Selected site list for prospecting in 2026

The list below is only some of the sites that need to be investigated, and these have been updated for summer 2026 to cover both new finds and updating those previously listed that were looked at in 2024, 2025 and Easter 2026.

They vary from surface undescended shafts, possible digs as well as pushing some known sites. All have been picked as the writeups suggest they have some prospects and/or are in very key locations. Quite a few require surveying and taking a photograph of the entrance. The latter is important as this helps to identify the site when other sites are nearby. Also, very important is to record draughts as this is an indication of potential.

The sites vary in their demands of the explorers i.e., from hard thin cavers to more average cavers and to those looking for surface walks with some speleological interest! Help is available to give coaching on surveying and capping, with limited equipment in the MCP store.

The list only covers sites in our current permit area. Also leads in the main systems and other work (such as continuing the survey of Reñada and the Four Valley's System) as well as digs and sites that are currently being worked on are not listed. Discussion with some of the old hands and studying the surveys are needed to identify best prospects in the longer systems.

If you decide to look at a particular surface site, you should look at the "site entrance in context" link at the top of the website description. This brings up an interactive map with the entrance and all surrounding sites shown. Entrance icons are coded: ! still going; D dig; U unexplored; A Archaeological; B Biological interest. Clicking an icon will provide a link to the description. This facility is also available in the Office at the back of Pablo's restaurant during the expeditions, along with the QGIS mapping system that provides all the data - useful for getting the very latest information!

It has been shown that having both ropes/ladders as well as capping gear can be a great asset for a team doing surface work and may avoid the need to just record a site as needing further work.

To be most effective if you have access to an Android smart phone, then load Oruxmaps https://www.oruxmaps.com/cs/en and then upload the MCP map and details from the website at http://matienzocaves.org.uk/OruxMaps/index.htm so you can check sites while on the fell. Also load onto your phone site entrance descriptions http://matienzocaves.org.uk/descrip/pdfs/pdfs-index.htm which are useful to consult on the fell, and in particular show if the site is lacking an entrance photo, if this is he case for holes you come across then take one.

Phil Papard

June, 2026

Site	Name	Area	What to do	Date done
2052	Shaft	Alisas	The shaft at Alisas can be pushed as we have an agreement with club G.E. Pistruellos. The shaft was found to be shorter than originally stated with about 25m to a tight section and then an estimated 15m drop below. The tight section was too small to safely push through, so it needs more work to progress or a very thin person.	April 2024
~~5313~~	Shaft	Alisas	5m pitch followed by a short slope. It *"may be diggable at the bottom but probably not worth it."*	October 2025
~~5314~~	Shaft	Alisas	"is just a depression that ends."	October 2025
2834	Pallet Hole	Barrio la Mina	Site needs a survey and check for any leads.	
~~4937~~	Nepa Hole	Beranga	Ent opened up and pushed in 2024 past original end but only to further chokes with low prospects.	August 2024
2938	Shaft	Camposdelante	Continue work at 6m 45deg drop those needs opening up to get access – small draught.	
5031	Toca del Viejo	Cierrolinos	Site needs surveying and capping rift at bottom of 60m pitch – Check as site may have been pushed by La Cambera club who found it in Jan 2023 and named the site.	Jan 2023
5035	Cueva de la Llusa 3	Cierrolinos	Push/cap lead needs BCRA 5 survey (current only BCRA 2b) – check that La Cambera has not pushed, they re-found site in 2023 and named it Torca del Spray Rojo.	May 2023
5102	Shaft	Cierrolinos	Push/cap any lead needs BCRA 5 survey, current only BCRA 2b) – check that La Cambera has not pushed, they re-found site in 2023.	Jan 2023
3685	cave	Cobadal	Continued digging in draughting dig, but need scaffolding to secure roof blocks first	Summer 2024
0919	cave	Cobadal	Check if can dig narrow section “sounds bigger below”	
2099	dig	Cobadal	Continue draughting dig (stones fall further 6-8m). in Dec 2023 area of site very overgrown and dig could not be located.	22/12/2023
2777	shaft	Cobadal	Cap 4m draughting shaft to possible passage, photo ent.	
3685	cave	Cobadal	Continue digging required at strongly draughting site where site was pushed in 2023 to a slot that opens up beyond to a potential dig but with hanging deaths overhead. Scaffolding will be required before any progress can be made.	August 2024
5425	Shaft	Cobadal	Shaft 8m deep but only partly explored, needs picture of ent, dropping to bottom and surveying.	
1930	Cobadal, Sumidero de	Cobadal	Reported that the main ent is open but needs stabilising. Dig/snappers at top of draughting boulder slope against wall high above end (serious undertaking at this key prospect)	
1362	shaft	Coterón las Llanas (Bosmartin)	Dig/cap tight section 15m down second pitch	
5326	Shaft	Cruz Llorada	Undescended shaft covered with pallets and tyres	
~~0813~~	dig	Cubija	Strongly draughting dig next and to steep concrete track at bend. Dug in 2025 and considered "a mining job" with no strong prospect in sight."	Summer 2025
~~5402~~	Shaft	Cubija	*Pushed to tube 50cm by 50cm in sharp knobbly rock and down steeply to very small with no draught present.*	August 2025
5403	Chamber Pot	Cubija	Site opened up via drop (p6) to ledge and second pitch (p10) to floor of a large chamber with possibilities in the floor, needs checking in good draughting weather ie hot.	Easter 2025
0558	Mariverde	El Naso	Check digging prospect (now we have caps), photo ent	
0561	cave	El Naso	Dig/cap end of upper strongly draughting cave.	
1600	Shaft	El Naso	Pushing and surveying needed. Entrance blocked by vegetation, needs tools and work to open. Situated above new passages in Rascavieja this roomy shaft lands on a choked floor at -22m. A tight rift leads to the top of a 7m undescended drop. The 3m long rift requires enlarging.	Easter 2026
5495	Cueva Oscura	El Naso	Survey needed also check for draughts and pushing potential on hot day. Looked at Easter 2025 but no ongoing leads noted.	Easter 2025
5529	Skull and Crossbones Dig	El Naso	Photo ent,1.5m to holes in floor that draught. Need to continue trench from ent to allow room for working.	Easter 2026
~~5417~~	Cave	El Rincón	In 2025 the cave was found to close down.	April 2025
5466	Depression	El Rincon	A large shakehole with possible voids at its base needs a ladder or rope to descend it for a better examination.	

5479	Shaft	El Rincon	Bottom of hole needs checking as ladder was short in 2025, take rope or three ladders,	August 2025
2540	dig	Fresnedo	Cap into undescended shaft. Check draught, photo ent	
3221	sink	Fresnedo	Not in our area but worth look and small dig to see if any prospect as it is exact above the end of Gour Inlet in Hoyuca although 140m above. If worth a dig, we will apply for it in our permit or agree with local club with permit.	
3118	Alum Pot	Fuentecil	Large open hole with slot at bottom, above sump one in Aguanaz – worth a look to assess digging prospects.	
5457	Sink	Fuente las Varas	Check out for digging possibilities (water may not sink in dry weather)	
5525	Dog Hole	Garzón	Site of dog rescue. Needs photo of ent, survey of this 16m shaft and check for draught and prospects in hot weather – check out area around hole for other sites.	Easter 2026
4917	shaft	Hazas de Cesto (E)	Push hole where stones “rattle a fair way”. Photo ent and check for draughts	
3569	Twin Entrance Cave	Hornedo	7.7m pitch to a too tight 5m drop where stones dropped sound as if space below. Survey of site needed.	April 2025
5343	Collapse	Hornedo	Photo of ent needed and digging needed - a 2m drop with a way to a drop in boulders that needs opening up to descend.	
5350	Dig	Hornedo	A 5m ladder into passage. Good draught from 7m+ drop between pillars that needs work to open up. Vegetation stopped access in summer 2024 – so best looked at early in year.	August 2024
5353	Cave	Hornedo	Major digging work carried out with a *draught coming down the rift and there is a small hole visible in the rift roof that needs a look, if it can be reached. P*rogress down the rift needs "thinnies". The site has been detackled apart from a hand line (not for SRT).	August 2025
0186	shaft	La Colina	Dig/cap to gain entry – stones rumble down 6 secs	
0271	cave	La Colina	Climb draughting rift to possible passage. Survey cave and take ent photo (one on website may be wrong cave?)	
2286	shaft	La Colina	Dig calcite run-in at end of crawl. Survey. Fence/wall ent as a risk to walkers and dogs.	
2572	shaft	La Colina	Dig/cap leads, incl at bottom of 51m shaft – see survey	
5197	Ant Hole	La Colina	Ladder needed for 4m ent pitch to bigger space, hole hard to find use GPS to locate in the jungle.	
5478	Shaft	La Colina	Push draughting rifts at bottom and survey site. But top of pitch needs gardening and checking it is secure first.	
5184	Cave	La Estrada	Water supply cave, just to the north of our area but very likely to drain Monte Llusa area – Access is possible through below building at resurgence, but it will need permission to explore as a water supply.	
5185	Cave	La Estrada	Cave that seems to flow in very wet weather and above a small resurgence. Dig (need spade) rising slot near to possible sump, check “sump” in dry weather. Survey cave and check for draughts.	
2223& 0127	Cave & Cubio de la Gatuna	La Gatuna	Push (survey any finds) and in particular with the aim of joining up the two caves – see survey and take with you.	
2319	shaft	La Gatuna	Drop draughting 20m undescended rift, will need bolts and probably caps.	
5393	Shaft	La Gatuna	Photo of ent. A 1m diameter hole to an undescended 5m drop with slight draught.	
5519	resurgence	La Helguera	Cave emits water in flood, after 5m it closes down with a stream on floor and narrow slot at head height. Worth checking for a draught on a warm day and photo ent.	Easter 2026
5520	cave	La Helguera	2m long cave to T junction. Right closes down, left continues over animal skeleton needs digging. Photo ent.	Easter 2026
1089	shaft	La Rasa	Dig/cap entry to draughting tube at base, photo ent	
1108	Cable, Torca del	La Rasa	Shaft at bottom of the entrance shaft ends in a rock filled choke with no worthwhile leads. Bolting to “hole in wall” where draught may at ent shaft may not have been done?	August 2025
1109	shaft	La Rasa	Push (caps?) unexplored 20m deep rift at base. Photo ent and new GPS	
1168	shaft	La Rasa	Drop (caps?) 15m drip at base of 30m shaft. Photo ent	
0583	dig	La Secada	Check digging prospects and draught. Photo ent	
1017	Socks	La Secada	Very strongly draughting dig. In summer 2024 found main draught was from boulder choke at bottom of ent shaft	August 2025

			and not crawl in chamber – needs digging, stabilising etc – team of 3 at least needed.	
1222	shaft	La Secada	Drop undescended draughting 15m shaft. Photo ent. In August 2023 it could not be found in thick jungle, or at Easter 2024 or Jan 2025 GPS seems wrong?	Jan 2025
1488	cave	La Secada	Looked at in 2023, needs caps to get to chamber, but no draught felt in 2023. Cap 10cm strongly draughting crack at base. Looked at in Dec 2023 and considered a reasonable dig, needs rope and bucket to aid digging.	Dec 2023
4131	Dig	La Secada	Dig less than 40m from Trident at similar level, worth a further look and dig.	
4740	shaft	La Secada	Open (caps) rift to 3m deep wider section. Check draught	
4805	dig	La Secada	Strongly draughting hole on right of track. Has been dug down some 5-6m. It is likely if it can be dug it should link into BTM passages in Torca la Decepcion.	
5362	Tree Shroom Hole	La Secada	Shaft partly blocked by tree trunk 3m down - 4m shaft with no way on explored Jan 24 with a parallel shaft from the 3m ledge requiring enlargement to reach the bottom distoed at 11m.	January 2024
5379	Dig	La Secada	Photo of ent. A 4m drop that has a small draught, needs tyres removing and digging to descend.	
5470	dig	La Secada	Check out to see if site is worth a dig, if in area.	
5508	dig	La Secada	A tight entrance to where big enough to turn. A slot looks to go to a larger passage below, would need digging.	
5533	Shaft (dig)	La Secada	4m deep hole with a slight draught but from choke. Entrance dug and made safe at Easter worth a further dig and check draught in hotter weather. (prob same site as 5545.	Easter 2026
5535	Shaft	La Secada	This 5m shaft needs dropping and checking for draught on hot day and prospects. Sketch of shaft with length and bearing taken is needed.	Easter 2026
5537	dig	La Secada	Check for digging prospects.	Easter 2026
5116	shaft	Monte Llusa	Ent needs GPSed and the whole surveyed and any leads pushed. Needs checking for draughts.	
0803	shaft	Muela	Check base for prospect given the strong inward draught, but site not found at location in 2022	April 22
1795	shaft	Muela	Cap/push lead (see into a chamber) at base of p8 ent. Ent seems to be covered by a boulder partly grassed over – will need to be removed – see 2022 photo	13/04/22
1954	shaft	Muela	Not found in 22 but location should not be far off. Open/cap shaft (stones drop 2s the roll 5s). Photo ent	13/04/22
5471	Shaft	Muela	Shaft covered with rocks, needs descending – but cover of rocks must be replaced, Photo Ent	
0132	cave	Mullir	Dig lead (echo, disto 14m) base of chamber. Photo ent	
1451	shaft	Mullir	Climb & ladder to slot needing opening up to progress to chamber, but no draught in August 23	August 2023
~~2967~~	shaft	Mullir	Dropped April 24 10m to floor with small dribble of water sinking, very slight draught. Given distance for access thought to be a very low digging priority.	April 2024
2968	shaft	Mullir	Drop 10m unexplored shaft. Check draught.	
3039	shaft	Mullir	Open/cap top of 30-40m unexplored shaft, check draught	
5430	Hazel Doline	Mullir	A 20m across and 10m deep doline with what may be a pitch at bottom from sound of stones dropped in. Needs rope to check base and push.	
0049	Torca del Somo	N Vega	Assess choked shaft at bottom for digging and check if it draughts (Should be inward draught in warm/hot weather)	
~~0429~~	shaft	N Vega	Check “draughting alcove” at base of first pitch. Survey. Explored Dec 23 no good prospects found has been surveyed.	25/12/2023
4113	cave	N Vega	Cap draughting slot at bottom of cave, stones drop 25m. Site needs survey. Site not found in 2025 Take ent photo with you..	April 2025
5484	Dig	N Vega	Stones roll a metre or so down to the left out of sight. A constricted dig, Check for draught in hot weather.	
5177	shaft	Quebraduras	4m pitch with small draught needs work to get past constriction.	
5410	Field dig	Quebraduras	A small slot under 1m rock face goes down at an angle and distoed to 4.8m. Would be an easy dig. There was a little draught in August 2024.	
5411	Shafts	Quebraduras	In vegetated depression two ladders used mainly as a hand line to a narrow 6m drop to a chamber with no real prospects. The east 6m drop goes to a further undescended pitch that appears to collect water from a	August 2024

			shallow, faint stream bed in wet weather, so may feed into the inlet in the chamber	
0936	Fox Cave	Riaño	Check to see if origin of draught can be found and assessed for digging, then look for Beef Surprise Pot nearby or in next small valley	
3451	shaft	Riaño	Need thin person team to push (cap) and survey finds.	
4173	Shelob, Cueva	Riaño	Digging onward crawl, should link to Llanio. Dense vegetation stopped access in Oct 22 and April 24.	April 2024
5227	Cueva Sin Sendero	Riaño	Site needs surveying and photographing incl the entrance – two leads checked (no go) in April 2023 & 2024 may still be leads to push.	April 2024
5443	dig	Riaño	Site near Espada has been dug with more work thought worthwhile.	
0047	Rellanos, Sima de los	S Vega	Check for leads/draughts - survey	
~~0242~~	Tablons, Cueva de los	S Vega	Draughting leads found in 2023 found at Easter 2024 to be poor prospects, with main draught through boulders in chamber – big project to push, but it is a key site with a strong draught.	2023 leads found to be poor – Easter 2024
~~0311~~	dig	S Vega	Need to check for leads (see 2015 web entry) and survey	Nov 24 Site bottomed to choke and surveyed
~~0408~~	Helechales, Cueva de los	S Vega	In 2025 found to be no capping prospects around the final 2 pitches, all pitches now boltted.	August 2025
0445	shaft	S Vega	Dig/cap undescended tight rift at base, photo ent.	
1340	shaft	S Vega	Dig draughting lead at base (only if strong draught at ent)	
1390	Twin Stream Sink	S Vega	Dig draughting sink, in very key location, A long dig, some digging in 2022 more needed incl to stop infill.	23/08/22
1391	Volcano Cave	S Vega	At bottom below massive slab draughting up from below – from draught this must come from either Renada or Vallina it is laying between the two. Dug a little in 2023 but needs shoring to dig safely any further (a serious undertaking but a very key site/prospect)	August 2023
1690	dig	S Vega	Drop 3m to dig and easy continuation. Photo ent	
1708	cave	S Vega	Cap lead in 3rd chamber, check inward summer draught, said to have a warm out draught in winter.	
1719	shaft	S Vega	Cap/dig rift that drops 8m, at base. Check for draught and photo ent and survey	
1850	shaft	S Vega	Ent dig to descend pitch of about 10m, check for draught	
1888	shaft	S Vega	Undescended short shaft. A passage is said to lead off.	
2146	dig	S Vega	Cap/dig ent of draughting site in key location	
2564	shaft	S Vega	Dig stal blockage 11m down. Check draught, photo ent – site could not be found in 2023	April 2023
2582	dig	S Vega	Easy dig/cap with 3m drop and echo. Check draught.	
2589	shaft	S Vega	Cap/dig inward draughting rift (seen to get bigger)	
2594	Wood Dig	S Vega	Dig/cap leads at strongly draughting site, key location.	
2656	shaft	S Vega	This location seems to be site 0470 which is choked – need to check log book for better location! Drop 10m unexplored shaft. Check draught, photo ent if found.	April 2025
2895	shaft	S Vega	Look for (see web entry) and if found cap rock blocking 9m shaft that takes water. Check draught, photo ent and take GPS	
3264	shaft	S Vega	Check and push/dig this strongly inward draughting site – a key site given draught.	
4950	shaft	S Vega	Push shaft that has going routes off final chamber. Needs survey and checking if “sump” is worth a look (2025 trip by SUSS not written up!)	August 2025
4998	shaft	S Vega	In 2023 there was a slight draught, but could not get stones to drop 5 sec, but this was from ent not at base of 2,4m ent drop – still needs digging out top of 5 second drop at base of 2.5m ent. Photo ent check for draughts in warm weather.	Nov 2023
5157	Shaft	S Vega	5m undescended shaft - worth a look if in area	
5158	Shaft	S Vega	5m undescended shaft - worth a look if in area	
5162	Shaft	S Vega	Capping/digging to open up top of 7m second pitch with good echo. In Nov 2023 it was thought boulder on top will be easy to remove but below it looks too narrow without capping – check for draughts and survey, explored Dec. 2023 to a small rift needing capping, sounds bigger below.	Dec 2023

5201	Dig	S Vega	Open up to get access to 2.4m drop with stones heard to fall further. Check for draught.	
~~5418~~	Rift	S Vega	Site found chocked in 2025	April 2025
5422	Shaft	S Vega	At bottom of shakehole (ladder useful) a wall is visible under a holly bush this and two more possible holes to the southwest need a proper examination.	
5423	dig	S Vega	Large boulder needs moving to access a 3m shaft. 15m downhill is another shakehole that needs a proper examination.	
5485	Shaft	S Vega	Drop and push, prob 5-7m deep	
5522	Dig	S Vega	Small cave 1.5m down to a small route bending to the right that needs capping if draught in hot weather.	Easter 2026
5547	Wooded depression	S Vega	At least two shafts to investigate, one has been inspected from the lip where a ladder reaches a floor but continues undescended down further. The southern shaft could be descended down over a scar.	Easter 2026
5553	Shaft	S Vega	Check and push unexplored, 6m-deep, wood-covered shaft. Check for draught on hot day.	Easter 2026
3011	shaft	San Antonio	Ent was found in 2023 to be blocked by tree trunk and tyres, so needs work to both enter and then make safe for farm animals. Dig/cap rift at end of 12m pitch, strong draught and echo	April 2023
5487	dig	San Antonio	Draughting dig worth more work, needs gear to remove sandstone blocks etc, Above avens in Fuente Aguanaz	
0056	Salamandra, Torca de la	Seldesuto	Ent blocked by sawn tree trunks, best to remove with chain saw. Survey, photo of ent, check for leads & draughts and ensure hole is left safe for farm animals.	Tree trunks noted April 2023
0371	cave	Seldesuto	25m passage ends in low draughting crawl that needs assessment for digging.	
3025	dig	Seldesuto	Draughting hole need checking out and opening up to assess prospects.	
0572	shaft	Seldesuto	Drop undescended pitch. Photo and new GPS	
0665	shaft	Seldesuto	Check digging prospects and draught. Photo ent	
0666	shaft	Seldesuto	Location high on ridge is ill-defined but it is near 0665. Find and photo and GPS ent. Drop 30m pitch, cap undescended 40m pitch.	
1124	shaft	Seldesuto	A good prospect. Cap and push inward draughting lead at 15m base, survey. GPS is good. May need bolt to descend.	03/08/22 found, not descended
1149	Oh no, I've Ordered a Heineken	Seldesuto	Found in 2023 to be a 20 through trip. Has been surveyed but still needs photo of entrance if in area.	April 2023
1298	dig	Seldesuto	Key strongly draughting site above and just past end where fault cuts off the river in Reñada. Passage to ladder pitch into boulder chamber. Work is to stabilise and try to follow the very strong draught through the boulders.	
1357	dig	Seldesuto	Cap top of undescended 10m echoing shaft, photo ent	
3468	shaft	Seldesuto	Undescended 30m shaft, check for draughts.	
3627	shaft	Seldesuto	Cap draughting rift to 20m pitch at base of p5 in chamber	
5324	Torca de Valla	Seldesuto	A "significant" undescended fenced-off shaft, more than 10m deep, needs pushing, photo of ent hole and survey. In May 2024 depth estimated at 30m	May 2024
4000	Cueva del Embalse	Solórzano	Needs surveying (for MCP) and pushing and entrance photographing	
3961	Cueva de Nicanor	Solórzano	Part has been surveyed by Pete Smith (check with him if there is passage detail) rest needs surveying and pushing the two parallel passages at far east end	
3991	Lolo, Cueva de	Solórzano	Pushed through sump (duck) in 2022 to a boulder dig and two passages that need pushing/capping	03/08/22
4064	The Deaf Gerald's	Trillos	Cap narrow rift (or very thin person) continuing at base of 18m pitch. Check draught, photo ent	
5383	Dig	Trillos	Photo of ent and check for draught. Site seems blocked on purpose. Large boulders need removing to gain entry	
5023	Villanueva, Fuente de	Villanueva	Diving site, sump (not numbered) before sump 4 to be checked out and pushed.	April 2023