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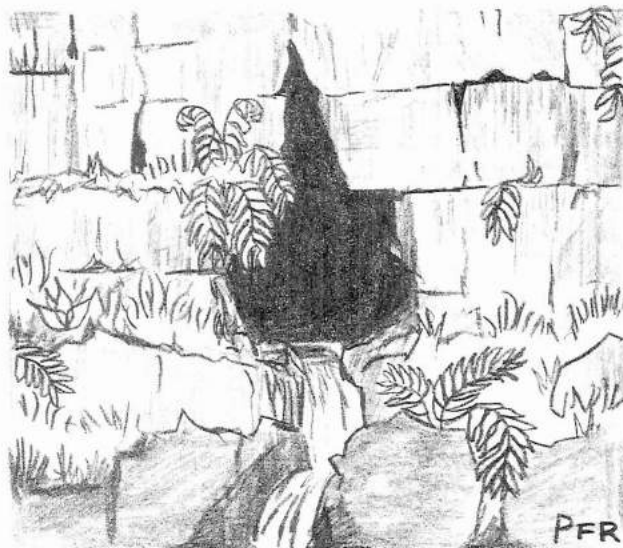
MOLDYWARPS SPELEOLOGICAL GROUP

JOURNAL N° SIX

Easter 1973

We trod the shadow of the downward
hill;
We past from light to dark. On the
other side
Is scoop'd a cavern and a mountain hall,
Which none have fathom'd. If you go
far in
(The country people rumour) you may
hear
The moaning of the woman and the child,
Shut in the secret chambers of the rock.
I too have heard a sound - perchance of
streams
Running far on within its inmost halls,
The home of darkness; but the cavern-
mouth,
Half overtrailed with a wanton weed,
Gives birth to a brawling brook, that
passing lightly
Adown a natural stair of tangled roots,
Is presently received in a sweet grave
Of eglantines, a place of burial
Far lovelier than its cradle:

- from 'The Lover's Tale'
Alfred Lord Tennyson.



Editors Comments.

At one time it had not been intended to produce a Journal in 1973, however, as will be apparent to the reader, even after having read only this far, this intention was frustrated, by the desire to publish and dispose of our obligations to, a variety of finds, and sites of work, which we have dealt with in 1972. The most important new cave found has been Fossdale Beck Cave - other discoveries have been comparatively minor.

In the last year or so the pattern of MSG work has changed considerably. In the "early years" (1966 - 9), virtually every weekend saw parties of 'warps, in strange and varied forms of transport, ranging the Northern Dales. Many of the early stalwarts have now moved, or are on the verge of moving, from the area, some more or less permanently, others returning during university and college vacations. However, the introduction of "evening trips", generally led by the Hon. Sec., has led to much useful work being done, as recorded in the following pages.

Thus Moldywarp activities continue, and new cave is still being found. The reader will possibly be interested to know that (and possibly frustrated by the fact) that an important extension to a well-known Northern Dales cave has been made, and will be fully described, not in this, but in the next, MSG Journal (No. 7). It is also anticipated that this next production will contain further details on the 'East Yorkshire' area, and the speleological potential of the Isle of Skye.

This Journal is admittedly somewhat thinner than its two predecessors - however, virtually the whole contents is 'meat' (?), packed with speleological facts and figures etc. etc. Contributions, either of fact or frivolity, for future publications, would be welcomed.

Peter F Ryder (Research Sec.)

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.... and also thanks to all who have helped in MSG activities in 1972 in any way
whatsoever.

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Surveys of Fossdale Beck Cave (2 sheets), Elph Cleugh Cave and Pot, Grange Gill Cave, Maze Holes, Kirkdale Caves, Ryhope Caves, Ashberry Windypit (2 sheets) and Blood Windypit are included, generally in the relevant places.

NEW EXPLORATIONS

Fossdale Beck Cave

(i) Discovery and Exploration.

The first visit of MSG to the Fossdale Beck area, and Wofell Scar, the gorge where the Beck cuts the Main Limestone, was on the 23rd December 1968. One or two small caves were found, one 30' in length (Wofell Scar Cave III) on the E bank of the Beck, where a small part of the stream 'short-circuited' a corner of the gorge. On the W side of the gorge a tight tubular crawl was found, half-choked with stones, and cleared for a few feet, before being abandoned. This was listed as a 'possible dig' and entered, along with the 30' stream cave and a 20' long dry crawl, ending too low (Wofell Scar Cave II), also on the E side of the gorge, in the MSG card index of Northern Caves, as 'Wofell Scar Caves'.

It was the 3rd April 1972 before MSG returned to Wofell Scar, to "re-check" the area, in the persons of Pete Holloway and the Research Sec. Bad weather had frustrated a walk up Great Sleddale, and Wofell Scar was selected for a visit, having the merit of being fairly near the road. Within ten minutes a new cave entrance had been cleared, on the E side of the gorge (Wofell Scar Cave I), and 40' of narrow crawl, ending in a choke, was explored. A second hole was then found, directly opposite, on the W bank of the stream, at the back of a ledge half way up the side of the gorge, and one boulder removed to allow entry. PFR slid down the entrance chute and arrived, to his surprise and delight, in a 5' diameter dry passage leading invitingly off into the gloom, towards the distant sound of falling water. Thus Fossdale Beck Cave (Upper Series) was discovered.

Subsequent trips revealed a second entrance, and, after half an hour spent clearing stones from the tight tubular crawl noted in 1968, another entrance into further passages and chambers, the Lower Series, which connect in two places with the Upper Series, although the connections are not at the time of writing passable by cavers. Wofell Scar Pot, a narrow shaft in a stream sink 200 yards S of Fossdale Beck Cave, was also opened up, proving to be 110' long and 27' deep.

After the initial explorations several further trips were made to complete the survey, and attempt various 'digs', without any significant further extensions being entered.

The total length of the system is now c.1,250'.

(ii) Description of the Cave

(a) Introduction.

Fossdale Beck Cave is situated on the west side of Fossdale Beck about 3 miles north of Hardraw, where Fossdale Beck flows into the River Ure. The cave system is developed in the Main Limestone, through which the Beck cuts in the gorge of Wofell Scar. There are three entrances to the system, all within a few feet of the stream bank, the Main Entrance and Matins Entrance being on ledges about 20' above the Beck, and the Lower Entrance about 4' above stream level.

The Upper Series of the Cave, reached through Main and Matins Entrances, and the Lower Series, at present accessible only via Lower Entrance, interconnect at two points, in the streamway, where perhaps 12' of bedding passage, at present gravel choked to within 6" of the roof, need clearing to allow a 'through-trip', and also in the low beddings (Connection Passage) beneath Matins Chamber, where one mud bank prevents one entering the Lower Series from the passage below the 19' pitch in the Upper Series.

(b) The Upper Series - Main Entrance and the Upper Streamway.

The Main Entrance is situated at the rear of a wide grassy ledge half way up the side of the gorge, noticeable in that there is a short section of drystone walling immediately below it. About 10' below the level of the entrance, and a few feet further upstream, is a very short section of tubular passage ending immediately in a choke.

The Main Entrance is a low arch, dropping down a debris slope into a large (5' diameter) dry passage running westwards (away from the Beck, into the valley side). To the l. of this, the debris slope from the entrance continues down for another 10' into a blind rift.

Continuing along the large dry passage, a branch passage on the l., 3' above floor level, is encountered, after 15' - this is Pitch Passage. A few feet further

along the main passage is a rift in the floor on the r. side of the passage. This is the Blind Pitch - 18' deep, and climbable, descending to a silt floor. On the far side of the head of the Blind Pitch, and reached by stepping across it, is the entrance to Shuffle Inlet.

The main passage continues of roomy waling size for a further 30', to where it opens into the Upper Aven, developed on a cross-rift running north-south. The aven cut by the main passage is c.30' high, with at its north end, reached through a narrower arch, a second, adjacent, aven, of similar height, with some water falling from above. From this second aven a narrow passage on the l., taking the water, reconnects with the main passage a few feet beyond the dry aven. On the r. is the low and narrow entrance to Grimy Gutter Grovel Inlet, also bringing in a small stream.

The main passage continues from the dry aven, receives the stream from the narrow passage on the right, and becomes the Upper Streamway, its height increasing to 10', with a vadose trench developing in the floor of the original tube. There are some small but attractive formations. 70' from the Upper Aven this impressive passage abruptly turns l. (south) to run parallel with the valley side. The corner (Stalagmite Corner) shows a very fine display of formations, most notably a 10' high cascade. Beyond Stalagmite Corner, the streamway changes in character, steadily decreasing in size, to a hands-and-knees crawl, and then a narrow sideways squeeze. After this the passage widens slightly for a further 20' before splitting, with an impenetrably small tube on the r., and on the l. the stream flowing into a bedding too low to enter - this could be excavated, the floor being of sand and gravel, and is only a few feet from the end of the Lower Streamway, in the Lower Series of the cave.

(c) The Upper Streamway Inlets.

Shuffle Inlet, although obviously a vadose inlet passage, appears to carry water only very occasionally, perhaps having been 'short-circuited' by the development of the second, Grimy Gutter Grovel, inlet. Any water flowing from Shuffle Inlet falls down the Blind Pitch to sink in a silt floor. The first 25' of Shuffle Inlet consist of a rift 6' high but generally less than 1' wide, suddenly opening into a chamber with a 20' high aven. On the r. is an impassably low bedding, and straight ahead a low arch (with a second opening directly above) opening onto a junction. To the r. is a high rift, rapidly becoming impassably narrow, through which daylight can be seen from the stream bank 50' upstream of the Main Entrance, to the l. is a wider rift leading to a final small aven, down which a trickle of water falls to sink in the floor.

The second, and currently active, inlet to the Upper Streamway, is Grimy Gutter Grovel Inlet, which enters the Upper Aven. The name of this passage was suggested by the name - Grimy Gutter - of a small tributary of Fossdale Beck above Wofell Scar, and also, more strongly, by the nature of the passage itself. Entering the passage involves a very tight squeeze around an acute bend, necessitating immersion in 2' of liquid mud and water. Once round this bend, the passage continues as more straightforward sideways crawling with, after a few feet, a short branch on the l. opening into the base of an aven. 12' up this an impassable opening connects with the side of the aven into which the inlet debouches. The remaining 50' or so of the inlet is a narrow crawl, gradually widening and lowering, and ending too low and choked.

(d) Pitch Passage and Matins Series.

Pitch Passage is a hands-and-knees crawl running south for 30' from the main passage, to the head of the 19' pitch. To both l. and r. at the head of the pitch are low bedding passages which become choked within a few feet. Traversing across the pitch, and turning l., through a low section, a 'T'-junction is reached, 15' beyond the pitch. To the l. is a scramble up to Matins Entrance, a low opening in the side of the gorge in a rather similar situation to, and 40' south of, the Main Entrance.

To the r. at the 'T'-junction is a hands-and-knees crawl, gradually increasing in height. On the l. is a narrow rift in the floor, probably too tight to descend, connecting with the small chamber in the passages below the pitch. On the far side of this rift is a small inlet passage (in a rather similar situation to Shuffle Inlet, opening onto the head of the Blind Pitch)

which becomes too low within a few feet. The main passage from Matins Entrance gains height, and becomes quite well decorated, opening, 40' from the entrance, into Matins Chamber, c.20' long, 15' high and 5' wide. At the far (south) end of the chamber a boulder slope ascends to roof level - a little digging here allowed a squeeze into a very small chamber, with no further way on. In the l. wall of the chamber there appears to be the entrance to a passage, completely choked with boulders. Opposite, in the r. wall, is a passage with a smooth stalagmite floor, initially roomy, but closing down to become impassable after c.10'. This termination is only c.15' from the end of Stalattic Passage, in the Lower Series, which terminates in a rather similar manner.

(e) The Passages below the Pitch.

The Pitch is of 19', a roomy shaft in which the ladder hangs free for 16', to a wide ledge, and a final 3' step down. From the foot of this descent a passage of 'keyhole' cross-section, i.e. a tube with a floor trench, continues south, at first 5' high, but with the clay floor ascending, reducing the passage to a tubular crawl. After c.15' two low branch passages lead off on the l. Continuing, a further 15' of crawl ends in a blank wall, and a tiny "aven" just large enough to sit up in. An impassably narrow rift in the wall here opens into the floor of Matins Chamber.

Of the two side passages, the first is probably too small to enter, but may be sighted along for c.20', heading towards the stream bank. The second passage, a low bedding, opens into a small sandy-floored chamber, with in the roof a narrow aven connecting with the passage between Matins Entrance and Matins Chamber (see above). To the r. of this small chamber is a low bedding crawl, partly dug out, which can be followed for c.15' to where it becomes too low, although digging might well allow further progress. A heightening can be seen, both to the l., where there appears to be another low passage running back towards the stream bank, quite probably connecting with an obvious choked flood sink (which takes water in wet conditions), and straight ahead, in a slightly higher bedding at the end of Connection Passage in the Lower Series of the cave.

The total length of the Upper Series of the cave is c.660', all surveyed except for the estimated 70' of Grimy Gutter Grovel Inlet.

(f) The Lower Series - Entrance Series.

The Lower, or Tube, Entrance, is a small but quite obvious opening on a small ledge a few feet above the stream. Initially fairly tight (4' high and 2' wide), the tubular entrance crawl swings l., and opens into a complex junction area, littered with unstable fallen slabs, after 20'. To the l. here a small passage leads back to the stream bank, ending in an impassable fissure through which a chink of daylight can be seen. The second l. passage is a narrow crawl to a boulder choke after 15'. The main route turns sharp r. into a roomier hands-and-knees crawl running north, parallel with the stream bank, and then drops 3' into a 7' high chamber, with roomy passages straight ahead and to the l., and to the r. a low crawl. The passage ahead is Connection Passage (see below), and the crawl to the r. becomes too low after 25'. The main route on is to the l., rapidly lowering to a crawl once more. A low branch on the r. leads into a roomy 14' high aven chamber, with a very low crawl continuing, heading towards the area beneath Matins Chamber. The main passage swings r. after a few more feet, with two arches on the l. here giving access to a 12' aven, and then reaches a 'T'-junction. To the r. is a tight squeeze leading back to the 14' aven, to the l. is a continuing muddy crawl, 20' long, to a 6' drop into a small chamber with a bedding area at floor level, from which two impassably small passages lead off. At the far side of the chamber is a 6' climb up a mudbank, followed by a slide over a second mudbank, to a 'T'-junction with a larger passage, marking the end of the Entrance Series.

(g) Connection Passage.

The passage straight ahead at the three-way junction described above is initially 7' high, with a vadose trench in the floor below a more tube-like upper section. The trench closes in, however, and 20' from the junction the passage ends in a wall of loose boulders and debris descending from above-

the survey shows this point to be more or less beneath the boulder-choked passage in the l. wall of Matins Chamber. To the r. at this point is a low bedding, turning l. again and becoming too low at a constriction, beyond which is the bedding area reached at the end of the passages below the Pitch in the Upper Series.

(h) The Lower Streamway.

The larger passage into which the Entrance Series opens at a 'T'-junction is the downstream end of the Lower Streamway, the streamway being to the r. To the l. at the junction is the entrance to Avenway Series. At the junction the stream drops into a choked fissure in the floor beneath the Entrance Series passage, and is not seen again in the cave, emerging to daylight at the rising (choked), 140' away from this point and 75' south of the Lower Entrance. Upstream, the streamway can be followed for c.70'. The passage is at first 5' high and 4' wide, obviously having been developed from an initial bedding now at roof level. As one proceeds upstream the floor rises rapidly, and the passage becomes a crawl, finally becoming too low after a pool - this point, from the survey, being only c.12' downstream from the end of the Upper Streamway.

(i) Avenway Series.

Turning l. at the 'T'-junction mentioned above, and climbing up over a boulder, one enters the largest chamber in the system, at the foot of the Great Aven, being 15' long, up to 10' wide, and probably c.40' high. On the l., immediately upon entry, is a low sandy crawl which may re-connect with the Entrance Series passage in the roof of the small chamber below the 6' drop (see above), but this would probably need some clearing. The floor of the Great Aven is a boulder slope rising to the entrance of the passage beyond. At the same height as this, in the l. (east) wall, and above a chute of semi-calced debris, is the obvious entrance to Stalattic Passage.

Stalattic Passage is initially 5' high, but the floor rapidly rises, and the passage closes to a crawl over a calcite false floor, amidst profuse formations. This turns sharp l. and drops into a small well-decorated chamber. To the l. this opens into the base of Stalattic Passage Aven - this chamber and aven are directly above the chamber below the 6' drop in the Entrance Series, although there appears to be no connection between the two levels. To the r. in the Stalattic Passage chamber is a low crawl up a sandy slope, into a low arched passage with a soft stalagmite floor, and evidence of phreatic origin in the arches and pierced rock curtains in its roof. Digging would allow further progress. Ahead, the passage can be seen to continue for at least 15', heading back towards the Matins Chamber area.

The main route forward from the Great Aven is a narrow rift passage, with a pair of eyeholes on the r. opening into Eyehole Aven, 10' above floor level. A few feet further along the passage is a 6' drop to another junction. Running back beneath the floor of the passage from which one has just entered, is a crawl which turns l. into the base of Eyehole Aven, which is of similar height to, although slightly less in floor area than, the Great Aven, with which it connects directly through a high fissure, slightly inclined from the vertical, and only a few inches wide.

Returning to the junction, the passage on the l. ascends, turns l. again, and becomes too low, all within a space of 10'. Straight ahead is the main route, roomy at first but lowering to a flat crawl over a gravel bank, and reaching another junction after 20'.

Straight ahead at this junction the passage descends again, with a vadose floor trench developing, to a 4' drop. Straight ahead here, at roof level, is a small blind calcited chamber. The main passage, at floor level, turns sharp l. as a descending 3' high crawl, to a final 6' deep hole in the floor, a totally mud choked bedding at its base - this can only be 1'-2' above the level of the rising. In the roof above there is a narrow 12' high aven, and straight ahead a rift passage, becoming muddy and extremely narrow. The furthest point reached here is only 60' from the rising, and 40' from (and in line with) one of the choked passages near the entrance to the Lower Series.

Returning to the final junction, the r. branch is a very low bedding, with a tight and awkward squeeze over a slab, opening into the base of the 25' high South Aven, only c.3' by 6' at floor level. There is a continuing, draughting, passage at floor level, and digging was attempted here, but boulders too large to move were met after 3'. 10' up the wall of the aven is an opening just large enough to see through (this could perhaps be enlarged by chemical means) into an adjacent aven of some size, with a trickle of water falling from above. The limited view possible suggests that this aven, or aven chamber, is c.12' across, with a boulder floor, and possibly a passage entering on the far side.

Total length of the Lower Series of the cave is c.590'.

(j) Some thoughts on the development of the system.

Fossdale Beck Cave is considerably more complex in its morphology and plan than the majority of Northern Dales cave systems. A number of possible stages in its development are suggested below.

(i) Original Phreatic System.

The main passage of the Upper Series, which becomes the Upper Streamway, as far as Stalagmite Corner, is evidently a major phreatic tube, apparently becoming smaller in dimensions eastwards. Another very small section of this can be seen (see above) in the stream bank just above the Main Entrance, and another section on the east side of the Beck, forming Wofell Scar Cave II (the higher of the two small entrances there), which is a low crawl penetrable for 20'. Other parts of the system are also apparently phreatic in origin - parts of the Entrance Series of the Lower Series, and Avenway Series.

(ii) First Vadose Stage.

Pre-dating the cutting of the present Wofell Scar Gorge, which is probably post Glacial. The stream (the pre-Glacial Fossdale Beck) may have entered via Shuffle Inlet, crossed the main phreatic tunnel, and developed a new vadose route along Pitch Passage, into Matins Series (Matins Entrance may represent another sink entrance at this period), into Matins Chamber, and either on through high level passages now concealed by the boulder choke in Matins Chamber, or dropping to a lower level there, and through the part-phreatic passages of the Lower Entrance Series, to perhaps rise from the Lower Entrance, or one of the nearby passages. The other small cave, vadose in character, on the east side of the Beck (Wofell Scar Cave 1, 40' in length) may also be ascribable to this stage, its appearance suggesting that it is part of a system pre-dating the cutting of the gorge.

(iii) Second Vadose Stage.

Whether this pre-dates or post-dates the cutting of the gorge is not clear. Assuming the gorge is of post-Glacial date, the former is perhaps the most likely. The stream in the stage (ii) cave migrates to a lower level, falling down the 19' Pitch, and flowing beneath Matins Chamber into, and further modifying, the Lower Entrance Series.

(iv) Vadose Modification of Avenway Series.

There appears to have been some vadose modification of the south part of Avenway Series at some time, probably coeval with the First or Second Vadose Stage. The avens and some of the passages of Avenway Series are obviously phreatic in character, and may have developed as 'Pohl Cells' independently of the phreatic and vadose passageways which now cut them. The vadose stage of the development of Avenway Series appears to have been occasioned by a stream entering the present system through the choked low-level passage in South Aven, and flowing east down the final 30' or so of the 'main passage' of Avenway Series, to sink in the 6' deep pot, also now choked, in the floor, presumably flowing from here to the rising.

It seems unlikely that this stream had any connection with the 'main stream', i.e. Fossdale Beck, or part of Fossdale Beck, which is responsible for the vadose action in the remainder of the cave. The South Aven stream may have been derived from the shakeholes on the fellside directly above, or more

likely, have been the Wofell Scar Pot water (Wofell Scar Pot is a small stream sink on the west side of the valley a few hundred feet away to the south west). This stream, although not as yet tested, apparently feeds the rising at the mouth of the Wofell Scar gorge, as does the stream which currently flows through Fossdale Beck Cave (this has been fluorescein tested).

(v) Third Vadose Stage

Possibly post-Glacial. The development of the present streamway, utilising the ancient 'main passage' phreatic tube as far as Stalagmite Corner, and then following a joint southwards to the head of the Lower Streamway, which probably follows another, smaller, phreatic passage. This 'short-circuiting', or rather 'long-circuiting' was accompanied by, and possibly in part occasioned by, the development of Grimy Gutter Grovel Inlet, taking the water from the sinks which used to feed Shuffle Inlet. Also developed at this latest vadose stage are the presumably immature passages which now take the stream between the downstream end of the Lower Streamway, and the rising.

(vi) Present Situation.

Only a very small stream currently flows through the cave, having its source in Grimy Gutter Grovel Inlet, and augmented by smaller flows from various avens, which appear to merely drain the fellside immediately above the cave. The main inlet stream may be fed by immature, or half-choked sinks in Fossdale Beck - these are not obvious on the surface, but may be in the beds of pools etc. In flood conditions the passages below the Pitch, Connection Passage, and parts of the Lower Entrance Series, may take water, although this has not yet been observed.

(vii) Problems

The major phreatic tube of the Upper Series (see stage i) appears to terminate abruptly at Stalagmite Corner - there may in fact be a continuation concealed by the extensive calcite flows there.

If Avenway Series can be extended from South Aven, the currently active streamway from Wofell Scar Pot (see stage iv) might be entered. Digging at the sink opened a 21' deep climbable (but rather loose) shaft into a chamber, with the stream sinking after a further 6' descent in an impenetrable fissure. A sizeable inlet passage into the chamber at the foot of the pitch, from the south, ending in a choke of fill, accounted for most of the pot's length of 110'.

Elph Cleugh Cave and Pot.

(i) Exploration.

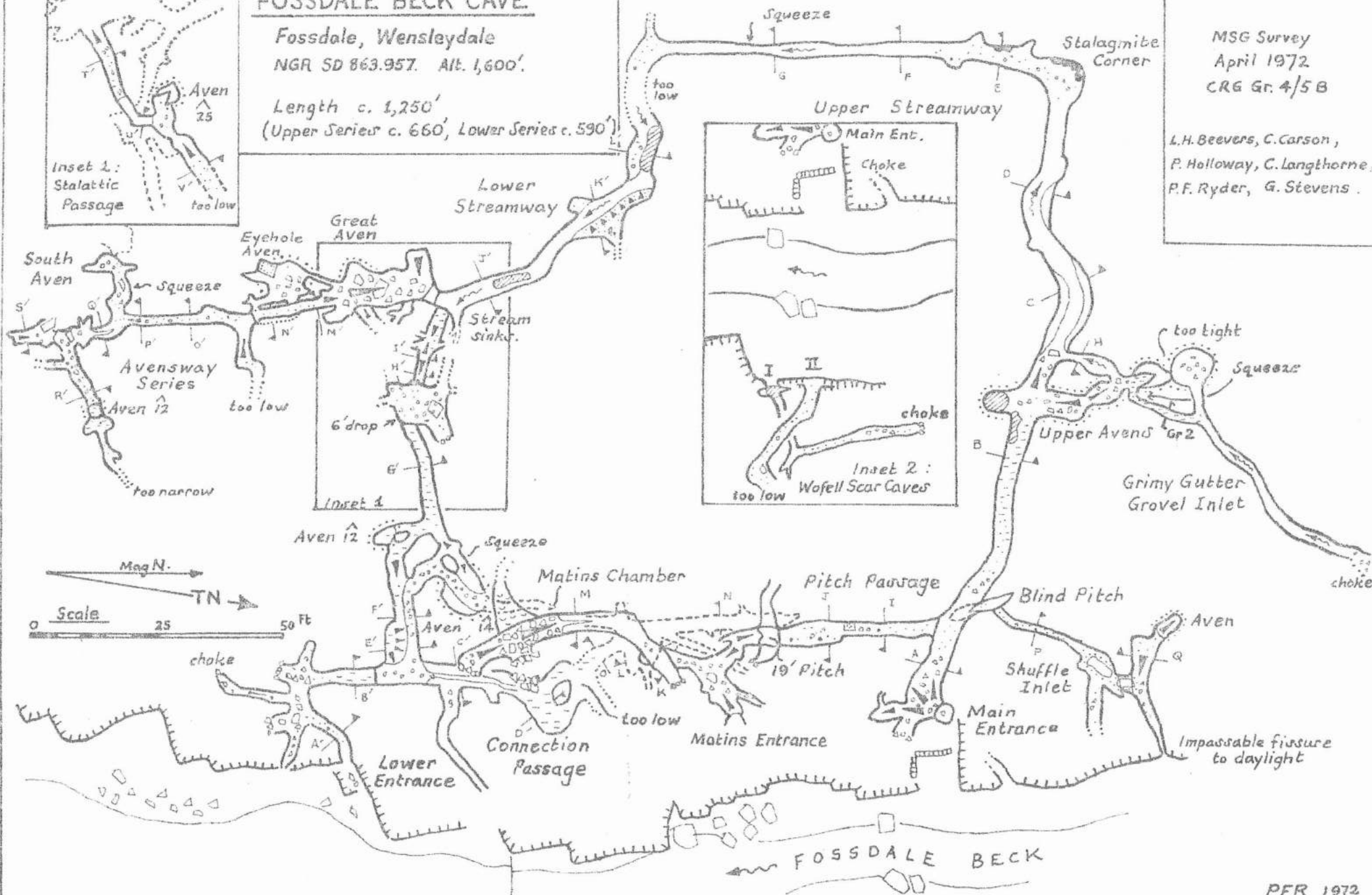
The Elph Cleugh area was visited on 11th December 1971 by Jan Arrowsmith and the Research Sec. A small cave in the south bank of Swinhope Burn 200 yards upstream of the confluence of the Burn and Elph Cleugh was re-located (having been visited by members in 1966), and surveyed - a very winding passage, roomy in parts, ending abruptly in tiny choked fissures after 70' (named Swinhopeburn Cave - apparently known to Durham Cave Club members as Bat Cave). Elph Cleugh Cave entrance was noted (also visited in 1966) and the plateau above inspected, the O.S. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " : 1 mile map showing a sink. This sink, a large shake taking a small stream, contained an open pot - Elph Cleugh Pot (NY 891341). The stream disappeared in unstable boulders 6' down, but above these a dry passage led to a chamber. Attempts at digging the stream sink caused a considerable collapse of boulders, so the hole was left to "settle".

We returned to Elph Cleugh Pot on 31st March 1972, to find the stream sink had stabilised somewhat, enough to insert an unwetsuited Pete Holloway, under an icy shower of water. The shaft proved to choke immediately, so we decided to fill in the remainder of the afternoon surveying Elph Cleugh Cave - described in 'Pennine Underground' as a "small single passage cave with some formations" 300' long.

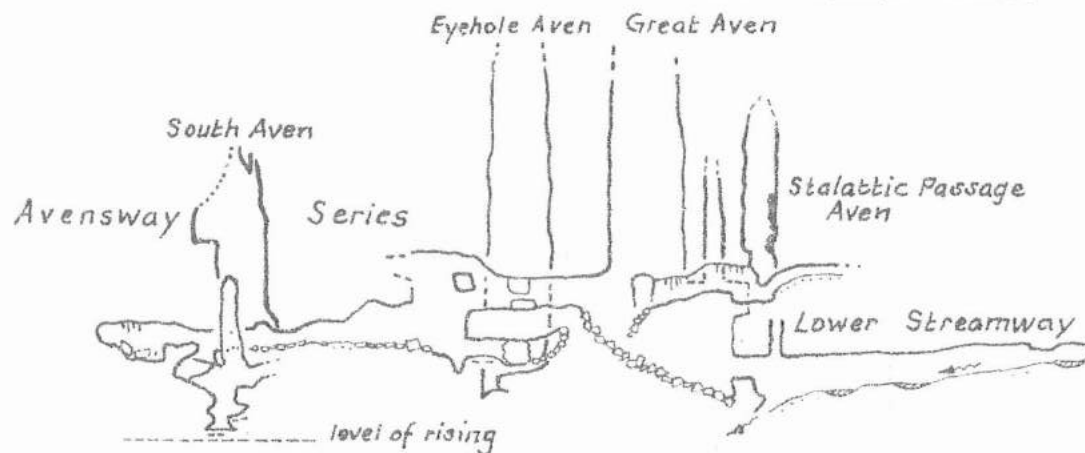
Surveying in, after 70' we came to a junction, main streamway to l., a low inlet to the r, which in 1966 Colin Carson had crawled a few feet up, and pronounced too low. Remembering this (and consequently fired with optimism) PFR inserted himself in the inlet, grovelled through a tight and low section,

Length c. 1,250'
(Upper Series c. 660', Lower Series c. 590')

L.H. Beevers, C. Carson,
P. Holloway, C. Langthorne,
P.F. Ryder, G. Stevens.



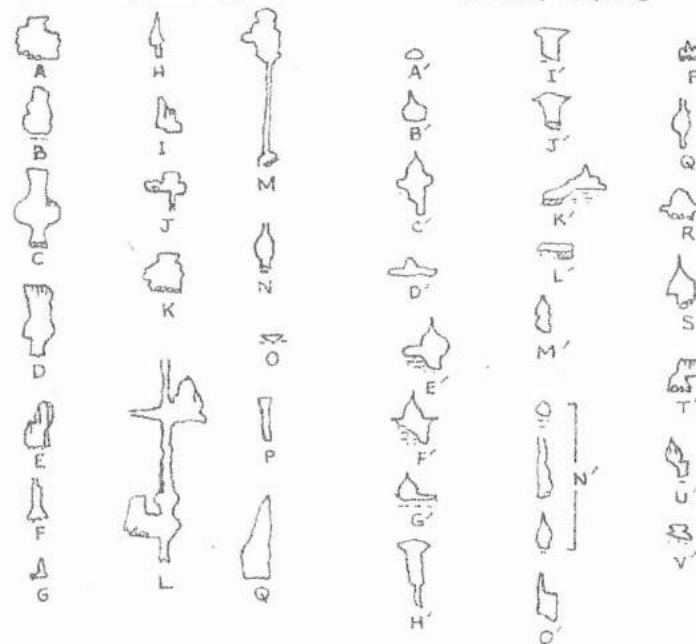
PROJECTED SECTION ON 351° THROUGH LOWER STREAMWAY
AND AVENSWAY SERIES



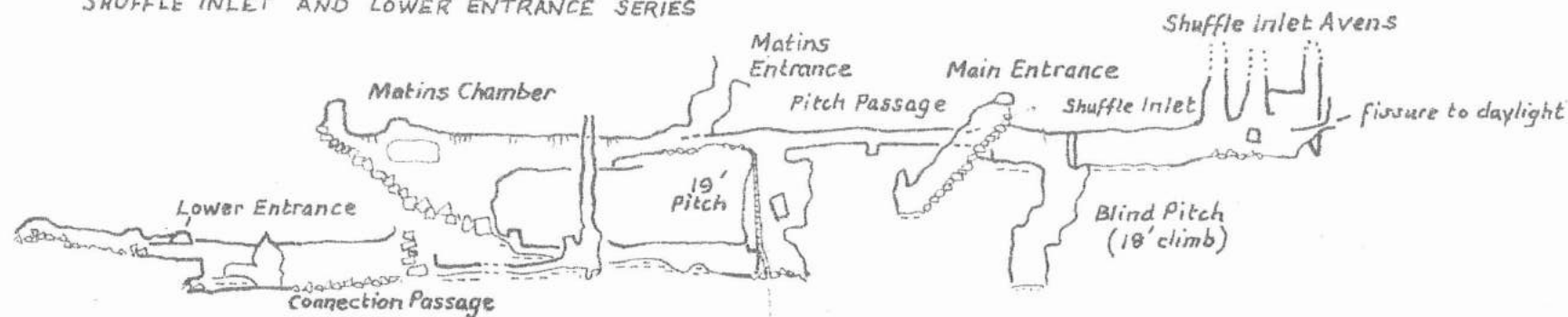
CROSS SECTIONS

UPPER SERIES

LOWER SERIES



PROJECTED SECTION ON 351° THROUGH PASSAGES BETWEEN
SHUFFLE INLET AND LOWER ENTRANCE SERIES



demolished a few chert nodules, and entered Cake Inlet.

Time, and the unwetsuited sufferings of PH, did not permit completion of the survey, and this had to wait until January 1973. On New Year's Day, PFR, Nev Andrews, and Meg Mellors surveyed a further 400' of Main Streamway and Main Inlet, and 12 days later Graham Stevens, Chris Pattison and Tony Younger pushed the Main Inlet to a conclusion, and discovered and surveyed Green Elf Passage.

(ii) Description.

(a) Location. Elph Cleugh Cave entrance is a rising on the east bank of Elph Cleugh, a few yards upstream from its confluence with Swinhope Burn, and at the foot of a small limestone gorge. Elph Cleugh Pot, the main sink, is 350' to the south-east of, and 85' above, the cave entrance, in a large elongate shakehole. Both Cave and Pot are in the Great or 12-Fathom Limestone.

(b) The Main Stream Passage and Main Inlet. The cave entrance is 4' high and 2'6" wide, a crawl through a few inches of water, after 25' opening up into an 8' high chamber littered with boulders, with the stream flowing in a bedding under the r. wall. Beyond the chamber is a 1'6" cascade, and then a 'Y'-junction, with on the r. Cake Inlet, and on the l. a continuing easy hands-and-knees crawl for 50', then turning l. and gaining a little height, sufficient to permit stooping. After a further 50' of streamway, with several corners, a partial boulder choke is reached, which can be easily climbed over, and then a narrower section, forcing a crawl in the stream, but with a dry ox-bow on the l. providing a by-pass. The streamway continues, with some quite good formations, some unfortunately broken, with the stream flowing beneath the l. wall in places. Eventually a low wet bedding is reached, with a dry by-pass on the r. A few feet beyond is another 'Y'-junction, with Green Elf Passage to the r. To the l. is the Main Inlet, probably fed by small sinks on the plateau to the east of the Pot. At first this is an easy shingle crawl, to a wet wallow, and then a tight low section, becoming too low after a small "chamber" with a shingle bank, just over 100' from the junction.

(c) Cake Inlet. This commences as an easy crawl, to a sharp bend r., into a low wet section only 1' high, soon opening into 3' high passage. This provides easy going for 50', to where the stream enters from an impossibly small arched passage on the l., with above it "The Cake" - a formation giving its name to the passage. Ahead is a muddy crawl, turning sharply l. into a bedding chamber, the only way on being up a steeply sloping little tube, into a smaller chamber, also sloping steeply upwards, ending in a choked bedding.

The total length of the inlet is c.150', the survey revealing the final choke to be almost directly beneath the bed of Elph Cleugh, 100' upstream of the cave entrance. The small stream now entering the inlet may be part of the surface Cleugh, and that which originally developed the passage almost certainly was. No sinks are apparent on the surface, in the stream bed or banks.

(d) Green Elf Passage. This is the true continuation of the Main Streamway, and, beyond a squeeze through a pool 25' from the junction, did not appear to have been entered before our visit. Beyond the squeeze, a branch on the r. becomes too tight after a 12' high aven, where another aven is visible ahead. The main route is easy crawling to a r. turn, where it suddenly enlarges to 12' high. The floor then steps up in three cascades, 3', 2' and 2' high, into a 5' high passage ending in a massive boulder ruckle, only 40' horizontally (from the survey) from Elph Cleugh Pot. It seems that the choked descending passage from the chamber in the Pot may connect with the impassably tight passage beyond the aven on the r. near the downstream end of Green Elf Passage, whilst the stream from the sink below the Pot entrance enters in the final ruckle. The name of the passage is derived from the fluorescein which had been put into the Pot by the exploring party prior to their entering the cave, and which was met by them over an hour later at the cascades, travelling very slowly. The total length of the passage, which contains some quite attractive formations, is 170'.

The total surveyed length of Elph Cleugh Cave is now c.800', of which 320' is 'new passage'. There seems little prospect of further extensions of any size, since both Cake Inlet and Green Elf Passage closely approach the sinks which feed them, and the Main Inlet becomes excessively tight and low - less than 9" high and half full of water. All three inlet passages in the cave draught, showing that no sumps obstruct the air flow through the system.

(e) Elph Cleugh Pot.

The entrance to the Pot is a circular hole c.4' across in the bottom of a very large shakehole. On the occasion of our last visit (1.1.73) this hole had been thoroughly covered over with beams and stone slabs.

The stream entering the hole falls c.12' into a rift, to sink amongst boulders. Half way down this rift a horizontal passage leads off to the north-west, a crawl over boulders for a few feet, dropping into a chamber, beneath the floor of the shakehole, perhaps 15' long, 12' wide and 10' high, with a roof of huge 'hanging death' gritstone boulders. On the r. is an opening into a rift parallel with the entrance passage, completely choked with boulders, and on the l. side of the chamber a hole behind a boulder leads into a descending passage in solid rock, which drops 10' to a choke, which could perhaps be cleared - there is another drop, of c.4' beyond - although the passage is very tight, and the roof very unstable.

Total passage length of the Pot is perhaps 50', total depth perhaps 20'.

Trough Scars Cave III

On the evening of 20th April 1972 an MSG party visited Trough Scars Caves, to attempt to extend caves I and II. This purpose was frustrated by impassably low beddings in Cave I, and by the non-existence of postulated passages in Cave II. A brief inspection of the gorge upstream of these known caves did result in the finding of a short new cave, Cave III, or Trough Scars Beckside Cave.

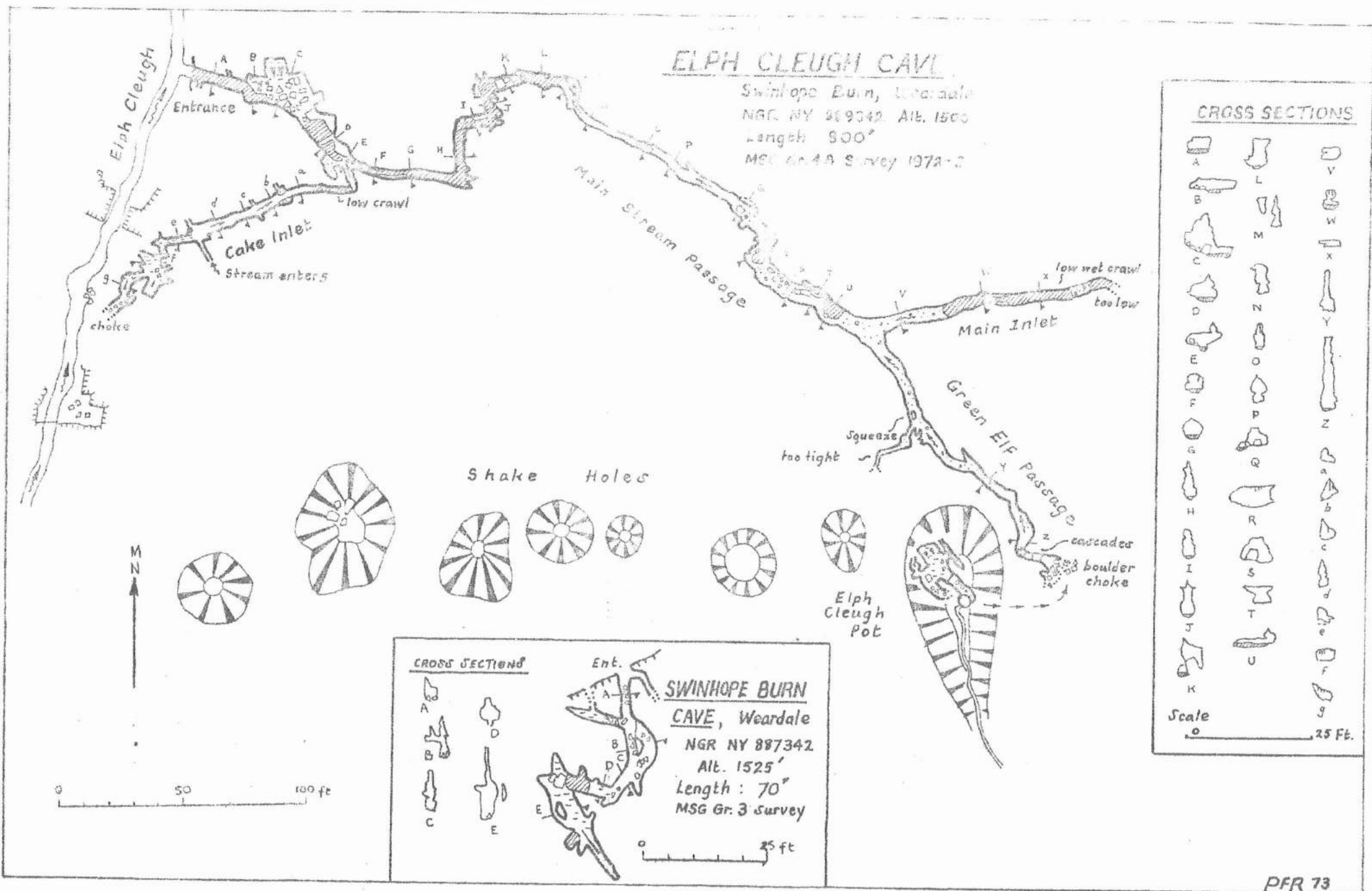
Going south from caves I and II, one passes a 10' waterfall on the Beck, with on the west side of the stream a collapsed area which seems to act as a small rising. In the shallower gorge above the fall, on the west side of the Beck, a very small hole at the rear of an undercut bedding was found, and enlarged, with about 20 minutes work. This allowed access to a chamber, running parallel with the gorge side, 15' long, 6' wide and 12' high. To the l. (i.e. at the upstream end) a small stream entered the chamber, and turned half r. (looking upstream) to enter an arched downstream passage. This - 2' high with 1' water - ended after 15' in a complete pebble choke. Upstream was a narrow crawl for 15' to a fallen slab - a route could have been dug past this, and at least 10' of passage could be seen ahead. However, the sink for the cave was found, in a small bedding (3" high), only about 20 yards upstream of the entrance, in the side of the gorge, thus digging would not really be worthwhile.

Total length (accessible) of this cave is 50', and it provides the only 'active' system so far entered in the gorge.

Maize Beck Caves

These small caves cannot be claimed as 'new explorations' in the true sense of the word, as they have probably been entered by cavers before, but no published description, beyond a brief mention in 'British Caving', has appeared, as far as the writer is able to trace. The caves are among the most remote in the Pennines - the easiest approach is to walk from Dufton over High Cup Nick. Colin Carson and Pete Holloway made this trek at Easter 1972, and Colin later produced the following description. -

Immediately downstream from the bridge where the Pennine Way crosses Maize Beck, is a limestone gorge. On the r. (west) side of the gorge is a rising from a hole 2' wide and 1'6" high, the rising for Sink Cave II. This might be entered in low water conditions, or by diverting water away from the sink. The sink for this cave is 36' to the west and 18' higher - this is very tight but open.



A few feet downstream from the sink of Sink Cave II is a choked sink, which might be dug. About 40' downstream again is a small dry cave in the side of the stream gorge - Dry Cave South. This is a hands-and-knees crawl for 10', lowering to a flat out crawl for 7' to a choke.

40' upstream of the sink for Sink Cave II is the rising for Sink Cave I. 11' away from the rising is a tight dry entrance to the cave, and 80' to the west is the sink for this cave. The estimated length of Sink Cave I is 105'. An entrance at the sink 3' wide and 2' high leads to a streamway 4' high and wide. After 36' a cross-joint passage intersects the streamway and daylight can be seen to l. and r. The passage then lowers and is extremely wet for most of the remaining 60' with a duck at one point. The rising is about 2'6" square.

70' to the north of Sink Cave I rising is the entrance to Dry Cave North I, length 73'. This consists of a single passage between 3' and 5' in height and of similar width, being apparently a former stream course. On the opposite side of the shakehole containing the exit from Dry Cave North I, is the entrance to Dry Cave North II, a 16' long cave up to 3' high and 4' wide.

All these caves, both active and dry, seem to have been developed by the small tributary of Maize Beck which now flows through Sink Caves I and II.

Grange Gill Cave

Grange Gill Cave, Wensleydale, was first visited by MSG members on 25th September 1971, the entrance having been noted by Stuart Hodgson on a walk some weeks previously. The cave is situated on the north side of Grange Gill (the stream changes name, according to the O.S. map, as one proceeds upstream, from Grange Gill to Skell Gill, and Skell Gill to Sargill), about 200 yards downstream of the hamlet and bridge of Skell Gill, in a small gorge formed in the Hardraw Scar Limestone.

Immediately inside the entrance, the cave splits into two similar passages, each c.4' high and 2' wide, and each discharging a stream. On the initial exploration the r. fork was blocked by a large wedged boulder, within 5'. The l. fork enlarges after 10' into a pleasant streamway 6' high and 4' wide. After 15' the stream passage turns l., and the floor steps up 3'. To the r. here, at roof level, is a low squeeze into a bedding chamber with some formations, c.4' wide and 10' long, becoming too low. The stream passage continues for a further 10' into a 6' wide 3' high chamber, with some fallen slabs. Beyond this the cave shuts down to a bedding 4" high, without any draught.

Return trips to Grange Gill Cave were made on the 1st and 6th January, and the 11th February, all with the intent of forcing the r. hand stream passage just inside the cave entrance. The initial wedged boulder was demolished, and various minor obstacles beyond have also been dealt with. At the time of writing c.40' of passage have been explored, all tight winding crawl, as far as a right-angled bend to the l., which, coupled with more wedged boulders, provides an awkward obstacle marking the present limit of exploration. The total length of the cave is c.120'.

Sinks in the stream bed c.100 yards upstream of the cave probably feed the cave stream, although the r. inlet may have a different source.

Smeltmill Beck Cave - a new inlet

On 2nd June 1972 Pete Holloway and Graham Stevens visited this cave, with the prime intention of attempting to pass the previous limit of exploration in Shrimp Inlet - in this they were unsuccessful, extensive lump hammering being necessary. However, in retreating from Shrimp Inlet, a previously unnoticed inlet passage was found, situated on the true l. (i.e. looking downstream) c.300' upstream of Cairn Chamber.

A few straw stalactites were sacrificed in the exploration of the new passage, which consisted of c.70' of crawling along false floors above the inlet flow, to a 4'6" cascade, and a further c.70' of crawling in the stream, to a sump - this was probed, but no immediate airspace was apparent.

The discovery of this new inlet came as a surprise, many parties having passed it without noticing it, in the past four years. The source of the inlet stream is not clear, and the passage has yet to be surveyed. Two possibilities for the origin of the stream are that it might be fed by the surface Beck (this is somewhat unlikely, since the main sink at the rear of the limestone plateau generally takes all the Beck water, feeding into Keyhole Passage, entering the cave further upstream), or that it might be a "short-cut" to the Cascade Traverse area of the main stream passage. It is intended to survey the passage in the near future.

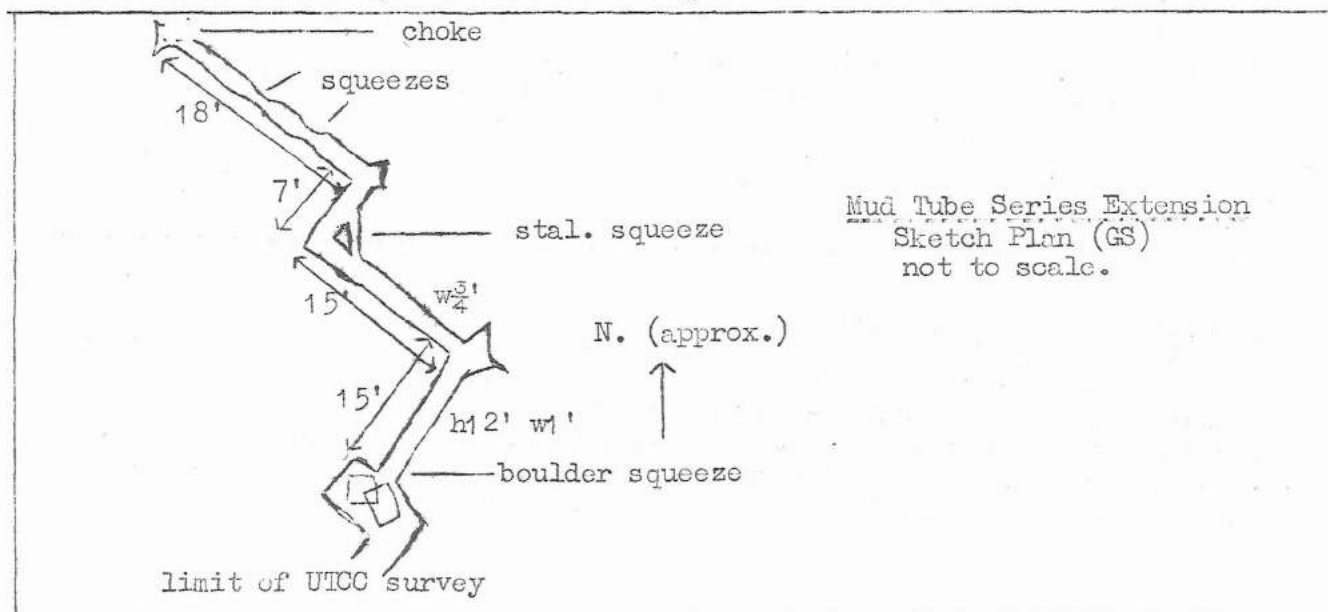
Moking Hurth - Mud Tube Series.

Mud Tube Series, the only major inlet in the Moking Hurth / Moking Pot system, was first visited by MSG members on 9th June 1972. The passage was followed as far as is shown on the 1955 Upper Teesdale Cave Club survey (see survey of Moking Hurth / Moking Pot in MSG Journal 4, incorporating NFC, UTCC and MSG surveys), only Graham Stevens being able to pass a wet squeeze c.150' from the end. The survey is shown as ending inexplicably where the passage appears to widen - this widening proved to be a small boulder ruckle. Some manhandling of boulders opened up a tight squeeze on, which GS did not feel inclined to attempt without support.

On 24th October a second visit was made, by GS and Colin Carson. GS managed to pass the squeeze through the boulders, and enter a continuing narrow rift, 12' high but only 1' wide. CC attempted to follow but became wedged, in an inverted position, in the squeeze, where he remained for some time. After 15' the rift passage turned a right-angled bend to the l., and after another 15' another corner was reached, to the r., much obstructed with stal. After some lump hammer work this constriction was passed, with difficulty, to a further corner to the l., and a final section of narrow passage c.18' in length, with two more tight squeezes, ending in a choked and calcited cross-joint, with no way on either obvious or accessible.

Exit from the extension, and the rescue of the inverted CC from the initial squeeze, was accomplished with some difficulty. The total length of new passage, estimated, is c.55'.

The source of the trickle of water in Mud Tube Series is uncertain, and no surface survey has been made as yet.



MSG MEETS LIST 1972

- including notes on minor discoveries and previously unrecorded caves.

1-1-72. Grange Gill Cave. P.Holloway, P.F.Ryder.

see elsewhere.

3-1-72. Caygill Scar Caves, Coverdale. C.Carson, P.F.R.

Several small cave entrances had previously been noted in the gorge of Caygill Scar, below West Scafton. One cave, Tom Hunter's Parlour, has been listed by the C.P.C. as 240' long, and this was examined, little apparent prospect of extension. Several other caves were all short, the longest a 'through trip' of 30', all dry.

4-1-72. Bull Bank Cave, Bowes. J.C.Longstaff, P.F.R.

A small cave entrance had been previously noted, in the limestone scar due south of Bowes Castle. 'British Caving' mentions the small caves here - we could only find the one. It proved to be a dry tubular crawl running for 30' to end in a joint a vein 15' high but only a few inches wide.

6-1-72. Warden's Folly Pot and Grange Gill Cave. A.Holmes, D.Rackstraw, P.F.R.

Warden's Folly Pot is a sink on the west side of Fossdale at SD863947, Alt. 1450'. An open rift proved too tight to descend, but a little digging opened an adjacent rift, with 6' and 15' climbs down into a rift chamber with a mud floor and no way on.

8-1-72. Ryhope Caves, Sunderland. C.C., P.H., A.H., P.F.R.

Ryhope Cave (as 50' long) was listed in the first edition of 'P.U.', but not in the second. After considerable local inquiry we ran the cave - in fact three caves, and a fourth which has been walled up - to earth in a railway cutting beside a disused colliery. Magnesian Limestone caves, used as air raid shelters during the last war, quite roomy and dry. A Grade 4 survey was carried out (see elsewhere). The third cave, not shown on the survey, is further west in the cutting, in the north wall, and is a simple passage closing down after 30'.

11-2-72. Grange Gill Cave. P.H., G.Stevens.

See elsewhere.

3-3-72. Hard Level Gill Cave. P.H., G.S.

One passage in February Series, left unexplored - that to the r. beyond Steve's Squeeze (see MSG J1.3) proved to end silted up after 10'.

31-3-72. Elph Clough area. P.H., A.H., P.F.R.

See elsewhere.

3-4-72. Wofell Scar. P.H., P.F.R.

The discovery of Fossdale Beck Cave. See elsewhere.

15-4-72. Wofell Scar. J.D.Cooper, P.H., C.Langthorne, P.F.R., G.S.

19-4-72. Wofell Scar. C.L., P.F.R.

20-4-72. Trough Scars Caves. P.H., M.G.Norton, P.F.R., G.S.

See elsewhere.

22-4-72. Wofell Scar. L.H.Beevers, C.C., P.H., C.L., M.G.N., P.F.R.

21-5-72. Whitfield Gill Cave. C.C., P.H.

This short cave had been first explored by the Yoredale Limestone Group some years previously. Entrance at SD919935 on the east side of the Gill, 50' upstream of a footbridge, in a thin limestone band. Two parallel entrance passages lead to main passage, with small stream, which flows out of south entrance. Main passage 100' long, ending in a 12' wide bedding chamber, passage beyond too low. Mostly crawling, total length c.170'.

2-6-72. Smelthill Beck Cave. P.H., G.S.

See elsewhere

9-6-72. Moking Hurth. P.H., M.G.N., G.S.

See elsewhere.

10-6-72. Whitfield Fell Pots. C.C., P.H., P.F.R.

On Main Limestone plateau above Whitfield Scar, four small pots in area of SD927933, from east to west being (i) Small entrance in corner of shakehole, 30' shaft, 15' down step off ladder into 10' long chamber, lower 15' of shaft extremely tight and not descended. (ii) Further south-west, out onto the plateau, open 15' deep shaft. (iii) Near (ii) but at rear of plateau, large shake taking small stream, 6' drop to wedged block with pitch beyond. (iv) Three shakeholes further north-west from (iii), large

shake taking a stream. Two entrances in base of shake drop into descending rift 25' long, with third entrance in shakehole side entering high in roof. Rift becomes too tight just before head of a further pitch.

16-6-72. Swinnergill Caves. C.Meads, C.Parker, P.F.R., M.Stockwell.
Pottering.

16-6-72. Fossdale Beck Cave. P.H., G.S.
See elsewhere.

7-7-72. West Scafton Pot. P.H., G.S., D.Younger.

Some new passages entered, see report at a later date.

8-7-72. Whitfield Fell and Maze Holes, Wensleydale. P.Johnson, P.F.R.

Whitfield Fell Pot (iii) - wedged boulder removed, 16' pitch descended into a blind rift, downward continuation only 3" wide.

Maze Holes, Litherskew - recently re-opened, SD 899915, description and grid.ref. in 'P.U.' are hopelessly out. A peculiar cave, in Middle Inst., four roomy chambers, some formations, no other passages, length 150', depth 29' - surveyed to Grade 5.

15-7-72. Lancaster Hole. P.H., M.G.N., G.S., D.Y.
Digging.

16-7-72. Easegill Caverns. P.H., G.S., D.Y.
Tripping.

23-7-72. Lyleburn Mine Cave. P.H., G.S.
Inspecting.

26-7-72. Swindalehead Cave. P.F.R., G.S.

Swindalehead Cave II - the small resurgence a few yards upstream of the main cave - proved to end after 45'-50' in minimal airspace. The upstream end of the main cave was probed - main passage becomes too low and choked, passage on the r. just before the stream is re-joined pushed, to connect back to end of canal in area of profuse formations.

29-7-72. Belah Head Caves. C.C., P.J., P.F.R.

Small caves in limestone gorge at the very head of the Belah, just below the confluence of Bleaberry Beck and Potter Sike. Longest 25', one prospect blocked with rotting sheep, all dry. Much digging resulted in entry of PFR into 10' long hole, much more digging to allow extrication.

5-8-72. Little Gill Caves. C.C., S.Halliday, P.F.R.

Pottering. Just north of Little Gill Hole, 10' above the stream, new entrance dug out - narrow crawl and 10' drop into small chamber, crawl into adjacent boulder choked chamber, total length 25'.

15-8-72. High Hurth Edge Pots. P.H., D.R., P.F.R.

Two holes worthy of description found. (i) 'Ramskull Pot' NY 872312 Alt. 1650'. Two entrances, drop into rift chamber ending too tight, length 30', depth 25'. (ii) NY 866316. Alt. 1650'. Near west end of plateau. Small hole in shake drops into low chamber, with two further 12' deep holes in floor, which connect at bottom. Depth 20', length 20'.

16-9-72. Far Green Pots. C.C., P.J., P.F.R., C.Scott.

Several open pots on small limestone plateau to east of road at the summit of Onop Pass, SD 940944, Alt. 1600'. On the plateau is a short row of shakes running north to south. In the northernmost sink/shake depression were three open pots, in the southernmost two, and one (No.iv) midway between. The six pots are as follows, in order from north to south. (i) Small stream sink, open 10' deep pot, narrow fissure drops to head of 18' pitch into blind rift, total depth 38'. (ii) A few feet south of (i) - obvious open 30' shaft, closing to impenetrable fissure. (iii) At south end of shakehole containing (i) and (ii), 17' pitch into choked rift. (iv) Open 25' deep pot, no way on. (v) Narrow rift against west side of southernmost shake, 45' pitch, initially very tight, into small chamber. (vi) A few feet south of (v), circular 4' diameter 25' deep shaft, to choked floor.

22-9-72. Fossdale Beck Cave. J.D.C., P.F.R.
See elsewhere.

24-9-72. Ashberry Windypit. C.C., P.F.R.
See elsewhere. Ashberry I surveyed.

30-9-72. Kisdon Area and Aygill Cave. G.M.Davies, P.F.R.

Two small pots on Kisdon Hill, in the Main Limestone, were descended. Neither appears to fit the description of "Kisdon Pot" in 'P.U.'.

(i) NY 902002. In large shake, with stream sink in mud. Entrance under large fallen slab, 15' fluted shaft to boulder floor. A rift too narrow to enter drops for at least another 25', widening downwards.

(ii) SD 904944. In narrow walled field just north of prominent stile. Obvious entrance in west side of shake, 15' ladder pitch into chamber, further 6' drop into ruckle.

Aygill Cave - NY888003. On south side of Aygill in old quarry above road, 'P.U.' quoted length of 20' a gross underestimate, or misprint. Entrance is a small rising, crawl to 'T'-junction. To r. is narrow dry crawl to base of 12' deep pot, in stream bank upstream of main entrance. To l., upstream, is roomy crawl in mud and water to small chamber, and further crawling, ending too low. Total length c.170'.

West Stonesdale Cave. G.M. & S.Davies, P.F.R.

NY 888020. Entrance 10' above stream on west side of gorge, just south of an impenetrably low rising. Low dry crawl ending in 3' high chamber, length 25'.

13-10-72. Crackpot Cave. R.Evans, M.G.N., D. & P.Stephenson, G.S.

Attempts at digging final choke - no progress.

24-10-72. Moking Hurth. C.C., G.S.

See elsewhere.

11-11-72. Ashberry Windypit. N.Coghlan, J.C.Longstaff, P.F.R. and friends.

See elsewhere. Survey of Ashberry II commenced.

23-11-72. Windegg Mine Caverns. D.Croucher, D.R., G.S., D.Y.

Visit to Pawprint Series, no significant progress, except that a by-pass to Creaking Boulder Cavern was opened up - the r. fork of the passage leading from the central complex towards Eyehole Crawl, previously ending in a boulder choke, was cleared, to provide an alternative, and much safer route into the passages west of Creaking Boulder Cavern.

8-12-72. Kirkdale Cave. G.S., D.Y.

Survey finished, see elsewhere.

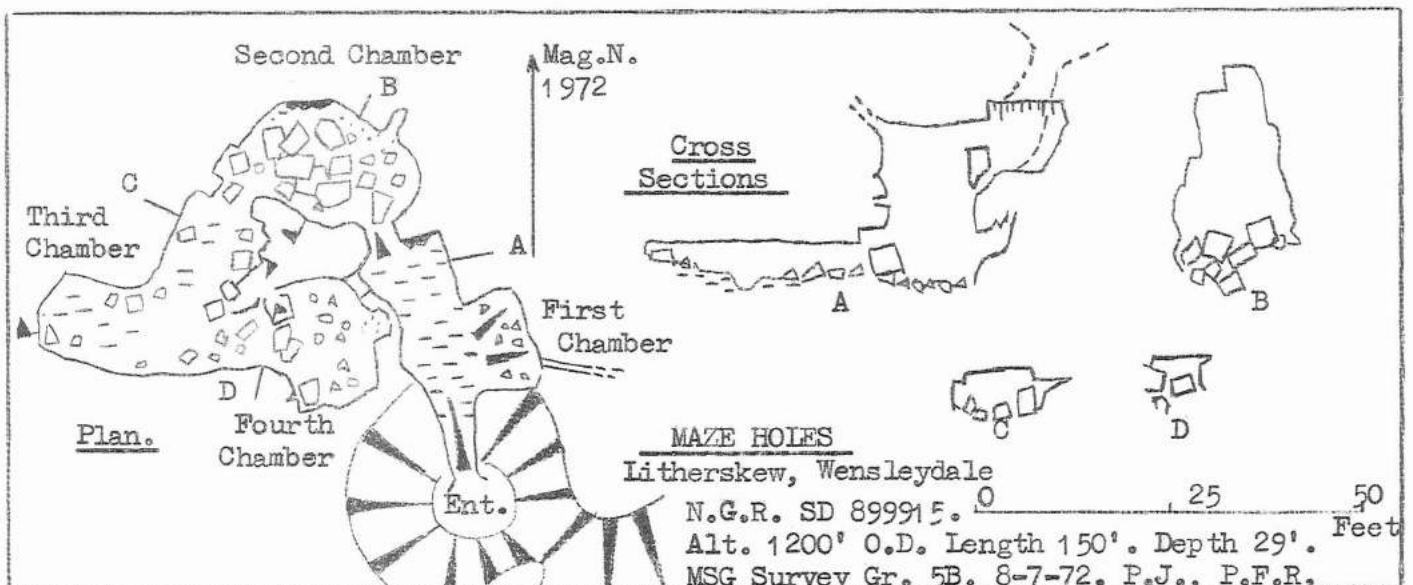
27-12-72. Carperby Area. N.Andrews, M.Mellors, J.Mellors, G.M. & S.D., P.F.R.

Some interesting old mine workings, c. SD 987902 were explored and surveyed. Thackthwaite Cave was visited and explored for some distance, i.e. until the water reached wellington boot depth.

29-12-72. Ashberry Windypit. M.G.N., P.F.R., G.S.

Survey completed.

This list is taken from the MSG log, into which reports of a few trips, and of surface walks and various work carried out by individual members, have failed to find their way.



Some Recent Work in the East Yorkshire Area.

It had originally, with the usual blind optimism, been intended to include in this journal a report, with descriptions, covering all the various caves, windypits, and other natural underground cavities, of the East Yorkshire area - however, quite a number of these have not been visited or surveyed yet, so that that grandiose project has had to give way to a smaller section, with a promise of more to come in future publications. Included here are accounts of various holes, new and old, which MSG members and friends have visited in the course of the past few months.

The "caves" of the East Yorkshire area - the area in question being that over which the Jurassic Corallian Limestone outcrops, a belt perhaps 25 miles long and 3-4 miles wide, along the north side of the Vale of Pickering (from near Scarborough westwards to Helmsley), and an area extending south and west of Helmsley for several miles - fall into two quite separate groups :-

- (i) The "true" limestone caves, i.e. of vadose or phreatic origin, mostly situated around Kirkbymoorside, and generally of rather limited extent (Kirkdale is by far the longest).
- (ii) The windypits - slip features developed along the edges of valleys, which cut through the Corallian limestone and underlying beds. These are sometimes classed, rather misleadingly, as "potholes", although none show any evidence of vadose or phreatic origin, or modification.

The comparatively well known, to archaeologists at any rate, Kirkdale Cave, in an old quarry on the east bank of Hodge Beck, about a mile west of Kirkbymoorside, has been the venue of several MSG "evening trips", led by Graham Stevens. These have resulted in the cave being surveyed, and the following article being written:-

Kirkdale Caves.

Graham Stevens.

Considering the fact that Kirkdale Cave is an archaeological site of such fame, it seems incredible that no accurate survey or description have been published. Perhaps it is because most "bone caves" are little more than rock shelters that Kirkdale Cave, with 570' of passage, has escaped attention.

The main cave is well known to local people, and the amounts of candle wax and route-finding string bear testimony to the numbers of inexperienced visitors who have explored its easy passages. Local legend tells of through trips to Kirkbymoorside, over a mile away.

The caves were discovered by quarrying in 1821. Subsequently 38' of the main cave was quarried away, before the quarry became disused and overgrown with trees and vegetation. A sketch survey of the cave was published in "Cave Hunting" by W. Boyd Dawkins in 1874, along with a presentation of the conclusions of Buckland's archaeological investigations. This old survey is quite accurate in its recorded lengths, but it is incomplete, and further into the cave the directions are in error. More recently a brief description appeared in 'British Caver' Vol. 9 (1942) and a confused version of this appears to have given rise to the erroneous description in "Pennine Underground".

Description.

Proceed 200' up the road east of the ford across Hodge Beck, and enter the overgrown quarry on the l. A path leads to the caves. Cave II (25' long) has its entrance 8' above the path about 30 yds. from the road. Cave I (570') is about 30 yds. further on again, also 8' up.

Just inside the entrance the passage forks and the two routes form a "figure of 8" circuit. The l. route forks again (to the l. ends) and to the r. is another junction where straight on is the midway link with the r. route, and to the l. leads on. At the next junction, r. leads to a choked rift and the r. entrance passage, whilst l. leads to Junction Chamber with three exits. The r. exit is a continuation of the choked rift: the l. exit leads to various fissures and small chambers, eventually choking. The central exit from Junction Chamber leads to another junction, with a long rift on the r. and a way on to the l. Proceeding along this, four short choked passages on the l. are passed and the main passage loops back to emerge from a hole in the floor of the long rift (turn

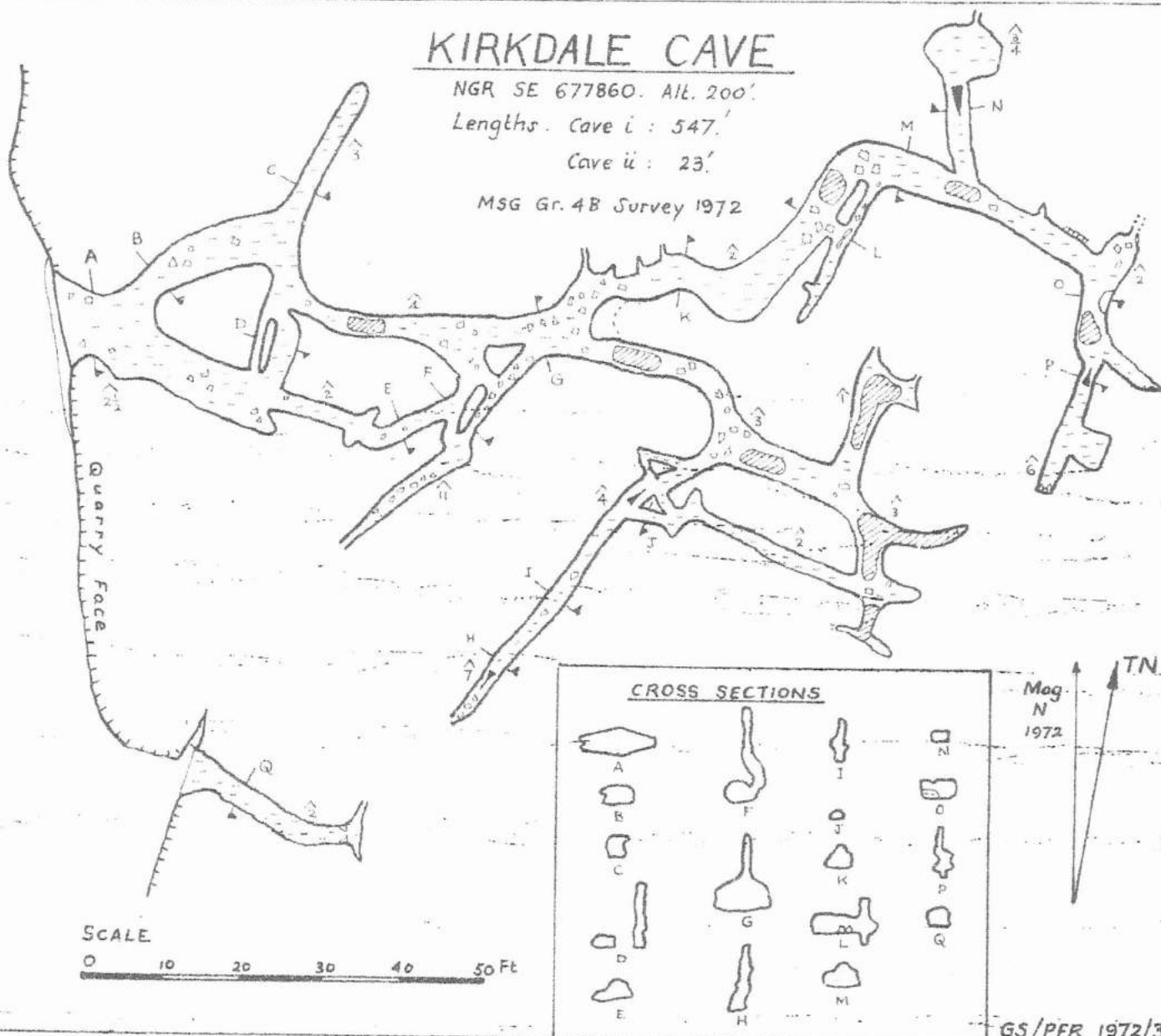
KIRKDALE CAVE

NGR SE 677860. Alt. 200'

Lengths. Cave i : 547'

Cave ii : 23'

MSG Gr. 4B Survey 1972



GS/PFR 1972/3

RYHOPE CAVES, Sunderland

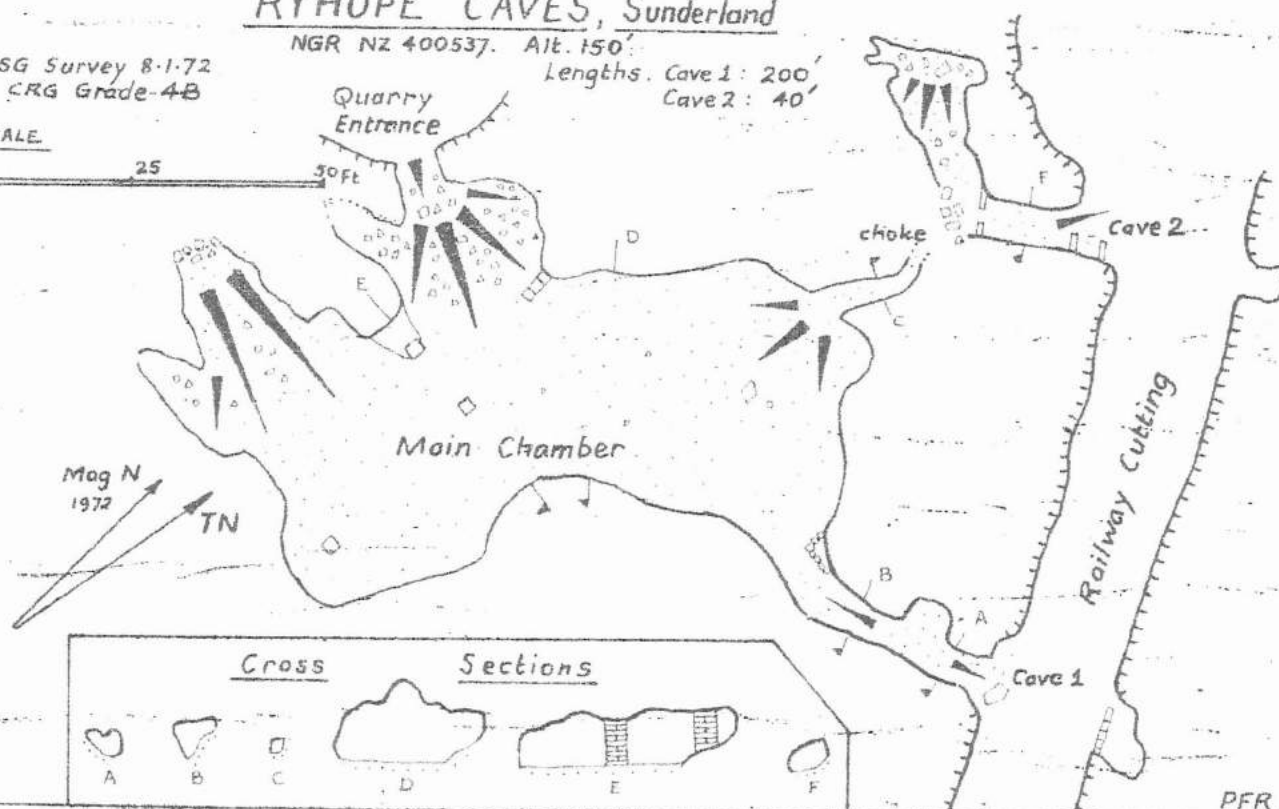
NGR NZ 400537. Alt. 150'

Lengths. Cave 1 : 200'

Cave 2 : 40'

MSG Survey 8-1-72
CRG Grade-4B

SCALE 0 25 50 Ft



PFR 1972

r. for exit).

Most of the passages are of stooping height with muddy pools. The pools have an abundance of cave fauna and the walls of the cave are liberally endowed with large spiders. These latter are as pigmented as surface species and thus appear to be troglomorphic. The cave was fairly thoroughly examined for the legendary route to Kirkbymoorside but no sign was found. In many of the smaller fissures animal prints may be seen, but there are very few signs of any bones in the cave, and it looks as though, through the years, excavators have done a thorough job of collecting.

At the N.E. extremity of the cave, the top 2' of fill was found to consist of a few inches of typical fine grained brown cave mud (glacial mud) which floors most of the cave, on top of a coarse sandy fill that became more consolidated with particles weakly cemented together to give a soft and sandstone-like material. This latter was coloured with red and ochrous yellow streaks. I would venture the theory that this sandy material originated as an impurity in the Corallian Limestone in which the cave is formed. There is little sign of the "red loam" in which the bones were reputedly found.

Two items on the archaeology of Kirkdale Cave have recently appeared in the Yorks. Philos. Soc. Ann. Report 1971, but have not yet come to hand for comment. Ed. note - the bed of Hodge Beck near Kirkdale Cave is normally dry, and grass grown in summer, the stream sinking in its bed at Cat Scar, about a mile and a half upstream, and rising at How Keld Head, about half a mile downstream, just south of the main Kirkbymoorside to Helmsley road. Presumably the cave represents part of a former course of the Beck, long abandoned. (see article 'North of the Vale of Pickering' by S. Hodgson, in MSG Journal 3, 1970).

Two small caves away from the main Kirkbymoorside group have recently been found by members of the Ampleforth College Venture Scout Unit. These are :-

Monks Wood Cave. N.G.R. SE 597711. Alt. 550'.

Monks Wood Cave (named after the wood behind Ampleforth Abbey) was rediscovered by the School Venture Scouts, and surveyed in October 1971. The cave is situated at the base of a cliff, 20' north of a ramshackle hut, in the middle of the wood. The entrance, which may be blocked by leaves, is a low (7½") slide over mud into a bedding plane. After a few feet this opens to about 2' high, and after 20' it is possible to stand. A 3' climb leads into a transverse fissure 20' long, running to the l. At the end of this, and to the l. again, is the Main Chamber, between 2' and 6' high, and 15' to 20' across. Total length of the cave is c.100'.

Occasionally, the cave seems to be inhabited by a pair of bats.

Ampleforth Cave. N.G.R. SE 592791. Alt. 550'.

This grot-hole hardly merits the title of cave. It lies in a quarry on the north side of the road that climbs the bank between Ampleforth and Ampleforth Abbey. The entrance was discovered by the writer and a friend in June 1972 : a slide down over a rock slab leads to the floor of a 12' high fissure. This can be followed for c. 20' (most of it a hands-and-knees crawl) to the l., until it ends in a choke.

Nick Coghlan.

The Windypits.

Some Notes in Introduction.

A good introduction to the windypits, their location, mode of formation, and descriptions of most of the major holes being included, is to be found in an article ("The Ryedale Windypits") by E.P. Fitton and Doreen Mitchell, in 'Cave Science' No. 12 (1950).

The windypits are generally accepted to be features developed as fissures in the Lower Oolitic Limestone and the underlying Lower Calcareous Grit, of the Coralline series, on valley sides, where stress has been imposed by the 'squeezing out' of the Oxford Clay, which underlies the above mentioned beds.

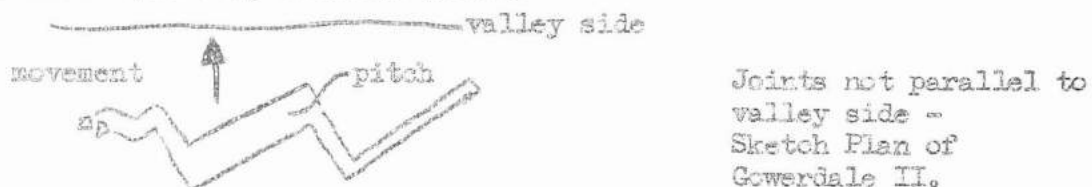
This process has been recognised in several areas, notably the Northamptonshire ironstone field, and termed 'gulling'.

The windypit fissures (the name is derived from the fact that, under certain atmospheric conditions, strong draughts issue from their entrances) generally run more or less parallel with the valley sides, and are found near the tops of the slopes, above the line of maximum gradient.

A few of the windypits are simple more or less vertical fissures, of little horizontal extent (e.g. Gowerdale I), but the majority are more complex than this, most notably Ashberry. This complexity is probably due to the influence of the bedding and joints in the strata in which the holes are formed. The 'stepped' nature of most of the fissures evidences bedding plane control (this is similarly seen in Whitcliffe Scar Caves, near Richmond, which are caves and fissures formed by similar slipping in the Carboniferous Main Limestone). Joint control is evidenced by the right-angled corners in some fissures, and also by the manner in which some passages suddenly end in a blank wall (see sketches).



If the suite of joints which has controlled the opening of the fissures is not parallel to the valley side, a system of zig-zag plan results (see Gowerdale II). Differing rift widths suggest that master joints are frequent and cause large blocks to move independantly and to different degrees. The Gowerdale I joint is probably a master joint.



Ashberry Windypit, described below, is probably that with the greatest "horizontal" length of passage - 1,050'. Two of the other holes, Buckland's Deer Park (or Helmsley) Windypit, and Antofts Windypit, are of considerable extent, and both are deeper than Ashberry. Both have been explored for some distance further than the "Cave Science" article indicates, most notably Antofts, where in 1955 a party from Ampleforth School forced their way through a rubbish choke which had previously blocked the hole 30' down, and found an extensive series of fissures, some containing important archaeological remains. Neither of these windypits have been surveyed recently. Helmsley Windypit is probably about 150' deep, with over 300' of passage. Antofts has been variously estimated at between 150' and 220' in depth, with several hundred feet of passage.

The other windypits and fissures not included in the following series of descriptions comprise Snip Gill Hole c. 120' deep but of no great horizontal extent, Noddle End Hole, 77'-deep and c.200' long, and various small fissures in Peak Scar (including the 100' long Murton Cave) and around Sutton Bank.

G.M.Davies & P.F.Ryder.

Ashberry Windypit.

Ashberry Windypit consists of two more or less separate series of rifts and fissures, with separate entrances, but connected, about 20' below ground level, by a very narrow rift. Ashberry I, the deeper series, has been known for many years, and is described in the 'Cave Science' article. Ashberry II, with a smaller entrance 30' south of the gaping crater of Ashberry I, was long thought to consist of a single chamber only, with its narrow connection with Ashberry I. However, in 1971, a local archaeological society, digging in this chamber, broke through into a further series of passages and chambers of considerable extent.

Location.

Ashberry Windypit is situated in woodland on the east side of Ashberry Hill, on gently sloping ground about 40' below the crest of the hillside overlooking Rievaulx Abbey.

Description.

Due to their complexity, written descriptions of windypits tend to be inordinately long, and not very illuminating, and surveys of them provide their unravellers with absorbing mental puzzles. The survey of Ashberry here reproduced shows the plan divided into three, the passages and chambers being conveniently divided into three different levels (although there are no such distinct separate levels in actuality - the division is quite arbitrary, merely for the purposes of the clarity of the survey). A fairly brief written description of the main routes in the system, to be used in conjunction with the survey, is given here.

Ashberry I. Length 360', Depth 92'.

The entrance crater of Ashberry I is easily scrambled down, no tackle being required, into a chamber, from which a descending rift, below a small stone wall built by archaeologists, leads downwards. To the r. is a second chamber, also showing evidence of attention from archaeologists. In the roof of the main descending rift (point 'A' on survey) is the tight connection with Ashberry II. The main route spirals down, with various short branches, to the head of a 30' pitch into the Main Rift. Turning l. before the head of the pitch, and l. again through a small hole into a little chamber ('B' on survey) leads to a 15' climb with (in 1972) a fixed handline - Dowson's Route - into the south end of the Main Rift.

The Main Rift is 4' wide and 30' high, running north past the foot of the 30' pitch, to a climb up muddy boulders into a high chamber with some moonmilk on the walls. A short crawl and an 18' climb down lead to a further short section of the Main Rift, closing down to the north and choked to the south.

At the south end of the Main Rift, a low passage at floor level continues south for c.40', ending in a choke a few feet short of Ammonite Rift in Ashberry II. A narrow rift in the floor of this passage drops a further 10', the deepest point in the system.

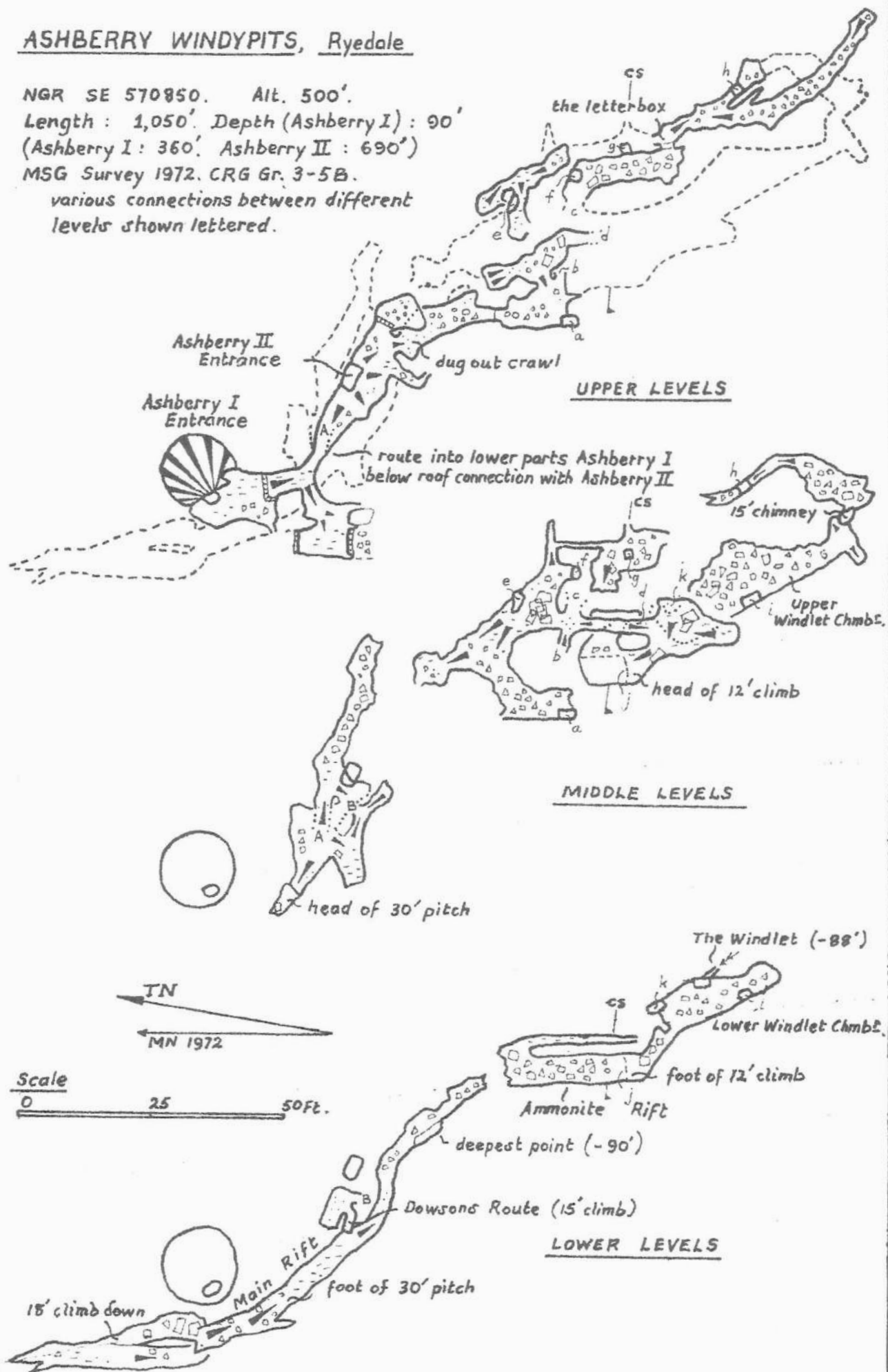
Ashberry II. Length 690', Depth 88'.

The small entrance drops 12' into a roomy chamber - tackle is not essential, but a handline or short ladder can be used. To the north is the narrow fissure connecting with Ashberry I, to the south a slot at the foot of the chamber wall, draughting strongly, leading into the 'new series'.

This slot drops into a low bedding, which opens into a roomier crawl, to a 4' drop down into a low bouldery chamber with three ways on. Straight ahead is a hole in the floor ('a' on survey), and to the l. a descending passage ('b') divided into two horizontally by a rock bridge, with above its entrance an opening in the roof leading up into a rather larger chamber, with one other route out, a descending rift ('d'). Descending hole 'a', one enters a low chamber directly below that which one has just left, with a route on through boulder ruckle into a larger chamber with an obvious 'aven' in the roof ('e'). At the top of this, an easy 15' climb, are some short muddy passages which soon end. The chamber at 'e' can also be reached by following the passage 'b' from the point at which the routes divide, and turning l. at the first junction. Straight ahead at this junction opens into a roomy chamber running to the r.

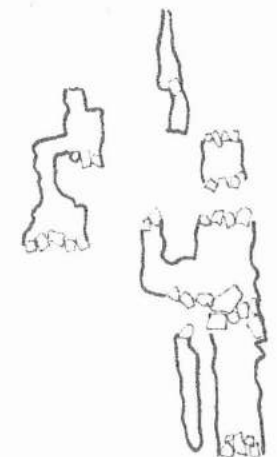
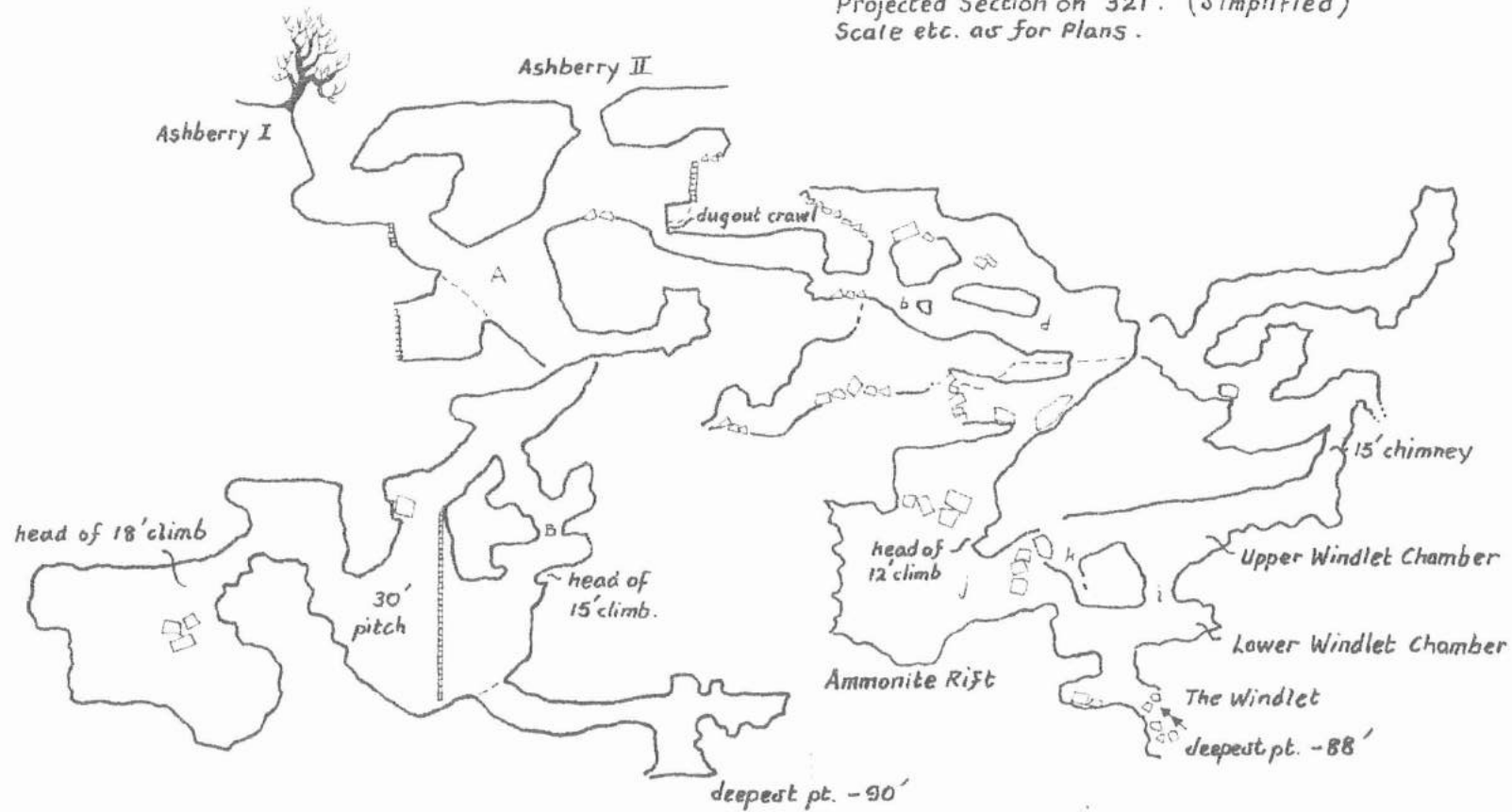
ASHBERRY WINDYPITS, Ryedale

NGR SE 570850. Alt. 500'.
 Length : 1,050'. Depth (Ashberry I) : 90'
 (Ashberry I : 360'. Ashberry II : 690')
 MSG Survey 1972. CRG Gr. 3-5B.
 various connections between different
 levels shown lettered.



ASHBERRY WINDYPITS, Ryedale

Projected Section on 321°. (Simplified)
Scale etc. as for Plans.



Cross Section CS
Ashberry II

(entered at 'c' on survey). To the l. a hole down through boulders ('f') leads back to chamber 'e' through boulder ruckle. Turning r. through the chamber, and passing a hole ('g') on the l. dropping into a blind chamber below the floor of that which one is in, one comes to a distinctive 'letter-box' opening on the l., into a parallel rift. Turning l. here - very tight - drops into the low level chamber again, turning r. leads to a fork, with a low level route to the l. and a high level passage to the r. The high level route runs for 30' or so to an ascending choke, the low level route leads, via a 6' deep hole in the floor, to a small low chamber, somewhat unstable, with a very narrow 15' deep chimney dropping into Upper Windlet Chamber.

Returning to the 4-way junction between 'b' and 'c' on the survey (drawing of Middle Levels), turning r. leads into a rift passage, with the passage 'd' from the first high level chamber entering in the roof. After 20' the rift passage opens into a roomy chamber, the way on being down one of the various holes in the floor, and then on down a mud slope to arrive on a boulder bridge wedged across a section of large rift, c.15' above the floor. A rather tricky climb ('j'), with some danger from loose rocks, gains the floor of the rift chamber, Ammonite Rift, named from a prominent fossil in the west wall, c.5' above floor level.

Northwards, Ammonite Rift ends in a boulder choke very near the end of the low passage which forms a southward continuation of the Main Rift in Ashberry I, with on the r., just before the choke, an opening into a parallel rift running back southwards for 18' to a choke. The main way on is southwards from the foot of the climb, a route through boulders leading into Lower Windlet Chamber, with on its east side a narrow rift descending for a few feet to become too tight and choked, from which issues a very strong draught - a sort of wind inlet, or windlet, from which the chamber is named. Two routes from Lower Windlet Chamber - 'i' and 'k' - lead up into the more roomy Upper Windlet Chamber, sloping up southwards to the foot of the narrow 15' chimney connecting with the low level passage beyond the 'letter-box' in the series above.

The total surveyed length of Ashberry Windypit is now 1,050' - a figure which will come as a surprise to those who think of windypits as mere simple slip fissures. As yet, none of the other well known windypits have been surveyed accurately, but it does seem that there is much more "horizontal" passage in Ashberry than in most. The length quoted above does include some "sloping" legs, since most of the passages are inclined to some extent, which would make the quoting of a length corrected to the horizontal, somewhat misleading.

Ashberry Windypit appears to consist of one main slip fissure, in plan describing two gentle zig-zags. This is best seen in looking at the plan of the Lower Levels - the north part of the Main Rift in Ashberry I runs pretty well north-south. The central part of the Rift, and its low southern extension, run north-west to south-east, and then comes Ammonite Rift, the "Main Rift" of Ashberry II, again running north to south, to be followed by Lower Windlet Chamber returning to the north-west to south-east alignment. The slipping that has taken place in the formation of the system appears to have been not quite at right angles to the joints or pre-existing fissures in the rock, and thus a zig-zag plan has resulted (see notes by G.M.D., and his description of Gowerdale II). This same pattern of slipping is also seen in the more complex higher levels, with individual blocks of hillside moving in various directions, not necessarily parallel to those above and below, between different bedding planes. In parts of Ashberry II (see cross-section) there appear to be two more or less parallel rifts running alongside each other. In parts of the system the passage and chamber walls are covered by deposits of moonmilk, up to 2" in thickness. It has been suggested, by Graham Stevens, that the development of this deposit, requiring the action of organic agencies, might contribute to the general rotting of the limestone, and cause enlargement of the cavities, to some degree.

P.F.Ryder.

Gowardale Windypits and Motts Hole.

Some confusion has surrounded these windypits in the past and although their 'P.U.' descriptions are inaccurate the numbering used in that book is followed. The holes are in the vicinity of N.G.R. SE 518889 and are reached along a track from the bend in the Peak Scar Gill road. Where the track emerges into an open field the wall is followed to the left, and the first cross wall to the right then reaches the side of Gowardale. No. I pit is in the next field to the west, about 50 yds. south-west of the wall corner.

A hole covered by timbers in the middle of the field is the entrance to this deep rift, and there are no belays for the ladder. After overcoming this problem the descent is hardly worthwhile, and 100' of ladder will reach the bottom. The first 70' or so is a straight descent obstructed by occasional boulder bridges against which the ladder hangs, rather disconcertingly, and a landing is made on a dead sheep. A short slope leads to a further pitch over an oil drum and assorted rubbish to the bottom - an off-putting dead sheep choke. Both ends of the rift end against blank walls.

No. II is a much more friendly hole and is on the edge of Gowardale 50 yds. east of the wall corner, within a decrepit wire fence. Again, no belay is available for belaying the 75' ladder. The open entrance hole descends to an earth and rubbish slope ending at a small hole about 20' down. Below this point the pitch continues down one end of a pleasant chamber 8' wide and 30' long and high with light coloured walls decorated by small calcite flows. The landing is rather smelly due to the proximity of a dead goose. To the right of the ladder a descending fissure can be followed around a sharp bend to the point where it pinches out. Close to the pitch is a hole down which the remainder of the ladder is fed to reach the bottom - an earth and rubbish slope leading down to a high fissure passage ending in a solid collapse. At the far end of the fissure a traverse 25' above the floor of the fissure gains a rift which chokes after a few bends to give the hole a total length of 120' and depth of 90'.

Back on the surface, Motts Hole can be found 50 yds. east of no. II, and 20 yds. down the valley side, where an obvious hole is located under a dead silver birch tree. The entrance is an easy climb, and from it a wide rift descends eastwards and narrows to a descent through boulders. The way on is a crawl over a sandy col and down a steep slope to the deepest point, some 60' below the entrance. The rift closes to a narrow fissure here, and late in 1972 the continuation was pushed by the members of A.C.V.S.U. to a definite end, doubling the length of the hole to 150'.

Eppy Head Holes.

On the brow of the steep forested hillside opposite the ruins of Combe Hill Cottage just above the top of a plantation lie these two small holes, at about N.G.R. SE 520900. No. I is the more obvious and is the hole first explored by the BSA in 1949. It commences as an open pot-like rift graced by a dead sheep and a walk down reaches the bottom, a full 8' below ground level. To the right a crawl chokes almost immediately, whilst to the left a fissure descends to a small chamber with no way on - the "unexplored 4' wide rift" of the original explorers. The hole is 20' long and 15' deep.

Some 55 yds. away to the north west, at a slightly higher level, is no. II, a small hole covered by timbers. In one direction a roomy passage chokes, and in the other a narrow fissure becomes too tight.

(Ed. note - Motts Hole is described, with survey, in the Bradford Pothole Club 'Bulletin' Vol. 3 No. 9. - Autumn 1962).

G.M.Davies.

Blood Windypit.

Discovery and Exploration.

Josh Hartley and myself made our first visit to Shallowdale in October 1972. There were no known windypits in this remote valley (which runs north - south just above the village of Wass), and we were only acting on third-hand information and vague stories of a chamber "big enough to drive a horse and cart around in". However, we paid a visit on the farmer, who gave us equally vague directions, and duly began prospecting on the western side of the valley. Half an hours lifting rocks, prodding in the undergrowth and dropping stones down likely cracks brought its reward as, down a tiny hole, we heard a stone drop at least 20'. Time was against us that afternoon though, and we had no lights anyway.

Next day, we returned with lights, a rope and a ladder, and in ten minutes opened a hole big enough to get down without dislodging more than half a ton of rubble! An awkward climb led down, as we had thought, for about 20' into a chamber, about 12' high and 10' across. A number of crawls lead off, and one climb and traverse. Our lights (one Oldham side beam and one leaky carbide) were already dim, however, and when the carbide expired and the Oldham began to flicker ominously, we beat a hasty retreat after an only cursory investigation.

The following day, again, four of us (my exam. studies were by now beginning to suffer, boarded our transport (three bicycles) and made the twenty minute trip to Blood Windypit, as we had now named this still insignificant hole on account of the copious amount of blood that had been spattered over the entrance in the course of our duty to speleology. Before going in, we had a quick look round on the surface, and, as we were going over to the entrance, lifted up a large rock. Although choked with rocks, here was a potholer's dream, a well defined hole in the grass, draughting strongly. After we had dug for a while, the hole was opened up, and Nick Higgins was the first in. Twenty anxious minutes later he appeared 30' away, out of the original hole, much to our surprise.

Over the next few days, a proper blitz took place, eleven visits being made, one at the dead of night, and a couple of surveying trips. The depth we found to be 60', and the length of passage surveyed 200', most of it low and unstable. However, we estimate that there is at least another 200' to be surveyed, and a great deal of places remain to be 'pushed'. With the preliminary survey finished by mid-November, though, we pulled off the windypit-survey coup of the century: by working out the heights underground and on the surface we deduced that the roof of one of the bigger chambers must be virtually on the surface. We duly dug around for a while, and broke through in the right place, this giving us a 20' ladder pitch, and the only triple-entrance windypit !

Description.

The west entrance to Blood Windypit (i.e. the first entrance discovered) lies amongst boulders in a hollow, at the top of the western side of Shallowdale (N.G.R. SE 566799). (From the farm, follow the line of telegraph poles up the hill and then turn right for about 50 yds.). The east entrance (the second one discovered) lies 32' away, in a grassy patch, to the north-east. The third entrance (the last one discovered) lies, in turn, 20' east of the east entrance, in the side of the hill. The latter two entrances are covered by branches and rocks so that the cattle which roam the hillside do not fall in.

For the west entrance, a 60' rope, belayed to the large oak tree 25' away, is advisable. A 20' climb down leads to the first chamber. From here, a climb and traverse up to the right leads into the main passage, at the other end of which is the east entrance. To the left, however, a squeeze leads to a rock bridge over the Main Chamber, 13' below. Care should be taken, on the climb down, not to use the bridge as a hold. From the Main Chamber, a crawl leads to a junction, with a letter-box going down to the left, and a fissure off to the right. A climb down the letter-box, which is often difficult on the way out for large people, leads eventually to the Bottom Fissure, 60' below ground (we've done a great deal of digging here, but only with the result of breaking the prongs of two crowbars,

and bringing much of the roof down?. The right hand fissure leads into the Extension Series and Dave Criddle Chamber, into which the third entrance drops (this area has not been thoroughly 'pushed').

Back in the Main Passage, a crawl off to the right leads, via Bone Chamber, back to the west entrance, and two descents off to the left lead down into the Main Chamber.

From the east entrance, a crawl down over a rock bridge leads into a chamber, with the Main Passage coming in up a sloping crawl. No rope is necessary.

The third entrance is not recommended for large or clumsy people, as it is tight and unstable. A 40' belay and 20' ladder are needed, and a lifeline is advised in view of the number of unstable rocks.

The Survey.

Despite the bizarre collection of instruments that were used in the survey, it is not quite as inaccurate as it looks (the author goes so far as to claim grade 4). In relation to the west entrance (which was used as the base), the east entrance was 2' out lineally, and the same distance vertically (checked by surface survey). The third entrance was 5' out lineally, and dead right vertically.

General.

Blood seems to be of a different character to the other windypits. Firstly, it has an upper series very close to the surface (hence the three entrances) which is everywhere very unstable, sharp, and awkward. Then, below the letter-box, the fissure is completely typical - it is almost as if the higher levels have been twisted and shaken about, leaving the lower levels as a contrast.

It is perhaps significant that the upper "fault line", i.e. the alignment of the upper levels, runs roughly at right-angles to the valley, whilst the Bottom Fissure, in more usual windypit fashion, runs parallel to the valley side.

The hole is also interesting, of course, in that it is a long way from the other "accepted" windypit areas of Gowerdale and Ryedale.

Nick Coghlan.

M.S.G. Publications

The following back numbers are available from :

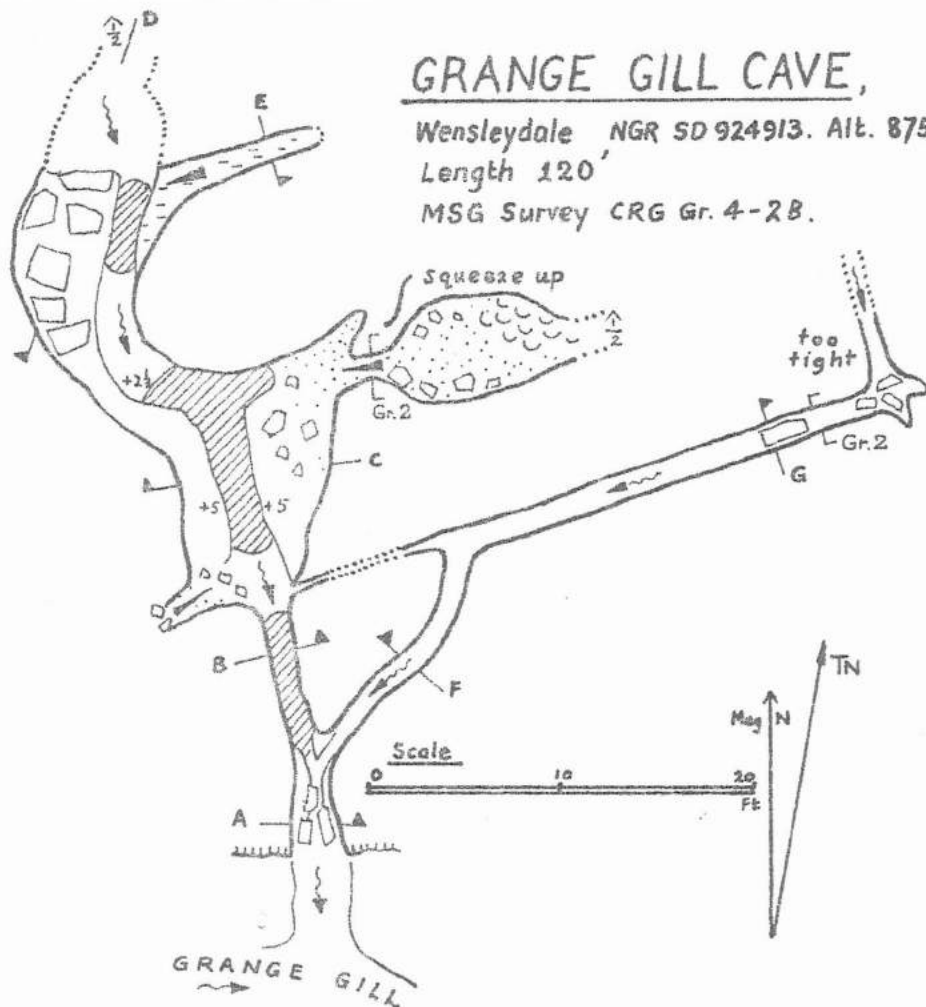
Dr. G. Stevens, 4 Kingston Avenue, Acklam, Middlesborough, Teesside TS5 7RS.
Major items of contents are shown - (S) indicates that a survey is included.

Journal 4. (May 1971). (Quarto, 38 pp. + 7 pp. surveys : 30 p. post included)

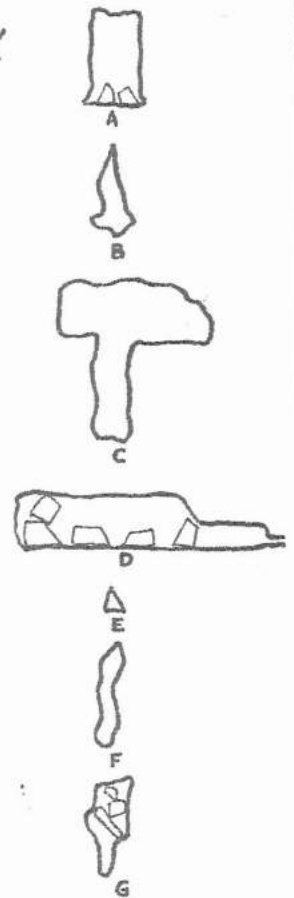
Moking Hurth and Moking Pot, Teesdale (S); Eller Beck Head Cave, Bowes; Faggergill 1970; Faggergill New Level Mine Cave (S); Smarber Beck Head Cave, Swaledale (S); Keldheads Cave, Wensleydale (S); Windegg Mine Caverns, Arkengarthdale; Meets Reports 1970 (S); Deepest Pothole in Australia; Bluebell Wood Cave, Newton Aycliffe (S); Kisdon Cave, Swaledale (S); Hydrological Systems in the Northern Dales.

Journal 5. (June 1972). (A4, 30 pp. + 13 pp. surveys and insert survey, 47 p. post included)

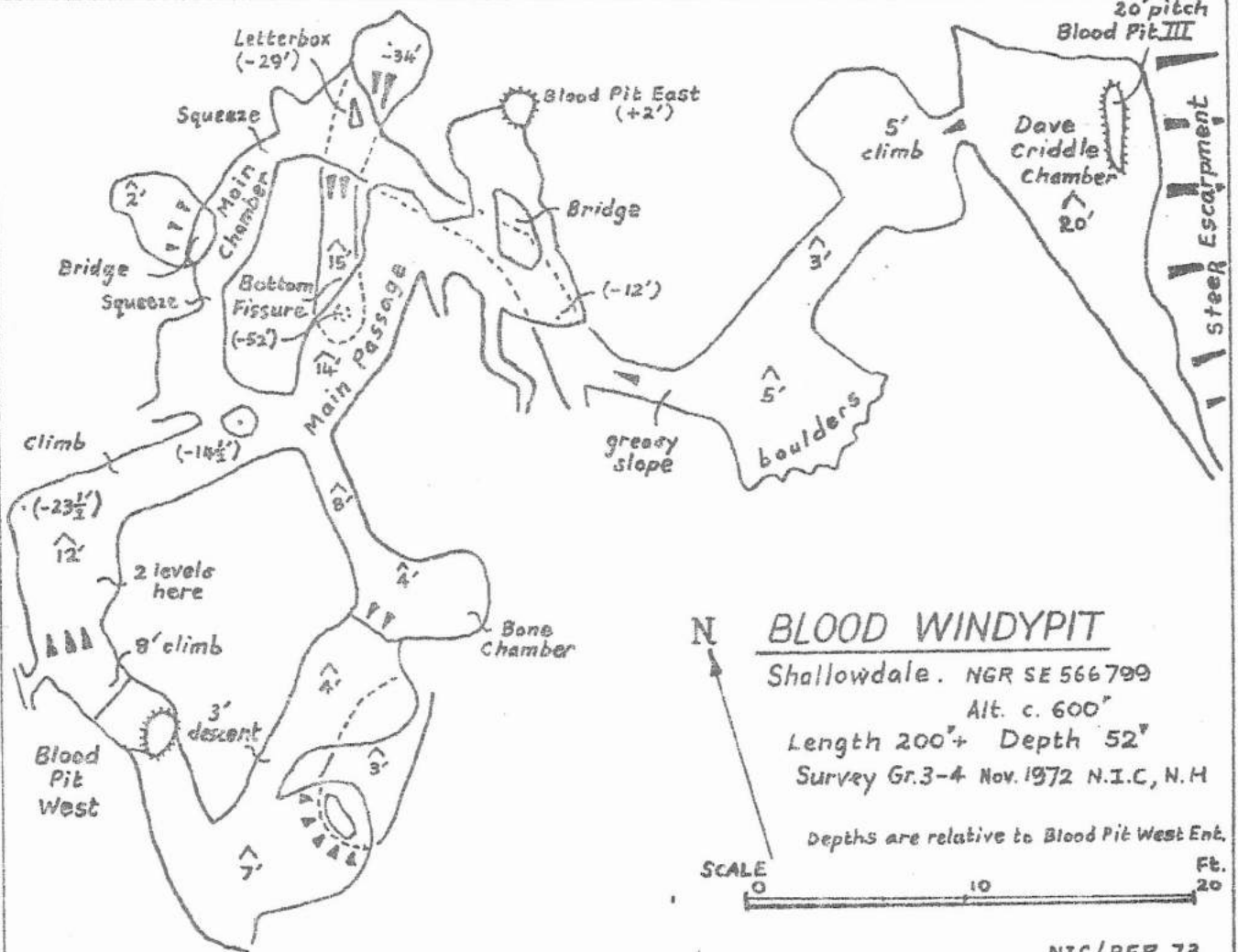
Eller Beck Head Cave, Bowes (S); Elpha Green Caves, Allendale (S); Eweleap West Cave and Foxglove Pot, Swaledale (S); Fadmoor Caves, E. Yorks (S); God's Bridge River Cave, Bowes; Jack Scar Cave, Teesdale (S); Lovergill Caves, Thwaite (S); Priorsdale Cave, Alston (S); Windmore End Cave, Brough (S); Windegg Mine Caverns, Arkengarthdale (S); Caves of the Allt nan Leac Valley, Isle of Skye (+ 1 map and 5 surveys); Meets Reports 1971; Khazad-dum, the Australian depth record 1971; Lead levels in Gunnerside Gill, Swaledale (S)



CROSS SECTIONS



GS/PFR 73



NIC/PFR 73

Journals 1, 2 & 3

- are now out of print, but are available for photocopying, by arrangement.

Surveys.

- Smeltmill Beck Cave (length 6000') 35"x 25"
lithoprint at 50' : 1" Gr. 4/5C. (20 p. post included).
- Ayleburn Mine Cave, Alston, Cumberland (length 1 mile).
40" x 20" , dyeline, at 100' : 1" Gr. 4/5C. (25 p. post included).
- Windegg Mine Caverns, Arkengarthdale, Yorks (4000')
18" x 14" lithoprint at 32' : 1". Gr. 4C (as issued
with Journal 5). Survey only - (12½ p. post included).

In addition loose copies of some of the surveys previously published in the journals are available @ 2p. each. Include 4 p. postage, regardless of number ordered.

- Hard Level Gill Cave, Swaledale (ex. J. 3)
- Lynkirk Cave, Weardale, and East Gill Cave I, Swaledale (ex. J.3)
- Moking Hurth System, Teesdale (ex. J.4)
- Faggergill New Level Mine Cave, Arkengarthdale (ex. J.4)
- Blind Gill Level, Swaledale (ex. J.5).
- Skye Cave Surveys ex. J.5
 - The Allt nan Leac Valley (map).
 - Beinn an Dubhaich Cave.
 - Camus Malag Cave.
 - Uamh cinn Ghlinn and Claon Uamh.
 - Uamh Sgeinne.

Any cavers living in the County Durham / Teesside area, who have an interest in other than purely sporting speleological activities (prospecting for new caves, digging, surveying, research projects) are welcome to contact M.S.G., which is run as a more-or-less informal "group" rather than a fully organised caving club. Meets are generally in the Northern Dales (i.e. Wensleydale and further north) area, and other areas away from the main centres of speleological activity, mainly (at the time of writing) on Thursday or Friday nights during most of the year, and at weekends during the summer, and around Christmas and Easter.

Interested persons should contact the Hon. Sec., Dr. G. Stevens (address above) or P.F. Ryder (Research Sec.), c/o 73 Abbey Road, Darlington, Co. Durham.

