

MATIENZO CAVES

A photograph of a cave interior, likely Matienzo Caves, showing various stalactites and stalagmites. The cave walls are covered in these formations, with some stalactites hanging from the ceiling and others growing from the floor. A piece of paper is stuck to one of the stalactites in the upper center of the image. The lighting is dim, highlighting the textures of the cave formations.

report
2013

MATIENZO CAVES - new passage surveyed through the year

cave	name	area	previous length (m)	new length (m)	extra discovered (m)
2917	Cueva de Los Urros	Barrio de los Urros	0	1399	1399
0071	Cueva del Mostajo (part of the Cubija System)	Cubija	20780	21686	906
0075	Simas del Picón	Cubija	1834	2731	897
2889	Torca la Vaca	Hornedo	15271	15875	604
0081	Cueva de Carcavueso (part of the 4VS)	La Secada	56066	56503	437
0025	Sima-Cueva del Risco	Ozana	10435	10833	398
2538	El Cubillón	Moncobe	1584	1952	368
3884	cave	Ozana	0	366	366
0936	Fox Cave	Riaño	0	286	286
0713	Fuente de Aguanaz (1st & 2nd entrances)	San Antonio	2199	2416	217
0841	Cueva de Fresnedo 2	Fresnedo	7420	7599	179
3234	Cueva-Cubío del Llanío	Riaño	3662	3831	169
3649	Cueva de la Casa Vieja	Moncobe	165	318	153
3812	"Yo-Yo" cave	Idepuerta	0	135	135
2185	Double Horse Trough Rising	Cobadal	0	130	130
0103	Cueva del Ruchano / Cueva de la Espada	Riaño	2185	2309	124
0098	Cueva de Bollón	La Secada	1629	1742	113
0105	Cueva de Riaño (part of the 4VS)	Riaño	55954	56066	112
3543	cave	Camposdelante	0	106	106
3380	Torca de Peña Encaramada	Hornedo	3835	3930	95
0671	cave	South Vega	0	92	92
3890	shaft	Idepuerta	0	79	79
1180	shaft	Trillos	0	59	59
3795	cave	Riaño	0	57	57
2290	resurgence cave	South Vega	0	41	41
3442	cave	Riaño	0	38	38
3496	cave	La Gatuna	0	38	38
2417	Letterbox Cave	Riaño	0	37	37
3796	cave	Riaño	0	25	25
2183	Woodcutters' Cave	Cobadal	155	172	17
3777	cave	Secadura	0	17	17
3895	cave (another Carcavueso entrance)	La Secada	0	10	10
3916	shaft / dig	Hornedo	0	9	9
	TOTAL NEW PASSAGE SURVEYED				7713

Thanks must go again to Pablo and family at Bar Germán - using the restaurant as a base during the larger expeditions is vital and greatly appreciated. The Ghar Parau Fund committee awarded £400 to Matienzo 2013. In applying for our annual permit, we are grateful for the support of the Federación Cántabra de Espeleología. As usual, only the larger finds have been mentioned above. Further details with surveys can be found on the Matienzo Caves website, www.geography.lancs.ac.uk/matienzo/page1.htm and, in detail for 2013, at www.geography.lancs.ac.uk/matienzo/history/2013.htm.

Cave exploration around Matienzo during 2013

Nearly 50 people took part in the Easter expedition with the weather being spring-like, veering towards the “quite wet” for those on the campsite. Only 2km of new passage were surveyed but nearly 90 new sites of speleological interest were identified. Most new passage was surveyed in **El Cubillón** at Moncobe - an inlet series and a climb over the sump. **Simas del Picón** is being resurveyed and small extensions were made. **Torca la Vaca** (Hornedo) was pushed upstream to a rift chamber with high level passage heading off to the north, open and going, but some closing down when explored later in the year.

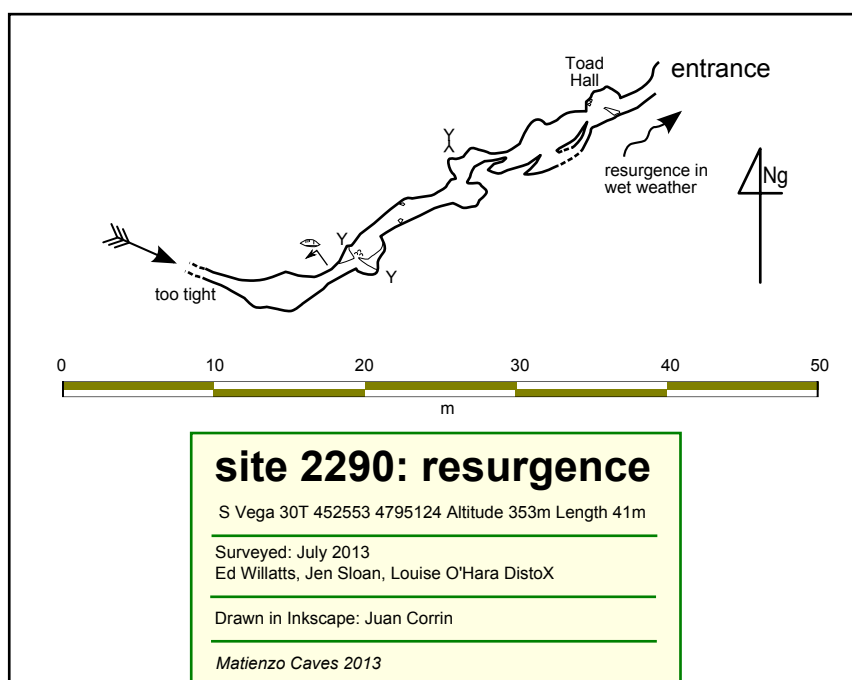
Over 90 cavers and associates took advantage of the dry summer and low water levels. The caving period lasted for about 5 weeks and more than 5.3km of new cave passage were surveyed plus 2.5km of re-survey in **Cueva Carcavueso**, part of the 4 Valleys System. The longest new cave was **Cueva de los Urros** providing 1.4km of passages. More than 900m of new passages were discovered in **Cueva de Mostajo** (Cubija)

Southern Sector

In **Cueva Vallina**, in the passage running north of *Bathtub Passage*, an “horrific” aven, covered with mud, was climbed to where it “did nowt” and, pushing through the northern boulder choke, explorers dropped a 15m pitch to a mud-walled outlet and immature inlet above. At Alisas a number of shafts were dropped to conclusions. Sites **2000**, **2049** and **2051** were found to choke.

On the hills to the south of La Vega, the high level resurgence (**site 2290**) was surveyed for 41m before it closed in.

Rupert Skorupka’s diving quest to find the missing resurgence water in **Comellantes** was



Hidden Hole. (Torben Redder)

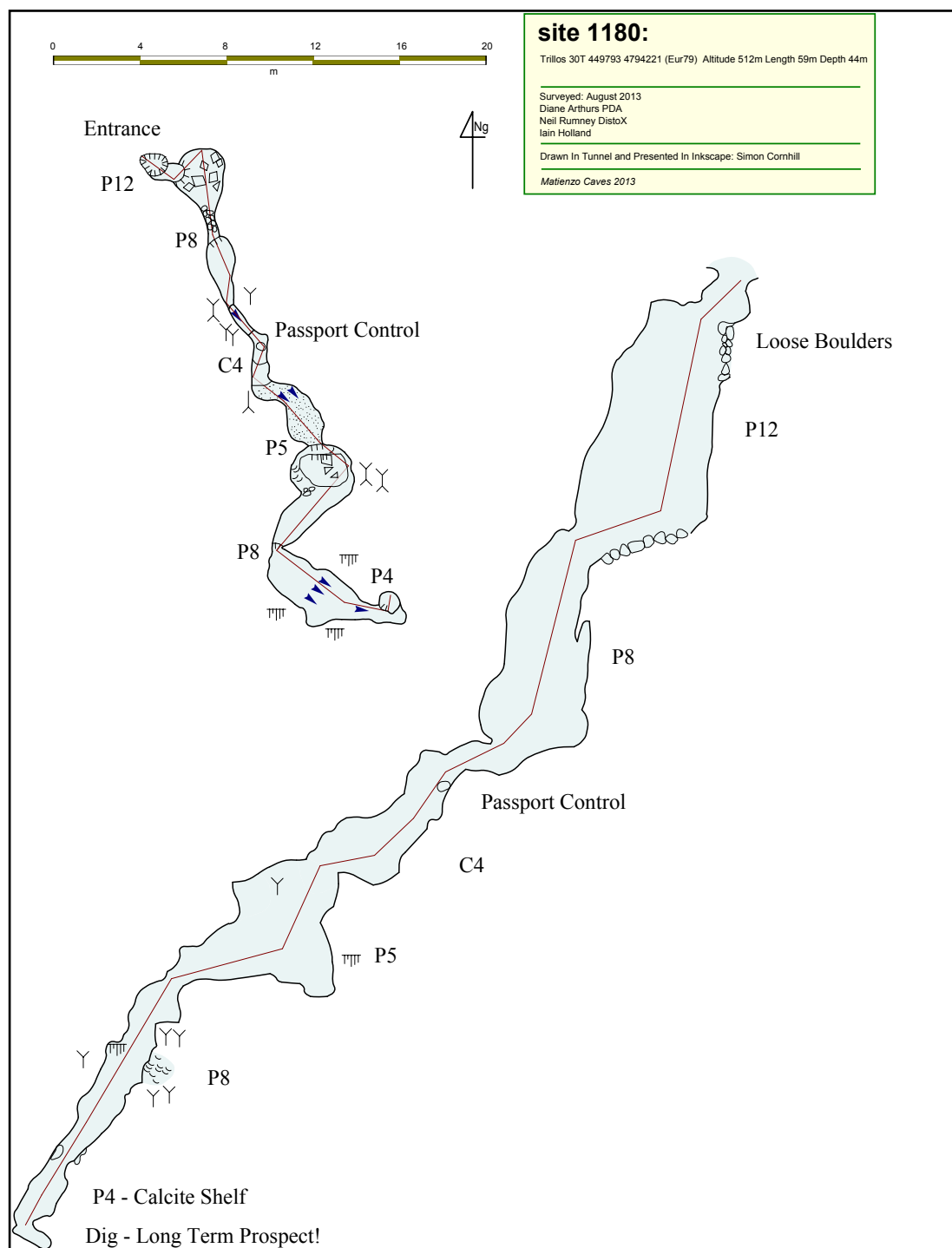


Hidden Hole. (Peter Fast)

An overnight camp was carried out by the Danish team in **Hidden Hole** with a view to pushing a number of leads. Unfortunately, one of the tackle sacks fell down the 57m *Gloom Pitch*. This contained water, milk and the DistoX so, although drinking water was found in the cave, the small extensions found on the 30 hour trip could not be surveyed.

At **Trillos**, high above the northwest edge of Vallina, **site 1180** was pushed down 5 pitches to a depth of 44m. The 30 - 50m diameter hole at **site 674** was finally explored and documented.

thwarted at Easter by too much water and bad visibility. After a flood event, **Cueva del Molino** at Bustablado was running milky while Comellantes was clear. One interpretation is that Molino is receiving snow melt water from the Porracolina mountains to the south while Comellantes is getting water from Cueva Vallina and the South Vega system (where there was no snow melt). There is now a guide line through the Reñada duck but this shouldn't be used for free-diving.





In **Sima-Cueva del Risco**, a new 180m long series was surveyed - *Curly Mud Passage*, and *Dieline Passage* was extended by 96m.



Curly Mud Passage. (Peter Smith)



sima-cueva del Risco.
(top: Tom Thomson;
others: Paul Fretwell)



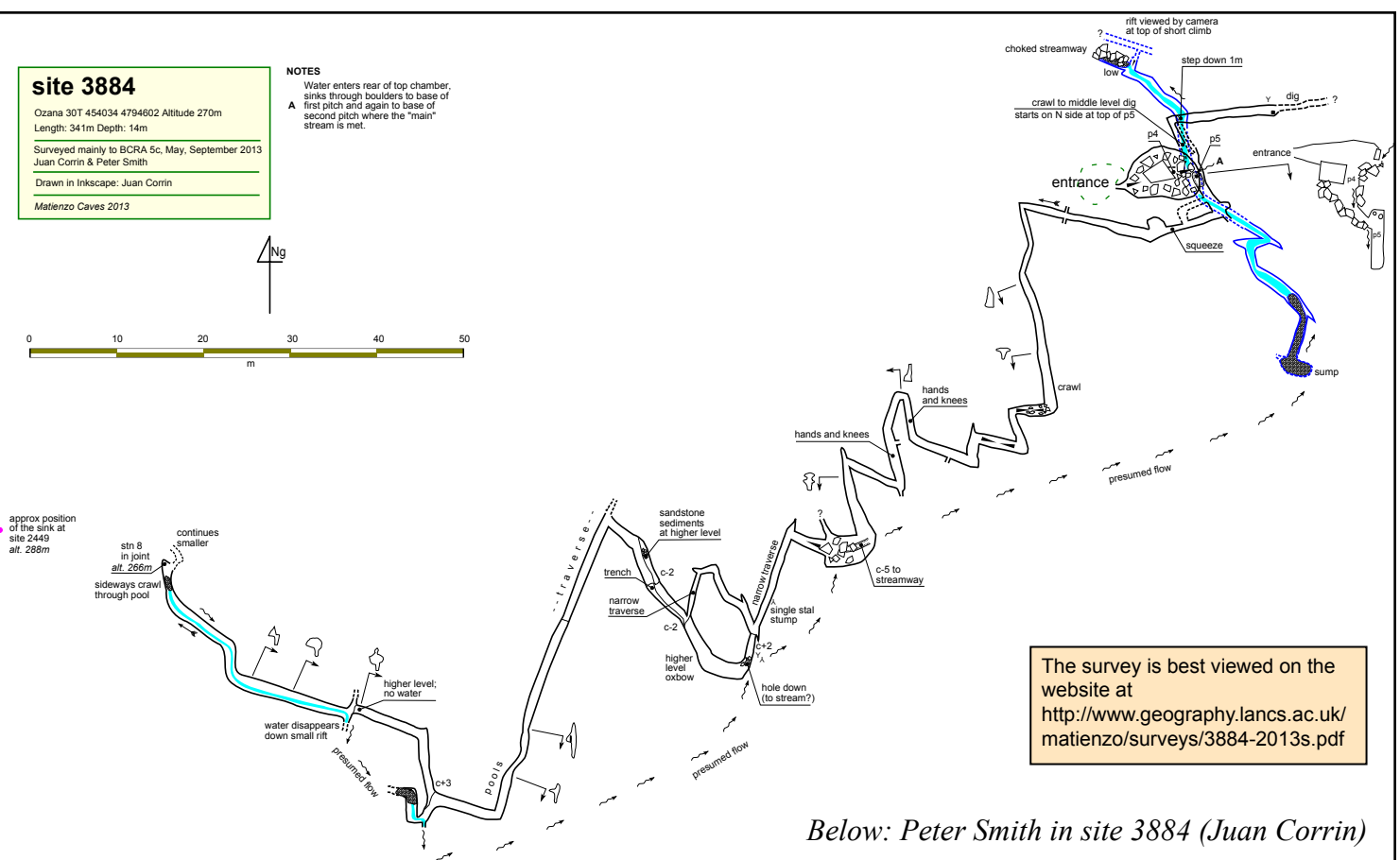
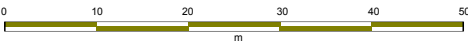
Ozana 30T 454034 4794602 Altitude 270m
Length: 341m Depth: 14m

Surveyed mainly to BCRA 5c, May, September 2013
Juan Corrin & Peter Smith

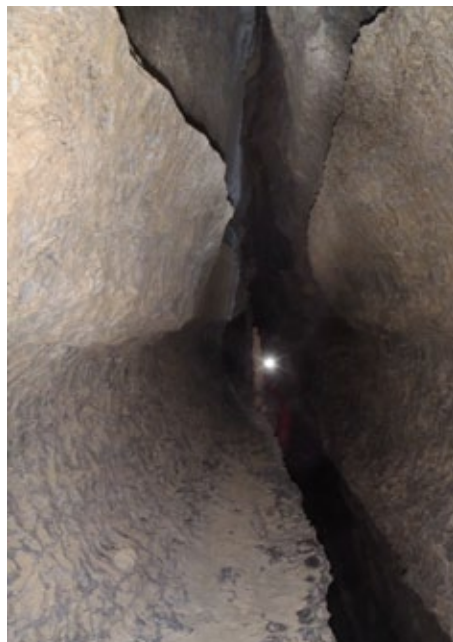
Drawn in Inkscape: Juan Corrin

Matienzo Caves 2013

A Water enters rear of top chamber, sinks through boulders to base of first pitch and again to base of second pitch where the "main" stream is met.



At the end of the Easter period, an open entrance (**site 3884**) was found southeast of the Jivero caves, just above the depression floor. This was explored upstream for about 200m in phreatic passages with vadose cut down. Exploration continued in the spring where upstream became smaller close to **sink 2449**. Downstream exploration was very wet (because of a wet spring period and having to crawl through a small waterfall) but a boulder choke was met within a few metres of the base of the second pitch and upstream of the pitch also stopped at a sump. The total surveyed was 341m.



Signal crayfish in cueva del Agua (Juan Corrin)



Native crayfish in cueva de Jivero 2. (Tom Thomson)



Signal crayfish in cueva del Agua (Simon Cornhill)

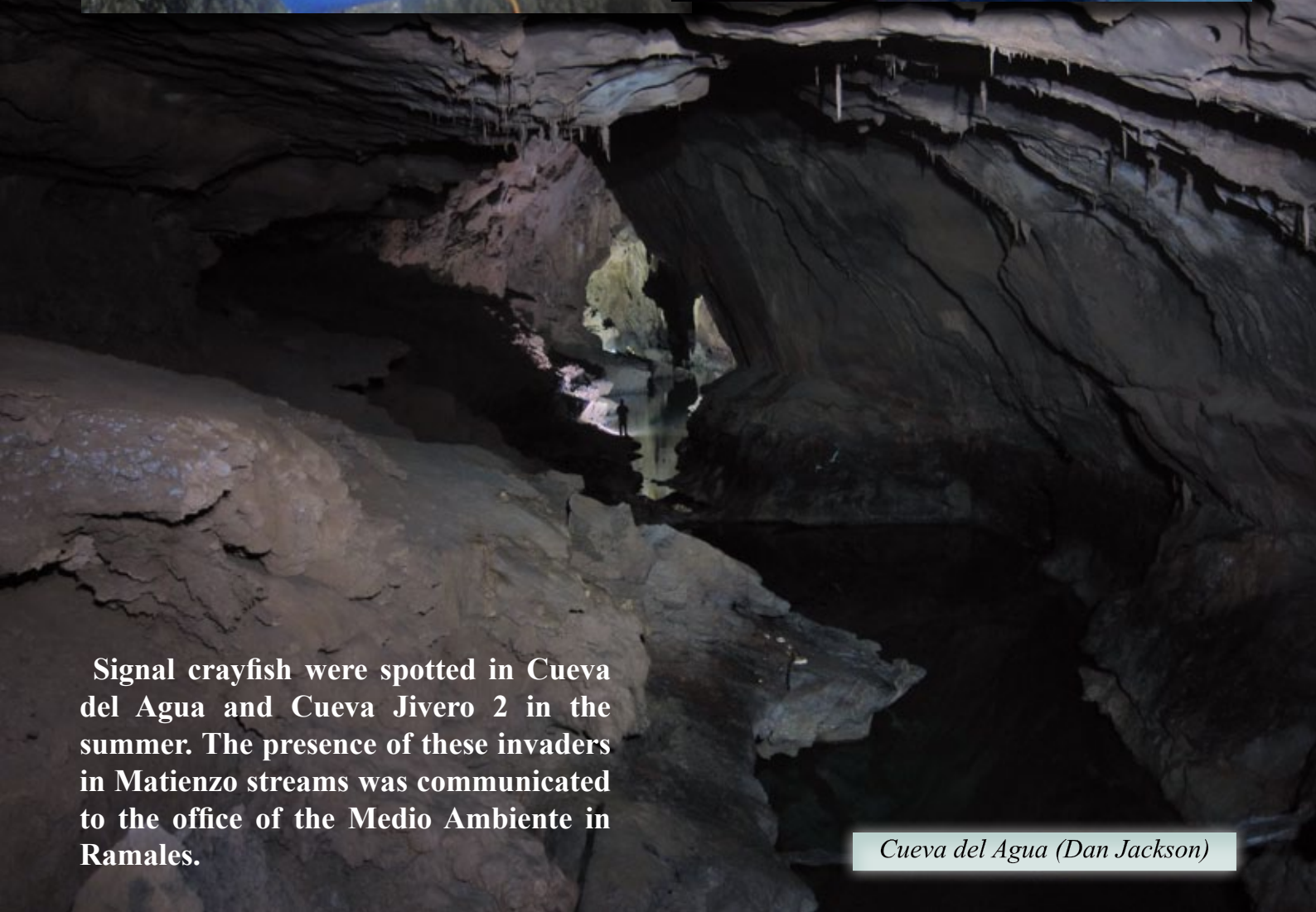


Cueva del Agua (Iain Holland)



Signal crayfish were spotted in Cueva del Agua and Cueva Jivero 2 in the summer. The presence of these invaders in Matienzo streams was communicated to the office of the Medio Ambiente in Rmales.

Cueva del Agua (Dan Jackson)



El Naso area west to Las Calzadillas

The high level *MUSC Series* in **Torca del Mostajo** was extended by 906m by the Manchester University Speleology Club. At the southern end, down a short drop, the passage continues down another unexplored 12m drop with possible leads below. To the north, which sets off part way along the 2012 extensions, complicated and varied routes have a number of leads still to pursue including a deep pitch to water. Resin anchors were placed on the entrance pitch and the traverse.



Torca del Mostajo. (Bill Smith)

SIMAS DEL PICON (site 075).

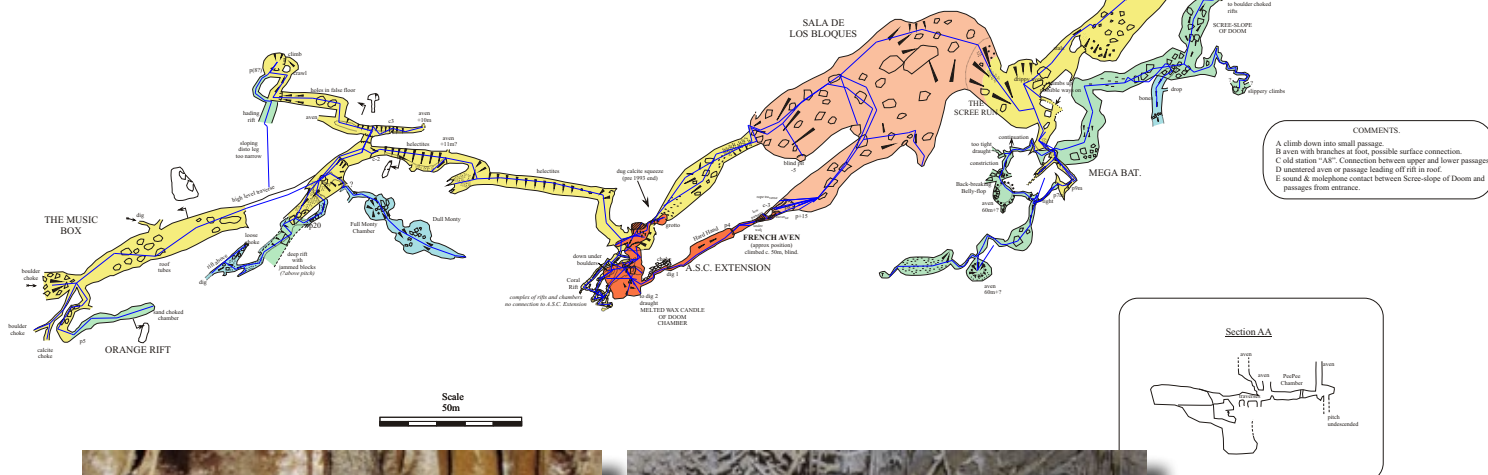
Cubija, Matienzo, Cantabria
Survey Matienzo Expeditions, BCRA Grade 5c, 1993-2013
drawn A. Neill 2013.

Surveyors include: Alba Castillo, Lloyd Cawthorne, Peter Egan, Daniel Jackson, Keef Jackson, Darren Jarvis, Francesca McDonald, Kate Martin, Mike Meehan, Phil Miles, Alasdair Neill, Phil Papard, Andy Pringle, Rosanne Ramsay, Torben Redder, Alex Ritchie, Chris Scaife, Adam Sharples, William Smith, Paul Stacey, Mike Topoom, Ian Walton, Simeon Warner.

Length 2717m depth 158m (August 2013).



The survey is best viewed on the website at
<http://www.geography.lancs.ac.uk/matienzo/surveys/0075-2013s.pdf>



*Simas del Picón
(left, Dan Jackson;
right, Andy Pringle)*

In the resurvey of **Simas del Picón**, a 47m extension was made in the *Melted Wax Candle of Doom Chamber* and 121m in the *Picón Eye* and *Pee Pee Chamber* extensions, close to the entrance. In the summer, significant extensions were found part way down the *Mega Bat Series*: over three hundred metres of mainly large passage heading west then east to almost connect with passage heading down from the entrance.

The Northeast Sector including the Four Valleys System

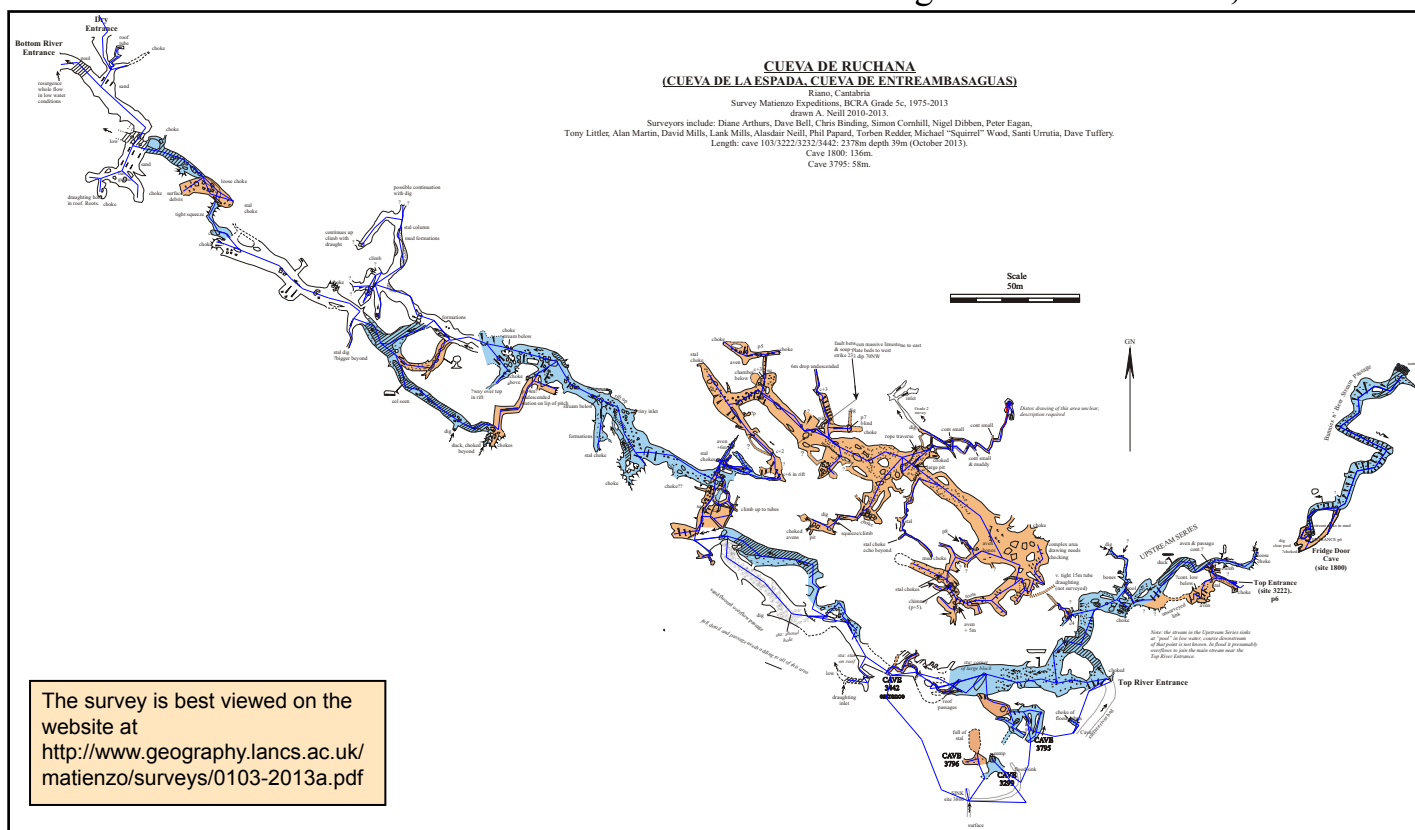
Cueva del Sifón Claro, dived from the back of a small chamber in 1980, was found to have collapsed. A jumble of boulders and fallen trees now covers the site, with holes down to water between rocks.

Cueva de la Espada and its surroundings were investigated a number of times over the year. In the cave, 92m were surveyed in small passages and the supposed link towards **Llanío** was dug. The bottom entrance has been signposted from the main road using the name given by the expedition in 1975 rather than the local name, **Cueva del Ruchano**.

Associated holes included the newly found **site 3795**. Here, a sloping p10 dropped into a short segment of large stream passage running parallel to the stream in Cueva de la Espada and presumably an inlet to that cave further downstream. A return was made to **site 3442** which had been connected down into the Espada stream in August 2010. Extensive digging of mud was required before the cave and passages were accessible and could be surveyed. **Site 3796** above a stream sink was explored for some 25m in a stal-filled crawl. Also documented was the enticing **Sewer Works sink, site 3800**.



Peter Fast en la cueva del Llanío. (Bill Smith)



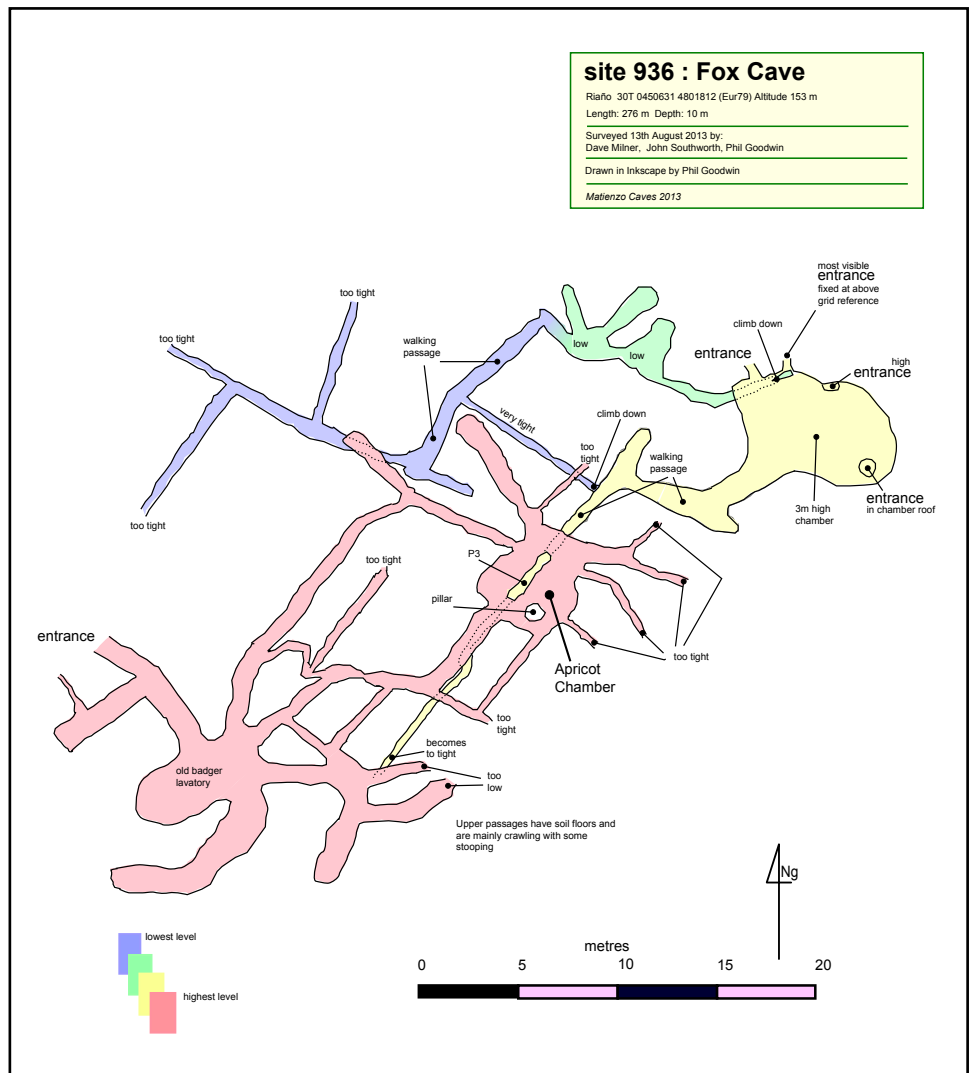
Fox Cave, in an isolated and heavily vegetated valley 700m to the north of Cueva de la Espada, was pushed and surveyed to give 286m of passage with a number of entrances, some draughting.

A lot of time was spent pushing and documenting old and new holes under a sandstone bed on the 265m contour above **Cueva de Riaño**. Three sites were originally documented in this area: **site 640** was excavated this summer to provide a length of 10m. New sites include **3917**, entered through a prominent portal which turns into a narrow rift with a parallel shaft descended for about 15m and **site 3920**, a 17m long cave which becomes too low in stream deposits.

Between **Slaves' Cave** and **Freedom Pot**, **site 3018** was descended in a very tight shaft into a chamber which drops into 20m of well decorated passage.

After digging out the collapsed entrance to **Cueva de Fresno 2** the pitches were rebolted for SRT, and an outlet passage about 3 km from the entrance was pushed for 180m. This ended in a mud choke but, part way along, a stream could be heard down a hole which needs descending.

Torca de Yusa (with its 118m deep entrance pitch) was dropped to open passage seen up a mud wall climb a couple of years ago was found to choke down a pitch of 10m depth and down a 15m loose and muddy pitch that dropped into a large chamber.



Torca de Yusa (Alex Ritchie)



A resurvey was started in **Cueva de Carcavueso**. Over 2900m of passages were surveyed including 437m of previously unsurveyed routes. The length of the **4 Valleys System** is now about 56.5km.

Cueva de Bollón was also pushed in tight passages. It may be possible to excavate through.

Northwest Sector

At San Antonio, 217m of passage at **Fuente Aguanaz** between the resurgence entrance and the middle entrance then up to the boulder choke near the top entrance was surveyed.

Jim Lister and Colin Heywood concluded their series of dives from **Wild Mare** up to *Bassenthwaite Lake* in **Torca la Vaca** in the summer by surveying 64m through *Elephant Sump* and taking photographs in the downstream sections. It is now clear that the Lake is part of the main drainage through the cave and not a back-water.

The *Wrong Trousers* inlet at the bottom of the entrance pitch in Torca la Vaca was

Cueva de Carcavueso. Top, Dan Jackson. Below, Peter Eagan)



Fuente Aguanaz. (Jim Lister)

extended by digging out the low upstream section and entering a slightly larger set of passages for over 200m. All leads closed down in the summer.

A two-night camp beyond *Lake Bassenthwaite* allowed 6 people to survey a number of passages totalling 267m. A “molephone” positioning and conversation was also carried out from an underground station near the *Wasdale Screes* and the surface on the side of a large depression. A number of digs - potential second entrances – were excavated in the hope of



Torca la Vaca 1: Phil Papard using the Molephone to talk to Johnny and Jude Latimer underground in Torca la Vaca. (Juan Corrin & Paul Dold)

2: The underground camp. (Paul Dold)

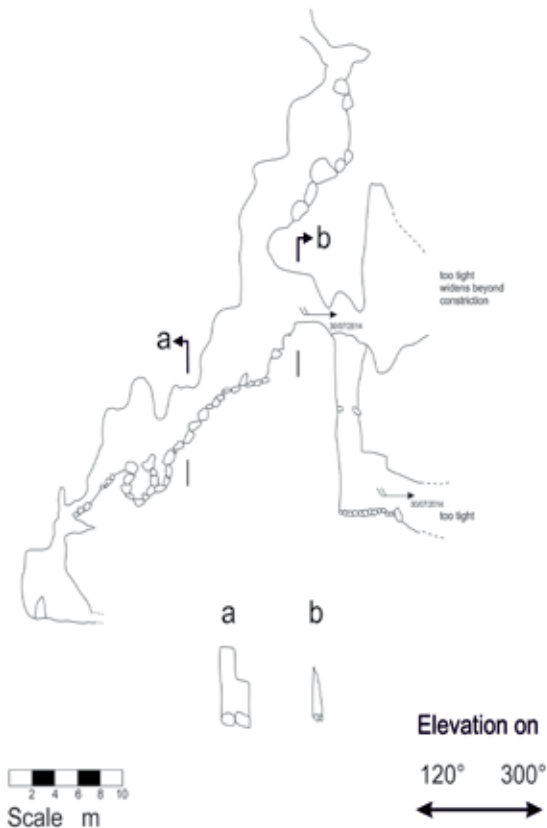
3, 4: Andy Pringle; **5:** Dan Jackson

6, 7, 8, 9: Tom Thomson



Silent Scream

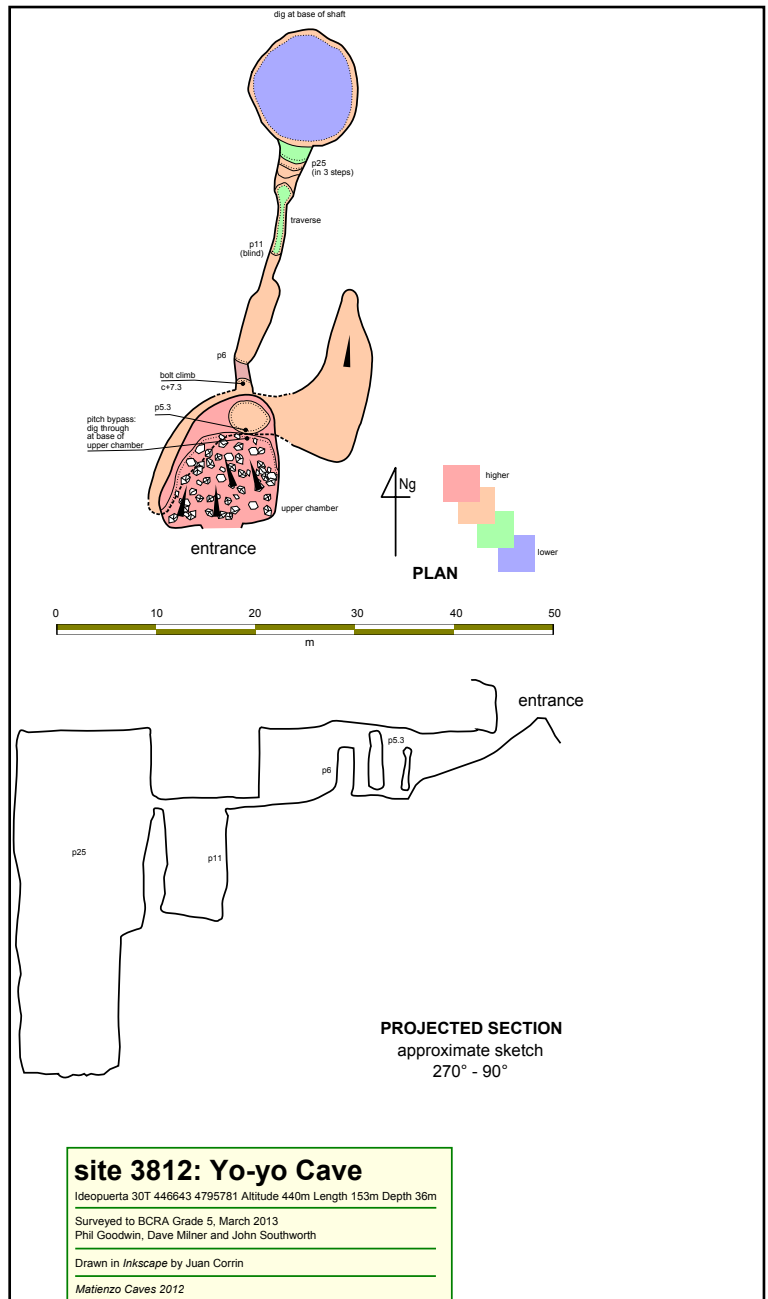
Matienzo site 3890



Surveyed July 2013 - B Sloan, T Webber



Site 3890. (Jenny Sloan)



site 3812: Yo-yo Cave

Ideopuerta 30T 446643 4795781 Altitude 440m Length 153m Depth 36m

Surveyed to BCRA Grade 5, March 2013

Phil Goodwin, Dave Milner and John Southworth

Drawn in Inkscape by Juan Corrin

Matienzo Caves 2012

entering Torca la Vaca beyond the lake.

The open 4 x 2m entrance to **site 3812** (with the working name of Yo-yo Cave) leads straight into a sloping chamber and a couple of up and down climbs and pitches before ending in an unstable dig.

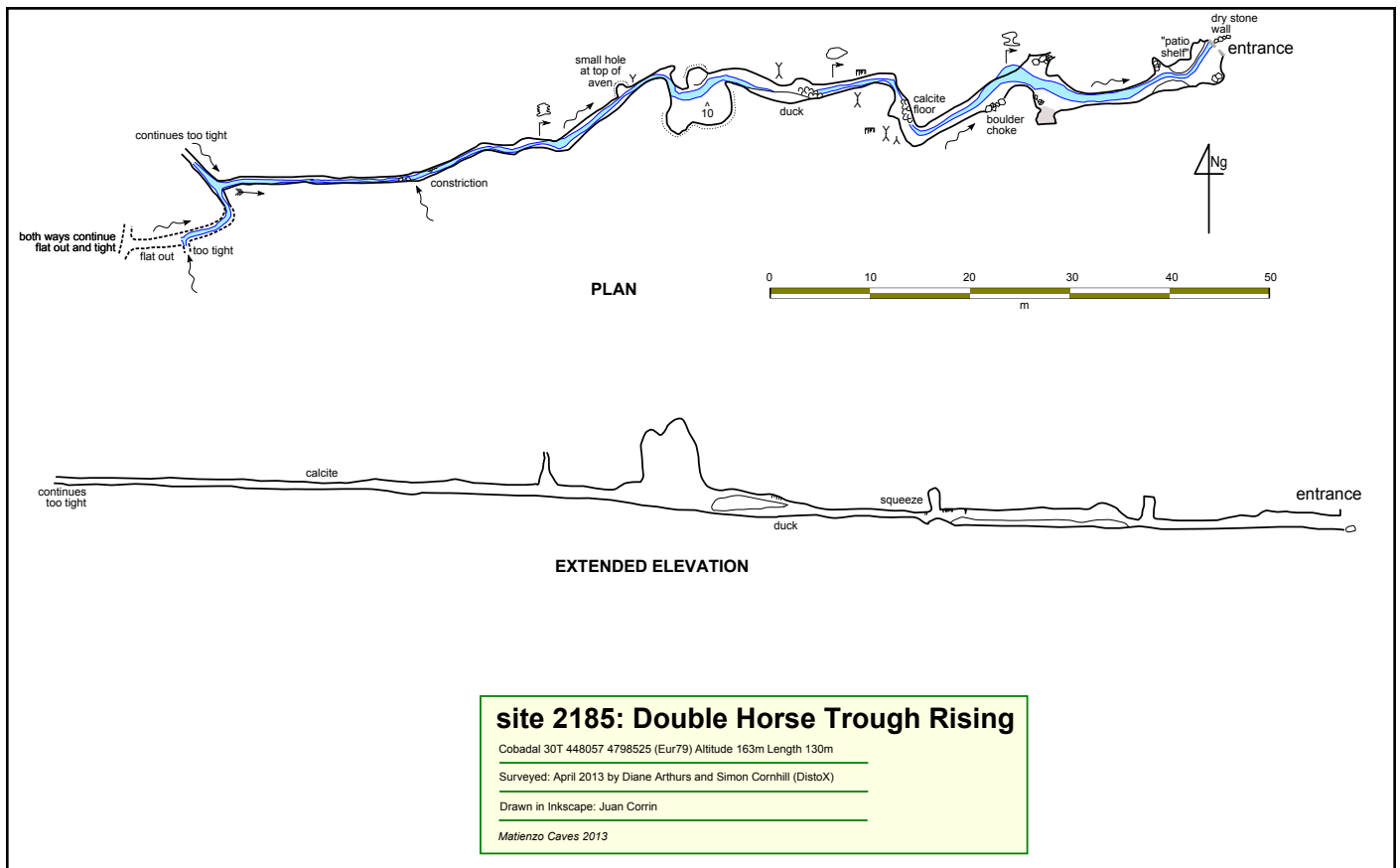
Site 3890 turned out to have more interest than most shafts with some horizontal development in the depth of 39m. One hundred metres to the southeast, **site 3853** also showed some promise with a chamber at the bottom of two pitches. The only way on at 44m depth appears to require "serious digging" at the base of the final boulder slope.

In La Gatuna, **site 3496** was excavated on a number of occasions to reveal a 15m pitch with a very narrow draughting rift at the base.

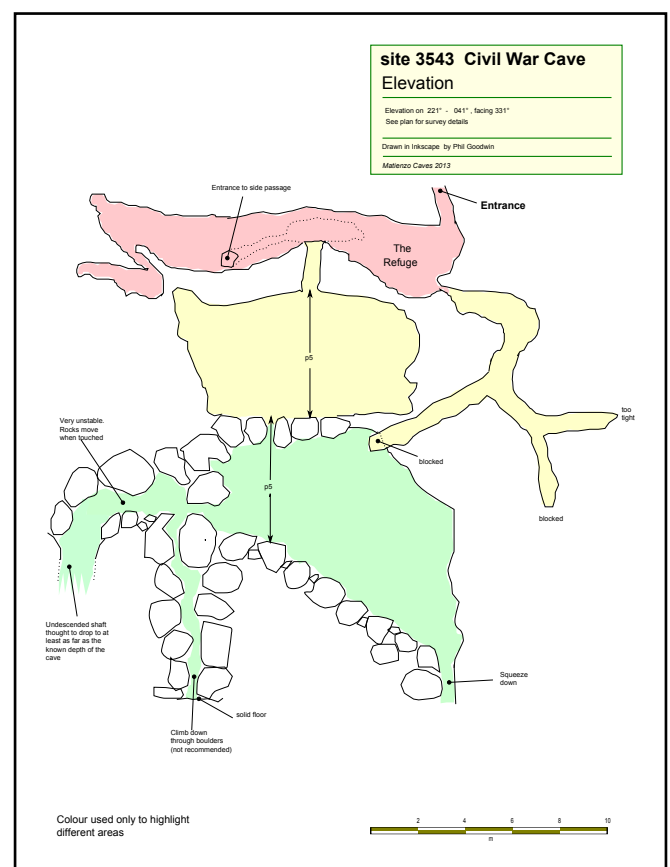
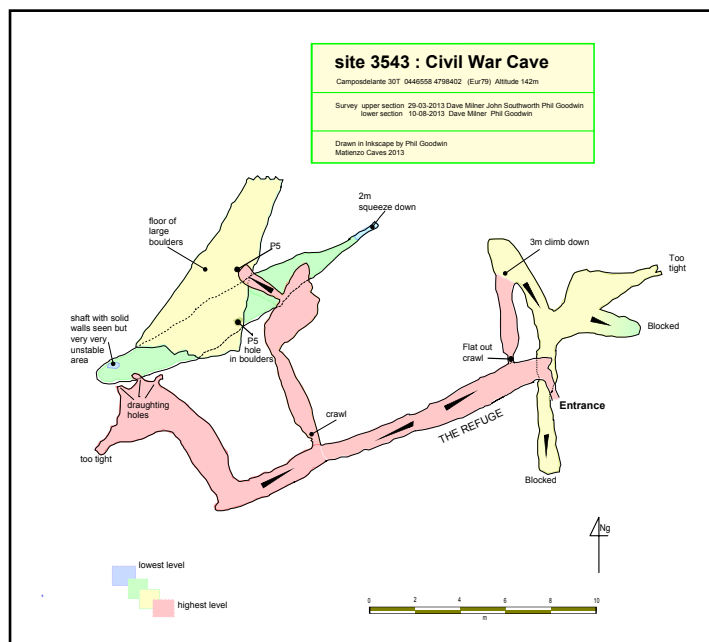
In **Cueva de los Urros**, site 2917, cavers squeezed through the tight entrance series to enter 1.4km of maze cave. This is mainly on one level but there are passages both above and below. The site was surveyed using a DistoX over 9 visits.



Cueva de los Urros.
(Simon Cornhill)



Some interesting holes were found at the “hidden valley”, south of Cobadal: **site 3829** is an open 15m deep hole that takes water but closed down at the base; **site 3831** is a straight 7m descent into a completely choked chamber; **site 3830** has a echoing p20 - 25m which was undescended at Easter because conditions were too wet from water showering out of the roof. In the summer, it was disappointing to find it choked 21m down with “no prospects”. Nearby **site 3908** drops in a series of chambers to a tight, draughting but blocked solution tube. Eight metres to the east, **site 3909** was excavated to a 5m drop into a chamber with a draught coming out of the floor. To the south, **site 3907** was dug out to enter 6m of small passage under a sandstone bed.



Two resurgences were pushed on the south side of the northern depression at Cobadal. **Woodcutter's Cave** was explored to a too tight continuation and **Double Horse Trough Rising** was pushed and surveyed for 130m to where it gets too small.

At Camposdelante, **site 3543** was shown by a local to have a cave behind thick vegetation. This was used as a Civil War shelter but passages were seen going off a chamber. The cave was hurriedly abandoned in the summer when a bouldery wall above a dig started moving. The site (surveyed to 106m long and 21m deep) "may warrant another visit".

Juan Corrin and Peter Smith, November 2013



Tom Thomson



Andy Pringle

Lenny's Cave, Secadura



Paul Fretwell

