



Site Descriptions

These 5462 descriptions (across 7 volumes each to hold 800 sites) are automatically generated from individual web pages, hence the underlined "links" and X's. Links starting with "C:/" will not connect. External addresses, "http://" etc should link.

Produced 28 February 2025.

0001: Burro, Sima del

Riva 30T 453898 4794091 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [U](#)) **Altitude** 365m

Length 94m **Depth** 50m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th November 2003; 3rd May

2009; 31st March 2021

A shaft with a window into a second shaft.

Both choke at about the same level.

At Easter 2009, a possible sighting and re-exploration has the depth at 13.4m with a window 4m up leading to a river passage.

This is unlikely to be Sima del Burro. The

grid reference is 30T 0453878 4794181

(Eur79). A few metres away is an

"unrecorded shaft" at 30T 0453874 4794184

(Eur79) with an estimated depth of 25m. It

has the sound of water and is presumed to

link to the first hole.

These hole(s) are out of the current permit

area.

Construction of the svx file from the survey

gave a length of 94m (previously 50m) .

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#)

([survey](#)); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon.,](#)

[2009a](#) ([Easter logbook](#))

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [yes](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [reconstructed March 2021](#)

([Reconstruction notes](#))

X

0002: Coverón, Cueva del (3424 (French: SCD))

Riva 30T 454100 4793555 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 280m

Length 3580m **Depth** 75m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#): [A Google search for this site](#) (Coverón,

Cueva del+Riva)

Updated 19th February 1999; 12th May,

12th November 2002; 4th, 26th November

2003; 18th January 2004; 30th October

2007; 7th January 2008; 5th January, 5th

November 2011; 18th February, 19th

September 2012; 4th December 2015; 29th

April, 30th June 2018; 11th May 2019; 3rd

March 2020; 19th June 2021; 14th

December 2022

A route to the cave, avoiding serious 'jungle bashing', is shown on this [satellite map](#).

(This also indicates that the entrance

position should be checked again - it could

affect the position of passages relative to

Torca Cez.)

A complicated cave of great variety. The

entrance "amphitheatre" has a number of

small caves at the back, at least one of

which provides a straight 30m drop to the

main tunnel. The main entrance is a large,

sloppy, leafy slope down into a sloping

chamber that provides the focus to the cave.

The first (and much smaller second) slope

exits on the right provides access to a long

series of phreatic domes, *Tree Gallery*. (This

now has a "pathway" installed during a

[weekend of activities](#) organised by the FCE,

2-4 December 2022.) The apparent end is

bypassed by a squeeze at roof level possibly

reached up a 7m long tree trunk. Further

squeezes lead to a continuation of the

domes, a division of the ways and two

chokes.

Just back from the junction a rift descends

to a three ways junction, one passage

containing a long pool. At the far end of the

entrance chamber a rift on a rock slope

provides entry to *Nuts Passage*, a series of

tubes and phreatic chambers.

The main way on is down through a

squeeze on the left of the entrance

chamber. Large phreatic chambers soon

close down to the right and straight ahead,

while to the left a 5m climb leads to the

head of a 20m pitch. At the base of the pitch

is the complicated *Mini Maze*, the route on

being a tight squeeze to walking passage

which runs to the top of a 17m pitch. This

drops straight into the vadose section of the cave. Upstream leads to a 4m climb and drop down over a barrier. The next obstacle is a 16m high climb over greasy calcite where, near the top, pitons are useful. A 12m pitch back to the stream follows immediately. The passage then continues for 200m to a tortuous route in rotten rock until it becomes too tight.

Downstream the cave passes the odd obstacle in a mainly narrow streamway to end after a couple of hundred metres at a calcite choke. The stream is thought to resurge in the Hoyo Mortiro on the east side. Another resurgence on the west of the depression has an unknown source but could come from [Torca CEZ](#). A water trace from the end of the Orillón system in November / December 2015 showed a strong positive at the Esquileña resurgence near Riva. Weakly positive results were seen on detectors left in the eastern resurgence in the Hoyo Mortiro. Full details of this trace can be found on the [Orillónzucu site](#).

Several flints were found by C.A.E.A.P. in 1989 in the rock shelters around the entrance, and fragments of human skull on the entrance slope. A photo of the medieval vase is to be found in *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003*, page 41.

The cave has been extended by the AEC Lobetum, adding about 730m to the length. The *San Mateo* series off *Tree Gallery* is shown [here](#).

[Valero Enrique y Soriano Ángel, 2007](#) has the length as 3200m and a depth of 75m. The same publication also has an [area map](#) showing the following sites: Rio Seco, Cueva Brazada, [Torca de Blas](#), [Cueva de La Pila](#), [Cueva de Coquisera](#) and Cueva del Coverón. Additional length was added during the AEC Lobetum September 2012 visit - another 350m upstream. This extension starts before the original upstream end and bypasses the "too tight" section. There is then another 200m of streamway which ends at high avens which bring in water. These are apparently close to [Torca XLs](#) which has a cobble dig at it's base. There is possibly about 100m height difference between this dig and the floor of the avens.

With the 2009 discovery of [Torca CEZ](#) by the AEC Lobetum, lower down in the Hoya de Mortiro, a new system looks to be close to linking with Coverón. A trip by Matienzo cavers in January 2012 (by invitation) went to a couple of ends and there are various leads apparently still open, including at least one draughting dig. Both Coverón and CEZ should be resurveyed. A partial resurvey of Coverón was carried out in August 2012 (batch 0002-12-01.svx) which put the [nearest point to CEZ](#) at an altitude of 225m, possibly 20m above (inaccurately surveyed) CEZ and about 40m distant. However, see next paragraph.

Cavers from the Colectivo Piezo investigated an area in Coverón supposedly close to Torca CEZ in February 2020. A Google Translation of their log follows: *From the entrance we descend the strong slippery ramp and to the left, at the bottom, some blocks on the ground leave a space to access a large room. From that room we reach a landslide that is consolidated by calcite precipitation. We believe that it is the closest part to Torca CEZ and we do not find any possibility of union. A little further to the SE there are some small galleries with branches that end in a meander with water. The size of this meander is reduced and, as you go, it becomes smaller. There is also no air blowing and there is no sign of connection. This area seems to have no topography, although it is not significant. At the junction of the ramp with the large room cited there is an inscription with scratches on the rock that puts 9/01/72 Martín. There is another that puts "Manolo" in the area of the collapse of the same characteristics. On the other hand, the installation of the fixed rope to access the tree gallery is in terrible condition.*

New grid references for CEZ and Coverón seem to show the two caves 40m vertically apart, with CEZ below.

Colectivo Piezo have also manually put drawn surveys of CEZ and Coverón together (Spring 2021) and the result can be inspected [here](#).

Over Easter 2018, the [Matienzo Karst Entomology Project](#) (led by Tom Thompson) followed up previous work by collecting bugs, spot sampling and setting pitfall traps in a number of sites under a Cantabria-wide permit. Traps were retrieved and spot sampling was carried out over Easter 2019. Photos were also taken.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#); anon., 1975b ([Easter](#) and [summer](#) logbooks); [Kendal](#)

Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 (survey and photo); anon., 1975a; Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 (survey); Mills L D J, 1981; Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 (survey); Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981; material in file; Garcia J L, 1987; anon., 1988 (logbook); anon., 1993a (survey); Corrin J, 1994b (survey); García José León, 1997 (survey); Corrin Juan, 1997c; anon., 2000e; Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003; Valero Enrique y Soriano Ángel, 2007 (survey); León García José, 2010 (Volume 1 and Volume 2) (survey and photos); anon., 2012a (January, February logbook); anon., 2012d (summer logbook); Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014; anon., 2018b (Easter logbook); anon., 2019b (Easter logbook); anon., 2020a (January, February logbook); anon., 2021b (Spring logbook); Simonnot G, 2022

Entrance pictures : 2002 & 2008 : Spanish team (2009) on Facebook : Easter 2018 : Easter 2019

Underground picture(s): Entrance slope and Tree Gallery 2008 : Spanish team (2009) on Facebook : Easter 2018 : Easter 2019

Detailed Survey : 1975 high res 1975 low res

Tree Gallery extension

Tree Gallery extension - San Mateo (anon., 1993a; AEC Lobetum) high res low res

combined 0002-3603 (Piezo)

Line Survey: coordinates taken from paper survey (z-coords will be way out)

On area survey : line survey with partial Torca CEZ line survey

Survex file : partial Coverón survey with partial (inaccurate) CEZ survey (2012 - Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid)

:

Off drawn survey with approximate z - Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.

With CEZ, Orillón and Mortiro-Esquilón (amended Feb 2020: USE THIS ONE; new entrance grid references & altitudes)

0002 solo - note batch 12-01 makes the orange level above redundant (Feb 2020)

Passage direction rose diagram: generated

30/6/2018

X

0003: Collusa, Cueva (Llusa, Cueva)

Ogarrio 30T 457202 4793822 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 375m

Length 40m

Area position : Site entrance in context : Logbook

search : A Google search for this site (Collusa, Cueva+Llusa+Ogarrio)

Updated 26th October 2001; 3rd, 15th June

, 6th October 2002; 18th January 2004;

18th December 2008; 16th February 2022

The grid reference (on this website) was finally corrected (above) after 20 years!

At the beginning of the century, three bronze age swords were found in this small cave. In 1985, fragments of Bronze Age pottery and a flint scraper were found on the right of the entrance.

Some artifacts found in the cave (documented by AEC Lobetum in *anon., 2003a*) can be seen in **low** or **high** resolution. The pottery found has been compared with that found in **site 2139** (Smith P, Corrin J and Ruiz Cobo J, 2008).

References: Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982; Almagro-Gorbea M, 1976 (survey); Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981; Munoz Fernandez E et al, 1987; anon., 1993a (survey); Serna Gancedo A and Malpelo García B, 1993 (survey); Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001; pers comm (emails 21/5/02 & 10/6/02); Smith P, Corrin J and Ruiz Cobo J, 2008; anon., 2022a (January, February logbook)

Entrance picture : yes

Underground picture(s): yes

Detailed Survey : from anon., 1993a (AEC Lobetum): high res low res

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0004: Mar, Cueva del (3088 (French: SCD))

Ogarrio 30T 455850 4792416 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: A) **Altitude** 118m

Length 98m **Depth** 5m

Area position : Site entrance in context : Logbook

search

Updated 18th January 2004; 12th October

2016; 20th January, 5th February 2017;

7th, 11th April 2021

The cave entrance, in the north bank of the Asón, is best approached by swimming across from south bank - at least that is what an explorer from the 1978 Matienzo expedition suggested. "Landing is on mud and a squeeze on the left enters a rift which leads to a second, higher entrance." There is a **sketch** from the first documented exploration in the 1978 logbook. The table in *anon., 1993a* has the cave at 60m long but the **survey** shows rather less passage.

The cave entrances are to the southwest of the cemetery in Ogarrio. A 200m walk from the road following a wall at the edge of a grassy field leads to a slope down to the right towards the river and short path to the top entrance beneath trees.

MATIENZO UNDERGROUND - site descriptions (printed 28/02/2025)

The walking-size rift has been pushed in a hole up on the right hand wall since its exploration in 1978. The surveys don't show the passage down to the river entrance but there are indications in the floor of a route down, currently choked with boulders.

It is said that water from the river Asón sinking in or near the cave resurges at Fuente Isena, 5km away near Ramales. During extreme droughts these sinks have taken all the river, so that the local people blocked them, after which the Fuente Isena dried up. Rupert Skorupka, who has dived Fuente Isena a number of times, puts forward a different view:

I can categorically state that there is no way the Fuente Isena water is from sinks in the Ason near Mar.... In summer, when the Ason is warm and a bit green, the water in Isena is cold and crystal clear, obviously water that has a cave origin. It is in such close proximity to the cave Cubío del José, which intersects a huge phreas, that it would be a safe bet to say that the water is from that system. (I think Pete mentioned local cavers had finally found a large system behind that hill in which C del J is situated.)

The fact Isena dried up in extreme drought was probably because of that, ie. extreme drought, not because of blocking any sinks in the river further upstream.

A more comprehensive and up-to-date description (in French) by Guy Simonnot is [found here](#).

The svx file was constructed from Guy's survey in April 2021 giving a length of 98m (including the route down to the river.)

References: Mugnier C, 1969; [anon., 1978 \(logbook\)](#) ([sketch](#)); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981; anon., 1993a \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2017a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [January 2017](#)

Underground pictures: [January 2017](#)

Sketch survey: from [anon., 1978 \(logbook\)](#)

Detailed Survey : from [anon., 1993a \(AEC Lobetum\)](#): [high res](#) [low res](#)

from Guy Simonnot (2016) - [plan](#) : [section](#) : [3d jpg](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [Reconstructed April 2021](#) :

[reconstruction notes](#)

T

0005: Mortiro, Cueva del (top entrance) (Mortiro-Esquileña, Sistema)

Riva 30T 454605 4793176 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: A) **Altitude** 155m

Length 770m **Depth** 18m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

search : [A Google search for this site](#) (Mortiro, Cueva del+Esquileña+Riva)

Updated 5th November 2003; 31st October

2007; 4th, 8th December 2015; 9th

February 2016

A through trip is described from the bottom entrance resurgence, called Cueva de Esquileña ([site 4271](#)).

Optical brightener poured into the stream in the final chamber of the [Orillón system](#) was strongly detected at the [Esquileña resurgence](#) (November 2015 and January 2016). Detectors at the eastern resurgence ([site 4272](#)) in the Mortiro depression that feeds water into the top entrance also tested clearly positive after a repeat test in January 2016. The details of the tests are found [here](#). ([Results](#) seen on cotton wool in chicken wire: negative and positive.)

The survey in *Actividades Regionales. Exploraciones en Cantabria (anon., 1993a)* is a copy of the reference survey in *Report of the British Expedition to Matienzo (Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975)*. *Valero Enrique y Soriano Ángel, 2007* reports the length as 800m.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [anon., 1974b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1974a; anon., 1975b \(Easter and summer logbooks\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Fernández Gutiérrez J C, 1975; Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [Mills L D J, 1981; Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981; anon., 1993a \(survey\)](#); [Valero Enrique y Soriano Ángel, 2007; anon., 2015d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [hi res](#) [low res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (coordinates taken from paper

1975 survey then adjusted for GPS'd entrance

positions) : [with Coverón \(part\), CEZ and Orillón](#)

X

0006: Serramiana, Torca de (Sarramiana, Torca de)

Ogarrio 30T 455588 4793451 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 280m

Length 200m **Depth** 132m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#) : [A Google search for this site](#) (Serramiana, Torca de+Ogarrio)

Updated 19th February 1999; 18th January 2004; 31st October 2007; 18th January 2011

An alternative grid reference given in León García José, 2010 ([Volume 1](#) and [Volume 2](#)). (Cantabria Subterránea. Catálogo Grandes Cavidades.) is 30T 0455500 4793700, Alt 280m.

Only partly descended by the Matienzo expeditions (the shaft is currently out of our permitted area), it has been fully explored by the F.C.M.E. group down to a depth of 132m.

Pitches of 25m and 41m are followed by a boulder slope to a final pitch of 35m, *Pozo de las Ventanas*, where one of the windows leads to a 12m parallel shaft. The altitude at the bottom would put it only some 15m above the Ogarrio resurgence level.

References: [Meijide Calvo M, 1982](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1993a \(survey\)](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey\)](#); [Valero Enrique y Soriano Ángel, 2007](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(survey\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from [anon., 1993a](#) (AEC

Lobetum): [high res](#) [low res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0007 West Ozana Pots

Ozana approx Alt. 380m

[Logbook search](#)

Shafts pin pointed and given their own numbers. See sites [0515](#), [0516](#), [0517](#), [0518](#), [0519](#), [0520](#), [0521](#).

References: [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0008: Anderal 1, Cueva del

Ozana 30T 453958 4794801 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 247m

Length 185m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th November 2003; 21st February 2016; 6th November 2023

The entrance is 2.5m high and leads to walking-size passage. A narrow rift on the left takes the stream when it's flowing in the cave. Two side-passages on the right soon become too small. After about 40m a narrow passage is reached that opens up at a junction, with a boulder slope and piles of rubbish straight ahead. The rubbish comes from a shakehole in the field above the cave that now seems to be blocked by an old washing-machine or similar.

To the left at the junction, a squeeze leads to a wide bedding-plane area where, to the south-east, a hole might lead to a small continuation. To the west a crawl connects with the main passage. Turning right at the junction, a short passage again on the right splits into a narrow rift and slope upwards that gets too small. The main passage continues as a crawl that drops into a small chamber and then gradually decreases in size. After about 30m it turns 90° and continues for another 30m until it becomes extremely low.

While the cave has hardly any speleothems, there are pendants throughout the cave, some of them resembling stalactites. Half-tubes of different sizes are seen in the roof in different parts of the cave. At the entrance, a narrow tube and the roof have numerous holes bored into the limestone by snails.

[Peter Smith]

During an optical brightener test from [site 3884](#), detectors were placed here from 13th February 2016 and checked over the next few days in rising and falling flood conditions. The results were consistently negative. The optical brightener came through at the [Jivero 1](#) resurgence after 48 hours. (The full details can be [found here](#).)

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1974a](#); [anon., 1975b \(Easter and summer logbooks\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1975a](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2016a \(January, February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023d \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [2023](#)

Underground pictures: [2023](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1965: [low res](#) [high res](#) : from [2023](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : 1975 Ozana area map. Not a lot of detail. [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file : [2023](#)

X

0009: Anderal 2, Cueva del

Ozana 30T 453918 4794891 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 237m

Length 300m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

search : [A Google search for this site](#) (Anderal 2, Cueva del+Ozana)

Updated 6th November 2003; 19th

September 2012

A complex entrance leads to a low crawl in liquid mud and, after 50m, a junction at a pool. The way to the left enters varied passage ending at a low airspace with no draught. To the right the passage divides and chokes.

In August 2012, the cave was revisited in drought conditions. The route to the north, about 100m in, was found to be choked with silt and an aven was climbed to where it became unsafe, although a possible meander passage was seen to go off the top. A crawl was also pushed for about 10 - 15m to where it became too small. Nearer the entrance, a new passage was entered - *Expulsion Passage* - originally marked as "gatera inundada" on the original Spanish survey and marked at E/F3 on the 1975 survey. After 10m or so, a 40m crawl leads to walking passage with decorated avens and chambers. An annotated 1975 survey can be seen [here](#) with a sketch of the start of *Expulsion Passage* [here](#).

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1974a](#); [anon., 1975b \(Easter and summer logbooks\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1975a](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2012d \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2013a](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1965: [low res](#) [high res](#).

From 1975 - With Anderal III, Jivero II and Jivero III: [low res](#) [high res](#)

From 2012: [annotated survey of explorations](#) : [sketch](#) at the start of *Expulsion Passage*

Line Survey :

On area survey : 1975 Ozana area map. Not a lot of detail. [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file :

X

0010: Anderal 3, Cueva del

Ozana 30T 453898 4794911 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 247m

Length 150m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

search : [A Google search for this site](#) (Anderal 3, Cueva del+Ozana)

Updated 6th November 2003

Directly above [Cueva del Anderal 2](#), the entrance leads to a junction. The right hand passage soon chokes while the left hand passage also chokes after passing over numerous blind pots.

References: [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1975a](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey : 1975 Ozana area map. Not a lot of detail. [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file :

X

0011: Carrasquilla, Cueva de la

El Sedo 30T 453357 4795859 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 255m

Length 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

search

Updated 7th January 2004; 16 September

2024

A low crawl which closes down. A wet weather resurgence.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003e \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [2024](#)

Underground picture(s): [2024](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0012: Concebo, Cueva del (Concejo, Cueva del)

Ozana 30T 454548 4795112 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: A) **Altitude** 425m

Length 80m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

search : [A Google search for this site](#) (Concebo, Cueva del+Matienzo)

Updated 13 February 1998; 19th February 1999; 3rd February, 26th October 2001; 3rd, 7th June 2002; 5th November 2003; 13th May 2006; 19th December 2008; 14th May 2014; 11th May 2019; 6th May 2023

The large 15m x 8m entrance soon diminishes to a 3m x 2m passage and then closes down in crawls. Some extension work was carried out during 1997 and remains to be completed. A suggestion was made during the Easter 2006 trip that digging below the false floor may produce results.

Black markings in the cave, including dots in a semi-circle, are described and discussed in [Smith Peter, 1998b \(survey\)](#), [Muñoz Emilio et al, 1995](#) and [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#). The developing *Acanto* web site (by the *Federación de Asociaciones para la defensa del Patrimonio Cultural y Natural de Cantabria*) has a section on [Arte Rupestre esquemático-abstracto](#).

Spider and bug collecting was carried out during the Easter 2014 expedition along with temperature and humidity readings.

A drone flight towards the entrance at Easter 2019 appeared to show no other nearby entrances.

Bat information

Date: 9/4/2023

Evidence of occupation: feeding remains; droppings

Bat remains (number): yes (1)

Species identified name (number): -

[Photos from visit](#)

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(photo\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [Muñoz Emilio et al, 1995](#); [anon., 1997b \(logbook\)](#); [Smith Peter, 1998b \(survey\)](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#); [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [1997 and 2006](#): [2023](#)

Video : [drone flight to entrance](#) (YouTube, Easter 2019)

Underground pictures: [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1975: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0013: Cuatribú, Cueva de

Ozana 30T 455020 4794869 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 440m

Length 255m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

search : [A Google search for this site](#) (Cuatribú, Cueva de+Ozana)

Updated 19th February 1999; 3rd February, 26th October, 11th November 2001; 8th April, 3rd, 7th June, 12th November 2002; 5th November 2003; 19th December 2008; 3rd May 2009; 6th May 2023

The large entrance, which acts as a goat shelter, is well hidden in trees. (A trip in the summer of 2002 had the visitors infested with fleas). The grid reference shown above is the third attempt to give an accurate position; this GPS reference is some 330m from the original map placement, but is accurate

The route starts as a jog in passage 9m high and 4m wide with stalagmite columns and gours slowing progress. The passage develops into a high rift and ends at a blind 6m pot after passing some fine helictites. Climbs at the end have been checked out.

The cave is an archaeological site with paintings and artifacts. The S.E.S.S. found a [medieval pitcher](#) (picture from *Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008*), 17cm high, with a single handle, half-way through the cave. The passage also contains some 50 schematic-abstract paintings, including complex and representative figures, sometimes painted on stalactite. (The black markings in the cave are described and discussed in *Smith Peter, 1998b (survey)*, *Muñoz Emilio et al, 1995* and *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001*). An iron axe head and small fragments of prehistoric pottery have been found at the entrance and several [bear skeletons](#), *Ursus speleus*, are located at different points along the passage. A [line drawing of the axe head](#) is reproduced from *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001*. It is suggested that the cave had pastoral uses during the Chalcolithic and Bronze Ages (*Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p119*). The developing *Acanto* web site (by the *Federación de Asociaciones para la defensa del Patrimonio Cultural y Natural de Cantabria*) has a section on [Arte Rupestre esquemático-abstracto](#). The Cuatribú section has an [interactive cave survey](#) which brings up photos of the black markings.

During a visit at Easter 2009 a number of high alcoves were seen with bones.

There is a muddy climb up at a corner which needs checking out.

Bat information

Date: 9/4/2023

Evidence of occupation: droppings - large accumulations; ammonia smell

Bat remains (number): -

Species identified name (number):

Natterer's bat (1); brown Long-eared bat

(1); greater horseshoe bat (1); lesser

horseshoe bat (2)

[Photos from visit](#)

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey and photo\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey and photo\)](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#); [Smith P and Muñoz E, 1985](#); [Cox G, 1973](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [Smith P, 1985 \(survey\)](#); [Smith P, 1983](#); [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [Muñoz Emilio et al, 1995](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1997a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Smith Peter, 1998b \(survey\)](#); [Smith Peter, 1998a \(photo\)](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001 \(photo, survey and diagrams\)](#); [anon., 2002a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [Easter 2023](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1964: [low res](#) [high res](#).

from 1975: [low res](#) [high res](#)

[from Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination

December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and

coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[X](#)

0014: Gonzalo, Cueva de (Rebollo, Cueva del)

Cubillas 30T 452747 4796103 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 173m

Length 28m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 6th November 2003; 6th September 2013; 17th April 2016; 4th September 2019

A short resurgence cave which ends at a sump. The passage swings to the left at the dam, not right as shown on the old survey. A dye test in 1964 showed water from [Sima-Cueva del Risco \(025\)](#) resurging after five hours from this cave, [Cueva de Transformador \(032\)](#) and in [Cueva de Tiva \(026\)](#).

A visit in 1995 showed that the site was probably shallow and passable with a small amount of diving gear. In the summer 2013, the repaired dam was keeping water higher than before. In April 2016, it was called an "easy looking dive". The site was re-surveyed in 2019.

La Lisa ([site 3929](#)) is the spring below.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez Juan Carlos, 1965](#); [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [2013 & 2019](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1965 [low res](#) [high res](#) : from 2019

Line Survey :

On area survey : 1975 Ozana area map. Not a lot of detail. [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file : [2019](#)

X

0015: Refugio de la Guerra

El Sedo 30T 453318 4795691 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 197m

Length 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Small shelter.

References: ?[Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0016: Jivero 1, Cueva de

Ozana 30T 453628 4794621 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 254m

Length (61m included in the length of [0246](#))

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th May 2000; November 6th 2003; 14th May, 17th July 2015; 21st February 2016; 28th August 2017; 25th May 2021

Walking and wading to a sump. The choke above draughts strongly. The site was dived and linked to [cave 0246](#) at Easter 2000 through a 27m long sump between boulders. The underwater passage starts off 1m wide and 2m high and then enlarges.

J. Notenboom (AX) found the following fauna in 1984: *Pseudoniphargus*, *Echinogammarus/Gammarus (Amphipoda ocul. jov.)*, *Cyclopoidea*, *Prosobranchia/Hydrobioidea*, *Bivalvia/Sphaeriidae*, *Insecta*, *Oligochaeta*, *Nematoda*, *Hirudinea*.

At Easter, 2015, cotton wool detectors in this resurgence gave a positive result when the optical brightening agent Leucophor was put into the sink at [3886](#).

During an optical brightener test from [site 3884](#), detectors were placed here from 13th February 2016 and checked over the next few days in rising and falling flood conditions. The result was positive. The optical brightener came through at the resurgence between 48 and 72 hours later. (The full details can be [found here](#).)

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); anon., 1975b ([Easter and summer logbooks](#)); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [Cox G, 1973](#); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Notenboom J and Meijers I, 1985](#); anon., 1997c ([Christmas logbook](#)); anon., 2000b ([Easter logbook](#)); anon., 2001a ([Easter logbook](#)); [Corrin Juan, 2001](#); anon., 2015b ([Easter logbook](#)); anon., 2016a ([January, February logbook](#)); anon., 2017c ([summer logbook](#))

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [passage with diver 1](#) [2](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1965 -[low res](#) [high res](#) : [Resurvey 2015](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : 1975 Ozana area map. Not a lot of detail. [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file : [yes](#) : [hydrological system](#)

X

0017: Jivero 2, Cueva de (top entrance)

Ozana 30T 453618 4794705 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 250m

Length 517m **Depth** 9m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 13 February 1998; 5 December 1999; 16th September 2000; 6th May, 7th October 2001; 1st June, 12th October, 6th November 2003; 25th September 2008; 19th March 2009; 1st February, 1st October 2011; 19th September 2012; 18th April, 6th September, 20th November 2013; 7th September 2014; 12th October; 29th November 2016; 19th May, 29th August 2017; 20th September 2018; 11th May 2019; 3rd September, 10th October 2022; 6th May 2023; 8th February, 24th April 2024

A through trip, popular with families with young children. A climb up from a pool into the bottom entrance immediately enters a superb phreatic tunnel containing the stream. A sandy gallery on the right soon closes down. The walking-size streamway continues to emerge at the twin openings of the upper entrance.

The following fauna is listed by Notenboom (AX): *Echinogammarus/Gammarus*, *Cyclopoidea*, *Prosobranchia/Hydrobioidea*, *Proasellus ocul.*, *Ostracoda*, *Pulmonata/Basommatophora*, *Bivalvia/ Sphaeriidae*, *Insecta*, *Oligochaeta* and *Nematoda*.

Also Ortiz (AM) records the following crustaceans: *Asellus coxalis ssp.* and *Gammarus berilloni Catta*. The crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) were particularly abundant during 1999 and 2000 and care should be taken when passing pools of water. In 2008, 12 individuals ([one here](#)) were noted from 2cm to 5cm long with no more than 3 in a pool, although in February 2009 none were detected and a month later only 2 seen. A [short video](#) of the crayfish with photos was put together at Easter 2013.

In early August 2013 only *Austropotamobius pallipes* were seen in the cave but, 2 weeks later, signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) were reported. Signal crayfish were also observed in Cueva del Agua in late July. The signal crayfish in Cueva del Agua were reported to the Medio Ambiente in Ramales; this was before the specimens in Jivero were seen. A visit in November 2013 noted apparently healthy *Austropotamobius pallipes* and no signal crayfish. In July 2016, "giant crayfish" were seen. In August 2022, a number of signal crayfish were observed.

At Easter 1996, it was recognised that, along with the remains of an old mill in the depression between Cuevas de Jivero 2 and 3, slots in the wall of the downstream entrance to Jivero 2 indicated the use of a possible wooden-boarded dam and / or an overshoot mill wheel. There is also [a wall built about 15m inside the top entrance](#).

At Easter 2001, a number of side passages were looked at that may not be on any survey. These need tying in with both the Spanish and British surveys.

On a trip in the summer 2012, an aven was climbed near the top entrance and surveyed back to there. [Animal scratchings](#) were seen in this area.

In August 2017, several "native crayfish" were seen and many [fire salamander juveniles](#) were spotted in a side passage near the entrance.

Members of the [Matienzo Karst Entomology Project](#) carried out spot sampling and netting over Easter 2019. Photos were also taken.

The cave was completely re-surveyed in November, December 2023, and the new survey (with [site 1111](#)) published early 2024.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey and photo\)](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey and photo\)](#); [Cox G, 1973](#); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [Notenboom J and Meijers I, 1985](#); [Ortiz E, 1968](#); material in file; [anon., 1996a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1997d \(Autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 1997c \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 1998a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1999c \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002b \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2008e \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2009](#); [Chandler, I \(2009\) pers. comm.](#); [anon., 2011d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2012d \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2013a](#); [anon., 2013b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2013e \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024a \(January, February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [pre-2017](#) : [Easter 2017](#) : [360° photo \(JC, summer 2022\) \(help file\)](#) : [family trip, Easter 2024](#)

Underground picture(s): [Before Easter 2011](#) : [Easter 2011](#) : [animal scratchings, summer 2012](#) : [crayfish, Easter 2013](#) : [crayfish, summer 2013](#) : [crayfish, autumn 2013](#) : [summer 2014](#) : [Easter 2017 - family trip](#) : [summer 2017 \(fire salamanders\)](#) : [summer 2018](#) : [Easter 2019](#) : [360° photo \(help file\)](#) : [Easter 2023 families trip + more photos from Sam Davis \(password - Jivero\)](#) : [Family trip Easter 2024](#)

Video: [Easter 2010: wmv \(13Mb\)](#) : [mpg \(107Mb\)](#) : [Crayfish, Easter 2013 \(YouTube\)](#) : [Crayfish, summer 2013 \(YouTube\)](#) : [Crayfish \(autumn 2013\)](#) :

[video using 360° camera \(YouTube, autumn 2016\)](#) :
[Easter 2017- family visit \(YouTube\)](#) : summer 2022
- [There & Back GroPro Max 360° video trial](#)
(YouTube)

Detailed Survey : from 1965: [low res](#) [high res](#)
On 1975 survey [with Anderal II & III and Jivero III](#) :
[January 2024 resurvey](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : 1975 Ozana area map. Not a lot
of detail. [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file : [January 2024](#)

X

0018: Jivero 3, Cueva de

Ozana 30T 453725 4794920 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 250m

Length 150m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th December 1999; 5th November 2003; 30th August 2017

A large entrance which collects the water
flowing from [Cueva de Jivero 2 \(017\)](#).

Passage is a narrow rift which ends at a
deep water sump. This was revisited in

August 2017.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [Cox G, 1973](#); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1997d \(Autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 1999c \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1965: [low res](#) [high res](#)

On survey [with Anderal II & III and Jivero II](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : 1975 Ozana area map. Not a lot
of detail. [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file :

X

0019: Loca 1, Cueva de la

Ozana 30T 454217 4794721 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 247m

Length 458m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th November 2003; 21st February 2016; 24th April, 2nd May, 17th September, 23rd November 2024

A resurgence in the large Hoyo Frio
depression. A wet crawl reaches a sump
after 30m but a bypass can be entered 13m
back on the right. The passage eventually
becomes too low in water.

During an optical brightener test from [site 3884](#),
detectors were placed here from 13th
February 2016 and checked over the next
few days in rising and falling flood
conditions. The results were consistently
negative. The optical brightener came
through at the [Jivero 1](#) resurgence after 48
hours. (The full details can be [found here](#).)

Over a 4-day test, October / November
2024, OBA injected just below the
resurgence into the Selvijo entrance
depression was traced to Loca 1 and to a
passage in Selvijo, at around station 24-
02.56. More details can be found [here](#).)

The resurgence was re-explored at Easter
2024 with the probability that new passage
was entered (sketch below) - the following
account is edited from the logbook:

*Ignoring the bypass, the explorers went
through the so-called sump which was a
duck. This led into a series of challenging
squeezes and right-hand corners in water
until after a small chamber a final left-hand
turn was too tight to pass. Hard going!*

*We went back and took the bypass
mentioned in the description, there's a good
draft here. After some sandy crawls we
found the upstream end of the corner we
could not pass. The passage from there was
walking for a short bit before it got low and
wet. Already soaked we pushed through
and, after another small standing height
chamber and another low and wet bit, we
entered a very large passage / chamber
(Flan Caliente) about 10m high, 5m across
at the widest and 20m long (estimates). Not
realising this was potentially new stuff we
looked at muddy floor level passage that
dropped to a low crawl after 30m, continues,
We then looked at a high level sandy
passage and at this point being high up and
undisturbed we realised we were probably in
new stuff so did not push it further.
However, there's no strong draughts but lots
of passages to choose from going off this
chamber.*

Water is assumed to come from Cueva del
Selvijo ([0028](#)): The following comment was
made after an Easter 2024 push

downstream in Selvijo, "an angular passage that was of almost identical character to the streamway in Loca 1." However, with the resurgence being surveyed 3m higher than the one downstream outlet seen or investigated in Selvijo, it may be that this Selvijo stream flows below the resurgence into Cueva de la Loca 2, #0020

The full cave description will eventually appear from summer '24 explorations (*Hannah UG*). The full survey will be included with Cueva Selvijo, #0028 after the overlapping area has been further investigated and water tracing tests carried out. The resurgence entrance of Loca 1 is perched about 3 - 4m above the floor of the depression.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#) (survey); anon., 1975b ([Easter](#) and [summer logbooks](#)); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#) (survey); [Cox G, 1973](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#) (survey); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981](#) (survey); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); anon., 2016a (January, February logbook); anon., 2024b ([Easter logbook](#)); anon., 2024d ([summer logbook](#)); anon., 2024e ([autumn logbook](#))

Entrance pictures : [Easter 2024](#) : [August 2024 - including 360° photos](#)

Underground picture(s): [Easter 2024](#) : [August 2024](#)

Video: [New passage Easter 2024](#) (YouTube) :

[decorated top level, summer 2024](#) (YouTube)

Detailed Survey : from 1975: [low res](#) [high res](#) :

[sketch after Easter 2024 exploration](#) : summer 2024, to appear with 0028 survey

Line Survey :

On area survey : 1975 Ozana area map. Not a lot of detail. [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file : [August 2024](#) : [overlapping with 0028, also shows Loca 2](#)

X

0020: Loca 2, Cueva de la

Ozana 30T 454215 4794755 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 248m

Length 1092m **Depth** 16m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th November 2003; 9th February, 28th April, 16th July, 12th, 17th October 2016; 25th April, 18th September 2024

In August 2024, a surface survey from Cueva de la Loca 1 ([0019](#)) branched off to Loca 2 entrance then continued up to the road junction to the west. The previous grid reference is 30T 454198 4794760, altitude 251m. Because of the proximity of passages in Cueva del Selvijo ([0028](#)), a definitive entrance position may be better found by a surface survey up to a GPS'd point in the field above.

The entrance is above the stream sink in the large Hoyo Frio depression. A crawl to left just inside the entrance leads to a streamway which descends with some traverses to a sump after 250m.

By carrying straight on at the entrance, with a drop to the left, a maze of passages is entered which eventually reach a roomy gallery. To the left are a couple of short choked passages. (See below). Eighty metres further on, a sump is reached after some crawling. This sump is at the same altitude as the first and both are connected by a short, constricted passage. A round trip is therefore possible.

At Christmas 1996, an extension was made at "cont" on the 1975 survey, on the right hand higher level through a flat out section to a metre high area. Up in the roof at cross section l a flat out crawl needs pushing to a drop, which may return to the streamway. It may be worth spending more time pushing around here to the north east. At the western side of the cave, the ?? at F8 was explored down to a small streamway on the north side and a climb up on the south side to a choked passage heading back into the cave. A climb up beyond cross section r entered a passage with a calcited choke which was removed and a choked rift entered on the other side.

Pete Smith resurveyed (2015, 2016) the whole cave, as the original Spanish survey in reference *La depresion cerrada de Matienzo* (Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966) has passage not shown on the later survey. During this resurvey, a tight rift with daylight at the top was seen and later found on the surface. (See [site 4276](#).) The cave length, shown above, is the length of this resurvey.

The cave was given its name (Mad Woman) because a woman called Ramona stayed in the cave for a week in the 1950's(?). She eventually left through another entrance which has since been covered over.

In the *Catalogo de los Quiropteros de la provincia de Santander* (Meijide Calvo M, 1982) there is a record of one bat species, *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Fernández Gutiérrez J C, 1975](#); [anon., 1975a](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [Cox G, 1973](#); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Meijide Calvo M, 1982](#); [anon., 1996c \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016a \(January, February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [1996 - 2024](#)

Underground picture(s): [summer 2016](#) : [Easter 2024](#)

Video: [Easter 2024 \(YouTube\)](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1965: [low res](#) [high res](#)

from 1975: [low res](#) [high res](#)

from 2015/2016 : [pdf](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : 1975 Ozana area map. Not a lot of detail. [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file : [yes](#) (After summer 2016) : [with other caves in the area](#) (after summer 2024)

X

0021: Mortera, Sima de la

Ozana 30T 453938 4795131 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 250m

Length 17m **Depth** 17m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th November 2003

Straight shaft to a choked chamber. The entrance has now collapsed.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1964: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : 1975 Ozana area map. Not a lot of detail. [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file :

X

0022: Musquia, Torca de la

Ozana 30T 453658 4795031 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 263m

Length 18m **Depth** 18m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th November 2003

A clean washed shaft connects with an aven via a crawl.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1965: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : 1975 Ozana area map. Not a lot of detail. [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file :

X

0023: Orillón, Cueva del

Ozana 30T 454406 4794522 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 262m

Length 710m **Depth** 40m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#) : [A Google search for this site](#) (Orillón, Cueva del+Ozana)

Updated 6th November 2003; 28th October 2007; 9th, 24th September, 10th November, 4th December 2015

The eastern of three entrances to the Orillón cave system. This is a 25m sloping shaft with a vertical drop at the base and is not the normal entrance (which is [Orillonzucu - site 1162](#)). The third entrance is [Malbujero](#), site 1161. A possible fourth entrance is [site 4201](#) although this has not been explored through. A complete resurvey occurred in 2015 and the system, including water tracing, is described under entrances 1162 and 1161.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 1974b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1974a](#); [Cox G, 1973](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Ortiz E, 1968](#); [Notenboom J and Meijers I, 1985](#); [anon., 1996a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003 \(photo of axe\)](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); also see [site 1162](#) for references; [anon., 2015c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2015d](#)

(autumn logbook)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): See [Orillonzuco1162](#)

Detailed Survey : See [Orillonzuco 1162](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : 1975 Ozana area map. Not a lot of detail. [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file : See [Orillonzuco site 1162](#)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0024: Puerta, Cueva de la

El Sedo 30T 453528 4795371 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 210m

Length 34m **Depth** 3m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 19th September, 2012; 18th

September 2024; 24th January 2025

A small entrance leads to a climb down into a small chamber with a strong draught. When the entrance was photographed in the summer, 2012, no draught was noticed. The cave was surveyed in July 2024 with the draught shown.

The cave was extended for about 50m beyond the dig in December 2024. A small, 1m high, stream passage was followed to a "sizeable chamber with a large flowstone dome." There are other possible routes to look at, and it is hoped to further document the extension at Easter 2025.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#) (survey); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#) (survey); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2012d](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2024d](#) (summer logbook); ; [anon., 2024f](#) (Christmas logbook)

Entrance picture : [2012](#)

Underground picture(s): [2024](#)

Detailed Survey : [2024](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [2024](#)

X

0025: Risco, Sima-Cueva del (Risco, Sistema del)

El Sedo 30T 453199 4795845 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 192m

Length 11788m **Depth** 96m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Resources](#) :

[Logbook search](#) : [A Google search for this site](#)

(Risco, Sima-Cueva del+El Sedo)

Updated 19th February 1999; 28th July 2000; 26th October 2001; 2nd March, 6th October 2002; 6th November 2003; 8th October 2005; 26th September, 28th October, 17th November 2007 ; 25th September, 19th November, 19th December 2008; 8th May, 23rd October, 18th November 2009; 28th January, 30th September 2010; 6th January, 10th May, 1st October 2011; 23rd April 2012; 22nd January, 20th April, 7th September, 21st November 2013; 14th May, 7th September, 30th November 2014; 14th May, 28th September 2015; 19th May, 30th August 2017; 29th April 2018; 20th September 2018; 11th May, 5th September 2019; 8th January 2020; 2nd September 2021; 3rd May, 4th September 2022; 6th May 2023; 25th April, 18th September 2024

The system has a top entrance at [Cueva Oñite](#) (0027) with the through trip down to Sedo (Risco). The downstream continuation to emerge through [Cueva Tiva](#) (0026) is currently blocked.

The usual entrance, *Torca del Sedo* is situated behind a group of houses at Sedo. [The tap at the water trough above the entrance has been GPS'd to Eur79: 30T 0453308 4796059 to give an altitude of 193m. This gives the position and altitude of the entrance above. The length above is the combined Risco - Tiva - Oñite in the re-survey.] A short clamber down leads to the 8m pitch head. The descent can be damp and the base is strewn with rubbish. Two ways are possible at the bottom: downstream leads into [Cueva de Tiva \(026\)](#) - apparently blocked with white goods and domestic rubbish during the summer, 2010 - while a 2m climb in the opposite direction leads into the entrance series of Risco.

After 100m of large passage the stream is met and wading in 1m deep pools is needed. To the left are two high level passages both of which choke after about 100m. In April 2011, a high level passage was entered in this area but choked in both directions over the stream (survey batch 0025-11-01 and [DistoX drawing](#)). Straight ahead the streamway continues high and wide to a junction with a passage on the right. This leads to several dismal chambers and no way on is possible. The main streamway continues through deep pools and mud banks until the *Tonto Series* is met on the right. This uninviting, low passage splits after 200m and then chokes.

The *Dambuster Series* is reached by climbing across the top of 30m avens on the south side of the passage just before reaching the *Tonto Series*. Five metre diameter, well decorated, parallel passages with deep holes end at a sandstone breakdown. This was resurveyed, extended and [photographed](#) during summer, 2008.

An alternative climb up into the *Dambuster Series* (possibly easier) was pioneered at Easter 2022. Named Gracie's Way, the climb has yet to be surveyed.

"The climb is very slippery and exposed, climbing over calcite and on narrow ledges, but quite doable without a rope. The climb/traverse led up into a narrow rift which required some minor digging at the top (mud and small boulders). Once these small boulders were moved, an easy upwards squeeze gained access to the bottom of a pit in the Dambuster Series."

A [video of the climb](#) can be found on Andrew Northall's *YouTube* channel.

The main passage runs for another 100m before reaching the most important junction in the cave. At this point the right hand, narrow and very wet passage can be followed up to the superb *Pinto Gallery*. This vadose passage contains a large stream and can be followed for almost 2km until it splits into the various feeder inlets which have their origins in the [Jivero/Tali/Anderal](#) complex of caves. Although there is much evidence of surface debris, no surface connection has been made. Archaeological finds made in this area are described below.

In the summer of 2013, one of these inlet passages, *Dieline Passage*, was resurveyed and, by removing a boulder, extended southwest to where it becomes too tight with a slight draught. This a few metres below the surface close to a stand of trees in a shallow valley some 90m north of the entrance to Tali 1.

A small p6 was dropped at the end of *Tali Series* in 2018 to where it needs pushing by a small person in a wet suit.

In the summer 2021, the *Tali Series* was revisited and the question marks to the northwest (northeast in the logbook?) pushed (marked (3) on the survey). A dig before a tight squeeze entered a drippy 3.5m diameter pitch: 11.5m deep and 7m up, with a rift leading to a tight section. At the base is a promising window at floor level. The pitch has been partly descended (on a rope tied to 2 people). Ladders may be an alternative - see logbook 12/8/21. This was passed (30/7/2022) to find that the "promising window" went nowhere. However, a small, calcited rift did continue, generally heading towards Dyeline Passage. A final survey leg (not included in batch 0025-22-01; length 52m) is about 8m long and runs parallel to Dyeline.

This 2021 was marred by the main stream being brown, green, murky and "smelling of shite" with the only clean section being between the beginnings of the *Tonto* and *Pinto* series. "What is normally a very enjoyable trip in an active streamway is now something you try to avoid and is unpleasant."

Back at the main junction it is possible to climb up straight ahead into a large boulder chamber where 2 routes are possible. The fine *Arco Gallery* goes off at high level and is typically 3 - 5m wide and 15m high. This runs for 400m, around two holes, until it breaks out into the roof of the *Risco River Gallery* and progress is halted. (In 1992, on the way back, two passages on the left were looked at. Chambers at the end were reached by smashing through stal). In fact the *Arco Gallery* is the old, abandoned route and the present stream has cut down to a lower level. This can be joined from the boulder slope at the start of the *Arco Gallery* and is easy going except for the occasional climb over boulder piles.

Where Are All The Spiders?

In the first section of the *Arco Gallery* a large passage goes off at higher level. This had a few footprints (from first exploration in 1975) when explored in July 2014 but, at a ledge which leads to the edge of a canyon, it is possible to climb down a slot to reach a cracked mud floor - which appeared previously untrodden. A couple of climbs and a traverse over a pit leads to flowstone where the passage becomes very pretty. A squeeze down a slot through the formations leads into a series of well decorated chambers with large broken columns and flowstone cascades coming through slots in the roof. The gaps are completely filled so no way up into higher levels can be found. The entire passage ends at flowstone sealing the passage from floor to ceiling. The series also connects visually down a muddy climb to the main streamway where the survey was tied in to a point just upstream of the

Tonto stream junction. [Some early photos of this series](#). [Panoramic photo](#) by Paul "Footleg" Fretwell. More photos were taken, for example, at Easter 2023 - see Underground pictures, below.

Where Are All The Spiders? is surveyed as batch 0025-14-01 with a length of 422m. The passage that approaches WAATS from the west (but below) was found choked with calcite when pushed in August 2018. (Batch risco.ramp to 18-03)

The Risco River Gallery continues for approximately 1km until it emerges into the impressive *Sala Carballo* which is a large boulder filled chamber. The main inlet tumbles down from high up on one wall - this is the 19m pitch in from [Cueva Oñite \(site 027\)](#). This has been bypassed with a route through from Oñite discovered in 2005.

On the opposite side of the *Sala Carballo* a large dry passage (*Gran Risco*) heads off above the main river and probably originally connected with the *Arco Gallery*. After 300m it becomes choked with calcite deposits.

In 1994, the deep hole down to the river at the end of the *Arco Gallery* was traversed over. A bolt route leads up to the left after a 4m climb over boulders. This reaches a dangerous climb up through boulders and a slot up into a big chamber. Most routes are well decorated with calcite. The upper gallery goes back across the chamber. A side passage up a 15m climb leads to *Disney World* with amazing formations including a triangular mono crystal stalagmite about 1m high. (A photocopy of a section from *Cave Minerals of the World* is in the Risco file). The route continues as the high level *Arco 2*. Solid roof is seen with no indication of any inlets from Muela / Mullir. Some 300m along it is possible to abseil down into the main *Arco Gallery* ([photos](#)) and this is the safest way up to the extensions. *Arco 2* ends at a traverse with no ledges where bolting is required.

At Easter 2024, a new, safer bolt route and free hanging pitch was installed to reach the Upper Arco Gallery. (The climb goes up close to "Shaft from Arco to Stream Passage" on the survey.)

In summer 2010, attempts were made to reach the middle level where it is "missing" half way along the cave. One climb of 8m led to an area of shale and loose rock with no place to fix bolts. The second climb was found 50m to the north with an easy route up to a loose area. Rope was fixed to two good bolts at a Y-hang. Probably 6 more bolts are required but the problem will be finding rock to fix into. "Big passage" can be seen above. Another attempt was made at Easter 2011.

In the summer 2011, a climb into a possible Arco continuation failed due to poor rock. However, a climb near to Risco entrance succeeded in entering 102m of good size passage above the stream.

Archaeological remains have been discovered. The S.E.S.S. found remains of a large deer, possibly *Cervus megaceros*. In 1975, in the same area (the end of the *Pinto Gallery*), L. Mills discovered a [palaeolithic bone spearhead](#) also described as a mono-bevelled bone assegai, 8.5cm in length and with a circular cross-section, possibly Magdalenian. More recently, the possibility of more remains and small engravings has been published. [Photographs of engravings](#) on the walls can be seen here. (See also *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001*). *Smith Peter, 2006* concludes that there are 2 figures of ibex and that the assemblage can be dated to the early-middle Magdalenian, although *Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p96* suggests that the engraving is similar to that in Cueva del Otero. A survey fragment (from *Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008*) appears [here](#).

Ortiz in *Algunos crustaceos y miriapodas cavernícolas de la Region de Matienzo, Santander* (Ortiz E, 1968) describes 18 individuals of *Gammarus berilloni* Catta.

A dye test in 1964 showed water from Sima-Cueva del Risco resurging after five hours from La Lisa below [Cueva de Gonzales \(014\)](#), [Cueva de Transformador \(032\)](#) and in [Cueva de Tiva \(026\)](#).

About half way along the through-trip, in the big old fossil passages, there is a bank of sediment about 4m high with well differentiated strata ranging from silt to cobbles. ([Photos: December 2012](#)). *Curly Mud Passage* starts below this sediment wall. It was surveyed to a length of 180m at Easter 2013 with the passage varying in size, up to 4 or 5m wide and 2 - 3m high. The route connects with the stream passage

upstream, in the roof of the high meander passage. There are not many stal but there are curly cracked mud floors.

The cave has been resurveyed, coordinated by Pete Smith. In November, 2009, 250m was surveyed with some "new" passage where oxbows were surveyed. The latest version of the survey was completed after Easter, 2022.

[Spider and bug collecting](#) was carried out during the Easter 2014 expedition and several specimens were collected in July of a possible new species identified from Easter. This small spider spins a horizontal web and appears to prefer small alcoves. In Risco, this species has been spotted along the streamway from around the *Galería del Bote* onwards upstream as far as the *Arco Gallery* entrance mud slope. In July 2014, around 30 individuals were counted with about 10 clustered around the *Tonto* stream junction. (The *Galería del Bote* was surveyed in August 2018; batch 18-02)

Over Easter 2018, the [Matienzo Karst Entomology Project](#) (led by Tom Thompson) followed up previous work by collecting bugs, spot sampling and setting pitfall traps in a number of sites under a Cantabria-wide permit. The Entomology Project carried out some work in this cave and made a visit to *Where Are All the Spiders?* Traps were retrieved and spot sampling was carried out over Easter 2019. Photos were also taken.

The European crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* was also spotted (for the first time?) in the stream in July 2014.

According to the *Diario Montañés*, 28/8/2017, there is a possibility - after a government study - that the cave may be closed to cavers to protect the engravings.

Summer 2022: Various additions

These can be viewed on an [annotated survey](#) by Andrew Northall.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez Juan Carlos, 1965](#); [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#) (survey and photo); [anon., 1974b](#) (logbook); [anon., 1974a](#) (survey); [Cox G, 1973](#); [Fernández Gutiérrez J C, 1975](#); [anon., 1975b](#) (Easter and summer logbooks); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#) (survey and photo); [anon., 1977b](#) (logbook); [anon., 1978](#) (logbook); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#) (survey and photo); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981](#) (survey); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981](#) (survey and photo); [Smith P, 1981a](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1981a](#) (logbook); [anon., 1982](#) (logbook); [Meijide Calvo M, 1982](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#) (photo); [anon., 1986](#) (logbook); [García J L, 1987](#); material in file; [Ortiz E, 1968](#); [Fernández V, 1988](#); [Muñoz E, 1988](#); [anon., 1992b](#) (logbook); [Cawthorne B, 1992](#); [Corrin J, 1992b](#) (survey); [anon., 1993b](#) (logbook); [Muñoz E and Bermejo A, 1987](#); [anon., 1994b](#) (logbook); [Corrin J, 1994b](#) (survey); [Fernández Ortega F, Valls Uriol and Maria del Carmen, 1998](#); [García José León, 1997](#) (survey and photo); [Corrin Juan, 1997c](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [anon., 1999c](#) (logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2001a](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#) (includes drawing); [anon., 2002b](#) (summer logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#); [anon., 2005b](#) (Easter & summer); [Corrin Juan, 2006a](#); [anon., 2006d](#) (summer logbook); [Smith Peter, 2006](#); [anon., 2007d](#) (summer logbook); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [anon., 2008e](#) (summer logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2009](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#) (survey) ;[anon., 2009d](#) (autumn logbook); [anon., 2010c](#) (summer logbook); [León García José, 2010](#) (Volume 1 and Volume 2) (survey and photos); [Corrin Juan, 2011](#); [anon., 2011b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2012f](#) (Christmas logbook); [anon., 2013b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2013d](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2014b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2014c](#) (summer logbook); [Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014](#); [anon., 2015b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2017b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2017c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2018b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2018c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2019b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2019d](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2019e](#) (autumn logbook); [anon., 2021c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2022b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2022c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2023b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2024b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2024d](#) (summer logbook)

Entrance pictures : yes

Underground picture(s):

[photos from Upper Arco, Disneyland, summer 2024, Sam Davis](#)

[photos from Where Are All the Spiders?, Easter 2023](#)

- [Andy & Mindy Filer](#) : [Paul Fairman](#) : [Sam Davis](#)

[photos from Easter 2022 \(Andrew Northall\)](#)

[photos from Easter 2019 \(Amata Hinkle and Jason Kirby\)](#) : [photos from summer 2019. fire salamander](#)

[\(Patrick Warren\)](#) : [photos from autumn 2019, crystals](#)

[photo from Easter 2018 in "Where Are All the Spiders" \(Amata Hinkle\)](#)

[photos from Easter 2017 \(Alex Ritchie and John Gunn\)](#)

[photos from Easter 2015 \(Alex Ritchie\)](#)

[photos from summer 2014 \(Nigel Dibben, Paul Dold and Paul Fretwell\)](#) : [Panoramic photo of the crystal pool chamber by Paul Fretwell](#)

[photos from Easter 2013 \(Paul Fretwell, Tom Thomson and Peter Smith\)](#)

[photos from December 2012 \(Simon Cornhill & Peter Smith\)](#) : [photos from Easter 2011 \(Phil Papard\)](#)

[photos from summer 2010 \(Paul Dold\)](#) : [photos from summer 2009 \(Steve Martin\)](#)

[photos from summer 2008 in the Dambuster Series](#) :

[photos from summer 2007 in the main galleries near the end of the Pinto Gallery](#) : [Scanned slides](#)

from 1977, 1978 (Frank Addis)

Videos : [El Sedo entrance into Upper Arco](#) (2014) (YouTube): [Where Are All The Spiders extension](#) (2014) (YouTube)

[Gracie's Way, climb up into Dambusters'](#) 2022 (YouTube) : [Washing off in the Risco Stream](#) - Easter 2023 (YouTube)

Detailed Survey : from 1965: [low res](#) [high res](#)

[Oñite survey updated 2005](#)

from [rescue site](#) (Risco, Tiva and Oñite) [low res](#)

[high res](#)

[survey fragment](#) of the archaeology finds (Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008)

[survey fragment](#): batch 0025-11-01 high level

extension just upstream of entrance, DistoX plan file

[2009 survey of Risco and Oñite](#) (Peter Smith) : [2013](#)

[Easter survey of Risco and Oñite](#) (Peter Smith) :

[2013 summer survey of the Risco - Oñite System](#)

(Peter Smith)

[survey fragment](#): batch 0025-14-01, Where Are All

The Spiders?, DistoX plan file

[2014 summer survey of the Risco - Oñite System](#)

(Peter Smith)

[2018 summer survey](#) (Peter Smith) : [2022 Easter](#)

[survey](#) (Peter Smith) : [2022 summer survey](#) (Peter

Smith) : [Survey additional notes](#) (Andrew Northall)

Line Survey :

On area survey : 1975 Ozana area map. Not a lot

of detail. [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file : [yes](#), with Oñite and Tiva (latest after

Easter 2022) : [caves in Ozana area \(after summer](#)

[2024](#))

Passage direction rose diagram (Patrick Warren):

[yes](#), with Oñite and Tiva

X

0026: Tiva, Cueva de

Cubillas 30T 452833 4796000 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 159m

Length included in [Cueva del Risco 0025](#)

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 6th November

2003; 17th November 2007; 23rd October

2009; 30th September 2010; 6th January,

1st October 2011; 4th September 2019; 4th

September, 10th October 2022; 11th

September 2023

The impressive twin entrances lead to a series of dry, abandoned passages that eventually unite, the way on being through a draughting bedding plane on the left. This passes under several avens before increasing in height at the top of a steep slope. This leads down to water level and a sump. A 10m climb up leads to a chamber with sandstone walls. At the far end, a pitch of 11m drops into an impressive streamway carrying the water from [Sima-Cueva del Risco \(025\)](#). The 1.5km of passage in this area is a three dimensional maze and almost impossible to describe. All ways eventually unite and the way on is in chest deep water up several cascades until daylight can be seen from Torca del Sedo, the entrance to Sima-Cueva del Risco (025). This is an 8m pitch and has been free climbed.

An investigation of draughts in the blockage on the main passage found one from a "small muddy passage low down on the left and other from boulders at the top of the slope. There is at least 10m vertical difference between them. (Logbook 1/8/23)

A dye test in 1964 showed water from Sima-Cueva del Risco resurging after five hours from La Lisa below [Cueva de Gonzales \(014\)](#), [Cueva de Transformador \(032\)](#) and in this cave.

Ortiz in *Algunos crustaceos y miriapodas cavernícolas de la Region de Matienzo, Santander* (Ortiz E, 1968) describes two male *Lithobius*, collected in 1966.

The re-survey of the cave in the summer, 2009 by a team from Sheffield University Speleological Society stopped just short of connecting the line with Sima-Cueva del Risco. Surveyed length = 1041m. This was continued during the summer 2010 when the Rosado Series was discovered. The total Tiva length is currently 1882m but there is more to survey. Resurveying continued in the summer, 2011.

The *Rosado Series* is entered by climbing up from the passage parallel to the main Tiva stream, close to the upstream end. A through bolt is placed to assist with the climb into the tube in the roof of the meander. The meander can be followed to an obvious window on the left wall. This is *Carabiner Junction*.

Going right through the window leads to small crawls - the *Spaniel Series*. The left route leads to a 5-way junction - *Elephant Junction*, with a trunk on the left wall. Both right hand side branches join and lead to crawls and a final pitch to a too-tight meander. Straight ahead leads into the *Chamber of 1000 Meanders*. Left leads, via a 6ft stal, to a dodgy climb up into a chamber with a continuing crawl and a hole down that could be dug.

Left at *Elephant Junction* eventually leads to the *Tinto Series*. Passages on the right all choke. A pit on the left leads to an aven that

could be climbed with some high level leads. Next left leads to helictites and straight on is a way to *Tinto*, although the route is not obvious.

The *Rosado Series* appears to be in a different limestone band to the lower series - smooth phreatic passage rather than very sharp limestone.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez Juan Carlos, 1965](#); [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1974b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1974a](#); [Cox G, 1973](#); [anon., 1975a](#); [anon., 1975b \(Easter and summer logbooks\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [Ortiz E, 1968](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 2009c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(survey and photos\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2011 \(See 025 Risco\)](#); [anon., 2019d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [summer 2019](#)

Underground picture(s): [summer 2009](#) : [summer 2010](#) : [summer 2019](#) : [summer 2022](#)

Video: [2022 summer video - All Ages \(YouTube\)](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1965: [low res](#) [high res](#)

from 1975: [low res](#) [high res](#)

from [rescue site \(Risco, Tiva and Oñite\)](#) [low res](#)

[high res](#)

from 2010: new line and *Rosado Series* on the 1975 survey. (Updated survey to come).

Line Survey :

On area survey : 1975 Ozana area map. Not a lot of detail. [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file : [3d file](#) (re-survey, summer 2010)

(Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram (Patrick Warren):

[yes, with Oñite and Risco](#)

X

0027: Oñite, Cueva

Ozana 30T 454296 4794900 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 251m

Length included with [Risco \(0025\)](#)

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 14th May, 12th November 2002; 6th November 2003; 8th October 2005; 1st March, 29th September 2006; 17th November 2007; 19th November 2008; 18th May 2009; 6th January, 1st October 2011; 23rd April 2012; 6th March, 3rd May, 22nd September 2022

The entrance pitch of 6.5m can be free climbed, but can be bypassed completely (as of May 2009) by entering through an excavated crawl to the left. (It was noted in August 2022 that the shaft entrance was collapsing.) The routes lead into the streamway or a few high level chambers can be reached. After a short crawl, water from a sumped passage on the right is met and for the next 500m the cave is a sporting vadose streamway. At the end is an 18.6m pitch into the final chamber of [Sima-Cueva del Risco](#). (This was bypassed on the left in 2005 and the first through-trip to Risco bypassing the pitch completed on Aug 1st 2006- see *survey below*).

On the left of the streamway, 30m before the pitch, a small passage leads into a large fossil gallery, *Mavrino Inlet*, which soon chokes. From this passage the 2005 (and later) extensions lead off.

Gulag Gallery starts as a calcite-floored side passage on the left at the start of *Mavrino Inlet*. This goes for about 100m with signs of previous entry to a low point which was dug out to a small chamber and a 5m free climb to a bedding plane, ending at the top of a meander passage. This enters a crawl with boulders that continues past holes in the floor and enters walking size passage with stal and passages in the roof. The passage rises to near the surface with tree roots: *Gulag Gallery* has almost come full circle back to the Oñite entrance with a length of 446m.

184m of extensions on the opposite side of *Mavrino Inlet* provided the *Sala Carballo Pitch Bypass*.

The First Circle - known passage - was surveyed in 2005 and increased the length of the Risco System to 9859m.

The survey was "completed...beyond stal bridge" beyond Sala Caballo on a trip in the summer, 2011. Forty six metres were surveyed.

At Easter, 2022, a wet inlet, 4.5m up (*Mental Illness Inlet*) was bolted into on the eastern wall of the *Mavrino Inlet*. The inlet is generally a tall, rift passage with a stream in the bottom. Progress is made mainly by traversing at high level. After a couple of hundred metres, the passage splits, the largest ending in boulders and tree roots. The water comes from a small inlet passage where a blocking boulder could easily be removed. *Mental Illness Inlet* is drawn on the updated [2022 Easter survey](#). The centre line on the Survex/Aven file is 0025-22-01 and 0025-22-02.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [anon., 1974a](#) (survey); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [Fernández Gutiérrez J C, 1975](#); [anon., 1975a](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#) (survey); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [García José León, 1997](#) (survey and photo); pers comm (email 13/5/02); [anon., 2005b](#) ([Easter & summer](#)); [anon., 2006a](#) ([February logbook](#)); [Corrin Juan, 2006a](#); [anon., 2006d](#) ([summer logbook](#)); [anon., 2008f](#) ([autumn logbook](#)); [anon., 2009a](#) ([Easter logbook](#)); [León García José, 2010](#) ([Volume 1 and Volume 2](#)) (survey); [anon., 2011d](#) ([summer logbook](#)); [anon., 2022b](#) ([Easter logbook](#)); [anon., 2022c](#) ([summer logbook](#))

See 025 [Risco](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [streamway](#) : [Mavrino Inlet](#) : [male gyas titanus](#) : [Mental Illness Inlet](#)

Detailed Survey : [Original 1974 survey](#)

[preliminary pdf of 2005 extensions with original passage](#)

[Resurvey complete early 2006](#)

from [rescue site](#) ([Risco](#), [Tiva](#) and [Oñite](#)) [low res](#)

[high res](#)

[On 2009 survey of Risco and Oñite](#) (Peter Smith) :

For later surveys, see [Risco 0025](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : 1975 Ozana area map. Not a lot

of detail. [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file : [on Risco file](#) (Coordinates altered to fit

ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram (Patrick Warren):

[yes](#), with [Risco](#) and [Tiva](#)

X

0028: Selvijo, Cueva del

Ozana 30T 454086 4794584 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 251m

Length 693m **Depth** 13m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 6th November 2003; 8th, 12th February, 27, 28th April, 23rd November 2024

The cave was revisited, extended and resurveyed in October 1995. The original description of an uninspiring, wet cave does not fit! The cave was again re-surveyed for Survex detail in 2024 with a major extension to the south and other leads pushed and still going.

The deep, wooded entrance shakehole has a bank of tufa, formed below a small resurgence near the top of the depression. The water from this has coated earth pellets and other detritus to make large "pearls".

The low entrance chamber has two too-tight passages to the left that can take some of the water. The route down to the right reaches walking passage to a 3m climb up out of the stream and a once-tight squeeze into a [chamber with calcite columns](#). To the left, a stooping passage rises to a choke, with a tighter route to the right which chokes to the left but continues down, unexplored.

Northern Passages

The main passage swings to the right, passing along a short traverse. At the base of the traverse, the downstream route is too tight. Over the top, and to the left, a false-floored passage soon chokes over a 10m-deep drop which is too tight about 3m down. Beyond a squeeze, further holes link down to *El Dia del Padre Series*. Some [fine sediment banks](#) are encountered with a climb up and over to the north into a route that has been excavated through a short, body-hugging crawl. After a total of 30m, the passage meets a cross rift with a crawl to the east appearing to get too low.

Back in the main passage, beyond a squeeze past formations, the cave lowers to a flat out crawl, entering larger passage on a bend. After a further 15m, at survey station 10, the passage divides at two 3m climbs down.

The laddered climb down to the north enters a nicely shaped vadose passage which meets a hammer and chisel dig, after turning south - close to the main route already traversed.

The eastern climb encounters boulders and, continuing east, eventually chokes in all directions, with avens at the end of the passage after it has swung around to head south. Part way down the eastern climb, a passage heads off to the northwest to encounter, after an excavated squeeze, a sloping climb below a chamber with stal. A ladder is required on this 4m muddy, sloping drop.

At the bottom a low streamway is met that has been pushed in neoprene both up and downstream. An angular passage heads downstream for about 20m almost identical in character to the streamway in [Cueva de la Loca 1](#). This goes around several bends to a low duck under roof pendants. The passage 'ends' immediately afterwards at a mud barrier blocking the passage completely (apart from a small bit of airspace above it).

It could be dug by bicycle kicking it. Upstream starts with a flat out wriggle in the water and then became similar to the downstream. Several corners are negotiated until no more progress could be made: the passage was again blocked with mud in the floor, but this time there was enough space above it to slide oneself up into a narrow rift and look into a small but dry chamber ahead, with a loud sound of falling water. This might be accessible once the mud has been removed, but it is very possible that the rift will still be too tight.

El Dia del Padre Series

Back at the chamber with calcite columns near the entrance, the route to *El Dia del Padre* is down a short drop, laddered from one of the larger stalagmites. This immediately meets the stream coming from the entrance, with a 15m-long, dry crawl over tufa-encrusted detritus to the left. The crawl emerges at an enlargement - a small unclimbed aven, a crawl downstream to the north to an incompletely explored and unsurveyed section, and a short traverse south to a low, bouldery chamber. Below the traverse, the passage meets water, which must be a different stream from the one in the entrance passage, but possibly comes from a separate sink somewhere in the entrance shakehole.

The low, bouldery chamber is a hub with at least 3 routes out:

(1) Ahead, to the east, the route emerges near a cross rift which chokes in both directions. After crawling under sediment to the north, the passage enlarges with holes in the roof where a larger passage is seen. These are the holes down between boulders seen near the sediment bank in the Northern Passages.

(2) There is a route down to a passage at the S side of the low chamber which meets a hole down on the right of the eastern route. (Batch 24-12). After passing a sediment bridge and a boulder bridge, the route narrows over boulders, then meets water. Walking upstream to the west finds the water emerging from a low, wet bedding which has yet to be explored. To the south, a small step up at station 24-12.17 (marked with pottery and old bones found in the stream) leads to crawling and stooping over mud with water sometimes seen in a trench. After squeezing up and around to the right of a stal boss, the bouldery route is again over a small trench. Current progress along the passage has stopped at a low, wide crawl over fallen roof slabs. Some digging is almost certainly required. No draught was noticed.

(3) Beyond the low bouldery chamber, the passage enlarges to the west, encountering ancient gravel deposits on the walls then a short stoop over a stream in a well-decorated section. A short crawl then emerges at a T-junction. The 2m-high passage quickly closes in to the east where a dig to the right may link with passage to the south and a possible dig to the east is just too low for as far as a camera will go ([video](#)). The western route from the T-junction passes a floor stal and an alcove with fine, orange and grey banded sediment. Varied going bypasses a decorated hole with a route past choked holes down to the north. The walking route ends at muddy holes above, entered using combined tactics.

At the top, in a decorated chamber, a walking route to the north passes a pit and becomes too small as it turns east then south. The chamber contains a 5.4m deep pit with a possible small, high-level passage heading south. Down to the north, over some large slabs, a crawl and a climb up over stal reaches the other side of the pit, with choked areas with holes above and below.

At the west side of the pit, a small passage ends at 2 holes in the floor, the western one big enough to drop down then traverse to another step down into walking passage. Passages choke at low level or rise up to meet chokes close to the surface. Daylight is seen to the west and a short, roomy crawl emerges out of [site 5401](#), on the side of a vegetated depression - the next shakehole to the west of the first entrance. Site 5401 was unknown until discovered from inside the cave.

About 12m to the SE of #5401 lies choked [cave 5404](#).

A large male *Lithobius deroutae* Demange is described by Ortiz in *Algunos crustaceos y miriapodas cavernícolas de la Región de Matienzo, Santander* (Ortiz E, 1968).

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); Ortiz E, 1968; [anon., 2024a \(January, February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [1995](#), [2024](#)

Underground pictures: 1995 and January 2024 :
[Easter 2024](#) : dig and pottery / bone, autumn 2024
Video : [Easter 2024](#) : [digs](#) [autumn 2024](#)
Detailed Survey : from 1965: [low res](#) [high res](#).
From 1995: [scale 1:1000](#) : [original drawing for the 1995 survey](#) : [2024 version 24.1](#) : [2024 version 24.3](#)
: [2024 version 24.4](#)
Line Survey :
On area survey : 1975 Ozana area map. Not a lot of detail. [low res](#) [high res](#)
Survex file : [Autumn 2024](#)

X

Experimental text-to-speech

With the survey in a separate window, text-to-speech of the whole description or sections (below) should allow a better understanding of the cave. Copied (ctrl-C) text can also be spoken.

0029: Subterránea, Cueva

Mullir 30T 454407 4795414 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 470m
Length 108m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th November 2003; 13th May 2006; 2nd May 2007; 3rd May 2009; 27th March 2021

The entrance leads down over gour pools to a well decorated, 30m long chamber beyond an ancient wall. The villagers believe that the pools of this cave contain salt water. At Easter 2006, a dig was started at the rear of the cave, probably where "sumidero" is marked on the [1964 survey](#). During Easter 2007 use was made of a pump to remove water before the dig was restarted. Progress is now starting to descend as the roof lowers.

At Easter 2009, after 3 days of digging, enthusiasm dropped as the excavators were not sure where to dig.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007](#); [anon., 2007b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): photos around the dig:

[Easter 2006](#) & [Easter 2007](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1964: [low res](#) [high res](#).

From 1975: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [reconstructed March 2021](#)

([Reconstruction notes](#))

X

0030: Tali 1, Cueva de

Ozana 30T 453718 4795151 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 230m

Length 10m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th November 2003

Small stream sink.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#) [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#) [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#) [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#) [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1965, with Tali II [low res](#)

[high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : 1975 Ozana area map. Not a lot of detail. [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file :

X

0031: Tali 2, Cueva de

Ozana 30T 453818 4795161 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 237m

Length 100m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th November 2003; 14th June 2008

Passage to the right of the entrance chimney leads to a drop into walking sized passage and then to a passage of pools and mud banks. A short swim leads to a narrow canal with deep water and a sump.

The other direction from the entrance involves crawls and squeezes to a chamber.

In the spring of 2008, the entrance shakehole was used as a dumping ground for soil and building waste from Arredondo. The entrance was covered over before any action could be taken to stop the work. The site is part of the Cantabrian government protection area around Risco and the dumping should not have happened. It has

MATIENZO UNDERGROUND site descriptions (printed 28/02/2025)

22

now been halted with the shakehole partially filled in.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1975b \(Easter and summer logbooks\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2008d \(Whit logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2009](#)

Entrance picture : [partially filled shakehole](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey : from 1965, with Tali I [low res](#) [high res](#)

On area survey : 1975 Ozana area map. Not a lot of detail. [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file :

X

0032: Transformador, Cueva del

Cubillas 30T 452710 4796057 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 155m

Length 35m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 7th September 2013; 17th April 2016; 4th September 2019

One of the resurgences for [Sima-Cueva del Risco \(025\)](#). Water level inside the cave, which resurges in wet conditions, was high in August 2013. This was the cave explored for 35m on 28 July 1974, when the water level was lower. At Easter 2016, it was described as a small pool with water resurging. It was visited in the summer 2019.

A dye test in 1964 showed water from Sima-Cueva del Risco resurging after five hours from [La Lisa \(site 3929\)](#), in [Cueva de Tiva \(026\)](#) and from this cave.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez Juan Carlos, 1965](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0033: Abono, Cueva del

S Vega 30T 450747 4794630 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 497m

Length included in [site 1470](#) **Depth** 44m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998; 14th May 2000; 1st April 2001; 24th June 2010; 1st July 2018

The strongly draughting, walk-in entrance (sprayed with "33" and a red dot) leads to a draughting 11m pitch. A gour-floored chamber at the base leads immediately to a greasy calcite slope where a ladder is useful. The descent ends at a chamber with avens. In 1998, the blackness noted up an aven at the bottom of the stal slope was partly bolted and led to a calcited boulder slope with a possible traverse and bolt route back over the main passage. At Easter 2000, this climb was completed at +22m where it was linked to [site 1470](#), a 20m pitch from the surface with a small length of passage.

In 1998, a draughting calcite choke at floor level was excavated (20 years after the cave was first surveyed) and the *Pearl Series* entered. This is a nicely decorated false-floored phreatic passage leading to a large breakdown chamber. Pitches in the floor all choke.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#); [anon., 1978 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1978](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [anon., 1990b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1992a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1998d \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1999](#); [anon., 2000b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001](#); [anon., 2010b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture: [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed survey: [1:1000](#)

Line survey:

On area survey:

Survex file: [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [1/7/2018](#)

X

0034: Adillos, Cuevas de los

S Vega 30T 451567 4794774 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 420m

Length 52m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 26th July 2000; 17th October 2001; 24th October 2002; 23rd March, 8th November 2003; 20th December 2008; 4th, 9th September 2022

A 6m wide entrance is found in trees below site [1514](#). The cave has been a cow shelter and has choked low crawls at the back and on the left. A second cave mentioned in Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 is unexplored beyond the first few metres and has yet to be positioned. (Could it be [site 1514?](#) or [site 1918?](#))

The choked crawl at the back was partly excavated in the summer, 2022 and continues. It heads towards 1887 which appears to be about 4m distant.

The cave has been a paleolithic or mesolithic habitat. A number of items were found below a band of yellowish sediment: a worked flint chip, a small piece of sandstone and fractured bones.

There is a "potential dig" 20m to the west, just over the fence.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001](#); [anon., 2002b \(summer logbook\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#); [anon., 2022c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [2000](#) and [2022](#)

Underground picture(s): [2000](#) and [2022](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1965: [low res](#) [high res](#) : [1:500 with relationship to site 1514](#) : [resurvey 2022](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [2022](#) : [this site with 1514 and 1887](#)

X

0035: Arenal, Cueva del (Callejón de Seldesuto, Cueva del)

Seldesuto 30T 449198 4794921 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 211m

Length 861m **Vertical range** -5m +43m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#) : [A Google search for this site](#) (Arenal, Cueva del+Seldesuto)

Updated 30th August 1998; 17th December 1999; 15th May 2000; 21st January , 10th June 2001; 6th October 2002; 12th October 2003; 20th October 2004; 1st February 2006; 26th September, 27th October 2007; 20th December 2008; 23rd October 2009; 1st October 2011; 19th September 2012; 17th April 2016; 2nd September 2017; 29th April, 30th June 2018; 7th May 2023; 27th April 2024

The [entrance](#) lies above a cliff at the top of a normally dry stream bed. [Heavy rain floods the entrance](#) and produces a stream cascading down to the valley bottom. During certain flood conditions the cave has been known to make a loud sound. Presumably this will be as the draughting entrance passage is being closed or opened up by flood waters. A visit at Easter 2018 was aborted when the entrance lake was seen to almost sump the passage. There are three entrances below a cliff face. The outer two holes soon choke, although the eastern hole goes in "a fair way, and draughts".

The western cave has archaeological deposits which have yet to be excavated. A level some 40cm thick has been identified which contains enough flints to show evidence of flint production and other items including remains of wild boar, red deer, goat and common mussel. The site could have been in use during the early Mesolithic period, ie the Aziliense culture. ([Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#)) ([Photos](#))

The middle (main) entrance can emit a strong draught from its sizeable ellipse. [Infra-red photos](#) were taken in the summer 2017 showing the extent of the cold air emitted. A visit to the entrance at the end of March 2024 showed little draught

The obvious route through the main entrance ends at a solid, draughting boulder choke after about 100m.

A climb up an aven to the right (laddered from the top), just before the main choke, reaches a short, low passage to a draughting, high, but very narrow joint - the site that the Tortosa cavers started working at in 1995. In 1998 further enlargement was carried out to where a small caver could see boulders ahead. In the summer of 1999, the breakthrough came after enlarging and excavating an unstable area which is now propped up and held together with polyurethane foam.

An upward squeeze enters the *Foam Dome*, a 30 x 20m chamber with formations. A 15m pitch has been dropped on the western side (surveyed in August 2017 as batch [0035_17_01](#)) and beyond, a climb down in a

MATIENZO UNDERGROUND site descriptions (printed 28/02/2025)

draughting area leads to extensions, surveyed at Easter 2000. The high level calcited area in the *Foam Dome* was also pushed through to small extensions at Easter 2000. The Foam Dome appears to come close to the base of the first pitch in [shaft 491](#). In the summer of 2003, the end of the Foam Dome Chamber was excavated up a 45 degree bedding then along the strike following a good draught into a hading chamber with no real prospects despite pushing through calcited boulders for 6m. The total length of this extension is 50m, finishing about 43m above the entrance level.

In summer 2007, further burrowing in the boulders allowed the explorers to hear running water.

In July 2017, the "climb down to lower draughting passage" was re-explored and, after knocking a lump off a squeeze, a bouldery route under the Foam Dome was explored and surveyed (batch 0035_17_02). "No real way on, no real passage, just gaps in boulders. Draught lost".

The crawl to the left at the entrance pool also leads to draughting digging sites in boulders with much potential. The digging was abandoned by the main excavators in 1987 and was re-excavated in 1989, where the left hand series ended at impenetrable fissures. This area was surveyed at Whit 2001.

The boulder in the right hand tube was demolished and lead to a boulder choke which draughted very strongly.

There are two avens on the left of the main passage - have these been climbed?

According to Quin (BU pp59-62), in his [magnetic susceptibility studies](#), sediments from Arenal show similar k values to sediments in [Cueva del Comellante \(040\)](#), indicating that the sites may have had (or have) a common morphogenic agent and are connected.

During the successful optical brightener water trace from [Torca del Hoyón](#) to [Cueva del Comellantes](#) in April 2016, detectors placed just beyond the confluence of the (small) resurging Arenal stream and the water flowing down the valley below gave negative results. ([Photos](#)).

The cave was thoroughly re-explored during the summer 2017 but no real prospects for extension were found. Two survey batches were completed - 17-01 and 17-02 (see above). A re-assessment of the length of the centre line now has the length as 861m.

Reference [Smith P et al, 2015](#) has a summary of the archaeological work carried out within 2004 - 2016.

Directly above the cave is a large depression with a digging site which may repay attention. (Easter 98).

Bat information

Date: 5/4/2023

Evidence of occupation (only): feeding remains; perching evidence. (East cave)

Bat remains (number): -

Species identified name (number): Lesser horseshoe bat (1) in western passage; greater horseshoe bat (1) in central passage.

Other notes: tissue moths seen

[Photos from visit](#)

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#); anon., 1975b ([Easter](#) and [summer logbooks](#)); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); anon., 1981a ([logbook](#)); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); anon., 1983b ([logbook](#)); [Cawthorne B, 1984](#); anon., 1984 ([logbook](#)); [Cawthorne Bob, 1985b](#); anon., 1986 ([logbook](#)); material in file; anon., 1987 ([logbook](#)); [Cawthorne B and Neill A, 1990](#); [Corrin J and Knights S, 1988](#); [Cawthorne Bob et al, 1988](#); anon., 1989 ([logbook](#)); anon., 1991 ([logbook](#)); [Neill Ali, 1991](#); anon., 1992b ([logbook](#)); [Cawthorne B, 1992](#); [Corrin J and Quin A, 1992](#); [Quin A, 1993b](#) (survey); anon., 1995a ([Easter logbook](#)); anon., 1995c ([logbook](#)); [Quin Andrew, 1995](#) (survey); anon., 1998a ([Easter logbook](#)); anon., 1998d ([logbook](#)); [Corrin Juan, 1999](#); anon., 1999c ([logbook](#)); anon., 2000b ([Easter logbook](#)); [Corrin Juan, 2000](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001](#); anon., 2001b ([Whit logbook](#)); [Corrin Juan, 2003a](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#); anon., 2003c ([logbook](#)); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#); anon., 2007d ([summer logbook](#)); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#) (partial survey); anon., 2012d ([summer logbook](#)); [Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014](#); [Smith P et al, 2015](#); anon., 2016b ([Easter logbook](#)); anon., 2017c ([summer logbook](#)); anon., 2018b ([Easter logbook](#)); anon., 2023b ([Easter logbook](#)); anon., 2024b ([Easter logbook](#))

Entrance pictures : yes : in flood : distant views [views around the entrances](#) in 2007 during archaeological prospecting

[entrances Easter 2011](#) : [infra-red photos around the entrances, July 2017](#) : [April 2023](#)

Underground picture(s):

[deposits at the entrance, 2012](#)

[Photos in the main entrance, Easter 2011](#)

[Various photos](#) taken during the archaeological prospecting, 2007 and biological prospecting, 2009

[Just inside entrance](#) [entrance pool](#) [entrance pool](#)

[entrance arch](#)

[passage beyond entrance pool](#) [generator 1](#) [2](#)

[fractured wall](#) [pitch up 1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#)

[passage to lower level digs](#) [1](#) [2](#) [Lower level tubes](#) [1](#)

[2](#) [3](#)

[Catalan Drag Queen Rift](#) [1](#) [2](#) [foamed boulders](#)

[Into the Foam Dome](#)

[Foam Dome](#) [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [roof shoring](#) [foamed](#)

[boulders](#) [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)

[digging](#) [1](#) [2](#) [shoring](#) [1](#) [shoring](#) [2](#)

[Exploration and shoring in the 1999 extensions](#)

Video: [in flood](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:1000 \(old\)](#) [1:1000 \(new -](#)

[1999\)](#) [1:1000 \(with 2000/2001 overlay\)](#) [1:1000](#)

[end of 2003](#) : [1:1000 end of 2017](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (August 2017) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0036: Vera Negra, Torca de la (Cabaña, Torca de la)

S Vega 30T 450352 4794973 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: P) **Altitude** 425m

Length included in the South Vega System (See

[Azpilicueta](#)) **Depth** 292m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#) : [A Google search for this site](#) (Vera Negra,

Torca de la+S Vega)

Updated 19th February 1999; 26th October

2001; 20th January, 7th June 2002; 1st

February 2006; 28th October 2007; 7th

January 2011; 26th December 2012; 9th

September 2015; 30th June 2018; 3rd, 6th

March 2022; 18th September 2024

The above grid reference is at the centre of

the shaft as seen on Google Earth, 2015.

The survey starts at 30T 450360 4794982,

the east side of the northern edge. This has

not (yet) been altered. The Survex 3d file

below show this as two entrances.

The length includes [Cueva-Cubío de la](#)

[Reñada \(48\)](#), [Torca de Azpilicueta \(333\)](#),

[Torca de Papá Noel \(1471\)](#), [Torca de la Vera](#)

[Negra \(36\)](#), [site 1338](#), [Torca de Coterón](#)

[\(264\)](#), [site 675](#) and [Cueva Comellantes \(40\)](#).

A table of the depth within the South Vega

System from each entrance can be seen

[here](#).

In 1995, the cave was linked into the South

Vega System by bolting and climbing one of

the avens in *Stuffed Monk Gallery* in [Cubio](#)

[de la Reñada \(site 48\)](#). A [tackle list for a](#)

[pull- through trip](#) is included at the end of

this cave description.

Holly trees surround the top of the roomy

27m *Black Crow Pitch*. ([July 2024 video](#).)The

landing is on a boulder slope which chokes

at its base. The way on is through a slot on

the right. Following the inward draught

through tight passage leads to the

constricted head of a 21m pitch. The 3rd

pitch of 7.5m follows immediately as does

the 4th of 38m. Passage at the bottom

stretches in both directions.

The *East Wanders* is reached by ascending a

10m wide sand- floored passage. A side

passage descends to a series of partially

collapsed phreatic tubes (which eventually

join up with the pitch chamber) and a

passage which leads to a large hall half full

of house sized blocks. Back in the main

phreatic level a four ways junction is

reached. The right hand passage soon closes

down at a well decorated chamber and rift;

straight ahead is a sandy crawl under

stalactite grills to a well decorated chamber

after 100m; straight ahead is the main way

on. This leads to a continuation of the main

chamber mentioned before. Turning right

here leads, via various boulder scrambles, to

the final choke after 120m.

At Easter 1996, the area beyond station 63,

marked as unsurveyed, was briefly

examined. It appears worthy of a visit as it

is draughting and open. During that summer

a small extension was surveyed in the East

Wanders which returned to the main

passage in a 59m loop.

In the eastern arm, 50m north of the big

pitch, small crawls and narrow traverses

lead to a point where the collected water

pours down a large pitch. This excellent free

hanger is followed at once by a 15m pitch.

The stream disappears down a tiny hole but

by carrying on over the top through a

muddy passage, another short pitch is

reached which chokes at the base. Other

leads remain to be pushed.

West Wanders starts from the base of the

4th pitch and traverses the same phreatic

level as the *East Wanders* for 150m to a T

junction.

junction. Both branches choke. There are a number of shafts along this route ranging from 15 to 70m in depth all of which have been explored? One of these holes, 150m from the main pitch, in a chamber on the right, is the route down to Reñada.

A few metres west of the 38m pitch base, a hole in the south wall leads to a small side passage, the start of the Easter 1995 extension. Climb up a narrow rift gains a chamber and, after a low sandy crawl has been negotiated, an area with several holes in the floor is reached. A 5m descent drops into a lower chamber with no obvious way on.

Traversing back over the earlier narrow rift and entering a small phreatic maze in the left hand side, a voice connection with the main passage may be achieved. Straight ahead however, a view down a climb requiring a ladder looks out on a chamber(?) that doesn't appear to be related to the main passage.

In the west wall off the final breakdown chamber in West Wanders, a 15m wide sandy ledge marks the start of *Knobs Passage*. This appears to be a continuation of West Wanders. Crawling on the right eventually leads to a much larger area containing a 70m(?) high aven and many formations. In the northern side, a small passage leads to a series of small chambers and a large stal column marks the end. A strongly draughting choke is in the wall straight ahead and a climb up to the left into an extensive grotto has an undescended short pitch, both of which might warrant further investigation.

Crawling over 'cornflake' calcite flooring to the left of the big aven and through a stal barrier, the passage continues westwards. Gradually the height becomes better and a boulder choke on the right marks an entrance into a chamber. The choke is extensive but now ay on was found. Beyond the chamber, calcite progressively fills the passage until it eventually chokes the entire route.

The northwesterly corner of the East Wanders appears to come very close to [site 388](#).

Pitch details for pull-through trip

The first pull-through trip left all the drops rigged, i.e. Y-hangs, traverse lines, slings and maillons.

Entrance pitch (27m) Climb down gulley and rig around large tree above head height.

2nd pitch (21m) Tight take off. Thread and bolt belay.

3rd pitch (8m) Traverse line down to lower ledge. 2 bolts.

4th pitch (6m) Sling around thread. (Probably counted as part of the 38m pitch originally).

5th pitch (35m) Thread and bolt Y-hang. Slight rub point halfway down; not serious for pull through.

Approximately 150m up the West Wanders is a pit in the floor off to the right of the main route. A Ren -> sign in carbide on the roof and a cairn at the edge mark the spot.

6th pitch (29m) Two slings on a rock pinnacle. Scramble 20m down a small, steep, keyhole passage.

7th pitch (10m) Sling through a thread in the floor of the keyhole passage. Climb up and down into small chamber. Free climb down 4m ramp to a rock bridge and the next pitch.

8th pitch (28m) Thread and bolt belay. Descend more open side of rock bridge (by thread) to moonmilk-coated slot. Pass slot to find bolts for next pitch below.

9th pitch (39m) Two bolts. This is a hanging belay with only enough room for two people with toes on nobbles on the wall.

It is advised that both pitches are rigged with pull-through ropes. First down rigs both; last down de-rigs both.

Tackle requirements: a double 30m rope (60m) and a double 40m rope (80m).

References: [anon., 1974b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1974a \(survey\)](#); [Fernández Gutiérrez J C, 1975](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Addis F, 1982](#); [Corrin J, 1983c \(photo\)](#); material in file; [Corrin J, 1983a \(survey\)](#); [Garcia J L, 1987](#); [Corrin J, 1992b \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1995a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1996](#); [anon., 1996a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997b](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1999](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001a](#); [anon, 2001d \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003c](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(line survey section\)](#); [Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014](#); [anon., 2015c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon.,](#)

[2024d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#) [entrance view in 1982](#) : [entrance in 2024](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Video: [entrance 2024](#)

Detailed Survey : Original 1974 survey - [plan & elevation](#) and with the plan [overlaid on 1974 0048 Reñada survey](#) : [On scanned 1982 South Vega System survey](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : [South Vega System](#)

Survex file : [yes](#) (2015: has centre of shaft and survey start marked) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [South Vega System](#) (30/6/2018)

X

0037: Cabritilla, Sima de la

S Vega 30T 450848 4795116 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 352m

Length 200m **Depth** 28m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998; 19th February 1999; 12th December 1999; 8th November 2003; 20th November 2008

The entrance is an impressive shaft indicated by trees (at least Strawberry Tree and Holm Oak) on a bare, steep hillside. A 25m pitch ends on boulders into a small chamber from which 3 passages radiate. Both left hand branches quickly choke. The right hand branch continues as stooping or crawling over sand for 100m. Near the end is a blowhole in solid rock, about 10cm diameter for at least 2m. The floor seems to be a boulder which may lead to easier digging once removed, but the site is not particularly promising. Several possible digs on the southeast side of the passage back towards the entrance draught slightly. In 1999 "various new bits" were found near the entrance, but none went.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez J C, 1975](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1983a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983b](#); material in file; [anon., 1998c \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 1999c \(logbook\)](#); from [2008f \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1965: [low res](#) [high res](#). [1:1000](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0038: Calleja Rebollo, Cueva de

Seldesuto 30T 448878 4794951 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 253m

Length 150m **Depth** 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 14th May 2000; 28th July 2000; 26th October 2001; 22nd March 2003; 20th December 2008; 12th September 2014

A low entrance leads to a chamber and single fossil passage, passing under an open shaft. The cave contains a large amount of rubbish, including domestic material and ammunition, evidence that it must have been used as a hide-out for a considerable period during the Spanish Civil War. An article on the Internet about "[los Emboscados](#)" is illustrated with more Civil War remains.

Some [Bronze Age pottery](#) has also been discovered and a coin dated 1879 found. The cave was resurveyed in 1989 but this has yet to be drawn up. (There appears to be a length difference: 90m vs 150m).

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Cawthorne B and Neill A, 1990](#); file in 764; [Neill A et al, 1989](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008 \(survey\)](#); [Smith Peter, 2012 \(survey and photo\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s): [rusting food container](#)

[formations 1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0039: Coquisera, Cueva de

(Codisera, Cueva de)

S Vega 30T 452559 4794355 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 500m

Length 2380m **Depth** 144m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Resources](#) :

[Logbook search](#) : [A Google search for this site](#)

(Coquisera, Cueva de+Codisera+S Vega)

Updated 30th August 1998; 19th February 1999; 17th September 2000; 7th October; 26th October 2001; 12th May, 7th June 2002; 8th November 2003; 14th May, 29th September 2006; 27th, 31st October 2007; 20th December 2008; 6th January 2011; 24th April 2016; 30th June, 21st September, 10th December 2018; 2nd September 2021; 8th January, 4th May 2022; 6th January, 8th February, 27th April, 8th May, 6th June, 18th September 2024; 24th January 2025

Note that the Matienzo caves Project survey needs amending as leg 13 - 14 across the traverse should be reversed to agree with the 2000 resurvey to the surface shafts. The GPS grid reference was taken summer 2001 and is at the left of the entrance looking in.

There is no description below of the passages found and surveyed by the Colectivo Piezo.

[Valero Enrique y Soriano Ángel, 2007](#) has an [area map](#) showing the following sites: Rio Seco, Cueva Brazada, [Torca de Blas](#), [Cueva de La Pila](#), [Cueva de Coquisera](#) and Cueva del Coverón. The same publication has the length of the cave as 2900m and depth 260m.

The entrance was found fenced-off in August 2021. Also noted was a tube (not shown on the survey) at the northern edge of the entrance and, a few metres beyond, an undocumented cave (#[5091](#)).

For permanent rigging by the Colectivo Piezo see the note at the end of this description.

The length shown above is from MCP data; Piezo information will replace this when their work is complete.

A large, goat-sheltering [entrance](#) at [the head of a valley](#) leads to an [large vadose canyon](#). The passage levels out at the base of the entrance slope and meets a 5m pot.

At the bottom of the pot, about 70m of passage runs in both directions, mostly below the main passage. As the roof of the lower passage is boulders, it looks as if it is only these which separate the two routes. Towards the entrance, the passage slopes up after a 3m climb down, and ends at a crawl and choke. In the opposite direction the passage ends at a boulder choke.

A walk round the left (handline rigged, August 2018) or right of the pot leads to an alcove on the right with charcoal and some pottery. The first lake is met shortly after this with a inlet passage high on the right hand wall which should be bolted to. Further in, a ledge on the left provides access to a high level gallery, *Galeria de las 400 Pesetas*, running off on the right. One hundred metres along this route, on the left, three shafts enter from the surface, 40m above. (See [anon., 2000e](#). The AEC Lobetum have surveyed and drawn out the 7 shafts that connect with Coquisera). The gallery reduces in size until a 90m shaft is reached. At the base is a narrow streamway. An awkward traverse over the pitch leads to a continuation of the passage and "further 95m pitches", explored in 1988. The re-exploration of this area, started in Easter 1994 and continued in the summer, discovered a major extension after traversing over the main shaft to a second pit.

Thirty five metres down the shaft, on the north side, a large passage can be swung into. The 6 x 5m stomp chokes after some 80m. A passage to east can be traversed into which chokes after 10m. Directly opposite the northern passage is the large entry to the southern passage which can be gained by a traverse. This large passage chokes after 230m after passing through a 30m wide chamber. This level, at an altitude of about 440m, appears to come close to the surface at the head of the massive valley which runs south behind Coquisera. A weak molephone link was achieved between the passage above and the surface.

Back in the vadose canyon, the floor slopes down to a 25m pitch, *Sima de las Chinas* which lands in another large level.

Heading north, "upstream", a calcite slope leads to the base of a chimney which is free-climbed. A rift heads back towards the Chinas shaft and ends at a boulder choke. Continuing upstream, a short may-pole pitch goes to another short pitch down, and a calcite choke. This lies below the entrance passage, and is probably related to the segment of passage below the 5m pot.

At the base of *Sima de las Chinas* a large amount of bones are mainly of deer. The main passage slopes down over boulders and slippery calcite. A side passage on the

left contains a few bones - the remains of a bear; in 1964, S.E.S.S. reported this as the complete skeleton of a young *Ursus speleus*. This passage ends at a small aven on the left and a hole connecting with the main passage.

The main route continues through a strongly draughting crawl, shortly after which it turns sharp right. On the left at this corner there is a climb with two small chambers and a may-pole climb on the right to about 20m of unsurveyed passage. Traversing over the first climb leads to the awkward *Popcorn Climb*, the start of *Quality Time*. Sixty metres of passage and a crawl lead to a 5m free-climb down into a large chamber. A rift passage in the roof over this climb has been may-poled into, but didn't go very far. On the right of the chamber, a large aven is very near the second 95m shaft in the *Galeria de las 400 Pesetas*, but has no voice connection. Opposite the climb down, another climb up goes into a chamber with two sections of old passage going roughly north and south.

In December 2023, the "Colectivo Piezo" group apparently explored beyond this area but without surveying the finds. Some details are in the 2023 Christmas / New Year logbook and elevation sketches have been shared. (See below)

Returning to the main passage, this continues to trend downhill, and an inlet on the left is too small to be followed very far. The passage develops into a wide bedding and opens out in a large chamber with a rubble slope at the angle of rest. On the right a side passage leads to two avens with possible passage at the top. Bolting started here in 1998. At the base of the rubble slope the stream is met, supposedly coming from the passage at the base of the 90m shaft. This can only be followed for about 30m through smaller passage, ending at a chamber with a couple of uninspiring digs.

Just before *Sima de las Chinas* a passage can be seen high on the right hand wall. This hasn't been entered but it seems to be heading towards the *Galeria de los 400 Pesetas*. On the left hand wall, just before the same pitch is a "passage" which proved to be an alcove after bolting. ([Pictures 1](#) [2](#)).

The *Sima de las Chinas* can be traversed along the left hand wall, ending in a 7m pitch to the passage floor. Straight ahead, a boulder slope leads up to a large passage ending abruptly at a boulder run-in up to the roof. The survey shows this to be directly below *Galeria de las 400 Pesetas*. On the left at the end of the traverse there is a loop, which re-enters the passage at the top of the boulder slope. Several side passages off the loop all choke; one ends within 10m of the northern passage in the 1994 extension. A rift crosses over in the roof of the loop. It is blocked by a boulder but can be seen to continue.

Much potential remains such as a possible link with [Cueva del Coverón \(002\)](#).

A bolt climb in the entrance, to reach a suspected passage, yielded 10m to a sandy choke.

Ortiz (AM) lists two crustaceans: *Stenasellus cf. virei* Dollfus and *Pseudoniphargus africanus* Chevreux, while Pinto (AF) includes *Cantabroniscus sanmigueliensis* among the fauna. The bats *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and *Barbastella barbastellus* are recorded by Meijide (AY).

Pinto found Iron Age pottery in the area before the first lake in 1978, part of a Brazada-type urn. In 1981 a copper arrowhead, dated in the Bronze Age, was found at the top of the climb starting the *400 Pesetas Gallery*. A [fibula](#) or omega-shaped buckle (dated to the 1st century BC) and a bone needle have also been found. A page of photographs showing some of the archaeological remains can be seen [here](#). This area contained many broken and burnt bones, charcoal and pieces of pottery of the Brazada type and assigned to the Iron Age. Because of its north-facing entrance and the damp and cold vestibule, Coquisera is unlikely to have been used as a habitat for any length of time (*Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p210*).

[Morlote Jose M et al, 1995](#) describe Coquisera as one of the Iron Age sepulchral caves in the area.

Shaft entry

The surface pitch is marked 78 with an orange cow tag. Go between two upright rocks and use the natural belays (10m rope needed in total). First pitch is 28m to a

slope of 4m to a second pitch of 26m. One rope will do as there is little rub. Follow the slope down to a flat-floored rift and "crab" through 4m to *400 Pesetas Gallery*.

In April 2016, farmers Ismael and Ciano were keeping a small herd of goats in the cave. One became marooned on a high ledge on the eastern wall above the first pit - a slip would have produced a fall of about 12m. An ascending route starting further into the cave ended above but just short of the goat's position. A bolt and combined tactics allowed a rope to be tied around the animal's horns and she was hauled up then escorted out of the cave. ([Photos](#))

An email (August 2018) from the "Colectivo Piezo" group from Madrid informed the MCP that stainless bolts had been installed and could they now explore and survey. Work continues on re-exploration, pushing and survey. Some rigging diagrams are itemised below. Further re-exploration was thought to have happened in December 2021. More extensive work continued over the Christmas period 2023 and into January and Easter 2024 where pushing and surveying were carried out beyond the *Popcorn Climb*. Visual Topo data and survey explanation videos have been received and these are published below and, with further details, in the January, February, Easter and Whit (pre-summer) 2024 logbooks.

More working trips were carried out in August, October, November and December 2024 - all extensively reported in the Xmas 2024 logbook. Again, shared information is shown below.

Colectivo Piezo resources (provided by Ángel San Juan Gálvez):

Rigging digrams (see also plans and sections):

[Pozo de las Chinas \(Oct '18\)](#) : [Pozo de las Chinas \(2024\)](#) : [\(7 simas : parallel shaft : pasamanos](#)

[entrada](#) : [pasamanos marino](#) : [Popcorn](#)

Survey jpegs plans and sections (ongoing from 2018): [plan - section](#) : [Popcorn extension 2023 - left](#)

[: Popcorn extension 2023 - right](#) : [Popcorn extension](#)

[Jan 2024 - left](#) : [Popcorn extension Jan 2024 - right](#)

:

[explorations March 2024](#) : [Still to do at March 2024](#) :

[Coquisera with geology](#)

[more SECTIONS 10/8/2024](#) : [19/10/24](#) : [9/11/2024](#)

[: 6/12/24](#)

From email: [exploration May 2024](#) : [still to do at May](#)

[2024](#)

Survey 3D resources (these require [Visual Topo](#) to

handle the .trox file): [May 2024](#) : [June 2024](#) :

[December 2024](#)

Explanatory videos (in castellano): [Jan-March](#)

[2024 \(YouTube\)](#)

Exploration videos: [Squeezing through Paso del](#)

[Tigre \(YouTube\)](#)

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey and photo\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(photo\)](#) /[anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#); [Fernández Gutiérrez J C, 1975](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#); [Cox G, 1973](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#); [Barrington P and Hanson D, 1984](#); [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [Pintó A and Canales F, 1985 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1992b \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [Smith P, 1985 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [Garcia J L, 1987](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [Smith P, 1983](#); [Ortiz E, 1968](#); [Meijide Calvo M, 1982](#); [Davis J and Corrin J, 1989](#); material in file; [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A, 1994](#); [Corrin J, 1994b \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995a](#); [Morlote Jose M et al, 1995](#); [anon., 1998d \(logbook\)](#); [Morlote Jose M et al, 1995](#); [Corrin Juan, 1999](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997c](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000e \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001](#); [anon., 2001c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001a](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001 \(includes drawings and photo of urn\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003c](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#); [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2006d \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [Valero Enrique y Soriano Ángel, 2007](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008 \(photo, survey, drawings\)](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(survey and photos\)](#); [anon., 2016b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021f \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023e \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024a \(January, February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024c \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024f \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [distant view](#) : [start of canyon](#)

[1](#) [2](#) : [Fenced entrance, August 2021](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#) : [goat rescue 2016](#) :

[various, Easter 2022](#) : [Easter 2024](#) : [summer 2024](#)

Video: [Fenced entrance 2021](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1964: [low res](#) [high res.](#) : [1:1000](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination

December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and

coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

[X](#)

0040: Comellantes, Cueva del

(Comediante, Cueva del)

(Comellante, Cueva del)

S Vega 30T 450692 4795542 (Datum: ETRS89).

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 170m

Length included in the South Vega System (See [Azpilicueta](#)) **Depth** 29m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Resources](#) :

[Logbook search](#) : [A Google search for this site](#)

(Comediante+Comellantes, Cueva del+S Vega)

Updated 19th February, 18th April 1999, 31st July 2000; 7th October 2001; 20th January, 24th October 2002; 16th October, 8th November 2003; 27th October 2007; 20th December 2008; 3rd May 2009; 1st October 2010; 6th January, 23rd June 2011; 23rd, 27th April, 19th September, 26th December 2012; 20th April 2013; 16th May 2014; 14th, 21st May, 9th September, 31st October, 6th November 2015; 17th April 2016; 2nd September 2017; 29th April, 30th June 2018; 3rd September 2021; 8th January, 3rd March, 4th September 2022; 11th September 2023; 18th September 2024

A previous grid reference, to the centre of the resurgence, was 30T 450692 4795542. The above grid reference, used in the 2015 resurvey, is based on a surface survey from Reñada entrance and is a "Tippex spot" (where?).

The length of the South Vega System includes [Cueva-Cubío de la Reñada \(48\)](#), [Torca de Azpilicueta \(333\)](#), [Torca de Papá Noel \(1471\)](#), [Torca de la Vera Negra \(36\)](#), [site 1338](#), [Torca de Coterón \(264\)](#), [site 675](#) and [Cueva Comellantes \(40\)](#). A table of the depth within the South Vega System from each entrance can be seen [here](#). JCFG suggests that Comediante is the correct name and that there is local confusion over the names Clarín or Clarion to name the river.

Hydrology

Cueva del Comellantes is the resurgence cave for much of the water sinking on Beralta (southern La Vega) and the water seen in [Cueva-Cubio de la Reñada \(048\)](#). It is the water supply to most of the properties in Matienzo.

The water from downstream Cueva Vallina, on the south side of the hill, was proven after 8 days (Easter 2015) to flow to sump 1 in Reñada and then through to this resurgence (but not appearing in *Squirrel's Passage*). ([More details on the Cueva Vallina page](#)).

Water sinking near Alisas (in [Torca del Hoyón - 567](#)) has also been tested to here. The test was repeated (from nearby hole [4246](#) in the same depression) in April 2016 using optical brightener resulting in a strong positive result when the detector was checked 3 days after the agent was added to the water. ([Video of the results.](#)) (A water test shows a total hardness of 110ppm at 0.12cumec). The cave was linked under water to *Squirrel's Passage* in Cueva Cubío de la Reñada in 2012 (see below). A hydrology diagram for the South Vega System has been [updated with the Vallina connection](#). (2011 version).

Over Easter 2018, optical brightener was injected into [site 1969](#) near Alisas and detected between 2 and 3 days later at [Fuente Aguanaz](#) (in flood conditions). This cave was also checked and proved negative. (Details of the water trace can be [found here](#).)

Passage description

The eastern entrance is the open resurgence cave where it is possible to walk upstream through deepening water to the middle entrance. The middle entrance is normally approached up a short climb and slope down to the sump pool which has a pump and pipes extracting water to a holding tank on the hillside above. A passage on the right links to the main cave but the usual route in is through the third, western entrance. During 2012 this was being cleared of old goat pens and low walls were constructed at the passage leading to the middle entrance and the route into cave. By Easter 2013, a concrete ramp had been built up to the entrance. The large phreatic passage beyond has a muddy slope on the left down to a sump pool. The main route continues down a calcite slope into a chamber with a stal curtain. It is also possible to wriggle around in phreatic arches linking this chamber with the internal sump pool.

In October 2015, a significant extension was made up on the north side of the chamber where water comes down flowstone. This led to a short crawl and dig through a false floor and ascending passage up flowstone to a choke at 193m altitude. This must lie very close to the surface. (Batch 0040-15-0; length 84m)

On the left, around the back of the chamber, a phreatic tube with mud floor and hading wall splits: down to the left chokes in mud and rock; to the right continues stooping to a small chamber which was the

original end, a few metres from Cubio de la Reñada with a small crawl which was partially excavated in 2012 and has a vocal link to Reñada.

In the summer of 2001 a small rift was entered from here (previously hammered open by Spanish cavers) and about 80m of walking-size new passage was surveyed. This is well decorated, passes through a 5m high chamber with a small slippery climb out at the far side, and ends at calcite and a clean, stoney choke which must be very close to the surface.

Holes in the roof near the western entrance were investigated at Easter 2016.

Diving

The sump pool nearest the resurgence, with a pipe and pump extracting water, has been dived on a number of occasions. The submerged passage is up to 10m wide and 20m deep with visibility up to 20m. Ripple marks occur on the sandy floor. The passage rises to 15m where the route from the internal sump pool appears to enter. (In 2012, diver's light were noticed here as he passed further into the cave.) The passage drops steadily to 28.5m at a point 140m from the entrance. The passage then rises to -12m and becomes small. Just before the end, higher on the left hand wall is the continuation found, in good visibility in 2012, by Chris Jewell. This was pushed through to a canal and a second sump and canal to a connection with the line Rupert Skorupka had been laying downstream in *Squirrel's Passage* in Reñada. As the amount of water in *Squirrel's Passage* is less than the volume flowing from the resurgence, it would appear that a major "inlet" carrying the Reñada stream has been missed.

A full diving account and survey from 1989 appears in the file; this is now on the [2001 survey](#). On a poor visibility dive at Easter 1999, the sound of running water was heard. In 2003, the sump was described as "very complex and large". At Easter 2009, the end of the diving line with reel was described as not the way on, and the diver noticed black spaces on the right hand wall as he made an effortless exit with the strong current. (Dive logs can be found [here](#).) The dive logs for the 2012 dives by Chris Jewell and Laura Trowbridge can be found [here](#).

In April 2012, Rupert Skorupka had an exploratory dive, finding 6 - 7m visibility but still hazy. He swam around "the first 100m of the big tunnel" investigating deep alcoves on the left of the passage. He also had further dives after the Comellantes - Reñada link looking for the missing input passage.

At Easter 2013, after failing to dive at the resurgence or at *Squirrel's Passage* due to poor visibility and high water levels, Rupert made the following observations.

- The *Squirrel's Passage* downstream sump will be easiest approached from Comellantes, as carrying dive kit down the stream is difficult.

- After closely observing the flow in both *Squirrel's Passage* and Comellantes on the same day it is conclusive that the flow in *Squirrel's* is 10% of what comes out of Comellantes. Therefore, somewhere between the RS-CJ line junction and the end of sump 1 in Comellantes, 90% of the flow enters.

- The small inlet that comes into *Breakdown Chamber* represents about one quarter of the flow in *Squirrel's Passage*. So the other $\frac{3}{4}$ is of unknown origin.

- During a significant flood, Molino stream ([site 727](#)) was swollen and very milky (from snow melt?). Comellantes stream was also swollen but quite clear (from flood water). Looking at where the snow remains: Molino water is coming from the Porracolina (S) side of the Bustablado valley and Comellantes accounts for all the drainage to the north of the Bustablado valley, ie [Vallina](#), South Vega and unknown systems. The Vallina link was proven by OBA at Easter 2015.

- Rupert made a couple of prospecting dives at Easter 2014.

Ashley Hiscock dived at the end of July 2017, but the visibility was poor.

The site was the venue for wild swimming on Christmas Day, 2021.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

Science

Notenboom (AX) found *Pseudoniphargus* and *Cantabroniscus* in gour pools inside the cave, and the following fauna at the resurgence: *Echinogammarus/ Gammarus*, *Cyclopoidea*, *Prosobranchia/ Hydrobioidea*, *Theodoxus (Prosobr.)*. Meijide recorded the bat *Myotis myotis* in 1982.

According to Quin (BU pp59-62), in his [magnetic susceptibility studies](#), sediments from Comellantes show similar k values to sediments in [Cueva del Arenal \(035\)](#), indicating that the sites may have had (or

have) a common morphogenic agent and are connected.

Pieces of Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery have been found in a groove on the sloping right hand wall at the western entrance leading to the first chamber and higher up where a small route exists through to the chamber from the main passage. (*Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008*). The same publication also mentions a fragment of ancient mill wheel found in daylight, among limestone blocks, at the back of the entrance.

At Easter 2023, a couple of visits culminated in a "bat walk", led by Jess Eades with Martyn Grayson. As part of the citizen science element of the Matienzo Bats in Caves Project, [twenty people of all ages were educated about the bats](#) seen in the cave (see below).

Bat information

Date: 6/4/2023

Evidence of occupation (only): -

Bat remains (number): -

Species identified name (number):

Schreiber's bent winged bat (c12); lesser

horseshoe bat (6); greater horseshoe bat

(1)

Other notes: 20 people visited as part of the

Matienzo Bats in Caves Project

[Video including photos from visit](#)

Date: 6/8/2023

Evidence of occupation (only): -

Bat remains (number): -

Species identified name (number):

Schreiber's bent winged bat (1); lesser

horseshoe bat (1)

Other notes: -

References: [Puig et al, 1896](#); [Madoz Pascual, 1848](#); [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#) (survey and photo); [Cox G, 1973](#); [Ullastre-Martorell J, 1975](#) (survey); [Fernández Gutiérrez J C, 1975](#); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1981a](#) (logbook); [anon., 1982](#) (logbook); [Corrin J, 1983a](#) (survey); [Corrin J, 1983c](#) (photo); [anon., 1983a](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 1985b](#) (logbook); [anon., 1987](#) (logbook); [Notenboom J and Meijers I, 1985](#); [Meijide Calvo M, 1982](#); [Corrin J, 1990](#); [anon., 1992b](#) (logbook); [Corrin J, 1992b](#) (survey); [Corrin J and Quin A, 1992](#); material in file; [Quin A, 1993b](#) (survey); [Quin Andrew, 1995](#) (survey); [Fernández Ortega F, Valls Uriol and Maria del Carmen, 1998](#); [anon., 1999a](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2000c](#) (Summer logbook); [anon., 2001c](#) (Summer logbook); [anon., 2002e](#) (February logbook); [anon., 2002b](#) (summer logbook); [pers comm \(Skorupka R\), 2003](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003a](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#) (survey); [anon., 2009a](#) (Easter logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2010](#); [anon., 2012b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2012d](#) (summer logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2013a](#); [anon., 2013b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2014b](#) (Easter logbook); [Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014](#); [anon., 2015b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2015c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2015d](#) (autumn logbook); [anon., 2016b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2016c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2017c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2018b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2021c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2021f](#) (Christmas logbook); [anon., 2022c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2023b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2023c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2024d](#) (summer logbook)

Entrance pictures : [entrances](#) : [OBA Leucophor test, Easter 2015](#) : [360° photos at the entrance \(summer 2022, drought conditions, JC\) 1 2 \(help file\)](#) : [2024 families at western entrance](#) : [resurgence, August 2024](#)

Underground picture(s): [resurgence diver1](#)
[diver2](#) (both in middle entrance pool) [diver 3](#)

[\(inside cave\)](#)

[main entrance](#) [main passage](#) [stal curtain in main](#)

[chamber](#) [passage at back of main chamber](#)

[formations on left of route through](#) : [Photos taken](#)

[Easter 2012](#) : [2001 extensions](#)

[Main passage & 2001 extension \(October 2015\)](#)

[Roof tube investigations, Easter 2016](#) : [Detectors](#)

[location for the optical brightener test from Hoyón, Easter 2016](#)

Video : [Connection with Reñada, 2012 \(YouTube\)](#) :

[Explorations October 2015 \(YouTube\)](#)

Over 18Gb of video taken on the 2012 dives has

been stored off-line.

[Roof holes investigations \(Easter 2016\) \(Youtube\)](#)

[Positive detector from optical brightener injected into](#)

[Hoyón, April 2016 \(YouTube\)](#)

[Summer 2022 - trial of lights with GoPro Max](#)

[\(YouTube\)](#)

[Easter 2023 - The Bats in Caves Project visit](#)

[\(YouTube\)](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1965: [low res](#) [high res.](#)

[On scanned 1982 South Vega System survey](#)

[from 2001- 1:1000](#)

[from 2012; including dive through to Reñada](#)

[from 2015 \(autumn\): including part resurvey of](#)

[Reñada](#)

[from 2016 \(Easter\): **dry cave**](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : [South Vega System](#)

Survex file : [South Vega System](#) : [standalone](#)

[Comellantes file](#) (after Easter 2016) [Note for 2012

version: coordinates for the start of the 2012 dive

extension have been taken from previous, non-

digital surveys as the raw data for the original dives

is not available.] (Amended magnetic declination

December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and

coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#) :

[South Vega System 30/6/2018](#)

X

0041: Cueto, Sima del (2026

(French: SCD)

Arredondo 30T 449000 4793419 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: M) **Altitude** 645m

MATIENZO UNDERGROUND site descriptions (printed 28/02/2025)

34

Length 150m **Depth** 126m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 23rd February, 7th October 2001; 12th May 2002; 19th January 2011; 9th February 2016; 21st September 2018; 13th June, 13th November 2022

The grid reference above is for the bottom lip of the shaft. A previous GPS (ETRS89: 30T 0.449.024 4.793.463) was above the top edge.

A large (20 x 5m), choked shaft first descended in 1959 by the Spéléo-Club de Dijon, then in 1988 and 1989. An entrance drop of about 100m meets a boulder slope. Triple checked out by the Catalans in 1995, to find the same choke of boulders. According to Simonnot G, 2018 the chamber at the base are in the shape of an "8".

References: [SCD Sous le Plancher](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#) (survey); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Fernández Gutiérrez J C, 1975](#); [Ribe G et al, 1982](#) (survey); [Degouve de Nuncques Patrick et Simonnot Guy, 1989](#); [anon., 1995c](#) (logbook); [García José León, 1997](#) (survey); [anon., 2001c](#) (Summer logbook); [León García José, 2010](#) ([Volume 1](#) and [Volume 2](#)) (survey and photos); [Simonnot G, 2016](#); [Simonnot G, 2018](#); [Simonnot G, 2022](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from [Ribe G et al, 1982](#) [plan and sections from 1976](#) visit : [plan and section](#) from [León García José, 2010](#) (partial copy from previous reference) ([Volume 1](#) and [Volume 2](#)) (Cantabria Subterránea - Catálogo Grandes Cavidades)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [reconstructed from Ribe G et al, 1982](#)

X

0042: Cefrales, Cueva de los (Dofrades, Cueva de)

S Vega 30T 450749 4795309 top entrance (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: P) **Altitude** 278m

Length 554m **Depth** 59m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998; 19th February 1999; 14th May 2000; 26th July 2000; 1st April, 6th May, 10th June, 7th October 2001; 8th April, 24th October 2002; 13th October, 8th November 2003; 1st February 2006; 26th September 2008; 6th January 2011; 14th May 2014; 9th September 2015; 30th June 2018; 3rd March 2022; 8th May 2023

Formally called *Cueva de Dofrades* (and *Black Crow Cave*), the correct name only came to light 20 years after its original exploration. In 2008, the entrances were fixed with GPS and the 2001 survey bent around the adjusted centre line. In the summer 2015, the top entrance was identified off Google Earth with the above grid reference. The bottom entrance has been given a separate site number, [4210](#).

The top entrance is a scalloped, phreatically enlarged rift which slopes downwards to a 5m pitch-traverse to avoid two pits. A short section of passage leads to a second pitch/climb into a roomy chamber. (There are possible climbs to high level passages both in the entrance rift and the chamber.). A squeeze through at floor level leads to another 5m pitch or handline climb into the main passage. To the right is a greasy climb to a draughting choke with a small aven off-set on the left. Digs at the area of the pitches come close to joining with [Hidden Hole](#), which was extended during Easter 2002. The digs area was extended during the summers of 2002 and 2003. Bad air was encountered at the "Hidden Hole connection" in 2002. In 2008, the whole area was re-explored and extended through a short dig to the west, as part of the entrance rift. A small draughting hole with a puddle can be seen at this point.

At the bottom of the pitch, the western passage slopes down to a pit in the floor, the start of *Candy's Pot*. First explored at Easter 2001, this gets very small at the bottom (19m down after a free climb and laddered section), and has an inlet passage probably coming from the pits that are traversed around in the entrance. Past *Candy's Pot*, the passage slopes up to a calcited choke, with a rift on the right where a blow-hole can be heard but not reached.

The eastern route at the base of the entrance pitches continues walking-sized with several levels that unite in a sandy chamber, extensively pocketed. The way on leads, after 50m to a 15m diameter chamber with a seasonal deep pool. A squeeze at floor level under an incredibly scalloped wall gives access to a traverse to the lower entrance ([site 4210](#)) that emerges in a grassy valley, just above the track up to

the water tank. This is normally laddered as a 6m pitch with sloping top.

Two 4m climbs near the bottom entrance were looked at, but both closed in - see [2014 Easter survey](#)

Further explorations in 1991 seemed to reveal, amongst other bits and pieces, a dig through into a well-decorated series of chambers with an inwardly draughting inlet with footprints!

Extensions at Easter 1994 included a hole in the floor, previously chiselled out (by Spaniards?). This pitch choked but a climb to one side enters two small chiselled out crawls which become very small. A wet crawl may dig but was also very small.

Another hole was opened up (location) which enters the surveyed extensions. A short climb down enters a small dry crawl to the top of a pitch. At the base is a chamber with two ways out: one leading to larger passage and a few possible digs, but with no real draught; the second was crawling over hard sand to a small tube down which is a possible dig with an echo.

No evidence of bats were found in April 2023 during a climb over the top entrance.

References: [anon., 1978 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1978 \(survey and photo\)](#); [Addis F et al, 1979 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#); material in file; [Corrin J, 1983a \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1991 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1998d \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002b \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003a](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#); [anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#); [anon., 2008e \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2009](#); [anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014](#); [anon., 2015c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [entrance at Easter 2023](#) :

[entrances at Easter 2014](#)

[top entrance](#) : [closeup of top entrance](#) : [bottom entrance](#)

[top entrance 1977 or 78](#) : [bottom entrance 1977 or 78](#)

Underground picture(s): [Easter 2014 - near bottom entrance](#)

[just inside bottom and top entrances](#) : [Near bottom entrance, 2008 by Phil Papard](#)

[Photos from 2001 and 1977, 1978](#)

Detailed Survey : [from 1977: low res](#) [high res.](#) :

[On scanned 1982 South Vega System survey](#)

[1:1000 \(2001 resurvey + 2002 digs towards Hidden Hole\)](#)

[from 2008, pdf file](#) (top entrance resurveyed, old survey wrapped around adjusted centre line)

additions to 2008 survey making the [2014 survey](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination

December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and

coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0043: Escarabajo, Cueva de

(2139 (French: SCD))

Arredondo 30T 450993 4793760 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 645m

Length 105m **Depth** 34m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th January 2004; 25th January

2015; 9th February 2016; 21st September

2018; 14th November 2022

A 15m stoop and walk leads to a 20m calcite

slope which can be walked down on the left.

At the base, on the right, a 10m pitch drops

onto another calcite slope which ends at a

calcite choke. On the left a passage leads to

further choked pitches.

The entrance passage appears to have

archaeological excavations, while the

[skeleton](#) of a possible bear lies near to the

mud formations at the base of the calcite

slope.

A [sediment sample](#) was taken at Whit 95.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#);

[anon., 1975b \(Easter and summer logbooks\)](#); [Corrin](#)

[J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [anon., 1990c](#)

[\(logbook Whit\)](#); [anon., 1995b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon.,](#)

[2015a \(January, February logbook\)](#); [Simonnot G,](#)

[2016](#); [Simonnot G, 2018](#); [Simonnot G, 2022](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [base of calcite slope](#)

[sediment sampling 1](#) [sediment sampling 2](#)

[bear skull?](#) [calcite slope](#) [entrance passage from](#)

[SCD, 2012](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89

datum, April 2014.)

X

0044: Hoyo de las Puchas, Sima de

Seldesuto 30T 449848 4794891 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 346m

Length 22m **Depth** 22m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A large depression contains two descended holes. This one is on the eastern side of the depression and is a choked shaft of 22m. There are rumours of other shafts in the area, which lies near the upstream end of Cueva-Cubio de la Reñada 2. The other shaft is [634](#).

References: [anon., 1977b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); material in file

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0045: Humo, Cueva del (west entrance)

Seldesuto 30T 448950 4795074 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 274m

Length 90m **Depth** 40m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th May 2000; 20th December 2008; 12th September 2014; 11th September 2023

A small entrance slopes down into a chamber with a squeeze into a well decorated passage which slopes steeply down to the base of an [open shaft](#). (The shaft is [site 5388](#).)

The cave was probably used during the Civil War, and the lower passage has been tunnelled (to provide an exit?) with the [rusting pick-axe](#) still to be seen at its end.

The site was re-explored in the summer 2023. (Photos?)

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Smith Peter, 2012 \(survey and photo\)](#); material in file; [anon., 2023c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [decaying pickaxe shaft entrance formations 1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Coordinates altered to fit new entrance GPS grid reference.)

[X](#)

0046: Reguilón, Sima del

Seldesuto 30T 448354 4794547 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 400m

Length 100m **Depth** 93m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998; 19th February 1999; 17th September 2000; 8th November 2003; 9th October 2004; 2nd October 2011

An impressive, 20m wide, choked shaft which had been descended by only one Spaniard before 1986. The farmer reported that the Tortosa Group has descended to -140m but had stopped because it was too loose. Marked VT196.

In 1987 the main 70m pitch was dropped to a window onto an 8m pitch to a boulder floor and two ways on. The first, directly under the pitch was not looked at. The second hole leads to a 3m climb into a small chamber and onto a 10m pitch. The pitch is blind and the draught lost.

Jordi from the Catalans says that the entrance pitch is 100m but the shaft was re-explored in 1998 to where car-sized boulders were moving in a funnel.

In 2000, a traverse was started to a possible passage near the top of the entrance. In 2011, this was attempted again but abandoned when it became clear that some sort of bolting seat was required.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1987 \(logbook\) \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J and Knights S, 1988](#); [anon., 1998a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1998d \(logbook\)](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001](#); [y León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(survey\)](#)

Entrance photos : [drawing of entrance](#)

Entrance video : [365kb download](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1964: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0047: Rellanos, Sima de los

S Vega 30T 450315 4795263 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 300m (lower lip of main shaft) Middle? entrance by tree ETRS89: 30T 450286 4795232 Altitude 317m

Length 120m **Depth** 120m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 20th January 2002; 8th November 2003; 21st September 2018

Three entrances to the west of the Reñada entrance passages: highest one is a 9m pitch which can be reached by entering the middle hole and climbing down 3m. A steep slope leads down to a window into the main pitch which descends about 30m to a slope of unstable boulders and then a drop of 60m to a rubble floor in a large chamber. The third and lowest entrance leads directly to the unstable slope via a pitch of about 40m.

The shaft appears to cut through all the cavernous beds down to valley bottom level without intersecting any horizontal development. Only English descent by Tobo and Dennis.

References: [Ullastre-Martorell J, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Garcia J L, 1987](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey\)](#); [anon, 2001d \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2018c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [middle?](#) : [lower \(2001 & 2018\)](#)

Underground picture(s): [inside middle\(?\) entrance](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1967: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0048: Reñada, Cueva-Cubío de la

S Vega 30T 450348 4795561 (lower of the two entrances) (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: M)

Altitude 175m

Length included in South Vega System. See [Azpilicueta](#). **Depth** 39m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Resources :](#)

[Logbook search](#) : [A Google search for this site](#)

(Reñada, Cueva-Cubío de la+Vega)

Updated 30th August 1998; 19th February 1999; 3rd June 2000; 23rd February, 4th March, 7th October, 26th October 2001; 20th, 28th January, 8th April, 8th June, 24th October 2002; 19th May, 13th October, 8th November 2003; 8th October 2005; 1st February, 30th September 2006; 6th May, 28th October, 17th November 2007; 29th September, 27th October, 15th November 2008; 3rd May 2009; 7th January, 18th February, 12th May, 21st June, 2nd October 2011; 18th February, 23rd April, 19th September, 28th November, 26th, 27th December 2012; 26th February, 20th April, 7th September 2013; 15th, 21st May, 12th September, 2nd December 2014; 14th, 21st May, 13th September, 17th October, 1st, 6th November 2015; 17th April, 30th November 2016; 5th February 2017; 19th May, 7th September 2017; 30th April, 30th June, 21st September 2018; 11th May, 5th September 2019; 3rd, 29th September 2021; 21st February, 3rd, 6th March, 4th September 2022; 9th May, 11th September 2023; 8th February, 27th April 2024

- [References and other links](#)

The following account is not complete and is in a state of flux as passages are resurveyed. Each batch of the resurvey has (or will have) its own description as part of an overall updated and improved cave description. This update will appear when more batch descriptions have been written. It may be best to have passage descriptions for various trips, eg part of the Azpilicueta through trip, the Coteron through trip, the trip to sump 1, etc.

Batch descriptions to hand (the extent of which can be seen in the Survex 3d file below)

0048-15-16	0048-15-17	
0048-15-21	0048-15-22	

The length of the South Vega System includes [Cueva-Cubío de la Reñada \(0048\)](#), [Torca de Azpilicueta \(0333\)](#), [Torca de Papá Noel \(1471\)](#), [Torca de la Vera Negra \(36\)](#),

[site 1338](#), [Torca de Coterón \(0264\)](#), [site 0675](#), [Cueva Comellantes \(0040\)](#). [Site 0388](#) may also be a future connection - through Cabaña. The water seen in these caves is all presumed to flow to [Cueva del Comellantes \(0040\)](#).

A table of the depth within the South Vega System from each entrance can be seen [here](#) (before the ETRS89 maps were used in 2014). A resurvey of the cave was started in the autumn 2014 (batch 0048-14-02) and continued through Easter 2015 (batches 15-01 to 15-13), summer (up to batch 0048-15-27), autumn (batch 0048-15-28) then Easter 2016 (batches 16-01 to 16-04) when about 30m of new passage was surveyed. At Easter 2017, the main resurvey included batch 17-03 with extensions explored in batches 17-01 and 17-02.

A single 2021 summer trip resurveyed into *Blood Alley* from the upper cairn on the slope up into *Eagle Passage* to the entry to *Anastomoses Hall*. This is [drawn up](#) and appears (with possible issues still to resolve) as batch 0048-21-01 on [0048.3d](#)

The two bottom entrances into the magnificent South Vega System. The top entrance is [site 4221](#). The track leading from the road to the entrances had an [impressive sign](#) with the correct cave name but completely the wrong line survey! That didn't last very long.

The water from downstream [Cueva Vallina](#), on the south side of the hill, was [proven \(Easter 2015\) to flow to sump 1 in Reñada](#) and then through to [Comellantes](#) after 8 days (but not appearing in *Squirrel's Passage*). A positive optical brightener trace from the Hoyón depression to Comellantes was carried out at Easter 2016. It is assumed that the water flowed through parts of Reñada before entering Comellantes. A hydrology diagram for the South Vega System has been [updated with the Vallina connection](#). (2011 version).

The height difference between top ([site 675](#)) and bottom entrances to the South Vega System is 307m but the system depth is 317m as there is some lower level passage in Reñada. Although the cave passage accounts appearing under each heading are somewhat arbitrary it is convenient to keep the descriptions separate for historical and ease-of-access reasons.

In 2012, a radon sensor was left in the cave from 5th August until 15th November. The result from the detector, which was placed 10m inside the bottom entrance, was 1800 +/- 250 Bq m⁻³. A discussion about this result and others, and further reading about radon can be found [here](#). A detector was left near the *Blow Hole* in January 2013.

[Infrared photos](#) were taken of the entrances and further into the cave in August 2017.

In very wet weather the Reñada passages sump at *The Blowhole* and the wet crawl - *The Duck*. The latter low point was seen to flood in August 1996 after a few hours of moderate rain, requiring a large party to pass through on their backs. *The Blowhole* was passable. At Easter 2009, the crawl was sumped trapping 4 people for 6 hours. The flooding is a local, rapid response feature where a small stream rises and falls quickly. During this incident, the lakes in the entrance were only thigh deep and the blow hole was open - ie "regional" water levels were "moderate". In October 2015, a planned trip was curtailed when the lakes in the entrance series were full after 24hrs rain.

At Easter 2013 a guideline was laid through the duck. This must not be used for free diving. The "plug hole" that drains the duck was also observed in wet weather: the change from draining freely to backing up was a rapid process that explains how the duck can sump quite quickly.

The lower of the two entrances is a [strongly draughting hole in the trees](#), 5m above the track. A large, [marble plaque](#) on the left of the entrance is dedicated to Giles Barker who died in Torca de Azpilicueta in August 1992. In April 2014 it was noticed that the plaque had been vandalised with scratched graffiti. The upper entrance ([site 4221](#)) is located at the end of a faint path that climbs the hillside, starting where the stream is crossed.

The bottom entrance, after an initial slide down, enters old, phreatic, walking-size passage, in wetter periods with knee-deep water. ([Site 4506](#) passes over the top of the route, very close to the entrance.) A short clamber up to the left drops back to the

main route and then a more bouldery area. Just back from here a squeeze up on the south side (stn 14-02.36) enters a tall calcited chamber. All routes at the top of the climb close in.

Beyond the walk over boulders, a large, well decorated chamber is entered (stn 14-02.55). Straight on ends very close to [Cueva del Comellantes](#) (0040). A low crawl at the end has been partially excavated and there is a vocal connection with Comellantes. To the south at stn 55, a large passage slopes up with a calcite floor past formations on the left wall to a small lake. This feature can be passed neck-deep in water although it is normally about waist-deep around the edges. (The Lake has been known, in the past, to disappear, leaving sticky mud to walk through.)

A clamber over boulders at far side reaches the base of a steep boulder slope, at the top of which is the upper of the Reñada entrances. Down to the left of the boulder slope, at the base of slithery calcite, is a small periodic lake and just beyond, the *Blowhole*. A complex series of muddy calcite climbs then lead to a pitch of 5m and almost immediately the second pitch of 8m and a sloping third pitch of 15m. These can all be bypassed by a single rope climb and a short, low crawl over rocks. A low, wet and strongly draughting crawl then enlarges as it reaches a boulder and calcite slope. By climbing up to the right *Stuffed Monk Gallery* is entered.

Stuffed Monk Gallery is the route to Azpilicueta and hence to Cueva-Cubio de la Reñada 2. Its 300m length is large and mainly easy walking. Numerous side passages have been pushed and some surveying in this area remains to be done. Descriptions of SMP bits. 1982,1983 etc.

In 1995, one of the avens in the roof of *Stuffed Monk Gallery*, 30m before it enters *Sanatogen Passage*, was bolted and climbed over a number of trips for about 100m to link with Torca de Vera Negra (Torca de la Cabaña) (036). This is described in the Cabaña section.

Sanatogen Passage heads south from *Stuffed Monk Passage* and entry is made into it under the eastern wall of the smaller passage leading to the most westerly avens. *Sanatogen Passage* description.

The western end of *Stuffed Monk Passage* was excavated at Easter 2017. After the clay squeeze and passing the *Pit of Tredidation* (by climbing down then up rather than a crumbly traverse), *Bended Knee Passage* (batch 0048-17-01) continues in sizeable passage, ending in calcite. A side passage, which continues low, has not been surveyed.

The ***Zeppelin Hangers*** area at the end of SMP was a focus in Reñada during Easter 2019. First, a roof tube was found just off the T-Junction before the *Zeppelin Hangers*. The climb has a difficult start to the ascending tube. The tube continued a short way and closed down with a vertical ascending tube, which did not lead to on-going passage. A hand line was installed via a stal boss on the floor of the passage and was left in-situ. It should be used with caution as it was attempted to be removed from the base of the climb after it had been explored. It may not be secure on the boss any longer.

(Re)surveying was started from station "Ali 4" and continued. When the surveyors approached *Zeppelin Hangers*, they could hear the bolting climbers still ascending, so continued on along the passage below the climb, reached a large chamber with multiple apparent ways on. The dry sandy narrow sloping passage along the right hand wall was chosen as the way to continue. A voice connection could be heard from the climbers above when in the centre of the large chamber.

The same team returned the following day (20/4/2019) to continue surveying below and beyond the climbers. The passage from the large chamber [station 1.12] was followed down the sandy passage at the base of the right hand wall. This passage descended down a sandy slope, and then met large boulders splitting into two passageways (one leading up, with the other leading down and round to the right). The two passages loop around over the top of one another. Both were explored to their end with passage ways narrowing down and closed off with mud. The bolted *Zeppelin Hanger* passage had come over the top of the large chamber and, when the pitch here was descended into a large chamber, it turned out to be the chamber with the new survey markers already in. The rope was left in to allow the survey of the *Zeppelin Hangers*, and the subsequent de-rig after it has been surveyed. On 25/4/2019, it was

inspected and thought that more bolts need installing before a safe survey can take place.

On 22/4/2019, the same team continued surveying and exploring the large chamber. *"It's a little like Swiss cheese, with avens and pots and gaps between boulders, so half the time was spent exploring and the other half surveying."* The pitch at station 1.28 was explored and there are multiple other pitches off down this section. This requires a dedicated trip to survey this complicated section.

Back towards the entrance, a slope up near station 1.2 was bolted. The slope has a large hanging boulder wedged in the passage, with passageway appearing to lead off near the roof. The high level route was excavated on the 25/4/2019 trip and a small chamber entered with a window leading to a pot and aven. Water could be heard beyond this draughting point. A climbed up above the pitch head closes down to a tight rift leading up, likely to connect to the previously mentioned aven. This area also needs to be surveyed. Very large chamber with multiple avens leading off the steep slope.

Survey batches 19-02 and 19-03 were surveyed with a total length of 170m.

[Zeppelin Hangers section based on logbook entries by Jess Eades]

In 1992 a more complete resurvey of Sanatogen was started and a full description of the route needs writing up, including the 1993 extensions down pitches into a streamway with pools and the passage which almost links with *At the Opera* via a chamber with a slippery climb up a rift. A passage on the right hand side of Sanatogen Passage goes to a loose breakdown area of about 50m which does not seem to have been pushed.

In 1994, a 14m pitch in Sanatogen Passage descended into *The Grovel* where 75m of "tight and horrible" thrutch were surveyed. This goes off from station 259.

Just beyond where *Blood Alley* peters out, *Anastomoses Hall* comes in from the right. A walk to the right, under the fine anastomoses, reaches a short climb to the base of a tall rift, now called *Astronomoses Aven*. This was tackled in the summer of 2006 after *Hanging Death Chamber* was discovered in Torca de Papá Noel, some 40m above and to the west. (Photographs [here](#)). At the end of the second trip the top of the draughting rift was reached at a height of 70m and altitude 270m, with various alcoves investigated, e.g. at +30m in the southern end a sand-filled passage goes up to a small passage with no draught. A network of draughting tubes was investigated at the top and a better pitch to the base of the aven rigged.

At the top, a sloping tube can be followed to a small chamber with a 3m ladder pitch to a short, bouldery, descending passage leading to a junction. Following the left hand branch leads to the base of a large, dripping aven between 40 - 60m high. At the far end, at the base of the aven, some small passage can be entered but this degenerates into spongework. The right hand passage leads to 2 holes in the floor, the first of which terminates 10m down; the second - with a good echo and dripping - was pushed to a sizeable chamber leading to a complicated tube system and a boulder choke with a strong draught. This area was connected with Papá Noel, not near to *Hanging Death Chamber*, but in the roof near to *Floorless Chamber* at an altitude of about 240m. The latter passages - *Out of This World* - are very well decorated with good helictites. The total length of new passage surveyed from the base of Astronomoses Aven to the Papá Noel link was 358m.

Near the start of [Stuffed Monk Gallery](#), on the left, a large passage runs into the top of *Blood Alley*.

To the left is a veritable maze of sand and calcite-floored passages. To the right, above *Blood Alley*, is the main way on. (The whole of *Blood Alley* is endowed with fine orange and red pool formations. The fewer visits to this section, the better, as mud on boots is being washed into the pools and covering the crystals. In October 2008, [photographs](#) were taken showing the possible obliteration of the formations. It may be possible to clean both the floor and the pools.)

One hundred metres after *Blood Alley*, the passage splits - the right hand branch enters *Anastomosis Hall* with its deep phreatic pocketing and fine helictites and the left branches unite in *False Floor Chamber* where a thin layer of calcite can give way under foot. Passages in Anastomosis area

....

Breakdown Chamber also has some new surveyed sections (1995) which need tying in. In 1996 the choke area was revisited, but one explorer slipped with a boulder, requiring an 11 hour rescue. The choke was again visited in 1997 and a bolt route started below the East Wanders area in [Torca de la Cabaña](#). The *Australia Series* in [site 1332](#) appears to be very close above Breakdown Chamber.

A short distance beyond this chamber, a crawl on the left is the start of *Squirrel's Passage* which joins the main stream after a 6m climb down. A visit in 2005 noted a strong flow downstream from the *Moat of Doom* although water levels were low. A visit to deposit diving bottles (Easter 2011) used a ladder at the end of the higher level passage to drop down to the water. Water volume was much less than that in the Rub-a-Dub Dubs, seen the same day. Upstream a sump is met after 20m while downstream the passage continues as a series of swims and cascades to a sump after about 500m?? In 2005 the same visit to this area described blue pools (one of which is at least 20m deep and requires diving) and the need for wet suits.

Both upstream and downstream routes were dived by Rupert Skorupka over a number of trips in the summer of 2011. Downstream - to the north - he reached 11m depth in a very complex area and then rose into a canal with no belay points. Upstream, Rupert dived 45m to chambers which are not those discovered by Dave Ryall (Easter 2009). Below and above water passages continue. The survey of the area can be seen [here](#) and a later one, [here](#). At Easter 2014, he surveyed the upstream sump and passages, shown on the centre line as batch 0048-14-01 and, [drawn up](#). The sump has a large cross section but ends breaking down into a number of rifts and airbells that appears to be a collecting area for streams coming from the big passages above in the main cave route.

At Easter 2012, Rupert continued work downstream, passing his previous limit, a rock "curtain", to a parallel passage and a rock spike which was the "perfect belay". Just beyond, a return was made, surveying back to a known point. The survey data is currently on the slate left underground. The canal up to the sump has been surveyed and tied into the end of the 1982 survey. Diving from Comellantes, Chris Jewell reached Rupert's Squirrel's Passage line reel in 2012, proving the Reñada-Comellantes link. As the amount of water in Squirrel's Passage is much less than the volume flowing from the resurgence, it would appear that a major "inlet" carrying the Reñada stream has been missed. Further points about this flow are raised in the [Comellantes description](#). This was confirmed by the Easter 2015 water tracing from Vallina, when sump 1 and Comellantes gave a positive result but not *Squirrel's Passage*.

Just beyond *Breakdown Chamber* a sump is met at the bottom of a slope. This was dived to open passage at Easter 2009 and the data needs tying in with the main line, although the surveyed dive length has been included in the SVS traverse length. At the far point, faint contact was made with the sherpas. The dive log is found [here](#) and the survey (summer 2010) tying in the dive to the start of *Squirrel's Passage* (a large cairn marked "Station 11") [here](#). "New" passage was surveyed on this surveying trip - an inlet series off the south side of *Breakdown Chamber*, ending at a large aven.

At Easter 2012, a short dig entered "good-sized" passage with "lots of leads". This is at the start of *Crowbar Passage*, perhaps linking in some way with the survey carried out when Dave Ryall dived. Like that survey, the length of batch 0048-12-01 (220m) has been included in the SVS length. [This survey](#) is now the "definitive" one of that area.

The main route continues up into *Crowbar Passage*. This is a series of roped climbs and traverses over holes in the floor to *Castle Hall*. (The Castle Hall "?" is a 9m climb which appears to slope up with a rift going off). A delicate climb down over boulders leads (after meeting the small stream presumed to come from Torca de Coterón) to a huge sloping rift and a climb up into the continuation. The streamway in *Castle Hall* is the *Moat of Doom*, surveyed during the summer 2002. Down to the left *Gallery of the Dead* contains a hole in the wall which leads after 30m to the base of the 70m pitch in from [Torca de Coterón](#). *The Gallery* loops round to join the ramp just before *Ghost Lake*. On the ramp, a short side passage needs surveying.

Ghost Lake has 60m of swimming or lined

walking / wading on the right hand wall that leads to *Mega Hall* - a large, boulder-floored chamber and then, straightforwardly to the main, large river passage which ends at the downstream end of Sump 1 after 120m. Up on the north side of the passage, just before the sump, a dig was started at Easter 2017 to possibly bypass the sump. This is *Broken Knee Dig* (batch 0048-17-02) and progress is difficult having to excavate clarty clay. The sump descends to 8m and is 30m long, emerging in Cueva-Cubio de la Reñada 2 (described next and on the [Torca de Azpilicueta](#) page).

This point is downstream of the pitch into *Giga Hall* which leads to the impressive 20m diameter sump 1 pool and chamber. Upstream 200m of large vadose canyon (The *Rub-a-Dub Dubs*) can be followed. The stream emerges from a passage on the left which sumps after 60m. This was dived in August 2002 in a large, continuing, unsurveyed passage heading west for about 70m. This sump was dived at Easter 2011 by Rupert Skorupka who passed Mark's limit to reach 150m and 15m depth in a gently descending, 4 - 5m wide tunnel. At the end, the roof was not visible. ([Survey](#)) There appears to be much less water in *Squirrel's Passage* in Reñada than in the *Rub-a-Dub Dubs*.

A high level series can be entered on the same line as the vadose trench, by climbing up a boulder slope. A 10m wide breakdown passage ends in boulders while a 1.5m diameter tube in the left hand wall gives access to an unsurveyed phreatic maze in which an unexplored 20m aven is seen with passages leading off at various levels.

Back at the boulder slope, a 3m climb to the south enters another maze of phreatic passages which have been surveyed for 125m to a 20m undescended pit. This is thought to be the aven seen in the first maze.

There are two possible upstream sumps. One in the lake itself and a second at the start of the active streamway. (NEIL'S BIT above).

The *Ghost Lake* to sump 1 section was resurveyed in 2001 and about 135m of "new" passage was added. This requires a description. At Christmas 2001, passage found in November on the true left just before Bootlace Passage was surveyed to give another 113m. This was described as a "pitch / aven inlet some 30m+ high and may be worth bolting. In the large chamber beyond there may be a route over boulders to glory (could require scaffolding)". This *Itchy Crutch* area was subsequently dropped into down a 138m pitch from [Torca de Papá Noel](#) in the summer of 2003. The "route over boulders" was bolted up into a bouldery chamber in July 2019. Etriers were used to keep away from the boulders to reach a large chamber full of house-size boulders. A small passage can be climbed to reached the roof (boulder) level but no way on could be found. The extension (batch 0048-19-04; length 46m) finishes very close to [Papa Noel 1471](#). ([Photos](#))

Bootlace Passage is entered via a 5m pitch and starts as a high rift passage on the left of the main route between *Ghost Lake* and *Mega Hall*. A climb through boulders enters a large chamber with boulder climbs of 60m vertical which could still be pushed??? The rift passage ends at a 17m pitch into *Two Sumps Chamber* with water rising and sinking in sumps.

In 1997 Fred Winstanley dived the sump at the end of the flood overflow passage. The passage slopes down over rubble and, at 7m depth enters a rift passage which continues for some 60m to a junction. Left here leads to 70m of rising passage which surfaces. After 60m the passage enters the main route near *Ghost Lake*. The passage to the right at the junction seems to be the main way on. It would be easier to kit up from the main chamber rather than at the bottom of *Two Sumps Chamber*. The total length of sump passage is about 180m and is called *Busman's Holiday*.

Opposite the *Two Sumps Chamber* pitch head is a black hole which is the route through to [Torca de Coterón](#). A tricky traverse on the right ends at a bolt where a ladder can be dropped down onto boulders. The route is then straightforward in typical breakdown style with the odd side passage. Two hundred and fifty metres from the traverse a dangerous dig enters a more complex area. To the right, chossy passages and chambers close in under 300m of limestone; to the left, dusty passage heads

north to a junction, then east to a narrow passage rising up to join the *Candy Floss Series* in Torca de Coterón.

By continuing north at the junction, an incompletely explored maze and more dry passages lead to a chamber with a pitch and a one bolt climb to : Rest of account from 1984-1985 needed here.

Bootlace links with *Frank's Passage* 1987

Notenboom in *Research on the Groundwater Fauna of Spain: List of Stations and First Results* (Notenboom J and Meijers I, 1985) gives a list of fauna, collected from the river and from a pool at the start of Crowbar Passage: *Pseudoniphargus*, *Haploginglymus*, *Echinogammarus/Gammarus*, *Cantabroniscus*, *Cyclopoidea*, *Prosobranchia/Hydrobioidea*, *Pulmonata / Basommatophora*, *Insecta*, *Oligochaeta*, *Asellidae* and *Turbellaria*.

[Biological sampling](#) was undertaken as part of a research project at Easter 2014.

Over Easter 2018, the [Matienzo Karst Entomology Project](#) (led by Tom Thompson) followed up previous work by collecting bugs, spot sampling and setting pitfall traps in a number of sites under a Cantabria-wide permit. The Entomology Project carried out some work in this cave. Traps were retrieved and spot sampling was carried out over Easter 2019. Photos were also taken.

Various bats were noted by Jess Eades near the top entrance in April 2019: greater horseshoe, lesser horseshoe, Natterer's bat and an unidentified bat. In early August, 2023, a greater horseshoe bat was seen in an alcove near the top entrance and another, unidentified, at Easter 2024.

On the day of Chris and Carol's wedding in August 2018, the groom and a number of guests had a time-constrained trip to the *Stuffed Monk* area of the cave. ([Photos by Phil Papard](#))

The [speleo club Viana](#) (from Guadalajara) have published a number of documents (descriptions & surveys, including gpx, pdf and jpg files) relating to the system. See their [Cantabria page](#) and the *Zona de Matienzo* section.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#) (survey); [anon., 1974b](#) (logbook); [Cope J, 1974](#); [anon., 1974a](#) (survey and photo); [Cox G, 1973](#); [Fernández Gutiérrez J C, 1975](#); [anon., 1975b](#) (Easter and summer logbooks); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#) (survey and photo); [anon., 1977b](#) (logbook); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#) (survey); [anon., 1980a](#) (logbook); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J, 1980](#); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981](#) (survey and photo); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1981a](#) (logbook); [Corrin J et al, 1981a](#) (survey); [Corrin J, 1981](#) (survey); [anon., 1982](#) (logbook); [Addis F, 1982](#) (survey); [Smith P, 1982b](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#) (photo); [anon., 1983b](#) (logbook); [Corrin J, 1983b](#) (survey); [anon., 1984](#) (logbook); [Cawthorne Bob, 1985b](#); [Cawthorne B, 1985a](#); [Barrington P and Hanson D, 1984](#); [Corrin J, 1983a](#) (survey); [anon., 1985b](#) (logbook); [Corrin J, 1986](#) (survey); [anon., 1986](#) (logbook); [Corrin J, 1987](#); material in file; [anon., 1987](#) (logbook); [Garcia J L, 1987](#); [anon., 1988](#) (logbook); [Notenboom J and Meijers I, 1985](#); [Corrin J and Knights S, 1988](#); [anon., 1989](#) (logbook); [Corrin J, 1992a](#) (survey); [Cawthorne B, 1992](#); [Corrin J, 1992b](#) (survey); [anon., 1993b](#) (logbook); [Neill Alasdair and Jackson Keith, 1993](#); [Cawthorne R, 1993](#); [Corrin J, 1994a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995b](#); [anon., 1994b](#) (logbook); [Neill A, 1994](#); [Corrin J, 1994b](#) (survey and photo); [Fernández Acebo Virgilio, 1995](#); [anon., 1995a](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 1995c](#) (logbook); [Corrin Juan, 1995a](#); [anon., 1996b](#) (logbook); [Corrin Juan, 1997a](#) (survey); [Corrin Juan, 1997b](#); [anon., 1997b](#) (logbook); [Corrin Juan, 1998](#); [Fernández Ortega F, Valls Uriol and Maria del Carmen, 1998](#) (photo); [anon., 1998d](#) (logbook); [García José León, 1997](#) (survey); [Corrin Juan, 1997c](#); [anon., 1999c](#) (logbook); [anon., 2001c](#) (Summer logbook); [anon., 2001e](#) (autumn logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2001a](#); [anon., 2002e](#) (February logbook); [anon., 2002a](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2002b](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2003b](#) (Easter logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2003a](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#) (photo); [anon., 2003c](#) (summer logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2003c](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#); [anon., 2005b](#) (Easter & summer); [Corrin Juan, 2006a](#); [anon., 2006d](#) (summer logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2007](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#) (photo); [anon., 2008f](#) (autumn logbook); [anon., 2009a](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2010c](#) (summer logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2010](#); [León García José, 2010](#) (Volume 1 and Volume 2) (line survey section and photos); [Smith Pete, 2011](#); [Corrin Juan, 2011](#); [anon., 2011b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2011c](#) (Whit logbook); [anon., 2011d](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2012b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2012d](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2012e](#) (autumn logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2013a](#); [anon., 2013b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2013d](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2014b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2014c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2014d](#) (autumn logbook); [Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014](#); [anon., 2015b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2015c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2015d](#) (autumn logbook); [anon.,](#)

2016b (Easter logbook); anon., 2016c (summer logbook); Thomson Tom, 2016; anon., 2017a (January, February logbook); anon., 2017b (Easter logbook); anon., 2017c (summer logbook); anon., 2018b (Easter logbook); anon., 2018c (summer logbook); anon., 2019b (Easter logbook); anon., 2019d (summer logbook); anon., 2022a (January, February logbook); Scaife C, 2022; Corrin Juan, 2022; anon., 2022c (summer logbook); anon., 2023b (Easter logbook); anon., 2023c (summer logbook); anon., 2024a (January, February logbook); anon., 2024b (Easter logbook)

Many references in Azpilicueta also refer to 0048.

Entrance pictures : [marble plaque](#) : 2006, 2014 : 2014

Underground picture(s):

Pictures from around Stuffed Monk Passage and beyond, [summer 2023](#) : [pendants in Anastomoses Hall summer 2023](#)

Pictures from around Stuffed Monk Passage and beyond, Easter 2023: [batch 1](#), [batch 2](#)

Pictures from [around Stuffed Monk and Blood Alley \(summer 2021\)](#)

[Stuffed Monk Gallery Entrance passage Near Stuffed Monk](#)

Pictures from [Boulder hall, Itchy Crutch Series \(summer 2019\)](#)

Mainly [formations in the entrance series, Easter 2019](#) : Mainly [pictures of bats near the top entrance, Easter 2019](#)

Pictures from [the entrance series, including the Entomology Project in action \(April 2018\)](#)

[Infrared pictures at the entrances and in the cave. \(August 2017\)](#)

Pictures from the [Cave Monitoring Conference "Sporting Trip" \(Easter 2017\)](#)

Pictures of [Crowbar Passage & misc. and Broken Knee Dig above sump 1 \(Easter 2017\)](#)

Pictures of the [wall climb in the entrance off station 36 \(Easter 2017\)](#)

Pictures of [family trips, bottom to top entrance \(Easter 2017\)](#)

Pictures from [the entrance passages \(January 2017\)](#)

Pictures from [activities over the summer 2015](#)

Pictures from [the top entrance, various entrance series climbs and misc pictures \(Easter 2015\)](#)

Pictures from [the OBA Leucophor water tracing from Cueva Vallina \(Easter 2015\)](#)

Pictures from [entrance series through to Sanatogen Passage \(autumn 2014\)](#)

Pictures from [entrance series \(summer 2014\)](#)

Pictures from [entrance series \(Easter 2014\)](#)

Pictures from [D3 series \(summer 2013\)](#)

Pictures from [entrance series \(summer 2012\)](#)

Pictures from [Squirrel's Passage upstream dive \(summer 2011\)](#)

Pictures from the [entrance passages to Stuffed Monk area \(summer 2011\)](#)

Pictures from the [sump 1 area \(Easter 2011\)](#)

Pictures from [entrance passages \(2011 February\)](#)

Pictures from [near Eagle Passage and the Blow Hole \(autumn 2008\)](#)

Pictures showing the [obliteration with mud of the Blood Alley formations](#) and other issues (autumn 2008 and pictures from the 1970's)

Pictures from the [summer, 2008](#) by Mandy Fu and Mike Topsom

Pictures from the [2006 explorations up Astronomoses Aven](#) through to Floorless Chamber in Papá Noel

Pictures from the [entrance passages of Reñada](#) by Andy Morse

Pictures in [Reñada up to Stuffed Monk](#) by Jonas Binladen

Pictures in the [Moat of Doom](#), below Castle Hall by Pete Smith

Pictures ([scanned slides](#)) from John Forder

Pictures (scanned slides) [taken in 1977, 1980 and 1982](#) by Frank Addis

Videos: [Listed on a separate page](#) (latest - summer 2017, 2022, 2023)

Detailed Surveys :

1965	known cave	low res	high res
1974	Original 1974 survey		high res
1974	Original 1974 survey with Cabaña (N top)		high res
1974	Original 1974 survey with Cabaña		high res
1975	Reñada 2	low res	high res
1981	Bootlace Passage	low res	high res
1981	known cave (simplified)	low res	high res
1982	photo 1982 SVS 1:2000 survey	low res	
from rescue site	simplified Azpilicueta, Reñada, Coteron	low res	high res
2010	Dave Ryall 2009 dive and inlet		pdf file
2011	Terry Whitaker SVS hydrology		pdf file
2012	Squirrel's Passage area survey		pdf file
2012	Squirrel's Passage area survey		jpg file
2012 after summer	Squirrel's Passage area survey		pdf file
2013 after summer	Squirrel's Passage area survey		pdf file
2014 Easter	Squirrel's Passage upstream survey		jpg file
2014 autumn	Entrance series resurvey		pdf file
2015 Easter	Entrance series resurvey batch 0048_15_05		pdf file
2015 Easter	Entrance series resurvey + Zeppelin part		pdf file
2015 summer	More resurvey incl W & N Stuffed Monk		pdf file
2015 autumn	More resurvey + N heading ext in Comell.		pdf file
2016 Easter	More resurvey + Comellantes		pdf file
2017 Easter	New & more resurvey (17-01 - 17-03)		pdf file
2018 summer	<i>Itchy Crutch</i> (2001) drawn up; corrections		pdf file
2019 after	Zeppelin Hangers survey		pdf file

summer (19-01 - 03)
Itchy Crutch extension
(19-04)

2021 after summer Blood Alley (21-01) [pdf file](#)

On area survey : [South Vega System](#) line survey :
[On scanned 1982 South Vega System survey](#)
Survex file : [download South Vega System](#) (incl
2019 summer, to be updated) : [standalone survey](#)
[including summer 2021](#) (Amended magnetic
declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid
and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April
2014. Also includes the 'correct' entry point to
Anastomoses Hall and connection up to Papa Noel) :
[Breakdown Chamber/D3 area/Squirrel's Passage](#)
[2013](#) (some parts not yet teased out into the main
survey)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#) :
[South Vega System](#) (30/6/2018)

X

0049: Somo, Torca del (2808

(French: SCD)

S Vega 30T 450888 4793881 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 670m

Length 139m **Depth** 77m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)
[search](#)

Updated 8th November 2003; 14th May

2015; 17th June, 14th November 2022

The entrance is a 15m pitch over some precariously poised boulders to a ledge. Pitches of 9 and 7m then follow immediately, landing on a scree slope which descends to a narrow passage on the right.

After 15m and a couple of short climbs, the narrow and sharply fretted head of a 23m pitch is reached.

A 10m deep hole from the final chamber chokes, as does a large, rising boulder slope.

References: [anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#); [Cope J et al, 1976 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#);

[Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#)

(survey); material in file; [Simonnot G, 2022](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1976: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [reconstructed from 1976 survey](#)

X

0050: Serruco, Torca del

S Vega 30T 450492 4794701 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 490m

Length 316m **Depth** 61m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)
[search](#)

Updated 19th May; 14th October 2003; 15th

May 2005; 1st February 2006; 20th

December 2008; 12th September 2014; 8th

January 2020; 9th May 2023

Large entrance chamber is hidden behind a large limestone block at the base of a small cliff. The floor slopes away to the head of a choked pitch. Draughts out. Entrance sprayed.

This site is a classic example of rushed exploration back in the seventies; the minimalist description of a 55m choked pitch was the (inaccurately measured) obvious vertical descent; full exploration and survey was only started in 2003. (There is also an unexplored shaft [site 2260](#) 20m to the northwest).

Behind the entrance block is a slippery slope down to the head of the main drop. A hand line is required for safety. To the right (west) of the pitch is a 3 - 4m high and wide passage beyond boulders that rises and falls past the entrance of [site 341](#) to end at a mud and calcite choke some 45m to the west.

The eastern continuation is smaller, and stooping progress stops at a bouldery drop with a hole on the other side. Explored in the summer 2003, a traverse over the drops entered a well decorated passage, 4 to 5m wide. This is nicely decorated with gours, crystal pools and cracked mud floor.

Through a squeeze, the passage develops into a rift ending at a calcite choke. The truncated passage may be associated with sites [1382](#), [1383](#) or [2234](#). The holes beneath the traverse were also explored at the same time: the northern hole is blind and become small about 10m down. (This was re-explored and surveyed in the summer 2014. It is described as a 12m drop onto a calcited floor with a tight slope down to a tight triangular rift passage. This is blocked at the base by a few calcite flakes needing a lump hammer and a "flexible team member".) A hole on the south side is a 10m pitch to large passage and another

pitch of 10m to a visual connection with the SRT route down.

The 2003 route to the bottom is down a small hole at the start of the eastern passage. This slimy route descends about 3m to a straight 20m drop to a bouldery ledge. A further 10m drop lands at a pool. The main chamber slopes steeply to a hole in an excavated boulder choke. An awkward 7m pitch drops into a small chamber with various tight tubes which are all too small. The draught is felt coming from a tight vadose passage.

At the top of the main boulder slope, in the opposite direction, thrown rocks rumble for a few seconds. This was explored in the summer down an excavated narrow, bouldery rift that dropped into a mud-floored "chamber". Climbs in the rift could not be passed. There is the tantalising sound of water falling in the distance.

Substantial pieces of prehistoric pottery were found on the slope up to 341 entrance. When excavated they were found to have carbon adhering the internal face and two pieces were decorated with characteristic "mamelones", protrusions or nipples, also seen on the pottery found in [site 2139](#). A drawing from *Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p134* is found [here](#).

Reference [Smith P et al, 2015](#) has a summary of the archaeological work carried out within 2004 - 2016.

References: [Corrin J et al, 1978](#); [anon., 1977b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1978 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1990b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008 \(photo, survey and drawing\)](#); [anon., 2014c \(summer logbook\)](#); [Smith P et al, 2015](#); [anon., 2023b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [entrance slope](#) : [March 2023](#)

Underground videos: [entrance slope](#) [Attempting to descend the 1977 ladder pitch with SRT](#)

[The area of the prehistoric pottery](#) [The prehistoric pottery *in situ* below the entry of site 341](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500 \(Easter 2003\)](#) : [1:500 \(Summer 2003\)](#) : [1:500 \(summer 2014\)](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (summer 2014) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0051: Beralta, Torca de

S Vega 30T 451970 4794228 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 610m

Length 88m **Depth** 50m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 13 February 1998; 7th October 2001; 8th April 2002; 14th October 2003; 1st February 2006

The entrance is in a deep shakehole on level ground near the top of Beralta. A single shaft with a small amount of passage at the bottom.

A re-exploration and full survey was carried out in the summer of 2003.

The hole is a collapse into an old passage and the higher level must be cut off in both directions due to the slope of the hill.

A slide down the entrance slope lands on a flat floor with a choked cave to the south west and a slope to the main pitch to the north east. Over the pitch is the

continuation of the cave which has not been entered but which must soon be cut off by the hill slope.

A traverse to the right (south) down a boulder slope for 6m meets 2 bolts (nuts in place) for a 12m pitch to a big boulder and ledge: the rope is hung on the right to avoid any rock falls.

The next pitch is a free 25m shaft behind a flake that gives protection from rocks above. The small passage that takes water at the bottom is full of boulders with no gaps of any depth. An inlet rift was surveyed for some 20m to where it became too tight.

This has an inward draught in the summer; capping would be a long job.

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1997b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0052: Muesa, Torca de (Bornea, Cueva) (2004 (French: SCD))

Arredondo 30T 451306 4793406 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 560m

Length 120m **Depth** 36m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 11th May 2002; 2nd November 2004; 9th February 2016; 21st September 2018; 14th November 2022

The entrance lies about 350m northwest of the El Castro summit. A 7.5m entrance pitch, rigged from the lip on the south side, drops into a large, descending, 100m x 30m chamber with formations. The Spéléo-Club de Dijon have also explored the site (August 1988) and named it Cueva Bornea (SCD2004); the local name is Muesa.

The cave is apparently developed along the fault seen in [site 1745](#), Torca de Portillero de Tocornal. The smaller passage marked on the French survey may be worth digging. The cave may have been extended in 2004 through a decorated crawl for 10m just to the east of that passage.

The 36m depth is from the top of the depression, according to the French survey, although the British one shows a depth of 45m.

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [Degouve de Nuncques Patrick et Simonnot Guy, 1989 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2006](#); [Simonnot G, 2016](#); [Simonnot G, 2018](#); [Simonnot G, 2022](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Video: [descent of entrance pitch](#) [main chamber decorated crawl](#) [ascending entrance pitch](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#) (British: this is 180deg out and requires altering) [plan and section](#) (French)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0053: Roca, Sima de la

S Vega 30T 451978 4794771 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 467m

Length 40m **Depth** 40m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 12th September 2014; 30th April 2018

Entrance lies by a prominent rock next to the track. A 15m pitch lands on a slope to the head of the second 15m pitch. This is choked with flowstone. The site appears to be a rubbish dump, at least on the surface.

Reference: T4; [anon., 2018b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [2014 and 2018](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0054: Prado, Cueva de

S Vega 30T 451576 4794397 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 474m

Length 100m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 23rd October 2009; 12th September 2014

In a wooded shakehole in the middle of a field. A boulder slope leads down to a climb into a chamber. A low passage on the right has a crawl to a choke downstream and an aven upstream. A high level passage reached by a 3m climb from the chamber leads to a crawl which was dug to an aven with a possible passage at the top, and a further passage becoming too tight.

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1992a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground pictures: [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [yes](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0055: Junquera, Torca de

(Avellano, Torca de)

Seldesuto 30T 449518 4793860 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 474m

Length 150m **Depth** 43m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 10th June 2001; 8th November 2003

An easy free climb on the right or a five metre ladder climb leads to a steeply sloping rubble heap. A 7.6m pitch follows and a steeply inclined bedding passage leads to a 7.3m pitch. Passage then lowers to a strongly draughting 4cm airspace over water.

The cave was extended in 1995 through 20m of passage where it is impossible to turn round to a 10cm high passage over silt with a fair draught but not much chance of digging.

The entrance marked with yellow tape and a chiselled "A".

References: [anon., 1979 \(logbook\)](#); [Addis F et al, 1979 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001b \(Whit logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1979: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination

December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and

coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0056: Salamandra, Torca de la (Salamander Pot)

Seldesuto 30T 449898 4794491 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [U](#)) **Altitude** 400m

Length 50m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 9th May 2023

Two pitches of 5m and 3m lead to a slope of boulders and a squeeze through to a walking sized passage that is soon halted by a boulder choke.

When searched for in April 2023, the probable entrance depression was found to be filled-in with sawn tree trunks. It was thought a tirfor would be required to remove them.

References: [anon., 1979 \(logbook\)](#); [Addis F et al, 1979](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2023b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [April 2023](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0057: Omoplato, Torca del

Arredondo 30T 448698 4792791 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [U](#)) **Altitude** 465m

Length 25m **Depth** 25m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 21st September 2018

A 7m drop is followed by a 12m pitch that lands in a choked chamber with a very tight continuation.

References: [anon., 1979 \(logbook\)](#); [Addis F et al, 1979](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0058: ABI, Cueva del

El Naso 30T 451158 4796631 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 467m

Length 60m **Depth** 17m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 11th November 2000; 14th April

2002

A strongly draughting, very tight squeeze leads to a large, steeply descending, boulder-floored chamber with a short drop at the end. Marked 563A.

References: [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#)

Entrance picture : [entrance slot](#) [in depression](#)

[distant view](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination

December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and

coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0059: Molino, Cueva del (Agua, Cueva del) (Guzmartín, Pozo de)

El Naso 30T 451516 4796028 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 165m

Length 2055m (including the length of the

resurgence dive [87m]) **Depth** 12m

Updated 19th February 1999; 3rd January, 26th October , 12th November 2001; 7th June, 11th November 2002; 14th October, 8th, 26th November 2003; 21st November 2004; 8th November 2006; 25th February, 27th September, 28th October 2007; 26th September , 20th December 2008; 29th October 2009; 6th January, 4th November 2011; 19th, 24th September 2012; 7th September 2013; 13th September 2014; 16th May 2015; 9th February, 14th October 2016; 1st, 30th June 2018; 11th May 2019; 3rd September 2021; 6th March, 4th September 2022; 9th May 2023; 6th, 19th January, 15th February, 18th September 2024

The sink for all of the water in the Vega branch of the depression. The cave provides an interesting wet trip.

An [impressive entrance](#) at the end of the stream bed leads to a large, [rock-strewn chamber](#) at the end of which the water is met. The remainder of the main line cave is sporting stream passage - a mixture of wading, clambering and swimming in large passage. At the cascades, a high rift passage leads off for 60m with calcite flowers on the floor. The large sump pool at the end of the main passage has been dived through to [La Cueva \(248\)](#), the resurgence.

On the left of the first lake, 200m from the entrance, is a strongly draughting inlet which has been followed for some 600m until it becomes rather small. In 1991 this was extended by some 45m but is impassable. This lies under [Cueva de Rascavieja \(077\)](#) and is heading towards [Torca del Mostajo \(071\)](#).

Just upstream of the sump on the right, are two calcite ramps with fine, coloured formations. One of these holds a deep, blue pool which was dived in October 2002, but led nowhere. Another viewing in 2012 took "poor pictures". A better record of this feature can be seen [here](#).

Just after the 3rd lake, on the left, is a 4m climb to a series of small passages, *Snails Pace Passage*, which rise some 20m above the stream, contains excellent formations and ends too tight or in chambers. The floor is covered in white snail shells, many calcited in, and the river can be heard through a hole in the floor.

At the end of the cave, the left hand ramp contains a puzzling low wall, on which a stalagmite has formed. This, presumably, is the "prehistoric alter" referred to in the Plymouth accounts. There is a discussion, photo and [drawing](#) in *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001*. [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#) has a photo (page 95) and the stal covering the stones has been dated to 10.9 - 35ka BP.

Ortiz in *Algunos crustaceos y miriapodas cavernícolas de la Region de Matienzo, Santander* (Ortiz E, 1968) records two species, *Lithobius derouetae* Demange and *Gammarus berilloni* Catta, while Notenboom in *Research on the Groundwater Fauna of Spain: List of Stations and First Results* (Notenboom J and Meijers I, 1985) includes *Cyclopoidea* and *Insecta*, collected at the start of the *Ríotuerto Inlet*.

In late July 2013, signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) were seen in the cave. Signal crayfish were also observed in [Cueva de Jivero 2](#) in mid August. The signal crayfish in Cueva del Agua were reported to the Medio Ambiente in Ramales; this was before the specimens in Jivero were seen.

Cavers from Barcelona found a mammoth molar (*Elaphas primigenius*) in the river passage near the large ramp.

[A small decorated copper plate or plaque](#) (discussed in *Fernández Ibáñez Carmelo, 2001*) and small fragments of pottery were found in the first chamber, to the right of the river. A level with flints also exists under the calcite floor in the same chamber.

Samples of stalagmite were removed from the cave for dating in 1993. According to Openshaw (reference DK), only one of the stals were of use for studies of [palaeosecular variation](#), comparing well with a UK lake sediment master curve. This gave a date of 35ka for a stal 25cm above the stream, indicating rather slow down-cutting.

To the right of the first chamber, a small passage is reached up a short climb.

Sections of the roof and left hand wall are

composed of a 3 - 4m(?) thick calcited bone and rubble breccia which will prove interesting if dated and the bones identified. It has been suggested that these deposits may be the remains of an ancient hyena den, in use for a long time. After 25m this passage emerges on the surface. Down to the left, a hole drops into 25m of low, dank, choked passage with anastomoses. This area needs surveying.

Some other small pieces of pottery were recovered in 2007 high on the right wall, above the bone breccia passage. These can be seen [here](#).

A programme of water hardness data sampling ([photo](#)) was started in October 96. What were the results?

At the end of summer 2006 and into October, the river was sinking 50m upstream of the entrance. The pools on the left of the boulders just inside the cave entrance were completely dry and the water was first seen at the back of the entrance chamber, at the 1st "lake". It appears that the river has (re)opened a low level route and / or water abstraction at [Cueva del Comellantes](#) has caused less water to reach Cueva del Agua. Earlier in the summer the water had been filtering away in the river bed about 100m downstream of the Comellantes resurgence. (This point is [site 2755](#)).

Members of the [Matienzo Karst Entomology Project](#) carried out spot sampling over Easter 2019 and took photos around the entrance chamber.

The ashes of Lea Ruth Ziebold , who lived in Santander and San Antonio, and was a friend of MCP members, were scattered onto the water in the first chamber on May 9th, 2015.

On August 15th, 2021 the area around the entrance and the first chamber were used as backdrop to a TVE recording about the risks to caves from proposed windfarms. Members of the FCE and Pete Smith were interviewed, with the piece being broadcast on Cantabrian and national TV. ([Interviews start at 8:33 in the Cantabrian News.](#)) ([Photos in video](#))

In April 2023 some searching was carried out in the main chamber for evidence of bats but stronger lights are required. (See underground photos below.)

A water trace from a sink in the Cubjia valley (near [Regatón](#)) was carried out in February 2024.. Detectors in Rioturto Inlet and [Fuente el Escalón](#) (Penny's Cave) all proved negative.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: Puig et al, 1896; [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#) (survey and photo); [Beardmore W and Lenartowitz S, 1972](#); [anon., 1974b](#) (logbook); [anon., 1974a](#); [Cox G, 1973](#); [Fernández Gutiérrez J C, 1975](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#) (survey); [anon., 1975b](#) (Easter and summer logbooks); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [anon., 1976](#) (logbook); [Ullastre-Martorell J, 1975](#) (survey and photo); [Smith P, 1985](#); [anon., 1977b](#) (logbook); [anon., 1979](#) (logbook); [anon., 1980a](#) (logbook); [Mills L D J, 1981](#) (photo); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981](#) (survey); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Smith P, 1981b](#) (survey); [anon., 1981a](#) (logbook); [anon., 1983b](#) (logbook); [Cawthorne B, 1984](#); [anon., 1985a](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 1985b](#) (logbook); [anon., 1986](#) (logbook); material in file; [Cawthorne R, 1987](#); [Garcia J L, 1987](#); [Ortiz E, 1968](#); [Notenboom J and Meijers I, 1985](#); [anon., 1988](#) (logbook); [Cawthorne B and Neill A, 1990](#); [Cawthorne Bob et al, 1988](#); [anon., 1989](#) (logbook); [Neill A et al, 1989](#); [anon., 1991](#) (logbook); [Neill Ali, 1991](#); [Corrin J, 1992a](#); [anon., 1992b](#) (logbook); [Corrin J, 1992b](#) (survey); [anon., 1993b](#) (logbook); [Neill Alasdair and Jackson Keith, 1993](#); [Corrin J, 1994a](#); [Openshaw S et al, 1993](#); [Muñoz E and Bermejo A, 1987](#); [Corrin J, 1994b](#) (survey); [anon., 1995b](#) (Whit logbook); [Openshaw S, 1996](#) (survey); [anon., 1996c](#) (Christmas logbook); [Corrin Juan, 1997a](#); [anon., 1997d](#) (Autumn logbook); [anon., 1997b](#) (logbook); [García José León, 1997](#) (survey and photo); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [anon., 2000c](#) (Summer logbook); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#) (includes photo of wall with survey); [Fernández Ibáñez Carmelo, 2001](#) (includes drawing of brooch); [anon., 2002c](#) (autumn logbook); [anon., 2003](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2006e](#) (autumn logbook); [anon., 2007a](#) (February logbook); [anon., 2007d](#) (summer logbook); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [anon., 2008e](#) (summer logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2009](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#); [León García José, 2010](#) (Volume 1 and Volume 2) (survey and photos); [anon., 2011e](#) (autumn logbook); [anon., 2012d](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2013b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2013d](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2014c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2015b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2016a](#) (January, February logbook); [anon., 2016c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2017c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2019b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2022c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2023b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2023e](#) (Christmas logbook); [anon., 2024a](#) (January, February logbook); [anon., 2024b](#)

(Easter logbook); anon., 2024d (summer logbook)
Entrance pictures : From a distance : At the entrance : Entrance in winter showing the mill race wall

In severe flood : In moderate flood from above : Second, smaller entrance to the east : upstream of entrance : Easter 2013 & January 2016

summer 2016 : 360° photos (JC) - distant 1 distant 2 close up 1 close up 2 (help file) : Easter 2023

Underground picture(s): Pictures from 1975 and 1980 : Placing water hardness detector : Looking out to the entrance : entrance in moderate water conditions

entrance in moderate flood : entrance chamber, 2006 : cave life and general : pictures from ISSA : bone and rubble breccia area (2007) : pottery 2007

entrance chamber formations, 2008 : miscellaneous 2009 : entrance chamber 2011 : entrance chamber and bone, Easter 2013

main passage and ramps, summer 2013 : Signal crayfish, summer 2013 : stream passage and calcite, summer 2014 : entrance chamber January 2016

summer 2016 : stream and Snail's Pace Passage

2018 : around the entrance chamber, Easter 2019 : Searching for bats, April 2023 : entrance chamber, December 2023 : entrance chamber summer 2024

Video: stream passage 2009 10Mb (Alex Ritchie) : video camera and lights trial in entrance chamber, 2011

American crayfish, summer 2013 : TVE Interviews around entrance, August 2021;

Detailed Survey :

1966 known cave low res high res

1967 known cave low res high res

1974 detailed survey high res

1975 on area survey low res high res

Line Survey :

Survex file : yes (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: 30/6/2018

X

0060: Arnilla, Torca de

N Vega 30T 449925 4795941 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 240m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 14th June 2008; 3rd May 2009

A choked shaft just inside the wood.

References: [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2008d \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : yes

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0061: Asiul, Cueva de

El Naso 30T 451829 4796122 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 285m

Length 95m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#) : [A Google search for this site \(Asiul, Cueva de+El Naso\)](#)

Updated 6th November 2003, 27th

September, 18th November 2007; 25th

June 2010; 26th February 2013; 3rd

January, 22nd June, 13th September, 9th

November 2015; 27th April 2016; 20th May,

18th November 2017; 5th January 2018;

8th January 2020

The walk-down entrance is below and to the east of a large limestone boulder. A well decorated, roomy passage ends at a flowstone blockage. To the right of the entrance chamber is a crawl into a low space with a pool.

At the end of the cave, down to the right, is a low alcove with some [charred bones](#) with possible implement marks. On the floor throughout the cave are numerous charcoal deposits and there are a couple of [charcoal marks](#) on the wall above head height in the entrance passage.

On a visit in November 2007 a [Herald moth](#) was seen hibernating on a wall of possible barite crystals.

The cave is named after the wife of JCFG (Luisa, backwards).

In April 2010, Lancaster University student Andi Smith under Dr Peter Wynn and Prof Phil Barker (Lancaster University) and Prof Melanie Leng and Dr Steve Noble (British Geological Survey) started a programme of cave monitoring to characterise cave microclimate (specifically temperature, humidity and carbon dioxide). Drip rate monitors have been installed to understand the nature of the hydrological system feeding the speleothem formations along with a rain gauge above. ([Video on YouTube](#)). These studies have resulted in a very complete and high resolution record for climate change in the area.

Andi has completed a PhD thesis: *Speleothem Climate Capture - A Holocene*

Reconstruction of Northern Iberian Climate and Environmental Change which challenges current understanding of North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) dynamics and the exact timing of initial NAO development. Further details are found through the [Matienzo Caves Project Science pages](#) along with details of another paper, *Drip water electrical conductivity as an indicator of cave ventilation at the event scale*, published in mid-2015 and *Cave monitoring and the potential for palaeoclimate reconstruction from Cueva de Asiul, Cantabria (N. Spain)*, published in the International Journal of Speleology, January 2016.

In April 2016, Andi Smith had another paper published about the paleoclimate work in Cueva Asiul. This one is in [nature.com/scientific reports](http://www.nature.com/scientificreports) (<http://www.nature.com/srep/2016/160420/srep24745/full/srep24745.html>) where it can be viewed online or downloaded as a pdf. (Matienzo C P [pdf copy](#) with [supplementary material](#).)

A radon detector was left in the cave in the new year, 2013, but there were problems with the device.

A new survey of the cave was carried out in September 2017: the centre line and survey are linked below.

Reference [Smith P et al, 2015](#) has a summary of the climate work carried out.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1975b \(Easter and summer logbooks\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2007d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2007e \(autumn + Christmas logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [Smith A, Wynn PM and Barker P, 2013](#); [Smith Andrew C et al, 2014](#); [Smith Andrew C, 2015](#); [Smith A, Wynn Peter M y Barker P, 2016](#); [Smith A C et al, 2016 \(pdf + supplement\)](#); [Smith P et al, 2015](#);

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [summer 2007](#) : [autumn 2007](#) : [Easter 2017](#)

Video: [Initial setup of science equipment, April 2010 \(YouTube\)](#) : [Visit, summer 2015 \(YouTube\)](#)

Detailed Survey : [from 1963: low res](#) [high res](#) :

[from 2017 pdf](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file : [September 2017](#)

X

0062: Babosa, Torca de la

La Secada 30T 450988 4797771 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 317m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A single, tight, slimy shaft which is choked with calcite.

References: [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0063: Bosmartín, Torca de la

Bosmartín 30T 450188 4797662 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 506m

Length 25m **Depth** 25m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 21st May 2003; 1st October 2010

The entrance pitch of 13m lands on a boulder slope which leads to an 8m pitch which chokes, as does a 6m alternative pitch to the right.

References: [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2003b \(Easter logbook\)](#);

[anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0064: Chova, Sima de la

El Naso 30T 452054 4796423 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 311m

Length 15m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th June 1998; 3rd December

2003; 23rd December 2004

Straight pitch to chamber.

References: Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975; Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981; anon., 1993b (logbook); anon., 2004f (Christmas logbook)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0065: Cofresnedo, Cueva de

El Naso 30T 452167 4796162 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 235m

Length 375m **Depth** 34m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Resources :](#)

[Logbook search](#) : [A Google search for this site](#)

(Cofresnedo, Cueva de+El Naso)

Updated 19th February 1999; 16th September , 31st December 2000; 3rd Feb, 7th, 27th October, 16th November 2001; 3rd, 8th, 15th June 2002; 18th January, 8th, 26th November 2003; 6th November 2005; 27th October 2007; 29th September, 20th December 2008; 16th May, 18th November 2009; 16th May, 10th November 2015; 23rd March, 14th October, 3rd December 2016; 8th January 2020; 4th September 2022; 29th November 2023

The cave was due to be gated early in 2001 and the steelwork was finally installed in December 2002. The gated entrance was vandalised in 2009 when part of the enclosing wall was knocked down. A trip to check on any internal damage also provided some photos. The cave is basically one large passage with plenty of calcite formations. It ends at a calcite slope that meets the roof.

The *Acanto* web site (by the *Federación de Asociaciones para la defensa del Patrimonio Cultural y Natural de Cantabria*) has a section on [Arte Rupestre esquemático-abstracto](#). Cofresnedo is one site with [some detail about the black marks](#), along with an interactive survey.

Cueva de Cofresnedo is one of the best archaeological cave sites in the "middle Asón" area and is the only one where some deposits can be ascribed with any certainty to the Lower Paleolithic. A cross section through an exterior excavation (from *Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p188*) can be seen [here](#).

The cave has the only Upper Palaeolithic remains of the Matienzo caves (*Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p53, p72*). Human remains (of 2 adults and 2 juveniles), pottery (742 fragments - minimum of 16 vessels), paintings and Iron Age artefacts have all been discovered. The cave contains some 40 [schematic-abstract paintings](#). *Smith Peter, 1998b* shows the positions and has sketches of these markings. They are further discussed in *Muñoz Emilio et al, 1995* and *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001*. There are also a number of [animal remains and wall scratchings](#). The pottery discovered has been compared with that discovered in [site 2139](#). (*Smith P, Corrin J and Ruiz Cobo J, 2008*). The same article dates the human remains to 3410±50 BP (c1700 BC) and 3000±60 BP (c1250 BC). (BP dates are radiocarbon dates; BC dates are date calibrated calendar years).

Among the important objects which have been found are a copper arrowhead, an iron dagger and axe, a decorated copper plate, a high-tin-content bronze bead, a copper nail, a punic glass bead, a bone bead, a copper-alloy object with two holes and pottery of the Brasada (or Brazada) type, making this cave one of the most important Iron Age sites in the north of Spain.

A Bronze Age bone punch (punzón) was excavated from the entrance chamber. ([Drawing](#) from *Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p119*). The volume also indicates that the cave, at that time, appears to have had dual use: as a burial site in the dark zone and as a habitat (not merely a refuge) in the daylight entrance chamber.

Small fragments of medieval pottery have also been found.

In 1994, a calcited straw or reed basket was described. This is near the end of the cave and is well trodden and half destroyed. Pablo Perez Vidiella took 3D photographs in the area of the basket in October 2015. (photo below). A [3d photogrammetry pdf](#) of the results can be viewed. (It requires Adobe Acrobat Reader DC to view it). Just beyond the basket, possible ancient barley was recognised in December 2003. It was reported in 2008 that the cereal grains had been dated to around the 1st century BC. It is feasible that the basket is of the same

age. Agricultural implements in the nearby [Cueva de Reyes](#) were also found to be Iron Age.

A mill stone is described as being similar to the one in [Cueva de la Orilla Mijeo](#). (*Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p138*)

As part of a major revision, a trial dig in the entrance by Spanish archaeologists (September 2000) has revealed an Upper Palaeolithic level with flints and animal bones. In the small alcove (G4) where the juvenile lower jaw was found, more teeth and bones have been found along with a couple of pieces of pottery. Human bone has been dated to around 3410BP - a factor in suggesting a Bronze Age burial. *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001* details all the finds and discusses the possible sequence of occupation. Pottery found in 1963-4 and 1980-1 is found [here](#). Flints from a Middle Palaeolithic level (*Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008*) are shown [here](#) and a set of flints from level 4.3 (Upper Palaeolithic) (*Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p74*) are found [here](#).

[Further work during 2001](#) has disclosed many remains; these will be displayed on-line in due course.

Ortiz describes several *Stenasellus cf. virei* Dollfus and a male *Lithobius sp.*

[Morlote Jose M et al, 1995](#) describes Cofresnedo as one of the Iron Age sepulchral caves in the area.

([Matienzo archaeology article](#)). Photos of some of the archaeological finds can be seen [here](#).

In June 2002, C14 dates for Cofresnedo were revealed (*pers comm 13/6/02*). "The Paleolithic deposit is about 31,000 BP or Aurignacian, and that's OK. The Mesolithic shell midden on the wall in the entrance is truly Mesolithic, but the bones in the chamber with the iron dagger are Bronze Age! That one's going to need some explaining away."

[Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#) has the results of the archaeological work carried out since 1996. This is a definitive work about the cave with many photos, line drawings and surveys. The book also puts the finds in the context of other caves and deposits in the area. *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009* compares "Orza" type pottery with other finds in the Asón region.

In October 2016, as part of [Laura Deepprose's PhD work](#), a section of a calcite layer was removed. Dates and climate data from this layer will possibly correlate with data from [Cueva de las Perlas](#) and shed light on the demise of the Neanderthals in the area.

Reference [Smith P et al, 2015](#) has a summary of the archaeological work, radiocarbon and thermoluminescence dates carried out within 2004 - 2016.

In the summer 2022, a laser 3D survey was carried out by a Spanish group.

A Spanish publication, [De Luis Mariño Susana et al, 2023](#), documents 2 pieces of decorated Iron Age pottery found on the Belén ledge.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#) (survey and photo); [Beardmore W and Lenartowitz S, 1972](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#) (survey); [Penil J et al, 1981](#); [Smith P, 1981c](#) (photo); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#) (survey); [Cox G, 1973](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981](#) (survey); [Smith P, 1981a](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [Smith P and Muñoz E, 1985](#) (survey); [anon., 1983b](#) (logbook); material in file; [Smith P, 1985](#) (survey and photo); [Pinto A and Canales F, 1985](#) (survey); [Smith P, 1983](#); [Ortiz E, 1968](#); [Muñoz E, 1988](#); [Smith P, 1988](#); [anon., 1993c](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 1993b](#) (logbook); [anon., 1994b](#) (logbook); [Neill A, 1994](#); [anon., 1995a](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 1995c](#) (logbook); [Morlote Jose M et al, 1995](#); [Muñoz Emilio et al, 1995](#); [Smith Peter, 1998b](#) (survey); [Smith Peter, 1998a](#) (photo); [Fernández Ortega F, Valls Uriol and Maria del Carmen, 1998](#) (photo); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [anon., 2000c](#) (Summer logbook); [anon., 2000d](#) (Xmas logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2001](#); [anon., 2001c](#) (Summer logbook); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#) (includes drawings, surveys and photos); [Fernández Ibáñez Carmelo, 2001](#) (includes dagger drawing); [Acanto web site](#); [pers comm \(email 13/6/02\)](#); [anon., 2002b](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2002d](#) (Christmas logbook); [Smith Peter, 2002](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003a](#) (photo); [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#) (photo); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#) (photos, line drawings and surveys); [Corrin Juan, 2003c](#); [González Luque Carlos, 2003](#); [Castaños Ugarte Pedro Ma, 2003](#); [anon., 2005b](#) (Easter & summer); [Corrin Juan, 2006a](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [anon., 2008e](#) (summer logbook); [Smith P, Corrin J and Ruiz Cobo J, 2008](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#) (drawings, photo and survey); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009](#); [Corrin Juan, 2013a](#); [Ruiz Cobo J and Muñoz Fernández E, 2013](#); [2015b](#) (Easter

logbook); [Smith P et al, 2015](#); [Smith Peter, 2016](#); [Smith Peter et al, 2016](#); [De Luis Mariño Susana et al, 2023](#)

Entrance picture : [misc](#) : [photos from Easter 2015](#)

Underground picture(s): [Families outing](#) : [Graffiti](#)
: [large passage at entrance](#) : [autumn 2009](#) :
[Photographing the basket, 2015](#)

various: [Excavated skull and scratches; gating the entrance, 2002](#); [red wall markings](#); [misc from 1983](#) :

[Laser 3D surveying Summer 2022](#)

Video: from the Cueva Aspicio project [studying the basket near the end](#) (YouTube, 2015)

Detailed Survey :

1965	known cave	low res	high res
------	------------	-------------------------	--------------------------

1975	known cave	low res	high res
------	------------	-------------------------	--------------------------

1975	on area map	low res	high res
------	-------------	-------------------------	--------------------------

Archaeological discoveries: [various pictures and links](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0066: Cruz Llorada, Torca de la

Coteron las Llanas 30T 450404 4797883 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 487m

Length 70m **Depth** 50m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated July 1998

An elliptical shaft with a hazel tree. A 23m deep, 15m diameter shaft leads to a boulder slope at the base of which is a small hole and the second pitch of 18m. A boulder floor slopes down to a possible dig. "Upstream" quickly chokes.

Marked 596 with orange tape.

References: [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [85/anon., 1998a](#) ([Easter logbook](#)); [Corrin Juan, 1999](#)

Entrance picture : [from the west](#) [from the north](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:200](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0067: Cubija, Torcón de

Cubija 30T 450188 4796571 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 233m

A surface survey has the entrance at ETRS89:

450290 4796571 Alt. 240m; GPS position is ETRS89:

4503208 4796609

Length 523m **Vertical range** +11 -20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th November 2003; 21st November 2004; 6th January 2011; 30th June 2018

The small entrance is in a large, steep sided shakehole which acts as a wet weather stream sink. A small passage leads to a 4m climb down and a squeeze into alternate walking and crawling. After an oxbow the passage enlarges and a route to the right ends in a muddy choke after 50m. The other direction leads to a chamber which carries a stream in wet weather. The stream bed can be followed to a small tube at the far end of the chamber. This ends at a nicely draughting pebble slope. This was dug through at Easter 94 to the base of an aven. The extension starts as a clean-washed and narrow rift and continues through several squeezes, over flakes, to a very small passage which probably sumps in wet weather. This continues for about 100m until a (perched?) sump is met at a low chamber. The sump appears to bell out a few metres down. Thirty metres back upstream, a flatout inlet on the left hand side has been pushed for about 30m and is still going.

Dangerous climbs above the tube lead to 70m of passage which close down in a heavily pocketed area where the draught is lost.

The dangerous climb can be bypassed by following the draught through a series of crawls into the final section. A draughting squeeze at the end, past a large, unclimbed aven, has been forced to a small, draughty, muddy tube that needs digging.

The aven at the end appears to be within a few metres of the long straw after the big traverse in [Torca del Mostajo \(071\)](#).

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 (survey); Ullastre-Martorell J, 1975 (survey and photo); Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981; Smith P, 1981b (survey); Corrin J, 1983c; anon., 1993b (logbook); material in file; Corrin J, 1994a (survey); Corrin Juan, 1995b (survey); anon., 1994a (Easter logbook); anon., 1995c (logbook); Corrin Juan, 1995a

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

1967	known cave	low res	high res
1975	known cave	low res	high res

1981	on area map with Mostajo and Picón	low res	high res
------	------------------------------------	---------	----------

Line Survey :

On area survey : shown on the [North Vega System](#) with no detail

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

0068: Fiesta, Sima de la

El Naso 30T 451653 4796762 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 353m

Length 25m **Depth** 25m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th November 2003; 11th, 22nd January 2008

A wide cave entrance with blocks in the middle leads into a small chamber. At the back is a shaft into a choked, 20m diameter chamber. Down the hill to the north, behind a ruined barn, is another cave [site 1556](#) (30T 0451731 4796987 altitude 345m). This appears to be shown too close to the main site on the sketch survey from 1975.

References: Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 (survey); Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981; anon., 2000c (Summer logbook); anon., 2008a (January logbook); anon., 2008c (Easter logbook)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [1](#) [2](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1975: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0069: Grasiál, La

El Naso

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

[Logbook search](#)

A 15m ladder pitch drops into a small chamber with a constricted 5m slit at the bottom. Where is it??

References: anon., 1975b (Easter and summer logbooks); Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975; Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0070: Jaime, Torca de

El Naso 30T 451184 4796673 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 460m

Length 60m **Depth** 53m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 11th November 2000

The entrance pitch of 8m is followed immediately by one of 5m. A sloping rocky tube leads to the head of a 30m pitch which is followed by a 10m pitch landing in a small chamber with no way out.

The cave should be re-explored as only one person has descended to the final chamber.

References: Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 (survey); Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981; Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981; Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 (survey); anon., 1994a (Easter logbook); anon., 2000f (autumn logbook)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0071: Mostajo, Torca del

Cubija 30T 450243 4796764 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 304m

Length included in the Cubija System length: [see Regaton](#) **Depth** 117m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Resources](#) :

[Logbook search](#) : [A Google search for this site](#)

(Mostajo, Torca del+Cubija)

Updated 13 February 1998; 19th February, 18th April 1999, 12th December 1999, 3rd January, 26th October 2001; 15th April, 8th June, 25th October 2002; 8th November 2003; 21st November 2004; 28th October 2007; 15th April, 29th September 2008; 3rd May, 23rd October 2009; 7th January, 11th October 2011; 19th September 2012; 8th September 2013; 16th, 23rd September, 9th October 2014; 13th September 2015; 14th October 2016; 24th February, 9th September 2017; 30th April, 1st July, 21st September 2018; 11th May 2019; 4th September 2021; 7th May, 4th September 2022; 7th January, 9th May 2023; 27th April, 18th September 2024

What follows is an incomplete description.

The top entrance to the major cave system in the Cubija valley. The cave is complicated on the middle level and this has hindered systematic exploration. The cave was linked with [Torca Regaton \(892\)](#) in 1994, and to [Cueva de la Morenuca](#) at Easter 1996 giving a total explored length then of 17023m to the Sistema de Cubija. A composite survey, showing the [four caves of the Cubija System](#), was published in early 2017. The three traverses on the high level were re-equipped with new bolts and ropes by a Spanish team in November 2022. Each has a diagram accessed below. In 2024, it was reported that routes to well decorated sections were well-trodden with many markers.

The 22m entrance pitch from a P-anchor on the southeast side drops onto a slope of boulders with another 5m drop to a stony slope. (In 2017, it was noted that the 22m entrance pitch requires a 45m rope to rig. Whether this includes the final 5m drop is unclear.) New P-bolts were noted on the entrance pitch when visited at the end of March 2024.

To the left, in 7m square passage, is a choke after 50m; to the right is the main route which ends after 200m at a perched boulder and a steep slope down to a pool. This was the original end. Five years after its discovery this slope was scaled and climbed to the continuation. The climb is now bypassed by using the roped traverse on the left hand wall (replaced in 1993, and in 2022 by a Spanish team). This clings to the top of a 30m high calcite slope and ends, after some 60m, at the sandy floored and draughting entrance to the 1983 extensions. [Traverse detail](#).

Comfortable mixed caving, mainly on a sandy floor, leads past some nice stalactites, long helictites and a long straw formation. In a chamber, a 3m ladder or rope foot-loop climb up on the right hand wall enters a short length of passage which descends to a tight, strongly draughting crawl which took 6 days to excavate. (In October 2008, the crawl had "filled up" and required some re-excavation). This flatout section lasts for only 20m; the passage then breaks into the typical Matienzo tunnel, with a gypsum floor and initially, many formations. Part way along the crawl, to the right, is another crawl which opens out to a squatting height chamber. A duck under the right hand wall enters a crawl to a metre high passage which closes down.

The main passage passes around the side of a number of holes but the main obstacle is, after 300m, *The Pit*, an awkward traverse down into, and up out of, a sandy walled drop. The climb out of *The Pit* is laddered and was retackled in 1995. The rigging was replaced in November 2022 - [traverse detail](#).

The tunnel, equally large on the other side, almost immediately meets another, more easily negotiable hole. This was re-equipped in November 2022 - [detail here](#). The forward route enters a large chamber with apparent carbon films over mud layers. A smaller section enters a boulder floored tunnel which chokes with a possible passage in the roof. This is the most NE extent of the passage at 290m.

Near the end of this passage, a 10m climb up (down?) on the NW side leads to pitches reaching an ultimate depth of 100m. At ???m a phreatic level is encountered but chokes with calcite after a short distance.

In this area, in the summer 2012, the extension off the main level was partially re-explored and pushed down a climb into a new series which heads southeast. The following description of the MUSC Series has been written by Adam Sharples.

Complimentary sketches of the first day's explorations in 2012 are found [here](#) and

[here](#). Surveys have been drawn up and await a resurvey of the whole cave.

MUSC Series (2012 - 2013 - 2014)

(Adam Sharples)

(An [account of some MUSC and Black Rose CC explorations](#) in the series has been previously published in a Black Rose journal.)

Just before reaching the current end of the wide upper level passage, are a couple of large boulders forming a wall. To the left just in front of these is a hole down, currently marked with two cairns nearby, one of which has a note of paper detailing it as a survey point, and a large mud arrow studded with rocks pointing down into it.

Inside, the passage winds underneath itself, down an easy climb, through a minor vertical squeeze, which can be bypassed by a crawl to the right, through a small drop down into a surprisingly out of place looking, sinuating ancient streamway. This is followed for a minute, to a short crawl at its end, and more traditional passage. A drip from the ceiling here has created a trench that needs stepping over, but can be used to collect water while exploring further into the cave. Over the drip hole, a window looks down a steep, muddy V-shaped trench that leads to the blasted breakthrough. You can either drop through the window down into the trench, or take the easier route to the left under a boulder that bends right and leads straight down.

At the bottom of the trench an S-bend leads into a small 2 man chamber with an over-tight vertical pitch to the left, and a blasted continuation down at floor level to the right. This is best negotiated lying on your right hand side and immediately turns into a climbing pitch. As of writing an in-situ handline is installed down the climb, but care must be taken, as the ledges are good but infrequent and muddy, and are now covered in shards of blasted rock from above.

(Batch 0071-22-01 fits in about here? Links to station 12-01.31 at the base of The Shunt climb. A clean drippy rift requires a traverse around a corner to a muddy crawl. The base of the rift is about 10m down.)

Eventually exiting to the right (looking down the climb) the passage quickly reaches the top of a chamber. A difficult direct climb down can be avoided by climbing over the edge to the left and traversing the left hand wall along and down to a survey station marked boulder on the chamber floor. An abused column marks the start of this traverse at the top, and makes for a good hand hold if held low down.

At the opposite end of this chamber, a muddied 2m climb down leads left, to an unwelcome, muddy, flatout crawl which quickly opens out to rift passage, that can be negotiated by staying at a mid-high level. A large spike of rock, the 'womaniser' marks the end of this traverse, and should be passed, keeping both legs on the same side.

A 2012 survey station on a boulder marks the next chamber. To the right here, leads around another couple of boulders and a little flowstone, to a whitened floor section with a step over a gap into walking size passage. Immediately to the right here a crawling section leads off into passage surveyed in batch

"0071-13-01". Straight ahead quickly ends up in sharp walled rift with traverses around and over lodged rocks. Ignoring holes in the right hand wall, keep left to eventually be presented by a climb over a boulder using nicely cut out steps on the right hand wall, into a good sized chamber. This chamber is full of broken and shattered rock and can be loose and treacherous in places.

The safest way to negotiate this chamber is to keep in the middle to a climb up between two boulders, with a worrying hole in the floor just beneath, then heading up and left. Pick your way around these boulders so that you are still heading away from where you entered the chamber, close to the left hand wall. Here you will be confronted by a flat, mildly sloping rock, leading to a short exposed climb up, next to the left hand wall. This climb is over medium sized jammed rocks that give good holds but look worryingly short of material maintaining their position.

Bear away from the wall slightly, clambering over rocks to continue climbing up to a good stable ledge. The most obvious climb straight ahead can be bypassed by an

easier, though still loose route, slightly further along the ledge to the left, leading up to the same large flat ledge above.

Heading directly away from the top of the climb over good solid ground and gradually dropping down bearing left, gives a view out over the main trunk passage. Staying on the ledge and heading down until it joins with the trunk passage gives a choice of a straight ahead, moving downhill through the large passage heading south, or a sharp right to head uphill in a northerly direction.

HEADING SOUTH

South (left/straight ahead) in the large main passage heads downhill through easy stomping large passage with opportunities for new leads to be found. After a few minutes, a clamber down leads to a bridge with a very high roof.

Under this bridge, easy climbing down and around leads to a vertical gap between boulders looking out over a short steep ledge with a large drop below. Due to the nature of the hole, as of writing, it hasn't been possible to look over the edge, but thrown rocks fall for a couple of seconds, indicating at least a ~15m drop. This needs rope to be properly checked.

On the other side of the bridge, the passage gets smaller and changes character. Although still walking height, it becomes necessary to climb boulders and squeeze through gaps to continue, now generally heading uphill. A side passage to the left, heads to a dripping chamber with a climb up at the end into passage that hasn't been checked yet (possibly leads back to the main passage?). Further uphill in the main section, a slope up and bearing right heads into a smallish chamber, ~7m in diameter with a survey station, which was the furthest reaches of the 2012 exploration. Passage to the right here leads to a pitch, dropping into passage surveyed in batch "0071-13-02". There are other sections in this area that could do with a thorough explore.

HEADING NORTH

North in the large main passage leads steeply uphill over an edge, then back downhill into narrowing passage. At the far end, holes have not been explored but look small. Shortly before the obvious end, a flash of white rock on the left, marks a climb up into walking and stooping height passage. Other holes around here also lead into this passage. Continuing down, the passage gets smaller and changes to sharp black rock, ending up crawling out into the end of a chamber. This section is surveyed in batch "0071-13-03". Straight ahead is an obvious pit, around 20m deep, full of sharp, shattered boulders with no obvious way down at the bottom. Traversing across the left hand side of this pit, with a good thread in a hole on the left, leads to passage continuing over the other side.

This area is the most recently explored and will harbour the most new discoveries still, as well as being the least well documented. This area is surveyed in batches "0071-13-05" "0071-13-06" and "0071-13-07".

Forward from the pit, a short section of walking leads to large boulders that can be easily crossed. Bearing right, following the sound of dripping water finds, initially, a somewhat clean washed pitch that can be carefully traversed to the left into passage surveyed in batch 05. Before getting to this pitch, a short climb up to the left leads into the source of the sound, a dripping clean washed pitch, over which can be connected with the above passage in batch 05. Continuing to the left from the pitch, leads into muddied rift passage, sometimes requiring crawling, an awkward slope down, and eventually drops through a smaller chamber into the larger White Rock chamber, getting its name from the conspicuous triangle of white rock placed on a boulder and used as a survey station. This is also where the above passage, surveyed in batch 05, drops into.

A steep slope to the left in this chamber arrives at an easy climb up into a maze of passages, some explored, some not. To the right, the obvious landmark of a group of three ~2m high columns in a medium chamber gives a good waypoint. There is also a survey station here, consisting of a knob of stal, placed on top of the highest boulder in the chamber, with pencil marks noting the number.

On the other side of the chamber from the columns, a rift passage, initially traversing,

leads to a T-junction. Left has not yet been explored. To the right, there are some sections of formations, leading to a wet pit at a right hand bend. This has not been dropped. Carrying on, the passage bends back round left and emerges into a medium chamber, with the same dark mud floor as the passage around the large pit that was traversed at the start of these surveying batches.

To the right, this chamber seems to end in smaller chambers with nowhere to go. To the left, downhill leads to a drop to a ledge and the obvious sound of dripping/flowing water. Rocks fall for a few seconds but this has not yet been explored and will need a good amount of rope, and a few bolts. Straight ahead from the entrance to this chamber is a small hole in the opposite wall, leading into a short, flatout uphill crawl. This then drops down to a very slowly flowing streamway in stooping and crawling height passage. Upstream, to the right, can be crawled through to a too-small crawl in the streamway, which seems to open out beyond and echoes significantly. The roof and walls here are solid rock, but the floor is loose silt so could be dug. Downstream, to the left, gets wetter and smaller. This has not been properly checked, but could possibly be crawled through if the explorer was happy with the increasingly aqueous passage. However, it would appear that this downstream section leads to the bottom of the wet sounding drop, detailed above.

2015 - A possible connection after the third traverse into the new extensions was investigated over the summer. Sounds could be heard in the new extension but not higher up in the cave. No original exploration or surveying was carried out.

Various climbs were carried out at Whit, 1995. Near the end at VN5095297429 a 10m bolt climb to an ascending mud ramp ended with a choked phreatic tube. Further back on the corner at VN5086997384 a 15m bolt climb on poor rock ended in a solution pocket. The

Other passages and climbs off here including the 1986

Portienzo bit, part way along top level was partly at Easter 1994. Description needed.

About 30 metres before the Pit, 4m up the left hand wall is the concealed pitch entry to the lower level passages, the [Golden Void](#). There is a suggestion (1995) that there might be an easily gained passage at the head of the *Golden Void* but this was discounted at Easter 1999. In August 2017, a small extension to the southwest of the head of the *Golden Void* was pushed and surveyed for 55m This is *Sheppard's Bush* (batch 0071-17-01). It was also noted that the pitch requires a 45m rope and that 3 of the 4 bolts at the top are "shot and at least one should be renewed to allow descent on 2 good bolts".

Hedgehog Crawl is found by crossing the centre of *Chamber 46* and keeping to the right until a chamber ahead is seen with the sound of dripping water. Aven have intersected the passage and two deep pits have to be traversed by climbing around the left hand side. At the back of the second aven an [exposed rope climb](#) of about 4m up a flake enters the start of *Hedgehog Crawl*.

The passage starts as a flatout crawl through and over stal, passing several chambers on route. After about 50m, many dried crystal pools are seen which contain the formations after which the passage has been named. ([photo 1](#) [photo 2](#)). An alcove on the left hand side is eventually reached which contains much sand. The way on is through a low crawl to the right hand side and a squeeze through calcite leads to several pools. The final 60m of the crawl is an uncomfortable, very low crawl over calcited pebbles until the passage forks. The right hand side continues as before and may rejoin the trade route later on. The left hand side descends a steep slope into a rift containing the marked station *V20*.

To the left hand side of *V20* an undescended (10m?) pit surrounded by stal is located. Going up and to the right of *V20* a crawl through a stal grill leads to a junction. The left route leads to a low chamber with a large, undescended pit in the floor. Traversing past on the right hand side leads to two passages that are too low for further progress without digging. Just before the pit, a 3m climb up a vertical sand bank gains a chamber with several ways off. This

needs pushing and surveying. A small crawl to the north of the pit rejoins the main way on further up the passage.

On the right, the possible continuation of *Hedgehog Crawl* rejoins, and the draught can be followed through a low crawl to a sandy tube that breaks out into a T junction (station 614).

To the right leads to a series of chambers and passages. This obvious, low, calcited passage may be followed to a continuation through abundant gypsum for about 200m to a dig. Just before this point a pit in the floor may be descended for about 20m until it gets too tight. this whole section has a draught that appears to switch randomly and also contains one rat (?) skeleton at its start.

The second left hand passage enters a low chamber containing fallen slabs and a climb down at the left hand wall drops into passage just near the connections with Regaton and Morenuca. Continuing on, a chamber is reached with two ways out. At the back, a crawl leads to a collapse area which connects with the previous low chamber. The right hand passage eventually ends at a calcite choke after a free climbable negotiation of a pit in the floor. Shortly before this, a crawl up a sandy bank on the right leads to meandering fossil passage which currently ends at an 18m pitch with an unpushed continuation on the other side. A traverse requiring a little protection, or dropping the pitch to a possible lower level is required to follow the good draught in this area.

The left hand side of the T junction leads immediately to a 4m roped climb into a large passage. On the right hand side a large aven bisects the passage creating a pitch down. The large aven continues up for about 15m and is, in total, about 40m deep. This is the *Italian Pitch*, first explored in 1985. The connection to [Torca Regaton \(892\)](#), discovered in 1994, is about 20m down from the last rebelay and 20m up from the floor. A short pendulum to the opposite side of the shaft lands on an obvious big boulder (station 930 in Regaton). Regaton may be gained by entering a small passage at the back of the block lower down.

Traversing around the left hand side of the Italian Pitch gains the continuation of the passage. To the left a crawl leads to a complex area of tubes which has only been partly explored. Passing under a climb up on the right hand side to a low chamber which connects further back, a large, steeply ascending ramp is reached. Climbing the ramp is most easily done on the right and, at the top, a tricky traverse meets a large, truncated roof tube. To the left of the ramp top a collapse area is reached but just before this, on the right, a tube may be climbed into using combined tactics. This is the connection with [Cueva de la Morenuca \(0774\)](#).

The *Eastern Series* on the middle level was extended in 1991 to its most easterly point by dropping a 12m pitch into a series of rifts and boulders, ending at an altitude of 215m. In 1999, further explorations in the eastern Series showed that there was still work to be done in this area. See the log book.

The 1992 explorations added a small amount but the survey needs tying back in to a known point.

In the **summer 2017**, Wonderland (to the north of the middle level) was revisited. It was considered that the draughtless choke would be a big job.

Over **Easter 2018**, a couple of trips were made down the *Golden Void* to try to find another route into the *MUSC Series*. This was unsuccessful but some discrepancies were noted on the survey, for example a series of stations annotated with a "p" underground had been mistakenly interpreted as pitches. These and other amendments are shown on pages 20-23 of the Easter 2018 logbook. This area was resurveyed as batches 18-03 and 18-04 in the summer.

On one unusual trip at Easter, the entrance SRT rope was found to have been scorched by a farmer's fire. After replacement and descent, the passages leading to the *Golden Void* were found to be smoke-filled and the trip was eventually abandoned. (There are places in Mostajo where extensive black surface deposits are seen. It is possible that this the result of smoke particles settling out from many fires. There are some "shadows" in these areas - places, possibly up-wind of

projecting rocks, where the black deposit is absent.)

Over **Easter 2019**, two trips were made continuing the explorations started the previous year. A pitch with water running down was descended near station A27 but no way on was found. A pitch at station marked PP0 to the west of Hoodoo Haven between the Golden Void and the Manchester Series was dropped. A dry stream passage was followed upstream to a sump and downstream to a sump. This is known passage but with no previous survey detail. Of the 320m surveyed in batches 19-01 and 19-02, 157m was new passage. This passage is likely to be the same as the dotted passage shown on the survey with no passage detail etc? These explorations extended the length of the North Vega (Cubija) System to 22596m.

Three trips were made in the **summer 2021**. The first "down the Golden Void, across traverse with hemp rope, through the squeeze and down the sloping, muddy pitch". Several passages were pushed hoping to connect with the MUSC Series. In batch 0071-21-01, 68m of new passage were surveyed, adding to the high levels in batch 19-02. (Batch 21-01 appears to have no survey notes or drawing).

On the second trip - into the MUSC Series - batch 19-02 was surveyed for 29m off station 12-02.0. This went through a squeeze to a rift and gully, but was too loose and dangerous to proceed - **Voodoo Lady**..

The **Time Travelling Donkey Series** (batch 21-03) is a loop series joining into the main passage in two places, 13-04.11 and 13-04.13, the latter being the start for the following description in the logbook by James Carlisle.

Hole down on the left beneath boulder climb at south end (just before junction into big stuff with |Northern and Southern branches). A slide down reaches a drop off onto a mud pyramid with a 4m drop on 3 sides - care needed. A scramble down through boulders gain a rift passage into a large chamber (*Donkey Three Ways*). Going right through a window leads to a climb down to a tight streamway or an exposed climb into a blind rift.

Back at the chamber, an exposed drop-off leads to the head of a p11 - *Pin the Tail On The Donkey* - down to a streamway - *DGB Streamway*. The exposed drop-off and the pitch can be rigged with a single 25m rope. South in the streamway ends at a blank sand wall. North leads through a narrow crawl up into a large chamber. A window at the top of the pitch also connects to the same chamber. A climb up out of the north end of the chamber leads to a large rift in *Burroboros* - leading to a loose climb up through a boulder choke with a very tight squeeze back into the main passage, two survey stations north of the original entry point to the new series.

According to Quin (BU pp59-62), in his [magnetic susceptibility studies](#), sediments from [Torca del Coterón](#) on South Vega show similar k values to sediments in Torca del Mostajo, indicating that the sites may have had a common morphogenic agent and have been connected. However, the study also indicates that sediments from [Torca Regaton \(892\)](#) show little similarity to sediments from Mostajo, indicating that the sites have not had a common morphogenic agent. This needs explaining.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [anon., 1978 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1978 \(survey\)](#); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Smith P, 1981b \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983b \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#); [Cawthorne Bob, 1985b](#); [Barrington P and Hanson D, 1984 \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 1985a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1986 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1987](#); material in file; [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [Garcia J L, 1987](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [Davis J and Corrin J, 1989 \(photo\)](#); [anon., 1991 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1992a \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [Cawthorne B, 1992](#); [Corrin J, 1992b \(survey and photo\)](#); [Corrin J and Quin A, 1992 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1993 \(survey\)](#); [Quin A, 1993b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1994a \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995b \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1994b \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 1995b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [Quin Andrew, 1995 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1996](#); [anon., 1996a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997b](#); [anon., 1997b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1998 \(photo\)](#); [Fernández Ortega F, Valls Uriol and Maria del Carmen, 1998 \(photo\)](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey and photo\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997c](#); [anon., 1999a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1999c \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001a](#); [anon., 2002a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002b \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003c](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2008e \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2010](#);

León García José, 2010 (Volume 1 and Volume 2) (survey and photos); anon., 2012d (summer logbook); Corrin Juan, 2013a; anon., 2013d (summer logbook); anon., 2014c (summer logbook); anon., 2015c (summer logbook); anon., 2016c (summer logbook); anon., 2017c (summer logbook); anon., 2018b (Easter logbook); anon., 2018c (summer logbook); anon., 2019b (Easter logbook); anon., 2021c (summer logbook); Scaife C, 2022; anon., 2022b (Easter logbook); anon., 2022c (summer logbook); anon., 2022d (Chrftistmas logbook); anon., 2024b (Easter logbook)

Entrance picture : yes - from a distance : close up view : summer 2013, installing P bolt : Easter 2018; anon., 2023b (Easter logbook); anon., 2024d (summer logbook)

Underground picture(s): Climb to Hedgehog Passage Dwarf Chamber Golden Void top Hedgehog Passage 1 Hedgehog Passage 2 The Italian Pitch Top level formations

Pictures by Paul Fairman, along the top level, Easter 2023

Pictures by Paul Swire, below the Golden Void, Easter 2022

Pictures by Alex Ritchie & Chris Scaife, summer 2021

Pictures by Bill Nix, in the entrance series, Easter 2018

Pictures by Tom Howard, below the Golden Void, summer 2017

Pictures by Lauren Griffin, summer 2016

Pictures by Bill Smith, summer 2014 (Flickr)

Pictures by Dan Jackson, summer 2014

Pictures by Bill Smith in the MUSC Series, summer 2013

Pictures by Bill Smith in "old" Mostajo and the MUSC 2012 Series.

Pictures taken by Mandy Fu and Mike Topsom, summer 2008

Pictures taken by Bill Nix and Bill Sherrington, October 2008

Pictures taken by Chris Castle and Nicky Dennis, Easter 2009

Scanned slides from 1983 - 1985 (Frank Addis, Phil Papard)

Video : Entrance and the installation of a P bolt, summer 2013 : Torca del Mostajo (Espeleo50 - 4/3/2017 - YouTube) : Entrance fly around (YouTube)

Detailed Survey :

1978	known cave	low res	high res
1981	known cave on area map	low res	high res
2017	on the Cubija System survey	pdf	
2017	summer extension on the Cubija System survey	in hand	
2018	summer resurvey and additions	in hand	
2019	Easter resurvey and additions	in hand	
2021, 2022	Additions	in hand	

Line Survey :

On area survey : shown on the [Cubija System \(North Vega System\)](#) with no detail

Survex file : [download Mostajo only](#) (after summer 2022) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[download North Vega area survex file](#) (after summer 2022)

Passage direction rose diagram: [Sistema de Cubija \(North Vega System\)](#) 1/7/2018

X

0072: Hoyos, Sima de los

Cubija 30T 450346 4796240 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 277m

Length 200m **Depth** 33m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 3rd May 2007; 3rd May 2009; 4th October; 13th December 2010; 26th September 2012; 28th February 2013; 7th September 2017; 21st September 2018; 8th March 2021

A 22.5m drop off the western side of the pot lands on boulders. A short crawl on the right hand side leads to a large (25 x 35m) chamber with a well decorated, low passage leading off for approximately 70m and choked at the end. A junction half way along this passage leads to a well decorated chamber with empty gour pools and stal ending at a flowstone wall. A slot in the floor chokes after 4m.

To the left of the pitch chamber, a route leads down a loose boulder slope to a 25 x 25m chamber. A calcited skeleton of a possible bear with 4cm long incisors and a 35 x 15cm skull lies in the centre of this chamber. A number of other bones and antler remain litter the floors. At Easter 2009, photographers removed boots and walked around in wetsuit socks to conserve formations and deposits.

Photos were taken in August 2017 but not shared. Photos from 2018 are shown below.

In an act of idiotic vandalism, the bear skeleton was removed early in 2021. This was brought to light on [Facebook](#).

References: [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [Corrin J S](#)

and Smith P, 1981; anon., 1994b (logbook); material in file; Corrin J, 1994b; anon., 2007b (Easter logbook); Corrin Juan, 2007a; anon., 2009a (Easter logbook); anon., 2017c (summer logbook); anon., 2018b (Easter logbook); anon., 2018c (summer logbook); anon., 2021a (January, February logbook); Facebook

Entrance pictures : 2009 & 2018

Underground picture(s):

photos from summer 2018

complete panorama tour of Los Hoyos (Paul Fretwell, Sept 2012)

interactive panorama photos of the chamber: [1](#) [2](#)

photos from summer 2010

photos from Easter 2009

bones, skeletons and formations (Easter 2007)

3D photos and printing

Detailed Survey : 1:500 pdf

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : yes (Amended magnetic declination

December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and

coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0073: Sotarraña, Cueva del (Patatal, Cueva del)

El Naso 30T 451569 4796073 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 232m

Length 280m **Depth** 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998; 19th February 1999; 27th October 2001; 9th November 2003; 17th January 2004; 26th September, 28th October 2007; 19th December 2008

The cave entrance was gated in May 1998 although, on a visit during the summer of that year, the gate was found be unlocked.

A steep boulder slope leads after 30m to a 15m square passage with some 15m high formations. The cave ends at a calcite blockage, above which the decorated route passes graffiti before choking. To the right, past a pool, the passage splits: up to the left narrows and closes in, while to the right, in an alcove is an engraving of a deer (see below). On the left of the main passage is a 10m high column with the top half fallen over and wedged. There are also a view-hole through the calcite on this southern wall into a small chamber.

On the left, near the entrance, a climb (rope useful) over flowstone leads to a chamber with daylight in the roof (see [entrance pictures](#)) while further on, on the left, a short climb up and down leads to a chamber. Up to the right, over painted calcite, enters a short crawl to a small chamber and a short drop to a choked hole.

Some 70m into the cave, on the northern side, a clamber up calcite to a short rising traverse meets a 9m pitch into a choked chamber.

The cave is an archaeological site ([Matienzo archaeology article](#)) with bear, hyena and bison bones and a single possibly

Magdalenian engraving of an animal without a head but with a spear in its side, at the end of the main passage. (See *Strauss Lawrence Guy, 1992 p133, 176*). In 1998, a paleolithic deer jaw bone was recognised at the base of the entrance boulder slope. Further engravings are described in an ACDPS publication, 2002 (not seen). The finds are put into sequence in *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001*. The site was apparently first investigated by workmen in 1956.

The bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* has been recorded, while Notenboom (Notenboom J and Meijers I, 1985) found the following in 1984:

Syncarida/Bathynellacea, Insecta and *Oligochaeta*.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#) (survey and photo); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#) (survey); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981](#) (survey); [Smith P, 1981a](#); [Smith P, 1981c](#) ; [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Smith P, 1981b](#) (survey); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#) (survey); [Smith P, 1986c](#) (survey); [Notenboom J and Meijers I, 1985](#); [Meijide Calvo M, 1982](#); [Balbin R et al, 1986](#); [Muñoz E, 1988](#); [Smith P, 1988](#); [Strauss Lawrence Guy, 1992](#); [anon., 1994a](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 1997d](#) (Autumn logbook); [anon., 1998a](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 1998b](#) (Whit logbook); [Corrin Juan, 1999](#); [Fernández Ortega F, Valls Uriol and Maria del Carmen, 1998](#) (photo); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#) (includes photo); [Smith Peter, 2002](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#); [anon., 2007d](#) (summer logbook); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#); [Corrin Juan, 2013a](#)

Entrance pictures : yes

Underground picture(s): yes

Detailed Survey : 1:1000

Line Survey :

On area survey : with Coberruyo, Lara-Lennon: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file : yes (Amended magnetic declination

December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0074: Perlas, Cueva de las

El Naso 30T 451949 4796216 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 336m

Length 60m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 8th June 1998; 18th November, 18th December 2007; 3rd January 2008; 11th February 2015; 1st, 10th January, 9th February 2016; 20th May, 12th December 2017; 16th February 2018; 8th January 2020

A very pretty cave with easy-to-miss entrances. The western (usual) entrance is a 2m drop (using a handline) down a narrow slot to a floor sloping into the main chamber. The eastern entrance is larger but quickly lowers to a flat out crawl that joins the main chamber. The cave is a well decorated fragment with straws, columns, gours and cave pearls. A section of collapsed sediment has left some stalagmites at an angle.

Small pieces of pottery have been found on the western entrance slope. One piece is black and red, with engraved lines.

In February 2015, calcite core samples were taken (with permission) to continue the palaeoclimate investigations in [Cueva Asiul](#). This work is for a PhD by Laura Deeptose at Lancaster University and the British Geological Survey. A [BGS blog post](#) outlines the investigations.

Further work was carried out in 2016 and 2017.

From Laura Deeptose: *By the end of 2017, after monitoring temperature, CO2 and drip water chemistry for nearly 3 years, the monitoring is revealing some interesting insights into the dynamics of the cave including cave ventilation. The speleothem record work is ongoing but we have successfully found a speleothem covering the period of the Neanderthal extinction at approx. 40,000 years ago. The geochemical record from the speleothem is currently being developed and it is hoped it will provide an indication of how the climate and landscape were changing during the period around the Neanderthal extinction.*

At the end of January 2017, the cave was cleared of the paraphernalia used during the study.

Reference [Smith P et al, 2015](#) has a summary of the climate work

(Three attempts to relocate the entrance failed in November 2007, partly due to digital maps now correctly showing the altitude of the cliff base. The cave was eventually refound in December then GPSed and photographed.)

References: [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#) (survey); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981](#) (survey); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#) (survey); [anon., 2007e](#) (autumn + Christmas logbook); [anon., 2007e](#) (Christmas + Autumn logbook); [anon., 2015jf](#) (January, February logbook); [Smith P et al, 2015](#); [anon., 2016a](#) (January, February logbook); pers. comm. 2017; [anon., 2018a](#) (January, February logbook)

Entrance pictures : [2007](#) : [2015](#)

Underground pictures: [2007](#) : [2015](#)

[2016 - formations and paleoclimate work](#)

[Easter 2017 - Visit by delegates from the 3rd](#)

[International Cave Monitoring Workshop](#)

Video: [Easter 2010: wmv \(3Mb\)](#) : [mpg \(27Mb\)](#)

[February 2015 - stal core sampling](#) (YouTube) :

[2016 - Palaeoclimate Research](#) (YouTube)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0075: Picón, Simas del

Cubija 30T 450008 4796651 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 300m (A surface survey

has the entrance at grid ETRS89: 450110 4796631

Alt. 304m; GPS (in rain) puts the site at ETRS89:

450074 4796621))

Length 2717m **Depth** 110m **Vertical range** +36 -

110m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Resources](#) :

[Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th March 2000; 14th May , 17th September 2000; 23rd February, 26th April 2001; 12th November 2002; 15th October, 8th November 2003; 14th May 2004; 1st February 2006; 6th January, 2nd October 2011; 18th February 2012; 23rd April, 20th September, 28th November 2012; 21st, 29th April, 13th, 16th September, 21st November 2013; 16th May 2015; 30th June 2018; 11th May, 6th September 2019; 28th November 2023

[Description improved and tidied up by Alasdair Neill, November 2013]

There are two entrances each being a pitch (35-40m, and 15m). The lower 15m pitch is perhaps best laddered, but is also rigged for SRT with a spit rebelay partway down, and an optional deviation can be rigged from an overhanging tree branch. The higher pitch may never have been descended; where it enters the roof of the main passage a rift can be seen to lead to a possible passage or aven. Both entrance pitches land in a most impressive passage, some 20 to 30m wide. Heading east (back towards the surface) from the bottom of the usual entrance pitch, there are a series of bouldery crawls which choke with no discernable draught found.

The main passage from the foot of the entrance pitch begins as a slope down over mud and boulders with assorted debris including various parts of electricity pylons.

Large passage 50m from entrance.

After 50m a large passage slopes down to the left, much of it being flowstone floored. Several small passages lead off on the left hand wall. The passage continues large and sloping down, as far as a wall which was climbed and bolted up on the left hand side at Easter 2013. Twenty five metres up, the climb ends at large blocks but no way through can be found. The rope has been removed and one bolt remains at the top. To the right of the foot of the climb, the flowstone floor leads to a draughting flat out bedding. This immediately opens out into a chamber, where in the summer of 2013 vocal and molephone contact was made with the *Megabat Series*. A drop through boulders on the left hand wall, under a loose rubble slope, leads to a passage taking a stream in wet weather. This ends at a diggable choked slot. A chamber to the left enters a draughting choke. This area has since been dug by P. Smith & Nigel Dibben (*description?*). The loose rubble slope can be climbed up through a very unstable area to connect to the floor of *Sala G.E.S.*, this route is not recommended and *Sala G.E.S.* is more easily reached on the main route.

Main way on (continued)

The main route further into the cave is found by staying up to the right rather than following the large passage down to the left, 50m from the entrance.

Picón Eye Series and other side passages

Almost immediately, a broad ledge to the left, over the top of the large passage, leads to where an eyehole in the far wall is the start of *Picón Eye Series*. A wider passage to the right leads to a chamber, where tree branches below an aven perhaps indicate another entrance. The *Picón Eye Series* was entered at Easter 2013, through the eyehole. A short pitch down enters a passage to a choke after approximately 7m (5m wide sloping up). Over the top of the pitch, three traverses (23m rope) to the left lead to a chamber (which had a footprint !) and a very impressive column. (Below the traverse, the drop connects to known passage). Three passages go off from the chamber: two are short and the third goes to an aven and a 10m pitch.

The p10 was descended at Easter 2015: 1.5m up from the base, a tight crawl continues for about 6m in 1m high, meandering passage. There is a weak draught and echo. At least 3 snappers are needed to progress. Above the p10 is a c+5 which enters a meandering passage. This ends about 7m up the aven seen a short distance further on. Bolting up this aven will be easier from this meander route. [A video](#) shows some of these Easter 2015 activities and the 2013 [survey](#) has been amended.

Main way on (continued)

The main way on is to the right of the start of the broad ledge leading to *Picón Eye Series*, and after a short climb up enters *Sala G.E.S.* In this chamber, rifts on the right hand wall were climbed in 2001 and again in 2013, but are blind. After *Sala G.E.S.* the route is down a slot on the right hand wall. Beyond the passage gets much higher again and slopes down. Here traversing off along the slope to the left is the way to *Mega Bat*. There are also some high rifts up, possibly not fully explored, on the left where *Mega Bat* goes off.

Mega Bat

This starts as several small holes leading to a small chamber. Going right then left through a short excavated crawl, the route breaks out into a decorated chamber. Beyond this a short continuing passage leads to pitches of 9m (bolts in roof) and 7m (bolts to the right). This originally ended at a strongly draughting slot with a chamber or pitch beyond - then described as very committing but possible for a midget. This

slot was investigated in the summer, 2011, when the newly-discovered *Patrick's Error* in [Cueva de la Morenuca](#) was surveyed. The extension appears to pass under Picón with the floor about 30 - 40m below. At Easter 2012, the draughting slot was enlarged and further enlargement in the summer finally succeeded in opening up the way on. The squeeze was finally eliminated in November 2012.

The descent (originally described as a 5m muddy handline climb down reaching a 60 degree slope) is best tackled with a 30m rope. A small, sandy crawl traverse goes into the slope. Passing over a ridge (0.5 x 4m) with a 2m drop on each side leads to a 3m diameter chamber. A crawl to the right goes for 5m to a window into the ceiling of a chamber, about 5m tall. The description ends with "there are 4 chambers, one of which with a 60m aven, the rest have no obvious leads. Halfway down the handline pitch there is a draughting rift leading to a large chamber. Abseiling into the draughting rift needs care. Boulders fell on one person in 2012, requiring 4 stitches in the head. A short crawl on one side of the chamber leads to a 40m tall, 8m diameter aven. Another crawl would be possible with a hammer. On the floor of the first chamber, a squeeze goes to a 6m diameter chamber with no way on. Climbing up at the rear leads to a small chamber. A 4m fairly shear but climbable wall goes to a window at the top that has a weak draught.

These passages and chambers at the base of the slope are apparently at the same altitude as *Picón Pie Chamber* and must be extremely close. It will be worthwhile having people in both caves to prove the connection and possibly forge an easier way into this part of Morenuca.

In the summer 2013, a major extension from *Safe Haven* was entered. A small squeeze leads to a boulder choke and a route through to a 10 x 10m chamber with a large passage coming off. (Batch 13-12). This was eventually pushed (batch 13-13 and batch 13-14) to very close to the bottom of the slope down from the entrance pitch. A dig at the base of the slope was excavated for 6 hours but the "vocal connection needs to be checked".

Main way on (continued)

To the right of the slope down which leads to the start of *Mega Bat*, the way is to climb a high, steep rubble slope, the *Scree Run*. This is the start of *Sala de los Bloques*. This is a large chamber which in part forms a large junction; the high left hand passage ends at an 8m deep shaft, the continuation beyond this being the *A.S.C. Extension*.

A.S.C. Extension

The 8m shaft forms the floor of a rift passage some 20m high. In April 1994, the Association Spéléologique Charentaise climbed up some 15m around the side of the pit to reach what was described as a 40m diameter aven and a calcite slope which closed in after 50m.

The *ASC Extension* was rebolted, re-explored and extended in the autumn, 2012. A 16m bolt climb on the left hand wall above a pit leads to a hole at the top and a pitch down.

However, in 2012 the ASC bolt climb and pitch down was bypassed. A traverse around the 8m shaft on the right hand wall and climb up reaches a small excavated drop which bypasses the up and down pitches. This traverse is still rigged (summer 2013).

The down pitch lands at the base of a 31m aven with "lots of bat shit about". At the western end is another short pitch to the base of an awkward slope / climb to a draughting dig up in boulders. This has been excavated into the *Melted Wax Candle of Doom Chamber* with a diameter of 12m and some roof and floor formations.

The eastern end has a scramble / climb down to the base of a climb - now a rigged handline up to a rigged traverse line around the original pit.

The *Melted Wax Candle of Doom Chamber* has some possibilities for extension. In the southeast corner, a climb down into a crawl in boulders although this area is loose and the "wall in the chamber is badly attached." In the western corner it is possible to climb down under boulders. A few bolts may be needed to check a possible passage in the roof. To the north, a 20cm rift was opened up at Easter 2013 to access a 4m deep rift. This led to a well decorated grotto, 4m in diameter with a pool. A crawl leads off to a 3m diameter chamber with boulder walls and no way on.

A potential bolt climb up the wall above the last pitch down was originally described as appearing to be up into a large passage - the possible continuation of the main rift. This route is the "*French Aven*", climbed on 29th and 31st July 2013. This climb closed in at the top, about 35m up.

Main way on (continued)

The right hand branch of *Sala de los Bloques* drops down to a point where the easiest route is to traverse right and down a slot into a lower passage. This ends at a large stal choke, which formed the original end of the cave.

An enlarged flat out crawl through stals, at the top of the choke against the right hand wall, leads to the start of the *1993 Extensions*. This crawl can take a very strong draught at times.

Side passages at start of 1993

Extensions

These are reached by climbing up the far side of the steep slope which forms the inner side of the stal choke. At Easter 1994 this was described as being pushed to a bouldery chamber and a maze of rifts, chambers and chokes. At one point a calcited choke was seen. This was left unsurveyed. The series was entered again and surveyed in the summer, 2013 as batch 0075-13-07 (length 118m). Called *Coral Rift Passage*, the route passes through three tight "triangular squeezes" to a loose boulder choke, called *Floose Boulder Choke*. There is also a flowstone chamber called *Wish You Were Here Chamber*. All this area is in fact a large choke of huge boulders, probably the same as the *Melted Candle Wax Chamber of Doom* is formed in, the latter being at a much higher level.

Main way on (continued) - 1993

Extensions

Climbing down the stal slope from the crawl through the choke enters a stunning section of passage, liberally decorated with helictites and other formations. After about 100m the way is to climb down a steep slope and back up the other side into a pit. Soon after a climb down reaches the sandy floored *Main Junction*.

From the *Main Junction*, a climb up and then back down enters a rift, with avens which close down at either end. However before the aven at the left hand (west) end, a traverse right enters continuing passage, until a 6m pitch is reached. This may be free-climbed via a crawl into a chamber nearby. At the base of the climb a small rift leads to a very steep, hading rift with a small, tight climb. A slight draught is present. The climb down was pushed at Easter 1994 for a further, unsurveyed 10m, until it became too tight. Half way down this rift an "aven" top can be seen. This drops as an 8m pitch to a tube spiralling down to a strongly draughting 5cm wide gap.

In the summer of 2012, the hading rift, 1m wide was tackled up and dropped (station 0 from 8th August 1993). Five metres below, a tiny hole was disto'd to a depth of 50m and this was later enlarged. Unfortunately, 15m down, the route narrowed in significantly and could not be followed. The disto'd point would be in *Frog Passage* in [Torca de Regaton](#), quite close to an ascending muddy slope.

Straight on from *Main Junction* leads to a sand slope and the head of a 20(?)m pitch (*Avalanche Pitch*). The top of the pitch is best reached through a pit and arch under the slope on the left hand wall. Part way down there is a rebelay (hanger left, summer 2013). At the base, to the left is a steeply inclined sand and boulder slope. Immediately on the right, a fairly deep but loose hole was not descended. The slope descends to a narrow rift, through a couple of digs to a 10m high and 12m diameter chamber with a boulder floor and some interesting mud formations. The draught comes from a mud covered slope and a small slot which was dug to another chamber and passage which ended at a complete mud blockage after a very nice sediment bank and a cracked mud floor. The chambers were named in 2013 *The Full Monty* and *The Dull Monty*. The deepest point in this series is about 87m below the entrance.

To the right from the base of *Avalanche Pitch* leads to a magnificent formation - *Eight Girls, One Octopus* - just up a sandy slope, and then a short network of small passages, then a high rift chamber. There is a possible dig at one end and a climb at the other which will probably lead to the *Music Box* area.

Music Box

A lined traverse (not rigged 2013) on the right hand wall over *Avalanche Pitch* has a tricky move half way round and then enters a well decorated passage to a draughting boulder choke in two passages. A descent down a steep boulder slope leads to a mud climb in a mucky, large chamber which has not been done. This series has lots of pretties including huge helictites.

The drop at the "end of the passage beyond

the traverse" descends for 30m to a muddy choke in the floor.

The draughting dig at the right hand end of the sandy traverse was dug under an obstructing flake to a flat out, easy dig in sand.

General

At Easter 2013, in cold weather, significant numbers of Lesser & Greater Horseshoe Bats were seen scattered around the main passage. These are not usually seen in the cave whenever visited in the summer months.

Radon readings taken in 2012 around the big junction about 50m in from the entrance pitch were negligible, but this probably reflects the then strong inward cold-weather draught, and need repeating during warm weather conditions.

Most of the cave was resurveyed in 2012-2013.

On August 21st, 2019, Malcolm Foyle, on a "tourist trip" with the [Wessex Cave Club](#), fell while using SRT equipment on the entrance pitch. After he had been brought to the surface by his team, Matienzo cavers gave some assistance by loaning a stretcher and providing extra manpower to [bring him down the steep hillside to a 112 helicopter waiting in the field below](#). The [helicopter took Malcolm to Valdecilla Hospital in Santander](#). He suffered severe knee ligament injuries.

References: [Ullastre-Martorell J, 1975](#) (survey); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Smith P, 1981b](#) (survey); [anon., 1984](#) (logbook); material in file; [anon., 1993b](#) (logbook); [Neill Alasdair and Jackson Keith, 1993](#) (survey); [Corrin J, 1994a](#) (survey and photo); [Corrin Juan, 1995b](#) (survey); [anon., 1994a](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 1994b](#) (logbook); [Neill A, 1994](#); [Corrin J, 1994b](#) (survey); [García José León, 1997](#) (survey); [anon., 2000a](#) (February logbook); [anon., 2000b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2001a](#) (Easter logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2003a](#); [anon., 2003c](#) (summer logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#); [León García José, 2010](#) (Volume 1 and Volume 2) (survey and photos); [anon., 2011d](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2012a](#) (January, February logbook); [anon., 2012b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2012d](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2012e](#) (autumn logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2013a](#); [anon., 2013b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2013d](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2015b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2019b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2019d](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2023d](#) (autumn logbook)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#) : [rescue 2019](#)

Underground picture(s): [formations](#) : '93

[Extensions 1 2](#) : [scree slope & helictites](#) : [Easter 2004](#) : [helictites, 2003](#) (MH) : [miscellaneous, ISSA 2003](#)

[helictites](#) (PS) : [Summer 2011](#) : [Easter 2012](#) - trip to [Megabat](#) : [summer 2012](#) : [autumn 2012](#) ASC

[Extension](#)

[Easter 2013](#) : [Summer 2013](#) : [Easter 2015](#) - [Pee Pee Chamber area](#) : [Easter 2019](#)

Videos : [By Juan Corrin](#) [Entrance pitch from surface](#) (2.1Mb)

[Entrance pitch from underground](#) (5.15Mb)

[Helictites in 93 Extension](#) (3Mb)

[Helictites in 93 Extension](#) (3.4Mb) [Formations in 93 Extension](#) (2.7Mb)

[Formations in 93 Extension](#) (3Mb) [Scree Run](#)

(2.2Mb) [Climbing up entrance](#) (4Mb)

[Video by Torben Redder, 2012 summer](#) (YouTube)

[Passage sizes by Phil Papard, 2012 autumn](#) (YouTube)

[ASC Extension, Part 1 by Torben Redder, 2012 autumn](#) (YouTube)

[ASC Extension, Part 2 by Torben Redder, 2012 autumn](#) (YouTube)

[Some Easter 2013 explorations by Phil Papard](#) (YouTube)

[Further explorations, Easter 2013 by Torben Redder](#) (YouTube)

[Explorations around Pee Pee Chamber, Easter 2015](#) (YouTube)

Detailed Survey : from 1967: [low res](#) [high res](#).

from 1994: [1:1000](#)

[2012 MegaBat extension](#) and [ASC Extension](#) (both not drawn onto main survey)

[New survey, Easter 2013](#) : [survey summer 2013](#) : [survey Easter 2015](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : on [Cubija System survey](#); no detail

Survex files : [after summer 2013](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[on Cubija System area](#)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0076: Campo, Cuvia del (Portón, Cueva del)

Cubija 30T 450535 4796290 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 235m

Length 190m **Depth** 30m (connected to [site 1403](#))

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 12th December 1999; 21st January 2001; 14th January, 25th February 2007;

29th January 2010; 1st February, 3rd

October, 5th November 2011; 23rd April

2012; 16th May 2015; 10th February 2016;

5th February 2017; 21st September 2018;

9th January 2020; 7th September, 13th

October 2022; 18th September 2024

A portion of major passage now half filled with sediment and calcite. The cave is about 18m wide at its widest point and chokes with calcited debris and sediment. Digging

possibilities were investigated at the start of 2007 but the site is seen as a long-term effort. The main passage length is about 60m. Down on the right at the entrance, past high tension cable insulators, a small discrete passage heads south for about 15m but becomes narrow with calcite. This was excavated early in 2007, following a draught, and linked with [site 1403](#) near the pool at the base of the entrance slope. The link was surveyed in 2018.

Also in 2007, various bones and pottery were documented. An [annotated survey](#) positioning these items can be seen here. Pieces of black pottery found in an eroded stal basin about half way along the north side of the main passage have similar marking to a series of pots from Cueva AER in Soba.

In 2018, a small passage was entered to the northwest of the entrance, photographed and surveyed to form part of a [re-drawn survey](#).

Bats were seen roosting in December 2009.

Reference [Smith P et al, 2015](#) has a summary of the archaeological work carried out within 2004 - 2016.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [anon., 1999b](#) (Whit logbook); [anon., 1999c](#) (logbook); [anon., 2006f](#) (Christmas logbook); [anon., 2007a](#) (February logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [anon., 2011e](#) (autumn logbook); [anon., 2012b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2012d](#) (summer logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2013](#); [Smith P et al, 2015](#); [anon., 2016a](#) (January, February logbook); [anon., 2017a](#) (January / February logbook); [anon., 2018c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2019f](#) (Christmas logbook); [anon., 2024d](#) (summer logbook)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [entrance](#) : formations- [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) : [January 2007](#) : [December 2009](#), including bats : [July 2011](#) : [October 2011](#)

[January 2016](#) : [January 2017](#) : [August 2018](#) :

[August 2024](#)

Video: [Easter 2010: wmv \(2Mb\)](#) : [mpg \(6Mb\)](#) : [summer 2011](#) : [Easter 2015 \(YouTube\)](#) : [Summer 2022 lighting trial with GoPro Max](#)

Archaeological items: [February 2007](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:1000 \(old\)](#)

[1:500 \(1999, with site 1403\)](#)

[1:500 2007, showing link with site 1403 \(pdf\)](#)

[2007, with archeological annotations](#) : [2018 - connection to 1403 & Dave's Series extension](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (updated 2018) : [Campo-1403](#)

(Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0077: Rascavieja, Cueva de

El Naso 30T 451722 4796229 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 350m

Length 614m **Depth** 40m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

search : [A Google search for this site](#) (Rascavieja,

Cueva de+Matienzo)

Updated 6th May 2000; 16th September 2000; 21st January , 10th June, 27th October 15th November 2001; 8th June 2002; 21st May, 15th October, 8th, 26th November 2003; 21st November 2004; 23rd February 2005; 28th October 2007; 20th December 2008; 6th January 2011; 15th May 2014; 14th October, 3rd December 2016; 8th September 2017; 4th January, 30th April, 30th June 2018; 11th May 2019; 8th January 2020; 18th September 2024

Note: The original centre line was taken from the drawn survey. The main passage was resurveyed (6/8/03) but this has yet to be integrated with previous surveys in the end choke, etc. although it is shown on the centre line survey below. The 2017 survey has been appended to the 1985 choke survey. That is, all surveys are shown on the centre line.

Plotting the entrance on a modern, digital map (with the help of GPS) puts it at 350m altitude, 50m higher than the old maps.

The 4 x 4m, strongly draughting entrance at the base of a cliff leads to a steep slope down to a 30m wide passage. Near the end of the second chamber, on the west side, a 7m pitch was spotted in August 2017. Just next to it, a climb down over calcite reaches a small chamber but there is no obvious way through to the base of the pitch. ([Annotated survey](#)). The pitch was descended at the end of March 2018 and a crawl followed back up to the main passage.

The main passage route closes down at a couple of strongly draughting boulder chokes. The left hand side has been scaled. At Easter 1998, the left hand boulder choke was pushed through to a small passage and more boulders. The survey needs drawing up.

Wolf Chamber is in this area: a climb over was aborted due to dodgy rock and a choke beyond the "wolf" skeleton has been dug to a chamber and an impossible choke. (6/8/03).

The draughting choke to the right has been excavated into a complicated section between moving boulders. This end of the cave was revisited in the summer, 2016, but "*the boulder choke into the Easter '85 extension was too challenging for the cavers who had got through successfully over 30 years ago, ie cavers 30 years younger are needed to explore this extension which is still not fully explored. It's a shame that this cave with its massive chambers has been neglected and never finished.*" In August 2017, a squeeze at the initial chimney down into the choke (1985 extension) was capped out and about 20m of string laid following the original push.

The draught here is very good: the lead was pushed in December 2017 and surveyed in a complex, strongly draughting area. The survey appears to overlap and diverge from the 1985 extensions, appearing to be a mainly "new" route. Although 104m was surveyed in batch 0077_17_01, the extra unexplored length is possibly about 80.7m and this is included in the length in the header. (Legs through to 0077_17_01.0.5 are flagged as duplicate).

In August 2024, it was reported that, "The choke on the right (with the green string) was blowing a gale - got to be worthy of a bit more attention!"

One male *Stenasellus cf. virei* Dollfus was collected in 1964 and 1 Greater Horseshoe bat recorded in April 2003.

L. Mills found the Bronze age skeleton of a youth in the lowest part of the first chamber in 1975. Both femurs were cut shortly before or after death. In 1999, small pieces of pottery were found in the same area.

Further human remains were located in the central part of the chamber by C.A.E.A.P. in December 1989. These were subsequently removed: 124 pieces which were probably all from one 12 - 14 year-old. The remains of two hearths were also noted in the centre of the first chamber and a wall deposit seen in the entrance. The S.E.S.S. found pottery fragments, which they considered Iron Age, but which a revision might now class as medieval. A plan of the distribution of human bones recovered in 1999 is found [here](#) and full details of all the finds are to be found in *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001*. The age of the Bronze Age burial is given as 3999±59BP (radiocarbon years), approximately 2500BC (date calibrated years) (*Smith P, Corrin J & Ruiz Cobo J, 2008*).

A tooth from a Giant European Cave Hyena (*Crocota spelaea*) has been found. (*Smith P, Corrin J and Ruiz Cobo J, 2008, p189*).

Photographs of some of the archaeological finds are pictured [here](#).

According to Quin (BU pp59-62), in his [magnetic susceptibility studies](#), sediments from Rascavieja show similar k values to sediments in [Cueva de Coberruyo \(138\)](#), indicating that the sites may have had a common morphogenic agent and are connected.

[Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#) has a useful summary of the archaeology, with photos and diagrams.

Reference [Smith P et al, 2015](#) has a table of the radio-carbon dates..

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#) (survey); [anon., 1975a](#); [anon., 1975b](#) (Easter and summer logbooks); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#) (survey); [anon., 1977b](#) (logbook); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981](#) (survey); [Smith P, 1981a](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#) (survey); [anon., 1984](#) (logbook); [anon., 1985a](#) (Easter logbook); material in file; [Smith P, 1985](#); [anon., 1987](#) (logbook); [Corrin J and Knights S, 1988](#); [Ortiz E, 1968](#); [anon., 1992b](#) (logbook); [Corrin J and Quin A, 1992](#); [Quin A, 1993b](#) (survey and photo); [Muñoz E and Bermejo A, 1987](#); [Quin Andrew, 1995](#) (survey); [anon., 1997d](#) (Autumn logbook); [anon., 1998a](#) (Easter logbook); [Corrin Juan, 1999](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [anon., 1999c](#) (logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2000](#); [anon., 2001b](#) (Whit logbook); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#) (includes photos and line drawings); [anon., 2003b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2003c](#) (summer logbook); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#) (photos, survey); [anon., 2005a](#) (February logbook); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [Smith P, Corrin J and Ruiz Cobo J, 2008](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#) (survey); [Smith P et al, 2015](#); [anon., 2016c](#) (summer logbook); [Smith Peter et al, 2016](#); [anon., 2017c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2017e](#) (Christmas logbook); [anon., 2018b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2024d](#) (summer logbook)

Entrance picture : [distant](#) [close up](#) [looking out](#)

Video: [Entrance Easter 2014](#) (YouTube)

Underground picture(s): [photos from 1975 and 1984 : bouldery passage 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 : photos from Peter Eagan](#)

[summer 2011](#) : [summer 2017](#) : [February 2019](#) :

August 2024

Detailed Survey :

1964	known cave	low res	high res
1975	known cave	low res	high res
1975 & 1985	known cave		1:1000
1999	archaeological dig		high res
1999	archaeological pointers in first chamber		high res
2017	7m pitch on west side (descended Easter 2018)		scan
2017	addition to 1985 extensions (from .top file)		jpg

Line Survey :

On area survey : from 1975: [low res](#) [high res](#)
Survex file : [download old survey](#) (stations off plan and extensions to the NW added)
[combined survey lines after December 2017](#)
 (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0078: Tizones, Cueva de los

La Vega 30T 451888 4795911 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 174m
Length 698m **Depth** 8m **Vertical range** -8 +5m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated December 17th 1999; 8th January 2000; 14th May 2000; 21st January 2001; 8th November 2003; 6th January 2011

The cave was extended in 1999 and 2000.

The entrance is a sink for a small stream. The route is at water level until a squeeze over a block leads to walking sized passage for 75m. A short duck with minimal air space is followed by walking passage and a short, wet crawl or a dry oxbow to deep water, where progress is stopped by a large block. The resurgence is 350m away but there is no draught.

The 1999 extensions start 25m from the entrance where there is a climb through an excavated section on the right followed by a squeeze into joint controlled phreatic passages. About 100m of comfortable hands and knees crawling leads to a number of 10m holes down to the streamway last seen at the entrance. A rope is needed for the traverse and a 6m rope climb is the best route down.

At this lower level, walking-sized passage heads upstream to a boulder choke with the stream emerging. Downstream, smaller passage goes for about 200m to a complex boulder choke with a possible continuation. This lower section almost certainly floods to the roof. Partway down the 6m climb is the continuation of the higher phreatic level and entry is gained via a muddy scramble. The 35m or so of continuing passage becomes increasingly more difficult with traverses and was completed at Easter 2000 by laddering certain sections and then climbing back up. At a 3m climb, the left hand branch becomes well decorated into a chamber. The passage on the right closes down completely while the obvious passage from the chamber ends in a boulder choke with some spaces above.

Back at the 3m climb, a route at the base was pushed through some grotty passage to known passage at the active level.

Notenboom in *Research on the Groundwater Fauna of Spain: List of Stations and First Results* (Notenboom J and Meijers I, 1985) gives the following fauna:
Echinogammarus/Gammarus, Cyclopoidea, Ostracoda, Prosobranchia/Hydrobioidea, Bivalvia/ Sphaeriidae, Insecta, Oligochaeta, Turbellaria.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1978 \(logbook\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Notenboom J and Meijers I, 1985](#); [anon., 1999c \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2000](#); [anon., 2000b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :

1965	known cave	low res	high res
1975	known cave	low res	high res
1999, 2000	known cave		1:1000

Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and

coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0079: Wendy, Sima

El Naso 30T 450701 4797006 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 463m

Length 71m **Depth** 16m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 4th May, 9th September 2022

The entrance shaft has a large rock bridge and is 10m deep. At the base is a squeeze into a well decorated chamber with no exit. Marked 537 with orange tape. The site was photo'd and surveyed in 2022.

References: [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground pictures: [2022](#)

Detailed Survey : [2022](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [2022](#)

X

0080: Andrés, Sima del

El Camino 30T 452737 4796647 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 220m

Length 62m **Depth** 36m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th November 2003; 16th

September 2014; 17th April 2016

Single choked shaft into a large chamber. This was re-explored (and surveyed) in March 2016 but nothing new was discovered. It may be a good project to dig at the bottom.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1991b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2014c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1964: [low res](#) [high res](#)

from 2016 - being prepared

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#)

X

0081: Carcavuezo, Cueva de

La Secada 30T 452787 4797778 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 146m

Length included in the Four Valleys System: see

[Cueva Hoyuca](#))

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Resources](#) :

[Logbook search](#)

Updated 13 February 1998; 19th February , 18th April 1999, 12th December 1999; 16th September 2000; 21st January, 1st April, 29th April, 7th October, 26th October 2001; 25th October , 11th November 2002; 15th October 2003; 8th October 2005; 1st February, 17th December 2006; 4th May, 27th September, 27th October 2007; 3rd May 2009; 16th January, 8th March, 24th June, 4th October 2010; 6th January, 12th May, 11th October 2011; 13th January, 23rd April 2012; 13th September, 18th October, 21st November 2013; 19th January, 21st May, 16th September 2014; 16th May, 13th, 25th, 28th September 2015; 7th January, 15th February, 20th April, 14th October 2016; 5th February, 8th September 2017; 30th April, 1st July 2018; 27th January, 4th August 2019; 30th October 2020; 6th March, 8th September 2022; 9th February, 13th September 2023; 9th February, 9th June, 19th September 2024

Introduction

Cueva de Carcavuezo is the modern main feeder to the *Four Valleys System* ([line survey](#)) and is the major sink for water leaving the Matienzo depression, i.e. water from as far south as the Cueva Vallina (0733) area above Arredondo. (See [Cueva Hoyuca](#) for a list of the caves that form the Four Valleys System). The water has been [dye tested](#) to the [Los Boyones](#) resurgence in Secadura. Information gleaned from the *Dirección General de Obras Hidráulicas y Ciclo Integral del Agua* in 2005 shows an average water flow into the sink over the previous 20 or so years of 295 litres per second. (A small amount of water sinks in the Orillón complex ([site 0023](#)), and this water has been traced through to a resurgence to the south of Cruz Usaño). The above altitude is for the cave entrance. The altitude of the sinks is about 139m. A draughting hole above the sink was

discovered in 1990 and may provide an easy entrance to the *Western Series*.

The main, cavers' entrance is often choked with flood debris. It was checked in July 2016 and [found choked](#). However, at the end of January 2017, the overflow trench and overflow sink area and entrance top were found completely free of branches (photos), but the entrance was choked at the base of the entrance climb. Heavy rain in mid-January 2023 caused a typical flood event with water rising to about 150m altitude, putting the sinks under about 10m of water and the entrance under 4m. The main road was impassable at the northern road bridge and south of the bridge over the river.

Between Easter and July 2023, a major clearance and landscaping project took place with the aim, presumably, of lessening the frequency and severity of any flood. Around Carcavuezo, branches and debris were removed around the sinks, overflow channel and overflow sink areas. (However, the Cueva Carcavuezo entrance was not cleared of branches.) Photos of the results can be seen in the Entrance photos section below and 360° photos in the *Entrance photos, summer 2023* table below. There are also 4 360° videos for viewing. It may be that sinks have been blocked in the landscaping process and that mud banks planted with young trees at the sinks may be washed away. The whole area will inevitably become full of branches and debris again if a regime of capture and clearance is not put in place, e.g. nets with regular inspection and clearance.

The sink area was surveyed in early May, 2015 when 7 sinks were observed. Over a couple of days with no rain, fewer sinks took water. More details are seen in [a video](#) and the [survey](#) which was [updated in the summer 2015](#). In late January 2017, another sink was obvious in the form of a whirlpool and the geography of the sink area had altered. ([Video](#)). In August 2017, (suspected signal) crayfish were seen at the sink.

The fixed point for the sink area is the southeast corner of the barn on the track; that for the entrance, the southwest corner of the Mushroom Field barn.

It was thought that, after the recent underground resurveys, it may be that the sinks and/or the entrance could be opened up to provide a greater capacity for the sinking water, preventing most floods. However, after surface and underground surveys around the sink area at Easter and summer 2015, the enthusiasm shown by JCFG for mining a hole at the sinks through the boulders to meet the underground stream has waned as the [survey](#) showed a distance deemed too long and expensive to consider. The main entrance has been measured for a grid. However, it could well be that the main or contributing constrictions are deep underground.

The 2015 work included molephoning at two locations: the short drop at the end of the narrow section in Green Cool Passage and a high point in the newly-discovered *Puffin the Beaver* extension. [The data for these locations is found here](#).

The 2015 surveys also highlighted the wrong positions of the contours lines around the sink and entrance and the incorrect course of the stream (which is hidden under trees). Enough data was calculated to allow a [redraw of stream course and the contours in this area](#). A new 140m contour line was drawn at the sink but, although these lines are now better than those on the original map, there will still be errors. That digital map has now been superseded by QGIS which shows a 145m contour surrounding the flood overflow and final sink area.

A direct and relatively straightforward route exists into [Cueva Llueva \(114\)](#); the route to [Cueva Hoyuca \(107\)](#) is through a collapsing boulder choke and should not be lightly attempted. The area of connection was entered through the sump at the end of *Strangle Wanking Passage* in August 2017, when orange line was encountered. The sinks in high flood lies under about 10m of water, ie water reaches the 150m contour; the earlier, lower sections of the 1986 Extensions are likely to sump up with little rain.

Cave description

The río Matienzo (also called the río Clarín) [sinks into a mass of boulders and logs](#). A deep, excavated and normally dry trench beyond this leads to an area of boulders and

flood debris. A draughting rift on the northern side of the flood sink is the main entry point - the first trip after heavy rain may need to excavate the entrance of its logs and other flood detritus. ([Photos](#) and [YouTube video](#)). [Site 3895](#), to the south, is also an entrance that has been surveyed through. This entrance was the one used for the 2024 summer trips.

Route finding in the boulder strewn, descending rifts and large phreatic tubes is facilitated by the draught. At a low chamber, a stoop ahead leads to a chossy climb up into an area which could bypass the present, flood-prone route; to the left an arrow marks the usual squeeze down into a descending, bouldery rift and a short drop to a block at the top of the river passage. A straight climb down or a less exposed drop between the bouldery walls leads down to the river. More boulder chokes have to be passed before the sump pool is reached within 200 metres. This has been dived to a boulder choke and holes directly above the sump have been maypoled - there is a possible draughting continuation here. Is this the "high rift near the end of the canal that has a strong draught" and "could be bolted"? (Easter 2014).

Much poking about in the roof of the choke has also occurred.

Two ways into the major east and west extensions exist, the 1986, low level route contains rocking boulders but may need to be followed to hang a ladder down the climb for the other route.

Most cavers should follow the stream down until a ladder is noticed hanging from the roof. A climb up leads directly into the 1986 (Easterly) and 1988 (Westerly) Extensions.

The entry point to the low level route to the 1986 Extensions lies on the right of the stream and is a 3m climb down an awkward fissure to a pebbly crawl into a wide bedding and, after 20m, a rocky squeeze. A small climb to the right then drops down a rift to a small, gravel-floored chamber with a pool. A climb up to the left followed by an uphill slide through a body-sized right angle leads to a muddy climb over and between boulders and two slippery parallel drops of 4m. Either of these lands in a small, muddy passage and a straddle climb down to water. A short crawl over mud and gravel leads to the base of 30m of clean-washed rift passage. A bridging climb of 6m pops up into large passage, the start of the *Afternoon Stroll* in the *Easterly Extensions*). *Afternoon Crawl* needs describing? Extension found in the boulders on the **2024 summer explorations, 11/8/24**. This led to several chambers and ended at a triangular hole with a good draught. The extension was not surveyed.

After 130m of pleasant stroll in a phreatically enlarged rift a breakdown area, the *Light Frigit*, is met where other passages converge from the north. One, the *Third Fanny* heads back towards the entrance but ends at a series of choked phreatic rifts to the north and a very low bedding to the west. The *Fourth Fanny* heads north and back towards the *Third Fanny* ending in a boulder choke.

The main line continues east enlarging to 4m wide and high until a similarly-sized passage joins it from the south. Ripple marks in the sand appear to indicate water flow from the south and west heading eastwards.

The *Southern Inlet* continues in similar style for 100m where at a junction to the right, a narrow rift leads over a traverse to calcited boulders. At the bottom of the traverse a phreatic maze leads back to the junction. The southern end of the *Southern Inlet* degenerates into low crawls under the walls.

The main route continues east down a large passage with fine floors of eroded and scalloped mud. After 100m, breakdown is encountered and a very large boulder almost blocks the passage. Beyond is *Red Column Chamber*, a large breakdown chamber with a few small stal and a 3m long red formation in the NE corner.

Duck Passage is the route which heads east out of *Red Column Chamber* and is a smaller, 3m square passage. It is formed in a bed of nodular limestone which has broken down extensively to small, muddy rubble in places. After an initial rise, the passage gradually slopes downwards, becoming muddy and passing the eroded rock, *The Duck*, after 90m. The next 120m appear to be fault guided with a hading wall on its

south side. Numerous blind phreatic rifts are present in the wall and the roof. A few small white formations brighten the drab, mud-covered passage. Passage size varies from 6m wide and 4m high but is more commonly 3m square and, progressing east, becomes more obviously phreatic with rifts and short, mud-blocked side tubes, the passage now being lower than the friable bed of nodular limestone. Eventually a muddy maze of walking, stooping and body-sized phreatic passages is entered (at least 110m of which is unsurveyed), all soon forming parts of two routes through a truncated section of large passage blocked at both ends by sediment. After an initially large segment 5m wide by 4m high, floored by dried mud the roof has collapsed from the over-lying nodular limestone beds, mainly choking the passage at *Gypsum Chambers*. Crawling over and under gypsum-strewn muddy boulders leads via an squeeze to an unpleasantly small, muddy tube with pools in the floor and ending at an 18cm wide connection with the *Pease Pudding Passage* of [Cueva Llueva \(114\)](#).

In 1999, opposite *Straw Passage*, over 500m was surveyed in *Parallel Sausages*. At Andy Quin's Foot, 100m of passage (*Ramon Bolado*) was surveyed which heads back towards the upstream sump passages in Cueva Llueva.

An impressive canyon passage leads from *Red Column Chamber* over large fallen blocks to a rock bridge with a metre deep pool beneath. The canyon bottom is now mud and splits to a lower passage *The Rectum* and a climb past a large rock pillar into *Argument Passage*. Above the pillar, a 4m climb give access to a 3m x 2m passage trending NE with branches and boulder blockages. One route leads back to *Chase the Dragon* after about 100m.

Argument Passage continues 10 - 12m high and 10m wide to end after 70m at a mud-covered boulder slope. The top of the slope has very nice red stalagmite cones up to 1m high and chokes in large boulders. Following the southern wall, a draught encourages squeezing between stalagmited boulders. This has been pushed for 20m to where the draught disappears between muddy boulders.

The Rectum is the start of *Chase the Dragon* and takes the strongest draught between Cueva Llueva and Carcavuezo. It is a muddy passage up to 4m wide but mainly low stooping under an arched roof. Side branches have not been surveyed or pushed. After 150m the passage narrows with potholes in the floor and soft, friable shaley rock. After a few short oxbows (not shown on the survey) the passage forks.

Keep Right For Smack is the way through to Llueva and carries the strongest draught. The route is through shallow pools and over slippery calcite mud and after about 80m pops up in the floor of Cueva Llueva, about 100m west of the *Rhinoceros*. (*Continuation Passage* is straight across from the entry point and is a climb down in boulders. The passage continues as a small series of hands-and-knees, mazy tunnels which run around the north side of the *Smack Choke* but ends too tight). A panoramic photo of above Smack Choke [can be viewed](#).

The Maze is the alternative route to *The Rectum*. It contains at least 100m of unsurveyed junctions and oxbows. Its limits to the west and south are not known. By following the draught a route is found through to the *Abattoir*, a red mineral-smearred area where a climb down drops into a river running in amongst boulders. By following the river to the west the *Sewers of Doom* are reached above the river and eventually the *Candy Shop* in Cueva Llueva. (*Sewers of Doom* survey below). The *Candy Shop* has deep red gour pools on the boulder pile. A start was made in the summer, 2022, to resurvey the Sewers - see below.

[Most of above by Terry Whitaker. Passage development arguments in file.]

The *Western Series* needs writing up. (See below, October 2013). The ladder up broke in the summer 2003 and is now next to a replacement as the krab on the old one has broken.

Barn Passage comes close to the building which Alberto was doing up. He has told Pete that there used to be a natural drainage for the cow-shit inside the shed. So it may be worthwhile re-investigating this area of the cave - or his decaying barn. There appears to an an remnant arch behind the house that is full of debris.

At Easter 2001, the sump in *Ovlov Passage* was dived through into a 25m rift chamber with a narrow squeeze. This was pushed in the summer with 30m of under water passage that was still going. The sump is further into the hill than the Volvo passages and is parallel to them. In October 2002, the sump became too wide over "silt dunes". It was noted that the passage is heading south towards Volvo. The dig at the entrance to the sump was also examined. It appears to be a good site as the passage is not heading straight for Volvo, rather heading west. In the very dry summer of 2003 "the water level had gone down and there no flow from the sump so would be a good place to dam and bail; estimated time of bailing 3 hours with a bucket leaving a 'dry' sump. The first sump would take about half an hour to bail but this just leads to a rift with a sandbank and the other sump would have to be bailed. It's approximately 4-5ft deep in current conditions".

An extension at the end of the Draintester Passage in the Western series - *Purgatory* - was first entered in 1991(?) for about "300m". The small passage was surveyed for 248m in 1997 and is still going for at least 60m is similar passage. The lower altitude route passes below the middle arm of *Trident Passages* in [Cueva Hoyuca](#) (107).

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

The **resurvey of the cave**, as part of the 4 Valleys System resurvey, was started in the summer, 2013. A number of extensions and previously unsurveyed sections were entered and will be described in due course. The 2.9km of Survex survey can be [seen here](#). The combined survey is currently on the area map and shown in Survex files below. (January 2014).

Draft drawings (early 2014) are available of the [entrance area](#) and more of the [cave](#). Further (re)surveying was carried out during the **Easter 2014** expedition and small extensions made. Batch 14-01 is above the stream; 14-03 links through to [site 3895](#) and batch 14-04 was a resurvey of rifts near the *Western Series*.

Further (re)surveying was carried out during the **summer 2014** expedition and extensions made. Batch 14-06 is mainly resurvey linking the east to west series. Batch 14-07 is up a rift climb in an area of rifts and leads to a series of tubes and rifts with faint draught. A sandy crawl at the west is a dig that continues. There is a draught down at the N end which could be pushed. There were 92m of new passage surveyed here. Batches 14-08 and 14-10 are 12m and 29m of new passage in the same area. Batch 14-09 is resurvey. Batch 14-11 is a new series in the Haymarket. This goes off at the first major junction where a climb down through boulders follows the stream with a descending passage pushed through a duck to eventual deep water and a low duck. This was surveyed for 118m. The area was revisited on Aug 8th and a few hundred metres of new passage found but not surveyed. (This could be beyond the end of 14-11 but may also be at the start of the extension.)

In the **summer 2015**, further resurveying took place - in *Green Cool Passage* (batch 0081-15-01) and Southern Inlet (*batch 0081-15-02*). A passage called *The Afternoon Crawl* (that heads back west from the *The Afternoon Stroll*) was also surveyed/resurveyed (batch 0081-15-03).

New passages were discovered near the start of the *Western Series*., batches 0081-15-04, 06 and 07, described by Alex Ritchie:

0081-15-04 A dug out choke squeeze leads into a small chamber with boulders. There is a triangular slot above that has not been entered, appears to be too tight and enters another boulder chamber which is the likely residence of one of Ali's gloves. A crawl straight ahead up a slope is the way on. The passage appears to end here. However, an enlarged squeeze straight up leads to the continuation, up a 3m broken climb. The crawl from here leads to another easy squeeze which shortly breaks out into larger passage.

Turning 180 degrees and climbing up reaches a crawl, part of batch 0081-15-07. This is a rift passage that goes on for about 15m until it chokes in boulders with many drafting holes. The short passage on the left part way along the rift also chokes.

Back in the main passage, on the right of the calcite slope (batch 0081-15-07) an easy climb up leads to a chamber with a small amount of water entering, which appears to be too tight.

Up the calcite slope in the main passage, the passage opens up onto another level. In front is a short amount of flat floored

walking passage that is blocked by a large boulder. The passage continues for a little further to the right before that too is also blocked by boulders (unsurveyed).

Continuing up higher beyond the flat floor passage eventually leads to the top of the calcite slope. (End of batch 0081-15-04)

Batch 0081-15-06 From the top of the slope there are three ways on. Down the slope, loose passage quickly closes down in boulders in all directions, as does a forced crawl straight ahead at the top (latter unsurveyed). Above is a climb over poised boulders entering the highest passage of the extensions where the mole phone was placed. This walking passage quickly leads to a calcite blockage, where a climb up followed by a flat out crawl goes into further, decorated passage, which unfortunately terminates in a solid calcite choke.

In **October 2013**, in the entrance series, passages beyond the climb into *Big Chamber Somewhere near the Entrance* were looked at and surveyed beyond the limit reached in the summer, these appearing to form a continuation of the chokes at the start of the *Afternoon Stroll*. *Big Chamber Somewhere near the Entrance* was visited on two trips, the climb up being made substantially easier by the removal of two chockstones which previously made the climb pretty tight. Care is required through loose blocks up into the chamber. At the western end of the chamber, two passages were explored. One extended about 20m to a possible dig perhaps towards surface, while the more northern was pushed through a draughting dig to a further dig after 35m. Also at the western end of the chamber, a route through boulders in the floor was pushed to an undescended hole dropping to water, presumed to be the upstream sump area. (One hole was dropped at **Easter 2014** to link with the stream). In the streamway in the "old" cave, the area around the upstream sump was investigated, some possible leads requiring bolts to reach.

Downstream, an oxbow towards the downstream sump was surveyed and a draughting narrow rift noted.

The complex of rifts on the north side were further surveyed up to the connection to the *Western Series*.

The *Western Series* was resurveyed as far as the start of *Barn Passage* and various passages beyond were revisited.

The most direct routes into the *Western Series* can be described as either a rigged slippery traverse in the more southern of the rift series, or following the more northern rift and following it through waist deep water until the passage ends at a slot in the floor of the *Western Series*.

Strangle Wanking Passage, (first explored and surveyed from the Cueva Llueva, but now more easily reached from Carcavuezo entrance) was pushed through the terminal sump by Dave Garmin in **August 2017** into a bouldery area where orange string had been left from a previous exploration near the end of Cueva Hoyuca. The sump has a line through, bolted at each end, and has been described as a 5 -6m free dive. There is a dangerous rocking boulder on the Hoyuca side which requires some attention. [A video of the dive, filming and exploration](#) into Hoyuca has been edited. The survey in the area appears quite accurate apart from the z axis.

A number of (re)surveys were carried out in Carcavuezo/Llueva in the **summer 2017**. Batch 0081-17-01 is the cross over passage near *Chase the Dragon*; 0081-17-02 is a resurvey of keep *Right for Smack*; a west-heading passage off the *Afternoon Stroll* is batch 0081-17-03; *Smack Choke* corner, batch 0114-17-01; the far reaches of *SW Passage*, batches 0114-17-02 and 0114-17-03.

When routes through to *SW Passage* were found to be too wet, further resurveying was carrying out at **Easter 2018** - "loose ends" tidied up. This resulted in about 60m being surveyed for the first time. (Batches 18-01, 18-02 and 18-03).

A start was made resurveying and extending the *Sewers of Doom* area in the **summer 2022**. This is batch 0081-22-01 on the updated 0081.3d survey below.

L. Mills found a *Lithobius* in 1986.

Matienzo and its caves are mentioned in the *Diccionario Geográfico-Estadístico-Histórico de España Tomo XI*, a geographical dictionary published in 1848 ([Madoz Pascual, 1848](#)). Comellantes is mentioned as the resurgence into the depression with water disappearing in La Secada and appearing in Secadura after ½ league underground. Bad flooding and poor roads are mentioned. The *Cavernas y Simas de*

España (Puig et al, 1896) mentions various Cuevas de la Secada, of different sizes, which serve in times of heavy rainfall to absorb the excess water. This book also has a *pozo nuevo* taking the water. It was around this time that a new, apparently lower road through the depression was built. It may be that the new pot was able to prevent frequent bad flooding. The previous water levels in the depression may have been generally higher and there may be old flood sinks to discover, beyond and higher than the present Carcavuezo entrance.

References: Beardmore W and Lenartowitz S, 1972; anon., 1974b (logbook); Puig et al, 1896; Madoz Pascual, 1848; Fernández Gutiérrez Juan Carlos, 1965; anon., 1974a; Cox G, 1973; Fernández Gutiérrez J C, 1975; Cope J et al, 1976; anon., 1978 (logbook); Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 (survey); Corrin J et al, 1978; anon., 1980a (logbook); Corrin J et al, 1981b; Corrin J, 1980; Mills L D J, 1981; Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 (survey); Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981; anon., 1981a (logbook); anon., 1983b (logbook); anon., 1985b (logbook); Corrin J, 1986; anon., 1986 (logbook); Corrin J, 1987 (survey and photo); Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 (survey); material in file; anon., 1987 (logbook); Corrin J and Knights S, 1988; anon., 1988 (logbook); Davis J and Corrin J, 1989 (photo); Cawthorne R, 1987; anon., 1989 (logbook); Neill A et al, 1989; anon., 1991 (logbook); Corrin J, 1992a (survey); Corrin J, 1992b (survey); Corrin J, 1994b (survey); anon., 1996c (Christmas logbook); anon., 1997b (logbook); Corrin Juan, 1998; Fernández Ortega F, Valls Uriol and Maria del Carmen, 1998; García José León, 1997 (survey); Corrin Juan, 1997c; anon., 1999a (Easter logbook); anon., 1999c (logbook); Corrin Juan, 2000; anon., 2001a (Easter logbook); anon., 2001c (Summer logbook); Corrin Juan, 2001a; anon., 2002e (February logbook); anon., 2002c (autumn logbook); Corrin Juan, 2003a; anon., 2003c (summer logbook); Corrin Juan, 2003c; anon., 2005b (Easter & summer) ; Corrin Juan, 2005; Corrin Juan, 2006a; Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007; Corrin Juan, 2010; León García José, 2010 (Volume 1 and Volume 2) (line survey and photos); anon., 2012b (Easter logbook); Corrin Juan, 2013a; anon., 2013d (summer logbook); anon., 2013e (autumn logbook); anon., 2014b (Easter logbook); anon., 2014c (summer logbook); anon., 2015b (Easter logbook); anon., 2015c (summer logbook); anon., 2016b (Easter logbook); anon., 2017a (January, February logbook); anon., 2017c (summer logbook); anon., 2018b (Easter logbook); anon., 2020d (autumn logbook); anon., 2022c (summer logbook); anon., 2023a (January, February logbook); anon., 2023c (summer logbook); anon., 2024a (January, February logbook); anon., 2024c (Whit logbook); anon., 2024d (summer logbook)

Entrance pictures : yes, 1977, 2005 and 2009 (under water) : free-flowing sink : moderate flooding
 Easter 2012 : Excavating entrance 2014
 Sink area, Easter & summer 2015 : Entrance Easter, summer 2016 : overflow channel and entrance
 January 2017 : sinks area with crayfish, summer 2017 : sink area October 2020 : after landscaping (Spring 2023) sinks area

<i>Summer 2022: 360°</i>	
Above the entrance	Looking into the entrance
Flood overflow channel	Overflow channel from sink area
Sink area - 1	Sink area - 2

<i>Summer 2023 360° photos at</i>	
Around Carcavuezo entrance	Around Carcavuezo entrance
Flood overflow channel	Sink area, low flow

Underground picture(s): the sump (1977) : summer 2013 : autumn 2013 - Big Chamber
 Somewhere the Entrance & Western Series : Above Smack Choke panorama
 Summer 2015 - Afternoon Stroll & Southern Passage : summer 2022, Keep Right for Smack : summer 2024, sump and Eastern Series

Video: stream sink Entrance: 1 2 3 4 : Moderate flooding Easter 2012 : New route to the Western Series, 2013 (YouTube) : Clearing the main entrance of flood debris, Easter 2014 (YouTube) Survey of the sinks, May 2015 (YouTube) : Molephoning, summer 2015 (YouTube) : sink whirlpool, January 2017 (YouTube)
 Llueva/Carcavuezo to Hoyuca dive through, 2017 (YouTube)

Summer 2022 - 360° video of sink area in drought : Spanish group, August 2022 visit (YouTube)
 Summer 2023 unedited 360° videos around the normal sink area 1 2 and near the entrance to Cueva Carcavuezo 1 2 (YouTube) : Trip to Afternoon Stroll, August 2024 (YouTube)

Detailed Survey : Original 1974 survey : Sewers of Doom: lower left and right : upper : composite
 Draft portions of new survey (Easter 2014) - cave : entrance
 surface survey of sink area (May - summer 2015) : cave (published Sept 2015) : entrance series : entrance series published August 2019 : Latest June 2024 - plan : entrance plan : eastern passages
 On Paul Fretwell's latest version of the Fours Valleys survey (currently unavailable)

Line Survey :
On area survey : 4 Valleys Survey (no details)
Survex file : yes, including sink area surface survey (after summer 2022) : 4 Valleys System - lite and complete with other caves (June 2024). (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.) : Loch file of the 4 Valleys System + selected surrounding caves (Paul Fretwell, April 2012) (download as a zip file) : 4 Valleys System + other caves (now) : 4 Valleys - lite (now)
Passage direction rose diagram: Four Valleys System

X

0082: Churros, Sima de los

La Secada 30T 453258 4798751 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 388m

Length 34m **Depth** 33m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 10th October 2022; 24th January 2025

A "nice", straight pitch to a possible draughting dig. Although, according to the first documented visit in 1977, there was no draught!

The shaft was checked out 47 years later when a narrow rift to one side, half way down, was noted. It appears to be bigger beyond the constriction but would require capping to open up. More documentation was also produced: survey, photos and video.

References: [anon., 1977b \(logbook\)](#) (survey);

[Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2024f](#)

([Christmas logbook](#))

Entrance pictures : [2024](#)

Underground pictures: [2024](#)

Video: [2024](#)

Detailed Survey : in hand

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [2024](#)

X

0083: Chica, Cueva

La Colina 30T 453080 4796356 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 433m

Length 78m **Depth** 3m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th September 2000; 3rd February, 27th October 2001; 20th December 2008; 14th September 2015

Cave passage description (Nigel Dibben, August 2015)

This is a fossil cave with no draught.

The cave contains a meandering walking-size passage approx 80m long with a distinct left and right bend in the centre. The floor is sandy soil mixed with animal faeces and bones of sheep and goats etc. At the left bend, a short passage goes straight ahead with possible "bears' nests" in the floor and definite bear claw marks on a clay wall to the left at the end. The passage ends with a rise to a higher level which is too small but shows phreatic features in the roof. After the left bend, a short branch goes back towards the entrance but closes down. The passage bends right through a sandy chamber to a constriction between stal. After the constriction, there is a small chamber with flowstone walls ending in another tight passage which is not passable. There is a chimney above the entrance chamber.

Notable features include bear marks on walls and possibly floor; animal remains and fungi on the floor; the phreatic roof and stal in the final chamber reached.

The left-hand passage contains a few black marks which might be considered schematic-abstract paintings. These are detailed and sketched in *El Arte Esquemático-Abstracto de Matienzo y sus alrededores* (Smith Peter, 1998b) and further discussed in [Muñoz Emilio et al, 1995](#) and [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#). The developing *Acanto* web site (by the *Federación de Asociaciones para la defensa del Patrimonio Cultural y Natural de Cantabria*) has a section on [Arte Rupestre esquemático-abstracto](#).

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#);

[Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1983b](#)

([logbook](#)); material in file; [Muñoz Emilio et al, 1995](#);

[Smith Peter, 1998b](#) (survey); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#);

[anon., 2000c](#) ([Summer logbook](#));

[Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#) (survey); [anon., 2015c](#)

([summer logbook](#))

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground pictures: [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#) : [Resurvey, summer 2015](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#)

X

0084: Cosas, Cueva las

La Secada 30T 452857 4797232 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 195m

Length 180m **Depth** 24m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th May 2000; 8th November 2003; 14th October, 29th November 2016; 9th September, 6th October 2017; 12th May, 6th September 2019; 8th September 2022; 10th May, 13th September 2023; 6th January, 8th February, 27th April, 2024;

27th February 2025

After attempts to find the cave (at a wrong grid reference) in August 2016, the entrance was finally re-located and GPS'd the following November. The site is well worth a photography session and is useful for Disto calibration!

A small entrance under a scar leads directly onto a steeply descending calcite slope with columns. A handline is useful for youngsters. The route down ends on rubble then a flat mud floor with drip pits. To the right (south) is an impressive, isolated 4.5m high column; the wall behind and some stal have been plastered with carbide(?) graffiti. Around to the east, is a toppled stumpy column which has rolled and has later calcite growing on and around it.

The "60m diameter" chamber, according to the entry in reference L75, may have a way on which has collapsed. Further investigations in 2000 found no such prospects, although there are small routes which may repay closer inspection. A thorough (re)inspection and resurvey was carried out in August 2017 - 2019. At this time the length of the cave was calculated as 180m - the sum of the lengths of the chamber's major and minor axes.

[Site 4599](#) may have been an entrance further northeast at one time as daylight was spotted (4/8/17) to the north of the main entrance.

Members of the [Matienzo Karst Entomology Project](#) on a visit at Easter 2019 found no sign of bug life and saw only one lesser horseshoe bat. One bat of the same species was seen on a December 2024 trip, when 2 cells priced at 5 pesetas each were brought out.

Photos were taken for photogrammetry in August 2022 and a families trip was video'd (using a 360° camera) in April 2023. The cave is popular as a trip for families.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1975b \(Easter and summer logbooks\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#); [anon., 2000b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023e \(Christmas logbook\)](#) [anon., 2024a \(January, February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024f \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [entrance](#) : [view from entrance](#)

: [entrance, November 2016](#) : [entrance August 2017](#)

Underground picture(s): [formations 1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#)

[6](#) : [November 2016](#) : [August 2017 \(ND\)](#) : [August 2017 \(CM\)](#) : [April 2019](#)

[January 2020](#) : [summer 2021](#) : [Chamber with sunbeam and jaw bone, summer 2023](#), : [Visit, December 2024](#)

Video: [Using 360° camera \(YouTube, November 2016\)](#) : [Families visit April 2023](#)

Detailed Survey :

1964 known cave [low res](#) [high res](#)

1975 known cave [low res](#) [high res](#)

2017 - 2019 known cave in hand

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [from August 2019](#)

X

0085: Cueva, Abrigo de la (Camino, La Cueva del)

El Camino 30T 452748 4796771 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 238m

Length 47m **Height** 4m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 3rd January 2000; 27th October

2001; 12th November 2002; 8th November

2003; 27th February 2008; 15th April, 21st

December 2008; 4th May 2022; 31st

January 2023

Little more than a large rock shelter, some 30m wide and 10m deep. The cave rises to alcoves on the northern side and there is a deeper recess with tree roots to the south. A small flint found in September 1988 perhaps indicates that the cave contains palaeolithic remains. There was a "passing" visit to the "grande" rock shelter at Easter 2022. The site was resurveyed near the end of 2022, showing a possible high level passage.

A GPS reading of ETRS89: 30T 452723

4796757 cannot sensibly be applied to the

"entrance".

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and](#)

Smith Peter et al, 2001; [anon., 2008b \(February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#); Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008 (survey); [anon., 2022b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : • from 1964: [low res](#) [high res](#) • [pdf from 2022](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [2022](#)

X

0086: Cuvia, La

La Secada 30T 453143 4797805 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 296m

Length 290m+ **Depth** 26m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated summer 2000; 31st December 2000; 23rd February, 27th October 2001; 25th October 2002; 25th January, 8th November 2003; 21st December 2008; 23rd April 2012; 1st May 2018; 13th September 2023; 27th April 2024

Steps lead down into the large cave vestibule that contains two water troughs in its entrance. The entrance chamber has probably been in use since prehistoric times. A climb down on the right of the chamber (where Iron Age pottery has been found)*** leads to a small, meandering passage that breaks out into a large chamber and a superb 7m high column. Just before this, on the right of the main passage, is a crawl through to the head of a 7m pitch down into a sandy-floored chamber, with a small passage and separate "chamber" at the far side. The main cave passes through breakdown chambers with formations and then becomes small to the right, ending at a choke of boulders.

On the left of the entrance chamber the left route leads to a 13m pitch that drops in through the roof of the main passage; the right hand route passes through a decaying "doorway" and heads down to a choke above the main passage.

Much poking about in the floor and roof near the end has extended La Cuvia by little. At the end there seems to be a passage which is well choked with cobbles and sand but is not a diggable prospect. A visit in August 2023 saw some pushing at the end but it was very tight.

The cave may have drained the Matienzo depression in the past. It lies close to [Tres Niños](#) and well above the end of *Argument Passage* in [Cueva Carcavueso](#).

Over Easter 2018, the [Matienzo Karst Entomology Project](#) (led by Tom Thompson) followed up a previous study by collecting bugs, spot sampling and setting pitfall traps in a number of sites under a Cantabria-wide permit. The Entomology Project carried out some work in this cave.

*** Note: It was reported in 2024 that the climb down couldn't be found and the boulders may have moved blocking this route to the main chamber. This movement may be associated with recent roof falls in [Tres Niños #0565](#).

References: [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#); [anon., 1975b \(Easter and summer logbooks\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Cope J et al, 1976](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [Smith P, 1985 \(survey and photo\)](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000d \(Xmas logbook\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001 \(includes a line drawing of the potsherds\)](#); [anon., 2002b \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002d \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2012b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#) [route down to cave](#)

Underground picture(s): [With the EcoCulturas group, 2000.](#) : [Easter 2018](#)

Detailed Survey :

1975	known cave	low res	high res
------	------------	-------------------------	--------------------------

2000	known cave		1:1000
------	------------	--	------------------------

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0087: Emboscados, Cueva de los

La Secada 30T 452361 4797841 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 223m

Length 260m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th September 1998; 16th September 2000; 27th October, 11th November 2001; 8th November 2003; 15th July, 27th October 2007; 21st December 2008; 21st May 2014

The entrance, gated in 1998, is at the head of a [steep wooded slope](#), under a rock shelter. (Possible gating to protect the engravings and artefacts is mentioned in *León J and Smith P, 1993*). Goats were kept out of the cave by rocks which can be removed to reveal a [small draughting hole](#). A short crawl enlarges and descends, past [formations](#), into a fine [12m wide passage](#). The calcite slope levels out at a pit in the floor and then zig-zags to a gentle ascent to a draughting boulder choke. This has been dug through for about 8m in some major excavations. Part way along it is possible to see up into "space". The pit has a tight passage in its base and a tight squeeze which opens out into a small chamber. A number of small passages all choke but there are some nice formations.

Up on the left at the dogleg a climb of about 8m enters an extra 66m of passage.
Description.....?

The cave may also have been an ancient outlet for the Matienzo water and the choke at the end could repay further digging.

With its south facing entrance, above the river, it is likely that Emboscados (or at least the rock shelter at the entrance) was used as a habitation.

L. Mills found a [rounded stone or iron nodule](#) (125mm x 85mm x 43mm), which had been hammered at both ends, in the central part of the cave in 1975. This is classed as a grindstone or whetstone (afiladera) in *Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p224*. In 1979 several prehistoric engravings were located in the second passage. These include several deer, goats and other lines, not interpreted. A curving line of red paint crosses over the back of the first deer. Also in 1979, a flint was found in the entrance. Some shells and Bronze Age pottery were found inside the entrance by C.A.E.A.P. in February 1991. A human tibia was also seen.

Later investigation has shown the remains of a shell midden in the entrance. (*Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001*). Some of the archaeological artefacts are illustrated [here](#). *Smith Peter, 2002* has the possibility that some these engravings are false.

See also *Iberia before the Iberians* (Strauss Lawrence Guy, 1992, p133 and 176).

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1974a](#); [Cox G, 1973](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#); [Addis F et al, 1979](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#); [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J, 1980](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Smith P, 1981c](#) ; [Smith P, 1981a](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1986 \(logbook\) \(survey\)](#); [Smith P, 1986a \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [Cawthorne B and Neill A, 1990](#); [Balbin R et al, 1986](#); material in file; [Cawthorne Bob et al, 1988](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#); [Smith P, 1988](#); [anon., 1991 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1992a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [Neill Alasdair and Jackson Keith, 1993](#); [Muñoz E and Bermejo A, 1987](#); [León J and Smith P, 1993](#); [anon., 1995a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1995b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [Smith P, 1995 \(survey\)](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001 \(includes lines drawing and photos\)](#); [Smith Peter, 2002](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [position from the road](#)
: [entrance shelter](#) : [gated entrance, 2014](#)
Underground picture(s): [surveying past formations](#) [surveying in passage](#) [looking back down from end choke](#)

Detailed Survey :

1965	known cave	low res	high res
1975	known cave	low res	high res
1988	known cave		1:1000

Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[X](#)

0088: Escajadillo, Sima del La Secada 30T 452098 4798291 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [U](#)) **Altitude** 345m
Length 18m **Depth** 18m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th November 2003

Straight shaft to a grotto. Searches for the shaft, explored by Spanish cavers in the 1960's, have been unsuccessful, with the conclusion that it may have been bulldozed over.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#) (survey); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1964: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0089: Grajas, Cueva de las

La Colina 30T 453459 4797167 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 370m

Length 45m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

search : [A Google search for this site](#) (Grajas, Cueva de las+La Colina)

Updated 27th October, 18th November 2001; 26th November 2003; 27th October 2007; 21st December 2008; 16th May 2009; 25th June 2010; 1st February 2011; 19th February, 3rd December 2016; 8th January 2020; 16th February 2022

The site is approached past the farm then along the upper track where the wood starts. The large entrance is in trees, 50m up the hill, best found by coming off the track to walk up and across the slope just as a large, fallen tree comes into view. The GPS grid reference was taken when there were no leaves on the surrounding trees.

The entrance leads straight down a leafy slope and enters a large chamber, some 15m high. This has a massive calcite boss in the centre and some fossil formations. A climb down at the back of the cave leads to a tighter drop and a soak away. The southern side of the chamber has [pieces of pottery](#) and possible hearths in various, marked, places. There is also a piece of pottery on the north side.

The site has been investigated by Spanish archaeologists, with a publication ([Ruiz Cobo J and Smith P, 1995](#)) analysing sediments. Reference [Beta Analytic Inc, 1994](#) has the results of a radiocarbon analysis of charcoal carried out in 1994. This material was found under supposed 2-3000 year-old pottery and yet the sample was dated to 850 ±70±BP, or between ±AD 1025 and 1290 with 95% probability.

A test reported by Peter Smith in Feb 96 has an item dated to the 1st century AD and a bovine femur was dated to 2025BC.

An article in *Studies in Speleology - The Prehistoric cave site "Cueva de las Grajas" in Matienzo, North Spain* - has photos and line diagrams of the pottery and attempts to piece together the evidence to provide a chronology ([Ruiz Jesús et al, 1999](#)). [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#) suggests that the urns were part of a Bronze Age ritual deposit.

[Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#) has a useful summary with a survey (pp50-51), and various photos and drawings scattered through the volume. The pottery has been compared with the assemblage in [site 2139](#). (Smith P, Corrin J & Ruiz Cobo J, 2008).

[Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p132](#) gives a date of 1800 BC for the 4 pots. Charcoal has been dated to Roman and medieval. [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009](#) compares "Orza" type pottery with other finds in the Asón region.

Reference [Smith P et al, 2015](#) has a table of radio-carbon and thermoluminescence dates.

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); anon., 1994a (Easter logbook); material in file; anon., 1994b (logbook); [Beta Analytic Inc, 1994](#); [Ruiz Cobo J and Smith P, 1995](#); [Ruiz Cobo J and Smith P, 1997](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Jesús et al, 1999](#); anon., 2000c (Summer logbook); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#) (includes diagrams and line drawings); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#) (survey); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [Smith P, Corrin J & Cobo J R, 2008](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#) (survey and drawings); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009](#); [anon., 2010b](#) (Easter logbook); [Ruiz Cobo J and Muñoz Fernández E, 2013](#); [Smith P et al, 2015](#); [Smith Peter et al, 2016](#); [anon., 2022a](#) (January, February logbook)

Entrance picture : [January 2022](#)

Underground pictures: [From about 2000](#); [January 2022](#)

Archaeology : [drawings of 4 of the 5 pots discovered](#)

Video: Easter 2010 : [wmv \(6Mb\)](#) : [mpg \(52Mb\)](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500 showing archaeological sites](#) (from [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#))

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)



0090: Mantequilla, Cueva de la

El Camino 30T 452708 4796841 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 200m

Length 59m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th November 2003; 28th

February, 15th April, 15th June, 20th

December 2008

The site was revisited a number of times in February 2008 partly because of an extension expectation to "A single, choked gallery". After enlarging a calcited rift and descending a 4m pitch, it was found that the site had been thoroughly explored by "thin men" back when the survey was produced in 1964.

The length and Spanish survey have been revised and finally the cave completely resurveyed. Glazed pottery and (presumably Civil War) tin cans and bullets have been recovered from the entrance chamber.

Further illustrated information about the Civil War in the area can be found [here](#).

The entrance can be seen as a black hole from a good distance. The 5m high entrance chamber contains a large calcite boss and down to the right is an alcove containing a possible ibex skull and other bones and remains. A climb at the rear right of the chamber rises to an alcove. (This was tackled at Easter 2008).

A step up on the left hand side of the chamber leads to a short crouch to a 2m climb down into a well decorated room. At the far side is a rift (enlarged in 2008) with a squeeze up to the head of a drop. This can be laddered from a short stal boss on the wall. The 4m pitch lands in another room with formations. Down-slope leads to a pool and a climb above this closes down. Some of the stal bosses have animal scratch marks on them.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#)

([survey](#)); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2008b](#) ([February logbook](#)); [Smith Peter, 2012](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1964: [low res](#) [high res](#)

: [revised survey, 2008 pdf](#) : [complete resurvey, 2008 pdf](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)



0091: Orilla Mijeo, Cueva de la

La Secada 30T 451496 4797568 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 198m

Length 35m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 21st, 27th October 2001; 27th

September 2007; 21st December 2008;

30th April 2024; 24th January 2025

The entrance, now surrounded by "jungle", has a large chestnut tree below. It is best approached from the road above, climbing down on the west side of the rubbish dump. A hands-and-knees entry leads into a long chamber sloping down to the left. Up on the right all routes close in.

A stoop leads into a long chamber sloping down to the left. On the right there is a climb down into a series of squeezes which choke. Children were frightened away from this cave by the story that it contained a large snake.

A flat millstone or quern, of uncertain age, was found in the lowest part of the main passage. A [line drawing](#) of this is found in *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001*. *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003* has a photo of the *molino barquiforme*. This is a similar size to one found in [Cueva Cofresnedo](#) (*Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p138*).

On a visit at Easter 2000, it was suggested that the draught was coming up through the floor back into the main mass of big boulders. The visit at Easter 2024 found little definitive air movement and found no new leads. A visit the following winter reported that "the dig at the rear right - top of the slope and then down a climb was draughting".

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#);

[anon., 2000b](#) ([Easter logbook](#)); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#) (includes line drawing); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#) (photo); [anon., 2007d](#) ([summer logbook](#)); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#) ([survey](#)); [anon., 2024b](#) ([Easter logbook](#)); [anon., 2024f](#) ([Christmas logbook](#))

Entrance pictures : [1991](#), [2024](#)

Underground picture(s): [2007](#), [2024](#)

Video: [Easter 2024](#) (YouTube)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0092: Rocabado, Sima de

La Secada 30T 452400 4798028 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 257m

Length 76m **Depth** 76m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 21st May, 1st June 2014

The entrance pitch of 8m is in a shakehole. A climb and crawl up through a window on the right leads to the head of the second pitch. This is 70m deep and is choked at the bottom with silt and cobbles. There is a strong inwards draught that is lost on the descent. Windows seen on the descent are also blind. The bottom of the pot appears to be close to the *Haymarket Extensions* in the *Western Series* of [Cueva de Carcavuezo \(0081\)](#).

References: anon., 1975b ([Easter](#) and [summer logbooks](#)); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#) (survey); anon., 1977b (logbook); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); anon., 1987 (logbook); [Corrin J and Knights S, 1988](#); anon., 1989 (logbook); anon., 2014b ([Easter logbook](#))

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0093: Seta, Cueva

La Secada 30T 452790 4797930 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 166m

Length 85m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 8th November 2003; 30th September 2006; 20th May 2017; 18th June 2022

The cave entrance has been obliterated by bulldozing in the late nineteen seventies. A tight entrance slope led immediately to a 9m pitch. A small streamway ended at a draughting but narrow and sand-choked rift on the left.

In summer 2006, a shakehole possibly in the correct place was investigated. The hole at the base could be dug out but there doesn't appear to be an immediate 9m drop. The original entrance coordinates are VN52889813 Alt. 168m (ETRS89: 30T 452778 4797921). The [survey](#) has the entrance 54m due north of the barn. This possible entrance shakehole is about 15m to the southwest of the summer 2006 position. The grid reference at the top is one taken from the survey and is in the field.

From [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#): *The entrance of Cueva Seta is to be found approximately 150 m due north of Carcavueso entrance. It is set in a group of trees and is associated with a small resurgence, sink and narrow canyon. The entrance itself is an unobtrusive slot in the bottom of a small shakehole. The tightish entrance crawl leads immediately onto a 9 m. pitch in a narrow double aven. The way on is a small tube some 1 1/2 m. above the occasional streamway. This breaks into a low boulder chamber with a further (drier) inlet to the left. From here the remaining 75 m of passage is fairly constant in character, consisting of crawls over sand and boulders until a narrow sand-choked rift turns sharp left out of the final small chamber and stops further progress. The cave with the exception of the entrance avens is phreatic in origin being a joint enlarged by water collecting along a sandstone bed. The modern drainage using the cave is apparently very small as the cave, when first explored was choked with sand and clay, leaving only a 6 cm. x 6 cm. triangle to transmit an interesting outward draught. There seems a good chance that with more excavation Cueva Seta may join Carcavueso, downstream of the 'terminal' sump.*

References: [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#); anon., 1993b (logbook); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#) (survey); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); anon., 2006d (summer logbook); anon., 2017b ([Easter logbook](#))

Entrance picture : [possibly](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1975: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [Reconstructed from the 1975 survey](#)

X

0094: Bardalones, Cueva de las (Triangulo, Cueva del)

La Colina 30T 453079 4796415 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 470m

Length 46m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th September 2000; 14th

September 2015

Cave description (Nigel Dibben, August

2015)

This is a fossil cave with no draught which lies a little higher than Cueva Chica (083) at the base of a limestone cliff. The entrance is triangular with a main passage which is more or less straight ending in a stal chamber after an easy squeeze between stal walls. At the far end, the passage is currently too small. There is a chimney above the entrance which can be climbed leading to the outside. Most of the passage is about 3-4 metres wide. There are possible bear scratches on the wall in the final chamber beyond the squeeze.

According to another account, there is a tantalising draught in the final chamber. The cave was resurveyed in 2000 with a small extension to a higher entrance.

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2015c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground pictures: [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0095: Vaca, Sima de la

Llueva 30T 453748 4798071 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 425m

Length 24m **Depth** 24m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Single choked shaft.

References: [anon., 1977b \(logbook\)](#) (survey);

[Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0096: Vecina, Cueva

La Secada 30T 452355 4797852 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 235m

Length 83m **Depth** 25m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 21st May 2014; 9th January, 9th

February 2020

[A previous grid reference was 30T 452372

4797870]

A passage with a surface-connecting aven carries on to a tight 20m shaft which draughts, but is choked. The floor of the aven, which carries water in wet weather, has been dug in gravel.

The site was surveyed and more pictures

taken in January 2020.

References: [anon., 1975b \(Easter and summer logbooks\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#) (survey);

[Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1983b](#)

(logbook); [Cawthorne R, 1987](#); [anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019f \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2020a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [2014 & 2020](#)

Underground picture(s): [2014 & 2020](#)

Detailed Survey : [plan, 2020](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [2020](#)

X

0097: Vera, Covacho de la

La Colina 30T 452833 4796589 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 288m

Length 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th November 2003; 16th

September 2014

A chamber 8m wide and 3m high. The site

was GPS'd in 2014 and another visitor

described the hole as having "nothing of speleological interest"

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2014c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture: [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1965: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0098: Bollón, Cueva de (Volvo, Cueva de)

La Secada 30T 452048 4797721 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 165m

Length included in [site 1452](#)

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th December 1999; 14th May 2000; 21st January, 7th October 2001; 15th October , 8th November 2003; 1st February, 20th May 2006; 27th October 2007; 3rd November 2009; 6th January 2011; 13th September 2013; 5th February 2017; 1st July 2018; 15th December 2021; 4th May, 8th September 2022

The entrance is most easily approached by walking down off the road about 100m east of the entrance then walking parallel to the road until a small valley is met. the entrance is at the top of this, under the road. The cave acts as a resurgence and floods completely in very wet weather, water resurging at the base of the valley.

A descending rift leads to a mixture of walking and muddy crawling for 70m until a chamber is reached. (See ** below.) By sliding down to the left, deepening water leads to a 3m sump which is not free-divable. This was passed in the summer of 1994 to another stretch of passage ending at a promising sump. At the end of summer 1995 expedition, this had dried out somewhat to become muddy wriggle to a steep, muddy climb out. Approximately 120m of westerly- trending, sand and mud-floored passage, ends at sump 3. Some 40m from sump 2, a passage leads off to the north for 30m ending at a boulder-filled pool.

Just before sump one, on the right hand side, a nasty, wet, strongly draughting crawl was dug through to *Passage of Slime* and a muddy boulder choke. This is passed by a squeeze and climb up to high level. Around here are two climbs: the first is 20m in bad rock; the second needs a couple of bolts and is safer. The draught can be followed down to a large choked chamber with two avens. One goes to a chamber with two over tight passages. The second could not be protected due to bad rock. "This area needs a return trip."

A return happened at the end of July 2013 where 65m of passage were surveyed (batch 13-01). This is described as narrowing down after the first pool and becoming very narrow and tight at the end of the crawl (about 20cm) before opening up into 30m of very muddy passage. The route reaches a small chamber at the end where it closed down into an impassable section that could possibly be dug. A noticeable draught was felt. It appears that the boulder choke and climbs have not been reached.

[Additional notes for the above area.](#)

To the right of the chamber, a tight squeeze at floor level on the left of the passage leads to a succession of muddy chambers. One impassable crawl at floor level in this section has a very strong draught. Other minor extensions have been made (including a couple of avens - Phil Boardman - are these on the survey?) The passage heading east was pushed in the summer, 2013, in continuing small passage. The way on is currently blocked by a boulder approximately 1m³ in size. The way on is to the right of the boulder. A good draught can be felt and the route definitely continues. A new 48m was surveyed as batch 13-02.

In 1999 sump 3 was passed and all sumps were described as free divable with the summer water levels. Beyond sump 3, 40m of walking and stooping passage leads to the base of a steep boulder slope. There is a large amount of collapse debris and care should be taken. A short traverse around to the right at the top of the first slope leads to an eyehole 6m from the far wall where it is possible to climb down to a section of passage containing large, old stal which has fallen. Straight ahead is a blank wall but to the left is a second slope of about 30 degrees leading past a small bunch of helictites before emerging on a sandy

plateau. The slope continues upwards beyond this where a Yorkshire pot-type inlet is seen on the right and other possible inlets are seen in the roof. (Explorations in this area are usually carried out through [Hole-in-the-Road](#), site 1452).

This area is beneath sites [1452](#) and [898](#) and draughts. There are many leads and crannies to examine throughout the cave including the streamway continuation beneath boulders before the climb up (see below).

At Easter 2000, [site 1452](#) was linked in via a 35m pitch to where it is possible to swing across to link with the slope. Heavy rain a couple of weeks before meant that the water levels were high at the base of the slope and it was impossible to investigate upstream.

In the dry summer of 2001 this area could be investigated: 82m of loose, draughting, bouldery passage was surveyed. This could possibly be pushed by removing some of the boulders blocking the route on.

During the very dry summer of 2003, the bouldery area down the slope was pushed further. A squeeze down under boulders to the left at the last survey point leads to a 45 degree rift with an unexplored hole down. Over the top leads to boulders leading eventually to a crawl under solid walls with a gravel bottom. The passage then opens out and enters a reasonably big stream passage down a ramp. This is followed keeping to the left hand side into large passage. On the right avens can be seen up mud slopes. The continuing cave ends at a large boulder collapse.

Directly above the last survey station is an aven with water dripping down. The boulder collapse can be climbed up about 15m with a small hole in the ceiling and a slight draught between boulders. At stream level a squeeze gains a small chamber with a 5cm wide slot giving a view down to the streamway. The extension length amounted to some 252m. Further extensions in 2009 are described under [site 1452](#).

** A sump pool at the lowest point beyond the entrance rift at Easter 2022 led to the finding of two short, high level, muddy series of passages. The following descriptions by Alex Ritchie include station numbers in survey batches 0098-22-01 and 0098-22-02. Surveys are included on the [latest main survey file](#).

1- 6 **Blind Bat** passage – Climb up on the right immediately inside the entrance to reach a stooping passage which quickly splits. Left goes to a small chamber with all ways on too small. Right drop's down a slope where the passage splits again and both quickly become too tight.

12 – 36 **Accy Bypass** – Where passage first bends to the right and lowers (was sumped on visit), a 2m climb up on the right leads into higher passage. This quickly diminishes to a tube and then a squeeze under a spike before opening up again into a boulder choke.

At station 17 just beyond this (marked) is a small passage at the same level between boulders which leads to a short and awkward and very muddy 5m pitch into a rift. All ways close down quickly with one that draft's through a very narrow rift, which descends further, too narrow. A climb up of about 3-4m, which is rather slippery gains the top of the boulders.

The way on is now to the left over a mud bank and into another small chamber with a blind hole in the floor. The way on is again up - up a steep muddy slope which leads to an easy squeeze. The passage opens into a medium sized chamber with a large hole in the floor (24, marked). To the left following the draft leads to a narrow thrutch through a rift before a 3m climb down into another chamber.

In this chamber there is a 6m climb up leading into the top of the rift, this has not been surveyed. At the back of the chamber is an opening and this is the start of the *Accy Bypass* pitch (12m check). Start by rigging off the flake on the left at the opening, from here the pitch drops to a ledge 3m down and a massive boulder in the rift, that serves as the re-belay. You will need a big sling to rig this. The main drop is from here down the obvious hole, but it's best to swing through the rift to more open passage 2m down, and descend from here a further 7m to the floor: rope protector needed. (20m rope, 2 slings, 1 rope protector).

This lands in the main known passage on the other side of the temporary sump. Back in the medium sized chamber (24) a loose 3m climb down leads into a jumbled boulder chamber. At the far end of this is a 7m pitch. Rig from a boulder 1m back and a secure boulder over the pitch head (long sling required). (15m rope 1 sling, 1 rope protector). This drops into a large aven

chamber with a calcite slope leading up again. At the bottom of the slope is a small decorated chamber which is choked with mud. At the top of the calcite there are two possible ways on. Large rift passage can be seen up a 3-4m climb up calcite (likely needs bolts or scaling pole). Another smaller passage can also be accessed by a slippery muddy climb but this appears to lead back into the boulders above.

The villagers claim that this cave connects with the sea, as on the occasions that it acts as a flood resurgence, it washes out quantities of sand and shells. The end of the eastern branch appears to lie only 50 - 70m away from the western extremities of the Western Series in [Cueva de Carcavuezo \(081\)](#).

- Entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1974b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1974a; Cox G, 1973; anon., 1975b \(Easter and summer logbooks\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981; anon., 1984 \(logbook\); anon., 1985b \(logbook\); anon., 1987 \(logbook\); Corrin J and Knights S, 1988 \(survey\); anon., 1988 \(logbook\); Davis J and Corrin J, 1989 \(survey\); anon., 1989 \(logbook\); anon., 1993b \(logbook\); material in file; anon., 1994b \(logbook\); Corrin J, 1994b \(survey\); anon., 1995c \(logbook\); Corrin Juan, 1995a; Corrin Juan, 1996; anon., 1999c \(logbook\); Corrin Juan, 2000; anon., 2000b \(Easter logbook\); Corrin Juan, 2000; anon., 2001c \(Summer logbook\); Corrin Juan, 2003a; anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\); Corrin Juan, 2005; anon., 2006 \(Easter logbook\); Corrin Juan, 2007; Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007; anon., 2009c \(summer logbook\); Corrin Juan, 2010; León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(survey and photo\); Corrin Juan, 2011; anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\); Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014; anon., 2017a \(January, February logbook\); anon., 2022b \(Easter logbook\); anon., 2022c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [January 2017](#) : [summer 2022 \(JC\)](#) - 360° photos [1](#) [2](#) ([help file](#))

Video : [Summer 2022 - draught](#)

Underground picture: [Easter 2022](#)

Detailed Survey :

1964 [low res](#) [high res](#)

1975 [low res](#) [high res](#)

1999 [1:1000](#)

2003 [1:1000](#)

2013 [1:1000](#)

2022 [1:1000](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file: [combined with site 1452](#) (May 2022) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [yes, with Hole in the Road 1/7/2018](#)

X

0099: Alpine Chough Pot (Chova Piquigualda, Sima de la)

La Colina 30T 453936 4797013 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 568m

Length 954m **Depth** 104m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 13 February 1998; 19th February 1999; 7th June 2007; 14th June 2008; 6th January 2011; 30th June 2018

A single pitch leads to a short crawl into a silted chamber. 15m up the entrance shaft is hole which leads to a second shaft. This was descended in 1988 and entered a horizontal passage with various pitches. Explorations in 1991 revealed that the whole cave needed a definitive exploration and survey and this was started at Easter 1992.

About 100m of rope is needed for the entrance pitch which involves a large Y-hang to avoid the loose top. The rope lands at the base of the shaft in a small chamber, 71m down. A sandy slope leads under an arch to successive chambers containing much sand, mud and many big blocks.

At the end is a sandy, 3m diameter, 8m high chamber with mud floor and a small inlet from above. On the left before this is a dig leading into traverses over the chamber below, ending at several possible loose climbs to passage visible above.

On the right in the chamber is a sandy climb, maypoled up in 1997. Footholds have been kicked so it can now be free-climbed although a rope is advisable. At the top is a chamber where a climb up on the right leads to a rift going off left which continues tight to a good echo. Climbing up at the start of the rift and going right with care across jammed(?) rocks in the roof of the chamber below, enters a crawl leading to a drop left off a false floor. This enters a small chamber

from which Dead Choughed Passage continues to a chamber with a chough(?) skeleton, a climb up into continuing unexplored passage or a drop to passages where unexplored holes down may enter the first chamber.

About 5m above the floor is a possible pendulum to a ledge and window onto a 15 - 20m pitch which may require a ladder for rigging but this is gained via the route to *Stuffed Chough Passage* outlined below.

Fifteen metres up the main pitch is a swing into a sandy passage which is the main way on. A pitch of 12.3m follows almost immediately is belayed from a large, sandstone flake, hangs mostly against a sandstone wall and drops into the *Main Chamber*. A scramble up to the north, to the left of the ladder leads back to the window onto the main pitch and daylight.

In the summer of 1992, the dubious pitch here was descended into a large chamber and the start of *Stuffed Chough Passage*. Various ways on from the bottom of the chamber all lead to pits which have been descended except for one. The obvious way to the northwest eventually chokes and a 5m pitch also chokes in boulders and sand. To the east from the pitch base, *Stuffed Chough Passage* is easy walking which heads towards a window into a further large chamber. To the left a climb down drops 20m into a draughting, low chamber with no way on. This is the deepest part of the cave. Through the window, it is possible to traverse upwards around the left hand wall of the large chamber and enter the *Main Chamber* of the cave, thus avoiding the dubious pitch.

From the southern side of the *Main Chamber*, down a sandy slope, a narrow rift, with high and low levels, heads south for over 100m where it meets a strongly draughting pit and ends 12m further on at a less strongly draughting pitch (with a rusty bolt). The end pitch drops 14m to a passage heading west to a 7m pitch and a small grotto with no draught or way on. The draughting pit in the rift has a tight squeeze and a pitch of 16m which lands on a soft calcite floor in a 50m long, 10m high and wide chamber. Up dip leads through bright red, ochre-roofed passage and a climb down to a mud floored passage. This terminates at a calcite climb about 8m up an inlet and has a very high rift above.

Down dip in the chamber has a mud slope on the left hand side which leads to a series of small chambers (some decorated) and small phreatic tubes. The main chamber ends in a large boss with an inlet flowing down the sides which then seems to disappear at the base of the boss. Off to one side is a chamber containing an impressive stal column and grotto with possible digs. Behind the boss and through a calcite flow squeeze leads to a diggable squeeze into a possible continuation which has been unsuccessfully pushed. There are also digs in the right side of the chamber looking down dip.

One side passage has been pushed up a mud slope and up dip into a decorated bedding through stal in a breakdown area and a crawling-sized bedding. At several edges of the bedding it is possible to look up into a high rift with boulders and also down into a pit / passage about 10m below with no vocal or light connections with the previous bits. An inlet has been climbed to an abandoned canyon, with mud trench, occasional stal and one bat skeleton. This section ends in a choke with no draught.

Back in the *Main Chamber*, heading out of the cave from the narrow rift, it is possible to climb up to the northwest between two large boulders and a wall and walk down on a sandy slope to a large chamber which quickly closes down to the north. A very well decorated bedding allows crawling between columns and eventually rejoins the *Main Chamber*. Various routes also exist between the mass of boulders.

The first descent of the entrance shaft was apparently in the 1960s when a man from San Miguel de Aras was lowered down using a pulley system to settle a dispute over some goats which had fallen down.

References: [anon., 1977b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [Davis J and Corrin J, 1989](#); [anon., 1991 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1992a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J and Quin A, 1992 \(photo\)](#); [Corrin J, 1993 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1994b \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1997b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1998](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997c](#); [anon., 2008d \(Whit logbook\)](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1](#)

and [Volume 2](#)) (survey and photo)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [200m Traverse Grotto](#)

[Main chamber](#) [Red Roof Chamber](#) [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0100: Canes, Torca de los (Basura, Cueva de)

Riaño 30T 451438 4800281 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 153m

Length 182m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#) : [A Google search for this site](#) (Canes, Torca de los+Riaño)

Updated 19th February 1999; 8th November

2003; 16th May 2009; 19th February 2016;

5th September 2021

The entrance slope is a pile of festering rubbish. This leads to two circular halls, one of which contains a 7m blind pot. Routes become too low after splitting into two parallel passages. The site was resurveyed in 2021 to obtain the X, Y, Z information and an updated description by Simon Cornhill and Diane Arthurs follows:

Accessed down the gentle, brambled slope to the entrance of a steeper, large rubbish slope which continued deep into the cave.

The way on is at the end of the entrance chamber through the boulders. The way on passes through a large chamber with sloping sides and deep pits. The 2 areas drawn on the survey which looked to continue unknown were small low chambers which closed up. The way on to the North East passages is through a low crawl at the top of the chamber. This continues low for 10m before opening up into a stooping passage. The south west end closes down with large boulders and blocks fallen out of the ceiling. Heading North East the way on is through a squeeze up into the higher level. The end of the North East passage and the parallel passage end in bouldery breakdown. No draught in the cave. Bones scattered throughout along with guano. A fat rat was spotted on the top of the rubbish heap. Photos taken at various areas in the cave.

In 1994, both prehistoric and medieval pottery were found in the passage before the first circular hall. These and black markings are described in *Smith 1998b* and summarised in *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009* and *Ruiz Cobo J and Muñoz Fernández E, 2013*.

References: [anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#); [Cope J et al, 1976 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [Smith Peter, 1998b \(survey\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009](#); [Ruiz Cobo J and Muñoz Fernández E, 2013](#); [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [summer 2021](#)

Underground pictures: [summer 2021](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1976: [low res](#) [high res](#) : [with 2021 overlaid centre line](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [summer 2021](#) : [on 4 Valleys survey](#)

X

0101: Canal, Cueva de la

Fuente las Varas 30T 452776 4798915 (Datum:

ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 422m

Length 235m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 18th February 2012; 6th

September 2019

The entrance is a resurgence at the head of the wooded valley behind the old Fuente las Varas Bar, although it couldn't be found in August 2019 due to an approach through heavy vegetation to the top of the cliff.

The whole of the cave is stooping or crawling in water and the "end" is where the going becomes flat-out. This point is approaching the painted flag on the Fuente las Varas crags and one or more of the resurgences around the cliff may well be the source of the water. (A dye test has shown that the water resurging from site 101 has no connection with [Cueva de Fuente las Varas](#)). The cave appears on the [Cueva Hoyuca and the Four Valleys System Hydrology diagram](#).

The stooping-sized cave entrance turns left to a small dam and immediately afterwards a waist deep pool with a silt floor is past to a stream passage which is mostly comfortable crawling or stooping, with one rift where it is possible to stand up.

Exploration in 2001 appeared to stop a few

metres short of the 1977 limit, in a pool with the way on very low. It may be worthwhile for a small person to push on at the end.

References: [anon., 1977b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [anon., 2001a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003a](#); [anon., 2019d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [entrance](#) : [2001 resurvey and photo team](#)

Underground picture(s): [from 2001](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#) (to be replaced by Easter 2001 version)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Hydrology (Terry Whitaker): [Hoyuca and the 4 Valleys System](#)

X

0102: Castañas, Cueva de la

Riaño 30T 452401 4799804 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 198m

Length 382m **Depth** 44m (Length calculated as 258m surveyed in 2017 + passages from old survey)

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th April, 12th November 2002; 4th May 2009; 18th February 2012; 9th September 2017

A depression with chestnut trees contains a number of entrances all of which unite at a 9m pitch. At the base, 30m of walking leads to a climb of 7m and then varied going to a large chamber. An inlet can be followed for 60m to its end at two large avens.

Downstream, the passage heads back towards the entrance but becomes smaller as a hands and knees crawl then ends at a strongly draughting, tight, muddy crawl. This was excavated in July 2017 but was found to continue very low and awkward over rocks and mud. A dye test has shown a connection to the last inlet on the left in the *Gorilla Walk*. The cave appears on the [Cueva Hoyuca and the Four Valleys System Hydrology diagram](#).

The cave was surveyed in July 2017 to provide a centre line and z data. As the terminal crawl ends about 200m from the *Gorilla Walk* in [Cueva de la Hoyuca \(107\)](#) and is at the same altitude, the cave is most unlikely to provide an alternative entrance into Hoyuca in the near future.

References: [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017s \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground pictures: [July 2017](#)

Detailed Survey : [jpg from 1975 journal](#) : [pdf, July 2017](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [from July 2017 survey](#)

Hydrology : (Terry Whitaker): [Hoyuca and the 4 Valleys System](#)

X

0103: Espada, Cueva de la (Entrambasaguas, Cueva de) (Ruchano, Cueva del)

Riaño 30T 451082 4800727 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 105m

Length 2380m **Depth** 39m [Length includes sites 3232 and 3222]

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#) : [A Google search for this site](#) (Espada, Cueva de la+Ruchano+Riaño)

Updated 27th October 2001; 25th October 2002; 8th November 2003; 27th October 2007; 4th May, 7th November 2009; 24th June, 1st October 2010; 6th January, 12th, 23rd May, July 20th, 6th September, 3rd, 16th October 2011; 23rd April, 4th May, 20th September 2012; 22nd April, 14th September, 22nd November 2013; 19th February, 5th November 2016; 24th June 2017; 16th February, 10th May, 13th September 2023; 23rd November 2024

The bottom entrance is now numbered [site 3232](#) and has been GPS'ed, although all photos and other information are accessed from this page. The cave is now more than just a stream passage through trip.

Twin top entrances unite in a streamway. The left hand entrance is dry, the right hand entrance carries the stream in a flat out crawl. The passage chokes upstream of a knee-deep pool. A small passage on the left splits: left climbs up to a choke, while to the right the far side of the main choke is met and a small streamway (not the one seen at the entrance) appears to sump upstream. Some digging has occurred in this area, eg

at Easter 2013 when, "*Dug inlet (garden shovel best tool) heading towards Llanío. Passage totally choked with squalid mud but may be worth further visits as draughting slots on either side, both too tight.*" In October 2024, one of the draughting slots was enlarged and a view to the left was obtained. Further capping is required. This passage is heading towards sites [1800](#) and [1801](#) and the digs [3222](#), [3226](#), [3227](#) and [3228](#). In the summer, 2009, [site 3222](#) was linked into upstream Espada and this link was surveyed at Easter 2012. The upstream survey additions (159m) from the summer 2011 did not link through to the entrance of site 3222. A survey sketch is seen [here](#). The end of the draughting passage heading north was dug a little in soft mud (needs a shovel) in August 2012. The draught comes from an over-tight hole just before the end which may connect. In October 2013, the stream in the upstream series near the top entrance was found to have stopped flowing due to the dry weather. (See also 2023 addition below.)

Downstream of the entrance, the water occasionally disappears under the right hand wall until about 180m from the entrance, the stream route chokes. The way on is a climb 4m up a cross joint and then a 4m climb down into deep water. This can be left immediately to join walking-sized, dry passage. Two sandy inlets on the right choke and the main passage continues increasing in size until a climb over boulders and a sandy ramp is reached. This sandy passage on the right ends at an upwards boulder choke. The streamway now becomes more aqueous, passing two short inlets on the left and then encountering a large boulder choke. A couple of squeezes and then a canal is reached which joins a higher, sandy level after 20m. The left way soon chokes but the right hand route reaches daylight after 50m.

Over a couple of days at Easter 2010, a new high level series was explored. This is entered about one third of the way through the cave at the foot of a rift which is free-climbable. At the top the route enlarges to big, sandy passage and an aven with lots of bones. At the far (eastern) end a complex, well decorated area is followed by muddy passages. At the end, an awkward climb up enters a low, wide bedding which continues unexplored. Side passages at the aven have been partially explored.

During the following summer side passages were checked out. Two muddy sections were entered on the left hand side: both ended in muddy chambers with no way on, although it may be possible to drop further in one with a ladder. Two side passages were checked on the right: both are still going but are small and need pushing. "There is still more work to do beyond large pit in the floor."

In October 2024, further pushing and capping was carried out, and another 35m surveyed (batch 24-01). All extensions are shown on the updated survey; a **complete new description should replace this section of text.**

A short, undocumented passage with carbide arrows was found just downstream of the top entrance and surveyed as batch 13-06 in the summer, 2013. A roof passage noted in July was surveyed in October (batch 13-07) and various holes dropping back to the streamway found, length 36m.

The dry bottom entrance contains important palaeolithic remains, probably Magdalenian.

About 50m inside the bottom entrance to the cave, in the water, Dave Linton found a Bronze Age sword in 1975. This has been dated in the Argaric period. The publication *Almagro-Gorbea M, 1976* is devoted to this sword and other fine examples found in Santander Province. Dave has been in contact (June 2023) with Dr Ignacio Montero Ruiz who is carrying out a lead isotope analysis on the sword. (See [summer 2023 logbook](#), p4)

Flints have also been discovered and C.A.E.A.P. discovered an iron rivet and Iron Age pottery on the boulder slope in the first chamber.

[Morlote Jose M et al, 1995](#) describes Ruchano as one of the Iron Age sepulchral caves in the area.

The bottom entrance was resurveyed at Easter 2009 adding 57m to the length. Over Easter 2012, the connection through to the bottom entrance was surveyed (in a tight section between boulders) and the survey of the system almost completed. The Easter 2012 survey can be seen [here](#).

"A man from Riaño" in May 2011 confirmed the name of the bottom entrance to be Cueva de Ruchano (cf Ruchana). It is possible that the top entrance is just "Pozo Negro". A rustic sign was erected in early summer, 2013 [sign posting the bottom entrance](#) from the main road. The sign reads "CUEVA DE LA ESPADA".

In April 2023, during very dry weather, the upstream area was inspected for leads and the possibilities for future digging through to Fridge Door Cave. The ducks were low and easily passed. Water bubbled up through the floor, presumably from Fridge Door and beyond had ponded water. At the end, a boulder blocks the way and may support other boulders in the choke. (See [video](#) made during the trip.)

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: anon., 1975b ([Easter and summer logbooks](#)); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); anon., 1976 ([logbook](#)); [Smith P, 1981a](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [Almagro-Gorbea M, 1976 \(survey\)](#); material in file; [Munoz Fernandez E et al, 1987](#); [Muñoz E and Bermejo A, 1987](#); [Morlote Jose M et al, 1995](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#); anon., 2002b ([summer logbook](#)); [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); anon., 2009a ([Easter logbook](#)); anon., 2009c ([summer logbook](#)); anon., 2010b ([Easter logbook](#)); anon., 2010c ([summer logbook](#)); [Corrin Juan, 2010](#); [Corrin Juan, 2011 \(photo\)](#); anon., 2011b ([Easter logbook](#)); anon., 2012b ([Easter logbook](#)); anon., 2012d ([summer logbook](#)); [Ruiz Cobo J and Muñoz Fernández E, 2013](#); [Corrin Juan, 2013a](#); anon., 2013b ([Easter logbook](#)); anon., 2013d ([summer logbook](#)); [Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014](#); anon., 2016c ([summer logbook](#)); anon., 2023b ([Easter logbook](#)); anon., 2023c ([summer logbook](#)); anon., 2024e ([autumn logbook](#))

Entrance pictures : [to 2023](#) : [2024 on](#)

Underground pictures: [lower levels 2009](#) : [low levels and new upper level Easter 2010](#)

[upper level, summer 2010](#) : [misc Easter 2011](#) : [in site 3232 \(August 2011\)](#)

[around the 0103/3232 connection, Easter 2012](#) : [top entrance Easter 2012](#)

[Streamway, Easter 2013](#); [streamway February 2023](#)

: [high levels, October 2024](#)

Video: [bottom entrance Easter 2009 \(18Mb\)](#) : [Upstream inspection and conditions in dry weather, April 2023](#)

Detailed Survey : [from 1975: low res](#) [high res](#) : [Survey Sept 2011](#)

[Survey sketch of 2011 summer upstream](#) : [Survey after Easter 2012](#) : [survey after summer 2013](#) : [survey after autumn 2013](#) : [survey after April 2023](#) : [survey after October 2024: with centre line - without centre line](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) with sites 3232 and others (after autumn 2024) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram (Patrick Warren): [yes](#)

X

0104: Fuente las Varas, Cueva de

Fuente las Varas 30T 452881 4798991 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 440m

Length 200m **Depth** 30m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 22nd April 2001; 25th April 2001; 26th September 2007; 18th February 2012

The entrance is at the end of a concrete drainage ditch at the side of the main road. Upstream to the right eventually becomes too low after 120m. The other route, after various contortions at roof level, drops into a washed-out shale bed and ends at the head of a 27m pitch. The landing is in a high, sandy-floored rift. Upstream narrows down, but downstream carries a draught which disappears into a phreatic spongework. Digging could be a possibility? Water was visually dye tested in April 2001 to a tiny immature resurgence ([site 1614](#)), 30m below the sink. There is little point in digging but Cueva de Fuente las Varas still needs surveying. The cave appears on the [Cueva Hoyuca and the Four Valleys System Hydrology diagram](#).

An undocumented trip in 1996 turned back in the nasty entrance passages.

It has been suggested that Fuente las Varas should be Fuente de las Varas.

References: anon., 1978 ([logbook](#)); [Corrin J et al, 1978 \(survey\)](#); anon., 1979 ([logbook](#)); [Addis F et al, 1979](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); anon., 1981a ([logbook](#)); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); material in file; anon., 2000c ([Summer logbook](#)); anon., 2001a ([Easter logbook](#)); [Corrin Juan, 2003a](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0105: Riaño, Cueva de (Riaño 1, Cueva de) (Reñada, Cueva de la)

Riaño 30T 451780 4800279 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 155m

Length Part of the Sistema de Cuatro Valles

(Traverse length for the Four Valleys System: see [Cueva Hoyuca](#)) Depth 92m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Resources](#) :

[Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February , 18th April 1999; 16th September 2000; 7th October, 26th October 2001; 25th October 2002; 1st February, 14th May, 1st October 2006; 15th January; 12th February, 6th May, 28th October 2007; 24th January, 15th April 2008; 4th May, 24th August 2009; 16th January, 8th, 9th March, 24th June, 4th October 2010; 6th January, 12th May, 3rd, 11th October, 30th November; 9th December 2011; 13th January, 18th February 2012; 23rd April, 20th September 2012; 21st April 2013; 19th January 2014; 25th September, 17th October 2015; 14th October, 5th, 30th November 2016; 12th March 2018; 1st May, 1st July 2018; 27th January, 9th September 2019; 3rd November 2021; 8th February, 28th April, 9th June, 23rd September, 24th November 2024

Incomplete description. It's almost certain that there will be some duplication of descriptions.

The most northerly [entrance](#) into the Four Valleys System ([line survey](#)). A route through into [Cueva de la Hoyuca \(107\)](#) exists - and ultimately to [Cueva Llueva \(114\)](#) and [Cueva de Carcavuezo \(81\)](#). The depth is taken to the downstream sump in Cueva Llueva. The [resurgence \(site 575\)](#) for water flowing west in the cave (rather than east into Cueva Hoyuca) was dived and connected through to downstream Cueva Riaño in July 2016. The cave was linked to [Cueva-Cubío del Llanío](#) in July 2019. A detailed survey of Cueva de Riaño can be found [here](#). A [list of the entrances into the Four Valleys System](#) is found at the top of the Cueva Hoyuca description page.

Entrance Series

The strongly draughting entrance ** lies in a tree lined depression next to the track. The passage starts low - it often has to be dug out - and passes an earth run-in on the left. The entrance was dug out again during the Easter 2006 expedition, and a barricade built using an abandoned domestic oven and some rocks to attempt to stop mud being washed in again. After the short flat out section the going becomes easier with hands and knees crawling. After 50m a small inlet is met from the right and the way on follows this water and gradually increases in size. Several side passages are passed which are mostly oxbows but can cause confusion on the way out (follow the draft on the return if unsure which way to go). The streamway passes a small inlet on the left with gour pools, then continues as a mix of stooping and crawling for around 150m until it breaks out into an area with boulders and larger cross rifts up in the roof (unsurveyed). Continue following the passage at floor level to regain the stream and follow until some 250m from the entrance the stooping passage breaks out into a second larger area with holes in the roof. At this point it is possible to climb up directly back over the top of the passage you came along to gain a small dry sandy passage which leads to *Double Barrel Passage* via *Grey Rock Chamber* and is the best route to the upstream parts of the cave. Continuing straight ahead however leads within 20m to a 7m pitch reached via a slot down on the left. The pitch can be free climbed by traversing over the drop (after descending the slot) and climbing down on the far wall. Before the slot leading to the head of the pitch it is possible to clamber over a mud bank in the main passage to reach a larger ascending passage which eventually chokes. A few metres downstream from the base of the pitch the main stream is met and the passage size increases at *Eureka Junction*. At the "first boulders in the entrance stream where you climb up" (about 130m in), an extension was dug into at Easter 2009, this has a good draught and a number of intersecting passages. Shown as "HSC" on the [0105.3d](#) file.

Further surveying of new passage was carried out in the entrance series in February 2010, adding 349m. Lots of egg shells were seen in the extension. The first way up into it is near the entrance on the

bend where you can first stand (stoop) along, just before the gour pool inlet is reached, only about 5 minutes in. There is a visual connection with the HSC series. The largest passages are a few metres wide, but all flat-out bedding planes. There is lots of calcite on the floors and blocking some passages below which certainly used to connect. (One passage from stuff nearest the entrance ends at a complete calcite blockage not far from the larger bedding plane passage). The end of the bedding plane passage nearest to *Grey Boulder Chamber* is too low, dig-able, but still a long way from *Grey Boulder Chamber* itself. The other end is heading towards [Mad Axe Woman cave](#). A survey of the Entrance Series and passages off, can be [seen here](#).

** Anemometer readings, 3rd November 2024, show an outside temperature of 15.9C and air flow velocity of 2.44m/s ([pic](#))

Downstream Riaño

Downstream the passage is 2m wide and 4m high and runs for 100m past some stalactites to a 1m cascade and a bend to the right, followed by more free climbable cascades of 2m and 3m. The last of these is the most awkward climb. The passage then turns left, and continues along a rift to a short section where you are forced to crawl in the water under some low hanging formations. This is followed by another bend to the right, leading to a pitch of 4m with a large pool at the base. At the head of this pitch an easy traverse gains a large dry phreatic tunnel which immediately turns left, with a smaller rift passage leading off right on the bend. (The large dry phreatic passage has been surveyed but no description has been found. I think the *Ghost Rift* series is somewhere in this area - *Footleg*. This was partially surveyed at Easter 2013 [*and completed 1/8/2015?* JSC]. Also surveyed was a steeply ascending oxbow with avens which emerges high in the roof of the streamway above the pitch at the Torno Inlet junction.) The smaller rift leads to an easy 4m free climb down to gain the floor of the active *Torno Inlet*. Downstream this inlet immediately flows under a low wet arch which can be bypassed via a short muddy moonmilk tube to emerge at the pool below the 4m pitch back in the main stream. The water from the inlet enters from under the wall here.

Downstream from the base of the 4m pitch the stream runs off to the left and the passage lowers to a crawl. This does not last long and after a further 200m of easy going, another pitch of 8m is met with an awkward crawl at the bottom. (At the foot of this pitch the survey data indicates a climb back up to the same level as the pitch head, and a continuation which rejoins the stream further down). The cave sumps 200m from this point and is then some 500m from its [resurgence \(575\)](#). Some higher level passages lead off from this lower downstream section on the line survey (see 'GroV Write up' section at the end of this description). In 2012, the resurgence was dived for 207m, continued at about -2m, and was finally joined to the main cave on 15th July 2016 by Jim Lister. [See site 575 for details](#).

Torno Inlet

Following the inlet upstream the passage ascends a 1.5m step up followed by a couple of bends to a decorated corner where formations prevent progress at roof level, forcing you through a short wet gravel at stream level. The going becomes easier beyond as the stream is followed in a tall narrow rift until the passage develops into a wider phreatic section with the stream in a floor trench offset from the passage above.

Connection with Cueva-Cubío del Llanío With teams in Riaño and Llanío ([3234](#)), a connection between the two caves was dug out on 30th July 2019, mainly from the Riaño side. ([Photos](#), [video](#)). The route through is along a sandy crawl to a squeeze into an aven where an excavated route through a calcited boulder choke enters Llanío in the *Getting There Series*. The connection was surveyed as part of batch 0105-19-01 and the connection line in the Survex file is

```
*EQUATE 0105_Riano.0105-19-01.5.7  
3234_Llanio.3234-19-02.9
```

Over the same period, high level routes above Torno Inlet were also surveyed - this is the remainder of 0105-19-01. The combined caves can be seen in [this Survex/Aven file](#)

Back in the stream, a short section of wider gravel floored passage follows leading to a 90 degree bend to the right immediately followed by a 90 bend to the left. After these

bends the passage develops into a tall narrow canyon providing relatively easy going for the next 125m to another prominent 'S' bend where the stream undercuts the right wall. (In October 2021, the Canny Passage was pushed down to a point above the streamway here. Looking up around this point should reveal a white marker.)

The undercut marks the start of the crabwalk, about 275m long (but feels much longer!). About half way along some helicitas can be seen on the left wall, and a little further on a pinch at a calcite curtain has to be passed. A brief respite is met at an aven with a small active calcite flow down the left wall. An easy climb up to the roof here reveals the inlet to enter from an impenetrable hole, but the main passage at this level is a 3m diameter phreatic tunnel with the crabwalk trench in the floor. A side passage enters at this point, but quickly degenerates to a flat out descending mud slope where it becomes too low. Two flat out squeezes have been passed here, and roomier space can be seen beyond a third squeeze. The floor needs digging out to make these passable.

Back in the main passage it is possible to head back in the downstream direction at roof level via easy traversing on mud ledges, passing a second phreatic side passage on the right hand side (facing downstream). This has been followed to a junction where the left leads to a mud choke, and right leads to the base of an unclimbed 10m aven. Back in the main passage it is possible to continue the downstream traverse for a long way until the mud ledges become more precarious and sections of flat out crawling are required. It is a long way down to the stream here and a difficult down climb, so not recommended as an alternative to the crabwalk below. No further side passage have been found here.

Back at the bottom of the active calcite flow in the streamway the crabwalk continues upstream until the passage is blocked at stream level by some large slabs. The way on continues at roof level over these until the trench in the floor disappears and the passage becomes a wider stooping height bedding which soon lowers to a bedding crawl. This is followed until the roof rises and the passage becomes a narrow rift again at an area of formations. Shortly beyond this point the passage becomes a bedding crawl again and the stream emerges from a sump just beyond. Back at the area of formations a strong draught can be felt coming out of a narrow hole on the right at floor level (when facing upstream), with a wider passage seen beyond. This passage can be entered by climbing up to roof level and through a larger hole. An aven is reached after 4m which was climbed in December 2006 and made passable at the top. This is now rigged as a 10m pitch which is [quite tight at the top](#) (photo: Paul Dold) and breaks out into a 2m diameter phreatic passage above (the *Road to Torno* extensions).

At Easter 2013, a trip into *Torno Inlet* surveyed high level rifts, shown as "tornolinkpush" in the 3d file. One opinion of the pushing trip that carried out the survey: "Long trip that was abandoned by myself and 4 members of the 6 person team. It requires a much more considered approach and ... the cave is pushed by those with the necessary head for heights or that tackle is taken in to aid progress."

The Road to Torno

At the top of the aven at the end of *Torno Inlet*, a phreatic passage can be followed in two directions. One direction (due South) has a narrow stream trench in the floor, the other direction heads back over the top of the *Torno Inlet* passage (heading NW), crawling on a mud covered white crystal floor which is revealed when bits of mud stick to your knees and pull off the floor. After about 40m this breaks out into a larger phreatic passage at a T-junction. To the left the larger passage continues as a flat out crawl on flowstone. To the right the flowstone fills half the passage height apart from a trench along the right hand wall. To protect formations in the trench it is best to crawl along on the higher flowstone floor. Some fine curled up flakes of cracked mud are passed with care on a left hand bend, then the trench swaps sides a couple of times and has to be crossed over and back again to stay on the higher floor. A second T-junction is reached, where left leads via an unsurveyed oxbow to a window overlooking a chamber. Going right at the junction a squeeze past a flowstone bank is met. This looks deceptively larger than it

actually is! After the squeeze you are forced to traverse over the trench in the floor, which contains delicate looking calcite slabs. The traverse ends at a 4m climb down alongside a fine thin calcite column (the Hypodermic Lance), to gain the floor of a chamber where the oxbow passage already described enters at a window 4m up the left hand wall. The far end of the chamber is reached by carefully crawling between two long straws. A flat out squeeze under the left wall leads to a parallel smaller chamber with more formations. The roof slopes down to the mud floor at the end of this chamber, at a point located at the same height and about 20m from the too low end of the roof passage above the aven with the calcite flow in the *Torno Inlet* streamway.

Back at the top of the aven near the end of the *Torno Inlet*, the passage heading due South leads quickly to a T junction. Right follows the stream trench along a much narrower passage which meanders for 25m to a second junction. The stream trench here comes from the right hand branch, and is about 3m deep but only 6 inches wide. Both passages beyond this point have not been pushed to a conclusion, but continue as sideways crawling around many bends.

Back in the main passage, going left at the junction leads to another T junction where it meets a tall rift passage. Right leads immediately to the bottom of a 15m high aven. The passage continues past the aven to a 2m climb up. Above the climb a bend left follows, leading to another T-junction. Right at this junction is unexplored. Left follows a tall rift, traversing part way up. A passage is passed on the right which leads to a ledge half way up to 15m aven below the 2m climb. The traverse along the rift continues past flowstone and curtains which have been cracked (presumably by seismic activity) until after 60m it is possible to climb down into an active streamway. The passage widens to 3-4m at roof level with many formations around this area.

Upstream leads to a steep slope with large blocks. A large ammonite fossil is seen on the right here on a boulder. At the top of the slope the stream emerges from a boulder choke of large sandstone blocks. It is possible to climb up to the roof here and a possible bolt route was inspected on a trip at Easter 2011. Downstream in the rift a short section of fine sloping streamway leads to a waterfall which can also be reached from below via another route. Another look at this *Ammonite Choke* area occurred on August 8th, 2019 (a "diversion" from the first Llanío - Riaño through trip), when routes were pushed along and up through the boulders. This was surveyed as batches 0105-19-02. There is a very strong draught in places and continuing bolt and free climbs give some hope that the bouldery area could eventually be connected with *Torno*.

Heading left at the junction just before the 15m aven, the passage passes under a large slab wedged in the rift to an easy climb down into a larger rift. This can be followed in both directions to reach the same chamber. Right passes fine mud drill holes in the floor. Alternatively left passes a short section of passage on the left which chokes, followed by a short crawl on mud. Both routes reunite in a chamber where the waterfall enters from above. It is possible to reach the top of the waterfall via an exposed traverse. At the far end of the chamber the water flows round a right hand bend along the floor of a section of passage with a fine phreatic tube containing stalactites and straws above a vadose trench. At the end the phreatic tube finishes at a circular hole where you drop down into a lower space with stalagmite columns all round (*The Jail*). The stream flows right and then back on itself to run parallel to the passage just followed. Squeezing through the bars of the jail leads to a flat out crawl on boulders to a sump. The stream flows into this sump in the direction of the upstream sump in *Torno Inlet*, which is located about 25m away on the same level.

Over 600m of extensions, including large, high level tunnel, were entered over Easter 2007. Full description and survey are to come.

Grey Boulder Chamber and The Mazeway

Climbing up into the dry sandy passage in the entrance series shortly before the pitch, the passage heads directly back over the entrance streamway for a short distance before a 90 degree bend to the left. The first maze like area is then entered, but most of the passages either form loops back onto each other or quickly choke, so it is easy to

find the way through. A long straight section of passage is then followed past several cross rifts to a 90 degree bend left. After the bend the main route is generally straight ahead and then trending slightly left to emerge in *Grey Boulder Chamber*. This is in fact one end of a high rift with large boulders strewn around. The route through to *Double Barrel Passage* goes more or less in a direct straight line in the direction you are going when you entered the chamber. Zig zag left around boulders, then climb up about 1.5m onto the large grey boulder and continue in the direction you were going, leaving the chamber via a rift passage which leads to the complicated junction at the start of *Double Barrel Passage* after 20m.

Batch 24-09 (L=134m) was explored and surveyed in summer 2024 ([drawing](#)). Described from stream access, about 30m downstream of the *Double Barrel passage* inlet. A 3m climb up from the stream intercepts larger passage. To the right (East) a walking passage leads to a flat-out wriggle into an aven with passage seen above. Left, leads into the maze. Continuing straight leads to a steep slope and calcite and rock blockages at the end of the small chambers as well as a way back down into a parallel passage. This passage leads to a traverse over the stream and an alternative and harder way up/down to this series. At the end of the traverse is another inlet, that soon lowers to crawling height for approx. 30m. A crawl on the left is an oxbow above the stream. Straight on, the passage gains height until it becomes a tall rift which is almost blocked by calcite. A hole with sharp bits leads to a small chamber and a further squeeze that ends in a calcite choke. Back at the left-hand junction is the maze where despite all the junctions you are generally funnelled into a large, loose chamber "*Not what we thought*". There's a loose boulder slope at the far end with a connection to the calcite area described earlier. Below the chamber to the south is a short loose climb up to **Batch 10** and a connection with the main through route, near *Grey Boulder Chamber*. [Alex Ritchie]

Batch 24-10 (L=23m). ([Drawing](#)) At the large cairn in *Grey Boulder Chamber*, below the North wall is a hidden crawl over boulders. This leads quickly into an enlargement in a calcite coated chamber. At the end is another crawl and a T-junction. Left has not been checked, right leads to a loose climb down then another up and finally another one down to reach **Batch 9** below the *Not What We Thought* chamber. [Alex Ritchie]

Batch 24-11 (L=123m) was explored and surveyed in summer 2024 ([drawing](#)). Heading upstream from the main "green" route, this batch starts in the large streamway passage just beyond. It's a large inlet accessed via a steep slope/climb on the South side of the stream. A wide muddy phreatic passage leads to a junction, left is a blind chamber and right leads to a T-junction (*Prince Junction*) via a short sandy crawl. Right develops into a high rift, a passage off this to the north west leads to an 8m pitch down, with more passage seen to continue both across and to the left. Back in the rift is an awkward 6m climb down into a decorated chamber. The only way out leads into a short T-junction passage with the left-hand route blocked by mud and rocks. On the right is a hole hammered through calcite and then a drop short into the chamber seen below the 8m pitch. The only passage leading out soon gets too tight. Back at *Prince Junction*, the left hand passage leads into a large chamber "*Albert Hall*" with nice mud formations on the far side. This leads to a smaller chamber before a muddy crawl leads to an aven which is accessed via squeezing over a mud-bank. This aven has been measured to be 14m high. The only other way out is a muddy crawl that soon gets too tight. [Alex Ritchie]

At the end of March 2018, the *Grey Rift extension*, heading north from *Grey Boulder Chamber* was surveyed. (Batch greyriftnorthextn length 121m)

The large rift which starts at the grey boulder can be followed for about 100m past high avens (unclimbed) via a number of routes around boulders to a junction where a narrow rift heads left and leads into the *Mazeway*, a very complicated set of narrow dry muddy rifts which total some 500m in length. Through this maze an inlet streamway is reached. Upstream the passage increases in size and after 150m reaches a draughting choke which appears to be only 40m from the surface. This inlet passage was smoke tested in 1993 to [Dormouse Cave \(935\)](#) and another small sink east of that site. This is also the area through which [Mad Axe Woman Cave](#) (site

1630) might come in. The stream can also be followed downstream to the complicated junction at the start of *Double Barrel Passage* (described in the following section).

At the start of *Dormouse Inlet*, **batches 24-12, 13, 14, 15 and 16** were explored in the summer 2024. The following descriptions are by Alex Ritchie.

Batch 24-12 (L=81m) ([drawing](#)) is found by continuing upstream past the maze of passages to the "?" shown on the [2011 survey](#). Walking height passage leads after a crawl under a boulder to a junction. Right has only been partially explored but looks to close down, left continues along the rift. After stepping over a boulder a crawl is reached over a yellow-coloured pool "*Puddle of P*". The passage quickly becomes walking height again and a nice carrot like formation is passed in the roof - care! Another dubiously coloured puddle is passed under a rock bridge and enjoyable walking passage is followed past several junctions, that have not been fully explored / surveyed. After 30m one is forced to squeeze through a short rift at floor level before more enjoyable high and draughting walking passage is encountered with many passages leading off in all directions. The passages on the left are just oxbows and have been sketched, to the right is batch 24-14 the *Meaty Sticks Maze* and straight on is the continuation of the inlet, batch 24-13.

Batch 24-13 (L=271m) ([drawing](#)) The passage continues in fine style until a boulder pile is encountered that is easily negotiated by climbing over. After another 15m the fine walking passage appears to end. Straight on is a dead-end muddy crawl that ends in a too-tight, mud filled rift about 15m from *Phil's Aven*. To the left, before the muddy crawl, is batch 24-16. To the right under the wall is the first of many crawls under the right-hand wall. This leads into larger passage after a crawl under boulders. Larger passage is encountered punctuated with crawls. A passage on the right encountered, continues and is not fully explored where as the passages on the left all dead-end at mud walls as most inlets in this passage seem to do. What then follows is 50m of more alternating walking and crawling passage in a dry stream with numerous side passages (again blocked by mud walls after 10-20m, but not all have been fully checked). A large chamber/passage is reached, where a higher-level large oxbow avoids a crawl in the dry stream. This passes formations on the left and another oxbow behind a window in the formations. 20m further on the passage appears to end. However, this is false and to continue, one can either squeeze through at floor level or climb over the top and drop down via a 2.5m climb. After more narrower walking passage the start of the long crawl begins, this is 60m long although is punctuated in a few places one can stand up amongst formations. At the end is a small chamber with a cairn on entry. It's here batch 24-16 starts.

Batch 24-14 (L=217m) ([drawing](#)) Known as the *Meaty Stick Maze*, this hard to describe series is located at the beginning of batch 24-13. Many passages - all tall walking passages - loop around in a small maze which covers an area 60m x 30m. Only the notable areas are described here. To the northwest is a chamber with a large boulder in it. There are several ways on here that have not been pushed, all at roof height, which could be climbed into without equipment. To the West is another boulder filled passage at a higher level. Dropping down between the boulders it's possible to continue as passage is seen and is accessible. However, this has not been pushed. To the south one seems to hit a series of high-level rifts, full of loose rocks, in places its possible to continue but I would not recommend it due to the general looseness. To the southeast is a high ramp with a very tall aven. Again, all continuing passages hit dangerous territory with false floors and loose rocks above, such as *The Chamber of Death*. These passages have not been pushed to the end because of this.

Batch 24-15 (L=16m) ([drawing](#)) Not far into Batch 13 at station B6 (where the muddy crawl way dead-ends) is this short passage. Starting off large, this heads west and soon becomes a narrow rift after a mud-slope. A squeeze through slop leads to continuing passage turning south which gets too tight at a drippy inlet/aven.

Batch 24-16 (L=92m) ([drawing](#)) Accessed by going to the end of Batch 13, the passage continues as a crawl after a small chamber. Straight on is too low, so instead one turns right and follows a slope up over calcite and then through stal grill before entering larger passage. A steep slope down leads into a well decorated wide and high passage and after 20m a well decorated large chamber is reached, which contains some long straws. The way on is up

the calcite slope to the southeast which briefly lowers to a crawl with tree roots before again opening up into walking passage. Unfortunately, all passages from here close down, and are either blocked by mud or are too tight. There is a strong draught in the crawl that reaches this, but it's then lost. There are lots of tree roots to the south and west as well as an abundance of flying insects indicating this passage is close to the surface. The western most passage has a 4m high mud and root filled aven that must also be very close to the surface.

Batch 24-08 (L=40m) was explored and surveyed in summer 2024 and heads west before *Grey Boulder Chamber* is reached. A narrow crawl leads to a short, loose climb up into a larger rift passage. Left closes down quickly to a too small tube that we presume connects to the main passage further along. Right shrinks to a flat-out crawl after 15m, this continues this way with only a slight enlargement until the end, where it is choked. [Alex Ritchie]

Upstream Riaño

Upstream from *Eureka Junction*, the passage has some deep pools until a step up is possible and the stream flows across a sandstone floor. An inlet - **Pessimistic Passage** - enters from the east at the first right-hand bend with a large pool, and was first properly explored and documented at Easter 2024 as batches 24-01 to 24-05, then as batches 24-17 and 24-18 in the summer.

(0105-24-01) The far side of the pool, leads to an easy sandy crawl that drops you into the stream. After about 15m the passage grows in size and you can stand. At this point another stream comes in from a passage choked in cobbles. Continue upstream for a short while where a spiral climb takes you out of the stream into the roof. If the climb is missed then a flakey stream passage leads to an easy squeeze on the left into the same passage.

At this point to the left and behind is a short upward sloping muddy passage **(0105-24-02)** that terminates too tight. The aven above appears to be a phreatic solution pocket.

Back in the main stream **(0105-24-01)** the passage continues as a wide and tall rift, where one traverses over some boulders to come back down again at another junction. To the left here is a steep slope up leading into a high chamber with another steep slope / climb leading to another chamber with twin avens that are unclimbed.

Back at the junction, taking the right-hand option, one is taken back down to the stream, where the passage degenerates into crawling/sideways shuffling mainly at stream level for about 60m. Here there is an important inlet on the right, described lower down. Continuing along the stream, the passage degenerates further requiring several sideways crawls past protrusions in the water in places, before relief is gained in a standing height "chamber". An inlet enters from above as a small waterfall the passage, however is too tight.

(0105-24-04) The main passage continues past the waterfall as a crawling passage, before the roof lowers forcing a flat-out crawl in water which eventually sumps.

Back at the important junction is the way into **Pessimist Rift (0105-24-03)**. To the left of the rift is a short, decorated passage that leads back to the stream with an aven (unclimbed). The rift is mainly sideways going with some crawling on ledges / floor for 20m with lots of sharp protrusions (that we may hammer off). Thankfully, by heading upwards 5m further after a too tight rift on the left, relief is gained where the passage widens. (The too-tight rift likely goes back to the stream, as the water can be heard).

The passage is now a series of chambers with some decorations connected by a much wider though slippery rift. After 50m this passage drops to a dug, flat out crawl, "Fin". In a tiny chamber beyond there's a squeeze down a sandy slope, before immediately a third squeeze leads back up into a large chamber which crapped out. This is the largest so far: 10 x 4 x 3m). This interesting chamber is festooned by formations on the right, has an active stream and has two exits (an upstream one and a downstream one). Upstream the passage is small and is currently blocked by a rock protrusion 6m in which could be removed. Downstream is a large high-level passage 3-4m above the stream, that progressively gets harder and has many levels between flakes. The downstream water disappears under the wall and the rest of the passage is upstream. Following this, the middle level seems to be best on the flat-out bedding

above the rift. (**0105-24-01**) After 20m of reasonably hard going a hole above of 2m leads to larger passage. This comfortable passage goes on for 60m and is mainly walking along the rift with formations. The rift degenerates here, and a climb up of 4.5m is followed immediately with a slope down drops into the continuation.

Unfortunately, this soon closes down due to calcite.

A tight hole before going uphill leads down into muddy, hard going passage near stream level. The Easter survey ended here, but the passage continues in tight squalidness for at least 50m, and carries on, though it's horrible and hard-going.

[Pessimistic Passage description by Alex Ritchie]

Batch 24-17 (Length=115m) ([drawing](#))
From the logbook: Surveying conditions were challenging; sticky mud soon coated everything. We carried on for 120m until the disto ran out of battery. At this point there was a good echo and the sound of falling water ahead, so we dropped down the rift and carried on another 20m to enter a 20m x 6m x 15m chamber (*The Redeeming Feature*). Two inlets entered, one straight ahead which looked small but passable, and a more interesting looking phreatic tube in the right hand wall. Both needed a c. 6m free climb, but would need a rope installed for the return. The route continues as batch 24-18.

Batch 24-18 (Length=70m) ([drawing](#))
From the logbook: The route to the phreatic tube was free-climbed a ladder attached. At the top, a chamber has another climb up, rigged with a handline. Up the handline, a short crawl leads into a chamber with an easy climb up into an ascending rift into another chamber. A short climb up in this chamber leads to a too-tight continuation. A hammered squeeze ([video](#) by Tiff Cooksley) enters a final chamber, which has a possible continuation up a climb that would need bolting. ([Video](#) by Tiff Cooksley). In total, we surveyed 70m. As well as the possible bolt climb in the final chamber, there is a waterfall flowing into the far end of Redeeming Feature. There seems to be caveable passage above - about 6m up. This would probably need bolting.

Back in the main stream, upstream of Pessimist Inlet, the route can be followed round several dog legs and becomes narrow before reaching a complicated joining of ways with a prominent stalagmite on a boulder across the stream. Just before this junction an inlet enters from the left carrying the main water from upstream Riaño. However a larger dry passage enters at the complicated junction just beyond, providing an easier route to the upstream part of the cave. These parallel wet and dry passages make up *Double Barrel Passage*. To the right (opposite the dry part of Double Barrel Passage) an ascending 2m wide rift heads back to *Grey Boulder Chamber* and the entrance series. Straight ahead is a quite large inlet and this can be followed into *The Mazeway*.

Back at the complicated junction the main stream can be followed up the low and wet passage, but the larger dry part of *Double Barrel Passage* is the preferred route. This passage continues in a straight fashion for about 150m past a stal grill until the stream is rejoined. The two passages continue for another 50m in the same general direction with progress made variously in the wet or dry passage until an inlet is met on the left near the first of two large swirl domes. This inlet (*Energetic Between the Legs*) was pushed at Easter 2006 and in August 2006 to add 370m of new passage to the survey.

Beyond the swirl domes the passage becomes larger at a sharp left bend with large blocks on the floor. Just past this point a walking passage on the right leads into a series of "coffin level" type passage which becomes too tight after 120m. Along the way two draughting avens are found. This area is not completely explored. Continuing along the main large sandy floored passage, a second passage leads off on the right into the same series of passages as the previous side passage. The main passage continues to another junction where the route branches. The left branch leads to *Cat Print Passage*, becoming a hands and knees crawl after passing an area of broken calcite. "Cat" prints are visible in the mud at this point. After 40m the passage ends in a muddy chamber and a 2m awkward climb leads to the base of an 8m high aven. This can be free climbed up a narrow slot and is the original way into the *Upper Series*. At the top of the pitch a number of small passages lead off and all appear to rejoin the main passage further to the southwest.

The right branch from the junction at the start of *Cat Print Passage* passes under an

aven with a loop of rope hanging down to enable a ladder to be pulled up. At the top of this a meandering passage leads to the *Upper Series*. An easier route to the *Upper Series* is found by passing under the aven to another chamber with boulders on the floor. Here a streambed flows from left to right across the chamber. Downstream leads back into the "coffin level" series of passages. Upstream continues for around 150m until the survey ends(?). Across the chamber to the right a passage leads to a cross rift. At this point a sandy slope leads up to the left, and is the start of the *Upper Level Link* route to the *Upper Series*. At the top of the slope it is possible to climb up 4m in a narrow rift to gain a chamber formed in a bedding. From the top of the climb, go across the chamber to the left to a point where you can climb down a rift to a floor which slopes back up to the height you started at (on the reverse you need to traverse across from the top of the slope to regain the top of the climb down). Just beyond this the passage emerges into the large phreatic passages of the *Upper Series*.

Batch 24-07 (L=36m) lies east of *Pendant Chamber* and in the vicinity of *Up to Glory*. The description (Dave Barrett) is edited from the summer 2024 logbook. Loose ends in Riano central intermediate passages as shown on [this survey](#). Blue lines are surveyed and the blue circle shows the checked area. Total about 30m of crawling passages on dry mud floor. One end connected with another. Other two passages ended in too tight or mud to the roof.

Energetic Between the Legs Inlet

Starting as a tight awkward rift passage requiring some flat out traversing, *Energetic Between the Legs* enlarges to a trenched meandering stream passage which is high in places. About half way along this length the passage changes to a long straight narrow rift until eventually it breaks out into a larger area above at an aven. The top of the aven can be easily reached by climbing up in the rift a few metres before the aven is reached, to gain the floor of a chamber of hanging death roof pendants which resemble large teeth (the *Molars of Doom*). This area contains much broken and unstable looking rock hanging from the walls and ceiling (*care!*). The stream continues beyond the aven in a too tight slot in the floor.

The top of the aven is in the corner of the *Molars of Doom* chamber with a sandy slope leading up to more stable ground. A dry meandering inlet passage also enters at this point from the left wall (when looking up the slope) at the top of the aven, and has been pushed for around 50m until the going became too arduous (unsurveyed). Up the sandy slope a crawl under a large boulder gains a further ascent to the top of the chamber where the passage narrows again. Up to the left a steep climb up loose sediment has not been attempted. To the right a step across onto a sediment floor quickly chokes where some helictites can be seen. Continuing into the narrowing passage a hole up on the right leads into a small chamber where another hole at the foot of a boulder slope gains a low wide passage with dark roof pendants which come down to the floor and sparkle with crystals. This passage leads into a large chamber (24m x 4m x 5m). Up to the right from the sparkling pendants leads to a climb up into passages above the chamber. Described from where you first enter the large chamber, to the left leads to the end of the chamber where the way on is choked with sediment. This passes under a rift in the roof which is blind. Straight on across the chamber leads into a winding crawl which ends at a double constriction with a draught, and space visible beyond, but too tight to pass. At the right end of the chamber a passage seen at the top of a climb up the opposite wall soon chokes. Turning right at this end of the chamber a climb leads into a phreatic roofed continuation of the passage. A second climb up leads to a junction. Left at the junction leads to sediment choke. Right leads past a fine swirl dome to a dead end. An ascending calcite floored phreatic tube leads up above the climb and ends at a calcite blockage. Below the climb is the alternative route down back into the passage with the sparkling pendants.

Part way up the sandy slope in the *Molars of Doom* chamber it is possible to climb up to the roof and traverse back over the aven (exposed!) to gain a phreatic roof tunnel with a flat out crawl over a false floor. A pretty section of passage follows where you leave deep footprints in the sandy floor, past some formations until it closes down to a body sized tube. This emerges 3m up the

wall of a large chamber with a 5m deep pit in the floor at the bottom of a conical funnel of loose rocks and sand. The near edge of the pit is a thin suspended false floor of loose fill. A tantalising slope leads off at the bottom and the pit has not been descended. Past the pit the passage continues a short way before closing down abruptly at a 180 degree bend. There is also a possible way on at roof level opposite the point where you enter the chamber. A crawl space can be seen to continue for up to 20m before going out of sight, but attempts to scale the 4m loose sediment wall to access this passage were unsuccessful due to lack of any suitable equipment.

Upper Series (still to be edited)

The main passage in this direction is an impressive phreatic tube varying between 5 and 10m high and wide. A passage on the right becomes too small at a choke though there is an alternative way back to the main passage by traversing round *The Pit*, a large hole which has not been descended.

Continuing in the main passage through a flat roofed area the passage gains height and width. After an awkward climb over boulders another passage is met coming in from the right. This is very well decorated and splits after 50m at the base of a 3m climb. The right branch is choked by stal after 120m but the left branch although smaller has not been explored to an end.

Back in the main passage the lofty gallery continues for some 100m until an inlet is met from the right. The passage now closes down to a miserable flat out crawl in the stream with a calcited choke above. The strongly draughting crawl has been connected to the *Second River Inlet* in [Cueva de la Hoyuca \(107\)](#). The inlet on the Riaño side of the connection has been followed to a high rift passage which after 200m finishes in a high aven and a choked chamber at a lower level. An search in this area for a "pitch 8m" failed in the summer 2010.

In the summer 2012, one trip surveyed passage due south of Pete's Way in the Upper Series adding 91m to the length.

Batch 24-06 (L=72m) was explored in the *Upper Series* in the 2024 summer expedition. The description (Dave Barrett) is edited from the logbook. (See Riaño 2011 survey)

A small passage to the north off the fracture area after *La Playa*. Crawl through the breakdown and the passage proper starts at station 3 just before a slide over a rock. The passage is about 2 metres high, phreatic in origin with roof pendants and gloppy mud on small ledges. There is a vadose channel in the floor. Ahead it stops in a mud blockage. Left at the junction goes to smaller route until it meets a flat out crawl to a hole in the floor. There is a slight draught.

At station 3 is a water worn rift going up which was climbed to about 8m and it continues. Rift is in the same rock and style as around the entry point into the *Upper Series*. At the bottom at station 3 is a mud blocked passage.. A few metres to the west in the fracture zone is another rift up, not climbed. It is marked on the drawing. The fracture area has a crack in the roof edge and side on the east side which is in line with the choke at the end of *La Playa*. The choke and indeed all of this area has very fresh air. Some drippy water only. Fracture orientation broadly NE-SW. The fracture area is not marked on the current drawn survey. ([24-06 drawing](#))

Amendments were also made to the survey in this area ([amended survey](#))

Grov write up

In 1991 the downstream passage was pushed to major extensions which needs writing up by Paul Stacey etc. In this area, near the end of the downstream passage some 46m was surveyed in 1992. The inlet passage splits into 2 smaller inlets about 30m from the main passage. Both go to major choked areas. The right hand inlet has been followed into the choke for about 30m.

About 15m further downstream on the left is a steep boulder slope to a climb up boulders into a chamber on a fault with two avens in the roof. The inlet passage across the chamber has been followed along walking passage to a low crawl and choke. None of this 91-92 extension is on the graph survey.

At Easter 1993, a pitch was descended on the right hand side of the main passage, some way from the Anastomosis climb.

L. Mills located individuals of *Cantabroniscus* in 1985.

Over 3 days in December 2007, the *89cents Tinto Extension* (248m) was made. This sets off in a series of climbs and traverses heading southwest from the vicinity of Cat Paw Print Passage, apparently ending 3m below the surface some 70m from the nearest site in the "Hoyuca-Riaño corner". This was re-examined at Easter 2008 along with the *Acid Bath* and *Pray Aven* - descriptions to come. The Easter 08 trips added 154.7m to the length.

Over Easter 2009, bolting up *Daddy Aven* (off 89 Cents Tinto passage), started in 2007, was completed. The first level was reached at about 10m (with no passage) and continues in a scramble / free-climb with a ladder to reach another 15m in height to a calcited slot with a choked, body-sized chamber. Some new exploration also occurred down a flat-out crawl heading away from Acid Bath Chamber. A passage to the left of the aven was pursued to a steep slope where a chamber with stals can be seen through a tight squeeze.

In the summer 2011, the area off the Acid Bath (heading towards Hoyuca) was looked at and the [write up appears here](#). There was also a trip to the most southern passage where a pitch was descended. The [writeup appears here](#).

Over Easter 2018, the [Matienzo Karst Entomology Project](#) (led by Tom Thompson) followed up a previous study by collecting bugs, spot sampling and setting pitfall traps in a number of sites under a Cantabria-wide permit. The Entomology Project carried out some work in this cave without collecting or sampling.

The cave appears on the [Cueva Hoyuca and the Four Valleys System Hydrology](#) diagram.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

The [speleo club Viana](#) (from Guadalajara) have published a number of documents (descriptions & surveys, including gpx, pdf and jpg files) relating to the system. See their [Cantabria page](#) and the *Zona de Matienzo* section. [This appears to be open only to registered members with new members not allowed!]

References: anon., 1974b (logbook); Cope J, 1974; anon., 1974a (survey); Fernández Gutiérrez J C, 1975; Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975; anon., 1976 (logbook); Cope J et al, 1976; Mills L D J, 1981; Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 (survey); Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981; Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981; anon., 1984 (logbook); anon., 1985b (logbook); Corrin J, 1986; anon., 1986 (logbook); Corrin J, 1987 (survey); material in file; anon., 1987 (logbook); Cawthorne R, 1987; Corrin J and Knights S, 1988; anon., 1988 (logbook); Davis J and Corrin J, 1989 (photo); anon., 1989 (logbook); anon., 1991 (logbook); Corrin J, 1992a (survey); anon., 1992b (logbook); Cawthorne B, 1992; Corrin J, 1992b (survey); anon., 1993c (Easter logbook); anon., 1993b (logbook); Fernández Ortega F, Valls Uriol and Maria del Carmen, 1998; García José León, 1997 (survey); Corrin Juan, 1997c; anon., 1999a (Easter logbook); anon., 2001c (Summer logbook); Corrin Juan, 2001a; Corrin Juan, 2003c; Corrin Juan, 2005; anon., 2006b (Easter logbook); anon., 2006d (summer logbook); anon., 2006e (autumn logbook); Corrin Juan, 2007; anon., 2007b (Easter logbook); Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007 (photo); Corrin Juan, 2007a (photo); anon., 2008c (Easter logbook); Corrin Juan, 2009; anon., 2009a (Easter logbook); Corrin Juan, 2010; anon., 2010a (February logbook); anon., 2010c (summer logbook); León García José, 2010 (Volume 1 and Volume 2) (line survey); Corrin Juan, 2011; anon., 2011b (Easter logbook); anon., 2011d (summer logbook); anon., 2012c (Whit logbook); anon., 2012d (summer logbook); Corrin Juan, 2013a; anon., 2015c (summer logbook); anon., 2016c (summer logbook); Thomson Tom, 2016; anon., 2018b (Easter logbook); anon., 2019d (summer logbook); Scaife C, 2022; anon., 2024a (January, February logbook); anon., 2024b (Easter logbook); Carlisle James and Corrin Juan, 2024; anon., 2024c (Whit logbook); anon., 2024d (summer logbook); anon., 2024e (autumn logbook)

Entrance pictures : pre-2006 to 2013 : draught at the entrance (video by Jon Whiteley) : after effects, Easter 2024 : around the entrance August 2024 : after a trip into Pessimist Passage, 13/8/2024 (video by Phil Papard, YouTube)

Underground picture(s):

Photos over 3 days, summer 2024, including heading to the surface in new passage.

Photos in the [Pessimist Series](#), April 2024 : [Pessimist Series](#), summer 2024

Photos from summer 2019: [before Llanío link](#)

(29/7/19) : [Torno Inlet extensions?](#) dated 31/7/2019

: probably 29th July? : [Ammonite Choke visit](#)

(8/8/2019) : [Linking with Llanío](#), 30th July 2019

(See Misc. pics below and Llanío 2019 link photos)

Photos from [Easter, 2013](#) by Tom Thomson.

Photos from summer, 2010 by Steve Sharp.

Photos from [Easter 2007](#) by Paul Fretwell.

Photos from 2006 by Paul Dold

Photos from December 2006: [Up and beyond Schoolboy Error Aven.](#)

Misc. pics: [Sub-phone training session](#) : [Surface sub-phone for linking with Llanío, July 2019](#) : [Riaño team celebrating in Entrambasaguas](#)

Video : [Downstream, summer 2015 \(YouTube\)](#) : [Connection through from site 0575 resurgence including almost real time dive out \(YouTube\)](#) : [July 2019 - The connection with Cueva-Cuvío del Llanío \(YouTube\)](#)

[Enlarging the top of Schoolboy Error Aven, August 2019 \(YouTube\)](#) : [Pessimistic Passage, Easter 2024 \(YouTube\)](#) : [Some exploration, 30th July 2024 \(YouTube\)](#)

Detailed Surveys : [Original 1974 survey](#)

21st Century resurvey

2008 24th Jan	Hoyuca entrance & Riaño	B&W png file
2008 24th Jan	Hoyuca entrance & Riaño	colour png file
2009	Upper level 1	B&W png file
2009	Upper level 2	B&W png file
2009	Whole cave with part Hoyuca	colour png file
2010	Entrance Series & HSC	colour png file
2010	Riaño + Hoyuca ent. series	colour png file
2011	Riaño	colour pdf file
2011	Riaño + Hoyuca ent. series	colour pdf file + notes
2024	Riaño plan	pdf file Tunnel import

On Paul Fretwell's latest version of the [Fours Valleys survey](#)

Line Survey : 4 Valleys System [line survey](#) (2010)

On area survey :

Survex file : [Riaño only \(now\)](#) : [4 Valleys System & surrounding caves \(now\)](#) : [4 Valleys - lite \(now\)](#)

(Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.) : [just 0105 + 3234](#) (joined 30th July 2019)

Passage direction rose diagram: [Four Valleys System](#)

Hydrology (Terry Whitaker): [Hoyuca and the 4 Valleys System](#)

X

0106: Riaño, Torcón de

Riaño 30T 452177 4799241 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 258m

Length 407m **Depth** 95m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998; 7th June 2002; 8th November 2003; 9th October 2004; 18th February 2012; 9th September 2019

[A previous length was stated as 120m; this should have been 224m.]

The entrance is well hidden in a densely vegetated hole opposite a cabaña. A [bouldery entrance slope](#) meets a trickle of water from a pipe which then flows down the pitch. The first drop of 7m is followed immediately by the main pitch of 91.5m. At the base, a narrow vadose streamway sumps after 100m. This is about 50m from the upstream sump in *3rd River Inlet* in [Cueva de la Hoyuca \(107\)](#), and they presumably connect. The cave appears on the [Cueva Hoyuca and the Four Valleys System Hydrology diagram](#).

On the left of the entrance slope is a stoop / crawl which splits: the right hand route rejoins the main way on, the left hand route needs to be pushed through a wet crawl. This was surveyed as part of batch 0106-2019-01.1 although the wet crawl wasn't pushed.

A second exploration was carried out on 5th August 2004 using electric light and SRT (not small carbides and ladders) twenty nine years after the first exploration. The [sketch](#) shows that there are possible passages on the way down to look at, but no way on over the top of the sump was found.

Fifteen years later, over 3 trips in August, 2019, one of the "possible passages" was investigated. Passing an unexplored passage about 15m down the main pitch, another 35m of descent meets a large stal that can be lassooed to gain solid ground at a ledge. A climb up to the south from here closes in but an exposed, bolted traverse around the shaft to the north and east, over a giant "rock horn" - *The King Horn Traverse** - meets a decorated ledge and an open passage. This is also well decorated and, after a short walk, leads to a climb through a stal window to shoulder-width, walking passage. The route zig-zags for 80m past a couple of shield-sized and -shaped stal to a squeeze through a stal grill. Another squeeze, high in the passage leads to a letterbox and drop down into dark limestone with three, 3m high avens off the the left - all too tight at the top. The passage

continues as a hand-and-knees crawl for another 20m past an enlargement with sandy banks. At the end, mud and sand fill has been excavated (partly as flexible slabs) for 7m where falling water can be heard and an inward draught felt. It appears to continue small and quite a lot of digging will be required. [Passage description by Diane Arthurs and Simon Cornhill]

The main pitch rope has been removed for the 2019/2020 winter but the traverse line has been left rigged. The first explorer on the next visit will need to lasso the stal to get onto the ledge.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

* Named in memory of Chris Kinghorn. See this [Facebook page](#).

References: anon., 1975b (Easter and summer logbooks); Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 (survey); Corrin J et al, 1981b; Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 (survey); Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981; Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982; material in file; anon., 1998d (logbook); anon., 2004d (summer logbook); Corrin Juan, 2006; anon., 2019d (summer logbook)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s): [entrance slope and pictures from the 2004 exploration](#) : [2019 explorations at -50m in the big pitch](#)

Video : (by Juan Corrin) [Entrance rift](#) [Walk down to pitch head](#) [Rigging 1](#) [2](#) [pitch head](#) [7m shaft top](#) [echo at p93](#)

[Explorations 2019 - King Horn Traverse and beyond](#) (YouTube) (Diane Arthurs / Simon Cornhill)

Sketch : [main pitch with possible passages leading off.](#) (from anon., 2004d)

Detailed Survey :

1975 known cave [low res](#) [high res](#)

1980 with Third River Inlet [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [1975 & 2019](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Miscellaneous : [team for the first exploration in 1975](#)

Hydrology (Terry Whitaker): [Hoyuca and the 4 Valleys System](#)

X

0107: Hoyuca, Cueva (Uzueka, Cueva de)

Riaño 30T 451816 4799805 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 170

Length 78059m (Total length of the Sistema de Cuatro Valles, updated January 2025, not including Boyones)

Depth 194m (from #0252 @ 239m to Boyones water level @ 45m)

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : **Resources :**

[Logbook search](#) : [A Google search for this site](#)

(Hoyuca, Cueva+Riaño)

The **Four Valleys System (Sistema de Cuatro Valles)** has 18 entrances (December 2024) and the possibility of doing 306 different through trips! The system lies under ground administered by three townhalls: Solórzano, Ruesga and Voto. Cueva de la Hoyuca in Riaño (Solórzano) is the major segment having the following entry points

- **Site 0107:** Entrance 2 at the base of the field ETRS89: 30T 451816 4799805 Altitude 170m)
- **Site 2903:** Church Entrance ETRS89: 30T 451599 4799753 Altitude 175m
- **Site 2872:** Pitch entrance ETRS89: 30T 451764 4799771 Altitude 175m (This needs to be sorted out re altitude as there should be a 10-15m pitch in)
- **Site 2974:** Number 1 entrance ETRS89: 30T 451679 4799778 Altitude 174m
- **Site 2691:** Giant Panda entrance ETRS89: 30T 452527 4799815 Altitude 214m. (**Care required at head of first pitch - September 2024**)

The other linked entrances into the Four Valleys System are

- in Riaño (Solórzano)

• [Cueva de Riaño \(0105\)](#) with the [dive site at the Riaño resurgence \(0575\)](#),

• [Cueva-Cubío del Llanío \(3234\)](#) with the [Sub-phone entrance \(4536\)](#)

• [Fridge Door Cave \(1800\)](#) with [Boob Tube \(5000\)](#) entrance and [Vaca Bypass \(5368\)](#)

- in Llueva (Voto)

• [Cueva Llueva \(0114\)](#)

- in Matienzo (Ruesga)

• [Cueva de Carcavuezo \(0081\)](#) along with alternative entrance [site 3895](#)

• [Torca la Decepción \(0252\)](#) with the lower entrance, site [4732](#) (preferred)

- in Secadura (Voto)

- the collapse cave behind the resurgence at [Los Boyones \(0117\)](#) in Secadura. This last site has been [water traced from Carcavuezo and Hoyuca](#) but there is only a small amount of bouldery "passage" for cavers to traverse. (The length of 100m has not been included in the length of the 4 Valleys System but the depth is calculated to the water surface at Los Boyones.) The resurgence area is now enclosed by a gated fence and the entrance to cave has not recently been seen.

Updated 13 February 1998; 19th February, 18th April 1999, 12th December 1999; 14th March 2000; 16th September 2000; 23rd February, 7th October, 26th October 2001; 15th April, 25th October 2002; 8th November 2003; 1st October 2006; after Easter, 26th September, 27th October 2007; 15th April, 14th June, 24th, 29th September 2008; 24th February, 4th May, 24th August, 2nd November, 12th December 2009; 16th January, 8th March, 24th June, 9th July, 4th October, 18th November 2010; 6th January, 12th May, 6th, 28th June, 4th July, 3rd, 11th October, 5th, 30th November 2011; 13th, 16th January, 18th February, 24th April, 7th October 2012; 23rd November 2013; 19th January, 21st May, 16th September 2014; 16th May, 25th September, 17th October, 1st November 2015; 20th April 2016; January 10th 2017; 1st May, 1st July 2018; 27th January; 5th June, 11th September 2019; 25th May, 3rd November 2021; 4th May, 8th, 29th September 2022; 12th May, 18th September, 6th November 2023; 7th, 29th January, 8th, 17th February, 6th May, 24th September, 24th November, 11th December 2024; 27th January 2025

An incomplete description follows. Some sections are possibly described twice, and the whole account (especially the entrance series) needs rationalizing as part of the re-survey.

[Easter 2010 notes (for Dog Series; Vampire Gallery; etc) need adding from the "Matienzo Underground" descriptions and the sheet in box]

- [Route to Cueva Llueva](#)
- [Side passages](#)

A cave of great variety, potential and in places, complexity. Cueva de la Hoyuca is the major segment of the Four Valleys System ([line survey](#)). The cave continues to yield extensions, not just at the end, but in the entrance series which most people had previously neglected in their hunt for glory.

All of the water met in the cave eventually joins with some of the water from [Cueva de Riaño \(105\)](#), the water from [Cueva de Carcavuezo \(081\)](#) and then enters [Cueva Llueva \(114\)](#) and flows to resurge at [Los Boyones \(117\)](#) in Secadura. A diagram of the overall hydrology by Terry Whitaker can be seen [here](#). A more detailed diagram for the entrance series is being prepared.

If the route through the cave is known then a quick trip from the original entrance to the end of *Trident Passages* and back will take about 9 hours. The route from the original entrance sumps in wet weather in at least two places. The [Giant Panda entrance](#) (#2961, opened up in 2008) may cut a couple of hours off this time and may provide more "all weather" access. For example, it was used at Easter 2008 in high water conditions when new explorations were taking place in the Gour Inlet extensions. After being closed for a couple of years, the Giant Panda entrance was re-opened at the end of December 2019 but is now considered still unsafe at the head of the first pitch (September 2023).

In August 2023, the Torca la Decepción (#4732) entrance in Matienzo was used to visit the *Astradome*, via *Armageddon*. The round-trip took about 8 hours. All subsequent trips into *Armageddon*, *Rocky Horror* and *Trident Passages* areas have all been made through the Decepción entrance.

Route through into Cueva Llueva

Five entrances are known. The *Church Entrance*, only discovered in 1986, lies in a wooded depression next to the track, 200m below the church. A 6m high entrance drops down into a small passage. A short stretch of hands-and-knees in deep mud spoils the passage before it emerges into *Quadruphenia* at the first dog-leg. The unfortunate fact about this entrance is that a local farmer has used a nearby slot as a means of getting rid of manure. The deep mud may not be what it seems and perhaps should be checked out from inside the cave

before attempting a trip through. Reference CE documents the *gran depósito de estiércol* and the possible consequences. During the 1994 recovery, an old door was used over the mud and this is likely to be still in place. However, a trip through in October 2015 described the passage as "*crawling mostly over sand and gravel with no sign of cow shit. At a corner before the connection the floor was wet mud but not smelling.*"

The "old" entrance ([photo](#)) is a couple of metres up a wooded slope at the bottom of a maize field. When visited in the summer 2019, a dairy museum had been established next to the entrance. A short, constricted, draughting entrance crawl (which was collapsing at Easter 2010 and Easter 2011), with drops below, enters a small chamber. Straight ahead, a descending passage drops to a calcite-floored chamber and a further short slide down enters a maze of rifts where carbide arrows point back towards the entrance. A short climb up and a tight sideways squeeze ([photo](#)) pops out into *Quadruphenia*. (Back from the entrance chamber, a climb up bypasses the tight squeeze and drops down into *Quadruphenia*). (At the top of the climb a tube was pushed back towards the surface to a stal choke in 2010.) An alternative route through to *Quadruphenia* is from the second entrance chamber, where a climb up straight ahead leads to a crawl and climb down into the start of *Quadruphenia*, bypassing (and passing) the tight squeeze. (A *Roof Passage* in the entrance series was surveyed August 2002 - length 108m, and needs a write-up).

Quadruphenia (from the sideways squeeze):

The passage enlarges from a slight stoop almost immediately and the next 560m is a trot along sandy-floored tunnels ([photos 1 2](#)). Large junctions (one of which brings in the *Church Entrance* passage) are negotiated by four left hand turns until a final right hand turn leads down to a low section into the stream in *Pigs Trotters Chamber* with its fine roof pendants. Continuing downstream a short crawl over black cobbles meets a second stream emerging from a sump on the right. A sand slope up opposite quickly closes down. Heading downstream, a smaller inlet passage on the right is followed as a crawl on cobbles. This inlet ends with a wet flat-out crawl on gravel which sumps in wet weather and is often half full of water. The far end of this low wet section often has to be dug out after the winter. The crawl is abandoned by slithering up into a small chamber on the left. A series of phreatic chambers is entered which are connected by short crawls. Some hundred metres of joint-aligned walking follow, and this ends at a small boulder choke where the only way on is down into the low and wet *Punk in the Gutter* which lasts for only a few metres. (At Easter 2011, a possible dig was investigated further down on the right of the cobbled streamway which may have bypassed the crawl. A long term effort would be required.)

First River Inlet is passed on the left and the way enlarges. The stream is left to clamber over large blocks and the only way to regain the water is down through a narrow slot.

The next 1000m of passage - the *Gorilla Walk* - is generally stooping-sized with a metre or more of water to wade through or crawl in. After around 200m a major unnamed inlet is met coming from right. This water emerges from a sump after a short distance. Another 250m on downstream *Windy Inlet* drops into the water at a point where it is possible to stand up. This is the bottom of the [Giant Panda \(2691\) entrance](#), which is the preferred way in to this point for those who can fit through a tight squeeze. The water soon exits into a sump on the right and the main passage continues over cobbles under some unclimbed avens. The direction of water flow is reversed in this section until a small inlet is passed on the left. The passage enlarges at the start of the *Phreatic Zone* where the main walking size route turns sharp right, then back left. It is also possible to continue straight ahead into a wide bedding crawl making up the left hand side of the passage at this point. This bedding can be followed all the way through, or the walking route followed into boulders where various climbs up allow access back into the bedding route before the final deep pool is met ([photo B5 in the Summer 2010 set](#)). Off to the left part way along the bedding are a pair of large unclimbed avens. Off to the right of the walking route a series of phreatic crawls in water are found, leading to the *Zoological Gardens*. Another 100m on in the main passage a major junction is met.

Second River Inlet - the route into [Cueva de Riaño \(105\)](#) - comes in from the left while

the way on is to the right. The direction of flow has reversed again by this point and the way on is once again downstream. Almost immediately after this junction a second inlet is met on the left. This supplies the majority of the water in this section of the cave, but a way upstream has yet to be excavated up this significant inlet. The route for the next 500m is obvious, through the *Near Stomps*, a large stream passage where the route is mainly over large sand banks. A small inlet is met flowing out from under rocks on the left near the side passage to the *Hidden Aven*. Next *Gour Inlet* is passed on the left, the water flowing across cream coloured gours into the main streamway and, 100m further on, *Obvious Junction* is met up on the right. The river is left behind as twin passages unite at the start of *Crossover Crawl*. This is a generally low, sandy passage which ends after 160m at a walk down into the *Third River*.

Downstream, the next 540m are easy walking in a large streamway, passing several smaller side passages. The largest of these, *Straw Inlet*, is straight ahead at a left hand dog leg. After two further sharp bends left and then right, the entrance to *96 Passage* is seen up on the left. The passage then enlarges considerably at *Las Playas*, the last 200m or so being on sand before reaching *Diversion Chamber*. Two inlets can be entered on the left from this chamber. *Sloppy Inlet* starts as a crawl in water from a pool under the left wall, and *Diversion Chamber Inlet* can be found in the back left corner of the chamber. The main passage is blocked here, but a small passage with deep water (*B Road*) sets off on the right and the large, main route is soon rejoined on the other side of the collapse. Another 140m further on *4th River Inlet* is passed on the right at a bend and, after another 100m of walking, the entry to the *Astradome* is seen on the left up a sand slope. By continuing downstream, *44 Chamber* is reached and *95 Inlet* is passed on the right. The streamway then becomes small phreatic passage for 340m to *Sandy Junction*, where the stream which was left behind at *Obvious Junction* enters on the left. The way on is downstream to face a boulder choke and the entry to *Armageddon*.

By continuing downstream, *44 Chamber* is reached and then the streamway becomes small phreatic passage for 340m to *Sandy Junction*, where the stream left at *Obvious Junction* enters on the left. The way on is downstream to face a boulder choke and the entry to *Armageddon*.

Armageddon is a 260m long heap of boulders, the first 20m of which are negotiated by following road works bunting (still there?) through the pile over drops into the stream below. Then by striking out and up (generally to the east) the boulders are left temporarily for a sandy walk, passing a large passage on the right - the entry to the *Armageddon Bypass*. A clamber down to stream level is then required and finally a climb to the east leads to a short SRT pitch (with loops) - *Judgement Pitch* - has (January 2024) replaced the original ladder pitch of 5m down through precariously perched boulders to the stream. (One or more trips have negotiated *Armageddon* without finding the ladder). This was the area of connection to Torca de la Decepción (0252 / [4732](#)) in the summer, 2022.

At Easter 2023, at the *Armageddon* choke, a "new section of passage was entered high in the roof, about 50m back from the choke." "Footprints led up to it but not into it from the other end."

[EXTENSIONS (el GORDO) @ XMAS 2024 TO APPEAR HERE]

Armageddon is left behind and the water followed down into *Paisley Passage*, a 20m wide and 4m high bedding plane. The passage terminates after 200m at *Green Choke* with the water seeping away on the right.

The way through is over fallen slabs and scree to the left and all routes unite as a slither up to the head of a roomy bedding plane - the *Giants Causeway*. A walk down over large slabs leads to a pool and the stream is regained. The water is followed for 160m over sandstone blocks in a bedding 3 to 4m high. The water drops over a small cascade and the next 150m are negotiated in deepening water as *Duckhams Sump* is approached. The route is along the right hand wall and then out into deep water for 5m towards the sound of falling water. With little enough airspace at the best of times, muddy swirls on the roof show that the whole area sumps. The exit is up through a body-sized hole in the flat roof into an

awkward rift which is followed upstream for 100m. It is then possible to climb up on the left into an area floored with large level-topped blocks and sand. The bedding becomes increasingly larger until a descent is made to a high inlet on the right. This marks the start of *Rocky Horror*.

Route finding on this 200m long pile of immense blocks can take a couple of hours though some routes have been marked. It is generally best to keep fairly high up on the right of the passage, leaving the stream down on the left. Passage walls eventually appear out of the gloom and the floor gradually reaches the roof. The stream can be found by dropping down on the right a few metres back from the end. A comparatively small and well decorated passage meets the stream after 80m. Re-exploration and becoming familiar with the area occurred at Easter 2023. A survey of the stream passage side of *Rocky Horror* was carried out in the autumn 2024 as batch 0107-24-03 and is included in the system length.

A draught whistles out between boulders both at stream level and at a higher level and one route through the unstable mess was pushed in 1986. The loose connecting choke joins with the 1985 Extensions in [Cueva Llueva \(114\)](#) on the upstream side of the upstream sump. The route appeared to collapse behind the explorers on the second trip through.

Strangle Wanking Passage, (first explored and surveyed from the Cueva Llueva, but now more easily reached from Carcavuezo entrance) was pushed through the terminal sump by Dave Garmin in **August 2017** into a bouldery area where orange string had been left from a previous exploration near the end of Cueva Hoyuca. The sump has a line through, bolted at each end, and has been described as a 5 - 6m free dive. There is a dangerous rocking boulder on the Hoyuca side which requires some attention. [A video of the dive, filming and exploration](#) into Hoyuca has been edited. The survey in the area appears quite accurate apart from the z axis.

Other passages are now described by working through the cave from the main entrance

By dropping straight down in the entrance..... *Other bits off the entrance series, Lank?*

At Easter 1994, a route from the 1st chamber in the old entrance to *Quadraphenia* was tackled up. This involves a 5m climb up and a climb down and cuts out all the complexities of the old route. The route was detackled after the summer of 1994 and is not recommended for rescue purposes.

A small passage off *Quadraphenia*, just after the first dog- leg, leads to daylight above, although this pitch has not been descended. It has been seen on the surface as site 2872.

After the junction leading to the Church Entrance, at the next double bend, a walking-size passage on the right soon drops to a low, continuing streamway, pushed a short distance downstream in 2008.

The next junction in *Quadraphenia*, about 80m further on, is where a normally dry stream bed crosses the passage. To the west, **Tiler's Way** is about 400m of smallish phreatic passage that can be followed to a number of branches, all of which choke. The northwestern end (batch 0107-15-01) comes close to the end of site [718](#). Both ends here look very similar. To the east from *Quadraphenia* the stream sumps after 20m.

At the same junction, a 6m pitch up (re-bolted in 2008) leads to *Roofer's Way*, about 200m long to where it becomes too tight.

In the next 20m of *Quadraphenia*, up to a left hand bend, two passages on the right soon become too low. A narrow rift on the left leads to an apparent sump pool, with a possible continuation with low air space as there is a draught.

Forty metres after the last acute bend in *Quadraphenia*, a 4m pitch up* leads to a complex area of rifts also reachable by pitches down beyond Flashbulb Hall. A long passage shown on the early drawn survey has not been relocated but may be a low crawl following a stream passage upstream out of the area. *Pull-up Passage* is the first

route on the left on entering the maze and appears to warrant further investigation. It is reached by a short ladder pitch, but this can be bypassed. A climb up over a sump requires combined tactics to reach the continuation of this passage. Opposite the 4m pitch up, a stream issues from a sump and flows along *Quadruphenia* for 50m. (This stream was dye tested at Easter 2009. Dye dropped into the sink below Fuente de la Cuvia was seen here 30 hours later.)

*The ladder is in place but is in poor condition. It was probably installed in 1991 so was re-rigged and an SRT rope rigged for protection in summer 2009.

After another 80m, a passage on the right of *Quadruphenia* is an oxbow. Part way along, climbs down rifts drop into a low, wide stream passage, also reached down a slope at the next junction in *Quadruphenia*. The second side passage in the oxbow was dug through in 2008 into previously entered passage, assumed to be part of the *Flashbulb Hall* series.

Next in *Quadruphenia* is a climb down at *Marathon Junction*. Here, to the left, is *Marathon Passage* - a mainly walking-size passage taking a small stream and draughting in, presumably towards the surface. At the end, climbs and small chambers are largely calcified up.

Climbing up straight ahead at *Marathon Junction*, an easy going, sandy passage leads to a climb down to Pigs' Trotters Chamber, but the normal route is right to *Gloomy Chamber* and *Pigs' Trotters Chamber*.

On the right hand wall of *Pigs Trotters Chamber* is 100m of minaret-type passage which leads up to *Flashbulb Hall*. On the left about 50m before *Flashbulb Hall* several routes lead up into a chamber with a pitch down into an unsurveyed and incompletely explored section - *God Knows Passage?* In this area a route connects to *Flash Bulb Hall* by a traverse ending up behind the big block in *FBH*.

Various routes up rifts in *Pigs Trotters Chamber* to the left of the route to *Flashbulb Hall* lead to a high level passage, *Wardrobe Passage*. At the start of *Wardrobe Passage*, a junction on the left immediately reaches a further junction. On the right, a low passage ends at a twisting aven carrying a good draught. To the left at the junction, a rift passes back over *Pigs Trotters Chamber* while, straight on, a passage ends at a choke. Two routes over traverses lead to a low crawl continuing low and wide. A pitch down from the traverse connects to the main route downstream from *PTC*. These areas were investigated at Easter 1994 and again in 2009 when the survey was extended. At Easter 1997, the pitch at the end of *Wardrobe Passage* was dropped into a fine rift in which was found a survey station note from 10 years previously, linking with *God Knows Passage*. (Survey notes have disappeared?) Toby's account of his explorations (14/5/2011) follow:

Things sound a bit confused in that area but I'm certain of most of the details of what I did. Unfortunately I can't remember, corner by corner, exactly how I got to the start of the traverse. I was at roof level in the traverse I did and there were a couple of big flakes stuck in the rift that I walked on. Where ever Chris was can't be where I was as there was no more up to go! I think it was a flat bedding roof.

I'll talk (write) my way through it and see if it clicks with anyone. We did this on the same trip that we bolted/climbed the aven which Jane found and somebody has since shone a disto up. We did survey that aven and the chamber above but I've no idea what happened to the notes. Maybe Lank can remember?

Go along *Quadruphenia* and enter *Pigs Trotter Chamber*. Keep in the water, with the slope up to all the other higher stuff on your right, and stop where the main passage drops to a stoop/crawl under the wall. (ie stop just by the exit of the chamber where the way on into the rest of the main cave is, with *Quadruphenia* behind you). The wall is nearly vertical, leans out very slightly. This is where the 2 ladder long pitch I dropped enters. I landed at the very left hand side of the stream. Bolt up about 18m and you will find my bolt!

To get to the top of that pitch, the start of the traverse I'm talking about, stand in the same place and turn right. You are now facing the slope up to the higher stuff, with a tall wall on your left. Go up the slope and climb up behind the *Pigs Trotter* formation. At the top a passage heads off back over the end of the chamber, crossing over the stream at 90 degrees. You can't see down to the chamber or the stream as you are in a solid passage. Follow the passage for a short distance (the distance that equates to the horizontal distance between where we were standing in the stream and the climb up behind the trotter, It's not far. Now things get vague in my mind. I can't remember if there is something off to the left here (Jane thinks she remembers a crawl) or if the left hand wall opens out, but the pitch is just on the left here. It's a narrowish rift with a big flake jammed in it at floor level. I laddered down the narrow rift before the flake. It's not tight as I recall, just a bit narrow for the first metre or so then widens until you drop out of the roof of *PTC* down the wall I've mentioned and land at the left hand side of the stream. (I recall the stream as flowing

OUT of the chamber under the wall at this point, ie on into the cave, but Janethinks it runs INTO the chamber here ie flowing towards Quadrephinia, if she is right then my description of downstream end of the chamber is wrong and could be the source of confusion. If so, sorry for wasting peoples time).

The traverse starts with a step out onto the flake. There may be a very short section of bridging over the rift to attain the flake but it's not far at all. I may have put a sling around something at this point for protection (not really needed but I had the gear with me and it wouldn't have been clever to slip off having seen where I would land!) It's more than likely that someone will have just strolled over it without any trouble. Torben would have whizzed straight across with no problems at all, if this is where he has been. A couple of steps on the block lead to a right hand bend with another flake as the floor. There were footprints in the sand on this flake but I didn't notice any obvious marks before I got to this point but they may have come in the way I did. A few metres along here there is a low bedding crawl off to the left. This crawl had a sand floor and there were 'tram lines' going along it, very obvious. It's possible that the footprints I saw on the flake had come in via this crawl. As I was somewhere which was known I turned around thinking we would be able to sort out where the crawl went and who had done it when we got back to the bar. Didn't work out like that though! The traverse continued but I didn't and can't remember much about it. I thought I was in the top of an old vadose trench which was following the stream route below me in Pigs Trotter Chamber. We were hoping to find stuff going the other way, the elusive higher level over the Gorilla Walk and Jane was shouting to me about having found an Aven with a draught and possible passage going off into glory visible at the top so it was a no brainer really! And, of course, that ended up all choked.

On the way out we came back down the climb behind the trotter, with the wall immediately on our left. We followed the wall across the stream, went past the low passage that leads on into the cave and I showed Jane and Lank where I had landed. I recall us looking up the rift and saying how there was just no way of telling what was at the top of something like this without getting up there some how. You can see that the rift goes up some distance but you can't see the top. I'm 100% certain about where I landed by the stream. The traverse was only short, 15/20m max and I suspect that it has been followed for a far greater distance than I went along it. I hope this helps. When I looked at the survey of that area last summer the passage I saw drawn in that may be the taverse I followed didn't appear to be directly over where I landed, close but not bang on. It sounds to me as if Chris may well be at a bit lower level than I was. Where does his route start from?

Cheers all, that's how I remember it. Mind you, I did it when I was a God. Now I've been promoted to a Dog things are getting much more difficult, maybe a promotion above my capabilities? Toby.

At Easter 2011, bolting (mentioned in Toby's description above) was carried out above *Pigs Trotters Chamber* to a possible passage which became less possible the closer the route approached.

Flashbulb Hall is a shattered, damp area of massive block collapse. On the righthand wall of *FBH* a small inlet passage remains unexplored. The main way on is a roomy passage leaving *FBH* opposite the point of entry. Several holes in the floor are passed and there is a possible roof passage at the point of entry. Attempts were made to reach this at Easter 2010 but bolts are required to complete the route. The main way reaches a large block where a 16m pitch enters the maze area around *Pull-up Passage*. To the right, traversing across deep holes (traverse line advisable) leads to an aven and shaft where pitches of 6m and 16m pitches, descended in 2009, connect to the maze around *Pull-up Passage*. Crawling on a ledge around the shaft leads to ongoing large passage (*Vampire Gallery*) and a low level streamway. The large passage chokes. At the choke a climb up leads to a short section of passage (surveyed Easter 2010, but previously entered). A low streamway on the left of the choke is too tight upstream and has not been explored downstream. An inlet on the right before the choke has been surveyed to a stal squeeze, continuing beyond. Back at the traverse at the large block, a route to the left enters a chamber where a climb up a fissure on the right enters *Dog Series* (see below) - large, well-decorated passages. Bones seen in 2009 seem to be close to a former entrance.

In the *Dog Series*, a traverse over the top of the climb up was made in 2009 - 2010 entering large, sandy passage rapidly degenerated to a low crawl. On the right before the crawl a passage was explored to a short pitch into a chamber. This ended at an over tight tube and, under the pitch, a too low streamway.

A description of the *Dog Series Resurvey* (that carries on from the first section survey) dated 30/3/2010 follows: Slippery slope down to a 20 aven with big holes on the left of the passage. Straight ahead a climb up a boulder and down leads to a passage on the left (see below). Some stal on the left wall, reminiscent of *Agincourt*. The passage opens up to the right with a slope up to the *Dog's Bollockson* the far wall. Heading right from here there is a calcite slope to the left of the passage which ends at a calcited choke, then carries on over flowstone with stal and gour pools on a

large calcite boss. This wide passage slopes up to the left with an oxbow high up on the right hand side. Climbing up the calcite slope on the left, around some stal, the passage divides in two with a left hand fork continuing low among stal. A rock arch on the right of this leads to a 9.2m aven with tree roots. There is a two metre, small drop to the right of this aven which is choked. The right hand fork is a sandy crawl, passing some "cauliflower" formations, to some gour pools and passages to the left and right which both close down.

Heading back to the *Dog's Bollocks*, the main passage continues very large and into a maze area. The passage to the right is an oxbow.

By continuing upstream at the first wet crawl, walking sized passage is reached. The stream is left where it emerges from a low section and a higher level phreatic tube entered. Awkward progress is stopped by the 9m *Sima Baz*. A short length of passage enters an immature stream that sumps 50m downstream and becomes too tight 100m upstream.

Summer 2010 also saw extensions in the above area. The tent pole climb was completed in *Flash Bulb Hall* but the passage was found to choke immediately. The "next hole in floor of passage after dog-leg after *Flash Bulb Hall*" was descended for approximately 5m only to find an over-tight fissure at the base. In the high level chamber between *Flash Bulb Hall* and *Pigs Trotters* was investigated in left and right hand pitches. The *God Knows Series* was resurveyed and slippery climbs at the end leads to the foot of the left hand pitch above. *Goldie's Way* was also surveyed for about 210m of meandering canyon in this area. A route down to the streamway met upstream and downstream sumps and carbide, suggesting the *Sima Baz* passage. (Proper write-up required.)

At Easter 2012, the mystery of the *Sima Baz* streamway was rectified when resurveying and new exploration showed the streamway had originally been drawn up 180 degrees out. The *Real Sima Baz* streamway heads west-southwest upstream to where the passage splits and water can be heard ahead through a low section. Part way along a strongly draughting passage heads off to the northeast to enter *Tom's Antic*, up a c4 after a wallow through waist-deep mud. To the right this ends in narrowing rifts which come close to the end of *Goldie's Way*. Full description needed:

Extensions in *Gorilla Walk*?

At Easter 2002, two extensions were pushed around the *Gorilla Walk*. The first is found on the right of the passage before dropping into the water. A draughting dig through boulders to a 4m climb up. The passage trends upwards passing over the *Gorilla Walk* and ending up about 30m above water level and 70m west of the starting point. The second extension is *Windy Inlet* a strongly draughting inlet in the roof about 3/4 the way along the *Gorilla Walk*. The passage is generally small to a 6m climb. Beyond is a rift excavated of boulders that leads to an aven that has been climbed to where the passage appears to finish close to [site 253](#) and [site 2691](#). This *Windy Inlet* series is described as requiring SRT kit for 5m and 30m climbs.

Over Easter 2007, the top of the 30m aven was molephoned and positioned under a large depression close to site 253 and 130m east of [Cueva de las Castañas](#). The molephone position in the depression (about 7m above the underground station) is documented as [site 2691](#). At Easter 2008, the Giant Panda entrance ([site 2691](#)) was dug out and cavers emerged from Hoyuca after climbing up from the *Gorilla Walk*. The new, top entrance has been partially stabilized using acros and planks and the route in and out proved a couple of times. A new survey has been carried out from top to bottom. (See [site 2691](#) for Giant Panda description).

Green Van Series, etc?

A dye test from [Cueva de las Castañas](#) (102) has been carried out and fluorescein emerged between floor pebbles in *Gorilla Walk* opposite the entry of the last downstream inlet (on the left), but no dye was seen in the inlet water!

The *Zoological Gardens* leads off from the phreatic passages at the end of the *Gorilla Walk* as a wide, muddy crawl. The passage continues as a rocky rift with some very impressive fossil corals in the floor. There is one calcite formation or fossil which looks like the vertebrae of an animal about 30cm

long. The passage ends at a calcite blockage and was surveyed for 265m in 1997.

Second River Inlet is 200m of mixed caving ending at a low crawl with a powerful draught. The link through into [Cueva de Riaño \(105\)](#) was made with the minimum of digging in 1986, and the first through trip - Hoyuca maize field entrance to Riaño entrance - at Easter 2008. This inlet is awkward in places, having three tight sections near the Riaño end. The first is a squeeze between a solid limestone roof slab and flakes on the floor, followed by two flat out tight squeezes in the stream which may have to be re-excavated of gravel to pass.

The next feeder is *Gour Inlet*, easily recognized by the cream colored flowstone on the stream bed where it emerges into the main river passage. The initial crawl is in an oxbow to the main passage and the inlet joins part way round. This starts flat out in water but quickly gains height. The passage has been described as "*a really lovely inlet with nice walking and formations*". This ends after 150m at a bouldery, 35m+ high (disto measurement) chamber and a climb which was bolted up an overhanging crack on the right wall in 1993. The top and the observed large passage (with stal bosses and lots of mud) was not reached due to shattered rock on the chosen route. In the summer of 2006 a quick trip before an aeroplane flight gained a new perspective. A new bolting route was started on the opposite wall in a corner that looked easier than the previous route. At +5m a traverse is stopped because of sandstone. By going back to the right a little a climb over calcite regains limestone at about +12m and easy bolting. From this new vantage point the passage does not exist but there may be a continuation above the inlet back towards the main passage. The chamber also continues up for at least another 30m

The inlet water comes from boulders at floor level and it may be worthwhile to dig at this choke.

At Easter 2008, Gour Inlet was pushed for 369m heading east. A climb up has now been laddered and a traverse along a ledge enters a passage several metres up the back wall which had been previously entered. The way on is via a slot hidden in the wall behind a flake. This had clearly not been entered before, as the mud floor was untouched, shiny, sticky mud. This passage can be followed through muddy, crawling passages to an 8m pitch down into a streamway.

The pitch is a straight hang of around 8m into a widening rift. Landing in a thigh deep pool, the stream enters down a 2m cascade which is covered in the same cream coloured flowstone which is found all along *Gour Inlet*. Downstream, the passage sumps round the first corner, but upstream leads into a big hading rift where a long climb up a precipitous slope comes to a point below a large boulder choke. Climbs up into the boulders look possible but precarious, and a lot of rubble has obviously come down into the chamber from this choke in the past. Continuing upstream at the base of this chamber, the stream soon sumps again, but an obvious dry oxbow provides a bypass and the stream is regained. Further crawling on cream coloured flowstone in the stream leads to another sump, with another dry oxbow. But this time the oxbow lead into a boulder choke.

An excavated route through this boulder choke soon leads into a large chamber with a damp sandy floor which can be climbed up to a summit in the middle of the room. The chamber is named the *Soggy Sahara*. From the middle of the chamber the stream can be heard louder than ever, and is found entering the chamber down a 3m cascade at the far side and sinking into the floor.

Upstream from here requires some careful traversing over a deep pool with a low ceiling before the passage opens up into a tall walking rift passage. Passing some fine lone straws hanging right in the middle of the passage, a long straight section leads to a right angle bend and more taller walking rift. A loud rumble can be heard in the distance and the source is eventually reached, a 6m diameter circular chamber with water raining down from above into a deep pool. The rift just before this point is over 10m high, and the aven itself was impossible to measure on the original exploration due to the spray from above. The water was coming down all over the place, so either it was broken by a ledge as it fell, or it was coming from more than one passage above. It may be that a substantial amount of it emerges as a spout about 15m up, but it was too wet to be sure of anything. At the end of the original exploration and survey trip, the final sketch was finished with water pouring across the page. The team retreated from the spray,

wind and noise to start heading out, thinking that the most appropriate name for this pitch at the "end" was *Sensory Deprivation*. The logbook account of the trips to push Gour Inlet at Easter 2008 can be found [here](#).

[Interim description] During the summer 2008 explorations a dry, 25m high aven greeted the explorers and the chamber was renamed *The Thunderdome*. The first rash of bolts meet a slope to a large passage heading west. This was pushed to the top of the original aven in "old" Gour Inlet and, with various loops and side routes, the total length of this segment comes to 816m. Also along this passage are fine fossils including corals and a set of vertically stacked fault chambers, where huge blocks have dropped off sandstone beds to create a 30m high series of voids. The water inlet is reached by a bolt route and a streamway entered. Over 550m is surveyed on a NE trend in walking passage about 2m wide and up to 20+m high. The passage continues for an estimated 350m past grottos and up a set of half metre cascades where it changes to a hands-and-knees crawl. The water emerges from a choke of large, rounded cobbles. The whole of this streamway is on a very shallow gradient with a cream flowstone floor. There is knee deep wading in the upstream section. The series was "completed" and surveyed at Easter 2009.

On a trip in the summer, 2010, *Gour Inlet* was investigated along its length from the *Thunderdome* to find any higher level inlets or routes. A big phreatic tube (up to 10m wide) can be followed at roof level with hairy steps over the canyon below. There are "lovely white and beige banded rock layers, swirl pockets and domes" in the passage, about 15m above the streamway. The route can be followed (with no side passages going any distance) to near the upstream choke where the old, mature passage leaves the younger stream. This has been surveyed upwards in a big aven / rift with large boulders filling it. A solid fluted vertical wall all the way up through the boulders appears to indicate a large wet shaft in the past. Large amounts of pure white flowstone and beautiful helictite-encrusted stals are found in the top. A possible way on could exist further up in the roof but there is no way the calcited aven could be bolted. An air flow is felt in this area. A phreatic maze can be explored further back downstream and roof tubes have been pushed into a grotto with pristine white stal but no continuation.

By continuing downstream at *Obvious Junction*, *Far Stomps* is entered. This large passage runs for 550m over giant blocks to a sump - the water passing through to *Sandy Junction*. Near the start of this passage, a small inlet runs for 40m on the south side until it becomes too small where a false floor divides the passage.

Third River enters at the end of *Crossover Crawl* and is 800m of fairly unpleasant passage. After 200m upstream, a deep pool has to be negotiated followed by 300m of crawling and rift passage to where the water emerges from a sump. This point is about 50m from the downstream sump in [Torcón de Riaño \(106\)](#) although a human connection is unlikely. The rest of this uninspiring section of cave lies up on the right and ends at a couple of avens apparently over the top of the crawl traversed before.

Straw Inlet starts as walking passage but degenerates into a low crawl over mud. A passage near here was pushed during 1995 and ed the following year. The route draughts in well but goes up into a very slippery calcited boulder choke. Forging a way on would involve bolting and a major push.

Sloppy Inlet starts as a crawl in water from a pool under the left wall and soon reaches a series of climbs to an impressive aven ([photos here](#)). The main explorations were in the summer 2011 over 2 trips (survey batch 0107-11-10). The accounts can be read [here](#). The "end"- at the 7 x 5 x 48m - *Tixtu Aven*, with water coming down the centre, was bolted up over two trips in August 2014. In December 2016, the "tatty rope on the big pitches" was changed for a "nice new 11m one". On the same trip, two short pitches that drop into the passage off *Diversion Chamber* were rigged to avoid a *Sloppy Inlet* soaking.

Tixtu Aven Twenty eight metres up is a ledge with a small, muddy rift passage that ends at a tight, unexplored pitch down. A bolted, airy traverse around to the south reaches a sloping ledge with the aven continuing to soar upwards to an impenetrable(?) slot in the middle of the ceiling where the water emerges. The hole

appears to be in sandstone at the same altitude as the top of the *Astradome*. The ledge slopes up to another, not quite as tight, muddy streamway with crumbling mud walls which goes for 30m to a 28m pitch down, 3m across at the top. This drops into *Professional Advice Chamber* with hanging boulders as a roof and lots of holes between big boulders on the floor. Turning right in this chamber, a large passage is entered and a ledge on the left leads past a circular pot and along into a dead end after 20m or so. In this dead end is the skeleton of a mammal, big enough to be a bear, wolf or wild boar, "but could be anything!" ([Video on You Tube](#)) The remains were identified in 2019 by palaeontologist Pedro Castaños as leopard, *Panthera pardus*. Some of the teeth brought out for identification have been coded as 107-19-1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 in the [Catalogue of recent finds of teeth and bones in MCP caves / digs \(2018-2019\)](#). (Peter Smith)

In the summer 2019, after taking more photos of the leopard bones, a conical pile of sand was noticed next to the skeleton then a climb up a hole leading to a series of breakdown chambers with scary false floors and loose boulders. A skeleton of a small rodent was seen and the extension surveyed to 63m in length (batch **19-01** and incorporated into the Hoyuca survey as **sloppyinlet.part5_2019**)

A 1m circular pothole just back from the leopard gives a 12m pitch into a lower passage doubling back to below the Professional Advice Chamber with a 3m free climb into this lower chamber, the roof of which is composed of the boulders we were stood on previously. A short crawl at the far end of the lower chamber gives access to a further chamber and a large 3 to 4m diameter passage heading off to the right. After 15m it degenerates into a very narrow streamway. This can be forced this downstream for around 30m to a small aven where the survey batch **0107-14-02** ends. The aven closes down. Downstream reaches a similar aven and, past this, a wider (1m), taller (4m) rift passage with some boulder obstacles. The rift passage was pushed in January 2019 for another 40m and the area surveyed as batch 0107-18-01 (SloppyInlet/Part4-2018). (View [plan](#) and [section](#) jpegs from the .top file). (A video on YouTube after the Christmas 2018 explorations can be [seen here](#).)

A couple of bolt climbs were carried out around the current top of Tixtu in August 2019. Nothing was found that warranted surveying, although a [sketch of the explorations](#) was made in the logbook and [a video \(on YouTube\) made](#). The route: bolt climb over the drooping "king horn" protrusion - about 7m - to a window that drops down 7m to a ledge with a deep pool. Aslot through, just beyond the pool leads to further fluting. A bolt climb over the next fluting leads to a drop down onto a blind ledge. [After Diane Arthurs summer 2019 logbook description.]

Diversion Chamber Inlet description? Surveyed Easter 2012. Other new sections from Easter 2012 to be described.

Fourth River Inlet ends at a draughting boulder choke after about 200m. This was pushed past the choke in 2010. A straightforward crawl along the right hand side enters about 100m of small stream passage, ending at a squeeze. Most water enters from the roof shortly before the end and the whole series appears very immature and rather unpromising. The choke may be concealing a larger passage but appears to be rather unpleasant in places. A second trip apparently explored further and carried out a survey.

Eighty metres downstream from this point the entrance to the *Astradome* is seen on the left hand wall. A short walk up and along a muddy floored passage breaks out into a magnificent circular aven. Single voices sound like cathedral choirs as they rebound off the walls of this 30m diameter and 102.5m high feature. An interactive view around the Astradome can be seen [here](#).

In the summer of 1993 the *Astradome* was bolted up in about 10 hours over 2 days. The climb was stopped about 4m from the top by a bed of sandstone which would not take the studs. A hole in the roof was visible. In 1994, the climb was completed using a scaling pole. A chamber above was entered with passage above. It was from near the top of the *Astradome* that Alan Box fell to his death in that year. The passage 8m up was scaled into in 1995, but choked along the fault line in both directions. The climb was rigged from the base as 31.3m, 26.5m, 23.9m, 11.3m, 9.5m - that is 102.5m from the base to the lip.

95 Inlet can be entered on the right of the main river just after passing through 44 Chamber. Fifty metres in, an elliptical tube in the roof can be entered which leads to an increasingly muddy section of phreatic cave. The area appears flood-prone as a sump is bypassed via a muddy tube. The passage then slowly ascends to a 5m climb up to the boulders half way along *Armageddon*. This partial *Armageddon Bypass* is 500m long.

A small inlet on the right of *Paisley Passage* has been pushed for 250m to a large aven, *Indomba*. The route was re-explored (and further pushed?) in January 2024 through avens of 45m & 37m to end(?) at an impressive, very large, circular *Indomba* aven, with a custard-coloured flat floor where the disto would only read a maximum of 62m up due to the spray from falling water. However, it looked much higher than this as a powerful 3000lm aven blasting torch couldn't illuminate it to the top!

=====

The final "small" inlet of note is ***Shrimp Bone Inlet*** - the upstream continuation of the vadose rift passage that joins *Duckhams Sump* to *Rocky Horror*. The passage was explored for some 700m in the initial pushes. During Christmas 1989 the end was pushed for another 517m to a small, climbable aven. The end apparently lies under [Sima del Escajadillo \(088\)](#) although no sign of this (Spanish explored) pot can be found on the surface. During the Easter 2000 expedition, the aven was climbed for some 15m to a blockage with an inlet stream passage beyond. A subsequent trip removed the blockage and explored a further 300m.

The slot at the top of the pitch opens out almost immediately to an elongated, well decorated, oval chamber. Above and behind the slot at the top of the initial pitch the massive calcited boulder pile continues on up with several black spaces visible for 15m or so. Climbs up into this were too steep and slippery to consider with the gear available. At the opposite end, a 3m waterfall comes down off the edge of a 2m deep false floor only a couple of inches thick at it's outer edge. There is now a ladder hanging down this, initially awkward, obstacle.

The passage above is a slightly smaller version of Shrimpbone Inlet, being generally a joint controlled rift 1.5m - 2m high though in places the stream meanders turn this into a low tube / bedding. After 50m or so cross rifts are met which generally go a few metres to small avens (10 - 15m high?).

There are some nice long straws in places. After approximately 150m a junction is met with a tall rift going right and left. Left, goes to a climb up and a tall aven. Right, goes through a calcited slot into a chamber at the base of several large dripping avens (20 - 30m maybe more), named *Mongoose Don't Jump*. The stream is not evident in this aven area, though whether it comes from water percolating through the sand and rocks at the base of the avens or from elsewhere is not clear. The last survey station in the terminal chamber is marked with a plastic novelty ice cream container. ***NOTE***

The next team in should take a sturdy new rope and possibly some climbing / rigging gear as the climbing rope may not last another party going up and down it.

An account of the second, 15 hour, trip to the end of *Shrimp Bone Inlet* is found [here](#) (Easter 2000); a BEC [report in the Belfry Bulletin](#), and a [separated-out survey of the 2000 end passages](#). The original logbook pages are Easter 2000, pages 34 and 35.

Exploration of some side passages in *Shrimp Bone Inlet* occurred at Easter 2023, after **Torca de la Decepción** was linked in the year before. These are:

Batch 0107-23-02 **Tantrum** 66m.

([Drawing](#)) A narrow passage that links back.

(Photo)

Batch 0107-23-03 **WOA** 16m ([Drawing](#))

Small sandy passage with tight squeeze into 5m low continuation.

Batch 0107-23-04 **Shrimp Phone Inlet**

92m ([Drawing](#)) A narrow passage where a phone was dropped down a rift, and later recovered.

([Account here](#)). The passage passes through a canal and a duck to end at a final sump. (Photos)

Re-exploration, re-surveying and new exploration and surveying occurred at the end of *Shrimp Bone Inlet* in the autumn 2024. In summary, the centre line survey shows the following:

0107-24-02 Resurvey of *Shrimp Bone Inlet*

0107-24-04 *Mongoose Don't Jump* avens

0107-24-05 *Shrimp Shredder*

adding 223m to length of the 4 Valleys System.

In more detail (condensed from the

logbook), the 10m (calcited rope) and 2.5m (rusty ladder) waterfalls were climbed with no reliance on the old rope and ladder, to reach (and resurvey) the *Mongoose Don't Jump* area with the high avens. The top of the 10m waterfall was approached by climbing up further back.

The 'unclimbed 4m (3m?) climb'- at the right hand of the four avens, seemed a bit higher than this. Massive perched boulders halfway up were avoided and yhis led to a 1.5m climb down to meet the bulk of the *Shrimp Bone Inlet* water falling from yet another 20m aven. Behind this curtain of water was a tight slot onto a short (undescended) pitch which is likely to connect to where the stream is last seen. All of the avens here were resurveyed to give a better understanding of the heights and positions of the tops. The upstream was surveyed until the passage became too tight, finding another large aven.

Moving back downstream to the junction with the 'unentered but reasonable and draughting inlet'. This passed yet another aven on the left. However, this passage then seriously degenerated at a right hand bend, the *Shrimp Shredder*, which was forced after some distance and effort into the base of another aven, which did seem bigger above. Getting any sort of climbing gear here would be very difficult.

Going back to the main passage and just upstream from the junction, a climb into a small slot in the right hand wall above some beautiful popcorn formations is taking a draught, *The Last Stand*. This passes a climb into a small aven on the right and then a tricky climb above a small hole back into the streamway. A narrow rift which ends in an aven to the left and ahead a balcony to a tall aven and a 10m(?) pitch yet to be descended. Checking the survey data, this looks to be heading back to the main streamway. (Photos of the passages and extensions are shown below.)

[MDJ EXTENSIONS @ XMAS 2024 TO APPEAR HERE]

=====
=====

Trident Passages, the major set of "side passages", have a length of 3.2km (? Jan 2024) and are entered by climbing up calcite on the right after leaving the inlet at the start of *Rocky Horror*. At almost the highest point reached a clamber down over boulders to the right reaches a 31m diameter, smooth floored chamber. One outlet descends too tightly, but the main route is a squeeze and clamber then walking to *Mace Head Passage*, of stooping dimensions and one of the better looking passages in Cueva de la Hoyuca. Large spiky crystals and calcite formations decorate the 1m diameter tube. Gates to Trident? Then the passage splits.....? More description needed - but see below. (All the early logbook entries for Trident Passages are brought together [here](#).)

After **Torca de la Decepción** (0252 / 4732) was linked in at *Armageddon* and *Shrimp Bone Inlet* (summer 2022), work started re-exploring the *Trident Passages* and *Shrimp Bone Inlet* (see above). A short extension in *Trident* is shown as batch 0107-23-01 (with [scanned notes](#) on file and [sketch](#)), *Poseidon Adventure*, where 60m of small passage ends at a "wall of mud". Some [phone video](#) was also shot during this visit. A survey by Chris Scaife from station 68 on the old survey needs adding. (summer 2023) Summer 2023 saw further (re)explorations and a re-survey from *Armageddon* through *Duckham's Sump* up to *Trident Passages*, including a foray up into the *Gypsum Traverse* which was positioned correctly on the survey. The resurvey is now shown on the 2023s centre lines below.

Timings from Casa Germán to Trident:

For two moderately laden cavers not sightseeing on the way:
Bar Germán to entrance: 40 mins
Entrance to bottom of Grand Slam: 40 mins
Bottom of GS to 'camp 1': 60 mins
Camp 1 to Sandstone passage/LH passage junction: 15 mins

And the same for the return journey.

So around 5 ish hours minimum for a round trip, for two moving fairly quickly and not really stopping. [Simon Cornhill, Diane Arthurs]

Extensive explorations around the Christmas period 2023 were made in the *Trident Passages*. The following description has been gleaned from the logbook accounts by Diane Arthurs and Simon Cornhill of the exploration trips.

There is a wet, muddy squeeze (The *Gates to Trident*) below the climb up into the *Gypsum Traverse* which has been excavated

and is much more pleasant. The bolt climb up over the calcite blockage has been rerigged to give a free hang on the up and down pitches. A route along the bottom of the trench leads to a final calcited chamber. Part way along the trench, a climb up reaches a higher level passage which meets the entry point along a traverse line up into the higher level.

To the SW of the climb up into Gypsum Traverse the passage leads to the knotted rope climb on the main route. The traverse involves two exciting rock-climbing style pitches along steep, sketchy terrain. From the top of the knotted rope climb, the passage continues to the junction with *Sandstone Passage* and *Snow White*. A climb up into the stunning *Snow White* was surveyed along the main passage and then along an un-surveyed smaller but amazing walking gypsum encrusted passage which eventually rejoins the main route after a climb up from the trench in the floor.

The *Left Hand Passage / Snow White*, has been thoroughly checked for any leads including climbs into numerous cross rifts and alcoves, which all close up. This area is a hading rift which is also very heavily calcited, particularly at the end. Some side passages marked as 'to chamber' on the old survey turned out to be a view into the large junction of *Sandstone Passage* and *Snow White* from a high vantage point.

The final bolt climb in *Snow White* is at the highest point in this area into the largest cross-rift which also became too tight. The altitude is around the height of the survey station set at the top of the Astradome, and makes it one of the highest places in Hoyuca.

A *WhatsApp* chat about passages in Rocky Horror / Trident is included in the [2024 January / February logbook](#).

[TRIDENT @ XMAS 2024 TO APPEAR HERE]

Depths below the Matienzo hillside.

Molephoning.

At Easter 95, *Pull Up Passage* was entered off *Quadrapphenia* and was surveyed for 123m to a sump and narrow rifts. The rotten ladder was removed in April 2022 although the rope remains in place.

During summer 2000, *Wildlife Series* was discovered through a hole at floor level at the start of *Quadrapphenia*, 10m north of the tight squeeze. A crawl leads onto a 6m pitch into a streamway. Downstream, the passage becomes too low. Upstream, the passage splits with all branches choking except for one which turns west and links back to the chamber at the entrance. The passages are mainly stooping or crawling and were surveyed for 320m.

In September 2012, a blue harvestman (*Gyas titanus*) was photographed in the entrance series of the cave and the Astradome appeared as the front cover of [Descent 229](#) at the end of the year thanks to Paul "Footleg" Fretwell.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

The [speleo club Viana](#) (from Guadalajara) have published a number of documents (descriptions & surveys, including gpx, pdf and jpg files) relating to the system. See their [Cantabria page](#) and the *Zona de Matienzo* section.

References: [anon., 1974b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1974a](#); [Fernández Gutiérrez J C, 1975](#); [anon., 1975b \(Easter and summer logbooks\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#); [Cope J et al, 1976 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1977a](#); [anon., 1977b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1978 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1978 \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 1979 \(logbook\)](#); [Addis F et al, 1979](#); [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b \(survey and photo\)](#); [Corrin J, 1980](#); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey and photo\)](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a](#); [Corrin J, 1981](#); [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Smith P, 1982b](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [Cawthorne B, 1984](#); [Corrin J, 1983b \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#); [Barrington P and Hanson D, 1984](#); [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1987 \(survey\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [Garcia J L, 1987](#); [Corrin J and Knights S, 1988](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [Davis J and Corrin J, 1989](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Smart C, 1990](#); [anon., 1990b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1990c \(logbook Whit\)](#); [anon., 1991 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1992a \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1992b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J and Quin A, 1992 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1993 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [Quin A, 1993a](#); [Smith P, 1993 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1994a](#); [Allen T et al, 1994](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995b](#); [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A, 1994](#); [Corrin J, 1994b \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 1995a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995a](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997b](#); [anon., 1997a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1997b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1998](#);

Fernández Ortega F, Valls Uriol and Maria del Carmen, 1998 (photo); García José León, 1997 (survey and photo); Corrin Juan, 1997c; anon., 1999c (logbook); anon., 2000b (Easter logbook); anon., 2000c (Summer logbook); Corrin Juan, 2001 (photos); anon., 2001c (Summer logbook); Corrin Juan, 2001a; anon., 2002a (Easter logbook); card for Aug 2002 Roof Passage survey; Corrin Juan, 2003a; Corrin Juan, 2003b; Corrin Juan, 2003c; anon., 2006d (summer logbook); anon., 2007b (Easter logbook); anon., 2007d (summer logbook); Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007;; Corrin Juan, 2007a; anon., 2008c (Easter logbook); anon., 2008d (Whit logbook); anon., 2008e (summer logbook); Corrin Juan, 2009; anon., 2009a (Easter logbook); anon., 2009c (summer logbook); Corrin Juan, 2010; anon., 2010b (Easter logbook); anon., 2010c (summer logbook); León García José, 2010 (Volume 1 and Volume 2) (line survey and photos); Corrin Juan, 2011 (photo); anon., 2011b (Easter 2011); anon., 2011d (summer logbook); anon., 2011e (autumn logbook); anon., 2012a (January, February logbook); anon., 2012b (Easter logbook); Fretwell Paul, 2012a; Fretwell Paul, 2012b; anon., 2012d (summer logbook); Corrin Juan, 2013a; anon., 2013b (Easter logbook); anon., 2013d (summer logbook); anon., 2014b (Easter logbook); anon., 2014c (summer logbook); anon., 2014d (autumn logbook); anon., 2015b (Easter logbook); anon., 2015d (autumn logbook); anon., 2016b (Easter logbook); anon., 2016e (Christmas logbook); anon., anon., 2018e (Christmas logbook); anon., 2019b (Easter logbook); anon., 2019d (summer logbook); Scaife C, 2022; anon., 2022b (Easter logbook); anon., 2022c (summer logbook); anon., 2023b (Easter logbook); anon., 2023c (summer logbook); anon., 2023e (Christmas logbook); anon., 2024a (January, February logbook); anon., 2024c (Whit logbook); anon., 2024d (summer logbook); anon., 2024e (autumn logbook); anon., 2024f (Christmas logbook)

Trident Passages: Logbook entries 1981 - 1991(produced July 2023)

Entrance pictures : yes : The Dairy Museum at the field entrance

Underground pictures:Quadruphenia 1 2 : Small phreatic tube : Quadruphenia squeeze : Pig's Trotters Chamber : Pitch towards Flash Bulb Hall
Scanned slides in the entrance series through to the Astradome by Frank Addis, 1978

Scanned slides in Las Playas to Rocky Horror by Frank Addis, 1980

Scanned slides of bolting the Astradome, 1993

Digital photographs in Wild Life Series by Juan Corrin, 2000

Digital photographs in the entrance series by Juan Corrin, 2001

Digital photographs in Gour Inlet Extension by Mandy Fu, 2008

Digital photographs in Quadruphenia by Peter Eagan, 2008

Digital photographs in Gour Inlet Extension by Paul Fretwell, Easter 2009

Digital photographs from entrance 2 at the base of the maize field to the Far Stomps area, summer 2009.

Digital photographs from in and around the Dog Series, Easter 2010.

Digital photographs from in and around the main stream, the Astradome, Dog Series and Gour Inlet, summer 2010.

Digital photographs from explorations over Easter 2011.

Digital photographs from explorations over summer 2011 (Sloppy Inlet).

Digital photographs from September 2012 visit to the entrance series. Blue harvestman.

Digital photographs from summer 2014. Astradome.

Digital photographs from Easter 2016 - around Flashbulb Hall.

Digital photographs from December 2016 - Diversion Chamber & Astradome.

Digital photographs from December 2018 - leopard skeleton and teeth beyond Txitu Aven / Professional Advice Chamber

Digital photographs from August 2019 - the entrance series of Cueva Hoyuca

Digital photos from August 2019 - Tixtu Aven; Leopard & possible rodent bones

Digital photos from Summer 2022: Photos were taken as Torca la Decepción was linked into Armageddon and Shrimp Bone Inlet / Rocky Horror.

Digital photos Easter 2023: Rocky Horror / Trident Passages : Shrimp Phone Inlet and Tantrum Passage

Digital photos summer 2023: Trident Passages (Chris Scaife) : Big stick and Rocky Horror (Dave Barrett and Alex Ritchie) : Armageddon to Rocky Horror and into Trident Passages (Diane Arthurs and Simon Cornhill)

Digital photos Xmas period 2023, all taken by Diane Arthurs and Simon Cornhill : Paisley Passage and Inlet : Gypsum Traverse (18th, 21st, 24th December, 2023) : Macehead Passage (30th December, 2023) : Snow White and the Left Hand Passage : misc - Trident start; gypsum formations; side passage

Digital photos autumn 2024, all taken by Diane Arthurs and Simon Cornhill : downstream Duckhams Sump :

Shrimp Bone Aven and the 2.5m climb above : Shrimp Bone Inlet : Mongooses Don't Jump and the RH Aven : Shrimp Shredder inlet

Photos taken over the Xmas 2024 period - Gambas climb + slot at base : choke and traverse at top of Gambas climb : LH aven, final climb : Shrimp Bone Aven climbs

Sandstone + Double Decker Passages : Around Armageddon including el Gordo

Interactive VR of the Astradome by Paul Fretwell, 2011

Spanish blog of trip to Astradome (May 2011): nice photos

Spanish blog (Oct 2010) : Spanish blog (March 2012)

Videos: See videos list (updated January 2025)

Detailed Surveys :

1974	original survey		high res
1975	known cave	low res	high res
from rescue	1975 passages	low res	high res

MATIENZO UNDERGROUND - site descriptions (printed 28/02/2025)

site			
1975	Pigs' Trotters & Flashbulb Hall areas (Sub area 1)	low res	high res
1975	Gorilla Walk & Chestnut Cave area (Sub area 2)	low res	high res
1976	Reincarnation (Armageddon to Rocky Horror)	low res	high res
1980	known cave survey from BCRA Transactions	low res	high res
1980	as above in sections ... left half	low res	high res
1980	as above in sections ... right half	low res	high res
1980	Third River Inlet with Torcón	low res	high res
1980	Rocky Horror & Armageddon Bypass	low res	high res
2000	Shrimp Bone Inlet	low res	-

Detailed Surveys : 21st Century resurvey

2008 24th Jan	Hoyuca entrance & Riaño	B&W png file
2008 24th Jan	Hoyuca entrance & Riaño	colour png file
2009 Easter	Hoyuca entrance passages	colour png file
2009 Easter	Hoyuca entrance & Riaño	colour png file
2010 Easter	Hoyuca entrance passages	colour png file
2010 Easter	Hoyuca entrance & Riaño	colour png file
2011 Easter	Hoyuca entrance	colour png file + notes
2011 Autumn	Hoyuca entrance & Riaño	colour pdf file + notes
2019 summer	Tixtu Aven plan sketch	sketch
2023 Xmas	Trident Passages	pdf file
2024 June	Hoyuca: current Therion	pdf file
2024 August	Hoyuca: entrance plan	pdf file
2024 Sept.	4 Valleys System plan	pdf file
2024 Sept.	Hoyuca plan	pdf file
2024 Sept.	Trident plan	pdf file
2025 Jan.	Mongoose ext. explanation	png file

On Paul Fretwell's latest version of the [Fours Valleys survey](#) (currently not available)

Line Survey: Four Valleys [line survey](#). 2010, no detail, but shows water flow.

On area survey :

Survex file : [Hoyuca](#) (after Xmas 2023) : [4 Valleys System & surrounding caves](#) (after Xmas 2023 - [see note](#)) (Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[Loch file of the 4 Valleys System + selected surrounding caves](#) (Paul Fretwell, April 2012) (download as a zip file) : [4 Valleys Lite 2022](#) ([see note](#)) : [4 Valleys Lite 2023e](#) ([see note](#)) :

[4 Valleys Lite 2023s](#) ([see note](#)) : [4 Valleys full 2023s](#) ([see note](#)) : [4 Valleys Lite, Xmas 2023](#) : [Cueva Hoyuca \(now\)](#) : [4 Valleys Lite \(now\)](#) : [4 Valleys System + other caves \(now\)](#)

Passage direction rose diagram: [Four Valleys System](#)

Hydrology: [Hoyuca and the 4 Valleys System](#) (Terry Whitaker)

X

0108: Averages, Torca de la

San Miguel 30T 457448 4794931 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 452m

Length 81m **Depth** 81m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A single shaft with a tree growing across the entrance.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0109: Cellaron, Torca de

(Cillarón, Torca de)

Secadura 30T 455128 4798881 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 280m

Length 740m (654m surveyed) **Depth** 107m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#) : [A Google search for this site](#) (Cellaron, Torca de+Secadura)

Updated 19th February 1999; 8th November 2003; 5th November 2005; 15th April 2008; 6th January 2011; 20th April 2016; 30th June 2018

The track to the shaft was being improved with European money in the autumn of 2005. The sign at the road junction called the area Cillarón.

The entrance is in a walled, wooded depression. This is often difficult to locate, especially when overgrowing vegetation prevents boulders from rumbling down the entrance pitch.

A fine shaft of 47m lands on a festering heap of remains. To the east, the walking sized passage ends at a calcite choke after 100m. About 50m from the end on the right there are some phreatic(?) rifts which could be easily climbed.

In the opposite direction, a gradually enlarging passage leads to a veranda looking down into a large chamber. just back from here on the right, a narrow, calcite-floored rift eventually closes down. On the left, before the veranda, a large passage ascends over boulders to a steep calcite slope. At the top of this, a well decorated section has a 30m choked pitch through a window on the left hand wall and a 15m choked pitch at its end. Four pitches in all? Proper description, Grovel!?!?

The easiest way down into the blackness at the veranda is by stooping under the left hand wall to a boulder slope down to the right. The way on gradually enlarges until the passage attains a width of 50m. At this point a stream, cut into the sediment, sinks at a 15m choked shaft under the left hand wall. The main passage ascends gently to a calcite choke after a further 180m. There could have been high level passage here; climbing to it was started in 1993, and continued the following year, nearly reaching the top of a "very muddy bolt climb". At Easter 2016, it was described as "not going anywhere."

Another bolt route is visible in the middle of the main chamber where a roof tube comes in, although this could be associated with the 2016 Extension.

Another look in the cave at Easter 2008 failed to find any new leads. In 2016, a bolt climb up, about 20m northwest of the entrance pitch entered a passage that headed north over the main chamber. A traverse line is necessary to cross a p15 then a slippery slope up enters a small, flat-roofed chamber. The route then drops back down a slope to end at a pitch of 6m that drops into known passage - the smaller one that rises up from the entrance passage over the main chamber. The length of this extension has been estimated at about 85m and added to the length of the known cave. (See [amended survey](#).)

Water draining from the lower reaches of this cave must drop into the unexplored streamway on the far side of the downstream sump in [Cueva Llueva \(114\)](#).

References: [anon., 1978 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1978 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b \(survey and photo\)](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1980](#); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); material in file; [Garcia J L, 1987](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997c](#); [anon., 2005c \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(survey and photos\)](#); [anon., 2016b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground pictures: [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1978: [low res](#) [high res](#) :

[amended with 2016 extensions](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0110: Cobrante, Cueva de

San Miguel 30T 457128 4796411 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 149m

Length 472m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

search : [A Google search for this site](#) (Cobrante,

Cueva de+San Miguel)

Updated 5th September 1998; 19th February 1999; 3rd, 25th February, 27th October 2001; 3rd June 2002; 9th November 2003; 27th October 2007; 22nd December 2008; 10th January, 16th May 2009; 30th June 2018; 16th June 2022

The gated entrance is situated at the head of a steep grassy field and is about 35m wide and 5m high ([photo](#)). The floor of boulders slopes away into very large passage with large formations ([photo](#)) which

ends after 200m at a climb up greasy calcite. A sloping 25m pitch gives access to a couple of small grottos. A slippery calcite climb up for 25m from the pitch base gains the main passage continuation - this is normally reached by a lined, slippery traverse around from the pitch head. A couple more climbs over calcite give access to a boulder slope down and then a calcite climb up to the final wall. 1985 saw much climbing activity on the right before the end but the heights reached only confirmed that the S.E.S.S. had been there years before .

The bats *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and *Rhinolophus euryale* are listed by Meijide (AY).

The entrance chamber contains extensive Magdalenian remains. The right hand wall has two panels of engravings: the first of two deer, and the second of several figures difficult to interpret, and certain animals; deer, goat, bovid and a possible reindeer. Large amounts of pottery have been found and there are several groups of schematic-abstract paintings, mostly along the right-hand wall. These are described and discussed in *El Arte Esquemático-Abstracto de Matienzo y sus alrededores* (Smith Peter, 1998b) and [Muñoz Emilio et al, 1995](#). ([Archaeology link](#)).

[El Diario Montañés \(9/1/2009\)](#) reported the jail sentence and fine given to 2 men caught by the Guardia Civil in 2006 as they were illegally excavating and removing bones and other items. The reference [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009](#) describes the deposits in the context of the Asón caves and has a comprehensive summary.

[Morlote Jose M et al, 1995](#) describe Cobrantes as one of the Iron Age sepulchral caves in the area.

The villagers say that the cave contains a golden bed, and a golden skittles alley where the Moors played.

References: [Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [anon., 1978 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1978 \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 1979 \(logbook\)](#); [Addis F et al, 1979](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Smith P, 1981a](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1985b \(logbook\) \(survey\)](#); [Cawthorne R, 1987](#); [Corrin J, 1986](#); material in file; [Echegaray et al, 1966](#); [Smith P, 1986b \(survey\)](#); [Meijide Calvo M, 1982](#); [Muñoz E et al, 1986](#); [Fernández V, 1988](#); [Muñoz E, 1988](#); [Smith P, 1988](#); [Corrin J, 1992b \(survey\)](#); [León J and Smith P, 1993](#); [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1994b \(survey\)](#); [Morlote Jose M et al, 1995](#); [Muñoz Emilio et al, 1995](#); [Smith Peter, 1998b \(survey\)](#); [Smith Peter, 1998a](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001 \(includes drawing of an urn\)](#); [Smith Peter, 2002](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003 \(drawing of urn\)](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009 \(survey\)](#);

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1978: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [1978](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

: [2022 with reconstructed LRUD](#)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0111: shaft

La Secada 30T 452158 4798461 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 403m

Length 35m **Depth** 35m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 26th January 2025

A 28m, tree-belayed pitch lands on a boulder slope which descends to a choke. The site could not be found at the end of 2024, but a nearby new [site 5458](#) was thought to be a candidate for a short time.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2024f \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0112: Covarona, La

Llueva 30T 456034 4797172 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 273m

Length 337m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 9th January 2000; 3rd February 2001; 3rd June, 8th June 2002; 9th November 2003; 27th October 2007; 4th

January 2009; 7th October 2012

A remnant of large, fossil passage perched high above Llueva valley. A thirty metre wide entrance - similar to [Cueva de Cobrantes \(110\)](#) - slopes down to a large boulder and calcite floored passage with some fine formations. A junction is met after 180m. To the left the passage ascends over boulders to a chamber, while to the right greasy calcite descends to an old lake bed with false floor remains. The passage soon closes down in small phreatic tubes. The cave was re-explored at the end of 2008: the entrance was fixed with GPS, photos taken but nothing new was discovered. Re-explorations by ADEMCO in 2011 also failed to find anything new.

A small chamber on the left of the main passage contains several groups of schematic-abstract paintings, found by C.A.E.A.P., who also located Iron Age pottery and an iron arrowhead. The black marks are described and discussed in *El Arte Esquemático-Abstracto de Matienzo y sus alrededores* ([Smith Peter, 1998b](#)) and [Muñoz Emilio et al, 1995](#). The apparently life-size engraving of a horse, discovered in December 1988 in the roof midway along the passage, is rather harder to date.

[Morlote Jose M et al, 1995](#) describes Covarona as one of the Iron Age sepulchral caves in the area.

The developing *Acanto* web site (by the *Federación de Asociaciones para la defensa del Patrimonio Cultural y Natural de Cantabria*) has a section on [Arte Rupestre esquemático-abstracto](#). Reference [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009](#) summarises the archaeological discoveries in the cave

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [Munoz Fernandez E et al, 1987](#); [Muñoz E, 1988](#); [Smith P, 1988](#); [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Morlote Jose M et al, 1995](#); [Muñoz Emilio et al, 1995](#); [Smith Peter, 1998b \(survey\)](#); [Smith Peter, 1998a \(photo\)](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [anon., 2008g \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009 \(survey\)](#); [ADEMCO, 2012](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [Photos taken at the end of 2008.](#)

[entrance](#) : [markings](#) [1](#) [2](#) : [black marks](#) [1](#) [2](#)
: [formations](#) [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) : [Pottery](#) [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)

[Photos taken in 1980](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1980: [low res](#) [high res](#) (N is 180 degrees out)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0113: Chora, Cueva de la

San Pantaleón de Aras 30T 458915 4799475

(Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 48m

Length 44m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th November 2004; 23rd January, 7th March 2005; 22nd December 2008; 16th May 2009

The entrance, which used to have a green, wooden door, is in a small limestone face. The first chamber contains passage on the right which closes down. Excavations in the cave in 1962 have revealed remains dated to the Magdalenian VI Period, although some of the levels may be Azilian. [González Morales Manuel et al, 2004](#), p65 quotes a date of 6360±120 BP for a "deposit overlying its terminal Magdalenian sequence.

Boulders shown to the northeast of the entrance on the [2004 survey](#) may be concealing a passage shown on the [1986 version](#).

[Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009](#) has a comprehensive summary of the deposits.

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#); [Echegaray et al, 1963 \(survey\)](#); [GEISC/R and CAEAP, 1986 \(survey\)](#); [Munoz Fernandez E et al, 1987](#); [anon, 2004e \(autumn logbook\)](#); [González Morales Manuel et al, 2004](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009 \(survey\)](#);

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed surveys : from [Echegaray et al, 1963](#) from [GEISC/R and CAEAP, 1986](#); [1:200, 2004 gif](#) [1:200, 2004 pdf](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0114: Llueva, Cueva (Coverón, Cueva del)

Llueva 30T 454543 4798189 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 125m

Length Part of the Sistema de Cuatro Valles; see [Cueva Hoyuca](#) for length **Depth** 44m to downstream sump; **Vertical range** 107m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Resources](#) :

[Logbook search](#) : [Google search for this site](#)

Updated 19th February , 18th April 1999, 12th December 1999; 16th September 2000; 26th October 2001; June 7th, October 25th 2002; 9th November 2003; 6th May, 28th September, 27th October, 17th November 2007; 5th February, 15th April, 2nd July, 17th December 2008; 4th May 2009; 16th January, 8th March, 24th June, 4th October 2010; 6th January, 18th February, 12th May, 11th October 2011; 13th January, 18th February, 3rd May, 20th September 2012; 19th January, 21st May 2014; 28th September, 4th December 2015; 20th April, 5th November 2016; 6th July, 8th September 2017; 1st May, 1st July 2018; 27th January, 11th September 2019; 12th May 2023; 8th February 2024

Incomplete description.

Cueva Llueva (El Biggo) is the eastern entrance into the Four Valleys System ([line survey](#)). (All caves which are part of the Four Valleys System are listed at the start of the [Cueva Hoyuca description](#).)

A route through exists into the Matienzo depression - via [Cueva de Carcavuezo \(0081\)](#), and to the Riaño valley - via [Cueva Hoyuca \(0107\)](#) or [Cueva de Riaño \(0105\)](#), although no through-trip has been attempted.

The walk to the entrance is almost impenetrable jungle at times (1993, 1994) and a couple of attempts have had to be abandoned. At Whit 1995 the cave was entered after abseiling into the entrance depression from the meadow 30m above. In 1995, the entrance was re-located after a 3 hour jungle bash. In 1996, less time was needed. In 2000, the entrance was approached from the meadow around the back. In 2007-2008, the route off the road had been cleared and access was straightforward.

In May 2012, the route was clear. The depression, however, has been used as a dump, probably by the construction team improving the road. Limestone dust coats the surfaces of the protruding beds in the cliff face and there are a number of tyres on the southern slope and at the base. A layer of mud also covers the lowest point of the depression. ([Photos](#)).

The entrance to Cueva Llueva lies in an impressive depression, partly lined by overhanging limestone beds. In very wet weather a waterfall cascades down from above the entrance and sinks in the floor of the depression. An insignificant, walled hole, 3m up from the base gives access to 80m of small, phreatic rift passage. The final section is a flat out crawl into a small "chamber" containing the *Blow Hole*. A squeeze through this, a short crawl along enlarging passage, and the head of the pitch is reached. The drop can be negotiated in three ways:

- On ladders: Three are required, although the vertical element of the drop is only 10m.
- In 2007 the pitch was rigged for SRT, requiring a 40m? rope.
- At Easter 2014 a traverse line was rigged to the left, "through a passage" where "a ladder was removed and replaced with a rope".

The landing is on a sloping boulder pile. A climb upwards leads to an ascending and very greasy calcite ramp which closes down after 40m. This was surveyed at Easter 2007 and may be associated with holes in the wall to the south of the entrance. A hole opposite the entrance passage pitch has a short length of passage which needs pushing (see 2/8/82), although this couldn't be found in 2007.

(In 1995, an "obvious open passage" is mentioned "in the wall behind you as you go up the slope into the sloping mud / calcite chamber above the bottom of the ladder". It may need a 6m scale or bolt. The passage seems about 3 x 2m. This may be the passage entered by traversing left at the head of the first pitch - see *above*).

A steep climb down boulders leads to the river which is presumably the combined waters from Matienzo and Riaño. After sustained heavy rain, when the fields next to the river in Matienzo are about to flood, the river at the base of the pitch can be a torrent with the route up the boulder slope

into the main tunnel cut off. With this in mind, and because of the very wet conditions during Easter 2008, a traverse line has been rigged at high level to allow access in and out in all weathers.

Downstream, the water enters a high phreatic maze which requires swimming or a inner tube to pass. The length of this section is 100m and half way along it, on the left hand side, a similar phreatic passage leads back to the free flowing river just upstream of the boulder pile at the pitch. The downstream phreas stops at a boulder choke where a climb up to the right and through the boulders leads to a "pop out" in a large passage. The river is then rejoined by walking down a boulder slope.

After 200m of pleasant strolling in a 10m high passage a boulder pile is met, on the other side of which is the downstream sump. This has been dived to a depth of 22m, the way on still possibly being open. Another dive in 1995 also came to no definite conclusions, the visibility being only 0.5m. The breakthrough came in August 2012, when Chris Jewell followed the left hand wall in poor visibility until he met a passage. He laid 120m of line down to -15m in a north easterly direction. The left hand wall was followed. The "roof was visible occasionally but the right hand wall was never seen and the floor glimpsed only at the end of the dive."

The water is next seen in [Los Boyones \(site 117\)](#) about 1.2km away. There may be a higher level route at the far side of the sump pool to investigate.

On the opposite wall to the "pop out" is a low dig which may yield? A short length of passage on the right before the sump intersects a choked, bouldery rift. Climbs into the roof before the sump have been investigated.

Following the water upstream from the base of the pitch leads to 100m of swimming which halts at a boulder where it is possible to clamber up to the high level passage. Entry to this is normally gained by ascending a rock pile to the left immediately after first meeting the water.

At the top of the slope a [superb tunnel](#) rises and falls over boulders for some 300m until the final descent into the lake. A swim across to the right of the lake leads to an ascending boulder pile (*RH Fault Passage*) beyond which is a sandy crawl which closes down after 60m. On the left of this crawl is a climb up between boulders for 35m where a solid roof is met and no further progress is possible. Fine 4m high columns can be found in this area. At Easter 2009, a 50m climb was possibly made in this area although no survey was carried out.

On the north side of the ascending boulder slope in the RH Fault Passage is an aven which was the starting point for the 2007 extensions, called *Life, The Universe and Everything*. The 3.8km of passages ended underneath the boulders and it is likely that the latter route will be the preferred way in the future. **The following paragraphs form a temporary description.**

The aven was originally scaled and spent carbide found at the top of the climb. A card index / log book search found that the aven had been free-climbed in 1979 to a boulder choke. In 2007, boulders were removed from the choke allowing entry, some 80m above the original climb, to a large sloping chamber (*Big Red Knob Chamber*) with plan dimensions of 20 x 30m and two passages leading off. Subsequent explorations dropped back down to river level finding an extensive set of tunnels including a parallel, wet weather overflow passage with a sump. High level passages entered are at the same level as the *Trident Series* in [Cueva Hoyuca](#) and the 50m wide passage at the bottom of [Torca de Cillarón](#). In a middle level, a large, flat-roofed passage (up to 40m wide) heads east-west at an altitude 40m below the lowest point in Cillarón.

On a pushing trip in the lower level passages, near the end of a traverse, a flash bulb was found just opposite where a small passage entered. This point was subsequently found by burrowing down through boulders near the columns in the *Right Hand Fault Passage* about 25m away from where the pole had been used two weeks before! (A grey scale survey of the old cave and new extensions can be found [here](#) and a draft colour version [here](#)).

At Easter 2008, the western side of the high level passage over the *Big Red Knob Room* was one focus. The end was pushed beyond the stal grille in a similar style with a trench in the floor until it divided. The 9m climb was also pushed down a 7m pitch into a new chamber series that is to be

described. Another focus was looking at the boulder chokes: the northern choke has a definite draught.

In very wet weather, the climbs up through the boulders to enter the extensions may be impossible because of water cascading down. This appears to be a local feature which responds quickly to rainfall, unlike the main river which takes much longer to respond.

At **Easter 2014**, passage high up in the **Big Bang Burger Bar** was bolted into (11 bolts; a 20m climb) and an extensive set of passages entered (576m surveyed). This is shown as batches 0114-14-01 and 0014-14-2 in the [centre line survey](#). The passages head over the original Lake and appear to be at the same level as the *Trident Passages* in Hoyuca. Full description to come from Chris Hibberts (or is below?). This series was checked out in November 2015 when the team "had a good look in NE boulder choke and unable to find anyway on".

At **Easter 2023**, a trip on the 5th April was made "to look at the extensions found in 2014 above the Big Bang Burger Bar. What follows is a logbook transcription from that trip - presumably describing the 2014 extension:

From pitch, a moderate rift passage is reached and traversed at roof level with holes in the floor - one possible lead above. A meandering rift on the left was followed and was draughting - possible lead above? ends with roof coming to a mud choke. No draught.

A cross rift is met with climbs up left and right. Right leads quickly to a boulder choke. Left is a short passage to another rift to the right. Water runs away below a drop. To the left is a climb across a flowstone cascade to an apparent aven. (See 7th April trip below). Continuing, the passage enters old fossil passage running left and right with tall stal columns. To the left, the passage ends with mud to the roof. To the right a low crawl is blocked by rock protrusions in the roof. To the right the passage leads to a rising boulder choke - blocked. A lead can be found to the right prior to the choke, descending down slippery flowstone to a pitch where no draught is discernable. ([Pictures taken 5th April](#))

On April 7th 2023, the aven was partly climbed on a steep muddy slope ([Video](#)). More rope is required to complete the climb but it spirals up and "seems to communicate with an aven "next door".

Eighty metres back from the lake, a hole 5m up on the right hand wall can be reached by lassoing a boulder. A smallish, sandy passage branches after 80m, the right hand branch leading to a 5m pitch onto the boulders in the *RH Fault Passage*, the left hand branch leading to a 30m (undescended) pitch into a large, fault chamber. (In 1995, a dig has the sound of a stream through a narrow crack and there is another draughting dig which needs some work).

The easiest way to reach this chamber is to follow the *Left Hand Bypass*. This starts as a slot down by the wall of the main passage, opposite the right hand wall hole. A mixed 200m of stooping, walking and climbing leads to a couple of inlets which cross the passage. By keeping to the left hand side and crawling under the wall a high, boulder-filled section on the fault can be entered. By missing the crawl a narrow veranda is reached with a view out into the main fault chamber. The left hand wall at this point has been climbed for about 50m but no obvious way on at the top exists. The climb was repeated in 2016 with the same result - and footprints were seen, probably from 35 years ago.

Other extensions in and around the LH Bypass? Some during 1995? At Easter 2007, an inlet (on the left after some 70m) was surveyed 92m to a sump. In 2016, the 2016 Extensions were surveyed as batch 0114-16-01, providing 87m of new passage. There is a full description of this in the logbook (26/3/16) which needs tying in with the survey when drawn up. Has the "250m long flat out crawl" been surveyed?

The main fault chamber is reached by climbing down over boulders to the right of the veranda. A large phreatic tube to the right of the chamber pops out 10m above the lake. The way to the river is down between the boulders in the chamber. The 200m of upstream passage is swimming in a large phreatic tube apart from 30m in the middle where water rushes over a resistant band of rock and walking is necessary. A final swim reaches a roomy sump which can be free dived following a fixed line. In dry weather the sump is a shallow 7m dive.

Beyond..... No description exists of the passages beyond the sump. [Carcavueso \(081\)](#) is described up to the connection only.

At Christmas 1996, passage to the west off *Strangle Wanking Passage* was surveyed. During Easter 1999, a climb up near the junction of Straw Passage entered the *Timeless Series*. This consists of sand-floored rifts and connects to unsurveyed passage just east of *Pudding Passage*. Further descriptions can be found in the [Carcavueso \(site 81\)](#) text.

At Easter 2001, some small passages were surveyed below *Rhinocerus Passage* near *Andy Quin's Foot*.

Strangle Wanking Passage, (first explored and surveyed from the Cueva Llueva, but now more easily reached from Carcavuezo entrance) was pushed through the terminal sump by Dave Garmin in **August 2017** into a bouldery area where orange string had been left from a previous exploration near the end of Cueva Hoyuca. The sump has a line through, bolted at each end, and has been described as a 5 -6m free dive. There is a dangerous rocking boulder on the Hoyuca side which requires some attention. [A video of the dive, filming and exploration](#) into Hoyuca has been edited. The survey in the area appears quite accurate apart from the z axis.

A number of (re)surveys were carried out in Carcavuezo/Llueva in the **summer 2017**. Batch 0081-17-01 is the cross over passage near *Chase the Dragon*; 0081-17-02 is a resurvey of keep *Right for Smack*; a west-heading passage off the *Afternoon Stroll* is batch 0081-17-03; *Smack Choke* corner, batch 0114-17-01; the far reaches of *SW Passage*, batches 0114-17-02 and 0114-17-03.

The cave appears on the [Cueva Hoyuca and the Four Valleys System Hydrology](#) diagram.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#); [Cope J et al, 1976 \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 1977a](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 1977b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1978 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1978](#); [anon., 1979 \(logbook\)](#); [Addis F et al, 1979 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1980](#); [Mills L D J, 1981 \(photo\)](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a](#); [Corrin J, 1981](#); [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Smith P, 1982b](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#); [Cawthorne Bob, 1985b](#); [Cawthorne B, 1985a](#); [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1986 \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1987 \(survey and photo\)](#); [material in file](#); [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [Fernández V, 1988](#); [Corrin J, 1992b \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1995b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1996](#); [anon., 1996c \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [Fernández Ortega F, Valls Uriol and Maria del Carmen, 1998](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997c](#); [anon., 1999a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1999c \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001a](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003c](#); [anon., 2007b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2007d \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a \(survey & photos\)](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2009](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(survey and photos\)](#); [anon., 2012b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2012c \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 2012d \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2013a](#); [anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [1979-80](#) : [Easter 2007](#) : [Summer, 2007](#) : [May 2012 with YouTube video](#) : [Easter 2023](#)

Underground picture(s):

[Easter 2023: Mainly Big Bang Burger Bar Extensions first explored Easter 2014](#)

[Passage off Afternoon Stroll just before Light Frigit Passage, August 2017](#)

[Sump at end of Strangle Wanking Passage, August 2017](#)

[Panaoramic photo of above Smack Choke by Paul Fretwell](#)

[Easter 2014 \(Big Bang Burger Bar Extensions\)](#)

[Summer 2012](#)

[Pictures from Easter 2009 : Pictures by Paul Fretwell on Flickr.](#) : [Pictures from photo trips into the Life Universe and Everything, Easter 2008](#)

[pictures from summer 2007, including Life, The Universe and Everything](#)

[pictures from Easter 2007 : main passage : pictures from 1977](#)

Video : [Downstream dive 2012 \(YouTube\)](#) : [Cueva Llueva - Big Red Knob 16/4/2016 \(Espeleo50 - YouTube\)](#) : [Carcavuezo/Llueva to Hoyuca dive, 2017 \(YouTube\)](#) : [Aven climb out of the 2014 Extensions above the BBBB](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1976: [low res](#) [high res](#)

from [rescue site](#) - redrawn from 1976 [low res](#) [high res](#)

Redrawn + extra survey 2007: [png file](#)

Redrawn + Life, The Universe & Everything 2007: [png file greyscale 1.3Mb](#) (appears in *Speleology*) and

a [draft colour version](#)

After Easter 2008: [png file](#) [pdf file](#)

February 2011: [vector pdf file](#)

On Paul Fretwell's latest version of the [Fours Valleys survey](#)

Line Survey : on [4 Valleys line survey](#)

On area survey :

Survex file : [4 Valleys System & surrounding caves](#)

(after Xmas 2023) : [4 Valleys lite](#) (after Xmas 2023)

: [4 Valleys lite \(now\)](#) : [4 Valleys + surrounding](#)

[caves \(now\)](#)

[Llueva 3d file \(now\)](#) (Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [Four Valleys System](#)

Hydrology (Terry Whitaker): [Hoyuca and the 4 Valleys System](#)

X

0115: Nacimiento del Rio Clarin (Caburrao, Fuente de) (Cubillas, Sifón de) (Cubías, Sifón de)

San Miguel 30T 457818 4796441 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 55m

Length 577m **Height** 35m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 24th October 2001; 9th November 2003; 14th May 2006; 16th June 2022

JCFG suggests that there is some doubt as to whether the river is the Clarin or Clarion. The length was adjusted from 400m to the above (June 2022).

This cave is a resurgence for some of the water that sinks on the Muela range. The entrance contains a still pool in the summer, the active resurgence being in the streambed to the south. In winter the cave is very forthcoming.

A 12m sump at the entrance leads to a 20m section of canal and the second sump of 2m. Scaling poles are then necessary to reach a number of different levels. The cave ends at two deep sumps.

During at least 1993 and 1994, the Grupo de Exploraciones Subterranas de Estepona have been diving this site and possibly [Peter Plummet \(239\)](#). A poor quality video has been made; the site has been surveyed to 362m. The spring apparently has the bracketed name above.

The site has been re-explored and re-surveyed by Spaniards. See FCE BCE no 14 pp5-8 Santander 2000. A recent [survey by Spanish groups](#) reflects what was found and surveyed in 1975. In October 1995 the site was dived and re-explored by British divers.

[Link to entry in the Cave Diving Sump Index.](#)

References: anon., 1975b ([Easter](#) and [summer logbooks](#)); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [card](#); [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes video](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

1975 known cave

[low res](#) [high res](#)

2000 known cave (Cueva Seca) [low res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [reconstructed from 1975 survey](#)

X

0116: Yusa, Torca de (Eldon Shaft) (Sima M-11)

Muela 30T 454515 4796175 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 755m

Length 377m **Depth** 190m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 25th October 2002; 15th October 2003; 1st February 2006; 12th May, 2011; 15th September 2013

The original description from the 1975 explorations reads: *An entrance pitch of 110m leads to a second of 35m. Choked at the bottom.*

The length of 377m has been calculated as 117.5m pitch + 90m chamber + p72.5 + p72 + p10 + p15 - the latter 2 from exploration in 2013.

This site is described on the web site of the Sociedad Espeleológica Alto Duero who have explored it as sima M-11. The entrance lies on the western edge of the Hoya de Yusa. The shaft top is 15 x 12m and drops into an impressive pitch of 117.5m. The bottom enters a large chamber some 90m long by 30 wide and high. There is no plan on the SEAD web site to show the direction of this passage which ascends to where the roof meets the floor. Near the top is a 72m pitch. At the bottom of the chamber is a 65m pitch that chokes. Other parallel pitches all appear to lead nowhere.

In the summer of 2003, three trips partially

re-explored and surveyed the site to produce a plan that shows the cave skirting the north west side of the Hoya de Yusa. There are a number of undescended pitches. The pitch nearest the entrance shaft was dropped to -35m (spits already in). There is a sharp rub point and lots of choss so the final 5m was not dropped. It appears to be a small descending tube at the foot, choked after 3m, heading east from the foot of the pitch.

The "big" shaft on the right near the top of the mud slope was dropped to -35m with a very small tube at the foot and windows into a parallel shaft that appears to be deeper. This could be the SEAD 72m pitch.

At Easter 2011, one trip into the hole started a resurvey and, in doing so, climbed the steep mud slope at the northeastern end to reveal possible ongoing passage beyond a drop. This was explored in the summer, 2013. On this trip, the entrance shaft was described as "awesome" with an alpine chough nest about 50m down and a live adder at the base. The mud slope can be climbed by keeping to the left hand side. At the top are two pitches. On the left wall, the northwest side of the slope, *Space Serpent Pitch* drops 10m and on the right hand wall, a 15m pitch drops 15m. *Space Serpent Pitch* lands just above a slippery climb into a small, well decorated chamber. The other drop, *SOS Pitch*, lands on the floor of a large aven. There is no sign of continuation from either pitch. These finds have been sketched onto the [plan of the cave](#).

References: anon., 1975b ([Easter](#) and [summer logbooks](#)); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#); [Garcia J L, 1987](#); [García José León, 1997](#); [SEAD website](#); [anon., 2002b \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\)](#) (survey and photo); [anon., 2011b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture: from the 2003 explorations [1](#) [2](#) on the [SEAD website](#)

Underground picture(s): [2003 explorations](#) : [2013 explorations](#)

Video: [entrance pitch](#) : [summer 2013 explorations](#) (YouTube)

Detailed survey: elevation on the [SEAD website](#) : [plan 2003](#) : [elevation](#) from León García José, 2010 ([Volume 1](#) and [Volume 2](#)). (Cantabria Subterránea. Catálogo Grandes Cavidades.)

[plan 2013 with sketched additions](#)

Line survey:

On area survey:

Survex file: [download](#) (2003 resurvey) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0117: Boyones, Los

Secadura 30T 455712 4799303 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 49m

Length (100m included in the length of the [4](#)

[Valleys System](#))

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 13 February 1998; 19th February 1999; 2nd May 1999; 5th November 2005; 14th May 2006; 6th May, 27th October 2007; 31st May 2012; 25th May 2021; 24th September 2024

The water found in [Cueva de Carcavuezo \(81\)](#), [Cueva Llueva \(114\)](#), [Cueva Hoyuca \(107\)](#) and part of [Cueva de Riaño 1 \(105\)](#) - the Four Valleys System ([line survey](#))- resurges in the Secadura valley. In wet weather the water emerges from a number of openings along a 200m long front but in normal conditions the water resurges at [Los Boyones](#). Major building and piping works were started in the mid nineties and an [elevated walkway](#) now passes the "resurgence front" ending over the main resurgence pool where water is extracted and past over the hill to Moncallian. Trees surrounding the resurgence pool and visible in a 1999 photo had gone by 2006. The treatment works is gated but, if locked, the gate can be easily climbed around. However, a visit in August 2024 mentioned that there could be a security camera beyond the gate and provided a photo showing the chain fence.

The GPS for the extraction pipe is ETRS89: 30T 455713 4799308.

Information gleaned from the *Dirección General de Obras Hidráulicas y Ciclo Integral del Agua* in 2005 shows an average water flow from the resurgence over the previous 20 or so years of 650 litres per second. (The Fuente Aguanaz resurgence emits 951 litres per second on average. Unlike the 4 Valleys System, there are currently no known feeders or caves which drain to the Nacimiento de Aguanaz). At Easter 2006, an optical brightener test was carried out from the end of the Sumidero de Cobadal. A positive result was obtained at [Fuente](#)

Aguanaz after a week and with no sign of optical brightener at this resurgence over a full fortnight. A paper detailing the methods, etc can be read [here](#).

The small, excavated cave entrance is 5m above the normal resurgence and located just behind a large embankment of boulders which form part of the pumping station complex. The hole usually emits a strong draught.

A 5m pitch leads to a hole down into the boulder choke (which is unstable in places). The draught can then be followed between the boulders to the river at the base of a steep mud slope.

Various climbs at the top of the slope close down and the draught is lost.

In 1997 a pool of standing water leads to a way on upstream with deep water - not pushed.

Nearby, to the west, is [Cueva 77A \(site 154\)](#) which is all part of the difficult to explore resurgence complex.

Standing at the Los Boyones and looking northwest across the valley, you can see the hillside under which *Gour Inlet* in Cueva Hoyuca starts. Water in this passage heads southwest to drop into [Hoyuca](#), joining the main flow to pass through [Cueva Llueva](#) and resurge on the southern side of Secadura valley.

References: [anon., 1974b \(logbook\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [Cope J et al, 1976](#); [anon., 1977b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1978](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1992b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1994b \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1996a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997b](#); [anon., 1997b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997c](#); [anon., 2005c \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2006a](#); [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [Corrin Juan, 2013a](#); [anon., 2024d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes, dye tracing : gate and fence, 2024](#)

Underground picture(s):

Video: [Retrieving a cotton wool detector during high water flow.](#) (Phil Papard)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0118: Churro, Cueva del (Elegante, Cueva)

Secadura 30T 455598 4799791 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 55m

Length 460m **Height** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th November 2003; 27th October 2007; 13th January 2008; 20th September 2012; 21st April 2013

The entrance is a resurgence upstream of an open air laundry area with a domestic water pipe.

The route drops into a low stream passage which ends at a sump. The upper level passage follows almost the same route with passable connections to the lower passage in four places. It ends at a static sump.

There is almost certainly a connection with [Torca de Simón 2 \(766\)](#) which ends very close to the sumps.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [anon., 1975b \(Easter and summer logbooks\)](#); [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#); [Cope J et al, 1976 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1978 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); material in file; [Corrin J, 1990](#); [Corrin J and Quin A, 1992 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1993 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [anon., 2012d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2013b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#) (2006 and 2012)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1976: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0119: Otero, Cueva del

Secadura 30T 457178 4800169 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 55m

Length 30m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th September 1998; 28th October 2007; 22nd December 2008; 16th May 2009; 25th June 2010

At the top of a small, wooded hill. The entrance is closed with a gate. Excavated in 1963, remains dating from the Mousterian to the Azilian Periods were discovered, with the Aurignacian and Upper Magdalenian levels being particularly important.

In 1983, C.A.E.A.P. discovered a group of engravings, including a caprid viewed frontally, which can be dated to the upper Magdalenian. This appears similar to the engraving in [Sima-Cueva del Risco](#) in Matienzo (*Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p96*). The same group also found a small fragment of prehistoric pottery.

The whole of *Cueva del Otero* (Echegaray et al, 1966) is devoted to the site. [Link to page at University of Cantabria](#).

Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009 has a comprehensive summary of the deposits with drawings throughout the text.

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#); [Echegaray et al, 1966](#); [Bohigas R, 1986](#) (survey); [Munoz Fernandez E et al, 1987](#); [Gonzalez Sainz C et al, 1985](#); [Muñoz E, 1988](#); [Smith Peter, 2002](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009](#) (survey and photo); [anon., 2010b](#) (Easter logbook)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0120: Sifón Claro, Cueva del

Secadura 30T 455086 4799616 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: **A**) **Altitude** 65m

Length 60m **Depth** 5m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 21st April 2013

The original grid reference was VN55219983

Alt. 63m

The presumed resurgence overflow for the water seen in [Cueva de Suviejo \(122\)](#). Could some of this water come from [Cueva Fresnedo 2](#)? The actual resurgence is about 80m further down valley at [site 3742](#).

The original text describes a low stoop leading into an entrance chamber which contains the sump pool. A large sumped passage can be pursued which contains a large number of cross rifts. At Easter 2013, the area had collapsed in a jumble of boulders and trees with deep water seen between boulders.

[Link to entry in the Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [anon., 1980a](#) (logbook); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1981a](#) (logbook); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#); [anon., 1977a](#); [anon., 2013b](#) (Easter logbook)

Entrance picture : [From a distance, 2013](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0121: Simón 1, Torca de

Secadura 30T 455352 4800251 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: **G**) **Altitude** 208m

Length 823m **Depth** 94m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th November 2003; 2nd May 2004; 28th October 2007; 6th January, 19th May 2011; 7th October 2012; 30th June 2018

The entrance, above the sloping track, is a wide pitch of 11m. A stream enters from a stream passage 5m up the right hand wall. The water pours down a blind 10m pot and the way on is over this to a small vadose passage which leads after 75m to a small climb and pitch of 6m. A small zig-zag passage then runs to the head of a 25m pitch. At the base, the passage slopes down to a tiny static sump. A hading rift from here ascends to an aven where it is possible to get a voice connection with the top of the 25m pitch.

A dry crawl under the north wall of the entrance chamber leads to a blind 10m pot.

By using a different belay point a second series of seemingly unconnected passages can be entered by swinging on the ladder to a hole in the south wall of the entrance shaft. A short passage ends at a fine 23m pitch which is followed by 40m of tight canyon to a 6m pitch. The boulder slope is followed down. A climb up to the right closes down while a climb to the left needs looking at.

The 1992 extensions start by climbing down through the boulders to a squeeze into a narrow rift pitch. Downstream leads to a flatout section which can be bypassed. The route slowly increases in size and leads to a climb and a ladder pitch down and immediately another pitch (sizes?) to a small chamber and passage which eventually became smaller.

A short distance before a small inlet which goes 40m splits and chokes. The left hand branch chokes, ending in a short section of rift. A climb up in the roof enters a section of well decorated phreatic passage ending in a sandy, easy dig.

Opposite this section of passage, an easy crawl enters a 5m diameter conical shaped chamber with a way out which ends in tubes and climbs up which need pushing.

Upstream at the base of the ladder pitch mixed going divides - the left hand section ends in a choked rift and the right hand needs a little digging to enter a small continuation.

The cave comes close to [Torca de Simón 2 \(766\)](#).

Re-explorations by ADEMCO in 2011 found nothing new.

References: [anon., 1978 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1978 \(survey and photo\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J and Quin A, 1992 \(survey and photo\)](#); [Corrin J, 1993 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1994b \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2004b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [ADEMCO, 2012](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [entrance pitch \(1978\)](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1978: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination

December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and

coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[with others close by, and Cueva Fresnedo](#) (Amended

magnetic declination December 2013 to align with

Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89

datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0122: Suviejo, Cueva de (Solviejo, Cueva de) (Selviejo, Cueva de)

Secadura 30T 454763 4799901 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 177m

Length 5353m **Depth** 111m (Includes [Torca del](#)

[Rayo de Sol](#))

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 3rd, 22nd February 2001; 3rd June 2002; 9th November 2003; 6th November 2004; 14th May 2006; 28th October, 17th November 2007; 4th, 14th, 16th May 2009; 2nd December 2010; 6th, 18th January 2011; 15th September 2017; 14th January, 30th June 2018

The entrance was gated at the back end of 2017, to protect the archaeological items. Access is presumably only available by applying to Cultura.

Finding the entrance, Easter 2009 The most straightforward route is from the farm 200m above the entrance. The details, with GPS track, are to be found in the 2009 Easter logbook, date 13/4/09

Rigging Easter 2009 The pull through bolts at the entrance pitch are badly sited for a number of reasons. A better ladder hang is round to the right on a short traverse, but it needs a traverse line put in for safety.

There are 2 x 8mm spits for ladder / lifeline. Next trip should take 3 x 10m ladders, 2 x 8mm hangers, 1 x 15m traverse line and lifeline for 25m pitch and then measure actual length of traverse, lifeline and ladder required.

If laddered from the SRT pull-through bolts back from the pitch head, you need 3 x 10m

ladders and lifeline for the 30m pitch. The hang is bad and you are likely to damage stal just over the pitch lip.

A gentle walk down through the entrance leads after 25m to the head of a 20m pitch from a ledge on the right. The landing is in a large chamber on a slope of boulders and from this point all routes radiate. Downhill, the floor levels out and chokes with some possible climbs above.

The way to the bottom of the pot is on the right of the top of the slope, and is down through a hole with a short greasy climb to the head of the *Greasy Slope Pitch*. At the base of this 20m, laddered slope, the only exit leads to a lofty chamber via a couple of short climbs over boulders. The passage type then changes completely as it swings back on itself and heads towards the entrance for 150m. This rift ends at a 4m pitch and a 7m climb into the sandy *Campsite Chamber*.

The main route then reverses direction again and passes underneath the previous rift to a 6m rope pitch. By heading north for 100 m, the head of *Pool Pitch* is reached. This is an impressive, circular 20m deep pitch with water falling in from the opposite side. The small outlet passage drops down a 4m pitch and then the final 20m pitch which ends the cave at a miserable and final sump.

Chocolate Crunch Series leads off in the southerly direction from the base of the rope pitch. The phreatic half tube gradually changes to the classical keyhole shape. Turning left at a junction after some 200m leads to some low crawls, while to the right the top of a hading rift is reached which drops into [Torca del Rayo de Sol](#) via a 20m pitch.

Back at the *Campsite*, a short passage to the right leads to two huge avens while straight ahead is a hading rift which ends at an aven. To the left is a large passage that divides after 100m with both branches soon choking.

At the head of the boulder slope in the entrance chamber there are three greasy calcite climbs. The right hand climb leads into *Misty Passage* - 200m of well decorated passage containing an 18m pitch followed by a 17m pitch into the chamber at the base of the *Greasy Slope*. The middle climb leads to a veranda that overlooks the same chamber, while the left hand climb leads into a completely different series.

At the top, an impressive tunnel leads to boulders which rise up to *Brain Cell Hall* which contains a large, skitable pit. A few metres further, on the far side of the pit, is a climb down in the boulder chaos which leads to the base of the pit and a 180m long passage that contains three shafts which are presumably the avens seen off the *Campsite*. By continuing northwest from *Brain Cell Hall* under a large and cracked roof slab, and past two small grottos on the right, access is gained to *Quick Trip Passage*. This is mostly walking for 400m to the head of an 18m pitch which drops into a small stream.

Near *Brain Cell Hall* at Easter 2009, a couple of extensions were made. These are batches 0122-09-01 and 0122-09-02.

Batch 0122-09-01 was surveyed back to the base of the entrance pitch. This is a nicely decorated fossil passage ending at a stal choke with boulders in the roof. The drawn survey around the centre line is found [here](#), and has been added to the updated survey dated 2017.

Batch 0122-09-02, the route starting *Croissant Passage*, is described as follows:

The stream appears under the left hand wall of the passage at the base of the boulder pile and hole in floor before the cracked rock bridge in *Brain Cell Hall*. Progress in water leads to impenetrable slots. Proceed from the pool where stream enters main passage down left hand wall to a stalled-up rift passage. Climb up stal and back out into main passage using rope as guide and safety line. The last bit of the climb is a traverse out over a drop and up a small hole into a fossil bedding plane. Continue at high level minding the stal until you can see two pools below. Climb down into the upstream pool and land at the base with seemingly no way out. Look under a flowstone boss to find continuation. Continue at stream level to the base of a cascade. Water disappears at base of pitch. Cascade has a rope hand line. (Survey station at the top on the left marked JD20). Passage continues 2 - 3m wide and 1.5m high with lots of stal in the roof. The name

of the passage was "*So Crawl!*" (renamed to *Croissant Passage*) and continues for about 50m (see 1987 logbook) to a hammered stal squeeze to an aven and continuing stream. The cascade has an interesting croissant-shaped reworked stal on it. Downstream there is a false floor and a "cyclone" whirl pool with a pile of gravel in the middle. A 15m handline for the climb down from *Brain Cell Hall* is required. The drawn survey for batch 0122-09-02 around the centre line is found [here](#).

Batch 0122-17-01. *Croissant Passage* was pushed and surveyed for 330m during the summer 2017. A mixture of crawling and walking, the passage is well decorated and has a number of avens along its length. The end is at avens, some of which have been investigated and other deemed not worth it. There is a tiny water slot at the top of one aven. A [video](#) has been made of these explorations. See below regarding the survey.

Upstream the passage is too low but contains white cave axellids?? - Terry?. A climb leads to a calcited traverse back to the streamway. An interesting WC constriction leads to more streamway and a difficult 5m climb up a waterfall to a passage which is mainly crawling. A calcited squeeze is the only obstacle to reach a large aven, massively encrusted with moonmilk after about 300m. The streamway continues low beyond.

On the right of *Quick Trip Passage* it is possible to climb up to a parallel high level passage that contains some fine formations and cracked mud floors.

The cave is an archaeological site with pottery and possible schematic-abstract paintings found beyond the exposed ledge above the 20m entrance pitch ([survey](#)). The black marks are described and discussed in *El Arte Esquemático-Abstracto de Matienzo y sus alrededores* ([Smith Peter, 1998b](#)) and *Muñoz Emilio et al, 1995*. *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009* has a summary.

A Spanish-found discovery is a short cut to the *Campsite* area. Following the ramp down below the entrance pitch, a group of stal is seen on the left hand wall. A climb up the wall gains a rift just beyond the stal and a traverse meets the vertical 21m pitch at the end of the rift. A rebelay is 3m down. The landing is in passage just a stroll from the *Campsite* and is a much shorter and pleasanter route than the one used in 1978.

A **resurvey of the cave** has been started and there some apparent discrepancies which need investigating. All of the surveyed passage is now (after Easter 2009 - 30 years later!) in the 0122.3d file. The discrepancies are still apparent. After batch 17-01 was surveyed, a composite survey has been put together of the old (Matienzo Caves) survey (faded) and batches 09-01, 09-02 and 17-01. The position of station "35" is crucial and, at September 2017, this has been visually placed in the *Brain Cell Hall* depression. This is probably wrong, and a better position for station 35 is required. Passages off *Misty Passage* (see below) are not shown.

The developing *Acanto* web site (by the *Federación de Asociaciones para la defensa del Patrimonio Cultural y Natural de Cantabria*) has a section on [Arte Rupestre esquemático-abstracto](#).

León García José, 2010 ([Volume 1](#) and [Volume 2](#)). (Cantabria Subterránea. Catálogo Grandes Cavidades.) has the length as 5023m after new passages were found and surveyed by the Asociación Deportiva Espeleo y Montaña Colindres (ADEMCO). (There are also photos on Flickr - search for "Solviejo").

The main new passages go off *Misty Passage*, as the [survey](#) from the above publication shows. This survey also shows the linking pitch into [site 123](#), *Torca del Rayo de Sol*. The "old" length according to the Matienzo expeditions was 3543m. The new length above indicates extensions lengths totalling some 1480m.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [anon., 1977b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1978 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1978 \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 1979 \(logbook\)](#); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(photo\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey and photo\)](#); material in file; [GEISC/R and CAEAP, 1986 \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J and Knights S, 1988](#); [Munoz Fernandez E et al, 1987](#); [Garcia J L, 1987](#); [Fernández V, 1988](#); [Muñoz E, 1988](#); [Corrin J, 1992b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J and Quin A, 1992 \(survey\)](#);

[Corrin J, 1993 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1994b \(survey\)](#); [Muñoz Emilio et al, 1995](#); [Smith Peter, 1998b \(survey\)](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2010](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(survey and photos\)](#); [Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014](#); [anon., 2017c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s): 1978 explorations : formations : [helictites](#) : [pictures from around the entrance pitch and QTP, Easter 2009](#) : [Blog \(Dec 2013\)](#) :

Video: [Through trip by Espeleo50 from YouTube : Croissant Passage, 2017 \(YouTube\)](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1978: [low res](#) [high res](#) ;

from 1986 [entrance archaeology](#)

from [rescue site](#) [tif](#) [low res](#) [high res](#) [jpg](#) [low res](#)

[high res](#)

Hand-drawn surveys of batches [0122-09-01](#) and

[0122-09-02](#) from Easter 2009

Plan from León García José, 2010 ([Volume 1](#) and

[Volume 2](#)). (Cantabria Subterránea. Catálogo

Grandes Cavidades.)

[Part composite survey, September 2017](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (complete after August 2017)

(Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to

align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit

ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[with others close by, and Cueva Fresnedo](#) (complete

after August 2017) (Amended magnetic declination

December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and

coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0123: Rayo de Sol, Torca del

Secadura 30T 454603 4799675 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 135m

Length of 800m included in [Cueva de Suviejo](#)

Depth 52m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Length of 800m included in [Cueva de Suviejo \(122\)](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 9th November

2003; 17th November 2007; 6th, 18th

January 2011; 21st April 2013; 30th June

2018

The entrance is in the true left hand bank of the stream bed and is a 7m pitch with a tight take-off. The landing is in a 5m diameter chamber with a short crawl on the left leading to the head of a 15m pitch which lands in a hading fault passage.

At the base, to the southwest the passage descends three steps and enters an aven. Three metres up the left hand wall a crawl goes off and branches. The left hand passage closes down while the other continues over cobbles. This route was not explored by the Matienzo Expeditions until 1995, but appears to have been dug open. The crawl continues to an enlargement with a lump hammered hole in the floor to a descending tube and mud choke. A crawl over the hole in the floor enters a climb down to a gravel choke. A small goes back underneath to a mud choke. The larger aven and rift above the final gravel choke may be accessible with climbing / bolting gear, but there is no noticeable draught.

To the northwest of the second pitch the high and narrow passage heads down the fault for 90m. Holes above here connect with [Cueva de Suviejo \(122\)](#) as shown on the [2010 survey](#). The passage then breaks out into a lofty chamber. On the right of the chamber a low crawl leads into a series of dusty, phreatic chambers linked by short crawls.

References: [anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#); [Cope J et al, 1976 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1978 \(survey\)](#); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#);

material in file; [GEISC/R and CAEAP, 1986 \(survey\)](#);

[Corrin J and Quin A, 1992 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1993 \(survey\)](#);

material in file; [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#);

[García José León, 1997 \(survey\)](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2013b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1976: [low res](#) [high res](#)

from [rescue site](#) [tif](#) [low res](#) [high res](#) [jpg](#) [low res](#)

[high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [download](#) : [with others close by, and Cueva Fresnedo](#) (Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89

datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0124: Crecidas, Surgencia de

las

Secadura 30T 455481 4799425 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 52m

Length 200m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 5th October 2010; 20th September

2012; 22nd July 2015

A 70m swim leads to a sump of 3m. A short squeeze over a silt bank to the left leads to a T junction. Downstream to the left is walking / swimming in an out-of-depth canal for 30m to a choke near to the surface. Upstream ends after 15m at a second sump which gets too low after 3m. By continuing straight on in the 3m sump an arch is met an progress continues underwater to a large choked area which blocks the passage. The site was completely re-explored and extended by Simon Cornhill in the summer 2012. The [1977](#) and [2012](#) sketches show what was done on each visit. Note that north is towards the bottom of each sketch with the pdf survey showing north up the page.

This could be a flood rising for [Los Boyones \(117\)](#) (quite likely as the passages have lots of silt) but could also be a resurgence for an unknown system.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982](#); [anon., 1977a \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2012d \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2013a](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Video : [Simon Cornhill exploring and extending the cave in 2012.](#) (YouTube)

Detailed Survey : [1977 sketch](#) : [2012 sketch](#) > [pdf survey](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#)

X

0125: cave

Secadura 30T 454748 4799441 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 168m

Length 75m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A walk-in top entrance leads to a climb down and short crawl underneath the entrance passage to emerge at a lower entrance.

References: [anon., 1977b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0126: Fresnedo 1, Cueva

Fresnedo 30T 453133 4801217 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 125m

Length 262m **Depth** 16m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 1st October 2006; 28th September 2007; 12th May, 4th October 2011; 15th September 2013; 14th October 2016; 20th May 2017; 21st September 2018

The bottom entrance is at the end of a dry stream bed. The top entrance is in a brambly shakehole 20m behind. Both entrances can draught out strongly.

The cave is basically developed on two levels - the lower stream level soon degenerates into a two dimensional maze of cobbled crawls. Twenty five metres inside the bottom entrance a crawl off to the left unites with the higher level. Emerging up through a rift, past animal bones, the top entrance, a 7m pitch is 5m to the left. To the right various shuffles and crawls lead to a large chamber with three exits. All routes appear as a maze and connections can be made with the lower series.

A frustrating cave, as its position and draught indicate a large amount of unexplored passage. In the summer of '94 a resurvey of the cave could only find 45m with no draughts, confirming what seemed to be the case in 1990. The cave was re-explored in 2006, but again only about 40m was found, but there was a draught at a small dig.

Neither was all the passage refound in explorations at Easter 2011, but a small extension was made immediately to the left of the entrance. This runs upstream parallel to the hillside and was pushed through 2 squeezes to a larger section that becomes too tight in one direction and chokes in the other. One branch comes very close to Cueva Fresnedo 2. This added 44m to the length. The new total length was recalculated from the old and new line surveys (and not an estimate made in the

past of passages entered but not surveyed). [The new passage has been drawn up and can wait for a full re-exploration / re-survey.]

Extensive explorations in 2013 confirmed that the cave had collapsed at the end of the higher level rift, just after the short traverse. A dig at this point should access the remaining passage. Annotated sketches can be found in the [logbook](#), 22nd July 2013.

More exploration took place in the streamway in August 2016 but it is unclear whether the approximately 30m of passages dug into are new or just filled-in routes that have been re-excavated. ([Sketch](#))

The entrance to the 8km long [Cueva Fresnedo 2 \(841\)](#) is a smaller entrance 10 metres away. Both entrances are shown [here](#).

References: [anon., 1978 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1979 \(logbook\)](#); [Addis F et al, 1979](#); [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J, 1980](#); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [anon., 1990b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2006d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2011b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [2011](#) : [2013](#) : [2016](#) :

[2018](#)

Detailed Survey : [graph paper drawing from 1980](#) :

[2011 extension](#) : [sketch from summer 2016](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Easter 2011) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[caves surrounding this site \(Easter 2011\)](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0127: Gatuna, Cubío de la

La Gatuna 30T 449692 4799745 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 151m

Length 285m **Depth** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[Updated 9th November 2003; 8th October 2005](#)

The initial chamber leads to a series of loose, cross jointed passages. A sandy crawl then leads to a length of nicely decorated passage which ends at two large chambers. There are holes between the boulders and one has been descended to 19m.

The above description was taken from the 1979 exploration account. The cave was re-explored, re-surveyed, photographed and extended into *Ann Summers* in 2005, although the pitch down mentioned above was not found. A nearby dig ([site 2223](#)) was opened up and nearly connected. The [original survey](#) was found to be 90° out.

The entrance may have been sealed off with a door in the past and the remains are stone pillars and a lintel.

References: [anon., 1979 \(logbook\)](#); [Addis F et al, 1979 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [anon., 2005b \(Easter & summer\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2006a](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes, 2005](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1979: [low res](#) [high res](#);

from 2005 [pdf file with site 2223](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : [with surrounding cave entrances](#)

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[site 127 with 2223](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0128: Espina, Torca de la

Muela 30T 454102 4796699 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 620m

Length 233m **Depth** 90m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[Updated 17th September 2000; 9th November 2003; 22nd October 2007; January 10th, February 21st 2017](#)

A 29m pitch lands in a large chamber which then descends over mud and calcite to a choke.

Spanish cavers have marked the site *M6 SEAD* and describe the chamber as 150 x 70 x 30m. A long time was spent in 1994 looking at the choke.

The site was revisited in 2007 and the following account written:

The cave consists of a 30 metre entrance drop, the last 10 metres being clear of wall. This lands at the top of a steep slope of rocks and silt in a very large passage. On

north side of the amphitheatre a steep slope up ends at a small blind chamber. A little lower down on the south side is a desperate climb of 10 metres up moon milk and gours. This breaks out at the base of a high shower bath aven with large window 15 metres up (passage or alcove?). Passing the shower bath inlet the main passage descends over slippery calcite flows and gours at about 40 degrees. The roof lowers to about 12 metres before rising again at a series of high avens before the passage finally chokes in large breakdown blocks. The choke has many nooks and crannies and a way on could exist. The whole cave needs a thorough check and proper survey.

In December 2016, digs at the base were all found to be in sandstone and climbing the three impressive avens was thought to be "difficult with the soft cheese nature of the rock". The site was resurveyed.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1990a](#); [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2007e \(autumn + Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [from 2007](#) : [from 2016](#)

Detailed Survey : [from 1980: low res](#) [high res](#)

[from 2007: extra detail](#) : [resurvey 2016](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#)

X

0129: Muela, Torca de la (M35 (SEAD))

Muela 30T 454468 4796431 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 790m

Length 58m **Depth** 58m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th November 2003; 13th June 2005; 14th May 2006; 3rd March 2020

[Alternative GPS is 0454489 4796436]

The entrance is only 3m lower than the summit! A fine, spacious straight shaft ends in a pool. Marked M35 with green paint.

References: [Corrin J et al, 1981b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [anon., 2005b \(Easter & summer\)](#); [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2020a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Video : [entrance shaft](#) (Juan Corrin) [entrance shaft](#)

(Jon Whiteley)

Detailed Survey : [from 1980: low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0130: shaft

Mullir 30T 455538 4796011 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 552m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Unexplored shaft of about 20m depth. Is this the same as 318?

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0131: shaft (M50 (SEAD))

Mullir 30T 455373 4795536 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 695m

Length 35m **Depth** 35m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 16th June 2002; 15th April 2008

There has been some confusion between this and an old site called 940. There appears to be only one shaft in the area.

The slab covered entrance is marked M50 with green paint. A 27m descent drops to a large ledge and then 8m to a choked floor. A small hole on the opposite side of the ledge at -27m may repay some digging. (Note that [site 319](#) also has the SEAD M50 label)

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0132: cave

Mullir 30T 455287 4795442 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 697m

Length 53m **Depth** 11m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th October 2010

The original description stated that the "cave chokes after 15m", with a grid reference of VN55409565. The site was explored and surveyed in 2010, the entrance being described as a "big square hole" and called Chocolate Cave. A climb up at the base of the entrance slope was pushed through a small constriction to a small chamber with no way on.

A dig in a slot in the base of the chamber has a good echo with a Disto distance measured through of 14m. It needs a crowbar to progress but might be worthwhile.

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); pers comm.; [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2011](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [pdf file from Pocket Topo](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0133: cave

Mullir 30T 455258 4795451 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 708m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Unexplored shaft.

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0134: shaft

Mullir 30T 455244 4795466 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 715m

Length 30m **Depth** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th March 2010

A shaft, covered with loose boulders, drops 20m and lands in 10m x 2m passage which chokes at both ends.

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2010a \(February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0135: shaft (Sima M-14)

Muela 30T 454556 4796077 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 722m

Length 23m **Depth** 23m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 3rd November 2002; 11th June 2006

A straight choked shaft, marked PD12 in 1980. This is M-14 (depth 23m), explored by the SEAD. The 7m diameter shaft is almost completely covered by a tree.

Reference: [SEAD website](#); file; [anon., 2002b \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#); [anon., 2006c \(Whit logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture: [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed survey: elevation on the [SEAD website](#)

Line survey:

On area survey:

Survex file:

X

0136: Coterón las Llanas, Torca

del

Coterón las Llanas 30T 450938 4798421 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 551m

Length 20m **Depth** 45m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 18th April 1999; 9th November 2003

The site is a complex of 4 shakeholes; the upper entrance is a grassy slope down to the head of a 6m pitch which lands on a

muddy ledge. In the second shakehole, an 8m pitch lands on a large flake where the muddy boulder slope is visible. The 5m continuation down passes the boulder slope and becomes the original second rift pitch of 25m with a loose ledge halfway down. An area of collapse can be climbed down through to a 5m pitch which lands in a choked chamber. The whole pot is rather loose and muddy.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1999a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [distant](#) [close-up](#) [middle distance](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1981: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0137: Coreano, Cueva de

El Camino 30T 452778 4796609 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 253m

Length 63m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 4th October 2011; 17th September 2014; 16th May 2015; 21st April, 15th October 2016; 21st September 2018

"A short crawl into a small chamber with a deep pool" was finally pushed in August 2014. This had been refound in the summer 2000 as site 1561 and described then as "a walk in to a 10m chamber with two 5m passages off".

At the back of the entrance chamber, a squeeze between stal leads through a short crawl and another squeeze into a turquoise blue gour pool. This quickly goes out of depth necessitating a traverse out of the water passing a blockage on the left over more deep water. A stal blockage was removed to enter more out of depth water. The cave ends in a sump area which was inspected by Jim Lister (with bottles) in August 2016 and found to have no underwater leads. The cave is well decorated throughout and the water is crystal clear. (A pushing trip at Easter 2015 found the cave sumped just inside the entrance - and also at Easter 2016).

The cave was used as a water supply (for a short time?) after a pipe was laid in 1976. An account can be found in the logbook. The dowsing reaction from behind the church resurgence ([site 3541](#)) heads towards this cave.

References: [anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [anon., 2011d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2014c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2015b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground pictures: [summer 2014](#) : [summer 2016](#) : [summer 2018](#)

Video: [summer 2014 \(Vimeo\)](#) : [diving inspection, summer 2016 \(YouTube\)](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500 \(1980's ?\)](#) : [2014 pdf survey](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : [relationship to dowsing reaction behind site 3541](#) (Article about the dowsing carried out in July 2011 can be found [here](#).)

Survex file : [yes](#)

X

0138: Coberruyo, Cueva de

El Naso 30T 451394 4796223 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 320m

Length 229m **Depth** 42m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 3rd February , 27th October, 18th November 2001; 3rd June, 11th November 2002; 9th November 2003; 7th November 2006; 22nd October 2007; 21st December 2008; 21st May, 2014; 1st May, 21st September 2018; 12th, 20th May 2019; 5th September 2021; 4th May 2022

The GPS reading is on the ledge outside and the entrance grid reference amended from that. A large cave entrance leads up to a goat shelter where it is difficult to leave daylight except through a hole at the end of the eastern limb where a funnel-shaped chamber has a choked 45m pitch in the bottom and a climb to the left leads to a decorated chamber. Another climb ahead leads to a 33m pitch down which chokes at rifts. In 2018, a small, black-floored chamber was entered to the north of the entrance chamber.

The cave contains 24 groups of schematic-abstract paintings, unfortunately not very well conserved, mostly in the left- hand

passage. These are sketched and described in *El Arte Esquemático-Abstracto de Matienzo y sus alrededores* ([Smith Peter, 1998b](#)) and further discussed in *Muñoz Emilio et al, 1995* and *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001*. Sketches from this publication are found [here](#). One group has been dated to around 950BC, however, *Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p175* only mentions a date of 11th to 12th century AD. There is evidence of palaeolithic remains under the large boulders of the entrance, a layer with bones and flints being visible. The developing *Acanto* web site (by the *Federación de Asociaciones para la defensa del Patrimonio Cultural y Natural de Cantabria*) has a section on [Arte Rupestre esquemático-abstracto](#).

According to Quin (BU pp59-62), in his [magnetic susceptibility studies](#), sediments from Coberruyo show similar k values to sediments in [Cueva de Rascavieja \(077\)](#), indicating that the sites may have had a common morphogenic agent and are connected.

Crag Martins (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) were seen in the entrance, April 2014, possibly nesting.

A useful summary is found in *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003* pages 54-56 with a survey and photo.

A short distance east of the entrance is a short climb to [site 2575](#).

The cave was revisited and pushed at the top level on a visit in the autumn, 2007, and the following (edited) account written. The notes 1 to 9 are shown on the [amended and annotated survey](#).

The entrance sediments were covered with large amounts of toilet paper, presumably from climbers shitting in the cave.

This cave could do with a complete re-survey as the passage detail is very confusing especially the entrance and eastern chambers. Entry to the eastern chambers is by a short crawl or narrow rift on north side of main passage (see No.6 below). Interesting features, digs or short extensions are also listed.

Eight bats were noted in the cave, two of which were extremely large, possibly *Nyctalus Lasiopterus* The others appeared to be Greater Horseshoe. The two larger bats were in the east chambers, two smaller bats were in the east passage and four bats were noted at the end of the west passage exiting the final small chamber.

As to be expected in a cave noted for its archaeological material, bones and charcoal were seen in most areas of the cave. A few bones were also noted in the east chambers though charcoal was not detected.

Sites of interest.

No.1. Small bell chamber at the end of west passage was inspected from which a number of bats were seen to exit, the only way on from this chamber was much too tight, very little in the way of bat droppings were noted in the chamber so it is feasible the bats were roosting further in the cave.

No.2. Area with a profusion of glazed potsherds cemented into calcite floor at base of large stalagmite.

No.3. Passage leads off from this area and would need some rocks pulling out to gain entry. It probably goes to surface, though it could be worth checking out as a possible by-pass for the end choke.

No.4. A short dig at base of two wedged blocks on south side of passage dropped into a small chamber and slope down to a narrow descending tube 3 metres deep.

Over the top of the tube a narrow rift dropped down to a continuation of the tube. A short time was spent excavating in this area but was abandoned due to time and a lack of digging implements. Large bones were noticed at the base of the rift: cow sized, possibly Aurochs and certainly very old.

No.5. In the crawling section on the north side of the main passage there is a rift in the roof where one can stand up. On one side of the rift is a shelf where a copious amount of charcoal can be found; on the other side is a similar shelf at the back of which are a number of bones of a medium sized animal. The position of the bones suggests they have been deliberately placed there.

No.6. It is not clear on the survey the route through to the east chambers. The hole through in the centre of the main passage is blocked by formations (picture). Two routes on the north side of the passage unite one in a short crawl; the other is a narrow rift.

No.7. On exiting the crawl through to the east chambers and following the right hand wall for a few metres, a circular chamber with a depression in the floor can be

entered. A 3 metre climb down at the base of the chamber reaches a hole in calcite. This was enlarged to drop into a decorated chamber 12 metres long and 6 metres wide and deep.

No.8. Passages missed off original survey - one guarded by nice stal (picture).

No.9. Holes drop away in a calcite choke. This might be worth a small excavation with the right tools. The main continuation of this passage ends in a small chamber with a deep pool and flowstone everywhere.

By August 2018, Peter Smith had completed a re-survey of the cave (below) with a small addition at Easter 2019.

In 2022, a possible flint knapping stone was recognised and removed due to the credible risk of damage by visitors. The Ministry of Culture was notified about the artefact and it was taken to the Museo de Prehistoria y Arqueología de Cantabria (MUPAC). (A library building on the sea front in Santander, not the display centre in the Mercado del Este). The artefact has a receipt dated 26 Abril 2022 with entry number 2211. [Photos](#).

References: [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(survey\)](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Smith P, 1981b \(survey\)](#); [Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [pers comm 83](#); [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [material in file](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J and Quin A, 1992](#); [Quin A, 1993b \(survey\)](#); [Quin Andrew, 1995 \(survey\)](#); [Muñoz Emilio et al, 1995](#); [Smith Peter, 1998b \(survey\)](#); [Smith Peter, 1998a \(photo\)](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003 \(survey, photo\)](#); [anon., 2007e \(autumn + Christmas logbook\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#); [anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#) : [April 2014 & August 2021](#)

Video : [entrance with Crag Martins, April 2014 \(YouTube\)](#)

Underground picture(s): [autumn 2007](#) : [Easter 2019](#) : [August 2021](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:1000 amended 2007](#) : [survey Easter 2018](#) : [survey summer 2018](#) : [survey Easter 2019](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : [with Lara-Lennon and Patatal: low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file : [Easter 2019](#) (Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[X](#)

0139: shaft

El Naso 30T 451438 4796659 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 428m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 11th November 2002

An open, choked shaft with 2 large blocks in front.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2002c \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0140: shaft

El Naso 30T 451382 4796827 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 382m

Length 15m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Single choked shaft.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0141: shaft

El Naso 30T 451168 4797091 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 365m

Length 14m **Depth** 14m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th November 2003

The entrance pitch leads to two slippery chambers.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [from 1980](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0142: shaft

La Secada 30T 451168 4797471 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 277m

Length 22m **Depth** 22m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th November 2003

A short squeeze down into a draughting entrance leads to the head of a pitch. The belay is 2m down a tight rift and the pitch is 19m deep, landing on a roomy ledge. A 3m climb down enters an enlargement that chokes in both directions, the draught being lost.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#) (survey);

[Corrin J et al, 1981b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

[P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [from 1980](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0143: shaft

La Secada 30T 451670 4797573 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 198m

Length 19m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 1st October 2007; 21st May 2014;

4th December 2015

The entrance is in a fairly recent depression (in 1980), just below the road. A tight take off at the head of a 6m pitch drops to a short, well decorated cave and a choke.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#);

[anon., 2007d \(summer logbook\)](#);

[anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [pdf](#) : [interactive photo-survey](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#)

X

0144: shaft

La Secada 30T 451628 4797588 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 193m

Length 5m **Depth** 11m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 1st October 2007; 21st May 2014

The entrance has a sloping, soil-covered ledge at the head of a 9m pitch into a choked chamber. A tight hading rift on the left could be pushed. The new grid reference above (Easter 2014) now has the entrance on the downhill side of the road rather than on the hillside above the road.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#);

[anon., 2007d \(summer logbook\)](#);

[anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0145: shaft

El Naso 30T 451391 4796931 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 346m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 11th January 2008

A single choked shaft. Fence posts were dotted around the hole in January 2008. (Presumably this is the site and not the large depression some metres above.)

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#);

[anon., 2008a \(January logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0146: Garma Redonda, La Cueva de

El Naso 30T 451394 4797149 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 286m

Length 17m **Depth** 4m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 27th October, 12th November 2001; 20th September 2012

A 15 x 7m chamber with two entrances - a walk-down and a short pitch. The chamber is up to 8m high. The northern side has a climb around a pool and an unexplored section into another pool although this couldn't be identified in the dry conditions of the summer, 2012. The bouldery floor had [sections of pottery \(up to 4 pots\)](#), bone and charcoal bearing sediment.

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; card; [Smith P, 1995](#) (survey and photo); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001 (includes drawing of pottery); [anon., 2012d](#) (summer logbook)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : 1:500

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0147: cave

El Naso 30T 451348 4797181 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 287m

Length 6m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 16th May 2015

A low entrance slopes into a low, muddy passage.

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture: [yes](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0148: cave

La Secada 30T 451847 4796958 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 248m

Length 59m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 16th May 2015; 12th May 2019; 20th April 2021

[Previous grid reference was 30T 451868 4796961 (Datum: ETRS89)]

A low passage opens out into a well decorated chamber. The site was resurveyed in April 2021 and extended from 22m to 59m.

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [anon., 2019b](#) (Easter logbook)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [from 1986 \(1:500\)](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [April 2021](#)

X

0149: cave

El Naso 30T 451908 4796737 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 306m

Length 15m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th September 2008

An unusual entrance with several small openings uniting in a passage which turns left and becomes too low.

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2008e](#) (summer logbook)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0150: Canto Cocurro, Cueva del

El Naso 30T 451851 4796616 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 371m

Length 95m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 24th October 2009; 12th May 2019

The main cave lies north-west of a limestone outcrop.

Inside on the left a short climb leads down to a crawl. On the right a sloping chamber descends straight ahead to a low bedding

and, on the left to a further chamber. From here a squeeze opens out in a chamber (with a probable connection to the first crawl below the climb), leading to other chambers, well-decorated and finally blocked by calcite.

Three smaller caves are known, to the right and left, and below the main entrance: one of these is possibly [site 2975](#).

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); pers comm., (P Smith); material in file; [anon., 2009c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture: [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [2009](#) : [2018](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0151: Anío, Cueva del

La Secada 30T 451488 4797364 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 180m

Length 41m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998; 1st October 2007; 14th September, 26th November 2023

A stooping sized entrance slopes down the right and quickly chokes in smaller grovels. There appears to be no or little draught. A small extension was excavated in 2007 and the cave was thoroughly examined, pushed and surveyed to a length of 41m (from 29m) in the summer, 2023.

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [anon., 1998d \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2007d \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [anon., 2023c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024e \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [2023](#)

Video: [Investigations 2023 \(YouTube\)](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#) before 2007 : [Redrawn](#)

[with addition, 2007](#) : [summer 2023](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0152: shaft

Secadura 30T 454698 4799991 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [U](#)) **Altitude** 215m

Length 0m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Unexplored shaft. Could this be the shaft explored by Jim, etc 1987, 1988.

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); card

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0153: Tree Root Cave

La Gatuna 30T 449528 4799781 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 133m

Length 80m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 4th October 2011

A tight, flat-out slot above a choked stream sink enters a well decorated chamber with a number of short passages and holes in the floor. All choke or become too tight.

While dowsing to the south of entrance in 2011, the farmer in the nearby house was most unfriendly and insisted that visitors on his land were not welcome.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2011d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey : [Dowsing reactions close to this cave](#) : [Dowsing reactions in La Gatuna](#) (Article about the dowsing carried out in July 2011 can be found [here](#).)

Survex file :

[X](#)

0154: 77A, Cueva

Secadura 30T 455668 4799361 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 48m

Length 466m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 13 February 1998; 19th February 1999; 23rd February 2001; 14th May 2006; 20th, 24th September 2012; 30th June 2018; 12th May 2023; 27th January 2025

To the west of the main rising in Secadura, [Los Boyones](#) (site 117), the cave emits a good draught. The original entrance is just inside the grounds of the pumping and treatment station. The second and third entrances are on the wooded hillside about opposite the end of the elevated walkway at the resurgence.

A [walk-in entrance](#), partly covered in vines leads to a small chamber and choke. A short grovel through a bedding drops into several twisting canyons which lead to deep water. There are also various small crawls here which form a complex series of passages.

On the left hand side of the entrance chamber a narrow rift descends to deep water but in summer '96 a tight climb up was pushed to lead to a 350m extension which appears to be related to Los Boyones.

By following an obscure route between boulders a low passage is entered which links to a large but low break-down chamber beneath what appears to be phreatic development. An aven half way across the chamber has been climb to a choke containing tree routes and live snails whilst at the back a crawl leads to a draughting rift which needs digging. All side passages on the right apparently end in deep water but the first may be traversed on the left and a high rift gained via a short climb. Following the draughting rift up past several side passages containing (dangerous) pits of deep water a low passage is entered to one side. A low squeeze gains a bigger area and eventually this ascends a calcite ramp into a large phreatic passage.

In 2012 a hands and knees crawl with the occasional flat out section ended at 2 new entrances, the northern, *Rite Now!* (#5449) and the southern, *Rite Here!* (#5450).

This closes down to the north and east but three ways off exist to the south. The highest two are reached by climbing up but both end after about 20m in chokes, with the top passage coming extremely close to [Kids' Cave](#) (site 909).

Shortly before the calcite ramp a rubble-filled crawl reaches the base of a very big, dangerous choke. More deep water exists to the right but a small way off to the left enters a number of phreatic tubes. Several get too tight or end at pits into deep water but after a right turn at an obvious junction a very draughty area is reached. Straight ahead a bedding gets too low (but could be dug), while a small, muddy pitch down, requiring one ladder, gains a sumpy chamber. In one side there is deep water but the way on with the draught appears to come from under a large block which doesn't look very hopeful.

An investigation of the cave in 1997 found that a passage previously marked as deep water was now full of cobbles.

The cave was revisited on 6th April 2023 but it is unclear if any new passage was visited. A description in the Easter 2023 logbook outlines what was visited around the "tight climb" area (?).

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [anon., 1977b](#) (logbook); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1996a](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 1996b](#) (logbook); [Corrin Juan, 1997a](#) (survey and photo); [Corrin Juan, 1997b](#) (survey); [anon., 1997b](#) (logbook); [anon., 2012d](#) (summer logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2013a](#); [anon., 2023b](#) (Easter logbook)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [Upper chamber 1](#) [2](#)

[Entrance passage](#) [2006 visit](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#) (1997) : [updated 2012](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0155: Lara-Lennon, Cueva de

El Naso 30T 451358 4796093 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 235m

Length 70m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998; 9th November

2003; 23rd February 2005; 1st October

2007

The entrance is at the base of a small limestone scar, well below [Cueva Coberruyo](#) (138). A slope leads down into a well decorated chamber with short lengths of passage to left and right. To the right, a body-sized squeeze enters a small chamber

full of flowstone and columns. There are charcoal deposits on the floor.

In 2007, the entrance was obscured by gorse bushes. Just downhill from the entrance is a small chamber.

References: [Smith P, 1981b](#) (survey); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1998d](#) (logbook); [anon., 2005a](#) (February logbook); [anon., 2007](#) (summer logbook)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1981: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : with Coberruyo, etc: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Survex file :

X

0156: No Importante, Cueva

Fuente las Varas 30T 452698 4798991 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [U](#)) **Altitude** 375m

Length 37m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A wet resurgence cave which becomes too low.

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0157: shaft

Muela 30T 454098 4796031 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 648m

Depth 4m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An unexplored shaft under a boulder of about 4m depth. Marked PD1.

References: [anon., 1980a](#) (logbook); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1996b](#) (logbook)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0158: shaft

Muela 30T 454098 4796061 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 653m

Depth 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An unexplored shaft of about 10m depth. Marked PD3. This may be [site 1199](#) but it is marked in the wrong place.

References: [anon., 1980a](#) (logbook); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1996b](#) (logbook)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0159: shafts - 3

Muela 30T 454378 4796171 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 725m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 4th May 2022

Three parallel shafts which all choke. Marked PD4. Sprayed 159 and also marked with an "M" number by another caving group.

References: [anon., 1980a](#) (logbook); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1990b](#) (logbook); [anon., 2022b](#) (Easter logbook)

Entrance picture : [April 2022](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0160: cave

Muela 30T 454018 4796301 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 640m

Length 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A rock shelter up and around the corner from the cliff containing [Cueva Statua](#) (site 487). Originally marked PD5.

References: [anon., 1980a](#) (logbook); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); pers comm.; [anon., 1996b](#) (logbook)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0161: dig

San Miguel 30T 458138 4798011 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 188m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Possible cave dig.

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0162: shaft

San Miguel 30T 458368 4797901 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 152m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

An unexplored shaft.

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0163: Tejas, Cueva de las (Cueva, Cueva de la)

Fresnedo 30T 453758 4800891 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 270m

Length 50m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 9th November 2003; 6th May 2007

A walking-sized resurgence cave that ends

at a water-logged rift. Several water pipes

emerge from the entrance.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al,](#)

[1981b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#);

[anon., 1990b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1980a \(survey\)](#);

[anon., 2007b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [from 1980](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0164: dig

Muela 30T 454218 4796541 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 718m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 24th October 2009

Draughting hole that could be dug. Marked

PD8.

No draught was felt on a visit in 2009.

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon.,](#)

[2009c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0165: shaft

Muela 30T 454398 4795921 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 724m

Depth 12m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Unexplored shaft of about 12m depth.

Marked PD9

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0166: cave

Llueva 30T 454158 4798381 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 267m

Length 5m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 2nd May 2004

A room-sized chamber. A hole down to the right at the entrance has a slot down (about 4ft) with a slight draught. A flake preventing access also appears to be holding up the roof.

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2004b \(Easter logbook\)](#);

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0167: shaft

S Vega 30T 451728 4795135 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 247m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th September 2022

A partly fenced shaft which chokes 6m down in a rift.

Reference: [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0168: shaft

La Colina 30T 454120 4796955 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 575m

Length 12m **Depth** 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th September 2000

A single choked shaft sprayed 168 and also marked with a green "M4 SEAD" in green paint.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1990b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0169: cave

Muela 30T 454231 4796868 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 627m

Length 73m **Depth** 22m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th November 2003; 24th April 2005

A bedding plane slot leads to a large sloping chamber that veers down to the right. Marked 169 on orange tape.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#);

material in file; [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#);

[Corrin Juan, 2001](#); [y anon., 2005b \(Easter & summer\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [distant](#) [close-up](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [from 1980](#) and 2000 at [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination

December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and

coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0170: cave

Muela 30T 454345 4796443 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 773m

Length 47m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 20th September 2012; 3rd March 2020

[Alternative GPS is 30T 454347 4796463]

A small crawl to a draughting stal blockage in a chamber. Draughts and could be dug

but is probably not worth it. Marked 170.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2012d \(summer logbook\)](#);

[Corrin Juan, 2013a](#); [anon., 2020a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [yes](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89

datum, April 2014.)

X

0171: shaft

Muela 30T 454356 4796383 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 778m

Length 20m **Depth** 35m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 21st September 2012

A 20m pitch with a ledge halfway down

lands on a slope to a final 10m pitch.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); card; [anon., 2012d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0172: cave

Muela 30T 454508 4796381 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 775m

Length 50m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Entrance in NE corner of large depression,

surrounded by tall karst. A 1.5m high

phreatic half tube trends north to a choke.

Marked 172.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0173: shafts - 2

Mullir 30T 455598 4796071 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 553m

Length 20m **Depth** 10 & 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Near to the base of a large depression. The

main hole is about 10m deep, the narrower

side shaft about 20m deep.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0174: shaft

Mullir 30T 455558 4796141 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 588m

Depth 50m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Undescended shaft of about 50m depth.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0175: shaft

Mullir 30T 455568 4796141 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 586m

Depth 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Undescended shaft of about 20m depth.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0176: caves - 2

San Miguel 30T 458698 4796991 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [U](#)) **Altitude** 55m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Twin resurgences. The southerly one has a

draughting choke above flowing water. The

northerly resurgence has a short length of

non-draughting passage.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0177: Cuevuca, La

S Vega 30T 451486 4795311 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 244m

Length 441m **Depth** 84m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 16th September 2000; 27th October 2001; 5th May 2002; 9th November 2003; 9th October 2004; 1st October 2007; 21st December 2008; 1st February 2011; 26th September 2015; 11th September 2019; 8th September 2022; 12th May 2023; 29th April 2024

The relative positions of the 3 sites to the southeast can be seen [here](#).

A [small entrance](#) lies about 15m to the northwest of an [obvious goat shelter \(site 2682\)](#) at the head of a small wooded valley, above [Cueva del Haya \(0178\)](#). The hole drops onto a slope down into a chamber. Some mixed [pottery](#) pieces have been found on the left of the slope which are classed as Bronze Age, Romano-indigenous and medieval. These pieces are discussed in *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001* and mentioned in *Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p209*. On the right, parallel passages soon choke. In 2007, beyond the pools down to the right, a ramp "leading up above the low bit" was noted. Has this been explored?

A second entrance ([5208](#)) lies just to the northwest of the goat pen, in the cliff.

Some re-exploration in the summer 2022 ended after encountering "masses of slippery mud with only one rope and ladder".

Description (updated summer 2015, Peter Smith)

At the end of the entrance chamber a squeeze enters a well decorated room with a nice gour floor. A climb of 4m up flowstone leads to a large chamber with a loose slope to the head of a shaft. By scrambling around the top, a large passage is reached. To the north east, a well decorated tunnel passes a blind 10m pitch and ends after 120m very close to the surface. To the southwest, a decorated passage becomes smaller until a squeeze onto the head of a greasy, sloping 50m pitch that connects with the shaft in the chamber. This is broken by ledges and ends on boulders which slope down to a dismal sump at valley level.

According to an email from Carlos Lamoile (Easter 2024 logbook), a crawl goes off to another (undescended) drop at the base of the final pitch. It may be that the sump had dried up or the original explorers missed a small hole.

Bat information

Date: 5/4/2023

Evidence of occupation (only): droppings

Bat remains (number): -

Species identified name (number): lesser horseshoe bat (>20)

Other notes: -

[Photos from visit](#) : [video](#)

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Smith P, 1981b](#) (survey and photo); [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a](#); [Corrin J, 1981](#); [Smith P, 1982b](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [Ortiz N, 1982](#) (survey); material in file; [anon., 1998c \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#) (includes drawing of pottery); [anon., 2007d \(summer logbook\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2019d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [1999?](#) : [2015](#) : [2019](#) : [2022](#) : [Easter 2023](#) : [head of p50 \(2024\)](#)

Video: [Easter 2010](#) : [wmv \(7Mb\)](#) or [mpg \(58Mb\)](#) : [bat droppings, April 2023](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1981: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) : [download South Vega System](#) (Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0178: Haya, Cueva del

S Vega 30T 451588 4795321 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 220m

Length 40m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 14th May 2000; 21st January 2001

Entrance is by a small sink in a marshy field next to a barn. The streamway eventually becomes too low and the water is next seen in [site 477](#).

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Corrin Juan, 2011](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0179: cave

S Vega 30T 451709 4794990 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 315m

Length 48m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated July 26th 2000; 27th October 2001; 21st December 2008; 16th May 2009; 29th November 2016; 27th January 2019

The largest entrance on this hillside. The first passage slopes down to a chamber, where straight ahead boulders have run in from above. On the right there is a slope into a low crawl. The main passage is on the left and contains some high avens. A look in on New Years Day 2019 concluded that it "seems to have little prospect".

In 2000, some prehistoric pottery pieces, wall and rim sherds of a large urn, were found on the boulders on the right. Charcoal was stuck to the inner face. *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001* puts these in context and [Smith P, Corrin J and Ruiz Cobo J, 2008](#) compares this pottery with the assemblage in [site 2139](#). *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009* compares this "Orza" type pottery to others in the Asón region.

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); pers comm., (P Smith); material in file; [anon., 2000c](#) ([Summer logbook](#)); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#) (survey); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#) (survey); [Smith P, Corrin J and Ruiz Cobo J, 2008](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#) (survey); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 2016b](#); [anon., anon., 2018e](#) ([Christmas logbook](#))

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [passage pottery 1](#) [2](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0180: shaft

Muela 30T 454348 4795911 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 717m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A single choked shaft, marked PD11.

References: [anon., 1980a](#) ([logbook](#)); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0181: shafts - 2

Muela 30T 454628 4795811 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 731m

Length 15m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A pair of shafts which both choke.

References: [anon., 1980a](#) ([logbook](#)); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1990b](#) ([logbook](#))

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0182: shaft

Muela 30T 454598 4795821 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 735m

Length 17m **Depth** 17m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 4th June 2002

A straight choked shaft. Twin shafts, marked with an "M" number and also sprayed 182. The Sociedad Espeleológica Alto Duero have explored the site, naming it Sima M-34.

References: [anon., 1980a](#) ([logbook](#)); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1990b](#) ([logbook](#)); file; [SEAD](#)

[website](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0183: shaft & collapse

Muela 30T 454298 4795691 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [U](#)) **Altitude** 530m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th May 2006

Unexplored shaft and collapse. Marked PD17.

After an extensive wander across the hillside in this area, [site 2427](#) may be this site.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0184: cave

El Naso 30T 451785 4796469 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 425m

Length 15m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 25th February 2001

A 1m diameter entrance with a climb down into an old chamber. Down to the right has some stal formations. To the left, there is a choked 2m climb down on collapsed sediment.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2000 \(logbook\)\(survey\)](#)

Entrance picture : [1](#) [2](#)

Underground picture(s): [formations](#) [sediment](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0185: shaft

Muela 30T 453578 4796191 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 402m

Depth 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Unexplored shaft of about 10m depth.

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0186: shaft

La Colina 30T 453418 4796521 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 553m

Depth 40m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Stones rumble down for 6 secs although the entry is too small.

Reference: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0187: shaft

La Colina 30T 453498 4796841 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 497m

Length 5m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

(Site 187 was originally catalogued as all three holes in this area of sandy limestone. The other two are now sites [1114](#) and [1115](#)).

The most north easterly hole in sandy limestone. A 5m climb down past a small tree to a choke.

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1996a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0188: shaft

El Naso 30T 451245 4797014 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 360m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th April 2008; 16th February

2022

A single choked shaft.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#);

[anon., 2022a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [January 2022](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0189: shaft (2444 (French: SCD)) (Torca P.34)

Alisas 30T 447580 4793555 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 683m

Length 65m **Depth** 38m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th November 2003; 15th

September 2013; 29th November 2016;

21st September 2018; 3rd April 2021; 14th

November 2022

The site is currently out of the *Matienzo Caves Project* permit area.

A small entrance at the head of a narrow rift. The ladder can be threaded through to other sections of the rift but all ways close down. Originally marked PD19, the site draughts inwards at the bottom.

Re-explored by French cavers in 2018, the following description has been *Google*

Tranlate'd from the French:

A discrete entrance leads to a 35 m pitch established over a long fissure of 8 to 12 m for a width varying between 0.7 m and 1.2 m. Blocks, earthy fill and "concreted castings" dot the vertical.

At the bottom, the two ends (-38 and -36) leave no hope of continuation and the current of sucking air (summer), sometimes felt to the entrance, is not found.

The chasm opens into the limestone formations of Linares. It is connected either to the Campas fuente (no. 2400, [MCP 4811](#)), 600 m to the west, or to the [Comellante fuente](#) system in the Matienzo depression in the northeast.

A reconstructed Survex line (April 2021) gave a more realistic length of 65m (from 34m).

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\)](#);

[anon., 2016d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Simonnot G, 2018](#);

[anon., 2018d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Simonnot G, 2022](#)

Entrance picture : [autumn 2016](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [from 1980](#) : [from 2018](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [Reconstructed April 2021](#)

[\(Reconstruction notes\)](#)

X

0190: Palo, Torca del (2443 (French: SCD))

Alisas 30T 447590 4793565 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 680m

Length 14m **Depth** 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th November 2003; 15th

September 2013; 29th November 2016;

21st September 2018; 5th, 18th June 2020;

14th November 2022

This site is currently out of the *Matienzo Caves Project* permit area.

A short pitch or climb into a chamber with a hole between the boulders on the right. A 6m ladder descent leads to very tight rift that draught inwards. Originally marked 1.

French cavers have opened up a drop of 1.5m to a narrow meander to enlarge. Some work was carried out to enlarge the route at the end of May 2020 and the originally nameless site was named Torca del Palo.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\)](#);

[anon., 2016d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Simonnot G, 2018](#);

[anon., 2018d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2020c](#)

[\(Spring, summer logbook\)](#); [Simonnot G, 2022](#)

Entrance pictures : [autumn 2016](#)

Underground picture(s): [May 2020](#)

Detailed Survey : [from 1981](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0191: Llave, Torca de la (2442 (French: SCD))

Alisas 30T 447598 4793578 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 678m

Length 21m **Depth** 21m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th September 2013; 29th

November 2016; 21st September 2018;

18th June 2020; 14th November 2022

The site is currently out of the *Matienzo Caves Project* permit area.

A choked shaft which was originally marked 2. Called Torca de la Llave when a spanner was lost.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J, 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Simonnot G, 2018](#); [anon., 2020c \(Spring, summer logbook\)](#); [Simonnot G, 2022](#)

Entrance picture : [autumn 2016](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [2020 jpg](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0192: shaft (2441 (French: SCD))

Alisas 30T 447596 4793590 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 674m

Length 15m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th September 2013; 29th

November 2016; 21st September 2018;

14th November 2022

The site is currently out of the *Matienzo Caves Project* permit area.

Choked shaft marked 3.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J, 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Simonnot G, 2018](#);

[Simonnot G, 2022](#)

Entrance picture : [autumn 2016](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0193: shaft (2440 (French: SCD))

Alisas 30T 447535 4793683 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 653m

Length 14m **Depth** 14m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th September 2013; 29th

November 2016; 21st September 2018; 5th,

18th June 2020; 14th November 2022

The site is currently out of the *Matienzo Caves Project* permit area.

The shaft was first descended in May 2020, when it was reported to be 14m deep with a small hole, possibly draughting, at the base.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J, 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Simonnot G, 2018](#); [anon., 2020c \(Spring, summer logbook\)](#); [Simonnot G, 2022](#)

Entrance picture : [autumn 2016](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [2020 jpg](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0194: Horses Head Cave (2404 (French: SCD))

Alisas 30T 447488 4793581 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 640m

Length 30m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 21st September 2018; 14th

November 2022

A rift at the side of the road. A climb down is followed immediately by a 6m pitch and a traverse over a large block. The passage then doglegs to the right and becomes very tight in a descending, draughting rift. It's been found to draught on a warm day.

References: [anon., 1978\(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2001c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [Simonnot G, 2018](#); [Simonnot G, 2022](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0195: dig

La Secada 30T 452028 4798101 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 293m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Draughting hole which needs a lot of digging.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0196: shaft

La Secada 30T 452338 4798021 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 273m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A two metre climb onto boulders and then a tight take- off at the head of a small, choked shaft.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0197: shaft

Coterón las Llanas 30T 451748 4798631 (Datum:

ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 480m

Length 45m **Depth** 45m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th November 2003

A 20m pitch lands on a boulder slope down to the head of the second pitch. This is 8m deep and chokes.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [from 1980](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0198: digs

Muela 30T 454998 4796591 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [U](#)) **Altitude** 595m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A series of draughting holes which could be dug.

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0199: shaft

Coterón las Llanas 30T 451658 4798781 (Datum:

ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 436m

Length 27m **Depth** 27m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An initially tight, 25m choked shaft. A parallel shaft appears to be slightly deeper but is too tight to descend.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0200: Superfosfato, Cueva

La Secada 30T 452058 4797981 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 253m
Length 7m **Depth** 3m
[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 3rd June 2000; 21st January 2001; 5th September, 14th November 2021; 4th May, 9th September 2022

A good, draughting underground dig in a wet weather stream sink. The site was enlarged in 1999 and the best way on may be down in the floor. Further work was carried out in the summer 2021 and on one session each in April and August 2022.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1999c \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2000](#); [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#) [1999 team 1](#) [2](#)

Underground picture(s): [walk-in](#) [looking out](#)

[digging](#) [2m bar hammering](#) : [Floor April 2022](#)

Video: [draught, summer 2021](#) : [water entering dig, April 2022](#)

Detailed Survey : [summer 2021](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [summer 2021](#)

[X](#)

0201: cave

Muela

Length 20m

[Logbook search](#)

Short crawl into a well decorated chamber.

References [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0202: shaft

El Naso 30T 451766 4796485 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 427m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 11th November 2000

A depression containing large boulders. A narrow take-off to a 10m pitch which enters a chamber.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2000f \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0203: shaft

Muela

Length 18m **Depth** 18m

[Logbook search](#)

A straight pitch into a well decorated chamber.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981 \(survey\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0204: shaft

El Naso 30T 451716 4796485 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 432m

Length 17m **Depth** 17m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 11th November 2000

A steep slope in a shakehole with a fluted rock wall leads to the head of a rift in dark, shiny limestone. A pitch of 7m lands on a ledge - the drop continues another 8m to the bottom where a narrow rift quickly becomes too tight.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [card](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000f \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0205: shaft

Secadura 30T 453975 4799319 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 398m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th April 2008

A 15m pitch leads to a further 5m drop. A stemple is required for the undescended continuation in a tight rift. There are other shafts in the area.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0206: shaft

Secadura 30T 454074 4799308 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 403m

Length 30m **Depth** 30m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th April 2008

Single choked shaft.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0207: Cuvía, Cueva de la Fuente de la

Riaño 30T 451386 4799619 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 190m

Length 796m **Vertical range:** -2m +16m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 18th April 1999; 14th May 2000; 22nd February 2001; 9th November 2003; 15th April 2008; 4th May 2009; 6th January 2011; 30th June 2018; 12th September 2019; 25th April, 5th June 2020; 9th September, 14th November 2021; 8th September 2022; 7th January 2023; 26th November 2024

The [draughting entrance](#) ** is above the [resurgence \(site 5320\)](#) and is a tight downwards squeeze into a low streamway. ** Anemometer readings, 3rd November 2024, show an outside temperature of 16.9C and air flow velocity of 1.35m/s ([pic](#))

Crawling upstream soon gives way to walking in a small vadose stream passage and, by keeping to the right, a chamber is reached some 80m from the entrance.

Just back from here on the left, is the passage which carries the draught. This has been followed in a lowering streamway for about 200m until a calcite blockage stops progress. This was excavated in the summer 2019 and the mouth of a small passage blowing a strong, very cold draught was snapped. Work continues in this constricted and damp place.

In the summer 2021, further excavations took place with a camera-on-a-stick providing information about what lay ahead. An "armadillo casing" was also used to protect tackle sacs while being pulled along the approach to the dig. This consists of a cut-down digging barrel with thick bungee cords. (Photos of the two constructions below.) The upstream route was also resurveyed and can be seen on the 3d Survex file below, replacing the dotted line and providing a new length of 796m - an increase of 12m.

Two routes are possible out of the main chamber. The right hand passage is walking and then a low crawl into a chamber; the left hand passage is lower, wider and contains some fine gour pools. This passage emerges in the roof of the chamber and it is possible to climb down. A couple of routes from here eventually combine in a cracked mud floor chamber which leads to 250m of walking and stooping in a well decorated passage. This ends at a low, wide bedding which, at Easter 2000, was poked out to the surface near a field of ostriches. A large flake prevents an exit. The GPS for the Ostrich Farm "entrance" is ETRS89: 30T 451173 4799728 Altitude 192m, site number [2978](#).

About 80m back from the end is a well decorated alcove containing a large number of goat skeletons beneath a blocked-off surface shaft.

The centre line data from 1980 was finally fully entered as an svx file in 2019 and the entrance position GPS'd and adjusted to give the grid reference above.

(Dye dropped into the sink below Fuente de la Cuvia at Easter 2009 was seen in the stream crossing Quadraphenia in Cueva Hoyuca 30 hours later.)

References: [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1980 \(photo\)](#); [Mills L D J, 1981](#); [Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 \(photo\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [anon., 1999a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2020b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2020c \(Spring, summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022e \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024e \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#) : [resurgence](#) : [2019](#)

Underground picture(s): [Photos by Frank Addis, 1980](#) : [photos by Juan Corrin](#) : [photos by Peter Eagan](#) : [photos by Simon Cornhill & Diane Arthurs 2019](#) : [photos by Neil Rumney 2019](#) : [photos by Carlos Lamoile 2020](#) : [Camera-on-a-stick and armadillo casing, summer 2021](#)

Video: [Digging at the constricted, draughting upstream end, 2019 \(YouTube\)](#) : [What lies ahead, summer 2021](#)

Detailed Survey : [from 1980: low res](#) [high res](#) : [combined 1980, 2021 survey](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [1980 complete](#) (Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.) : [summer 2021](#)

(replacement upstream section)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/8/2018](#)

incomplete data

X

0208: shaft

Muela 30T 455318 4795491 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 698m

Length 55m **Depth** 55m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A single choked shaft marked 208.

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0209: shaft

Muela 30T 455307 4795459 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 698m

Length 55m **Depth** 55m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th April 2008; 5th October 2010

An impressive rock-walled depression with the shaft top at the southern end. It may be worthwhile re-exploring and surveying this site. A calcite wall at the base of a choked shaft prevents further progress. It may be possible to bolt. Marked 209.

The original description above was re-investigated in the summer 2010. A steep climb down a grassy bank leads to a brambly and rocky floor with a shaft in the far corner descended for 38m. The floor is choked with no way on. (Presumably 55m depth ties into the lip of the depression). A ledge can be followed about 15m from the top of the shaft to the far side where a crawl under boulders leads to a further aven with a muddy floor and a large flowstone column. No way on found.

Of note, there was no obvious passage found to bolt into.

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2009](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [pdf file](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination

December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0210: shaft

Muela 30T 455278 4795481 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 703m

Length 43m **Depth** 43m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 20m pitch drops onto a large ledge. Two passages off this choke, as does the second pitch of 20m. Marked 210.

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0211: cave

Muela 30T 455318 4795501 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 700m

Length 8m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th April 2008

A small cave entrance leads to a meandering trench, an 8m pitch and a small chamber. Marked 211.

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0212: Sima M-49

Mullir 30T 455313 4795576 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 704m

Length 198m **Depth** 184m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 4th June 2002; 15th April 2008; 5th October 2010; 18th January 2011

This site is marked by a tree on the western side of the line of depressions. This is the deepest straight drop in the area, deeper than [Sima del Cueto \(041\)](#). Marked 212 and, on a rock face at the top of the pitch, M-49 in large green letters.

The green marks were painted by the Sociedad Espeleológica Alto Duero who explored the site later than the 1980 descent, naming it Sima M-49. A 7m climb up at the base leads to a choked p26m. Confusion with positions resulted in site 1785 being created. There is only one 164m pitch - here at site 212.

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [García José León, 1997](#); [SEAD website](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(survey\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#) and on the [SEAD website](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : On the [SEAD website](#) : elevation from León García José, 2010 ([Volume 1](#) and [Volume 2](#)). (Cantabria Subterránea. Catálogo Grandes Cavidades.)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0213: shafts - 2

Mullir 30T 455388 4795631 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 683m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Two holes, the upper of which is a straight 7m pitch to a choked, abandoned streamway. The lower hole is a climb down of 10m to a visible continuation. Can be pushed?

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0214: shaft

Mullir 30T 455368 4795671 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 685m

Length 20m **Depth** 32m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 25m pitch lands on a boulder slope with a short climb down to an abandoned streamway. Twelve metres further on the passage chokes at a 15m high calcite wall.

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :



0215: shaft

Mullir 30T 455363 4795653 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 680m

Length 43m **Depth** 43m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th October 2010

A straight pitch into a large chamber. Two climbs lead to parallel shafts but all choke. Marked 215.

In 2010, when the shaft was GPS'd, the site was described as a large shaft connecting to a small shaft to the east. Bottom approximately 20m down but may head off. The site is marked "M52" in green paint. There is a longer rock fall in the smaller shaft.

The original grid reference was VN55479586 (ETRS89: 30T 455368 4795651)

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :



0216: shaft

Mullir 30T 455358 4795681 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 673m

Length 46m **Depth** 46m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A straight shaft ends at a calcite choke.

Marked 216.

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :



0217: shaft (M51 (SEAD))

Mullir 30T 455426 4795615 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 698m

Length 15m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 28th February 2008; 6th October 2010

From a tree belay, a straight 15m pitch drops into a chamber. A short passage leads to a calcited aven. Originally marked 217 and now M51 with green paint.

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2008b \(February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :



0218: shaft

Mullir 30T 455398 4795651 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 683m

Length 9m **Depth** 9m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A choked shaft.

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :



0219: rift

Mullir 30T 455091 4795635 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 758m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th May 2001; 5th October 2011

Blind rift.

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2001a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2011d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0220: rift

Mullir 30T 455109 4795646 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 756m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th May 2001; 5th October 2011

Blind rift.

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2001a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2011d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0221: cave

Mullir 30T 455128 4795641 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 757m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th May 2001

A blind rift.

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2001a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0222: Higuera, Torca de la

Fresnedo 30T 453048 4801171 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 146m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 5m pitch used to land on boulders which slope down in a wide rift to a choke. In 1991 the pot was a climb down onto rubbish. A very tight hole at the base sometimes emits a strong draught.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b \(?\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1990b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1991 \(logbook\)](#) (survey)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0223: shaft

Mullir 30T 455100 4795555 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 750m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th October 2011

Until the summer 2011 this was at VN55219579 (ETRS89: 30T 455108 4795581) and described as a "small undescended shaft, marked 223". When explored it was found to be a short scramble down into a blind rift.

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2011d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0224: shaft

El Naso 30T 451679 4796490 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 435m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 11th November 2000

A stoop through a 3 x 1m entrance leads to a 5m drop to a choke.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [card](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000f \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

MATIENZO UNDERGROUND site descriptions (printed 28/02/2025)

Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0225: shafts - 3

Mullir 30T 456598 4794741 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: M) **Altitude** 340m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A large depression with many shakeholes, three of which have undescended shafts.

On an extensive search of the depression in 1989 no holes were seen.

According to *Actividades Regionales. Exploraciones en Cantabria* ([anon., 1993a](#)) there are two shafts to the east and south of this depression (numbered 962 and 963).

References: [anon., 1981a](#) (logbook); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1989](#) (logbook); [anon., 1993a](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0226: shaft

Mullir 30T 455119 4795537 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 749m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th October 2011

Initially described as a "small undescended shaft. Marked 226.", this site is now described as a scramble into a largish depression with a big ash tree. A 1m drop enters a rift on one side. The previous position was VN55209575.

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2011d](#) (summer logbook)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0227: shaft

Ogarrio 30T 455968 4793901 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: M) **Altitude** 319m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A line of depressions, one of which is surrounded by thorn bushes and barbed wire. Undescended.

References: [anon., 1981a](#) (logbook); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0228: shaft

Mullir 30T 455136 4795517 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 747m
Length 8m **Depth** 6m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th October 2011; 24th September 2024

Initially described as a "Small undescended shaft. Marked 228." The position was given as VN55209572 (ETRS89: 30T 455098 479363).

A 1.5m diameter hole with an ash tree with an estimated 5m depth. The site was eventually descended in August 2024.

A free 3m climb down using Ash tree to a vantage point. Left goes 2m into blocked alcove. Ahead and down goes a further 3m to a blockage. No draught.

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2011d](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2024d](#) (summer logbook)

Entrance pictures : [2011](#) and [2024](#)
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0229: shaft

La Secada 30T 453278 4798461 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: M) **Altitude** 300m
Length 20m **Depth** 20m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 12th September 2019; 10th September 2021; 8th January, 4th May 2022; 6th January, 29th April 2024

A small hole by a flat area gives entry to a roomy 20m shaft. Landing is on boulders with a slight draught. These have been dug as its position is directly over *Rocky Horror* in [Cueva Hoyuca \(107\)](#).

The site could not be found in August 2019 nor in July and December 2021, April 2022 or December 2023 and January 2024, possibly due to heavy vegetation.

This shaft may have first been found in 1979 while molephoning - see [1979 summer logbook](#) p35 then p29 and p30. The 1981 BCRA Transactions does not mention "229" but the [1981 logbook, p6](#) has the "relocation" (and also [249](#) and [250](#) - numbers which apparently duplicated #0177 and #0178 when used in the 1981 publication).

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021f \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023e \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0230: shaft

Mullir 30T 455411 4795640 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 687m

Length 27m **Depth** 27m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 16th April 2008; 6th October 2010

A 13m shaft with a similar drop in the lower corner of the boulder floor. The shaft was probably relocated in March 2008. There is a rusty stud in the entrance. (The old grid reference is VN55549588 Alt. 687m - ETRS89: 30T 455438 4795671). The old 230 mark seems to have disappeared. In 2010 the site was described as "a small hole on the eastern side of the valley. Drops approximately 20m followed by second drop." Alternate GPS is ETRS89: 30T 455409 4795642.

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0231: cave

Mullir 30T 455388 4795761 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 656m

Length 4m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A small choked resurgence. Marked 231.

References : [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0232: shaft

Mullir 30T 455358 4795801 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 660m

Length 46m **Depth** 46m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Choked shaft. Marked 232.

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0233: shafts

Mullir 30T 455328 4795831 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 675m

Depth 50m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A series of large shafts to grassy floors along the floor of a small valley. This shaft has a 3m round entrance just to the side of the second open shaft down the valley. All other nearby holes have been climbed down and "nothing found".

References: [pers comm., 1980](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1991 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0234: Sierra Salces, Cueva de

Secadura 30T 455753 4800493 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 190m

Length 30m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 7th October 2010

The entrance stoop leads to a short, sandy-floored passage which then rises on slippery calcite to a choke.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b \(?\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0235: cave

Secadura 30T 455598 4800391 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [U](#)) **Altitude** 200m

Length 20m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th November 2003

A short downhill walk and then crawling to the head of a 10m pitch which descends through boulders to a minute streamway.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [from 1980](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0236: Mortiro, Cueva del

Secadura 30T 454849 4800726 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 368m

Length 59m **Height** 9m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th September 2018

The entrance, with an overhanging rock ceiling, is in an impressive depression. A climb up a wall enters an ascending streamway with walking and stooping for about 50m to a draughting, easily dug boulder choke. The stream is used as a water supply.

The above description was mainly written when the cave was first explored by MCP cavers in 1980. Unfortunately, the site was positioned wrongly (about a kilometre to the east) and so, when a cave in an impressive depression was found in August 2018, it was thought to be new. The mistake was realized a few weeks later, after the cave had been resurveyed and photos taken. The cave has a sandstone roof, shale walls and a limestone floor.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [anon., 2018c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [August 2018](#)

Underground pictures: [August 2018](#)

Video : [entrance, August 2018 \(YouTube\)](#)

Detailed Survey : [1989](#) : [2018](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [2018](#)

X

0237: Bodegon, El

Secadura 30T 456118 4799301 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 53m

Length 347m **Depth** 15m **Vertical range** 23m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998; 9th November 2003

A draughting entrance at the track enters a steep, descending tube to deep water with a bouldery mess above.

In the trees above, squeezes through a short 3D network of phreas leads to a 3m wide tunnel and a short climb up to an excavated section into a calcited chamber. The passage continues to several branches and climbs on a hading fault rift. The tighter, low level route leads to a small chamber and the end.

Above the entrance passage is a series of serious free climbs in large calcited avens which remain unexplored despite the draught.

An aven was bolted in 1997 on mud and stal for about 20m to where it closed down in a rift.

In 1998, 51m were surveyed near the end, linking 2 passages, and the *Orujo Series* was entered. This starts halfway down the cave and passes beneath the entrance to end in a boulder choke near the path.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); material in file; [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J and Knights S, 1988](#); [anon., 1997a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1997b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1998d \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1999](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

1980	known cave
1987	known cave 1:1000

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0238: shaft

Secadura 30T 455598 4800291 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [U](#)) **Altitude** 185m

Length 5m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Choked shaft.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0239: Peter Plummet

San Miguel 30T 457878 4796291 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 54m

Length 119m **Depth** 83m+

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 16th October 2003; 1st February, 15th May 2006

A short cave ends at a boulder slope into deep water. The sump has been dived to a rift with a sideways swim down into a half moon passage descending at 30 degrees. At a depth of 35m a lip is met and the passage plummets.

During Whit 95, Rupert Skorupka descended 25m down the shaft, in clear visibility to about sea level. The shaft was continuing down at another 20m with no sign of the bottom.

In October 1995, an attempt using helium in larger bottles was thwarted at the constriction.

At Whit 1996, Rupert returned and descended to - 74m, about 20m below sea level, stopping just below a large, precariously balanced flake. The shaft could be seen to continue down, narrow and very spiky with no bottom in sight. Reference DH has the full account of this dive. A CDG Newsletter has the technical details.

In June 2003, further work was carried out by Rupert. A definite floor was reached at - 81m on a slope of silty boulders. Continuing downwards led into a gallery of modest proportions with a snaggy boulder floor. About 20m of line was laid to -83m due to difficulties of manoeuvring with side mounted 20l cylinders in poor visability. The cave is definitely continuing downwards.

A video shows that the Grupo de Exploraciones Subterranas de Estepona have been working here (in *sifones próximos* to a depth of -15m) and at [Nacimiento del Río Clarín \(115\)](#).

[Link to entry in the Cave Diving Sump Index.](#)

References: [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [card/material in file](#); [anon., 1995b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995a \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1996 \(survey\)](#); [Skorupka R, 1996b \(survey and photo\)](#); [Skorupka R, 1996a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997b](#); [pers comm \(Skorupka R\), 2003](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#); [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0240: Peter Crawl

San Miguel 30T 457888 4796321 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 54m

Length 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A short cave ends at a sumped bedding plane. Associated with [Nacimiento del Río Clarín \(115\)](#).

[Link to entry in the Cave Diving Sump Index.](#)

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0241: cave

San Miguel 30T 457778 4796501 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 60m

Length 3m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Small chamber.

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0242: Tablons, Cueva de los

S Vega 30T 452516 4794982 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 302m

Length 138m **Depth** 44m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 12th June, 9th October, 28th November 2005; 7th January, 15th May, 11th June , 1st October 2006; 6th May, 1st, 21st October 2007; 16th April 2008; 24th October 2009; 8th March, 24th June, 13th July 2010; 18th September 2023; 29th April 2024

An excavated hading fault which has a strong draught. The site was reopened in 2005 and digging has progressed through mud into clean rocks. The site was surveyed to about 12m deep but goes down another 3m in a hole in the final chamber floor: this breakthrough into a low chamber with stal was made at Whit 2006. An excavated crawl at the far end does not look promising. A hole down between boulders require some stabilising. (A large block fell across the top of the hole during Easter 2007). A pulley from the roof was set up in the summer of 2007 to allow easier lifting. At Easter 2008 digging continued with the suggestion that the draught was not appearing at the base of the dig.

At the end of July, 2009, a large boulder was capped at the base of the dig allowing access down a short ladder to a bouldery section along and down the fault. Some reasonably stable passage was entered but most of the routes are between boulders in the extensions 70m length. At the lowest point a shaft (excavated in January 2010) was opened up by taking off projections. The route is again on the fault, sloping down at some 45 deg to a boulder dig. After moving some boulders a squeeze was passed into a large sloping passage on the fault. After some 20m it hits a wall with some straws and a possible passage off to the right (west) but this closes down. There is an excellent draught into this extension for the day (8 to 10 deg) but it was not good enough to identify where it goes, possibly down under the 'wall' to the continuation of the fault as in the first 'chamber' at the bottom of the entrance rift. The extension was surveyed at Easter 2010

but the draught was still not strong enough to suggest a primary digging place. The draught seemed to split in the final chamber and several draughting digs were started - 2 pits in the chamber and to the left and right along the bottom wall. The dig on the right was pushed 2m to where a slight drop and enlargement can be seen. It now needs a digging tray.

In the summer 2023 (4/8/2023), the base of the site was extended after some inspection of the pits higher up in the cave. Loose rock was removed from the draughting low point and a squeeze entered a low gallery heading east. The ceiling angle is 50 - 60° and is "mother rock". The floor has many loose blocks. After 10m there are calcite formations and 2 possible digs with visible continuations going down along the ceiling. Rocks need to be removed. The first dig is in the middle and the second at the end. The cave was found dry after heavy rain. This extension requires surveying and the length above has not been increased. A sketch addition is in the logbook and [here](#). This area and other possible leads were re-inspected in late March 2024 and the conclusion was, *"This would be a major dig using scaffolding, shoring and using major rock removal techniques."*

About 100m up the hill is a small resurgence cave, [site 2290](#). In wet weather, the water flows down the hill and sinks near to Tablons. There are three holes (sites [2491](#), [2492](#), and [2493](#)) below the sink which have been excavated and abandoned.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1985b \(logbook\) \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2005b \(Easter & summer\)](#); [anon., 2005d \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 2005c \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2006a](#); [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2006c \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 2006d \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007](#); [anon., 2007b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2007d \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009c \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2010](#); [anon., 2010a \(February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2010b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2011 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2018b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [February 2010](#); [2009 summer and Easter 2006 breakthroughs pictures through 2005](#)

Video : [\(Juan Corrin\) dry stream and fence line running downhill at Tablons](#)
[State of the hole just before re-excavation 2005](#)
[Re-excavating near the entrance digging at the end of August 2005 1 2 3](#)

[combined video and pictures \(43.7Mb download\)](#)

2006 videos: [entrance and ladder descending pitch 1 2 crawl at base excavating](#)

[combined video and pictures \(18Mb download\)](#)

[Video during the 2009 breakthrough \(17Mb\)](#)

Detailed Survey : [DistoX export](#) of the 2009 extension : [sketch](#) at the beginning of 2005 : [2010 "complete" survey](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [3d file - after Easter 2010](#) (spin the elevation to show the hading fault) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0243: Cubija, Cubío de (Cubío, EI)

Cubija 30T 450076 4796786 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: A) **Altitude** 262m

Length included in the Cubija System (North Vega System) - [site 892, Regaton](#). **Depth** 113m to deep point in Regaton.

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 8th January 2000; 26th October 2001; 9th November 2003; 23rd November 2004; 27th October 2007; 7th January 2011; 23rd February 2017

The entrance is a sink 15m west of the car park at the head of the road in Cubija. A very strong draught normally blows out of the entrance. Before 1993 the cave had been incompletely pushed and was described as having a couple of rope climbs and crawling leading to a draughting, tight passage, pushed to a 4m pitch into a chamber with no exit. In 1993 the cave was linked with [Torca del Regaton \(892\)](#) which in turn was linked with [Torca del Mostajo \(071\)](#) in 1994 to give a 14.4km length. El Cubio provides a much less technical entrance series to the main passages in the Cubija (North Vega) System.

A squeeze down between boulders leads to a rift with large amounts of flood debris. The narrow rift continues for 15m to a junction. Continuing straight ahead a low crawl goes up through a stal gap under overhanging rubble. A low stream passage continues to a bedding and occasional avens and chambers, filled with cobbles and a narrow 4m pitch. Several small passages lead off from the chamber but none draught

significantly. The best bet here is a narrow canyon that gets too tight a short way in, left of the junction.

A short section of passage, left at the base of the entrance climb enters a draughting crawl leading to the head of a 3m pitch. This drops over large blocks, which don't quite touch the floor, into *No Exit Chamber*. There may be a passage to push opposite the pitch. Two large blocks form a small entrance to a crawl roofed with blocks. Routes through the honey combed, sandy limestone with sharp corners and bends enter a larger section with a small exit. This leads to a short section of washed limestone tube with clear pools in the floor and eventually to the head of a 4m pitch which lands in a small chamber with two ways out. The non-active section leads to a small crawl into a canal which enters a narrow squeeze and crawl to the top of the aven in the wet route. The active route is low, wet and tight at the far end and finishes at a pitch after the aven. The final 6m pitch drops to the ramp near *Lassie's Last Stand* in Torca del Regaton.

The hole climbed over after the connection pitch leads to a very small stream passage which may yield to a lump hammer.

There is also a sand and pebble dig with a slight draught over *Lassie's Last Stand*.

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Smith P, 1981b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); material in file; [Corrin J, 1994a \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995b \(survey\)](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey and photo\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001a](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003c](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [Leñn GarcÃa JosÃ©, 2010 \(survey\)](#). See *Regaton*

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [entrance series 1](#)

[entrance series 2](#)

Detailed Survey :

1981	known cave	low res	high res
1981	known cave on an area map	low res	high res
2017	included in the Cubija System survey		pdf

Line Survey :

On area survey : [Cubija System - line survey](#)

Survex file : [stand alone](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

on North Vega System file - [download](#)

Passage direction rose diagram: [Sistema de Cubija \(North Vega System\) 1/7/2018](#)

X

0244: cave

Secadura 30T 455038 4798791 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 286m

Length 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

The entrance has been partially walled up and is used as a manure store. Small crawls lead off at the back of the entrance chamber.

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0245: shaft

La Secada 30T 452898 4797791 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [U](#)) **Altitude** 195m

Length 13m **Depth** 13m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 26th January 2025

The entrance emits a strong draught at times. A 6m pitch over boulders leads to a short crawl to a 2m deep rift, choked with boulders, which emits the draught. JC's Hole? It couldn't be found in the winter of 2024.

References: [anon., 1980a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981b](#); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 2024f \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0246: cave

Ozana 30T 453778 4794521 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 260m

Length 503m (includes the 61m length of [0016](#))

Depth 7m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 14th May 2000; 15th May 2006; 22nd April 2008; 25th May 2021

The draughting entrance is under a rock outcrop on the southern side of a field. The entrance is a "breath out" bedding plane followed by a slightly larger low crawl for about 50m to a junction with a stream. Upstream leads to a 5m duck and 30m further on a passable boulder choke and finally, a very tight, draughting hole in another choke. Downstream, after some 30m, a junction to a higher level is met. The lower level follows silty passage to a sump and draughting choke.

This is very near to the upstream sump in [Cueva de Jivero 1 \(016\)](#) and the connection was made at Easter 2000. The higher level splits: the southern branch ends after 40m at a draughting boulder choke; the northern route ends at two chokes with no draught.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); material in file; [Corrin J and Quin A, 1992](#); [Corrin J, 1993 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2000b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0247: Caracoles, Cueva de los

El Naso 30T 452268 4796411 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 168m

Length 28m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 27th October 2001; 29th

September, 21st December 2008; 29th

November 2016

The excavated, very low entrance at the top of the field leads to a flat out bedding which becomes too low at a point which must be very close to the ramps and the "prehistoric" wall in [Cueva del Agua \(059\)](#).

Three flint tools and sea shells were found here in early 1993. *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001* classifies the site as a temporary shelter of Mesolithic age.

Reference: [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#); [Corrin Juan, 2009](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008 \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 2016b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 2016b](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [pdf file](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0248: Cuevona, La (Matienzo, Cobadal de) (Abrigo del Agua)

El Naso 30T 452318 4796461 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 150m

Length 87m included in the length for Molino (0059)

Depth 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 21st

December 2008; 28th January 2010; 29th

November 2016; 8th January 2020; 13th

May 2023; 24th September 2024

The resurgence for [Cueva del Agua \(059\)](#). A roomy dive which is no deeper than 10m. According to Gutiérrez (E1) there is a stalactite 2m under water.

To the south of the main pool, in an alcove, there is a draughting cave with an upwards thrutch to a possible dig. This may be the archaeological site below.

Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p221 mentions a gallery to the left of the resurging river which goes in 12m. This has a presumed Upper Palaeolithic level with flints and semi-fossilised bone splinters.

Reference [Smith P et al, 2015](#) has a summary of the archaeological work carried out within 2004 - 2016.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: Puig et al, 1896; Fernández Gutiérrez et al, 1966 (photo); anon., 1974b (logbook); anon., 1975b (Easter and summer logbooks); Ullastre-Martorell J, 1975 (survey); Fernández Gutiérrez J C, 1975; Mills L D J, 1981; Mills L D J and Waltham A C, 1981 (survey); Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981; anon., 1981a (logbook); Manchester University Speleological Society, 1982 (survey); anon., 1995c (logbook); García José León, 1997 (survey); Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008 (survey of the archaeological site); anon., 2009e (Christmas logbook); León García José, 2010 (Volume 1 and Volume 2) (survey); Smith P et al, 2015; anon., 2016b (Easter logbook); Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 2016b; anon., 2024d (summer logbook)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [survey](#) of the archaeological site to the left of the resurgence

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0249: cave

La Secada 30T 453258 4798471 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 297m

Length 5m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th April 2024

A hole under a blackberry bush drops into a small chamber.

The [1981 BCRA Transactions](#) has 249 and 250 at Beralta - numbers which apparently duplicated #0177 and #0178. The site was "relocated" in 1981: [1981 logbook, p6](#) has the "relocation".

References: anon., 1981a (logbook); Corrin J, 1983c; anon., 2024b (Easter logbook)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0250: shaft

La Secada 30T 453220 4798523 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 286m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th January 2022; 29th April 2024

A shaft which is too narrow. It was probably refound in December 2021 (grid reference above) close to a possible cold store feature with lintels over a narrow grike.

(The [1981 BCRA Transactions](#) has 249 and 250 at Beralta - numbers which apparently duplicated #0177 and #0178. The site was "relocated" in 1981: [1981 logbook, p6](#) has the "relocation".)

References: anon., 1981a (logbook); Corrin J, 1983c; anon., 2002a (Easter logbook); anon., 2024b (Easter logbook)

Entrance pictures : [December 2021](#)

Underground pictures: [December 2021](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0251: shaft

Llueva 30T 455098 4796961 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 410m

Length 70m **Depth** 65m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998; 26th October 2002; 25th May 2003

The obvious entrance is on the southern slopes of Llueva, on the right of a path leading downhill from El Pilon - the deserted farm house at the end of the landrover track. The main belay is off a tree and a flake immediately over the edge into a rift curving to the left. A ledge has very loose boulders and a Y hang avoids these. There are deviations at -10 and -35m and the landing is one a boulder slope at -55m. The slope can be followed down to end in a hading rift. There are some nice helictites and stal.

This shaft has previously been confused with Sima del Canado. Canado (now [site 1822](#), and explored at Easter 2003) is further down the hill.

References: Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981; card; anon., 1998d (logbook); Corrin Juan, 1999; anon., 2002b (summer logbook)

Entrance picture: [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed survey:

Line survey:

On area survey:

Survex file:

X

0252: Decepción, Torca la (top entrance)

La Secada 30T 453024 4798423 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 239m

Length Part of the Sistema de Cuatro Valles

(Traverse length for the Four Valleys System: see

Cueva Hoyuca) **Depth** 110m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 24th April 2012; 20th May 2017;

1st May, 10th December 2018; 12th May

2019; 10th, 19th, 29th September 2021;

9th, 23rd, 30th September 2022; 9th

February, 12th March, 26th September

2023; 8th February, 3rd, 11th May 2024

The entrance is in a tree-lined depression and has been wrongly tagged "873".

Originally, a drop between boulders ended in a choked chamber. At Easter 2018, the

entrance was enlarged; an alternative

entrance dug open and sub-phoned ([site](#)

[4732](#)); a nearby draughting route excavated

to walking passage and a run-in, and the

whole system surveyed to a length of 82m.

Digging continued in the autumn 2018

when a large number of spiders were noted

and a probable bear tooth excavated. More

digging was carried out at Easter 2019 and

bat droppings were noticed along with

beetles eating the remains of beetles in the

guano. Work continued in 2020 and a lower

series was explored in the summer 2021 -

see [4732](#).

In the summer 2022, the cave was

connected into the Four Valleys System at

Armageddon and *Shrimp Bone Inlet* in

Cueva Hoyuca ([0107](#)). The updated survey

for Decepción appears below and on site

[4732](#). Photos and videos of the cave

exploration and connections appear on the

page for [site 4732](#), the "main entrance" for

Disappointment Pot. A full description

appears on the page for site [4732](#).

Site 0252/4732 finished at 2335m in

length and 110m depth as it joined Hoyuca.

This addition, along with surveys around

Sewers of Doom in Carcavuezo ([0081](#)) has

increased the length of the Four Valleys

System to just over 70km at September

2022.

References:[anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1991 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2012b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2020c \(Spring, summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024a \(January, February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [Easter 2012](#) : [Easter 2017](#) : [Easter 2018](#) see also [site 4732](#)

Underground pictures: [Easter 2018](#) : [autumn 2018](#) : see also [site 4732](#)

Detailed Survey : [Easter 2018, including 4732](#) : [amended after autumn 2018](#) : [after summer 2021](#)

[pdf: Plan and Elevation](#) : [after summer 2022](#) (minor updates 16/1/23; 6/3/2023)

[after summer 2023](#) : [annotated survey pieces -](#)

[Easter 2024](#) : [after Easter 2024](#) : [after October 2024](#)

- in hand

Line Survey :

On area map : [adjusted survey on map with Hoyuca centre line](#)

Survex file : [in the 4VS area \(now\)](#) : [0252](#) : [4 Valleys System lite](#) (after Xmas 2023) : [4 Valleys lite \(now\)](#) (Oct. 2024 version in hand)

X

0253: shafts - 2

Riaño 30T 452563 4799805 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 229m

Length c100m **Depth** 5 & 6m?

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 26th October 2002; 6th May 2007;

9th June 2012

Two strongly draughting holes found above the radio location point in the *Gorilla Walk*,

[Cueva Hoyuca \(107\)](#). One was a sloping rift

which became too tight after 5m; the other

chokes at a depth of 6m or 10m? (See L92).

During the Easter and summer 2002

expeditions, the sloping rift was excavated

when its position above the newly

discovered *Windy Inlet* in [Cueva Hoyuca](#) was

recognised. Entry was gained to a small

series of passages that have yet to be

surveyed.

A tight slot drops into a crawl over debris to

breakdown passage with climbs up that

don't go. A T-junction is met with a climb

down into a streamway. Downstream

draughts slightly and leads to a second T-

junction through a short, awkward,

sideways crawl. To the left, there is no

draught and it becomes too silty to continue.

Downstream to the right meets a 50 x 20cm slot that draughts slightly.

Upstream at the first T-junction is awkward going that quickly becomes too narrow. It may take the main draught.

[At Easter 2007, the deep depression below this site was molephoned ([site 2691](#)) above the final aven climb in *Windy Inlet*. A passable connection, *Giant Panda*, was eventually excavated through and connected to the *Gorilla Walk*].

References: [anon., 1979 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002b \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0254: shaft

Riaño 30T 452298 4799561 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 237m

Length 30m **Depth** 23m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

The shaft is in a tree-lined depression. The entrance pitch of 12m is broken by a ledge and the landing is on boulders jammed in a large rift. A bolt in the wall of the rift holds the ladder for the 10m second pitch to a choked floor. Various grovels at the head of the pitch close down.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0255: Vía, Fuente de la

Riaño 30T 451645 4799687 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 186m

Length 7m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 16th April 2008; 1st November 2015; 10th February 2016; 20th May 2017

A resurgence crawl which becomes too low but which could be dug. The site has been landscaped some time before October 2015.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [2008](#), [2015](#), [2016](#) : [2017](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0256: shaft

Riaño 30T 453098 4799681 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 362m

Length 9m **Depth** 9m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th April 2024

A small hole leads into a circular, 9m deep shaft. When visited at Easter 2024, it was found to be covered with aluminium sheet and have rubbish at the base.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2024b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [April 2024](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0257: shaft

Riaño 30T 453168 4799721 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 378m

Length 10m **Depth** 9m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A shaft capped with boulders. The 9m pitch is broken by a bouldery ledge; the continuation lands on a choked floor. A short length of passage at the bottom chokes.

References : [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0258: Calleja Rebollo, Torcón de la (Toad in the Hole)

Seldesuto 30T 448780 4795064 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 293m

Length 8208m **Depth** 118m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Resources](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998; 19th February 1999; 12th December 1999; 21st January, 26th October 2001; 8th June, 26th October 2002; 23rd March, 9th November 2003; 6th May, 1st July, 13th, 17th October 2007; 16th April 2008; 6th January 2011; 25th April 2012; 20th May 2017; 30th June 2018; 8th January 2020; 19th September, 6th November 2023; 29th April 2024

Incomplete description, considerably improved after the Easter 2007 extensions.

[Torcón de la Calleja Rebollo (or Toad in the Hole to it's friends) was the focus for a 6 day onslaught at Easter 2008. **The following summary needs tying in with the 2007 Extensions below.** The trips included pushing the end of the *Move It* extensions. A drop down a 20m pitch landed in lots of mud, suggesting "a pretty terminal area". Draught testing in *Man Down* showed a route through dodgy boulders and a climb down a 25m pitch. This lands in a very muddy chamber which sumps. There is a small stream with mud banks and no draught which was not followed. A couple of the avens at the end were also climbed but no passage gained. Closer to the entrance, between *Cloud Nine* and *Cargo Rift* a phreatic maze was entered and surveyed in *Girly Day Out*. The sound of water comes from a large aven with a big waterfall coming in from above. Water sinks in a tight rift but the roof of the aven cannot be seen and this area is a good lead for next time. The "next time" was Easter 2012 when the aven and passage below were investigated (see below). Over half a kilometre of new passage was surveyed in 2008, taking the total length to 7902m. The deepest point reached was at an altitude of 182m, the same height as the South Vega resurgence, [Cueva Comellante](#).]

The entrance is located in a rather sloppy shakehole and a rope is useful for the grassy descent. A tight pitch of 6m down between loose boulders enters a small room. (At Easter 2017, the entrance was re-opened after a collapse.) The passage to the right descends to a large calcite-floored chamber which slopes down past two blind holes on the right.

Walking between mud banks ends at the *Maypole Pitch* of 6m up. The passage at the top splits. The left hand branch meets an 8m rope and ladder pitch into a passage which, to the left ends at an aven and to the right finishes at a draughting boulder choke. A squeeze past a large jammed block within *Baz's Choke* reaches a lower level which was dug at Easter '96 through clay to a small chamber. Further progress and the break-through came at Easter 1998, when *Baz's Chamber* was entered. A small passage up-slope to the left was dug though in 1998 to a well decorated passage, *Correspondent's Capers*, with a 5m pitch in the floor with a tight continuation. The way on at the far end of Baz's Chamber is a squeeze under a flowstone floor which leads to a second chamber via a 3m climb down a mud wall. Several holes in the floor become too tight. A passage or aven can be seen where water comes out of the roof. The route forward is a climb up mud on the right to a shelf where a squeeze enters another chamber. Here, a 9m ladder pitch in a rift on the left leads to a 28m wet pitch, rigged for SRT. At the foot, a small stream passage ends at a chamber where the way on may be up a rift on the left. Part way down the wet pitch, a tube leads via a climb and 12m pitch into the final chamber. This series ends at the deepest part of the cave, some 60m below the entrance at an altitude of about 240m. In the chamber after the 9m ladder pitch, a tube on the left enters a chamber where a climb up on the left leads to a choke where it draughts, but the way on has not been located. At the base of the wet 5m pitch in this series, upstream draughts but becomes very tight and awkward. In 1999 a pitch was dropped in the penultimate chamber to a low level via p28.

1987 Extensions

The right hand branch leads to a 20m pitch into a small passage which suddenly enters a large chamber, 50m across. This contains some excellent helictites and, at its southern end, a complex phreatic maze (not shown on the survey in P3) which was pushed to a conclusion and surveyed in the summer 2023. A chamber to the east of the hall contains a massive stalagmite boss and some impressive gour pools. Photos were taken in this large chamber (variously called "large chamber near the entrance" or "NE Chamber") and the maze below in the summer 2023.

Back at the entrance, the passage to the left is an oxbow which meets the main passage at the blind holes.

Before Baz's Choke, an opening on the left leads into *Chocolate Slice* - a crawl which has been excavated to allow fatties through. This enters larger passage where a slot on the left leads to a roped traverse (cow's tails). The passage beyond passes several shafts and climbs, not all pushed to conclusion. This is followed by a 12m ladder pitch down (a bolt on the right and naturals). A bolt traverse over the pitch on the left revealed nothing.

At the bottom of the pitch, *Misty Series* is to the right and the main way on to the left. Misty Series - a passage carrying small stream is followed to where several routes up lead into a large aven. A draughting crawl on the left in the base of the aven *Diamond Lil*, leads to a choke where no way on has been found. In 1993 Misty Series was again looked at: A passage on the left in the lower part of the Misty Series aven is a small crawl into a small chamber with a draughting hole. This leads to a small rift and a silty floor which was dug through to another 10m of passage to a drippy choke. There may be several tight ways upwards. On the right, just before the aven which is climbable and draughts down. this needs a return. A hole in the boulder floor of the Misty Series aven was investigated and no way on was found. The opposite wall to the draughting crawl was investigated via a traverse / climb: the passage descended for approximated 7m before ending. In 1995, the choke at the end of the Misty Series was described as suicidal.

The main route from the base of the pitch is a climb down following the stream from Misty Series, which soon disappears in a clean-washed pit in the floor at a junction. The pit has been free-climbed down for 15m to where it closed off. The main way on is a climb up into a narrow rift to the right hand side, but by following the continuation of the rift up a climb and over another pit, *St Ann's Passage* is gained, first entered in the summer of 1996. Two hundred metres of narrow rift containing a good draught leads via several small phreatic chambers and crawls to a dug boulder choke. This contains a "squeeze" under a loose block and care must be taken. A breakdown chamber beyond contains several choked pits and there are two ways out, both of which draught. Straight ahead with the main draught a continuation of the narrow rift gains a complex area containing an upper, low phreatic passage which seems to follow the rift below. The upper level eventually stops at a roof collapse with a possible dig to a continuation that draughts. The rift at floor level draughts strongly and continues very tight and needs pushing. A hole in the left hand wall of the chamber after the dug choke leads past two side passages which both soon get too small without more digging. Traversing over a rift, a side passage on the right has been pushed to a tight continuation which can be dug. This contains a reasonable draught. Further up the passage a low chamber with a lower level is reached. Here, and straight ahead, several climbs and avens exist (30m+?) which need ascending. The most northerly contains a slightly draughting calcite hole. A hole in the left hand side of the chamber *Paul's Putrid Passage* leads via an extremely muddy rift into a boulder choke with several ways off - all of which soon close down.

Back at the clean-washed pit, the main route on is a climb up over the hole, followed by a traverse rising to the right. The route continues passing a draughting hole down, then a number of routes up connecting to larger passage. The route continues to *Sandy Junction* where *Cocoa Series* leads off to the left, mostly fair-sized passage, which ends at points close to the surface.

The remaining description for the cave before Easter 2007 has been archived [here](#).

Sandy Junction to Lost Series

At *Sandy Junction* take a right along a sandy-floored passage to boulders, climb over the boulders to a climb down to the left. A short walk comes to a junction. Ahead through a small gap is a small aven (useful drinking pool). Left leads to the first pitch up (8m permanently rigged). At the top, head left and a short walk leads a 5m pit in the floor and the 2nd up pitch above (5m permanently rigged). From the top, a short way on are two left hand junctions where the passage continues on to *Saville Row* (no description). Take the 2nd left hand junction near a stal flow, and after a short distance, there is a

low crawl to the right (easily missed). The 1st left will also take you here in a roundabout way. The low crawl soon opens up to a junction with a low crawl to the right (not followed, no description) and a climb up ahead. Take the climb up and head over into a large chamber/aven with drinking pool. A 2m climb on the opposite side of the chamber/aven, leads to a squeeze under a flake and into sandy floored stooping passage. The start of this stooping passage is also reached via a crawl through coral passage (found to the right of the climb) and turning left at a 'T' junction (Right at this 'T' junction leads to a window looking out over *Saville Row*).

The stooping passage splits shortly and both passages leads to the same point - a cross roads with survey station marked 52.

From station 52, take the left hand passage, and continue passed a left hand junction (leading to *Ramon's Aven*), to another junction. Care is required here as the left passage must be taken (the less obvious passage and often missed), the right looking like the main river passage heading down (not followed, no description). Follow this passage to another junction. Left leads to a dripping aven (can get drinking water here) while right continues on over holes in the floor, a dripping aven and pitch to the right (passage at the back of this aven, no description).

Shortly after a 'T' junction is reached. Left leads to the *Lost Lost Bit*. (Not followed, no description).

Continue right to a 2nd 'T' junction. Left leads to a slope down and climbs, but right leads to the base of the 3rd up pitch (4m, permanently rigged).

Owls Passage to Cloud Nine

From the top of the pitch follow nice fossil river passage to a hole in the floor and a junction. Either cross over the hole on the right hand side or take the left passage (past another side passage leading to an aven and choke - not followed, no description) and skirt around the hole to arrive at the same place.

Ahead is marked by a natural stone column and continues along nice (but slippery) river passage with a water cut trench in the floor. A dripping aven and pitch is passed on the right and after a long way a small inlet on the left. Eventually a low duck under a stone arch leads to a junction.

There is minor passage to the left (not followed, no description), but the main passage continues ahead/right to the 2nd rope traverse. A passage heads off here to the left (not followed, no description - needs looking at, see survey).

Across the traverse, past a boulder slope to the right leading to a large chamber and head along a round phreatic tube (bore tube). A small decorated side pocket is reached on the left, the main way on guarded by hanging stal floor and columns. Head round the hanging floor and regain the main passage. Pass another decorated pocket on left, followed by one on the right (possible climb here??) just before a pitch on the left.

Ahead passed more straws on the right leads to a duck under on the left. This is often missed and leads into a very narrow slot / rift passage. From the duck under, follow the climb down with a passage to left (not followed, no description), and to a large dripping pitch in the floor. Head along the right hand side then over or under large blocks to a further duck under to passage beyond. (The route is marked with a cairn here for the return).

Head on through bouldery passage to easier going bore tube passage a short distance beyond. The passage lowers to 1m in height lined with stals and straws. A sharp right at a stal column leads to the head of a short rope climb down (2.5m fixed rope in place) to a large dripping aven & pitch . A route up here leads to a large collapse chamber above.

Traverse around the pitch on the right hand side over boulders, then bear left to regain passage over a mud climb to old fossil passage 4m wide. From here follow a wide floored passage to a left hand junction. This leads to *First Return*.

Continue on ahead to a trenched floor and a 2nd climb down to a second large chamber with several ways off. The way on lies straight ahead across boulders to the back of the chamber. A big boulder blocks progress, but a way on is found underneath to further boulder climbs (stals are present on the left of the big boulder - survey station 122).

Bear right and climb up over boulders to a duck under to the base of the "old" up pitch. This has now been by passed. The way on is found to the left. Duck under rock, then a stal flow to find an easy climb up through calcited boulders to a calcite grotto. From the grotto climb through a low window ahead to gain a rift heading to the right.

(N.B. Climbing up before the window leads to a chamber with ways off *Scullery Chamber*. Needs looking at. Pitches in the floor after the window also need looking at). Follow the rightward trending rift, and take one of the two slots to the left to gain a parallel rift leading to a bold step in a chamber. A climb up to the left (rope left in place) leads into bore tube and the way on to *Cloud Nine*. Climbing up to the right from the bold step gains a floor in the chamber and several ways off (not followed, no description. There are also holes in the floor which need looking at).

In the bore tube, climb through two shallow pots both with choked passages to the right to gain the *1.5 metre bore tube*. Follow this for some way, to a sharp left hand bend with a pretty pocket off to the right which also has a pitch down (needs looking at, no description).

The main passage continues and becomes more key hole in shape, passing over a tight drop in the floor (needs looking at, no description). An awkward 'Z' bend traverse follows, finally reaching a climb down to a small chamber.

Ahead is blocked by a wall/bridge lined with stals. Duck under to the left into a low chamber. There are several low passages off to the left (need looking at, no description) but squeeze up to the right into the start of *Cloud Nine*. Head left through easy walking, well decorated passage to reach a climb over a stal bank with large stals and a crystal pool. These have not fared well from early exploration and need taping).

From the climb over, a narrow tunnel (care needed due to straws) leads through into more large walking chamber. A slope down to the right leads to crawling passage and the way on to the far end of the cave, *4 Hours Later*.

Continue on in the main chamber and climb over a mud bank to a drinking pool on right. The chamber continues on until the roof lowers and enters a collapse chamber. The sound of water can be heard dripping (needs looking at).

Cloud Nine to We Like to Move It, Move It

In the *Cloud Nine* chamber a slope down to the right leads to a low tube crawl past several passages off on the left and right (mostly choked); two further on to the right have been partly pushed until water was heard (need looking at, no description). (See *Girly Day Out* below). Continuing along the main passage, crawling gets easier as the tube height increases to stooping walk and finally walking. Care is needed as a 7-10m pitch in the floor is reached (need looking at, no description). The pitch is easily climbed over and the passage breaks into nice meander, heading down hill. A steep slope cutting down and back interrupts the meander and drops into a chamber.

In the chamber, to the right leads to two possible digs, left leads along the chamber to a junction, left to a steep slope, ahead leads to a crawl (needs looking at, no description). Back in the meander skirting around the cut down, a climb over boulders regains pleasant meander passage. This continues down to a long chamber with a boulder floor (a small down tube here looks good, but needs capping??).

After the long chamber the passage changes in character to low crawling on a sandy floor passage (2m wide x 1m high) before finally reverting back to a meander. A short break down section is reached after which the passage reverts back to crawling passage past stals and straws. After a sharp bend to the left the passage breaks out into a series of chambers.

After the first sandy-floored chamber, more break down becomes predominant. Shortly on the right, prior to a narrowing, a small hole and climb down leads to the *We Like to Move It, Move It* Extensions.

Girly Day Out

As stated at the top of the description, in 2008, "between *Cloud Nine* and *Cargo Rift* a phreatic maze was entered and surveyed in *Girly Day Out*. The sound of water comes from a large aven with a big waterfall coming in from above. Water sinks in a tight rift but the roof of the aven cannot be seen and this area is a good lead for next time." This was explored and pushed over a couple of trips at Easter 2012. The fossil aven was climbed to a fossil window / rift to a higher, active aven. A sketch of the exploration appears [here](#). It is suggested that the best lead would be to continue up the active aven. The streamway at the base of the active aven was checked out (with less water than 2008). At stream level, the passage is tight and immature and could only be followed round a couple of bends to an impenetrable crack. The rift can also be followed several metres higher with a few muddy crawls to dead ends. A drop in the

floor could connect back to the lower level beyond the crack.

The labyrinth before the aven was also searched for missing leads but everything seemed to connect back. (Was this surveyed on the next trip in?)

On the next trip, another lead in GDO was pushed into 5m x 3m high passage with a number of side passages which quickly choked. This remains unsurveyed (as the other team had the survey kit). Any surveying carried out in the GDO at Easter 2012 has not been included in the Survex file. (24/3/2012)

We Like to Move It, Move It to 4 hours later

Continuing on in the break down, a larger chamber is reached. An obvious passage to the right has several branches, but these lead to roof tubes and become too tight or rejoin the main way on further on. Heading down slope to the base of the large chamber, the passage continues up boulder collapse and several large stones to yield more meander to a staggered junction with rifts heading off left and right. These are both narrow and choke out quickly. The main passage ahead is offset to the left slightly, up a 1m climb to stooping/ crawling passage. A sharp left hand bend is marked by *Survey Station 100*. A short distance along a chamber is reached. Left down a short crawl leads to a round low chamber with a possible dig at the back. Right - walking passage heads down the main chamber. Roof pockets in the right hand wall are all choked or lead to passage above - *Helictite Heaven*.

Climb over boulders and head to the end of the chamber into rift type passage. This can be followed until a short climb down from a narrow window yields another large chamber. To the right a walk/ crawl up the sand slope reaches rift passage with climbs and holes down to the previous chamber, and eventually leads to *Helictite Heaven* (not very impressive!).

Left yields more rift passage (slightly more awkward to negotiate) to a small climb up. A hole low down to the right here, enters a small steeply sloping chamber, with possible dig in base. Climbing up the 1m climb, more awkward rift arrives at a very interesting (especially for midgets) airy climb down to a boulder in a large chamber *Mad Hatter's Tea Party*.

A climb up to the immediate left leads to a 30m pitch which, if traverse over and followed, arrives at a steep climb down opposite the narrow window in the previous chamber.

Bad Day Extension

A way can also be found down through the boulders to a climb down and passage that heads under the climb up passage to the p30. Just after the climb down a pitch drops off to the left (connected to chamber below by light). Bearing right, the passage passes a tunnel heading off to the right, (choked but possible dig) to a duck under to more passage and a 4m climb down to a chamber. The 30m pitch drops into this chamber.

Ahead the chamber narrows and leads to a 'T' junction. Left soon chokes out and right an awkward 4m climb up leads to a short section of passage which closes down (a possible dig). Back in the main chamber, opposite where the pitch drops in, a drop down between the wall and a big boulder, yields a mud saddle.

To the left the passage drops down and then climbs up again to yield a chamber and aven. This links back to the pitch first seen at the initial climb down (verified by light). Right on the saddle, under a low roof yields another mud covered chamber dropping down to climb down and a drain point where a small stream sinks in boulders. (Possible dig). One other tube heads off this chamber but closes down after 5m.

Mad Hatter's Tea Party to 4 Hours Later

Back in the *Mad Hatter's Tea Party* chamber continue over boulders past a passage on the left to the end of the chamber and a climb up on the left into more rift passage. Awkward progress again finally arrives at a 'T' junction. Left leads to a sharp left through a downhill squeeze to more passage returning to the *Mad Hatter's Tea Party* chamber. Right from the 'T' junction heads into a boulder choke *4 Hours Later*, the far point and end of the cave in this area.

Taking a high route ahead leads into an obvious chamber progress barred by boulders. To the right here, a climb up 3m yields an elliptical tube. Climb down for 3m and an awkward manoeuvre accesses a small stream way that progresses into very tight meander. This was pushed for a short distance but deemed too tight. (Possibly worth another look by a midget team).

To the left in the chamber a climb up can be negotiated to arrive at the top of the choke and a chamber. At the far end of the

chamber a low dig heads off. (looks promising, but long term). Taking a more low level route another chamber is reached with a small stream flowing. The stream can be followed down stream but chokes out. Heading to the end of the chamber (upstream) and left, the stream can be followed down a low tube to a small chamber. The stream issues from a small hole, possible to dig but not promising!

We Like to Move It, Move It Extensions

Back at the *Move It* junction, the narrow climb down of 5m yields a large boulder strewn chamber, a cairn and survey marker 153 off to the left. A rift heads off to the right (not explored), but the main passage heads off leftward into deep canyon meander. It is best followed at roof height, the meander being wider here. After a short distance a sharp right hand bend is reached with passage heading off left. This left hand passage leads off back underneath the chambers where the extension climb down was found. Continuing right along the main meander, a breakdown chamber is reached which ends in a choke. At this far end a climb down regains the main meander and continues at floor level.

After a short distance the roof drops to 2m in height. Continue to a climb around a boulder. To the left here a meander passage heads off (not explored). Continuing on ahead passed stal columns leads to a chamber (Survey Station 135). The passage continues on the opposite side of the chamber down through a low squeeze passed stals and a crystal pool to gain easier low passage. A small chamber is reached (Survey Station 129). The main rift continues ahead and after a short distance, a climb over boulders and down into a main chamber. (Survey Station 126). A dripping aven to the right (possible free climb) gives a valuable drinking pool. The water from the pool drains into a very tight rift to the left of the chamber (not pushed) but thought too tight.

The main passage continues ahead up an easy mud climb to gain a meander with several oxbows. Near the 2nd oxbow and a sharp z bend, there is a section of collapsed roof with a possible climb up into passage. The meander continues but the height drops to 2m with competent roof to finally climb up into a small chamber (Survey Station 114). A climb up here yields a higher chamber and possible passage (a good lead).

The way on from this chamber becomes more awkward, having no floor. The floor is eventually regained, but with frequent holes in the floor, too tight to drop to a lower level. Progress is best at roof height when possible. A small corner pocket is reached after which a two metre high meander heads off but with more holes in the floor. The passage ends abruptly at several pots (these have been looked at briefly, but a second look with rope is thought worthwhile).

A climb off to the right, oxbows back to the main passage. A climb up to the left past a large roof block gains low fossil river passage to a T-junction.

The right hand junction leads to a pitch head and the *Man Down* extension, while ahead after a short distance leads to a long narrow chamber. In this chamber a passage heads off to the right (*PMT extension*) and three pots in the floor. Access to the right hand passage and the pots is best via a small oxbow crawl to the right arriving at the passage junction and a climb down to the pots. The nearest pot links to the second and ends in a dig. The third pot is accessed via a climb through from the top of the second pot. After a steep climb down a small chamber is gained. A possible dig to the left probably links back to the first pot? While straight ahead ends in a very tight squeeze (possibly worth digging).

If all three pots are traversed, at the end of the chamber there is a poorly decorated but climbable? roof tube heading up to the right.

PMT Extensions

Back at the *PMT junction*, climb over boulders and a small stream sink to a sharp left hand bend. A climb up over a large block enters a complicated breakdown chamber. To the left a climb over a mud-bank yields a second breakdown chamber with a pitch down in the far left of the chamber (the rest being boulder strewn).

Heading straight across the first chamber, there is a climb / aven on the right hand side (not explored). Reaching the far wall, leftward leads to a rift. A squeeze yields passage which bends around to the right and to a T-junction. A duck under to the left leads through collapse to a pitch (p15 - Survey Station 692). This pitch was dropped to a chamber below and a dig in the floor. Several sloping tubes dropped into this chamber. It was not surveyed and needs revisiting again.

Back at the T-junction, ahead leads to a climb down and around into more big meander passage. This only lasts for a short time before reaching a collapsed chamber (probably worth another good root around). A duck under regains good passage heading downwards with a number of pots in the floor (not explored). The downward trend ends with several good pots to the left (not explored, worth looking at).

Climb up a mud-slope to the right to a junction. Right at the junction, a squeeze leads to tight passage. A very tight squeeze past a boulder follows (needs hilti-ing), to another rift passage but becomes tight (needs revisiting). Back at the top of the mud-slope junction, a climb up to the left leads to partially blocked passage by boulder (dig possible?)

NB: *PMT* needs revisiting as only one trip to the end was undertaken.

Man Down Series

The right hand junction of *Man Down* follows passage over blocks to a pitch head (p5) (this is easily rigged on naturals). The pitch enters a chamber with a large block in its centre and possible dig to the right. Across a slope up yields two left-hand small recesses (both choked). Continue upslope past two climbs to finally gain low old stream passage (crawling). This can be followed for a short distance to a T-junction.

Left leads to a crawl and a climb down into a chamber. Ahead the chamber is choked but with possible passage beyond (needs a look). Also here, under the climb down, a short tube leads to a 4 metre pitch (not descended). Left at the T-junction, a squeeze gains high passage with roof tubes. Negotiate a small collapse on the right side and drop down into a chamber. Two side passages on the right are both choked and are possible digs.

Surface prospecting was carried out at Easter 2024 where the following sites were inspected: #2930, #3638 and #5419

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a \(survey and photo\)](#); [Corrin J, 1981](#); [Smith P, 1982b](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); material in file; [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J and Knights S, 1988 \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [Cawthorne B and Neill A, 1990](#); [Davis J and Corrin J, 1989](#); [Cawthorne R, 1987](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#); [Corrin J, 1990 \(photo\)](#); [anon., 1991 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill Ali, 1991](#); [Corrin J, 1992a](#); [Corrin J, 1992b \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [Neill Alasdair and Jackson Keith, 1993](#); [Corrin J, 1994a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995b](#); [Corrin J, 1994b \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1995a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1995b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1996a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997b](#); [anon., 1997b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1998](#); [anon., 1998a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1998d \(logbook\)](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997c](#); [Corrin Juan, 1999](#); [anon., 1999c \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2000](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001a](#); [anon., 2002b \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#); card Easter 2007; [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2009](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(line survey and photos\)](#); [anon., 2012b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2013a](#); [Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014](#); [anon., 2017b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019e \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [autumn 2019](#)

Underground picture(s): [entrance passage](#) : [Photos from 1981, 1988 and 1996](#) : [Photos taken coming back from Cloud Nine, Easter 2012](#) : [photos in entrance passages, 2019](#) :

[NE Chamber and maze below, summer 2023](#) : [St Ann's area, summer 2023](#)

Video : [Passages leading to Cloud Nine and around Cloud Nine, April 2012 \(YouTube, Chris Binding\)](#):

[Explorations in maze below NE Chamber & St Ann's \(YouTube, Diane Arthurs, Simon Cornhill\)](#)

Detailed Survey :

1981	known cave	low res	high res
1998	known cave		1:1000
2007/8	Draft: contains new N passage but still has old projected section and area maps	pdf	1:1000
2007/8	As above, but drawings visible	pdf	1:1000
2012	Girly Day Out avens sketch	jpg	sketch
2023	Revision including batches 23-01 and -02	pdf	pdf

Line Survey : on [258 Torcón de la Calleja Rebollo \(Toad in the Hole\) area line surveys](#)

On area survey : North Vega caves - [line survey](#)

Survex file : [yes](#) (Easter 2012) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.) : [after summer 2023](#)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

[X](#)

0259: cave

Seldesuto 30T 448948 4795111 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 293m

MATIENZO UNDERGROUND site descriptions (printed 28/02/2025)

184

Length 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A slope down into a stooping height passage which leads to two other entrances.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0260: shaft

La Secada 30T 453171 4798363 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 256m

Length 16m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 25th April 2012; 20th May 2017; 6th, 20th January 2023; 26th November 2024

[A previous grid refence was 30T 453148 4798391; the above GR was taken in January 2023.]

The hole is almost directly over *Aven Alley* in *BTM Series* in [Torca Decepción](#).

A hole on the true left of the gully is a 6m pitch to a 6m slope and choke. As previously described, there is a variety of rusting enamelled pans and a plethora of bones at the bottom.

(The site was not found at Easter 2012.)

Reference: [anon., 1996a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2012b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023e \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024a \(January, February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024e \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [Easter 2017](#), [December 2023](#)

Underground picture(s): [autumn 2024](#)

Detailed Survey : [sketch plan & elevation](#) : [survey autumn 2024](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [autumn 2024](#)

X

0261: shafts - 3

La Secada 30T 452723 4797832 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 169m

Length 15m **Depth** 4 - 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th May 2007; 21st September 2012; 16th May 2015

Three holes near the barn are all along the same rift, four to six metres deep, and severely choked. The GPS reading above was taken to the left of the middle shaft. One, but which?, was climbed into in 2012 - a 3m climb down over rubble to a very narrow rift dropping about 4m.

Sites [4126](#), [4127](#), [4128](#) and [4129](#) are to the west and northwest - all at the base of a sandstone bed.

Reference: [anon., 1996a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2007b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2012d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0262: cave

El Naso 30T 452090 4796486 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 284m

Length 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A small cave near [site 387](#). The cave divides inside the entrance: a crawl straight ahead goes to a small chamber and, on the left, a hading rift chokes after about 8m.

References: [anon., 2004f \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0263: cave

S Vega 30T 449879 4795275 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 235m

Length 72m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th June 2002; 9th November 2003; 22nd August 2020; 13th May 2023

This site was among a number repositioned (from a previous grid reference of 30T 449898 4795301) and re-examined in the early summer, 2020.

A prominent half moon entrance, easily seen from the road. To the left an ascending passage reaches the base of a surface shaft and a climb up near here detects a draught from a rift. To the right of the entrance 30m of walking leads to a blowhole into a small chamber with a tight squeeze to the right entering another low chamber with a possible calcite dig.

Bat information

Date: 10/4/2023

Evidence of occupation (only): droppings throughout

Bat remains (number): -

Species identified name (number): less horseshoe bats (2)

Other notes: many tissue moths seen

[Photos from visit, mainly tissue moths](#)

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a](#); [Corrin J, 1983c \(survey\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2020c \(Spring, summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [1981, 2020, 2023](#) and also with view of the cave entrance with others nearby

Underground picture(s): [1981 & 2020 : April 2023](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1982: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0264: Coterón, Torca del

S Vega 30T 451145 4795160 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [P](#)) **Altitude** 370m

Length see [Apilicueta](#) (i.e. as part of the South Vega System) **Depth** 234m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Resources](#) :

[Logbook search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998; 19th February 1999; 27th July 2000; 23rd February, 7th, 26th October 2001; 28th January, 8th June 2002; 16th October, 9th November 2003; 2nd May, 13th June, 9th October 2004; 20th December 2005; 1st February , 15th May 2006; 27th October, 17th November 2007; 16th April 2008; 7th January, 23rd June 2011; 26th December 2012; 2nd December 2014; 25th September, 17th October 2015; 21st April 2016; 30th June 2018; 3rd March, 9th September 2022

Incomplete description

The grid reference is the taken from Google Earth and is the top of the slope down to the pitch head.

The length of the South Vega System includes [Cueva-Cubío de la Reñada \(48\)](#), [Torca de Azpilicueta \(333\)](#), [Torca de Papá Noel \(1471\)](#), [Torca de la Vera Negra \(36\)](#), [site 1338](#), [Torca de Coterón \(264\)](#), [site 675](#) and [Cueva Comellantes \(40\)](#). A table of the depth within the South Vega System from each entrance can be seen [here](#).

This is one of the high level entrances to the South Vega System. The other entrances to the system are [Cueva-Cubio de la Reñada \(048\)](#) (lower and upper), [Torca de Azpilicueta \(333\)](#), [site 1338](#), [Torca de Cabaña \(036\)](#), [site 675](#), and [Torca de Papá Noel \(1471\)](#).

The South Vega System ([line survey](#)) has developed broadly on 4 levels:

1. **level 1** - the modern drainage base at approximately 170m altitude,
2. **level 2** - passages at about 200m altitude (*Bootlace* and *Battery Passages*),
3. **level 3** - *Edge of the World* and *Marvins Marvels*, *Franks Passage* etc., and the main levels in [Torca de Azpilicueta \(333\)](#) at about 230m altitude - although levels 2 and 3 could well be in the same beds as passages on level 2 as they are supposedly down dip of level 3 passages (where does 333 fit in?),
4. **level 4** - the first horizontal section in [Torca de Coterón](#) and the main passages in [Torca de Cabaña](#) at 320 to 330m altitude. The *Galeria New York City* in [Cueva Vallina \(733\)](#) is also at this altitude.

A hydrology diagram for the South Vega System can be seen [here](#).

Resurvey started Easter 2016

batch reference	note	drawn by
-----------------	------	----------

16-01	level 4	AN
16-02	continues 16-01 to top of 2nd p	RN

Coterón entrance series

The shaft emits clouds of water vapour along with a strong draught on a hot day. A slippery 10m slope ends on a large, wobbling boulder jammed in the rift; the ladder or rope hangs from bolts on the left hand wall away from this. The 45m entrance pitch is in a rift which is a nesting site for Alpine Choughs and breaks into a chamber 10m above its breccia floor. A decorated slope rises up to within 10.5m of the surface (with a strange roaring sound but no draught). The slope down out of the chamber flattens as it turns gently to the right. Up a slope on the right an 8m square passage is easy going for 200m to a massive boulder choke which has been pushed to no avail. Three pitches have been dropped along this level. The first, on the right was not fully explored until 2014 when the drop past a boulder ended at a choked floor. The second lies on the left hand bend choking at 30m depth and the third is to the left of the terminal boulder choke - a 60m pitch, blocked at the bottom, with a ledge halfway down.

Back at the junction, a boulder floored passage to the left descends to a small dripping chamber with a pop-up on the right into a tall hading rift. After a short walk and slither down, the large continuation of the rift is entered as a walk down over boulders (past a choked 15m shaft) to the head of the second pitch. Belayed to a massive boulder, the 3 ladders slope down over sloppy debris to a 13m vertical climb against the wall of the rift. The landing is on a steep slope of boulders with the route being down the slope to a short drop between boulders. A further climb down over boulders and a gentle stroll descends to the *Edge of the World* and the horizon which has many kilometres of passage dissolved out of it. Possible black holes above the second pitch proved to be nothing when investigated in 2014.

Level 3 passages

The sandy floor at the *Edge of the World* ends abruptly with a jumble of boulders 5m down with the far wall of the chamber barely seen 30m away. Explorations have been carried out down in the boulders - a depth of 30m was reached and a connection with the first floor hole along the main route.

Over to the right of the *Edge of the World* is the entry point to *Marvin's Marvels*. A short scramble between boulders joins a large passage which continues for 400m to a calcite choke. The large tunnel is essentially horizontal though in places magnificent calcite formations and flows have conspired to force the odd clamber, slither or climb. Best after rainfall when the pools fill up, this passage is a photographers paradise with the full range of glistening calcite deposits; the best 'ooh-ah' passage in Torca del Coterón.

At the back wall of the *Edge of the World* is a steep sand slope which is the start of the *92m Ramp Series*. Access to the slope is best gained by walking south into the hill and then doubling back along a smaller 3m high passage. At the top of the climb a short duck under the wall enters a roomy ramp which rises to the left over boulders passing a choked drop on the left. A short scramble over boulders leads to another boulder floored chamber.

At its far end there are two ways on. The first, up to the right, has a short phreatic tube descending sharply to a small chamber and the start of a complicated series of smallish phreatic passages containing a number of holes that have yet to be descended.

Lugger ...?

The second route is down to the left where a short hand and knees crawl around a dog-leg leads to a traverse over two holes to reach yet another large, boulder-floored chamber. A walk along the right hand wall leads to the passage just described while a climb down into the chamber and a short walk meets the chamber wall. Down to the left is a series of crawls between boulders that lead nowhere . Up to the right is a steep calcite slope and a short chimney up between boulders that pops up at the base of the ramp. The 20m wide passage rears up at 30 degrees and is initially floored with

monster rocks and finally with calcite. A group of thick stal bosses give an excuse for stopping halfway up and a damp pitch in an alcove on the left at a slightly higher level has been descended for 15m to a very tight stream passage. The ramp ends with tricky climbs on calcite, having risen to within 15m of the entrance altitude (although still 70m below the surface at this point).

Back at the *Edge of the World*, a short walk into the obvious tunnel meets the hole in the floor previously mentioned. On the left of the hole are the twin entrances to *Frank's Passage*.

Of comparatively claustrophobic dimensions, the route starts as a walk on sand and rocks. A short traverse over a rift in the floor ends at a 7m pitch into a sandy-floored chamber. A chimney up the continuation of the rift enters a boulder-floored passage which ends at the constricted head of a 40m pitch, choked at its base. By negotiating a chossy climb on the right hand wall just before the pitch (2004: now has a rope), the main way on is entered. (1987 pitch down around here to connect with *Bootlace Passage*??)

A stooping height tunnel meanders about before entering larger passage and a short climb up (2004: roped with a rusty ladder) into a tunnel which ends at a short crawl into *Tampax Chamber*. Cotton wool-like formations lying on the sandy floor of this low chamber are gypsum. Back above the climb is another short one up into a tunnel which slopes down to the head of a 20m pitch. (Just back from here, on the right in an alcove, is another short pitch which chokes). At the base of the drop are two pitches both dropping about 12m to a short crawl and an 8m pitch. Another ladder shaft drops into a large chamber which is at about 197m altitude. A couple of leads (one a hammer and chisel job into bigger passage) still need attacking. During the summer of 2004, a small hole at the base of the p20 was enlarged into a small chamber with a hole into a larger solution pocket. A crawl at floor level led in a circle round to join the next shaft (p8) as a window.

Back at the top of the 20m pitch a steep ramp leads up on the right. This was climbed (at Easter 2004; rope left on) to about 50m of new passage ending in a mud choke. Two downwards ramps were passed where tackle is needed to check out the bottoms.

According to a trip at Easter 2004 a good study of the survey is needed before any effort is put into the leads as they could just be routes into *Bootlace Passage*.

At Easter 2004,

Further back in *Frank's Passage*, to the west of the 7m pitch is the small entry to *Matutano Passage*. The smallish, sandy-floored passage ends after 250m at an 8m pitch into a blind chamber with a draught emerging from the floor.

Popping back out of *Frank's Passage* and turning left, the main segment of Level 3 looms ahead. (Floor deposits are rather interesting along the whole of this level: sandstone cobbles, limestone breccia, sand with gypsum needles underneath and occasionally some spongy gypsum). A 70m walk in an 8m wide by 4m high passage drops down through a blowhole to the right and more walking to a junction.

To the right, mostly walking progress ends at a 5m drop with an up and down bypass on the right. At the base a complex series of smallish tubes and rifts are almost joined with the middle chamber in the *92m Ramp* series - pushing is still needed here. To the left at the junction, a slope of breccia is reached and the splitting of the routes down into [Cueva-Cubio de la Reñada \(048\)](#). At the top of the slope is the start of the *Codisera Arm* (which in fact goes nowhere near to that cave) and to the right, halfway up the slope is the draughting entrance to the *Reñada Arm*, heading off to the west.

The whole of the 400m length of the *Reñada Arm* could be done at a trot; a spacious sandy-floored tunnel lures the explorer on, tempting him to forget about the smaller ones off to the sides. But taken in order from the start these are: a) on the right after 50m in a large cross joint, 2 tight slots unite in a flat out crawl, joining the tubes and rift passages just before the 5m pitch; b) on the right after a further 50m, a tight grovel at floor level; c) after another 30m, again on the right, a short walk to a roof collapse which should be easy to clear - has

someone tried????; d) *Station 62*, where a small grovelly loop lies at the base of the left hand wall and the opening on the right is *Between Worlds Passage* (see below).

The end of the *Reñada Arm* is heralded by a pleasant group of orange and white stal and the passage then becomes rather smaller, ending in a complicated collapse area. By sticking to the right wall and forging straight ahead the passage appears to bypass the choke but ends, after a 5m pitch, in a choked, funnel-floored chamber (apparently not far above the Ramp beyond *Castle Hall* in Cueva-Cubio de la Reñada (048)).

Just before the pitch, a boulder choke on the left holds the route up into *Paper Plane* in [Torca de Papá Noel](#) (site 1471). This was discovered in the summer of 2003 and would now appear to be the route of choice to the far reaches of Papá Noel.

Slightly further back and still on the right is a low crawl round to the right which enters walking passage. The passage rises to the right, through a section walled with limestone cobbles. Who remembers the rest of this bit???

At Easter 2004, *Roof Passages Extensions* at the end of the Reñada Arm added 85m in passages that rose 25m above the main level and ended in a very low mud dig and at the base of a very narrow pitch up.

Down amongst the boulders ... Steve???

Down in the choke, a 15m pitch drops into 50m of passage ending at the head of an undescended 40m pitch - the base of which should be at about 180m, Reñada level.

A number of other dripping shafts have been descended in 1983 and looked at again at Easter 1994. These are reached on the left where a climb down followed by a climb up calcited boulders arrives at a pitch in the right hand corner. At the base of this 10m pitch a number of possibilities exist. Two pitches are found on one wall, one beneath a flake and another in a corner. Another pitch, which is entered through an eyehole leads to a 5m drop onto a large ledge. A rebelay allows a descent in two directions: to the left goes to a 20m pitch in a hading rift in crappy rock ending in a series of pits - the draught is lost here; to the right is a squeeze onto a sandy ramp popping out at a 5m drop into an aven. The floor of this has potential but is down through boulders and has not been pushed. The draught in this area is enticing since the Ramp must be very close.

Pushing over the choke - description.

Between Worlds Passage is a homely, boulder-floored passage with a number of pits. The first, on the right has been looked at and ends in two draughting, undescended pitches of about 25m(?). This presumably is what is on the computer survey.

Thirty metres on and passage goes off on both sides of the route: the right branch splits immediately as it comes to a rift, the northerly pitch of about 10m being unexplored(?) and the easterly pit choking 20m down. By traversing over the top, two draughting holes are passed over to another undescended 10m pitch with passage carrying on on the other side.(?)

The left branch is a steep climb down which levels out at the head of a 10m pitch into a large passage. Another steep slope down ends at a three way junction. Straight on is a steep, unfinished(?) ramp; to the left peters out after 40m, while to the right the bouldery floor conceals a couple of undescended pitches. This passage seems rather out of place, being perched between the Cueva- Cubio de la Reñada and Torca del Coterón levels.

Between Worlds Passage continues for 10m to a large step over or tight squeeze around a hole in the floor. Immediately on the right is the pitch entry to the *81 Depths*, while ahead the passage enlarges and a climb up boulders to the left enters a short walk down to the *Edge of the Universe*. In the summer of 2001, [site 1338](#) was linked to Coterón in this region, and part-way down the 81 Depths.

The *Edge of the Universe* is a pleasant spot away from the edge, the top of the pitch is guarded by a semi-circular balcony of sand and loose rocks. Luckily a short, narrow 'path' exists along the left hand wall to take the explorer beyond this mess and to solid rock where convenient belay anchor points are to be found in a couple of small alcoves. At Easter 2008, a traverse over the pitch on

the left entered passage which closed down after 15m.

The 70m pitch is straightforward, though rather damp. Initial landing is on a pile of large rocks jammed 20m off the floor; touch-down is on water-worn cobbles. The obvious passage from the base of the pitch chokes in dank phreatic tunnels. The route through to Cueva-Cubio de la Reñada is over a hole in the floor to the right and stepping into the body sized passage. After a short squeeze down through boulders, the route is obvious and ends, 30m or so from the ladder, on a veranda looking out into the start of *Gallery of the Dead* in [Cueva-Cubio de la Reñada](#).

The *81 Depths* is the technical route down to the same level, although frustratingly, not to Reñada. The entrance pit of about 30m is broken by a large ledge half way down and the passage then degenerates into a meandering, narrow canyon until a 16m pitch is met. From the foot of this a large chamber is walked into with a pitch at each end. Descending the westerly, 15m sloping pitch leads to a sandy passage ending below the right hand pitch. A climb down through boulders enters a small inlet and a choked way on. From the foot of the sloping pitch, 10m forward, there is a blind 8m shaft under a boulder on the right and immediately forward of this is a low, short crawl under the left wall with a 15m pitch in the floor. At the base, a scramble over boulders enters a large passage containing a small stream between mud banks. The water sinks about 30m further on, under the right hand wall, into a small phreatic passage with deep pools and an unpushed duck. (The water is presumably next seen as the small stream before *Castle Hall* in Cueva-Cubio de la Reñada). Beyond the water sink is an inlet which can be followed over boulders to an aven. The roof of this is passed over at the base of the *Edge of the Universe* on the route through to Reñada.

The *Codisera Arm* is another trunk route and this way becomes small after 300m. At this point the shattered limestone roof has collapsed and a flatout crawl is necessary, but for only a few metres. An enlarging passage is entered which swings to the right and rises dramatically on a sandy floor to a 20m vertical drop down the side of a rift with a high, dripping aven above. The base of the drop is reached by entering a hole on the right halfway up the slope. At the base of the rift there are several blind pots and other short passages; one of the longer passages ends at a 12m pitch with a short length of streamway at the bottom, ending at an altitude of about 186m. A connection is also made with a smaller meandering passage with some superb gypsum formations, like candy floss on the walls. A difficult steep slope remains to be climbed(?) and is one of the best possibilities for extension in this 300m series. In a small chamber near the middle of these passages lies the small entrance to *Bootlace Passage* and its kilometre traipse into [Cueva-Cubio de la Reñada](#). (*Bootlace* is described in Reñada).

Better description of all this.

Some holes were looked at in the summer of 1993. Just past the "only formations in *Bootlace Passage*" a pitch in a chamber drops some 25m to a sump pool. A parallel pitch drops to the same pool. A traverse to the right of the chamber leads to a short passage and a 12m pitch. Water enters at the top from a too tight passage and exits at the base into a too tight passage.

According to Quin (BU pp59-62), in his [magnetic susceptibility studies](#), sediments from Torca del Coterón show similar k values to sediments in [Torca del Mostajo](#) on North Vega, indicating that the sites may have had a common morphogenic agent and have been connected.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

The [speleo club Viana](#) (from Guadalajara) have published a number of documents (descriptions & surveys, including gpx, pdf and jpg files) relating to the system. See their [Cantabria page](#) and the *Zona de Matienzo* section.

In July 2022, a three-person Coterón - Reñada pull-through trip via *Bootlace Passage* reported that the entrance pull-through was rather awkwardly rigged at the top ; the 2nd pitch was well rigged and that the rigging around *Two Sumps Chamber* in

Bootlace Passage was a little worn but currently safe.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a \(survey * and photo\)](#); [Corrin J, 1981 \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Smith P, 1982b](#); [Addis F, 1982 \(survey and photo\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 1983a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983b \(survey\)](#); [Barrington P and Hanson D, 1984](#); [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1986](#); [Smith P, 1982a \(photo\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983a \(survey\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J and Knights S, 1988 \(survey and photo\)](#); [anon., 1990c \(logbook Whit\)](#); [anon., 1991 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1992b \(survey and photo\)](#); [Corrin J and Quin A, 1992](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [Quin A, 1993b \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995a](#); [Quin Andrew, 1995 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1998d \(logbook\)](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997c](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001a](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003a](#); [anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003c](#); [anon., 2003d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2004b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2004d \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#); [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2006](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2009](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(survey and photos\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2011](#); [anon., 2014d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014](#); [anon., 2015c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [distant view](#) [shaft](#) [shaft from above](#) [shaft descending entrance](#) [shaft entrance shaft 2004: 1](#) [2](#)

Underground picture(s): [slope at base of entrance](#) [pitch : second pitch: 1](#) [2](#) [3](#) : [photos from 1982, 1998 and 2004](#)

Video: [Espeleo50 Coterón - Reñada through trip from YouTube](#)

Detailed Survey :

1981	known cave	low res	high res
1983	On scanned 1982 South Vega System survey		high res
1983	extension before Tampax Chamber	low res	high res
1983	Matutano Passage	low res	high res
1983	Extension off Between Worlds Passage	low res	high res
1983	Extension off Franks Passage	low res	high res
1983	Extension off the Reñada Arm	low res	high res
from rescue site	simplified Azpilicueta, Reñada, Coterón	low res	high res

Line Survey : No detail on [South Vega System survey](#)

On area survey :

Survex files : [Coterón \(with resurvey started Easter 2016\)](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[download South Vega System](#)

Passage direction rose diagram: [South Vega System \(30/6/2018\)](#)

X

0265: Copudia, Cuevas de (SE smallest entrance)

S Vega 30T 451192 4795224 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 330m

Length 290m **Depth** 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th September 2000; 16th October 2003; 3rd March, 4th May 2022; 29th April 2024

The two westerly entrances are large, with prominent trees, and cannot be missed. The third is off a small surface rift and requires stooping to enter.

A large, impressive remnant, that was presumably connected with [Torca del Coterón \(264\)](#) in the distant past. The cave is formed on a set of joints. The second joint from the south has a small climb up into a rift that almost immediately drops down to an impenetrable draughting fissure (about 30m deep) and a stal blockage.

The site was resurveyed in 2000. A new grid reference was obtained in March 2024 (shown above). [Previous GR 30T 451138 4795263]

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c \(photo\)](#); material in file; [Corrin J, 1983a \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001](#); [anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [east](#) [middle](#) [west](#) : [distant, from El Naso](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [2000 survey](#) : [On scanned 1982 South Vega System survey](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [March 2024](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.) : [With Coterón, #0264, March 2024](#)

X

0266: cave

S Vega 30T 451112 4795140 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 398m

Length 84m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th January 2009

A homely, walking sized phreatic passage.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); material in file; [Corrin J, 1983a \(survey\)](#);

[anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [on photo of 1983 SVS survey](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination

December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and

coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0267: Overhang Cave

S Vega 30T 451029 4795310 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 330m

Length 30m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th September 2000; 7th October

2010; 4th May 2022; 13th May 2023

The most obvious entrance on the southern side of La Vega - note the diminutive figure in the centre of the entrance photo. The right hand passage soon chokes while the left hand passage rises to a climb which drops back into the rifts on the left, and on the right continues up to a choke. A feature lower down and to the west of the entrance, involving an exposed scramble, is just a scoop.

Bat information

Date: 4/4/2023

Evidence of occupation (only): droppings

Bat remains (number): -

Species identified name (number): -

Other notes: -

[Photos from visit](#)

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); pers comm.; material in file; [anon., 2000c](#)

(Summer logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2001](#); [anon., 2022b](#)

(Easter logbook); [anon., 2023b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#) : distant, from El Naso :

[April 2023](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#) : [April 2023](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0268: cave

Riaño 30T 451318 4799461 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 226m

Length 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 21st September 2018

A resurgence with a low crawl heading off into blackness. Permission is needed to enter as it is a water supply. A second entrance with a pump under a slab is nearby.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2018c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [August 2018](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0269: cave

S Vega

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

[Logbook search](#)

Straight up above Torca del Coterón (264).

At the base of a 10m shaft a short length of

rift passage leads to a cross rift which gets

too tight. JOHN, JOHN JULIE ?

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#) 28/7/81

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0270: shaft

S Vega

Length 8m **Depth** 8m

[Logbook search](#)

Undescended(?) 1.5m diameter shaft.
COLIN??

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#) 27/7/81

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0271: cave

La Colina 30T 453811 4797170 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 485m

Length 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th December 2006

The entrance is a 5x2m slot. A short length of passage leads to a draughting rift which should be climbed (bolt needed) to where it is bigger above with a 1 x 2m passage leading off.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2004d \(summer logbook\)?](#); [anon., 2006e](#), (autumn logbook)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0272: Cubillones, Abrigo de los

La Colina 30T 453778 4797148 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 485m

Length 35m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 12th November 2001; 8th June 2002; 24th November 2003; 9th October 2004; 9th December 2006; 19th December 2008; 5th October 2011; 27th September 2015; 3rd April 2021

An 8m wide by 3m high entrance is just the opening to a blind cave containing lots of bulls' bones. A water trickle enters from a shaft in the roof. [Prehistoric flints](#) have been found and the site is considered to be of Aziliense age, being a hunting base at the end of the Paleolithic and a stable in more recent times (*Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008*). This latter publication has a complete summary of the archaeology.

According to *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003*, the cave deposits were investigated in 1956.

The cave is often used as an animal shelter, [as seen in August 2015](#).

The length was changed to 35m from 18m after taking into account the alcoves when the Survex file was constructed, April 2021.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1992a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#) (includes drawings of flint tools); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#); [anon., 2004d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2006e \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#) (photo) (survey); [anon., 2015c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Video : [August 2015](#)

Underground picture(s): [looking out of entrance](#)

[looking down on Emboscados hillside](#)

Detailed Survey : [yes](#): from *Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008*

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [Reconstructed April 2021](#)

[\(Reconstruction notes\)](#)

[X](#)

0273: cave

La Colina 30T 453720 4797115 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 485m

Length 120m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th October 2004; 10th December 2006

A strong draught blows from the one metre square entrance. A boulder heap inside has an aven above which has been climbed to about 100m of crawling which has probably been joined with [site 635](#). The cave was surveyed to tight squeezes in autumn 2006. In 2006 it was noted that most of the cave was an easy crawl with a ladder useful for the climb up. About 40m in there is an easy, draughting dig into a larger section.

7m to the east is a second cave with a 2 x 1m entrance. This is about 6m long with a draughting aven in the roof.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2004d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2006e \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#) [summer 2004](#) [autumn 2006](#)

Underground picture(s): false floor
Detailed Survey : pdf file 1:500
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file : yes (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0274: cave

La Colina 30T 453699 4797104 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 490m
Length 10m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th October 2004; 10th December 2006

A strongly draughting bedding entrance with boulders. At the back of the cave is an aven with a strong draught. In 2006 it was noticed that the main way on appears to be a bedding on the left (up a step or climb in from the right). This needs more digging to follow a good, cold draught.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2004d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2006e \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : yes [summer 2004](#) [autumn 2006](#)

Underground picture(s): [A Tissue moth on the cave wall](#) [draughting bedding](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0275: shaft

Coterón las Llanas 30T 450938 4798511 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: M) **Altitude** 536m

Depth 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February, 18th April 1999

A descended shaft of about 10m depth.

Needs a description from PP.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1998c \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 1999a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : yes

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0276: shaft

Coterón las Llanas 30T 450928 4798521 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: M) **Altitude** 532m

Length 16m **Depth** 13m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February , 18th April 1999

A 4m climb down onto bones and the narrow head of a 6m pitch. A short climb down boulders at the bottom ends at a narrow, draughting rift.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1998c \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 1999a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : yes

Underground picture(s): [pitch top](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0277: shaft

Coterón las Llanas 30T 451038 4798611 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: M) **Altitude** 525m

Length 8m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 21st October 2001

A shaft amongst trees. Choked.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture : yes

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0278: Balcabosa, Torca de

Coterón las Llanas 30T 451068 4798611 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: M) **Altitude** 524m

Length 30m **Depth** 66m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th November 2003

A fairly loose and nasty series of pitches. A grassy shakehole enters a 10m pitch onto boulders in a rift. A climb up over rocks leads to an 8m drop and a further 8m descent to boulders. A chossy 35m pitch then lands on boulders and the pot chokes.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a \(survey\)](#); [Smith P, 1982b](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1981: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0279: shaft

Coterón las Llanas 30T 451128 4798631 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 509m

Length 8m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

A shaft in trees which chokes.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0280: Escalón, Fuente El (Penny's Cave)

N Vega 30T 449958 4795731 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 175m

Length in [Sistema de Colmenas-Escalón \(363\)](#)

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 30th June 2018; 15th February, 27th April 2024

One of two resurgences at this level on the north side of the Vega valley, the other being [Fuente de las Colmenas \(363\)](#). Crawling leads to a small chamber and a duck. A calcite climb on the left bypasses this and leads to a deep pool which bends to the right and ends at a draughting 'sump'. The draught issues from a small eyehole. The passage continues under water to the right of the sump pool. An 8m awkward dive surfaces in a rift with the main way on in a parallel rift. The draughting passage continues to link with Fuente de las Colmenas. A roof level passage 60m beyond the sump draughts out strongly but only connects further up the cave.

A water trace from a sink in the Cubjia valley (near [Regatón](#)) was carried out over February 2024. Detectors in [Rioturto Inlet](#), [Cueva Molino](#) and this resurgence proved negative.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1983a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994b \(logbook\) \(?\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995a](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey\)](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\)](#) (line survey);

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey : No detail on [North Vega Survey](#)

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [with Colmenas](#)

30/6/2018

X

0281: shaft

Mentera 30T 458188 4794281 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 568m

Length 75m **Depth** 75m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

A sloping rift descends for 20m to the head of a 60m pitch. Landing is on a boulder slope in a 10x10m passage which quickly chokes.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0282: shaft

Mentera 30T 458208 4794281 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 570m

Depth 10m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Undescended shaft of about 10m depth.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0283: shafts

Mentera 30T 459268 4793651 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 754m

Length 30m **Depth** 30m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A series of daylight shafts. The deepest is about 30m with a draught.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0284: caves (Cagulia 1, Cueva (16)) (Cubillo 1, S. (17)) (Cubillo 2, S. (18))

Ogarrio 30T 456148 4793221 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 130m

Lengths 90m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 3rd November 2021

First looked at in 1976, the caves have been explored by the F.C.M.E.. The original notes described a wet weather resurgence, still going but more suitable clothing needed and that other caves nearby needed pushing.

The sites have no description in reference BV, just a survey in some cases:

- Site 16: Cueva Cagulia no survey, no length.
- Site 17: S. Cubillo 1 no survey, no length
- Site 18: not named, survey, length 30m
- Site 19: S. Cubillo 3, survey, length 60m

The sketch surveys in L76 should "agree" with the BV surveys in some cases. Not all the sites noted in 1976 have been documented in BV.

In November / December 2015 water tracing from [Cueva Orilla³n](#) was found **not** to emerge in this area. Detectors were placed in one of these resurgences (Surgencia Cubillo 3, that the AEC Lobetum catalogue as site 1) and a resurgence further to the north catalogued by the Cuencans as site 5. The Surgencia Cubillo 3 has been GPS'd at 30T 0456164 4793211.

With the area map in the BV (the AEC Lobetum catalogue) it should be possible to separate out the caves here and give at least an approximate grid reference.

References: [anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#) (survey); [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1993a](#) (survey); [anon., 2015d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021d \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [Surgencia Cubillo 3](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0285: cave

Ogarrio 30T 456448 4793021 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 142m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 3rd November 2021

Phreatic tube at the side of track. Where's the cave where the gun was found?

This could be Cueva del Mazo 2, 3 or 4.

References: [anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#) (?); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2021d \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0286: Mazo 5, Cueva del

Ogarrio 30T 456468 4793001 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 127m
Length 0m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 3rd November 2021; 16th February 2022

A resurgence at the side of the river bed. A gloopy passage related to Cueva del Mazo 2 ([5136](#)) and the Surgencia del CoverÃ³n ([5137](#)) and the Cueva del Mazo ([0961](#)) - Cueva del Chopo ([5151](#)) system.

References: [anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1993a \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2021d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0287: Campuvijo, Cueva de (Campo Viejo, Cueva de)

Ogarrio 30T 456564 4793078 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 123m

Length 925m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 18th January 2004; 30th October 2007; 10th September, 3rd November 2021

("The wet weather resurgence at the base of a cliff. This was first noted in 1976 with a draughting hole that could be dug on the right hand side." This more likely applies to site 5137, Coverón.)

The cave has been entered by the F.C.M.E. (see reference BV, site 15) The eastern entrance has been explored to a sump some 160m to the north. This sump appears to be 4m wide and might make a good diving site.

The western entrance appears to lead to a much smaller series of passages and two smaller sumps.

Reference [Valero Enrique y Soriano Ángel, 2007](#) suggests that there is a hydrological link between this site and the Sumidero de Monticueva (Voto). The latter site is at 30T 0461004 4795145 alt. 487 (ETRS89: 30T 460902 4794936) in the Alcomba area, 2km N of the Casa de Alcomba. The entrance is nearly 5km from the resurgence; the sump at 302m altitude is 3.6km from the resurgence. A survey for the Sumidero can be found on the [Spanish cave rescue site](#) and [here](#).

The site might better be called Campo Viejo? (JCFG)

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1993a \(survey\)](#); [Valero Enrique y Soriano Ángel, 2007](#); [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021d \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [November 2020](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from [anon., 1993a \(AEC Lobetum\)](#): [high res](#) [low res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0288: Bodega, La

Secadura 30T 455307 4799443 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: A) **Altitude** 57m

Length 50m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 7th October 2010; 21st, 24th September 2012; 28th January, 4th March 2013; 30th November 2016; 1st May 2018; 12th May 2019

A draughting hole in the wood which used to have a door frame around the entrance. The passage quickly leads to a stream which becomes too wet and narrow upstream, presumably as it approaches the stream in [Lenny's Cave](#). A good draught was also noted in the summer 2010.

On the right in the entrance chamber, a passage on the right leads to another, excavated entrance and about 40m of "squalid small tubes", explored until the route became "too restrictive". A complete, probably modern, pot was found just inside this upper entrance.

The entrance was surface surveyed and re-GPS'd in December 2013: a compromise position is shown above. A [partial survey](#) was also carried out at that time.

Over Easter 2018, the [Matienzo Karst Entomology Project](#) (led by Tom Thompson) followed up a previous study by collecting bugs, spot sampling and setting pitfall traps in a number of sites under a Cantabria-wide permit. The Entomology Project carried out some work in this cave. Traps were retrieved and spot sampling was carried out over Easter 2019. Photos were also taken.

References: [anon., 1981a](#) (logbook); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2010c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2012d](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2012f](#) (Christmas logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2013a](#); [anon., 2013b](#) (Easter logbook); Thomson Tom, 2016; [anon., 2018b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2019b](#) (Easter logbook)
Entrance pictures : [2012](#), [2013](#), [2018](#) : [2019](#)
Underground picture(s): [yes](#)
Detailed Survey : [DistoX part survey](#) : [drawn up partial survey](#)
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)
[as part of an area survey](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0289: cave

Secadura 30T 455410 4799387 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 68m

Length 50m **Depth** 10m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 7th October 2010; 24th September 2012

A low entrance at the top of a field. A crawl leads to a wide chamber with one small side passage.

The cave was excavated over a couple of trips in the summer, 2012. Entry was gained up to a choked high level passage, apparently just the space above boulders when the roof collapsed. Two passages are possibilities for extension: the left hand one is a low, flatout passage which requires enlargement past fallen blocks; the right hand one is a small climb into a low chamber, 6m across. There is no obvious way on but a return is needed on a good draughting day.

References: [anon., 1981a](#) (logbook); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2010c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2012d](#) (summer logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2013a](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Video: [entrance](#) (Pete Smith)

Detailed Survey : [sketch 2012](#) (John Thorp)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0290: shaft

N Vega 30T 449967 4795870 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 233m

Length 5m **Depth** 5m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 4th May 2009

Shaft of about 5m depth which has been descended to a ledge from where it is seen to be completely choked.

References: [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1994b](#) (logbook); [anon., 2009a](#) (Easter logbook)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0291: cave

Secadura 30T 455348 4799321 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 99m

Length 15m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 21st April 2013

An interesting cold hole at the lower end of a blind valley above [Los Boyones \(117\)](#), the main resurgence in Secadura. A small rift in

the floor is choked; a small chamber above this also appears to be choked.

The GPS taken at Easter 2013 is ETRS89: 30T 455330 4799307, probably putting it in the "wrong place".

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2013b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0292: cave

Secadura 30T 455368 4799301 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 99m

Length 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 21st April 2013

Further up the depression from sites [291](#) and [293](#). A short climb down leads to a flat out crawl entering a mud filled chamber with no apparent exit. May repay another visit.

On a visit at Easter 2013, water flowing into the flatout crawl was diverted down another hole in the cave. The GPS taken at Easter 2013 is ETRS89: 30T 455360 4799292, probably putting it in the "wrong place".

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2013b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0293: shaft

Secadura 30T 455338 4799311 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 102m

Length 15m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 21st April 2013

Entrance on the side of the depression. A flat out crawl to a short pitch which drops into a narrow streamway. This chokes almost immediately.

At Easter 2013 the crawl was excavated but the pitch not descended. The GPS taken at Easter 2013 is ETRS89: 30T 455334

4799312 , probably putting it in the "wrong place".

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2013b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0294: Bueyes, Cueva de los (Palomar, Cueva de)

Llueva 30T 455843 4798431 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 293m

Length 40m **Depth** 13m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 20th January 2002

A large entrance under a [limestone overhang](#), near the top of the northern side of Llueva. A slope down leads into a [20m wide, 15m high chamber](#), with a hidden pool down on the right and helictites down to the left at the rear. There is no sign of any previous occupation apart from burnt wood.

High up at the back, a small hole down leads to boulders where routes between are still open.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon, 2001d \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes, 2001](#)

Underground pictures: [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0295: cave

La Secada 30T 453358 4798671 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 356m

Length 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 4th May 2022

Thirty metres below the road in some trees. A crawl leads to a standing height chamber with two choked rifts. The site was revisited in 2022 and the position and description were said to be accurate.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2022b \(Easter logbook\)](#)
Entrance pictures : [April 2022](#)
Underground pictures: [April 2022](#)
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0296: cave

Mentera 30T 458488 4794071 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 611m

Length 50m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 18th January 2004

A 1m diameter entrance with 50m of phreatic passage leading to a 3m high calcite choke. This site appears to be LBT-9 in ref. BV

References: [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1993a \(survey\)](#);
Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey : from [anon., 1993a \(AEC Lobetum\)](#): [high res](#) [low res](#)
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0297: cave (M25 (SEAD))

Llueva 30T 455222 4796683 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 492m

Length 170m **Height** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th September 2000; 16th June 2002; 5th November 2011

A 15m wide by 2.5m high entrance is at the side of the track. The right of the entrance has been marked M25 with green paint, but so has [site 578](#).

A large chamber is immediately entered with a short choked passage on the left containing broken pottery. This ends at a draughting constriction which opens beyond. A low crawl over calcite at the back of the cave leads to a high chamber with holes in the roof. These must join with [site 3392](#) which is on the main track above. The altitudes of the explored passages in both sites seems about the same.

A man-made tunnel leaves a walled enclosure just inside the entrance and passes under the entrance into the field below. This may possibly have carried water to a nearby barn.

Reference [anon., 1990a](#) states that site M25 (presumably 578) has a depth of 195m.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [Cawthorne R, 1987 \(survey\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1990a](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#)
Entrance picture : [main cave](#) and [drainage\(?\) tunnel](#)
Underground pictures: [yes](#)
Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0298: cave

Muela 30T 454898 4796551 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 617m

Length 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A short jungle-bash up a cliff to a short, choked cave.

Reference: [Corrin J, 1983c](#)
Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0299: cave

Muela 30T 455380 4796495 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 572m

Length 20m **Depth** 10m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

*Updated 1st October, 18th November 2007;
27th May 2011*

A collapsed chamber, marked by a tree, with 2 ways off. The main chamber is on the eastern side which involves a climb down flowstone, passing abundant stal to a calcite choke. The western route ends after 3m into a choke.

(The new track may well have obliterated the cave as a walk down the track with a GPS appeared to pass right over the entrance co-ordinates.) Later walks appear to have the site visible in a bend in the track above [site 3504](#), although the tree hasn't been visited to confirm the cave. If 299 still exists, it could be associated with 3504.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2007d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2007e \(autumn + Christmas logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0300: shaft

Mullir 30T 455508 4796241 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 602m

Length 50m **Depth** 50m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 12th May 2011

A choked, 50m deep shaft.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2011b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0301: shaft

Mullir 30T 455488 4796221 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 603m

Length 110m **Depth** 110m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An unimpressive shaft top in an area of clints and grass. The shaft narrows down and is choked at the base. The grid reference is debatable.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0302: shaft

Mullir 30T 455488 4796231 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 604m

Length 30m **Depth** 20m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 19m pitch lands on a boulder slope with 10m of passage. Entrance marked with red tape. Marked 703 with a tag.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0303: shaft

Mullir 30T 455698 4796241 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 523m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Choked shaft.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0304: shaft

Llueva 30T 455398 4796571 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 523m

Depth 30m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An undescended shaft of some 30m depth.

Check: another hole is also 304.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0305: shaft

Llueva 30T 454909 4796988 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 462m

Length 31m **Depth** 14m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th April 2002; 4th March 2021

Shaft of 8m to ledge with another 4m to a floor of horses and maggots. The entrance lies just downhill of the track and has been tagged with 859 in error.

A fuller documentation and description has been published by ADEMCO as site AD-85 after exploration in 2020. The following is translated and edited from their report.

The entrance has dimensions of about 2.5 x 2.2m. A pitch of 4 m drops to a ramp with a considerable inclination of earth, blocks and garbage. The galleries develop below the track. As we go down on the left side we have a small inlet with two small, blind pits without continuation. Down the ramp we come to a small vertical pitch of 3m that takes us to an elongated room of small dimensions where the cavity ends at 14 m deep.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1990b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002a \(Easter logbook\)](#); *Memorias de Exploraci3n ADEMCO 2020, pp42 - 44*

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [ADMECO 2020](#)

Detailed Survey : [ADEMCO 2020](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0306: Liana del Cueto, Torca de la

S Vega 30T 451560 4794909 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 370m

Length 40m **Depth** 25m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 16th October 2003

A pitch into a large chamber with a smaller one off to one side corresponding to a small shaft on the surface.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); material in file; [anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Videos : [situation](#) [shaft top](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0307: cave

S Vega 30T 451115 4795420 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 235m

Length 8m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated September 17th 2000; 20th December 2008; 17th September 2014

A small, easily missed entrance leads to a 1.5m high room with a crazy paving floor and small chamber to the right.

The cave could have been used as a shelter during the Civil War as there are various rusty items on the floor. Further illustrated information about the Civil War in the area can be found [here](#).

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [Smith Peter, 2012](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0308: shaft

S Vega 30T 451648 4795021 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 310m

Length 15m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 27th July 2000

A squeeze and pitch down under a large boulder ends at a 4m pitch to a gravel floor where the draught is lost. This site may be at the base of the shakehole that contains site [1512](#). See that description for a more accurate grid reference.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0309: cave

S Vega 30T 451572 4795052 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 330m

Length 10m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 27th July 2000

A 10m diameter pit, undercut all the way round at the base, but with no outlet.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0310: cave

S Vega 30T 451679 4795060 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 282m

Length 15m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 27th July 2000; 27th September 2015

Choked shaft.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#) ; [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2015c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0311: shaft

S Vega 30T 451691 4795057 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 279m

Length 35m **Depth** 34m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 27th July 2000; 19th October 2003; 27th September 2015; 26th

November 2024

A strongly draughting but tight hole with the wind blowing up between boulders some of which were excavated in 1992. The cave was left to stabilise and another 2m depth was gained at Easter 1994.

The 1995 digging season left the site still draughting very strongly, 5m deep and 2m diameter, with a boulder and clay floor.

In the summer of 96, the hole was excavated to a 30m blind pitch with no obvious way on. There is a small chamber to the right of the pitch, about 3m down.

Digging above the pitch head is still following the draught.

The site was further investigated in 2015 when it was partly descended. There is some doubt as to the depth: in 2015, rocks went a considerable distance below 24m

depth (down 12m on ladders and 12m disto to a ledge). The rocks landed with a considerable echo.

In the autumn 2024, the site was bottomed to a complete choke - and photographed, video'd and surveyed - and the hole was described as very loose: "the shaft(s) below the 6m pitch from the surface are very loose and should be treated with care."

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001](#); [anon., 2015c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024e \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [earlier photos](#) including the hole top in 2003 : [summer 2015](#) : [October 2024](#)

Underground pictures: [2015](#) : [October 2024](#)

Video: [October 2024 \(YouTube\)](#)

Detailed Survey : [October 2024](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [October 2024](#)

X

0312: Mazo, Cueva del

La Vega 30T 452138 4795541 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 222m

Length 230m+ **Depth** 15m+

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th November 2003; 1st May 2018

A small cave which carries a tiny stream through the limestone knoll at the bottom of La Vega.

A tight rift intersects a low stream passage. The remainder is hands-and-knees or flat out crawling on a bed of black sandstone. The passage becomes too tight on a corner, although this might be hammered out. The cave should join with [site 368](#). A couple of side passages on the right are fairly grotty with sloppy mud and dangling roots.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); material in file; [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#); [anon., 2006d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [April 2018](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1981: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0313: cave

Llueva 30T 454628 4798211 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 147m

Length 100m **Depth** 25m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 21st April 2016

A wooded shakehole on the right of the route to [Cueva Llueva \(114\)](#). A collapse of an old dig that emits a howling gale. The short entrance crawl leads to a 1m diameter, 5m deep pitch ending at a squeeze and a further 4m pitch. Another short descent enters a small stream passage which ends far too tight but emitting a strong draught. The cave may possibly join with the small passage and rift on the right of downstream Llueva.

The site was revisited at Easter 2016 and capping could be an option to progress.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J et al, 1981a](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2016b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0314: shaft

Muela 30T 455268 4796411 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 627m

Length 12m **Depth** 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[Logbook search](#)

A boulder covered shaft which chokes.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1991 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0315: shaft

Muela 30T 455278 4796401 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 628m

Length 40m **Depth** 25m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[Logbook search](#)

A wriggle through a hole in rocks leads to a 3m climb down to a 15m pitch through a false floor.

The pitch lands on a scree cone at the side of a 25m x 15m chamber. A slot down at the

right hand end leads to 15m of passage ending at a squeeze into a small aven.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1991 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0316: shaft

Muela 30T 455243 4796324 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 643m

Length 15m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 16th June 2008; 3rd March 2020

[Alternative grid reference is 0455242 4796327]

There are two openings, one nicely fluted.

Choked shaft.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2008d \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 2020a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0317: shaft

Muela 30T 455174 4796317 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 645m

Length 10m **Depth** 30m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 16th June 2008

Shaft of 30m to a chamber 8m by 10m.

Small decorated passage runs north for a couple of metres and chokes. Bolt tagged with yellow marker.

In early June 2008, a Spanish group was seen to descend lower down the shakehole giving the impression of less depth.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2008d \(Whit logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0318: shaft

Mullir 30T 455588 4796021 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 556m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Choked shaft. Same hole as [site 130?](#)

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0319: shaft (M50 (SEAD))

Mullir 30T 455658 4796231 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 524m

Length 27m **Depth** 27m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 16th June 2002

Shaft descended to depth of about 27m. A small calcited inlet drops onto the boulder choke at the base. The site is marked M50 by SEAD, but so is [site 131](#).

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0320: shaft

Mullir 30T 455718 4796231 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 529m

Length 27m **Depth** 27m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 18th April 1999; 1st April 2001

Previously an "undescended shaft of about 90m depth" although the 1992 account has this hole free-climbed to 4m and a draughtless choke! At Easter 99 the hole was relocated as a 4m climb down to the hidden head of a substantial pitch where a bolt was placed.

The shaft top was opened up and descended in 2001 where the main pitch was found to be a 23m deep, circular shaft.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1999a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0321: cave

Llueva 30T 455338 4796611 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 509m

Length 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A single choked chamber.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [Cawthorne Bob et al, 1988](#); material in file

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0322: shaft

Mullir 30T 455798 4796101 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 550m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Choked shaft. This site or 323 has been

tagged with 846.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1990b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0323: shaft

Mullir 30T 455808 4796121 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 545m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Choked shaft. This site or 322 has been

tagged as 846.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1990b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0324: shaft

Mullir 30T 455858 4795961 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 535m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th October 2003

Questionable position. A 20m diameter pit with a ramp in one corner. Undescended but looks promising. The site was searched for in 2003 but not found.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0325: caves - 2

Mullir 30T 455718 4796031 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 583m

Length 5 & 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Two horizontal passages about 1.5m in

diameter.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0326: cave

S Vega 30T 450378 4795241 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 327m

Length 35m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 21st September 2018

A noticeable entrance in a limestone scar. The cave is essentially one gallery with a short side passage before a climb to the final choke.

See also [site 1058](#).

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); material in file

Entrance picture : [June 2018](#)

Underground picture: [June 2018](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0327: cave

S Vega 30T 450448 4795241 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 330m

Length 20m **Depth** 3m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 10th September 2021

Cave which contains a 3m choked pitch. This site is "possibly a repeat of 1910"

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

; [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0328: cave

S Vega 30T 450523 4795261 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 345m

Length 30m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 7th October 2010

The large entrance lies at the foot of a steep sided, brambly depression. A crawl to a small series of chambers.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); material in file; [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [December 2020](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0329: cave

S Vega 30T 450578 4795271 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 345m

Length 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 20th December 2008; 10th

September 2021

A small entrance to a cave which contains rubbish and could have been used during the Civil War. This site is "probably a repeat of [site 1911](#) which has a better grid reference".

Further illustrated information about the Civil War in the area can be found [here](#).

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0330: cave

S Vega 30T 450124 4795121 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 365m

Length 95m **Depth** 7m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 20th January, 5th May 2002; 18th June 2022

Five entrances lead to a short, walk-through, remnant system. The top entrance (east) is at ETRS89: 30T 450189 4795120, although this needs checking out as the reconstructed 3d file doesn't agree.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); material in file; [anon, 2001d \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [1994](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [Reconstructed from the 1994 survey](#)

X

0331: shaft

S Vega 30T 450193 4794794 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 465m

Length 23m **Depth** 23m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 23rd January 2003; 1st May 2018

[The entrances of this and Azpilicueta were fixed by GPS in December 2002 and found to be about 70m west of the previous documented positions. Sites which now need repositioning are [332](#), [675](#), [676](#), [340](#) and [854](#) as these would have been originally fixed in relation to Azpilicueta]

An impressive shaft top in the first shakehole to the northwest of [Torca de Azpilicueta \(333\)](#).

The 23m pitch is broken 5m down by a large ledge. The shaft narrows to 2m diameter and the couple of rifts leading off are far too tight.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2002d \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [2002 & 2017](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0332: shaft

S Vega 30T 450203 4794754 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 482m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 23rd January, 2nd March 2003

[The entrances of Azpilicueta and site 331 were fixed by GPS in December 2002 and found to be about 70m west of the previous documented positions. All sites in the immediate vicinity have been positioned using GPS.]

A 10m pitch down the side of a bridge drops to an earth and boulder floor.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003a \(February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0333: Azpilicueta, Torca de (Top entrance to the S. Vega System)

S Vega 30T 450248 4794758 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [P](#)) **Altitude** 477m

Length 34783m (the South Vega System, after summer 2019. Includes 200m for unsurveyed site [0675](#)) **Depth** 339m (Depth 346m from [site 675](#)

entrance to the deepest underwater point in Comellantes (needs checking).)

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Resources](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998; 19th February 1999; 7th, 26th October 2001; 28th January, 8th June, 26th October 2002; 23rd January, 17th October, 9th November 2003; 9th October 2004; 20th December 2005; 1st February, 15th May 2006; 6th May, 27th October, 17th November 2007; 4th May 2009; 7th, 30th, 31st October, 2010; 7th January, 12th May, 23rd June 2011; 25th April; 25th September, 26th December 2012; 21st May, 17th September 2014; 27th September, 17th October, 1st November 2015; 20th May 2017; 30th June, 21st September 2018; 4th June, 12th September 2019; 24th May 2021; 16th February, 3rd March, 9th September 2022; 13th May 2023

[The entrances of this and site 331 were fixed by GPS in December 2002 and found to be about 70m west of the previous documented positions. From 2015, the entrance is fixed from Google Earth. The

grid reference above for the entrance is on the knob of rock directly above this climb down.]

Incomplete description

The length includes [Cueva-Cubío de la Reñada \(48\)](#), [Torca de Azpilicueta \(333\)](#), [Torca de Papá Noel \(1471\)](#), [Torca de la Vera Negra \(36\)](#), [site 1338](#), [Torca de Coterón \(264\)](#), [site 675](#) and [Cueva Comellantes \(40\)](#). A table of the depth within the South Vega System from each entrance can be seen [here](#).

The most used, (almost) top entrance to the South Vega System ([survey](#)) and hence linked with [Cueva-Cubio de la Reñada \(048\)](#) via *Sanatogen Passage*, [Torca del Coterón \(264\)](#) ; since 1995, with [Torca de la Vera Negra \(Cabaña\) \(036\)](#) and, since 2012, with [Cueva del Comellantes \(0040\)](#). The system can also be entered through [site 1338](#) and [Torca de Papá Noel \(1471\)](#). An Azpilicueta-Coterón through-trip or exchange has yet to be made (at least by British teams) but the Azpilicueta entrance is the preferred route into the back end of Reñada ([tackle list](#)). A pull-through trip has been carried out from Torca de la Cabaña to Cubio de la Reñada, detailed in the description for Cabaña. A slightly higher entrance, [site 675](#), at an altitude of 487m, has been connected through to Azpilicueta in pitches which have yet to be properly gardened. This latter entrance connects above the 4th pitch just before the meanders. The route has yet to be surveyed.

Aerial panoramas and video around the area were taken in August 2018: details to come.

The entrance shakehole contains a tree and a short climb drops into a low, rubble-floored chamber. At the base, a 10m climb down a block wall ends at a 5m pitch into a 6m high chamber with three holes in the floor. Pitch 1 ladder hangs over one of these and the 5 ladders required for pitch 2 are hung from it. The preferred SRT route is at the bottom end of the chamber. Eight metres down the ladder pitch is a ledge with a short length of passage, one part of which rises up to the highest hole in the chamber above and another length goes for 12m as a scramble to a choke. Thirty metres further down is touch-down on a level floor of cobbles.

The only exit is a narrow slot in the floor requiring one ladder. The SRT route links in below this slot. A series of cascades in a high rift now start, with 2 inlets bringing in water from the left - both of these choke. The climbs down end at the lip of a 28m pitch. This roomy shaft, lined with calcite, takes a steady dribble of water. The only outlet at the bottom slopes down to a complete passage change - the high rift is left and a 4m high by 10m wide stream passage passes from right to left. Upstream splits into a number of small passages, all of which become too tight. (Apparently extended in 1995, but not surveyed or described). Downstream, the rubble-floored stream has cut a 3m deep trench between banks of mud and gravel and after 30m the route ends abruptly at the head of a 15m pitch. A traverse on mud over the head of the pitch was completed in 1995 to go beyond the head of the big, main pitch, ending in the middle of nowhere. Up on the right, before the 15m pitch, a deep hole, lined with mud, accepts water from an "inlet" in the far wall.

The **1987 Extensions**, with muddy pitches, lie up this passage. Sketch detail was added to the centre line (stations old.29 - 620) on April 11th, 2023. The "final" pitch was not dropped, the top being described as "terrible mud walls that are not secure". ([Sketch here](#))

Passage character changes back to high and narrow at the base of the 15m pitch. A short section of narrow, meandering steps are descended, ending at an large step down to the wet and windy head of the main pitch.

After 50m a landing is made on a roomy ledge. The drop continues immediately as a 15m pit down to another large ledge containing a pool and then a 40m wet pitch. After passing a ledge, the last 25m is a superb but wet hang into blackness through the roof of a large chamber. What at first appears to be the floor is a jumble of house-sized blocks, the landing being in a calcited pit from which the water sinks and is not seen again. The most obvious gap in the boulders is a 12m pitch into more closely packed chaos, followed by a further descent of 15m from which the only way on is by burrowing amongst loose blocks.

1984 & 1985 Extensions.....?

Reñada 2 requires a proper description here. From the base of the Giga Hall pitch, the streamway drops to the east into the sump that is Reñada sump 1. To the west, deep wading and swimming or lined traverses are required to negotiate the potholed streamway. The main water rising at the end of the *Rub-a-Dub Dubs* (beyond *Into-The-Tub Corner*) had an exploratory dive by Mark Smith in 2002. There would appear to be more water here than in the rest of the (downstream) cave.

This sump was dived at Easter 2011 by Rupert Skorupka who passed Mark's limit to reach 150m and 17m depth in a gently descending, 4 - 5m wide tunnel. At the end, the roof was not visible. ([Survey](#)) There appears to be much less water in *Squirrel's Passage* in Reñada than in the *Rub-a-Dub Dubs*.

Reñada 3 extensions in 1991. In 1991, passages to the north of *Wooden Hill* were extended and there may be a possibility of connection. There also appears to be digs galore at the top of the Wooden Hill according to a trip in 1993.

The 1992 extensions go off from coordinates 65, 60 approximately, and run parallel to, and to the west of *Sanatogen Passage*. A climb up leads to *Santub Passage* with a number of junctions. The end of *Santub Passage* was dug through to a small gypsum chamber with 6 ways off. The draught can be followed through boulders to an area of spongework and rifts with holes in the floor. A descending tube to the left enters a larger passage on a fault and to a black hole. A 14m pitch drops down the tube on the right hand wall of the passage, avoiding a loose boulder slope. The landing is on a big block in a large chamber - *At the Opera* - some 30m x 20m in size. Most ways on are blocked. The draught and the main route appear to continue down a 12m pitch into *G.B. Chamber* with a steeply sloping sand floor. There appears to be no outlet or draught in the chamber.

In the summer of 2004 Torca de Papá Noel was linked to *At the Opera* beyond Torture Chamber Grotto.

In 1993, some passage was surveyed off the *Coffin Levels*. In 2000, the survey up in the final chamber was completed to show that this was within a few metres of [Torca de Papá Noel](#) (site 1471). The *Cork Screw Pitch Series* was also entered but continues unexplored down a 15m pitch with a tight top.

The top of the *Giga Hall* pitch was traversed around to enter passage in 1993. A rising and loose traverse which needed about 8 studs enters some 250m of passage, ending at a 100m x 30m chamber, heading towards *Mega Hall*. A couple of 20m pitches in a small maze area have not been dropped. This area was photographed in 1995, although the route up is not easy.

Samples of stalagmite were removed from the cave for dating in 1993.

During the summer of 1995, the upstream area of "Reñada 3" was pushed by digging at the terminal choke. A blockage of sand and boulders was removed and entry gained to a small chamber with the sound of the river emerging from cobbles in the floor. This area was excavated to a depth of 2m to another opening with more digging to a jammed block and a strong draught. The block was removed but the route through was too small. A roaring rift was widened with hammer and chisel but again, no route through is possible.

A climb down to water has a roomy sump and twiglet-like chert on the walls. Above the sump is the *Twiglet Zone*, a narrow crawl over the top. This leads after 10m to an alcove on the side of the main stream, 2.5m wide and 3m high. A crawling oxbow leads past a deep plunge pool and a 1m cascade. Fifteen metres of walking and wading leads to a 1m cascade and a wade into a deep pool. After 40m of sporting passage, two areas of boulder choke are met. The main water appears to well up out of a sump. A small inlet comes through a boulder choke which requires a lump hammer for further progress.

Shortly before the end of "Reñada 3", a wide slope leads down to a lake, which can be waded across to a large sump pool with a wide chamber sloping up to the right. In the left hand wall of the chamber a 2m climb connects to a small passage which meets a stream. Following this upstream, crawling

leads to a slope up and a sandy route to the right ending at a pitch into a chamber. Passing between boulders to the left at the top of the climb leads to some crawls, while a slot leads to a route through boulders, discovered at Easter, 1996 into the large *Easter Bunny Chamber*. The stream comes down a 2m cascade, climbing up which leads to a stream passage.

The stream passage, *China Syndrome*, was explored in one trip in August 1996. The passage starts as relatively easy going in low passage with cobbles. A number of inlets are passed, not all of which have been fully explored. At about station 5 one side passage ends at a circular chamber after 5m. Looking upwards a passage is seen to continue. This is an easy stomp along a sandy floor to a climb above into a blind chamber. Continued crawling leads to a junction where turning right over sand and right again up a steep tube leads to a rift passage. Passing a chamber with possible side routes, continuing passage leads into a well decorated area, where a right turn connects into the west end of China, a large chamber where the roof is a very high, 50m+ aven and the draught is entering from here.

Attempts to climb up around here in 1998 appeared to prove that a connection with Cueva Vallina would be easier to find from the Vallina side.

Back at station 5, ahead is a long crawl which leads to the eastern end of China.

The top of a 50m aven in this area would still be apparently 250m north of and 70m below the nearest point in [Cueva Vallina \(733\)](#).

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

Logbook accounts

Reñada "2, 3, 4" etc

1995: [5th August](#) [8th August](#)

1996: [8th April](#)

[Pull-through trip, 31st July 2022](#)

Pitch Notes (Easter 1997)

- p1: 6m ladder and wire belay required
- p2: 45m 50m rope; pre-placed hangers in; bolts need replacing.
- p3: 35m 50m rope; 1 hanger required
- p4: 25m 33m rope & sling
- p5 & 6: ~150m 107m rope to hanging belay; 40m rope to floor

The [speleo club Viana](#) (from Guadalajara) have published a number of documents (descriptions & surveys, including gpx, pdf and jpg files) relating to the system. See their [Cantabria page](#) and the *Zona de Matienzo* section. One document detailing parts of the SVS can be [found here](#).

References: anon., 1982 (logbook); Addis F, 1982 (survey and photo); Corrin J, 1983c (survey and photo); anon., 1984 (logbook); Barrington P and Hanson D, 1984; anon., 1985b (logbook); Corrin J, 1986; anon., 1986 (logbook); Corrin J, 1987; material in file; anon., 1987 (logbook); Garcia J L, 1987; Corrin J, 1983a (survey); Corrin J and Knights S, 1988; anon., 1988 (logbook); Davis J and Corrin J, 1989; anon., 1991 (logbook); Corrin J, 1992a (survey); anon., 1992b (logbook); Stacey P, 1992; Corrin J, 1992b (survey); Corrin J and Quin A, 1992; Duffy R and Matienzo '92, 1992; Corrin J, 1993 (survey); Cawthorne B, 1992; anon., 1993b (logbook); Quin A, 1993a; Openshaw S et al, 1993; Ogando Lastra E, 1993; Corrin J, 1994a; Corrin Juan, 1995b; anon., 1995c (logbook); Corrin Juan, 1995a; anon., 1996a (Easter logbook); anon., 1996b (logbook); Corrin Juan, 1997a (survey); Corrin Juan, 1997b; anon., 1997b (logbook); Corrin Juan, 1998; anon., 1998d (logbook); García José León, 1997 (survey); Corrin Juan, 1997c; Corrin Juan, 2001; Corrin Juan, 2001a; anon., 2002e (February logbook); anon., 2002b (summer logbook); anon., 2002d (Christmas logbook); Corrin Juan, 2003c; anon., 2004d (summer logbook); Corrin Juan, 2005; Corrin Juan, 2006; Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007; León García José, 2010 (Volume 1 and Volume 2) (survey and photos); anon., 2011b (Easter logbook); anon., 2014c (summer logbook); Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014; anon., 2015c (summer logbook); anon., 2017b (Easter logbook); anon., 2018c (summer logbook); anon., 2022a (January, February logbook); anon., 2022c (summer logbook); anon., 2023b (Easter logbook)

Entrance pictures : [2003-2017](#) : [2022](#) : [drone video of entrance position](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey :

1982	known cave (plan)	low res	high res
1982	known cave (elevation)	low res	high res
1983	on area map	needs scanning	needs scanning

from rescue site	simplified Azpilicueta, Reñada, Coteron	low res	high res
(2010)	scan of end sumps & China Syndrome	pdf file (12.3Mb)	
(2010)	annotated sumps survey (PP)	Word doc	
(2010)	annotated sumps survey additions (JD)	Word doc	
(2011)	sketch survey of Into-the-Tub sump	jpg	
2011	SVS hydrology diagram (Terry Whitaker)	pdf	

Line Survey :

On area survey : No detail on the [South Vega System line survey](#) : [On scanned 1982 South Vega System survey](#) : [sketch of stns old.29 - 620 \(April 2023\)](#)

Survex file : [stand alone](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[download South Vega System](#) (after summer 2019) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Miscellaneous : Early (1982) explorers and tackle [1](#) [2](#)

Passage direction rose diagram: [South Vega System](#) (30/6/2018)

[X](#)

0334: shaft

S Vega 30T 449951 4795032 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 376m

Length 5m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th April 2002

Choked shaft.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2002a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0335: cave

S Vega 30T 450289 4794939 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 433m

Length 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 7th October 2010; 27th September 2015

A GPS reading from 2010 put the entrance at 30T 450287 4794930 435m.

A slope down to the choke.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2015c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0336: shaft

S Vega 30T 450318 4795001 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 417m

Length 8m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 7m pitch to a choked climb down in one corner.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); card

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0337: shaft

S Vega 30T 450219 4794971 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 414m

Length 30m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 7th October 2010

A walk-down shakehole to a shelter with a shaft entering through a hole in the wall. A 4m pit drops into a small chamber with 3 descending rifts about 50cm wide which all choke.

References: [anon., 1982\(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0338: shaft

S Vega 30T 450332 4794906 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 450m

Length 12m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 7th October 2010; 24th September 2024

A 3m free climb (ladder is useful), slopes down to another 2m free climb where the passage turns to right. The rift slopes down and gets wider in clean-washed limestone, before ending in a chamber with a calcite and sand floor.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2011](#); [anon., 2024d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [2010 and 2024](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0339: shaft

S Vega 30T 450422 4794893 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 466m

Length 7m **Depth** 7m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 24th January, 25th May 2003; 1st February 2006; 20th May 2017; 1st May 2018

A choked shaft.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [card](#); [anon., 2002d \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#); [anon., 2017b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#) : [re-exploration](#) : [video of entrance](#) : [2017](#)

Underground picture(s): [view down the shaft](#)

[video of exploration](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0340: cave

S Vega 30T 450288 4794731 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 485m

Length 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 23rd January, 2nd March 2003

[The entrances of Azpilicueta and site 331 were fixed by GPS in December 2002 and found to be about 70m west of the previous documented positions. This site has been repositioned after others to the west were positioned by GPS in February 2003.]

A meandering passage in the bottom of a shakehole. This could be [site 1851](#).

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0341: cave

S Vega 30T 450472 4794699 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 495m

Length 0m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 25th May 2003; 1st February 2006

A hole with a "continuing slope" which was finally investigated in 2003. The cave links down a tight slope with the high level passage in [Torca del Serruco](#) (site 50). Large fragments of prehistoric pottery have been found in Torca del Serruco where they would have rolled in from site 341. See [site 50](#) for pictures and video.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s): [See site 50](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0342: shaft

S Vega 30T 450948 4794901 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 444m

Length 19m **Depth** 13m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 13m pitch into a wide shaft. About 6m of narrow passage at the base becomes too tight.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0343: shaft

S Vega 30T 451038 4794971 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 446m

Length 30m **Depth** 30m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A clamber down into a small chamber with the pitch in the floor belayed from the roof. Twelve and 15m pitches land on a choked floor.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); card

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0344: shaft

S Vega 30T 451314 4794756 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 473m

Length 12m **Depth** 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 21st September 2018

A fenced shaft which is a pitch of 5m landing on boulders. These have been dug to yield a 6m pitch to a final choke.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2018c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [August 2018](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0345: Zorro, Cueva del

S Vega 30T 451659 4795039 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 300m

Length 80m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 27th July 2000; 9th November 2003; 1st, 29th October, 18th November 2007; 16th April 2008

A low, draughting entrance slopes down to a tight squeeze into a 5x5m, well decorated and roomy phreatic passage. The main route gradually climbs then swings around to the right and rises up through and over boulders to a choke. To the left a low crawl emits a draught; this has been dug to a 8cm wide rift.

In 2007, the entrance was enlarged and photographs taken. The choke was also attacked, leaving an unstable roof that requires a long bar to progress. Further work occurred here at Easter 2008.

The cave was resurveyed in autumn 2007 and it appears that it is heading for the surface at [site 309](#), possibly. However, the survey does not compare well with the original plan and the centre line needs surveying again.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c \(survey\)](#); material in file ; [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2009](#); [anon., 2007d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2007e \(autumn + Christmas logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Video : [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1982: [original plan](#) [original elevation](#) [published low res](#) [published high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)



0346: Dog Pot

S Vega 30T 451788 4794561 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 482m

Length 40m **Depth** 30m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th September 2022

The grid reference comes from a "probable" sighting in August 2022.

The 8m entrance drop has good echoes and is followed by a further 8m pitch. A final pitch from a stalled balcony ends in a shingle floor with no way on. The [sketch survey shows three 25ft pitches](#) after the initial drop.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#) (survey); [anon., 2022c](#) (summer logbook)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [from 1987 logbook](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0347: shaft

S Vega 30T 452608 4794781 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 384m

Length 7m **Depth** 7m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A small choked pit.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); card

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0348: cave

La Secada 30T 451984 4797964 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 280m

Length 20m **Depth** 7m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A set of caves that are all parallel rifts under a sandy limestone bed. This site is the longest at 20m; others are [1610](#), [1611](#), [1612](#) and [1613](#).

A rift parallel to the hillside heads west and encounters a 7m pitch, at the base of which is a 5m long rift. Above the pitch the rift continues (too narrow) into [site 1612](#).

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2001a](#) (Easter logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2003a](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0349: shaft

La Secada 30T 452360 4797802 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 193m

Length 10m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 10th February 2023

A small entrance and narrow pitch to a well decorated chamber. This was re-explored in January 2023 when the entrance was widened.

A 5m ladder pitch belayed from the tree above the entrance to a slope down to the bottom of the chamber. It's well-decorated with a range of stalactites, stalagmites (one with a red top), and gours. Completely choked at the end of the chamber and also up the slope from the ladder. About 10m long in total and 8m deep. Slight shadow of a boot imprint confirmed that this was the site explored over 40 years ago. A good site for underground photography at Easter? [Pete Smith]

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2023a](#) (January, February logbook)

Entrance pictures : [January 2023](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0350: shaft

Muela 30T 454334 4796360 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 771m

Depth 18m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th September 2013

[This number was re-allocated in 2013 having previously duplicated sites [708](#) & [709](#).]

An undescended rifted shaft with a 2 second drop.

References: card
Entrance picture : [yes](#)
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0351: shaft

La Secada 30T 452756 4798031 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 173m

Length 4m **Depth** 3m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th September 2000; ; 1st May 2018

This number used to be allocated, before Easter 2018, to "a series of 4 choked shafts along a wooded depression" with grid reference 30T 452755 4798025 (Datum: ETRS89). These four, and more, were documented in April 2018. See sites [4740](#), [4741](#), [4742](#), [4743](#), [4744](#) and [4745](#).

Site 0351 is now a single hole - a 3m deep spiral down to a tiny, leaf-covered floor with no draught.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [Easter 2018](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0352: shaft

La Secada 30T 452669 4798072 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 198m

Length 11m **Depth** 11m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th September 2000; 29th April, 7th October 2001

A 2m square pitch is 11m deep and totally choked with cobbles. The shaft is close to sites [1621](#) and [1622](#).

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001c \(Summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0353: shaft

La Secada 30T 452628 4798341 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 300m

Length 18m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th, 16th January, 2nd July 2022

Original description: *An undescended shaft with a possible draught. About 15m deep.*

The entrance was opened up in December 2021 to reveal a 2 x 1m shaft, 8m deep to a 20cm slot and visible passage. The slot was enlarged but the way on at the base turned out to be 10cm wide for at least 3.5m.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2021f \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [December 2021](#)

Video : [December 2021 \(Youtube\)](#)

Underground pictures: [December 2021](#)

Detailed Survey : [2021](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [December 2021](#)

X

0354: cave

El Naso 30T 451955 4796251 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 355m

Length 100m **Depth** 26m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th October 2003; 19th November 2007; 27th January 2008; 20th June, 10th September 2021

A small, vertical slot entrance to a slope

leads to a chamber. Further inclines on calcite lead to a mud choke. The cave contains some good formations.

The 2021 resurveyor found the bottom half of the cave "more confusing and awkward" than the initial survey 40 years ago. A small addition has been made to the surveyed length to take account of the passage not entered at the final drop.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); material in file; pers comm.; [anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2007e \(autumn + Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021b \(Spring logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [2007](#), [2021](#)

Underground pictures: [2021](#)

Detailed Survey : [1981](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [2021](#)

X

0355: cave

El Naso 30T 451917 4796206 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 333m

Length 25m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th June 1998; 18th November, 18th December 2007; 3rd January 2008

A slope to calcite formations ends in mud. A 4m climb chokes. Lots of red earth and no draught. Marked 556 on orange tape.

The site was re-explored early in 1998, although nothing new was discovered.

The entrance could not be found on a couple of occasions in the autumn 2007, eventually being

refound in December.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); pers comm.; [anon., 2007e \(autumn + Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2007e \(Christmas + Autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0356: cave

El Naso 30T 451214 4796244 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 344m

Length 25m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th October 2004

This site lies up the steep, grassy slope that intersects the cliffs about 150m west of [Cueva Coberruyo](#). When the small caves at [site 2122](#) are reached, 356 is found by climbing out and around to the west at about the same level.

A small entrance drops onto a slope with a crawl to a larger passage on the left.

Walking down over boulders leads to a decorated end. There appears to be no draught.

[Site 2123](#) is a small hole at the top of a steep slope up above the entrance.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2004d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0357: cave

Cubija 30T 450278 4796121 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 308m

Length 10m **Depth** 4m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 4th May 2022

A 4m climb down into a small muddy passage.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2022b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [2022](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0358: cave

Cubija 30T 450368 4796131 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 293m

Length 8m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 4th May 2022

Small, choked pit.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [2022](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0359: cave

Cubija 30T 450578 4796091 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 255m

Length 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 10m long rift which ends in a choke.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0360: Cuvia de la Vega, La

N Vega 30T 450455 4795943 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 260m

Length 100m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 18th September 2000; 25th March, 26th April, 7th October 2001; 20th January 2002; 9th November 2003; 7th January 2004; 1st February 2006; 23rd December 2008; 4th May 2022

A large entrance and chamber with a small passage up on the right at the top of the slope. There is charcoal above a small drop at this point.

In March 2001 a superb example of Bronze Age pottery was noticed in amongst the boulders on the entrance slope and photos are shown below. The pot was removed during the summer and reconstructed.

At the top left of the entrance chamber, a squeeze enters a rift passage on the left which chokes.

At the end of 2003, two small extensions were made. Down to the left, just after the entrance stoop, is an excavated section and squeeze down into a bouldery section which chokes in all directions. At the base of the chamber, up on the eastern wall, a climb leads to a calcited section of high level passage. The whole cave should really be resurveyed.

A useful summary article is found in *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003* with a diagram of the vase and a (out-of-date) cave survey. The pottery ([drawing](#)) has been compared to the assemblage in [site 2139](#). (*Smith P, Corrin J and Ruiz Cobo J, 2008*).

The entrance was found to be more vegetated in 2022.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c \(survey\)](#); material in file; [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); pers comm; [anon, 2001d \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003a \(photo\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#); [anon., 2003e \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#); [Smith P, Corrin J and Ruiz Cobo J, 2008](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008 \(drawing and survey\)](#); [anon., 2022b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [close](#) [distant](#) : [April 2022](#)

Underground picture(s): [passage and pottery](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1982: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0361: shaft

N Vega 30T 449973 4796013 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 258m

Length 8m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 14th June 2008; 4th May 2009

An 8m pitch to a choke.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2008d \(Whit logbook\)](#) ; [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0362: shafts

N Vega 30T 449743 4795681 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 275m

Length 5m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th January 2010

Twin shafts which choke at 5m depth.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); pers comm.; [anon., 2009e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0363: Colmenas, Fuente de las

N Vega 30T 449828 4795551 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 174m

Length 2688m + 20m for [Fuente El Escalón \(280\)](#)

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) :

[Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 26th October 2001; 26th January 2005; 6th January 2011; 30th June 2018

The site was first documented in 1982. The lower cave is a resurgence in wet weather and ends at a daylight connection and a small dig.

The dry cave lies 8m above the resurgence and leads to a draughting boulder choke after 20m. This was excavated at Easter 1994 to a very narrow and wet streamway which continued for about 50m to another choke. The cave was pushed over nine trips during the summer of 1994, giving over 2.3km of passage, some fossil tunnel and a link with [Fuente El Escalón \(280\)](#) to form the Sistema de Colmenas-Escalón (though not dived through the sump). The system is active and should be avoided when rain is forecast. On occasions when there is a small flow of water in the entrance series, no water is seen at the resurgence.

The 400m entrance series, *Free Beer Passage*, is generally small and quite tight and awkward in places with deep water in wet weather. One hundred metres from the entrance, on the north side, a mucky passage leads to a calcite dig. Half way along *Free Beer Passage* an oxbow sets off high on the right above some gours and rejoins the main passage further in. This route is easier than the streamway as it avoids several squeezes. The route continues through some zig-zag bends, past a choked aven, enlarging to *The Hangover* a junction at a boulder run-in and fossil canyon passage.

To the west, the large passage passes through a big chamber and under a bouldery inlet coming from roof level. Shortly after entering a well formed streamway a choke on a corner is reached which has been crawled into. The choke draughts and there is a black space in the roof on the extreme right hand side. The route (*White Mischief*) now heads south initially as a walking height streamway containing pools but soon degenerates to a low pebbly crawl.

Just before this, two leads remain to be pushed. On the left a draughting inlet needs hammering to enter while a low, wet passage on the right near here continues for more than 20m but probably needs a wetsuit.

Eventually a small chamber containing fallen blocks is reached and a cairn marks *Cairn Junction* with two small 'inlets' entering from different directions. The right hand eventually leads to a chamber after 70m with several ways off, one of which is an aven which has been climbed for 10m and continues for at least another 10m to blackness(?) Following the stream inlet further, a junction is reached where the inlet water divides. The right branch quickly reaches a draughting choke which has been passed to gain a small chamber with both the water and the draught issuing from too tight fissures. This part of the *Cairn Junction Inlet* appears to be the major part of the water flow for the Colmenas resurgence during "normal conditions". The left hand branch of the junction continues for about 60m until the passage becomes too tight.

Following the left hand side the going remains awkward until the passage changes and becomes more phreatic in nature.

Gradually the cave becomes narrower and gets too tight to follow except at roof level until an aven is reached, over 12m tall. (Between Cairn Junction and this part of the cave, several tubes in the roof exist. Most have been pushed and, of the ones that don't end after a short distance, they form small, high level routes which connect in various places in White Mischief below).

From the base of the aven, the passage stays at head height with much calcite flow being evident including one with surface debris present. A side passage on the right opposite an obvious white column has been entered for a few metres and is still going but very tight. Other side passages in this area all appear to end in digs or small avens.

Eventually climbing up through boulders gains a chamber with collapse and the way on is to the left. Beyond the route leads to a 40m+ aven but just before this a slot in mud(?) draughts out strongly. This is the furthest point to the west and may be the best start for a possible [Torcón de la Calleja Rebollo \(258\)](#) connection.

To the east of *The Hangover* a rubble slope rises to a large vadose canyon which drops down two 3m climbs and meets a slippery calcite slope which requires two ladders. Shortly beyond this and through a calcite window, the *Playschool Series* starts, the passage entering a large breakdown area with a choked rift above.

Two passages lead off from this area. the southerly route takes water through varied passage, past a sink, through a heavily calcited area and ends at a region of tree routes and bones where it may be possible to dig through to the surface. This point lies under the cliff face southwest of Fuente El Escalón (about 1m below the surface) but would probably be impossible to radio locate. There are a couple of possible features and dig sites on the surface.

To the east of the run-in, an arch in the roof enters canyon passage. Three hammered squeezes are passed to a 2 x 2m draughting and well-decorated passage. A number of right angle bends lead to a red stal column and a weird herring-bone stal on the floor, hence the name *Mackerel Passage*. Some 50m beyond the red column a sandy ramp leads to a passage which ends after 50m at a draughting sandy dig which must sump in wet weather. At the red column a northerly passage also closes down after some 50m.

Heading east leads to a phreatic maze area and eventually the link with the back end of Fuente El Escalón (280), through several wet crawls.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [pers comm/anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1994b \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1996](#); [anon., 1996a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997b](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997c](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001a](#); [anon., 2004f \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\)](#) (line survey)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey : On the [North Vega System line survey](#); no detail

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination

December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and

coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0364: cave

N Vega 30T 449472 4795482 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 305m

Length 25m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 29th January 2010

A small opening in a rock shelter leads to a cave with formations.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); material in file;

[anon., 2009e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0365: cave

N Vega 30T 449477 4795441 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 270m

Length 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th January 2010

An obvious entrance to a short length of passage to a crawl which enters a stalled up chamber. (GPS grid ref may not be accurate - the cave may be at a higher altitude. Old grid reference is VN49559565 Alt. 290m)

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); material in file;

[anon., 2009e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0366: J.R., Torca de

La Secada 30T 451254 4797527 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 232m

Length 25m **Depth** 21m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 1st October 2007; 16th April 2008; 4th May 2009; 10th January, 16th September 2017

A 20m pitch, initially constricted and broken by 2 ledges, drops to a tight rift which has been excavated in various ways since 1984. The entrance has a strong draught according to a possible visit in 1990 and the draught is audible at the end.

The site was re-descended over Christmas 1996 and described as a wide rift pitch with several landings to a flat, stony floor. A narrow rift goes off with the draught audible about 5m away. "Sideways, flatout traversing by a dwarf may lead to progress".

On a trip in 2007, the draught was again heard and avens explored. A "moderate amount" of work is required to open up the rift to give a view around the corner. Some enlarging occurred over Easter 2008 and it is still worth pursuing.

With the draught still audible on New Year's Day, 2017, the dig was enlarged to where a GoPro "possibly showed some sort of passage that could be big enough to get your hand in". However, after a number of trips in August 2017, capping a crawl and removing a flake guarding "the next drop", it was decided that the site would need "some very serious destruction". This can be seen on the [video](#).

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1990b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1996c \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2007d \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2009](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016e \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [distant](#) [close](#)

Underground picture(s):

Video: [The end, August 2017](#)

Detailed Survey : [pdf 2017](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [2017](#)

[X](#)

0367: shaft

La Secada 30T 451981 4797742 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 193m

Length 8m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 21st May 2014

An entrance above [Cueva de Bollón \(098\)](#) on the uphill side of the track. An 8m pitch which narrows to a blocked rift at the base.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1992a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0368: cave

Cubillas 30T 452268 4795701 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 200m

Length 28m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

The resurgence for [Cueva del Mazo \(312\)](#). The passage is mostly a crawl in water, becoming too tight at some gours where there is also some calcite in the roof.

References: [anon., 1982\(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); material in file; [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0369: cave

S Vega 30T 452238 4795521 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 225m

Length 3m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 1st May 2018

The low sink for [Cueva del Mazo \(312\)](#).

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture : [April 2018](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0370: Cuvia de Seldesuto, La

Seldesuto 30T 449038 4795121 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 272m

Length 217m **Depth** 17m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 8th June 1998; 27th October 2001;

9th November 2003; 21st December 2008

Probably associated with [Torcón de la Calleja Rebollo \(258\)](#). Entrance is obviously placed when viewed from a distance, although actual location is less easy due to an uphill jungle bash.

The small hole on the right of a rock shelter leads to a walk down in a large passage and the roomy head of a 6m pitch on the left. The drop lands in a roomy, sandy-floored rift. At the northeast end is a 6m climb up the left hand wall. A rope is useful for the return. A short gravel at the top ends at a 7m pitch into a calcite-floored passage which enlarges to its lowest point (20m wide). From here, a branch to the left chokes after 50m while the main route rises to a roomy, boulder and mud- floored passage with holes.

The cave finishes in solid rock; apparent holes high up on both sides have been checked out with a maypole.

A 50m extension through a tight calcite squeeze was obtained at May 95. It is located in the left hand side wall at the start of the left hand branch off the main passage near three columns. This was surveyed at Easter 1997 but has yet to be added to the survey. (Paul Stacey).

The rock shelter above the entrance appears to have a large archaeological deposit including faunal remains, snail shells *Cepaea nemoralis* and flints - typical of a Mesolithic site. *Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p195* has a photo of this level.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c \(survey\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1995b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 1997a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1998](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003 \(photo\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008 \(survey and photo\)](#)

Entrance picture : [distant](#) [close-up](#)

Underground picture(s): [entrance chamber](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1982: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

y

0371: cave

Seldesuto 30T 448738 4794311 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 434m

Length 25m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

The entrance is above a water trough. A low passage ends in a draughting crawl.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0372: cave

Seldesuto 30T 448699 4794496 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 395m

Length 40m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 10th March 2002; 1st October 2007

The entrance is at the base of a depression and contains the walls of a small barn. To the left of the barn is a slope into a chamber, with a second slope to a smaller passage, ending at an aven and a tight rift on the right.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#) (survey); pers comm 2002; [anon., 2002e \(February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2007d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [from the west](#) [from the east](#)

[pictures taken 2007](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0373: Bosque, Cueva del

N Vega 30T 449238 4795981 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 402m

Length 1022m (+30m unsurveyed upstream)

Depth 204m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 3rd October 2007; 24th October 2009; 16th September 2017; 4th, 8th January, 5th May, 30th June, 21st September 2018

A stream sink in an obvious valley high up on the north side of La Vega, best approached from Las Calzadillas. The cave obviously floods but a quick visit after 2 days of heavy rain in December 2017 found the levels up a bit but still perfectly accessible.

An aerial panorama of the area and video fly-over were made in 2018: [details here](#).

A climb down through the entrance choss lands on boulders and an obvious short climb down enters a fine 2m wide and 5m high stream passage which ends at an 8m pitch. An easy traverse over the top leads to a choked chamber and a slope down which drops to the chamber at the base of the pitch. The outlet is a short crawl to a loose chamber stretching across the passage above, and a further short crawl at floor level meets a collapse. A devious crawl up and to the left, over boulders, enters a tall, dank chamber about 10m long. The far end carries a minute streamway which chokes, while a hole down through the boulder heap at the near end regains the crawl which chokes after about 15m.

The cave was descended again in 2007: an extension was made into the *New Forest* with a draughting crawl that needs digging. In August 2017, a bouldery hole in the floor of *New Forest* was opened up ([YouTube video](#)) and later, a c5m descent made into a 6 x 10m chamber with a dig in boulders. *Slim Pickings* was opened up in December 2017.

Loose boulders were removed and a slot opened up which carried a noticeable draught. A 4m pitch drops into a slowly enlarging passage (*Boxing Day Surprise*) which soon enters a nice inlet chamber. Around the corner is the rather impressive view of a massive shaft where a rock whistles down to a booming crescendo after a freefall of around 5 or 6 seconds. This is *Squirrel's Pitch* - 75m x 10m diameter drop in a beautiful, glistening, widening shaft. (A 4m traverse along a shale bed on the left of the shaft leads to a short drop over the lip to a Y hang rebelay. After 40m, another rebelay leads to a fine final free hanging descent to the base of the pitch.)

The outlet is a tall, tortuous rift which is followed for about 15m to another pitch.

Helmet Trapper (p10m), has a fairly tight squeeze to access but the actual take off is fine and soon opens out into a nice 3m diameter pot. This section of cave is in beautiful waterworn limestone and very reminiscent of Dales potholes. A comfortable descending streamway soon ends at a steep rift leading down to the take-off of the 50m deep *Double Six Pitch*, another stunning descent in a large, beautiful shaft with the stream falling at the far side.

The base of the pitch is 15m by 8m with a flat boulder floor. The water sinks into the boulders and the only outlet is a small, flat out crawl directly opposite the landing. This short *Roll Again* crawl emerges in the *Río Dado*.

Unfortunately, downstream, the route rapidly deteriorates into wet hands-and-knees crawling over pebbles and very

quickly gets tedious. After around 200m the monotony is broken with a beautiful aven coated in slippery white calcite and moonmilk. Downstream from *Slithery Turtle Aven* (so named because of a peculiar shaped flake), a final 60m or so of grovelling ends at a sump. According to the area centre line survey, this sump is 200m away and 5m higher than an inlet that ends in boulders to the south of the *Aquatic Junction* in [Torca del Regaton](#).

Just before *Slithery Turtle Aven* an inlet on the right was pushed in April 2018. This is tight and gnarly and ends where it became too tight after about 116m.

Upstream is a fine passage ending abruptly after about 100m at a sump. A large passage continues to the right of the sump but almost immediately ends at a very steeply ascending, draughting, boulder choke. This has been forced for 10 to 15m but to no avail. (This was checked again (with a smoke bomb) in April 2018 and the area of the choke declared a "no-hoper".

The floor at the upstream sump was lowered in April 2018 along with removing boulders and hammering out the roof. The resultant duck was then passed into a 3m continuation to a further sump. This was later dived in a shallow 6m sump where 2 hanging flakes would need to be removed in order to make it a viable free-dive. Several deep pools were negotiated before entering the low upstream passage. After a brief duck the passage changed to hands-and-knees proportions then abruptly ended at a small, very loose collapse chamber. The way on looks very low and is blocked by several large boulders which would require capping but would possibly result in instability of the loose chamber. About 30m in total were explored beyond the 6m sump. ([Sketch from the logbook](#))

Further extensions were made and more surveying occurred over two trips in 2009. A dig in draughting passage at the top end of the cave requires further work: the floor is dropping away. The chamber at the base of the cave, first reached in 1982 was surveyed. In an "upstream chamber", the draught enters through a slot in the roof. A chamber above the final chamber leads to an aven with hanging boulders in the roof and a very low crawl; a drop down into tight passage that links in on the right just after the crawl; a drop down back into the main passage after the crawl.

(2017 and 2018 extensions descriptions edited down from logbook entries by Simon Cornhill & Diane Arthurs.)

With the 2017 extensions the site was extended by 640m (batch 0373_17_01). The 2018 extensions added 116m, with the 30m extension beyond the upstream sump/duck not surveyed.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2007d \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [anon., 2009c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017e \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Video: [opening up the base of New Forest, 2017 \(YouTube\)](#) : [Extension Xmas 2017 \(YouTube\)](#) : [Passing the excavated upstream sump, Easter 2018 \(YouTube\)](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500 plan pdf \(2009\)](#)
[1:500 plan pdf](#) [1:500 elevation pdf \(from 2007\)](#) :
[survey after 2017 extensions](#) : [survey after 2018 Easter extensions](#) : [sketch of upstream extension Easter 2018](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes \(after April 2018\)](#) : [North Vega system & surrounding caves \(after April 2018\)](#):
(Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0374: shaft

N Vega 30T 449139 4796078 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 441m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 24th January 2003; 9th September

2022

A 10m pitch to a diggable choke. The only feature found in the vicinity (August 2022) was "far too tight" and the suggestion was made that "boulders and other rubble have partly blocked it".

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2002d \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [2002](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

MATIENZO UNDERGROUND site descriptions (printed 28/02/2025)

224



0375: Pasito, Torca de

Ozana 30T 453088 4794871 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 315m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A small shaft discovered by the farmer who fell down it one night. A ledge occurs at 4m after which it becomes very narrow.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0376: cave

Ozana 30T 453048 4795011 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 272m

Length 20m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 20th May 2017

A small cave next to the water trough on the left of the road. The site was photographed in 2017.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2017b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [Easter 2017](#)

Underground pictures: [Easter 2017](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0377: cave

S Vega 30T 453008 4794051 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 460m

Length 17m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th May 2018

A rift cave in a depression.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2018b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [April 2018](#)

Underground pictures: [April 2018](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0378: shaft

Riva 30T 453136 4793982 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 460m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 13th June 2004

A shaft in the clints, with trees around and in the hole. An 8m ladder climb down in a rift lands on boulders. The shaft narrows and another 8m drop is against boulders jammed in the rift to a choked, circular floor.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2004c \(Whit logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0379: shaft

S Vega 30T 452858 4794041 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 448m

Depth 20m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An undescended pit of about 20m depth.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#) (survey)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0380: Beauties, Cave of the

La Colina 30T 453636 4797007 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 498m

Length 35m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th October 2005

A slope leads down into a nicely decorated chamber.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); material in file; [anon., 1996a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2005b \(Easter & summer\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0381: Entrambascuetos, Cueva de

La Colina 30T 453472 4796604 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 517m

Length 172m **Depth** 10m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th November, 6th December 2003; 28th February 2008; 24th July, 12th September 2019

The back wall with the trees over the entrance has collapsed into the hole leaving a brown stain on the wall and making the initial descent more tricky. (More recent pictures of the entrance were originally attached to nearby [site 0382](#) in error.)

A 7m entrance pitch lands in a walk down to a rift and then a descent through boulders on the left hand side to emerge at the head of a slope into a large passage. This continues in the same direction as the first rift, via two side steps, up and over various obstacles and past some good decorations and interesting holes up in the roof. After a 90° turn, the cave ends in some chambers, again with lots of formations. There are many calcite flowers and the floors are decorated and largely undisturbed. Worth a visit with a camera. The entrance is / was marked M17 with green paint.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c \(survey\)](#); [Smith P, 1982a \(photo\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019c \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [1997 - 2017](#) : [summer 2019](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : from 1982: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0382: Entrambascuetos, Sima de

La Colina 30T 453498 4796591 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 502m

Length 25m **Depth** 8m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th October 2011; 16th September 2017; 24th July, 12th September 2019

Twin shafts drop into 25m of well decorated rift passage ending at a choke.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\) \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019c \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [July 2019](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0383: Escobal, Fuente el

Riaño 30T 450873 4800247 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 131m

Length 276m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 16th September 2017; 5th January, 5th May 2018; 1st October 2019

[In April 2018 the site was GPS'd and this is shown above rather than 30T 450898 4800291 used for decades.]

The cave entrance is in trees below the road, entered 5m above the trough at the rising. According to the information board erected nearby, the name of the spring is Fuente el Escobal and not Fuente de Escobar as previously documented. After heavy rain in April 2018, water was seen issuing just below and to the right of the resurgence and also seeping from other small holes throughout the hillside near the fuente.

A squeeze enters a small chamber and then a tight tube pops into the roof of a 3m high chamber where the stream is met. Both upstream and downstream become too low. The roof passage continues as a crawl until the water is met again emerging from a gour-pooled slot. A small chamber on the other side has the water and draught issuing from another slit over a gour pool - this time too tight. (*Old description*)

The site was re-explored on 7th August 2014 (account in 2017 summer logbook) and water could be heard falling in the distance over the final gour pool. Some progress was then made in [lowering the final gour pool](#) . The constriction was dug and capped over two sessions and the cave surveyed for 42m over Christmas 2017 / New Year 2018. The excavations were carried out in cold, fast flowing water and an apparent enlargement is visible 3m ahead.

A number of trips in April 2018 extended the cave to 276m surveyed length after demolishing constrictions including a moonmilk dam and calcite blockage. There are a number of constrictions to negotiate including *Mrs Slocombe's Wet Pussy* (the final excavation) where a squeeze through in the stream requires one arm forward and one back, Superman-style. Flat-out crawling becomes knee-height followed by thigh-deep pools in walking passage with two ways on. The left passage (with the most water) was explored to a climb up and a number of routes explored. At the end of the left hand passage a number of red-legged spiders were seen and some collected for the [Entomolgy Project](#). (RH passage?).

The cave survey, the work of Simon Cornhill and Diane Arthurs, was awarded a Distinction at Hidden Earth at the end of September 2019.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2017c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017e \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s): [April 2018](#)

Video: [Inspecting the final chamber \(YouTube\)](#) :

[Extensions and constrictions, Easter 2018 \(YouTube\)](#)

Detailed Survey : [2017, 2018](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [after Easter 2018](#)

X

0384: caves - 2

S Vega 30T 450328 4795551 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 178m

Length 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 2nd November 2003; 1st October

2013; 17th March 2014

Next to [Cueva-Cubio de la Reñada \(048\)](#) lower entrance. A small excavated entrance to a stand-up chamber with formations and tree roots. Fifty metres to the west is another similar grot with bones. See also [site 1955](#).

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0385: shaft

La Rasa 30T 448618 4793841 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 591m

Length 26m **Depth** 26m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

The entrance lies on the uphill side, about 30m back from the end of the new logging track that rises to the southwest of Seldesuto. Choked.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0386: shaft

S Vega 30T 450193 4794942 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 423m

Length 20m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 7th October 2010

[A surface crack which drops to 15m and widens to 2m. A small passage on the right is too tight but a further drop lies beyond and this could yield to a lump hammer.]

In 2010 this shaft was re-explored and pushed, and described as

"Tight entry at surface enters the middle of three joined elliptical shafts. Approx 12m descent lands on cobble filled base. A 1 metre climb down enters the base of the largest of the pots. A rift leads off into the hill. A tightish squeeze leads to a further few metres of roomier passage but no way on is evident. At the base of the climb down on the right (looking into the hillside) is a small hole that was enlarged sufficiently to pass into a small chamber. A rift in the floor slowly widens until it appears possible to descend some 3 metres further in. Lucky stone throws rattle down it for a good few metres but impossible to gauge depth. A slight inward draught possibly detected. The bones of at least two different species of animals litter the base of the shaft."

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2011](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground pictures: [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [sketch](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0387: cave

El Naso 30T 452088 4796499 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 282m

Length 44m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 3rd December 2003; 23rd December 2004; 17th September 2017

The entrance, difficult to find, is in a bed of sandy limestone.

Ten metres of stooping leads to 4m of tight, flat out crawling into the top of a 7m high chamber, about 15m in diameter. A climb down into the chamber reveals a bouldery left hand wall. Other rising slopes have no passage at the top and the good draught is lost. The draught could also not be found in the chamber in July 2017.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#) (survey); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2004f \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [Chamber, July 2017](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0388: shaft

S Vega 30T 450275 4795163 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 351m

Length 294m **Depth** 87m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th April 2002; 9th November 2003; 10th September 2021; 3rd March 2022

The grid reference, once estimated from the GPS position of [site 900](#), has now been replaced with a GPS reading. (2021)

The entrance pitch of 14m is followed by an up-and-down climb of 2m in a rift to a 6m pitch, landing at the top of a slippery, 5m wide calcite slope. This ends after 30m at the head of a narrow 7m pitch, at the bottom of which is a circular chamber with a high aven. Some jaw bones are calcited to the floor at this point with the exit at the far end being another narrow squeeze onto a 4m pitch which drops into a pool. A 30m shaft follows and finally one of 15m which narrows down in calcite.

From the aven chamber a draughting, sandy-floored passage, 150m long, ends at an 8m pitch into a low, wide chamber which chokes in most directions. The draught appears to come from a small aven and various tubes in the roof.

An awkward climb enters passage which continues south and ends in a chamber after 40m with a sandy dig or a promising choke in an ascending passage. This area appears to come very close to [Torca de la Vera Negra \(036\)](#).

References: [anon., 1982\(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983a \(survey\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1995a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1996a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

1982	known cave	low res	high res
1995	known cave		1:1000

Line Survey :

On area survey : [On scanned 1982 South Vega System survey](#)

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination

December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and

coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

download the [South Vega System](#)

X

0389: cave

S Vega 30T 450328 4795181 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 355m

Length 45m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

*Updated October, 11th November 2001;
21st December 2008; 21st September 2018*

An old cave remnant with three entrances. Passage on the right of the main entrance ends at a narrow squeeze in rotting calcite. Bear scratchings have been found and the base of a Bronze Age pot was found in the southern entrance. This is profusely decorated with irregular finger nail impressions and is discussed and [illustrated](#) in *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001*.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [Smith P, 1985 \(photo\)](#); material in file; [Muñoz E and Bermejo A, 1987](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001 \(includes a line drawing of the pottery\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008 \(survey\)](#)

Entrance picture : [June 2018](#)

Underground picture: [June 2018](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0390: shaft

S Vega 30T 450418 4795211 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 350m

Length 5m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

An open rift choked at the bottom.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0391: cave

S Vega 30T 450457 4795215 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 351m

Length 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 10th September 2021

A short cave with a small phreas at the back

containing a misleading echo.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

; [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0392: shaft

S Vega 30T 450611 4795204 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 349m

Length 12m **Depth** 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998; 7th October

2010; 10th September 2021

A beech tree grows over the obvious pitch in

a rift. A choked 12m shaft. The grid

reference was altered in 2021 (from 450588

4795231) to agree with the beech tree

position on a satellite view.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1998d \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2010c](#)

(summer logbook); [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0393: shaft

S Vega 30T 450578 4795221 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: M) **Altitude** 362m
Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998

A clean, fluted, 10m broken pitch in the middle of pillar karst. The site is next to a tree-filled hollow.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1998d \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0394: Collada, Cueva de

La Gatuna 30T 449818 4798844 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 189m

Length 1109m **Depth** 50m (includes [site 4537](#))

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th November 2003; 24th April, 9th October, 5th, 28th November, 18th December 2005; 15th May 2006; 27th October 2007; 4th, 5th May, 1st July, 24th October 2009; 6th January, 27th May, 5th October 2011; 4th December 2015; 20th May, 17th September 2017; 4th January, 5th, 30th May, 30th June 2018; 12th May 2019

The entrance is in one of the largest, bramble-filled depressions at the head of the La Gatuna bowl. The cave was first explored in 1982 and took on a new significance with the finds in the [Sumidero de Cobadal](#) in 2005 and [Torca la Vaca](#) in 2009. The entrance was eventually refound in 2005, some 140m from its position on the 1982 map. New bolts have been fixed near the head of the first pitch. A second, much more straightforward and strongly draughting entrance was then found in April 2017. This is [site 4537 \(Eastwater Entrance\)](#) which drops in at the boulder choke, south of *On The Rocks*. This should provide much easier access to the possible digs probably draining to [Torca la Vaca](#).

From the old entrance, a stooping, vadose stream passage passes a small chamber on the left and degenerates to a flat out crawl where a thin coal seam can be seen in the left hand wall. A small sit-up chamber is reached where apparently modern pottery has been found, and then a squeeze through to a bolt on the left hand wall and a crawl through a revolting mud-floored pool to the head of the pitch. Immediately below is a 2m drop to a very tight slot but the tight take-off to the pitch is over on the right. (It may be that the 1982 position for the pitch-head bolt is on the pitch side of the pool, and this would make it easier to rig a double line).

At the base of the roomy 10m drop is a meandering rift that leads to the tight head of the second pitch after 15m.

At the bottom, the vadose continuation was explored for about 30m in 1982 with some awkward contortions in a sinuous rift. This passage continued with "excellent potential - the nearest surface water would seem to be over a kilometre away."

What draws the attention immediately at the base of the second pitch is a superb tunnel, about 7m high and 2m wide heading into the hill. This eventually splits into numerous passages, all of which soon choke. The main route enters a 7m high boulder-floored chamber where a continuation on the opposite wall ends at a draughting boulder choke with no immediate prospects. These passages were re-investigated over Easter 2006.

In November 2005, the awkward contortions were pushed to an enlargement after 40m and a short climb down into a streamway, about 1m wide and 12m high. This was followed down to an undescended "12m pitch". Upstream, heading south, has been surveyed for about 80m to where the passage is blocked by a boulder run-in. There are avens off to one side and there may be a passage about 6m up in one of them. It seems likely that the upstream passage is fed by the large, vegetated shakehole to the west of the entrance

depression.

A subsequent push at Easter 2006 found the unexplored pitch to be 20m. The stream at the base disappears into a low bedding under the right hand wall - "this is not a good digging prospect". A step from the second ledge of the pitch gives access to a wide shelf on the left and a blind cross rift. A passage can be seen at the top of the opposite wall, but the climb is a bit too exposed for one person with no protection. The only other possible lead left in the cave is the aven off the side of the stream passage with a possible passage about 6m up.

Western Series

This set of passages - the draughts and digs - were re-examined in the summer, 2017 and various "not very useful" short cuts found. These have been added to the Easter 2017 survey and, where possible, to the descriptions below. The source of the very strong draught through the Easterwater Entrance has not been found.

At Easter 2009, a hole over the top of the p20 was reached and large chaotic chambers entered with 407m surveyed. A draughting passage can be gained by traversing high up in the rift above the p20. Several cracked mud floors are passed before a hole up through jammed boulders leads to a 5m wide chamber, *White Russian*, which is well-decorated.

To the north, a passage leads to a large sandy chamber, *Sex On The Beach*, with a floor of white crystals. North from here leads to a choke; an arch to the west leads to a large pool with no continuation; to the east a sandy crawl (surveyed for 71m as batch 0394_18_01, January 2018) eventually leads to an 8m aven with no obvious way on at the top. All passages in this area either choke up or are too tight. Halfway between the two large chambers a rift passage to the east intersects an aven after approximately 8m.

The main way south-west from *White Russian* enters a very large and well decorated chamber which requires a photo trip. The chamber was further investigated in July 2017. The run-in at the western edge was dug through to a low, draughting passage and another run-in. A small passage can be seen around to the right from which the draught emanates. This should be dug, possibly capped although it appears as a thin slab of soft rock and should yield to a few stout blows with a lump hammer. Quite a bit of debris was cleared from around the slab (January 2018) and the passage which approaches it was enlarged. There was a weak inwards draught going in to the dig during that winter visit.

More work occurred here on a trip in April 2018 when all available stacking space in the small chamber before the dig was used. A flat-out passage was dug into a large aven/chamber. Ahead soon chokes but there is a dig on the left hand side. ([Sketch from logbook](#)) This extension was surveyed in April 2019 as batch 19-01, when other leads were also inspected but "capped out".

Also in January 2018, a squeeze in the floor following the flow of water, was investigated. It opened up briefly into a small sandy enlargement which had a couple of narrow, metre deep sandy pits.

A hole in the floor in the chamber can be climbed down into about 30m of cracked mud floor to a choked chamber.

On the inside corner of *White Russian*, a hole was excavated (January 2018) leading to very brief walking passage 5m long which goes round an acute right hand bend becoming too tight and appears to lead back towards the choke in *White Russian*.

The way south through can be found by entering a small passage on the left immediately at the top of the boulder climb.

This leads to the edge of a 4m drop down into a 7m high chamber, *On The Rocks*, which can be descended via a traverse round the the right followed by a climb down a slope. To the west here is a passage leading to a 7m climb down to the top of the terminal chamber (see below). The main way through *On The Rocks* heads south over collapsed boulders and passes a cracked mud floor directly below a set of anastomoses in the roof.

The slope up (labelled N on the survey) was investigated in August 2017 and found to possibly link with known passages and point M. This is sketched on the survey but the various links should be clarified and surveyed. ([See video.](#))

At the southern end of *On The Rocks* a climb up over flowstone leads through a boulder ruckle (care!) into a 15m aven. A muddy passage to the east here gains a window overlooking a large chamber. In the summer, 2009, this turned out to link back to

Back at the southern end of *On The Rocks*, a passage to the west reaches a

large boulder choke entering high-up on the left. A route up between the boulders was followed for several metres. This area draughts strongly and is directly beneath a large surface depression. This is the route in from the *Eastwater Entrance*. A stream emanating from the base of the choke can be followed down a series of cascades to a blind pebble-floored chamber (approx. 5m diameter) where it sinks into the floor. There are several possible digs in this area but testing with smoke in 2017 showed hardly any draught and these digs have no hope. Just before the final 3m climb down into the chamber is a side-passage on the right that connects back to *On The Rocks* via the 7m climb described earlier.

Part way along the tight passage below the p5, excavation on the right entered a "nice flat out continuation". This entered a chamber with a route to a draughting dig and a tight spiral up on the east side. The total length of this extension is 55m.

As water has been tested to flow from the [Sumidero de Cobadal](#) to [Fuente Aguanaz](#), it seems likely that this cave could drain westwards in a similar fashion. The 2009 discovery of eastward-heading *Suit Wrecker Inlet* passage in the [Torca la Vaca System](#) gives some credence to this. A push through the "terminal" choke in that inlet in 2015 extended the inlet to within 450m of the stream sinks in Cueva de Collada.

A diagram of the hydrology of the San Antonio - Hornedo - Cobadal area drawn after Easter 2011 can be found [here](#).

Dowsing was carried out in La Gatuna on 24/7/11 when various reactions were seen south of Cueva del Nabo and up to Cueva de Collada. See links below.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c \(survey\)](#); material in file; [anon., 2005b \(Easter & summer\)](#); [anon., 2005c \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2006a](#); [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009c \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2010 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2011d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017e \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [depression, 2005](#)

Underground picture(s): [entrance passage, 2005](#)

: [top of first pitch, 2005](#) : [Easter 2018](#) : [Easter 2019](#)

Video: [entrance 1st crawl 1 2](#) [entrance passage 1 2](#) 15Mb wmv [top of first pitch to entrance](#) :

[investigation from Eastwater entrance, August 2017](#) (YouTube)

Detailed Survey : from 1982: [low res](#) [high res](#)

from 2005: [pdf file](#) from 2006: [pdf file](#) from 2009:

[Easter summer](#)

[Easter 2017 with new entrance](#) : [summer 2017 -](#)

[Easter survey annotated with summer investigations](#)

: [with Xmas 2017 survey](#)

[sketch 2018 Easter extension](#) : [Easter 2018](#)

(includes detailed sketch) : [Easter 2019](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : [Dowsing reactions close to this cave](#) :

[Dowsing reactions in La Gatuna](#) (Article about the dowsing carried out in July 2011 can be found

[here](#).)

Survex file : [yes](#) (after Easter 2019) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with

Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89

datum, April 2014.)

[Hornedo area](#) (after Easter 2019)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0395: cave

La Gatuna 30T 449668 4799201 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 140m

Length 5m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A flat out crawl under a limestone outcrop enters a small chamber with a slight draught coming from between boulders.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0396: Chispas, Cueva (Grasienta, Cueva)

S Vega 30T 450926 4795274 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 323m

Length 92m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 20th November 2008

The original description of this cave (discovered and explored in 1982): *The entrance is in a line of clints opposite [Cueva de Dofrades \(042\)](#). A slope down to an old chamber with lots of dripping stal.*

Burrowing about leads to a second small chamber with a passage on the left ending

at an undescended 5m dribbling shaft.

The site was refound in 2008 as Cueva Chispas (using site number 3070) and it was only when reading the log book account and original sketch map was it realised that Grasieta with it's daylight shafts had been rediscovered. The entrance position was also significantly different.

The entrance is a rift in the limestone. A scramble down on the right enters passage which turns sharp left. It goes under a daylight shaft to a chamber about 8m in a diameter, with a second daylight shaft coming in on the left. Side-passages on the right and on the far side of the chamber all quickly choke. A step up at the southern end of the chamber leads to a passage, under a third shaft, which ends in a slot down into a well-decorated chamber. At the top of a flowstone slope two passages on the left unite in a small chamber, while in the opposite direction a narrow rift becomes too tight. Just to the left of the small chamber, a 5m pitch drops to a calcited slope and choke. A short traverse around the right hand side of the hole enters a small passage which ends with tiny rocks, presumably dropping through from the surface.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); material in file; [from 2008f \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2009](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [pdf file](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0397: shaft

S Vega 30T 450999 4795216 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 353m

Length 20m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 14th May 2000; 20th November 2008

A straight 15m shaft into a 12m high and 5m wide rift that chokes in both directions. Immediately below the ladder at the far side of the passage, through a small hole in the false floor, is a chamber which chokes.

A few feet up the slope a second shaft of 8m can be descended with a further pitch of 8m, undescended, needing a bar and lump hammer to open. At the base of the second pitch a rift can followed for 5m under calcite grills to a small, choked chamber.

On a descent in the autumn of 2008, one side of the depression had slumped, making the pitch 2 metres shorter, landing on a mud pile. This may have also covered one of the holes to further depths.

[A suggestion from Easter 2000 is that the shaft is at VN51239542. The original placement was at VN51109534. Both of these are wildly out from the true position!]

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1983a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [from 2008f \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground pictures: [yes](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0398: cave

S Vega 30T 450978 4795011 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 416m

Length 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Twin entrances unite in a short, bouldery grovel.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0399: shaft

La Gatuna 30T 450218 4799361 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 309m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th May 2018

At the side of the road, a shaft, originally covered with eucalyptus logs, was

eventually explored in 2018 and found to be choked 6m down.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2018b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [April 2018](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0400: shaft

Riaño 30T 450668 4798941 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 378m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated April 18th 1999

A wide pot surrounded by a wall and barbed wire. Beds of limestone and sandstone alternate on the straight descent to a sandy floor with no outlet.

There is a suggestion of nearby iron age wall / field structures.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1999a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [distant with other sites](#)

[medium distant](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0401: shaft

La Gatuna 30T 450198 4798891 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 295m

Length 18m **Depth** 18m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

The entrance lies just up from the track. A large, open shaft which is choked with sandy and organic debris.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0402: shaft

La Gatuna 30T 449948 4799371 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 218m

Length 31m **Depth** 26m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 24th April 2005

A short jungle-bash to a vegetated depression with a small hole. The loose entrance funnels down to a nice drop through alternate sandstone and limestone beds. At the base is a 5m high chamber with the odd formation but no outlet.

In 2005, the entrance was not found. It may have collapsed and this site is documented as [2250](#).

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2005b \(Easter & summer\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0403: dig

Cubija 30T 450018 4797041 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 319m

Length 3m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A draughting dig in a collapse area.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0404: shaft

S Vega 30T 451418 4794831 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 424m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A small fissure with a trickle of water heard through the too tight outlet.

(The positions of 404 and 406 needs checking - they are to the east of 1914 and not the west?)

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0405: shaft

S Vega 30T 451403 4794816 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 436m

Length 5m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 27th July 2000

A fenced, fluted shaft to very low inlet and outlet beddings.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0406: shaft

S Vega 30T 451368 4794781 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 457m

Length 5m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A fenced shaft, choked at the base. Near the top, a squeeze enters a chamber with a calcited skeleton.

(The positions of 404 and 406 needs checking - they are to the east of 1914 and not the west?)

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0407: cave

S Vega 30T 451275 4794768 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 476m

Length 5m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 24th October 2009; 20th May 2017

The twin entrances, next to the track, unite in a network of boulder-filled fissures that close in.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [2017](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0408: Helechales, Cueva de los

S Vega 30T 451275 4794802 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 460m

Length 600m (including [site 1679](#)) **Depth** 148m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th May, 9th June, 15th October

2001; 17th April 2002; 21st December

2008; 6th January 2011; 29th November

2016; 30th June 2018

The [entrance](#) lies at the base of a small shakehole with a smaller entrance ten metres to the west. On a shelf, just inside the entrance, a [large, fragmented Bronze Age pot](#) (with carbon on the internal faces) was found at Easter 2001. This has now been [re-assembled](#) and is with the *Museo Regional de Prehistoria y Arquelogía*. A drawing from *Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p146* appears [here](#). There appears to be more pottery at the lower end of the entrance chamber and more has been found on the floor below the initial find.

The cave can be split into the Old Series, described first and the 2001 Series.

Old Series

A [step up to the right](#) leads to the head of the [first pitch](#) where the ladder can be belayed from stal on a ledge down to the

left. An 8m climb over calcite [lands in a calcited rift](#). To the right the rift closes in while to the left, a further 3m drop to the floor reaches the head of the second pitch. Straight ahead, a shallow but greasy slope passes [below roof meanders to enter a chamber with formations](#). Down to the left, a crawl (with pitch above) has not been pushed further than the 10m, 1982 limit. To the right at high level, a low passage with a floor trench rises for 15m where a run-in blocks progress; a route through at floor level drops in below the second pitch.

The [second pitch is a straight 8m drop](#) against sharp rock into a chamber on a fine rift. Water sinks below the ladder and the low, draught-free crawl has been excavated to reveal the passage turning left with more rubble to remove.

To the east, a [black-floored passage](#) rises to a cracked mud floor and ends at a calcited, 5m high aven. There may be a passage 3m up. A tiny meander is too small at the start of this passage and so is a climb under the north wall of the main chamber into a small chamber with a choked inlet. The [western end of the rift](#) ends at the pitch from the stal chamber above.

The obvious roof tube over the top of the first pitch has been explored for 15m to where the passage chokes. The continuation heads out to the second entrance over bouldery holes in the floor.

2001 Series

To the right of the first pitch head a traverse across a 10m drop (first negotiated with a scaling pole) leads to the other side of the rift and a series of traverses across a couple of pits. At the base of the last pit, the passage from [site 1679](#) joins the system, although this is of no interest to the traversing caver above.

A short length of walking passage ends at a 10m laddered pitch and a 16m pitch. A choked bedding was excavated at this point due to the draught and the sound of falling water. A 4m pitch then leads to an extensively excavated section at the top of the *Hoedown Pitch*, where an 88m drop has a ledge 30m down. Holes on the pitch side have been noted: 19m below the ledge a hole doesn't go; 27m down there is a walking-size passage; 31m down there is an eyehole that leads to a very muddy rift over the top of the meanders at the pitch base. All of these were apparently explored on 14/8/2001 and drop back to the main pitch.

Snail Inlet over the top of the *Hoedown Pitch* was entered at Easter 2002. The passage has a good draught and is generally 5m square with much rubble fill. The passage splits after about 50m - the right branch ends at a 5m high aven with a possible low passage at the top; the left branch slopes up to choke with rubble.

At the base of *Hoedown Pitch*, a narrow meander has been pushed for about 15m to the top of a pitch which drops 13m to a ledge. An inlet enters here that ends at a small aven after 28m - this is too small but may be bigger beyond. From the ledge, a further drop of 17m ends at a large flat area with a wet outlet which is too small and narrow, although it appears to draught. "A poor finish to a good cave". The end lies 80m above the *Codisera Arm* in [Coterón](#).

Tackle list

- 20m rope and 3 hangers (studs) for crossing old series drop
- 40m traverse line and 3 hangers (left rigged with Bluewater)
- 15m rope and 2 hangers and 2 ladders (Could do with SRT rigging ?25m rope)
- 45m rope and 6 hangers
- 15m rope and 3 hangers to The Garden
- 33m rope and 2 hangers Hoedown ledge
- 78m rope and 2 hangers to base of Hoedown Pitch

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2001a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003a](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003b \(survey\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003 \(photo and line drawing of pot\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008 \(survey and drawing of the pot\)](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(survey and photo\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 2016b](#)

Entrance picture : [yes view across the entrance](#)

Underground picture(s): [pottery and the old series](#) : [new series](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500 \(old\)](#) [1:1000 \(2001 and 2002 extensions\)](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

download [South Vega System](#)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0409: shaft (M49 (SEAD))

Mullir 30T 455528 4795321 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 678m

Length 130m **Depth** 110m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 23rd February 2001

A 100m shaft, marked "SEAD M45" drops from a 20m x 50m, tree-surrounded depression. The width of the shaft varies between 3 and 10m with the landing on a sloping boulder pile. Downhill leads to a tight 3m climb down to a mud and boulder floor with no way on.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [Garcia J L, 1987](#); [García José León, 1997](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\)](#) (photo)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s): [entrance shaft](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0410: shaft

S Vega 30T 451278 4794831 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 452m

Length 14m **Depth** 10m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 1x4m entrance gives access to a 1m diameter shaft with no way on at the base.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0411: shaft

S Vega 30T 451318 4794821 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 450m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Straight shaft to a boulder floor.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0412: shaft

S Vega 30T 451321 4794869 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 435m

Length 18m **Depth** 13m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 31st July 2000

A 13m shaft is a 2m diameter tube. At the base a flat-out passage becomes small. There is no draught.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0413: Mega Mujer, Torca de la (Mega Moll shaft)

S Vega 30T 451772 4795069 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 292m

Length 453m **Depth** 80m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated July 27th 2000; 17th October 2003; 9th November 2003; 1st February 2006; 6th May 2007; 4th May 2009; 30th June 2018

Entrance is small and easily missed. A 25m shaft drops to a parallel shaft, 3m offset, and another shaft of 25m. An excavated crawl at the base enters a major level with numerous bouldery shafts. Three of these are undescended. The main tunnel is at the same altitude as that in [Torca del Coterón \(264\)](#).

The site was partially re-explored in 2003 and bolts for re-belays are now on the entrance pitch. During the 2003 trip, a p10 on the left of the western passage was free-climbed; the draught seemed to be coming out of the eastern passage; there were passages explored at the base of the entrance pitch that are not shown on the survey - across the top of a choked pit a rift

passage can be entered which gets too tight. It could be chiselled out to enter the larger continuation beyond.

Over Easter 2007, a team surveyed 42m at the base of the entrance pitch: a passage needs enlarging and a rope is required for a 10m pitch. A sketch of extension can be found [here](#). The survey can be redrawn when the passage 'goes'. At Easter 2009, an extension of 11m was made to this. (See batch 0413-09-01)

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1983a \(Easter logbook\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#); [anon., 2007b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1982: [low res](#) [high res](#) (note that the compass arrow is out by 180 degrees on these surveys) [sketch of 2007 Easter extensions](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Easter 2009) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[download South Vega System](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0414: shaft

La Secada 30T 451208 4797341 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 275m

Length 20m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

The entrance lies on the upside of the depression. A tight squeeze leads to the top of a 9m pitch. A 3m hole in the floor enters an adjacent shaft via a squeeze in debris. At the base of the second shaft a tight passage meets a boulder choke which can be passed on the right where the draught issues from a small hole and through the choked floor.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0415: 415

La Secada 30T 451200 4797512 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 255m

Length 1137m **Vertical range** +20m -64m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th June 1998; 17th September 2000; April 29th, 7th October 2001; 27th October 2007; 4th May, 24th October 2009; 6th January 2011; 17th September 2014; 13th January, 27th September 2015; 25th February 2016; 20th May, 6th July, 17th September 2017; 30th June 2018; 24th September 2024

NOTE (summer 2024): **The rope in the first chamber going up to the higher level crawl is in a bad state and is knotted. It should be replaced.**

The [entrance](#), in a small depression on a hillside, may be filled in with a couple of boulders but they can easily be removed.

The small, often strongly draughting entrance leads to a clamber down to the head of a 3m vertical climb to a short ladder pitch into a passage, 3m wide by 4m high, which ends after 20m in a chamber. The floor is a large boulder choke. A 4m pitch on the left enters a tight passage, while a small passage on the left near the entrance leads to an aven.

The draughting way on is a hands and knees crawl at roof level on the right. Entry to this is gained by climbing off a large block over a drop near the right hand wall. This climb can be awkward on the descent and should be laddered and lined.

In the roof, two holes are bypassed by squeezing up to the left and a third by clipping into a [lined traverse](#). A short crawl leads to a [slip down behind a column](#) into a 15m wide, 10m high and 30m long fault chamber.

At the far end of the chamber several interconnected, small phreatic chambers and tubes lead off. On the right, after walking up a slope, a short drop through boulders leads to the passage splitting. To the left lies 70m of small passage with occasional small chambers first entered in 1993.

Straight ahead and to the right, after 20m, is a tight rift on the left and on the right a flatout crawl at floor level. This emerges into the third, large and final chamber.

To the right is an area of fallen blocks and pits. One hole is a sloping climb down over calcite into a solid-walled chamber. To the left is a 6m passage which closes down while to the right is a rift passage ending in a calcite choke, probably still under the main chamber. At Easter 1998, a 12m pitch was descended.

On the left of the final chamber a 5m climb up leads to an extensive area of interconnected chambers. Keeping left in these leads back over the top of the flatout crawl to a 10m pitch down into the second chamber. This was detackled in 1994 but has a wire attached.

Opposite where the crawl emerges into the second chamber, a 7m diameter tube with a trench in the floor, rises slowly until after 25m a large inlet is seen on the right. This ends disappointingly at a boulder choke after 20m. Hidden behind a block at floor level, on the left, a small gently draughting tube rises to the head of two 30m pitches. No way on has been found at the bottom.

The main passage continues straight ahead where boulder falls force the explorer to roof level. The passage ends in a confusion of fallen blocks. Just before the end a small tube on the right leads to a blind rift down and an aven above on the right. Three metres up the left hand wall a draught can be detected emerging from between boulders. On the left, near the end (station 50), a route through can be followed to a partly explored series of pitches. These drops were originally explored on ladders to a depth of about 50m with apparently another 30m to go. An account of the whereabouts of the pitches can be seen in *anon., 2000c (Summer log)* dated 12th August and reference is made to 9th August 1987. The draught at the entrance cannot be accounted for by the two known draughts. At Easter 2001, these pitches were finally explored over 2 days to -69m (see survey links below). The last 15m is a free climb. (Note: Are the pitches mentioned in the previous paragraph the same ones? The pitches survey was connected at station 45, not at station 50. Is this correct?).

The cave is on the same level as the middle, *Golden Void Series* in [Torca del Mostajo \(071\)](#), about 235 - 245m altitude.

At Easter 2009, most of the cave was re-explored, some re-surveying was carried out and a definitive survey might be drawn up. In the summer, a 28m extension was made in *Helictite Passage* but the way on is choked with more formations.

A small amount of resurveying was carried out in the entrance in the summer 2014. A resurvey of the system was started in the summer 2015 and continued with batch 2015-7, when a possibly undescended pitch was encountered. Work continued in 2016 and 2017 to complete the underground measurements. A new survey and more complete description will appear in due course. The revised length is 1137m (from 1029m). A trip was made into the cave in August 2024 to check question marks on the gestating survey.

References: [anon., 1981a \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1984 \(logbook\) \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1986 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J and Knights S, 1988](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1990b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1993c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [Neill Alasdair and Jackson Keith, 1993](#); [Corrin J, 1994a \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995b \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1997c \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 1998a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1999c \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003a](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009c \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2010 \(photos\)](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(line survey and photos\)](#); [anon., 2014c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2014e \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2015c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016a \(January, February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes close up](#) [from a distance](#)

Underground picture(s): [helictites 1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#)
[surveying](#) [crawl into chamber](#) [2 line over pit](#)
[42 photographs taken at Easter 2009](#) : [24 photos in Helictite Passage taken summer 2009](#)
[photos taken August 2017 during survey trip](#)

Video : [Cueva 415 \(Espeleo50 - 23/1/2017 - YouTube\)](#)

Detailed Survey : [line survey plan 1:1000](#) [line survey elevation 1:1000](#) [sketch of end pitches](#)

Line Survey : interesting position *cf* [North Vega System](#)

On area survey :

Survex file: [summer 2017](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

with N Vega System (After summer 2017) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0416: shaft

Mullir 30T 455878 4795321 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 597m

Depth 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An undescended shaft, about 12m deep.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0417: shaft

Mullir 30T 456038 4795341 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 568m

[Originally: VN56119552 Alt. 562m; ETRS89: 30T 456008 4795311]

Length 12m **Depth** 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 2nd May 2004

Originally described as a shaft of about 8m depth, it was probably rediscovered at Easter 2004 and positioned with a GPS. A slot to the side of a shallow, grass-filled, 20m diameter depression is a blind pot with an initial 8m drop and a 4m continuation to a gravel floor.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2004b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0418: shaft

Mullir 30T 456062 4795201 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 558m

[Originally: VN56149555 Alt. 571m; ETRS89: 30T 456038 4795341]

Length 14m **Depth** 14m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 28th November 2023

Originally described as an undescended pot of about 25m depth on an open limestone exposure and probably rediscovered and descended at Easter 2004. A 3m long slot in flat ground 7m south of a double depression with trees on each side. A 14m deep, clean -washed, blind shaft.

During a search of the hillside in October 2023, the shaft was descended before realising that it was a known site.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2023d \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [distant](#), [closer](#), [close-up](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0419: shaft

Mullir 30T 455960 4795396 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 576m

[Originally: VN56139557 Alt. 571m; ETRS89: 30T 456028 4795361]

Length 17m **Depth** 17m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Undated 2nd May 2004

Originally described as a shaft, about 17m deep. The entrance lies at the base of a depression. and has many young trees (in 2004) growing in the entrance. The site is a 17m blind shaft.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2004b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0420: shaft

Mullir 30T 455992 4795399 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 571m
[Originally: VN56159558 Alt. 571m; ETRS89: 30T 456048 4795371]

Length 17m **Depth** 17m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 2nd May 2004

Originally described as an undescended pitch of about 20m depth with the entrance lying on an open limestone exposure.

The 2m diameter hole is on flat ground between depressions and is a 17m deep, blind shaft. There is well worn green paint on the entrance that may include a '3'.

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 2004b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [close-up](#), [closer](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0421: Entrambascuevas 1 (Trampascuevas, Cueva de)

San Pantaleón de Aras 30T 458128 4798624

(Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 237m

Length 103m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 3rd February 2001; 3rd June 2002; 17th January, 6th November 2004; 22nd April 2008; 16th May 2009; 12th May 2019

[Previous grid reference was 30T 451168 4798511 (Datum: ETRS89)]

A single passage ends at a mud and calcite choke.

Pottery and a bone instrument were found in the cave, and a [group of schematic-abstract paintings](#) have been located in the interior of the cave. These are sketched and described in *El Arte Esquemático-Abstracto de Matienzo y sus alrededores* ([Smith Peter, 1998b](#)). and further discussed in *Muñoz Emilio et al, 1995*. The cave contains a level with oyster shells.

The developing *Acanto* web site (by the *Federación de Asociaciones para la defensa del Patrimonio Cultural y Natural de Cantabria*) has a section on [Arte Rupestre esquemático-abstracto](#). Reference *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009* summarises the finds in the cave in the context of other caves in the Asón region.

References: [Corrin J, 1983c](#); material in file; [GEISC/R and CAEAP, 1986 \(survey\)](#); [Muñoz Emilio et al, 1995](#); [Muñoz Fernandez E et al, 1987](#); [Smith Peter, 1998b \(survey\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2019b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s): [entrance](#) [passage](#)

[schematic-abstract paintings](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#) (This combined survey of 422 and site 421 does not show the correct relative positions. Site 421 is well north of 422).

[1986 survey](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0422: Entrambascuevas 2

San Pantaleón de Aras 30T 458036 4798464

(Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 263m

Length 205m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th January 2004; 22nd April 2008; 13th June 2018; 12th May 2019

[Previous grid reference was 30T 458063 4798447 (Datum: ETRS89)]

An entrance slope leads into a large passage with some good formations. Midway along the passage a rift on the right leads to other cross rifts, all apparently choking.

References: [Corrin J, 1983c](#); material in file; [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Facebook \(MCP page\)](#); [anon., 2019b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [2004](#), [2018](#)

Underground pictures: [2004](#) : [2018](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#) (This combined survey of 422 and site 421 does not show the correct relative positions. Site 421 is well north of 422)

[Line Survey](#) :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0423: Barandas, Cueva de

N Vega 30T 449998 4795791 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 203m

Length 160m **Depth** 10m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated October, 11th November 2001; 12th November 2002; 7th November 2006; 9th November, 21st December 2008; 8th November 2010; 18th February 2011; 16th October 2015; 29th November 2016; 8th January 2020; 13th May, 19th September 2023

The entrance must be reached by a small, exposed chimney down after a steep grassy slope. Two ladders from a convenient bush just below the path makes access safer. A short stoop then enters the main passage which is about 100m long with a smaller, short side passage and chamber to the left.

The cave is an archaeological site having revealed iron age pottery (fragments of 4 urns and a smaller pot), human bones (possibly a young male, although *Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p214* states that the bones are from one adult with a sacrum from a young woman) and metal objects, including two copper strips with zig-zag decorations.

[Morlote Jose M et al, 1995](#) describe Barandas as one of the Iron Age sepulchral caves in the area. *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001* discusses the finds and includes [drawings of copper strips and pottery](#).

The cave line was re-surveyed in 1995; the [survey](#) is this line with detail from the published survey in [Smith P, 1985](#). The cave was resurveyed in October / November 2010 as part of an archaeology project. Pottery was subsequently carbon dated to the 7th century BC - early Iron Age. Details of this archaeology study appear in [Smith Peter. Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Corrin Juan, 2013](#). The results indicate the cave was used in the first millenia before and after Christ.

Reference [Smith P et al, 2015](#) has a summary of the archaeological work carried out within 2004 - 2016 and a table of radio-carbon and thermoluminescence dates.

Near the start of the path up, [site 2576](#) is on the right at the base of the cliff below Barandas.

Bat information

Date: 3/4/2023

Evidence of occupation (only): droppings

Bat remains (number): -

Species identified name (number): lesser

horseshoe bats (2)

Other notes: some droppings had

brown/green tinge

[Photos from visit](#)

Date: 6/8/2023

Evidence of occupation (only):

Bat remains (number): -

Species identified name (number): -

Other notes: 2 skeletons found

References: [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [Smith P and Muñoz E, 1985](#); [Smith P, 1983](#); [Smith P, 1985](#) (survey); [Muñoz E, ?](#); [Muñoz E and Bermejo A, 1987](#); [Muñoz E, 1988](#); [anon., 1994b](#) (logbook); [anon., 1995b](#) (Whit logbook); [Morlote Jose M et al, 1995](#); material in file; [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#) (includes line drawings); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#) (line drawing); [anon., 2008f](#) (autumn logbook); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#) (survey, drawings); [anon., 2010d](#) (autumn logbook); [Smith Peter. Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Corrin Juan, 2013](#); [Smith P et al, 2015](#); [Smith Peter, Ruiz Cobo Jesús y Corrin Juan, 2016](#); [anon., 2023b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2023c](#) (summer logbook)

Entrance picture : [yes, including April 2023](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#) : [April 2023](#)

Video : [14Mb wmv file](#) (Archaeology and formations 2010)

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#) : from the 2010

archaeology project - [1:500](#) : [1:100](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

: for the [archaeology project](#)

[X](#)

0424: cave

S Vega 30T 451178 4794211 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 592m

Length 25m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A steep, 10m long slope leads to two drops into a 5m high, 5m wide and 10m long chamber. At the far end, a steep collapse leads to a choke, 8m up. A passage on the right has been closed off with blocks and has a draught coming through - although this appears to have been looked at and is "nothing to write home about"??

References: [anon., 1982\(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1983a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0425: cave

S Vega 30T 451188 4794201 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 598m

Length 5m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A very low tube over mud with no draught.

The GR and altitude didn't originally tally?

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0426: cave

S Vega

Length 5m

[Logbook search](#)

Rock shelter with a small fissure passage

which becomes too tight. COLIN?

References: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0427: Lastrilla, Torca de

N Vega 30T 449394 4796374 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 358m

Length 275m **Depth** 118m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th March 2000; 8th June 2002; 9th November 2003; 25th Febraury 2007; 25th June, 7th October 2010; 5th October 2011; 17th September 2014; 21st September 2018; 7th January 2019

Incomplete description

An aerial panorama and video were taken over the area to the north of the entrance in the summer 2018. See [aerial panos and videos page](#).

The 7m entrance shaft is in clean, white limestone and lands in a descending rift with lots of loose boulders. This drops into a hading rift at right angles and the top of a 16m pitch which is tackled in two steps. A steeply sloping boulder-filled rift reaches another rift requiring a short ladder to reach the head of a 37m pitch. At the base

.....BETTER THAN WHAT'S IN '81-'82???

Up a stal cascade above the 37m pitch is a superb view out into a very large chamber stretching out below. A 20m ladder is needed on the slope down to the floor. The 10m square passage continues as a ramp down ending in ??m pitch to a mud-floored chamber.

At the north eastern end is a loose climb on boulders up to a small hole which ends at the head of an extremely loose, 16m pitch. The base draughts slightly but is not a good digging site.

The site was re-explored in 1996. Can someone re-write the above?

The cave was tackled up at Easter 2010 with a view to re-exploration around the pitches below the entrance. The p24 was left as it became too tight for SRT. A chamber is visible through a gap that needs enlarging and there is also a chamber visible at the "?" at the top of the p24. In 2014, the tight rift next to the p24 was descended and was seen to link with the main p24m.

In the summer, in the chamber at the base of the 37m pitch, a very tight squeeze around a right angled bend was followed to where a small chamber can be seen through a slot. This slot was enlarged then further enlarged in the summer 2011. Removal of floor debris and further enlargement allowed access to an aven with pitch below. This pitch is more than 10m deep and needs work at the top before a descent can be made. ([Sketch](#)) This was descended in 2014 to 9.8m to a passage at the bottom that is too tight. It is worth enlarging as there is a

draught and it seems to be trending downwards.

References: [anon., 1983a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983c \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [Garcia J L, 1987](#); material in file; [Corrin J, 1994a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995b](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2000a \(February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2007a \(February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2010b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(survey and photo\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2011](#); [anon., 2011d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2014c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [from summer 2014](#) : [from summer 2011](#) : [from Easter 2010](#) : [from 1985](#)

Detailed Survey : [from 1983: low res](#) [high res](#) : [sketch of 2011 extension to p10+](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.) on [Cubija System survey](#)

X

0428: shaft

N Vega 30T 449938 4795971 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 245m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 24th October 2009

A choked shaft.

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0429: shaft

N Vega 30T 449810 4796011 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 267m

Length 35m **Depth** 22m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 14th June, 29th September 2008; 25th April 2012; 7th, 20th January; 27th November 2024

[The original description: *A 5m climb down under a boulder to a calcite chamber with no draught* belongs to another site, possibly #0428, which needs checking out.]

The site at this grid reference - a large open shaft in the trees to the west of the meadow - is a 9m pitch down over leafy ledges to a bouldery floor. A much narrower, enlarged pitch drops from this point for about 6m. It splits and both routes close down. There is a faint draught up an alcove at the base of the first pitch.

The site was re-explored and surveyed for 35m on Christmas Day, 2023. The only prospect is a fairly big capping job along the tiny rift at the bottom of the entrance pitch.

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2008d \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 2008e \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2012b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023e \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024a \(January, February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024e \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground pictures: [2008](#); [2023](#)

Detailed Survey : [2023](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [2023](#)

X

0430: cave

Seldesuto 30T 448659 4795193 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 387m

Length 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 2nd November 2002; 3rd October 2007

The shakehole entrance is a small opening to a choked chamber.

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2007d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey : on [258 Torcón de la Calleja Rebollo \(Toad in the Hole\) area line surveys](#)

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0431: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 448878 4795211 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 370m

Length 7m **Depth** 7m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 2nd November 2002

A choked shaft.

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey : on [258 Torcón de la Calleja Rebollo](#)

([Toad in the Hole](#)) area line surveys

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0432: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 449152 4795286 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 280m

Length 30m **Depth** 17m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 29th January 2010

A wide shaft of 10m depth. A slope at the

bottom chokes.

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); material in

file; [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009e](#)

([Christmas logbook](#))

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0433: Acebo, Cueva de

N Vega 30T 449304 4796335 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 378m

Length 45m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 3rd March 2000; 25th February

2007; 29th November 2016; 20th May 2017

The usual entrance is in a large depression

and leads to a 4m pitch. Below this the

passage becomes too tight, although it

draughts. On the right a passage leads to a

daylight shaft, and at this same junction a

tight, high-level passage hasn't been

pushed. The cave appears to take water in

winter.

The site was partly excavated in 1997 and a

resurvey started. There is a good draught

and half buckets are really needed to

continue. The site was seen in October 2016

and there was an intention to check out the

dig. The tight corner at the bottom was

capped out at Easter 2017, but the way on

is far too small.

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); pers comm.,

(P Smith); material in file; [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#);

[anon., 1997b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000a \(February](#)

[logbook\)](#); [anon., 2007a \(February logbook\)](#); [anon.,](#)

[2016d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017b \(Easter](#)

[logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89

datum, April 2014.)

X

0434: cave

N Vega 30T 449448 4796309 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 355m

Length 143m **Depth** 35m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 5th March 2000; 12th May 2011;

25th April 2012; 20th May 2017; 10th

January 2020

An abandoned sink in a shakehole. The

passage descends steeply to a squeeze. A

climb up in the roof leads to a large

chamber. A ramp slopes up to the right. On

the left is a crawl to a 5m pitch which drops

into tight meanders which become too

narrow both up and down stream.

At Easter 2012, it was necessary to dig

through to the main chamber as the route

had silted up. The pitch was dropped and

the way forced beyond a dogleg constriction

to where it closed in. Enlargement at this

point may be worthwhile as "beyond looks

bigger". A cool draught was noted on a

warm day.

At Easter 2017, the end was capped but

requires a couple of snappers to continue.

The cave was completely resurveyed, almost

doubling the length.

The cave was visited twice over Christmas

2019, in error as, without a working map

the cave was thought to be "new".

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); material in file; [anon., 2011b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2012b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019f \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#) [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1987](#) : [2017](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#)

[X](#)

0435: Llanío, Cueva del

San Miguel 30T 457902 4798363 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 310m

Length 70m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 17th January, 6th November 2004;

16th May 2009; 9th February 2020

[A previous grid reference was 0457878 4798321]

A large entrance passage which ends in a stalled-up chamber with another chamber up to the left. An archaeological site containing deposits of shells, especially oyster shells.

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [GEISC/R and CAEAP, 1986 \(survey\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009 \(survey and photo\)](#);

[anon., 2020a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : from [GEISC/R and CAEAP, 1986](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0436: Negra, Cueva

San Pantaleón de Aras 30T 458828 4798491

(Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 100m

Length 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

A small cave with some formations. The bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* has been recorded.

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [Meijide Calvo M, 1982](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0437: Rabbit Cave

N Vega 30T 450609 4795861 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 170m

Length 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

A large entrance closes down to the left. A rift on the right leads to a flat out dig over mud.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0438: Hairdryer Hole

Seldesuto 30T 448638 4795131 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 377m

Length 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 13 February 1998; 2nd November

2002

A crawl of 15m in a descending, draughting tube to a choke.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey : on [258 Torcón de la Calleja Rebollo](#)

[\(Toad in the Hole\) area line surveys](#)

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0439: shafts - 2, cave

N Vega 30T 450048 4796331 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 327m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 14th May 2000

Twin entrances lead to a choke. The small cave found lower down in the depression is [site 1484](#).

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0440: shaft

N Vega 30T 449864 4796413 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 357m

Length 3m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 4th, 11th, 24th May 2022

A 3m shaft with an excavated top lands on boulders with impassable draughting rift.

Marked 440.

The Easter '94 log describes a walled off area with a slot descended for about 10m to a draughting, narrow slot which needs digging.

The site could not be found in April 2022 but was found on a later visit and a new grid reference documented. (Old GR 449868,4796371). It was checked out again on May 22nd and described as 3m deep with a very tight rift continuing down for about another 3m. It would be very hard work to dig.

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1990b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [May 2022](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0441: shaft, cave

N Vega 30T 449678 4796481 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 374m

Length 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Stooping entrance to surface shaft. A bouldery dig with the floor 3m below has some possibilities but there is no draught. Slightly uphill, a couple of other sites hold no promise.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0442: shaft

N Vega 30T 450058 4795971 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 285m

Length 8m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

On a featureless hillside. A short drop into the head of a knobbly 5m pitch which lands on a sloping boulder with a 2m deep rift which is very tight and has no draught.

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0443: shaft

N Vega 30T 449625 4796471 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 365m

Length 10m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th November 2012

The entrance is in a tree-lined depression and has a number of large blocks some of which may cover the draughting hole. A climb down through boulders to a draughting choke where stones drop for at least 10m, although this was found to be less when visited in the autumn, 2012. [The old grid reference is VN4977 9668; ETRS89: 30T 449668 4796471]

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1990b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2012e \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Video : [Autumn 2012 \(YouTube\)](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0444: shaft

S Vega 30T 451148 4795051 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 438m

Length 4m **Depth** 4m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A small hole next to the fence, in grass, drops to a choke.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0445: shaft

S Vega 30T 451168 4795091 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 412m

Length 4m **Depth** 4m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A small entrance with two posts across it, 5m above a track. A 4m pitch drops to a cold, undescended, tight rift which may require a bar or hammer to open up.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0446: shaft

N Vega 30T 449170 4795542 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 331m

Length 20m **Depth** 16m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th January 2010; 26th April 2020

The entrance is possibly marked 83A and has a holly tree. A 16m narrow shaft leads to a short meandering rift and a calcite choke. Well decorated.

Another photo of the entrance was taken in 2020.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1995b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009e \(Christmas logbook\)](#);

[anon., 2020b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [2009](#), [2020](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0447: shaft

N Vega 30T 448875 4795340 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 394m

Length 12m **Depth** 12m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th January 2010

A slab-covered shaft drops to 12m. A hole in the calcite floor has an echo but no draught.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0448: shaft

N Vega 30T 448884 4795325 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 393m

Length 4m **Depth** 4m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th January 2010

A small shaft chokes at 4m depth.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0449: shafts - 2

N Vega 30T 448865 4795349 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 396m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th January 2010

An 8m pitch with a parallel daylight shaft. A slope descends to a choke.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0450: shaft

N Vega 30T 449068 4795571 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 345m

Length 12m **Depth** 12m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 12m shaft drops onto a 1m diameter choked floor.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0451: shaft

N Vega 30T 449068 4795561 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 338m

Length 8m **Depth** 8m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 3m pitch to a ledge followed by a 5m drop to a choked floor.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0452: shaft, cave

N Vega 30T 449255 4795550 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 318m

Length 4m **Depth** 4m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th January 2010

"On the left hand bank near the head of the valley. A 10m pitch with a walled-up cave higher up. Unexplored."

This was explored down a 4m deep rift with tiny holes between boulders.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0453: shaft

La Rasa 30T 448638 4793851 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 590m

Length 16m **Depth** 16m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

In awkward pillar karst. A 6m pitch to a ledge with a 5m sloping climb down to another 5m pitch into a cross rift with cold air which chokes.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0454: shaft

La Rasa 30T 448668 4793831 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 585m

Length 9m **Depth** 9m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

On the side of a depression. A straight rift pitch to a choke with cold air.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0455: shaft

La Rasa 30T 448678 4793861 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 583m

Length 15m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

In the lower of two depressions. A rift in boulders at the base of the depression is an 8m pitch with a 7m climb down into a bouldery chamber which chokes with cold air.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0456: dig

La Rasa 30T 448878 4793871 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 542m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A cold, small draughting dig.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0457: Hammered Hole

S Vega 30T 450778 4795124 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 330m

Length 43m **Depth** 25m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998; 19th February; 17th December 1999; 14th May 2000; 21st January , 10th June 2001; 21st May, 2014

The entrance lies in a small depression with an obvious tree. The draughting head of the pitch is a chiselled and enlarged slot in a limestone face. The 25m drop lands on a rubble slope and the draught is lost.

A number of trips during 1999 enlarged the entrance and bolted across about 6m below the head of the pitch to an ascending calcite slope that ends in a draughting boulder choke in which one block prevents further progress. The choke appears to be immediately under the entrance of [Hidden Hole \(0458\)](#).

References: [anon., 1978 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1983a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983b](#); [anon., 1998d \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1998c \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 1999c \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2000](#); [anon., 2000b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [distant](#) [close up](#) [very close up](#)

: [Easter 2014](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination

December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and

coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0458: Hidden Hole

S Vega 30T 450784 4795116 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 340m

Length 2211m **Depth** 130m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998; 19th February 1999; 2nd May 1999; 14th May 2000; 10th June, 28th September, 8th October 2001; 6th May, 26th October 2002; 25th May, 17th October 2003; 1st February 2006; 1st July, 28th October, 5th November 2009; 6th January 2011; 22nd April 2013; 27th September 2015; 30th June 2018

The entrance, with a fluctuating draught, lies in the shakehole behind the scar that holds [Hammered Hole \(457\)](#). The grid reference noted from Google Earth could be 30T 0450778 4795109 but this has yet to be checked on the ground.

A small rift leads to a tight vertical drop into a larger rift passage. At a chock-stone a 10m pitch drops into 5m of rift passage to a tight pitch head. *Gloom Pitch* (57m) is rigged from a Y-hang and a short deviation; a second deviation 9m down gives a 31m

hang to a 3rd deviation (in situ) from a ledge on the far side of the shaft. The 2009 survey revealed a window leading into a chamber about 15m -20m down with further prospects. This was checked out at Easter 2013 and 0.4 x 0.4 window entered to a 4m diameter chamber with a flat floor. The continuation is in a rift to a p5 that appears blind.

At the foot of the pitch a ramp slopes up to a choke passing below two high avens. Down slope, a low arch leads to a short section of walking passage and a sharp right turn enters a large, well decorated passage. At Easter 2013, "from top of boulder slope at bottom of Gloom Pitch, a climb may lead into a tube in the roof (may require 2 bolts for progress and protection."

Following the left hand wall passes a scramble down to an undescended pitch (20m+?) a walk through *Column and Stal Grotto* then a short traverse brings you to the head of a rift, at least explored in an Easter 2003 visit when 10m pitch was bottomed and the northern side appears to continue with loose rock. Following the right hand wall, climbs up reach the foot of the ramp, oxbows which are yet to be pushed are seen, then various ways on lead to the head of the rift mentioned above.

A pitch down into the rift is rigged via a small passage that leads to a section of decorated passage and pot (undescended) and a window on the left looks down into the rift. At the foot of the pitch a passage to the NW leads to a dig in sand and gypsum; to the SE a climb up reaches a pitch and section of passage that appears to be below the large, decorated passage first entered.

At the foot of *Gloom Pitch*, SE across the ramp, a short traverse passes the head of a pitch that ends in boulders and a bedding enters a short section of passage with a slope to a short climb down and a further sandy slope that leads to a large, sloping passage.

Straight ahead leads to *Sherwood Forest* - a complex of narrow, sharp, inter-connected rifts leading to a sloping blind pitch and a pitch of 32m. This drops to a cross passage that extends 20m SW-NE each side of the pitch. The SW passage has formations ends in soft mud walls which may dig. Another drop of 8m reaches an altitude of 215m.

Sherwood Forest was searched for continuations at Easter 2013 but no extensions were found.

Left up the slope leads into a large area of boulder choke with many sections of solid passage, rifts and climbs which don't appear to go anywhere except back towards the p32.

Downslope leads via short climbs or pitches to an unexplored rift below *Robin Head Traverse*. Robin Head Traverse starts part way down the slope and leads to a section of passage sloping down to the rift. At the end of the traverse, a tight narrow rift leads to an aven with a way on at the bottom which passes back along a narrow rift, but is not fully explored.

A 20m pitch near the start of Robin Head Traverse also needs descending.

The *Good Friday the 13th Extensions* in [Juan Lombrero](#) that end at a 5cm high bedding appear to come very close to Hidden Hole and Hammered Hole.

The draughting dig beyond a 10m pitch to the west of the cave was hammered out at Easter 2013 and pushed for about 6m until a 20cm hole was met - with uncertain potential.

Easter 2002 Extension - *Slip Sliding Away*

(The description above may need changing)
An easy climb up at the base of the ramp leads to the start of a section of well decorated passage with short traverses and false floors.

A small decorated passage on the left connects to a rift (visual only); second left leads via a sandy crawl to the head of the rift (above) and pitch down (base previously seen).

The next passage (first right) *Daggers Crawl* leads back to the ramp in known cave and further small passages which appear to connect back to known cave (oxbows shown?)

The main passage leads to an unexplored pit and climb up to a smaller decorated passage. This opens up on the right, dropping to an undescended pitch. Left continues large past an unexplored pit to a traverse over a false floor where a 20m rope is required.

The main passage continues large over mud slopes, with possible ways on the left to mud slopes up to a junction. Left goes to a climb and tubes not explored; right, a climb down leads to a chamber with a rift in the floor. Tubes lead off at floor level and a hole can be seen above.

This point is close to [Cueva Cefrales \(site 42\)](#).

2009 Extensions through *Squeezing Column Passage*

Following the western passage from the bottom of Gloom Pitch, where it enters the grotto and turns right, there is a passage to the left, just 2 meters past the dripping water inlet (climb 1 meter up). It is worth noting that Jonas Binladen and Torben Redder on one of the last trips many years ago had a really good look around the inlet, but missed *Squeezing Column Passage*. Squeeze past the 3m x 0,2m column into a walking size passage with a few squeezes. The passage ends in a unpassably tight place, that was located from the other side, about 5 meters away, from another place in the cave. Half way along the walking size passage, there is a p15 (2 spits required). This drippy pitch leads to a muddy slope down and a steep phreatic tube sloping up (use about 20 m of rope for belay up the tube) leading to *Dining Chamber* through a hammered hole. From *Dining Chamber*, *Precarious Tube* leads to the bottom of the muddy slope at the end of the p15. There are a lot of avens in the new area. A place that needs a second look is the chamber west of *Dining Chamber*, as this was surveyed at the end of the final 18 hour trip. At Easter 2013, the pitch near the start of *Squeezing Column Passage* was dropped. This is a 16m drop to a blind pit. About 3m off the floor towards the north there is a) a ramp of boulders, going about 8m up with no way on and b) 3m towards the east into a wet aven, about 6m high. Footprints and a sling from unknown exploration was found, but no way on.

August 8th Extensions (2009)

In the northern end, the c6 climb starts off the eastern side of the wall. The entrance window is well decorated with stals (roof and floor). The main passage is walking size, mostly with a flat floor. At the southern end the passage ends in an opening of about 2x2 m with a p16. Thi pit has not been descended, but connects into known passage. In the middle of the main passage there are small passages (complex tubes) but there seems not to be a way on.

An overnight trip at Easter 2013 had the misfortune to drop a tackle sack containing milk, water and a DistoX down *Gloom Pitch*. This destroyed the liquid containers and appeared to break the DistoX. The team camped and slept on a flat mud floor 50m WNW of the main pitch, found plenty of drinking water, but were unable to survey the (small) extensions made.

A hydrology diagram for the South Vega System can be seen [here](#).

Radon measurement over 24 hours (31st March - 1st April 2013) gave a reading of 1400 Bq/m³

References: [anon., 1983a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1998d \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002b \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003a \(photo\)](#); [anon., 2003b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#); [Corrin Juan, 2009](#); [anon., 2009b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009c \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2010](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(photo\)](#); [anon., 2013b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014](#); [anon., 2015c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [entrance passage](#) : [summer 2001](#) : [Easter 2003](#) : [2009 explorations](#) : [Easter 2013 biv](#)

Video: [Easter 2013 - exploration and bivouac](#) (YouTube)

Detailed Survey : Before the 2001 extensions,

showing proximity to Hammered Hole [1:500](#)

2001 survey ([1:1000](#)) with [projected elevation](#)

: [2002 Easter survey \(1:1000\)](#)

[end 2002 plan](#) : [end 2002 projected section](#) : [Easter](#)

[2003 plan \(pdf version\)](#) (some alterations from [end](#)

[2002 plan](#))

[2009 survey](#) : [Easter 2013 text additions](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (2009) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0459: Cumpleaños, Sima

S Vega 30T 450176 4795275 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 274m

Length 190m **Depth** 33m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 20th January 2002; 7th October 2010; 22nd September 2018; 30th October 2020

A 5m pitch drops onto rubble. The second pitch in a rift can be laddered between boulders or through a tight slot and is a 14m drop into a small chamber. (The boulders above the climber should be removed as the

ladder might be removing the support). At the base, the exit is through a small hole in the left hand wall. This emits a draught through a short series of 1m diameter tubes ending at a sloping 8m pitch into a chamber which is directly under [460](#). The base of the slope has a possible dig, while up the slope leads to a tight 12m pitch (dropped to a calcite choke) and a well decorated rift about 3m wide, choked both up and down a climb at the end. The draught is lost.

In 2010, the cave was extended by 74m through a dig at the base of the p8. This leads into the decorated *Tolentino Chamber* and, after another dig, to *Satre's Garden* where a loose climb up an aven enters another chamber with a possible dig through to a shaft. A possible dig was also noted below the first 5m pitch: a rift that apparently heads away from the cave.

There is a probability that sites [999](#) and [1000](#) are [460](#) and 459 respectively (see *2018 summer logbook*). This was proved in October 2020 so sites 999 and 1000 had been removed for re-assignment.

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983b](#); material in file; [anon, 2001d \(Christmas log book\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003a](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2011](#); [anon., 2018c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2020d \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500 pre-2010](#) : [1:500 2010 pdf file](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0460: shaft

S Vega 30T 450189 4795257 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 282m

Length 14m **Depth** 14m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 20th January 2002; 22nd

September 2018; 30th October 2020

Uphill from Sima Cumpleaños. The entrance is hidden in a depression with a limestone face on the downhill side. A 14m pitch to a small hole which could be dug. Stones drop for about 7m, but the hole probably joins with [Sima Cumpleaños \(459\)](#).

There is a probability that sites [999](#) and [1000](#) are 460 and [459](#) respectively. (See *2018 summer logbook*). This was proved in October 2020 so sites 999 and 1000 had been removed for re-assignment.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon, 2001d \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2020d \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0461: shaft

S Vega 30T 450168 4795341 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 255m

Length 23m **Depth** 23m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 22nd September 2018; 30th

October 2020

A straight pitch to a choke.

In 2018, this site was possibly found at the position of site 1057, but was not checked. A further check in October 2020 failed to find any shaft in the supposed area of site 0461.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2020d \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0462: shaft

S Vega 30T 452238 4794241 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 564m

Length 17m **Depth** 9m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

The entrances are two holes in the roof of an 8m long, choked rift.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0463: shaft

S Vega 30T 452228 4794261 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 550m

Length 8m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

A tight shaft into a small, choked chamber.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0464: cave

S Vega 30T 452709 4794403 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 462m

Length 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 1st October 2006

A small hole drops into a low passage with

long roof pendants. Choked.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0465: shaft

S Vega 30T 452365 4795092 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 293m

Length 4m **Depth** 4m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 12th June 2005

A log-covered hole with a drop into a low,

mud-filled "streamway".

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2005b](#)

([Easter & summer](#)); [anon., 2005d \(Whit logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0466: shaft

S Vega 30T 452298 4795181 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 285m

Length 4m **Depth** 4m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

The entrance is in a wood on the left hand

bank of the valley. A drop lands in a small,

choked streamway. Not the same hole as in

the front of the log ?

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0467: cave

Barrio de Carrales 30T 453548 4795171 (Datum:

ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 235m

Length 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 12th May 2019

A fragment of vadose stream passage. The

end is at a daylight soil choke. There is a

possible crawl to the right but there is no

draught.

A hole seen in January 2019 is possibly the

site entrance but is choked with rubbish

including an old fridge.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019b](#)

([Easter logbook](#))

Entrance picture : [possibly, pictures of the](#)

[rubbish-filled entrance](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0468: shaft

S Vega 30T 452485 4794583 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 518m

Length 12m **Depth** 12m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 27th January 2025

A 12m pitch in a spacious rift lands on mud and boulders. The rift to the south continues impassably tight.

[A previous GR was 0452508 4794571]

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024f \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [January 2024](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0469: shaft

S Vega 30T 452488 4794551 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 515m

Length 5m **Depth** 5m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A small shaft with a choked boulder floor.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0470: shaft

S Vega 30T 452318 4794561 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 542m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th May 2007

A shaft in a rift amongst fluted limestone. Choked at the base. This may be [site 2656](#).

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0471: shaft

S Vega 30T 451818 4794291 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 575m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A small hole in a shallow shakehole, walled on the west side. A 20m pitch in a clean washed, fluted shaft ends at a short climb down onto a false floor. Needs digging but is probably joined to [472](#).

In 1988 the entrance appeared to have collapsed.

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0472: Piluca, Sima de la

Piluca 30T 451712 4794023 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 578m

Length 315m **Depth** 141m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 14th May 2000; 5th May 2001; 29th October 2009; 8th October 2010; 6th January 2024

The 5m x 2m entrance, which has a tree just visible on the southern slope of a large depression, is one big pitch with two rebelayes, about 120m deep. Passage 15m up from the floor goes to an 18m pitch with about 75m of small choked passages one of which rejoins the main shaft 5m up.

A pendulum reaches the opposite side of the shaft and a passage which leads straight to a 27m pitch with an immature stream flowing across the floor. All obvious ways choke or get too tight. A strongly draughting

boulder choke 3m up the far wall has been dug through into another chamber full of loose boulders and a steeply descending mud slope down which boulders fall for about 3 seconds. Needs hammering and digging.

The cave was re-explored, extended downstream and surveyed at Easter 2001 and the description from the logbook needs merging with the old description above. There appears to be a good draught with possible digging sites.

The cave was rebolted and tackled up in the summer 2009, but no new exploration or excavations were carried out.

In 2010 a fresh team re-explored and pushed, providing the following description:

By rigging off two bolts on a boulder, the shaft can be dropped with 7 rebelays and a deviation (rigged with some new bolts, installed July 2010). The landing is on a boulder floor and a muddy 3m climb up is the way on. This is followed by a climb down and a crawl to the base of a pitch that can be entered from the top via a crawl about 20m up the main pitch. From here the cave is essentially a single large meander. There is a crawl followed by a step over a small pot leading to more crawling and a climb up a bit of tat. A short distance later a climb down is assisted by another bit of tat leading to another crawl to the head of the final 10m pitch. This can be rigged off a huge boulder and 2 bolts in the roof. It lands in a chamber in a sandstone band containing large sandstone boulders. A small stream drops from the roof and flows off into a boulder collapse. Climbing over the boulders one enters a large fossil passage with some nice stal which chokes completely after about 10m. By climbing down through the boulders the streamway is regained which vanishes into a tiny tube.

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1983b](#); material in file; [García J L, 1987](#); [García José León, 1997](#); [anon., 2000b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003a](#); [anon., 2009c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(photo\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2011](#); [anon., 2023e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [2009](#), [2010](#), [2023](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey : [3D line survey](#)

On area survey :

Survex file : [new entrance GR 2023](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0473: shaft, cave

Piluca 30T 451701 4793996 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 585m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th January 2024

[New grid reference, December 2023]

A small, draughting entrance is a 2m squeeze down into a small, unstable boulder chamber. A steep 5m slope drops to the sloping head of a 15m pitch which appears very loose where the ladder hangs free and is hence undescended.

Probably joined to [Sima de la Piluca \(0472\)](#).

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures: [With Sima de la Piluca \(#0472\)](#)

[\[pic 5\]](#) : [closeup](#) :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0474: shaft

N Vega 30T 448968 4796041 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 487m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 6m choked shaft in a depression.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0475: shaft

N Vega 30T 448958 4796051 (Datum: ETRS89.

MATIENZO UNDERGROUND site descriptions (printed 28/02/2025)

256

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 491m
Length 12m **Depth** 12m
[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A plank-covered small hole opens out into a roomy 12m shaft which chokes at the base with a very narrow rift leading off.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0476: Goat Shaft

S Vega 30T 451727 4795150 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 242m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th September 2022

An excavated top leads to two tiny rifts with no draught. The hole was the site of a goat rescue in July 2022 when the grid reference was updated.

Reference: [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance and other pictures : [July 2022](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0477: cave

S Vega 30T 451492 4795377 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 216m

Length 43m **Depth** 7m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 14th May

2000; 25th June 2010; 9th September

2022; 20th March, 13th May 2023

[Entrance](#) is 50m down the track from [site](#)

[178](#).

The depression contains the walk-in entrance to a stooping chamber, 10m long. Running water is heard through a small hole up to the left and straight ahead. The higher hole was dug through to a squeeze up to a further dig at the head of a 5m pitch which would drop into the chamber entered through the lower hole.

The way in is through the excavated lower hole which drops into a 6m high chamber with a sump downstream and low going upstream towards [Cueva de Haya \(178\)](#).

It is presumed that the water is next seen in [site 1481](#).

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

In July 2022, the hole was enlarged to make access easier and the cave was surveyed. A dig outside was started but little progress made, possibly in [3381](#)? The site was "looked in" in March 2023 and visited on 2 occasions the following month.

Bat information

Date: 4/4/2023; 5/4/2023

Evidence of occupation (only): feeding

perches

Bat remains (number): -

Species identified name (number): lesser

horseshoe bat (1)

Other notes:

Photos from visit: entrance photos below

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1993c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2010b \(Easter logbook\)](#);

[Corrin Juan, 2011](#); [anon., 2022c \(summer logbook\)](#);

[anon., 2023b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [1999\(?\)](#), [2010](#) and [2023](#) :

[video](#), [April 2023](#)

Underground pictures: [2010](#) and [2022](#)

Detailed Survey : [2022](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [2022](#)

[X](#)

0478: cave (S entrance)

Mullir South entrance 30T 455438 4795846

(Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 640m

The N entrance is at 30T 0455578 4796070 altitude

640m; ETRS89: 30T 455476 4795861.

Length 20m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th December 1999; 23rd

February 2001; 4th May 2009

A 5m wide hole enters a 2m high passage full of excreta leading to a second entrance.

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1999c \(logbook\)](#) ; [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0479: Sheepskull Pot

Mullir 30T 455278 4795931 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 658m

Length 125m **Depth** 125m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 12m pitch drops to a choked floor followed immediately by a 110m pitch with several jammed boulders and rebelayes. Ends in a muddy rift which is too tight.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0480: shaft

Mullir 30T 455238 4795921 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 673m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An 8m deep, sheer sided 20m diameter hole with a muddy 10m pitch at the base. Wall of last pitch has unexplored hole to parallel shaft of apparently similar depth.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0481: Laughing Cow Pot

S Vega 30T 450168 4794381 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 480m

Length 25m **Depth** 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th October 2001; 30th January 2009

A 6m shaft drops into a short length of meandering passage followed by a 6m deep pit. A tight rift about 3m down the first drop is blocked by stal after about 15m.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001c \(Summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [sketch](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0482: Lanza, Torca de la (Spear Pot)

Seldesuto 30T 449846 4794173 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 520m

Length 30m **Depth** 30m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th December 1999; 16th September 2000; 27th October, 11th November 2001; 21st December 2008; 21st June 2013

A 15m shaft with a small top. The pit has several ledges, one of which enters a large chamber via a 30m pitch. A tight meandering passage leads off. An [iron spearhead](#) (25.5 x 3.2cm including 9cm for the shaft) was found on a ledge, 20m above the bottom of the shaft. *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001* discusses the find and has two drawings. Illustrations are shown [here](#).

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#); [Smith P, 1985](#); [Muñoz E and Bermejo A, 1987](#); [anon., 1999c \(logbook\)](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001 \(drawing of spear head\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003 \(drawing of spear head\)](#); [anon., 2013c \(Whit logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [shaft from top](#) [shaft base](#) [shaft looking up](#)

Detailed Survey :

Survex file :

Line Survey :
On area survey :

X

0483: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 449928 4794211 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 516m

Length 15m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th November 2006; 21st June 2013

A 12m pitch to a 6m boulder slope. Choked.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1999c \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2006e \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2013c \(Whit logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0484: Zorro, Torca del

S Vega 30T 450020 4793949 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 603m

Length 80m **Depth** 58.6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th December 1999; 3rd June 2000; 21st January 2001; 24th April 2005; 1st October 2006

Probably first descended in 1983 but no account was written up. A wire belay marked NMCC was found at the bottom in 1999.

A 10m pitch / assisted climb down in an obvious shaft with a whitebeam tree leads immediately to a 31m pitch head, partially blocked by boulders. Landing on the floor, the way on is down a narrow 3m pitch / climb whilst to the left and right there are two small side branches that quickly end. A squeeze through a rift leads to an 6m shaft followed by a 3m climb.

The cave ends at a narrow S-bend which was passed in 2006 to a 3m pitch into a blind chamber.

The site carries an alternating draught and is rigged mostly on 8mm stainless studs. 40m of rope from the entrance shaft Y-hang will reach the floor above the squeeze.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1999c \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2000](#); [anon., 2005b \(Easter & summer\)](#); [anon., 2006d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [distant](#) [close up](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:500 projected section](#) [1:500 plan](#) [2006 combined survey \(pdf\)](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0485: shaft

S Vega 30T 452318 4795091 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 301m

Length 8m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Entrance in a wooded shakehole. A draughting 8m shaft with one wall apparently of soil at the top. May need digging.

Reference: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0486: Fuente de la Pila, Cueva de (Cazadores, Cueva de los; 2735 (French: SCD))

Riva 30T 452933 4793582 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 378m

Length 500m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 18th January 2004; 31st October, 18th December 2007; 16th, 20th February 2018; 14th November 2022

A 6m high and wide entrance is well-hidden in jungle. Progress is halted along the large passage by a vertical bank of clay about 100m in. A 4m scale reaches the

continuation which lowers to a flatout crawl after another 200m. According to [Valero Enrique y Soriano Ángel, 2007](#), the end here comes close to a passage in [Torca de Blas](#).

A passage on the right near to the end contains a 4m pitch into a well decorated segment. It seems to be in this section that cavers from Cuenca in May 1994 have discovered more passage to extend the cave. Thirty metres before reaching the clay wall there is a series of small rift passages on the right which return towards the surface. These appear to come close to [site 4662](#).

Two bear skeletons were found near the end of the main passage in 1983 and in December 2007 a number of flints were found in the cave near the entrance.

[Valero Enrique y Soriano Ángel, 2007](#) has an [area map](#) showing the following sites: Rio Seco, Cueva Brazada, [Torca de Blas](#), Cueva de La Pila, [Cueva de Coquisera](#) and [Cueva del Coverón](#). The same publication has the length of the cave as 520m.

References: pers comm; material in file; [anon., 1993a \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1994c \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1993a \(AEC Lobetum\)](#); [Valero Enrique y Soriano Ángel, 2007](#); [anon., 2018a \(January, February logbook\)](#); [Simonnot G, 2022](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s): [2007](#) : [2018](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#) (A slightly extended but less detailed survey appears in reference CM).

From [anon., 1993a \(AEC Lobetum\)](#): [high res](#) [low res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0487: Statua, Cueva (M23 (SEAD))

Muela 30T 454018 4796438 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 605m

Length 35m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 16th February 2022

The entrance hole - not visible until you are standing next to it - lies at the base of a limestone cliff and is a 10m pitch into a large chamber. There are a number of animal skeletons on the floor.

The site is labelled M23 with green paint.

References: [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#) (survey); pers comm; [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2005c \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#) : [2022](#)

Detailed Survey : [from DistoX](#) (drawn up survey to come)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0488: shaft

Muela 30T 453988 4796361 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 597m

Length 7m **Depth** 7m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 6m ladder pitch drops into a choked chamber.

Reference: card

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0489: Espino, Cueva del (M22 (SEAD))

Muela 30T 454068 4796611 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 615m

Length 211m **Depth** 6m **Vertical range** -6 to +7m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th October 2003; 10th October 2004; 1st February 2006; 7th June 2007; 21st December 2008; 25th, 26th September 2012; 8th January 2020; 5th May 2022

The cave is in a 20m high cliff face with bushes and has been marked M22 by SEAD. The entrance is 5 x 8m. A walking size passage lowers to a draughting tube which has been dug to lowish passage with straws and stal.

A sediment sample has been taken.

In the summer of 2003, the draughting eye-hole at the end of the 94 extension was opened up and a further extension made at essentially the same level. The extensions, by members of the Derbyshire Caving Club, are described on the [DCC web site](#) and summarised here.

The extension consists of a continuation of the main passage which is about 5 metres diameter and phreatic in origins. This has been filled with mud and calcite in various phases and in parts only the top section is accessible, hence the dig and two squeezes dug through. However, in the extension, two separate inlets have washed out the infill and left sizeable chambers. The passage continues after the second chamber but is filled to the roof and has no draught. The first chamber has a second inlet and both get too narrow. The best prospect is the outlet in the first chamber where the draft emerges. This has been dug briefly and a return visit would be worthwhile, especially as it hints at a deeper level for the cave. Between the two chambers is a low passage on two levels divided by a false floor. Above this is another inlet which has been explored for a short distance.

In the final chamber, the way on is blocked to the roof but there is also an aven and hole in the floor which were looked at in 2004. Work continues, but has the final pot been descended?

At Whit 2007 a side passage on the right just beyond the DCC memorial was opened up. This leads back to the cliff face but is blocked with a (possibly ancient) dry stone wall. There are bones on both sides of the wall and a possible continuation running parallel to the cliff after what appears to be an easy dig. (There were also a lot of fleas). In 2012, the "oval slot", with larger passage beyond, was found to be too tight but may be possible for a "youth with attitude".

Various Bronze and Iron Age items, including pottery, have been found in the entrance chamber. Details have yet to be published (*Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008, p228*).

In 2012, probable wild boar bones and teeth were identified at the start of the extensions and other bones noticed in the earlier sections including small carnivores and a large bird.

Reference [Smith P et al, 2015](#) has a summary of the archaeological work carried out within 2004 - 2016.

References: material in file; [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1994b \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2004d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2005c \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#); [Corrin Juan, 2006](#); [anon., 2007c \(Whit logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2012d \(summer logbook\)](#); [Smith P et al, 2015](#); [anon., 2022b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [old](#) : [new](#) : [view from the entrance](#) : [2003 DCC team in the entrance](#) : [photos from 2004](#) : [April 2022](#)

Underground picture(s): [photos from 2003](#) : [photos from 2004](#) : Pictures around the wall on the right of the entrance, Whit 2007 : [Probable wild boar, 2012](#) : [memorial plaque](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:1000 \(1990 and 1994\)](#) [1:500](#)

(with the 2003 extensions)

Line Survey :

Videos : [by Nigel Dibben new exploration \(5.6Mb\)](#)

[digging \(1.8Mb\)](#)

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0490: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 449935 4794152 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 546m

Length 60m **Depth** 60m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 24th April 2005; 16th February

2022

Description Slug? Marked 544A. This site is likely to be a duplicate site 0508 which (February 2021) will be re-allocated.

Probably seen and photographed, Easter 2005. There was no grid reference for the original site 0508.

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2005b \(Easter & summer\)](#); [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#) - for site 0508; [anon., 2022a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Video: [entrance](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0491: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 449088 4794851 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 257m

Length 108m **Depth** 34m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 13 February 1998; 13th May 2023

In the woods below the track which rises behind [Cueva del Arenal \(035\)](#). A slope down to the head of a 5.8m vertical pitch which lands on a bouldery slope. Below, two holes down connect and, to the south, a slippery climb rises to an aven.

The route into the cave is a short vertical climb up the wall and a slope to a hole into passage. An aven on the right is passed and after another 5m, a deep 4 x 2m hole almost blocks the route. A small passage skirts the pit to the right leading to a sloping 7m climb down in a tube to a further climb which becomes too tight.

The 22.7m deep pit hades to the northwest and the base is reached below some jammed blocks. Holes to the west on the descent have been only partly investigated. At the bottom, a small stream emerges and sinks in wet weather, a narrow rift chokes and all routes appear to close in.

Most of the draught appears to come from a very small hole in the wall of the narrow rift.

Reference: card; [anon., 1996a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1997b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [1996 and 2023](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[X](#)

0492: Abejas, Sima de las

N Vega 30T 449458 4795711 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 388m

Length 25m **Depth** 25m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th January 2010

A small passage ends at a 20m very loose pitch. A 5m tight rift descends to a choke. The apparent passage seen in early explorations was non-existent with a better light.

References: [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1995b \(Whit logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0493: Carolina, Cueva

El Naso 30T 450678 4796901 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 466m

Length 22m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A small drop into a low, wide bedding.

References: [anon., 1985a \(Easter logbook\)](#); material in file

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0494: shaft

El Naso 30T 450688 4797321 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 443m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Entrance on a grassy slope to a 6m choked shaft.

References: pers comm.; [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0495: dig

S Vega 30T 451648 4795231 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 220m

Length 15m **Depth** 10m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 27th September 2015

This is found in the deepest shakehole next to a flimsy cow shed.

A 10m deep, draughting dig at the foot of 15m high cliff face. Progress in the '90s was down against one, sloping, solid wall. At the base a small chamber has been entered through a crawl and there is a small aven rising just inside the face, blocked by a flake. The way on is probably down. The altitude is the same as the main levels in [Torca del Coterón \(264\)](#) .

The site was revisited in 2015. There has been lots of tree growth and the dig has partly collapsed.

Reference: [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1993c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1994a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995b](#)

Entrance pictures : [in August 2015](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0496: Casasierra, Cubío de la

El Naso 30T 450878 4796960 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 453m

Length 30m **Depth** 30m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th November 2000; 21st May 2017

A strongly draughting 10m pitch leads to a window to a 15m shaft. This drops into a tight rift. A 5m climb up at the bottom leads to a blind window. A small trench below the last pitch can be followed to a too tight rift. At the start of the trench is a narrow rift which drops into a small chamber with no outlet.

Part way down the first pitch a step off leads to a small chamber and a short, choked 5m pitch. The draught is lost.

When partly explored at Easter 2017, it was noted that the draught was warm and so presumed to come from a nearby shakehole.

References: [anon., 1985a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000f \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0497: cave

S Vega 30T 451178 4794337 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 548m

Length 30m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 13th February 1998; 1st November 2009

Two entrances on the side of a large, wooded depression. The left side goes for about 15m to a choke. Back from the end, on the left, a flat out dig has an interesting echo.

Reference: [Pers comm.](#); [anon., 1997b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1997c \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0498: shaft

S Vega 30T 451149 4794422 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 563m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 23rd April 2013

A 10m pitch which chokes.

Reference: [card](#); [anon., 2013b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0499: shafts - 2

S Vega 30T 450923 4794453 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 585m

Length 12m **Depth** 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 23rd April 2013

Twin shafts which choke.

Reference: card; [anon., 2013b](#) (Easter logbook)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0500: Pico del Castigo, Cueva del

San Miguel 30T 458058 4797171 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 203m

Length 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 20th May 2019

A large entrance to a cave which has many columns. Human remains are said to have been found in the cave. Some photos were taken in May 2019.

Reference: Munoz Fernandez E et al, 1987

Entrance pictures : [May 2019](#)

Underground picture(s): [May 2019](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0501: Cerro Chico, Cueva del

Llueva 30T 457498 4797161 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 133m

Length 130m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th January 2000; 21st January 2001

The approach to the cave is up through scrub and then west across jungle-covered karst. Twin entrances at the base of a small limestone cliff in trees link up in a passage with many formations and infill. It is said that a sword was found here.

References: pers comm.; Munoz Fernandez E et al, 1987; [anon., 1999d](#) (Christmas logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2000](#) (photo)

Entrance picture : [1999 & 2019](#)

Underground picture(s): formations [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) [f](#) [g](#) [h](#) [m](#) [n](#) [o](#) [p](#)

surveying [i](#) [j](#) [k](#) [l](#)

[passage near entrance](#)

[2019](#)

Detailed Survey : 1:500

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[X](#)

0502: Peñarobra, Cueva de

Llueva 30T 457408 4797731 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 225m

Length 35m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th November 2004; 16th May 2009; 17th September 2014; 29th

November 2016

A single chamber on the right of a large limestone cliff. A large number of human bones have been found and dated to the Chalcolithic. Further work has been carried out by the *Proyecto Mauranus* (see *Hierro Gárate José Ángel y Gutiérrez Cuenca Enrique, 2016a*)

References: pers comm.; [GEISC/R and CAEAP, 1986](#) (survey); [Muñoz E, 1988](#); Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009 (survey and photo); [Smith Peter, 2012](#) (survey, photo); [Gutiérrez Cuenca Enrique and Hierro Gárate José Ángel, 2012](#);

[Hierro Gárate José Ángel y Gutiérrez Cuenca Enrique, 2016a](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [near entrance](#) [at](#)

[entrance](#)

Detailed Survey : from [GEISC/R and CAEAP, 1986](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0503: Mazarredonda, Cuevas de

(3)

San Pantaleón de Aras 30T 459268 4799741

(Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 45m

Length 20m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th November 2004; 16th May 2009

Three caves: Cueva del Ratón (length 30m), Cueva del Cubo (20m) and Cueva del Carro (length 12m). All the caves are archaeological sites.

[Cueva del Raton \(886\)](#) contains Upper Magdalenian levels; Cueva del Cubo has shells, flints and pottery, possibly dated in the Chalcolithic; and [Cueva del Carro \(887\)](#) similarly has shells and pottery. Also in Cueva del Cubo, a rhinoceros molar was found: *Dicerorhinus merki* Kaup.

References: [GEISC/R and CAEAP, 1986 \(survey\)](#); Munoz Fernandez E et al, 1987; [Fuentes C, 1982](#); Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009 (survey)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0504: Carabi3n, Cueva (Carabi3n, Abrigo del) (Puente de San Mames, Cueva del)

San Mames 30T 458868 4800521 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 20m

Length 30m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th November 2004; 16th May, 1st July 2009; 1st June 2018

A cave and a rock-shelter next to each other. The cave is a single passage, with an opening to the surface on the left. It ends in a crawl, after which it soon gets too tight. The rock-shelter was excavated in 2009, and has Mesolithic and Azilian levels.

The survey in *Catalogo Topografico de las Cavidades con Interes Arqueologico* ([GEISC/R and CAEAP, 1986](#)) doesn't agree with the surveys below. The survey in Pérez-Bartolomé Mercedes et al, 2016 has the cave passage heading in a north direction.

References: [GEISC/R and CAEAP, 1986 \(survey\)](#); [Muñoz E, 1988](#); material in file; Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009 (survey); [anon., 2009b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [Pérez-Bartolomé Mercedes et al, 2016 \(survey\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500 \(1986\) survey \(2009 pdf\)](#)

[Cueva & abrigo](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0505: Mazo, Cueva del

La Gatuna? VN???????? Alt. ???m Depth 7m

[Logbook search](#)

A 7m drop to a tight squeeze down beneath a large block into a fossil passage where all side routes are choked. The draught comes from a too-tight hole. Slug for grid ref?

Reference: [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0506: Birds Nest cave

San Miguel 30T 457308 4796641 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 89m

Length 54m + 20m unsurveyed **Depth** 10m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Obvious hands and knees height entrance behind a tree. The passage narrows to a rift and opens out in a chamber. This closes down to the left. Down on the right, two routes unite at a hole in the floor down which is 20m of unsurveyed rift passage with no extension possibilities.

Reference: [anon., 1995a \(Easter logbook\)](#); material in file

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0507: Goat Shit Hole

S Vega

Length 20m

[Logbook search](#)

Short cave. JIMMY RATTREY??? CAROL TR??

Reference: [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0508: Yorkshire Pot

Garzón 30T 449680 4802800 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 209m

Depth 25m?

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[This site has code 0508, reallocated from double-documented [site 0490](#).]

A hole found many years ago when Garzón was "out-of-area". It was then partially re-explored in the late 2010's to give the following description:

Myself , Dave Milner and Phil Goodwin managed to find it again and laddered the first pitch from the surface with a long belay from a tree with an 25ft ladder which lands you on a heap of scrap iron and household rubbish. At this point, it is a short, large passage which chokes at both ends but might repay to have another look at this.

Off to one side of this is an angled descent to a narrow meandering stream way with various small climbs which soon levels out but it became too tight for me and Phil. Dave, who was in front decided to call off any further exploration on his own. Further on from where Dave got to is a second pitch which, if my memory is correct, was shown on Lank's survey between 30 to 35ft. The narrow passage continues to a tight section or a blockage. Somewhere between the base of the second pitch and the tight section is a climb up to a high level passage which they entered and could possibly be a route past the top of the narrow section. Probably best to ask Lank for a more concise description. Definitely a thin person trip. [Description by John Southworth]

More comments can be seen in the summer 2022 logbook.

References: [anon, 2022c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0509: Wild Horses, Cave of the (bottom entrance)

Muela 30T 455438 4796431 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 602m

Length included in site 0647 **Vertical range** 41m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[Shaft \(647\)](#) marked DCC1 and 509; cave marked DCC2. Cave entrance in cliff face and requires a 5m roped descent from above although this may not be necessary. The shaft alternative is 8m deep.

From the cave entrance, the passage slopes down and becomes low before reaching the head of a chamber, down on the left. The floor of the chamber consists of pools and slippery calcite. The way on is across the top of the chamber on the right, via a small passage which slopes into a massive 40 x 30m chamber. The boulder slope on the right leads up to the base of the 8m shaft entrance (647). Another passage on the right ends at an undescended pit, but see ref. L84.

References: [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1985a \(Easter logbook\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[X](#)

0510: shaft

Llueva 30T 454148 4797211 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 458m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A drop through blocks leads to an impassable squeeze to a further chamber beyond.

Reference: [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0511: dig

La Secada 30T 453418 4797641 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 326m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

A draughting hole in a small scar below a ruin (near to [La Cuvia \(086\)](#)). Small rift passage goes off with a crawl on the left which has not been entered.

Reference: [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0512: shaft

La Secada 30T 453328 4797941 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 352m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 1st October 2008

A body-sized 6m shaft which chokes. Another 2m deep, choked hole lies 40m to the north. During the discovery and exploration of [site 3003](#), the site at the above grid reference was not seen.

Reference: [anon., 1993 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2008e \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0513: Ladies Pot (mp)

La Secada 30T 453097 4798141 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 243m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 16th February 2022

Site 0513 was a dig over one of the molephone points in Trident Passages. Mainly in overburden with not much bedrock found, nor any open cave or even a crack! Hence why it was filled in. Sides would have collapsed in wet weather as they were not supported.

At Easter, 2015, using "memory and original notes", site 4132 was documented as "A molephone point over the sandstone passage (?) in the Trident Series, Cueva Hoyuca. Identified at Easter 2015 as next to the only tree in a field of gorse above the evergreen trees around [site 0603](#)."

Site 0513 and 4132 are the same "dig", although Ladies Pot was positioned (30T 0453018 4798211) some 120m away from 4132. The grid reference above is that previously given to 4132, and the 4132 code will be re-allocated (but will still show up in the Logbook Search facility).

Reference: [anon., 1983 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2015b \(Easter logbook\)](#) - for old site 4132; [anon., 2022a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0514: cave

La Secada 30T 453038 4797741 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 240m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

No reference.

Reference: none

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0515: shaft

Riva 30T 453622 4793828 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 395m

Depth ?m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 4th May 2009

Descended by Big Nose. Depth? At Easter 515, water was heard flowing here.

Reference: [anon., 1982 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0516: shaft

Riva 30T 453598 4793871 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 389m

Depth ?m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th May 2018

One of the West Ozana Pots. Descended in 1975 and marked "2".

Reference: [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975](#)

Entrance picture : [April 2018](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0517: XLs, Torca (3423 (French: SCD))

Riva 30T 453726 4793801 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 369m

Length 92m **Depth** 74m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 16th April 2008; 25th September 2012; 5th May 2018; 14th November 2022

One of the West Ozana Pots. A 15m, fine-looking shaft drops into a large rift. The passage to the left has a strong draught and leads to an eyehole and short climb to the head of a 15m pitch. The drop has a ledge 10m down. The base is silted up.

The hole in the wall with the draught whistling in was banged using Hilti caps and eventually the hole was enlarged enough to enter. A 19m pitch is followed by one of 12m. At the base, an easy, though dangerous, cobble dig has the draught going in.

Above the Hilti rift, a tight passage has been extended through two stal blockages to a third with a good draught.

According to Enrique Valero and members of the AEC Lobetum group, the streamway in Cueva del Coverón was extended upstream in 2012 to finish in high, wet avens close to this site. Cavers from AEC Lobetum have tried to descend Torca XLs but were unable to get past the tight section.

In November 2022, a French team couldn't find the draught. (Too cold on the surface?)

References: [Kendal Caving Club and Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 \(?\)](#); [anon., 1985a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1991 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1997a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1998](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2012d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Simonnot G, 2022](#)

Entrance pictures : [April 2018](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[X](#)

0518: cave

Riva 30T 453558 4793791 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 393m

Length 5m ?

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Small choked cave.

Reference: [anon., 1985a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0519: shaft

Riva 30T 453530 4793980 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 405m

Length 30m **Depth** 30m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 21st October 2001

One of the West Ozana Pots. A large hole with a parallel shaft. A 25m drop to a choked base.

References: Kendal Caving Club / Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 (?); [anon., 1985a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0520: shaft

Riva 30T 453518 4793751 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 390m

Length 22m **Depth** 22m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

One of the West Ozana Pots. A small crack in the side of a depression. A perfectly circular shaft chokes.

Reference: Kendal Caving Club / Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 (?); [anon., 1985a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0521: Arrendajo, Sima del (Jay, Cueva de)

Riva 30T 453684 4793703 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 382m

Length 15m **Depth** 15m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 16th April 2008; 5th May 2018

One of the West Ozana Pots. An 8m pitch down to the bouldery floor of a large diameter chamber. A very tight 6m climb chokes. The site was probably GPS'ed at Easter 2008. The old grid reference is VN53799396 Alt. 388m; ETRS89: 30T 453688 4793751.

References: Kendal Caving Club / Manchester University Speleological Society, 1975 (?); [anon., 1985a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [April 2018](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0522: shaft

El Naso 30T 450718 4797091 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 466m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A choked 6m pitch.

Reference: [anon., 1985a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0523: shafts - 2

Bosmartín 30T 450432 4797569 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 499m

Length 60m **Depth** 28m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 13th May 2011; 20th January 2012

A large shakehole / shaft (laddered down a 4m drop) contains two holes. The first is a hole in side of depression above second shaft. A 2m draughting climb down leads to a sloping ledge and a 10m pitch in finely fluted limestone to a choke.

The second, main hole, is a 6m drop - belayed from an ash tree - to a boulder slope into a large, well decorated chamber. This slopes steeply down to the north with a short passage to a second chamber at the bottom. From the second chamber a small slot leads to the 3rd pitch of 12m to tight rift that ends of a mud floor.

Reference: [anon., 1985a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2011b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [yes](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0524: cave

Cubija 30T 450128 4796411 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 305m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A two metre climb down enters ten metres of narrow passage with a prominent stal. A black limestone pitch chokes at 8m.

References: [anon., 1985a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0525: cave

Cubija 30T 450468 4796271 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 230m

Length 8m **Depth** 3m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 13th May 2023

A draughting hole drops down 3m to an 8m crawl to a diggable choke. A tight rift passage heads into the hillside from the entrance chamber, filled with mud. It is possible to squeeze 3m before it becomes too tight with some draught. In April 2023, the positioning was found to be OK and it was thought that the site might be suitable for a "Wednesday Dig".

References: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0526: Gerardo, Torca de

Cubija 30T 449988 4797611 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 489m

Length 61m **Depth** 61m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Excavated entrance which draughts in, now covered with a large rock and marked with a stake.

A 10m pitch is followed immediately by a 13m pitch and finally a 35m drop to a 3m climb down which chokes.

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0527: shaft

El Naso 30T 450891 4797047 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 450m

Length 15m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 26th October 2002

A choked shaft has large slabs over it.

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002b \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0528: shaft

El Naso 30T 450874 4797047 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 453m
Length 10m **Depth** 10m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 26th October 2002

A choked 10m shaft near to [527](#).

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002b \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

[X](#)

0529: Pino, Torca del

S Vega 30T 452768 4794491 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 438m
Length 20m **Depth** 20m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 28th September 2015

A strongly draughting, excavated entrance is the top of a 20m pitch. The draught comes from between blocks and the site would make a reasonable dig.

The site couldn't be found in 1996, perhaps because the pine tree is gone. In 2015, there was still no sign of the site (or tree) and the suggestion was made that the hole had been covered over and backfilled. "The generally improved nature of the pasture in this field would support this hypothesis".

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2015c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

[X](#)

0530: shaft

S Vega 30T 452558 4794461 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 493m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A shaft opposite [Cueva de la Coquisera \(039\)](#) which needs investigation. FRANK ?

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

[X](#)

0531: Cagiga Redonda, Sima de

Ozana 30T 454765 4794360 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 373m
Length 173m **Depth** 144m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 31st October 2007; 15th October 2016

The impressive entrance lies on a hading fault which controls the whole cave. The old entrance grid reference is 30T 454778 4794361 (Datum: ETRS89).

The entrance pitch of 10m is initially sloping at the head and drops into a chamber. A short slide reaches the head of the second pitch where the belay is out from jammed boulders. This pitch is about 6m and lands in the continuation of the rift which now drops steeply as a series of steps to an enlargement where there is a short inlet.

The head of the third pitch requires a step out to its bolt above a free hang of about 15m. This is split by a large ledge and lands at the head of the final 90m pitch which requires a number of traverses in its drop. At the base is a small stream in a silty rift which becomes very tight after 30m.

References: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1986](#); material in file; [Garcia J L, 1987](#); [García José León, 1997](#); [Valero Enrique y Soriano Ángel, 2007](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\)](#) (survey and photos); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\)](#); [anon., 2016c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [summer 2016](#)
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination

December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0532: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 448598 4795141 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 400m

Length 8m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 2nd November 2002

An open rift contains an 8m pitch to a crawl on boulders which draughts out and is an easy dig. An alternative is a descending, narrow passage requiring a lump hammer. Could the second one be [Hairdryer Hole \(438\)](#)?

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey : on [258 Torcón de la Calleja Rebollo](#)

([Toad in the Hole](#)) [area line surveys](#)

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0533: shaft

La Secada 30T 451058 4797311 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 334m

Length 4m **Depth** 4m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 10th September 2021

Entrance is 50m east of a barn and is a 4m deep, 4x2m hole surrounded by brambles and a young oak. No draught. Marked 533. In August 2021, the site was found "inaccessible because of angry cows".

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0534: dig

El Naso 30T 450748 4797051 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 448m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th May 2022

The entrance lies on the [northern side of a large depression](#) with an oak tree in the hole. A slightly draughting collapse which requires much digging. Marked 534.

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [2000](#) and [2022](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0535: Palindrome Dig

El Naso 30T 450748 4797041 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 450m

Length 3m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th September 2022

In the south western corner of the [same depression](#) as [0534](#). A short drop enters a small, loose chamber. The draughting way on can be seen. Marked 535.

The site was excavated on three days over August 2022 but, despite the good draught, was left as too awkward / dangerous and too much work to dig.

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Video : [inward draught August 2022](#) (YouTube)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0536: cave

El Naso 30T 450728 4797011 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 450m

Length 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A slot on the south side of the [depression](#) which also contains [534](#) and [535](#). A slope down to a small chamber with a draughting boulder ruckle which could be dug. Marked 536.

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0537: shaft

S Vega 30T 451598 4795091 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 300m

Length 27m **Depth** 27m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A choked shaft with a draught which comes from a small hole near the pitch top.

Reference: [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0538: cave

El Naso 30T 450648 4796891 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 462m

Length 15m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

The entrance is in a small depression 10m from the field boundary. A 1x1m hole leads into a flat-roofed rock shelter. A wall has been built along the back wall and there is a narrow slot in the floor to a lower chamber with a calcite ramp. From here there is a choked, draughtless crawl.

References: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1992a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0539: shaft

Trillos 30T 448110 4794175 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 535m

Length 19m **Depth** 18m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 26th October 2002; 19th

September 2023

"Undescended shaft of maximum 20m depth. Entrance is on slope behind house and surrounded by barbed wire. Needs a stake belay."

The shaft was finally descended in August 2023. A choked, flat-bottomed shaft with a tiny sink in one corner.

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002b \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [summer 2023](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0540: cave

El Naso 30T 452056 4796381 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 322m

Length 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 1st October 2008

A small chamber with dead stal. In 2008 the grid reference was altered from VN52149655 Alt. 343m; ETRS89: 30T 452038 4796341.

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2008e \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0541: shaft

El Naso 30T 452068 4796441 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 300m

Length 10m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 3rd December 2003; 3rd September 2008

A 5m deep shaft enters a small chamber with rift passages for a short distance on two levels. Five metres away is a small cell, 4m deep. The site could not be located in 2008.

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2008e \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0542: cave

La Cavada 30T 442768 4799187 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: A) **Altitude** 85m

Length 320m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th November 2003; 21st, 24th April, 29th November 2016

The site entrance, next to a water treatment plant, was "rediscovered" at Easter 2016 and is out of the current permit area.

The entrance is at the end of the large river bed and the passage slopes down to walking height. The passage is essentially the old water route, the modern drainage apparently being confined to narrow cracks a couple of metres below. The water sinking in the river bed is seen in such cracks 10m inside the cave.

The first 80m is walking on mud and boulders to a climb up and down to a chamber and a 60m long 1m high, decorated bedding. The passage splits and unites in a 2m high rift with a metre deep pool and a short walk to a 4m free climb down. The passage then chokes with boulders although a draught can be detected and the presumed resurgence is about 100m away.

The original survey appears to have been mainly carried out without a clinometer. The 3d file below will not show the true cave line. It wouldn't be a waste of time to resurvey the cave and to photograph it.

See [site 0549](#) for the resurgence. See [site 0550](#) for a fossil remnant. See 2016 Easter logbook, 19/4/2016, for other sites that have been noted.

The stream entering the cave was checked with OBA detectors in the autumn 2016 when OBA was put into a stream in a Moncobe site being explored by the *GE Pistruellos*. (The water was traced to [La Riega](#)).

References: [anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#); [Cope J et al, 1976 \(survey\)](#); material in file; [anon., 2016b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016d \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from 1976: [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (clino only used for early part of survey)

X

0543: Seis Pozos, Cueva de

La Secada 30T 452816 4798342 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 250m

Length ?m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 17th September 2000; 25th March 2001; 16th February 2022

Re-discovered and partly re-explored during the 2000 summer expedition. The original, 1977, explorations found 6 shafts (20m, 21m, 23m, 24m, 23m, 23m) in a rift with false floors after a 5m entrance pitch. The survey in the 2000 logbook has 3 shafts in the floor with the rift continuing tight. The original exploration has been confirmed by an original explorer who "must have been much smaller in 1977!"

Reference: [anon., 1977b \(logbook\)](#); card; [anon., 1998c \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001](#); [anon., 2022a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s): [from 1977](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0544: Avellano, Torca del

Riolastras 30T 456118 4802841 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 240m

Depth 15m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An easily spotted fenced-off shaft in the middle of a field. Undescended.

Grid reference estimated from 1:25000 map.

Reference: [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0545: shaft

S Vega 30T 449847 4794062 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 549m

Length 75m **Depth** 65m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 23rd February 2001; 24th April

2005; 6th January 2018

A shaft in the top corner of a doline, first descended by the Tortosa cavers around 1986. The site was marked 545A with orange tape back in 1985.

The shaft top is well guarded by brambles and extra care is needed in the rigging, as there is rotten calcite and a rub point. Near the 60m base there is a window to a 10m pitch to a choke and a draughting dig.

On New Year's Eve 2017, we were informed that a hunting dog had fallen down a shaft, together with a wild boar. That afternoon we went to the site with a couple of ladders only to find that the shaft was too deep and would need rigging safely with rope. On comparing with the website, it was found that this shaft must be 0545. We talked about arranging a descent of the shaft in the next couple of days while British cavers were still here but in the end it didn't happen. We were later told that someone from Ramales had descended the shaft and brought out the body of the dog in a process that took about 4 hours. (*Info from Pete Smith*)

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2005b \(Easter & summer\)](#); [anon., 2017e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [with caver entrance](#)

Video: [entrance](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0546: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 449033 4794808 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 272m

Length 3m **Depth** 3m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 3rd October 2007; 13th May 2023

A fenced off blind shaft, covered with undergrowth. A possible dig. The original grid reference was VN49139498 Alt. 282m; ETRS89: 30T 449028 4794771. There is some doubt as whether this is site 546?

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#) (survey); [anon., 2007d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [2006 and 2023](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0547: cave

Seldesuto 30T 448608 4794721 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 323m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A possible dig with a slight draught just above path appears to have been used as a wine store.

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#) (survey)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0548: dig

Seldesuto 30T 448908 4794361 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 382m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 2nd May, 20th October 2004

At the base of the deepest shakehole. "An easy dig in a 5m tall rift but there is no draught".

This was dug in 2004 to a narrowing rift and an impassable upward slot through which there is nothing "really worth working for".

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#) (survey);

[anon., 2004b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0549: resurgence

La Cavada 30T 442573 4799339 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 80m

Length 6m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th November 2016

The small, sumped resurgence for [cave \(542\)](#) which has a concrete dam. The grid reference above is a guess based on the survey for site 542 and altitudes.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#); [Cope J et al, 1976](#) (survey)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0550: cave

La Cavada 30T (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#))

Altitude 0m

Length 200m

[Logbook search](#)

A set of large entrances at the head of stream bed near to [site 0549](#). All crawls off the large, phreatic and vandalised chambers choke.

References: [anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#); [Cope J et al, 1976](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0551: Riega, La

La Cavada 30T 444394 4798697 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 99m

Length 40m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th November 2016; 21st May 2017; 5th May 2018

A large, wet resurgence rift behind a ruined mill building which was explored by the *Matienzo Caves Project* for about 50m in 1976 with no end reached. The site has since been explored and surveyed by Alfonso Pintó and colleagues. A second associated resurgence lies a few metres to the east.

The stream emerging from the the cave was checked with fluorocaptors in the autumn 2016 when OBA was put into a stream in a Moncobe site being explored by the *G. E. Pistruellos*. The result was a positive trace to here.

The resurgence water proved negative when OBA was injected in downstream [El CubillÃ³n](#) in April 2017. More details are shown [here](#).

Over Easter 2018, optical brightener was injected into [site 1969](#) near Alisas and detected between 2 and 3 days later at [Fuente Aguanaz](#) (in flood conditions). This cave was also checked and proved negative. (Details of the water trace can be [found here](#).)

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

Reference: [anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#); [Pintó Alfonso et al, 1996](#); [anon., 2017b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [October 2016](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [from Pintó Alfonso et al, 1996](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0552: cave

Cobadal

Length 40m

[Logbook search](#)

Entrance is a small hole at the base of a maize field. Low crawls over boulders with a small duck part way along. There is a strong draught with an alternative entrance.

References: [anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0553: Cobadal, Sumidero de

Cobadal 30T 448640 4797812 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 203m

Length 28m **Depth** 1m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 28th April 2002; 17th October 2003; 2nd May 2004; 1st February 2006; 30th January 2009

This open cave entrance lies at the base of cliff, just to the right of a sinking stream. Stooping passage reaches a squeeze which has been passed and needs a hammer and capping to continue. The sinking water is not seen in the cave. The cave was surveyed in the summer of 2003.

Beyond the cave entrance, in a bouldery area below the cliff, strong draughts emerge from narrow joints. After the successful entry into the underground streamway through [site 1930](#), 50m away up the steep banking, an alternative entrance was engineered under the cliff where a voice connection was initially made.

The main cave system is called Sumidero de Cobadal although site 553 is not an entrance (yet). The description is found under [site 1930](#).

References: [anon., 1976 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2004b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Videos : [by Juan Corrin surveying \(3.1Mb\)](#)

[surveying \(1.6Mb\)](#) [surveying \(1.0Mb\)](#)

[entrance \(0.8Mb\)](#) [pan across hillside from roadside farm to sink area \(1.9Mb\)](#)

Detailed Survey : [see main survey \(Easter 2008\)](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0554: cave

Riolastras 30T 456528 4803171 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 224m

Length 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A small entrance under a rock. Although the farmer says that they come from all over the world to do it, the site goes for 15m to a draughtless crawl.

Reference: [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0555: shaft

Riolastras 30T 455598 4802541 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 201m

Depth 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A shaft on the edge of the field just over the fence, estimated at 10m deep. Unexplored but not very promising.

Reference: [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0556: shaft

Riolastras 30T 455348 4802211 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 234m

Depth 7m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An unexplored 7m shaft with a hazel tree on the edge of a eucalyptus wood. (An orange tape tag for 556 has been used on [site 355](#)).

Reference: [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0557: cave

El Naso 30T 451758 4796281 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 418m

Length 20m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Entrance is in a distinct notch high up on the right hand cliff face. A 3x3m entrance lowers to a half metre square passage which becomes too low. No draught. Marked 557 with orange tape.

References: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); card

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0558: Mariverde

El Naso 30T 451758 4796291 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 428m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A very tight hole above [site 557](#) which draughts out and echoes well. Would be a major dig. Marked 558 with orange tape.

References: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); card

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0559: shaft

El Naso 30T 451752 4796323 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 449m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th October 2005

A shaft above cliff above 558 near to a small depression. The 5m diameter shaft chokes at 8m deep. Inside is a hole which goes to about 10m depth and is choked with boulders. Marked 559 with orange tape.

References: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); card; [anon., 2005b \(Easter & summer\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0560: shaft

El Naso 30T 451738 4796381 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 450m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th October 2016

A shaft with a small hazel bush just north of [559](#). A 3m diameter shaft is a smooth and damp 3m climb to ledge on the south side. A further descent of 17m reaches a boulder floor with no way on.

References: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); card; [anon., 2016c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [2016](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0561: cave

El Naso Upper 30T 451189 4796606, lower 30T

451278 4796541 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code:

G) **Altitude** 472m (upper)

Length 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 11th November 2000

A depression with 2 holes draughting in strongly. The [top site](#) requires digging beyond its 20m length over boulders and the [bottom hole](#) is choked.

References: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [card](#); [anon., 1995a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000f \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [upper](#) [lower](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0562: Sandstone Pot

El Naso

Length 12m **Depth** 12m

[Logbook search](#)

On the uphill side of a very large depression. A 12m deep pot lands on sandstone blocks with an impossible eyehole through the wall where stones drop for about 12m. The cave echoes well but there is no draught.

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0563: shaft

Llueva 30T 455648 4798691 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 252m

Length 35m **Depth** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Entrance slot in shakehole is the head of a 20m pitch into a 15x10m chamber with no obvious way on. Marked M1 on orange tape.

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0564: shaft

Llueva 30T 455178 4798471 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 198m

Length 30m **Depth** 30m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 5m pitch to slope down over boulders jammed at head of main pitch. All loose and choked at the bottom. Marked M2 on orange tape.

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0565: Tres Niños, Cueva de los

La Secada 30T 453025 4797758 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 247m (Average of GPS readings April 2002, January 2003)

Length 737m **Depth** 38m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Resources](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 27th October 2001; 28th April 2002; 25th January, 2nd March 2003; 21st December 2008; 6th January 2011; 17th September 2014; 16th May, 28th September 2015; 29th November, 3rd December 2016; 17th September 2017; 5th May, 30th June 2018; 29th April 2024

See NOTE below

[Description updated by Alex Ritchie, Easter 2015]

The approach up the hill has become much more overgrown since the cave's discovery in 1983 and it is now more difficult to find the entrance. At Easter 2024 it was suggested that a better route is to approach via the track nearer the water pump and cross fields to the bottom of the dry valley then walk up the valley directly towards La Cuvia (#0086).

The cave crosses over [Cueva de Carcavuezo \(081\)](#) - the main tunnel is about 95m

higher. The entrance lies above the cliff but, since the original explorations, the vegetation has grown requiring a more strenuous uphill approach to the cave ([YouTube](#), summer 2014). Just inside was found some pottery and human bones which points to the site being a Bronze Age burial cave. *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001* discusses this and has [line drawings](#). The site is cited as a typical Bronze Age burial site in *Smith P, Corrin J & Cobo J R, 2008*.

The passage continues for 35m of 0.5m wide and 5m high, twisting, keyhole shaped passage. Part way along is a rift series (length = 63m), surveyed in April 2018, but not in the logbook. The entrance passage ends in a flowstone blockage with a hole at the top which has a strong but variable draught. This was dug out in 1991 and leads to a chamber with three ways on: one soon ends in a choked rift, the second is a climb up to a 50 - 70m pitch which is too tight at the bottom, the third is through a small hole in the floor. This enters a steeply descending, sandy hand-line rift into a 10m x 10m passage at around 230m altitude. The possibility of the entrance climb in the meandering fissure continuing on the other side of the main, lower passage has been checked out and ends at a blank wall. (An alternative description of the entrance passages can be found in the logbook, dated 31/7/2015.)

A visit on 30/3/2024 documented recent roof falls in the main chamber: **massive collapse in chamber WITH MORE READY TO FALL. Don't go there.**

Additional notes in the logbook from Sam Davis: *The last time I went in this cave I was about 5 (now 37) years old, yet I remember dropping down the slope into the main chamber and seeing a few boulders, but not the monster ones we climbed over on this trip. Boulders appeared to be very fresh in appearance north of the entrance slope. I agree with Jim, I don't recommend going to the main chamber at least. The pitch nearer the entrance ~50m deep may still be a worthwhile exploration objective. On review of previous images (i.e. [photo](#)), several boulders now cover the place where someone is stood in the photo, with the roof changing from flat to classic breakdown shape.*

See La Cuvia ([0086](#)) for a possible boulder collapse there.

The southerly route leads to large boulders, a shattered roof, various pretties, bones and a choke after some 60m. This has been penetrated for some 6m and further blackness can be seen. The area under the slab has been looked at and pushed to a small area with a mud floor and another very low bedding. Another look at this area is documented in the Easter 2002 logbook (3/4/02). A strong draught has been felt in places but nothing was felt on a visit 28/3/2015.

The northern route enlarges over large boulders, passes two, small choked passages with 5m pitches, and comes to some floor mud formations. It then swings to the left and chokes in boulders with a strong draught. A route through the boulders above the right-hand branch of the choke enters a small chamber with cow bones and an 8m high aven where tree roots can be seen.

On the right of the mud floor, an ascending sand and boulder slope narrows and meets a 9m ladder or handline pitch. Near here is a crawl which has still to be dug properly. At the base there is a hole in the floor which appears to choke. Straight ahead enters a narrow hading rift. A climb leads to walking passage and a parallel rift which is the way on. The passage leads through crawls to a 12m pitch in a phreatic tube (which can draught nearly as strongly as the entrance). (This section of text needs checking and possibly re-writing).

A small sandy crawl leads off to a small chamber. A fixed line is used to climb up into a steeply ascending rift with a route between two boulders which enters another rift which is very high. To the west, a climb using a fixed line leads up a very steep ramp to a section of easy walking passage. A small inlet on the right is choked.

A cross rift is met where the rock appears to have been pulled apart. Down this crack, between muddy walls, a section is entered where water trickles in. A traverse along a block with the ladder allows a drop down to a larger area which was descended at Easter 1993. A 30m pitch leads to a choked bottom and a very narrow way on which needs

pushing. Seven metres from the base, a pendulum in the shaft led to a short climb and a small chamber with an arrow-head shaped rock in the bottom. There is also a small passage choked with mud and a second outlet with a short pitch into a 4m diameter, choked chamber.

It is possible to take a bold step or a run and jump across the crack and enter the continuation to a tight rift with a good draught but no way on.

In the summer expedition of '93 the pitch at the bottom of the "wet rift pitch" (discovered at Easter) was dropped to 6m depth with 15m of tightening passage.

A hairy climb above the inclined rift was also carried out which led through a tubular passage with gypsum sand and helictites on the floor and walls to the head of a 30m pitch. This lands on a sand slope which is blind at the foot.

Also in '93, possible holes in the floor of the main passage were checked: one was a 4m free-climbable pot.

The main passage (left and right) was looked at in the summer 2015. Several interesting avens were noted and a high level passage - all of which require bolting. The high level passage was reached in August 2017. A bolted climb of about 12m reached a roof traverse to a rift passage. Easy crawling for about 30m reached a blank wall. A 10m aven was free-climbed (overhanging calcite) to close down about 5m later. (These 2017 extensions have not been surveyed.)

Edited logbook notes from Easter 2023 follow. Can someone tie these in with the above, now fragmented, description? RH from chamber entrance slope (east), side LH wall- down through calcite boulders. No way on. Could see through calcite grill 15cm high; continues for approx 1.5m but could continue up. Ferreted further, but no leads found. Fresh rock here and there from roof. LH (north) chamber side. Jim said he didn't remember lots of caravan sized boulders- Not like it used to be. Climbed up 13m over very large boulders and found hading rift passage marked on the survey LH side of chamber with undescended 5m pitch. Alex bolted y-hang to second y-hang (4 bolts) and Samuel descended remainder to floor. Floor had a sandy bottom but no leads. Surveyed out to new cairn at bottom of entrance rope climb down. (Survey data? GPS reading?)

On a visit early in January 2003, the following moths were noted hibernating in the entrance and identified by Terry Whitaker.

3 Paignton Snout (*Hypena obesalis*)
10+ Twenty-plumed Moth (*Alucita hexadactyla*)
1 (dead) Herald Moth (*Scoliopteryx libatrix*)

References: [anon., 1983b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1991 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill Ali, 1991](#); material in file; [anon., 1992a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1992a](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J and Quin A, 1992](#); [Corrin J, 1993 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1993c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [Neill Alasdair and Jackson Keith, 1993](#); [Smith P, 1995 \(survey\)](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001 \(includes drawing and survey\)](#); [anon., 2002a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002d \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003a \(February logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003 \(survey of entrance passage\)](#); [Smith P, Corrin J and Ruiz Cobo J, 2008](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2014c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2015b \(Easter logbook\)](#); 28th September 2015; [Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 2016b](#); [Smith Peter et al, 2016](#); [anon., 2017c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#) : [misc](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#) : [from Easter 2015](#) :

[from Easter 2024](#)

Video: [Approach to the entrance, summer 2014](#) :

[Pitch descent, Easter 2024 \(YouTube\)](#)

Detailed Survey : [entrance passage only](#) (from [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001](#)) ; [graph](#)

[paper survey updated Easter 2015](#)

Line Survey : On [Four Valleys System line survey](#)

On area survey :

Survex file : [after Easter 2018](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[On 4 Valleys + other caves \(now\)](#)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0566: Tradesman's Entrance

La Secada

[Logbook search](#)

Dig which is an unstable drop to a solid roof and involves removal of sandstone and limestone boulders. Draughts slightly.

Reference: [anon., 1984 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0567: Hoyón, Torca del (2136 (French: SCD))

Alisas 30T 447457 4793153 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: **A**) **Altitude** 571m

Length 1885m **Depth** 228m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 6th January, 5th November 2011; 1st, 7th, 10th

November 2015; 30th June, 22nd

September 2018; 14th November 2022

The entrance is found on the west side of the depression. A choked hole at the base is [site 4245](#) and a couple of holes ([site 4246](#), where a stream is heard) are found on the east across a fence line in the wood. A small sandstone cave ([site 4385](#)) is found on the eastern slope. These are all shown on the surface survey included in the Survex file below. A [tall wall in the doline](#) remains an enigma.

This hole was first explored by the Tarragona cavers. Their survey gives a depth of 313m; the length is supposed to be 2km. What follows is Simon's description: needs amending, throwing out etc:

Entrance series of 5 pitches (more easily rigged for ladders) of 20m, 8m, 10m, 18m and 34m drops into the start of the 'meanders' which is 300m of traversing in the roof of a trench with a little water in the bottom. A drop down to floor level is followed by 100m of crawling which involves 3 wet-ear ducks and a stal grill all of which are liable to sump.

A large passage is met at the top of a large, muddy, bouldery pitch with another inlet on the left. The way on is a traverse over a rock bridge to the left with a climb down of 10m and an anticlockwise traverse through 270 degrees to a large, loose rock bridge which is the belay for the next 31m pitch. This area is very muddy and unstable with boulders falling spontaneously. At the base of the pitch 700m of large stream passage leads to a blockage at stream level. This can be bypassed by a nasty climb up, about 100m back from the blockage, into roof passages which drop into the stream where a stomp meets a large and clear sump. The draught apparently comes out of a choked bedding which is being dug. Side passages total about 1km in length; one of them heads towards Cueva del Molino (sites [791](#) and [727](#)) near Bustablado which is at 200m altitude. The stream heads towards Matienzo and a possibly positive dye test has been carried out to [Cueva del Comellantes \(040\)](#).

Dives by French cavers in the [Sumidero de Orcones](#) at Bustablado (summer 2011) confirms the possibility of a downstream link to [Cueva del Molino](#).

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [anon., 1985a](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 1985b](#) (logbook); [Corrin J, 1986](#) (survey); [Corrin J, 1987](#); [pers comm.](#); material in file; [anon., 1987](#) (logbook); [Garcia J L, 1987](#); [Corrin J and Knights S, 1988](#); [Corrin J, 1992b](#) (survey); [García José León, 1997](#) (survey); [Corrin Juan, 1997c](#); [León García José, 2010](#) ([Volume 1](#) and [Volume 2](#)) (survey); [Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014](#); [anon., 2015d](#) (autumn logbook); [anon., 2016a](#) (January, February logbook); [Simonnot G, 2016](#); [Simonnot G, 2018](#); [Simonnot G, 2022](#)

Entrance picture : [The entrance plus site 4245](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from [rescue site](#) [low res](#) [high res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Includes January 2016 surface survey) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

[X](#)

0568: cave

Cubija 30T 450048 4796991 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: **M**) **Altitude** 311m

Length 5m **Depth** 3m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

On the opposite side of the valley to [Torca del Regaton \(892\)](#) and 10m below the track, where it begins to turn right. A 2x2m open hole with a way on at the bottom right down into a 1 square metre chamber. A possible dig but there is no draught.

Reference: [anon., 1992b\(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0569: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 449493 4793723 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 537m

Length 37m **Depth** 16m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

An 14m pitch which drops onto a boulder slope to a 2m drop onto a mud floor. An inlet on the left is stalled up. The entrance is marked VT183. The shaft was re-explored and surveyed in August 2016 when it was thought to be unexplored shaft 3619.

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures: [2012 easter](#) : [summer 2016](#)

Underground picture(s):

Video : [summer 2016](#) (YouTube)

Detailed Survey : [1:200 \(2016\)](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#)

X

0570: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 449250 4793569 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 628m

Length 34m **Depth** 34m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 25th April 2012

A 25m pitch is followed immediately by one of 9m to a flat floor with a 5cm wide crack. The pitch is on the side of the gully; a second entrance lies in the gully. The pre-GPS grid reference is VN49359382 Alt. 635m; ETRS89: 30T 449248 4793611.

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2012b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0571: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 449220 4793566 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 646m

Length 40m **Depth** 40m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 25th April 2012

A deep narrow rift which heads in the direction of site [572](#) and is on the same fault. The pre-GPS grid reference is VN49329381 Alt. 650m; ETRS89: 30T 449218 4793601.

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2012b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0572: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 449232 4793564 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 638m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 25th April 2012; 15th October 2016

An steep ramp down to a pitch which is unexplored. The pre-GPS grid reference is VN49339382 Alt. 645m; ETRS89: 30T 449228 4793611. In August 2016, the site was "*possibly refound, but too difficult to get to in wet weather*".

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2012b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0573: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 449388 4793361 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 665m

Length 24m **Depth** 24m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

A 24m pitch to a chamber with the draught going in. On the north side of the chamber is a draught emerging from a floor crack which is too tight. The other draught comes through a squeeze under a loose roof after emerging from a rubble choke.

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0574: shaft

Ozana 30T 453441 4794286 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 332m

Length 50m **Depth** 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th May, 16th June, 1st October 2006; 1st November 2009

A tight entrance pitch of 10m drops into a 1x1m streamway on sandstone which becomes too tight and awkward downstream and closes in upstream. The cave needs surveying and pushing.

At Easter 2006, a lower entrance ([site 2563](#)) at a stream sink was found and, at the time, it was thought that that was another entrance to this site.

Reference: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007](#); [anon., 2009c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0575: Cueva Riaño Resurgence

Riaño 30T 451207 4800676 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 110m

[Above grid reference is for the small "shaft" entrance. The water surface is at 108m altitude.]

Length of 486m included in the Four Valleys System

length **Depth** 14m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated October 29th 2002; 1st November 2009; 8th October 2010; 5th October 2011;

25th April, 25th September, 6th October 2012; 15th September 2013; 22nd April,

15th October 2016; 31st January 2024

The resurgence for water flowing west in [Cueva de Riaño \(0105\)](#).

The large window into the water to the side of the sump [water's edge at 30T 451329 4800890] has been dived to where it becomes too narrow. This is the *Pozo Negro* and is [site 4445](#). The underwater investigation was repeated at April 2016 and the route forward appeared to be blocked with vegetation.

Main resurgence

This was first investigated by Fred Winstanley in August 1985. He reported the way on as "*muy estrecho*".

In 2011, an incompletely explored, 2m deep chimney was noted above the resurgence dropping into the pool from which daylight can be seen. There was no obvious draught. At Easter 2012, the water was seen resurging up through holes in the floor between rocks.

The breakthrough came when John Taylor and Dan Hibberts dived in August 2012. Over 8 days, the pair pushed upstream in poor visibility, first dropping to -14m then rising to between -2 and -3m. The dive continued about 207m from base.

In August 2013, Colin Hayward and Jim Lister investigated the entrance, noting a possible new and more straightforward dive entrance under boulders.

Over the Easter 2016 period, Jim Lister carried out a number of dives, often thwarted by poor visibility, probably from run-off over ground recently cleared of eucalyptus trees. The route soon meets a large, above water cross rift (9m high, 2m wide and 15m long) with stal. The diver noted possible crawls going off at roof level. From the left hand end of the rift, the underwater passage continues low but very wide with a mud floor. The passage changes to a 3 x 2m passage floor and exploration continued after a "gentle right hand bend" to a V-shaped trench in a mud/silt floor. Then within about 60m of the downstream sump in Cueva Riaño, 162m was added to the length of the 2012 dive. The exploration was surveyed but passage detail could not be recorded because of the poor visibility.

The link into the downstream Cueva de Riaño passage was dived through by Jim

Lister in mid-July, 2016. On the first dive, he surfaced in a 7m-wide canal where the thick mud floor "did not make crawling in full dive kit easy". The line (88m long) was tied off just before the next sump. The following day, laying 19m of line, the diver surfaced up a steep gravel slope into large stream passage - the downstream end of Cueva Riaño.

Survey issues

At the end of January 2024, to rationalise the survey, the upstream end of the dive was joined to downstream #0105 by recognising similar survey legs, allowing overlap, and *duplicate'ing some dive legs. Confusion may have occurred in the past due to differing water levels.

[The original statement reads:

Although there is no doubt that the upstream sump joins with the downstream passage at the ends of each survey, the centre line surveys have a considerable overlap. There has been no attempt to join the two end points - yet. Most of the error is likely to be on the underwater surveys. The present horizontal error is 60m, the vertical 12m. The underwater survey of site 575 has been drawn up without any adjustments.]

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [anon., 1985b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1986](#); [anon., 2002b \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2011d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2012b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2012d \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2013a](#); [anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#) : [Easter 2012](#) : [summer 2012](#) : [Easter 2016](#) : [summer 2016](#)

Underground picture: [yes](#)

Video : [Dive problems \(summer 2012\) \(YouTube\)](#) :

[Dives April 2016 \(YouTube\)](#)

[summer 2016 connection including almost real time downstream exit dive \(YouTube\)](#)

Detailed Survey : [summer 2012 : centre line addition, Easter 2016 : completed survey, July 2016, after link with Cueva Riaño](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [dives with some surface survey, summer 2016 \(Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.\)](#)

[on Four Valleys lite \(now\)](#)

X

0576: Lena, Cueva

S Vega

Length 15m

[Logbook search](#)

A low, choked cave near a small resurgence on the walk up to [Torca del Coterón \(264\)](#).

The excavated cave requires a good 10 minutes to negotiate its 15m length.

Reference: [anon., 1983a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0577: Limestone Lump, Torca

de

S Vega 30T 450832 4795134 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [U](#)) **Altitude** 335m

Length 20m **Depth** 15m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 20th November 2008; 23rd March

2009; 21st May 2014

An 8m pitch to a block wedged in the rift and a further 5m ladder drop to a small chamber. A short squeeze down enters a 4m long hands and knees passage to a sharp, low section into small chamber. The only possible route out is a slippery climb up moonmilk which needs doing. The cave draughts out.

This cave has not been refound, although site 3070 (unexplored) is a remote possibility. It is more likely to be lower down the hill as the entrance is supposed to be on the same contour as Hammered Hole and "below Cabritilla". A search around that area in a "land of limestone lumps" failed to find the hole.

Reference: [anon., 1983a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [from 2008f \(autumn logbook\)](#); ; [anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0578: Levantada, Sima

Mullir 30T 455158 4795781 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 716m

Length 260m **Depth** 260m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 23rd February 2001; 13th May 2011

A 2x1m entrance. Explored by Spanish SEAD group - all leads close down. Marked M25 with green paint. Reference [anon., 1990a](#) states that site M25 has a depth of 195m.

In 1993 the shaft was linked to [Torca del Triveno \(617\)](#) at the base of the first pitch(?)

References: pers comm. Jan '86; [Sociedad Espeleologia Lenar, 1985](#); [Garcia J L, 1987](#); [anon., 1990a](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [Neill Alasdair and Jackson Keith, 1993 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1994a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995b](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2011b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey : 1:1000
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0579: cave

Cubija 30T 450008 4796821 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: M) **Altitude** 293m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

On right of the sheep track about 100m up from Mostajo car park. A low, draughtless bedding with many boulders.

Reference: [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0580: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 449711 4794365 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 387m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th December 1999; 25th May 2003; 1st February 2006

Choked shaft that was revisited at Easter 2003. There appears to be an unexplored parallel shaft. There is a draughting dig some 50m below the site that may be one of 1903, 1904 or 1905.

References: Pers comm Jan '86; [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1999c \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#)

Entrance picture : [yes 1999](#) [yes 2003](#)
Underground picture(s): [Views down the shaft](#)
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0581: cave

Riaño 30T 451903 4800285 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 197m

Length 31m **Depth** 5m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th May, 1st October 2006; 6th May 2007

A cave opened up uphill from [Cueva de Riaño \(105\)](#). There are two low level passages where a roof passage follows over the top of the right hand one. The grid reference was checked with GPS at Easter 2006, entrances photos taken in the summer and the cave surveyed and photographed at Easter 2007. (*Not yet drawn up - see computer folder*).

References: pers comm. May '86; [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2006d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2007b \(Easter 2007\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)
Underground picture(s): [yes](#)
Detailed Survey : [sketch](#)
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0582: Virgen, Fuente de la

Fresnedo 30T 453533 4801762 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 112m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 7th May 2007; 15th September 2013; 21st May 2014

A small cave where the water is retained behind an artificial wall and emerges from water-filled rifts on the right, possibly sumped. A legend says that the Virgen appeared in the resurgence, after which the villagers tried to build a church there. But each night angels mysteriously moved the building materials further up the hill, to where the church now stands.

There are 2 small, diggable tubes above the resurgence (not located).

The site was dived in April 2014 by Jim Lister. No way on could be found in the rifts. ([Logbook sketch](#)).

Rupert Skorupka also investigated the site: "The right hand rift is larger and leads to a slot down in the floor. into a negotiable passage. At Easter, I free dived this with a mask (just to have a look if it went) and I could see a small but diveable tunnel leading away, before silt closed in."

A visit in higher water is recommended when the flow would be greater.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: pers comm.; Muñoz E et al, 1986; anon., 2007b ([Easter logbook](#)); anon., 2013d ([summer logbook](#)); anon., 2014b ([Easter logbook](#))

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Video: [April 2014](#) (YouTube)

Detailed Survey : [Logbook sketch](#) (Easter 2014)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [Surface survey plus underground surveys](#) of caves in the Fuente de la Virgen area.

X

0583: dig

La Secada 30T 450798 4797781 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 396m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th June 1998

A strongly draughting dig. Marked 583 with orange tape which has now decayed to a white worm. The site doesn't draught in cold weather.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1998a](#)

([Easter logbook](#))

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0584: shaft

El Naso 30T 450658 4797731 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 417m

Length 5m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 5m blocked shaft in a circular collapse.

Marked 584 with orange tape.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0585: cave

El Naso 30T 450618 4797591 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 455m

Length 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 20th April 2001

A chamber with a short tube. Marked 585 on orange tape.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001a](#)

([Easter logbook](#))

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0586: shaft

El Naso 30T 450619 4797625 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 451m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 20th April 2001

A site with 2 shaft entrances in the same opening. To the right is a slope to the head

of a 15m pitch landing on a calcite and gravel slope with a 3m climb down. The left hand shaft is shorter and lands on a boulder slope. Stones can be thrown through a slot to connect with the previous shaft.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0587: shaft

Bosmartín 30T 450546 4797455 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 487m

Length 4m **Depth** 4m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 10th September 2021

Choked rift. There appears to be another shaft in the area of 587, [588](#) and [589](#) surrounded by a decaying fence.

References: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1992a \(Easter logbook\)](#) ; [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [July 2021](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0588: shaft

Bosmartín 30T 450558 4797431 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 482m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 10th September 2021

Choked shaft. Marked 588 with orange tape.

References: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1992a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [July 2021](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0589: shaft

Bosmartín 30T 450576 4797385 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 481m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th October 2010; 10th September 2021

A tight rift at the edge of a depression, marked 589 and blocked with boulders.

In 2010 this was described as a 3m deep rift feature.

References: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1992a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [2010, 2021](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0590: shaft

El Naso 30T 450648 4797571 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 434m

Length 12m **Depth** 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A small hole on the side of a tree-filled depression. A 9m pitch drops to a sloping ledge and a further 3m pitch to a choked floor.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0591: digs

El Naso 30T 450558 4797601 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 473m

Length 5m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Two holes. The upper one is a 5m deep sloping rift choked with boulders. The lower hole is a slot entrance with a 2m drop into a small chamber. A dig which draughts inwards.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0592: shaft

El Naso 30T 450518 4797601 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 493m

Length 3m **Depth** 3m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th May 2001

A 3m deep, choked shaft.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0593: shaft

El Naso 30T 450468 4797621 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 502m

Length 15m **Depth** 13m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th May 2001; 27th November

2024

A 3m climb down (ladder or free climb) in a rift to a floor of jammed boulders. There are two pitches descending further from this small bridge of boulders although the drop are probably the same pitch. First pitch is narrow at the top and will require capping, it's approx 10m deep. The 2nd pitch, approx 5m deep, requires some boulders removing to gain access, however, removal of the boulder floor you're standing on maybe an easier option. There appears to be a draught.

[Pete O'Neill]

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024e \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0594: shaft

Bosmartín 30T 450348 4797681 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 513m

Length 4m **Depth** 4m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th October 2010; 31st January

2023

A steep-sided depression contains a boulder bridge. A drop of 4m to a boulder-floored chamber.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [2022](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0595: shaft

Bosmartín 30T 450288 4797731 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 518m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999

A 3m pitch to floor with a 3m deep rift around the corner which chokes.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1998c \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0596: cave

Riaño 30T 451695 4799792 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 171m

Length 60m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 24th November 2004; 4th May 2009

Cave with 2 entrances. The southern one has been GPS'ed. Walking passage quickly degenerates to stoop and crawl. A nearby, 6m long cave ([1532](#)) contains a bat colony. The cave appears to end less than a metre away from a passage in Cueva Hoyuca.

References: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); material in file

; [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[X](#)

0597: shaft

La Colina 30T 453298 4796541 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 583m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 6m deep shaft.

Reference: card

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0598: shaft

La Secada 30T 453278 4798741 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 382m

Length 8m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An 8m fenced drop to boulders.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0599: shaft

La Secada 30T 453228 4798731 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 382m

Length 12m **Depth** 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A twelve metre fenced pitch ends in a choked chamber with no draught.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0600: shaft

La Secada 30T 452998 4798681 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 375m

Length 50m **Depth** 50m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 50m rift shaft which meets water and gets too tight. Thirty metres down is a passage containing many goat skulls.

References: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); material in file

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0601: shaft

La Secada 30T 452948 4798691 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 392m

Length 5m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 5m deep, choked pot.

References: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0602: shaft

La Secada 30T 452636 4798583 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 400m

Length 20m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 24th April, 28th November 2005

A wide shaft covered with large boulders, first found in 1986. Described as about 10m deep and could "drop onto a slope or chamber", it was not explored until November 2005.

The shaft is a 15m deep free-hang onto boulders in a rift. At one side the rift is about 6m deep but it needs enlarging. Nearby, and a little higher, is a smaller covered shaft, [site 2176](#).

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2005b \(Easter & summer\)](#); [anon., 2005c \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0603: Near the Bar Pot

La Secada 30T 452979 4798126 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 185m

Length 25m **Depth** 11m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 14th October 2010; 25th April 2012; 17th September 2017; 7th January, 5th May, 22nd September 2018; 13th May 2019; 6th, 20th, 30th January 2024

The entrance is in a large depression just off the field in the woods at the far end of the Mushroom Field. A 5m climb down leads to a 5m crawl to a draughting rift of 15cm. The way on down was documented as open in 1986 and remained that way for 24 years.

The 2010 logbook account states that, by going to the left, it is possible to descend the slot (beyond previous limit?) and a further slot leads to a small chamber with a small, choked pit in the floor. The way on appeared to be a small rift below the first slot which was draughting strongly. This was excavated as an "extremely awkward" squeeze to a short section of rift passage followed by a "head first dive" into a squeeze to emerge below an aven. At this point a draughting boulder choke blocks progress. It would appear that the route on is down a rift which is blocked by boulders knocked from above. There is still a good draught and the site needs more work. There are loose boulders throughout the cave.

At Easter 2012, the site was smoke tested where "smoke only came back out of the open hole and not out of anywhere else".

Extensive work was carried out in the hole over the summer 2017 expedition: enlarging, stabilizing, surveying and photographing. The surveys below have not been drawn up as further work may extend the cave - or even link into the Four Valleys System. The site appears to be about 110m and at the same altitude as the western arm of *Trident Passages* in [Cueva Hoyuca](#) and also some 40m above the smoke test site in *Drain Tester*, [Cueva Carcavuezo](#).

Work continued over Christmas 2017 / New Year when the entrance climb down was stabilised and a bolt left in a surface boulder for a handline down - useful also for lowering bags. In the low crawl at the base of the shaft, the floor boulders were removed and taken to surface, walls were capped out to a more comfortable size, leading to the low arch into the draughting chamber with a pool in the floor. The arch needs enlarging to make it a more comfortable size but this was stopped by 3 days heavy rain making water run down the walls and a number of failed capping holes.

At the same time, a large specimen of the [Quimper Snail, Elona quimperiana](#) (Férussac, 1821), was seen halfway down the entrance shaft in. This snail is on the IUCN red list (Least Concern category) and been previously recorded in caves.

Further work continued at Easter, summer and Christmas 2018 and, at Easter 2019 it was declared a 4 or 5-person dig. There was also a strong outward draught on a cool day.

Site 0603 draughts strongly both in and out depending on outside temperatures. When visited in December 2023, there was a gentle but cold draught in. It was also noted that, along its length, the cave was littered with flood debris - on the floor, ledges and rammed high into the roof.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2011](#); [anon., 2012b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2010c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2017c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2018c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., anon., 2018e \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023e \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [2012 and 2017](#); [December 2023](#)

Underground pictures: [summer 2017](#); [December 2023](#)

Video: [Draught at the entrance \(YouTube\)](#); [December 2023 \(YouTube\)](#)

Detailed Survey : [summer 2017 \(temporary\)](#) : [sketch from logbook, 2017](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [summer 2017](#) : [on the Four Valleys centre line \(now\)](#)

X

0604: shaft

S Vega 30T 453148 4794231 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 406m

Length 8m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A drop to a small gap between boulders leading down. There is no draught.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0605: shaft

Ozana 30T 453178 4794371 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 372m

Length 8m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A drop to a tight rift.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0606: cave

S Vega 30T 452318 4794661 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 493m

Length ?m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th October 2005; 2nd December 2014

Large cave entrance has a climb down a muddy slope to small phreatic tubes. No draught. The site could be [2345](#). When the area was reinvestigated in November 2014, there was no sign of site 606.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2005b \(Easter & summer\)](#); [anon., 2014d \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0607: shafts - 4

S Vega 30T 452418 4794991 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 321m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 12th June 2005

Four small, fenced and undescended shafts. These could not be found at Whit 2005: they are possibly hidden in a large bramble bush but it is more likely that the original grid reference was completely wrong. (Needs checking).

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2005b \(Easter & summer\)](#); [anon., 2005d \(Whit logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0608: shaft

Muela 30T 454298 4796691 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 712m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th October 2003

Original description: A small hole under rocks on a grassy slope. Passage 3m below. Ladder needed - not descended.

In 2003 a site at VN54409690 (ETRS89: 30T 454298 4796691) was found to be a 10m shaft, choked at the base. Best approached by walking directly up the hill from the end of the enclosure wall, picking up the red and white long distance footpath markers. The hole is on the path.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0609: shaft

Cubija 30T 449498 4796941 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 475m

Depth 12m?

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

In a wooded depression with part of an old child's balloon tied to trees. Small hole under fallen block. Stones rattle down for about 3 seconds but sounds very tight.

Reference: [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0610: shaft

Secadura 30T 454848 4798871 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 300m

Length 12m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Undescended. A pile of stones surrounded by a small wire fence near to [Torca de Cellaron \(site 109\)](#). Not found in 1987; filled in?

The shaft was descended in '92 and is described as a circular 4m diameter shaft, about 8m deep with a small slot in calcite at the base.

There is no draught.

References: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); card

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0611: cave

Seldesuto 30T 449368 4793391 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 650m

Length 20m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th June 2024

Small draughting entrance leads to 6m shaft after a dogleg. It was not found at these coordinates, May 2024.

References: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); card; [anon., 2024c \(Whit logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0612: cave

Cubija 30T 449998 4796991 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 333m

Length 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Just off uphill side of track. A walk down into the base of depression where a 1m high entrance goes down to dig with alternating draught. Requires much work.

Reference: [anon., 1992b\(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0613: Torcida, Cueva de (Fat Boy G T)

Cobadal 30T 447983 4798010 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 180m

Length 673m **Depth** 24m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 25th May 2003; 1st February, 1st October 2006; 16th April, 1st October 2008; 5th January, 4th February 2009; 19th October 2010; 6th January, 5th October 2011; 23rd April 2013; 21st May, 18th September 2014; 30th June 2018; 13th May 2023

An obvious entrance in a cliff near to the sink leads immediately to a 2m high phreatic tube. The right hand branch goes for about 30m and closes down in a narrow rift which contains an inlet but chokes. The way on becomes too tight, but a faint draught could be felt. A small tube on the right just before the rift can be pushed for 10m. A constriction needs to be removed before continuation.

The left hand branch continues to a breakdown on Orbitolina beds. Just prior to this, on the right, is a phreatic rift/oxbow to the head of a descending tube to the head of a 5m drop onto blocks. The slope leads to a traverse and climb on the right which leads to another parallel shaft with an inlet above. The shafts link up at the bottom, terminating in a small chamber full of boulders in one direction, and a tight squeeze leading to a drop which may continue but will require enlarging.

The continuation of the main passage over the Orbitolina collapse enters a crawl and a squeeze down to a flat-out section and then easier going. A cross rift on the right leads to a sand climb and the head of a 10m pitch which needs descending. (In August 2014, the digging lead at the base of "the pitch in the second passage on the right" was described as "not brilliant".

Further on, past another (undescended?) drop on the right, a chamber is entered after much calcite. The chamber is about 10m across and contains large boulders and holes in the floor. At the far side a rift may be followed for about 30m to a choke with an inlet cascading down through a roof collapse and a draught blowing in. There appears to be no way on.

Before the chamber, a low level route zig-zags down through bouldery tubes and rifts and ends with a climb into a blind pit with an inlet. This may be glimpsed from the chamber above.

A climb above the final drop into the blind pit enters a rift which arrives at a small, sandy chamber. Down through a low sandy slope enters a small rift which continues for some 60m to a fault. The left hand route continues a short distance to a choke, over drops which are too tight. The right hand route immediately gains an awkward, tight climb into a phreatic chamber. A 10m drop can be seen through possibly diggable boulders which lands in a possible chamber. The draught is being sucked down into it.

In the summer 2006, the choke at the end was visited and it was thought that heavier equipment is required. Also 40m of new passage was dug into / discovered. A short crawl from a sandy passage leading from the chamber pops out in what appears to be the old streamway passage. About 40 metres on, the passage meets a rift, with many loose boulders above and below. A 6 metre pitch was descended and a sandy chamber was found.

A body sized tube with a steep descending stope was explored and further holes in the floor were found: **MIKES BIT TO GO HERE**

Back in the rift, a letterbox squeeze on the left led to a parallel rift which was too tight to continue. There are various holes in the floor which are very promising leads. The rift becomes too tight to follow.

At Easter 2008, some re-exploration occurred but it was too wet for drilling the choke. Tics were reported in the cave and bats in the roof. In the summer 2008 the cave was completely re-explored, extended and surveyed.

Some cave life was seen in the far reaches of the cave in the summer of 2008, possibly Diplura [as pictured](#) on this Australian web site. Spider and bug collecting was carried out during the Easter 2014 expedition.

Dowsing was carried out on the opposite side of the valley to the entrance on 24/7/11. Reactions seemed to indicate at least 2 underground water courses heading southwest from the enclosed depression outside the entrance. Water may also have been sinking in the gully SSW of the entrance. This all needs further investigation. See links below.

The cave was visited twice in April 2023: bats were seen and the boulder choke at the end was looked at with the possibility of digging in the summer.

Bat information

Date: 7/4/2023

Evidence of occupation (only): roost evidence around entrance; droppings

Bat remains (number): -

Species identified name (number): greater horseshoe bat (1); lesser horseshoe bat (1)

Other notes: well used by other animals

Photos from visit -

References: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1993c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#); [anon., 2006d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2008e \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2009](#); [anon., 2011d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2013b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2014c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [photos from 2003](#) :

[taken 2010](#) : [taken Easter 2011](#)

Video : [Passage and spiders, Easter 2013](#)

Detailed Survey : [pdf file, 2008](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : [pdf file \(pre-2008\) with Woodcutters', Snottite and Orchard Caves](#)

[Dowsing reactions close to this cave](#) : [Dowsing reactions from Fuente Aguanaz to here](#). (Article about the dowsing carried out in July 2011 can be found [here](#).)

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0614: shaft

El Naso 30T 450788 4797141 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 443m

Depth 25m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th September 2013; 11th September 2021; 5th May, 9th September 2022

Undescended. Boulders seem to drop 25m.

Not found in 1987, 2013 or 2021. Wrong map position?

In 2021 the site at (or near) the grid reference was described as an "overgrown depression, muddy floor, cow skeleton (smelly). No cave. :("

In April 2022, an inward-draughting hole at the back of the shakehole was dug over two days to access a 3m deep shaft that was draughting in. Currently the draught appears blocked and progress would require a major effort. There was no apparent draught when the site was visited in July 2022.

References: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [April 2022](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0615: shaft

El Naso 30T 450728 4797131 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 465m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th September 2013; 5th May 2022

Twin entrances to rift. Undescended but no draught. The entrance was not found in 2013 or 2022.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0616: cave

La Secada 30T 453033 4797290 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 242m

Length 60m **Depth** 13m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 13 February 1998; 5th May 2009; 16th October 2016

A chamber with a climb to an upper entrance and a squeeze to a small lower chamber. The cave was surveyed in 1986 but wasn't drawn up. A resurvey was carried out at Easter 2009 and another, with small additions, in August 2016.

References: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); material in file;

[anon., 1997b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [2009 & 2016](#)

Underground pictures : [2009 & 2016](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:250 pdf \(2009\)](#) : [1:250 pdf \(2016\)](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Easter 2009) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0617: Trueno, Torca del

Mullir 30T 455138 4795791 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 723m

Length 220m **Depth** 134m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 23rd February 2001

Shaft lies 20m on 300° from [Sima de Levantada \(578\)](#). First pitch rigged from eye on south of the hole is 33m. The second pitch of 10m is followed immediately by one of 25m. The final pitch is 55m deep ending in a muddy pool.

A window 4m above the entrance pitch floor ends at a 8m pitch to a slippery boulder slope and a flat out bedding plane carrying a strong draught. This was dug through clay to emerge at the bottom of the Sima Levantada (578) shaft. According to León García José, 2010 ([Volume 1](#) and [Volume 2](#)), the site is also called M-25.

References: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [Neill Alasdair and Jackson Keith, 1993 \(survey\)](#); material in file; [Corrin J, 1994a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995b](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey\)](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\)](#)

(survey)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0618: Orchard Cave

Cobadal 30T 447905 4798354 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 148m

Length 176m **Depth** 13m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 25th May 2003; 1st February 2006;

1st October, 8th November 2008; 27th May,

5th October 2011; 23rd April 2013

A tree-lined entrance shakehole has a short climb down into a passage that leads to a walking-sized streamway which has various inlets all of which dwindle, becoming too tight.

The entrance streamway enters the side of a large passage where daylight is seen upstream and it is possible to emerge in the entrance shakehole. The strong draught blows out from a downstream crawl on sandstone. At a climb down on a fault the passage widens and then enters a major boulder choke area which floods severely. A squeeze leads to a 4m climb down in large boulders. All the strong draughts enter from fissures on the left.

Just before the squeeze a route on the right was enlarged in 2008 between boulders. This emerges through a draughting squeeze to another bouldery area where it may be possible to progress through boulders in the roof.

In 2008, abundant cave life was noted throughout the cave, eg salamander, newt, caddis fly larvae, flat worm and 2 other species, as yet not named. A fine salamander was photographed at the end of March 2013.

Some suggestions about destinations for the water in the cave are shown [here](#).

A diagram of the hydrology of the San Antonio - Hornedo - Cobadal area drawn after Easter 2011 can be found [here](#).

Dowsing was carried out on the track that runs north of the entrance on 22/7/11. The single reactions could be taking water in either direction, away from or towards the Orchard Cave depression. See link below.

References: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); material in file; survey; [anon., 2003b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#); [anon., 2008e \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2009](#); [anon., 2011d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2013b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#) : [Fire salamander, Easter 2013](#) : [family trip, Easter 2017](#)

Videos: *by Juan Corrin*

[Walking from the Orchard Cave entrance to the newly excavated site, 1874 in wooded shakeholes \(1.4Mb\)](#)

[Small compilation of the following \(1.1Mb\)](#)

[Steve Martin moving upstream near the downstream end \(0.9Mb\)](#)

[Main passage, Steve and Terry moving downstream \(1.6Mb\)](#)

[Entrance route entering the main passage \(1.0Mb\)](#)

[Small oxbow \(1.4Mb\)](#)

[Moving upstream in the entrance passage \(1.0Mb\)](#)

[Moving downstream in the entrance passage \(1.6Mb\)](#)

[Penny Corrin emerging from the entrance \(0.9Mb\)](#)

[Terry Whitaker emerging from the entrance \(1.1Mb\)](#)

[Fire Salamander, Easter 2013 \(YouTube\)](#)

Detailed Survey : [scan of hand drawn survey](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : [pdf file with Snottie, Torcida and Woodcutters' Caves](#)

[Dowsing reactions close to this cave](#) (Article about the dowsing carried out in July 2011 can be found [here](#).)

Survex file : [yes](#) (Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0619: shaft

La Secada 30T 451707 4798097 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 368m

Length 16m **Depth** 16m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 3rd November 2003

Hole in right roadside bank in shale bands. No draught and ends in a choked rift.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)?](#); [anon., 2003d \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0620: shaft

La Secada 30T 451308 4798091 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 407m

Length 12m **Depth** 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 3rd November 2003

A hole in roadside bank opens out after 1.5m and ends in a rubbish-filled chamber with no draught. Could not be found in 2003, and has probably been covered over in track "improvements".

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)?](#); [anon., 2003d \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0621: cave

La Secada 30T 451718 4798081 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 362m

Length ?m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Tight hole in rock. No way on and no draught.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)?](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0622: shaft

La Secada 30T 451578 4798211 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 432m

Length 4m **Depth** 4m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Small pot 4m deep, 2m wide and choked with boulders.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)?](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0623: dig

Arredondo 30T 450064 4793438 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 633m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

A dig which sounds bigger below, possibly 10m deep.

Reference: [anon., 2004f \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures: [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [entrance drop](#)

Video: [entrance](#) (*Steve Openshaw*)

Detailed Survey :

Line survey:

On area survey:

Survex file:

X

0624: cave

La Secada 30T 453098 4798721 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 379m

Depth 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 5th May 2019

A 6m deep large chamber with bouldery floor. No draught and not descended.

Another description gives a 3m chamber choked with mud. Yet another has a small stream sinking into a too tight rift. This all needs checking.

Nothing could be found at the above grid reference in December 2018.

References: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., anon., 2018e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [area photos](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0625: shaft

El Naso 30T 451668 4796361 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 463m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

A 10m deep pot with no easy way on in the boulder floor. Marked LM86 on boulders over the entrance.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0626: Cepo, Torca del

Cobadal 30T 448238 4796371 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 485m

Length 25m **Depth** 16m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 22nd May 2014

First noted as 30m shaft in the 1986 logbook, this was finally descended at Easter 2014.

An 8m pitch lands on a muddy ledge with another 8m pitch to the 10 x 4m base with no way on. The floor is mud, cobbles, rubbish and bones.

Near the top of the lower shaft, a narrow rift leads off but, opposite this, is an enterable opening and it is possible to swing across to enter 1 x 1m passage. After 4m the passage opens into a small chamber (2.5 x 3 x 3m high). It is possible to see down between the loose mud and rock floor and stones rattlw down a "fair way". This could be a filled parallel shaft to the main one, only filled with large blocks and cobbles. It could be dug, although stacking space could be tricky.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0627: Carabo, Cueva del

Secadura 30T 457108 4800741 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 86m
Length 20m
[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A slope down into a single chamber. Pete: GR & Alt tally?. Also [668](#).

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)?](#)
Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0628: cave

Rada 30T 459645 4801646 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 5m
Length 402m
[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th January 2000; October 29th 2002

A resurgence where 150m of vadose stream passage ends at a sump. This has been dived and surveyed during Easter and summer 2002. Awaiting a description and survey.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)?](#); card; [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#)
Entrance picture : [bottom entrance](#) [top entrance](#)
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)
Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0629: cave

La Secada 30T 452878 4797171 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 232m
Length 17m
[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 13th, 17th September 2019

The rift entrance at the base of a cliff leads to a low chamber where bones of a child / young person and bones and teeth of a possible pig were seen and photographed in 2019.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\) \(?\)](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2019d \(summer logbook\)](#)
Entrance picture : [2019](#)
Underground picture(s): [2019](#)
Detailed Survey : [2019](#)
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file : [2019](#)

X

0630: Carabo, Cueva de

Secadura 30T 456178 4799111 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 125m
Length 30m
[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

(Same name as [site 627](#)). A slope into a large chamber.

Reference: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\) \(?\)](#)
Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0631: Chica, Cueva

Secadura 30T 455898 4800211 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 100m
Length 91m
[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 25th September 2012

Thirty metres of passage leads to a rope climb and short up- and downstream passages.

References: [anon., 1986 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); material in file
Entrance picture : [yes](#)
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#)
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)



0632: Tronco, Cueva del

Riva 30T 454551 4793703 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 262m

Length 30m **Depth** 20m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Explored by the Colectivo Piezo, February

2020. They write (through Google

Translate):

It is a small ramp that reaches a depth of about 20m. This cave has been found thanks to the recent deforestation near the road from Riva to Matienzo approximately by km 24. A route between blocks gives way to a very vertical descending meander of small dimensions. There is no continuation.

Note: Original 0632 info (Secadura) merged

with [2787](#).

References: ; [anon., 2020a](#) (January, February

[logbook](#))

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [Elevation, February 2020](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0633: Casa de los Cristales, La Cueva de la (Otero III, Cueva) (Tío Vidal, Cueva del)

Secadura 30T 457325 4800123 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 50m

Length 20m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th November 2004; 16th May

2009; 25th June 2010

Walking size cave the entrance of which contains a level with flints and bone fragments, probably Palaeolithic. Reference *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009* has a summary of the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic deposits.

References: [anon., 1986](#) (logbook) (?); Munoz Fernandez E et al, 1987; [GEISC/R and CAEAP, 1986](#) (survey); Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009 (survey and photo); [anon., 2010b](#) (Easter logbook)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0634: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 449768 4794811 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 338m

Length 15m **Depth** 15m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

One of the shafts in the Hoyo de las Puchas

(see [site 044](#)). A 2m climb down under a

block. A short passage leads to pitch of 5m,

shortly followed by a 4m pitch the base of

which is choked by pebbles and sand.

References: [anon., 1977b](#) (logbook); [Corrin J S and Smith P, 1981](#); [Corrin J, 1983c](#); [anon., 1988](#)

(logbook); material in file

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0635: shaft

La Colina 30T 453772 4797073 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 527m

Length 350m+ **Depth** 45m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 25th April 2005; 10th December

2006

Top entrance (originally positioned at

VN53849728; ETRS89: 30T 453738

4797071) lies above cliff and is a 5m climb

followed by a 10m pitch (marked M-2 in old

red paint) to a tight, draughting hole and a

15m pitch landing in a bouldery chamber.

To the west is a draughting bedding to three

small chambers, the draught disappears out

along a small hole. To the east lies a window

into a small chamber and two obvious exits.

Down leads through boulders to the base of

a 20m pitch; straight on, the route splits,

the left way leads to the surface through a

series of crawls and squeezes, emerging at

the base of the cliff (probably in [site 273](#))

while ahead a muddy rift leads to a traverse

around the head of the 20m pitch and a

climb up into a large chamber (approximately 80m x 40m). The chamber contains a number of pitches, all of which are choked.

((A site marked M4, pictured below, is more or less at the same position and is a 1m diameter, 15m deep (undescended) hole. The nearby M5 is probably [site 1585](#).)

However, [site 1585](#) is labelled "M5" as is site 273 in the cliff below. So it is likely that the position of site 1585 is really 635 and there is another hole around here. This won't be definitively cleared up until "635" is re-explored down through 273 to the surface.

References: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); material in file; survey; [Corrin J and Knights S, 1988](#); [anon., 2005b \(Easter & summer\)](#)

Entrance picture : [possibly; marked M4 \(See 1585\)](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0636: shaft

Trillos 30T 447878 4793881 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 634m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th May, 8th October 2001

Entrance lies above the cattle track in woodland. A 6m pitch leads to a rift which closes down after 10m. To the left a stooping passage enters a large breakdown area with no obvious or safe way on.

Reference: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001c \(Summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0637: Torete, Torca del (LC204)

Alisas 30T 447484 4794148 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 669m

Length 40m **Depth** 40m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 10th October 2004; 20th June, 3rd November 2021

Shaft entrance marked by another group. 40m pitch to a floor with an undescended slot with its base apparently 6m below. No draught. There may be some confusion with this site and another shaft nearby (1995c).

In 2001 the position was said to be correct.

The site was explored at the end of July 2014 when cavers "went to the bottom", although there is no description or mention of a slot. A less obvious hole at the rear of the larger hole was investigated using trees for a Y-hang. This is described as about 30m deep with a "slot in the back corner at the base". The rope was too short. Apparently, the slot was "descended but doesn't go".

During Spring 2021, the Club de Montaña y Espeleología La Cambera explored around the Alisas-Los Trillos area, rediscovering some MCP sites and finding new ones. They documented this site in their [blog](#) as LC204, naming it Torca del Torete and describing it as having a 12x5m entrance. A 1.5x1.5m hole to the northeast is about 25m deep. An alternative grid reference is 30T 0447485 4794139 altitude 665m.

In their [2021 report](#) to the Federación, the site had still to be descended.

Reference: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2004d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2014c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021b \(Spring logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021e \(La Cambera Rpt\)](#)

Entrance picture : [2001 - 2021](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0638: shaft

Alisas 30T 447863 4793791 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 668m

Depth 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 16th October 2001; 18th September 2014

Marked VT150. The position was checked in 2001. Originally described as a 10m pit, this was finally descended in early August 2014 as a 12m pitch to a small chamber with no way on.

Reference: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2014c \(summer logbook\)](#)
Entrance pictures : [yes](#)
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0639: shaft

Riaño 30T 452218 4800141 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 262m
Length 10m **Depth** 10m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Steep slope to a 10m pitch. Rifts lead off at different points in loose rock and mud.

References: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#); material in file
Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0640: cave

Riaño 30T 452262 4800119 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 265m
Length 10m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th September 2013; 5th January 2018

A prominent entrance, slightly smaller than [site 641](#). A 7m crawl leads to a inwardly-draughting squeeze over a rift. Beyond the squeeze is a pit, maybe 4m deep floor to roof. The far side of the pit is 2.8m from the squeeze. A very low bedding can be seen to continue at roof level for at least 4m beyond the pit.

References: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#); material in file; [anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\)](#)
Entrance picture :
Underground picture: [August 2013](#)
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0641: cave

Riaño 30T 452301 4800092 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 264m
Length 30m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th September 2013

A "real proper cave entrance" heading back under the field on approx 45deg. Walking in and down the entrance slope, the cave is 5m high, 1m wide at floor level and maybe 6m wide at roof level. The passage narrows quickly and you are forced to climb back up to roof level. Below this climb a draught was coming out of the floor, over a descending gap over small rocks.

As previously reported in the logbook notes, the cave ends at a pit, probably 5-6m deep, reported as blocked in 1999. The last 10m of passage to the pit is well decorated.

References: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1999c \(summer logbook\)](#); material in file; [anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\)](#)
Entrance picture : [yes](#)
Underground pictures: [yes](#)
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0642: dig

Riaño 30T 452278 4800011 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 236m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A dig beside a large boulder has a good inward draught.

References: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); material in file
Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0643: shaft

Riaño 30T 452023 4799992 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 167m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th May 2006

The entrance lies below a donkey track and

is a tight, 10m deep rift with no draught.

Reference: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2006b](#)

([Easter logbook](#))

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0644: cave

Riaño 30T 451982 4800011 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 164m

Length 16m **Depth** 6m (estimated from description)

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated October 29th 2002; 15th May

2006; 16th October 2016

The GPS reading, taken at Easter 2006,

seems to place the hole rather a long way

from the original coordinates (VP52150020).

An obvious 2m high entrance leads to 6m

of passage which ends, too tight, with no

draught. An alternative viewpoint, noted in

summer 2002, is that the cave draughts out

strongly and looks diggable.

The cave was excavated in August 2016.

The draughting right hand wall was dug out.

The route drops down steeply onto 3

benches with a blocked chute at the base

that would require a lot of digging.

Reference: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002b](#)

([summer logbook](#)); [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#); [anon.,](#)

[2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016c \(summer](#)

[logbook](#))

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [sketch, 2016](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0645: shaft

S Vega 30T 452268 4794471 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 565m

Length 12m **Depth** 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 12m pitch ends at a small chamber with a

crawl which chokes.

Reference: [card](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0646: Feet Hole

S Vega 30T 451649 4794463 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 475m

Length 15m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 9th September 2022

A handline climb down leads to a corkscrew

climb down to a short blind crawl with no

draught. The site was "probably" seen in

August 2022 when a slightly altered grid

reference was taken.

Reference: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022c](#)

([summer logbook](#))

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0647: Wild Horses, Cave of the (top entrance)

Muela 30T 455378 4796371 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 627m

Length 220m **Depth** 33m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th November 2007

Open shaft which is the top entrance to [Cave of the Wild Horses \(509\)](#). Tagged with yellow marker.

A new track for electricity pylons now passes close by the depression.

Reference: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [Cawthorne Bob et al, 1988](#); [anon., 2007e \(autumn + Christmas logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#); [Corrin Juan, 2010](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0648: shaft

La Secada Grid ref?

Length 5m **Depth** 5m

[Logbook search](#)

Very tight climb down to mud and rock choke.

Reference: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0649: cave

Secadura 30T 454755 4799938 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 184m

Length 20m+ **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th May 2006; 10th March 2009

Entrance lies just above the entrance to [Torca de Suviejo \(122\)](#). A 6m climb down enters a large passage with a pit in the floor. This was first discovered in 1977 and refound 10 years later.

References: [anon., 1977 \(logbook\)](#)[anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [survey](#); [material in file](#); [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0650: shaft

Alisas 30T 447418 4794381 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 667m

Length 41m **Depth** 41m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

The shaft is located on the Vega side of the summit, about 100m below. A broken 15m shaft ends at a hole to a 9m pitch in to a sizeable chamber with a 12m pitch in the floor which chokes.

Marked 12/8/87 on orange tape.

References: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [material in file](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0651: Roldán, Torca de

Alisas 30T 447378 4794381 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 672m

Length 65m **Depth** 65m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

First explored by cavers from Barcelona in 1976 and re- explored by the 1987 Matienzo Expedition. There is (almost) no doubt that the sites explored are the same.

The entrance is on the side of a shakehole 100m east of the lookout point at Alisas.

The entrance is half covered with slabs.

The 65m shaft has ledges at 39, 42 and 50m. The drop ends at a well choked boulder floor with no draught, although the Barcelona account suggests that it could be dug.

Marked 12/8/87 on orange tape.

References: [Ribe G et al, 1982 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [material in file](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

MATIENZO UNDERGROUND site descriptions (printed 28/02/2025)

Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :



0652: digs

Muela 30T 454398 4796681 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 690m
[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 1st November 2009

Two depressions in valley. Both blow out strongly with very cold air. On a visit in July 2009, no draught was felt.

Reference: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0653: shaft

Muela 30T 454608 4796461 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 730m
Length 20m **Depth** 5m
[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Entrance lies halfway up back wall of large depression with rubble base. A 4m climb up in a rift leads to a 5m pitch to a 15m crawl which looks "unpromising". The whole area draughts out on a warm day. Marked 653 on orange tape.

References: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [Cawthorne Bob et al, 1988](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0654: cave

Muela 30T 454598 4796491 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 725m
Length 23m **Depth** 20m
[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Further around the same depression as [site 653](#). A strongly draughting hole. Marked 654 on orange tape. Remarked with yellow tag. A 3m sloping passage to a 16m pitch which is choked at the bottom.

References: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0655: shaft

Muela 30T 454478 4796811 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 627m
Depth 4m
[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A small hole below well-used goat track below trees on scar. A 4m undescended pitch. Sprayed 655.

Reference: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0656: shaft

S Vega 30T 452778 4794171 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 482m
Length 12m **Depth** 12m
[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 12m blind shaft.

Reference: card
Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0657: shaft

S Vega 30T 452298 4794311 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 535m

Length 5m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A rift closes down to a small hole with no draught.

Reference: card

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0658: Túnel, Cueva del (Cierro de La Cueva, Cueva del)

Llueva 30T 454342 4798199 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 242m

Length 40m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 10th October, 6th November 2004;

16th May 2009; 13th May 2019; 20th June

2022

The top entrance is next to a field but has a more complicated walk-in (2019, from road side pull-ins to the south) due to the direct route below the farm being clogged up with rubbish. The bottom entrance emerges in dense jungle with [site 2100](#) about 50m further down.

This is a through-trip in walking-size passage and an archaeological site where a few flints indicate that the cave contains palaeolithic remains. These are summarised in *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009*.

Red marks near the floor were recognised in 2018 prompting a full documentation session by Spanish archaeologists on 11th April 2019. 3D laser scanning and photogrammetry were used to survey the cave and record the marks. One set of marks were found under a large block at the southern entrance where, the only way to view them was to crawl in and lie on your back.

Reference: [GEISC/R and CAEAP, 1986 \(survey\)](#); [Muñoz E, 1988](#); [anon., 2004d \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2006](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2019b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [2004 and April 2019](#)

Underground picture(s): [2004](#) : [April 2019 \(red marks\)](#)

Videos : [jungle to the bottom \(N\) entrance](#) [bottom \(N\) entrance and flying bat](#) [bat](#)

Detailed Survey : from [GEISC/R and CAEAP, 1986](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [Reconstructed from 1986 survey](#)

X

0659: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 449255 4793668 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 628m

Depth 30m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 25th April 2012

An undescended 20 - 30m shaft. The pre-GPS grid reference is VN49319388 Alt.

645m; ETRS89: 30T 449208 4793671.

Reference: card; ; [anon., 2012b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0660: cave

Seldesuto 30T 449183 4793703 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 638m

Length ?m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 17th February 2011

Originally documented as three small caves in a shallow depression at VN49289394;

ETRS89: 30T 449178 4793731 with lengths of 5, 10 and 15m. Two are now catalogued as sites [1151](#) and [1152](#) with the this, third site, as 660. The length is uncertain - it could be 5 or 10m.

Reference: card; [anon., 2011a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0661: cave

Seldesuto 30T 449139 4793639 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 654m

Length 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th February 2011

A large entrance leads into a truncated cave of 20m length which connects 2 depressions, emerging at [site 1150](#). The original description had the position at VN49249387 and indicated another small cave to the left of the lower entrance.

Reference: card; [anon., 2011a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0662: Tonsillitis Pot

La Rasa 30T 449054 4793567 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 665m

Length 109m **Depth** 61m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 17th February 2011; 5th May 2022; 30th April 2024

A slope down into the cave which contains a chamber and a 5m blind pit. The length is 25m with a depth of 15m. A visit to the entrance at Easter 96 found the cave draughting.

The cave was named "Tonsillitis Pot" in 2022 after a substantial extension. The following description is by Alex Ritchie.

A large entrance gash leads down a steep slope and climb and into continuing large passage in daylight. On the left, just before the slope, is another draughting entrance which has not yet been looked at.

At the bottom of the slope are two ways on, to the right the passage quickly ends after 4m under the boulders of the entrance climb. To the left the cave diminishes in size to a short (?) with a strong draught which immediately opens out into a chamber 5 x10m, *Fever Chamber*. In the chamber on the left is a wide, 6m deep *Sore Throat* pitch with possible continuing passage at the bottom - this has not been dropped.

Ahead the passage shrinks after 10m to a too small hole. Back in the *Fever Chamber*, taking the immediate left (after passing the crawl) a draughting crawl soon reaches an easy skydive into a chamber over a hole. This hole is another pitch, *Cold Shiver*, in a rift. Ahead leads to an un-surveyed passage that likely closes down (check). To the left is a boulder slope, that spirals upwards a before becoming choked.

Cold Shiver is rigged rom the obvious natural belay. A descent past a ledge 5m down leads into a larger chamber. A further 4m descent lands on a large ledge with various holes that we presume, by testing with rocks, go the same place. We descended the largest hole using the obvious flake as a re-belay which turned out the be a fine shaft of 21m (*Runny Nose* pitch). At the bottom we turned right (left too small and chossy, but leads to same place). A short climb up and back down whilst protected by the rope leads to a squeeze onto the final pitch of 15m (*Blocked Ears* pitch), which we rigged from a couple of small spikes. This landed in a large chamber where the only way on without bolting up led down an easy but loose climb through a window into a final chamber with no way on.

The site had bolts when explored in 2022 (where?).

References: card; material in file; [anon., 1996a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2011a \(January, February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [2011](#) : [April 2022](#)

Underground pictures: [April 2022](#)

Video: [Cold Shiver pitch](#)

Detailed Survey : [1987](#) : [2022](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [April 2022](#)



0663: Contrabandistas, Cueva

Seldesuto 30T 449307 4793831 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 558m

Length 50m+ **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998; 21st January 2001; 20th December 2008; 30th January, 5th May, 1st November 2009

A cave, possibly occupied during the Civil War, containing a choked 12m pitch. (Further illustrated information about the Civil War in the area can be found [here](#).) To the right of the pitch is 40m of passage to a dig at another pitch top with a good echo and draught. Five hours was spent digging this out in 2009 and a 5m pitch was descended to a silt floor. Half-way down is a body-size tube that carries the draught. This is blocked after a few metres with a sandstone blockage that "could easily be dug with a hammer and chisel". (This has not been surveyed or included in the length.)

A live bullet was found in the cave in 1998.

The base of the pitch, tight meanders, has been enlarged by the Catalans and needs to be pushed.

References: card; material in file; [anon., 1998d](#) (logbook); [Corrin Juan, 1999](#); [Corrin Juan, 2000](#); [anon., 2009a](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2009c](#) (summer logbook); Smith Peter 2012

Entrance picture: [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed survey: [1:1000](#)

Line survey:

On area survey:

Survex file: [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[X](#)

0664: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 449258 4793771 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 590m

Length 7m **Depth** 7m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 7m shaft to a slope up to a small chamber.

Reference: card

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0665: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 449226 4793720 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 617m

Length 7m **Depth** 7m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th May 2009

A 7m shaft drops to a dig which could lead to other chambers below.

Reference: card; [anon., 2009a](#) (Easter logbook)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0666 Shaft

Seldesuto VN? Alt. 615m

[Logbook search](#)

Near to site [665](#). A 30m pitch to an undescended 40m pitch which is tight at the top. Pete to place.

Reference: card

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0667: shaft

La Rasa 30T 448898 4793571 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 665m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A large, undescended shaft with trees in the top. Marked VR169 by the Catalans. Seen at VN49009378 in 1995; ETRS89: 30T 448898 4793571. Which is correct?

Reference: card; [anon., 1995c](#) (logbook)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0668: cave

Secadura 30T 457048 4800931 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: M) **Altitude** 100m

Length 40m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 25th June 2010

Located in a steep-sided depression near [Cueva del Carabo \(627\)](#). A slope into a chamber has a smaller chamber on the left. See Pete: GR & Alt tally. Also 627.

Reference: card

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0669: shaft

S Vega 30T 451929 4794488 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: A) **Altitude** 547m

Length 25m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 15th May 2006; 5th May 2019

A rift near [Dog Pot \(346\)](#). An obvious entrance in the cliffs leads to a 5m pitch. The base slopes down to a small chamber and crawl. The continuation of the rift has formed the cave [2452](#) in the cliff. This relationship is shown on the logbook [sketch](#).

The site was inspected again in December 2018.

Reference: card; [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#);

[anon., anon., 2018e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [December 2018](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0670: shaft

Cubija 30T 449891 4796751 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 340m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 13th May, 19th September 2023;

6th, 21st January 2024

A 6m shaft drops to a narrow slot with a floor 3m below, where it looks bigger. There are other tight rifts on the left and right.

The shaft was repositioned and redescended in April 2023. (Old position 30T 449898 4796691). The rift at the base required moonmilk removing or capping. Further work occurred in June 2023 and in January 2024 the constriction was capped out. Unfortunately, the continuation was just big enough for three cavers to stand in with no way on!

References: card; [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#);

[anon., 2023b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023c](#)

[\(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023e \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [Easter 2023, January 2024](#)

Underground pictures: [2023](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0671: cave

S Vega 30T 451620 4794529 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 445m

Length 92m **Depth** 19m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 23rd April, 15th September, 4th

October 2013

An obvious entrance leads to a slope down to a right turn. The passage becomes larger under an aven. A visit at Easter 2013 suggested that the cave should be resurveyed as it seemed a bit longer than the grade 1 survey. This happened in the summer when it was solo-surveyed with estimated lengths - 92m rather than the original 35m.

References: card; material in file; [anon., 2013b](#)

[\(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground pictures : [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#) : [Resurvey 2013](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

0672: Regato, Cueva del (Santiago, Cueva de)

Fresnedo top entrance 30T 454378 4801921
 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 255m
Length 1562m Length 1435m according to Spanish survey
[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 13 February 1998; 19th February 1999; 9th November 2003; 1st July 2009; 6th January 2011; 15th September 2013; 21st May 2014; 30th June 2018

See the file for Spanish and English surveys.

The re-exploration of the cave was started at Easter 1994. Most of the cave was re-surveyed during the summer of 1994 with extra work being put in during Whit 95 and the summer of 1997. The **description below needs checking and adding to**. The original exploration appears to have been quite a thorough job.

The top entrance is just outside the current permit area, the bottom entrance just inside. The hillside follows the dip of the beds as does the cave.

The top entrance rift has an unexplored passage over the top and drops immediately to a scramble down boulders to a tall passage. The first major feature is met after 50m at a decorated junction: the northern passage passes a 9m choked pitch and rises to a draughting, calcite choke after 30m; two small routes to the east soon choke.

The main way on descends to the south and enters a draughting, low calcite slope to a 2m drop. The passage enlarges with routes to a passage below and, after a tight tube on the east side, a bouldery chamber is entered. Turning east at the calcite slope gives a vocal connection with the tight tube, after passing through a rift in shattered rock.

Around the boulder chamber there are climbs up. Beyond the *Palacio Bada* carbide graffiti there is a passage at floor level which is apparently unexplored by the British but does "go" according to the Spanish survey. The route beyond closes in forcing the explorer into a roof passage 5m above.

To the east, the route rises to a 20m pitch and a choked chamber. There may be a parallel shaft over a mud bank but this requires bolting to get to.

To the west, a traverse reaches a 10m blind pit with a possible climb; below holes lead to the lower level and a junction just inside the bottom entrance. The cave is now described from the bottom entrance, which is a tree filled hole in sloping pasture. A walking slope leads to a greasy slope which is best laddered as a sloping 7m pitch, or can be bypassed to the south by a 3m climb down or to the north by a sloping traverse. (Sixty metres of passage to the north passes a 7m blind pit and eventually chokes close to the surface). The pitch base is the junction described above and the route to the deepest parts of the cave are to the south.

A traverse of some 30m leads into a stal grotto, with a scramble through reaching the top of a greasy slope. This is now also best laddered as a sloping 7m pitch from a stal. Below the ladder a further 5m pitch down a calcite and boulder rimmed hole leads to a false floor and a rift passage. Just where this turns right, a hole in the right hand wall is a 4m pitch into a rift which chokes above a muddy climb after 15m. Walking sized passage continues to a hole in the southern wall marked *Sima del Rio* and then ascends and closes in with no draught. The 8m pitch meets water is a smallish passage which becomes smaller downstream and continues low and wet.

Above the calcite rimmed pitch, the passage continues eastwards, turns left into a short crawl and enlarges to the head of a 15m pitch. To the right, jammed boulders are crossed to another hole which links with passage below.

At the pitch base, the floor slopes steeply to the north and chokes. To the south the passage ducks under the western wall and continues for 15m through a crawl and emerges in a chamber. Straight ahead the passage changes to a tight 4m climb down which intersects a cross rift which still needs full exploration.

It may be that the cave drains to [site 3910](#), first documented in the summer 2013 but then out of the *Matienzo Caves* permit area.

The cave was briefly looked at in April 2014 when the visitors "had a look at the entrance series and exited."

References: [card](#); [material in file](#); [Speleo-Club Cántabro, 1982](#); [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1994b \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1995b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 1997b \(logbook\)](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1999c \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [bottom and top entrances](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

1976 (Spanish survey)	known cave	low res	high res
1997	known cave		1:1000

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0673: cave

Llueva 30T 454538 4798631 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 320m

Length 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Entrance lies at base of depression. A walk down into the entrance leads to a soil and boulder choke with a small chamber up to the left. Marked "17/8/87A".

Reference: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0674: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 449763 4793780 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 580m

Length 50m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 21st June 2013

A 50m x 30m open hole which has been explored down at the northeast corner to a depth of 15m. There is a small dig at the base with little prospect. This large collapse feature shows that there must be development under the area. A possible cave on the north wall was examined but proved to be a choked series of rifts formed by slipped sheets of wall rock.

The GPS reading is taken on the north lip in line with the centre of the N-S rift.

Reference: [card](#); [anon., 2013c \(Whit logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Video: [First descent](#) (YouTube)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0675: shaft

S Vega 30T 450227 4794743 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [P](#)) **Altitude** 486m

Length 200m? (Not yet surveyed, but included in the length of the SVS) **Depth** 346m (to the deepest point dived in Cueva del Comellantes; needs checking)

Length of the SVS - see [Azpilicueta](#)

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 23rd January, 2nd March, 17th October 2003; 1st February 2006; 25th September, 26th December 2012; 28th September 2015; 21st May 2017; 30th June 2018; 24th May 2021

[The entrances of Azpilicueta and site 331 were fixed by GPS in December 2002 and found to be about 70m west of the previous documented positions. Sites in the vicinity were positioned with GPS in February 2003 and are now (2015) in the process of being repositioned using a combination of Google Earth photos and GPS]

The eastern entrance has been estimated at 30T 0450231 4794745 485m from Google Earth.

The length includes [Cueva-Cubío de la Reñada \(48\)](#), [Torca de Azpilicueta \(333\)](#), [Torca de Papá Noel \(1471\)](#), [Torca de la Vera Negra \(36\)](#), [site 1338](#), [Torca de Coterón \(264\)](#), [site 675](#) and [Cueva Comellantes \(40\)](#).

MATIENZO UNDERGROUND - site descriptions (printed 28/02/2025)

A table of the depth within the South Vega System from each entrance can be seen [here](#).

The highest known entrance into the South Vega System ([line survey](#)). Twin entrances 8m? apart are at opposite sides of a roof over a chamber containing a large pitch, which connects to [Torca de Azpilicueta \(0333\)](#) above the 4th, 20m pitch, just before the meanders and the big pitch.

This entrance has less to recommend it than the original Azpilicueta entrance as the routes down have yet to be properly gardened. The SE entrance has been sprayed.

A tackle list and description is needed. The route also needs surveying. The supposed length of 200m is included in the SVS length.

References: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1990b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1991 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003a \(February logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\)](#) (photo); [anon., 2017b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [looking to the east](#) : [looking to the west](#) : [2017](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

Passage direction rose diagram: [South Vega System 30/6/2018](#)

X

0676: shaft

S Vega 30T 450177 4794754 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 488m

Length 11m **Depth** 11m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 23rd January , 2nd March 2003

[The entrances of Azpilicueta and site 331 were fixed by GPS in December 2002 and found to be about 70m west of the previous documented positions. Nearby sites were repositioned using GPS in February 2003]

A 10m pitch passes a small ledge to a stony floor with a descending squeeze to a small chamber with a goat skeleton.

Reference: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003a \(February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0677: shaft

S Vega 30T 450078 4794871 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 452m

Depth 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An undescended 8m shaft, covered with slabs.

References: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1990b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0678: shaft

El Naso 30T 450748 4797161 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 455m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 10m deep, choked shaft.

Reference: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0679: shaft

El Naso 30T 450831 4796615 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 468m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 27th July 2000; 9th October 2005

A 10m deep, choked shaft.

Reference: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2005b \(Easter & summer\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0680: shaft

El Naso 30T 450928 4796511 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: M) **Altitude** 468m
Depth 8m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An undescended, tight 8m deep rift.

Reference: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0681: Candenosa, Cueva

Cobadal 30T 449148 4797891 (Datum: ETRS89.
Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 270m

Length 90m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 18th October 2003; 12th May 2004; 28th November 2005; 1st February 2006

An impressive arched entrance, some 30m wide that enters a rocky chamber 40m long. An old remnant with several low phreatic inlets with avens.

Various digging sites have been excavated and these are highlighted and lettered on [this survey](#). The draughting crawl at the end of the cave has been excavated to a split and is still going (A). This was further pushed in November 2005 to where the passage dips down and splits into 2 very narrow ways on - "too small to even dig". A better possibility may be a rift in the floor of the chamber where boulders need to be removed (B). In 2003, some boulders were removed and digging also took place under the main aven inlet in the main chamber (C) where the floor slumped in, and at a slot to one side (D).

The cave, and the valley, lies some 70m above *Eye-glasses Passage* and a series of inlets in the [Sumidero de Cobadal](#).

A sediment sample was taken in 1994 (down to the right of the main chamber).

References: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J and Knights S, 1988](#); material in file; [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003 \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2005c \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#) [video of entrance](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Videos : [digging at sites C and D - 1](#) [digging at sites C and D - 2](#)

[digging at site C](#) [digging at site D](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid.)

X

0682: Candenosa, Torca

Cobadal 30T 449173 4797867 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 276m

Length approx. 30m **Depth** 15m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 18th October 2003; 28th November 2005

Pitches of 5m and 8m in a rift drop to a sloping, rocky floor with dead animals. The pot continues unexplored down a pitch through a collapsed and unstable area, although this may have been explored at Easter 1994.

The definitive exploration occurred in November 2005. The entrance pitch can be laddered as a single 11m drop (2 ladders) as there is a good natural belay some 2m from the edge of the pitch. The alternative, 2 pitch approach will eventually close up with rocks and rubbish. The 4 x 2m base of the shaft is filled with boulders, skeletons, mattresses, etc but there is a small exit down to an easy 3m climb.

There are 2 ways on from here: a high level meander traverse, about 6m long and passing over a lower passage; the lower route which slopes down into an impressively-sized passage, about 1.5m wide and 8m high.

The water, last seen sinking in boulders at the base of the entrance shaft rejoins the cave in this passage through a 10m high aven but then disappears down a rat hole after only 10m. A 3m climb up at this point leads quickly to a 3m climb down. The

passage then ascends steeply to a choke after 5m

References: [anon., 1987 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2005c \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2006a](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#) [video of entrance](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0683: cave

Seldesuto 30T 449868 4794841 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 368m

Length 3m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

A flat out entrance with a mud floor next to tree. Old stal seen ahead but there is no draught.

References: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); material in file

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0684: cave

Seldesuto 30T 449858 4794821 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 369m

Length 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Low cave with lower section to mud floor.

References: material in file; [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0685: shaft, dig

Seldesuto 30T 448722 4794856 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 275m

Length 15m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 13 February 1998; 2nd November

2002; 22nd May 2014

The GPS'd grid reference puts the site to the west of the previous position (ETRS89: 30T 448768 4794871) , more out in the open.

Both holes are above the streambed just below the southern radio-location point in [Torcón de la Calleja Rebollo \(258\)](#). The western hole is an 8m shaft to a run-in at the base with a draught from a rift. The second hole was dug through a squeeze to a choked base at 6m depth.

There are a couple of other holes well above at the small cliff line which need relocating and numbering.

References: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [Cawthorne B and Neill A, 1990](#); [Cawthorne Bob et al, 1988](#);

[anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1997b \(logbook\)](#);

[anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey : on [258 Torcón de la Calleja Rebollo](#)

[\(Toad in the Hole\) area line surveys](#)

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0686: shaft

S Vega 30T 452568 4794091 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 532m

Length 15m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

A blind pot with a flat bottom.

References: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); material in file

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0687: Acebo, Torca de

S Vega 30T 452395 4794022 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 545m

Length 80m **Depth** 80m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 22nd March 2003; 25th January 2015

An 80m blind shaft with a holly tree in the entrance. A small stream enters just below the first ledge at 60m depth and a second entrance comes in from above. The bottom of the pot is flat and the two small outlets are choked with mud and filled with water.

References: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); material in file;

[anon., 2015a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0688: shaft

S Vega 30T 452268 4793931 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 543m

Length 20m **Depth** 11m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An 8m pitch lands on the top of a boulder slope which leads down to a choke at high and low level, although there appears to be a way on involving the moving of large boulders. A 2m climb enters an 8m phreatic tube which is calcited up. At the base of the entrance pitch there is a tight squeeze up to a small, choked chamber.

References: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); material in file

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0689: Andando, Torca

Secadura 30T 454259 4799057 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 426m

Length Length included in [site 2786](#)

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 14th, 22nd October, 19th November 2007; 1st October 2008; 5th May 2009

A 15.6m pitch leads to the unstable, bouldery head of the second pitch of 12.1m. A mud slope leads to the head of the final pitch of 24m. This drops into a chamber with a calcite floor, a diggable stream sink and a climb to a possible continuation above.

The site was rediscovered in 2007 (temporarily as site 2785) when a track was opened up. Tackle, presumably from 1991, was found at the rigged head of the second pitch. A full re-exploration was thought necessary after the 2007 *Life, Universe and Everything* finds in [Cueva Llueva](#).

[Site 2786](#), slightly higher and a few metres to the south, links with Andando.

During the summer 2008, [site 2786](#) was tackled up and surveyed to a point where it appeared to link with Andando. However, the explorer was not sure that a connection had been made as the cave was not recognisable on the survey. Over Easter 2009, the shafts were explored and surveyed as one site, 2786. The drawn-up survey and re-written description will appear in due course.

References: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#) (survey); [Cawthorne Bob et al, 1988](#) (survey); [anon., 1991b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 1991 \(logbook\)](#); material in file; [anon., 2007d](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2007e](#) (autumn + Christmas logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#);

[anon., 2008e](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2009a](#) (Easter logbook)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500 amended survey with site 2786 after autumn 2007](#) In preparation: Easter 2009 survey

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid.)

[sites 689 and 2786](#) (Easter 2009) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid.)

X

0690: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 448754 4794792 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 282m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 22nd May 2014

The GPS'd grid reference above was read with a "weak signal" and puts it close to the previous position of [site 0691](#). The previous grid reference was ETRS89: 30T 448788 4794811.

A draughting, 10m deep shaft with 3 draughting digs at the base.

References: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#) (survey); [Cawthorne B and Neill A, 1990](#); [Cawthorne R, 1987](#); [anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0691: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 448709 4794814 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 276m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 22nd May 2014

The previous grid reference was ETRS89: 30T 448738 4794811. The GPS'd one above was taken with a "weak signal". When positioned the question was asked, "Are these draughting holes 691?"

Draughting dig with 30cm diameter top. Tagged 691

References: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [Cawthorne B and Neill A, 1990](#); [Cawthorne R, 1987](#); [anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0692: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 448656 4794901 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 318m

Depth 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 2nd November 2002; 22nd May 2014

The previous grid reference was ETRS89: 30T 448728 4794901. The GPS'd one, above, was obtained with a "weak signal".

A 5m undescended shaft, tagged 692.

Other holes nearby include a tube on 145 degrees which needs digging, a 2m choked shaft and a draughtless 2m choked shaft.

References: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [Cawthorne B and Neill A, 1990](#); [Cawthorne Bob et al, 1988](#); [anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey : on [258 Torcón de la Calleja Rebollo \(Toad in the Hole\) area line surveys](#)

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0693: shaft

Seldesuto 30T 448518 4794971 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 405m

Length 62m **Depth** 46m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 13 February 1998; 2nd November 2002

Climb down entrance slope to a crawl which leads to the first pitch of 21m with Y-hang rebelay at -3 and -7m. This is followed by a pitch of 4.3m and finally a tight and loose pitch of 14.6m (rebelay needed) to a boulder choke and aven.

A mud and water duck may respond to digging as there is a slight draught.

References: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [Cawthorne B and Neill A, 1990](#); [Cawthorne Bob et al, 1988](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1991 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill Ali, 1991 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1997b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey : on [258 Torcón de la Calleja Rebollo \(Toad in the Hole\) area line surveys](#)

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid.)

X

0694: shaft

Muela 30T 454968 4796721 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 546m

Length 12m **Depth** 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An obscure hole in field, 15m south of wood top. A 4m climb down, over wall to pitch of 8m to a 7m by 4m chamber which is choked by rocks and calcite.

Reference: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0695: shaft

Muela 30T 454948 4796731 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 561m

Length 16m **Depth** 16m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

An obscure entrance 8m west of 694 under a boulder outcrop. A body-sized entrance leads to 3 fissure pitches of 6, 5 and 5m to a small, blocked chamber.

Reference: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0696: shaft

Muela 30T 454678 4796531 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 700m

Length 20m **Depth** 18m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

A small winding fissure in the wall of a doline. A 2m long squeeze to an 18m pitch and a choke. Tagged 696.

References: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0697: shaft

Muela 30T 455148 4796601 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 547m

Length 13m **Depth** 9m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Up the hill from [site 297](#), 20m lower than the beech tree. The grid reference is questionable. A 9m shaft drops to a 4m long crawl. Tagged 697.

References: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0698: shafts - 3

Muela 30T 455208 4796491 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 589m

Length 18m **Depth** 7m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Three shafts. Eastern hole is 6m deep to a choke and is marked 698. The western hole is a 5m free climb and a squeeze to a choke at a depth of 7m.

References: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); material in file;

(see 730)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0699: dig

N Vega 30T 449308 4795491 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 290m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

A draughting crack which would need a hammer and chisel or possibly more persuasion. Not draughting when seen in 1995.

Reference: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1995b \(Whit logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0700: shaft

N Vega 30T 449271 4795534 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 313m

Length 11m **Depth** 11m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th January 2010

A 3m drop to a small ledge continues with a further 7m drop to a choked floor.

Reference: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1995b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0701: shaft

N Vega 30T 449203 4795566 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 340m

Length 15m **Depth** 10m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 26th April 2020

An 8m pitch lands on a floor with trees. A walk down of 5m ends at a draughtless choke.

A new grid reference and a photo were taken in early 2020.

Reference: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2020b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [2020](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0702: shaft

Muela

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

[Logbook search](#)

Climb down to a rocky floor and nut trees in a square hole some 10m -20m. There is a narrow draughting fissure in the SW corner. There is some confusion between this and site [301](#). See card.

References: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); card

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0703: Dorado, El

Arredondo

[Logbook search](#)

See log book.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0704: cave

Arredondo

[Logbook search](#)

A descending ramp.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); material in file

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0705: cave

Cobadal 30T 450098 4798391 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [U](#)) **Altitude** 405m

Length 20m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 20m long 6x6m tunnel fragment with no prospects of extension. Tag 705 is on [Cueva Candensa \(681\)](#).

References: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); card

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0706: shaft

Cobadal 30T 449808 4797782 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 468m

Length 11m **Depth** 11m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 10th October 2004

An 11m descent to a solid, blocked floor.

There is no draught in the fluted shaft.

Reference: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2004d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0707: shaft

La Secada 30T 451457 4797567 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 215m

Length 17m **Depth** 9m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 4th October 2007; 19th September 2023; 27th January 2025

A 5m shaft which was descended to rotting

animals. These were removed from a

descending tube to enter a small, calcited

chamber. There is no draught and no

possibilities of extension.

A small, cool, broken down cheese store lies

nearby.

The site was not found in thick jungle in

August 2023 but was found and

photographed a couple of years later. The

site was filled, "2m deeper", with rubbish.

Reference: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1996c \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2007d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2024f \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [1996](#), [2025](#)

Underground picture(s): [view down shaft, 2007](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0708: cave

La Secada 30T 452423 4797825 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: A) **Altitude** 188m

Length 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 27th October 2001; 21st December 2008; 25th September 2012; 22nd May 2014; 9th February 2023

The higher and more westerly of 2 caves on

the cliff line behind the barn. A climb up to a

3m high entrance and chamber, with smaller

passages at the back. It contained

[fragments of prehistoric pottery](#) which are

discussed in *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith*

Peter et al, 2001. In 2012, the entrance

chamber was found to have the floor

covered with tiny bones, presumably the

remains of birds' meals or pellets.

References: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); material in file; [Smith P, 1995 \(survey and photo\)](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001 \(includes line drawing of one potsherd\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008 \(survey\)](#). [Some of the references to site 708 in this volume actually refer to site 709]; [anon., 2012d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [both sites 0708 and 0709 : looking out : 360° photo below the entrances to 0708 and 0709 \(JC; January 2023. See notes\)](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1989](#) with [site 0709](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0709: cave

La Secada 30T 452426 4797825 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: A) **Altitude** 185m

Length 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 27th October, 18th November 2001; 8th June, 12th November 2002; 27th October 2007; 21st December 2008; 25th September 2012; 22nd May 2014; 3rd December 2016; 9th February 2023

The lower and more easterly of two caves.

A climb up to a single passage with an alcove on the right and which becomes too tight with a narrow rift in the roof.

John Thorp found a polished stone (ophite) in the floor in 1989. Resembling the polished stones axes of Chalcolithic age, it may be a unique find in Cantabria. A line diagram is to be found [here](#) and [here](#) (from *Martínez Velasco Antxoka, 2001*)

Further finds have included human bones, pointing to a funerary deposit. *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001* discusses the site archaeology and *Martínez Velasco Antxoka, 2001* reviews the three ground stone artefacts found in Matienzo.

The site is typical of a Bronze Age burial - a small entrance with the remains placed not far inside the cave (*Smith P, Corrin J & Ruiz Cobo J, 2008*).

On a visit in 2012, a human finger bone and burnt bones of cow and deer were identified along with bird and other small bones. A piece of red ochre (ruddle) was seen.

When visited in January 2023, a bone seen at the end of the right hand alcove did not resemble the "articulated deer bone" (photo below from 2012).

References: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1990](#); material in file; [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001 (includes photo); [Martínez Velasco Antxoka, 2001](#) (includes line drawing); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#) (photo, survey and line drawing of adze); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [Smith P, Corrin J & Cobo J R, 2008](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008](#) (survey) [Some of the references to site 708 in this volume actually refer to site 709]; [anon., 2012d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2014b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Smith Peter et al, 2016](#); [anon., 2023a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : both sites 0708 and 0709 : [360° photo](#) below the entrances to [0708](#) and [0709](#) (JC; January 2023. See [notes](#))

Underground picture(s): position of adze [1](#) [2](#) :

[deer bone](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#) with [site 708](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

Miscellaneous : Photographs of the adze [1](#) [2](#)

X

0710: Sprog on a Rock

Cobadal 30T 449760 4797758 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 443m

Length 46m **Depth** 33m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 10th October 2004; 10th January,

21st February 2017

From the obscure entrance, two 22m pitches, with many rub points, drop on a 127 degree (magnetic) fault to a choked floor. A rift on the fault that appears to go deeper was enlarged and entered in December 2016. Three pits were dropped that all choked. The site was surveyed. The good draught felt at the tight entrance is thought to come from holes higher up. A bolt sticks out of a rock just above the entrance. It may be that the entrance is completely covered with a cap stone, as was the case in 2016.

Reference: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2004d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2016e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [from 2004](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [2016 pdf](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#)

X

0711: cave

Cobadal 30T 449788 4797756 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 457m

Length 12m **Depth** 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 10th October 2004

Original description: *Four metre rope climb, belayed to stal. Ends in a calcited fault chamber.*

This disagrees with the card: *Cave with stalled up fault chamber L=12 D=12.*

Needs checking out - the entrance appeared to be a 15m pitch when seen in 2004.

Reference: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#)(survey); [anon., 2004d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0712 Shaft

South Vega VN? Alt. ? Depth 15m

[Logbook search](#)

Undescended 15m shaft. See Chris Croyden for reference.

Reference: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0713: Aguanaz, Fuente (top entrance)

San Antonio 30T 446482 4801430 (Datum:

ETRS89. Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 78m

Length 5299m **Depth** -43m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Resources](#) :

[Logbook search](#) : [A Google search for this site](#)

(Aguanaz, Fuente+San Antonio)

Updated 19th February 1999; 6th May, 16th October 2001; 5th November 2005; 15th May, 15th June 2006; 27th October 2007; 1st October, 8th, 19th, 30th November 2008; 6th May, 2nd, 18th November 2009; 26th June 2010; 6th January, 27th May, 5th October 2011; 22nd August 2012; 15th, 16th September 2013; 19th September 2014; 19th February, 22nd April, 29th November 2016; 21st May, 17th September 2017; 6th, 30th May, 30th June, 22nd September, 11th December 2018; 28th January 2019; 13th May, 1st, 4th June, 13th September 2019; 5th May, 9th September, 12th November 2022; 20th September 2023; 22nd, 30th January, 24th, 27th September, 6th December 2024; 28th January 2025

*January 2023 : For admin purposes, cataloguing all "holes in the ground", all three entrances are now coded as:
#0713 - this top entrance, where cavers dive and explore upstream;
#5452 - the middle entrance;
#5453 - the entrance at the car park. All information for the whole system is found on this #0713 page.*

The cave is the major resurgence for the area and a large diameter pipe removes water for public consumption, supplying Santander. Information gleaned from the *Dirección General de Obras Hidráulicas y Ciclo Integral del Agua* in 2005 shows an average water flow from the resurgence over the previous 20 or so years of 951 litres per second. (For comparison, the resurgence at [Los Boyones](#) (fed by catchments above Cueva Vallina, Matienzo and Riaño) emits 650 litres per second on average.

Hydrology

An optical brightener test from the end of the **Sumidero de Cobadal** ([1930](#)) over Easter 2006 gave a positive result after 5 - 7 days during medium to medium-high flow. During the 6 or so visits over a fortnight the water levels were slow to react after some heavy rain, and even then only rose by approx. 7cm. [Los Boyones](#) rose by 120cm much more rapidly. The details of the test are found [here](#). There is a possibility that water from the Sumidero might drain to [Torca La Vaca](#) during low to normal flow, only passing over into Fuente Aguanaz during high stage. Some suggestions regarding water sources for Aguanaz are detailed [here](#). In 2009 these possibilities were outdated when an inlet, apparently from La Gatuna, was explored.

An optical brightener trace over March / April 2016 from the **Duck Pond Sink** ([site 1976](#)) near Barrio de Arriba gave a positive result at Aguanaz after 4 - 7 days.

An optical brightener trace over April / May 2017 from **El Cubillón** ([site 2538](#)) gave a positive result at Aguanaz after 6 - 8 days. More details are shown [here](#).

Over Easter 2018, optical brightener was injected into [site 1969](#) near **Alisas** and detected between 2 and 3 days later at Fuente Aguanaz (in heavy flood conditions). Other caves checked for OBA included [Comellantes](#), [La Riega](#) and [Wild Mare](#). These all proved negative. (Details of the water trace can be [found here](#).)

A summary of all water traces with a map can be found on the [Water Tracing Investigations](#) page.

Optical brightener fluorocaptors have also been placed in the resurgence for other water traces, eg

- the 2016 Hoyón ([site 567](#)) trace which was successfully detected at Comediante - [site 0040](#).

- OBA was put into a stream in a Moncobe site being explored by the GE Pistruellos.

The water was traced to [La Riega](#).

The resurgence can emit large quantities of water, flooding the low lying ground

around Entrambasaguas and beyond. One effect of the Whit 2008 flood was to jam leaves around the door of the new pumping station, which is probably 7m above the normal water level. A smaller flood in October of the same year was shown on national TVE news. (Photos [here](#)).

After a very dry summer, the *Diario Montañés* (22/8/2012) reported a flow of 0.1 cumecs. Another very dry summer saw the water level below the extraction pipe at the main entrance. (See Entrance pictures, summer 2022 and 360° photos from the autumn, below)

In August 2019, as reported in the *Diario Montañés* ([10/8/2012](#) & [23/8/2019](#)), Fuente Aguanaz was heavily contaminated by farm slurry. As a result, the water was prevented from entering the public supply; agents of Seprona (the environmental branch - or Nature Protection Service - of the Guardia Civil) investigated, and a particular farmer became a prime suspect.

The resurgence area no longer (2022) has an outdoor interpretation centre with 4 boards explaining about water and the environment due to vandalism. Further boards are in the old pump houses. But by the summer 2022 this area had also been cleaned-up, with the old pump house removed and coloured, patterned concrete laid. (See Entrance pictures, summer 2022, below)

The water level at the bottom entrance (#5453) is at about 55m altitude and is reached by walking down concrete steps. Sixty metres up behind this - reached by a rising track setting off on the right of the car park - is a hole below a scar in a depression which is where the pipe reaches to abstract the water (#5452). Upstream from here is out-of-depth water to a boulder choke.

Main, upper cave

In April 2022, it was noted that the once obscure route to the top entrance was now a "good path".

A small, 4m long cave in a gully above the Aguanaz cavers' entrance was maypoled into in the summer, 2009.

The entrance starts as a route between boulders. The grid reference for this entrance was altered in 2008 and is that shown in the heading. Just below the top of the rope climb, a hole was opened up in 2009, heading west. This turned out to be an alternative way down to the stream rather than any high level development. [A sketch shows the sumps in the cave](#) (August 2018). The entrance constriction was removed in August 2018, making the exit for tired divers much less wearisome. A further consolidation of the route occurred on Christmas Day 2018, with more gardening at the pitch head and new bolts placed to make a "comfortable" ladder pitch. In July 2023, a fixed, 12ft, aluminium ladder was installed at the "gorge" climb in the main streamway before sump 1. A hand line was also installed to help in high water level.

In August 2023, the line through sump 1 was twice found broken and a new one was installed. The opportunity was taken to thoroughly (re)examine the underwater route but only alcoves were seen.

The site is mainly swimming. Half way through, the water can be left and there is an inlet on the western side. This was pushed and resurveyed in the summer, 2009. Beyond the aven the inlet stream continues through an choke to two short ducks and a continuing stream passage which lowers to a flat out crawl with a slight draught. Before this, a climb out enters a large chamber / passage which may continue south beyond an unexplored pitch down. The area was reinvestigated and pushed on one trip at Easter 2010. "*Had a good look round in the boulder choke. Could not find the main way on but found plenty of high level passage with deep holes in the floor. Possible ways on? About 250m unsurveyed?*" About 150m were surveyed to 40m above the stream where the high level passage lies. See [photos](#) taken on this trip. An inlet on the east was also explored, summer 2009, for 70m and ending at a too tight rift with no draught. A aven was free climbed 9m after a tight squeeze up to where it continued up out of sight.

In 2014, the 2009/10 extensions were re-examined - in the chamber with 2 avens, the one at the top of the slope looked the better climbing prospect.

The streamway up to sump 1 was re-explored in the summer 2013 and all side passages at water level were found to be undercuts or blind air bells. The line was also repaired. In August 2014, in low water conditions, a "lovely swim to the sump and back" was aided by thick wetsuits, fins and a bouyant tackle bag.

The southern sump was dived at Whit 1995 and was passed in 5 to 6m visibility, after

35m, at a maximum 5m depth to a large sump pool on the other side. De-kitting occurs on a mud and boulder bank on the left. The main stream continuation was then fully explored for 500m during the summer of that year and consisted of swimming and wading until the passage climbs several cascades to meet the unexpected sump 2.

Sarah Jean Inlet (see 2023 paragraph below)

At Easter 2017, beyond sump 1 and on the true left of the passage just north of a 0.5m waterfall, the **Sarah Jean Inlet** was explored by Jim Lister and Dan Hibberts for 770m heading west-southwest, passing through a small sump and finishing at an over-tight hole up between boulders into larger passage. (Batch 0713-17-01). Links to video of this exploration are shown below.

Sarah Jean was extended by Jim Lister and Mark Smith in April 2018 when the way on was found at stream level below the choke. Here, a flat-out crawl with 4" airspace leads to walking passage in good rock. The streamway ends in a large sump. (Batch 18-01, length 73m). Further exploration by Jim Lister passed sump 3B (which varies between 3 and 15m in length) to walking passage (with a possible tight slot in the wall with a good echo) and sump 4B (which had disappeared in drier conditions) with more walking passage beyond to sump 5B, dived for a short distance. (Batches 18-02 and 18-03, lengths 17m and 73m). A video of this extension is linked below.

The boulder choke area was tidied up and consolidated after a collapse at Easter 2019. A chamber above is sketched on the survey in red.

All these dives were carried out in zero visibility due to wood pulp washed in from forestry works on the surface. (A letter, maps and a sample of the contamination (60cm deep in the sumps) were delivered to the Consejería del Medio Rural, Pesca y Alimentación on 25th April, 2018 and replied 18th May. Both advisory letter and reply are in the Easter 2018 logbook. Another letter was received (dated 29th October, 2018) basically stating that no problems had been found when holes over the pollution site were inspected and no further action was to be taken. This letter can be seen in the Autumn 2018 logbook. [This screenshot](#) shows *Sarah Jean Inlet* passing close to eucalyptus forest that, around Easter 2018, was being felled - on both sides of the valley that drops to Cueva de Regato, [site 3494](#).)

Summer 2018 explorations Diving continued as Jim Lister and Mark Smith, not finding their way through the "final" sump 5B, explored passage to the right. A climb up leads to rift passage that intersects an aven (12-15m or "at least 20m" high) with a shower of water coming down. The aven rock is a very light grey colour with many fossils - very different from the smooth brown walls on the way leading to it. A climb to the left of the aven closes in. A climb on the right, under an arch, leads two-thirds of the way up the shaft. Carrying on under the arch, the passage continues as a rift to a stal, where exploration stopped at a "reasonably small rift but still has a stream". This extension was surveyed as batch 18-04, length 172m).

Sump 5B was passed by Jim Lister on a solo trip and described as "roomy but contains much silt and cross rifts". The sump ends in a 30m wide cross rift where the right hand side has an inlet passage 2m wide and 3m high heading off just above water level. Above the diver's guide line, a short climb up leads to 3m of large passage ending in a 15m wide, draughting aven (*Gwynt O'r Hefoedd* (Wind from the Heights) - or *GH Aven* for short!) where the top cannot be seen, being beyond the range of a Scurion light. (August 2023: an emergency survival poncho and fins along with brew kit have been left at downstream sump 5B and a full dive reel and snoopy loops at upstream sump 5B.)

Easter & summer 2019 explorations and survey Jim Lister and Mark Smith surveyed batches 19-01 and 19-03 giving 722m + 236m, total=958m. The passage descriptions below are edited from logbook entries.

After the steep climb up to **GH Aven**, a DistoX reading was taken up the curved aven. The reading had to be taken off the wall which was "only" 43 meters. The aven is 6m diameter. The aven has been bolted up 17m to a 2ft wide ledge, where a permanent traverse line is installed, giving access to a suitable rigging point to install a free hanging permanent rope. (August 2023: an emergency "Blizzard" bag - 4 season tinfoil sleeping bag - left at bottom of GH Aven.)

The inlet beyond *GH Aven* - at the moment - is the main exploration route. This passage starts a couple of meters wide

and has a gravel floor and a stream emitting from it. It meanders along with stalagmites suspended from the ceiling and some areas being very well decorated. The passage then splits at a 4-way junction called **Junction 75** after the station number. (*GH Aven* and the first exploration up this passage to Junction 75 can be [seen on video](#).)

- The right hand inlet continues with the rock changing and becoming more eroded. A few deep pools are encountered and passed until a tight vertical slot is reached. This is best passed by lifting your legs up and floating through on your side. The passage goes for some distance until it changed to a hands and knee crawl where the survey finishes and the streamway continues.

- The passage leading off to the left (west then southwest), going up stream at *Junction 75*, is the main streamway for *Sarah Jean Inlet*. The passage starts off wide with a good ankle to knee deep stream running over a gravel floor. It then divides at a further junction, the right hand side becomes shoulder width wide but higher. The rock is light grey in colour and has a rough, wetsuit abrading surface. The stream runs beneath, down a tight slot out of sight. The passage then becomes wider and straighter with right angle bends. It gives a good echo and, eventually, a cascade can be heard in the distance. The way on here was originally barred by a band of sharp and brittle, dark brown rock which filled the passage almost completely! It looked like the end but Jim was able to climb up the sides of the passage which was 9m(?) high. Enough of the brittle rock was knocked off to squeeze through. After an unpleasant climb down the other side, there is a chamber with a cascade tumbling down the left hand wall. This is again climbed up horrible brown rock to an ongoing stream way with a big void above. There is a bigger route through and, at the top of the cascade, there is a pleasant, wide, walking passage of good proportions! This ends in a boulder choke just after an elbow. There is a gap going into large, continuing passage but it needs capping. [On the way out, Jim fell as the foothold he was using failed and he fell on his back winding himself. No major damage was done but it's a warning that the dark rock is lethal.]

Capping occurred in August 2019 to avoid climbing up the loose sides, and Jim (solo) was able to enter and survey **The Hippodrome** and beyond as batch 19-05, 178m. A tight, capped squeeze through the vertical boulders leads into a well proportioned passage running at right angles to the passage leading in. Turning left (east) leads up a boulder slope to a choke. Turning right leads to a downwards slope which ends at a clay floor which needs further investigation around the edges. Straight across from the breakthrough point, a passage continues under the wall and steeply down a boulder slope. A junction is reached and the stream can be seen leading off on the right. The left passage was followed and a chamber reached. At the far end, a 3m climb up is avoided by an excavated crawl on the right. A small chamber is reached where the cave changes character and becomes gnarly. After twists and bends a short, flat out restriction is passed into a stooping passage which shortly reaches a climb down on loose, sharp rock to a chamber with a stream entering from the left. This is probably the main way on. Rocks need to be moved for access. Going straight ahead a sandy passage behind boulders closes down after 4m. To the right, going downstream for several metres, a junction is met - the left hand is an inlet that looks promising (but chert would need to be knocked off at one point to enable access. The left hand downstream passage passes an awkward arch before ending in a low sump which probably joins the unexplored passage described on the left on the way in.

[*Description of the Hippodrome and beyond by Jim Lister, logbook entry, 6/8/2019.*]

- The final, southeast-heading route out from *Junction 75*. The passage gets wide before going back to its average dimensions. A sandy crawl is passed on the right which is not surveyed but goes after a short distance to a aven which is well decorated although, looking up, there is no obvious way on. However, the bottom of the aven 4 meters below may have? Continuing along the main passage it splits into two. The left hand passage continues unexplored but looks promising. The right hand passage narrows and becomes taller before widening again. A further junction is met with two passages leading off - the passage at floor level is a hands and knees crawl to low air space; the passage above is an awkward 2m climb to a sandy floored walking / stooping passage. The passage lowers and widens out and, just past some large diameter stals, a climb down leads to a hands and knees crawl through thick and smelly sludge, *The Sewer*.

This ends at a reasonable sized walking stream way, with both a down stream passage to the right and an upstream passage to the left. The right hand passage soon widens and lowers to a flooded passage with very limited air space and is believed to join the simpler passage mentioned earlier. The right hand passage continues for some distance eventually going through a duck and then, 10 minutes later, ending in a body-sized sump (sump 6b).

A climb up the left hand side of the chamber has been excavated through sand to gain access to a good sized chamber. The far left hand side has an aven which has water falling down it from an impenetrable slot. There is no apparent way on from the chamber. However, the far end does have a interesting 3m wide bedding with a sand floor and roof that disappears into the distance. Sadly, the 20cm height stops any progress but it may be a promising dig?

- In **August 2023**, Jim and Mark, on an overnight trip, pushed the extensions at the end of the *Sarah Jean Inlet* ([logbook](#), 3rd August, pp32-33). The open roof passage near station 75 was found to be an oxbow that bypassed the ducks and was surveyed as batch 23-01 - a 38m extension. The muddy crawl to sump 6b was found to be giving off "bad air". At the Hippodrome, where the high level choke may be a future dig, the southern-most question mark was pushed for a few metres and the 2 sumps were found to connect after the water turned "green and smelly" - another case of illegal dumping of farm waste? The best lead in SJ is now thought to be the climb in *GH Aven*.

Aerial panoramas and video fly-overs were taken over the 2018 end of *Sarah Jean Inlet*. These can be found on the [Aerial Panoramic Photos and Videos](#) page - 5 photos under the *SanAntonio-south* heading and 2 videos with the *Fuente Aguanaz (SJ)* heading.

Back in the **main passage**, the 25m long sump 2 was passed to approximately 300m of passage, ending at a boulder choke with a slight draught and one potential digging site. An extremely small, sharp sump continues at stream level. This was entered at Easter 2001 to an airbell to the right of the sump and then pushed in the summer to a "quite tight close down", 5m from the previous limit. Running water could be heard from the rockfall above. At Easter 2006, this seems to have been dived again.

There is a climb above sump 2 which needs attacking. The descriptions of the sump before the choke, the choke and the final upstream sump was confirmed by Jim Lister in August 2017. At Easter 2018, Jim and Mark Smith pushed the final sump, knocking off rock pendants to access an air surface with a left hand passage leading off for 3m to a sharp right hand bend where the sound of running water could be heard in the distance.

In the summer 2018, 5m progress was made after a duck under the left hand wall. Several rocks were capped to gain another 4m but the choke continued. This may be further pushed when water levels are lower to allow capping.

In the summer 2024, the area at the upstream end was re-examined by Jim and Mark and there was thought to be no possibility of extending the cave here. The logbook reads: *"The team carefully inspected the cave for leads in the terminal bolder choke, both above and below the water. Several large flakes of rock were moved from the end of sump 3 below the choke, but further digging was futile and the team believe passing the choke here is unviable. The area leading up to the choke was also searched with no success."*

Eastern Inlet

"The inlet on the left" after the second sump was pushed at Easter 2001. The passage continues tight through a few short climbs. A small chamber leads to a larger one with mud and boulder walls. A stream enters through the ceiling. The place smells of "outside". This also appears to have been entered at Easter 2018 where it was followed for 90m to a rift which was climbed following the water to a tight window. A chamber with a good echo could be seen beyond but capping is necessary to gain access. This was capped in August 2018 to enter a "modest chamber" and a 3m climb up to a crawl and a slightly larger chamber with a 5-6m climb to a passage with a small stream. (As this was being climbed, a handhold gave way and Mark Smith fell face down onto a rock. The chamber was named *Rudolf Chamber* and the passageway out, *Galería de Vampire*. The *Eastern Inlet* was later surveyed as batch 18-06, length 81m.

Summer '24 Inlet

The entry point to this 523m inlet series, explored by Jim and Mark, is about 2/3rds of the way towards *Sarah Jean Inlet* from sump 1. Two versions of the final drawing are available: [pdf](#) and [svg](#) with some different labels. The following description is based on 7 extensive logbook entries by Jim Lister.

The inlet passage sets off on the true right hand side, climbing over some big boulders before dropping back down to the gravel stream bed, 4 to 5 metres further along. The passage here is a comfortable walking size being a metre wide and 3 metres tall, The passage then starts to meander until the **first junction** is met.

The stream way continues to the **left** and is a comfortable walking size although smaller than the passage leading up to it. It can be followed as walking and crawling sized passage with a rock floor and a small active stream. The passage meandered for a distance of around 100 metres were it ended in a small chamber 4 metres by 4 metres in size. A waterfall, 2.9 metres high, fall from a passage partially blocked by antler rock. It could be seen continuing, but a lump hammer would be needed to enable access.

A small side passage near the start was investigated, but terminated at a very small pool / sump, a short way along.

Back at the **first junction**, the passage to the **right** is of similar proportions but is sloping upwards and the floor is of sand and occasionally gravel, it meanders along and then descends slightly. Water from upstream descends down a gravel sink. The next feature is a chamber where sharp, brittle, sand-coloured rock has to be negotiated. This is soon passed and another chamber is reached which has a sand bank and a rock outcrop with a baseball sized rock balanced on top, hence its name "*Wobble Rock Chamber*". Looking backwards above you, it is possible to see a passage leading off in the roof above the passage were you entered.

The way on is by following some hands on knees crawls to "*Three Way Chamber*" which has a near vertical passage in the roof and a blind passage to the right. The way on is to the far left up a sand slope which leads to walking size passage. A very deep impenetrable slot in the floor is then passed on the left, it emits a loud rumbling sound.

A **junction** is then met. The **right** hand passage continues for more than 100m and is extremely tall but narrow. The floor is soiled rock or mud covered rock. A slot is passed in the floor that emits a loud roaring noise. Further along, a passage drops down in the floor heading back under you but would need capping.

The very narrow, smooth passage then meets a blockage at the western end, with some air movement. The block was later capped and the route can be followed for 30m (unsurveyed) and ends in a small chamber.

Back at the previous **junction**, a rock blockage on the **left** has been removed with a lump hammer and the "*Journey to Kerplunk*" entered. After a short distance, a chamber is reached. At the end, the passage meanders before a hole in the floor is seen. This is not big enough to enter, but a walking sized passage with a cobbled floor can be seen 3 to 4 metres below. The passage then meets a big chamber with a 4 metre climb down to reach the floor. An impenetrable crack beneath the climb emits the sound of a streamway. The chamber is then crossed by climbing over boulders to get to the far end. (There is a route under them but it's safer to go over the top?). A passage the size of the entrant passage leads off a roof height, but the main way on seems to be a 4m climb up to a walking size passage ("*Babybel Cheese Passage*") that ends at a squeeze through fallen clay and rocks. This was enlarged to reach a void. Above, with a good draught, is a slot to a large space in the roof which was blocked by a boulder. After a few hours of capping, the bottom of an aven was accessed.

The right hand side has a sand and bolder slope which can be climbed to a ledge. After careful looking around on full light beam, a side passage is seen. This was originally bolted to, and another hour was spent capping it. Good progress was made but the team ran out of caps! The passage has a strong draught and looks a lot larger a few metres in.

On the next trip, the this passage at the top of the aven was capped, working off etriers. After 5 metres the capped route enters a 5 metre by 3 metre high passage ("*Thunder Passage*"), the floor being made of boulders with a 10 metre drop between many of them. This passage continues to a shaft, the height of which cannot be seen, but appears to be 10 metres deep, the base being flat, water washed gravel. Opposite, at the same height as the entrance passage, is a streamway, being 3 metres wide by 5

metres high. It has a small stream emitting from it which falls to the gravel below. This passage can be seen heading off for some way, the rock changing from a brown colour to a dark grey with what looks like fossils embedded in it.

The next trip saw the pitch in the floor being traversed and the pitch could be seen to be blind, with the water sinking into the gravel floor at its base. The passage on the other side ends after a few metres in an aven approximately 16 metres high. This was bolted to a height of 9 metres before the team ran out of through bolts. (See photos below.)

At the top of the aven, the stream passage can be followed 10 metres to a large boulder choke. The route upward enters a large void with a steeply ascending, unstable, bolder ramp to the right hand side - "*Kerplunk*". To the left a comparatively narrow 1.5 metre wide slot descends, presumably back to the top of the climbed aven. Two passages can be seen at the top. The right hand one has been bolted as it emits the water. Just beyond the slot in the floor, a solid passage seems to end at a blank wall, although a passage in the roof looks big. Access would require bolting 3 to 4 metres.

Kerplunk, the large, loose, boulder choke ramp has been climbed, not without unwanted excitement due to it being very loose. A number of large voids have been entered and passed. Around 15 metres of height have been gained until a climb up is reached onto a caravan-sized boulder wedged 3 metres up. Above this, a big aven ("*Starlight Aven*") continues up 60m+ with water falling.

NOTES: Further progress could have been made but was not undertaken, as the *Kerplunk* choke is very unstable. Rescue from such a large and unstable choke in such a remote location, would be very unlikely. The team (Jim and Mark) will not be returning to the choke. On the way out on the final trip, another solid section of cave (chamber with pitch) could be seen and would need to be entered by descending a 3 metre slot. However, a very unstable section of choke would need to be passed by anyone intending to do this! Further "thoughts" are divulged on page 12 of the [logbook](#).

Compared to [Torca La Vaca](#), about 1.5km to the east, Fuente Aguanaz is a disappointment. There would appear to be no reason why this cave should not have (a number of) high levels. Perhaps the western extensions in 2009 have started to reveal these. More climbing up from the stream level and investigating avens is required.

Middle entrance (#5452)

There was apparently no account of the upstream passage from the middle entrance being explored until the summer 2013. Some [photos](#) were taken near the downstream end; [more photos](#) have now been taken and the [passage surveyed](#). The upstream sump was inspected at the end of July 2014, but no dive was made.

A small hole on the east bank of the resurgence is the entrance to [Invisible Cave](#), site 3283, a stream passage apparently not connected to Fuente Aguanaz but probably connected in the past as an inlet, before Fuente Aguanaz entrance cut back.

A diagram of the hydrology of the San Antonio - Hornedo - Cobadal area drawn after Easter 2011 can be found [here](#).

Over three days in July 2011, the supposed upstream course of Fuente Aguanaz (or, at least, part of it) was dowsed. The furthest point reached was a small sink close to the entrance of the Sumidero de Cobadal. A number of inlets and sinks were also highlighted. See the links below.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [Cawthorne R, 1987](#); [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Davis J and Corrin J, 1989](#); [Corrin J, 1990](#); [Corrin J, 1992b \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1994b \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1995b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995a \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1996 \(survey\)](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997c](#); [anon., 2001a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003a](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003c](#); [anon., 2005c \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2006a](#); [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2007](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [anon., 2008e \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2008f \(autumn logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2009](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2010](#); [anon., 2010b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\) \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2011](#); [anon., 2011d \(summer logbook\)](#); [Ruiz Cobo J and Muñoz Fernández E, 2013](#); [anon., 2013d \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2014c \(summer logbook\)](#); [Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014](#); [anon.,](#)

2016b (Easter logbook); anon., 2016d (autumn logbook); anon., 2017b (Easter logbook); anon., 2017c (summer logbook); anon., 2018b (Easter logbook); anon., 2018c (summer logbook); anon., 2018d (autumn logbook); anon., anon., 2018e (Christmas logbook); anon., 2019b (Easter logbook); anon., 2019d (summer logbook); anon., 2022b (Easter logbook); anon., 2022c (summer logbook); anon., 2022d (autumn logbook); anon., 2023c (summer logbook); anon., 2024a (January, February logbook); anon., 2024d (summer logbook); anon., 2024f (Christmas logbook)

Entrance pictures : middle entrance batch 1 : batch 2 : top entrance : top entrance (2018) : bottom entrance : while water tracing, Easter 2016 : graffiti and water levels, April 2018 : summer 2022 : 360° photos, autumn 2022

January 2024

Underground picture(s): yes : optical brightener test 2006 : fossils 2009 : upstream from the middle entrance 2009 : western inlet extensions Easter 2010

upstream and downstream from the middle entrance 2013 : Sarah Jean Inlet extension, April 2018 : 2024 summer

Video: Resurgence and information boards : Exchanging cotton wool detectors during an OBA test :

Upstream of resurgence and middle entrance (YouTube) : moderate flood at San Antonio (YouTube) : Equipment test at sump 5B (YouTube)

Exploration Easter 2017 by Jim Lister with Dan Hibberts (YouTube) 1 : 2 : 3 : 4 : 5 : 6

Easter 2018 extension to Sarah Jean Inlet (YouTube): Flooding at the entrance, April 2018 (YouTube)

2018 summer (YouTube) : Pushing at the southern choke area : Eastern Inlet - Vampire Passage : Line problems at sump 5B, Sarah Jean Passage : Aven @ western extremity

top entrance, 2018(YouTube) : Easter 2019 - First exploration between GH Aven and Junction 75 (YouTube) : entrance, moderate flow December 2023 (YouTube)

Detailed Survey : 1:1000 (notes from 2009, 2010 to be drawn up) : passage upstream of the resurgence, 2013 : complete system after Easter 2017 extensions

after summer 2018 extensions : further labelling, January 2019 : after Easter 2019 : after summer 2019 : after summer 2024

Original drawings (with some differing labels) of the summer 2024 inlet beyond sump 1 - pdf and svg (zoom out to view)

Line Survey : on whole area survey

On area survey : Survex 3d file showing Hornedo and San Antonio areas (after summer 2019)

Dowsing reactions close to this cave : All dowsing reactions in the supposed Fuente Aguanaz catchment. (Article about the dowsing carried out in July 2011 can be found [here](#).) : beneath a 3D landscape (Therion file, January 2012)

Survex file : 2024s (after summer 2024) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid.)

Passage direction rose diagram: 30/6/2018

X

0714: cave

Piluca 30T 451678 4794011 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: M) **Altitude** 588m

Length 60m **Depth** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th October 2010; 5th, 13th May 2019; 6th January 2024

A small rift entrance leads to a climb which gets bigger. A 5m pitch onto a steep calcite slope leads to a 10m pitch into a large decorated chamber with a dog skeleton. The quoted length is a guess.

Tagged 714.

Searches in December 2018, April 2019 and December 2023 failed to find the site.

Reference: anon., 1988 (logbook) (survey); anon., 2010c (summer logbook); anon., anon., 2018e (Christmas logbook); anon., 2019b (Easter logbook); anon., 2023e (Christmas logbook)

Entrance picture :

Underground pictures: yes

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0715: shaft

La Secada 30T 451177 4797582 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 270m

Length 291m **Depth** 110m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 13 February 1998; 16th October 2001; 7th May 2002; 18th October 2003; 2nd May 2004; 1st February, 18th May 2006

A definitive account should be written for this hole.

Approached from the first hairpin, [site 415](#) is approx. 90m away on 230°.

An excavated entrance which leads to a fine Yorkshire pot with good hangs for SRT. The first 11m drop is free climbable by jamming. This leads to a tight slot which opens out to the second 8.4m pitch. This ends on a pinnacle and a climb down through a rift to the head of the third, 7m pitch. The base of this is a level of some horizontal development at 245m altitude.

MATIENZO UNDERGROUND site descriptions (printed 28/02/2025)

328

At Easter 2006 "rigged down 3 pitches and swung into bedding crawl. Rope for traverse was still hanging around so went across the traverse and up the rift beyond. Checked out the two inlets". The smaller one of these was [pushed and dug until more rocks blocked the way](#).

Pitches of 13m, 8,4m and 18m follow in quick succession to a 5m free climb down to pools and an impenetrable slot.

Avens at the base of the 3rd pitch have not been climbed. A passage on the left at the 3rd pitch base meanders up dip to a calcited choke. The down dip continuation across a rock bridge and is a body sized hole.

The "same pitch?" shown on the [survey](#) was investigated in 2003 and found to true. At Easter 2004, passages "found last year off the traverse" and 20m of new passage at the bottom were surveyed but not drawn up.

The cave is formed on one joint (130° - 310°) with an inlet entering down dip (15°) and has no connection with [site 415](#).

Reference: [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); material in file; [Corrin J, 1994a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995b](#); [anon., 1997b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2000b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2004b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2005](#); [anon., 2006b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [distant](#) [close up](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:500 \(year 1993\)](#) [1:500 \(plan drawn 2002\)](#) [1:500 \(elevation drawn 2002\)](#)

[small extension sketch 2006](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid.)

[X](#)

0716: dig

Seldesuto 30T 449338 4794791 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 265m

Length 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Track is followed up from Seldesuto car park, taking a right turn until a barbed wire "gate" is reached. Walk up the hill for 100m to the most easterly large tree. The slot is 25m up and to the left of the tree.

The hole on the left was dug to a 2m cube chamber and a body sized tube entered to a 1.5m choked drop. The hole on the right of the slot was dug in two places to reveal a solid, half arched wall on the right, filled with uncompacted limestone. However, what looks like a passage completely filled with compacted limestone is worthy of a return.

Reference: [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0717: shaft

Llueva 30T 454495 4798511 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 282m

Length 25m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 8th November 2006

Shaft on the downhill edge of the next tree-filled depression down valley from [Cueva del Hoyo Verde \(943\)](#). The shaft is boulder covered and descends 10m to a slope and choke. An aven to one side near the base is also blocked.

Reference: [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1994b](#);

Entrance picture: [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0718: cave

Riaño 30T 451560 4799731 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 173m

Length 72m **Depth** 7m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

[search](#)

Updated 16th April 2008; 25th April 2012; 16th May, 1st November 2015

The entrance is about 40m beyond the [Church Entrance](#) to [Cueva Hoyuca \(107\)](#). A

slope down over dry boulders leads to small passage which closes in after a rock flake. This description needs checking by Grov or Nigel D.

The cave was visited at Easter and October 2015 as a possible new entrance through Tilers' Way into Hoyuca. The muddy conditions at both ends suggests a probable link. In October, a small wet section with a mud floor and pendant, which would need a wet suit to pass, was reached. It looks similar to a corner previously seen in Tilers' Way. The original survey (from 1993, but not drawn up) ended at a sump. A resurvey was started in October 2015.

Reference: [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); material in file; [Corrin J, 1994a](#); [anon., 2008c \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2015b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid.)

X

0719: shaft

Alisas 30T 447648 4794841 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 534m

Length 15m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 5x2m shaft which chokes at 15m depth.

Tagged 719.

Reference: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0720: shaft

Alisas 30T 447658 4794861 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 528m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 6m shaft to a pebble-floored chamber and a series of blind pitches. Tagged 720.

Reference: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0721: shaft

Alisas 30T 447827 4794695 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 553m

Length 30m **Depth** 30m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 1st November 2015

A large rocky depression with tall trees and a walled up hole on the south side. A 25m drop followed by a 5m pitch to a choked floor. Much moonmilk. (An older grid reference is 30T 447838 4794741, but this probably put the shaft too far north).

Reference: [anon., 1988 \(logbook\)](#)(survey); [anon., 2015d \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0722: shaft

Alisas 30T 447761 4794613 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 563m

Length 15m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 1st November 2015; 16th October 2016

A 15m deep shaft with a twin shaft also choked. This couldn't be found at October 2015 because its grid reference was wrong. The shaft had been inadvertently rediscovered as site 4238 with the mix up realised in August 2016. It was re-explored then with a lucky escape for the explorer when the rock to which the rope was attached pulled out and fell down the entrance. The explorer fell a couple of metres while the rock belay fell down the other side of the underground flake.

Reference: anon., 1997c (Christmas logbook); anon., 1988 (logbook); anon., 2015d (autumn logbook); anon., 2016c (summer logbook)

Entrance pictures : 2015 & 2016

Video : [August 2016](#) (YouTube)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0723: cave

La Secada 30T 451542 4797106 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 265m

Length 19m **Depth** 7m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 25th September 2012; 13th

September 2019

Old description:

The original (Xmas '93) description has the entrance lying behind trees, partially blocked with a wall. A climb up calcite at the rear of the cave chokes at gours. A slot on the right at floor level leads to a pool. The grid reference was VN51629733 Alt. 270m; ETRS89: 30T 451518 4797121.

The site was probably refound by crawling under vegetation in the summer 2012 to a small face with slabs covering a small climb down. The GPS is shown at the top and photo below.

Definitive description:

Two entrances in the same shakehole, one partly covered with the slabs and the other a short drop into a small passage. The cave is probably best explored by dropping carefully between the slabs (they seem stable enough). The passage slopes down to a small chamber, at the bottom of a 3m pitch from the second entrance. A crawl under the east wall leads to a low chamber with formations.

Reference: card; material in file; [anon., 2012d](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2019d](#) (summer logbook)

Entrance picture : [2012 & 2019](#)

Underground picture(s): [2019](#)

Detailed Survey : [2019](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [2019](#)

X

0724: cave

El Naso 30T 451918 4796871 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 264m

Length 45m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 17th September 2000; 13th May

2019

The most easily located entrance is an ample rock shelter with a crawl which has been partially walled-off. The crawl ends at a squeeze into a well decorated chamber, with a slope up to the top entrance on the left and another crawl on the right.

Near to sites [736](#) and [737](#).

Reference: material in file; [anon., 2000c](#) (Summer logbook); [anon., 2019b](#) (Easter logbook)

Entrance picture : [lower entrance](#) : [top entrance](#)

[\(2000 & 2019\)](#)

Underground pictures: [2019](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0725: cave

Ozana 30T 455433 4794703 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 432m

Length 30m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 22nd April 2016; 27th November

2024

[A previous grid reference put the cave at 30T

455478 4794711.]

A short slope drops to the base of another short ramp which is choked. On the right is an 8m pitch into a large, well decorated chamber ending in a steep slope of flowstone and gours.

Reference: material in file; [anon., 2016b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2024e](#) (autumn logbook)

Entrance picture : [2016 and 2024](#)

Underground picture(s): [autumn 2024](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0726: Charcas, Cueva de las

El Naso 30T 451957 4796560 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 336m

Length 88m **Depth** 7m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 20th June 2021; 11th September, 3rd November 2021; 8th January 2022

The entrance may be difficult to find being a flat out crawl into a small chamber - the grid reference was updated in January 2022. Beyond a stal grill lies the main chamber, which is well decorated and contains cave pearls. At the end, two routes lead into the final chamber. The site was resurveyed for a centre line in the Spring, 2021 and photographed the following August and December.

Reference: material in file; [anon., 2021b \(Spring logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021d \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2021f \(Christmas logbook\)](#); Scaife C, 2022

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s): [August 2021](#) : from [Facebook](#)

Detailed Survey : [1993](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [2021](#)

[X](#)

0727: Molino, Cueva del (2024 (French: SCD))

Bustablado 30T 448448 4792181 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 225m

Length 2350m (including the resurgence, [0791](#))

Depth 123m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Resources](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 28th February 1998; 19th February; 17th December 1999; 21st January 2001; 12th May, 30th October 2002; 20th December 2008; 6th January, 5th, 11th October 2011; 25th September 2012; 4th March, 24th April 2013; 5th January 2015; 10th February 2016; 30th June, 22nd September 2018; 24th May 2021; 14th November 2022

This site has great potential as it has at least 3 levels, the lowest of which carries the water which resurges at [site 0791](#). Diving before 2011 had reached 340m in, at a lowest depth of -82m. Diving in 2011 significantly extended this (see below).

The obvious [entrance](#) lies 5m above the road, 40m west of a track down to the river. The easiest route to the cave is to walk a few metres up a track on the northern side then turn left along a faint path through the trees. The entrance is usually strongly draughting. A temperature of 11.9C has been recorded. A second entrance is [site 5250](#).

A stooping walk-in leads past 1930's graffiti on the right, past another entrance coming in from the left and then slopes down to where the river might be heard in wet weather. The route passes holes on the left where the water can be seen below and reaches a very steep slope up with a fixed ladder.

A wriggle up through an [enlarged squeeze](#) enters a higher series, 6m above. Up to the right, and right again a large chamber lies over the previously traversed passage and contains some formations. The calcite wall at the start of the chamber has seen climbing (by the Catalans?). This was re-climbed in the summer of 2002 and the bolted route ended about 20m up with 3m of passage and a dead bat. At the far end of the large chamber, a small hole on the right leads to a 5m vertical climb up into a smaller chamber with nice stal in the centre and some helictites on the northern wall.

Turning right and then left at the top of the rope climb enters an oxbow to the main route. After 10m, on the right, a squeeze over blocks enters small passage which finishes at a small climb up. The route swings down to the left and just before meeting the main passage, a slither up a strongly draughting, sloping passage enters a small chamber and a narrow, draughting continuation. This carries on beyond station 17 and needs pushing.

Back at the top of the rope climb, the usual way on is up a 2m climb and along a pot-holed passage. An oxbow links in on the left and, after 20m, the oxbow passage mentioned above enters on the right. The stooping passage continues to a hole on the left into a 15m high chamber with a mud floor. The far end has a squeeze up into a small chamber. The northwestern side of the chamber slopes up to an alternative route through to the end. This is joined by crawling through into a strongly draughting passage with knobbly limestone and meeting the alternate route at a corner.

There are a couple of links down to the alternative way along its length. The route then slopes down to a stooping height area with a pit straight ahead and a choked passage to the right.

On the left are the small entries to *Fool's Paradise*, discovered at Easter 1997. This enters a hading rift which pops out in the side of a large passage. A rope descent of 3m enters over 150m of "handsome-sized" passages. There is a bolt route which needs following.

Back in the main passage, following the right hand wall down to the left in a [high rift](#) leads to a drop into water; following the left hand wall leads to a climb down over boulders to the same water. At the top of this climb, a roomy passage back under the main route drops down over a watery pit to a sandy-floored passage (sumps in wet weather) to a muddy pool with slippery climb to nowhere above.

Back at the water, the flow emerges on the left and sumps again to the right in a roomy chamber. Straight ahead, the route leads to a large chamber, meeting the final large sump pool beyond boulders. The chamber slopes up to the northeast to a T junction. On the right, a roomy passage becomes too small to the east after 70m, after passing through a knobbly limestone lens. The left hand passage at the T junction drops down to tight rifts and pools. Standing at the top of the sump chamber slope an interesting holes are seen on the western wall which were climbed and bolted to at Easter 97, but end at a boulder choke.

A climb up on the left of the northern slope ends high up above the sump pool at a bolted traverse, carried out during the summer 1997, which heads off above the sump but chokes as it swings back to the west. A bouldery passage also heads back south and ends at a pitch down to the climbs high up on the southern wall of the sump chamber. The northwest limits of this high level route end very close to breakdown passages in [Cueva Sebo \(site 1099\)](#) above.

The cave was entered at Whit 95 to look at the final upstream sump. This was found to have thin nylon line tied off. The resurgence, [Cueva del Molino \(resurgence\) \(791\)](#), was dived for 50m.

In August 1996, Rupert Skorupka dived at the final sump after an easy 20 minute carry. The old 2mm line immediately dips down into a superb, arched tunnel, 3m high by 5m wide. Within 70m, a depth of 22.5m had been reached and the line continued steeply down to at least -30m.

The dive was continued over Christmas 96. The thin French line ended at a lead weight at about -28m. The sump continues in a fine gravel-floored tube, the walls sometimes not seen in the 6m visibility. At -50m the smooth wall of a massive swirl-chamber can be followed around in a semi-circle, where a further slope leads down to -55m. The floor levels and rises over a pile of sharp edged flakes. The passage then appears to continue level at -50m. The January 97 limit is therefore 150m from base and -51m.

The dive was continued at Easter 97 to a small ascent up a boulder slope to -47m where the passage sloped down in a massive arched, sand-floored tunnel with the occasional slab. Beyond the 190m mark the passage appears to close down but 20m back, the right hand wall slopes down over a massive boulder slope, with far wall and roof out of sight. At 200m from base, a depth of 60m is reached. Beyond, the boulder slope continues sloping down, the blocks petering out and at 260m in, a depth of 70.5m is reached. The boulder slope is seen to rise ahead.

The dives during the summer, 1997, increased the dive length to 340m after passing a deep point of -82m. The passage continues. In 1999 a series of dives to extend the cave failed due to a combination of various factors: poor visibility, equipment failure and unbalanced bottles. Diving continued with little progress due to poor visibility and flooding but, in 2003, he extended the dive to 390m at -82m.

The underwater upstream route was significantly extended by Chris Jewell and Artur Kozlowski over 2 dives near the end of August 2011. Rebreathers were used by both divers. On the first trip they reached -95m (after the water level had risen). On the second dive Chris surveyed the area of the connection with Rupert's dive while Artur pushed on to a 30m upward shaft. He ran out of line after 400m, reaching a depth of -12m, having passed through -93m. Artur's 6 hour dive profile can be seen in a discussion on the [Irish Technical Diving](#) site. These dives produced 645m of new (underwater) passage and the sump has been dived for a total of 885m, still continuing. The deepest point is around -93m (depending on the water level) which is 122.5m below the

entrance and at an altitude of 96.6m. An [account of the 2011 dives](#) is available.

A long solo dive by Chris Jewell (supported in the base pool by Laura Trowbridge) in July 2012, passed Artur's limit by (an unsurveyed) 40m but it appears that the main way on has been missed although much searching occurred at -6m. The end of the line is now 925m from base. A [log of the 2012 dive](#) is available along with a [combined survey](#).

The upstream passage is heading in the general direction of the Sumidero de Orcones ([3602](#)), a site at Bustablado being explored and dived by French cavers. An [area map with centre lines](#) (only partial for Orcones) and a [section through Molino and Orcones](#) (again only partial) has been plotted. According to Guy Simonnot (*pers. comm.* October 2011) it is likely that the flow in Molino can be accounted for by Orcones and "the collector - Cantu Pasillo Encarmado." He continues, paraphrased, for cavities such as Vallina we may need to think about another source (resurgence) - which would suit me better geologically." An [updated area map](#), with Orcones dived closer to Molino and a supposed inlet (from [Torca del Hoyón?](#)), was also received.

Articles produced as part of Sedeck meeting in Ramales, 2014 ([Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014](#) and Simonnot Guy, 2014) also examine the role of Molino as a possible resurgence for Orcones and systems to the south of Bustablado (on the west flank of the Asón).

All the dry passages described above are above the river series which runs through the cave. This aqueous series of passages is described coming downstream from the final chamber complex.

Sump 1 is a delightfully inviting sump. A low section through blocks soon enlarges in a sloping chamber at - 9m. At 40m a choke is met and the way on is down a steep rock slope to a cobble-floored chamber at -20m. The sump then takes the form of a big tube in perfect black limestone, gradually ascending to surface after a total of 130m in a shingle-floored pool. The downstream section is too small to explore in a dry suit but is only a short distance to the next sump.

Sump 2 was explored upstream, but described downstream as 37m long and 6m deep emerging in a beautiful deep blue swirl pool, 5m in diameter. This is the hole seen below the rope climb.

Downstream, 25m of passage leads to sump 3 which is also a very clean dive with an abundance of fossils. The deepest point is at -8 at a small arch over cobbles and it surfaces after 40m in a point where it is possible to climb down to water from the higher level.

About 30m of open, potholed streamway slopes away to a bouldery area which has a couple of unsurveyed sections and then the passage bends to the right. On this corner it is likely that the very first link from the high level enters. The streamway continues with the water on the right for 20m until a deep, long sump pool is reached. This point is 140m from the resurgence (site 791).

During a significant flood, at Easter 2013, Rupert observed that the Molino stream was swollen and very milky (from snow melt?). [Comellantes](#) stream was also swollen but quite clear (from flood water). Looking at where the snow remains: Molino water is coming from the Porracolina (S) side of the Bustablado valley and Comellantes accounts for all the drainage to the north of the Bustablado valley, ie [Vallina](#), South Vega and unknown systems.

[Loriol B de, 1959](#) has a description which needs translating. The French survey appears to be at a different angle from the new survey.

[Degouve de Nuncques Patrick et Simonnot Guy, 1989](#) indicates that the Spéléo-Club de Dijon were exploring the cave from 1958 to 1961, April 1979, August 1980 and April 1985. The downstream sump was dived to the source in 1979 and the upstream sump for 40m (to -22m) in 1980.

The cave has been mentioned as an archaeological site with pottery sherds and human remains. More details can be found in *Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 2007* and *Smith P, Corrin J and Ruiz Cobo J, 2008*.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

References: [Loriol B de, 1959](#); material in file; [Degouve de Nuncques Patrick et Simonnot Guy, 1989](#); [Corrin J, 1994b](#) (survey); [anon., 1995b](#) (Whit logbook); [anon., 1996b](#) (logbook); [anon., 1996c](#) (Christmas logbook); [anon., 1997a](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 1997b](#) (logbook); [Corrin Juan, 1998](#) (survey and photo); [García José León, 1997](#) (survey); [Algueró, A, Martínez, C and Garcia, A, 1998](#) (survey and photo); [Corrin Juan, 1997c](#); [anon., 1999c](#) (logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2000](#); [anon., 2002b](#) (summer logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#); [Ruiz Cobo](#)

Jesús, 2007; [Smith P, Corrin J and Ruiz Cobo J, 2008](#); León García José, 2010 (Volume 1 and Volume 2) (survey); [anon., 2011d](#) (summer logbook); pers. comm. (Oct. 2011); ; [anon., 2011e](#) (autumn logbook); [anon., 2012d](#) (summer logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2013a](#); [anon., 2013b](#) (Easter logbook); [Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014](#); [Simonnot Guy, 2014](#); [Simonnot G, 2016](#); [Simonnot G, 2018](#); [Simonnot G, 2022](#)

Logbook dive entries : [2011](#) : [2012](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s) : [photos from 1977](#) :

[photos from 1996 and 1997](#) : [photos from 2002](#)

Video: [Diving, August 2011, with Chris Jewell and Artur Kozlowski](#) (YouTube) : [Chris Jewell interview](#)

[2012](#) (YouTube)

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#) (without the 2011

extension) : [2012 40m upstream sump extension](#)

[sketch](#) : [combined surveys \(to 2012\)](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : [2011 area map to \(partial\)](#)

[Orcones](#) : [2011 section with partial Orcones](#) : after

[Guy Simonnot communication](#) (October 2011)

Survex file : [Molino](#) (Amended magnetic declination

December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid.)

[Molino with Sebo, Hoyon, Vallina and Orcones](#)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0728: shaft

La Secada 30T 452408 4797941 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 286m

Length 25m **Depth** 25m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

The entrance is on the hill which contains [Cueva de los Emboscados \(087\)](#). A 5m pitch leads to a boulder floor and a traverse in a rift. Descended in three places: the far end for a few feet before it becomes too tight; a second which becomes too tight after 5m and a third which drops for 20 - 25m in a choked rift with the draught disappearing into the boulder floor.

A mucky, no-hoper.

References: [anon., 1988](#) (logbook); [anon., 1991](#)

(logbook)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0729: Domingo Lopez, Cueva de (Prado de Arriba Casa, Cueva de) (Aro, Cueva del)

San Mames 30T 458310 4800684 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 64m

Length 287m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 4th October 2007; 23rd May 2009

A 5x10m passage which appeared to close down after about 80m when first explored. Copper or Bronze Age pottery (Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009) was found on a ledge and in a rift near the end of the cave.

In 2007, the cave was explored up a climb over a large boulder into a continuing large, well decorated passage that ends at a soil choke. A ball of string was discovered part way along - presumably left by the original explorers.

Reference: [anon., 1988](#) (logbook); [anon., 2007d](#)

(summer logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2007a](#) (survey);

Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al,

2009 (survey, but wrong);

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500 pdf](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89

datum, April 2014.)

X

0730: shaft

Muela 30T 455253 4796438 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 615m

Length 50m **Depth** 25m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 13th May 2011; 25th September 2012

Marked "AA52". A 6m free-climb with window to parallel shaft descending another 3m.

When explored in 2012, the site either dropped down a pitch to a ledge at 5m or was a 3m climb into a small chamber. A p16 then drops down a vertical face to enter a large (c30m diameter) chamber. The ceiling height is a maximum of 10m and the chamber is extremely well decorated. A crawl on the left hand side goes to a small grotto.

References: anon., 1988(logbook); anon., 1989 (logbook); anon., 2011b (Easter logbook); anon., 2012d (summer logbook); Corrin Juan, 2013a

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [sketch](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0731: Helguera, Cueva de

Llueva 30T 456498 4798041 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 176m

Length 42m **Depth** 2m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 6th November 2004; 16th May 2009

The cave, consisting mainly of stooping and short crawls, contains deposits which might be dated to the Mesolithic and Medieval, with oyster shells, flints and pottery.

Reference: [GEISC/R and CAEAP, 1986 \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Muñoz Fernández Emilio et al, 2009 (survey)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0732: cave

S Vega 30T 451418 4794111 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 555m

Length 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 27th October, 11th November 2001; 12th November 2002; 22nd

December 2008; 24th April 2013

A small cave which probably acts as a wet-weather sink. [Fragments of medieval pottery](#) (the mouth of a glazed pot, no younger than the thirteenth century) were found among boulders on the floor. The base of a pot was found at Easter 2013.

Reference: card; [anon., 1999c \(logbook\)](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001 (includes a line drawing); Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008; [anon., 2013b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0733: Vallina, Cueva (Valline,

Cueva) (2313 (French: SCD))

Arredondo top entrance 30T 450017 4792405.

Bottom Entrance ([site 4382](#)) 30T 450744 4792364

(Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitudes** 412

& 312m

Length 38591m (Sept 2024; includes [#0753](#)

[Rotura](#)) **Depth** 198m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Resources](#) :

[Logbook search](#)

Updated 30th August 1998; 19th February 1999; 9th January, 14th May 2000; 21st January, 23rd February , 5th May, 10th June, 16th October, 26th October 2001; 10th March, 6th May, 9th June, 11th November 2002; 24th January, 25th May, 18th October 2003; 7th January 2004; 3rd May, 13th June, 3rd July, 10th October, 6th November 2004; 30th July 2005; 1st February, 19th May, 4th October 2006; 5th, 28th October 2007; 22nd January, 2nd October 2008; 5th May, 2nd November 2009; 26th June 2010; 6th January, 28th June, 5th, 11th October 2011; 26th April, 25th September 2012; 24th April, 16th September 2013; 16th February, 16th May, 28th September, 17th October, 1st, 7th, 10th November, 5th December 2015; 10th February, 28th April, 9th May, 17th October, 5th, 30th November 2016; 21st May, 17th September, 18th November 2017; 16th February, 6th May, 28th, 30th June, 22nd September, 11th December 2018; 13th May, 26th July, 13th, 15th-17th September 2019; 30th October 2020; 20th June, 11th September, 16th November 2021; 9th January, 22nd February, 5th May, 4th, 10th, 12th June, 9th September, 25th November 2022; 19th February, 16th May, 2nd, 27th June, 20th September 2023; 17th February, 30th April, 11th, 15th, 29th May, 25th September, 27th November 2024; 26th February 2025

There are 4 entrances to the system.

(February 2025 - see below)

=====

=====

NOTE

Tocadome: before and beyond (This note appears on the latest survey - 27/6/2023)

In 2021, surveying by the ECT Vallina Project connected the Tocadome to "enters large shaft". The connecting points appeared to be about 90m apart on the drawn master survey. The issue is the quality / reliability of the '94, '95 and 2021 survey data. The data from the resurveyed passages often differs wildly from the previous survey - certainly bearings are different and possibly lengths. The new centre line for New York City illustrates this problem. The '21 data has been *EQUATE'd in 4 extra spots in order to make old and new survey "agree".

News about summer 2022 with survey data and subsequent trips is awaited(?).

An [exploration journal for 2023](#) is available. Videos and a photo from exploration in the Tocadome and Novadome can be seen [here](#). Survey data and drawings are to follow and should be assimilated and available in due course.

Links to [Exploration Diary 2021 : Exploration Diary 2021 with translation including notes and comments](#)

[Plans for 2022 : Explorations in 2023](#)

=====

Explorations to be incorporated into the description below:

2012 summer : RH Passage before Swirl Chamber. See [logbook 2/8/12](#)

=====

The **top entrance** lies hidden in trees a short walk down from a rough road (sign-posted *Colorado*) that sets off from the Arredondo-Alisas road. The entrance is a 15m wide gash which would have been used for shelter by people over the millennia and evidence of occupation has been found, both flints and Bronze Age pottery. The discovery, deep inside the cave, of a [small, whole pot \(cubilete\), possibly Bronze Age](#), led to the re-opening, after possibly thousands of years, of the **second, bottom entrance** (recently (2016) numbered [4382](#)). A **third entrance** to the system was opened up in Torca de Rotura ([0753](#)), October 2022. A combined Vallina-Rotura Survex centre line is shown below and further details, e.g. an elevation appear on the Rotura description page. (Nov 2022). The length addition to Vallina (c108m) has been added above. The connection area was inspected in February 2023 with a view to fully exploring and surveying. The 4th entrance is Cueva de la Rasa ([5135](#)).

The cave was first extended from the [top entrance](#) in 1989 by the British. The cave was then pushed in subsequent years by the Tortosa group for another 3km to about 12km. In 1994, after the downstream boulder choke was passed the previous year, some 7km of new cave was entered in joint trips with the Spaniards. The length includes 3.5km of Tortosa finds in the early 90's which have been mainly resurveyed and included. For the *Vallina Project 2021*, the Espeleo Club Tortosa (ECT) organised a number of cavers from various Catalan caving clubs (32 people in total) to push on at various places in Vallina II.

The top entrance was used to test Ron Taylor's SubPhone in August 2016. A small loop aerial proved to be both easy to use and to give excellent communication results.

A number of [aerial panoramic photos and videos](#) were taken (13/11/2018) over areas of interest in the cave, including Vallina 1 and the end of Vallina 3.

Pitches on the top - bottom entrance through trip:

- Entrance series **p10**
- **p12 + p18** with a decent ledge between them (east of the Glitter Run)
- **p13** after a c+3 to a balcony above Windy Corner, at the end of La Unió.

In situ ropes should not be relied on.

[Patrick Warren, Easter 2023]

Fifty metres into the 5m high cave, the floor slopes down to a flat mud floor halting straightforward progress at the limit of daylight. A [draughting, excavated passage](#) leads off from the back wall. A flat-out squeeze (that may need bailing in wet weather) and a short crawl lead to the top of a [10m pitch](#) onto a [steep slope down](#) to a cracked mud floor and white calcite flow. Where the passage turns to head east, there is a tall, blind aven on the left. The passage continues, 10m wide and high, past [some](#)

[decaying antlers](#), to a [4m climb down](#). The route becomes larger over boulders and finally slopes down in a 20m wide and 25m high chamber, choked at the far end at floor level. The right hand wall consists of sand and boulders and a 23m climb up leads to a walk along the southern hand wall to a large roof tunnel and a [fine, bouldery veranda looking back down into the chamber](#). This point is close (20m) to [site 1823](#). Just beyond, 2.5m up behind a boulder on the right hand side, is the 1 x 1.5m entry to *Gypsum Paradise*.

Gypsum Paradise (survey batch 0733-23-02; length 40m)

A survey station cairn and paper marks a short rope climb (gear required?) entering this well decorated, initially walkable, passage. The route has gypsum wool and flowers.

After 3.6m the passage becomes narrower, turns to the left then goes straight for 12m, now crawling passage. A sharp right turn then 7m to another left turn reaching, after about 6.5m, extensive bat droppings (black and white). About 1.5m after a right turn, the last narrow crawl (lined on the left with gypsum) ends, after about 7m at a small hole 0.5x0.5m with no draught. In the middle of the last passage, there is a body-sized hole in the roof with no draught.

([Photos](#).)

[Christine Ziebold]

The main tunnel continues as the *Sunday Stomps* for 250m passing some crystal pools at the [Glitter Run](#) and emerging into a chamber where the ways split. To the south, [the route skirts a pit](#) and leads to a muddy 25m pitch on a corner which was the original route to the lower levels. The passage turns to the east and becomes the superb, sandy [Chunnel](#), 10m high and wide. After 70m the floor rises to a wide, choked 15m deep pitch to the right while straight ahead the route lowers to a short climb down through boulders to a 30m pitch with a small, unexplored passage at the bottom. Just before this pitch a climb leads into a large chamber where the draught is lost. A crawl at the start of the Chunnel leads to a drop into a chamber with no way out.

Top Level Continuation (TLC)

The bolt climb beyond the second pitch (marked "high level?" on surveys up to Easter 2023) and now called *Ha! Aven* was re-climbed past an old through-bolt to enter mainly walking, well-decorated passage. At Easter 2023 this was surveyed as batches 0733-23-01 and 23-03 with a total of 724m of new passage. Photos ([batches 1, 2 and 3](#)) with [video](#) and [video](#)

The 2023 bolt climb was close to the end of the passage, on the right-hand wall. Access is now up a rope further to the west with a traverse line installed at the top to allow access to the high level passage. (*Details to follow*)

Further exploration occurred in the summer 2023 when a high level traverse at the top of Ha! entered a passage (about 80m long, not surveyed) that headed west and ended at a pitch. A rock dropped here was later found in the "main passage about half way to exit". Further exploration at the Emily, Sophie, Jenny pitches area dropped a 20m pitch with a continuing drop and other leads. This remains unsurveyed and it is not clear where this pitch is. (See [2023 summer logbook](#), p54)

Further exploration ([logbook](#), pp32-33) occurred in August 2024 where an "adjacent pitch" was descended, finding some "extra ropes down there" - (possibly Spanish). Further exploration didn't happen "as already explored but not on the survey".

Also, a short distance into the upper series, "two tube like passages that went in a WNW direction" were found. "The first linked back to the a different part of the (adjacent) pitch. This could be a safer pitch head for the future. The second tube is shorter and has gypsum stuck to the wall. The rest has shelled off and can be revealed simply by turning over fallen slabs on the floor. (No surveying was carried out.)

NOTE: [There are loose nuts on the traverse and on the Y hang bolts which have been hand tightened. Future trips should take a spanner to tighten them.](#)

TLC Aven

Further back along the main passage from *Ha! Aven*, a new, awkward bolt climb was made over two days in August 2024 - *TLC Aven*, a height of about 29m. ([Logbook](#), search for "0733".) Some surveying was carried out (batches 24-06 and partly repeated as 24-07) but, apparently, no drawings. The passage will show on the final survey as a rotated centre line.

[Within the passage at the top (*Far Left Passage*) there is a pitch that drops into the main route. The centre line survey shows

this to be some 30m away from linking with the old, main passage centre line. However, when the old survey is fixed only to the top entrance, there is only 11m "error" and this may be accounted for by the width of the passage.]

The following description is edited from the logbook accounts:

A loose traverse goes across the top of the aven. (More passage at the end?) There is no more passage on the right of this area. The top of the aven is very well decorated in many long and beautiful straws.

At the (slightly) left side of the top of this aven is an obvious low sandy crawl which some rubble to be moved. The crawl is very loose and sandy, so quite comfortable, starting out mostly hands and knees height until a lovely big calcite formation, *Fauna's Cake*. After this, the crawl drops down to flat out for about 20m leading to a comfortably big chamber with a shallow muddy pit. The crawl continues low underneath a false calcite floor for a few short metres. A chamber is entered with calcite on the right wall and mud on the left, leading down into a rift. A bolted traverse goes across to the pitch which, disappointingly, drops into the known main route. Behind this traverse is another metre of sandy crawl to enter a bigger rift chamber that is very loose and appears to end in a T-junction above another massive drop (assumed to be the same passage as the first drop).

The usual route down into the middle of the cave lies near the *Glitter Run*. The left hand passage at the split slopes down to the head of the second pitch. Various bolt routes in avens all close down, except for one (see Top Level Continuation, below). The spacious second pitch is split into drops of 12m and 18m and lands on boulders which slope to the head of a 12m drop, passing under the 25m drop first used to enter this series. At the base of the 12m drop, a small set of passages have been pushed to chossy chokes and a strongly draughting choke after a climb down in a rift.

At the top of the p12, the main route continues as walking or stooping for 150m, following an inward draught and finishes at a steep, sandy slope down into a tall chamber with a possible bolt route to a passage in the roof. Before the sandy slope a passage on the right leads to some chambers and passages with a climb down on the left dropping into *B-flat Passage* which leads to the base of the 3rd pitch. On the left, near the top of the sandy slope are some passages with nice gypsum formations.

A climb up of 3m on the right hand wall immediately leads to the head of the third, 13m pitch. There is a bolted climb to a choked passage above this pitch. At the base, the routes split: a slot leads directly to the remainder of the cave and will be described later; the wider route leads to the bottom entrance.

A slope and climb down of 4m passes *Windy Corner* and becomes wider at calcite. The passage continues in varied, comparatively small but easy going, past a number of openings, until a bouldery area is reached. It was at this point in the original explorations that a [small clay beaker](#) was found. A crawl and squeeze up over breakdown enters the bottom of an excavated 3m climb to reach the surface at *Lost Pot Entrance* ([site 4382](#)) behind a large, slumped section of hill side, about 100m lower than the altitude of the top entrance. *The above paragraph needs amplifying to bring in the Easter and summer extensions between the 13m pitch and the bottom entrance.*

The main route continues from the base of the third pitch, following a draught through a slot beneath the ladder. A maze areas entered where perhaps not all the passages have been surveyed or even explored. One route to the west, first entered in 1996, leads into *The Shopping Trip*, which needs describing. To the north, the maze holds the preferred route to the *Corkscrew* climb, described later and ends at avens in a 10m wide, boulder-floored chamber. At the beginning of this chamber, a short climb through a horizontal slot to the west, below a wet inlet, enters a small room with a high rift. An unprotected climb up gives access at two levels to the top of a deep pitch which sounds large at the bottom. There are however no obvious points for rigging and no sound rock for bolts. Further into the chamber a climb down through boulders looks down into a narrow passage heading back towards the high rift. The main way on lies to the east, where similar passages in the maze lead south to the large, calcite and boulder-floored *Who Knows?* chamber. Other routes also connect *Who Knows?* with

the maze at the 13m pitch and the whole area needs describing
Shatter Passage area and *Dangerous Chamber* was checked out at Easter 2023. It is possible to get above the boulders in *Dangerous Chamber* but the way back down is a 12m pitch. (See the Easter 2024 logbook, p15.) At *Edward Scissorhands Aven* a free climb down met a small stream outlet, too small to follow.

At the eastern side of the *Maze area*, heading to the northeast through *Road to Nowhere* passage leads to a squeeze in sharp rock. A caver coming from the top entrance might now have to put on an oversuit. At the end of *Road to Nowhere* a metal rung has been installed to aid the return thutch. (Passages in the roof of *Road to Nowhere* were surveyed for about 100m at Easter 96). In 2023, an aven just after the metal rung was bolted up for 30m to encounter a small passage that met another aven on the other side of the main route. The small routes at the base were also checked out.

The main route then enlarges to *The Canyon*.

Through Barney Rubble's Uranium Mine to Galeria de Germán

In the *Maze area*, the first or fifth junctions on the left both lead through complex areas of rifts and crawls into an area first explored by the Catalans in about 1990-1991 and named by them *L'Empedrat*. This was extended in 2003-2004. The two routes enter a passage about 5m square in highly shattered rock, *Shatter Passage*. After a corner a chamber containing rock pillars is passed. In this chamber, draughting sandy rifts and crawls on the right are not fully explored, and to the left a small passage, *Centipede Crawl*, joins the main route further on. The main route continues after the chamber with odd sections of crawling. About 100m beyond the chamber, small holes on the left lead a complex area with three routes leading off. To the left is *Tits Up*, next, through a tight rift is *Barney Rubble's Uranium Mine*, while to the right rejoins the main route at a 2m climb down, mentioned below.

The main passage of *L'Empedrat* continues to a larger section where the 2m climb comes in on the left. The way on is a climb up into a roof passage. 50m further on a slope up and drop back down is soon followed by a final chamber with a draughting choke. A climb down on the left leads to a decorated passage loops back, crossing a blind pitch in the floor.

Tits Up leads to a choke dug through at Easter 2004. Beyond, a passage passes a draughting passage on the left, continuing small and heading towards *Pillar Chamber*. Beyond is a 4m climb up into a wider passage, crossing a short pitch and ending at a long-term dig after 76m.

Barney Rubble's Uranium Mine was entered at Easter 2004. It is about 250m long, largely crawling over sharp rock, with a tight section at the start, and dug out in places following a fair draught. At the end larger, unstable, passage is entered, choking after 7m to the right, and to the left reaching a choke after 17m beyond. This was passed in the summer of 2004 on the right, entering a large chamber with pitches in the floor and left hand wall (explored down a handline to a very tiny outlet at the bottom in 2005). A 40m handline is recommended for descent into and traverse round the first part of the chamber.

At the far end of the chamber, the continuation is followed for 170m with a pit traversed round on the left, and is followed by two 20m pitches which have been descended. The first is reached by a steep slope down on the right, and drops to a low passage blocked by a boulder one way and pushed to an aven the other way. The second pitch is just beyond the first, in a slot with a short vertical descent to boulders with an aven to the right, then a steep slope down to a passage ending at avens and a 10m pitch to a short bit of passage. At the bottom of the pitch/slope is an unexplored passage over a pit on the left. A few metres beyond the two pitches, the main passage ends at *The Bridge of Khazad- Doom*, overlooking a large passage, *Galeria de Germán*. This cannot be reached directly as it is cut through by a big hole taken by the second 20m pitch. It is reached by crossing *The Bridge of Khazad- Doom*, followed by a 15m rope traverse, *The Traverse of the Pigs*, and a 5m pitch down. The passage is followed to an aven where a passage on the left reaches a larger passage, ending at undescended shafts to the left and a chamber to the right. *Galeria de Germán* continues along steep mud slopes requiring traverse lines, and has been explored as far as a 6m handline climb to a lower level. This has been explored as far as an aven chamber.

In October 2004 the far reaches of *Galeria*

de Germán were extended. The slimy climb at the end has blocks held in by glutinous clay and reaches a bouldery chamber. Holes on the right connect to a parallel chamber; a hole on the left leads to a canyon stream and a 9m pitch and aven. Straight on from the climb reaches a stream trench and to the left leads to a meandering passage with white sand banks - *Dark Angel Desert* that chokes after a small chamber. Back on the left, there is a 10m undescended pitch.

To the right at the stream trench, decorated passage is reached - Mollusc Magic - and a passage that parallels the route in. A pitch at the end drops into muddy narrow rifts with possible crawls to be pushed.

The pitch marked "p15" at the traverse and turned out to be 19m deep.

In the summer of 2005 most leads were pushed to a conclusion - the results are very "bitty" and have yet to be tied in with the descriptions above. The notes from the log book follow:

Pitch at the end of the stream trench, 30ft into small chamber with body-sized crawl leading to an impassable meander.

Body-sized tube on left at end of dry passage led to continuation of passage (low bedding) becoming too low over calcite floor.

Slope up a side rift at start of Mollusc Magic went to more small passage, slippery climbs up at end of M.M. also went nowhere.

Everything else went nowhere - bottom of Sala German; bottom of pit in first chamber.

The remaining leads are a passage on the left at the base of the pitch by the Bridge of Khazad Doom; tight rifts in the first chamber.

... and should be compared with notes from Patrick Warren:

All leads to W of the rope climb at end of *Galeria de German* were pushed to conclusions.

To S of *Dark Angel Desert*, two crawls are accessible and open out on opposite sides of a ~ 3m climb, with a further ~ 4m drop to the base where there is an impassable outlet (a rope is essential to return up the last c. 4m drop).

Underneath *Dark Angel Desert*, a vadose trench can be followed to a c. 10m pitch, descendable (just) as a rope climb. From the bottom, c. 10m of sideways thrutching in the base of a narrow rift leads to a point where it is possible to turn around. Beyond here, violent meanders in the body-sized canyon passage halted progress. Thus far, the streamway appears to be following below the line of the main passage.

N of *Dark Angel Desert*, a passage leading W becomes definitively too low beyond a tight tube. N again (Mollusc Magic), the muddy climbs were explored to conclusions. To E, there is a tall rift partly filled with large fallen muddy blocks, but no way on was found.

In summary, apart from the vadose canyon trench below the 10m pitch which a very determined small caver might push, there are no remaining leads in this part of the cave.

The first pit encountered on entering the extensions after leaving Barney Rubble was descended as a rope climb. This is the one before the original 'bridge' of Khazad-dum. It was c. 12m deep - the first 6m on a suprisingly stable boulder slope, and the last 6m vertical. An impenetrable fissure was the only passage leading off the base. It's worth noting that this means the pit is apparently unconnected with Pringle's black space visible through gaps in the main passage wall at the top and far side of this pit.

The whole series was detackled after the 'final' exploration.

A scan of the 2005 notes on the *Galería de Germán* survey is found [here](#).

In 2006, further passages previously explored by the Catalans were surveyed. This series, the *Man Trap*, is parallel to the *Galería de Germán* and extends westwards for some 800m through the *Galeria de Cisterna*. (Proper description required).

Various leads below the *Man Trap* and in the *G. Cisterna* were checked out in July 2018. These are lettered A-H and described on the (old) survey.

Also in July 2018, a previously scampered (at least partly) passage southwest of the *Man Trap* was properly documented (batch 18-02, length 49m). A traverse line is reached below which is a large pit. At the bottom, the route leads down a slope to a flatout section to a chamber. A route down through the floor enters an ongoing rift with signs of previous exploration. This leads to a chamber followed by a wriggle onto the top of a 3m climb down. A sideways, muddy crawl of about 5m leads away from the base of this until it becomes too tight. There is a small chamber to the left with a small hole in the ceiling that has a draught and strong echo - probably leading up into *Zona Blanca*. Batch 19-01 connects 2 parts of *Bird's World* / *Zona Blanca* area (but was not drawn up) and was first connected through by the Catalan cavers. At October 2021, the area was resurveyed (again!) and extended but this time drawn up. The connection up into the chamber to the north was probably found but not surveyed. See batch 0733-21-01 and the [survey](#). After resurvey adjustments, the new length added is 116m. Easter 2022 saw this area finally pinned down when batches 22-01 - 22-04 were surveyed in 161m of passages. See survey [0733-2022e-19.pdf](#) where these batches are labelled in red. On April 10th, 2023, a "last"

trip finished all leads - they led back into known passage. The "Dodgey Pit" (see survey) was climbed into, and led to a short section of walking passage and a 10m aven. No way on could be seen at the top or bottom

To the right of the *Maze Area*, and before the *Hole in the Wall*, on the right of the passage is a 12m pitch, descended in 1996, down to a short passage into the narrow *Haymarket Stream Passage*. During easter 2003, a pitch in the Haymarket Series was descended for 8m to a tight mud tube and a too tight rift. A boulder choke above was looked at with a possible tight climb up in blocks. At Easter 1998 another pitch was explored in the Maze Area with the Catalans, but was unsurveyed.

Passage opposite *Hole in Wall* was explored in 2003 for about 30m to a choke and an aven.

Going through the *Hole in the Wall* leads to a steep slope down and pitch up to a mud traverse to a low chamber with the way on in the right hand corner. This route is not recommended and the corkscrew climb should be approached via the first major easterly junction in the previous maze area. A small tunnel with a calcite floor follows the draught to a 6m corkscrew climb or easy 10m pitch. A tight squeeze leads to a split level route, in the water or above, following the draught. After passing an oxbow on the right a junction is met and a climb down. Downstream, another junction is soon met: downstream, the passage develops a trench in the floor of a wider passage, but eventually becomes low. A low duck leads to 50m of wet crawling to a possible sump, while a short inlet becomes too tight; upstream the passage joins *The Canyon*. A high level, narrow traverse leads to an aven. Above the aven is 50m of passage, blocked by stal. The floor rises to meet the traverse and easy walking pops out into the base of *The Canyon*.

At the junction climb-down, the upstream route enters a narrow passage with pools. After some 250m, where the passage trends east and passes under *Who Knows?* chamber, a shelf above the stream is followed, passing inlets of the left and right. An inlet on the right is a muddy crawl which leads to a gradually enlarging passage, not pushed to any conclusion. After a corner two further avens are passed and a stal constriction is reached. A 10m flat out tube leads to the bottom of a very loose climb through boulders in a narrow rift. A 30m by 10m chamber is reached and the left hand wall followed to drop down in an awkward climb to a spot where two passages have not been looked at. A shuffling passage widens to walking and a large, low chamber to the east which has not been pushed. (There are also other possibilities for pushing in this area). The route on follows the draught in the roof to a 44m long chamber, only 2m high with an "egg shell" floor. In the far corner is a tight squeeze and contortions into a passage which climbs up through a bouldery floor. On the right is an easy crawl which has yet to be pushed. Following the draught from the chamber leads directly to the **Lost Pot Entrance** (documented as [site 4382](#)).

At *Who Knows* chamber, the ramp on the right has been climbed up through boulders to about 60m of well decorated passage with several draughting avens in a passage called *Where Who Knows Goes*. In this vicinity *Walrus Passage* is a side passage linking to the main route in three places, partly surveyed, and which also links up ramp to passage to *Who Knows*.

At *The Canyon*, cut by a stream crossing the passage at right angles a tight and sharp climb down leads to a step over a short drop to the stream. A Tyrolean was installed over *The Canyon* in July 2016 to help transport diving equipment across the drop. A muddy climb up on the opposite side reaches the continuation of the passage. The passage is again of reasonable size, walking with the occasional squeeze. After 80m the way splits, the northern route passes an undescended pit and then narrows to emerge in a 10m wide passage. The eastern route, the *Clapham Bypass* is easier going but emerges in the same passage at a group of pleasant formations. Routes at the top of the decorated slope were pushed and partly resurveyed at Easter 2008. In the summer, it was noted that a draughting aven on the east side of *The Canyon* need some protection on a climb up to passage.

Also during Easter 2008, in the Clapham Bypass vicinity, *Smelly Hat Aven* yielded 275m of passage and it would appear to be

very close to the base of [site 753](#), Torca de Rotura where a sandy floored chamber has a 10cm wide fissure emitting a cold draught. In August 2017, a [subphone test was carried out here](#) - with faint voice contact, but communications had to be abandoned after the surface team was caught in heavy rain.

In the summer 2008, "to the right of the Easter climb in *Graveyard Chamber*", a rift was bolted which led to rifts in the roof of the chamber. A 3-bolt climb to the northwest in the same chamber didn't look to be heading into passage.

An aven just after *The Canyon* was dug through stal in 2003 to an aven and muddy, draughting inlets that became too tight.

Chambers to the south of the *Clapham Bypass - Road to Glory* junction were pushed in 2003 through stal into a chamber with a dig through stal into a further chamber with a good draught.

The passage to the north of the *Clapham Bypass* continues up to 15m wide and 10m high in the sandy-floored *Road to Glory*. On the right of this passage a slope leads to 5m and 6m pitches to immature streamways. This was inspected by the Vallina Exploration Group in 2023 and found to be draughtless and impenetrable about 15m down. (This area needs clarifying / surveying: it may be associated with *Galería Jesús Lecue* although a greater volume of water was heard down these pitches.) To the north, the passage splits, the right hand branch lowers to a crawl and finishes in a low, bouldery chamber where voice contact can be made with explorers in the bigger passage beyond. (The chamber was surveyed in 2008 - batch 197 - and currently heads south, ending in a continuing low crawl.) The walking-sized left hand branch passes the entry point to *Galería Jesús Lecue* and gradually enlarges to an impressive junction after some 60m. *Galería Jesús Lecue* (surveyed as batch 0733-17-01, length 86m) starts at the top of a sandy slope and becomes smaller to a crawl then varied going to a climb over an 8m drop and, a few metres beyond, an undescended drop of 5m. A squeeze at the top of a small slope reaches the end where a small inlet enters. The "8m drop" was rope-climbed in August 2019 to a further drop with what appeared to be "big passage" below. This was investigated in October 2021 where, after a short climb down, a p9 dropped into a high and roomy rift with two streams. At the south, water comes down a black, narrow route which may be climbable. The water disappears down a low passage filled with blocks. A free climb up to the north above a 3m deep narrow slit reaches a point viewable from the "bear pit" mentioned on the previous trip. The total 18m drop is the *Watershed Pitch* and the survey is batch 0733-21-02 (length 45m)

Back at the impressive junction, to the right the route becomes 20m wide and meets a boulder slope with a crawl at floor level under boulders to a dig. Above, the slope rises to the east to a large, draughting boulder choke, which was declared a major project at Easter 2001. A northern branch slopes down to a 12m climb up, where tackle is needed. The passage (*La Pita*) leads after some 50m to an undescended pitch (above the avens in the lower stream passage). After another fifty metres at high level, a passage sets off on the left to a climb and choke, surveyed in 2003.

An attempt at Easter 2012 to reach *La Pita* was put off as "the rope climb looked 'iffy' and we didn't think it was SRT".

The "passage running north of *Bathtub Passage*" (presumably *Pita Passage*) was visited in the summer 2013. An "horrific" aven was climbed, covered in 2-inch thick mud. It was also reported that the team had "pushed through the northern boulder choke" and dropped a 15m pitch in a water worn shaft with a hideous mud walled outlet. Across the top, a route through "boulders and loose stuff" was pushed to a small aven and a "hideous and mud walled immature inlet". (There is no survey of this section.)

In February 2023, a Catalan group investigated *Galería Pita* finding new galleries "*which we will survey next time.*" They haven't been surveyed yet but a sketch of the area appears in [Memoria de Exploracion Vallina 2023](#).

The choke (at the end of *Bathtub Passage*) was inspected at Easter 2013. One account says "apparently dug into possible continuing passage." Another account states, "This would be a long term project", although whether this refers to the old or "continuing passage" is unclear. *Bathtub Passage* was also inspected in February 2023 by a Catalan team but they decided a lot of work is required. "*... we were up in*

the boulder choke in Bathtub passage. We tried both side of the boulder choke and clean them out a little. The one on the right hand side of the gallery that drafts is really quite complex due to the over head nature. Will come back to it next visit." Again, the Spanish explorations are outlined in the *Memoria 2023*. In 2024 a small breakthrough was made up into a chamber with a very dodgy roof of small material.

To the left the passage (*Avinguda de la Sorra*) has a superb flat roof and sandy floor. Pits at the start were investigated 11/8/17 as a free climb down into a narrow streamway. This was followed around several bends until it became too tight. The *Avinguda* enters *Swirl Chamber* at the base of a large boulder slope. *Swirl Chamber* is approximately 40m in diameter and rises up on loose boulders to three passages at the western side. The northern tunnel ends at a choke after 50m, the middle line continues uned after 50m and the southern one continues for 120m to an unexplored pitch. On the southern edge of *Swirl Chamber*, a small passage enters an unsurveyed section containing a large, undescended pitch and a route heads back to link with the flat roofed tunnel, joining it half way along.

The *Climb on the Big Junction Series* was entered at Easter 2001 by climbing up a steep slope to reach a climb down into the base of a drippy aven. The inlet involves loose climbs, low crawls, and short walking rifts into an aven series. Climbing up 8m leads to another short length of cave ending at avens with choked rifts leading out.

The only route through to the rest of the cave lies to the north at the base of the boulders cascading out of *Swirl Chamber*. A short walk over boulders emerges at the five way FN Junction. The large boulder slope to the left chokes. *Six Hundred Pesetas Passage* is entered on the opposite side of the junction. This passes crawls on the right after 20m and passes a 30m pitch (apparently explored by the Catalans) where it turns to the west. Two side passages on the north side were looked at in the summer of 1999. The first crawl on the right after the pitch leads to a junction after some 50m. The next junction enters a small passage that ended at a 22m pitch that was too tight at the base. In 2023, a Vallina Exploration Group team dug out 3m of sediment, probably from one of the sand choked passages near the western end.

In 2011, the strongly draughting choke at the end of the passage to the right before *Swirl Chamber* was investigated. The Catalans had banged this the previous November and it looks "very dodgy". A roof passage was also noted near the choke and needs a traverse bolting.

Also in 2011, a climb in the roof over *The Dragon* in the Maze area went 10m to a narrow rift.

Top Level Continuation (TLC)

The climb beyond the second pitch (marked "high level?" on surveys up to Easter 2023) was re-climbed past an old through-bolt to enter mainly walking, well-decorated passage. At Easter 2023 this was surveyed as batches 0733-23-01 and 23-03 with a total of 724m of new passage. Photos (batches [1](#), [2](#) and [3](#)) with [video](#) and [video](#)

The 2023 bolt climb was close to the end of the passage, on the right-hand wall. Access is now up a rope further to the west with a traverse line installed at the top to allow access to the high level

passage. (*Details to follow*)

Further exploration occurred in the summer 2023 when a high level traverse at the top of Ha! entered a passage (about 80m long, not surveyed) that headed west and ended at a pitch. A rock dropped here was later found in the "main passage about half way to exit". Further exploration at the Emily, Sophie, Jenny pitches area dropped a 20m pitch with a continuing drop and other leads. This remains unsurveyed and it is not clear where this pitch is. (See [2023 summer logbook](#), p54)

Albert's Grand Passage and beyond

During the summer 2002, a climb of 40m up and around a calcited wall in FN Passage enters *Albert's Grand Passage* and *Skyhook Passage*. This continues (bolted in November 2002) beyond a deep pitch which has been explored and closes in. (Description of the series required). In 2003, a bolt route around the pitch was tackled into the draughting, continuing passage to a T-junction and holes down. This was pushed and surveyed as *Broken Tooth Passage* at Easter 2004. On the far right side of the aven, a small window can be entered. Climbing down leads to several

blind pits with stream dribbling above. Squeezing to left yields a window to another aven pitch 10-15m (not descended) Water/(stream) can be heard at bottom, probably that dripping in. Crossing the main pitch leads to small muddy passage (to the left of that described above). After a short flat out crawl, easier progress is made with some good decoration. A small break down chamber is reached. Continuing on, a very well decorated chamber is reached. Left leads to a wide section of passage, but blocked by calcite flow at the end. A passage on the left leads back to the breakdown chamber. All other passages/climbs on the left are blind. On the right hand wall a very tight rift (needs hiltiing) drops to a floor 3m down with possible passage. No other leads. To the right leads to a 6m pitch. Over the top of the pitch, climbing up the calcite flow, a possible chamber/aven can be seen through calcite, possibly draughting. This would require some work to remove calcite. From the base of the pitch, several holes and a chamber 4m off floor to the right, are all blind. Asending the muddy slope leads to a collapse. A passage at the base of the collapse, to the left leads under the collapse with stream dribbling in from it - blind, no draught. Climbing the collapse yields a break down chamber with several short passages, all blocked. Draught does head through this collapse area.

Leads:

- 1 - Swing into window to undescended 2nd aven. Possible rift heading off, but hard to tell. Not believed that base of 2nd aven deeper than 1st aven. Water flows out into 1st aven directly below swing in window. Probably same water as in 2nd aven.
- 2 - Possible aven over 6m pitch, but difficult to tell. A lot of work to gain access, but may yield by pass to collapse.
- 3 - Tight rift in large passage. Needs hiltiing - Not thought worthwhile

Six Hundred Pesetas Passage becomes floored with calcite and then sand, and ends after 350m from *FN Junction* at a boulder choke. Just to the south of *Six Hundred Pesetas Passage* lies the entry to a small tunnel which passes a 4m drop after 50m and leads to the 9m deep *Tuesday Pitch*. At the pitch base a small passage continues low and nasty upstream while downstream it leads after 100m to the *Rioja River*. This is also entered via *Dutch Pitch*, described later.

The *FN Passage* to the east of *FN Junction* is 20m wide and 10m high but appears to be just a small segment of a longer passage as it lowers and closes down after only 150m. There is an unexplored pitch and dig at the end of this passage. On the left hand side of *FN Passage*, after it has turned north, the *Catalan Climbs* series starts. A c34 up reaches further slopes up and a narrow vadose passage. A climb up mud and boulders has not been attempted.

Further along *FN Passage*, *November Passage* leads off on the right. This rises to *Amazing Stal Chamber* with good formations and calcite runs, choking after 125m.

Jochen's Aven and above (*description by Rupert Skorupka*)

Jochen's Aven is a massive, daunting feature that enters in the roof where *FN Passage* degenerates into a lower tunnel. The start point for the climb (first attempted in June 2018) was selected at a ledge, just beyond where *November Passage* comes in. Going any further around leads to a big pitch down, investigated in October 2018 and described below.

WARNING: The aven and the traverses above are extremely hazardous. Much of the rock is loose and shattered. In several areas there are tons of rocks poised to collapse that are only avoided by delicate moves. Many of the anchors are poor; some are in calcite or consolidated shale and these were often placed solely for balance. Pulling on these as per a normal traverse line will lead to a major rockfall, onto the line of ascent. The smaller the team the better and very delicate footwork is essential.

JOCHEN'S AVEN A steady start up an overhanging wall leads to a rightwards trend and 2 rebelayes. To the left here a large passage at 20m height was not reached due to poor rock. The pitch swings right and up into a muddy corner at 20m height. A fairly solid corner leads up past 2 Y-hangs, where to the right is a gully jammed full of hanging choss. Continuing upwards here to a height of 30m, increasingly bad rock led to this route being abandoned.

Instead, at 25m, a 5 metre pendulum across a massive detached slab provides an alternative by entering the gully of choss. The slab itself is resting on the loose choss

below, but it was the only option for the next few belays. The pitch lays back to an easier angle, but all footholds are liable to collapse onto the gully, and ropes, below. At about 36m height, a teetering chunk of hollow flowstone weighing maybe half a ton, has carefully to be avoided. All the anchors above here were in flowstone, and the bolts were not tightened to avoid stressing the material. (Note: June 2019 - Re-rigging the climb up has removed the need to pendulum into the chossy gulley, making the trip to the high levels safer and quicker. This was achieved using a new 55m rope and many new anchors to give an airy hang with 8 rebelays. The top anchors are still the same, ie. into shattered rock, so great care is still needed.

A couple more bolts and a Y-hang in flowstone lead to potentially the most dangerous section. Originally, I climbed rightwards on rotten flowstone to avoid this area, but any fall would result in a big swing onto the ledge below. So, the last 5 metres of the pitch are belayed to 4 "anchors" in separate chunks of rock holding up a shattered pillar, to 45m height and the top of the pitch. Take extreme care with these anchors ; it is helpful to imagine you are weightless for this section, and the next traverse.

THE DOG HOUSE TRAVERSE At the top of the aven, there are two obvious passages entering; neither is easy to reach. The only feasible route is to traverse left, and this is far from secure.

Working left from the shattered pillar, the anchors and rock quality do not improve (so there are lots of them). The next 10 metres is on collapsing shale footholds and 6 anchors which have not been loaded other than for balance. The back wall then reaches a section where it is a bank of detached scree glued together by mud. This is just as there is an awkward step down onto more choss, the drop below now having increased to about 80m as we are now also over the big pitch. This bank of material is gradually peeling away from the wall behind; the footholds break and become looser with every passing. The next anchor is into a small boulder in this moraine - it is only there for emergencies.

A kind of sloping ledge offers some relief. There are no more belays, and an exposed section finally leads to a secure jammed boulder bridge, after about 35 m. This is the junction where the *Dog's Dinner* leads off to the right, and following the shaft around, is the *Dog House Traverse Part 2*.

DOG HOUSE TRAVERSE PART 2 Immediately right, a choke comes in from a large passage above, not fully investigated. The traverse leads off on good ledges and is generally less dubious than the initial section. After a few delicate moves, a sloping ledge and final belay to a large boulder mark the spot where it is safe to carefully progress up into a large passage. Sadly, this ends at a draughting choke almost immediately. There are gaps in the massive blocks, and also crawls off at floor level at two points, but these were not investigated by the solo explorer. Definitely worth a better look.

THE DOG'S DINNER TRAVERSE AND CHAMBER Looking right from the above mentioned junction, a stal-adorned tunnel leads off, which is at the top of a major rift of considerable depth. The traverse is pleasant enough at first, passing through windows in dense stal to an enlargement where a good Y-hang leads across a ledge and down to a shale band. From here onwards, the "ledge" is a slope of rotten shale drawn inexorably to a pitch below of at least 80 metres. A few very precarious moves, which are now well protected by good anchors at the far end, lead into a spacious and complex chamber with possibly 6 ways on. The traverse is about 25 metres long.

The chamber has a small stream inlet, from a smallish passage. This immediately falls down the sizeable pitch. Above this inlet is an aven / roof passage complex which will need rope to safely explore.

To the left is a slope up and sizeable dry aven.

Around the back of the deep pitch (rope traverse essential), a further sizeable passage looks to head off, as well as a possible further aven above here.

PROSPECTS The chokes at the end of *Dog House Traverse Part 2* and the junction of routes both need a conclusive look. If these are a no-go , it will be possible to safely de-rig *Dog House Traverse Part 2* to enable this gear to be used to traverse around the pitch in *Dogs Dinner Chamber*.

It will be virtually impossible to de-rig the other traverses without risk of a big fall.

Hopefully the high levels in the *Dogs Dinner* will lead into whatever lies beyond the boulder chokes. (Rigging diagrams are in the summer 2018 logbook).

Further solo exploration was carried out in June 2019. A promising passage entering the north end of the shaft, ie. at the far end of the *Dogs Dinner part 2*, about 15 m below the edge. A 35m rope salvaged from the pitch, was carried over to this end of the aven, via the *Dogs D. traverses parts 1 and 2*. The choke here was better examined, and is a no hoper, no draught.

The rope was rigged, and a steep bouldery slope descended to where the shaft goes vertical - but - there was only overhanging stal to belay to, the pitch cutting under below. The lack of belays, and the possibility of the rope dislodging loose stuff on the slope, led me to decide that to drop further would be too dangerous. I have since spotted a better way to gain this passage, via a series of pendulums from near the top of the main pitch on solid stal columns, which will enable it to be entered by a bolt traverse.

The 35m rope was then carried along the *Dogs Dinner traverse* to its namesake chamber. Here, several anchors were placed to traverse around the 80 m pitch 'to gain an obvious large tunnel on the far side. (It was noted that the pitch is formed on a massive shalebed, over 2 m thick in places. This is not visible elsewhere in this series, *Jochens Aven* and the traverse are all formed in shattered limestone.) The traverse around the huge pitch, has feet on a slippery shale bed, but good anchors in the rock sitting above. A final scrabble up a loose slope, and then the passage almost immediately closes down in a high chamber with old, dry and shattered walls and no way on (*It's a Dogs Life*). A rope is in place as a handline to get back across.

So, the possibilities in the 6 - way chamber (aka *Dogs Dinner*) are now ; 1. the big pitch 2. the 15m aven on the left as you enter 3. an abandoned vadose canyon needing a couple of bolts to enter and 4. the small stream inlet. This was checked out as it needed no tackle, and closes down after only 10m or so. En route out, Rupert went along the *Dog House part 2* and stripped this traverse, as this end of the aven is now finished, and the tackle will be useful elsewhere.

The 80m pitch has been partially rigged (using a 38m rope). The top is surrounded by a collapsing shaleband and loads of loose stuff. The route starts part way along the *Dogs Dinner* traverse. Halfway along here, it opens up to a few stal ledges sloping down to the canyon that seems to be a part of the same deep rift that develops into the pitch, ie. all that can be seen from above is that it is just a long slot in the floor but with a substantial drop below. But, at this point it is possible to look down and see a floor of stals only 10m or so below.

Four anchors contrived a hang straight down the middle of the slot, down through broken, collapsing dry stals. Immediately the walls belled out and I was hanging below a dense forest of 2 to 3m long, pristine white stals, hundreds of them on either side. I booted a couple to see how solid they were, as the rope was right up next to them. They were fine so I dropped down onto the floor just below. This was like a prow of a ship, a false floor jutting out over space, a yawning chasm of dimensions that dwarfed even *Jochen's Aven* and *FN Passage*. The canyon walls dropped away on either side. The place was so huge it was hard to work out how it related to the shaft of *Jochens Aven*, although it seemed to drop away towards it in one direction (there is no connection). In the other, a sloping ledge and short pitch ended over more black space, the continuation of the big pitch. I chucked a loop over a huge stalagmite and dropped down a further 5 or 6 m, then down a short vertical, to where it was the necessary to bolt out along a wall to get a free hang. I had already run out of rope, and was still not at the edge of the main shaft. It would be great to photo, the formations are world class. [June 2019 account by Rupert Skorupka].

As well as surveying *Jochen's Aven*, the "80m" pitch, *Zarco's shaft* was fully explored and surveyed in August 2019 and turned out to be 53m deep with further drops to a tight, possible continuation. The pitch passes very close to a pitch and corner in *600 Pesetas Passage*. At the bottom of the main pitch another short pitch leads down to a traverse over two pits in the floor. The first was dropped and ends too tight; the second is fulkl of sand. Continuing the traverse, a bend to the right leading to another pitch, about 7m, to another drop to where the water drained into a rift which was forced for about 10m but becomes too tight. (This point is about 4m above the main water level). [Description by Diane Arthurs]

Some pieces of reflective traffic cone sleeve were thrown down the ?30m pitch in *600 Pesetas Passage* but there were no sign of these at the bottom of *Zarco's shaft*. It may be possible that the two are connected

somewhere but the exploration team didn't see anything likely. It would most likely need a team on each side.

The pitch below *Jochen's Aven* was investigated (solo) in October 2018. This is mainly a broken slope, about 20 metres deep to a small hole down through dribbly boulders. A rift enters just above floor level which had footmarks in the mud. Rupert believes this is the passage that is entered via a climb down, en route to the *Catalan Avens*. Upslope goes to the Avens, downslope probably leads to this rift, but it has not been written up in the description.

Of most interest, looking up here, the ceiling pinches in to a vadose inlet. So, this is definitely not the base of the big pitch that was discovered at the end of the *Dog House* passages high above. These must go off in a different direction. The rope has been de-rigged but left there, as the intention is to re-rig the Aven to avoid the worst bits and the pendulum.

Where *FN Passage* swings north, two exits lead off on the right wall. One is entered via a slope down and after some 60m this route ends at a boulder choke, an unsurveyed chamber and an undescended pitch. The higher passages lie at the top of a climb up the left hand wall and across a blind pit. The right hand route leads to *The Dutch Circle* where a loop contains formations, boulders and a 20m undescended pitch. The left hand route (in a small vertical maze) leads to a 4m pitch followed by the 31m deep *Double Dutch Pitch*, the normal entry point to the lower streamways. The first p4 was re-rigged in April 2018 and the rope on the main pitch replaced.

Double Dutch Avens. After abandoning any diving in the downstream sumps at the start of April 2019, Rupert Skorupka turned his attention to possible bolting leads above the Double Dutch Pitch. This was tackled from the base of the pitch at the opposite side to the normal route down and went up a series of short vertical walls and muddy slopes to where it continued as a large passage which is hidden behind a rock rib. Nineteen thru bolts were inserted for a 20m height gain before rope drag became an issue. On the second visit, Rupert trailed a 55m static rope to rig it with. The route became very muddy and the bolts therefore dubious. Three more allowed a further sloping ledge to be gained. Three or 4 more anchors were placed up a horrible slimy wall until it could be seen that the route was blind - it just peters out into solution pockets. On the way down, Rupert could see that the main aven continued up to 35 or 40 metres high, and there was a possible inlet passage. This might be reachable from the top of the pitch by traversing across so, on the next trip, Rupert set off bolting from right at the top anchors. A really obvious passage goes off from here to a promising looking chamber which is right over the main shaft. About 8 bolts allowed the chamber to be reached - it has a sloping muddy floor dropping down to the 40m Double Dutch Pitch. On the opposite wall was a small passage. It didn't look great but could well soon enlarge. A Y-hang was installed but the passage couldn't be reached without a desperate scramble up a slimy mud slope. That was the extent of the Easter explorations and the climbing rope was left rigged. If the passage doesn't go, it will be worth dropping the pitch from this end, as Rupert is sure something else comes in not far from the top. However, in May 2019 no further progress was made and the area was de-rigged.

At the base of the *Double Dutch Pitch*, a small muddy streamway is met. The upstream route ends at an aven after 150m, while downstream the small passage becomes a 4-way junction at the *Rioja River*. A tiny inlet (*Shit Inlet*) was entered at Easter 2002 and goes for 25m. The main passage upstream sumps after some 120m, after passing an inlet on the left which enters boulders where a link to the main stream goes off to the right. A trip in 2015 discovered passages off the dry section in the *Rio Rioja* that, apparently, go off in all directions. A sketch can be found in the summer 2015 logbook, dated 9/8/2015. These passages were further investigated at Easter 2016 and surveyed as batch 0733-16-01 (143m new). See logbook 28/3/2016.

A trip was made in August 2016 to the avens at the upstream end of Rioja Reserva to check prospects for work the following year. The aven was climbed in August 2017 but it had already been bolted. The aven closes in at the top. ([Video](#))

Upstream sumps

The upstream sump was dived in August

1996 by Rupert Skorupka. Sump 1 (*Lady Beatrice's Underwater Fantasy*) was delightfully clean and surfaced after 21m into more streamway. Within 40m sump 2a was reached and passed after 47m. This sump had underwater flowers of calcite on the walls, and a skin of calcite on the surface that was duly smashed from below. 176m of pleasant streamway was then explored to sump 3, another inviting, unexplored dip. During the wet and cold Easter of '98, pushing the sump was continued by Ross Greenwood and Martyn Holroyd. Sump 3 was dived to small chamber at -2m with the way on being down a gravel slope into a comfortable sized continuation. The sump continues NNE, dropping to -6m then rising steadily up a large silt bank, then again dropping to -6m. After 50m, the main tunnel appears to rise up a rift with a parallel rift also rising to -1m without surfacing.

During the same trip, a passage was noticed on the northern side of sump 2a and this was followed in large passage along doglegs, but generally heading north. This was obviously the main route on and exploration stopped at the end of the line at -6m and 50m in. Exploration continued during Easter 2000 when the sump was extended by 100m and 130m over 2 trips. About 280m from base, the passage surfaces in a narrow, miserable canal for some 10m. The passage then sumps again and was pushed at Easter 2001 for another 200m mainly through rifts and over silt banks and still heading NNW. The way on continues in similar fashion. (A survey of the sumps from 2001 is found [here](#)).

In the summer 2016, Jim Lister dived in the main upstream Rio Rioja sumps. They needed some re-lining and tidying up and about 70m of new flooded passage was pushed to a point (a slope down with a hole visible) where larger cylinders and logistics were needed to progress further. On August 5th, 2017 an efficient team carried in many bags of equipment for the dive. ([Video](#)). Unfortunately, this northwest route (sump 2B) was found to choke (6th August 2017) almost immediately with gravel when Ashley Hiscock dived. There is some doubt about the accuracy of the old survey as Jim's line was laid for 570m before Ash continued a short distance to the gravel blockage.

Vallina 3

The day after, dive equipment was transferred to the eastern route where sump 3 was pushed "directly behind and above in the diver's blind spot" and passed to an active stream. The first entry into Vallina 3 has been surveyed as batch 17-02 (length 403m; Jim Lister with Mark "Killer" Smith). A [video of the explorations](#) is found on YouTube.

The stream is followed for 30 meters to sumps 4 and 5, both of which were relatively short. On surfacing beyond sump 5, in a foam-covered sump pool, a reasonable sized streamway is encountered with a junction a short distance from the sump pool. The passage heading east ends in another sump (sump 6) after a short 5 minute walk.

The left hand side passage heading north meets another substantial stream entering from the left. Although this streamway appears slightly smaller it emits a substantial amount of crystal clear water.

The main stream passage can be followed to a boulder ramp that enters a sizable breakdown chamber with the stream continuing on the other side. The streamway (4m wide) with muddy banks and white moon milk/calcite bed consists of partly crawling and partly walking passage. The streamway opens up into a boulder strewn inclining passageway (20+ degrees incline). A passage on the right hand side (going in) has been noted but has not been explored.

A further climb up a ramp with boulders leads to an apparent choke. The way on is found on the right hand side with a climb up through boulders into floor of a sizeable chamber (30m x 30m approx). The stream can be heard on the far left. The boulder ramp up to the far end of chamber and a window has been noted and explored on right hand side up about 7m. This has been climbed to reveal a large, well decorated chamber of similar proportions (30m x 30m) with some nice formations. Above the climb, a possible aven with flowstone has been noted.

Back in the initial chamber the left hand side has been followed up a 20 degree slope to a small climb down back into the streamway which goes a short distance where it divides into three. The middle route, with the least water, ends in an impenetrable calcite fissure. The other two streamways have not been investigated.

At the first breakdown following sump 5, taking the left hand, north passage directly after sump surface, the streamway (1m wide x 3m high) can be followed, passing an

inlet on the left hand side carrying a decent stream. This was explored and surveyed as batch 18-07 in the summer 2018.

Also over a couple of trips in July / August 2018, sumps 4 and 5 were surveyed and the draughting passage heading northwest at the end was also surveyed (batch 18-08). A passage to the right of sump 5 was also pushed through sumps 6, 7 and 8 to the start of sump 9.

In April 2023, the 7m-long sump 9 was dived into 60m of stooping passage followed by 60m of crawling then flatout. This was not surveyed.

[*Vallina 3 description to 2022 by Jim Lister*]

Downstream

The easy downstream *Rioja River* passage continues for about 700m. The passage starts with standing water and after 250m meets the inlet from the *Tuesday Pitch*. The water then heads off to the north along the small *Where the Rioja Goes*, unsurveyed to a sump. A dry continuation of the passage gets larger to the west and after 50m meets another stream flowing from the south - the *Rioja Reserva*. (That name hasn't appeared on any earlier surveys - the passage was simply labelled as "Stream Passage". The Easter 2024 survey has both names.) This stream passage is of impressive dimensions for most of its 400m length. It ends where the water wells up through a choked area. A short crawl to the north enters a number of avens.

This passage was inspected during 2023 by the Vallina Exploration Group where they climbed a "60m" aven beyond a mudbank with routes back over the stream meeting a drop down a known aven on the east side of the stream. There are still possibilities to push here and the passages need surveying. At the end of the Rioja Reserva, the *Three Avens* were checked out but not thought interesting. It is likely that the much more interesting two avens before this point will soon be climbed.

In 2009, an aven and tube seen from the streamway entering the Rio Rioja (Stream Passage) were investigated but "the aven needs serious bolting or scaling".

Downstream, the *Rioja Reserva* continues west to meet a sump. (The size of this stream is similar to the stream which disappears in *Where the Rioja Goes*, although the latter does not appear to join the *Rioja Reserva* streamway). The sump has a short bypass via an awkward climb up a steep tube where a rope is useful and the stream passage continues and enlarges for another 100m to end, after a complex boulder area, with a sump and small inlet passage. The water (in dry weather flow) has been dye tested but detectors in [Cueva Molino \(791\)](#) at an altitude of 200m and [Cueva del Comellantes \(040\)](#) with an entrance altitude of 170m proved negative after 2 weeks.

According to Guy Simonnot (*pers. comm.* October 2011) it is likely that the flow in Molino ([site 727](#)) can be accounted for by [Orcones](#) and "the collector - Cantu Pasillo Encarmado." He continues, paraphrased, for cavities such as Vallina we may need to think about another source (resurgence) - which would suit me better geologically."

The downstream water was traced to [Reñada](#) and Comellantes ([site 0040](#)) at Easter 2015, see *below*.

A significant extension was made above the sumps in October 2015. Batches 0733-15-02, 03 & 04; length 716m. The following description is by Peter Eagan.

In the short sump bypass passage, about 100m upstream from the main downstream sumps and the connection to Vallina II, a climb up on the left enters the *Catalan Oxbow*. This is about 50m of passage explored by the Catalans ca 1990?, ending at drops to the stream further upstream.

Where the sump bypass drops back to the stream at the downstream end, a short climb up above the handline belay was pushed in 2015. At the top a short crawl enters larger passage. To the right, a wide section can be followed for about 50m above the stream. This may also be pushed further by climbing up further downstream.

To the right, at the end of the short crawl, a passage on the right is the start of the *Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence*.

Continuing past this passage, a drop connects to the *Catalan Oxbow*.

The ***Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence*** starts as a rift passage hading to the south, generally 0.5-1m wide and 3m high, with numerous sharp flakes of rock. Side passages as far as explored are all oxbows or close down. After about 100m a narrow section is passed by climbing up to the *Quaking Traverse*. Beyond this a wider

passage is entered at *Pantaloon Junction*.

Heading left at *Pantaloon Junction* and then right through a constricted section, a complex area of chambers and draughting crawls is entered.

Right at *Pantaloon Junction* the passage has been explored for 270m with some side passages pushed a short distance, but may also be oxbows. Passage is phreatic and formed on a series of parallel joints/faults, quite narrow in places due to eroded flakes splitting passage. Exploration stopped where passage on right ended at 8m pitch needing tackle. Some 25m back a passage to north ends at a 4m pitch again needing tackle, note roof and sides are loose. Passages can be seen across top of both pitches.

More exploration occurred at Easter 2016. An 8m pitch in the right hand branch quickly lead to a blind 12m pitch. At the top of the 12m pitch a traverse became too narrow. The climb down at the left hand branch was choked but a traverse on good rock on the right hand wall lead to an aven above the previous 12m pitch with a view of the top of the first (8m) pitch. The way on is easy going 2x2m passage. Peter Eagan wrote:

"Crossing the roped traverse leads to further passage of the same style, with a passage on the right heading back towards the two choked pitches (these are currently un-surveyed). Some meters further forward leads to a mazy section that has a number of possible ways on, only the main route was surveyed. Most of the corners have sharp continuations that go for a few meters."

"Once you zig-zag through this section there is a fairly sudden change when the passage drops to a mud-floored, upward sloping passage. This passes a pit on the right and becomes sand floored as you approach a cairn on the floor. This marks the first stream approach; following the passage down to the right leads to a balcony overlooking the main streamway (10.5m drop). The stream comes from the right (looking out) and curves around (probably about 20m wide at the furthest point) and probably disappears underneath the balcony. It will be easy to ladder the drop from a bolt in the wall."

The main passage continues wide and sandy, passing a small cluster of stal. At the junction, the main passage continues, past a small hole through which the stream can be heard but gradually closes down to about 20cm high. "It would dig easy, like". It did not appear to enlarge, but it is certainly worth further investigation.

Back at the junction there may be a way forward to the left – this was not checked. The next passage to the left is a vocal connection down a rift that would need tackle. The route to the stream is to almost double back in the left-hand wall and climb down a few meters to a muddy slope down to the second balcony.

The stream flows from east to west under a couple of massive boulders, supported on virtually nothing (10.5m drop to stream). The west leg has a possible traverse which might reveal a climb down to stream level, but the rock is all very loose and it needs tackle. There may be a way on continuing over the streamway – this was not properly checked. Ladder down to the stream, but the hang is not as good as the first balcony.

This area corresponds to the part of the drawn survey between sumps 5 and 6 where the possible climbs out of the stream are shown. This passage was surveyed as batch 0733-16-04, length 294m.

Another exploration during the same period involved pushing on from station 33 south of *Pantaloon Junction*. A small phreatic tube ends in a too narrow drop of about 20m with the sound of a stream below. There is a strong draught out, although one explorer describe the route as, *"The most hateful bit of cave I have ever been in!"* (Batch 0733-16-02, length 120m). Some narrow rifts head west from station 31 and there are several mazy crawls from station 30 heading back to sump 1.

Some pushing and surveying was carried out in the passages off *Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence* above sumps 5 and 6. The main leads were pushed and surveyed in October 2016. The major find (surveyed to 231m) was an intermediate level entered via a 2-ladder pitch. This dropped into a small chamber with 3 ways off (batch 0733-16-12). (Batch 16-11 repeated part of 16-12)

One route headed north into the large (20m wide x 15m high with large mud banks) inlet passage entered by diver Martin Holroyd in 2002 and the window into sump 6 where he popped up.

To the east leads to 3m by 4m high, level traversing passage that ends looking over the beginning of sump 6. Rupert's dive bottles were seen below but the team were 10m above the stream way and couldn't find a safe climb down.

The 3rd way was through Swiss cheese tubes and enters a high level passage going south in the opposite direction to the sump. This petered out but there is a high degree of certainty that further exploration lies in this direction in the inlet stream way below. The inlet stream was followed for a short way but a bit of hand line rope may be useful if continuing up stream as it involves some steep muddy banks to continue.

Batch 16-10 continues west as a short climb down onto a muddy slope to a 10m pitch. This is apparently undescended - below looks sandy-floored and up to 5m wide. Water is heard below but only a small inlet is seen.

One trip at Easter 2017 started bolting high in the stream passage to try to bypass sump 6. Work will continue.

In the summer 2006, the "left hand branch of Rio Rioja" was examined and had a very good draught which "seems to go up avens at the end".

The summer of 1993 saw a joint Spanish / British trip to look at the downstream sump which was dived by Phil Papard. The dive took about 45 minutes and the diver turned round at the start of sump 3 after some 120m. There is 20m walking between sumps 1 and 2 and an airbell between sumps 2 and 3. The large chamber above sump 1 was surveyed in October 2016 (length = 99m) but was not tied into a known survey point.

At Easter 2002, Martin Holroyd extended Phil Papard's downstream dive to give 644m of surveyed passage through 5 sumps with about 500m of above water passage.

Sump 2 is soon passed into a fine passage with a choke running in on the right. The next inviting sump is an easy swim surfacing at a spike.

Sump 4 was new this year and is a large, blue sump gently dipping down a gravel slope before gently rising to surface. Sump 5 was passed, similar to the last into open passage. A wonderful stream passage follows, up to 15m high. Two inlets and a possible climb up mud are passed, before finally turning a sharp corner and another large sump.

This was entered on a following trip. After 60m the sump enlarges and drops off below to the right. To the left, a steep ramp rises up. This reaches air space giving a sump 6 length of 110m. The exit is up a difficult mud slope. A large, very muddy inlet can be followed upstream through massive mudbanks, evidence of substantial backing-up. The inlet becomes smaller with awkward climbs up mud slopes. The solo explorer gave up where it was necessary to crawl and squeeze at a junction. The left hand branch was draughting strongly.

In the summer of 2003, a further 110m of line was laid downstream. The route descended to -22m and has now gradually risen to -17m where it is seen to continue.

In the autumn 2015, Rupert Skorupka made 9 trips down to the start of the sumps, ferrying dive materials. The gear was put to good use at Easter 2016 when he started a series of dives, relaying lines through the sumps in preparation for a further push. Further work in the summer included re-lining sump 5 and moving dive gear ready for a major push into sump 6 in the autumn 2016. The high level route (*Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence*) was examined as a path for the diver to a safe bivouac spot above sump 6. However, the awkward nature of the passage meant that it was not a good option, but it does provide an escape route and access for the assistance of non-divers.

Although Rupert did some work in the cave in October 2016, no diving was carried out due to a cold.

At Easter 2017, a start was made on re-lining sump 6 but work was curtailed by tourist trippers in the system. In the summer 2017, further re-lining was carried out and sump 6A, up to the junction with the large inlet, was resurveyed (batch 0733-17-05) - clearing up perceived errors in the SoPI-main streamway-sump 6 loop. In October, Rupert visited the cave 9 days in succession to take in a KISS rebreather together with all the necessary components. In addition, several depleted cylinders were replaced. A window of perfect weather allowed this to-and-froing to take place without any risk of gear being washed away. A full account can be seen in the [Autumn 2017 Logbook](#).

In January 2018, Rupert spent a number of trips taking in equipment and adjusting the rigging on the Double Dutch pitch. No diving was possible due to the high water levels. An account of the work is in the January / February 2018 logbook. Residual water levels were too high again between 19th - 29th April 2018. Rupert explained that it was not the diving that was an issue

rather the treacherous nature of the passage floor between sumps 5 and 6. A fall and subsequent damage to the dry suit or re-breather was a real possibility.

Work continued in October 2018. Due to previous flooding and the unstable weather, exploratory dives were not possible. Rupert found sumps 1 to 5 very muddy and regulators at sump 6 were removed for cleaning. The rope was replaced on the *Double Dutch Pitch*.

In March /April, 2019 conditions were again not suitable for diving the downstream sumps and Rupert reverted to climbing mode - see *Double Dutch Pitch*, above. A similar scenario occurred in May/June of that year when Rupert again concentrated on climbing around the DD Pitch and *Jochen's Aven*. Rupert made two trips out from Britain in July: the first to assemble and test a re-breather and drysuit. The second revealed faults with the drysuit but equipment and materials were taken in for a planned August trip. Early on, Rupert dived into sump 6 only to be thwarted by murky conditions at about 100m - presumably from the large, muddy inlet. However "the new trim was perfect, as was the drysuit". No pushing was done due unstable weather being forecast.

A week spent at Vallina in June 2021 was thwarted by "truly awful" weather when Rupert managed to carry gear in as far as the streamway.

Rupert returned in the summer, but found the combined threats, implications and costs of Covid, the weather and the theft of gear from the cave worrying. Rupert's [Conclusions after Summer 2021](#). No diving was carried out in the summer 2022.

In the autumn 2024, after a flood event, (some of) Rupert's gear was washed downstream. The items were recovered and brought out.

Detailed description of the downstream sumps (*Rupert Skorupka, July 2016*)

Sump 1 leads off where a short section of passage carrying the combined streams of the RioRioja doglegs right at the sump pool. After 10m at 2m depth a junction is met with a line off to the right. This surfaces quickly at a small, muddy sump with a stream inlet which can be found on the route through to Vallina 2. Turning left a small (2 x 1m) passage surfaces in a canal with swimming and walking to sump 2. Total length is about 50m, depth 3m. Sump 1 was originally bypassed by a muddy inlet but it is much easier to take the dive route.

Sump 2 starts after a 20m swim where the line follows a small tube which is an oxbow for 15m to a larger tunnel. Beyond a chamber is an easy thrutch up through a massive choke, to surface after 25m in a very large tunnel. This choke was never mentioned by PP or MH and may be a more recent movement (?) of boulders. Sump depth 3m. Beyond sump 2, the passage enlarges dramatically, so I think that the Vallina 2 water enters somewhere in the choke.

Sump 3 begins in a 10m diameter pool and a huge tunnel dips down to about 6m depth before rising to surface in a huge airbell after 25m. A small tube on the left here, at water level, has the sound of a sizeable stream in it - but this is not seen entering anywhere.

Sump 4 follows and is again very large, over fallen slabs, to surface in a canal after 45m, depth 3m. A canal passage allows floating along to sump 5, after about 30m of sizeable tunnel.

Sump 5 dips down to the right to a nice belay in a rock eyehole, depth 4m, then gradually rises up a massive gravel slope to emerge after 45m in an impressive river passage

A route through the boulders at the original downstream sump leads to a small passage heading west and a tight section where a strong draught encourages digging (see *below*).

Individuals of *Nemastoma* were collected in the area of the top of the first pitch.

By August 1991 the Tortosa group appear to have extended the cave to some 12km long.

Bolting was also started at the upstream end of the lower levels and this is still proceeding. (?)

The draughting boulder choke was also inspected and on a later, British-only trip (with permission), the boulders were passed through an [awkward squeeze](#) into a chamber. (In 2012, the squeeze was thought to "shifted on the right hand wall - now tighter than it used to be??" The squeeze was enlarged in August 2015 to allow "normal cavers" to pass.) A passage on the left is choked with mud and boulders

after about 90m. Most of the draught in this section disappears in the roof through small holes, one of which has been followed for about 50m via very small, awkward meanders to a tight squeeze through which water can be heard. A sketch (2012) of the route through into "Vallina 2" is shown [here](#).

Beyond the chamber a stream is entered; upstream and crawling over boulders on the right leads to a large chamber (end of '93 extension). The main extensions occurred during 1994, with additions during 1995.

A low, muddy passage leads to a climb down over boulders into a main stream passage, the *Rio Grande*, explored upstream for about 1.6km, (Pictures [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#)) mainly in fine, large passage. After 300m, an inlet on the right, *Río Blanco*, has been surveyed for over 1km, mostly walking-size, passing a 20m diameter aven chamber, the *Novadome* (disto'd in 2012 to about 48m, probably halfway up)⁺⁺¹. Several leads remain. At the end, *Muddy Waters*, a duck was passed in 2012 into chest deep water. Cross rifts lead to the only feasible way on - a too tight hole where the floor rises and water slops over the edge. Also at the end of the Rio Blanco (up climbs and narrow rifts) a flowstone squeeze has been passed to a short length of passage ending at a 3m high narrow rift.

Just before a canal section in the main stream, some 300m further upstream, *Waterfall Inlet* has been explored up an awkward 4m cascade climb followed by a 12m wet bolt climb in an active aven after 120m. At the top is dry passage and a continuing upstream passage to *Twin Avens*⁺⁺¹, one taking the stream. *The Passage That Turned to Jelly* leads off on the left to enter the *Novadome*, 20m up.

Further work by the Vallina Exploration Group in 2023 descended the pitch at the end of the *Waterfall Inlet* high level to blocks and the new *Navarre Gallery*. Upstream, a new chamber *El Trillizo* was entered with possible routes out. No survey has been received from these explorations.

⁺⁺¹ During 2023, the Vallina Exploration Group explored up the *Novadome* and down again to the *Twin Avens*. In more detail, an 84m bolted and sometimes overhanging climb up the *Novadome* reached a decorated passage to the west, *Galería Sambarinait*, that currently ends at boulders and two pits with a possible route ahead. The pits may correspond to avens on lower levels. On the northeast side of the *Novadome* an inlet stream is entered, the *Río Alto*. After a wet crawl, a more complicated breakdown area is reached with inlets. Heading south past broken straws emerges, after 80m or so, at a 3m climb down (requires tackle) into another streamway - the Río Gemelo (Bessó). Upstream a wet crawl continues while downstream a p10 is met which drops to a rift (with an excavation to one side) and another set of drops to a lake which then joins the *Twin Avens*. It is unclear from the account in [Memoria de Exploracion Vallina 2023](#) how the route links to the avens and how they link into *Frog Passage*. The Survex centre line survey (batch 24-01) is incomplete, finishing at the top of the p10 at station 24-01.s2.55. There are a number of leads to push in this high level series.

It was also reported that the blind *Jaloway Room* lies in the roof of the *Novadome* to the east. At the base of the dry *Twin Aven*, a small passage has been pushed for about 100m to the south.

A short report in the summer 2024 (see [logbook](#), page 48) stated that, in the upper part of *Novadome*, the chaos of the block was inspected without seeing a possibility of continuing. The ropes that connect with *Twin Avens* are fixed and the unknowns upstream are pending.

The next inlet, *Simeon's Loop*, has been explored to a climb up into a higher level fossil passage. Left leads to a continuation to the cascades in the main stream and a connection back to the inlet passage. On the right (*Not Simeon's Loop*) is a fossil passage, passing a bolt climb to possible higher passage, not yet completed, and eventually invaded by the inlet, ending in a waterfall chamber with the stream beyond coming from an aven of about 10m, not climbed. At the chamber, a steep climb over mud formations enters large fossil passage. To the right a route involving awkward climbs of 6, 5 and 6m connects to *Rio Blanco* upstream of the *Novadome*; to the left passes a pit then well decorated bouldery passage, ending at a huge pit. the *First Abyss*, above *Thornton Force*. A traverse to the right reaches the continuation of the main fossil passage, the *Galeria de los Elefantes*, and a route left leads to a view point above *Thornton Force*.

In 2003, an unsurveyed passage running south from the west side of the First Abyss was entered. This is 4-6m wide, 1 - 4m high and very well decorated, ending at a diggable choke with a small draught and some skeletons.

Back in the main streamway, a boulder choke is passed, then *Quicksand Passage* on the left - entered for 20m and draughting. Beyond are climbable cascades below the connection to the previous inlet. A large chamber follows with a 5m pitch up beside the water (*Thornton Force*). This was left rigged in 1993 but by 2003 the rope had been destroyed by floods. In 2006, the pitch was left rigged for a pull-through descent requiring an 18m rope.

Above the pitch, a number of slippery cascades need a rope or combined tactics in *Kingsdale Passage*. After some 120m, an inlet on the south side was pushed for 119m in 2006. Exploration was left when the way on divided: a return visit is required. After 400m upstream, a roof passage enters a high level series of large, very well decorated passages, explored for 1.3km. The first section, *Crystal River Passage*, leads to a huge pit, the *First Abyss*, where a 30m climb down reaches the floor. A descent over and between boulders, beneath a large boulder leads to a slot which may provide a pitch down into *Thornton Force* chamber. A slippery, exposed climb up the opposite wall leads to continuing large passage, the *Galeria de los Elefantes*, explored to the *Second Abyss*.

During 2023, an aven (*Vimanai*) in the roof of the *Crystal River Passage* just before it meets the *First Abyss*, was climbed for 63m. A small passage at the top meets a p60 which drops into the *First Abyss*. (Survey batch 24-03).

Several side passages lead off on the right of *Galeria de los Elefantes*. First is *Frog Passage*, mostly crawling, which ends at the *Twin Avens* reached from *Waterfall Inlet*. Part way along is a frog (?) skeleton. Next are two passages which join and reach a complex area explored by the Espeleo Club Tortosa. On the left, *Els Penitens* connects to the big aven in *Toc Gallery*. Last, is a passage leading through several maze areas (not totally pushed) ending at a climb at a draughting choke which may be easily passed. This choke was investigated on a visit in the summer 2008 and found to start with an awkward climb that requires a ladder. This passage runs parallel with the main passage leading to the *Second Abyss*.

Boxhead Traverse runs around the right hand side of the *Second Abyss*, which drops about 50m to a choked outlet at the bottom. A continuation of the large passage soon closes down, but a climb up through a narrow, loose rift on the left hand side eventually gains a large chamber. After a number of huge blocks have been negotiated, a 5m pitch at the back of the chamber soon chokes after a few metres of passage. There appear to be some phreatic tubes present part way down the *Second Abyss* but these would require a bolt route to enter. Further investigation of the *Second Abyss* occurred in 2023 by the Vallina Exploration Group. A climb to the ledge at the highest part then a drop down to check "intermediate height windows". This is ongoing.

A small opening in the left hand side of *Galeria de los Elefantes*, just beyond the *First Abyss*, leads to *Helictite Maze*, where there appears to be many ways through. Beyond a section of helictites, a junction floored with limestone pinnacles is reached. To the left the passage rejoins the *Crystal River Passage* going west, that enters the other side of the *First Abyss*. (This provides an easy alternative to ascending the far wall of the *First Abyss*. To the right, the passage degenerates into a crawl, *Cobra Passage*, joins an abandoned stream canyon. Upstream leads to a calcite choke, downstream to an aven and continuing unpushed passage.

In 2023, work at the east end of *Crystal River Passage* pushed a route through a tight loop (batch 24-02) into *Cobra Passage*. Near the *Cobra Passage end*, a 33m high aven proved to be blind and, close to the *Crystal River Passage end*, the well decorated *Sala Andara* was climbed for 33m. Various side passages in *Cobra Passage* proved to be parallel routes and it was documented that the water near the end runs in a narrow lower meander.

During the summer of 1995 the western streamway was pushed. An obvious inlet on the left hand side may be followed into a low passage which eventually enters a chamber.

An abandoned route also enters the chamber from further upstream as well. Several small streams cascade down a massive choke which has been partly explored (and re-explored in 2023) but no route through has been found. Continuing upstream in the main passage, the roof lowers until a crawl meets an area of collapse. One route has been pushed which enters an aven, choking after a series of climbs (about 15m). Part way up, a small tube to a grotto can be squeezed past and a tight rift continues northwards - *Crumble Passage*. This has not been pushed to a conclusion.

Toc Gallery is a long stream passage entered by climbing up a slope on the right at the start of the *Rio Grande* crawling over gours and descending a mud slope to drop into the walking-sized stream passage. Beyond the *Hale Bopp Trail* and the *Rope Climb Series*, *Toc Gallery* continues past a huge aven (the *Tocadome*, a height measurement by Disto in 2006 was 75m and is "nowhere near the top") to a choke where handline climbs up and down regain the streamway.

The *Tocadome* was climbed by members of the Vallina Exploration Group in 2022. A 50m climb, starting from a window 35m above the floor, reaches a small route at the SE corner. A short passage enters a bouldery chamber with a passage to the south leading back to *El Penitents* and a route to the east meeting a slope of boulders. A 39m climb enters the high level and well decorated *Galería Blanca*, which ends about 100m to the SE at draughting possibilities. Documentation in 2024 suggests that a number of connections at the start of the *G. Blanca* have been made through to the *Second Abyss*.

In the summer 2024, documented in the [logbook](#) pp47-48, the rope on the *Tocadome* climb was replaced and the upper part explored. The upper and lower crawl continue to join up further on. Within the c250m route there are different possibilities, fossil galleries and active drops. (There is no survey).

In same logbook report, the *Galería Blanca* has been extended after clearing the blockage: The final meander of the white gallery opens to a large room that leads to a drop. This decomposed (?) but the large-volume pitch is divided (for the moment) into three distinct sections, the first to a ledge at -16m from the head where horizontal fossil galleries open up that head towards *Abbyss 2* (all possibilities close); a second part of the pitch that descends approx. 25m to an active zone that continues at least 30m heading east. It remains to descend the well due to lack of material. (No survey)

The September 1994 extensions - *Galeria New York City* - lie at the end of *Toc Gallery* and need a description. A trip in 1998 found that the draught in was lost near the end up a 10m aven where a hole is crossed in the floor.

The *Vallina Project 2021* resurveyed north out of the *New York Gallery* up to the northern choke. Pushing through, they encountered a streamway that gained 30m altitude to meet another choke after 145m. The northwest streamway was also pushed up a climb into the *Galería Mañana*, 289m of high level passage including an 18m climb into the *Sala Superior*, at 350m altitude - about 30m above the stream.

Further extensions at Whit 95 need the survey data entering and a description. (J. Palmer).

At Easter 97, the *Hale Bopp Trail* was entered off *Toc Gallery*. This sets off about 80m upstream as a small inlet entering from the right hand side. The *Hale Bopp Trail* starts as a tight meandering streamway containing a noticeable draught. At 40m, along a dug calcite squeeze in water marks slightly easier going and, after an attractive orange-yellow calcite floor, a short climb up marks a change in character. The rift becomes very awkward and then suddenly enters through the floor of a large, high chamber running north-south. A slippery climb up at the northern end leads to a small passage and large calcite formation. A climb at the southern end, where the inlet water falls from the roof, eventually leads to a junction: straight ahead chokes but a hole on the right hand side gains several small interconnecting chambers. From here, a small canyon passage carrying a strong draught leads to a calcite blockage which may be dug. (Catalans 13/8/97?)

In 1998, a passage to the north of *Hale Bopp*, the *Rope Climb Series* was entered. After a muddy climb on the right, about 160m of muddy rift passages were surveyed

ending at a tight, draughting climb up which is worth returning to. A branch on the left ends in the roof of *Toc Gallery*. There is also a possibility on the other side of *Toc Gallery* which will require a bolt to reach.

In the same year, the Catalans climbed up 15m at the start of the chamber north of the *Maze Area* (713,334) and enter the *Resistance Gallery* - an inlet which ends at two avens. To the south of this, and to the east of *Shatter Passage*, various maze passages were surveyed during the summer 2007, totalling about 100m.

Over Easter 2006, *Birds' World* was surveyed (batches 182 - 184), although most of the passage had probably been previously entered by the Catalans. Proper description required.

In October 2020. 4 members of the ECT passed the choke at the extreme northern end and entered fossil galleries by climbing up. Surveying was not carried out due to communication difficulties but the team intend to return. (Noted on [survey](#).)

By early 2021, cooperation between the ECT and the MCP had been agreed and [comprehensive plans](#) had been laid by the ECT for a summer campaign to link the SVS with Cueva Vallina. Results have been included in the above account - search for "New York".

Further explorations and surveys appeared after a short December 2021 trip. The batches are 21-05 and 21-06 where issues are being discussed. [An updated survey](#) has been produced. See NOTE at top.

In another development, Cueva de la Rasa (5135) is being explored above Cueva Vallina by local cavers in major passage and pitches.

In March 2024, a four-man team were unable to exit the cave after heavy rain. After a few hours the water levels dropped and the cavers were able to make their own way out. Although rescue teams had been making preparations, they were not required.

OBA water tracing

A [diagram of the hydrology](#) has been prepared for a optical brightener test at Easter 2015.

At Easter 2015, four litres of Leucophor were placed in the river just upstream of the confluence of the waters from Vallina I and II. Detectors were placed in [Cueva del Comellantes \(40\)](#), [Cueva del Molino \(resurgence\) \(791\)](#), [Fuente de Barcena Morel \(3278\)](#) and the Bustablado river just down stream of the main resurgences on the south side opposite Molino. Detectors were also placed in [Cueva-Cubío de la Reñada \(48\)](#), at Sump 1, *Squirrel's Passage* and the stream below *Castle Hall*. After 8 days of negative detectors, the detector in [Cueva del Comellantes](#) went strongly positive.

Subsequent checks on the other detectors showed them all to be negative apart from Sump 1 in Reñada which was also strongly positive. This test confirms that Vallina and Reñada and Comellante are part of the same system, and that *Squirrel's Passage* water is an inlet and not part of the main river that flows out of Reñada II and into Reñada I via sump I.

More details of water tracing around Matienzo can be found on [this page](#).

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

The [speleo club Viana](#) (from Guadalajara) have published a number of documents (descriptions & surveys, including gpx, pdf and jpg files) relating to the system. See their [Cantabria page](#) and the *Zona de Matienzo* section.

References: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#); [Corrin J, 1990 \(survey and photo\)](#); [Corrin J, 1992a \(survey\)](#); [Corrin J, 1992b \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1991 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); material in file; [Corrin J, 1994a](#); [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1994b \(survey\)](#); [Muñoz Fernández E and Malpelo García B, 1995](#); [anon., 1995b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995a \(photo\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1996](#); [anon., 1996a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997a \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997b](#); [anon., 1997a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1997b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1998](#); [anon., 1998a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1998d \(logbook\)](#); [Fernández Ortega F, Valls Uriol and Maria del Carmen, 1998 \(photo\)](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey and photo\)](#); [Algueró, A, Martinez, C and Garcia, A, 1998 \(survey and photo\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997c](#); [Corrin Juan, 1999](#); [anon., 1999c \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2000](#); [anon., 2000b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001](#); [anon., 2001a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2001b \(Whit logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001a](#); [anon., 2002e \(February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002b \(summer logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002c \(autumn logbook\)](#); [anon., 2002d \(Christmas logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003a](#); [anon., 2003b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003b](#); [anon.,](#)

2003c (summer logbook); Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003; Corrin Juan, 2003c; anon., 2003e (Christmas logbook); anon., 2004b (Easter logbook); anon., 2004c (Whit logbook); anon., 2004d (summer logbook); anon., 2004e (autumn logbook); anon., 2005b (Easter & summer); Corrin Juan, 2005; Corrin Juan, 2006a; anon., 2006b (Easter logbook); Corrin Juan, 2006; anon., 2006d (summer logbook); Corrin Juan, 2007; Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 2007; anon., 2007d (summer logbook); Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007 (photos); Corrin Juan, 2007a; anon., 2008c (Easter logbook); Corrin Juan, 2009; anon., 2009a (Easter logbook); anon., 2009c (summer logbook); anon., 2010b (Easter logbook); León García José, 2010 (Volume 1 and Volume 2) (line survey and photos); anon., 2011d (summer logbook); anon., 2011e (autumn logbook); anon., 2012b (Easter logbook); anon., 2012d (summer logbook); Corrin Juan, 2013a; anon., 2013b (Easter logbook); anon., 2013d (summer logbook); Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014; anon., 2015b (Easter logbook); anon., 2015c (summer logbook); anon., 2015d (autumn logbook); Simonnot G, 2016; anon., 2016c (summer logbook); anon., 2016d (autumn logbook); anon., 2017b (Easter logbook); anon., 2017c (summer logbook); anon., 2017d (autumn logbook); anon., 2018a (January, February logbook); anon., 2018b (Easter logbook); anon., 2018c (summer logbook); anon., 2018d (autumn logbook); anon., 2019b (Easter logbook); anon., 2019c (Whit logbook); anon., 2019d (summer logbook); anon., 2020d (autumn logbook); anon., 2021c (summer logbook); anon., 2021d (autumn logbook); anon., 2021f (Christmas logbook); anon., 2022b (Easter logbook); anon., 2022c (summer logbook); anon., 2022d (autumn logbook); Simonnot G, 2022; anon., 2023a (January, February logbook); anon., 2023b (Easter logbook); anon., 2023c (summer logbook); Memoria de Exploracion Vallina 2023 (with translation and analysis) : anon., 2024a (January, February logbook); anon., 2024b (Easter logbook); anon., 2024d (summer logbook); anon., 2024e (autumn logbook)

Entrance pictures : bottom entrance 1 2 3 - Easter 2006 : 4 - summer 2019 : 5 - April 2022 : Top entrance April 2023 : Top entrance April 2023 : bottom entrance Easter 2024

Underground picture(s):

2024 summer	August 3rd - entrance pitch	H
2024 Easter	March 28th - Photos from lower entrance to FN Passage and Swirl Chamber	M e
2023	April 9th - Top Level Continuation	A
2023	April 7th through trip	A le
2022	October 2022 - see 0753-0733 connection for more photos	
2021	Zona Blanca / Birds' World	(
2019	Swirl Chamber	A A
2019	Z Blanca, Birds' W, etc, Easter	G
2018	G de Cisterna area, Easter	D
2017	Subphone test under Smelly Hat Aven	G
2016	Downstream between sumps 5 & 6, summer	P w
2016	Resurveying the top entrance chamber, Easter.	S (S
2015	Water tracing, Easter 2015	S
2013	Pictures from Easter 2013	P
2011	Spanish blog pictures (January)	S 2
2010	Spanish blog into Vallina II (November)	S
2009	16 pictures from Easter	
2006	Vallina 2, summer	B E
2004	October in Barney Rubble and beyond to the white sand	S to
2003	November Passage	S
2002	Xmas, mud formations	E
2001	Swirl Chamber to lower entrance	
95 & 96	1995 & 1996 Vallina 1 & 2	
?	miscellaneous photos	
1989	1989 B&W photos from top level	

Videos : Lost Pot Entrance (1.8Mb) : formations around FN Passage (4.6Mb) : Phil Papard at The Canyon (2.8Mb) : narrow entrance passages (2.2Mb) entrance passages (1.8Mb) : formations (2.3Mb) : formations (2.8Mb) from Dec 2002: video in Vallina 1 (57Mb) from Easter 2009: Moments from a Vallina trip (26Mb wmv file) Video on You Tube, posted by Spanish caving group: Photos on the through trip from top to bottom entrance. Pita Passage push, 2013 (YouTube) : Sisters of Perpeptual Indulgence (SoPI), October 2015 (YouTube) Mainly batch 16-02 (S Passage) off SoPI (YouTube) : from bottom entrance to Rio Rioja, Easter 2016 (YouTube) Installing the Tyrolean over The Canyon, July 2016 (YouTube) : downstream diver (YouTube) : testing the SubPhone (YouTube) : upstream diving (YouTube) white cave creatures in sump 1, summer 2017 (YouTube) : Transporting dive bags to the upstream sump (August 2017) (YouTube) Climbing the aven at the end of the Río Rioja Reserva (August 2017) (YouTube) : SubPhone under Torca Rotura area (August 2017) (YouTube) First video beyond the upstream sumps into Vallina 3, August 2017 (YouTube) : **summer 2018 (diving) in hand** : Zarco's Shaft summer 2019 (YouTube)

April 2023 - [Bolting Ha! pitch : Chunnel area : TLC exploration \(Carl Gibbs\) : 2023 Explorations in the Novadome and Tocadome \(ECT\) \(YouTube\)](#)
Easter 2024 visit to FN Passage (YouTube) : [summer 2024, TLC Aven](#)

Aerial panoramas and videos: [taken over Vallina 1, 13/11/2018](#)

Detailed Survey : [Original from 1989 / 1990](#)

Martin Holroyd's [Easter 2001 dive with earlier dives](#) (scan of hand-drawn survey).

Notes: This relates to the Corel Draw Vallina survey drawn by Ali Neill. The *Opera* browser displays all of the survey one-sheet files below. *Internet Explorer* appears to only display the smallest. Right-clicking on any link and selecting *Save Target As ...* will save the file and allow it to be opened in any graphics application.

[end of 2004 - large \(450kb gif - one sheet\)](#) : [end of 2004 - smaller \(300k gif - one sheet\)](#) : [end of 2004 - smallest \(100k gif - one sheet\)](#)

This pdf file is a [1.1Mb file of 9 sheets](#). Again, right-clicking as *Save Target As...* will keep the file for future use.

[Survey at October 2007 - 2Mb colour pdf file](#)

[Survey at March 2008 - 2Mb colour pdf file](#) : [Survey at end of summer 2008 - 2Mb colour pdf file](#)

[sketch for Vallina 1 to 2 link \(2012\)](#) : [Survey at end of summer 2012](#)

[Survey at end of Easter 2015 : Extension above downstream sumps \(SoPI\), October 2015 \(Revised Dec. 2015. Not yet drawn on main survey\)](#)

[Double Dutch Pitch area resurvey and extensions, Easter 2016 : SoPI continued, Easter 2016 \(Not drawn on main survey\)](#)

[Revised survey with SoPI shown and the sumps adjusted to fit, Easter 2017 : After summer 2017](#)

[After Easter 2018 \(Galería de Cisterna\) : After summer 2018 : After Easter 2019 : After summer 2019 \(Jochen's / Zarco's\) : After autumn 2020 \(push N\) : after October 2021](#)

[November 2021 - includes finds from Catalan Vallina Project : June 2022 \(0733-2022e-19\) : June 2022 \(0733-2022e19AD-04\) : June 2022 \(0733-2022s-01\)](#)

[April 2023 - Top Level Continuation - 23-01 \(temporary plan + elev\) : 23-03 \(temporary plan + elevation\)](#)

[Revised, "complete" survey, June 2023 : 2023](#)

[Novadome-Twin Avens original pdf \(batch 24-01\) : Complete after Easter 2024 : Complete after summer 2024](#)

Line Survey : [yes-2003 : hydrology](#)

On area survey : [Relationship to the South Vega System \(from the 90's\) : Vallina in context map \(27th June 2023\)](#)

Survex file : [after May 2022 - "best fit" for ECT 2021 finds. Will be amended after discussion. \(Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.\)](#)

[Vallina with the South Vega System \(2021, October\)\(Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.\)](#)

[November 2022 - Vallina with 0753 connected in at The Canyon : Version 230621 - the underlying centre line for the revised survey : After Easter 2024](#)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0734: Humo, Cueva de

Ogarrio 30T 455348 4793821 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 345m

Length 2160m **Depth** 167m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 18th January 2004; 31st October 2007; 6th January 2011; 30th June 2018

The entrance lies in a dry valley and the passage heads off into the hill side as a steeply descending boulder slope. A large, clean-washed rift continues with avens on both sides to a 13m pitch into a 10m diameter chamber. The exit is down a tight climb-cum-crawl which requires a rope for the bottom section. At the base are several passages: to the south they become tight in small streamways; to the north both passages end up in the same place. The oxbow passage to the right is steeply descending joins the left hand route at the head of the second pitch.

The 10m pitch lands in a pool and crossing the pools leads immediately to the head of the longest, 23m drop. At the base there are two immature inlets. The way on is in a tight, high vadose passage with a short climb and 3m pitch after some 80m. *Sealed with a Kiss* rift is about 0.5m wide and is awkward with nodules on the walls. A 3m pitch is followed by walking in a streamway to a junction. To the east is an impassable wet crawl and to the west lies the inlet of *Je ne sais pas pourquoi*. The passage is a tight rift with a small streamway with evidence of different stream levels. The survey stops at a large amount of calcite flow but the passage continues, becoming tighter until it becomes impassable.

North from the junction continues to a small sandy climb and a rift to the head of a 4m pitch with windows to the right. Directly ahead in the muddy chamber is an unsurveyed link to the further passages. These can also be reached via a tight rift into the *Coffee Shop Chamber*. A number of routes lead out: the water appears to go along a wide, low crawl to the left with pebbles and flood debris. The crawl becomes tight and immature and ends in a blind sandy crawl. A 2m climb to the left drops into low, wet, draughting crawls.

MATIENZO UNDERGROUND - site descriptions (printed 28/02/2025)

Through an eyehole and up a sandy ramp leads to walking passage, 2m wide by 3m high. A small chamber has a number of ways off including a climb into the loose roof. The obvious way on is to the right in a dry, wide rift. This continues as high breakdown passage, steeply inclined passing through collapsed chambers. A small trickle enters and sinks and 30m beyond the cave finishes.

There are four ways off at the end. The left route ends at a choke; the centre-left passage is a sandy crawl that closes down; the way straight ahead rises on a nasty boulder slope to an area of loose avens, and the right hand route is a crawl to a small aven.

Cuenca covers in the Asociación Espeleologica Conquense Lobetum have linked Cueva del Humo (734) with [Torca de Esquimadera \(739\)](#) to form the Sistema del Humo with a combined length of 2200m.

References: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1990 \(survey\)](#); material in file; [anon., 1993a \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1994c \(survey and photo\)](#); [García José León, 1997 \(survey\)](#); [Valero Enrique y Soriano Ángel, 2007](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\)](#) (survey and photos)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from [anon., 1993a](#) (AEC Lobetum):

[high res system plan](#) [low res system plan](#)

[high res projected section of Esquimadera](#) [low res](#)

[projected section of Esquimadera](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [Humo](#) : [Esquimadera](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0735: shaft

Llueva 30T 455668 4796631 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 427m

Length 40m **Depth** 9m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

A free-climbable and tight shaft which drops to a chamber with flat roof and calcite ramp.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0736: cave

El Naso 30T 451848 4796948 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 252m

Length 10m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 13th May 2019

[Previous grid reference was 30T 451908 4796901

(Datum: ETRS89)]

A crawl to where the passage splits into three and chokes. The cave was possibly re-identified and relocated in 2019.

References: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); material in file;

[anon., 2019b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : 2019

Underground pictures: 2019

Detailed Survey : [sketch 2019](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0737: cave

El Naso 30T 451898 4796911 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 253m

Length 5m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Three holes enter a bedding which chokes.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0738: shaft

El Naso 30T 451318 4797151 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 306m

Depth 12m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Undescended narrow shaft about 12m deep.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0739: Esquimadera, Torca de

Ogarrio 30T 455328 4793851 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 360m

Length included with [Cueva del Humo \(734\)](#) **Depth**

203m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 18th January 2004; 31st October 2007; 30th June 2018

The entrance is situated 15m higher up the valley than [Cueva del Humo \(734\)](#). A sandy ramp degenerates to an area of loose boulders. A 8m pitch is followed by a 10m pitch in quick succession. A loose, bouldery area leads to a 19m pitch with an unsurveyed, draughting passage. To the right a low crawl leads to a traverse to the top of a 26m pitch. From the base a very high but narrow rift leads out to pitches of 17m and 9m in a clean washed streamway. A tight passage requires some traversing to an 8.4m pitch. A calcite-floored chamber has an obvious route to the left which ends at an aven. An insignificant crawl pops out into the streamway which has debris up the walls with boulders and sand. Fifteen metres downstream enters a large aven and continues in boulders. The stream cuts down in the floor whilst the caver stays at high level on the right. A gour pool is passed on the left. At a calcite area a ladder eases a slippery descent of some 5m.

The stream continues in the trench with traversing above when an area of dropped roof slabs, covering the trench (*Vino Collapso*) is met. Walking over the slabs and continued traversing leads to a place where the higher level becomes impossible and tackle is necessary to continue at stream level.

Upstream, *Top of the World* is a large aven with large boulders at its base. The passage narrows upstream to *Walk Like an Egyptian*, where a large pyramid-shaped block lies across the passage. The streamway widens, cutting a trench at this point, with debris. Routes diverge at various levels, leading to a high route with a flat ceiling with much debris. At *Apache Junction* the 2 routes of significance lead off. The one to the west has excellent straws from the roof which lowers to a crawl which may or may not continue. The passage to the east enters an area of calcite flows which closes down in crawls and small chambers with avens. A small rift is impassable. There are a number of avens with good echoes.

Cuenca cavers in the Asociación Espeleologica Conquense Lobetum have linked [Cueva del Humo \(734\)](#) with Torca de Esquimadera (739) to form the Sistema del Humo with a combined length of 2200m.

References: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1990](#); material in file; [anon., 1993a \(survey\)](#); [anon., 1994c](#) (survey and photo); [García José León, 1997](#) (survey); [Valero Enrique y Soriano Ángel, 2007](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\)](#) (survey and photos)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from [anon., 1993a](#) (AEC

Lobetum):

[high res system plan](#) [low res system plan](#)

[high res projected section of Esquimadera](#) [low res](#)

[projected section of Esquimadera](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [Esquimadera : Humo](#) (Coordinates

altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0740: cave

Ogarrio 30T 455348 4793841 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 349m

Length 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Climb down entrances leads to a large chamber with a climb up to an inlet and boulder choke requiring a dig. No draught.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0741: shaft

Riva 30T 455158 4793031 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 195m

Length 10m **Depth** 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 5m climb down to a small chamber and choke.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0742: shaft

Muela 30T 455208 4796491 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 589m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Rocks surround a 10m pitch to a choke, with goat and horse bones. Tagged 742.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0743: cave

Muela 30T 455198 4796511 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 580m

Length 6m **Depth** 2m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 2m deep, 6m long rift. Tagged 743. Six and twenty metres to the north are two, 6m long crawls.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0744: cave

Muela 30T 455118 4796541 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 580m

Length 12m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Collapse with a tree in the entrance to a 10x12m chamber with no way on. Tagged 744.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0745: cave

Muela 30T 455228 4796441 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 611m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 13th May 2011; 25th September 2012

A circular 3m diameter shaft, restricted by vegetation, drops 7m to a rubble floor and a small parallel shaft. Tagged 745 and marked with "AA53" and "AA54" where only "AA53" was accessible in 2012.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#); [anon., 2011b \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2012d \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [sketch](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0746: shaft

Muela 30T 455178 4796391 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 626m

Length 8m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th November 2007; 30th October 2020

Shaft on the SE side of a doline is 8m deep to a choke. A boulder heap in the floor of the doline has a good draught. Tagged 746. In November 2007, a new track had been built past the depression and the depression itself filled in, presumably blocking any draught. "The shaft may still be accessible on the SE side of the doline". This wasn't checked out until October 2020 when the location was confirmed and photos taken.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#); [anon., 2007e \(autumn + Christmas logbook\)](#) ; [anon., 2020d \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0747: cave

Riva 30T 455218 4792951 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 194m

Length 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 21st March 2023

A walk-in hole in a depression by the road enters a 6m diameter chamber with roof solution pockets. Tagged 747.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2023b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)
Underground picture(s): [yes](#)
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0748: cave

Ogarrio 30T 455498 4793311 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 237m

Length 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A walk-in entrance below a rock outcrop leads to a narrow rift which becomes too tight. Tagged 748.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0749: cave (Humo 2, Cueva)

Ogarrio 30T 455408 4793861 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 337m

Length 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 18th January 2004

A 15m overhanging cliff with a draughting slope of boulders. Digging has been abandoned as being too dangerous. A draughting rift is also present on the right hand side of the cliff.

Actividades Regionales. Exploraciones en Cantabria ([anon., 1993a](#)) has a [survey](#) of 749 which it calls Cueva Humo 2 (site 32) which has no boulders and a sink showing at the base. The position is also suspect.

References: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1993a \(survey\)](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey : from [anon., 1993a](#) (AEC Lobetum): [high res](#) [low res](#)
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0750: shaft

Llueva 30T 454578 4798371 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 240m

Length 25m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A U-shaped shaft with four lightning trees in a well vegetated area. A short pitch meets a floor which descends to 10m below the surface.

References: [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J, 1994b](#)

Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0751: shaft

N Vega 30T 449508 4795661 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: M) **Altitude** 362m

Depth 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Down the hill from [Sima de las Abejas \(492\)](#), just above the side of the obvious valley. An undescended 5m deep shaft which needs large rocks removing from around the top.

Reference: [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#) (survey)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0752: Rotura, Hoyo de (2014

(French: SCD))

Arredondo 30T 450841 4792844 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 359m

Length 91m **Depth** 29m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 12th May 2002; 1st July 2009; 10th November 2015; 11th February 2016; 20th January 2017; 23rd September 2018; 14th November 2022

Simonnot G, 2016 and Simonnot G, 2018 has the ETRS89 grid reference as 0450832 4792841.

Immediately to the north of the Rotura hut, the chestnut tree-surrounded entrance is marked SCD2014 and has a cool draught. A pitch of 8m drops to a meandering stream passage. The second pitch of 10m enters some nice sandy-floored chambers. The draught appears to be going over all these pitches but a major bolt traverse is needed. On the left at the bottom, a hole at head-height leads to a rift. A visit in warmer weather is needed to see if there is a draught.

The site was explored by the Spéléo-Club Dijon in 1988 with a survey and some work at the base carried out in 2015.

The information below has been roughly translated from the French, Spéléo-Club Dijon reference, Simonnot G, 2016.

Immediately north of the cabin of Rotura, at the bottom of a depression surrounded by chestnut trees. (The same access as to the Torca de Rotura ([MCP0753 / SCD2013](#))).

At the end of a steep wooded doline (-5m) starts a bend which we reached the bottom by a P.8. Then a 15m tube, chaotic but comfortable, broken down small drop. Two passages enter on the right side and a third on the left that requires climbing. Returning to the main passage, another pitch (p7) drops into a beautiful rotunda of five meters in diameter; it turns out unfortunately clogged with the remains of an imposing fill at -29m.

A conduit back (arrival) is grafted to this small room. Only an opening in the fill helps maintain a slim hope.

References: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); material in file; [Degouve de Nuncques Patrick et Simonnot Guy, 1989](#); [anon., 2002e \(February logbook\)](#); [anon., 2015d \(autumn logbook\)](#); Simonnot G, 2016; Simonnot G, 2018; [Simonnot G, 2022](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : from Guy Simonnot - [section](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0753: Rotura, Torca de (2013

(French: SCD))

Arredondo 30T 450999 4792821 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: G) **Altitude** 403m

Depth 94m **Length** (108m) included in [Cueva Vallina, #0733](#)

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 12th May 2002; 1st July 2009; 11th February 2016; 27th February, 23rd September 2018; 22nd August 2020; 25th November 2022

A previous position was ETRS89 451008 4792824.

A large shaft, rather like Rowten without the stream, labelled SCD2013.

A 45m pitch has a ledge 20m down and lands on a rock slope. A steep boulder slope leads to a broken 15m pitch and a final 20m pitch to a sandy floored chamber where a

10cm wide fissure emits a cold draught. This is above Smelly Hat Aven in Cueva Vallina and a start has been made to open up the rift (February 2018).

Further work was carried out in the summer 2020 when progress was made along a meander to where a p10 could be observed ahead. The site draughts upwards. (See 2020 survey below). (See last paragraph.)

The information below has been roughly translated from the French, Spéléo-Club de Dijon reference, Degouve de Nuncques Patrick et Simonnot Guy, 1989 (in Sous le Plancher, no 4, 1989), repeated in Simonnot G, 2016. The French reference number for this site is SCD2013.

In the side of a small valley to the north of Arredondo, on a sloping moor, fifty meters above a hut. Easy access by road then along the track of Llaneces. At the end, taking a path along the hillside for ten minutes towards the hut of Rotura reaches the site. Explored in October 1988.

A pretty p48 is followed by shorter verticals (p20; p5) leading down to -73 in a small choked chamber. A narrow fissure emits a violent draught. This hole could be the source of Fuentes (No 2018). ([Site 1756](#)).

This chasm must be in relation with the cueva Vallina whose galleries pass just below. (Simonnot G, 2018) In October 2022, the torca was linked into Cueva Vallina (0733), probably above the "p?" just west of the Clapham Bypass on the Vallina survey. See the elevation and 3d Survex files below. (The length to be added to Vallina has yet to be finalised.)

Details of the earlier SCD excavations in Rotura (translated by Google Translate):

Friday, February 23, 2018 Participants: P. and S. Degouve, G. Simonnot Located directly above the galleries at the bottom of the Valina, the Torca de Rotura had been explored by the SCD about thirty years ago (1988). A narrow windy meander had stopped us at the time. A new visit from our English friends did not allow us to go further. It is therefore with equipment adapted to this kind of obstacle that we return to the pass point of the abyss at -73 m. This morning, the weather is cold and dry and the cavity operates in winter mode, that is to say that it sucks clearly. We are re-equipping the sinkhole and starting the work right away. The meander is narrow but by digging the filling we already manage to make the passage less cramped. At the end of the afternoon we progressed a good meter.

Saturday, June 27, 2020 Participants: P. and S. Degouve, G. Simonnot, M. Ulises The runoff has destabilized a few pebbles at the bottom of the entrance shaft and you have to be careful when crossing the scree. At the bottom the chasm is very dry which makes the work less painful. The current of blowing air that we already felt at the entrance to the abyss is very strong here and with the outside heat, it will gradually increase in power. We advance 3 to 4 m to a right angle bend. The meander plunges gently and we seem to perceive a widening a few meters further (slight resonance...). We leave equipped in anticipation of a new session.

Wednesday, July 22, 2020 Participants: Patrick and Sandrine Degouve, Guy Simonnot The current of air is still very strong and the meander is very dry. We advance two meters to a bend behind which opens a well of about ten meters much wider at the bottom. There are still a few very narrow meters but this time, the junction with La Valina seems close.

Friday, July 31, 2020 Participants: P. Degouve, L. Guillot, J.N. Outhier, G. Simonnot We finally reach the top of the well glimpsed during the last outing. Next time it will be good.

References: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); material in file; [Degouve de Nuncques Patrick et Simonnot Guy, 1989 \(survey\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2009](#); [anon., 2009b \(Whit logbook\)](#); Simonnot G, 2016; [anon., 2018a \(January / February logbook\)](#); Simonnot G, 2018; [anon., 2020c \(Spring, summer logbook\)](#); [Simonnot G, 2022](#); [anon., 2022d \(autumn logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [2022](#)

Underground picture(s): Accumulated debris pile

: [Connection with Vallina, October 2022](#)

Detailed Survey : [yes](#) (from [Degouve de Nuncques Patrick et Simonnot Guy, 1989](#)); [amended survey 2020](#) : October 2022 - linked to Vallina - [elevation](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [combined 1988 and 2022 surveys](#) (from an original .trox file) : [with Vallina, joined at The Canyon](#)

X

0754: cave (2733 (French: SCD))

Arredondo 30T 451038 4793181 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 472m

Length 40m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 23rd September 2018; 14th

November 2022

Cave is entered through a collapse in a bank hidden by trees. A chamber 30m across has many old, large formations. A fault cuts across the far side of the chamber. A short climb and crawl leads to an aven. No obvious ways on.

The information below has been roughly translated from the French, Simonnot G, 2018. The French reference number for this site is SCD2733.

Two small influxes of water are lost in the chaos of blocks. At the low point of the hall, a passage opened in 2018 allowed to slip under the large stalagmitic flow and see a small suite behind a narrowing to expand. The large intake-sensitive intake airflow probably disappears into the massive pile of blocks that line the room.

The cavity opens at the limit of the Tocornal sandstones and the underlying Vallina limestones.

References: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); material in file; Simonnot G, 2018; [Simonnot G, 2022](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0755: shaft

Arredondo 30T 451248 4792801 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 514m

Length 40m **Depth** 40m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Shaft continues through boulders at the base of the entrance pitch. A dog was rescued from here in 1989.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0756: shaft

Arredondo 30T 455158 4795801 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 708m

Length 15m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 1st July 2009

A 5m diameter, 15m deep, free-climbable shaft which drops to a choked floor. Possibly marked SCD2014.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#); [anon., 2009b \(Whit logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0757: shaft

Mullir 30T 455148 4795751 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 731m

Depth 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

The entrance lies 20m from the edge of the lapiez, in grass. The undescended shaft is covered with rocks. Tagged 757.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0758: Gato Montes, Torca del

Mullir 30T 455158 4795791 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 714m

Length 66m **Depth** 58m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 23rd February 2001

The entrance has a tree. First pitch of 20m is choked at the base but has a small letter box through to the head of a 12m pitch. There is a 20m long passage at this level which is entered by traversing.

The final 22m pitch is particularly black and uninviting and continues another 20m but becomes too tight. A traverse over the final pitch leads to an 8m shaft and a choke.

The shaft is close to the linked shafts of [Torca del Triveno \(617\)](#) and [Sima Levantada \(578\)](#) but is connected to neither.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#); [anon., 1993b \(logbook\)](#); [Neill Alasdair and Jackson Keith, 1993 \(survey\)](#); material in file

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : [1:500 with Triveno and Levantada](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0759: shaft

Mullir 30T 455248 4795791 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 713m

Depth 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An undescended shaft about 10m deep.

Tagged 759.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0760: shaft

Mullir 30T 455068 4795401 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 771m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 3rd May 2004

Originally described as an undescended 10m deep shaft with a boulder part way down and tagged 760.

A 6m shaft that closes down.

See also sites [807](#) [808](#) [809](#) and [810](#).

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#); [anon., 1990b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2004b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0761: cave

Mullir 30T 455469 4795838 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 637m

Length 5m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 5th May 2009

This hole is at the base of the depression with [site 3256](#) directly above. A short, tight phreatic rift that appears to close in.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0762: shaft

Mullir 30T 455238 4795811 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 708m

Depth 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An unexplored shaft of about 10m depth.

Tagged 762.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0763: Vaca Loca, Cueva de

Seldesuto 30T 448938 4794911 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 222m

Length 54m **Depth** 7m **Vertical range** -7 +2m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 13 February 1998; 16th February 2022

Note: Vaca Loca is dangerous and very loose especially towards the end (where the draught comes from). - PP

The cave is located in an earth bank a few metres up slope from the "abandoned" river bed at the end of the valley. Two strongly draughting holes were excavated in 1989 and, after several visits, the cave was finally extended in the summer of 1996.

The lower hole is too small to enter and probably connects further in, while the lower one leads to a low downward slope over earth and boulders to a small chamber. Straight ahead, the cave quickly closes down in an area of tight rifts over a dug pit. Squeezing through a bedding on the right, an upward slope may be wriggled up into an excavated boulder choke. Immediately to the right a blind pit is first passed and a narrow rift ahead is entered. A pitch of 7.5m descends into a chamber with several ways out, all appear to choke with sand or mud or are too small. (This area appears to contain no draught and also seems to take much water on occasion).

Two bolts with natural backups may be used to safely traverse over the pitch. The strong draught is followed left through a dug tube into a narrow rift. An enlarged route past two rock pendants over calcite leads to a small chamber which has a very strongly draughting rift in its floor. The rift is blocked by calcite and small blocks, which may dig and it appears to have a 5m drop about 3m in.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#); material in file; [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1997a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1998](#); [anon., 2022a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : 1:200

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0764: Wet Dream Stream

Passage

Seldesuto 30T 449018 4794971 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 204m

Length 102m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 8th June 1998

Excavated entrance leads to small streamway which splits, one branch heading towards [Torcón de la Calleja Rebollo \(258\)](#) and the other towards [Cueva del Arenal \(035\)](#). Both branches become too small. The site floods completely in wet weather but then dries up after 12 hours of no rain, suggesting that it is a flood resurgence.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [Neill A et al, 1989](#); material in file; [anon., 1998a \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey : 1:500

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0765: cave

Riaño

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

[Logbook search](#)

Updated 16th February 2022

This site was first documented in 1989 as "Ladder onto a boulder pile. At the base is a junction with a rift on the left and a climb to a choke on the right. The rift descends for 10m to the head of an undescended 10m pitch." No grid reference was offered but a detailed logbook sketch appears to show this hole in the same position as [site 3269](#), found in the autumn 2009. (The card for site 3269 has been kept until both sites are proved to be the same. See 3269 for the grid reference.)

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2022a \(January, February logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0766: Simón 2, Torca de

Secadura 30T 455543 4800031 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 139m

Length 2416m **Depth** 77m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th February 1999; 28th October 2007; 6th January, 17th May 2011; 30th June 2018

The entrance lies some 150m southeast of [Torca de Simón 1 \(121\)](#) and on the right

hand side of a valley. A complicated, phreatic cave with possible connections to Simón 1 and [Cueva de Churro \(118\)](#).

A tree-lined hole* contains a 6m pitch to a boulder slope and a 13m pitch at the base. A handline slope (with broken glass?) drops to a junction,, The main route heads north in [fine walking passage](#) to the head of a 3m pitch. To the northeast the passage rises and chokes after 40m. At the base of the pitch, the northern route goes to a 5 way junction.

The western route encounters a climb up to the right where the passage swings to the northeast to meet a drippy chamber which is choked with calcite. To the southwest of the climb up is a rift passage with boulders with high and low level routes combining at a climb down into a large rift. This is only 28m away horizontally (but 50m below) a 4m undescended pitch in Torca de Simón 1. The southwesterly route from the 5 way junction joins the southern route from the base of the 3m pitch at a 4 way junction.

The eastern arm swings south and enters *Glitter Chamber* (Station JC14) where gypsum spangles decorate wall surfaces.

Explorations at Easter 92 filled in some gaps and need describing. More names on passages?

The passage to the west of station JC36 at coordinates -84, 12 was excavated through calcite in the summer of 1992. The calcite-floored passage slopes down to the head of 10m pitch into a phreatic chamber with a stream canyon at the bottom. Downstream leads to a pool which is probably the upstream side of the "Top Sump". Upstream goes 80m to another sump. A high level route exists and is entered via a tight squeeze up through a rift above the main canyon. A very fine phreatic passage - *Blue Bottle Passage* - continues, with pools and traverses in a streamway, to a junction after 200m. Straight ahead ends upstream after 60m at a sump. This passage lines up exactly beneath another straight passage in [Simón 1 \(site 121\)](#).

The western route splits after 40m. The short, southern branch is now full of broken stal and chokes. The main way continues well decorated for 150m with 2m long straws and passage 10m wide with calcite flows. A blue bucket was found in this section, hence the name. It eventually chokes in a chamber with a 5m diameter pool and a possible lead up a waterfall entering the lake. One squeeze has been passed to a second which has not. The site draughts well. A Blue Bucket was also found in this section!?

Other bits to go at include: a muddy tube on the right of *Blue Bottle Passage*; downstream sump needs checking out; possible high level route needs bolting at roof level near deep pools in *Blue Bottle Passage* and also in right hand wall in big dog-leg off.

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

* **After a number of futile attempts to find the entrance by Spanish cavers, a visit in May 2011 confirmed (as much as possible) that the entrance had been filled in and all that was left was a collapsed pit. See photos.**

The entrance position has had the wrong grid reference read off the map. The cave has "moved" a significant amount which has obviously altered any area maps the cave line has been published in.

References: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); Oct 89; [Corrin J, 1990](#); material in file; [anon., 1992a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin J and Quin A, 1992](#) (survey and photo); [Corrin J, 1993](#) (survey); [Corrin J, 1994b](#) (survey); [García José León, 1997](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [León García José, 2010 \(Volume 1 and Volume 2\)](#) (photo); [anon., 2011b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [filled-in entrance](#)

Underground picture(s): [entrance passage](#) [squeeze up](#) [dusty chambers](#) [formations in nice passage](#) [sandy crawl](#) [small traverse](#) [rope traverse](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[north Secadura caves](#) (2011) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)



0767: Wild Mare, Cave of the

Hornedo 30T 447971 4801318 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 70m

ETRS89: 30T 447962 4801332 is a GPS'ed point in the stream bed to the N of the entrance, part of a surface survey to the river

Length 594m now included in the length of [Torca la](#)

[Vaca](#) **Height** 14m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#) : [A Google search for this site](#) (Wild Mare,

Cave of the+Hornedo)

Updated 12th November 2002; 16th April , 25th July, 3rd October , 8th November 2008; 24th February, 5th May, 2nd November 2009; 6th January, 19th, 27th May 2011; 5th May, 25th, 26th September 2012; 16th September 2013; 28th September 2015; 19th February, 28th April 2016; 21st May 2017; 6th May, 30th June 2018

[Torca la Vaca](#) (site 2889) was linked through to Cave of the Wild Mare after a series of dives in both caves by Jim Lister and Colin Hayward in April 2012 taking the Torca la Vaca System length to 15222m. The logistics for a two-man diving team exploring up the stream course in Torca la Vaca are easier when the Wild Mare entrance is used rather than taking bottles in through Torca la Vaca.

The opening to Cave of the Wild Mare lies a few metres above the main river at the head of a normally dry river bed. The entrance is 3m high and 6m wide with a strong draught emerging from it. On one visit at Easter 2008, it was reported that huge amounts of water were emerging after one days continuous rain - probably equal to the river at Matienzo in moderate flood. This raises the possibility that this site is acting as a flood overflow for [Fuente Aguanaz](#), 1.5km to the west. It is assumed that the cave acts as the resurgence for all the water in Torca la Vaca, [site 2889](#) and collects water from [Torca de Peña Encaramada](#). Despite complete re-exploration, extensions, pushing and resurveying over four days in the summer of 2008, no link was found with the upstream cave, although water in Wild Mare was muddy - due presumably to the explorations in the watery sections of Torca la Vaca. (Some suggestions about the source of the water are shown [here](#).)

In April 2012, after moderate rain, the inlet on the true left of the passage after the bouldery area and before the final canal was issuing at least half of the water resurging at the entrance. This is likely to be water from [Torca de la Peña Encaramada](#) (site 3380).

With "lots of water" in the cave, the inlet with the "draughting choked rift" was reached at Easter 2018. There was a large volume of water coming out and a strong smell of rotting matter when the silt was disturbed.

The passage swings right to hands and knees crawling on sharply eroded rock with rippled sand. After 40m it is possible to walk and after 60m pools are met on the left. A branch on the right soon degenerates into an almost flatout crawl over eroded gour pools. This passage draughts strongly and has been pushed to where it splits and becomes too small. Part way along is a low sandy bedding which has been dug to a cross rift 15m high and 20m long which draughts slightly. This was climbed in 2008 to a strongly draughting passage which choked.

The eastern passage has deep water and passes through areas of breakdown with avens. The route ends at deep water in a cross rift. The water emerges from beneath the southern wall of the rift. This was dived in 1995, through the 50m long *Sump of the Wild Eels* to 50m of passage and further cross rifts with draughts but no apparent way on. Small sumps in the floor appeared to offer little hope for extension.

At Easter 2011, Jim Lister and Colin Hayward in [Torca la Vaca](#) passed downstream through a 25m long sump to emerge in a chamber with a another sump. This was later named *Eely Mud Eye Chamber*. Diving in April 2012, they dived the sump at the northern end of *Eely Mud Eye Chamber* into *AGM Bypass*, a rifty, bouldery chamber with a number of routes. One of these, the first Vaca - Wild Mare connection, dropped the divers into the furthest rift west in *Terminal Chamber*. Further exploration saw the divers passing downstream through the northern "small sump in the floor" into *Terminal Chamber*. Another sump in *Terminal Chamber* was pushed (with 27m of line) into an enlarged bedding and rift where it was just possible to turn around in the blind end. A video of the dives on YouTube can be seen [here](#). A diving blog has also been put online the text of which can be seen [here](#).

Dives further upstream in Torca la Vaca were carried out at Easter and summer 2013. They are documented in the [Vaca description](#).

Climbs in the rifts before the *Sump of the Wild Eels* have been attempted but protection and/or a maypole on the rotten rock may be advisable. The main draught appears to come from a high cross rift just before the sump and, next to the sump, a hammered-out, narrow rift has been pushed to a choke with a possible passage about 5 to 10m above. In summer 2009, the last rift at the sump was climbed, but there was no draught and no way on.

A diagram of the hydrology of the San Antonio - Hornedo - Cobadal area drawn after Easter 2011 can be found [here](#). Detectors were placed downstream of the resurgence for a water trace from Duck Pond Sink ([site 1976](#)) at Easter 2016. The optical brightener came through at [Fuente Aguanaz](#). The detectors here gave a negative reaction. At Easter 2017, fluorocaptors were also negative for an OBA trace from El Cubillón ([2538](#)) which came through to [Fuente Aguanaz](#) in 6 - 8 days. More details are shown [here](#).

Over Easter 2018, optical brightener was injected into [site 1969](#) near Alisas and detected between 2 and 3 days later at [Fuente Aguanaz](#) (in flood conditions). This cave was also checked and proved negative. (Details of the water trace can be [found here](#).)

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

Reference: anon., 1989 (logbook); material in file; anon., 1994a (Easter logbook); Corrin J, 1994b (survey); anon., 1995c (logbook); Corrin Juan, 1995a; Corrin Juan, 1996 (survey); anon., 2008c (Easter logbook); anon., 2008e (summer logbook); Corrin Juan, 2009; anon., 2009c (summer logbook); Corrin Juan, 2011; anon., 2011b (Easter logbook); anon., 2012b (Easter logbook); Ruiz Cobo J and Muñoz Fernández E, 2013; Corrin Juan, 2013a; anon., 2013d (summer logbook); ; anon., 2015c (summer logbook); anon., 2016b (Easter logbook); anon., 2017b (Easter logbook); anon., 2018b (Easter logbook)

Entrance pictures : yes : [Easter 2012](#) : [summer 2013](#)

Underground picture(s): [summer 2008](#) : [Easter 2012](#) : [summer 2012 \(including dive material in Torca la Vaca\)](#) : [summer 2013](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#) from 1989 / 1995 [10Mb pdf file: 2008 resurvey and extensions](#) : [Easter 2012](#), updated after link to Torca la Vaca

Video : [Divers link Torca la Vaca to Cave of the Wild Mare](#), April 2012 (YouTube) : [2012 summer](#) (YouTube) : [2013 photo trip](#) (YouTube)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [stand alone](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

[with Torca La Vaca](#) and others (summer 2013) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [30/6/2018](#)

X

0768: cave

Cobadal

Length 50m

[Logbook search](#)

Further along the same scar as the [Sumidero de Cobadal \(0553\)](#), in a green field. Slot down of 10m leads to a phreatic mini-maze with a draught emerging from a hole in solid rock.

Reference: card

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0769: cave

Cobadal

Length 20m

[Logbook search](#)

Twenty metres from the rubbish tip. Entrance into a boulder choke at high level or streamway at lower level.

Reference: card

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0770: cave

Seldesuto 30T 448858 4794941 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 256m

Length 10m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Small cave 25m west of the westerly entrance to [Torcón de la Calleja Rebollo \(038\)](#). A squeeze leads to a small calcited chamber.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0771: Cueva, La

Mullir 30T 456168 4794471 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 380m

Length 40m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 18th January 2004; 11th

September 2021

Large cow shelter with a 9m pitch as a roof window near the rear of the cave. Called La Cueva (site 27) in *Actividades Regionales. Exploraciones en Cantabria* ([anon., 1993a](#)).

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1993a \(survey\)](#); [anon., 2021c \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [November 2020](#)

Underground pictures: [November 2020](#)

Detailed Survey : from [anon., 1993a](#) (AEC

Lobetum): [high res](#) [low res](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0772: cave

S Vega 30T 452858 4794751 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 350m

Length 5m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 3rd October 2008

Phreatic cave opened up by side of a new road. Slight draught through the loose fill which is worth a dig. Various road widenings and improvements have now (2008) blocked the entrance.

Reference: [anon., 1989 \(logbook\)/\(31/05/90\)](#);

[anon., 1990c \(logbook Whit\)](#); [anon., 2008e \(summer logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0773: cave

Cubija 30T 449763 4796950 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 402m

Length 34m **Depth** 8m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 28th April 2016

In a wooded shakehole in a field. The first slope drops to a short climb, and back under the entrance a short passage is blocked by boulders. The main passage continues, with a climb over boulders, into a meander passage which breaks out halfway up a circular aven. By climbing up before the meanders the aven can also be reached at a higher level, but no way on can be seen.

On the opposite side of the shakehole the small shelter immediately chokes.

For a number of years, site 1948 was thought to be a separate hole. A re-exploration and search in the immediate vicinity at Easter 2016 proved that only one hole existed, site 0773. (Site 1948 has been re-allocated).

Reference: pers comm., (P Smith); material in file;

[anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#) as site 1948; [Corrin Juan, 2005](#) as site 1948; [anon., 2016b \(Easter logbook\)](#)

Entrance pictures : [from 2003](#) (as site 1948): [from 2016](#)

Underground picture(s):

Video : [re-explore, Easter 2016](#) (YouTube)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0774: Morenuca, Cueva de la

Cubija 30T 450088 4796939 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 285m

Length included in the Cubija System (North Vega System): [See Regaton](#) **Depth** 77m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Resources](#) : [Logbook search](#)

MATIENZO UNDERGROUND site descriptions (printed 28/02/2025)

Updated 13 February 1998; 19th February 1999; 17th September 2000; 26th October 2001; 28th October 2007; 5th, 6th May, 2nd November 2009; 7th January, 11th, 29th October 2011; 23rd February 2017; 1st July 2018

A [strongly draughting hole](#) on the north-east side of the dry stream bed. The first crawl breaks out in a larger passage, with a roof tube on the left-hand side. The passage continues to a squeeze into a larger chamber. Another squeeze ends in a final small chamber. This has been dug to a drop into a very tight rift. The rift was excavated and extended in the summer of 1995 and connected into the Sistema de Cubija during the Easter 1996 expedition.

Squeezing down through the dig, a very awkward bend in the rift must be negotiated before a narrow canyon gains the top of a 16m pitch into a large chamber (20 x 30m). Back under the base of the pitch, an ascending rift eventually chokes and this appears to be an active sink for the streambed above. Most of the water sinking in the chamber flows away down between the boulders and can be followed underneath before it gets too tight.

The larger of the two passages at the eastern end of the chamber contains a fine mud floor but eventually closes down in an area of boulders which draughts but looks choked. A small passage on the right hand side near here may possibly go further but needs digging. A low passage, also at this end, chokes but a small hole in the floor connects with a 30m pitch, accessed via a small tube nearby.

The 30m pitch lands on a sloping rubble floor that chokes at the bottom. At the top of the slope, a tight rift leads to a 7m pitch that lands in a small chamber. This draughts, but a dig would be needed to gain the passage / pitch beyond.

In the southern wall a climb up gains a calcited area which drops through a hole with a slippery calcite surround and descends a draughty 12m pitch followed by a 6m drop to a chamber with several ways out.

Leaving the chamber, a tube at head height in the left wall may be entered and after a very short distance, a small aven is entered half way up. Continuing on the other side the crawl is regained and, after 20m, there is a junction containing a pit. This is the first pitch of the *Stair Rod Connection* to [Torca del Regaton](#). Pitches of 5m (best laddered) and 13m (small tube to rebelay, descend to ledge with bolt for long deviation, then down flowstone to a chamber). From here, a 3m climb up on the right leads to a 2m climb down, a crawl to a 4m ladder pitch (long belay) into the *GT Series* in Regaton.

Traversing over the pit, a T-junction is reached with a low crawl to the left and a calcite choke to the right. Both draught well and the sandy crawl would make an easy dig with the possibility of an alternative and easier connection with the *Hedgehog Crawl* area in [Torca de Mostajo \(071\)](#). The left hand branch of the junction terminates at a calcite filled chamber with a too-tight rift at one end.

The main way on is at the bottom of *Bad Bolt Pitch* and past the above series in what appears to be its continuation, *Magic Carpet Passage*. A small tube is entered which continues for about 200m with only a few features to interrupt what is mainly low crawling. An awkward fixed rope traverse over an 8m pit (which has a very tight rift dig at its base) must be negotiated before a junction is eventually reached. The right hand side contains a small chamber with the only possible way out being a too tight pitch at its base. Entering the crawl to the left of the junction, an oxbow is passed and a hole is seen in the floor which leads to a too tight, steeply descending, meandering rift. Eventually the crawl breaks out into a narrow rift that is best traversed at roof height. At its far end, a long piece of suspended floor (*The Magic Carpet*) must be crawled over before the crawl is regained. (The false floor is quite thin and it is recommended that only one person at a time crosses it).

Gradually the crawl transforms into a more comfortable nature and a junction is reached. The right hand side passes up through a low ramp of sand into a narrow, ascending rift which ends at an 8m muddy pitch into an aven. (A 3m climb up near the base of this pitch enters the rest of the cave).

The left hand side enters a very low dug sand crawl and emerges into a complex area of cave passage incompletely explored, *Shangri-La*.

Immediately left, a passage with a fine collection of stal at its start continues before the roof height lowers and eventually ends at a small chamber after several very low sandy digs. Just before this, a boulder choke on the right may be entered. No way on here has been located. However, continuing to the right, the cave contains many deep shafts, the first of which needs a bolt traverse into a passage (?) on the other side. One pit has been dropped: *Lamp Black Pitch* is a 10 + 26m drop into a muddy chamber with a passage which ends in a body-sized, ascending, muddy tube. A T-junction is seen ahead and the draught blows in.

Following the right hand wall past the climb down into the aven with the muddy pitch and traversing around a shaft edge, an area of anastomoses is reached. A small passage on the left gains a bouldery chamber with several pits, all undescended, and a sandy passage which leads to a steep sand slope on the edge of a pit. (This is the other side of one viewed from the anastomoses area and may be the best shaft for a connection with [Torca del Regaton \(site 892\)](#)). At the top of the slope, a passage ends at breakdown and two parallel rifts which close down.

Climbing up a pebble and sand slope on the right hand side near here, a passage is entered that soon drops into a more roomy chamber containing a 3m high, lone column. Two passages on the left may be entered but soon apparently close down in chambers and more deep pits. Continuing from here for 100m down a comfortably sized passage, a junction is reached. To the right a chamber is entered that contains a large stal flow and two 30m+ deep pits, both undescended. Continuing left of the junction, with the draught, a small boulder choke is reached after 40m that would dig. Twenty metres before this a small tube in the right hand wall quickly leads to an awkward 2m climb down that is near the *Italian Pitch* in [Torca de Mostajo \(071\)](#). The boulder choke near here connects with the one in Morenuca and, if dug, would bypass the 2m climb which needs combined tactics or a fixed rope to usually negotiate.

Sick Inside Passage heads southwest and ends at incompletely explored possibilities (see survey). Over Easter and summer 2009, a passage was entered by bolting across the right hand wall past the "p (choked)", about 150m from the end. This, the first of the *Happy Holiday* traverses, ends in a large passage which soon intersects a big shaft (undescended) with a waterfall entering from above. This was bypassed by entering a small rift passage back on the right leading to the second of the *Happy Holiday* traverses, over a small clean-washed shaft with windows (left) looking into the big shaft behind the waterfall. The traverse ends in a small bouldery antechamber, where a window high on the far left drops onto another bolt-protected but easy traverse leading to the far side of the big shaft. A flat-out crawl (unsurveyed) leads off from the right near the start of the bypass rift, before the traverse lines are reached. It was pushed for about 40m to a T-junction - left is too tight almost immediately, and right becomes too tight after passing under a weakly drafting aven well decorated with crystals on the walls.

After the second *Happy Holiday* traverse the main passage is initially awkward, necessitating clambering over and around some undescended pits in the floor. Just after crossing a 'bridge' between two such shafts, a slope down to the left leads to a very short section of passage, which turns right and develops into a rift parallel to the main passage. Two 3m rope climbs (rope essential) lead to the top of an undescended 20m+ pitch with a weak draft. Further on in the main passage, a slope down in the floor leads to a chamber and a hands and knees crawl bearing left, ending at a window overlooking the same 20m+ pitch. Back in the main passage, the tricky section ends at a 3m climb up, where the going becomes easier. There are some incompletely pushed ascending rifts on the right here. The main passage enlarges - *El Camino de la Luna* (named after the distinctive flat, grey crusty floor) - and swings to the right at *Unobvious Junction*. From here on the route is very well decorated with stalagmites, stalactites, helictite forests, plus straws and curtains - *The Milky Way* [pictures]. The passage dimensions gradually reduce until a series of crawls and squeezes lead to a white crystal

"frozen lake" with a black "stream" running from it and then some very vulnerable formations at the end - *Smaug's Lair* - where sand totally fills the narrow, rifty passage.

Left at *Unobvious Junction*, a strongly draughting out passage leads off behind a rock curtain, immediately entering a decorated, flat-floored chamber. From here the draft is followed through a short hands and knees crawl to enter a chamber with large fallen blocks. Across the chamber an easy climb follows the draft up between blocks to reach a 4m climb down, entering a large chamber with a small inlet falling from the roof. A p20 between clean-washed boulders at the lowest point has been descended but the way on at the base was too tight. A slightly tricky 5m climb leads up towards the roof of the chamber into an apparent continuation of the main passage. In 2009, the description reads "this passage ends almost immediately in a huge fallen block and all ways on beyond here are too tight. The farthest point (on the right) is a crawl up a rubble slope which ends in a triangular hole with a significant draught. Diggable, but not promising of a quick reward!"

A second look in summer 2011 found two ways on to the continuing passage beyond. An awkward chimney climb over the top of boulders (this is the part named *Patrick's Error*, the lead previously overlooked), and then a climb/scramble of 5m gains access to this. The passage soon closes down in size but the roof heads up and over large fallen blocks. Another connection is a tight meandering route via *Popcorn Passage*, which has a couple of squeezes and is well decorated. This route joins back onto the other route, at the bottom of steep rubble ramp. In *Popcorn Passage* a letter box window on the left breaks into a shaft (warning: false floor) some 13m off the bottom. Water comes in from an aven and, on abseiling down, it sinks through a boulder blocked shaft at least 15m deep, with no person-sized way on.

In the main passage the roof lowers through blackened walls, but soon rises again where a clamber over fallen blocks gains a sizeable chamber nearly 20m across in places. Here a number of holes descend through the floor (10m+) but are too tight.

When entering the chamber, the obvious way on is to keep to the right-hand wall. Following this for some 20-30m passes several ways off to the left between large fallen boulders, these are the way on and regain the left hand side of the chamber, which then descends into a sandy 4m wide blackened passage with a hands and knees crawl.

Going back to the chamber and following the right hand wall for 40m passes through a diagonal rift where an unclimbed passage leads off up a steep ramp. Continuing at floor level a rise up to the right then overlooks a sandy chamber some 30m long, with numerous ancient bat droppings and an impenetrable rift at the end.

Back at the blackened hands and knees crawl, a climb up over unstable and highly fractured boulders leads into walking passage. Descending down the slope *Gypsum Corner Passage* is on the left (30m long) and well decorated, but the main way on is to the right. After a short narrow section, a large rift is reached with an undercut at the bottom that drops down into a chamber below. Here follow the right hand wall and traverse a small rift where it is then possible to drop down and walk into the large chamber. This contains one particularly large block, a high aven coming in from above and anastomoses formations. The way on is up a steep sandbank and regains fossil passage. Following this a small muddy pitch on the right is passed (undescended) and the passage decreases in size.

A T-junction is soon reached. To the left is the *Belly of the Eel*, which goes on for at least 200m, often crawling in places with large amounts of bat droppings. This is the continuation of *Gypsum Corner Passage*, but is not connected due to a sand choke. The *Belly of the Eel* continues on despite the sand choke, as off to the right just before this is an immature rift which is ongoing with a strong draught, but for the determined!

Back at the T-junction, going right, a large fossil passage continues for 50m with mud formations in places and a passage off in the floor on a left hand bend. Descending a slope, the roof stays high (+15m) and a rock formation/barrier to the left obscures

the view to what is on the other side, and a popcorn covered platform surrounded by slippery flowstone sits in the middle of this bowl.

At floor level a short climb down reaches the top of a staggered muddy pitch going down (undescended, 8m+) and a low crawl leading off. Following the low crawl two pitches are reached and a passage heading up, the latter connects back into the hole in the floor passage mentioned earlier. The first pitch on the left is assumed blind as the bottom can be seen from the top with a good light. The pitch straight ahead down a slope drops off into a canyon overlooking a chamber with a small stream, which eventually with climbing and traversing drops down to the stream on the same level as the [Torca del Regaton](#) system. Upstream, the stream sumps immediately in the chamber, which also has a high aven coming in. Downstream, the way on is crawling with the stream and this continues.

Back at the rock formation/barrier, traversing up and round the popcorn covered platform on slippery flowstone a small gully up gets round the edge of the obstruction, and gives the first view of *Picón Pie* chamber some 80m long and 20m wide with impressive anastomoses. Up the slope and over the ridge boulder collapses in the floor are present and it is possible to see at least 15m down into sizeable space below - this remains undescended. Heading up to the highest point at the far end of *Picón Pie* chamber, a short passage breaks into a small chamber where the passage continues up a diagonal rift. This has been climbed at least 10m and is the closest point to [Simas del Picón](#) above. Equipment is needed to continue the climb safely. Back at floor level it is possible to continue forwards with a boulder slope to the left and roof/wall to the right. At points it is possible to climb down through the boulders several meters and there may well be a way on here also.

The "p40 undescended" from the 1995-7 explorations, to the left of the start of the *Happy Holiday* traverse was descended in the summer 2011 and immediately dropped into [Torca del Regaton](#) passage (see survey) via a p33m.

As of summer 2009 and 2011, a rope has been left on the first of the *Happy Holiday Traverses*, complete with footloops which make it a much easier proposition. No rope was left on the second traverse - it would require 40-50m plus 9 anchor plates for thru-bolts (washers and nuts left in place).

The old Morenuca survey is in Acorn format. This was converted to a bitmap and the new 2009 extensions (700m surveyed) have been added. The 2011 survey imported these as pdf files into a Corel Draw file which now contains everything.

References: pers comm., (P Smith); material in file [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1995a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1996](#); [anon., 1996a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997a](#); [Corrin Juan, 1997b](#); [anon., 1997b \(logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 1998 \(photo\)](#); [anon., 1998a \(Easter logbook\)](#); García José León, 1997 (survey and photo); [Corrin Juan, 1997c](#); [anon., 2000c \(Summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2001a](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003c](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [anon., 2009a \(Easter logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009 \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2010 \(photo\)](#); León García José, 2010 ([Volume 1](#) and [Volume 2](#)) (survey and photos); [anon., 2011d \(summer logbook\)](#); [Corrin Juan, 2013a](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s): [entrance series crawl?](#) [strange formations](#) [breakdown](#) [squeeze](#) [cracked mud floor](#) [cracked mud floor chamber?](#) [solitary stal tunnel](#) [anastomoses](#) [formations 1](#) [formations 2](#) [junction](#)

[from Easter 2009](#) including new extension : [from summer 2009](#) in the new extension

[from summer 2011](#)

Video: [Formations in 2009 extensions \(101Mb\)](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:1000](#) : [Easter 2009 extensions off Sick Inside Passage](#) : [completed survey showing 2009 extensions](#)

[complete survey showing 2011 extensions](#) : As part of the [Cubija System \(North Vega System\)](#) published 2017

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

in the [North Vega \(Cubija\) System](#) (Easter 2018) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

Passage direction rose diagram: [Sistema de Cubija \(North Vega System\)](#) 1/7/2018

[X](#)

0775: shaft

S Vega 30T 452318 4795041 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 322m

Length 7m **Depth** 7m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An uninteresting pit which can be free-climbed.

Another visit describes it as having a gentle draught issuing from between boulders and, "If I found this hole in Kingsdale, I wouldn't tell anyone else".

Reference: pers comm., (P Smith); [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#)
Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0776: cave

S Vega 30T 451906 4795123 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 311m
Length 8m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th October 2003

A crawl into a low chamber which slopes up at the far end.

Reference: pers comm., (P Smith); [anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#)
Entrance picture : [yes](#)
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0777: shaft

S Vega 30T 451760 4794958 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 340m
Length 16m **Depth** 16m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th October 2003

A 10m pitch which drops to a choke. On the right two climbs drop to a further choke. As site D in 2003, this was described as a fenced shaft below [site 778](#), also with tree, but not as deep.

Reference: pers comm., (P Smith); [anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#)
Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0778: shaft

S Vega 30T 451762 4794948 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 345m
Length 25m **Depth** 25m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 19th October 2003

A large, fenced shaft located under brambles and trees. A 25m drop to a floor of boulders. Part way down is a heavily marbled band very similar to *Marble Ledge* in [Torca de Cantones \(865\)](#). A 5m deep choked rift takes a draught but it would take a couple of hours of boulder moving to enter it. As site C, this was described in 2003 as an overgrown, fenced shaft with trees, above [site 777](#). It seems to be about 12m deep and boulders continue to roll down the slope.

Reference: pers comm., (P Smith); [anon., 1992b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2003c \(summer logbook\)](#)
Entrance picture :
Underground picture(s):
Detailed Survey :
Line Survey :
On area survey :
Survex file :

X

0779: shaft

El Naso 30T 451458 4796531 (Datum: ETRS89. Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 472m
Length 12m **Depth** 12m
Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 12th November 2002

A hole in a shallow shakehole which draughts in. A 3m climb leads to a crawl into a small chamber. Straight ahead becomes too small, while another climb drops into a lower chamber. At the lowest point reached the draught is lost but there is another route which hasn't been followed.

Reference: (Peter Smith Oct 94); material in file
Entrance picture : [yes](#)
Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :



0780: Corcada, Torca de

Seldesuto 30T 448216 4794634 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 389m

Length 600m **Depth** 125m (Does not include all the Active Route passages?) See Karsteau site

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 10th October 2004; 7th May 2007; 22nd May 2014; 21st May, 19th September 2017; 6th May, 23rd September, 11th December 2018; 13th May, 14th September, 31st October 2019; 22nd August, 30th October 2020; 4th March, 12th September 2021; 9th September 2022; 28th January 2025

An alternative GPS position is ETRS89:

0448206 4794622

The site has been, at least partly, explored by Catalan cavers and the *Active Route* was pushed down to a major level by French cavers.

A small entrance in the corner of a field - beyond the newly modernised barn - which may have to be excavated of an obscuring rock and soil.

An entrance pitch of 4m drops into a steeply descending passage, littered with animal bones and roof tiles etc. This ends at a chamber with a small inlet passage on the left which could perhaps be pushed further.

In the chamber a carbide arrow marks a slot down to a traverse left over a hole and a 2m climb down to the head of a 9m pitch. At the bottom two routes go off, an *Active Route* reached by holes down or a *Fossil Route* reached by a 2m climb up on the right.

The ***Active Route*** leads to a 5m pitch in a meander passage, which continues narrow and was enlarged towards the head of another drop in August 2017. (See [survey sketch](#)). A single visit in summer 2018 pushed down the p5 in the *Active Route* and work continued in the autumn, following a narrow meander. (See surveys below). The enlarging of the Active Route continued at Easter 2019 with a breakthrough in the summer, over two trips, when a p18 with a hading rift to a p27, entering a bouldery chamber with a possible drop between the boulders and the wall. (batches 2019-01 and 2019-01). The survey can be seen below.

Further work in the summer 2020, pursued a route between the blocks down a p9 to a walking-size gallery about 100m long. At the end, the route narrows with a draught. See the photos and plan + elevation below.

A later survey (shown as 2020 autumn below) shows Corcada extended to the west by about 30m to a draughting lead. (None of these extensions are yet included in surveyed length)

By the summer, 2021, the work in this series was completed and the surveys can be seen below.

(Complete diary of explorations in the *Active Route* can be seen here - [in French](#) and Google Translated into [English](#).)

The ***Fossil Route*** ([rigging topo](#) from 2022 summer logbook) leads to a 7m pitch with a narrow top, followed immediately by a 8m pitch. At the bottom an aven on the left has a vocal connection to before the 7m pitch. The way on is to the right, in a steeply descending bedding (possibly formed like all the cave on a fault plane) with an abandoned stream trench in the floor. Traversing off to the left reaches the head of a 16m pitch. At the foot a short passage leads to a narrow rift which could be pushed. In August 2017 this route was rigged for SRT.

Three trips over Easter 2018 re-rigged the *Fossil Route* and capped at constrictions near the end. Water could be heard in the distance on day 2. On the final trip:

"Squeezed through to a widening grotto. Slots in the floor about 5m deep. Sounds bigger below. Worth continuing capping to gain access." No survey was carried out although a sketch can be seen [here](#).

At the beginning of August 2022, the Fossil Route was opened up to allow a 13.6m survey to tie the end into the base of the pitch (batch 22-01).

A trip at Easter 2007 emerged to say that there were no easy extensions to be had.

The entrance was found to be strongly draughting in at Easter 2017.

According to the [Karsteau](#) site, the last information update by Patrick was

10/11/2023. The length of 600m and depth of 125m has come from that site.

References : pers comm., (P Smith); [anon., 2004d](#) (summer logbook); [Corrin Juan, 2006](#); [anon., 2007b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2014b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2017b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2017c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2018b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2018c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2018d](#) (autumn logbook); [anon., 2019b](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2019d](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2020c](#) (Spring, summer logbook); [anon., 2020d](#) (autumn logbook); [anon., 2021a](#) (January, February logbook); [anon., 2021c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2022c](#) (summer logbook); [anon., 2024f](#) (Christmas logbook)

Entrance pictures : [summer 2004](#) : [Easter 2019](#)

Underground picture(s): [2004](#) : [Easter 2018](#) :

[summer 2020](#) : [2018 - 2021 Active Route](#)

Video: [Enlarging and viewing the Fossil Route, Easter 2018](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500 plan - gif pdf](#) : [Extension in the Active Route, 2017](#) :

[1:500 projected section - gif pdf](#) : [Extension in the Fossil Route, Easter 2018 \(sketch\)](#) : [2018 Active](#)

[Route Extensions - summer](#) : [autumn](#)

[after summer 2019 extensions - plan and elevation](#)

(Guy & Patrick)

[Extension in the Active Route, 2020 - Plan &](#)

[Elevation](#) (Guy & Patrick) : [autumn 2020 - Plan &](#)

[Elevation](#)

[complete surveys 2021 - plan - section](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey : A [kml file is available](#) for viewing

on Google Earth or QGIS. (Summer 2020) : [Latest](#)

[kml](#) from the *Karsteau* site (2025)

Visual Topo:: [tro file](#) from Guy Simonnot (Jan.

2025)

Survex file : [after summer 2019 and summer 2022](#)

(does not include all the Active Route extensions

(Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to

align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit

ETRS89 datum, April 2014.) : [2021 complete Survex](#)

[file to come.](#)

[Corcarda + Toad + Arenal after summer 2019](#)

X

0781: cave

S Vega 30T 451797 4794968 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 342m

Length 30m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 19th October 2003; 16th May 2015

There are two entrances, under a low

limestone bank, and in a shakehole, which

lead into a chamber and a single passage

choked with calcite.

Reference: pers comm., (P Smith); material in file;

[anon., 2003c](#) (summer logbook)

Entrance picture : [two entrances](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Detailed Survey : [1:500](#)

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0782: shaft

S Vega 30T 450846 4793995 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 650m

Length 20m **Depth** 15m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

Updated 9th October 2005; 30th October

2020

A steep climb down onto a slope in a

shakehole ends at an enlarged, tight head of

a 10m pitch. A slope at the base leads to 5m

of passage ending at an aven.

The grid reference has been altered into the

depression from 450868 4794001 when

viewed from the track, October 2020.

Reference: pers comm., (P Smith); [anon., 2005b](#)

([Easter & summer](#)); [Corrin Juan, 2006a](#); [anon.,](#)

[2020d](#) (autumn logbook)

Entrance picture : [2005, 2020](#)

Underground picture(s): [yes](#)

Video : [excavating top of pitch choked shaft](#)

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0783: Cerro Manuel, Torca del

Cubija 30T 449678 4797281 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 488m

Length 30m **Depth** 30m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

A small entrance in the field. The shaft

descends 25m to a ledge and chokes 10m

below. There is another cave 10 minutes

walk to the west.

Reference: pers comm., (P Smith); [anon., 1991](#)

([logbook](#))

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0784: shaft

Cobadal 30T 449478 4797371 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 491m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

The entrance is fenced off in a field. A choked shaft.

Reference: pers comm., (P Smith)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0785: shaft

Cobadal 30T 449298 4797591 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [U](#)) **Altitude** 398m

Length 20m **Depth** 20m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A choked, circular shaft.

Reference: pers comm., (P Smith)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0786: shaft

Cobadal 30T 449395 4797434 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 457m

Length 17m **Depth** 17m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 12th October 2004

A fenced shaft above a depression with many trees. A 15m pitch drops to a slope to a choke.

Reference: pers comm., (P Smith); [anon., 2004d](#)

([summer logbook](#))

Entrance pictures : [yes](#) : position in relation to site

2077 is shown [here](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0787: shaft

Cobadal 30T 449548 4797491 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 455m

Length 10m **Depth** 10m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 9m pitch, sloping to a choke.

Reference: pers comm., (P Smith)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0788: shaft

Bosmart n 30T 449678 4797571 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 446m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 2nd Febraury 2025

Choked pit with a small side chamber.

[Originally had grid ref. 449678 4795571 with an old

card index query to check 2km north]

Reference: pers comm., (P Smith)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0789: shaft

N Vega 30T 449658 4795831 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 343m

Length 8m **Depth** 8m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

A 5m pitch with a slope, and a rift on the

left to a tiny chamber.

Reference: pers comm., (P Smith)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0790: cave

N Vega 30T 449678 4795911 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 317m

Length 8m **Depth** 7m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

The excavated entrance leads to a short free climb with a crawl into a passage blocked by calcite. The draught comes from lower vadose development.

Reference: pers comm., (P Smith)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0791: Molino, Cueva del (resurgence) (2025 (French: SCD))

Bustablado 30T 448588 4792141 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 200m

Length (60m included in Cueva del Molino ([0727](#)))

Depth 11m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 11th October 2011; 11th February, 28th April 2016; 23rd September 2018; 24th May 2021; 16th February, 14th November 2022

A dye test from [Torca del Hoyón \(567\)](#) was carried out in the 80's but without result, though possibly positive in [Cueva del Comellantes \(040\)](#). The entrance to the cave behind the resurgence is [Cueva del Molino \(0727\)](#).

According to Guy Simonnot (*pers. comm.* October 2011) it is likely that the flow in Molino ([site 727](#)) can be accounted for by [Orcones](#) and "the collector - Cantu Pasillo Encarmado." He continues, paraphrased, for cavities such as Vallina we may need to think about another source (resurgence) - which would suit me better geologically." Further details of this hypothesis are found on the [Molino cave page](#).

The water tracing in [Cueva Vallina](#) carried out at Easter 2015 gave a positive result at [Cueva del Comellantes](#). A completely negative result was obtained at Molino. Details can be found on the [Vallina page](#).

Detectors placed at Molino and just upstream in the valley over Easter 2016 tested negative when optical brightener was successfully traced from [site 4246](#) in the [Torca del Hoyón](#) depression to [Comellantes](#) in La Vega, Matienzo. (Photos below)

The site was dived at Whit 95 for about 50m to a tangle of line which appeared to have been laid from the downstream sump in the cave. The survey taken at this time appears to be wrongly orientated but has since been corrected. The site was redived at Easter 97 and line needs removing in order to connect it with the cave.

An account from Josep Guarro in the *2022 January, February logbook* states, *We (Josep and José Miguel Castillo) went to Cueva del Molino on Easter 2004 invited by Rupert Skorupka, who was diving there on those days. ... He invited us to dive the 1st sump fo the resurgence in Cueva del Molino. I remember that we cleared all the old lines, and laid a new line from the entrance to the end of the sump, at the other side of it in Cueva del Molino ([site 0727](#)). But unfortunately we did not have time to survey it.* (Photos below).

According to Simonnot G, 2016, P. Degouve dived through into Cueva del Molino (0727) in 1981. The water temperature on 23rd September 2017 was 10.7°C (Simonnot G, 2018).

Link to entry in the [Cave Diving Sump Index](#).

Reference: [Corrin J, 1990](#); [Loriol B de, 1959](#) (survey); material in file; [anon., 1995b](#) (Whit logbook); [anon., 1997a](#) (Easter logbook); [anon., 2011e](#) (autumn logbook); [Papard Philip, Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2014](#); [Simonnot Guy, 2014](#); [Simonnot G, 2016](#); [anon., 2016b](#) (Easter logbook); [Simonnot G, 2018](#); [anon., 2022a](#) (January, February logbook); [Simonnot G, 2022](#)

Entrance pictures : [yes](#) : [from Easter 2004](#) : [wide angle](#) : [in high water](#) : [flood video](#) (YouTube)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file : [yes](#) (Amended magnetic declination December 2013 to align with Eur79 grid and coordinates altered to fit ETRS89 datum, April 2014.)

X

0792: shaft

N Vega 30T 449218 4795403 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 294m

Length 17m **Depth** 17m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th January 2010

A circular shaft with several varieties of small tree growing over the entrance. Explored at the end of 2009, the entrance pitch takes 2 ladders and 3 rungs of a third in a largish shaft. There is a possible parallel shaft that goes off half way down the western side. (The position of this site and 794 may be out; 792 is N of 794. The old grid reference of site 792 is VN49329564 Alt. 305m.)

Reference: [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

0793: Redondo, Cubío

N Vega 30T 449886 4795734 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [A](#)) **Altitude** 205m

Length 12m

[Area position](#) : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 27th October, 12th November 2001; 25th January, 7th March 2005; 28th October 2007; 22nd December 2008; 2nd November 2009; 8th January 2020

An awkward climb up to the right of an obvious gully leads to a walking height cave entrance. The passage has been excavated of its sediments but the entrance originally had thousands of skeletal remains from owl pellets. Twelve metres in there is a calcite and mud blockage, which is quite close to a passage in [Cueva de Colmenas \(363\)](#). At the bottom left of the back wall is a draughting hole.

The cave contained a great deal of archaeological material for such a small site. When the cave was first dug in 1995 (to try to gain a Colmenas connection) some pottery was found along with snail shells in calcite. A permit to excavate was obtained and since then numerous items have been unearthed and catalogued.

The report on the excavations and interpretations is contained in a number of chapters in *The Archaeology of the Matienzo Depression, North Spain*.

A general overview of the excavations (including flints, charcoal, seeds, medieval and prehistoric pottery, a galena fragment, iron nails and part of a grenade) is to be found illustrated in *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001*. [Some of the items are shown here](#). Conclusions and sequence discussions are also found here.

The larger mammal bones are studied in *Castaños Pedro, 2001a*: Estudio arqueozoológico de la fauna del yacimiento de Cubío Redondo (Matienzo, Cantabria) with an English translation. Bones were collected of red deer, roe deer, ibex, chamois, wild boar, wild cat and stone marten.

Bird remains found included buzzard, barn owl, magpie, chough, alpine chough and jackdaw. These are documented in *Sánchez Marco Antonio, 2001*: Las aves del yacimiento mesolítico del Cubío Redondo.

The major aspect of the cave was the snail shells and the fact that the site turned out to be a Mesolithic inland shell midden - a facies never systematically dug before in Cantabria. Over 979 shells were recovered, representing 21 species. The only edible variety was *Cepaea nemoralis* - the Brown Lipped Snail. The results of this study is found in *Aparicio Ma Teresa, 2001*:

Malacofauna terrestre del yacimiento del Cubío Redondo (Matienzo, Cantabria) with an English translation.

Small mammal bones were also excavated. The results of this study are also to be found in *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001*. Bones retrieved included vole, shrew, mole, wood mouse, harvest mouse, dormouse, house mouse and rat.

A useful summary is found in *Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003*, pages 51-54, with photo, survey and diagrams.

González Morales Manuel et al, 2004

highlights two divergent dates indicating visits widely separated in time: 5780±50BP and 6630±50BP. The article suggests the cave "may have been used by people mainly based near the shore as a minor transit and/or short term hunting camp in the foothill zone".

Reference [Smith P et al, 2015](#) has a table of radio-carbon dates.

Reference: [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1995c \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 1996b \(logbook\)](#); [Smith Peter and Ruiz Cobo Jesús, 1999](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2000](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter et al, 2001 \(includes a photo and line drawings\)](#); [Castaños Pedro, 2001a](#); [Sánchez Marco Antonio, 2001](#); [Aparicio Ma Teresa, 2001](#); [Corrin Juan, 2003a](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús and Smith Peter, 2003](#); [González Morales Manuel et al, 2004](#); [Corrin Juan and Smith Peter, 2007](#); [Ruiz Cobo Jesús et al, 2008 \(survey\)](#); [Smith Peter 2012](#); [Smith P et al, 2015](#);

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0794: cave

N Vega 30T 449218 4795415 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [G](#)) **Altitude** 297m

Length 6m **Depth** 6m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th January 2010

"In a grassy depression, a cave consisting of two rifts lead off descending to a rubble floor. " This was explored down 3m to a boulder pile with a second tight 3m drop. (The position of this site and 792 may be out; 792 is N of 794. The old grid reference of site 794 is VN49299561 Alt. 315m.)

Reference: [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture : [yes](#)

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0795: cave

N Vega 30T 448958 4795481 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 377m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th January 2010

A small unexplored cave between boulders which has a slight draught. The site couldn't be found on a December 2009 walk.

Reference: [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0796: cave

N Vega 30T 448958 4795451 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 386m

Depth 3m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

Updated 29th January 2010

An undescended, slightly draughting cave between boulders with the floor 3m below. The site couldn't be found on a December 2009 walk.

Reference: [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#); [anon., 2009e \(Christmas logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0797: shaft

N Vega 30T 448908 4795361 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 375m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook search](#)

An undescended, tight drop to a boulder floor with a possible draught.

Reference: [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s): s

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

X

0798: shaft

N Vega

Depth 5m

[Logbook search](#)

Located in a limestone outcrop in the corner of a field, hidden by a couple of trees. An undescended, large shaft. Descends 5m to a slope to an undescended drop. Paul Stacey has the location.

Reference: [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0799: dig

N Vega

[Logbook search](#)

Draughting dig in a hollow at the northwest end of the field. Paul Stacey has the location.

Reference: [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

0800: cave

Cubija 30T 450498 4796331 (Datum: ETRS89.

Accuracy code: [M](#)) **Altitude** 240m

Length 5m **Depth** 3m

Area position : [Site entrance in context](#) : [Logbook](#)

[search](#)

A 5m long walk-in rift with loose rocks on the floor.

Reference: [anon., 1994b \(logbook\)](#)

Entrance picture :

Underground picture(s):

Detailed Survey :

Line Survey :

On area survey :

Survex file :

[X](#)

- - - END OF VOLUME 1 - - -