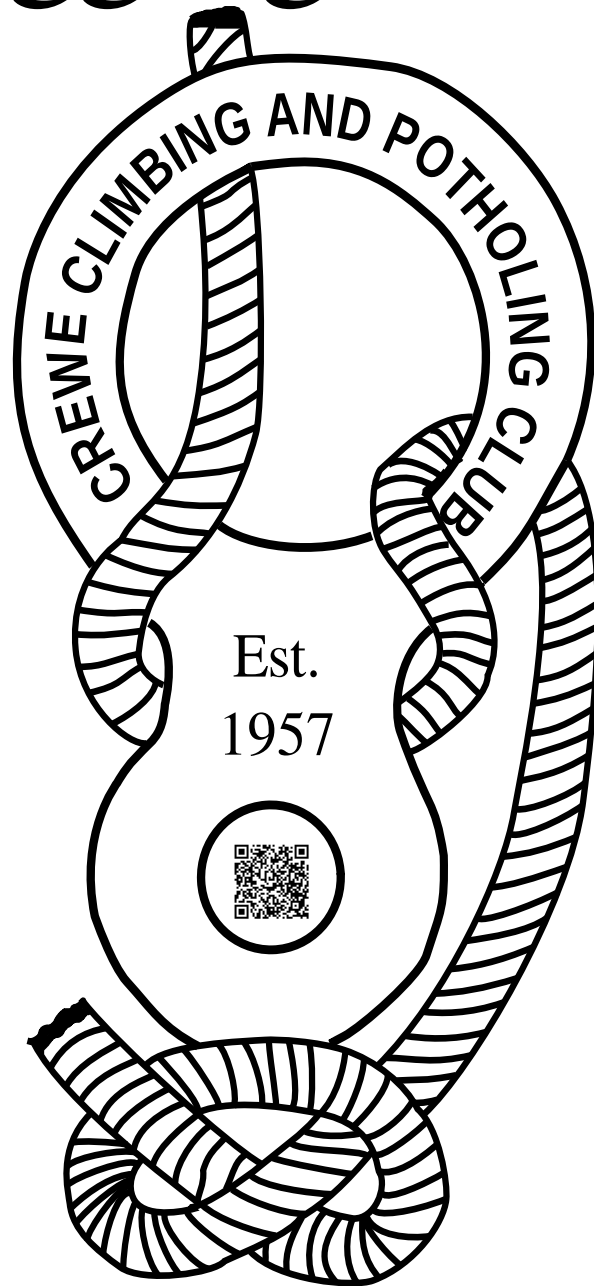



Peak District Rigging Guide



Edition 18.0
Crewe Climbing
& Potholing Club

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Introduction

Welcome to the Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club's Peak District Rigging Guide. The aim of the guide is to cover the worthwhile SRT trips in the Peak District. The guide was first produced in 1994 and has been through many editions since. In 2012, Edition 11 was the last version produced purely as a paper guide book, to be sold in caving shops. In 2020 the guide moved on-line, free to view and download for personal, club and professional use. Our only restriction is that guides downloaded may not be sold. Copyright remains with Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club.

Going on-line allows us to update the guide more easily and gives the caving community the most up to date topos. For updates, check the rigging guide web page. Updated pages can be substituted in your paper copy. <https://www.ccpc.org.uk/rigging.html>.

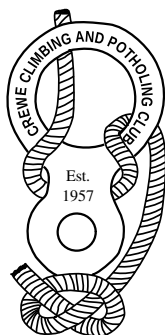
The provision of a rigging topo, or other rigging details does not mean that access to the cave is allowed, or safe. Check on the Derbyshire Caving Association's (DCA) Peak District Caving web site for the latest access information (<https://www.peakdistrictcaving.info>). Peak District Caving also gives the entrance location and often an entrance photograph and other useful information. A QR Code is included with each rigging topo. Scanning the code with a smart phone will take you to the appropriate Peak District Caving page.

Guide books, especially the DCA's Caves of the Peak District (2010) should give you the rest of the information required for a successful trip. The rigging guide is divided in to regions, based on geographical watersheds and then alphabetically by cave, in the same way as the Peak District Caving web site and Caves of the Peak District to allow easy cross referencing.

Thanks must go to all the members of the caving community who have helped with the bolting programme, subsequent maintenance and the production of this guide.

Happy Caving!

Jenny Drake. February 2020 (Minor correction July 2021)



Safety

Caving is a potentially dangerous activity. You must be aware of and accept the risks involved. You are responsible for your own actions and for your own and your companions safety.

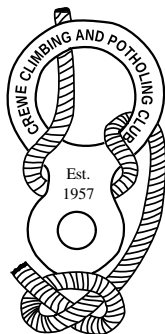
If you are unsure about SRT, or safe rigging methods then we recommend joining a reputable club, or attending a training course. These rigging guides are provided for the use of experienced cavers only. The provision of a guide does not mean that the route is safe and the caver must use her, or his own judgment when rigging and descending the cave. Weather conditions, deterioration of the anchors, loose rock, the cavers skill level, fitness and many other factors can affect the safety of the route.

All belays should be inspected and assessed for suitability prior to use. No anchor can be considered totally safe and it would be unwise to trust your life to a single anchor. Adequate back-ups are available. This includes natural rock features and trees. Ash die back disease is prevalent in the Peak District and can make afflicted ash trees dangerously weak. Guidance on inspecting stainless steel resin fixed anchors and their surrounding rock can be found on the British Caving Association web site <https://british-caving.org.uk/our-work/safety/> and you should familiarise yourself with this. Several groups install resin anchors in the Peak District. Any problems with an anchor should be reported to the Derbyshire Caving Association <https://thedca.org.uk/>. If it is not one of their anchors, they may be able to direct you to a more appropriate person. In the Peak/Speedwell system, they should be reported to the Peak Cavern Keyholders <https://www.peakspeedwell.info/>.


Fixed ropes should be treated with the greatest of caution. Especially those heading upwards, where the upper anchors and rope condition cannot be checked before trusting your life to them. A few have been installed by DCA and the Peak Cavern Keyholders and have a regular inspection and replacement schedule. Some have been adopted by caving clubs, but others will have received no care after installation.

Pitch Lengths are for guidance only. Rope lengths may need to be increased depending on your rigging techniques. Err on the side of caution; are your ropes long enough? Have you tied a knot in the end?

We've made our best efforts to make this guide as accurate as we can. CCPC can accept no responsibility for any errors, or omissions in the guide. If you find any errors, or wish to make any suggestions, then please let us know. There is a feedback form on the rigging guide web site.



Key

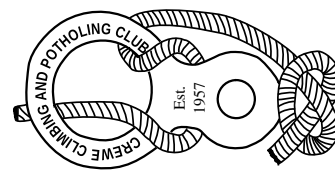
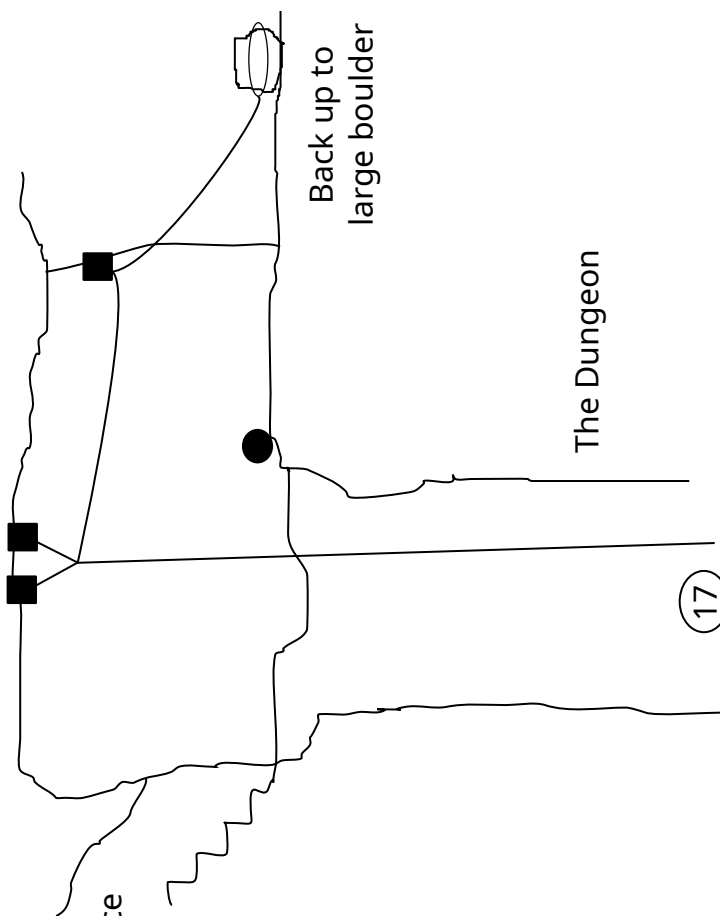
Pitch depth (metres)	9
Descent distance to deviation (m)	-3
Rope length (m)	7
Rope length for entire route (m)	42
Thread belay. Natural, or drilled	○ D ○
Scaffold bar belay	◡
8mm spit, rawl bolt etc	●
Stainless steel permanent anchor IC, Eco, BP, DMM, goujon, P38, Fixe etc. Spike, or flake	■
Deviation	△
Fixed ladder	◡
Pull through, or Pull Up	■ ■ ○
Fixed rope	ⓕ
Belay stake	⌋
Tree belay	🌳
QR Code link to Peak District Caving	
Derbyshire key required	🔧
Access key, or code required	🔑
Flowing water (normal conditions)	🌊

Bagshawe Cavern

Bradwell



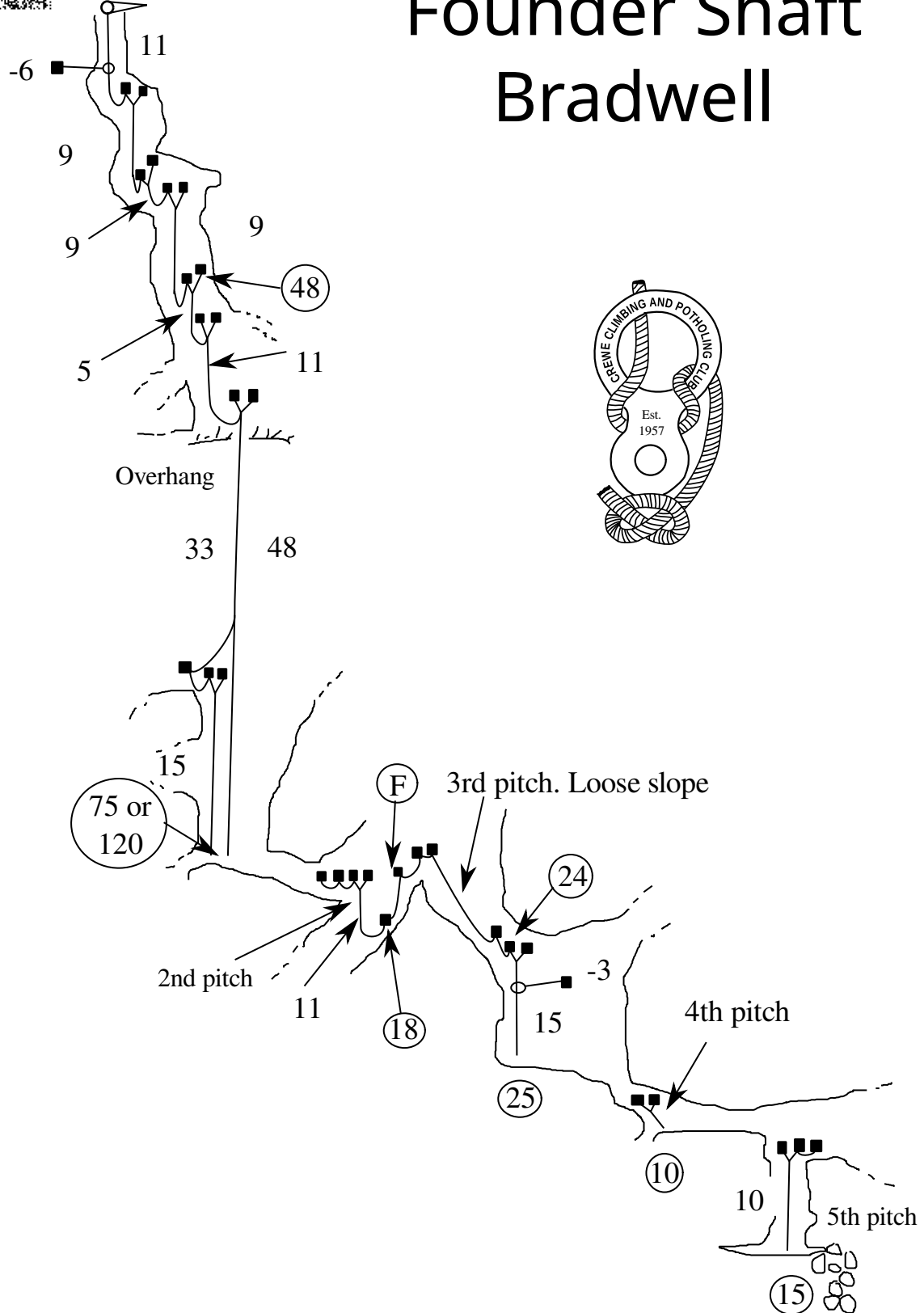
To Entrance



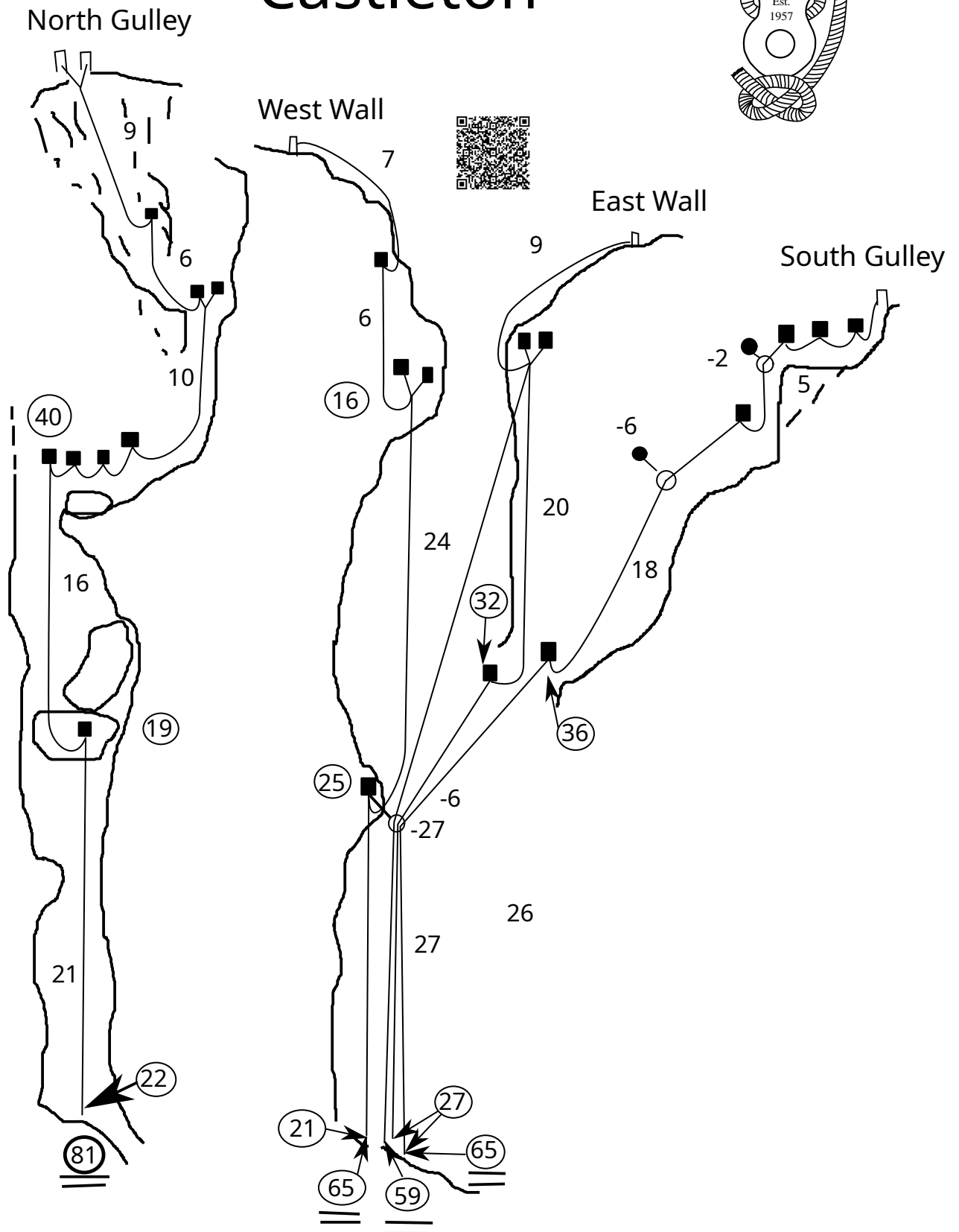
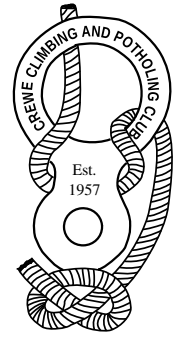
Long Rake Founder Shaft Bradwell



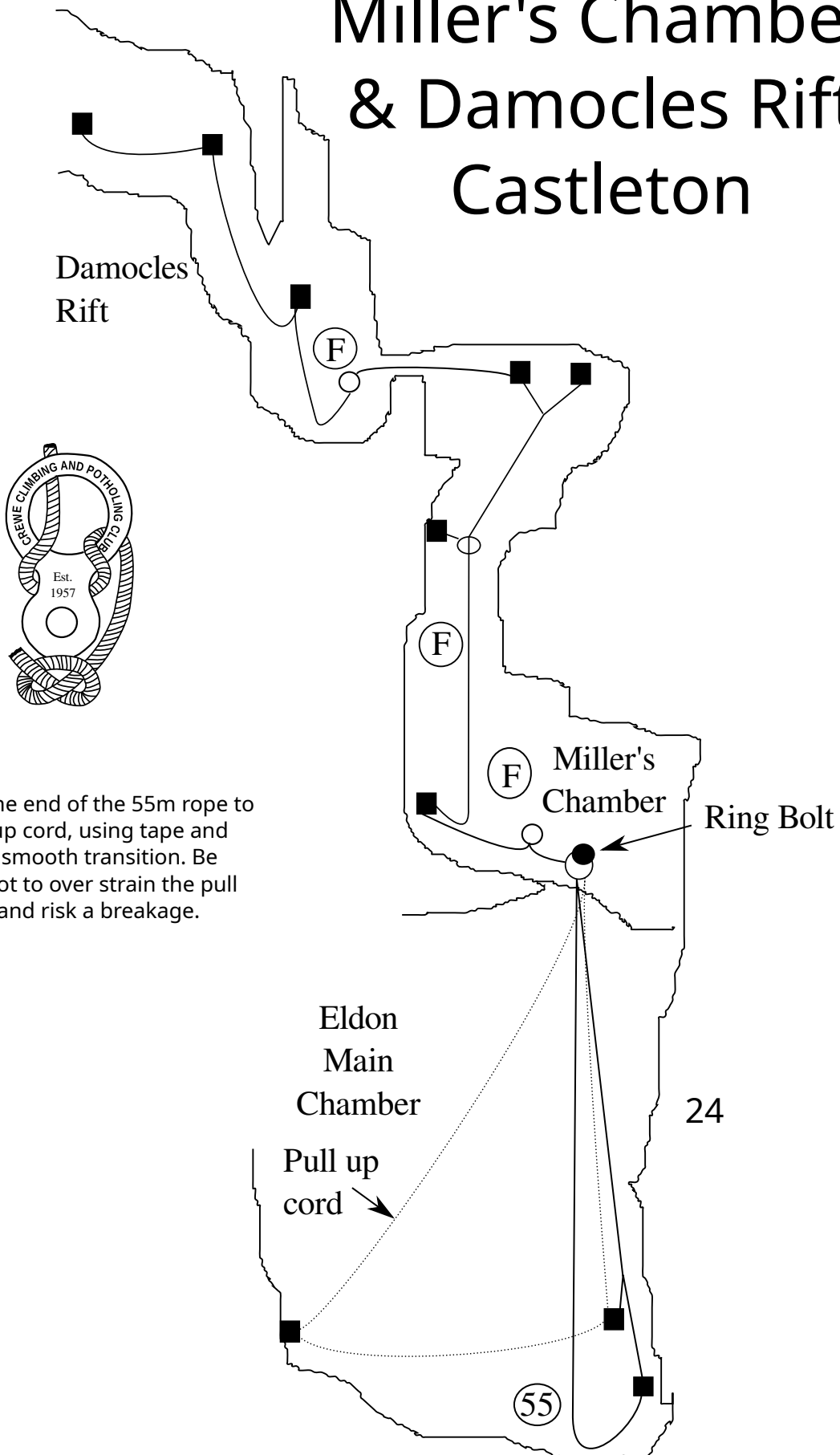
Bar for belay.
No backup!



Eldon Hole Castleton

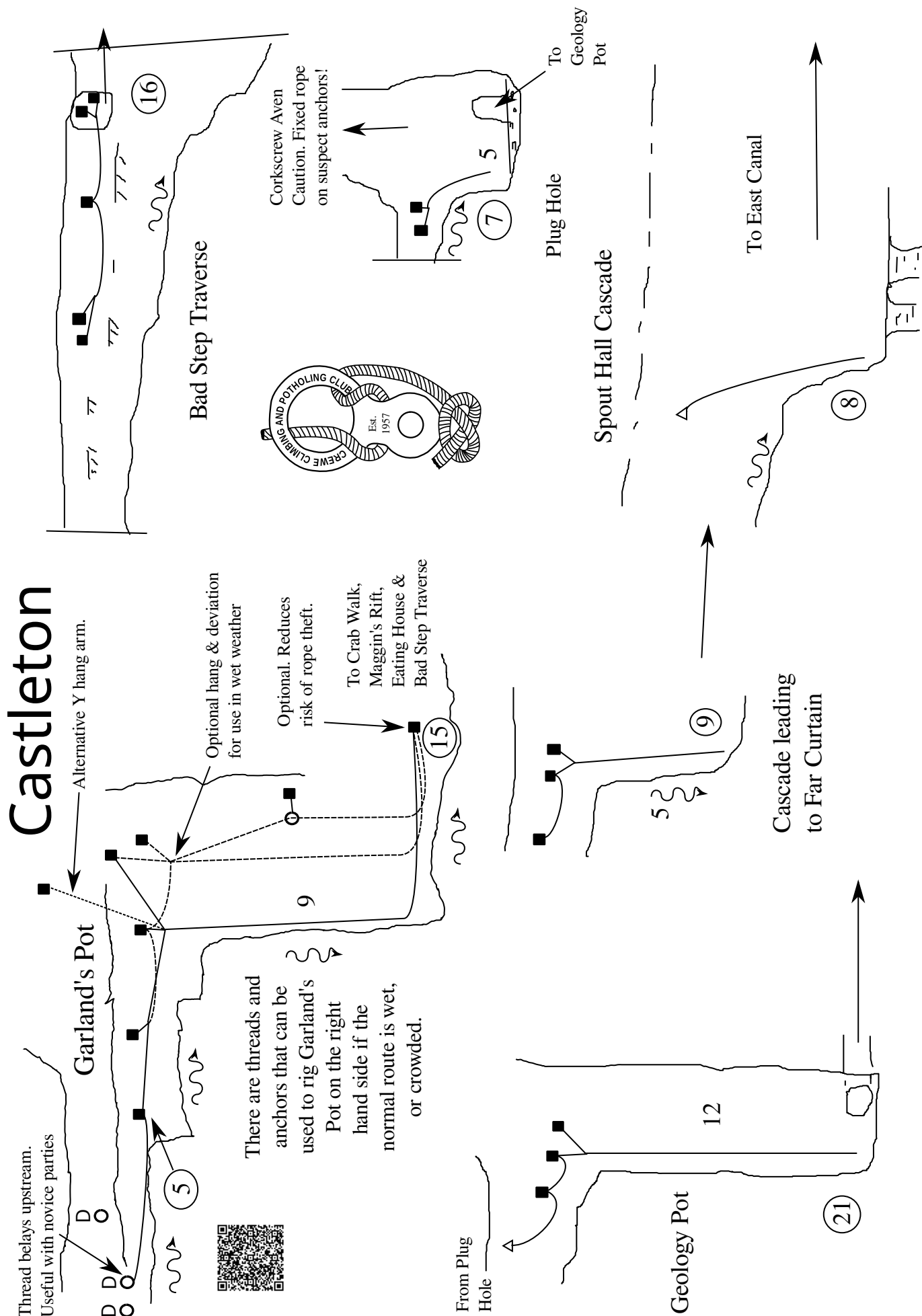


Eldon Hole Miller's Chamber & Damocles Rift Castleton



Attach one end of the 55m rope to the pull up cord, using tape and ensure a smooth transition. Be careful not to over strain the pull up cord and risk a breakage.

Giant's Hole topo 1. Main Route



Castleton

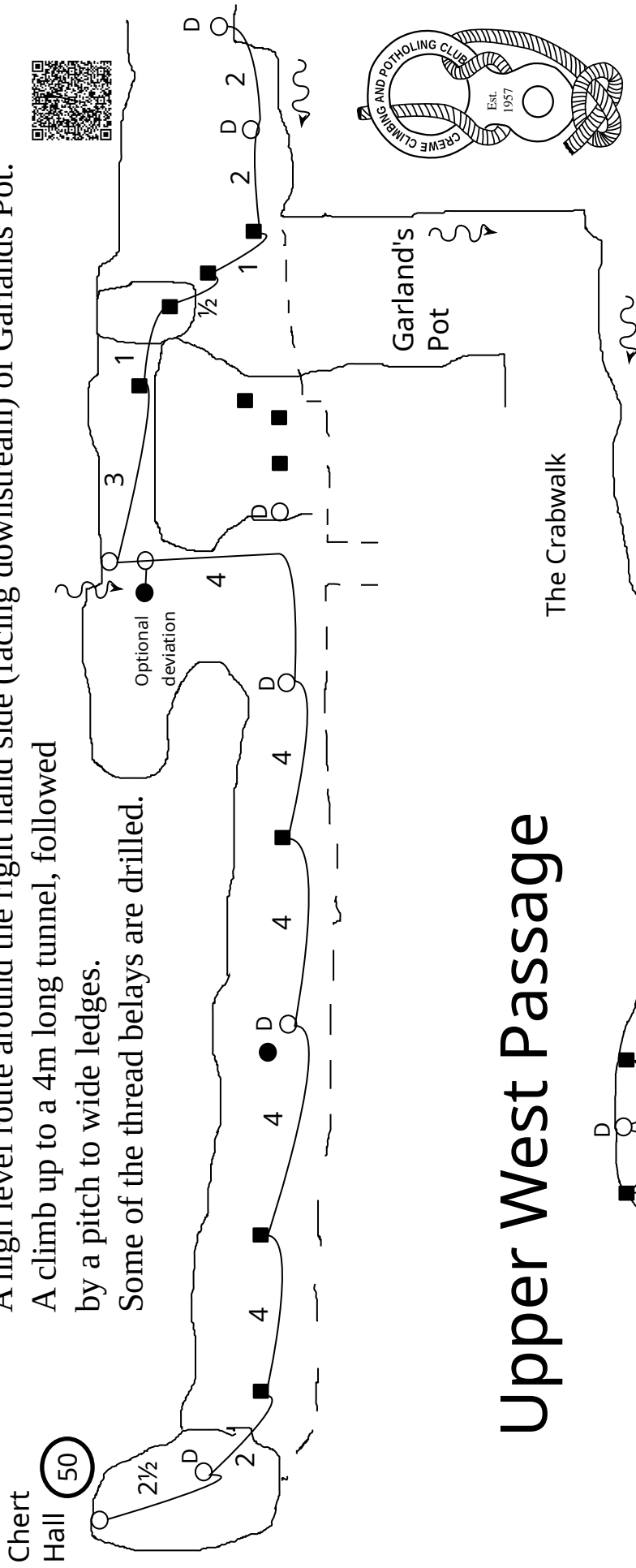
Page 11

Giant's Hole topo 3. Castleton

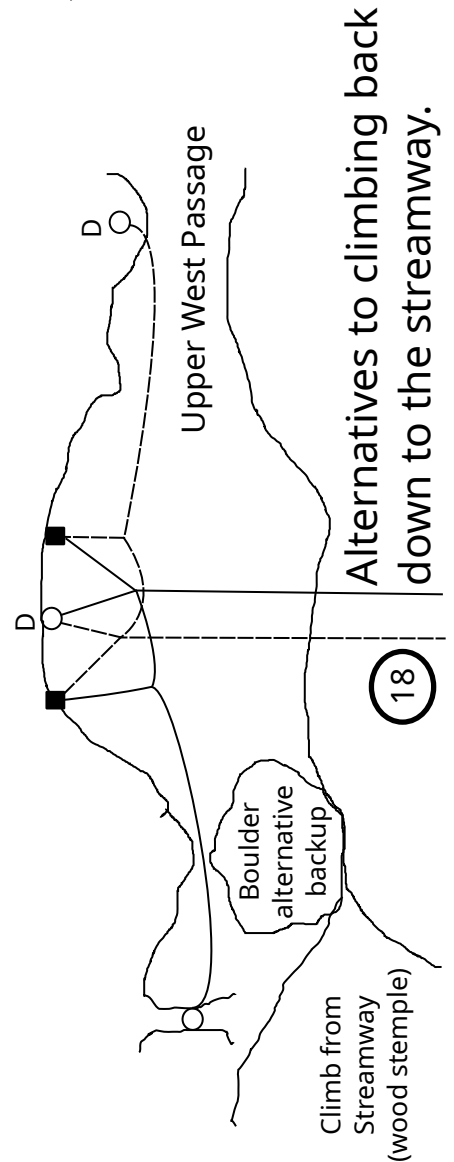
A high level route around the right hand side (facing downstream) of Garlands Pot.

A climb up to a 4m long tunnel, followed by a pitch to wide ledges.

Some of the thread belays are drilled.

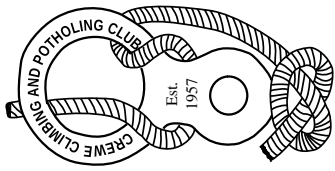


Upper West Passage



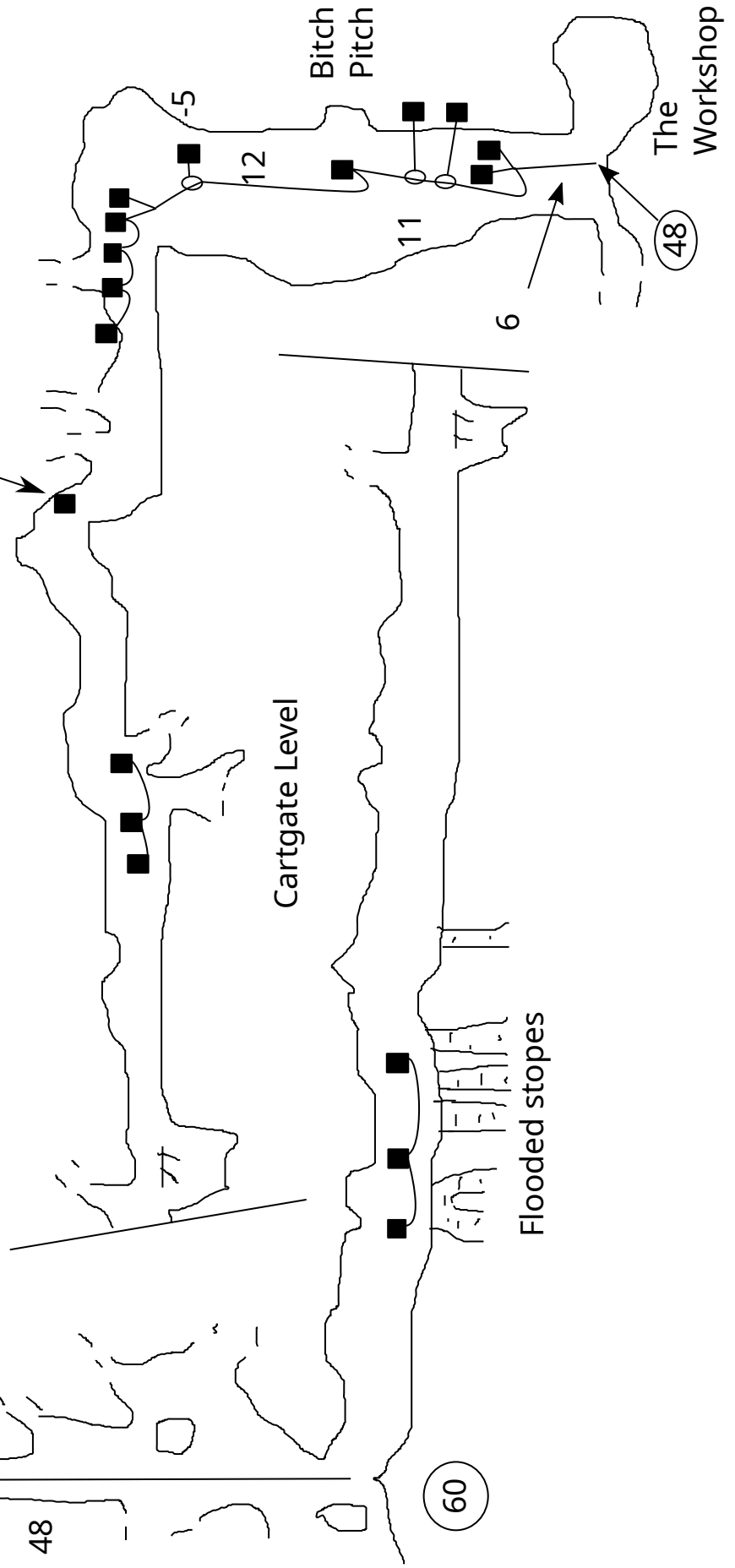
James Hall Over Engine Mine (JH) - Castleton Part 1. Surface to the Workshop

Capped and lidded entrance, with belay bar.
Back up eye bolts in the concrete cap



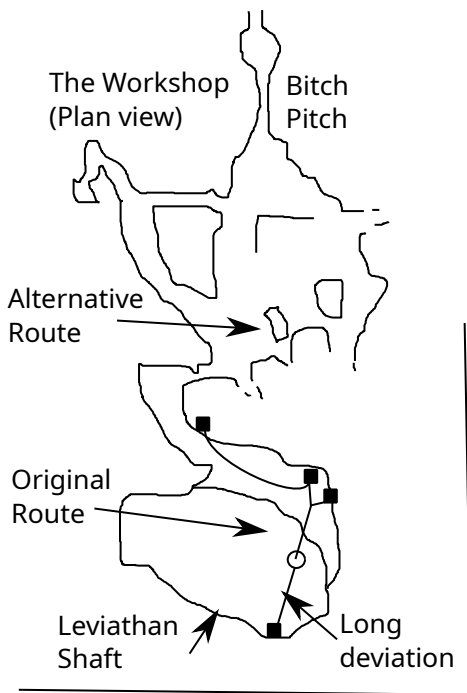
Optional rebelay,
-20 or Y hang

Sling, or rope useful
for the return.

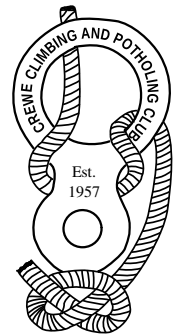
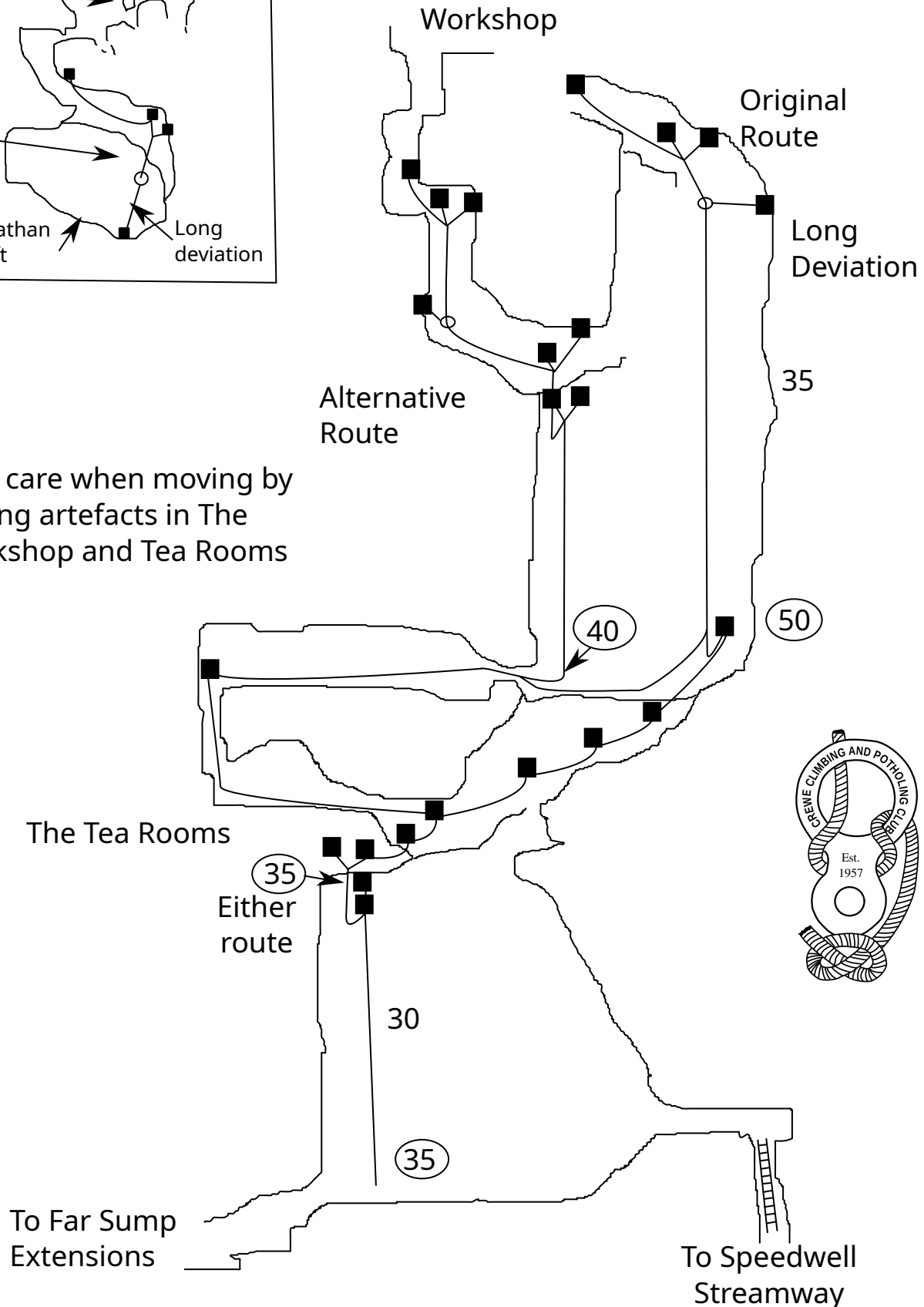


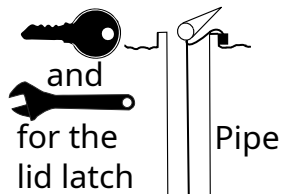
James Hall Over Engine Mine (JH) - Castleton

Part 2 - Leviathan



Take care when moving by mining artefacts in The Workshop and Tea Rooms

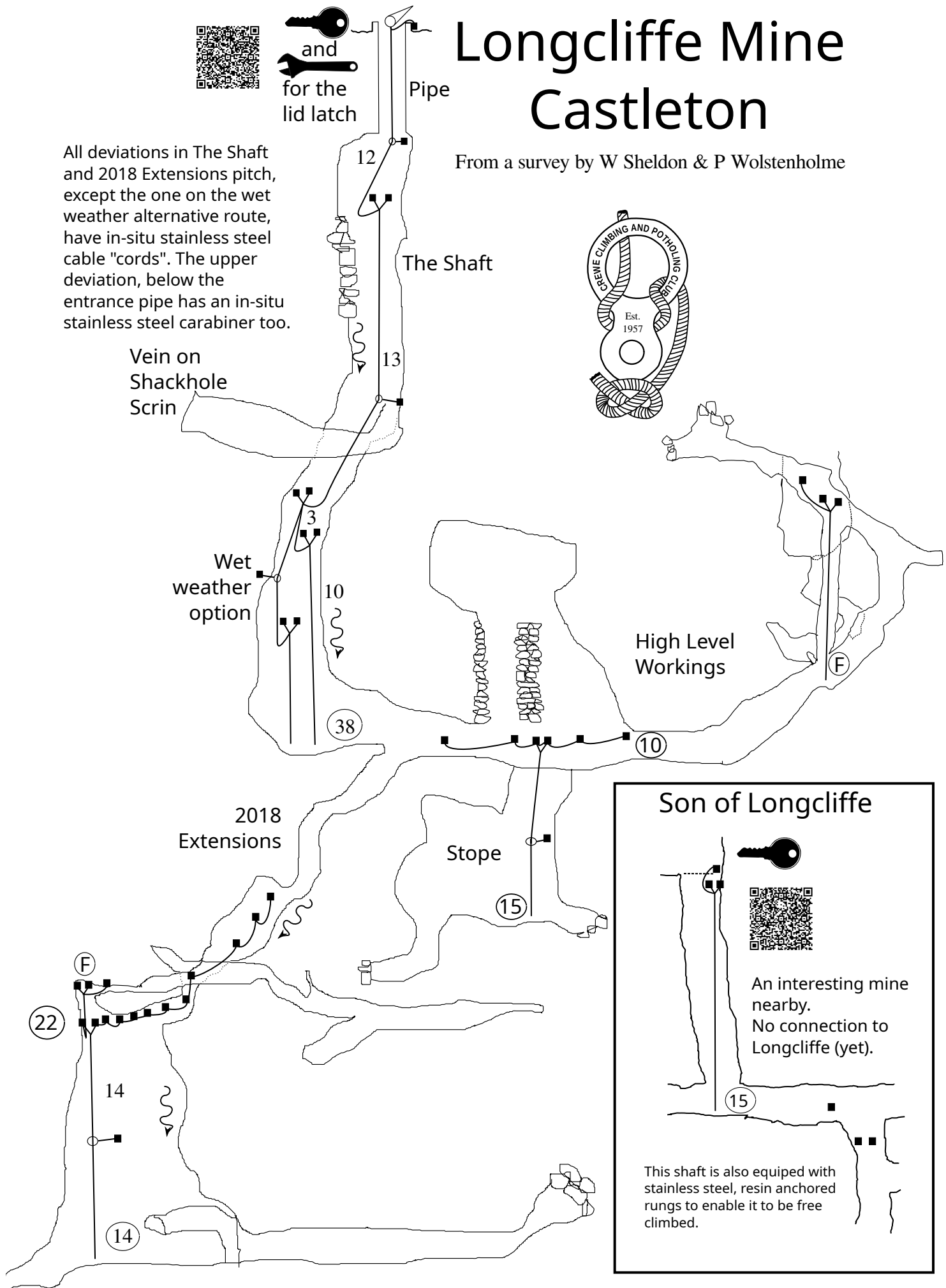




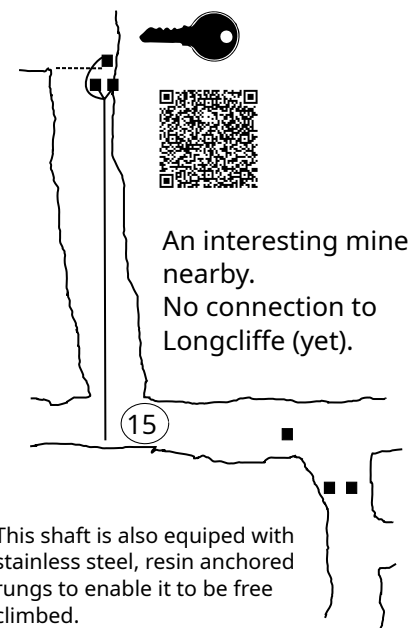
Longcliffe Mine Castleton

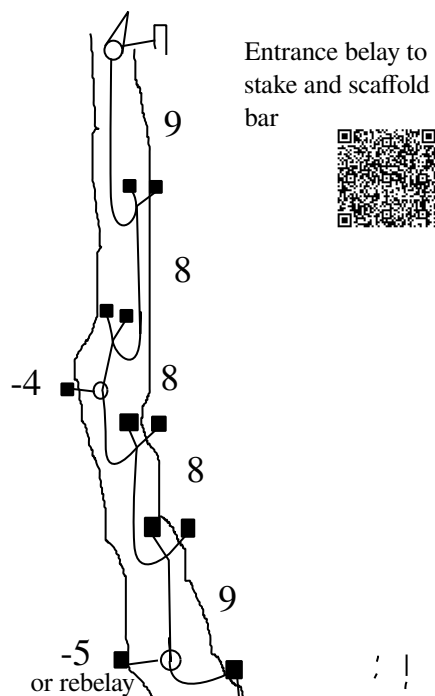
From a survey by W Sheldon & P Wolstenholme

All deviations in The Shaft and 2018 Extensions pitch, except the one on the wet weather alternative route, have in-situ stainless steel cable "cords". The upper deviation, below the entrance pipe has an in-situ stainless steel carabiner too.

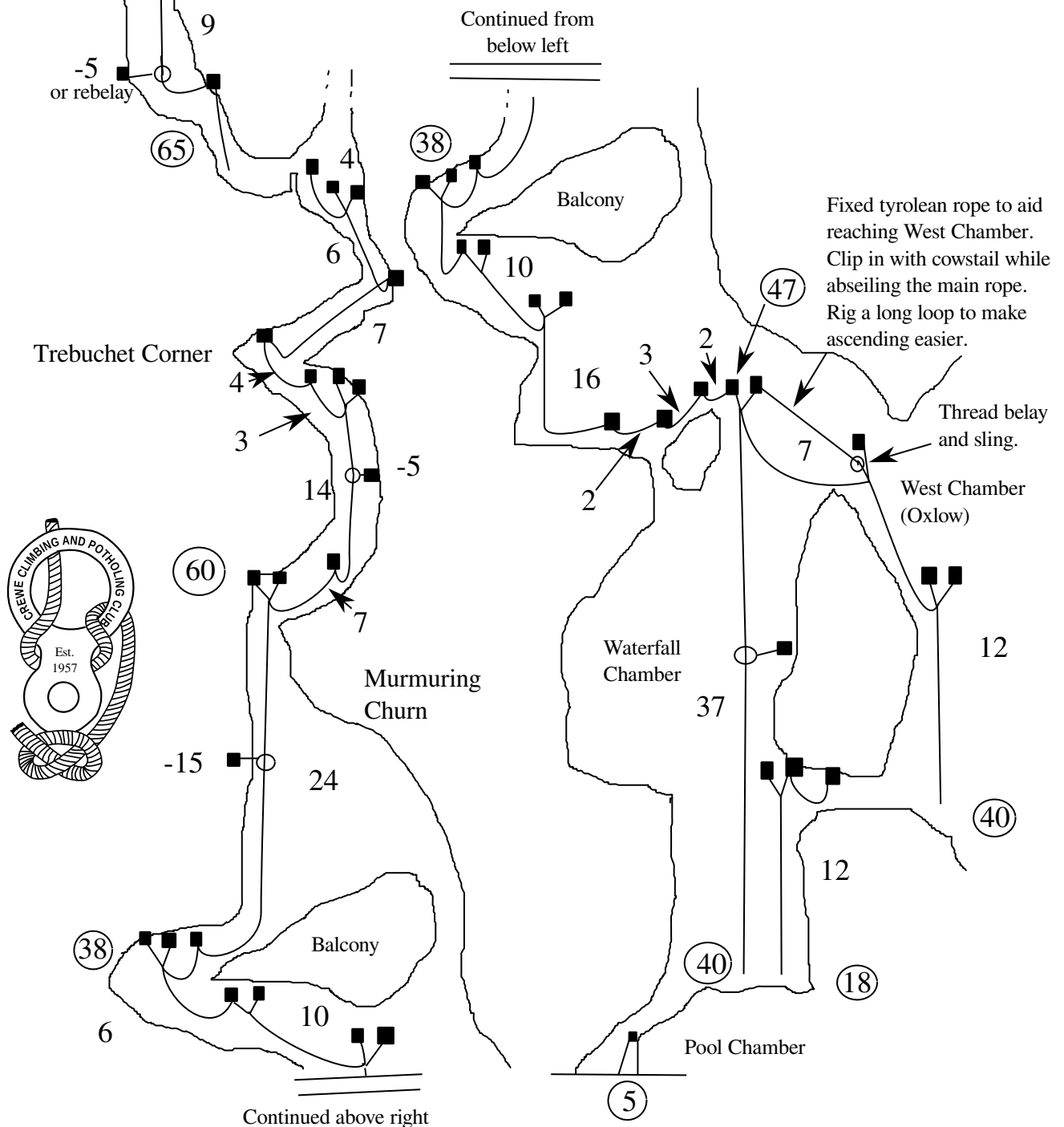


Son of Longcliffe

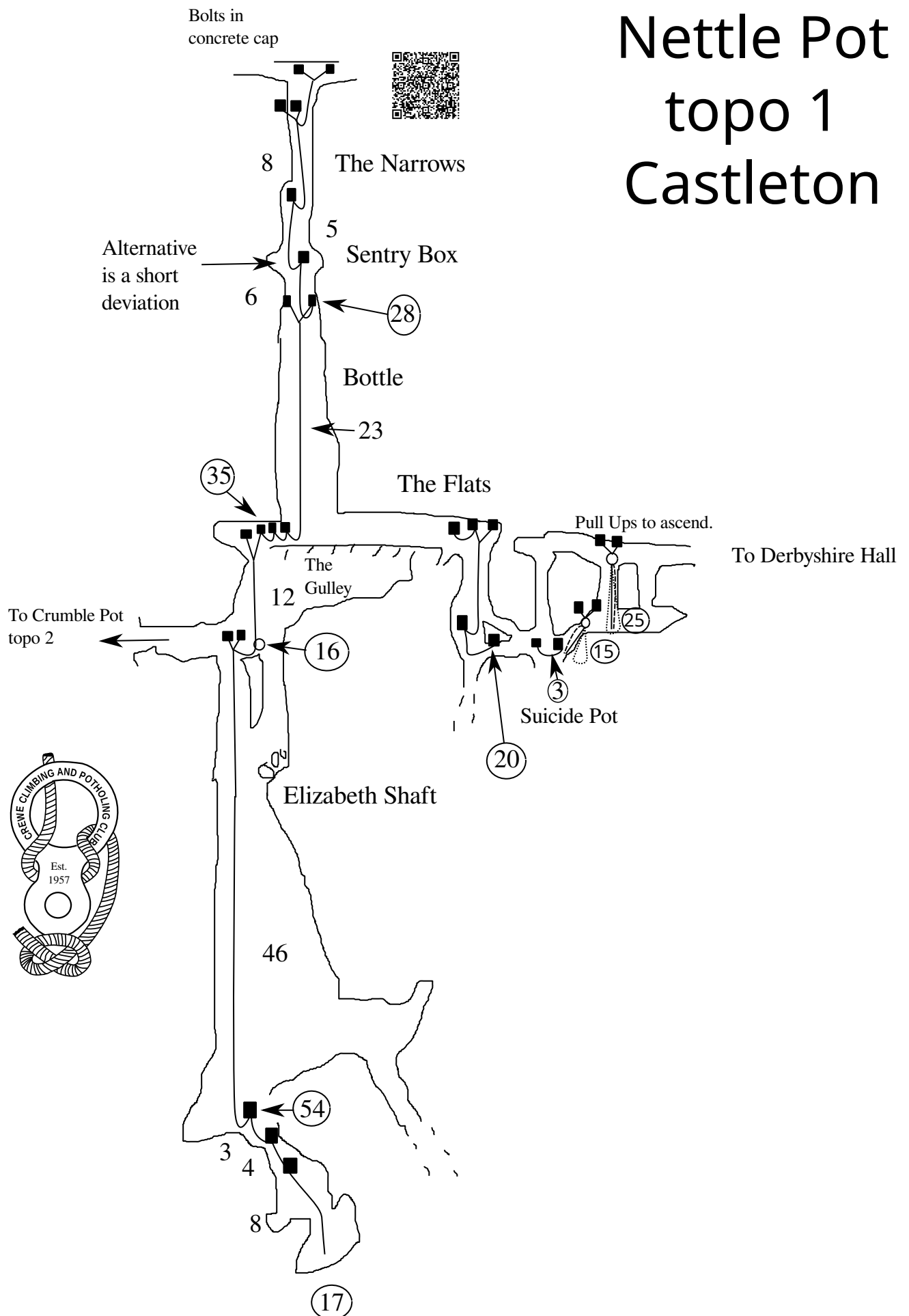


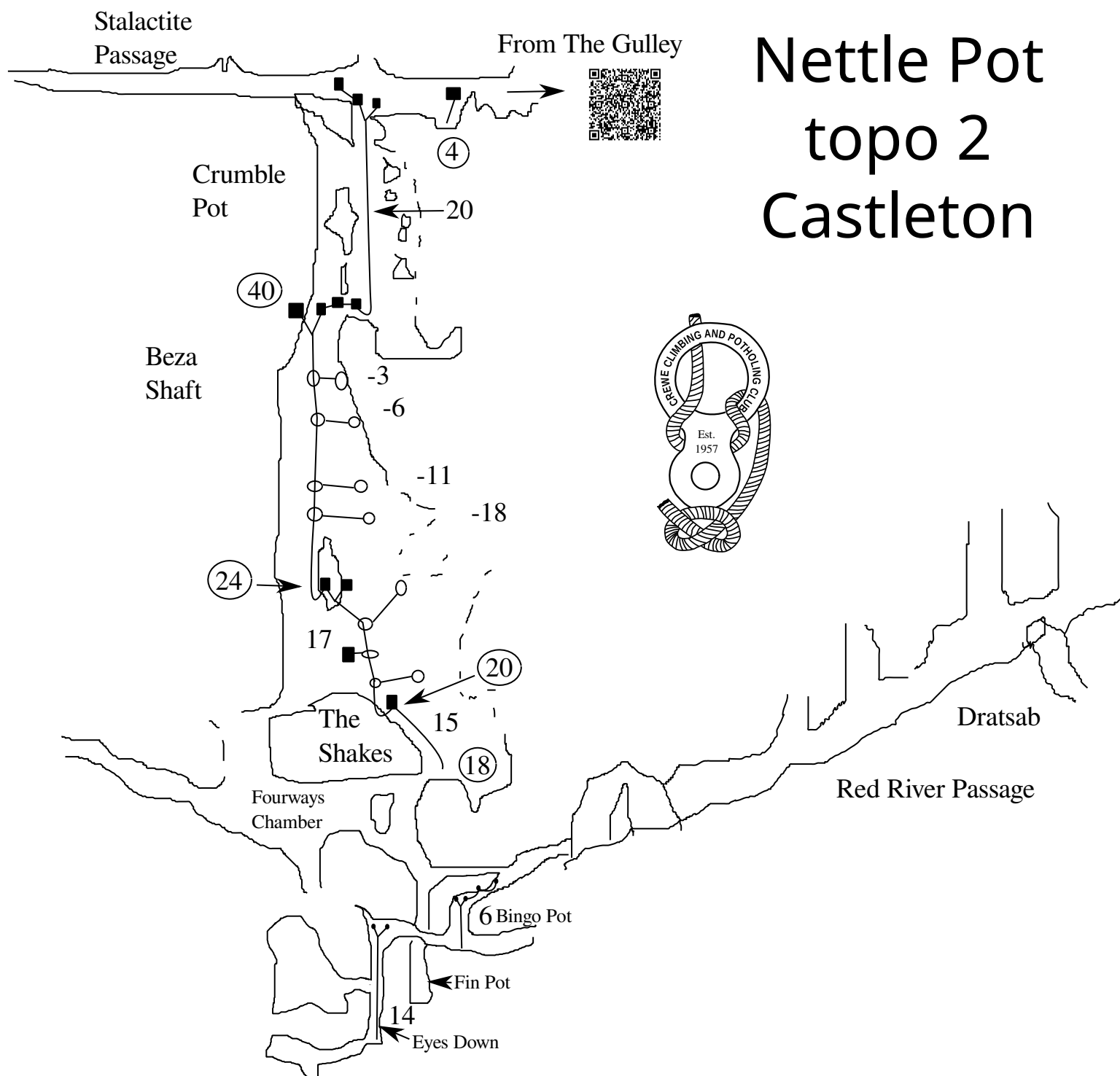


Maskhill Mine Castleton



Nettle Pot topo 1 Castleton

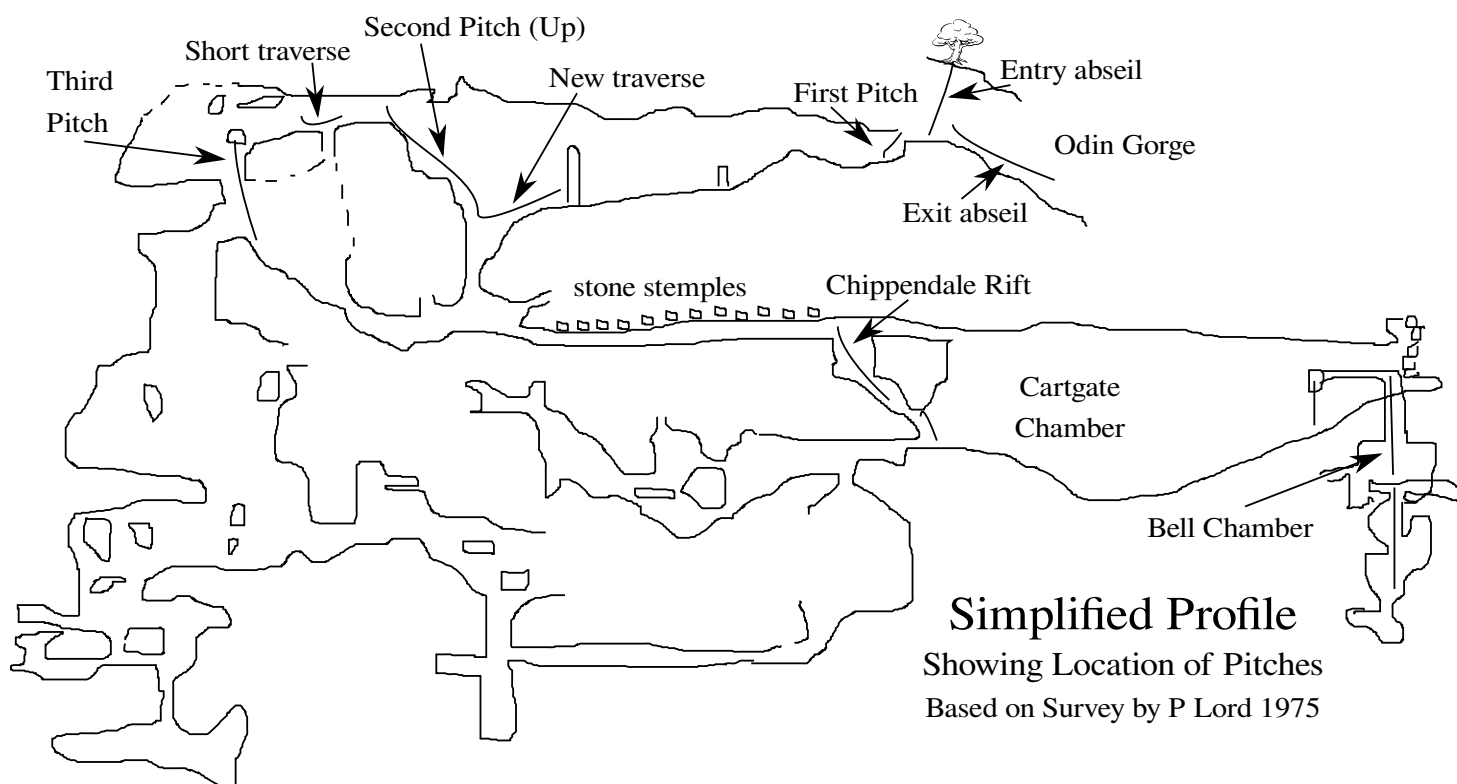
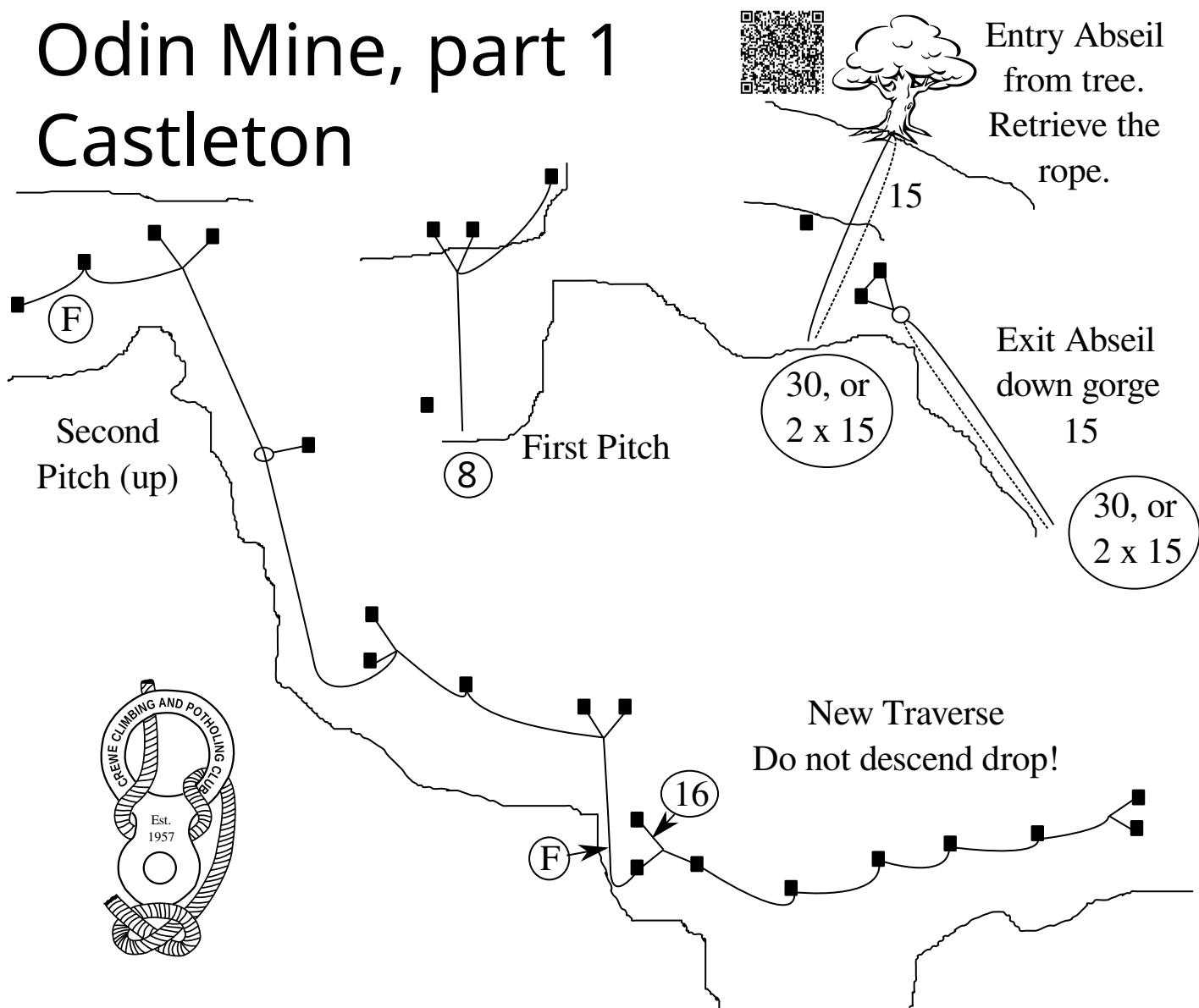




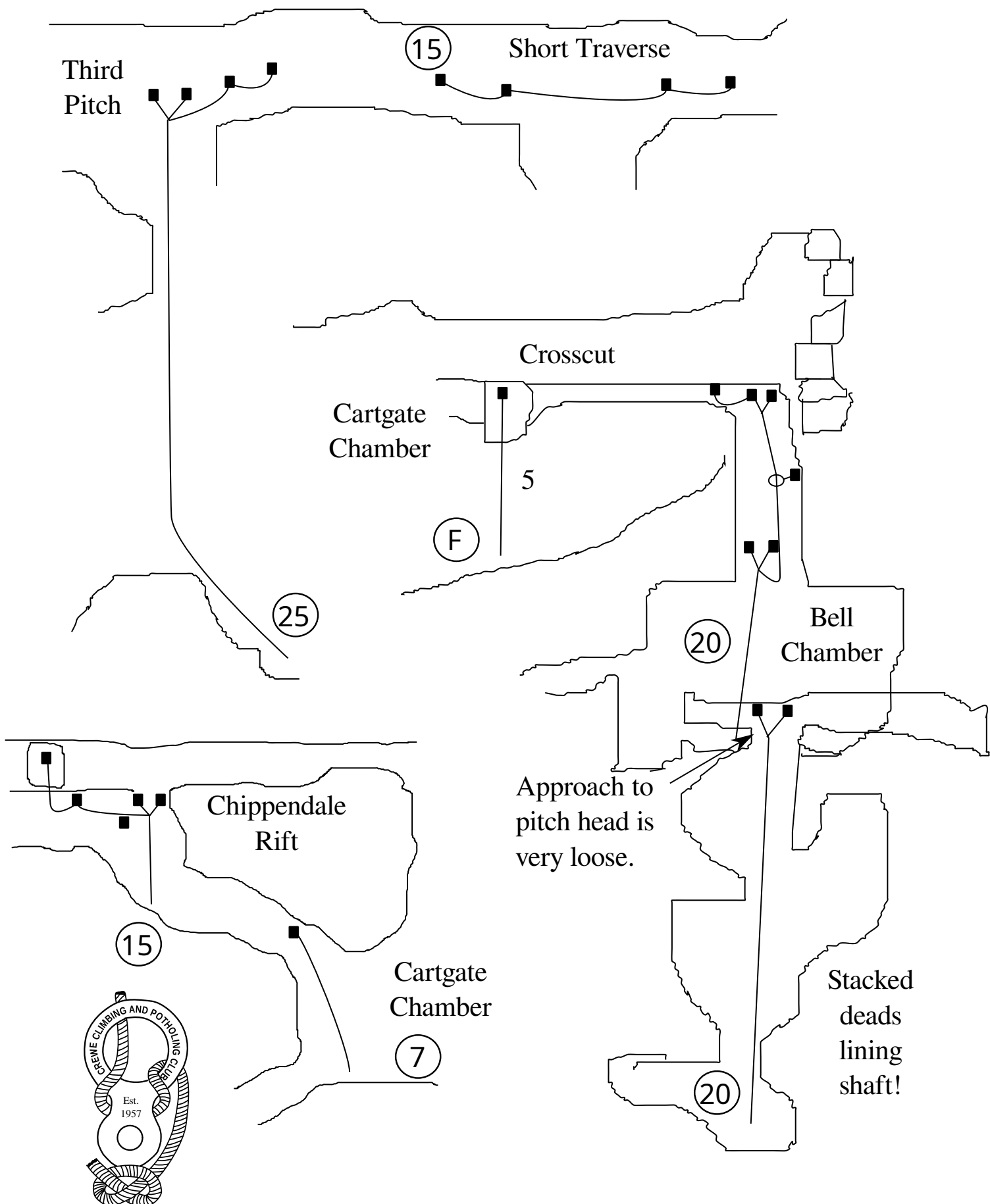
Hell: At the foot of The Shakes, continue down in to Fourways Chamber. A low crawl from here leads to Fin Pot, a 9m free climbable pitch, which can be equipped with a rope belayed from a large boulder. Carrying on over the top of Fin Pot leads to Easy Pickings, Red River Passage and Dratsab. A passage to the right before Easy Pickings leads, via an awkward traverse around a corner to Bingo Pot. A tight section then leads to Eyes Down. These pitches are equipped with 8mm thru bolts. Any ladders, spit anchors and pitons should be treated with suspicion. Details of rigging from R Eavis.

Odin Mine, part 1

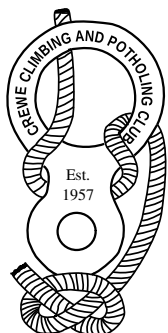
Castleton



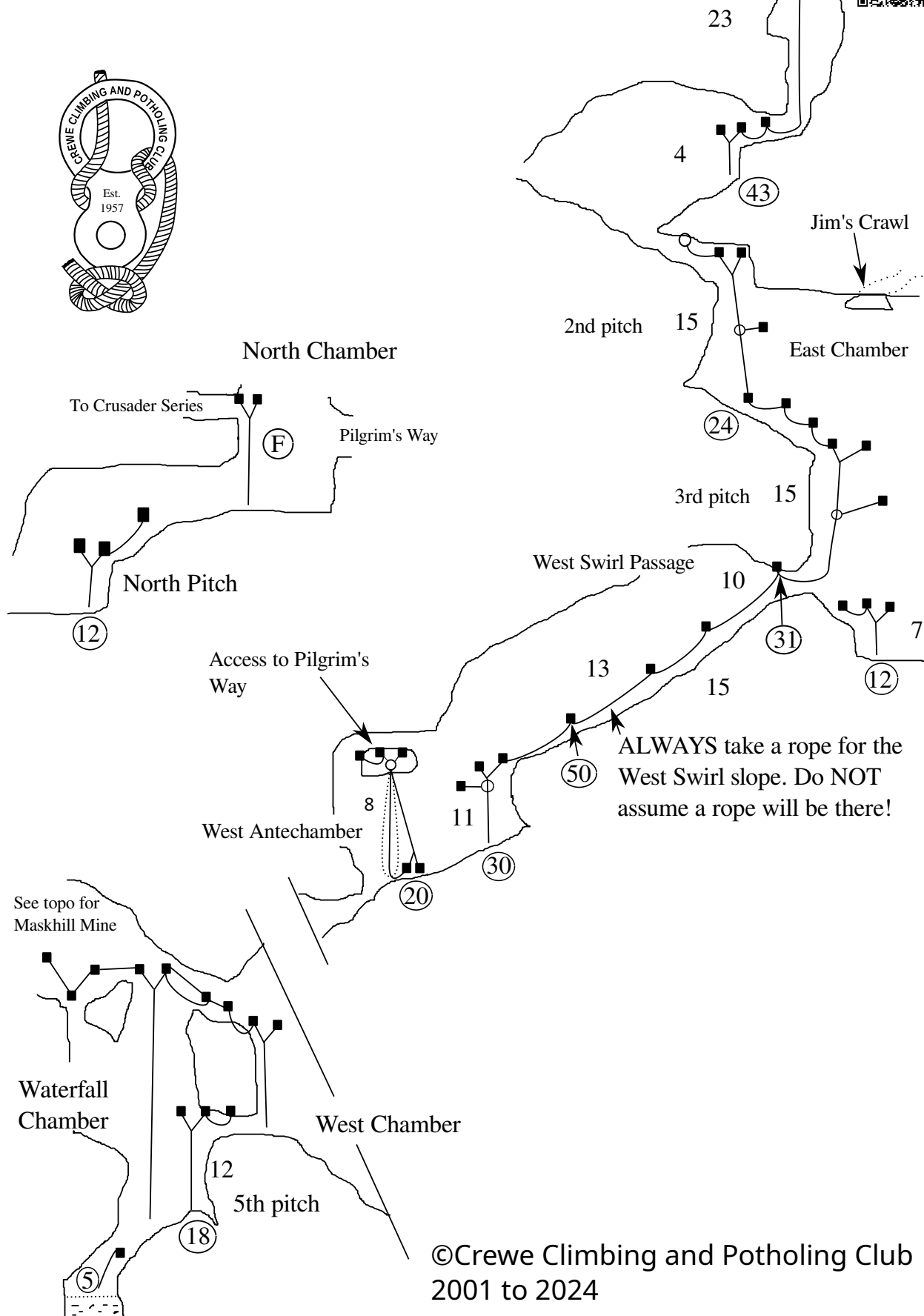
Odin Mine, part 2. Castleton



Oxlow Cavern Castleton



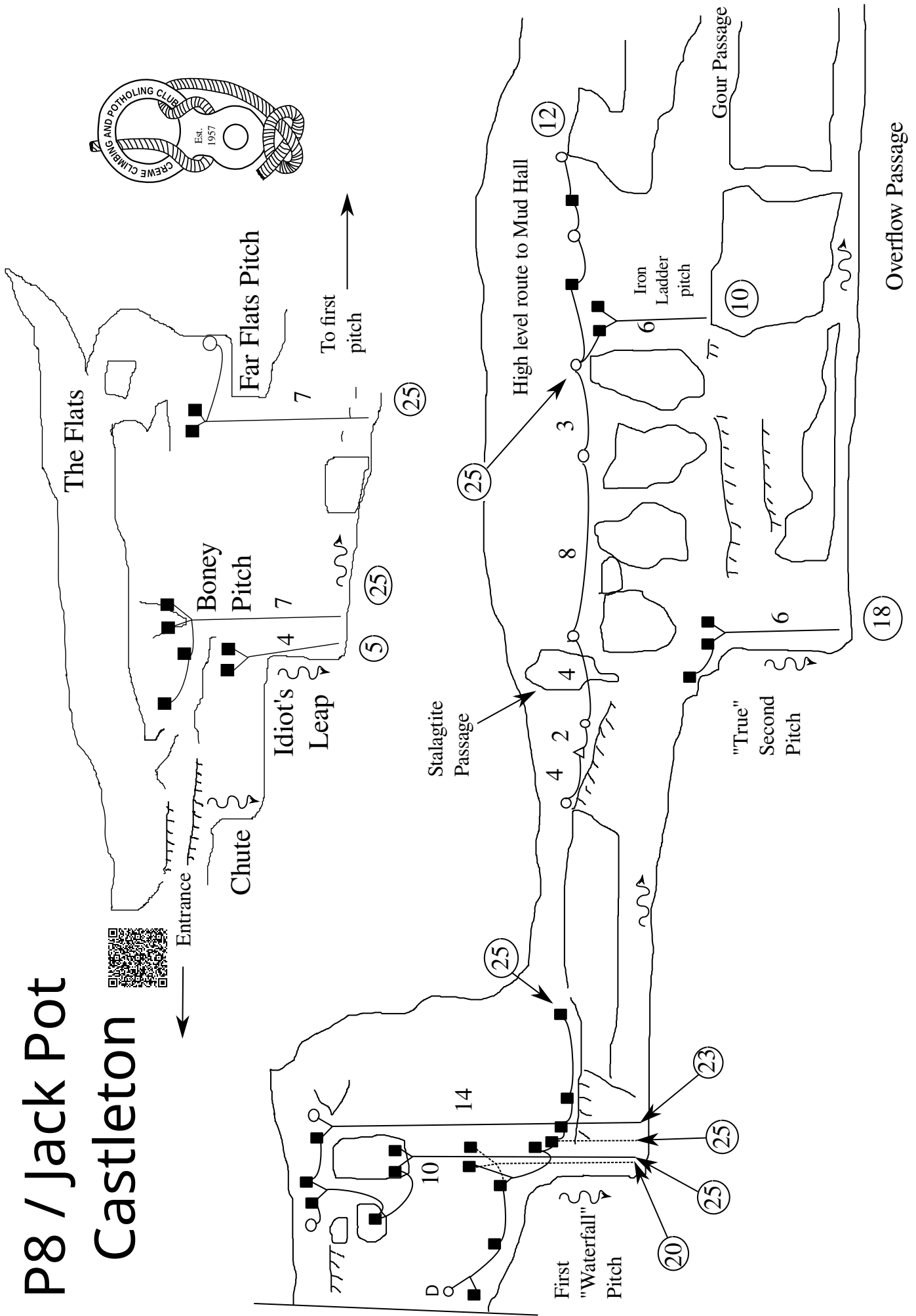
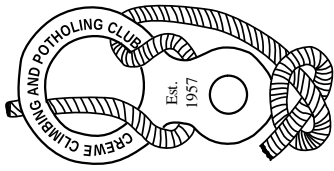
Rig entrance shaft either from slings to the lid scaff bars, or from resin anchors in the concrete.



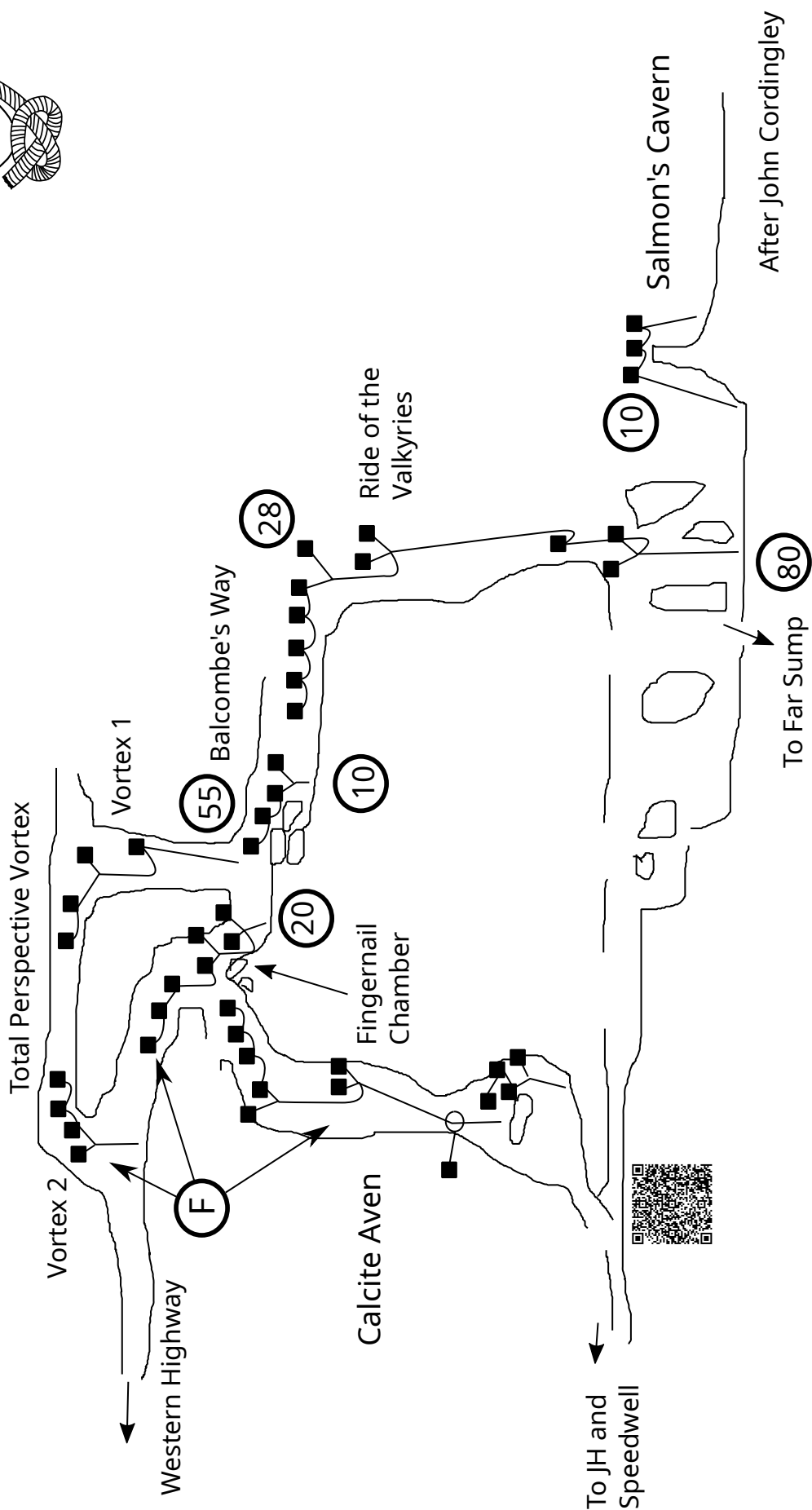
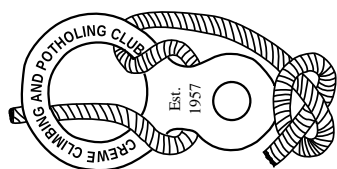
©Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club
2001 to 2024

P8 / Jack Pot

Castleton



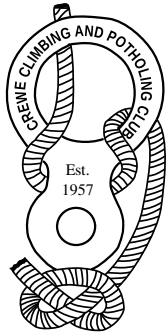
Far Sump Extensions Peak Cavern / Speedwell Castleton



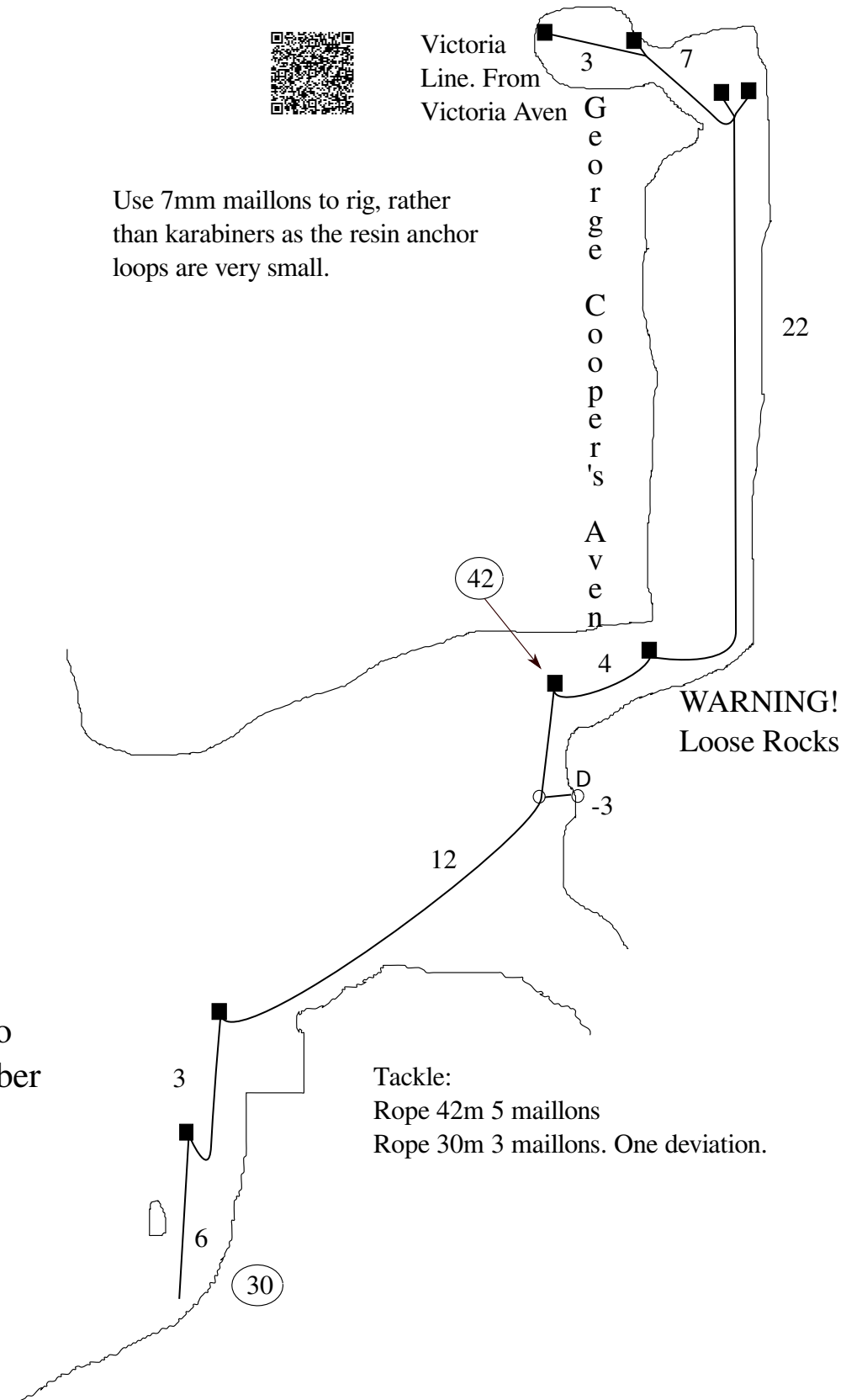
George Cooper's Aven Peak Cavern Castleton



Victoria
Line. From
Victoria Aven

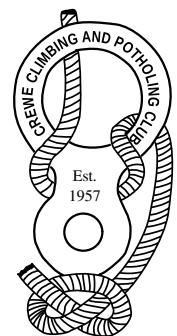
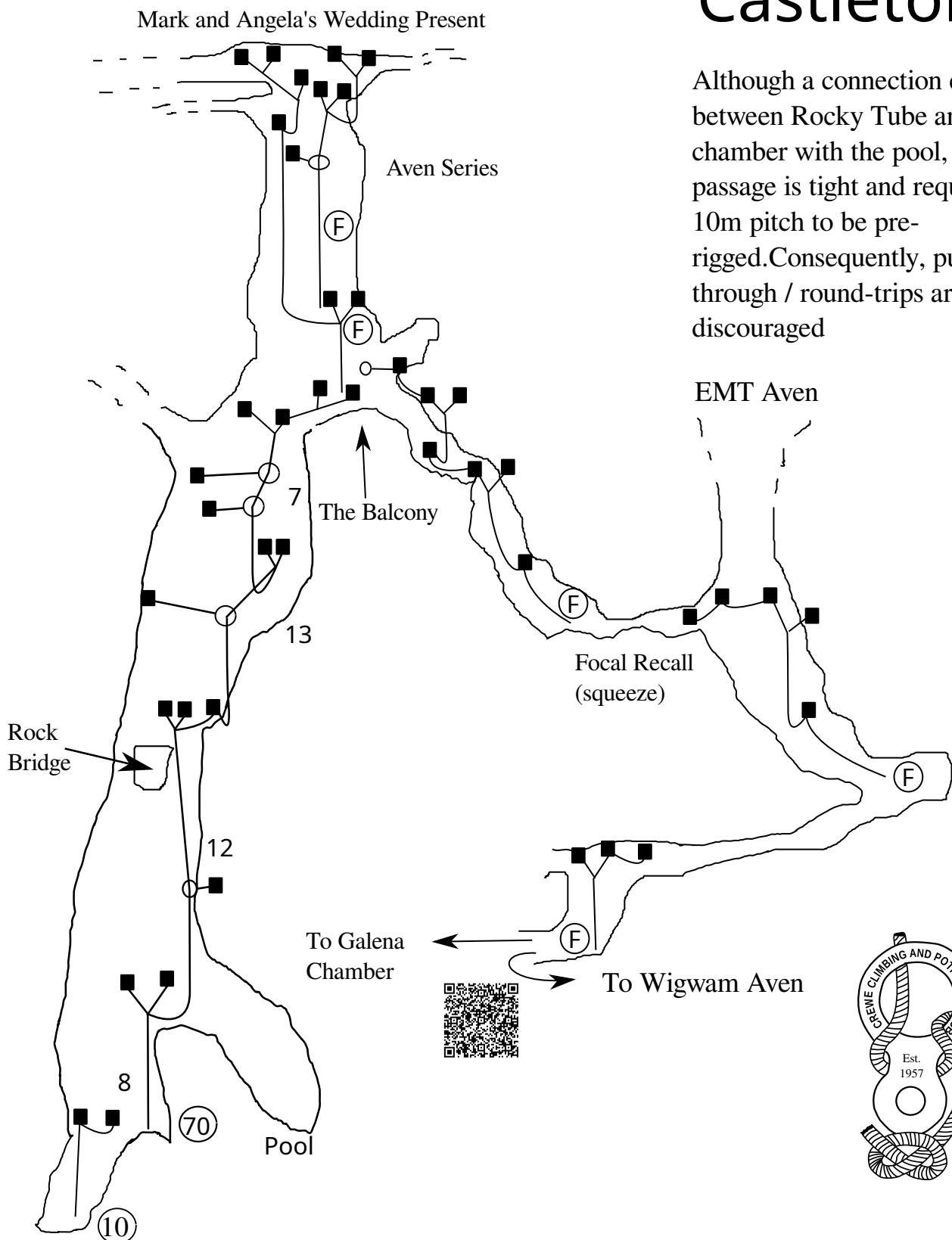


Use 7mm maillons to rig, rather
than karabiners as the resin anchor
loops are very small.



NCC Shafts Peak Cavern Castleton

Although a connection exists between Rocky Tube and the chamber with the pool, the passage is tight and requires a 10m pitch to be pre-rigged. Consequently, pull-through / round-trips are discouraged



Based on survey by W Sheldon

Victoria Aven Peak Cavern Castleton

Elephants Head Chamber.
To Victoria Line and
George Cooper's Aven.

To Victoria Cavern

DANGER!

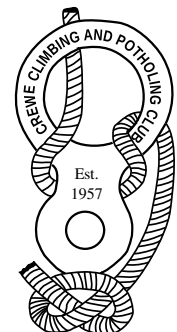
Large loose
slab below the
traverse line.
Do not step.
Use bolted foot
holds above.

Rope to Rope transfer
(requires technical
SRT proficiency)

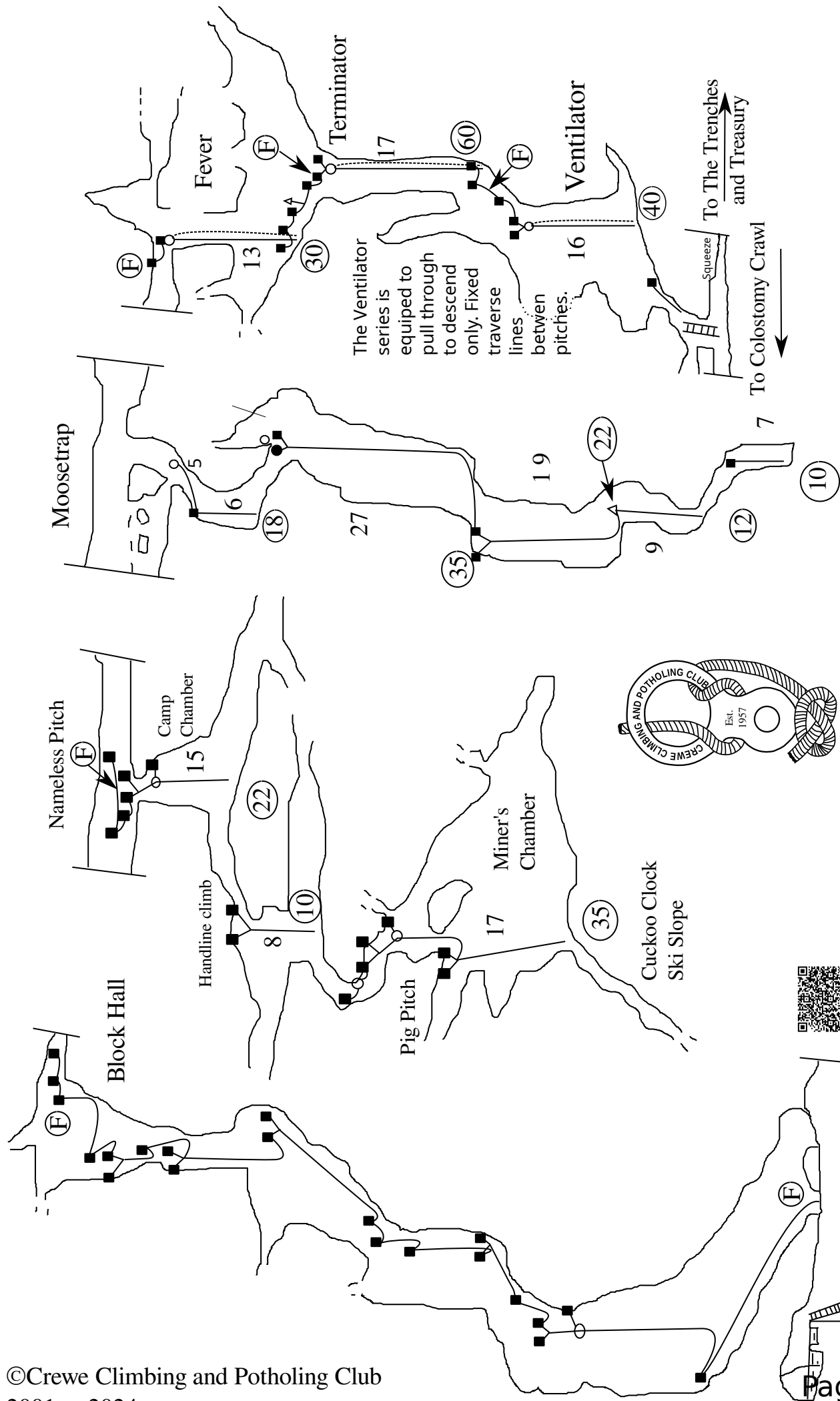
Right Hand
Route

Left Hand
Route

DANGER!
Do NOT stand
on rock bridge



(F)



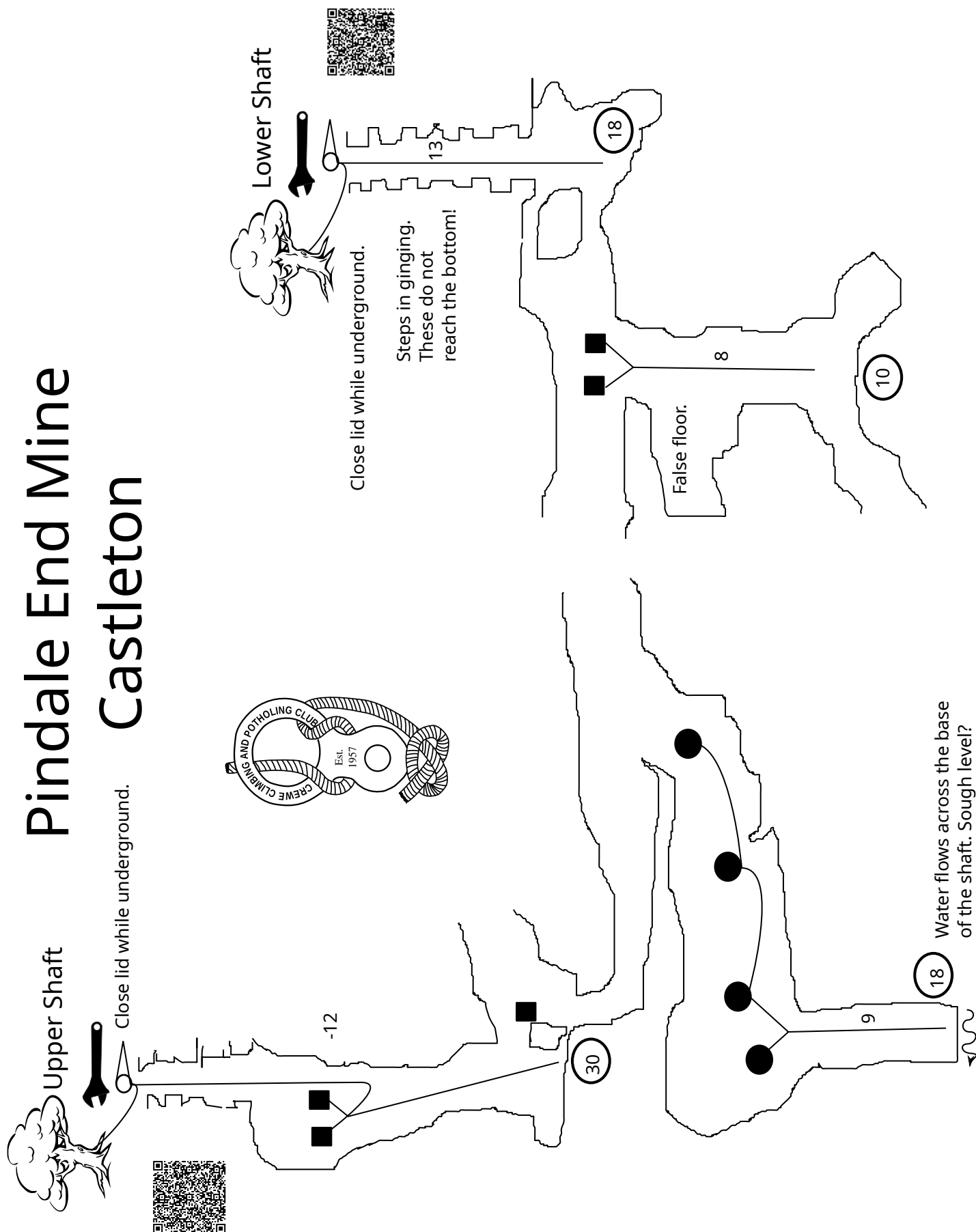
White River Series

Peak Cavern / Speedwell

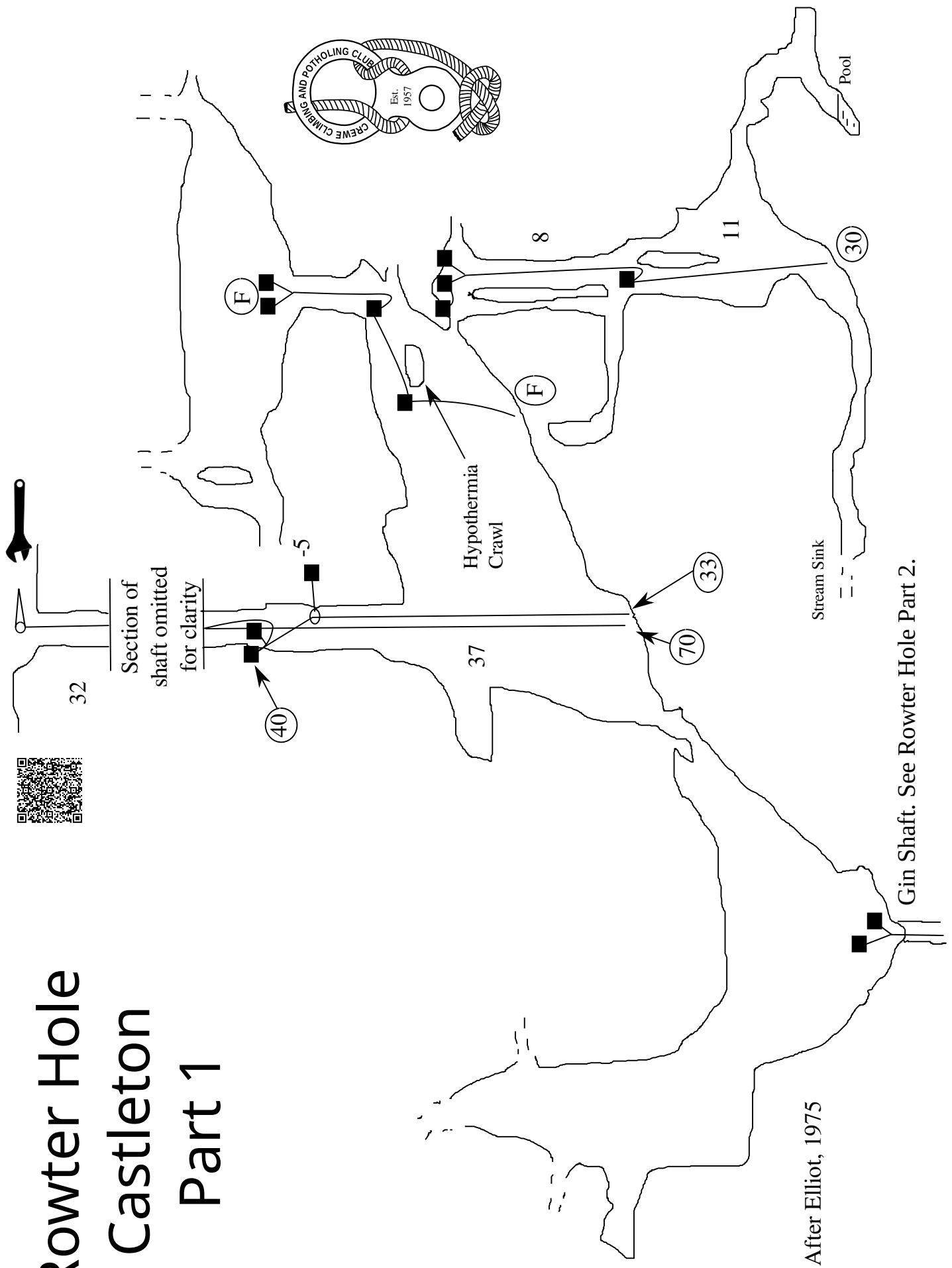
Castleton

Pindale End Mine

Castleton



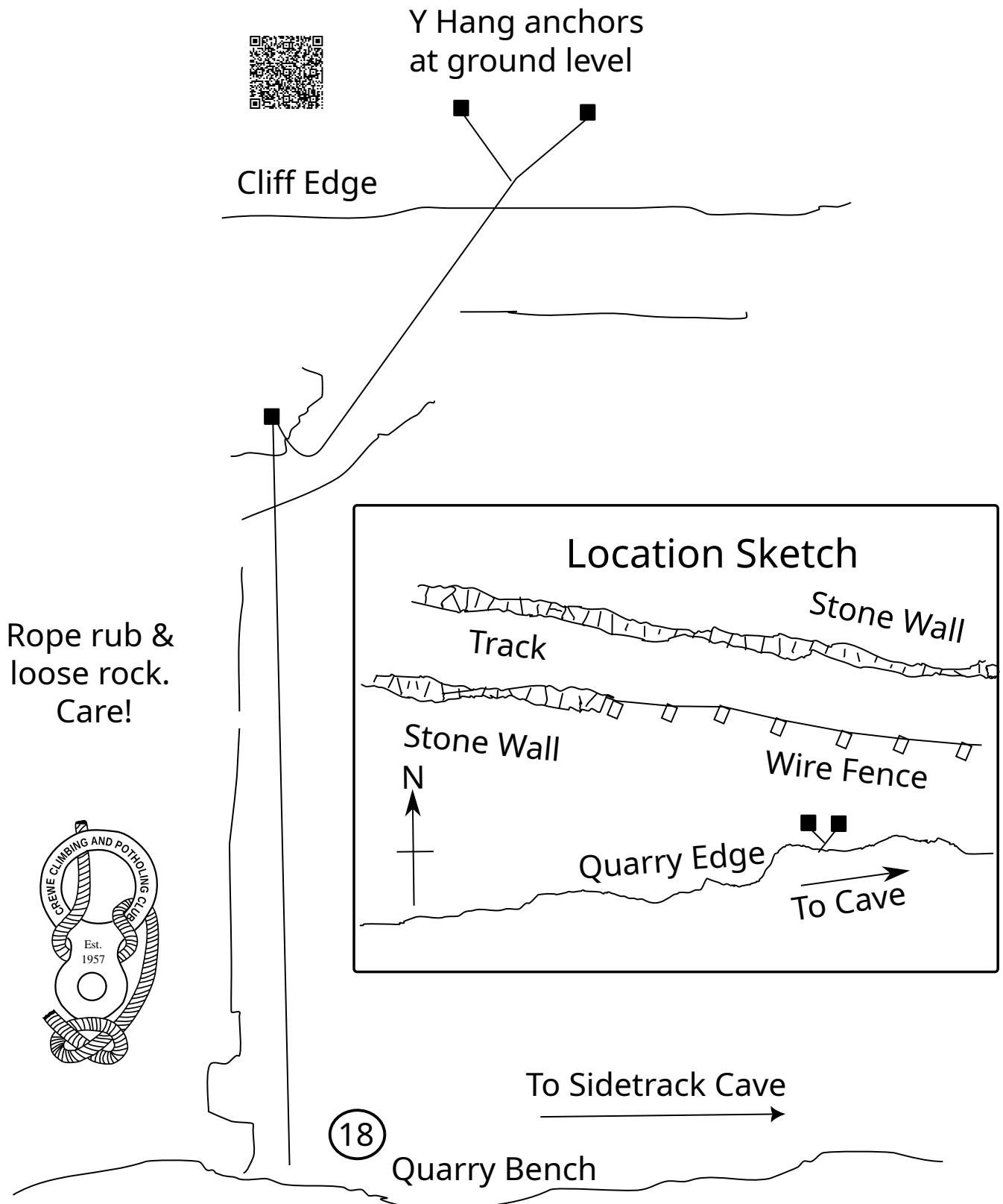
Rowter Hole Castleton Part 1



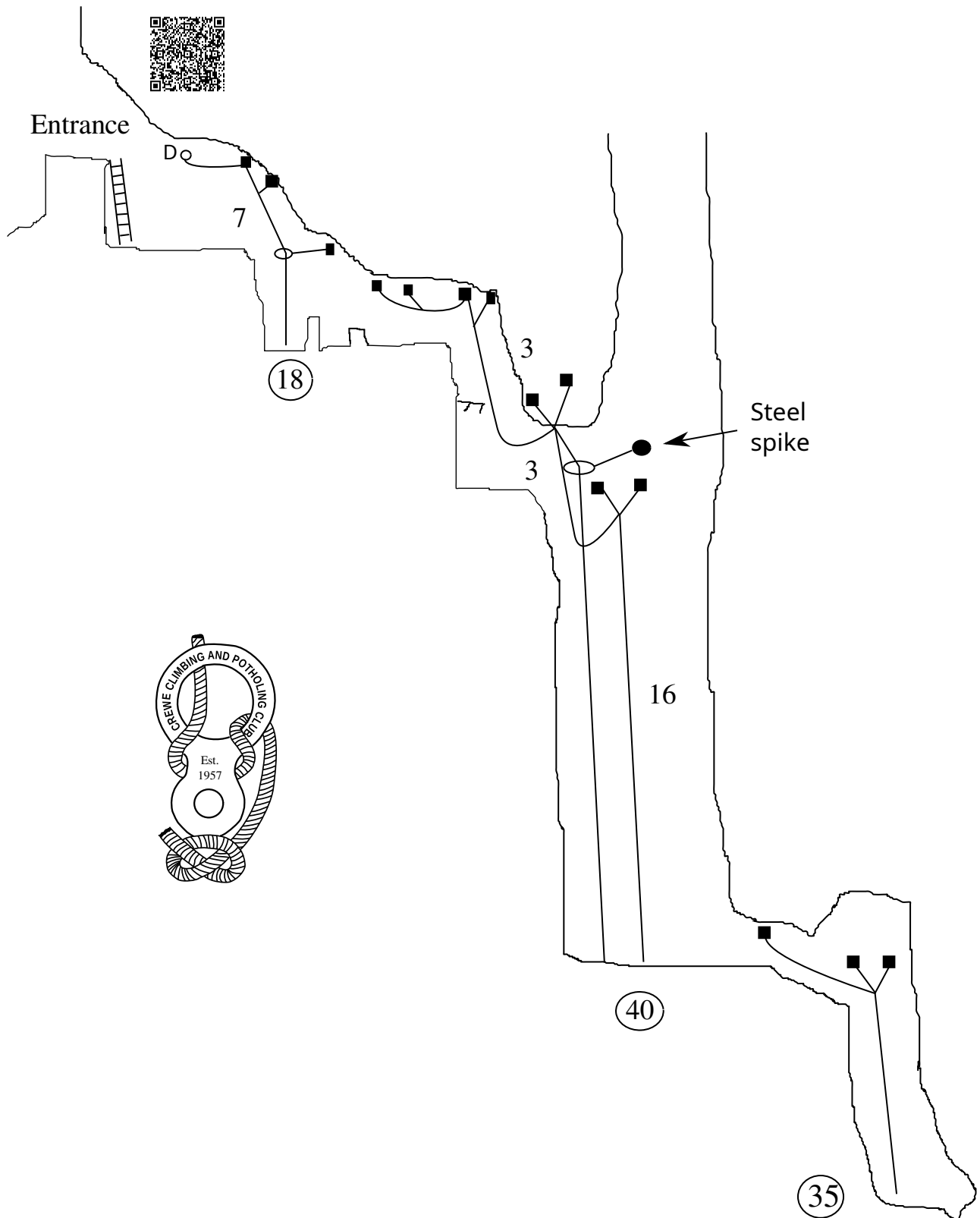
After Elliot, 1975

Gin Shaft. See Rowter Hole Part 2.

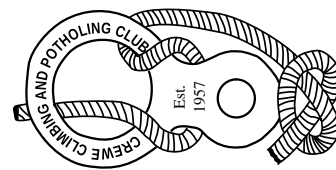
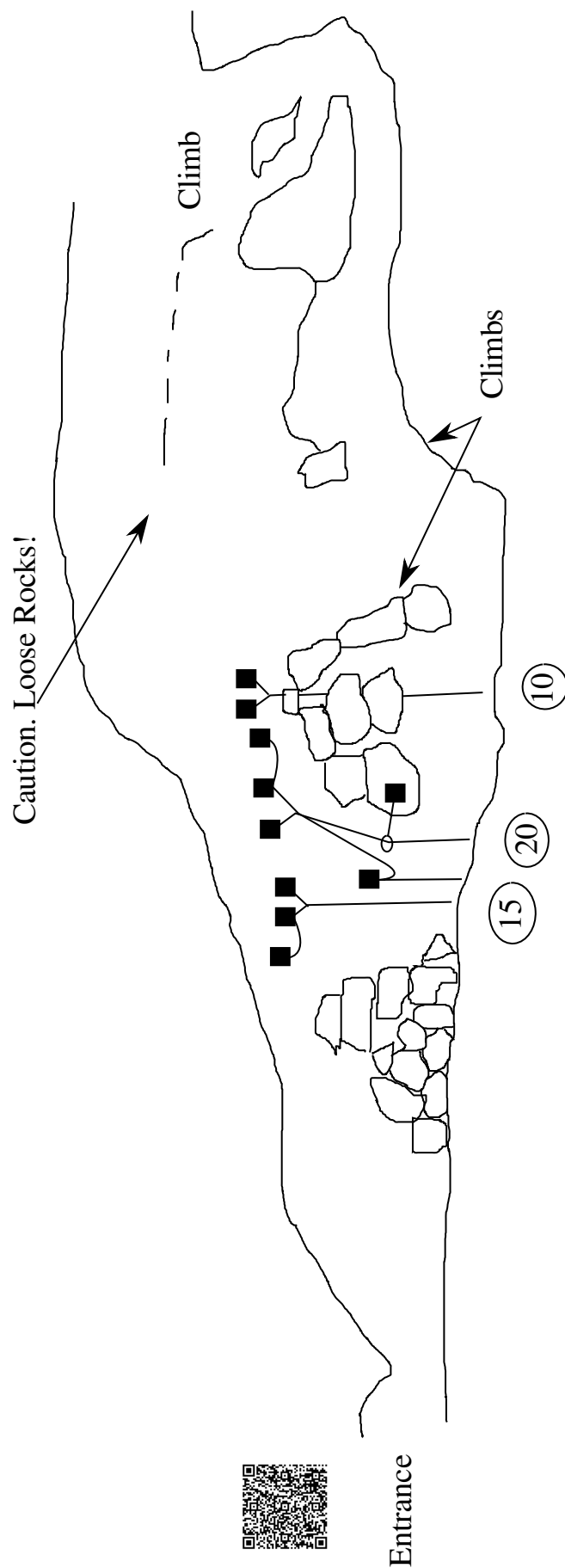
Sidetrack Cave Cliff Access Castleton



Snelslow Swallet Castleton



Suicide Cave Castleton

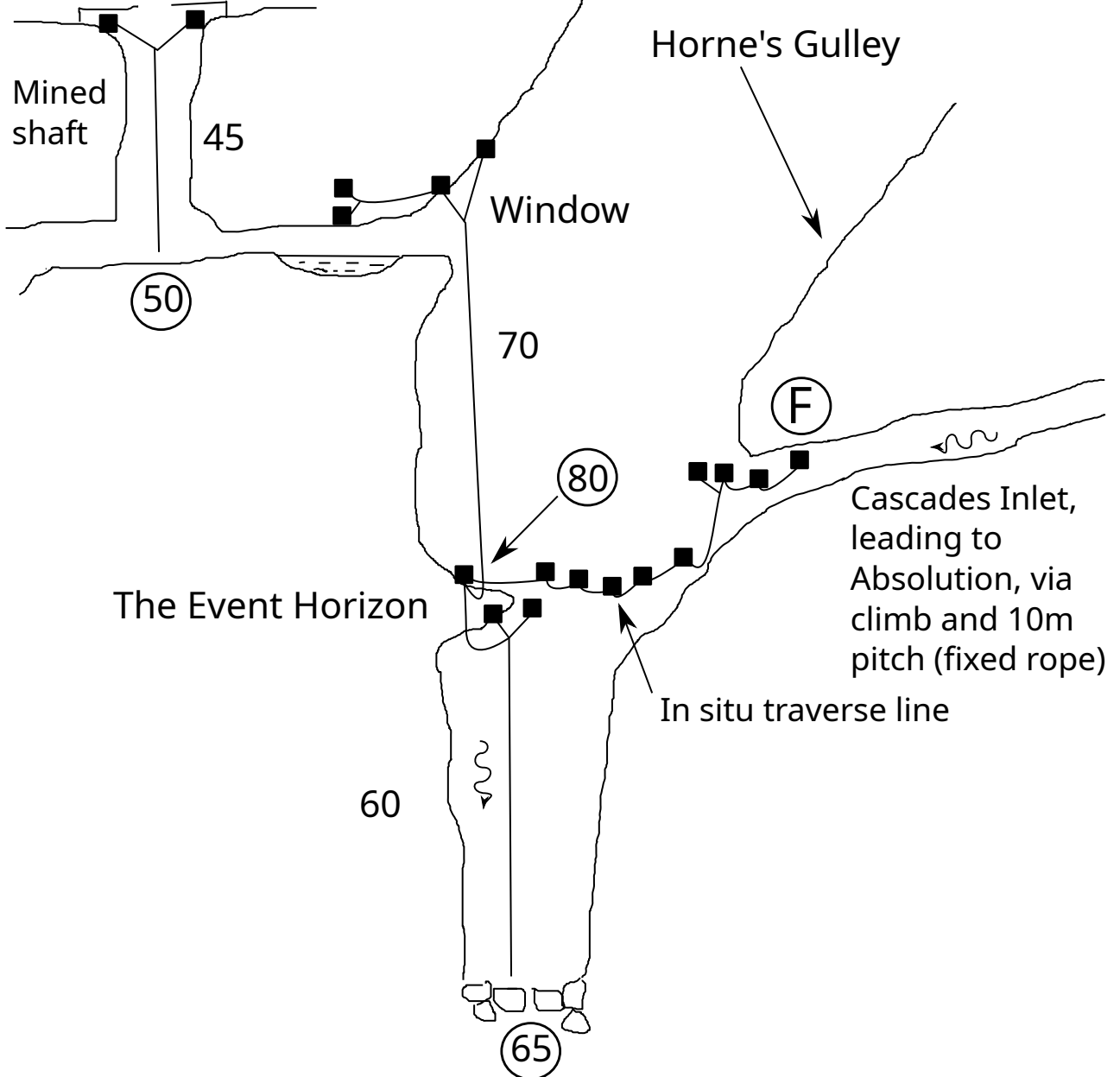


First Pitch: 15 m rope, 3 mailloons.
 Second pitch: 20 m rope. 4 mailloons. Sling and krab
 for deviation.
 Third pitch: 10 m rope, 2 mailloons.

Titan Castleton



Cap and lid on entrance

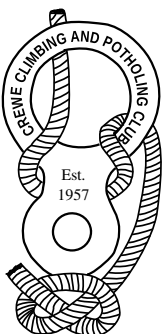


The Event Horizon

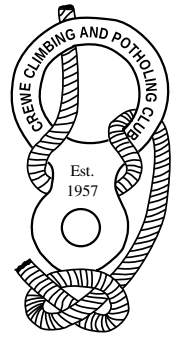
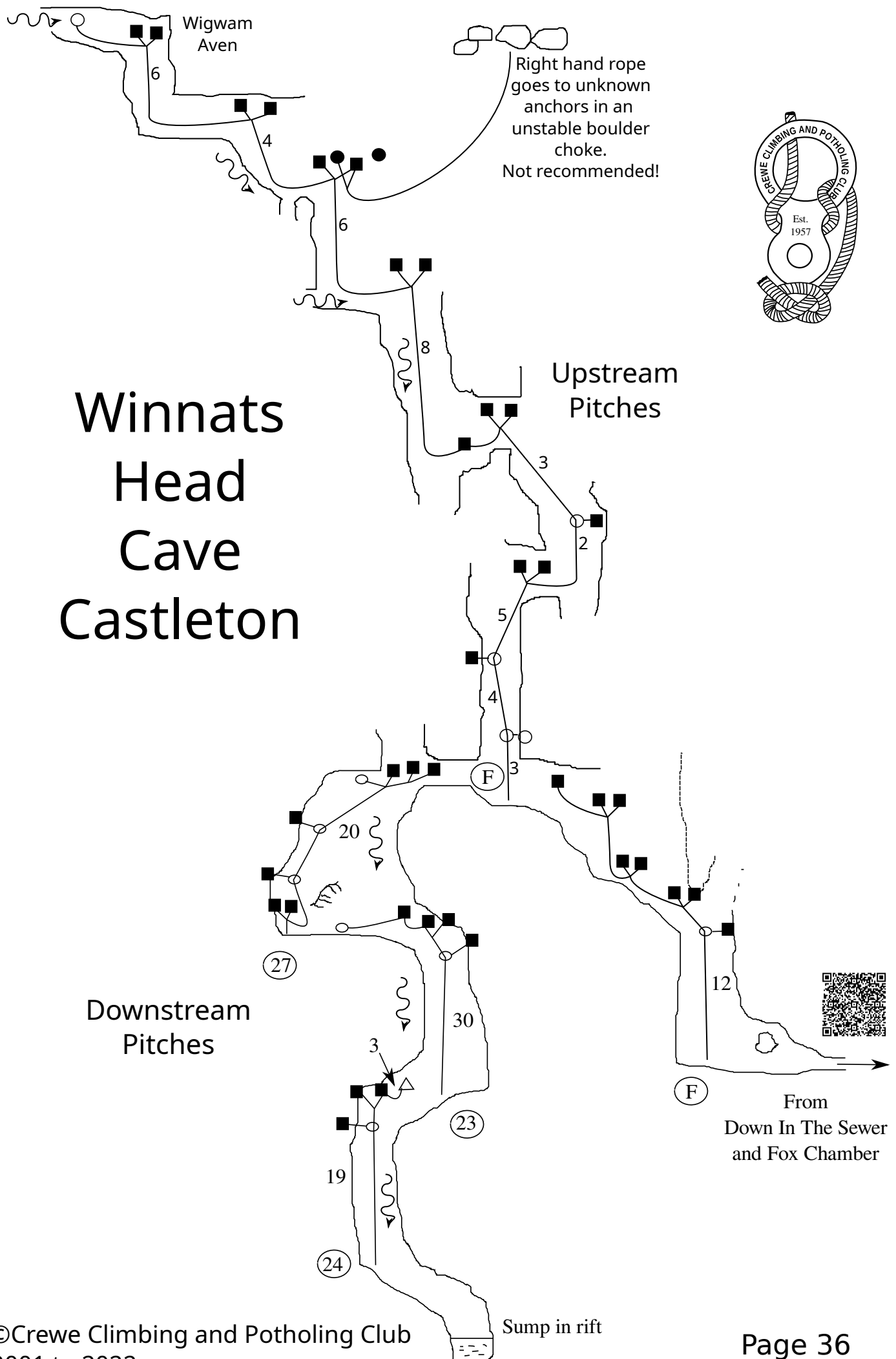
In situ traverse line

Cascades Inlet,
leading to
Absolution, via
climb and 10m
pitch (fixed rope)

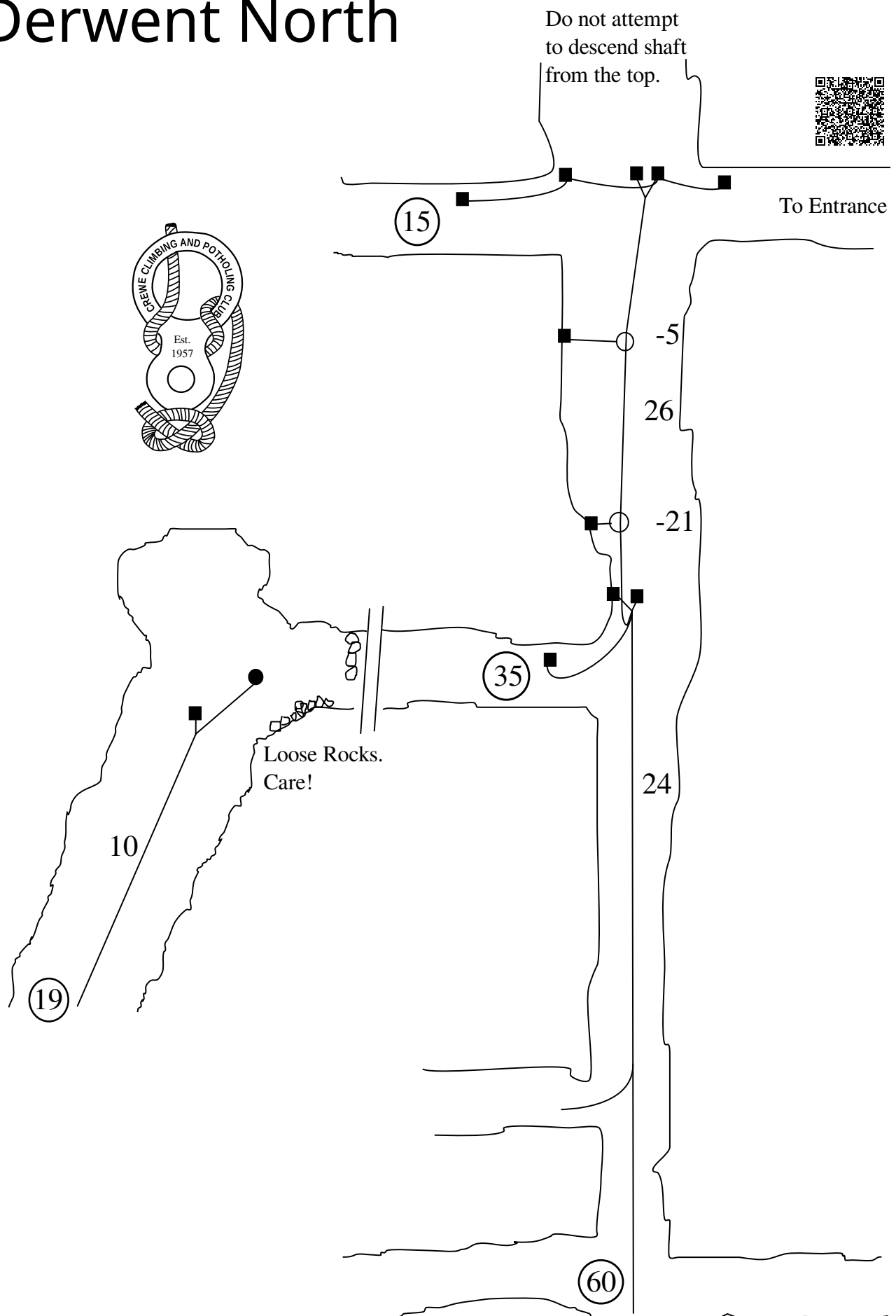
Boulder choke, leading down to
Blarney's Breakdown and Far Sump
Extensions, JH and Peak Cavern.



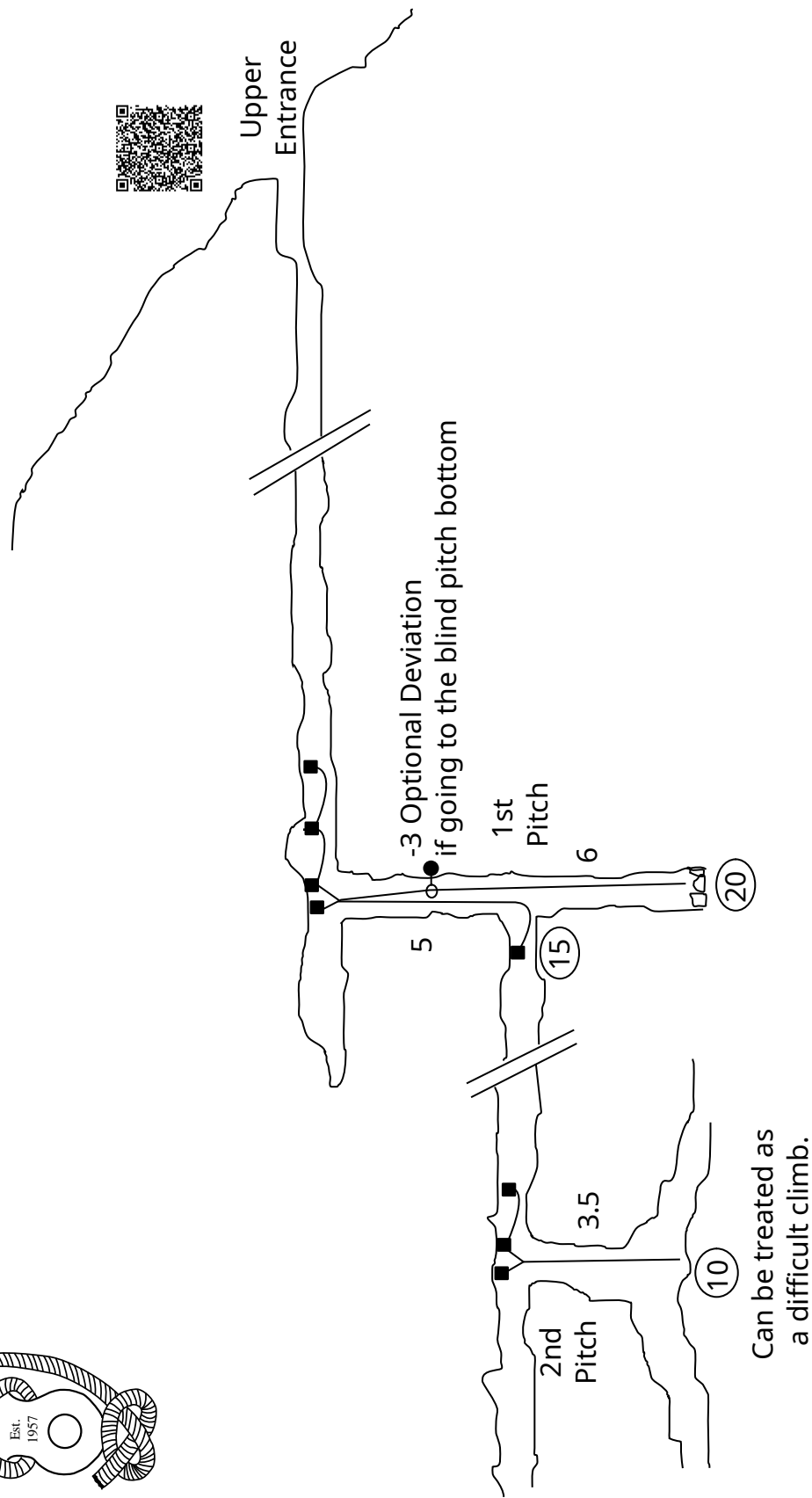
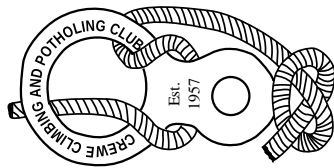
Winnats Head Cave Castleton



Middle Engine Mine Derwent North



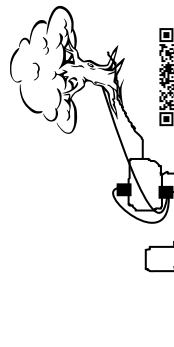
Clatterway Levels - Bonsall Derwent South



From a sketch by Steve Knox 2001.
See <https://www.ccp.org.uk/newsletters/CCPCNewsletter73.pdf>

Deep Shaft - Also known as Day Shaft

Gentlewoman's Pipe Climbing Shaft



35

Gentlewoman's
Pipe
Climbing Shaft

→
To Stope, Pipe
& Old Jant Mine

44

Derwent South

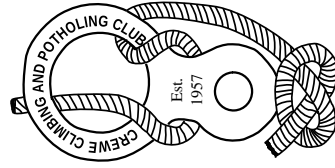
Many shafts once connected to
Masson and Ringing Rake Soughs
(formerly known as Youds' Level).
These can still be descended.



Deep Shaft
(Day Shaft)

-27

81



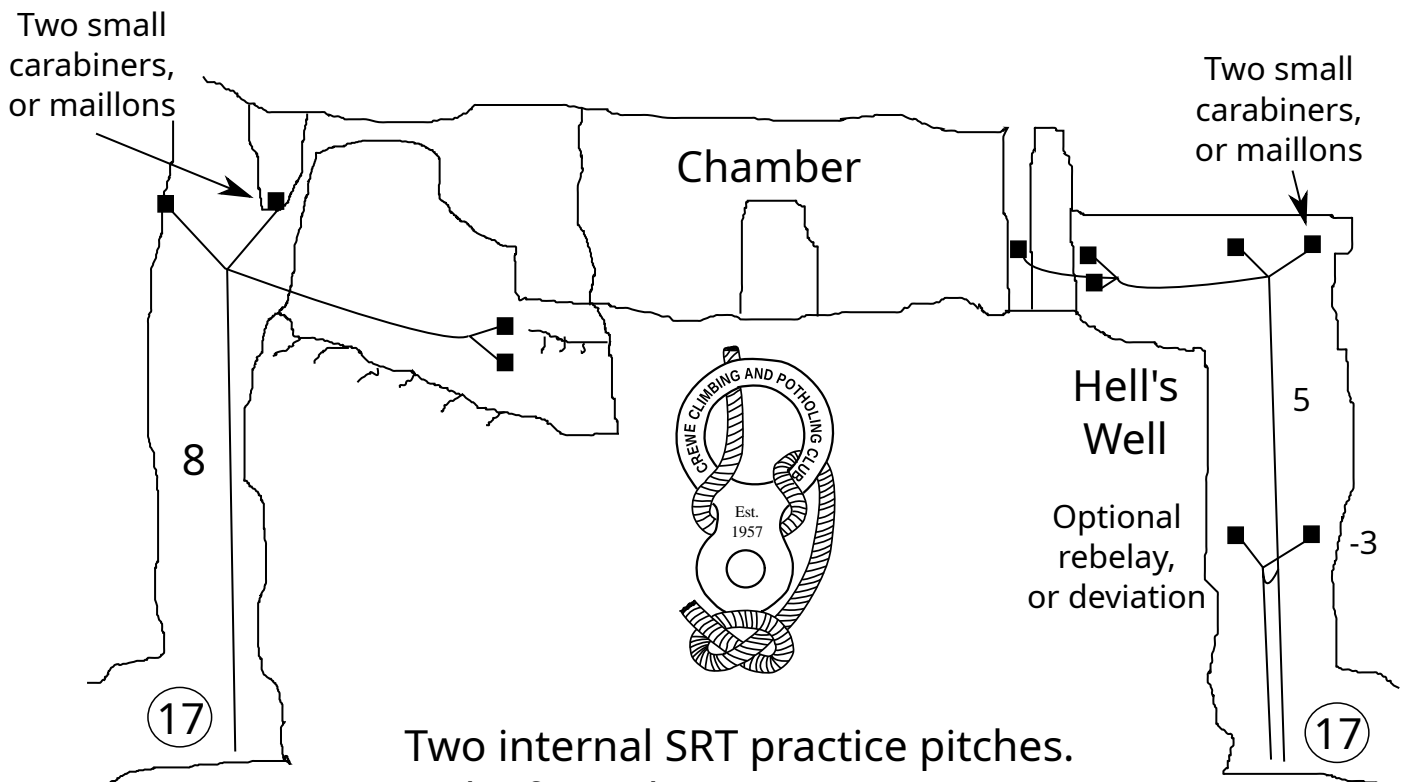
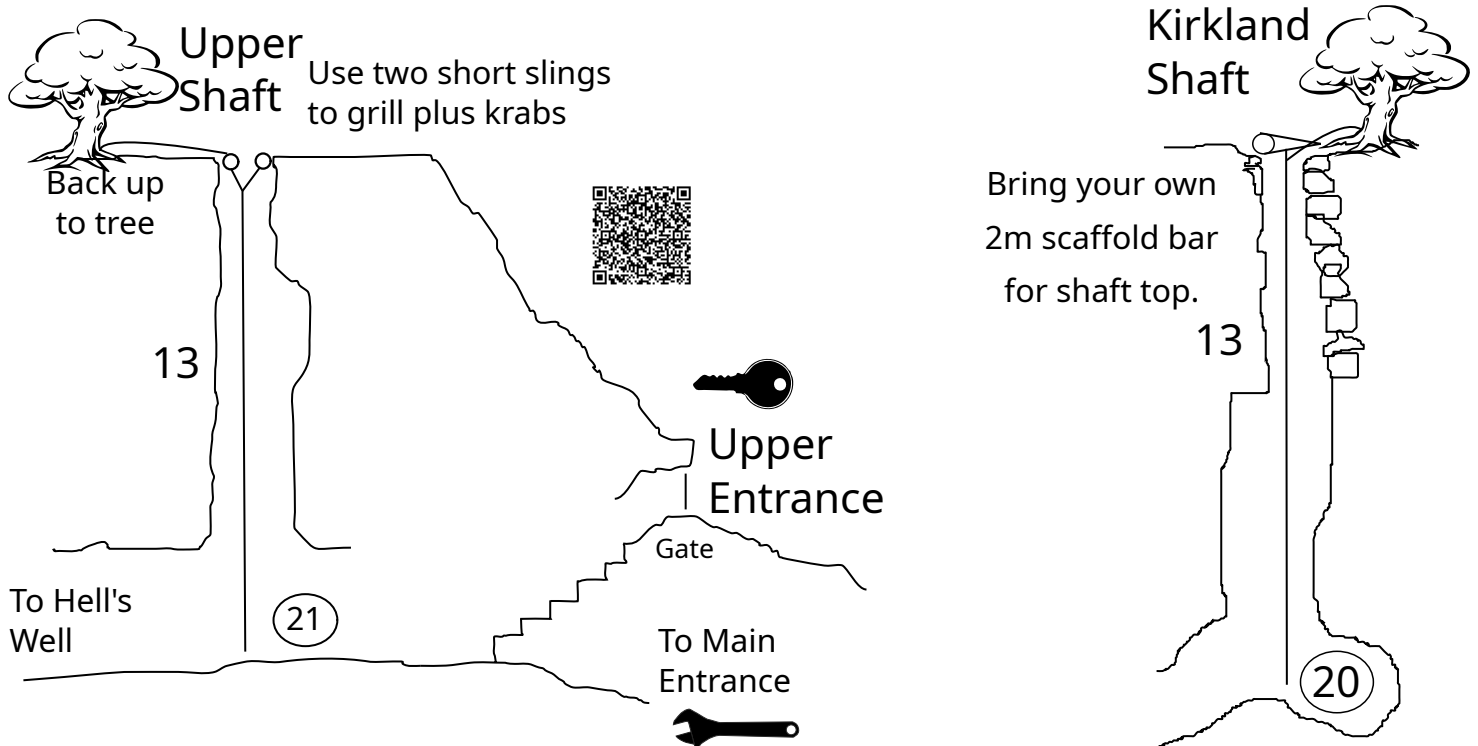
85

→
To Old Jant Mine

→
To Ringing Rake Sough
also known as Youds' Level

Devonshire Cavern

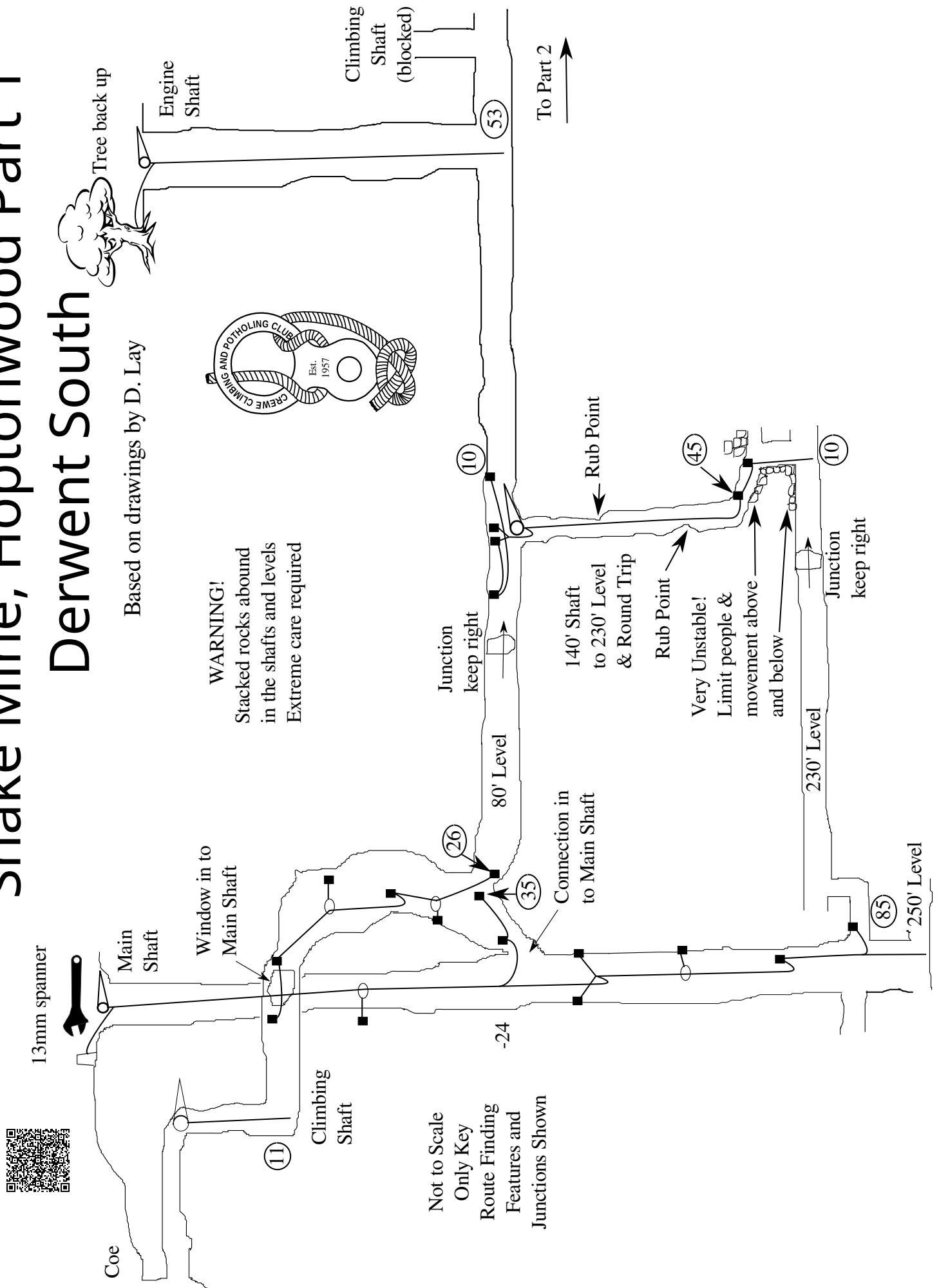
Derwent South



Snake Mine, Hoptonwood Part 1

Derwent South

Based on drawings by D. Lay

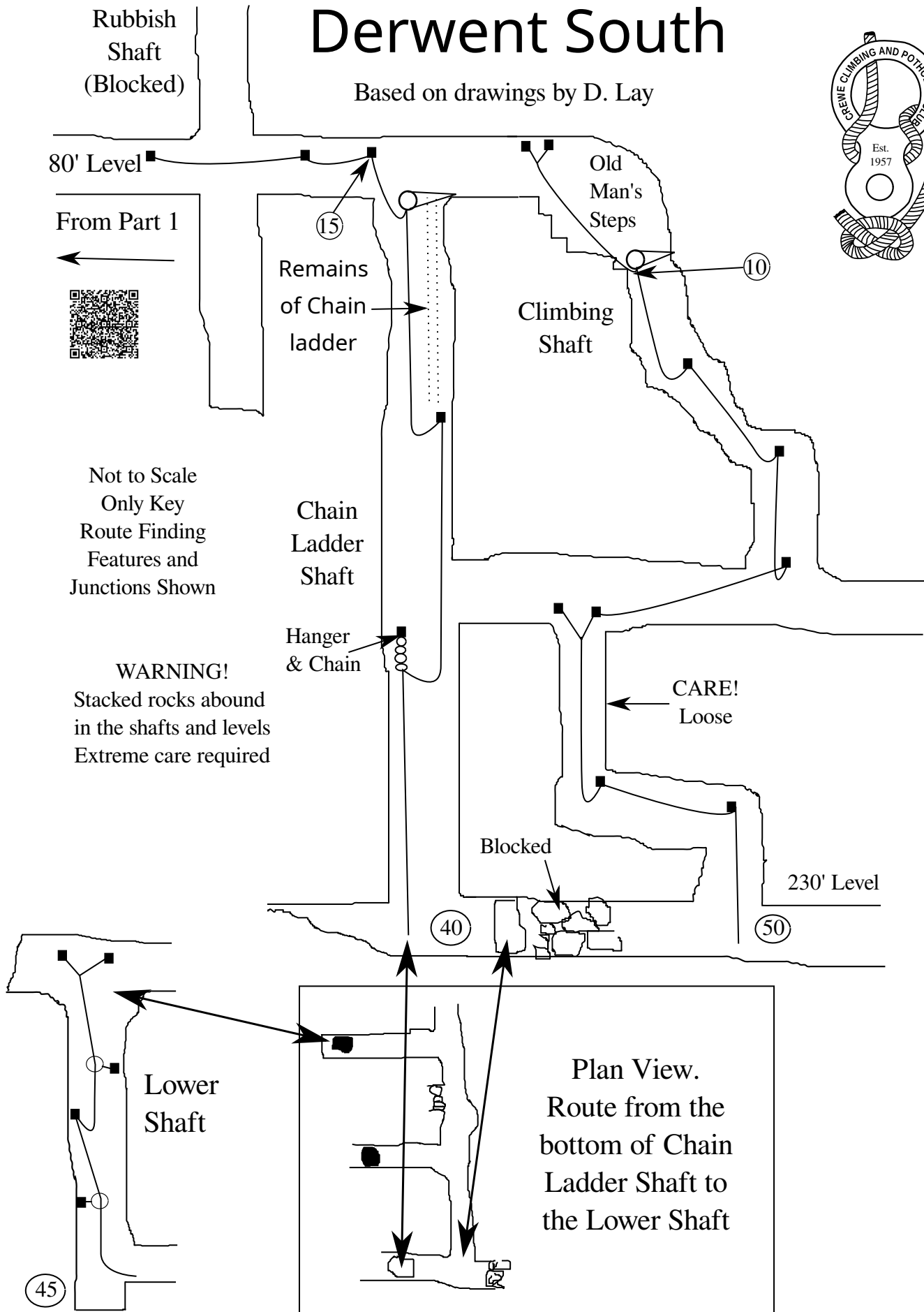
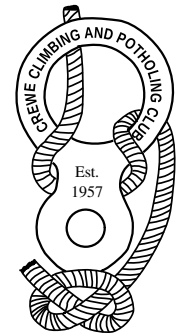


Not to Scale
Only Key
Route Finding
Features and
Junctions Shown

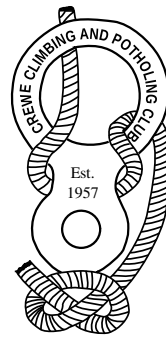
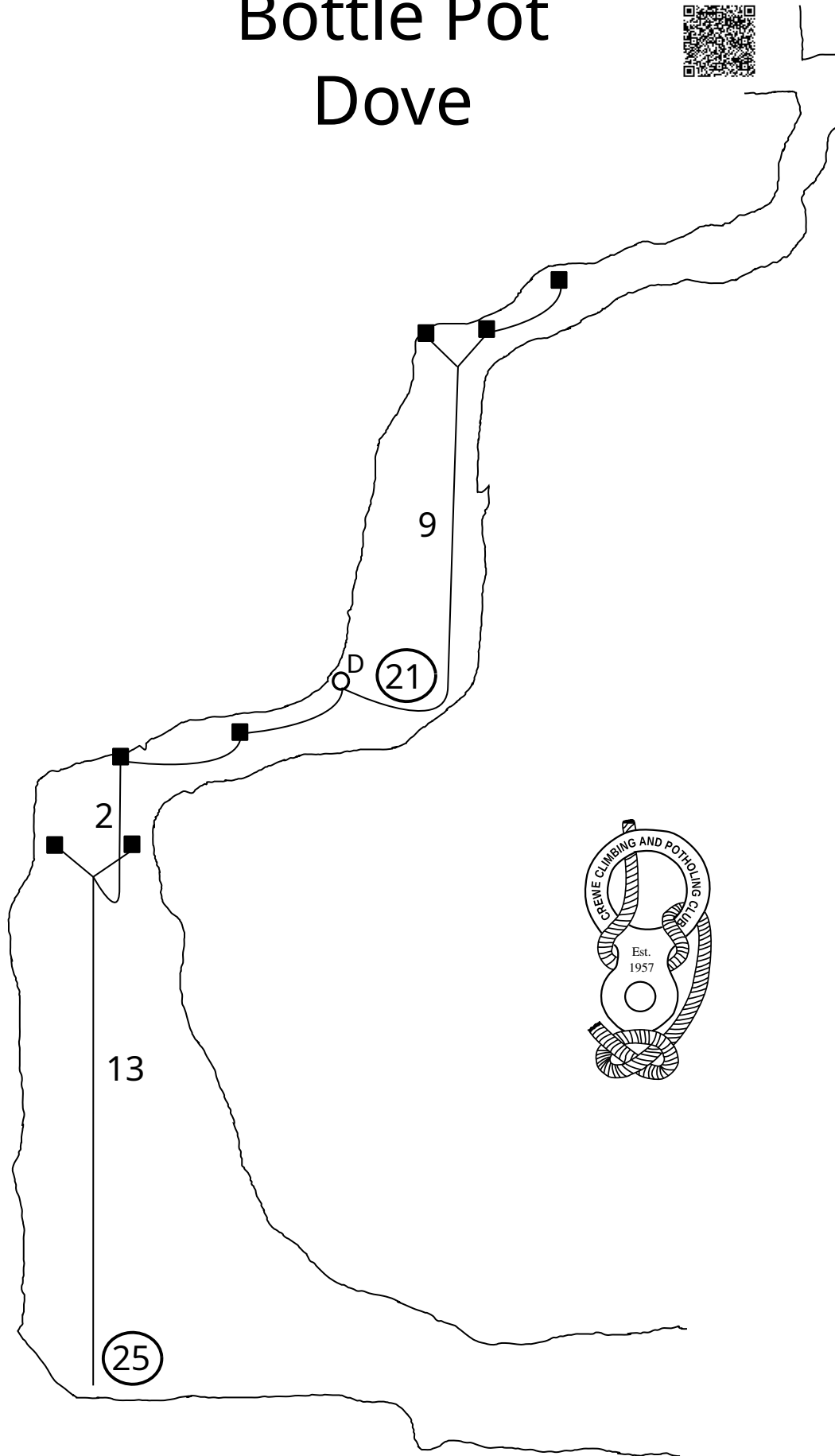
Snake Mine, Hoptonwood Part 2

Derwent South

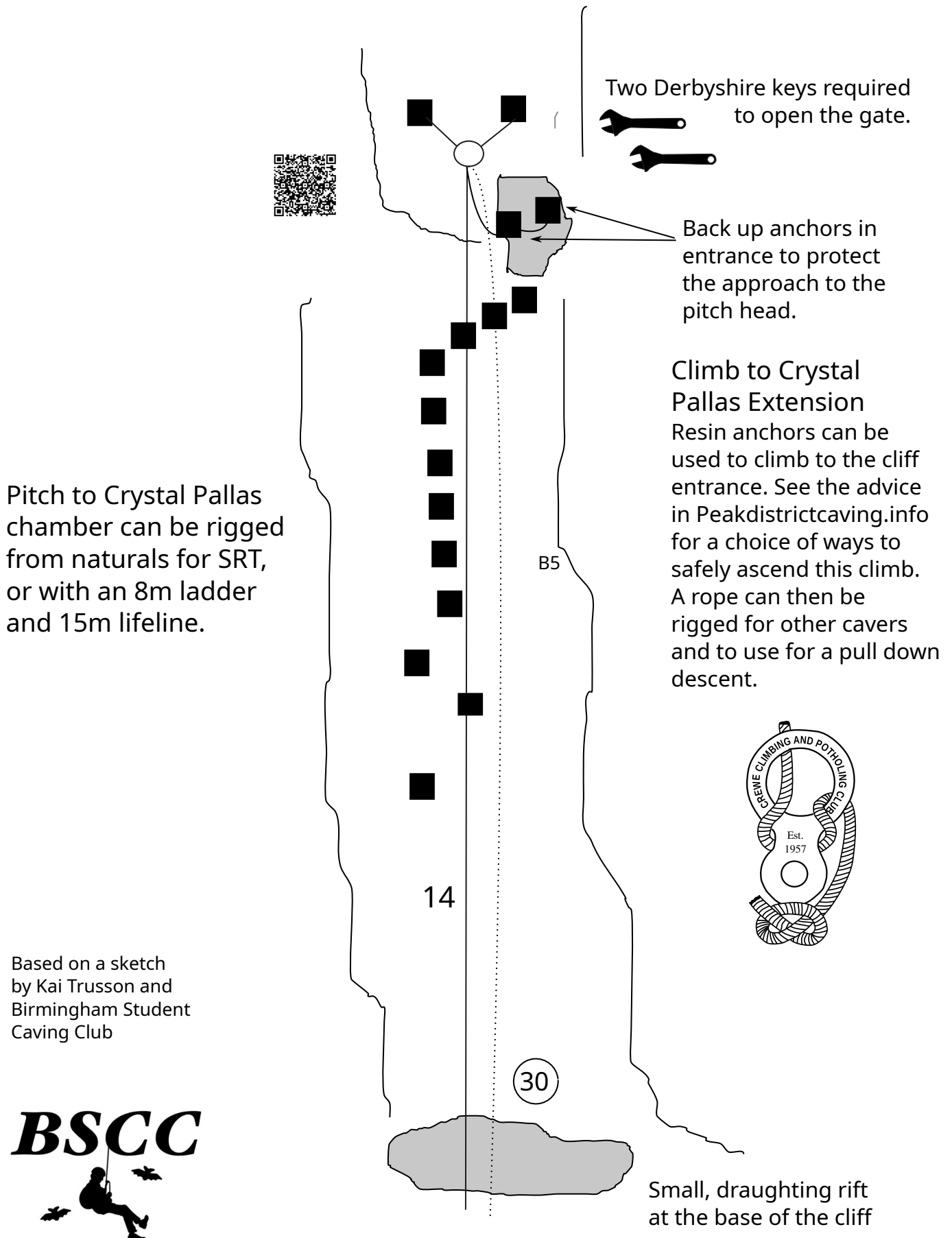
Based on drawings by D. Lay



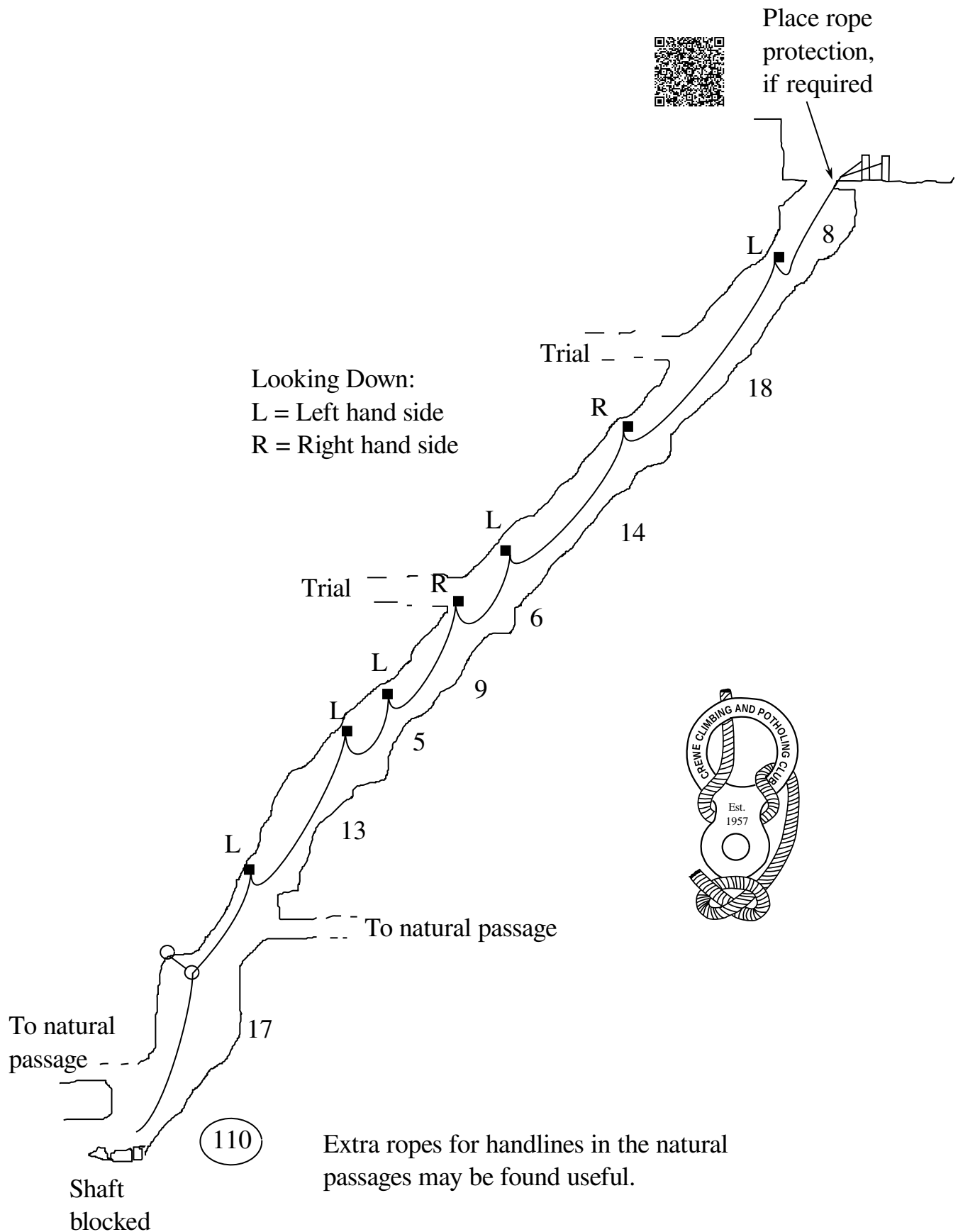
Bottle Pot Dove

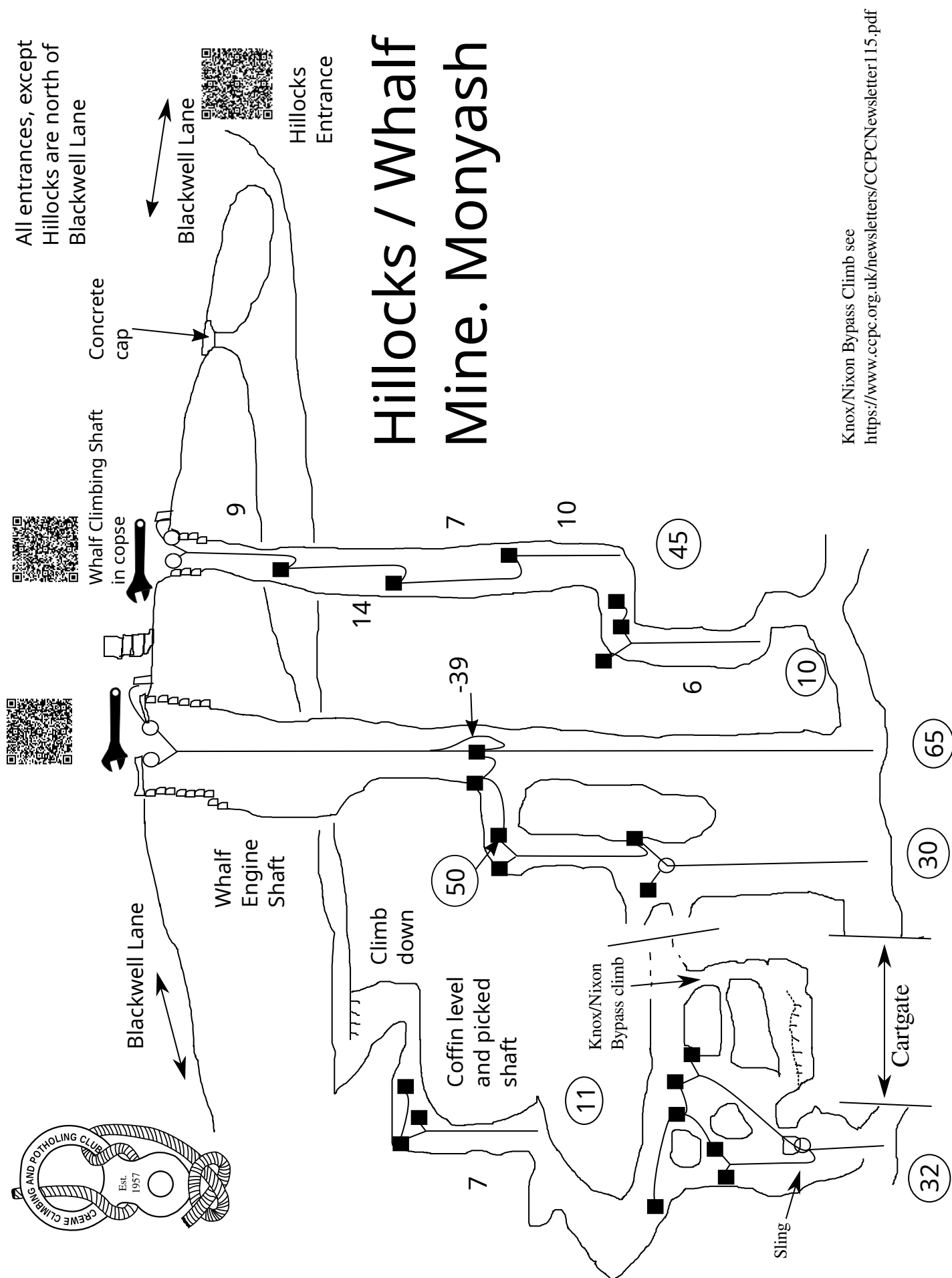
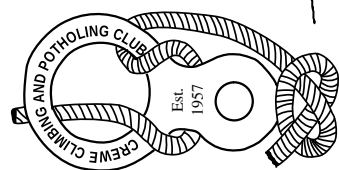


Owl Hole - Dove



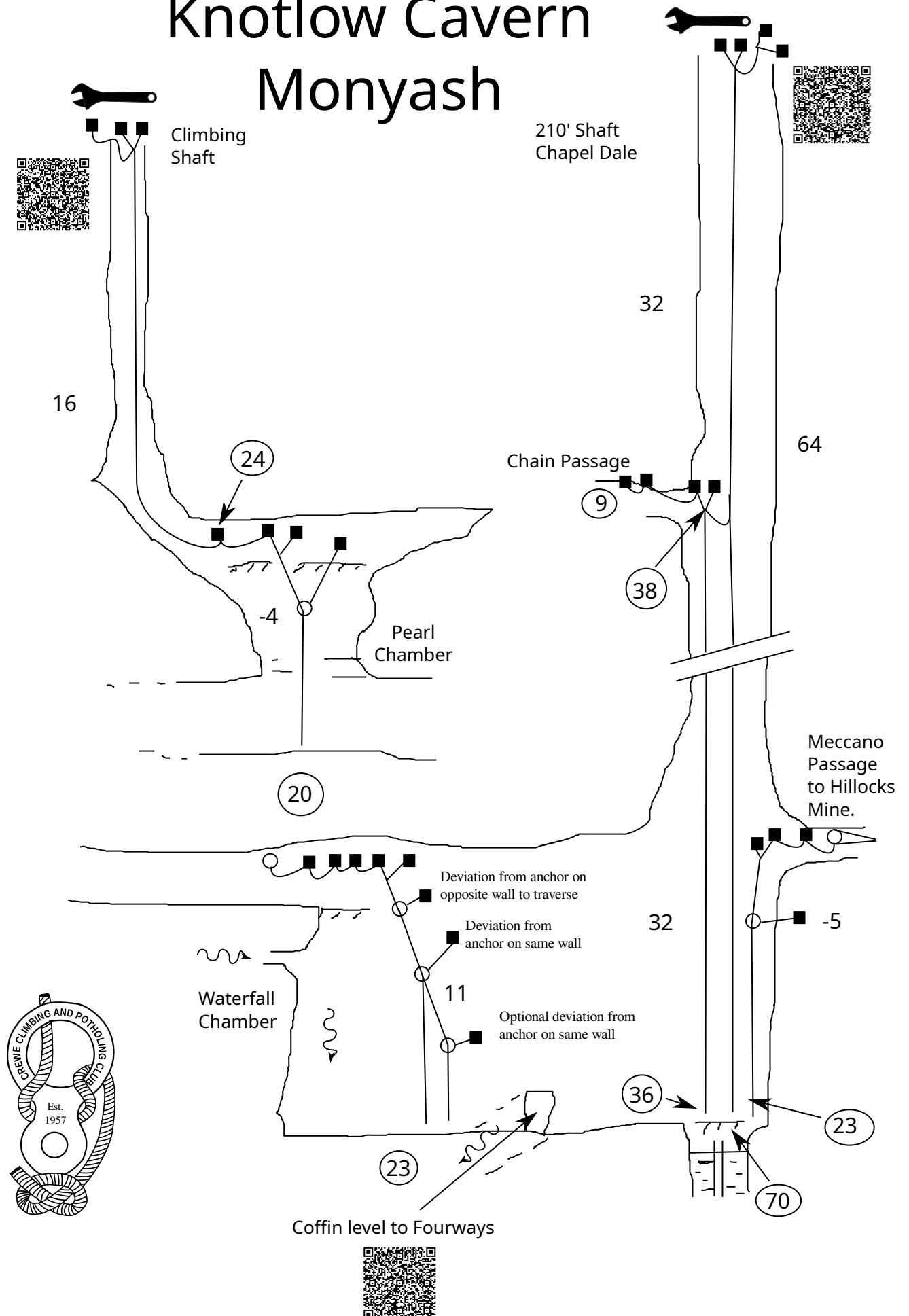
Robin's Shaft Mine Dove





Knox/Nixon Bypass Climb see
<https://www.ccp.org.uk/newsletters/CCPCNewsletter115.pdf>

Knotlow Cavern Monyash



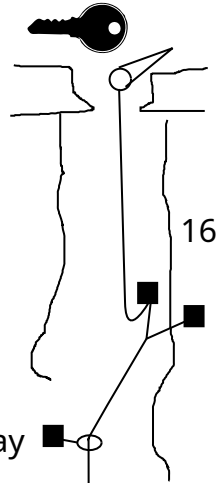
Lathkill Head Cave

Garden Path

Lathkill Dale



Ginged section



Or rebelay

13

Concrete Steps

35

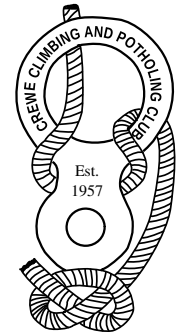
13

Alternative

Deviation helps
keep clear of the
roof straws.

10

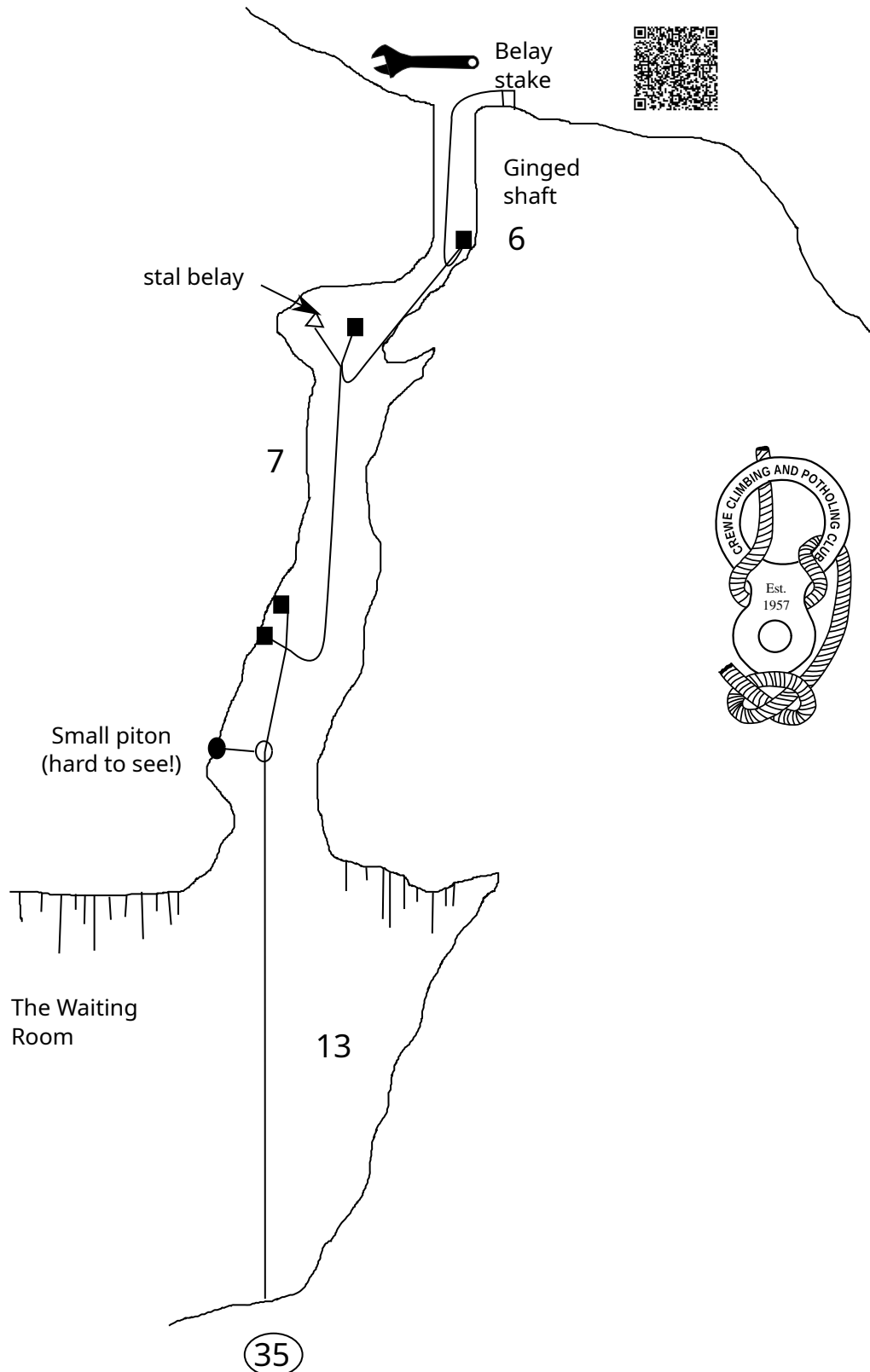
30



Lathkill Head Cave

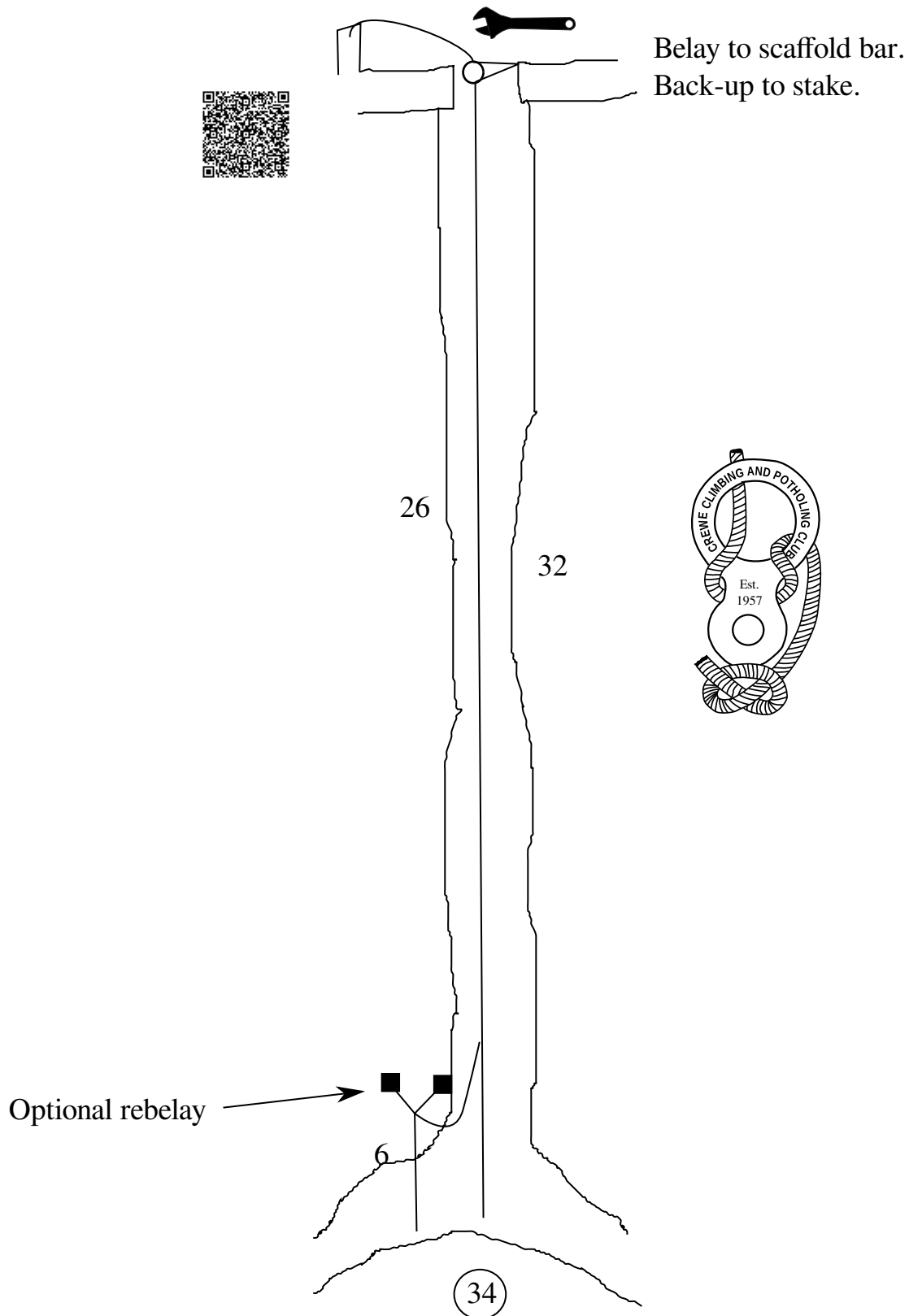
Top Entrance

Lathkill Dale



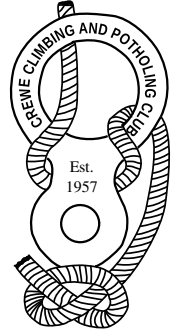
Water Icicle Close Cavern

Lathkill Dale



Carlswark Cavern Stoney Middleton

Eyam Dale Shaft

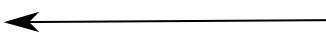


The Y hang anchors have 8mm stainless steel rings fitted for to use on pull-through trips to save wear on the resin anchors.

12

20

To Gin
Entrance and
rest of cave.



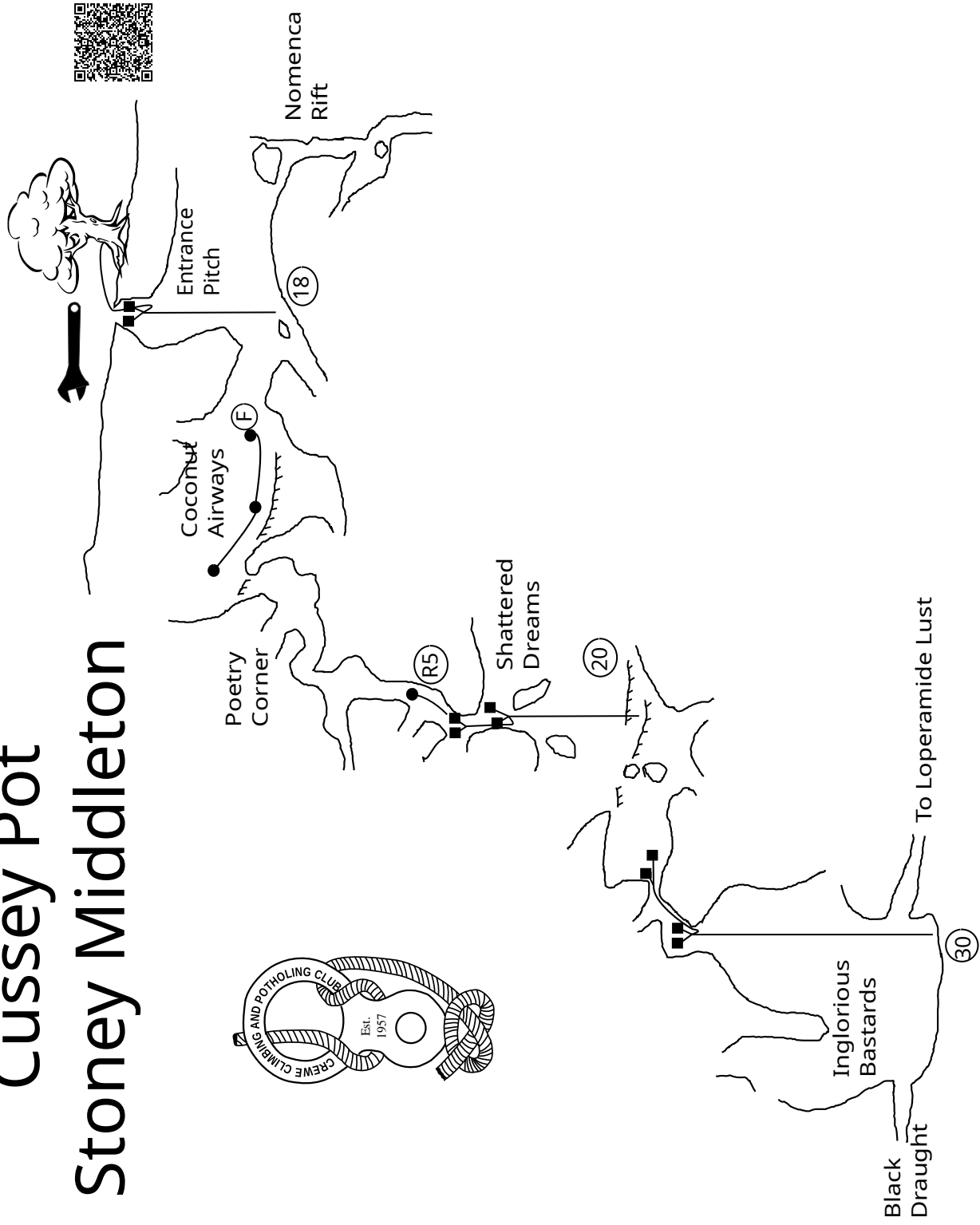
Flower Pot

Narrow plastic pipe is difficult to exit. Belay a short (5m) wire ladder to a scaffold bar.



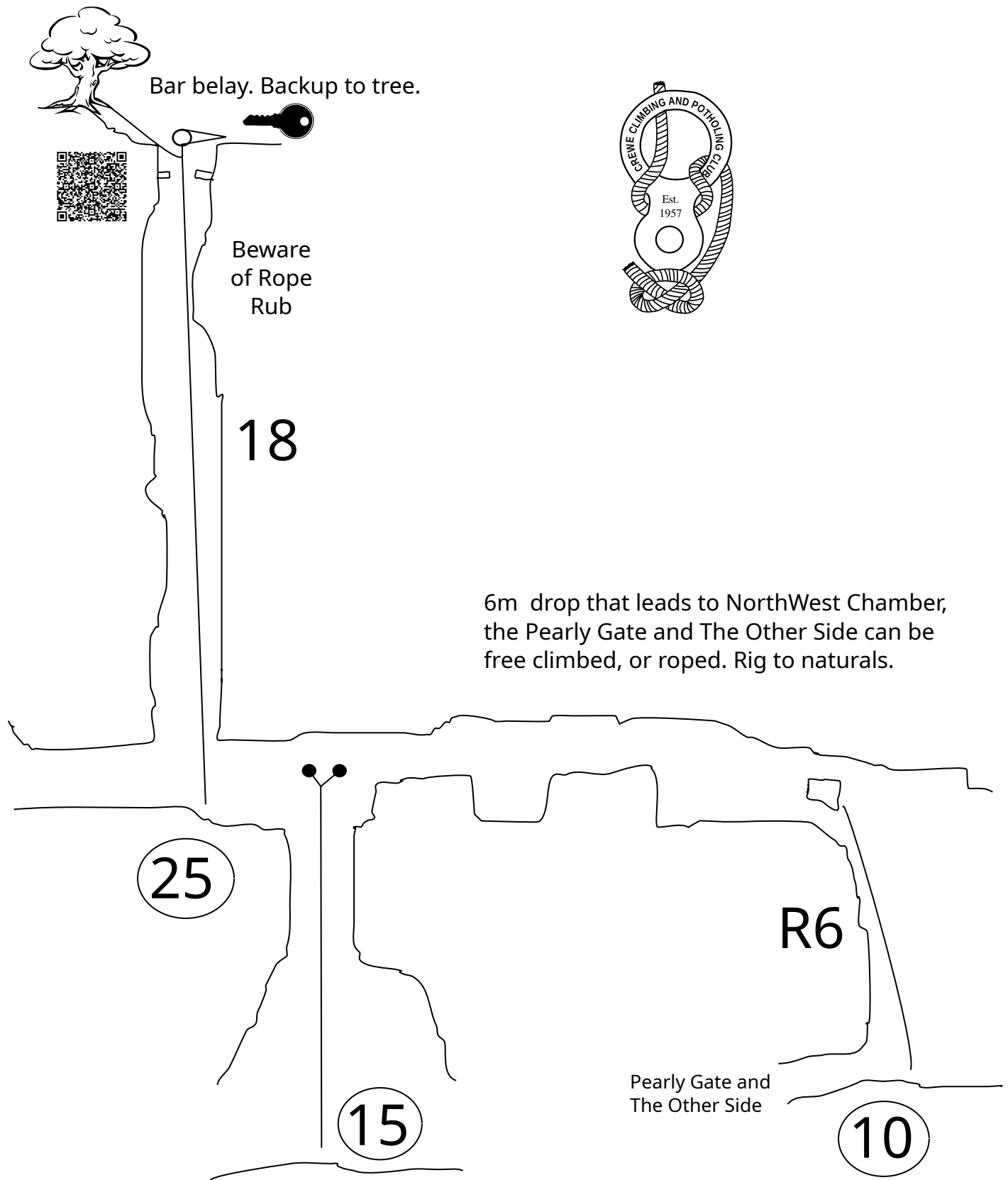
Cussey Pot

Stoney Middleton



Eyam Dale House Cave

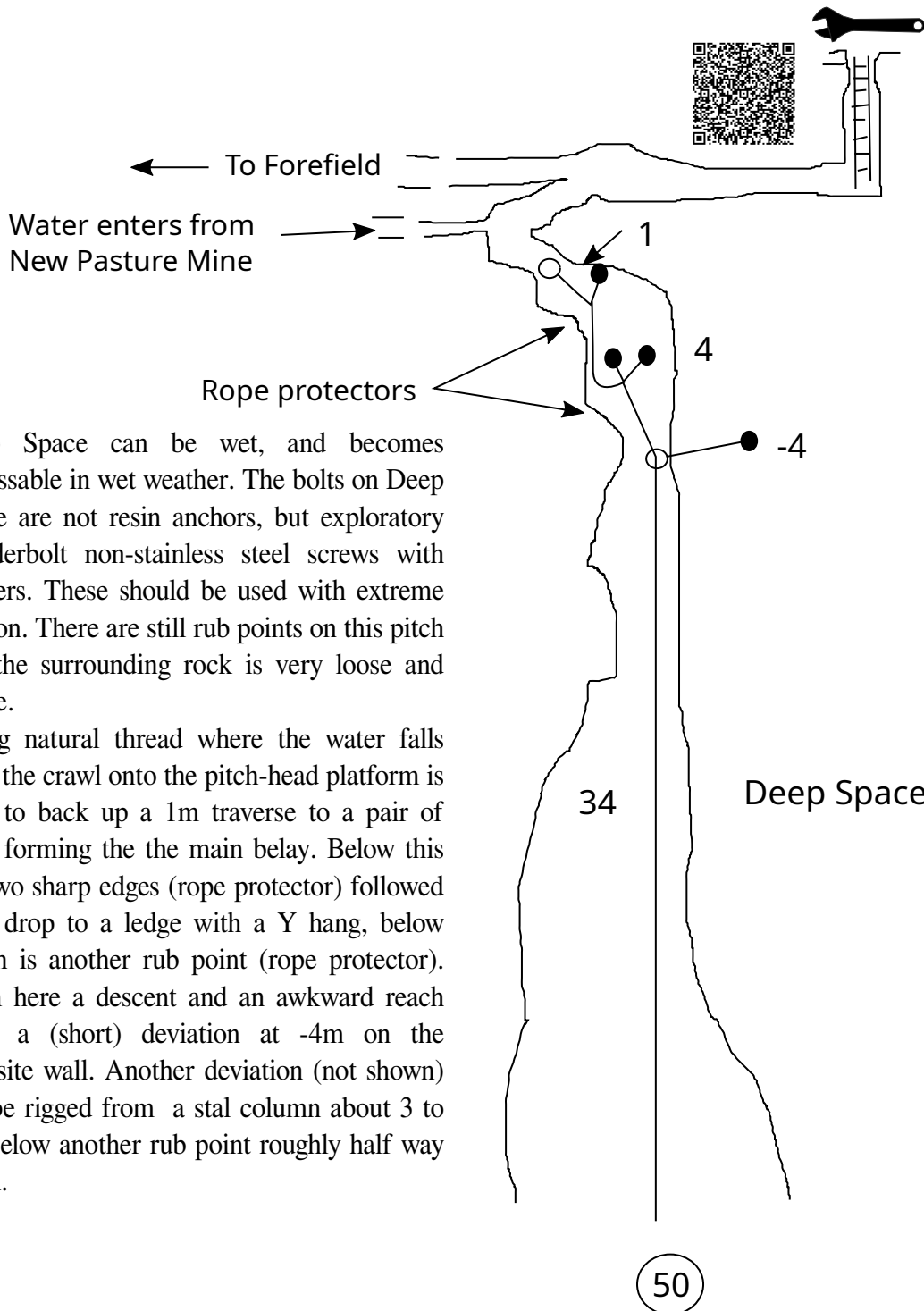
Stoney Middleton



Hungerhill Swallet

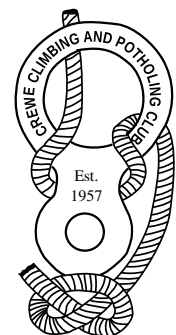
Stoney Middleton

50m rope, 4 maillons, 2 deviation slings (1 short) + 2 krabs, 2 rope protectors.



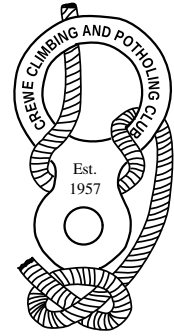
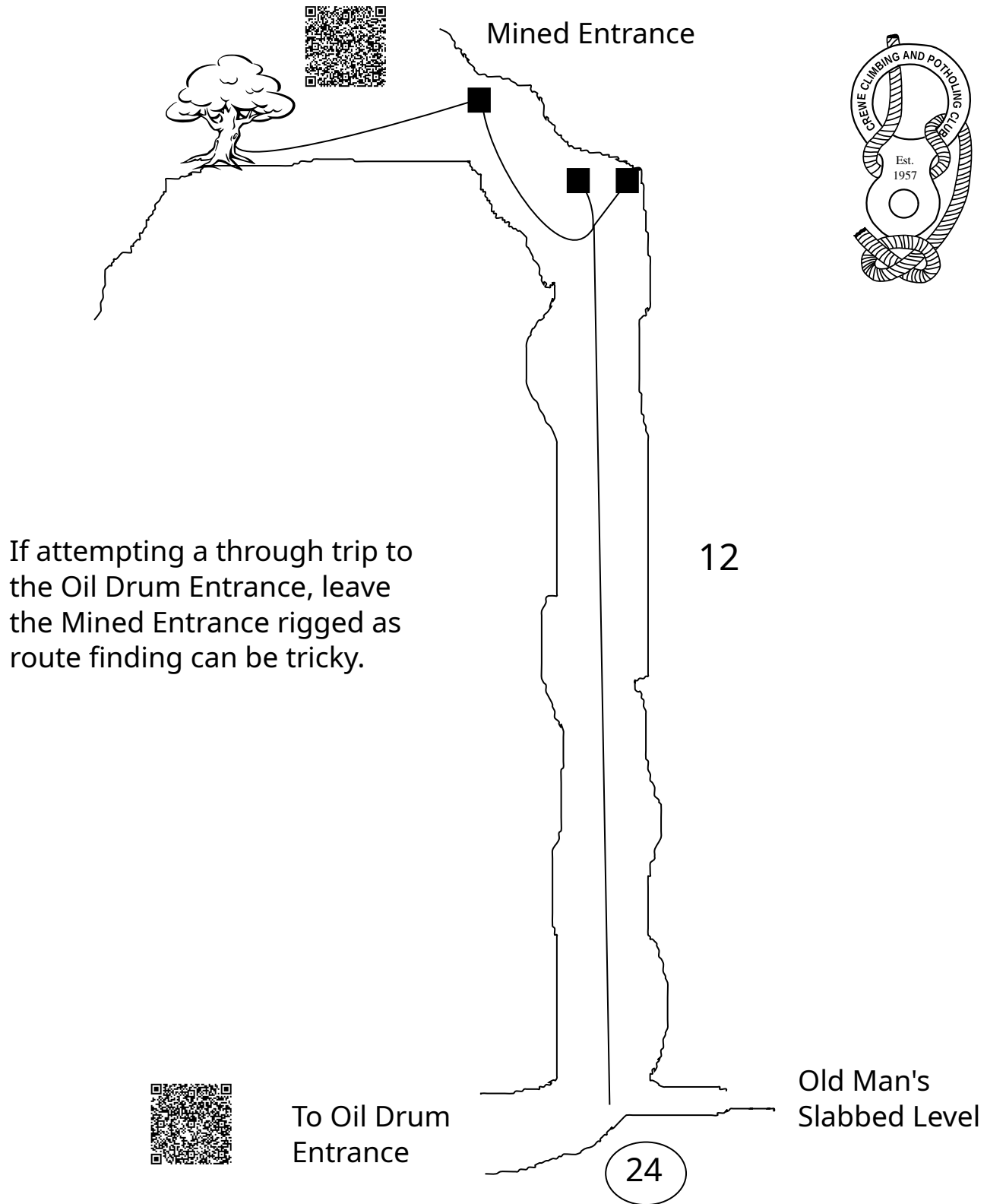
Deep Space can be wet, and becomes impassable in wet weather. The bolts on Deep Space are not resin anchors, but exploratory thunderbolt non-stainless steel screws with hangers. These should be used with extreme caution. There are still rub points on this pitch and the surrounding rock is very loose and brittle.

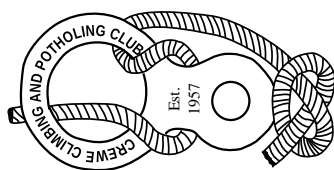
A big natural thread where the water falls from the crawl onto the pitch-head platform is used to back up a 1m traverse to a pair of bolts forming the the main belay. Below this are two sharp edges (rope protector) followed by a drop to a ledge with a Y hang, below which is another rub point (rope protector). From here a descent and an awkward reach gains a (short) deviation at -4m on the opposite wall. Another deviation (not shown) can be rigged from a stal column about 3 to 4m below another rub point roughly half way down.



Lay-by Pot

Stoney Middleton

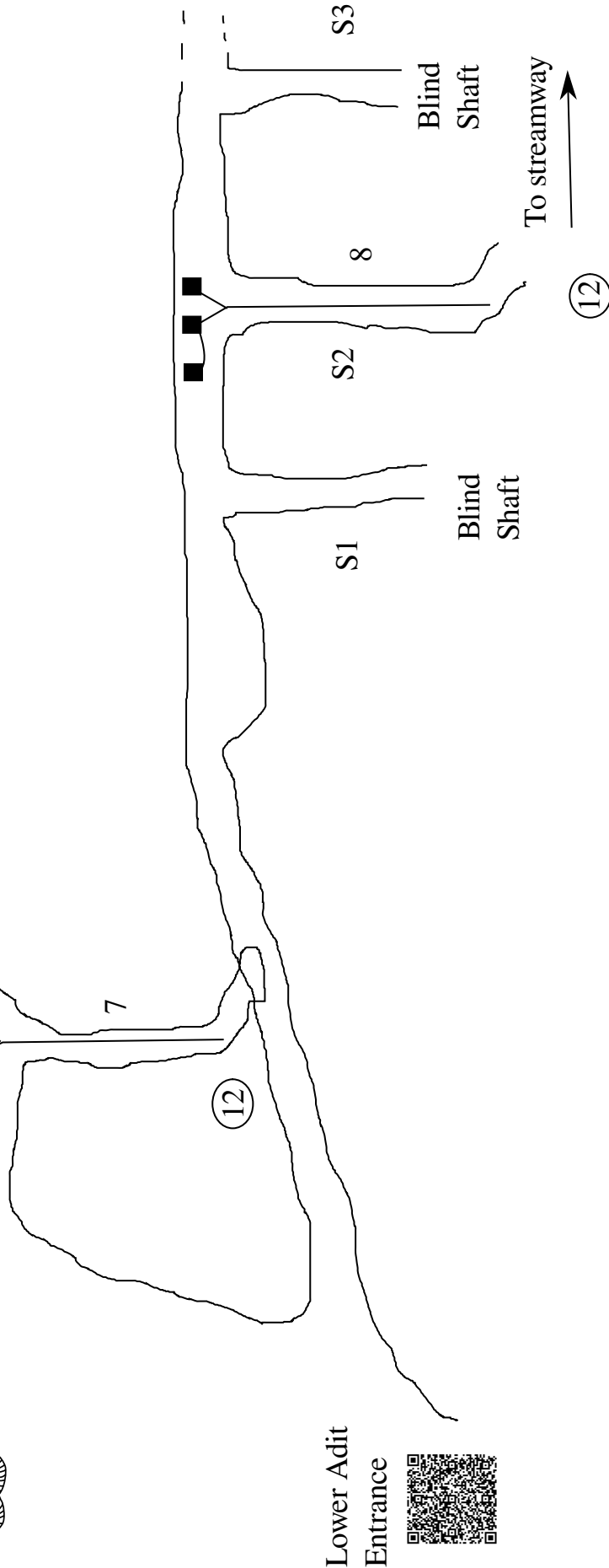




Merlin's Mine Stoney Middleton



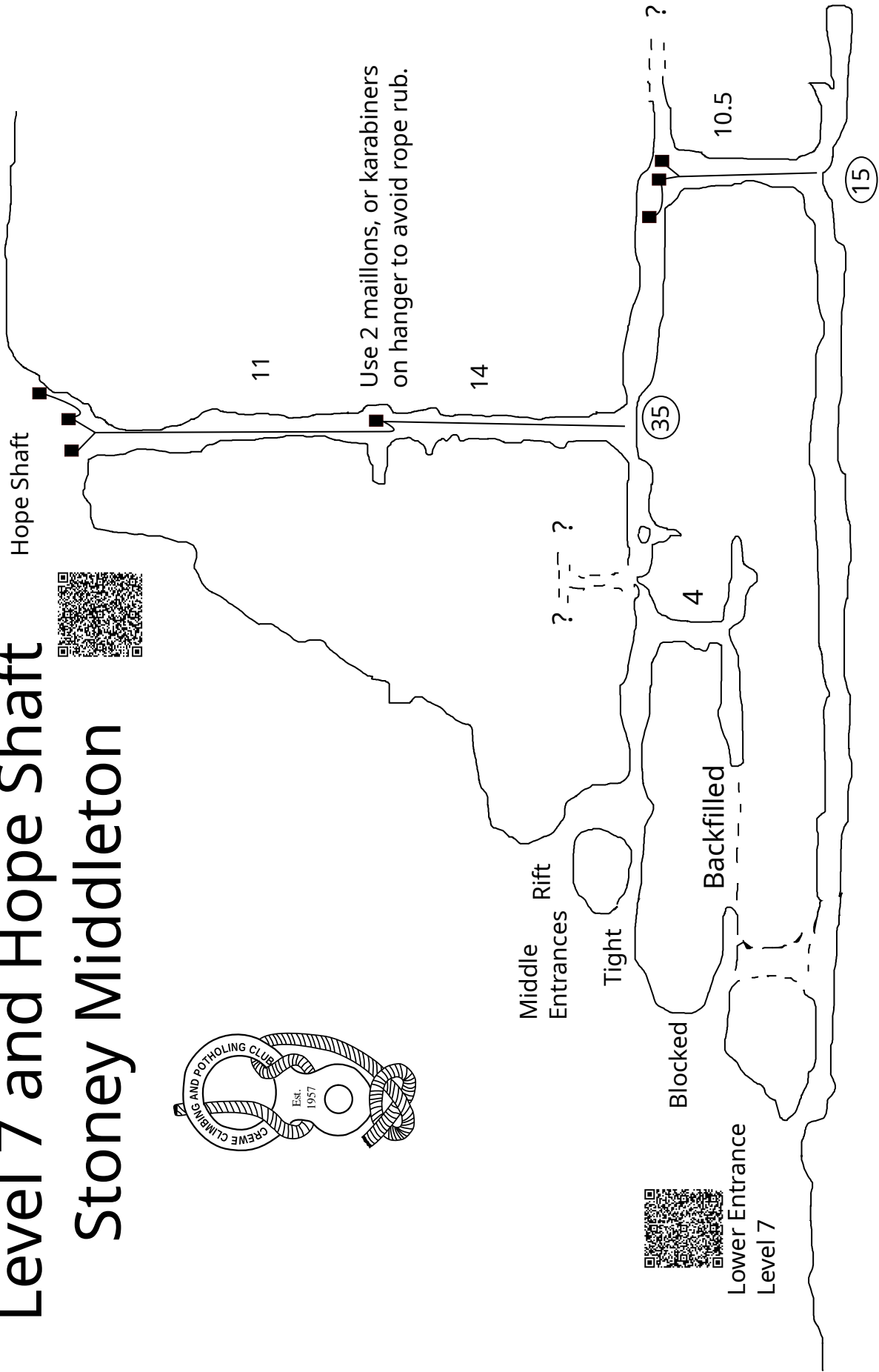
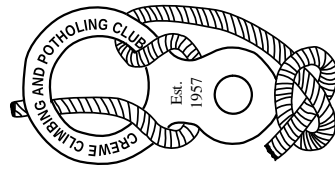
Upper
Entrance



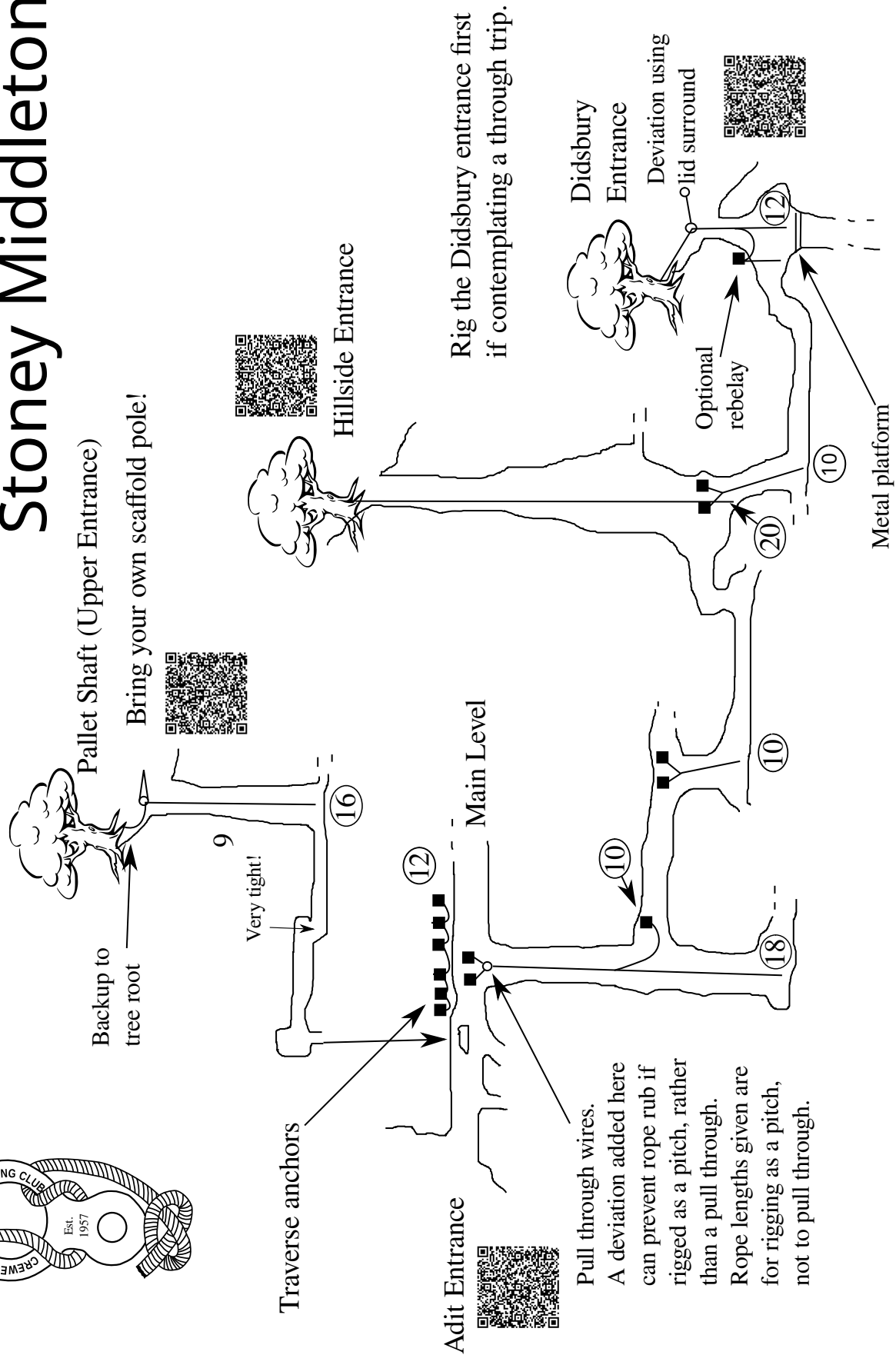
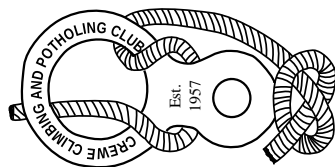
Lower Adit
Entrance



Middleton Dale Mine Level 7 and Hope Shaft Stoney Middleton



Nickergrove Mine Stoney Middleton



Putwell Hill Mine

Wye



The Ravine Entrance is situated on the right-hand side of the shallow ravine which runs uphill from the obvious mining remains above the track. A flat out crawl under the wall quickly enlarges to crawling height, and leads to the first pitch, a 7m. shaft (loose), with further workings beyond. The pitch lands at a junction, where an awkward climb down, between boulders, leads to the head of the second pitch, an unstable slope, in a huge rift, ending with a 6m. free hang to reach the lower workings. Rig the slope and pitch together. Back above the boulders, a gritty crawl leads to a separate slope down into another huge rift in the opposite direction, which eventually leads to the base of the capped shaft entrance (daylight visible, but no exit possible).

Equipment:

First pitch: 15 m. rope (to allow back up to boulder),
plus 8 mm bolt and hanger (two other hangers in place)

Second pitch: 35 m. rope (to rig from boulders),
plus six 8 mm bolts and hangers

