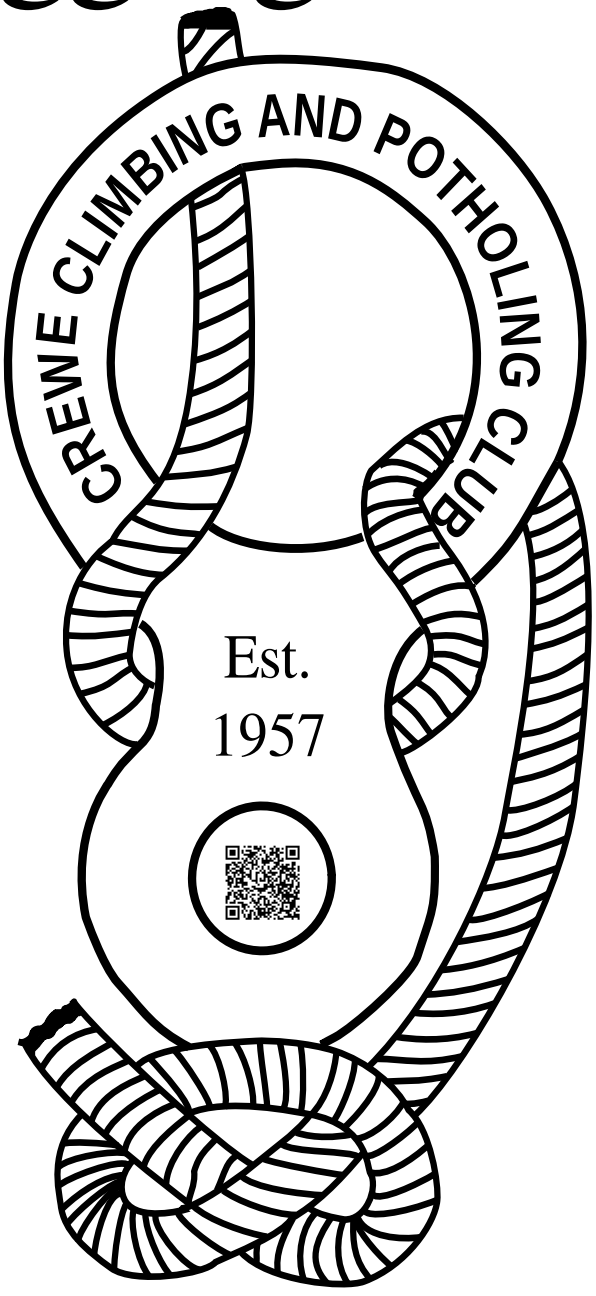
Peak District Rigging Guide



Edition 18.8

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)

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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. See the resin anchor in the detached block, now at the base of the pitch in Pearl Chamber in Knotlow Cavern. 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.

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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

Scaffold bar belay

8mm spit, rawl bolt etc

Stainless steel permanent anchor
IC, Eco, BP, DMM, goujon, P38, Fixe etc.

Deviation

Fixed ladder

Pull through, or Pull Up

Fixed rope F

Belay stake

Tree belay

QR link to Peak District Caving entry

Derbyshire key required

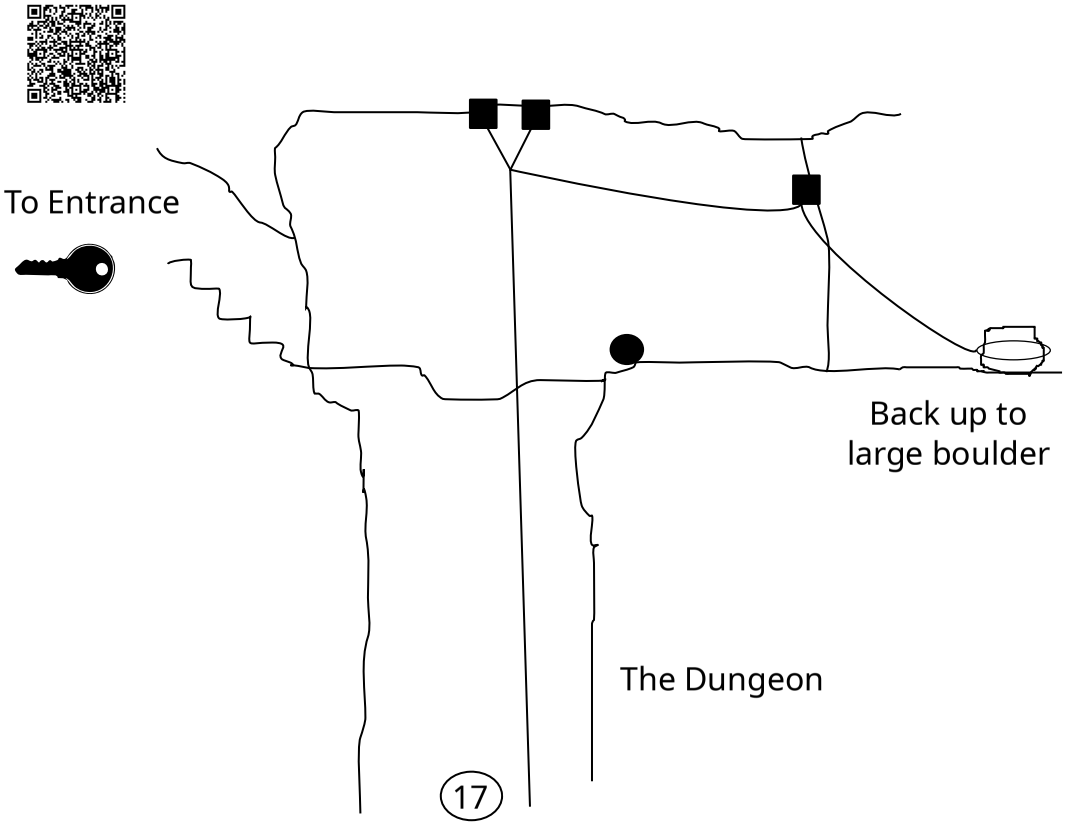
Access key, or code required

Flowing water (normal conditions)

Free climb pitch to rig for others

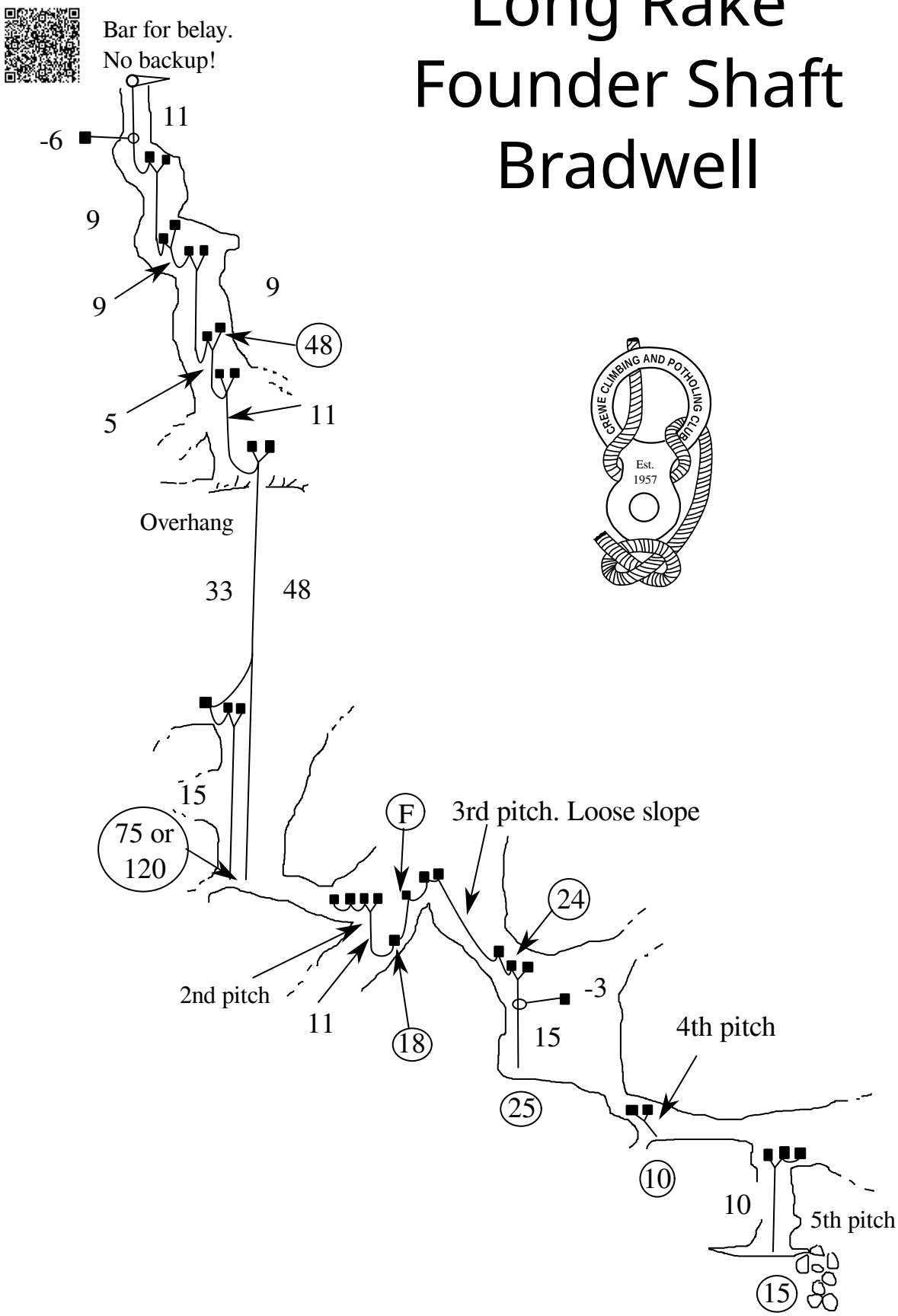
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Bagshawe Cavern
Bradwell



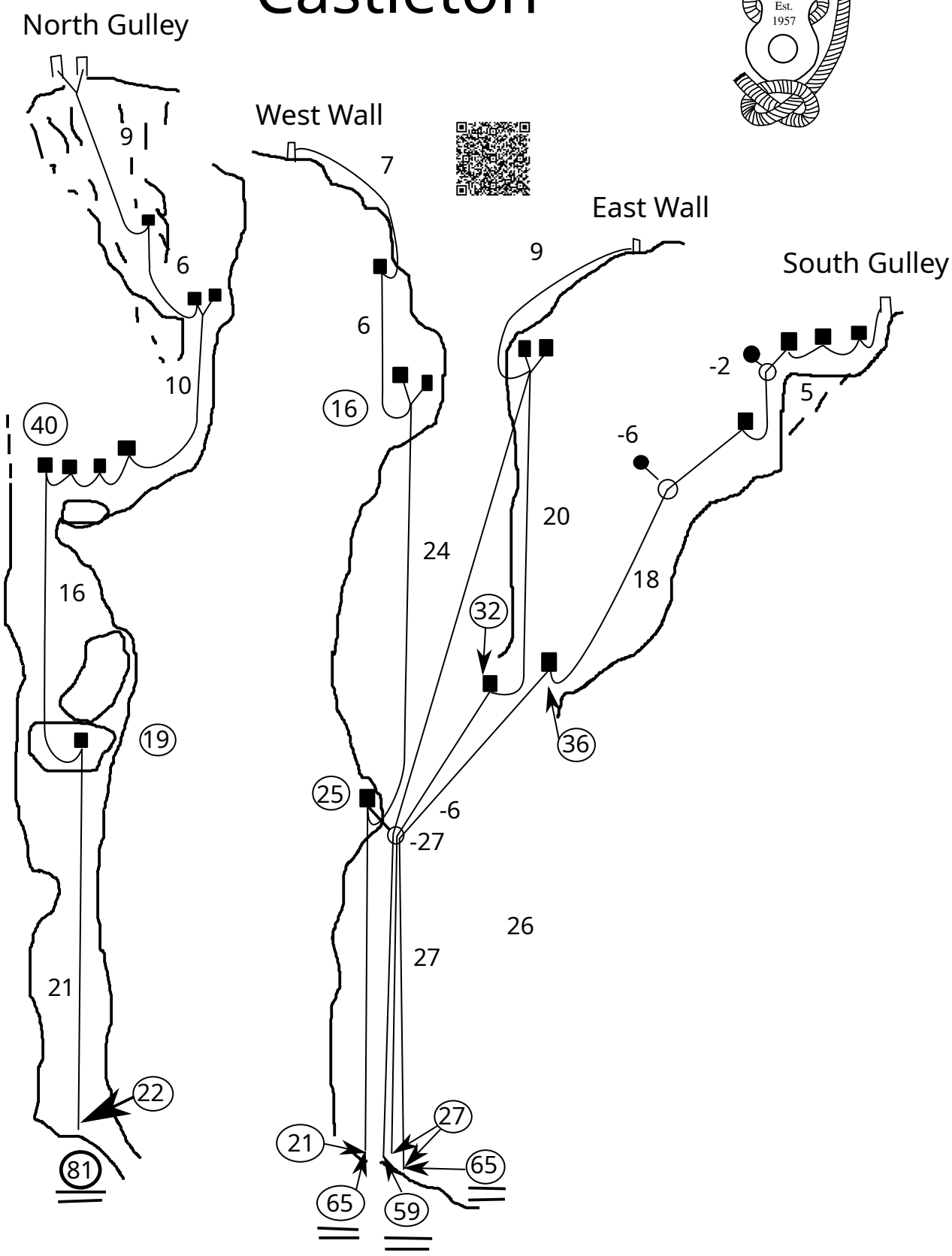
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Long Rake
Founder Shaft
Bradwell



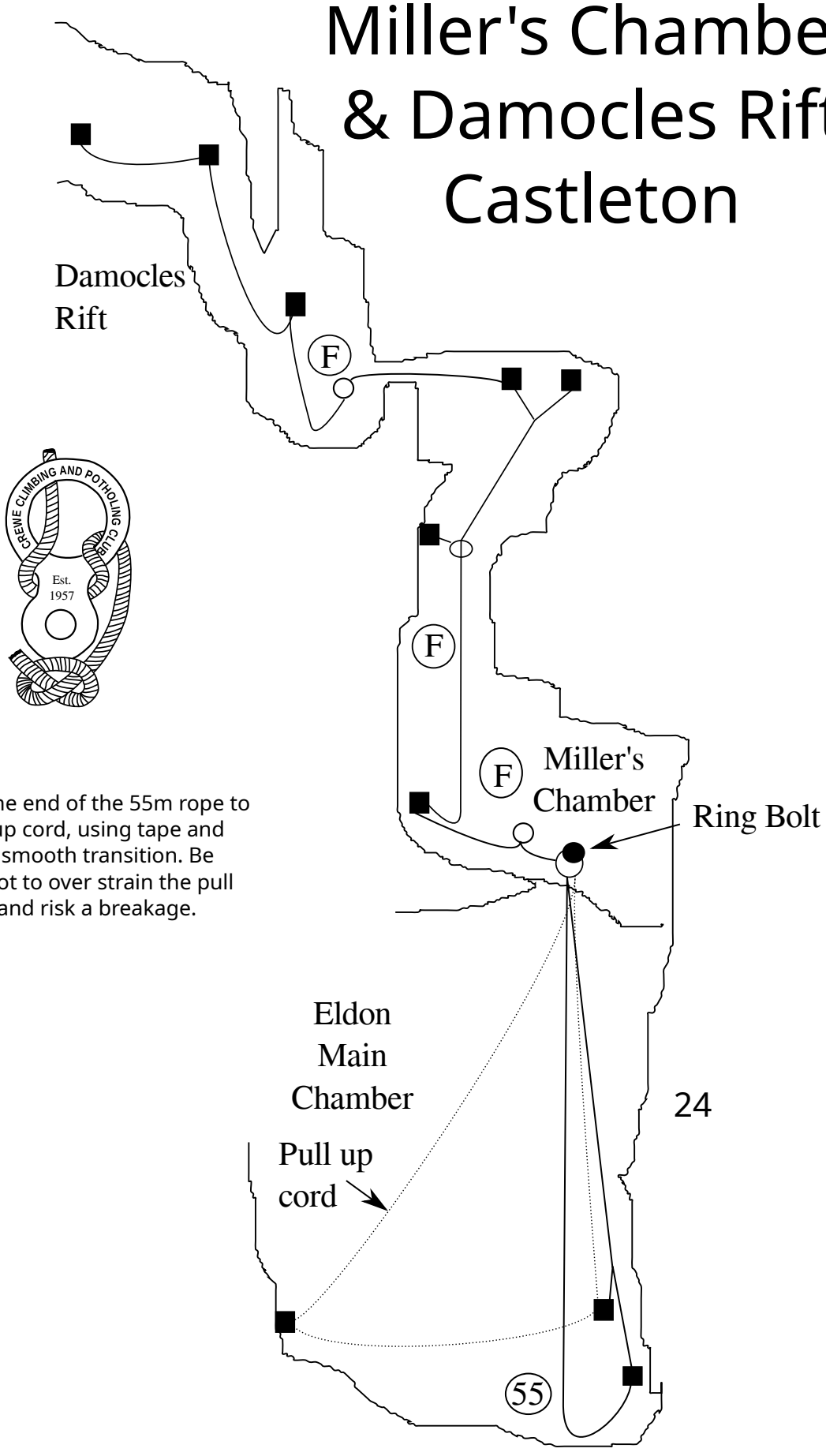
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Eldon Hole
Castleton



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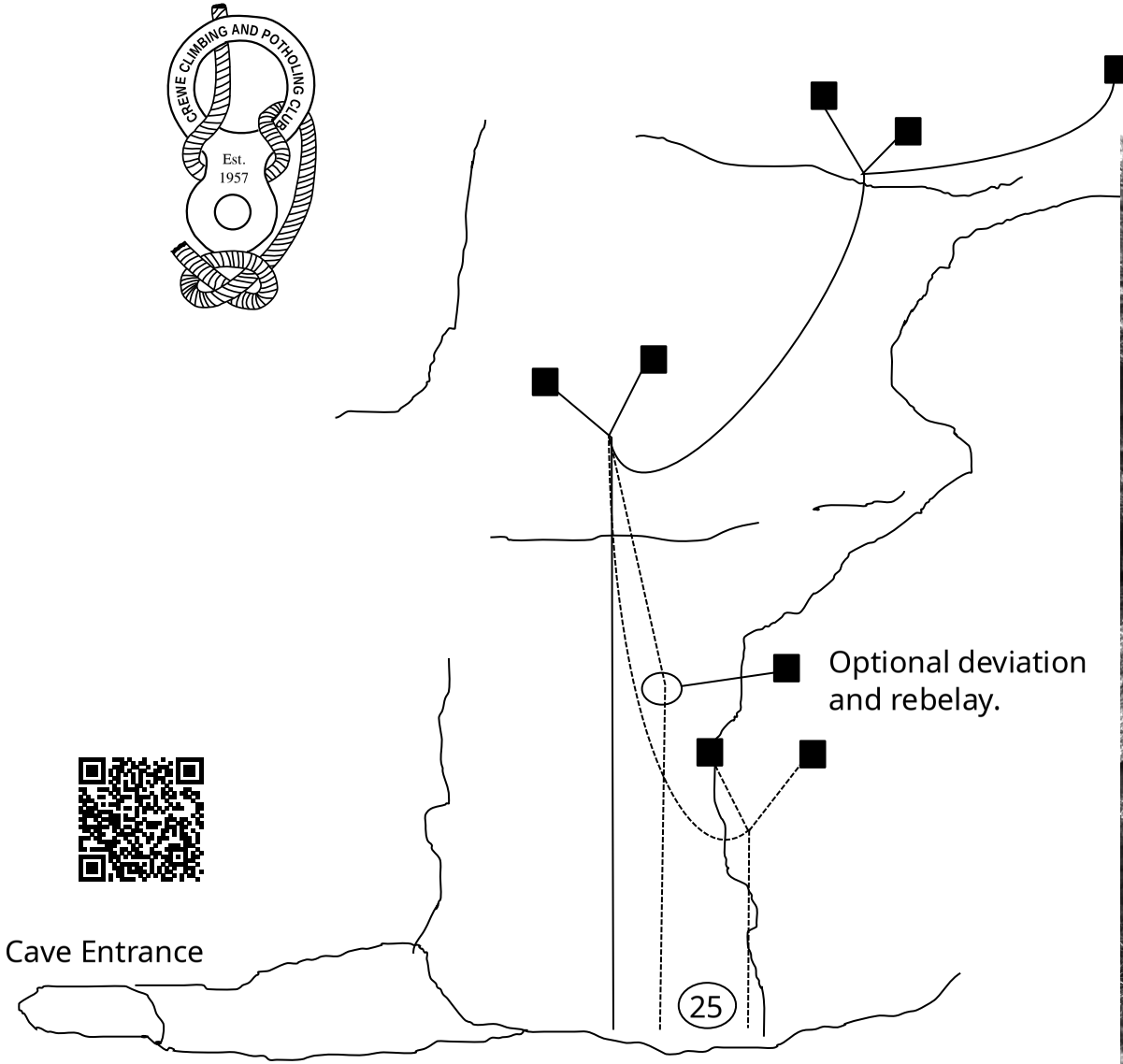
Eldon Hole
Miller's Chamber
& Damocles Rift
Castleton



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.

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Gautries Hole - Surface SRT Practice Crag
Castleton

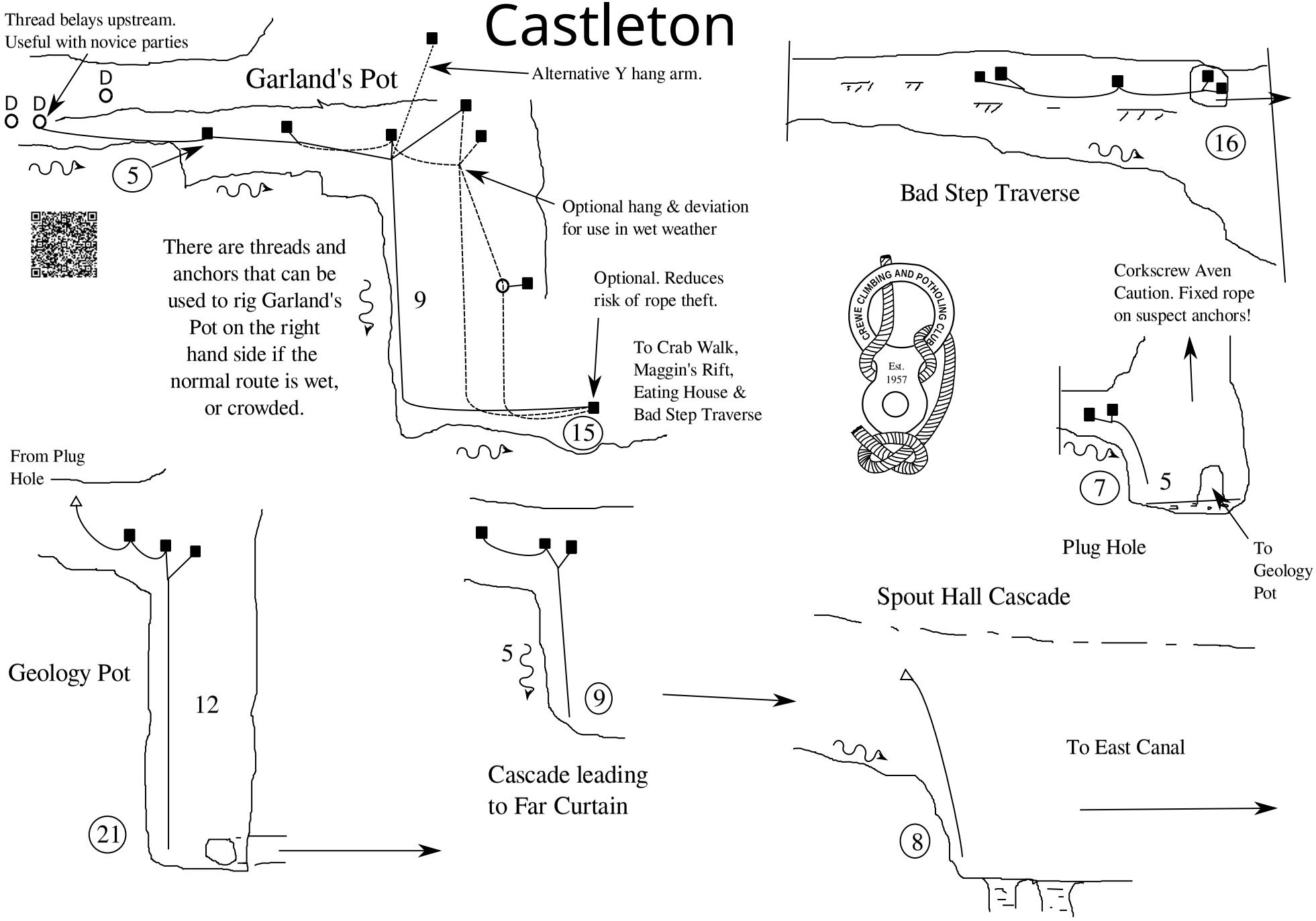


Photograph by kind permission of TomH



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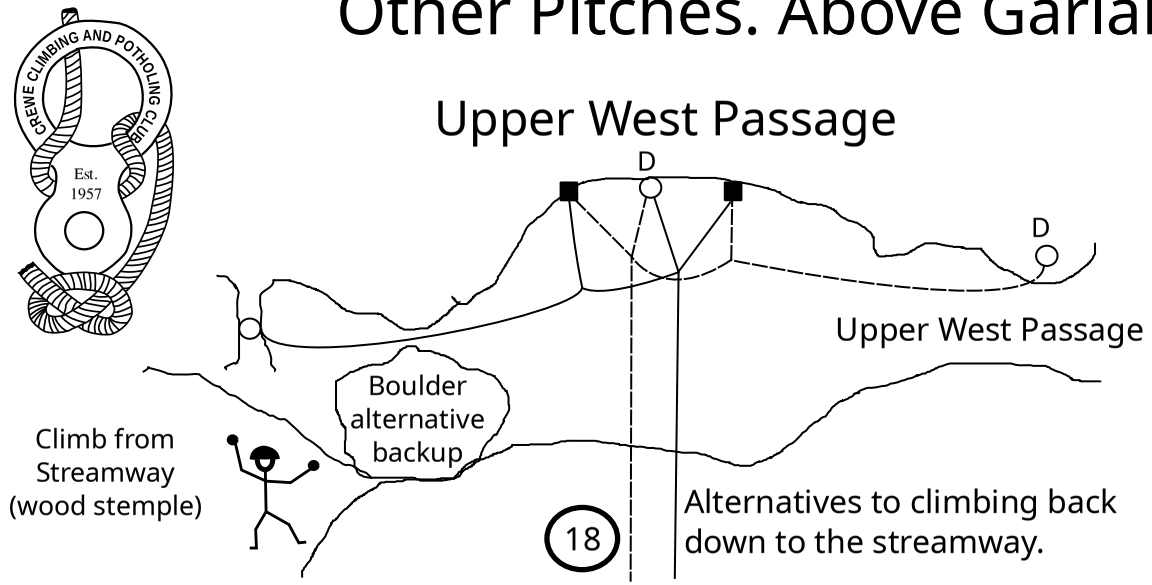
Giant's Hole topo 1. Main Route
Castleton

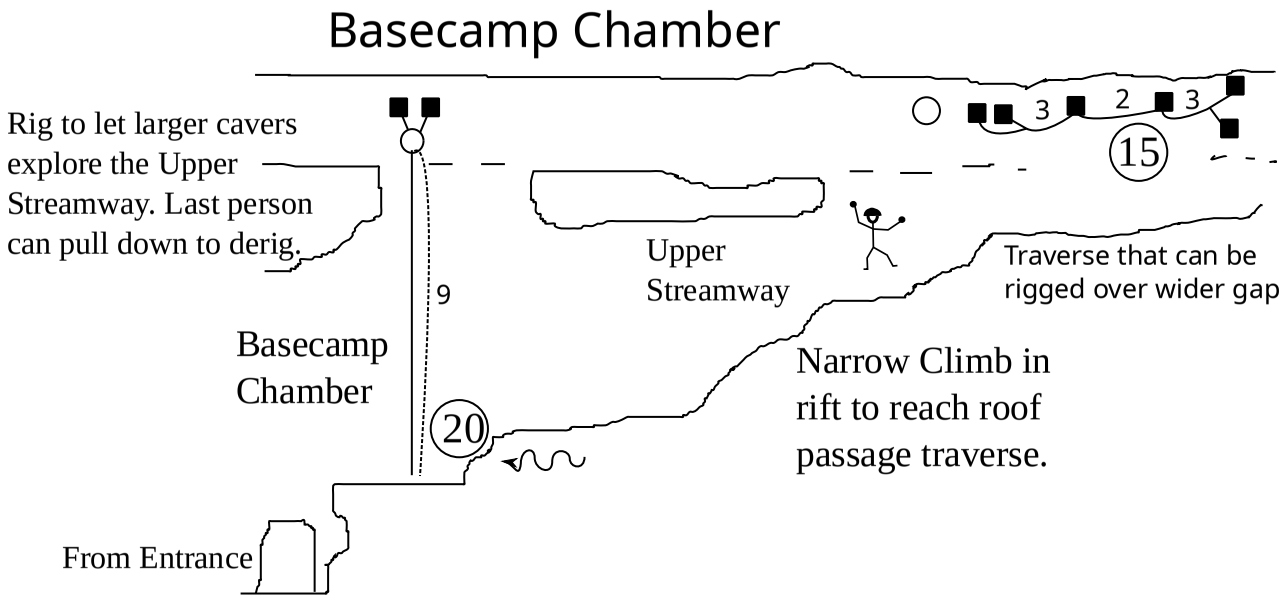


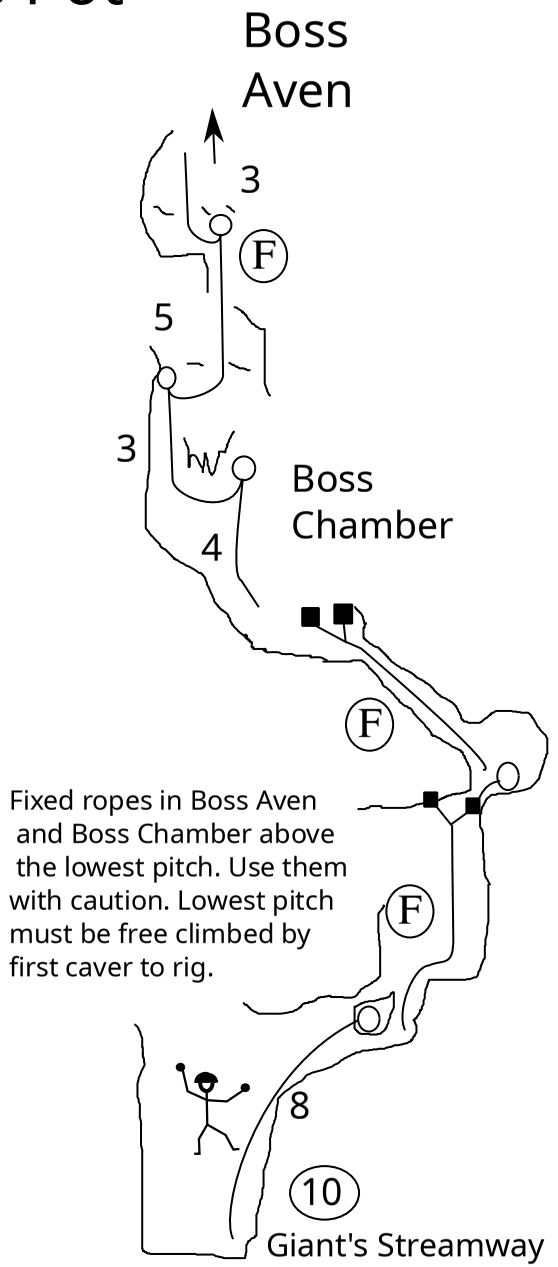
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Giant's Hole - Castleton. Topo 2.

Other Pitches. Above Garland's Pot



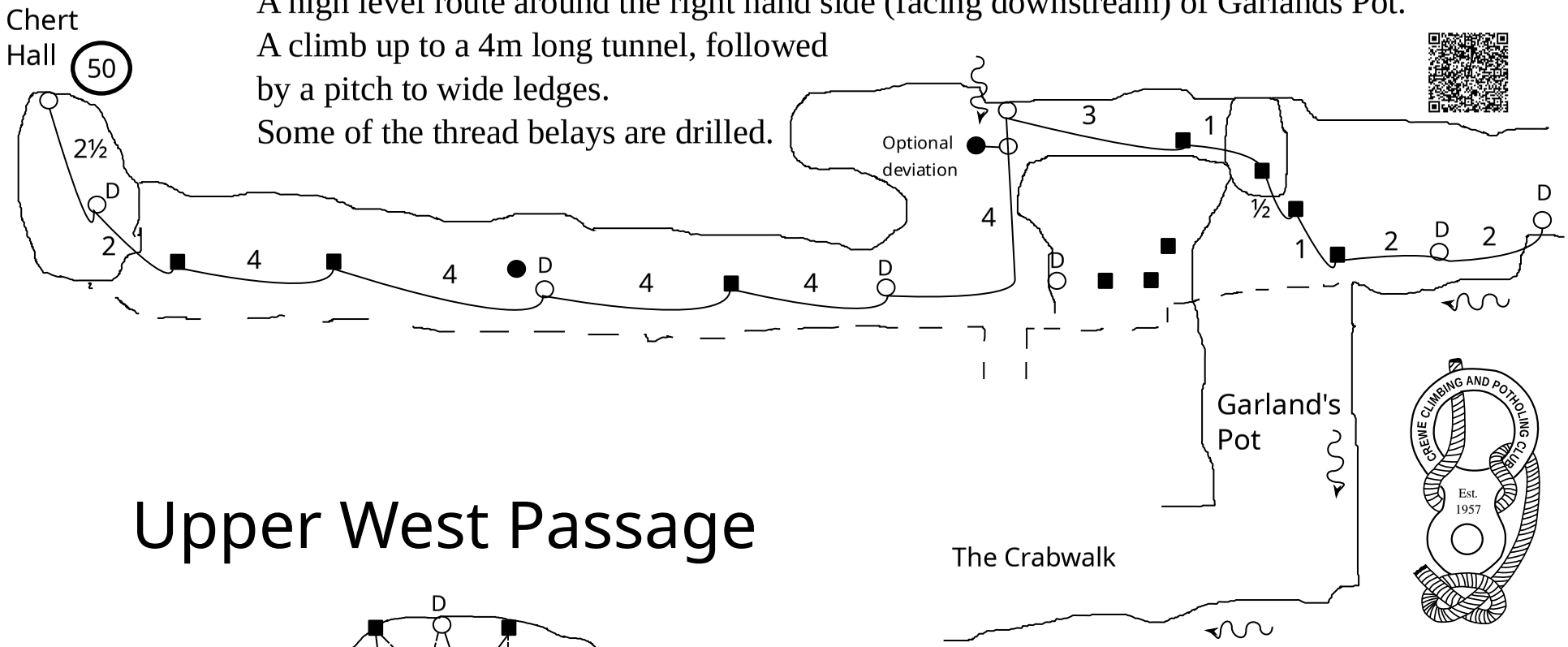




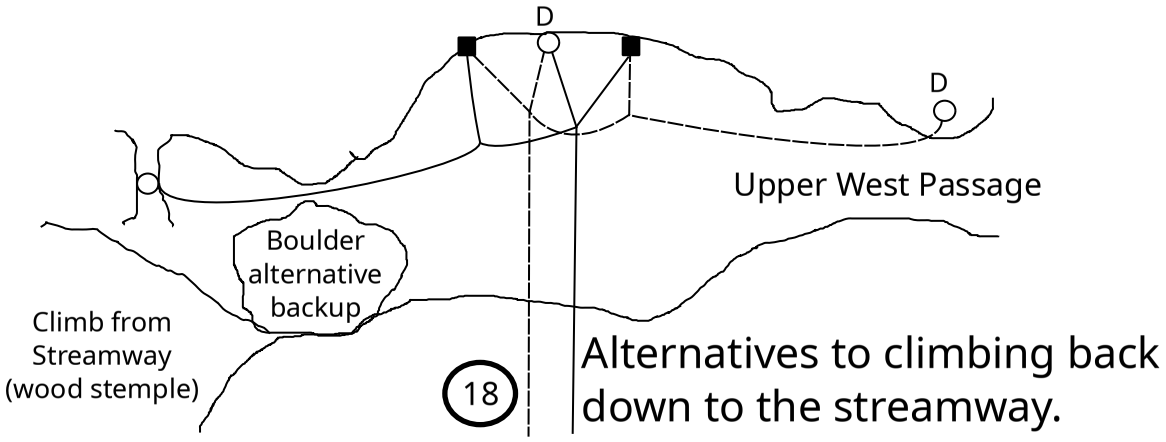
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Giant's Hole topo 3. Castleton
Garland's Pot to Chert Hall

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.

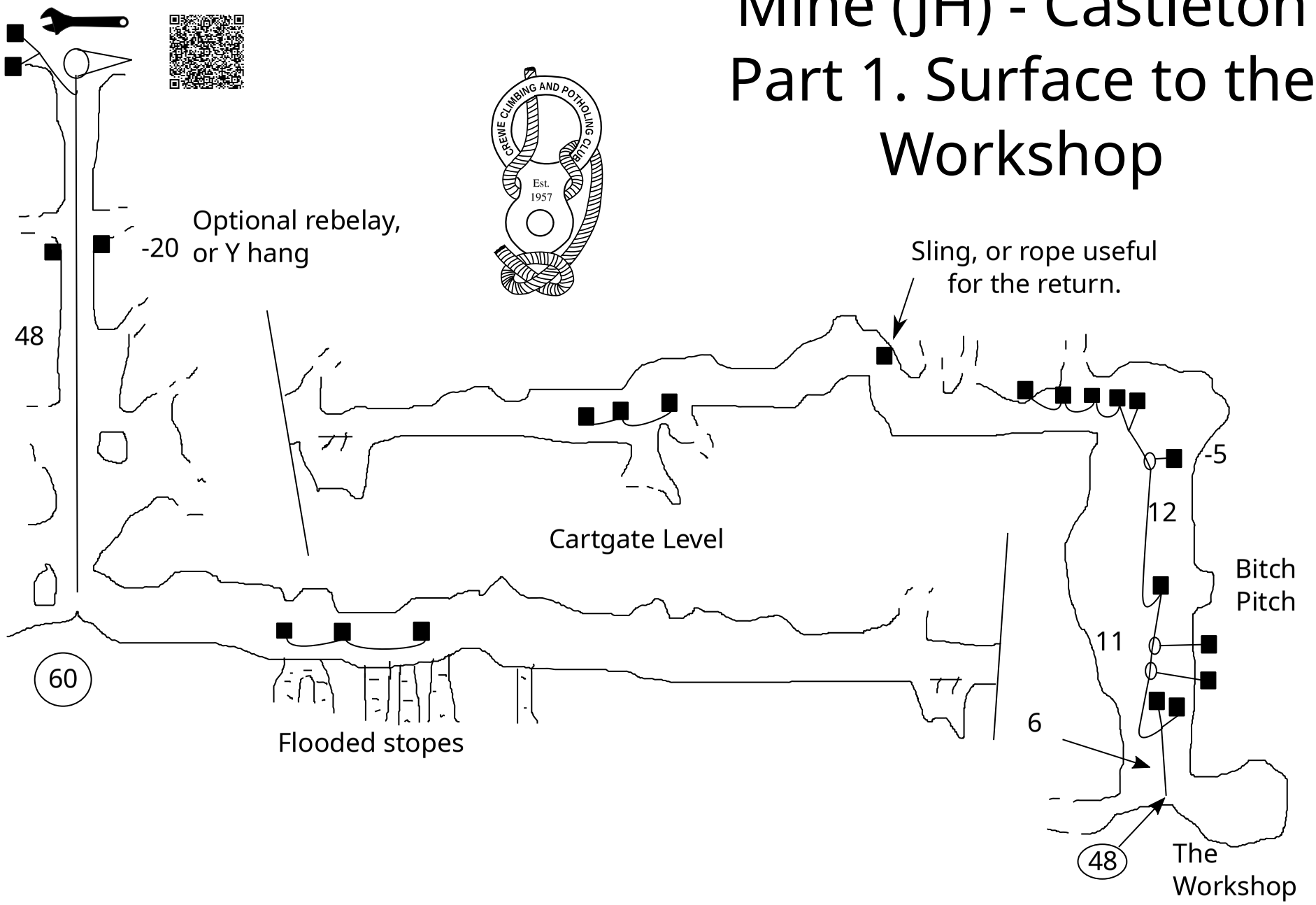


Upper West Passage



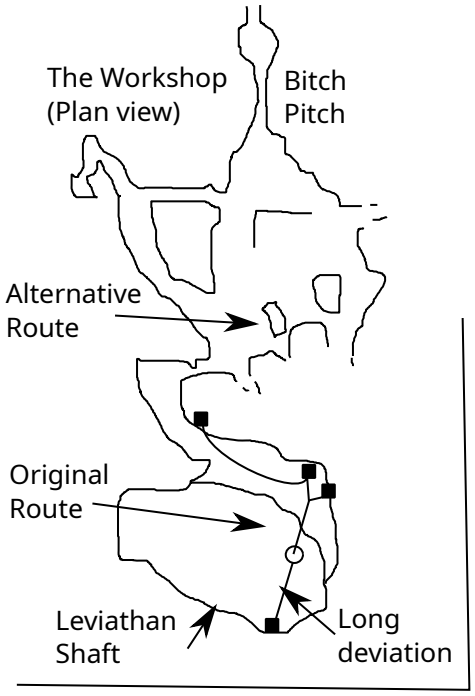
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James Hall Over Engine Mine (JH) - Castleton Part 1. Surface to the Workshop



©Crewe Climbing and Potholing Club 2001 to 2022

James Hall Over Engine Mine (JH) - Castleton Part 2 - Leviathan



Workshop

Original Route

Long Deviation

35

Alternative Route

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

40

50

The Tea Rooms

35

Either route

30

35

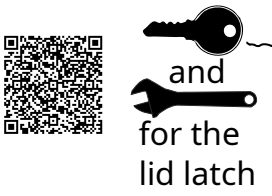
To Far Sump Extensions

To Speedwell Streamway

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Longcliffe Mine
Castleton

From a survey by W Sheldon & P Wolstenholme



Pipe

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.

12

The Shaft

13

Vein on Shackhole Scrin

3

Wet weather option

10

38

High Level Workings

F

10

2018 Extensions

Stope

15

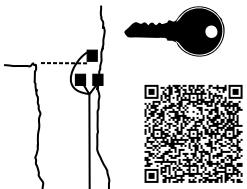
F

22

14

14

Son of Longcliffe



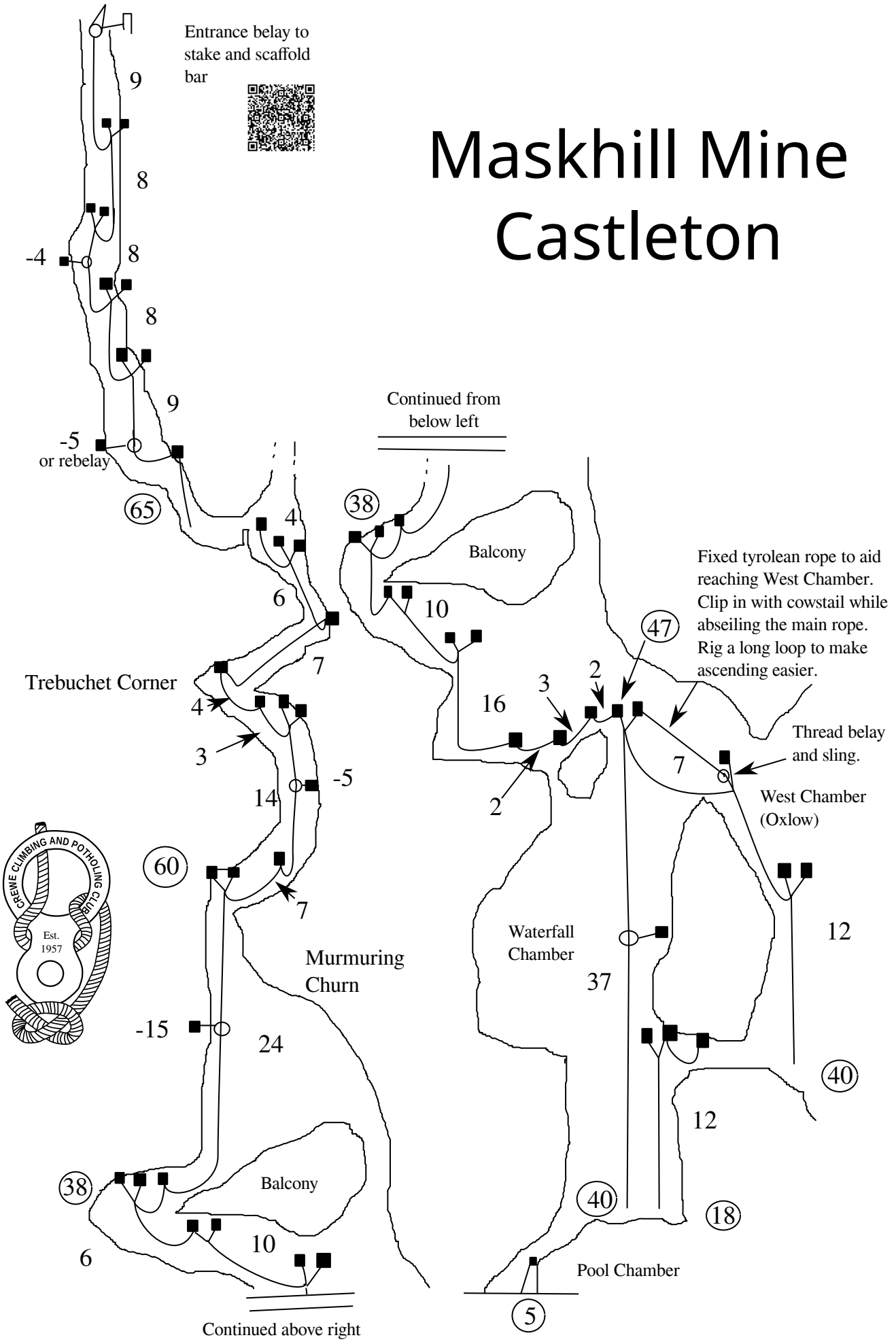
An interesting mine nearby.
No connection to Longcliffe (yet).

15

This shaft is also equiped with stainless steel, resin anchored rungs to enable it to be free climbed.

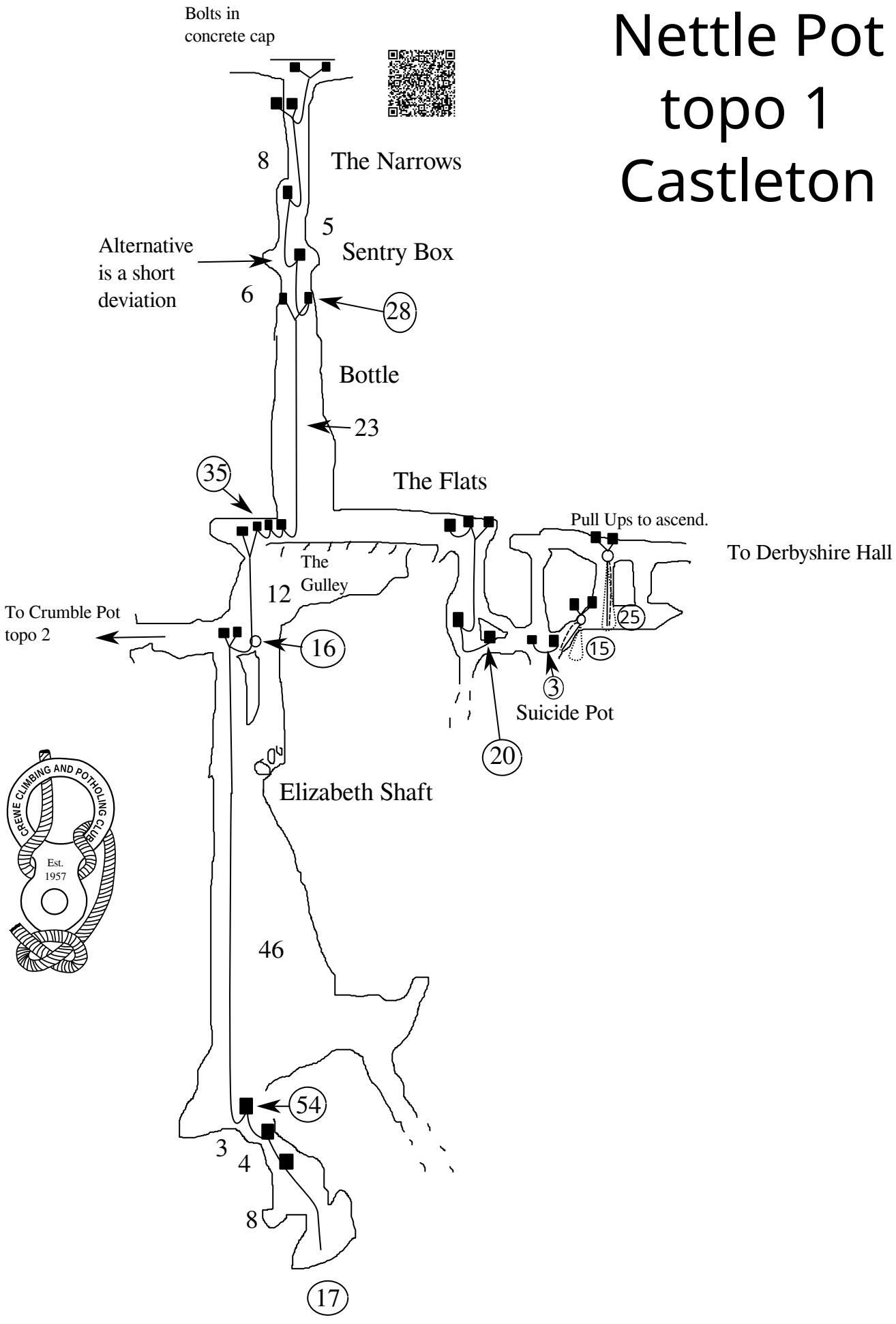
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Maskhill Mine Castleton



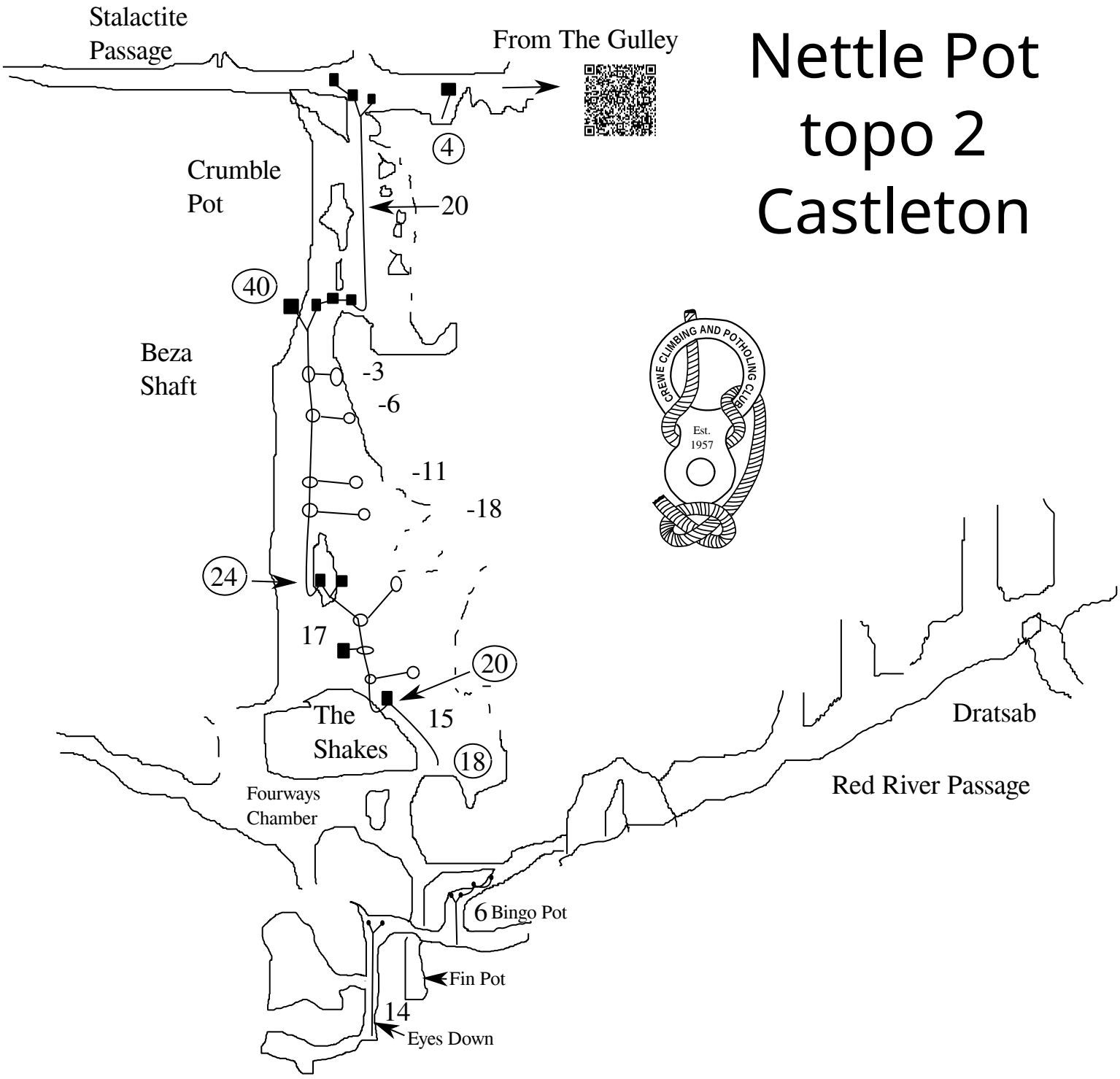
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Nettle Pot topo 1 Castleton



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Nettle Pot topo 2 Castleton

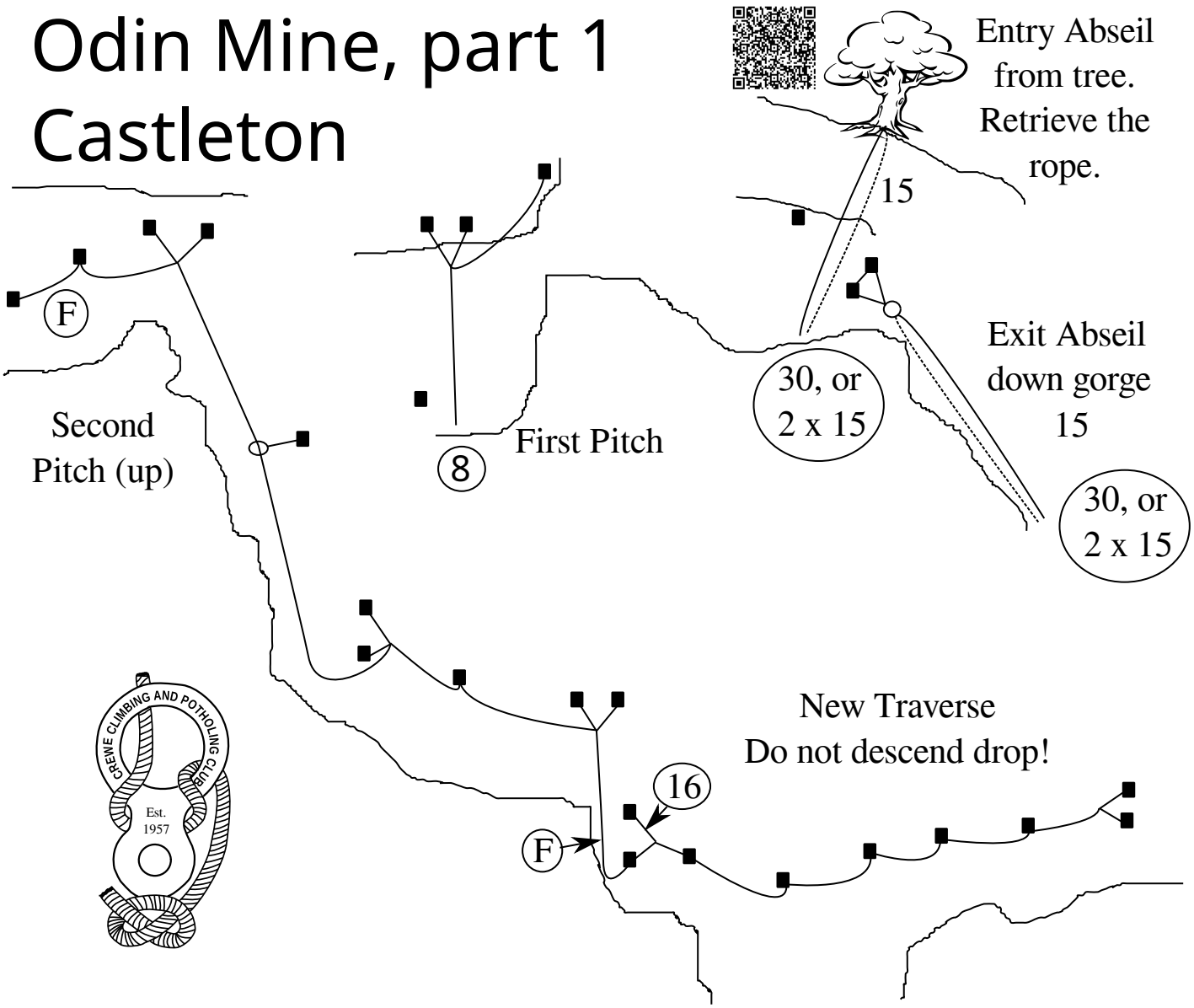


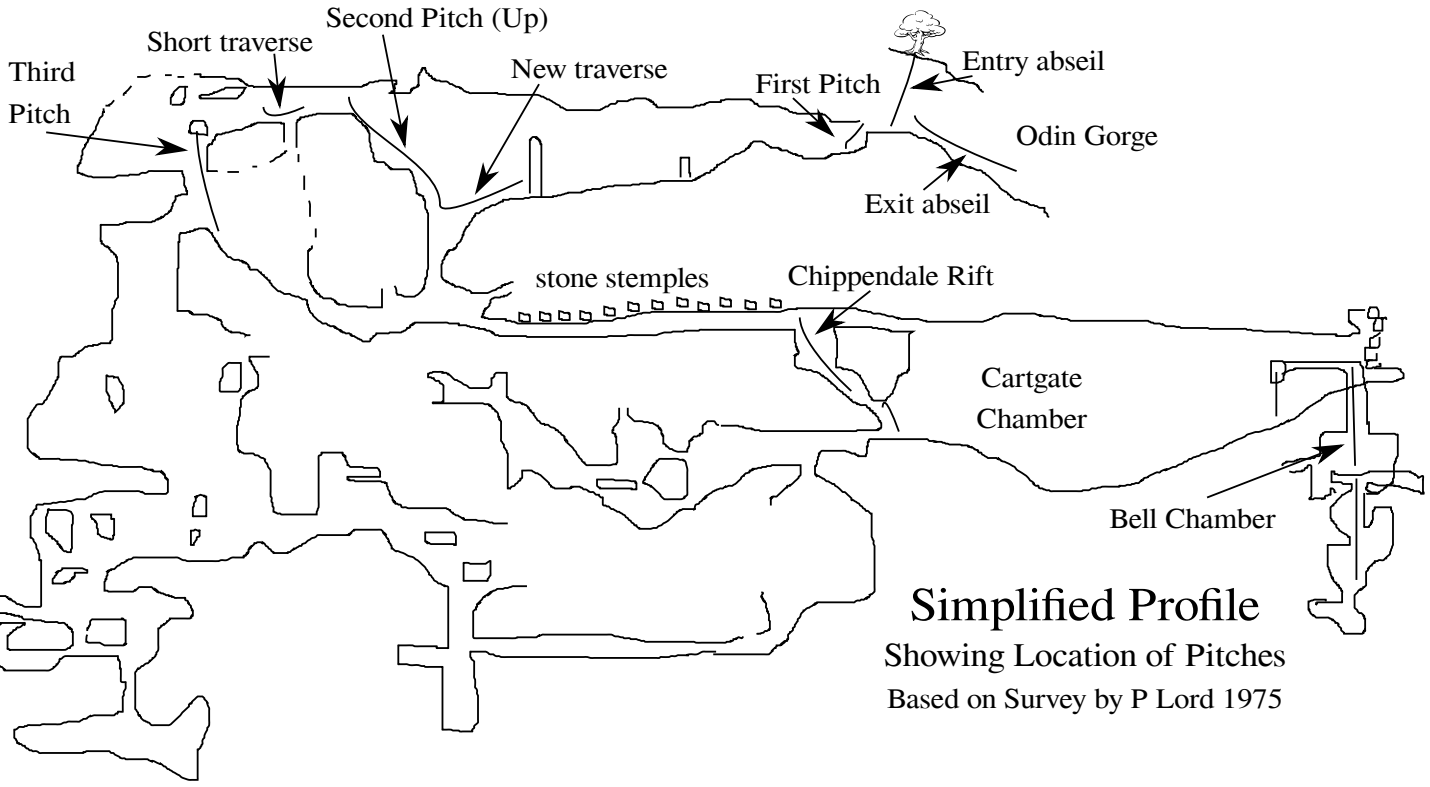
Hell: At the foot of The Shakes, continue down in to Fourways Chamber. A low crawl from here leads to Fin Pot, a 9m free climbable pitch, which can be equipped with a rope belayed from a large boulder. Carrying on over the top of Fin Pot leads to Easy Pickings, Red River Passage and Dratsab. A passage 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.

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Odin Mine, part 1
Castleton

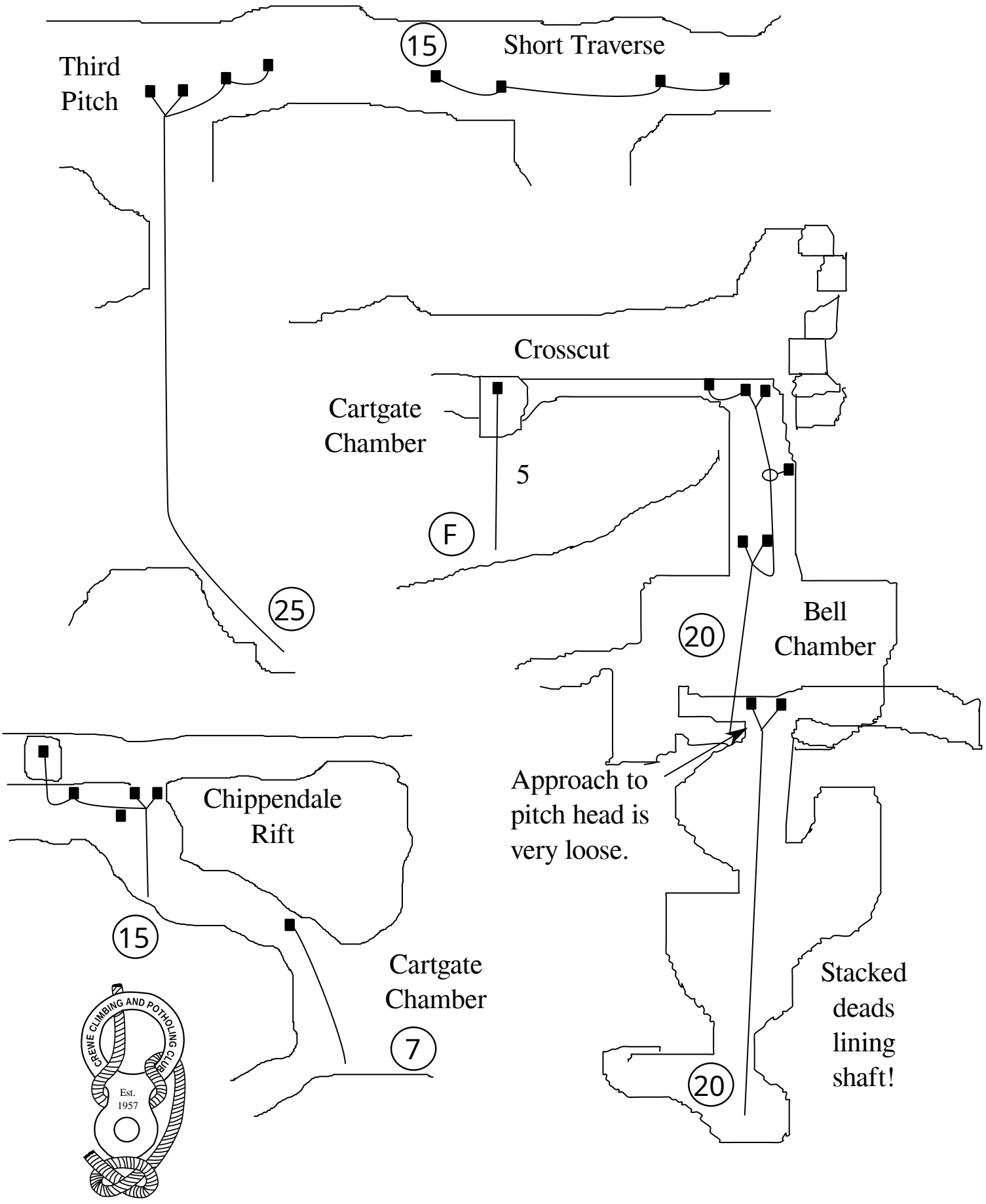




Simplified Profile
Showing Location of Pitches
Based on Survey by P Lord 1975

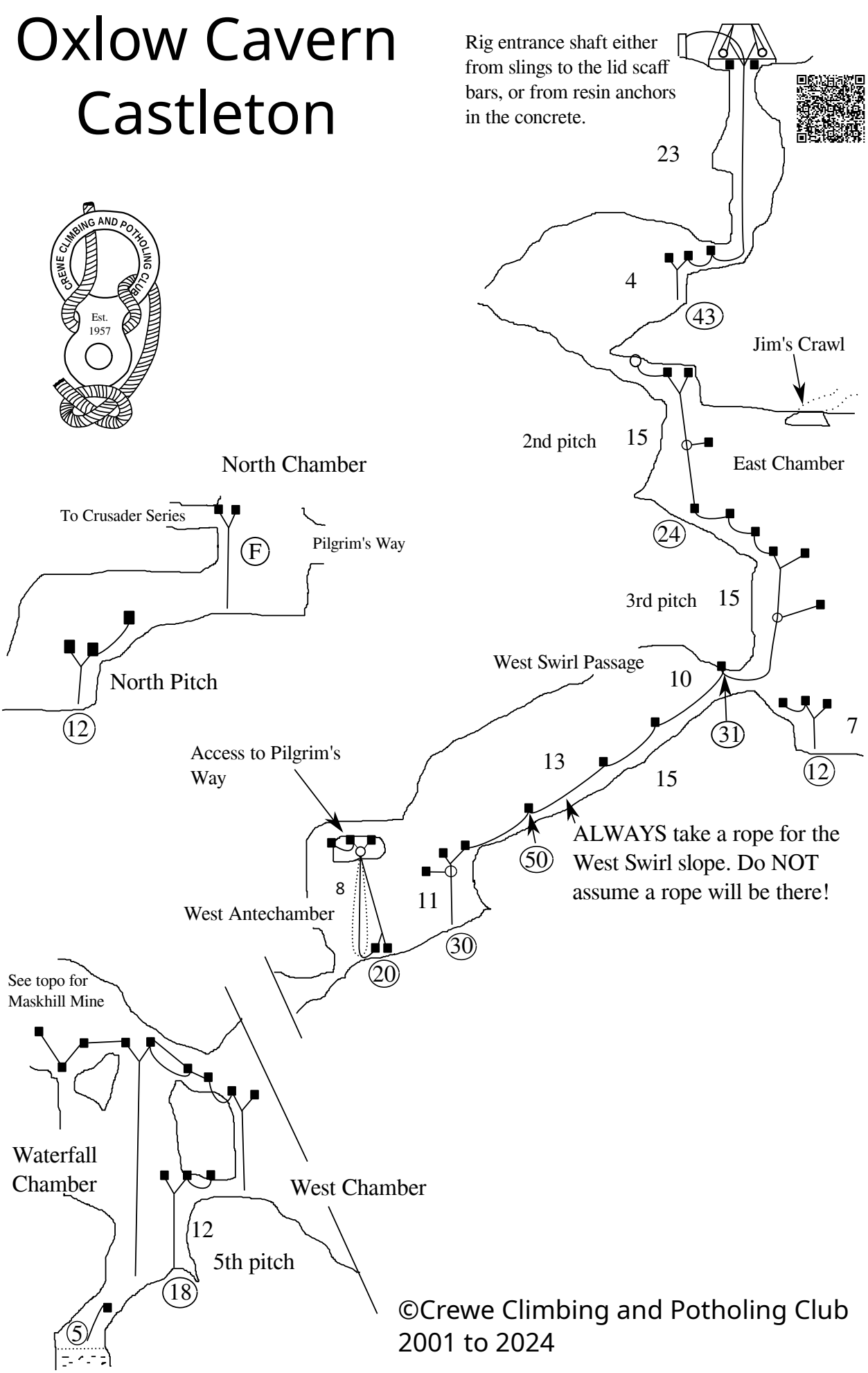
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Odin Mine, part 2. Castleton



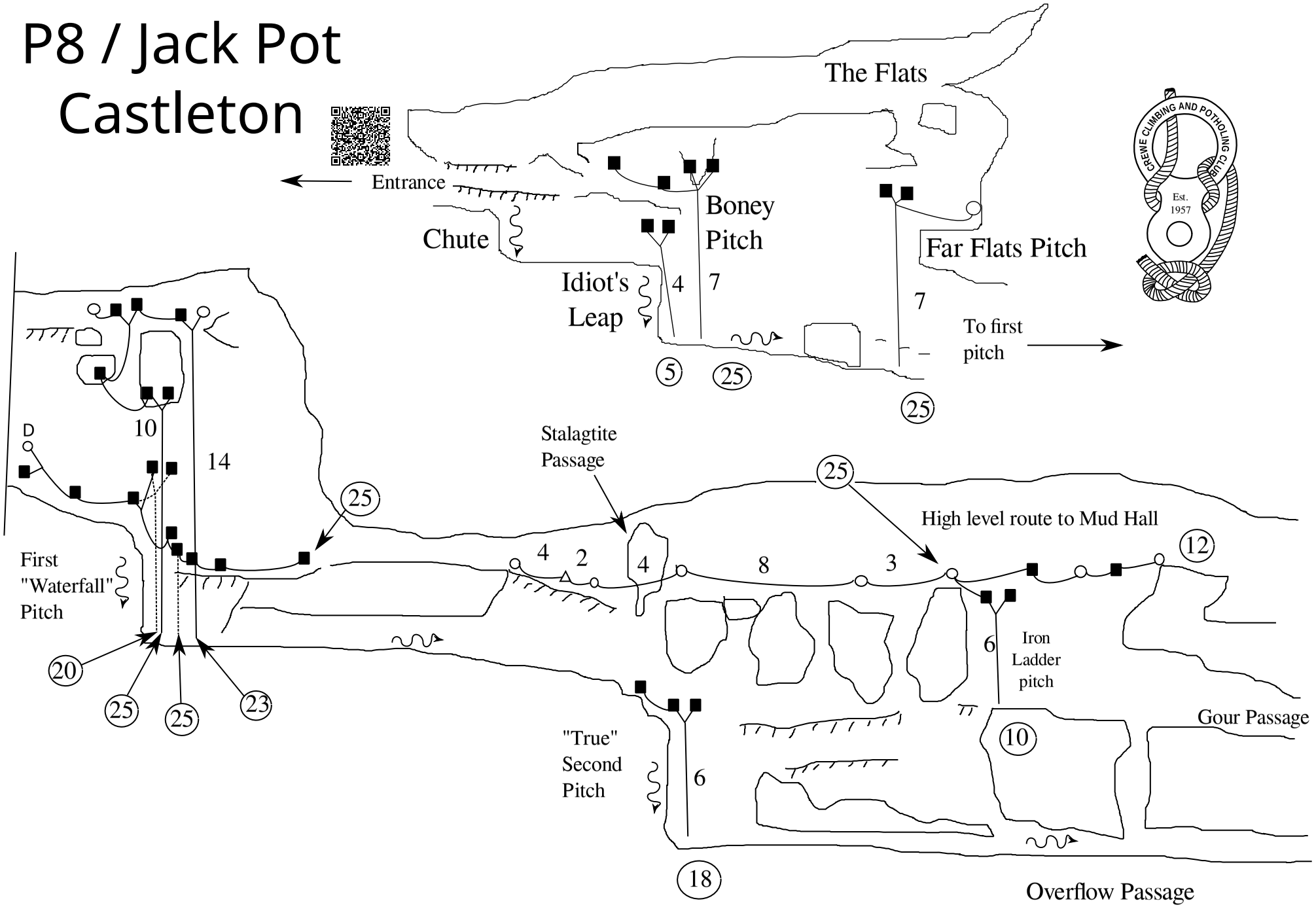
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Oxlow Cavern
Castleton



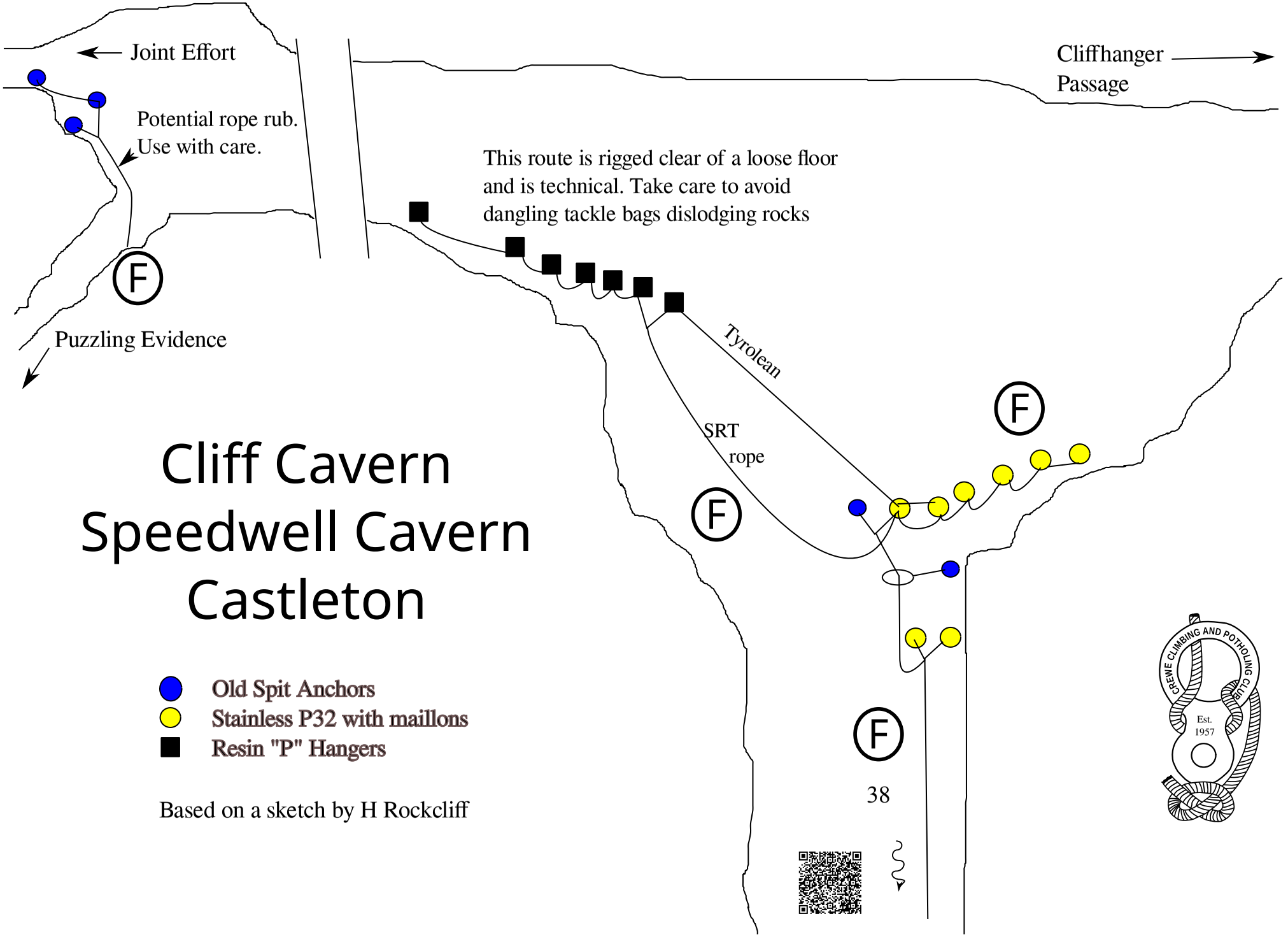
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P8 / Jack Pot
Castleton



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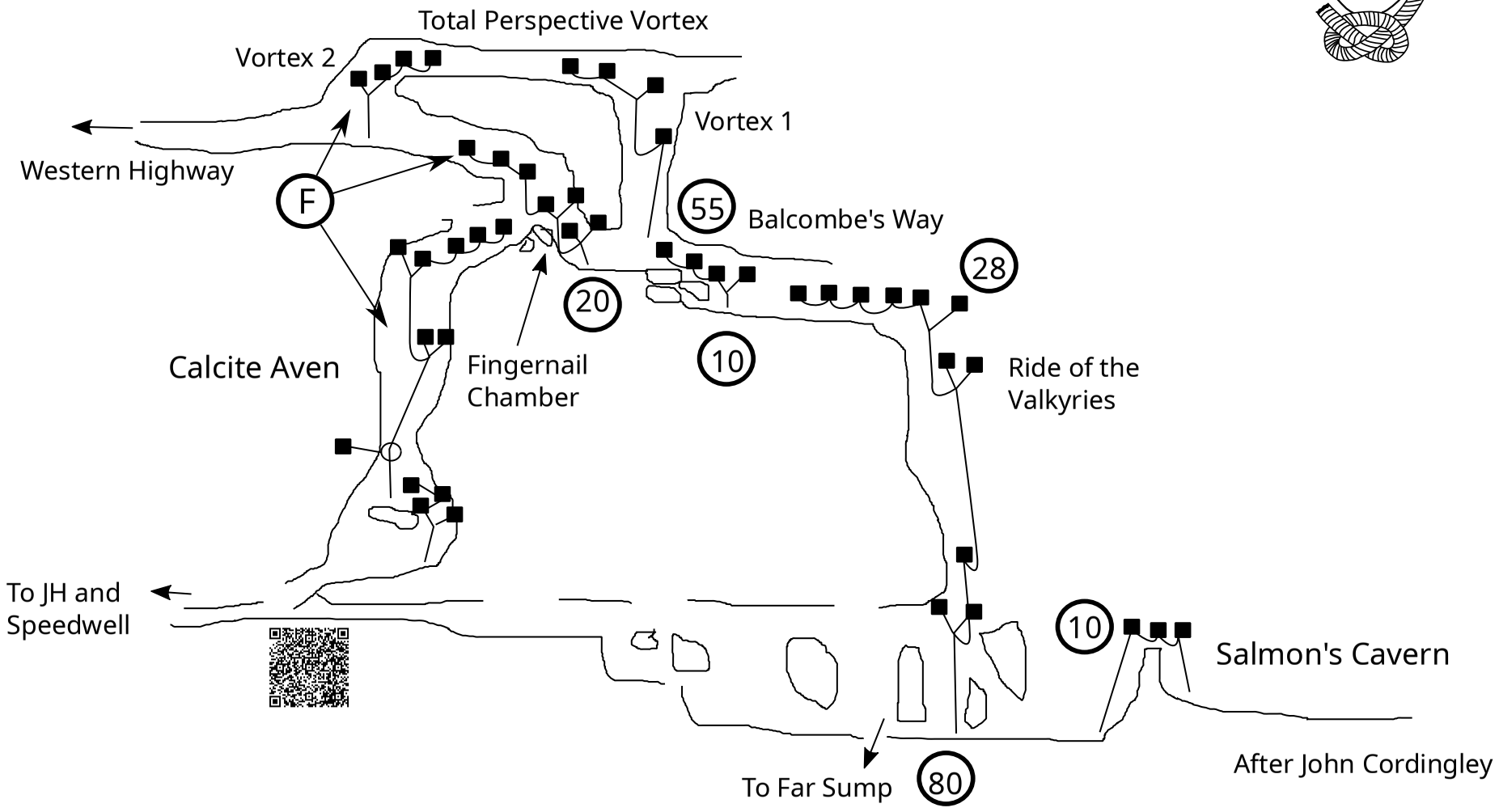
Cliff Cavern
Speedwell Cavern
Castleton

- Old Spit Anchors
- Stainless P32 with maillons
- Resin "P" Hangers

Based on a sketch by H Rockcliff

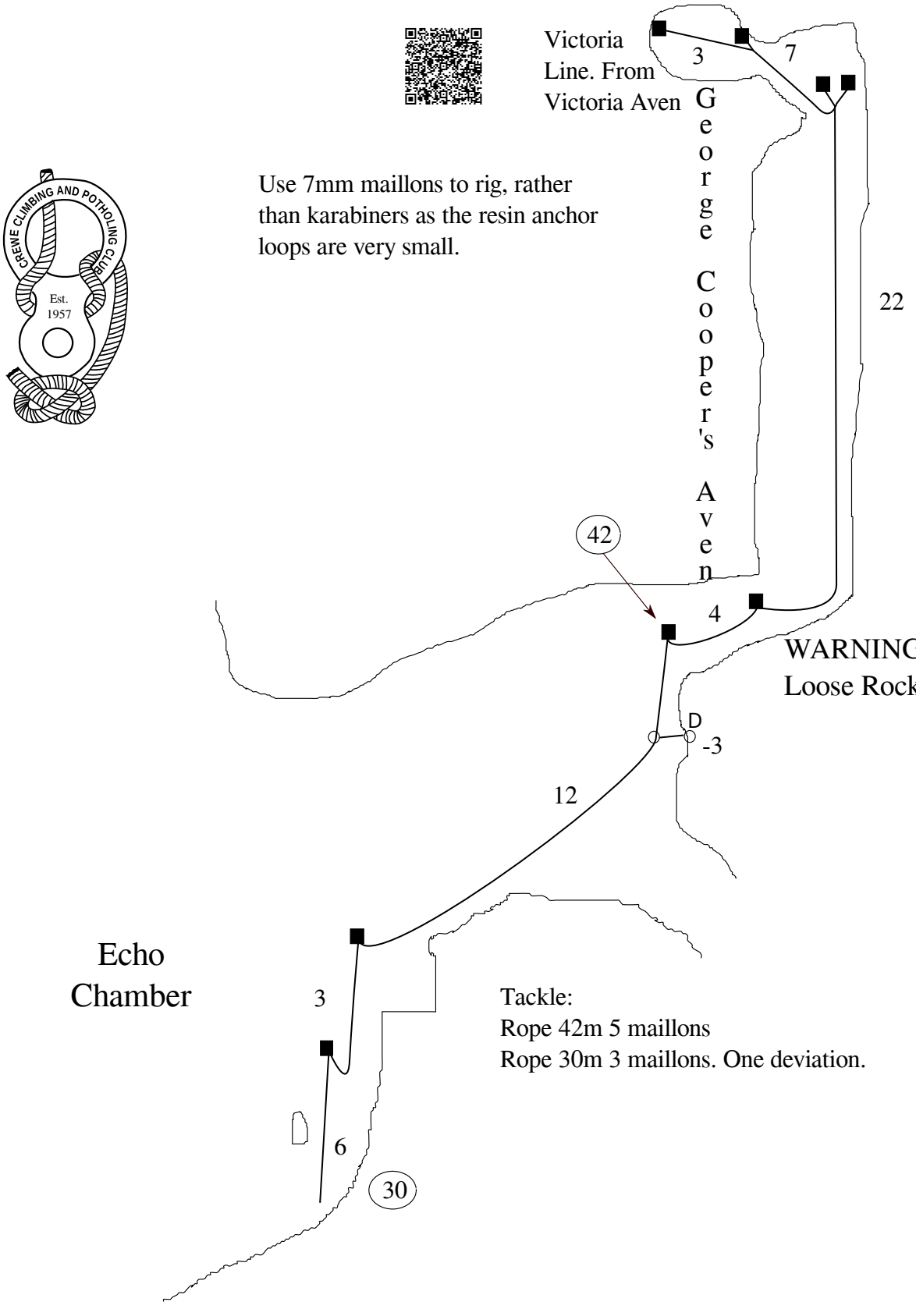
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Est. 1957

Far Sump Extensions
Peak Cavern / Speedwell
Castleton



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George Cooper's Aven
Peak Cavern
Castleton

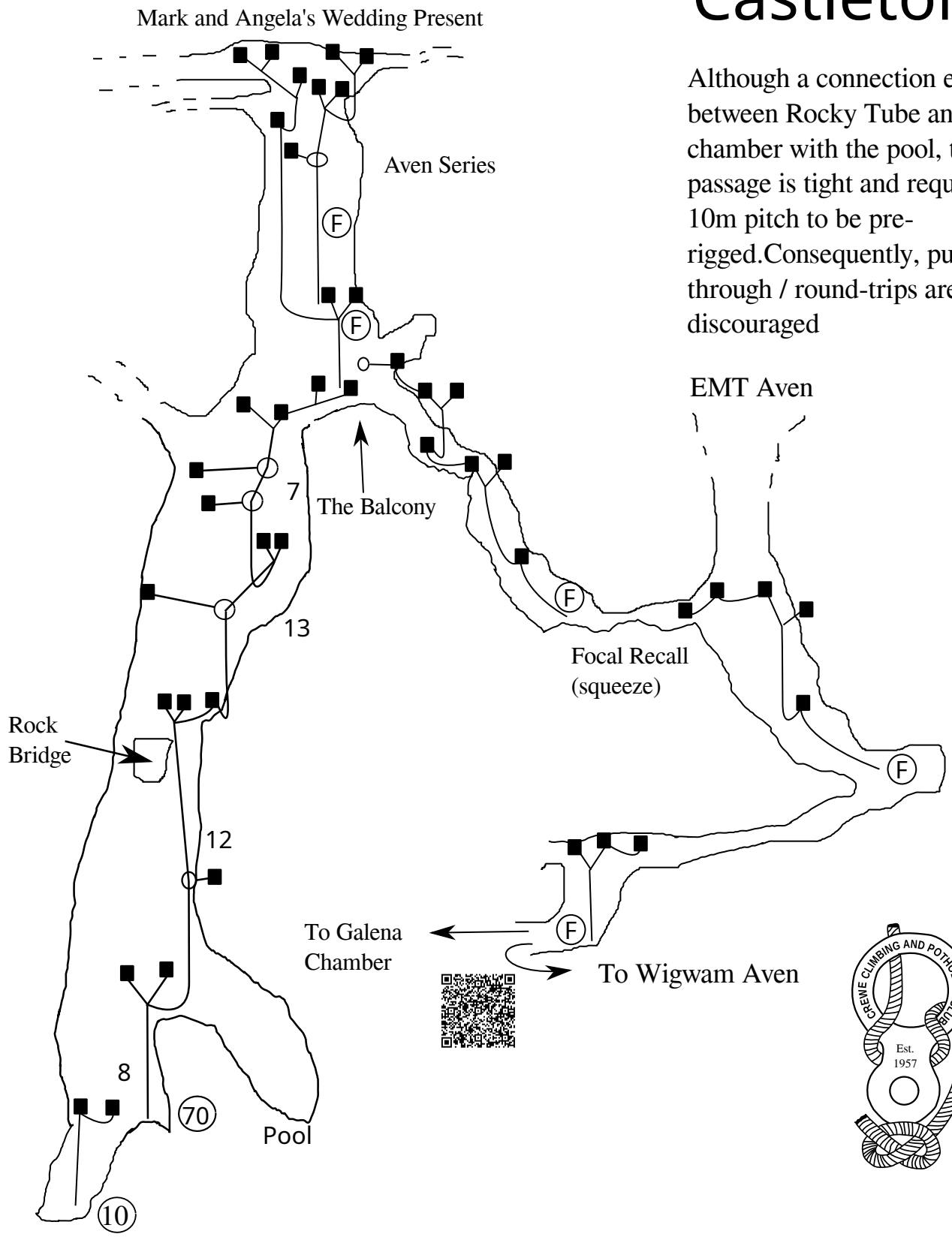


Use 7mm maillons to rig, rather than karabiners as the resin anchor loops are very small.

Tackle:
Rope 42m 5 maillons
Rope 30m 3 maillons. One deviation.

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NCC Shafts
Peak Cavern
Castleton

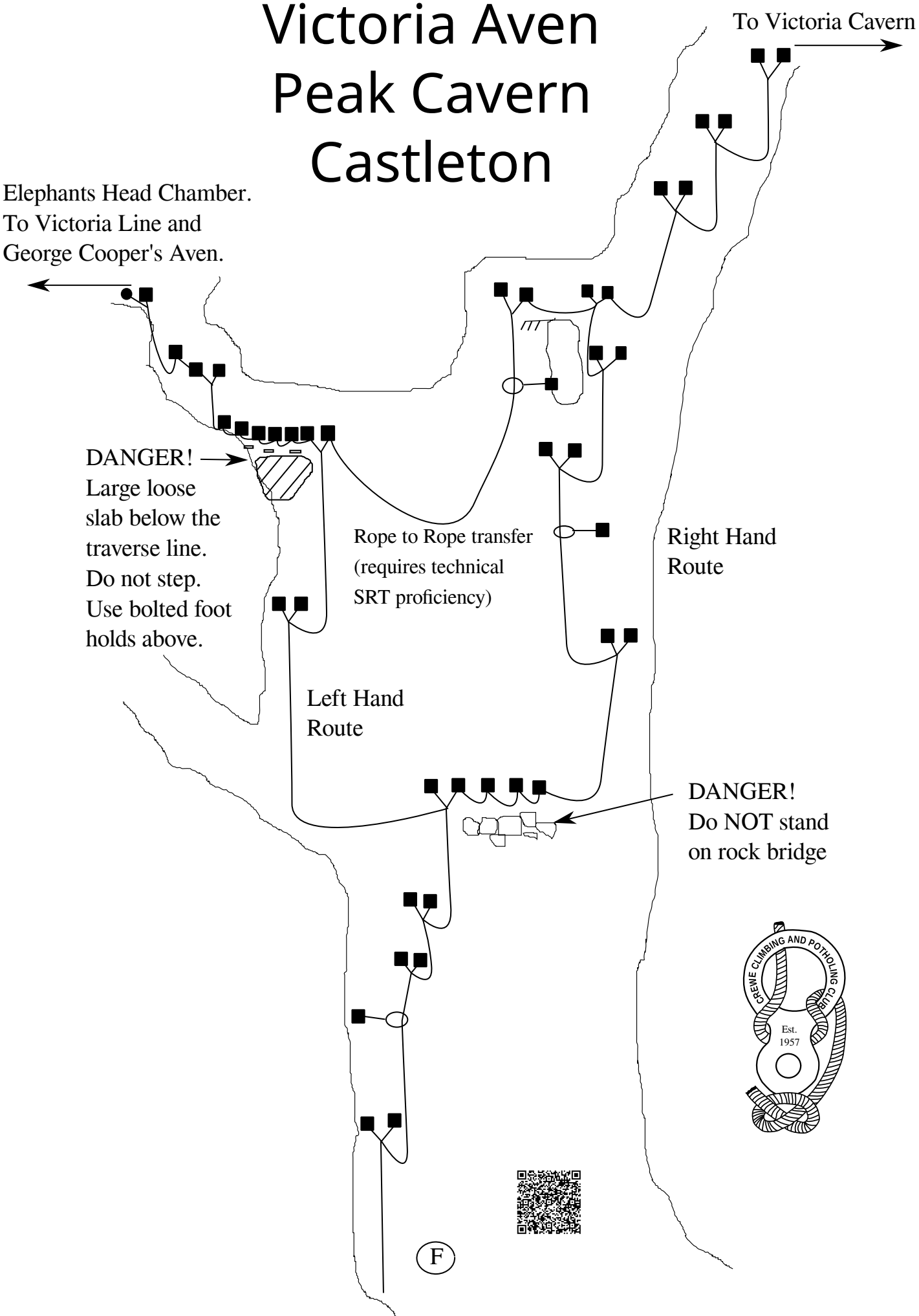


Although a connection exists between Rocky Tube and the chamber with the pool, the passage is tight and requires a 10m pitch to be pre-rigged.Consequently, pull-through / round-trips are discouraged

Based on survey by W Sheldon

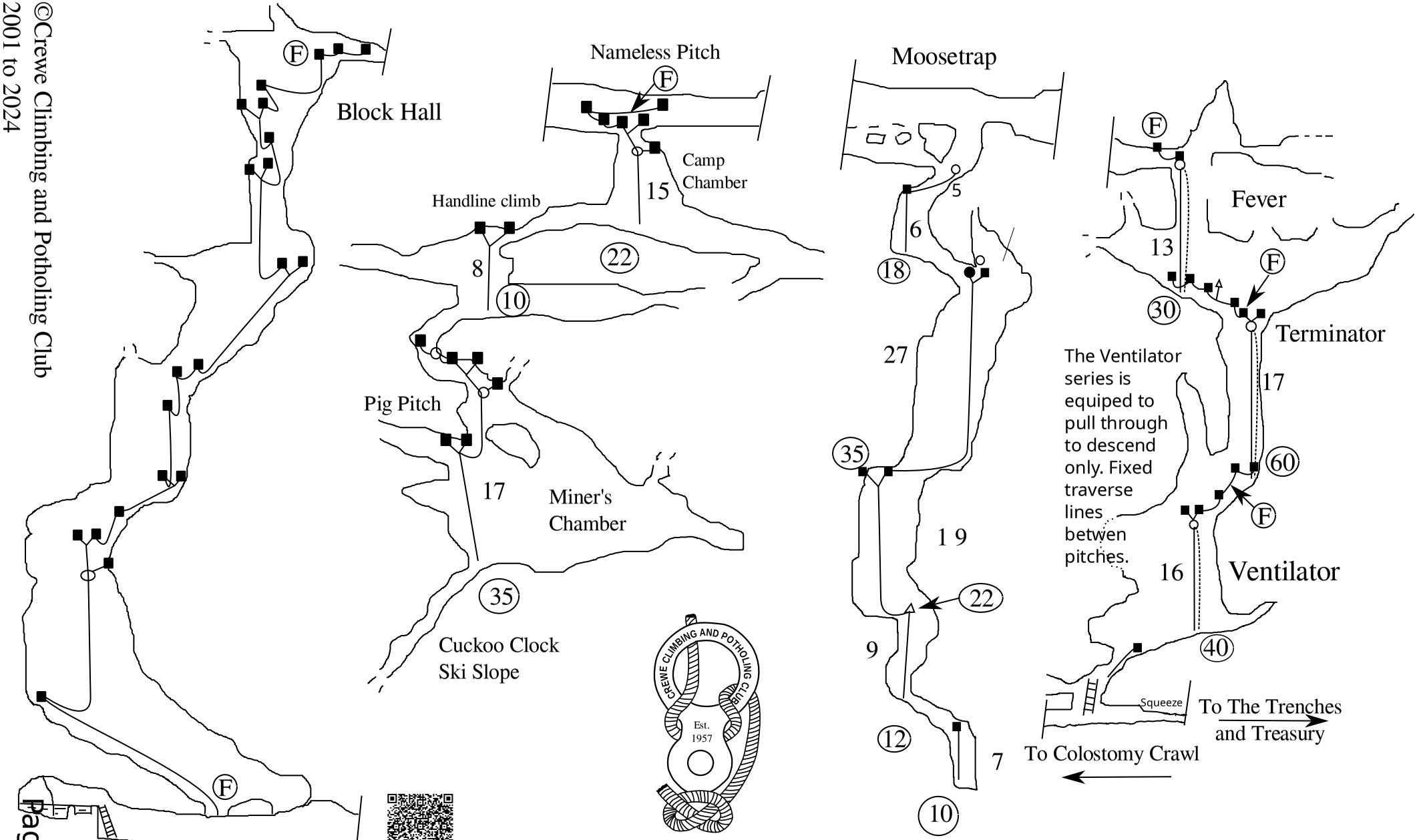
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Victoria Aven
Peak Cavern
Castleton



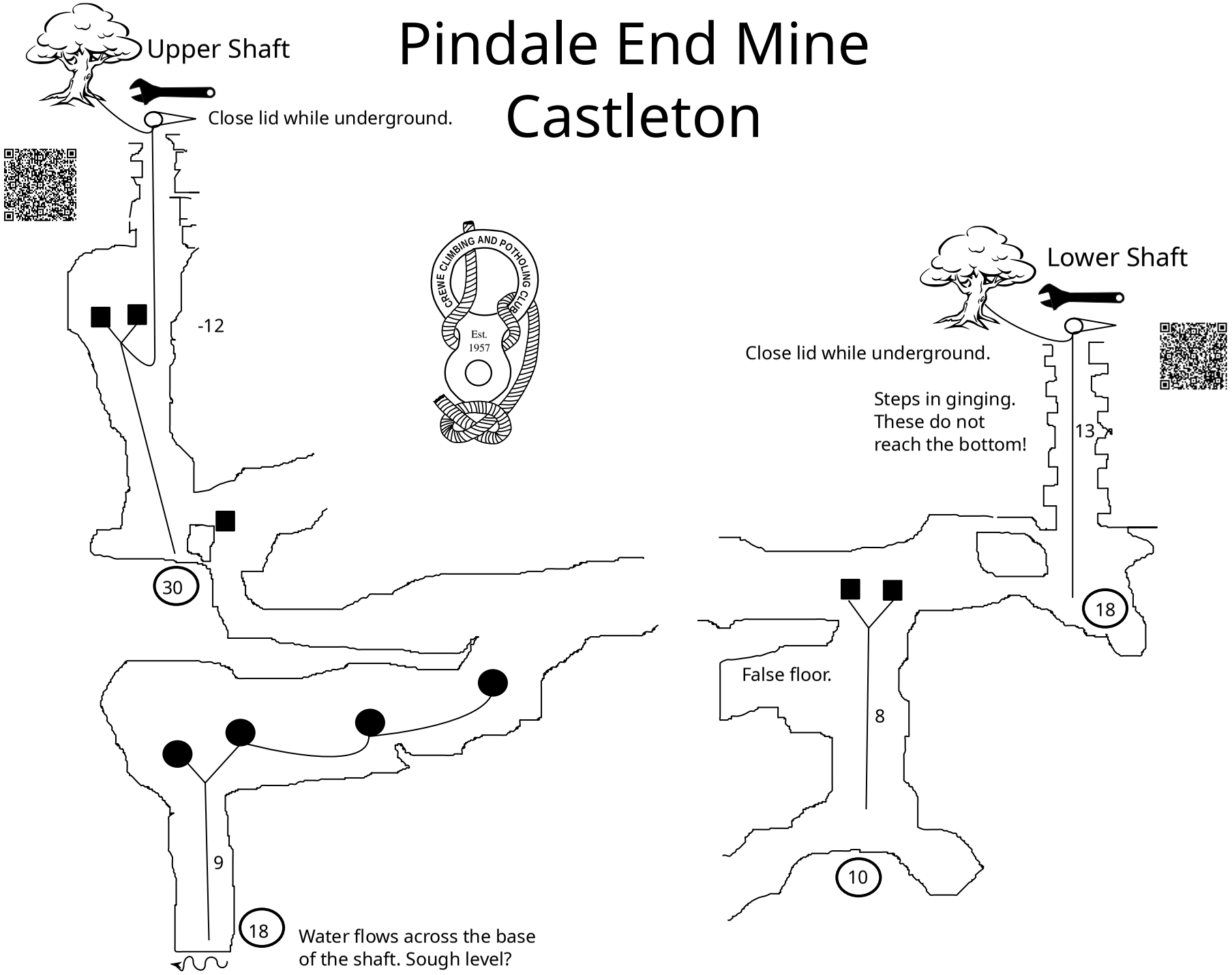
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White River Series
Peak Cavern / Speedwell
Castleton

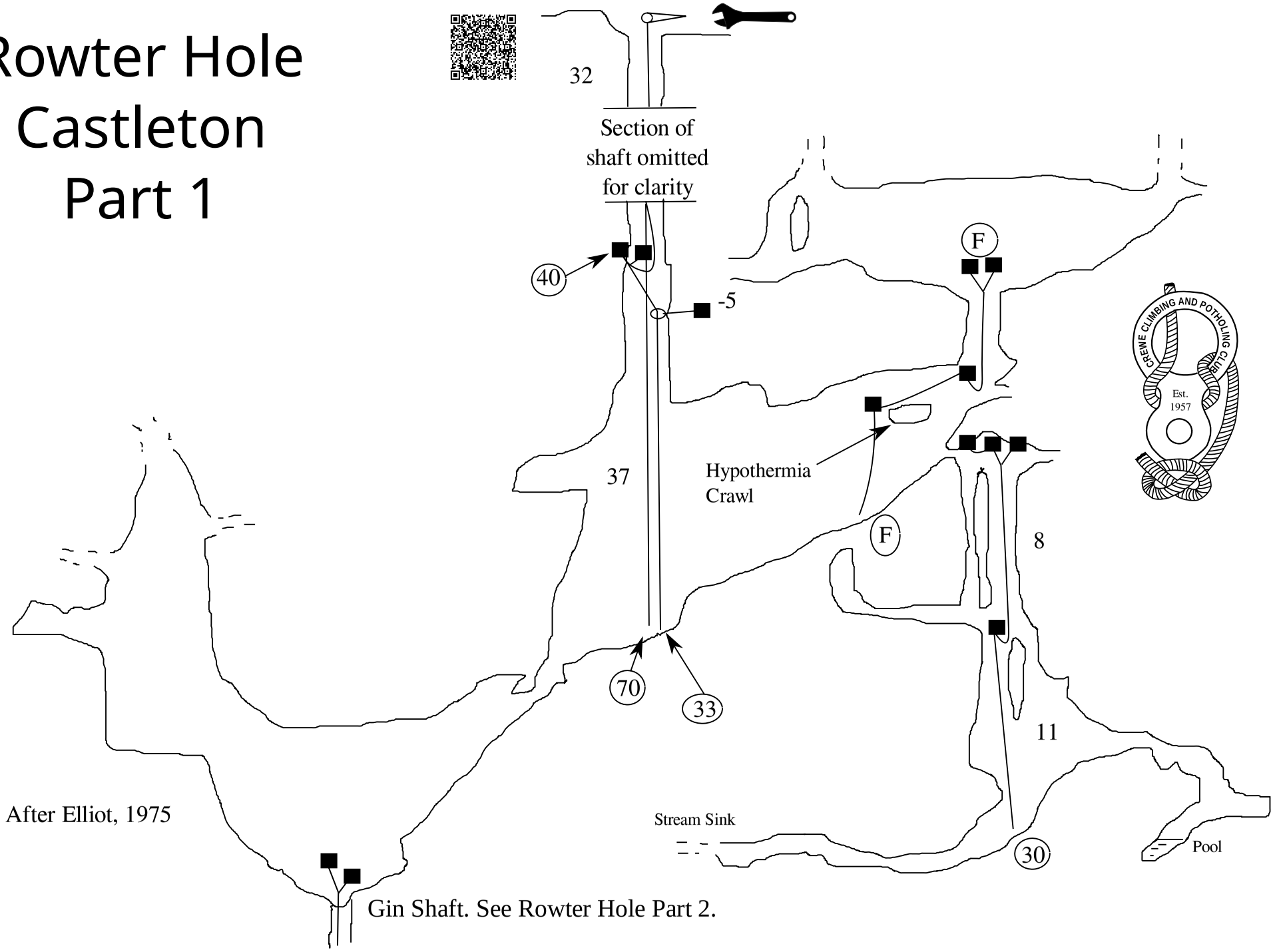
Pindale End Mine
Castleton



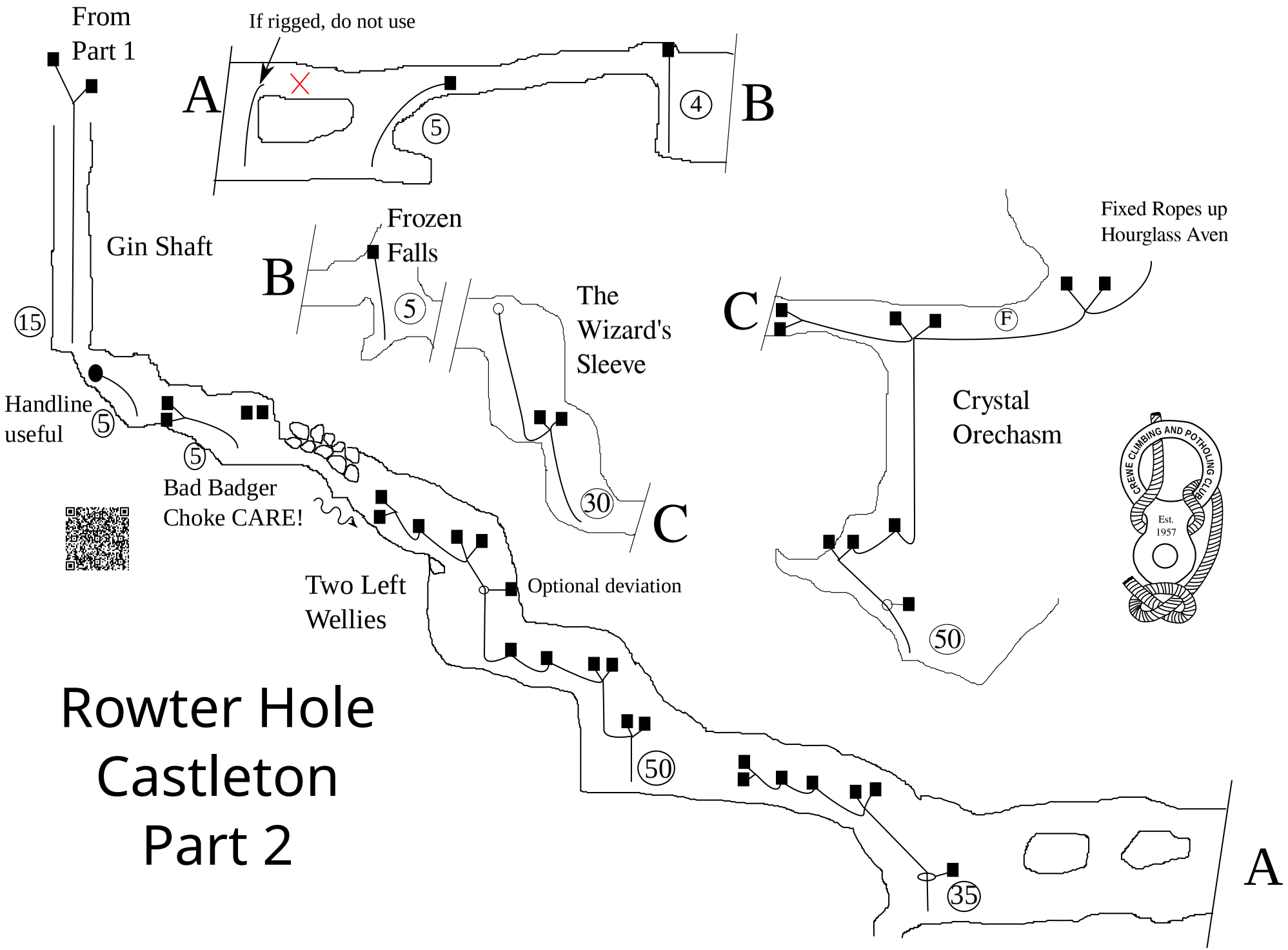
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Rowter Hole Castleton Part 1

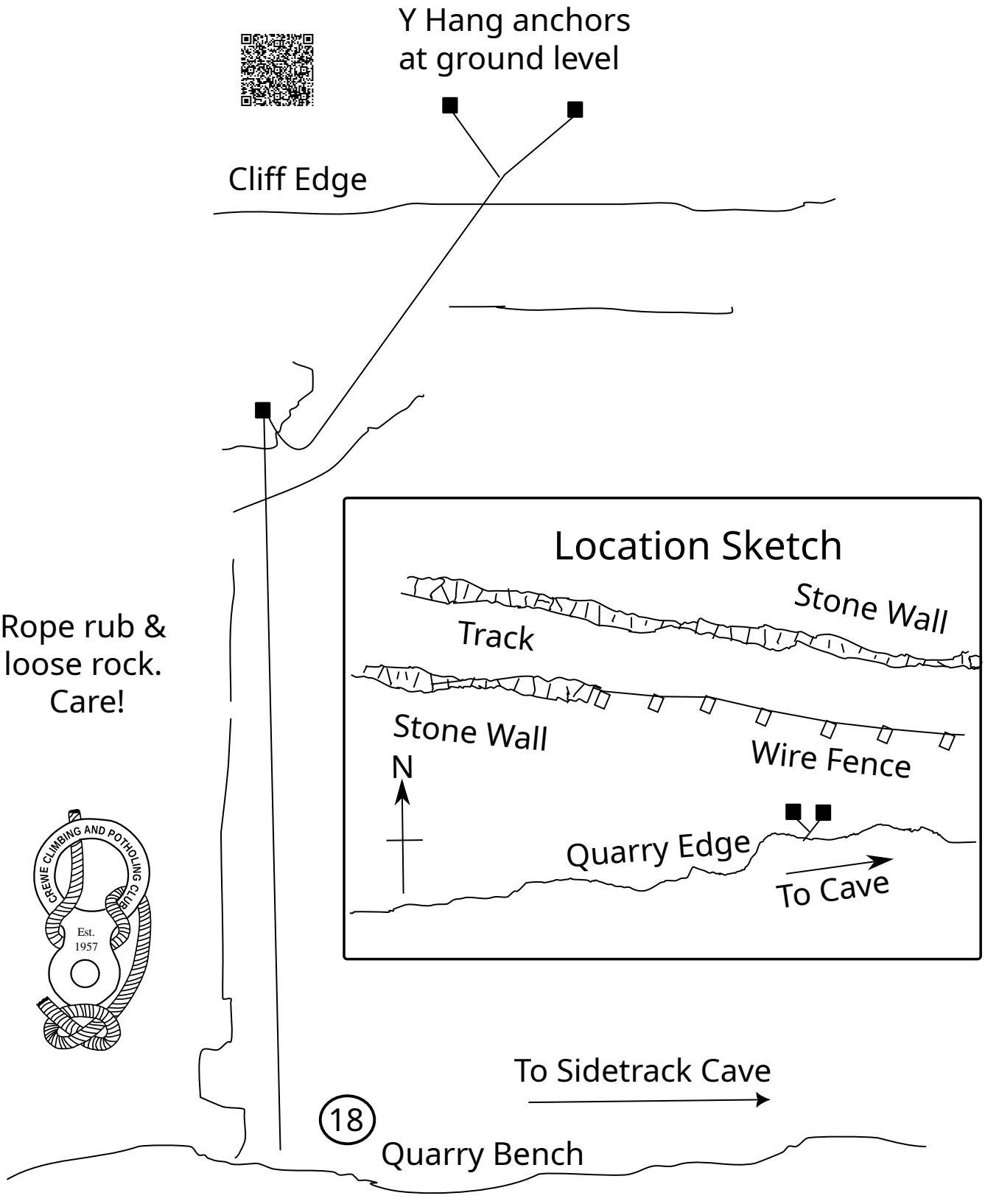


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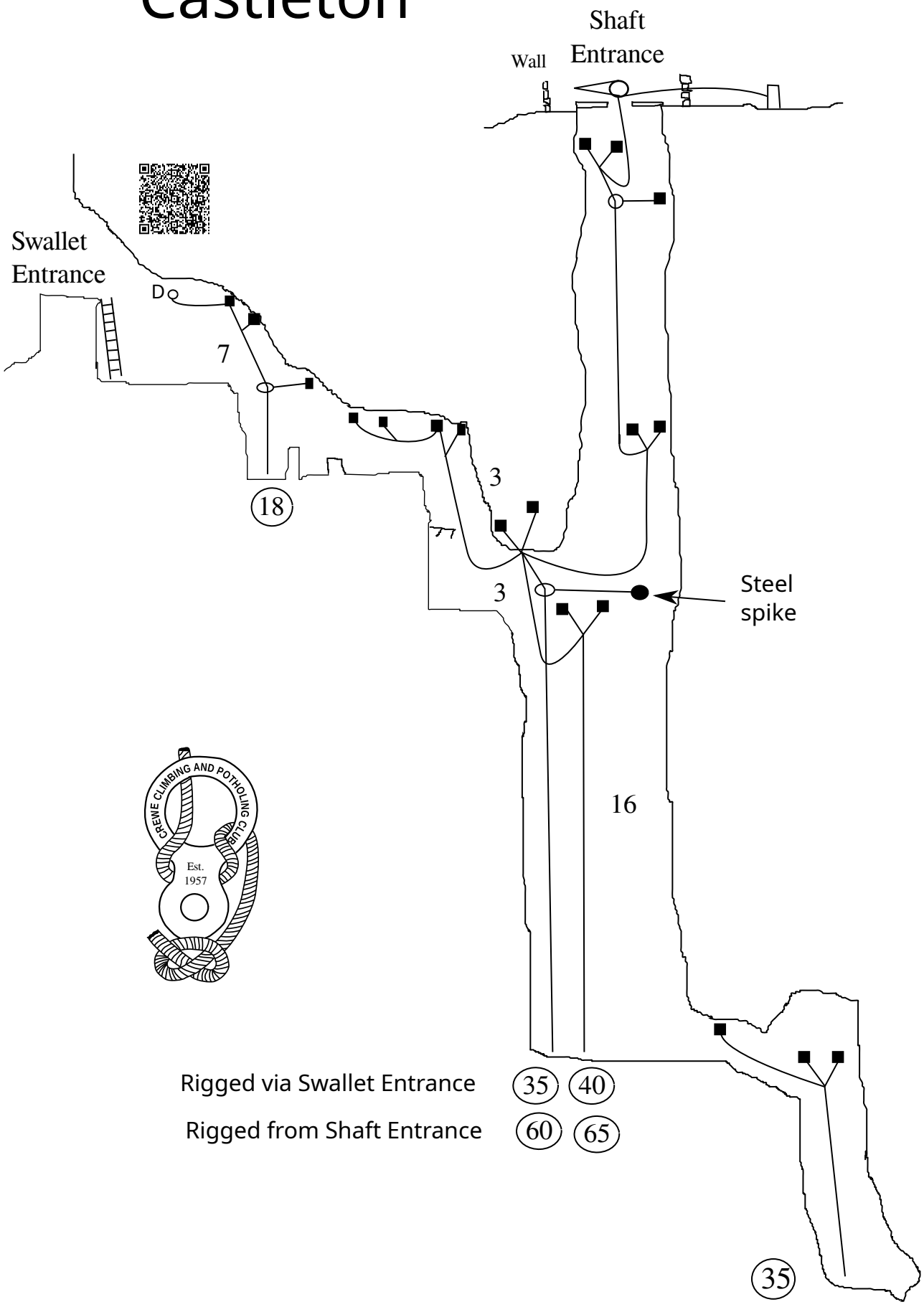
Rowter Hole
Castleton
Part 2

Sidetrack Cave Cliff Access
Castleton



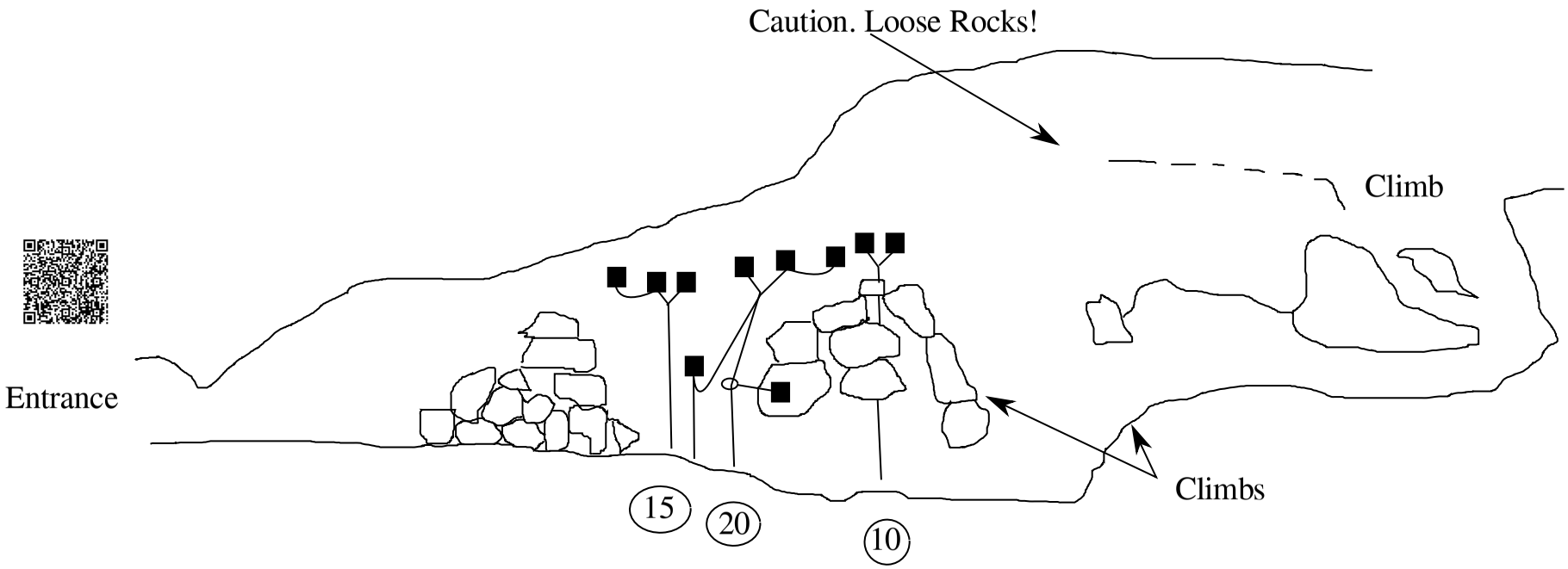
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Snelslow Swallet
Castleton



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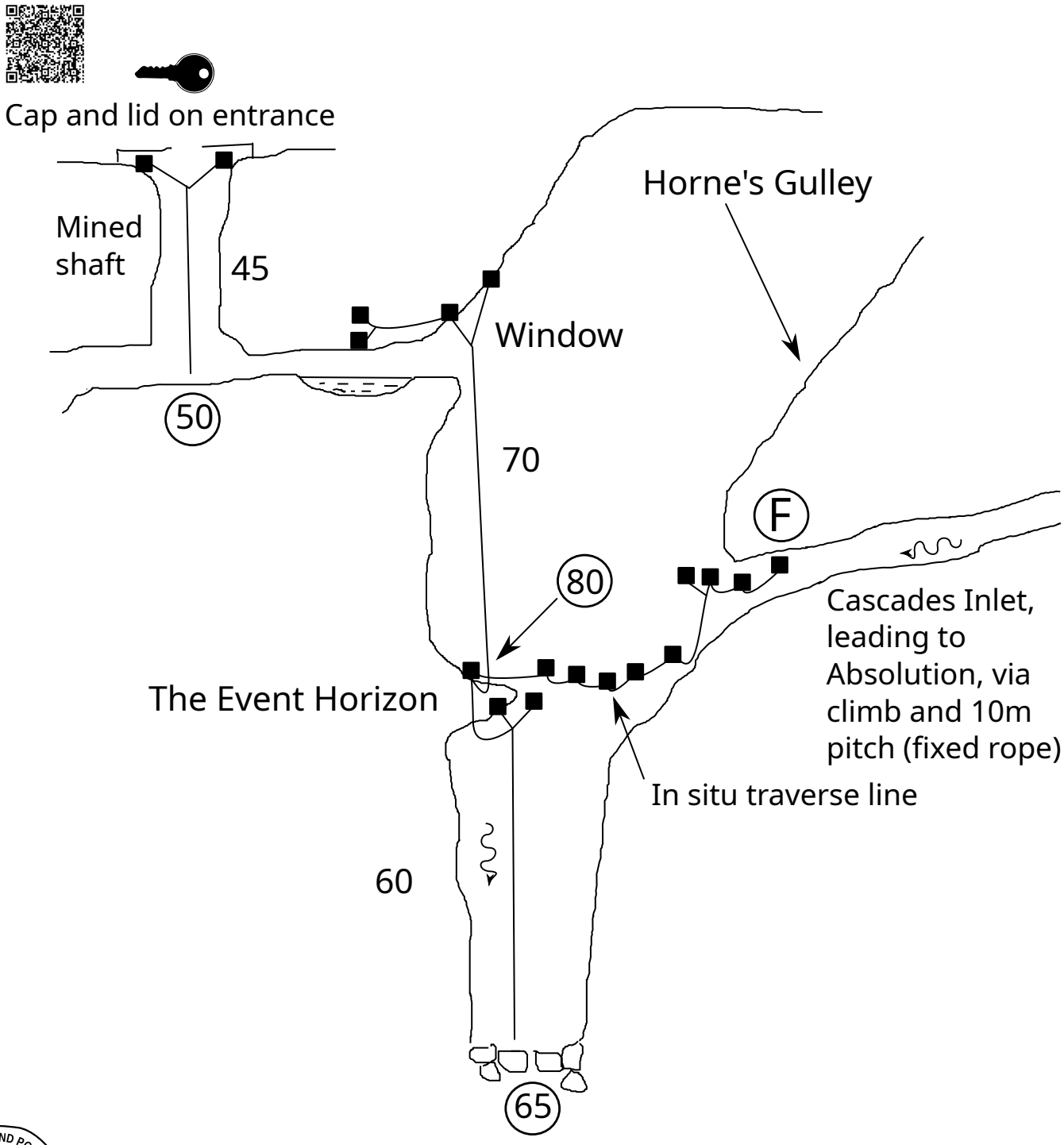
Suicide Cave
Castleton



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

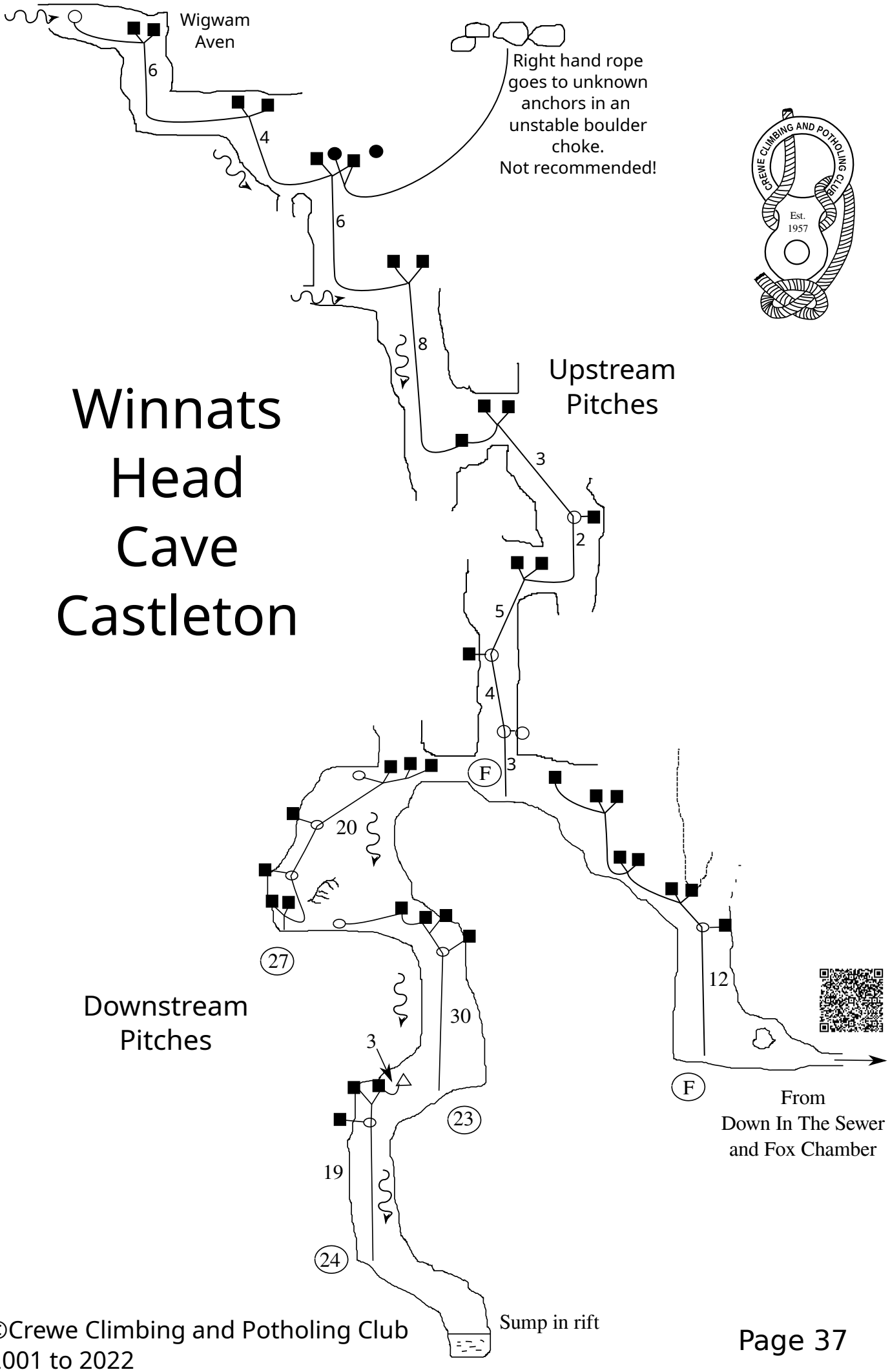
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Titan
Castleton



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

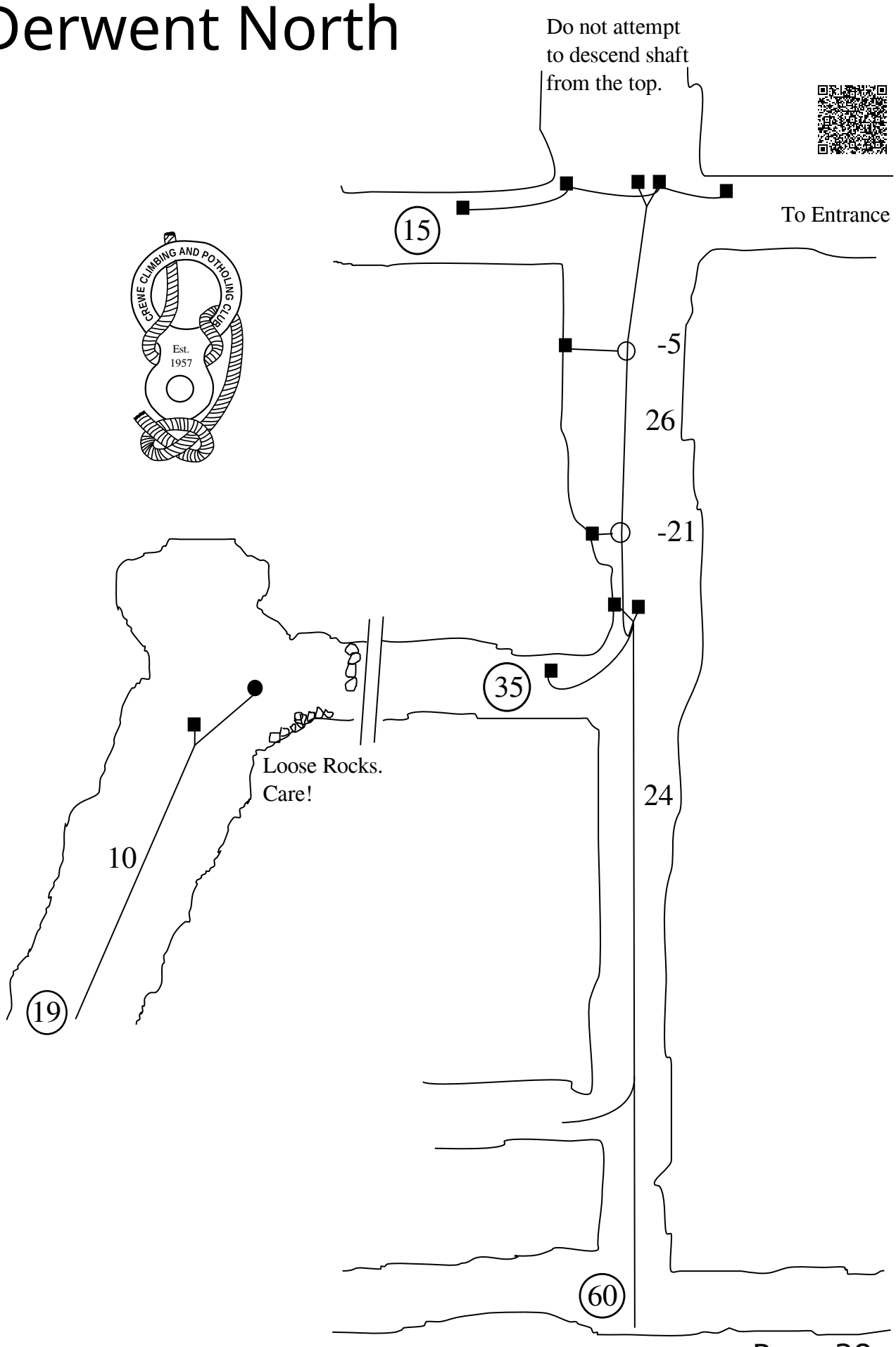
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Winnats Head Cave Castleton

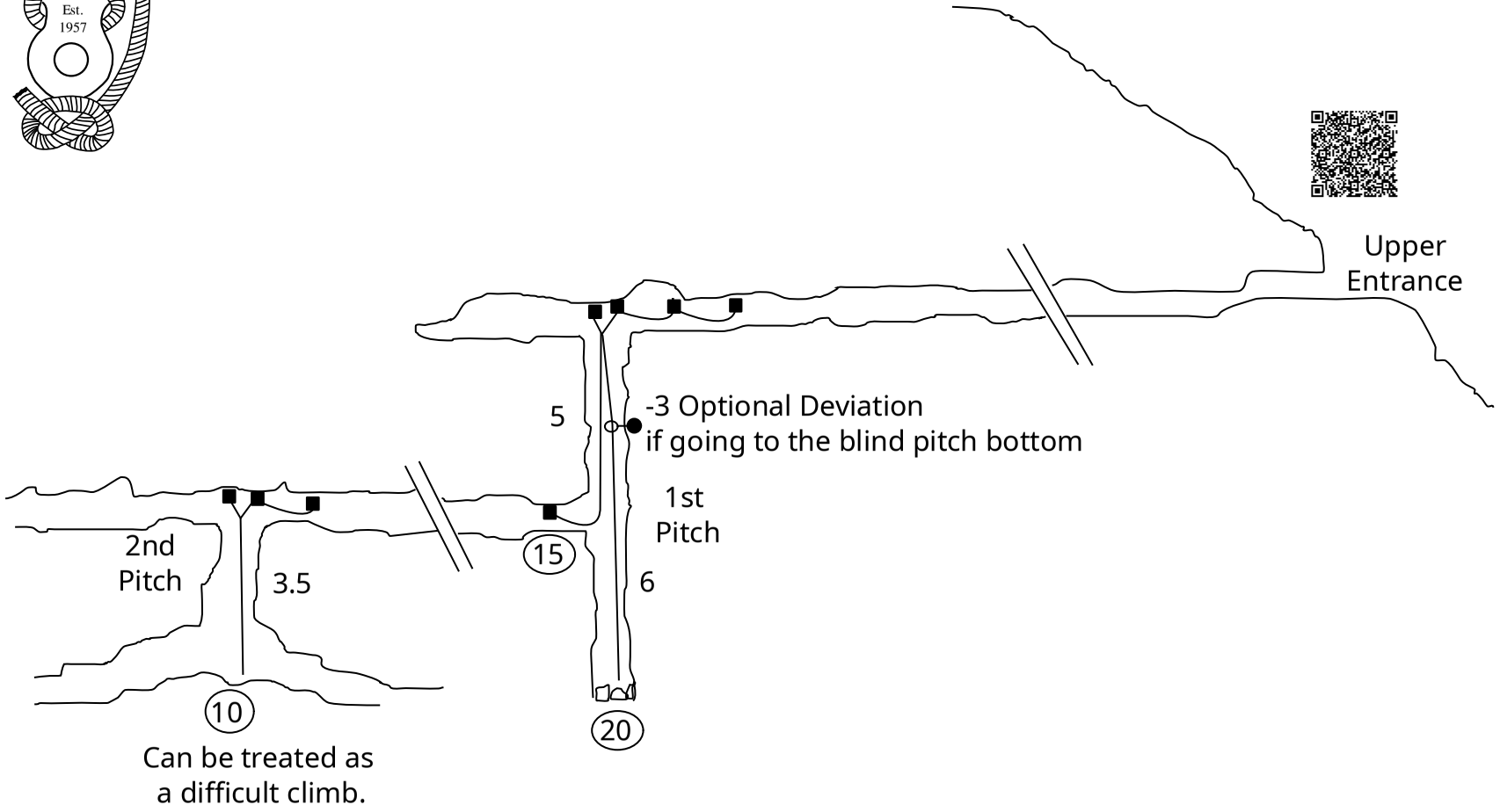
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Middle Engine Mine
Derwent North



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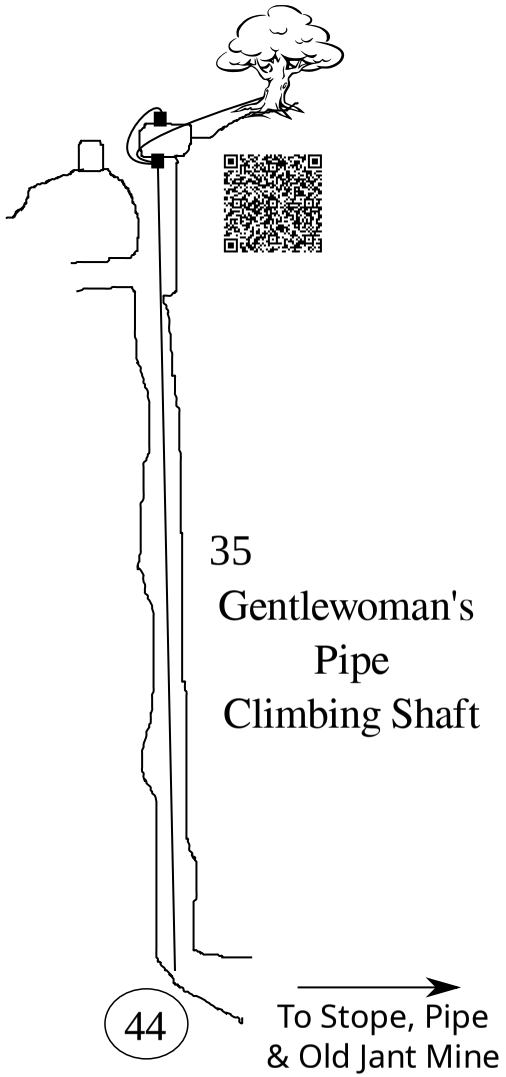
Clatterway Levels - Bonsall
Derwent South



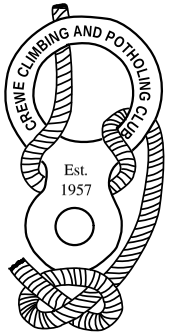
From a sketch by Steve Knox 2001.
See https://www.ccpc.org.uk/newsletters/CCPCNewsletter73.pdf

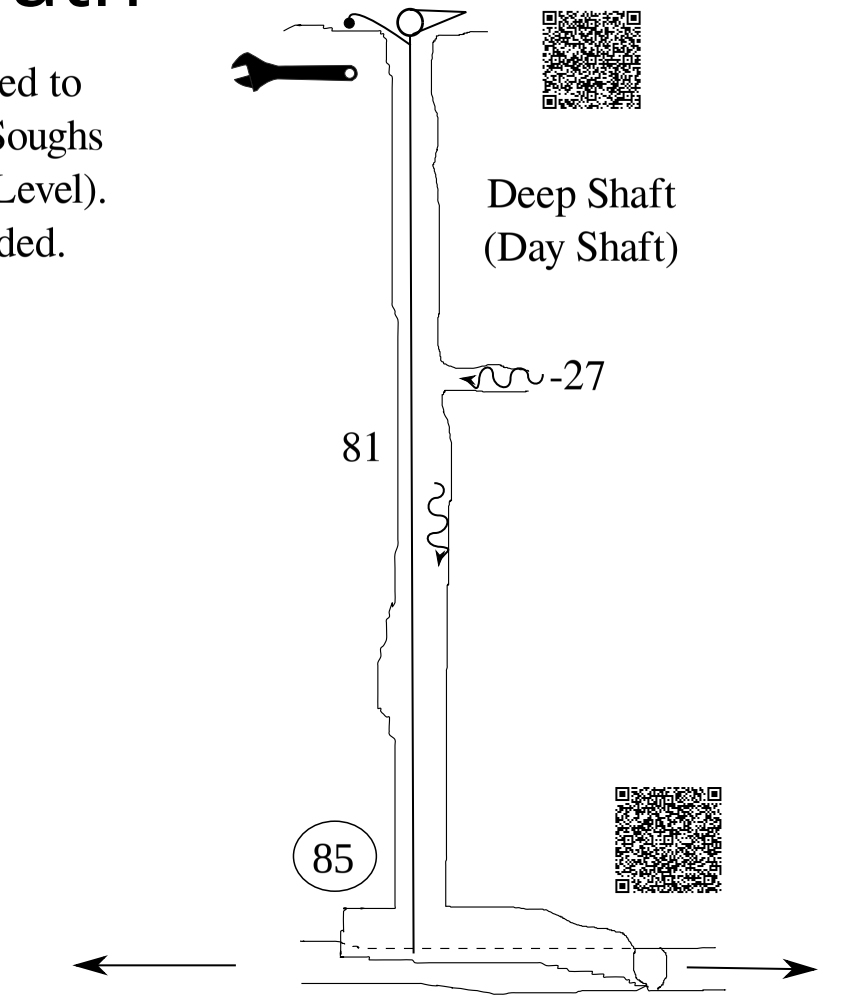
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Deep Shaft - Also known as Day Shaft
Gentlewoman's Pipe Climbing Shaft
Derwent South



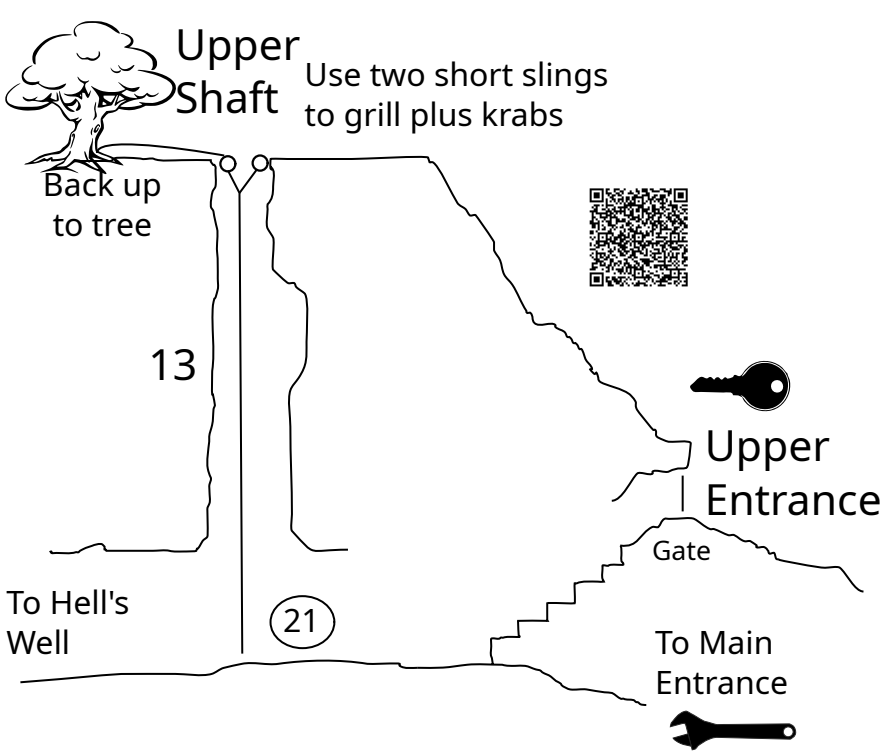
Many shafts once connected to Masson and Ringing Rake Soughs (formerly known as Youds' Level). These can still be descended.

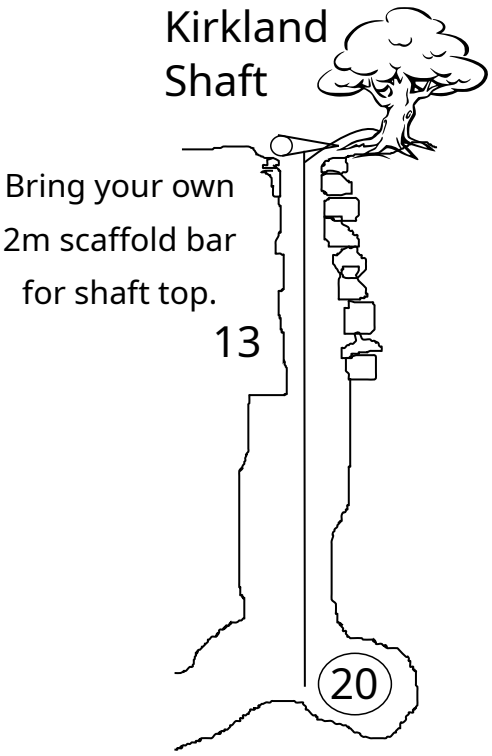


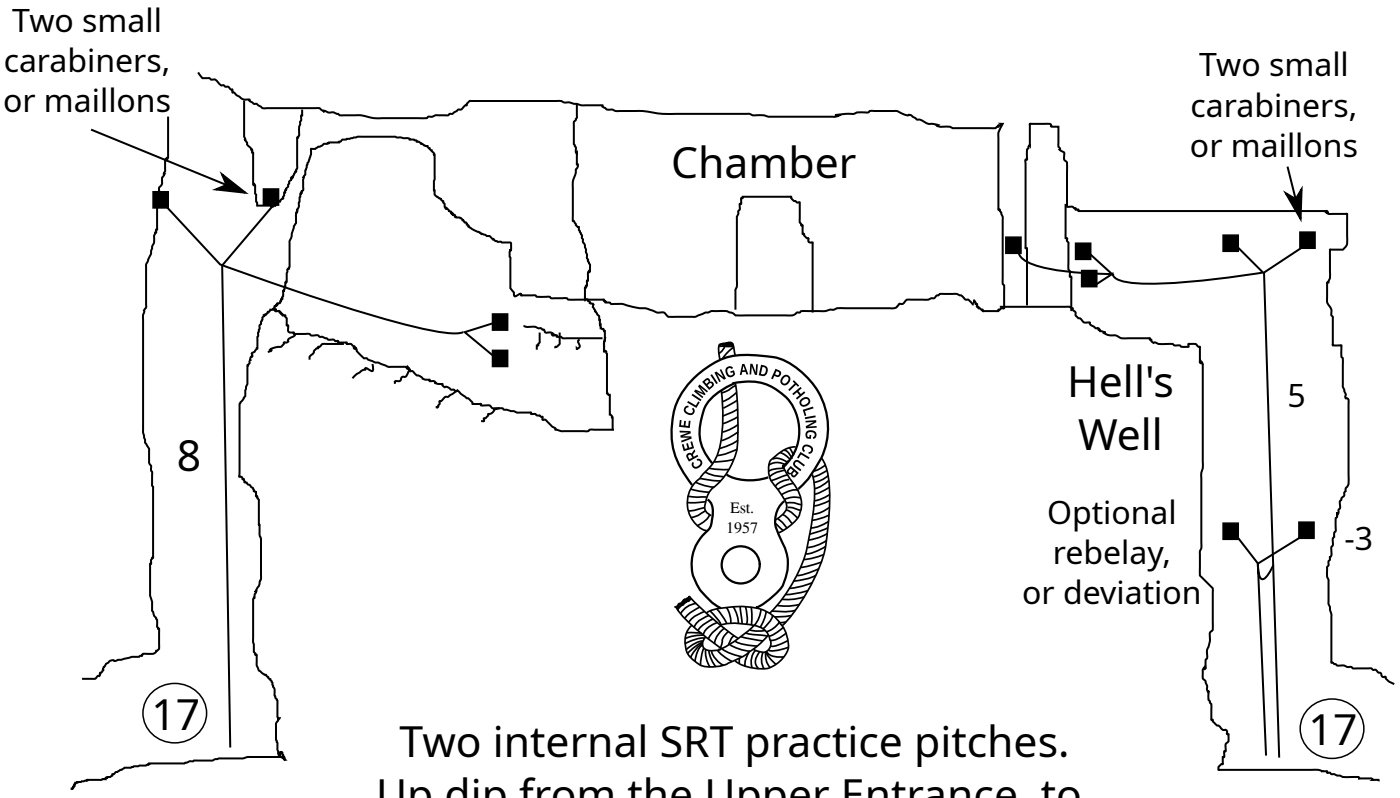


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Devonshire Cavern
Derwent South





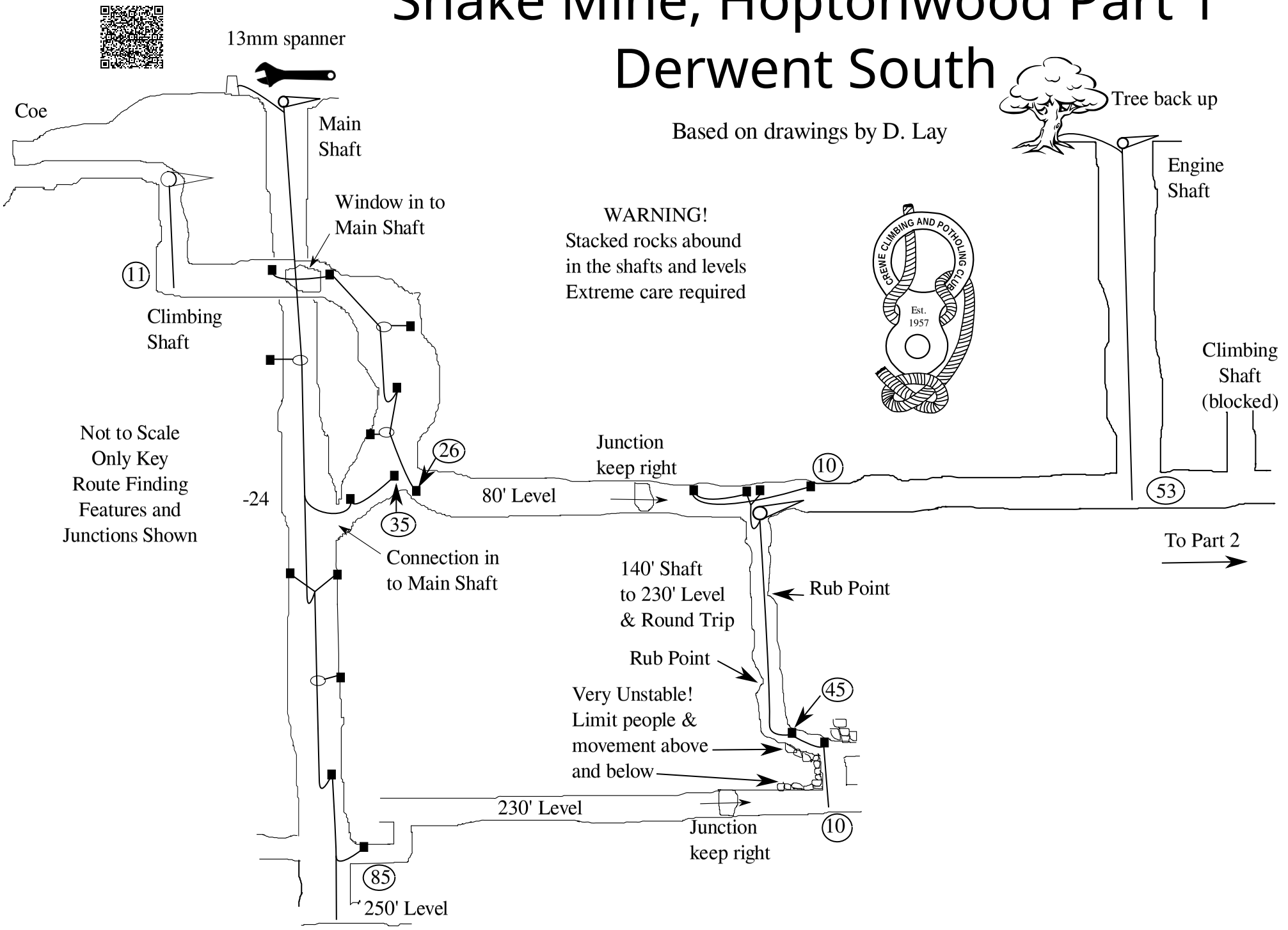


Two internal SRT practice pitches.
Up dip from the Upper Entrance, to left and right hand side of a chamber.

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Snake Mine, Hoptonwood Part 1
Derwent South

Based on drawings by D. Lay

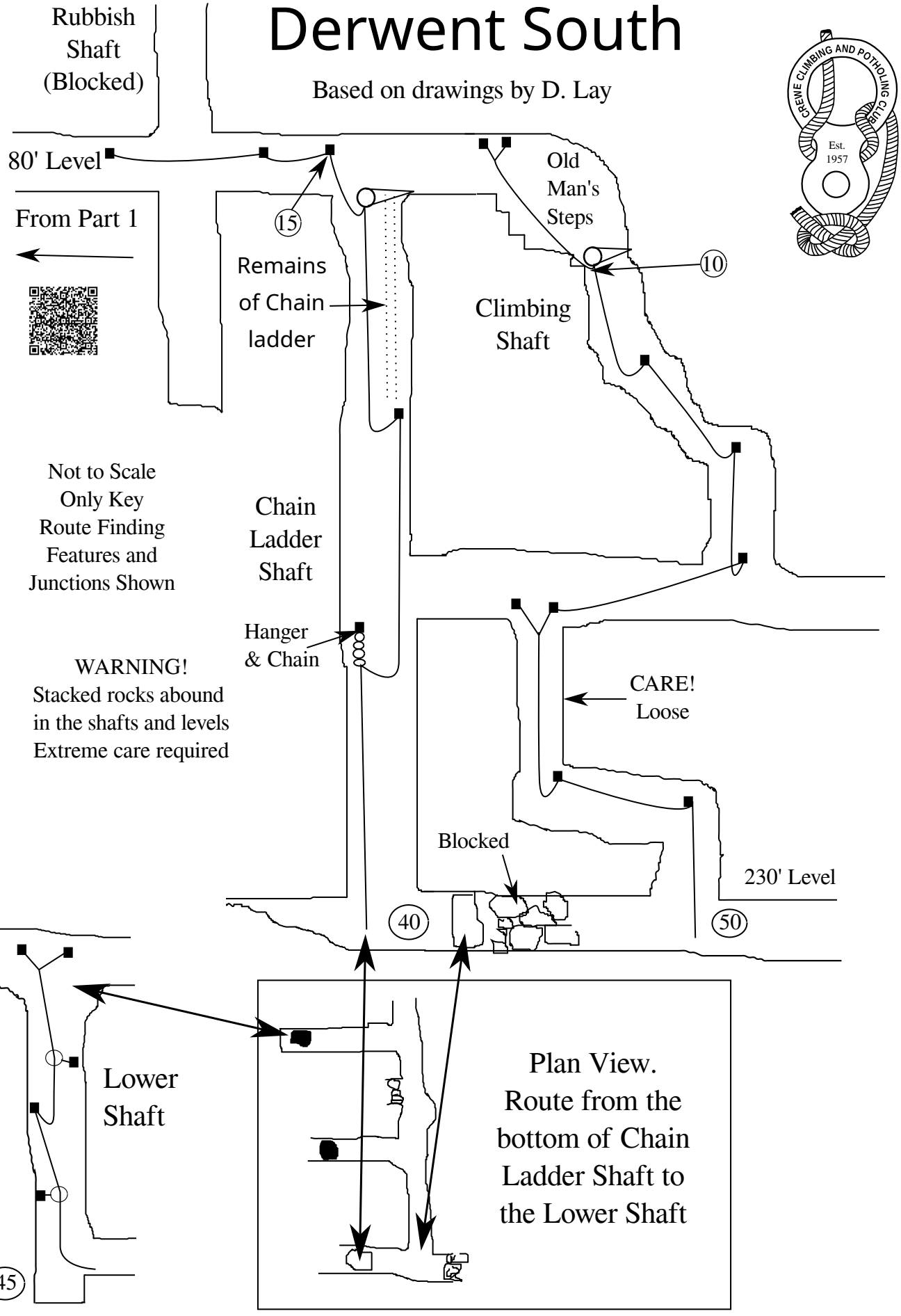


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Snake Mine, Hoptonwood Part 2

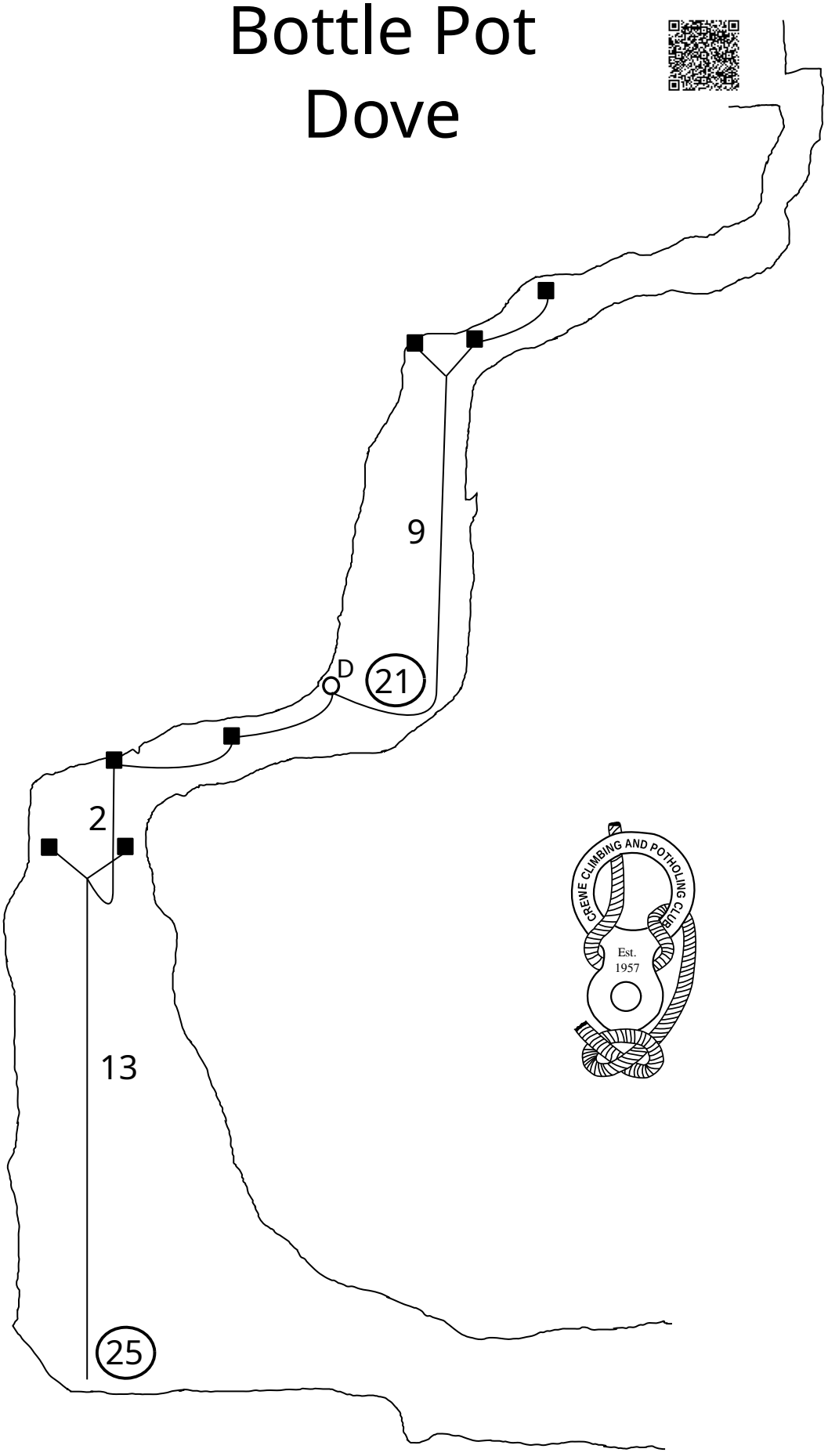
Derwent South

Based on drawings by D. Lay



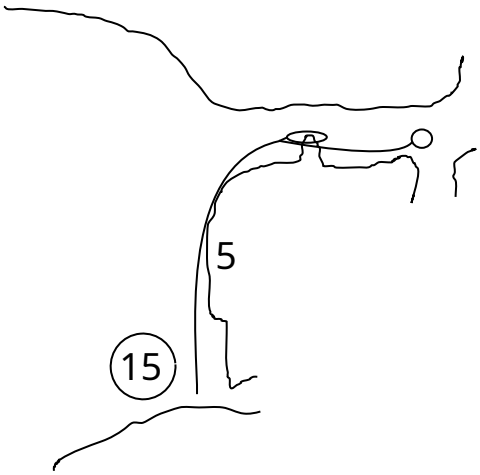
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Bottle Pot Dove

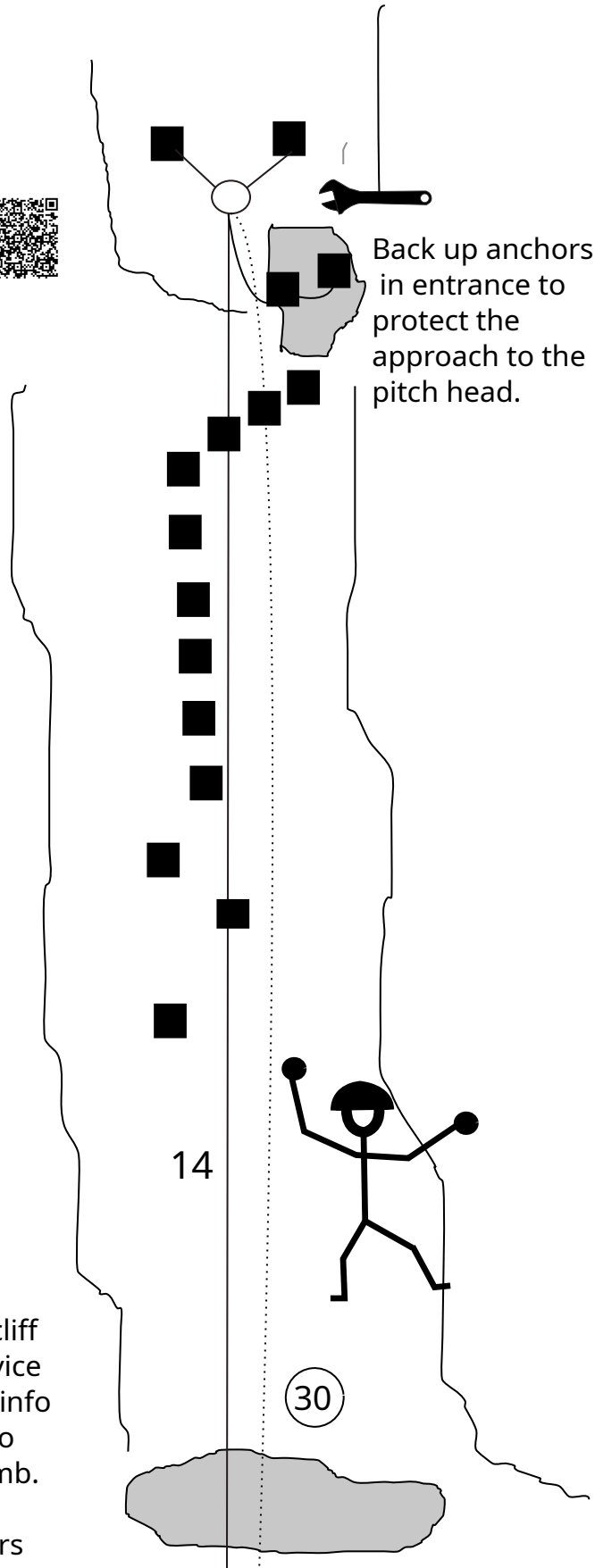


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Owl Hole - Dove



Pitch to Crystal Pallas Chamber



Back up anchors in entrance to protect the approach to the pitch head.

Small, draughting rift at the base of the cliff

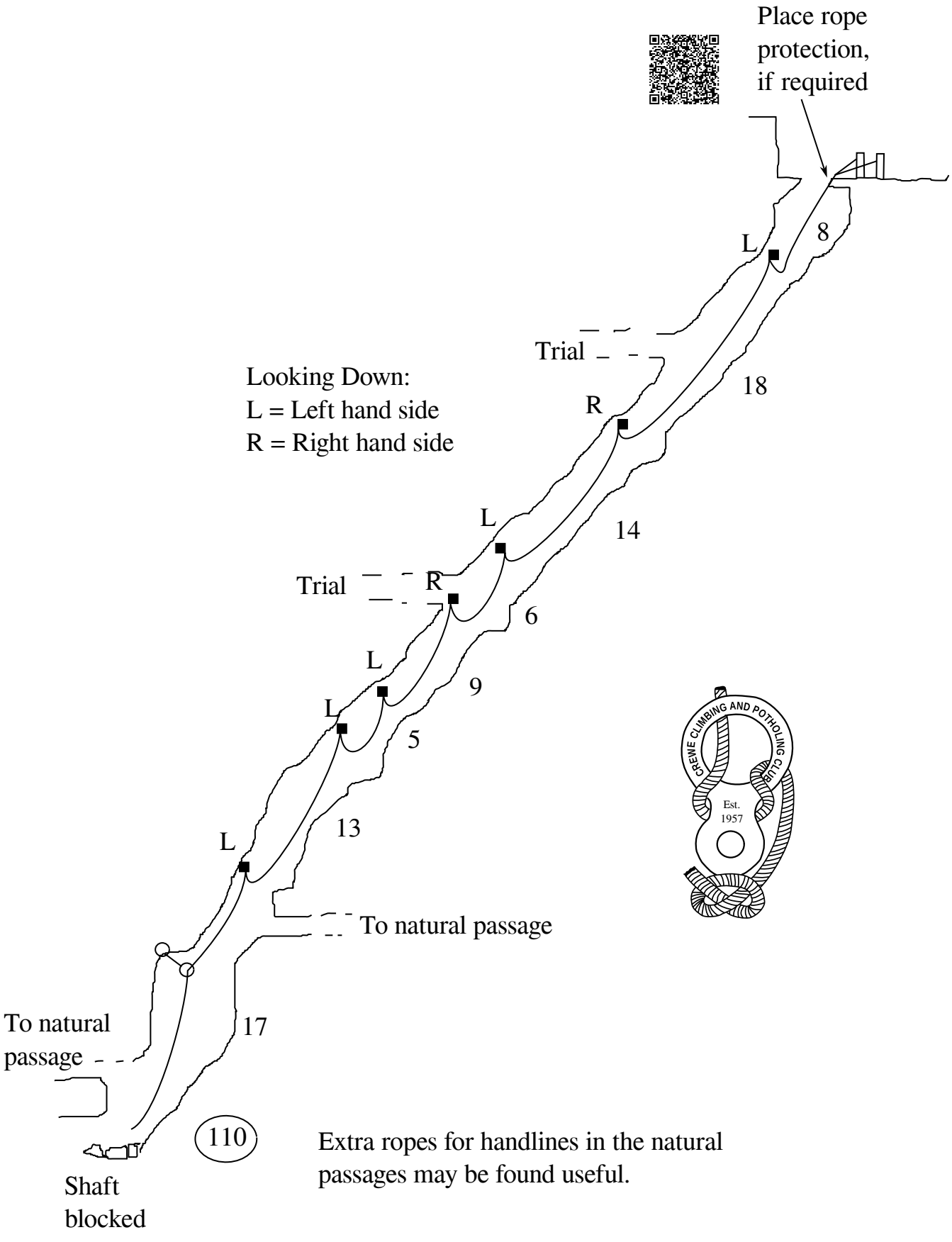
Climb to Crystal Pallas Extension

Resin anchors can be used to climb to the cliff entrance. See the advice in Peakdistrictcaving.info for a choice of ways to safely ascend this climb. A rope can then be rigged for other cavers and to use for a pull down descent.

Based on a sketch by Kai Trusson and Birmingham Student Caving Club

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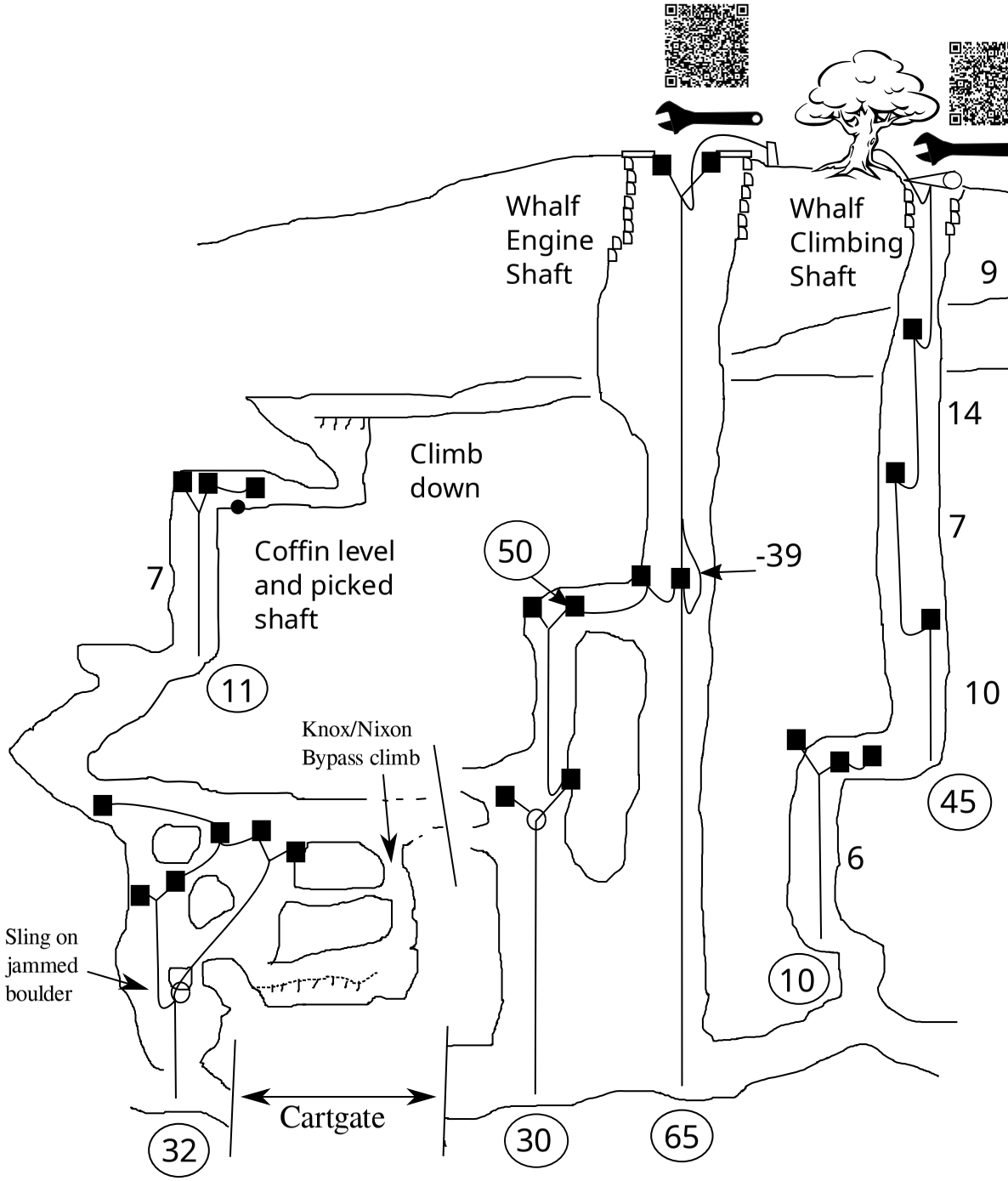
Robin's Shaft Mine
Dove



Extra ropes for handlines in the natural passages may be found useful.

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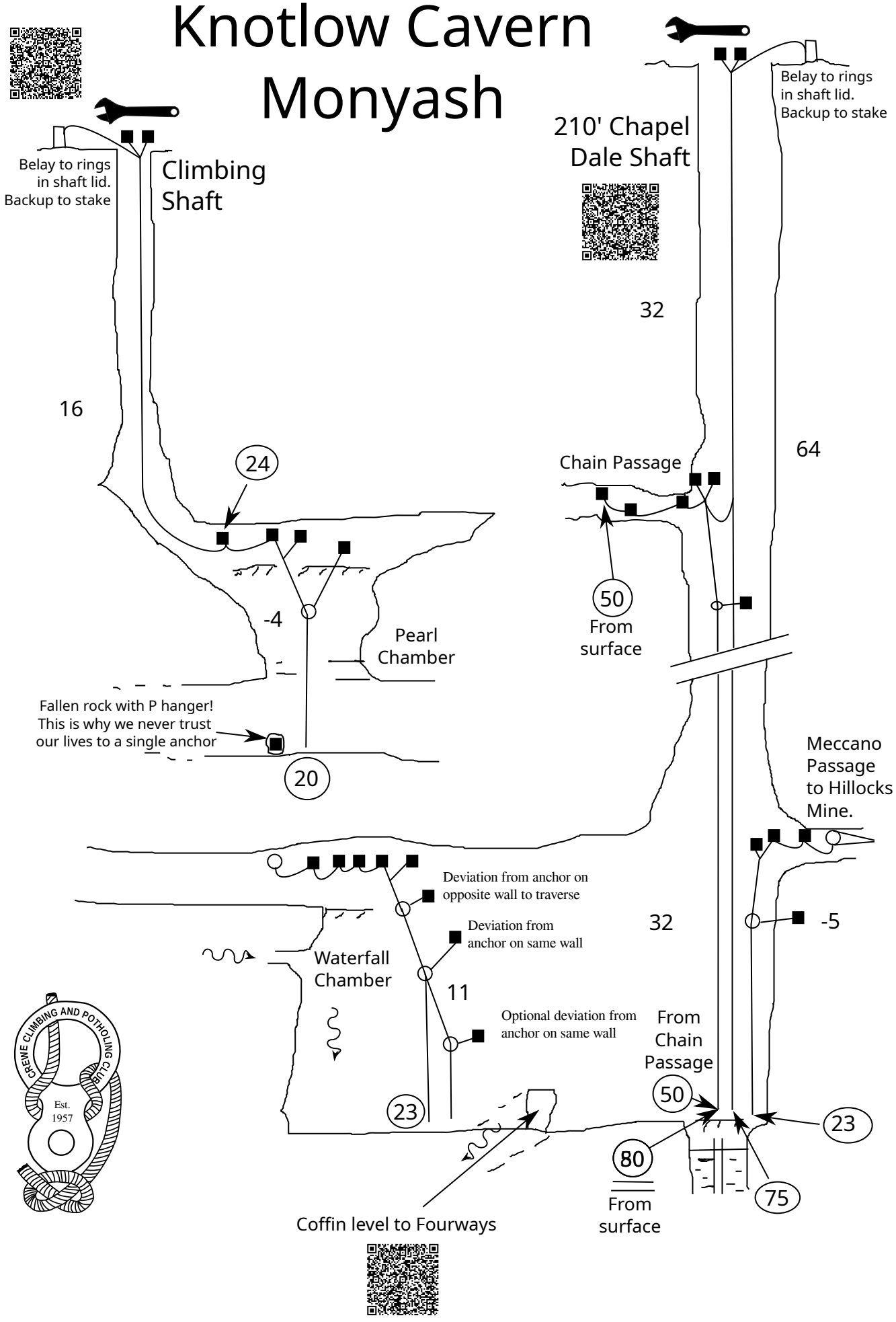
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Hillocks / Whalf Mine. Monyash

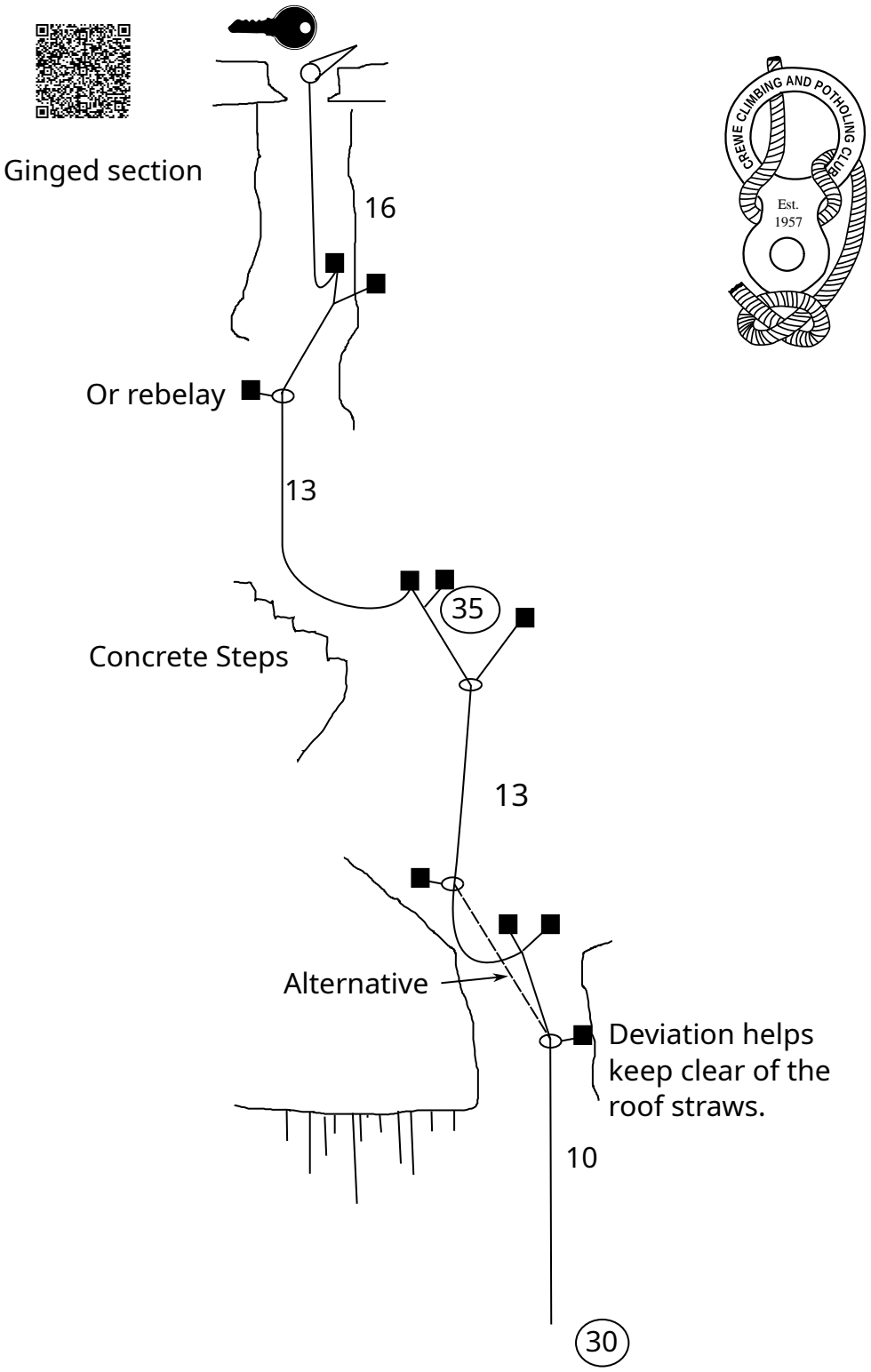
Knox/Nixon Bypass Climb see
https://www.ccpc.org.uk/newsletters/CCPCNewsletter115.pdf

Knotlow Cavern
Monyash



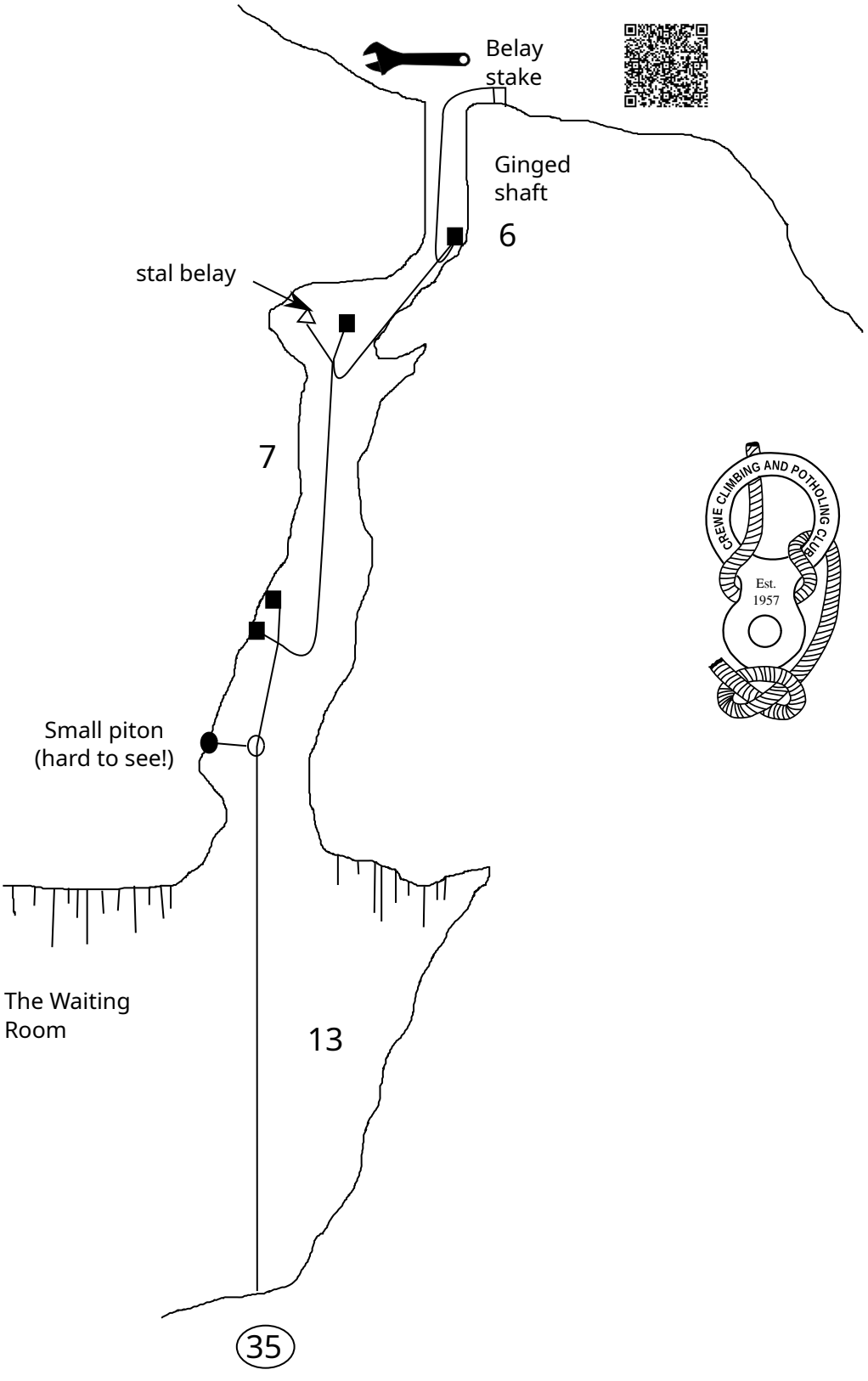
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Lathkill Head Cave
Garden Path
Lathkill Dale



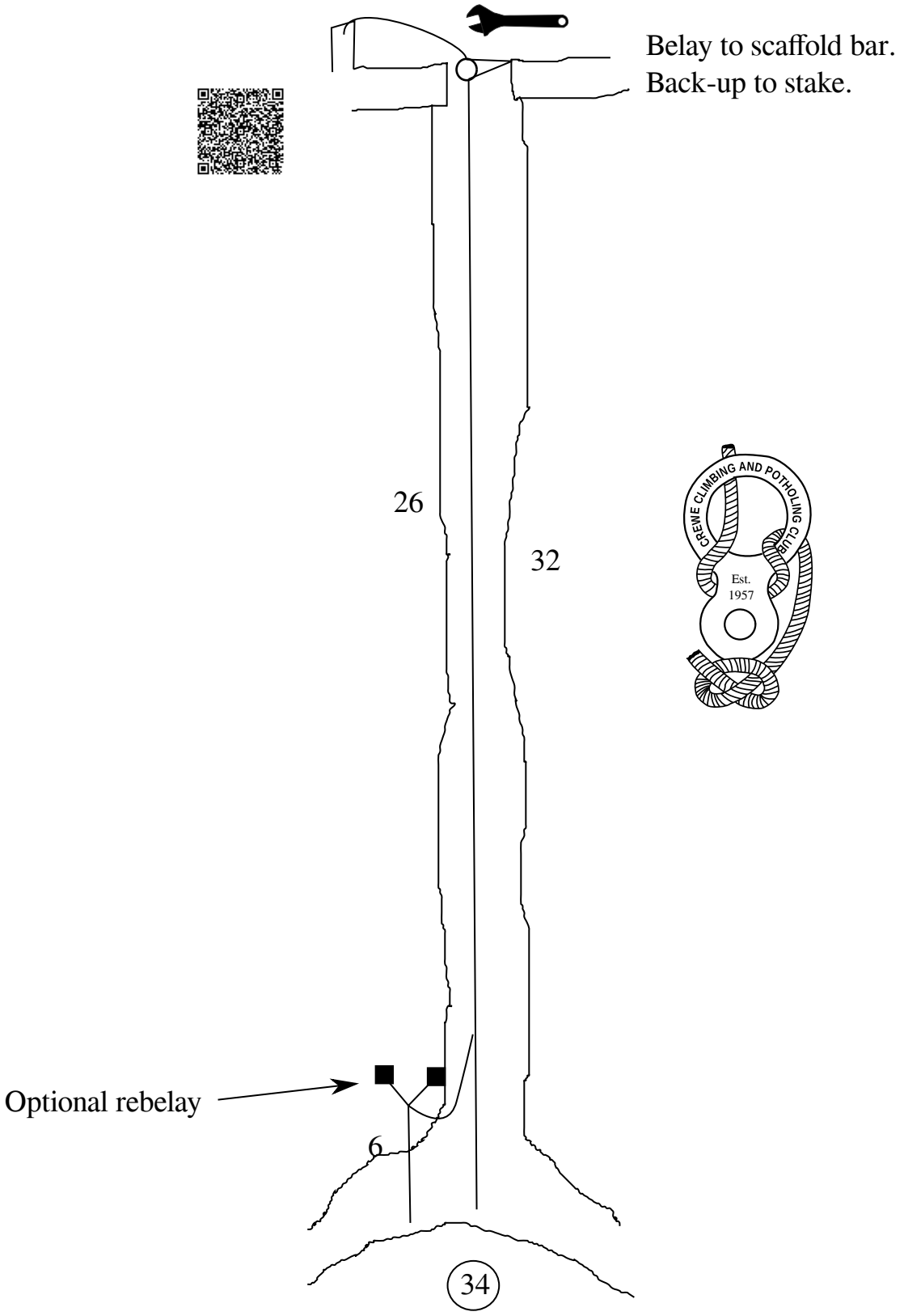
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Lathkill Head Cave
Top Entrance
Lathkill Dale



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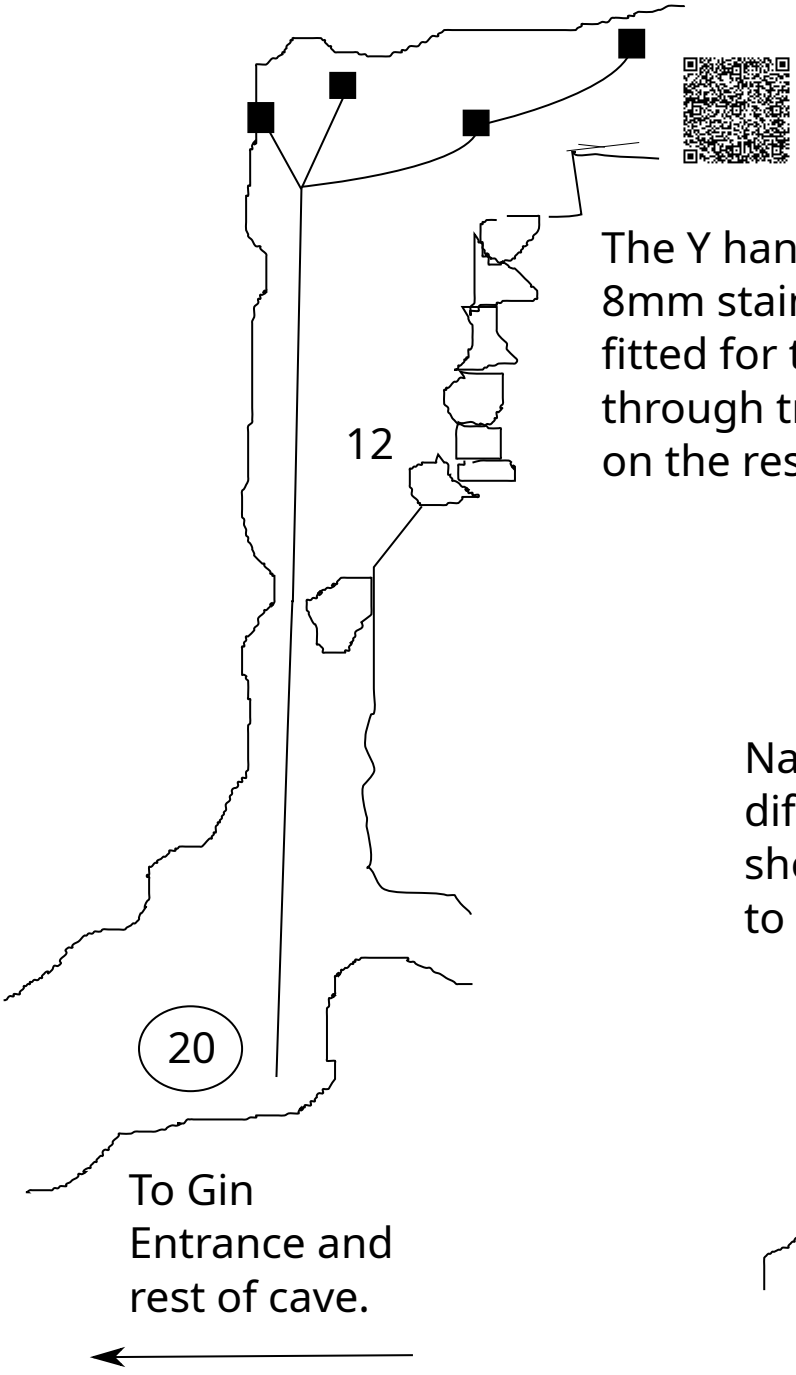
Water Icicle Close Cavern
Lathkill Dale



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Carlswark Cavern
Stoney Middleton

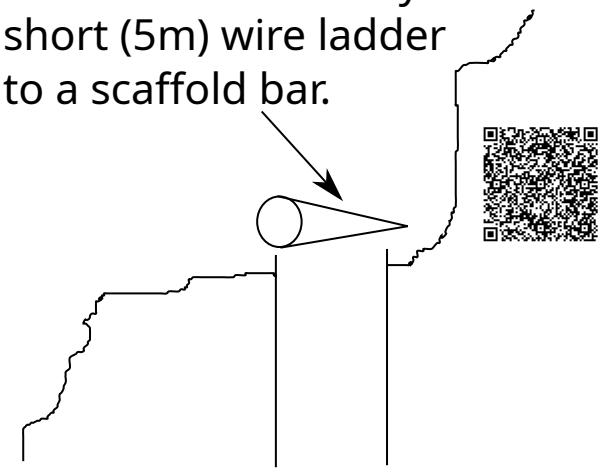
Eyam Dale Shaft



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

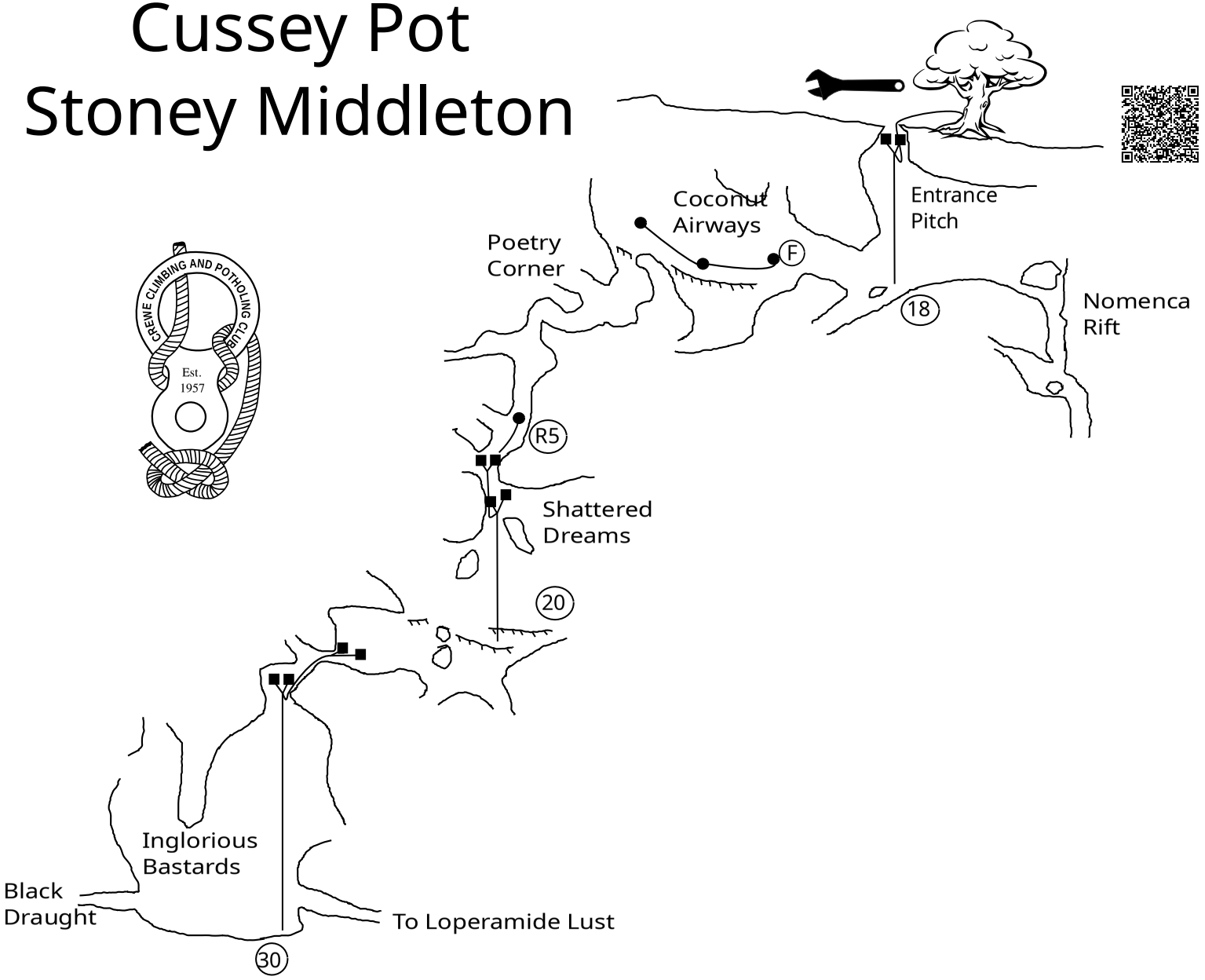
Flower Pot

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



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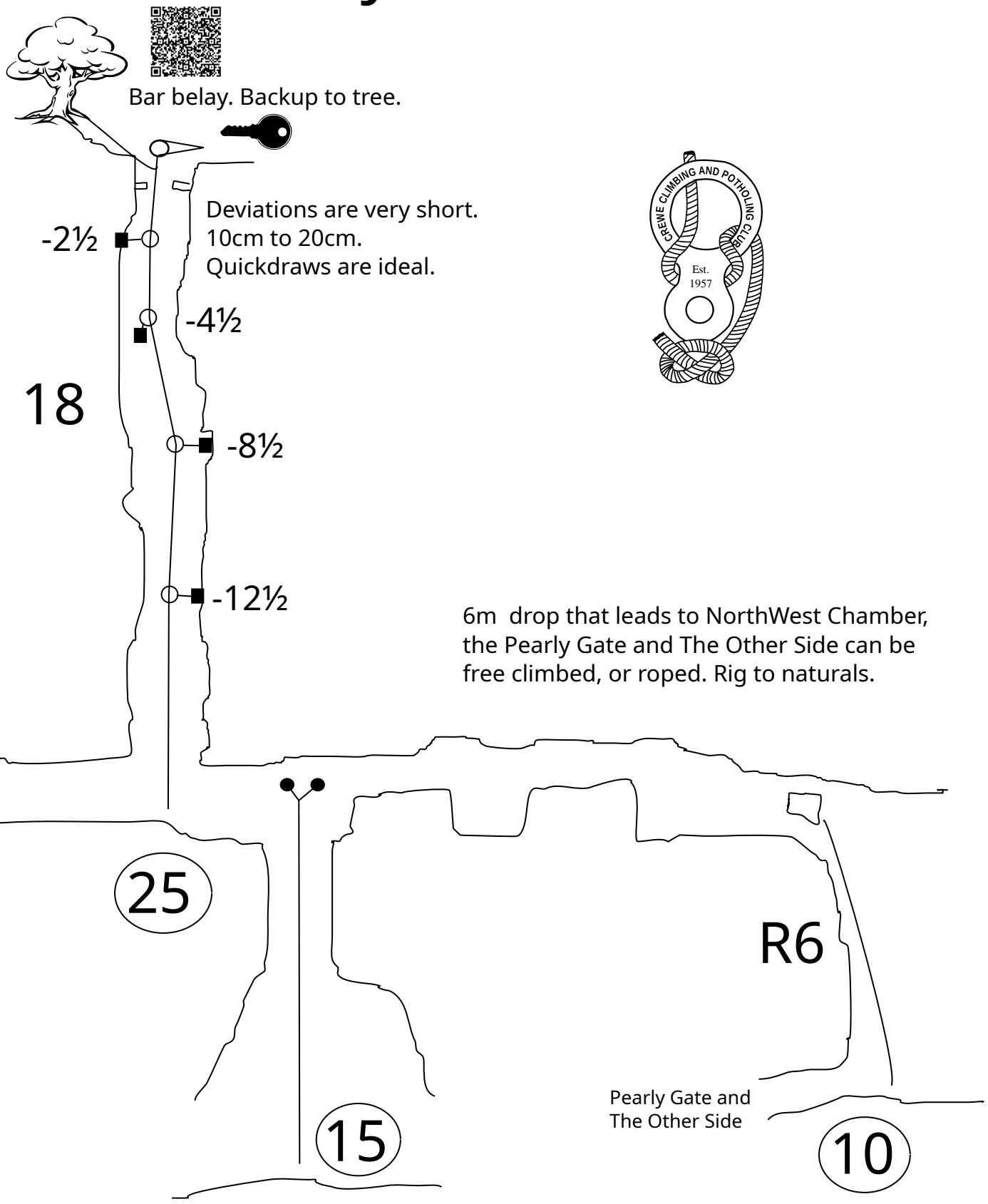
Cussey Pot
Stoney Middleton



Based on a Survey by Eldon Pothole Club

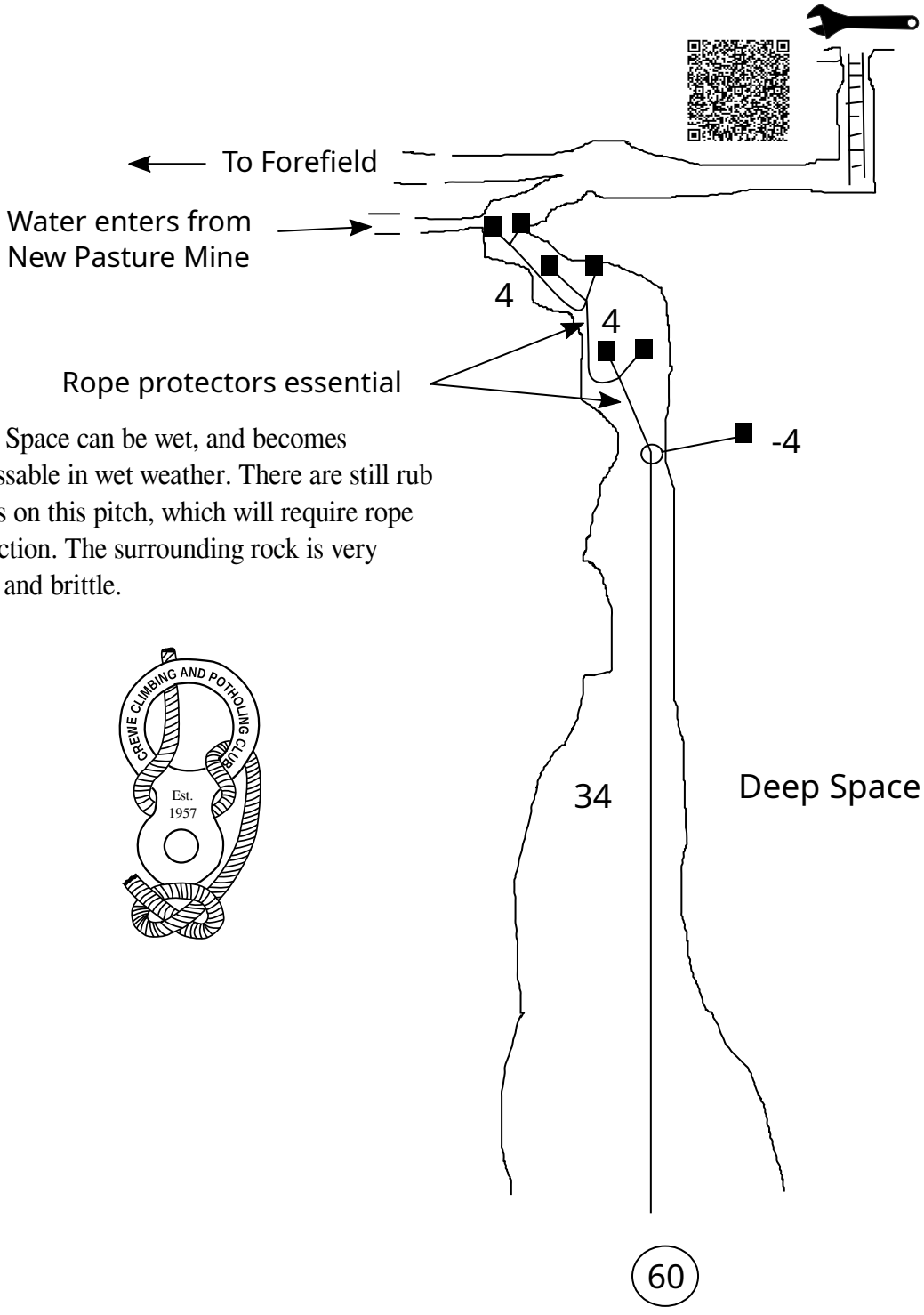
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Eyam Dale House Cave
Stoney Middleton



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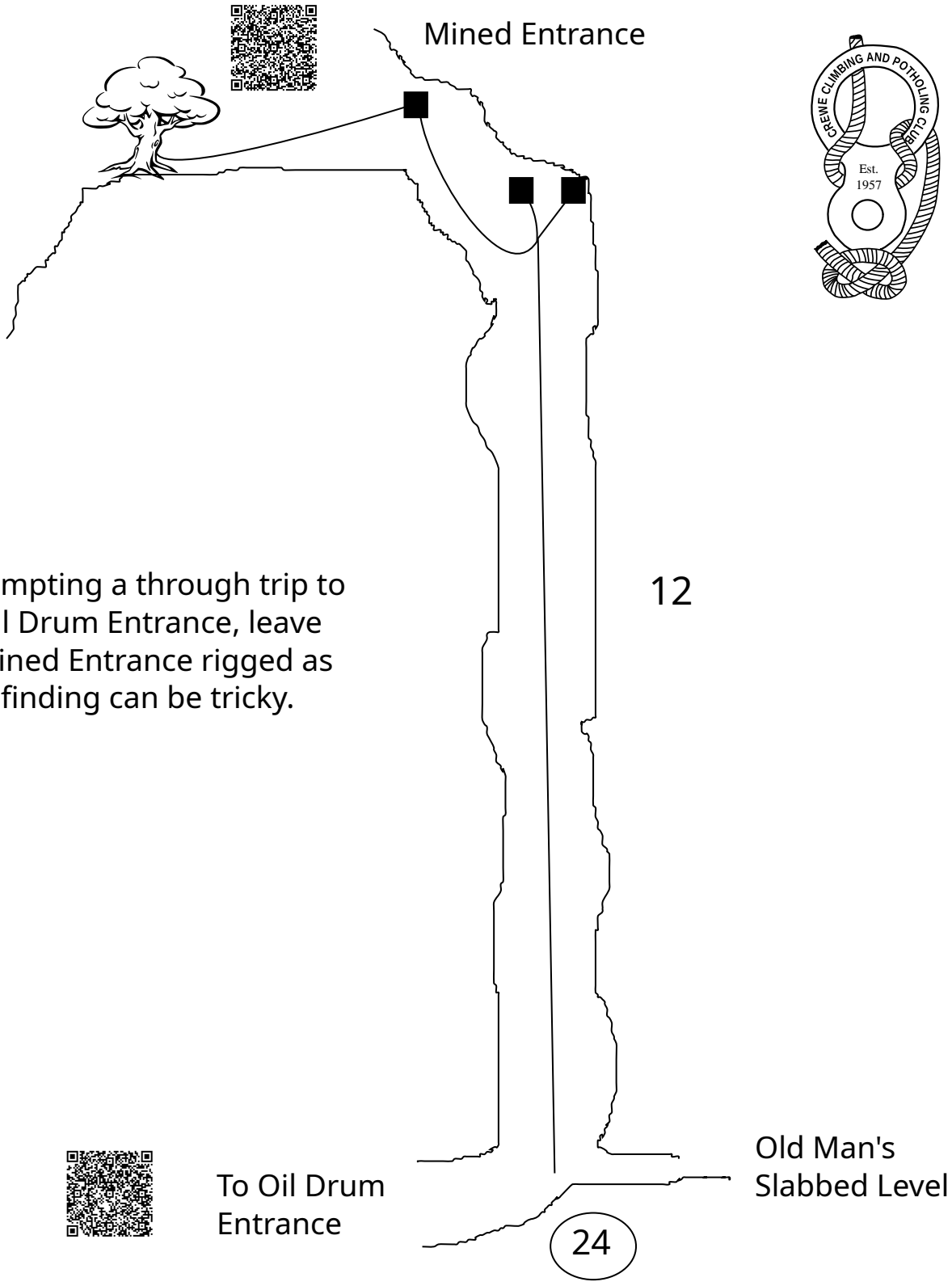
Hungerhill Swallet
Stoney Middleton



Deep Space can be wet, and becomes impassable in wet weather. There are still rub points on this pitch, which will require rope protection. The surrounding rock is very loose and brittle.

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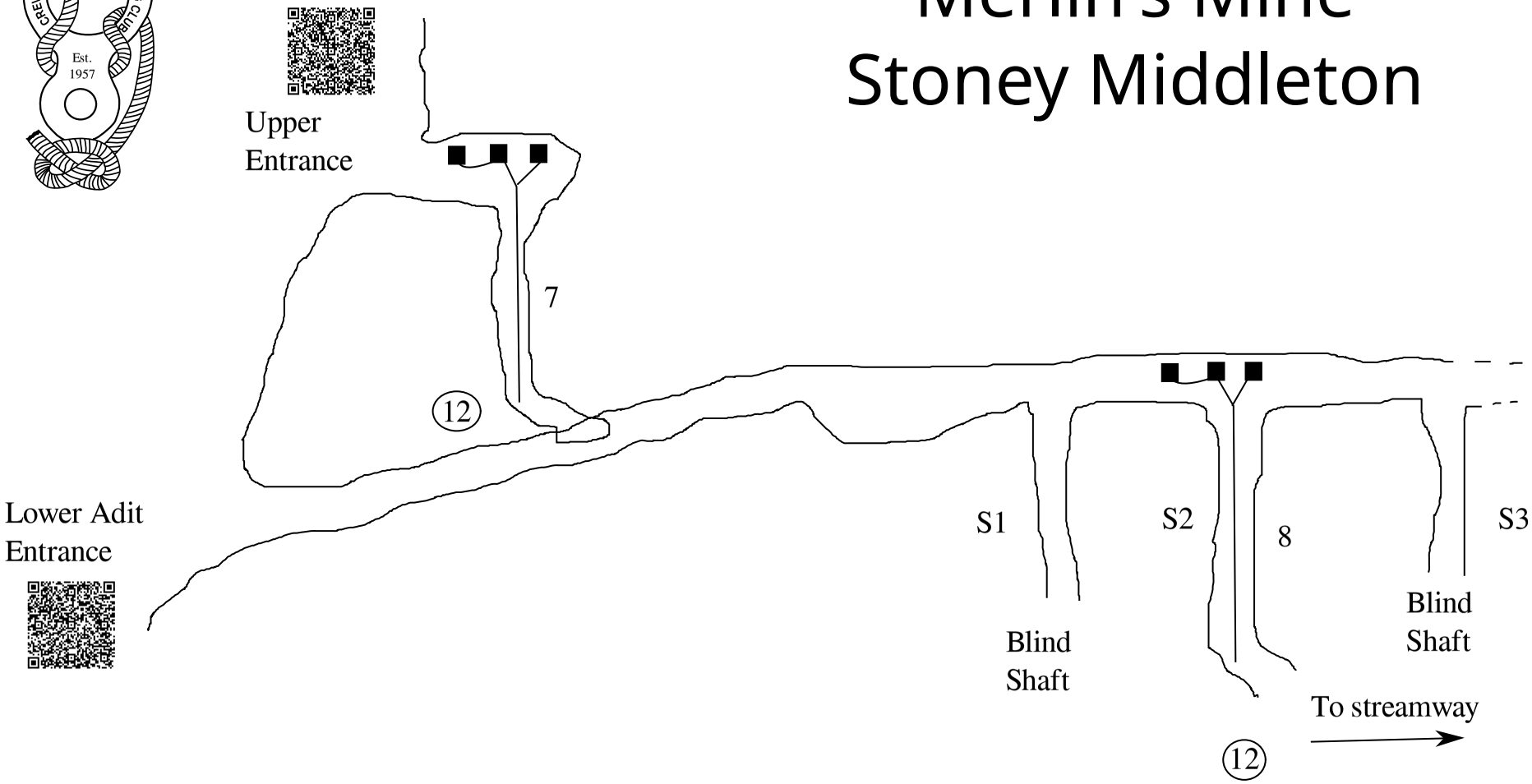
Lay-by Pot
Stoney Middleton



If attempting a through trip to the Oil Drum Entrance, leave the Mined Entrance rigged as route finding can be tricky.

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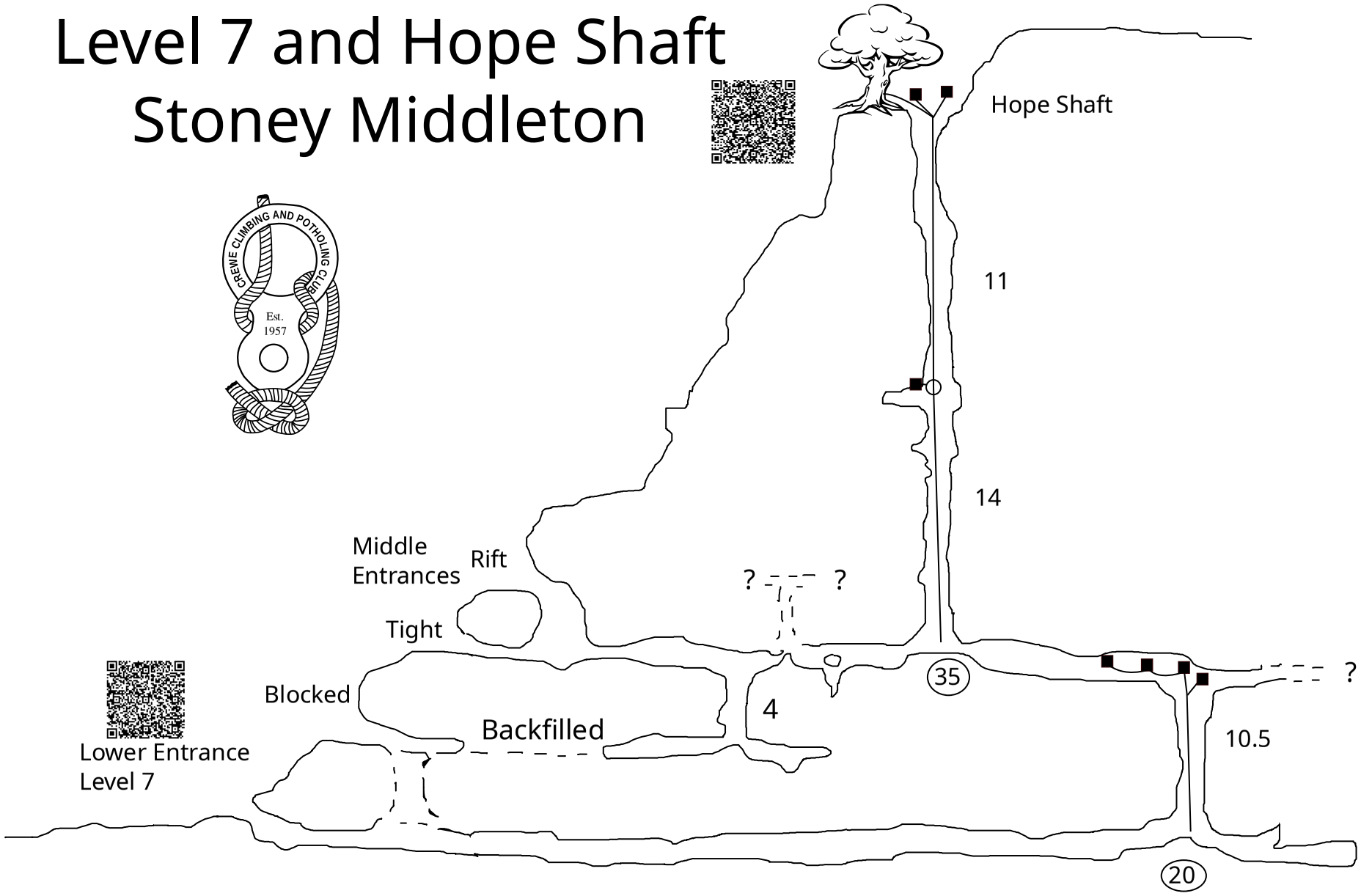
Merlin's Mine
Stoney Middleton



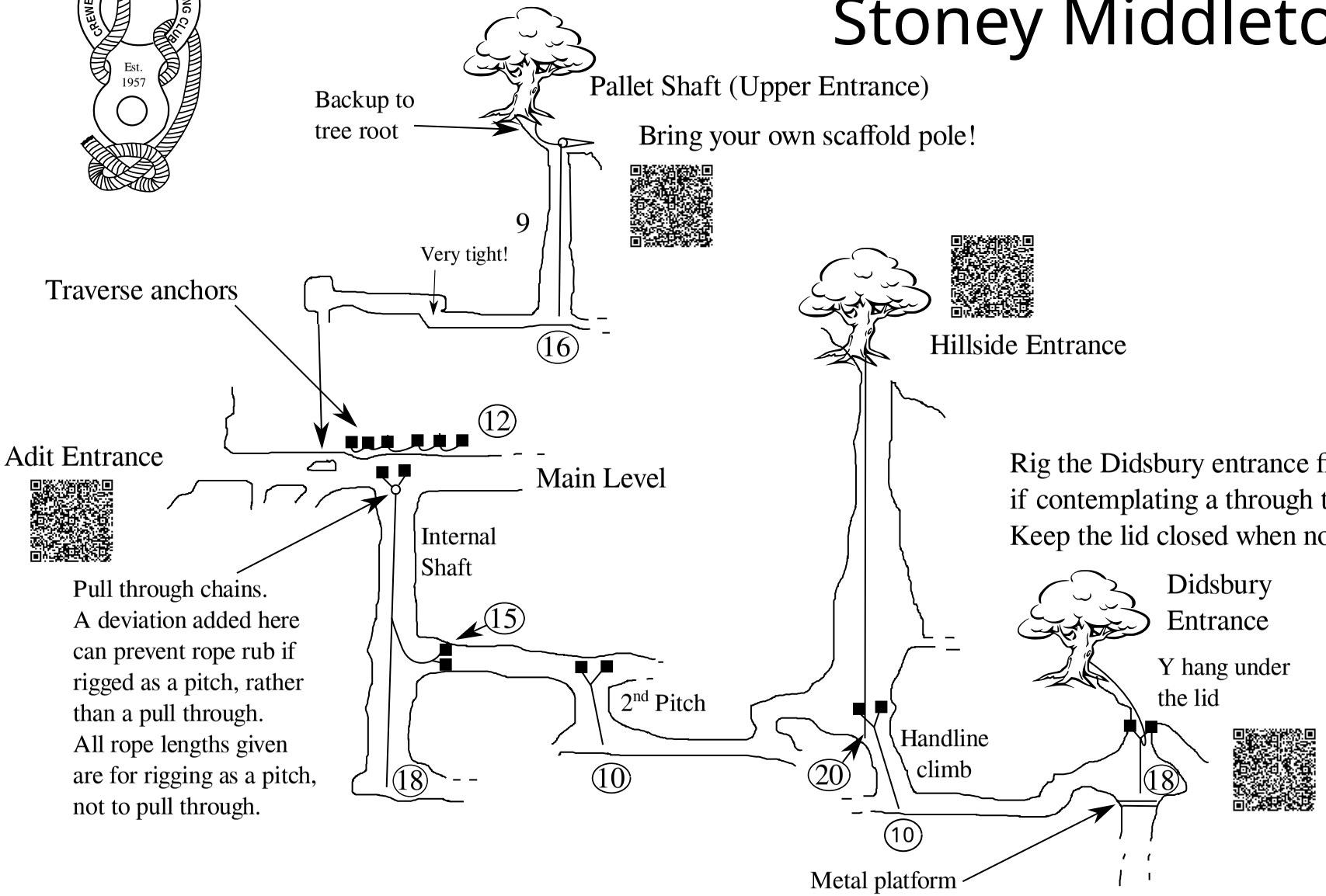
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Middleton Dale Mine
Level 7 and Hope Shaft
Stoney Middleton

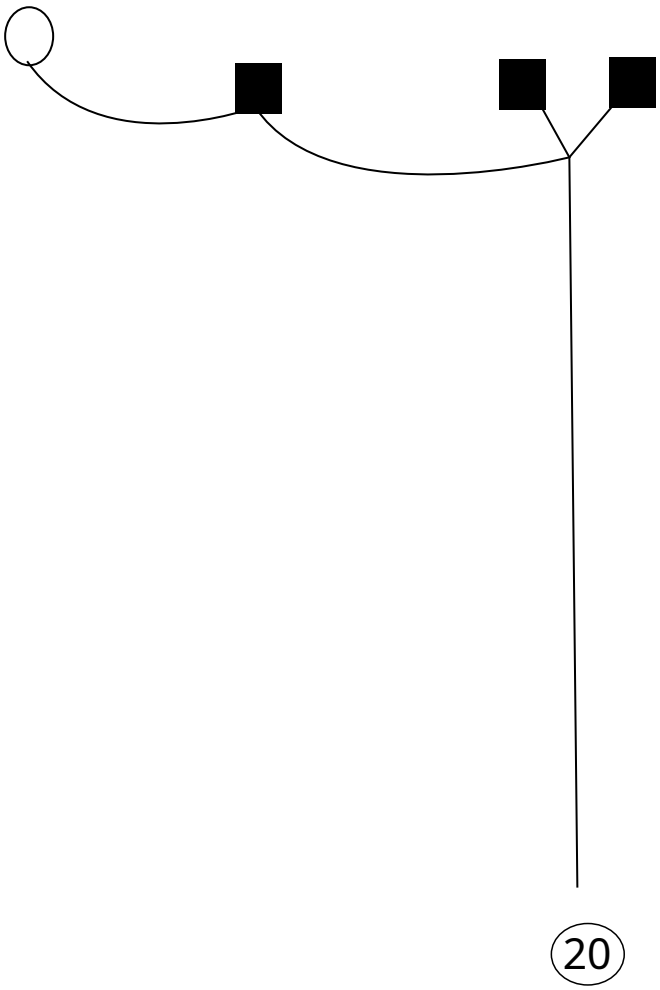


Nickergrove Mine
Stoney Middleton



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Streaks Pot
Stoney Middleton



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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

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