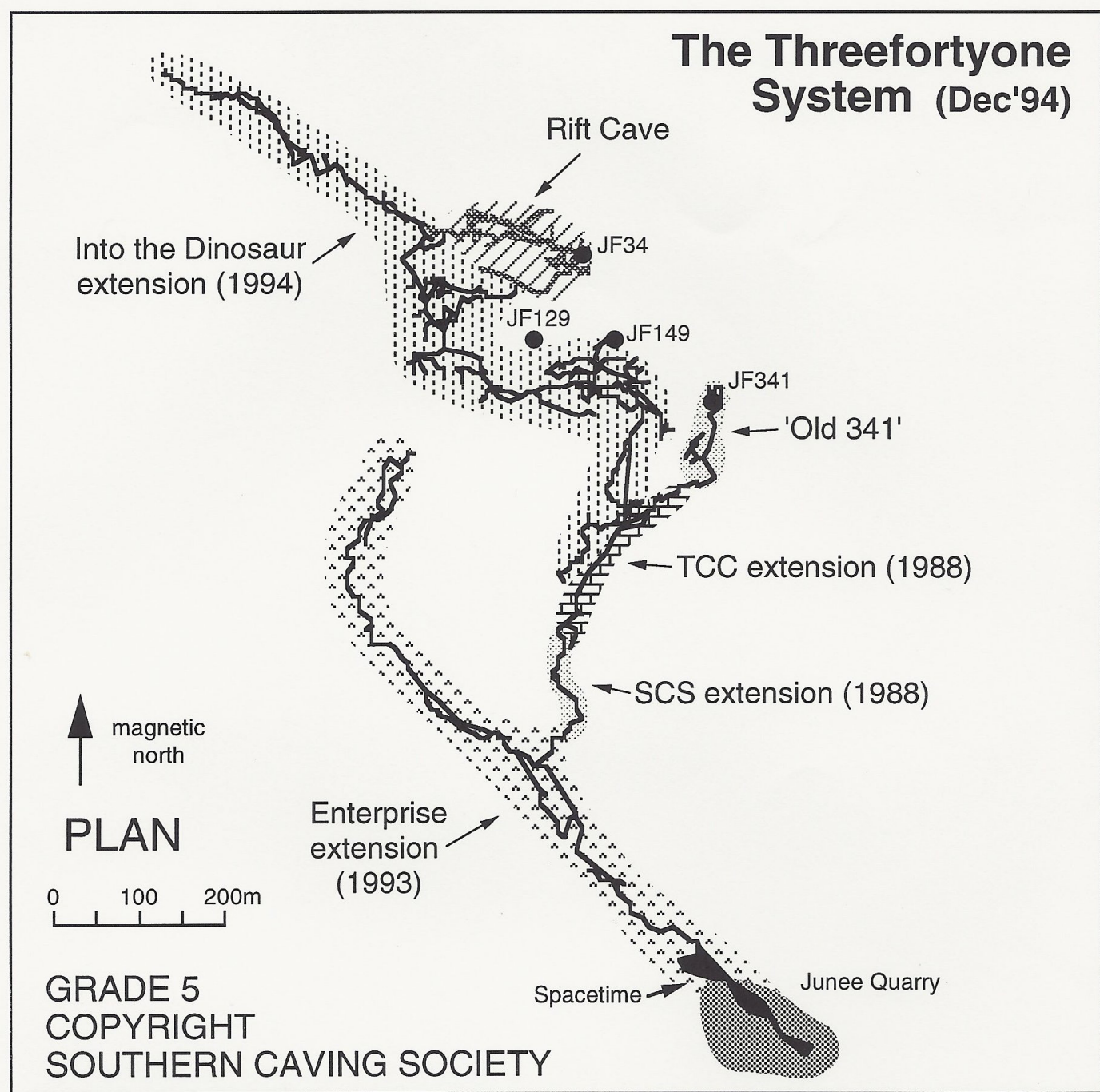
JUNEE_FLORENTINE

Three-forty one (JF341)

+ Rife

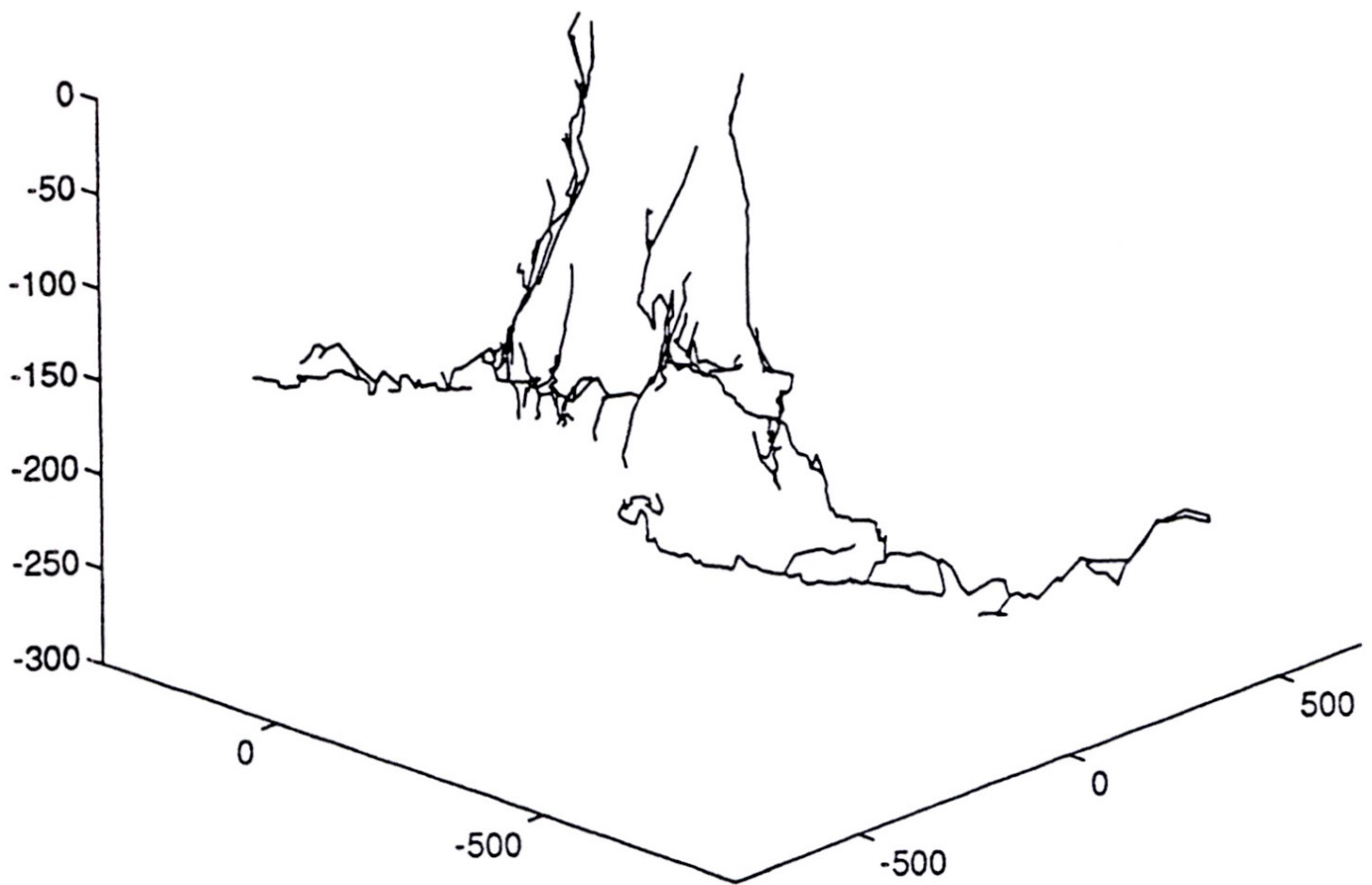
1132
8096 m.





A generalised map of the Threefortyone System prepared by Jeff Butt in December 1994, utilising his surveys over the previous six years – as published in *Southern Caver*, 58: 7

JF341 system, viewed from the SW at 30deg. elevation



An isometric projection of the JF341 System, based on Jeff Butt's surveys, after that published in *Southern Caver*, 58: 7



Photo 12. Another part of the dry crystal pool shown in Photo 11.

It was primarily a lack of time, enthusiasm and health that brought an end to Jeff's discoveries and documentation efforts in the 341 system. (He passed away on 13 April 2004 after a battle with cancer.) Hopefully these trip reports will provide a catalyst to inspire the next course of exploration, whenever that may be, and the tools necessary to make it systematic and efficient, with as little reinventing of the wheel as possible.

— Alan Jackson