

CUEVA REÑADA, South Vega, Matienzo, Cantabria. Spain

Un-named Sump.

09:04:09

DIVER; D RYALL

Support; S Ryall, P Smith, 2x MUSC cavers

After an efficient carry through the sometimes muddy but very impressive passages the large lake at the bottom of a slope described by PS (listed on the survey as "Slope down to sump") was reached. DR first headed left (looking at the sump) on a bearing of 300 degrees. After laying 20 m of line a blank wall was encountered at a depth of 6 m; the diver ascended then turned right but no outlet was found before turning almost full circle, so the line was reeled back in to base.

The sump pool extended to the right under an arch so the diver submerged and headed in this direction (120 degrees) reaching a maximum depth of 6.2 m before surfacing after 40 m. Shouting to the support team elicited a response with PS making his way to a point c10 m above the diver. Following a 20 m long, c5 m high canal passage with a short shallow section, a second sump was met and the diver laid another 40 m of line in this on a trend of 90 degrees before surfacing in a kicking water airbell with a hading rift ascending. Shouting loudly elicited a very faint response; the sherpas described the diver as sounding 'a long way off'. No outlet could be found underwater so the diver returned making a basic survey before the bad vis caught up.

On the way out of the cave PS showed DR the Squirrel Passage streamway. DR descended into the active streamway, a series of swims and wading passage which leads to a canal and presumed sump. This water is next seen in Cueva Comellantes. Unfortunately DR could not descend the final climb of 2 m into deep water (or more accurately was not confident of making the climb back up alone) so did not reach the sump, but intends to return with a short ladder or handline and wetsuited sherpas.

DATA.

S2

BACK BEARINGS

TAG 80-70 (80 SURFACE) 300 deg 6m

70-60 270 deg 6.1m

60-50 220 deg 6.2m

50-40 330 deg (40 SURFACE)

S1

TAG 0-10: 300 deg 5.8m NO GO REELED IN,
40 m long, may have airspace av 270 deg