

LOGBOOK

Year: 1999

Season: summer

Logbook pages scanned to jpg then combined into a pdf file using <http://smallpdf.com/>

Juan Corrin, January 2015

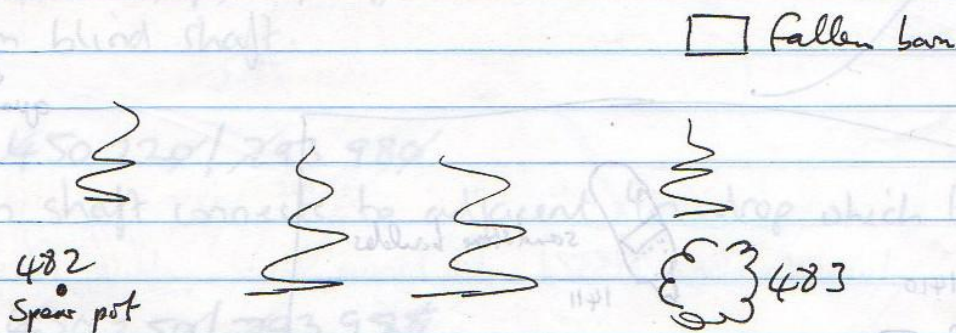
24/7/99 Tourist trip into Jivaro II for Chuchi and the Judge.

Crayfish - quite a large population - seem to be thriving in the cave. The largest specimen seen ~~is also~~ was about 6cm body length. Mateura digital camera seemed to cope fine with 3 synchronised flashes.

Peter, Ivan & Jenny in attendance.

Renny, Ivan, Peter, Chuchi and the Judge up to 482. Spears 1st during the hottest part of the day. All four down the shaft but not off the ledge. No more Spears found.

Attempting to set off back down the hill was thwarted by finding 2 open pits close to 481, 483.



1408 Covered with posts. Drop over a rock lip to a ledge 3m down. 2 ways down both close after 4m.

1409 Covered with posts. 5m deep, choked.

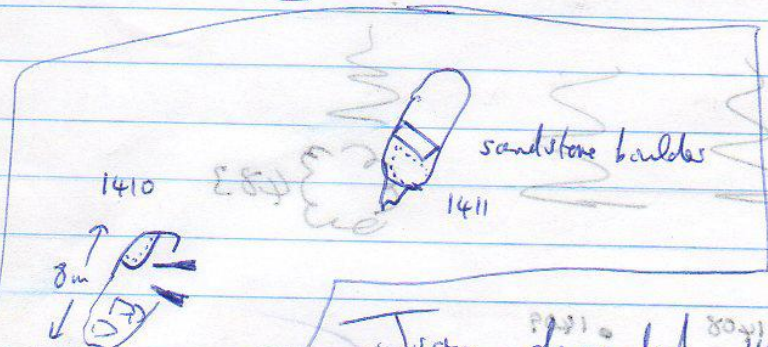
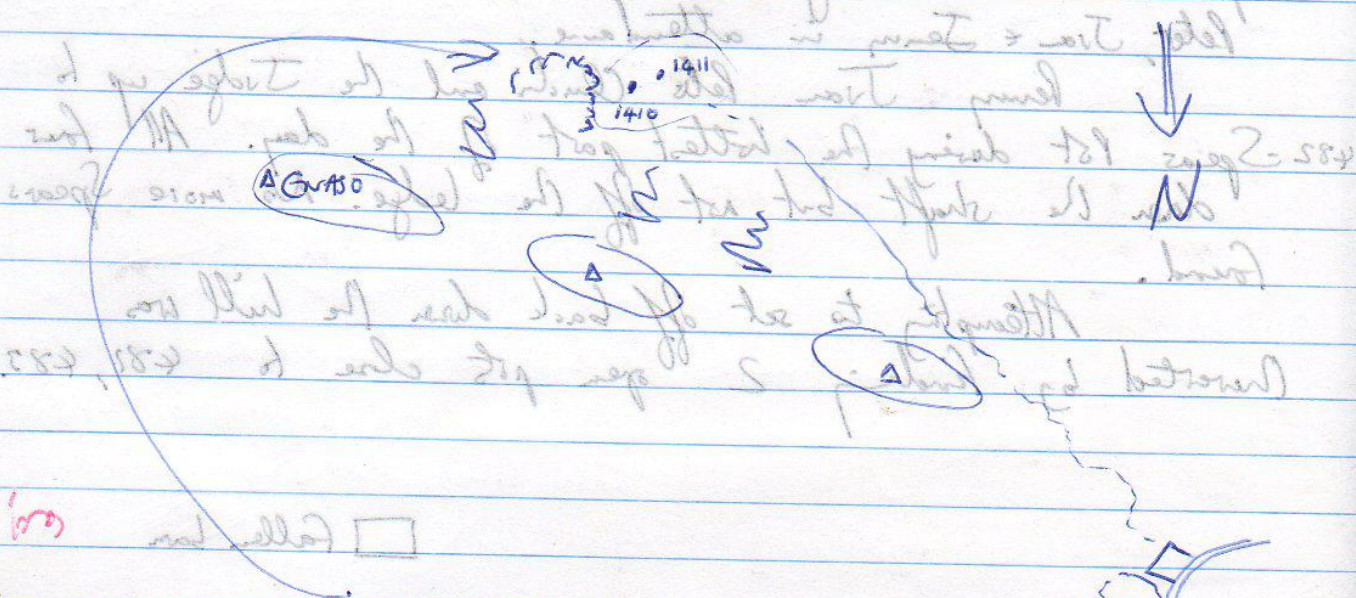
Photos ^{also} taken of 483 and 580 and draughting dig 50m below site 580.

The draughting holes on the track up have been marked wrongly on the map. New 9 ref needed.

25/7/99 ✓

Pete, Penny, Ivan & Ivan's dad up to new hole found at Whit by J & P.

...the cave. The last ... in ...
...about 100m ...
...one with 3 ...



Ivan descended 1410 3m to ledge 2m to ...
...ledge requiring ... and ...
Floor. Pete went down 1411 on little light, so had to ...
come out again so that Ivan could see what was happening.
After the initial "free climb" of about 4m the ladders pass
a couple of ledges and then beyond the 16m of ladders the
shaft appears to continue at least as much again with rocks
rumbling away into the distance.

The shaft ...
...the ...
...the ...

27/7/99 ✓

1134 is one of the following
scrub 1416

1 ✓ 1412 450 050 / 794 050

2 parallel fissures under small cliff, in depression.

N. fissure - pinches out 5m

S fissure - laddered - pinches out in 6m.

Short passage from S rift slopes steeply up to daylight.

length 10m Depth 6m.

2 ✓ 1413 450 210 / 794 080

Fissure near path. 4m depth to narrow continuation.

3 ✓ 1414 450 175 / 794 010

Shaft. Closes down at 3m. Part of series of blind holes.

4 ✓ 1415 450 220 / 794 040

4m blind shaft.

5 ✓ 1416 450 220 / 793 980

4m shaft connects to adjacent 4m drop which takes runoff.

6 ✓ 1417 450 250 / 793 980

Fissure. Closes at 10m. Part of series of blind shafts.

7 ✓ 1418 450 280 / 793 950

Shaft in depression near outcrop. 4m depth, blind.

8 ✓ 1419 450 280 / 793 978

Rift. Too tight at 6m.

9 ✓ 1420 450 335 / 793 950

6m shaft leads to rift, leading to adjacent daylight rift
Ends in floor of jammed boulders. No draught.

1421⁰⁰ 4503⁹85/793985

4m blind shaft. Most northerly of series of small blind depressions.

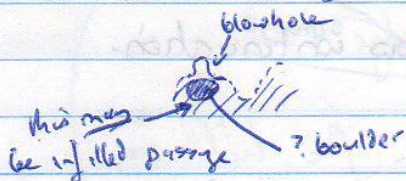
22/7/99 Gine de la Cabritilla AnNeill P Stacey

Rigged off Meads on tree in NE corner of entrance.

Intermittent not strong draught in blowhole - may be a surface connection.

Hole c 4" diameter, can see in 6' in with no enlargement. Floor seems to be a boulder at start so may be easier digging once removed.

However all in all not particularly promising.



Several possible digs on SE side of passage back towards entrance draught slightly.

Various new bats found near entrance - but none went.

~~Ati~~

Ati

27/7/99 Juan Lombbrero (1332) Pete Fagan, Dave, Jane, Toby.

Glory grabbing (not) day in 1332. Rigged big pitch (Los Molinos) after re-rigging Small Stud pitch on ~~the~~ spits. Descended to nice large passage with boulder strewn floor which choked in both directions after about 40m each way. Left it rigged & surveyed total of 129m including big pitch (31m).

Possible leads are the following:

Climb up to large unsurveyed chamber at W. end
~~848~~ 16m pitch (narrow squeeze to get to it) at E end under calcite blockage. Bolted now for descent.

Traverse over big pitch to continuing phreatic passage - loose, care is needed.

Sundry gravels in the floor of the bottom passage.
Back up the cave in the pitch above the ~~ladder~~



14

14

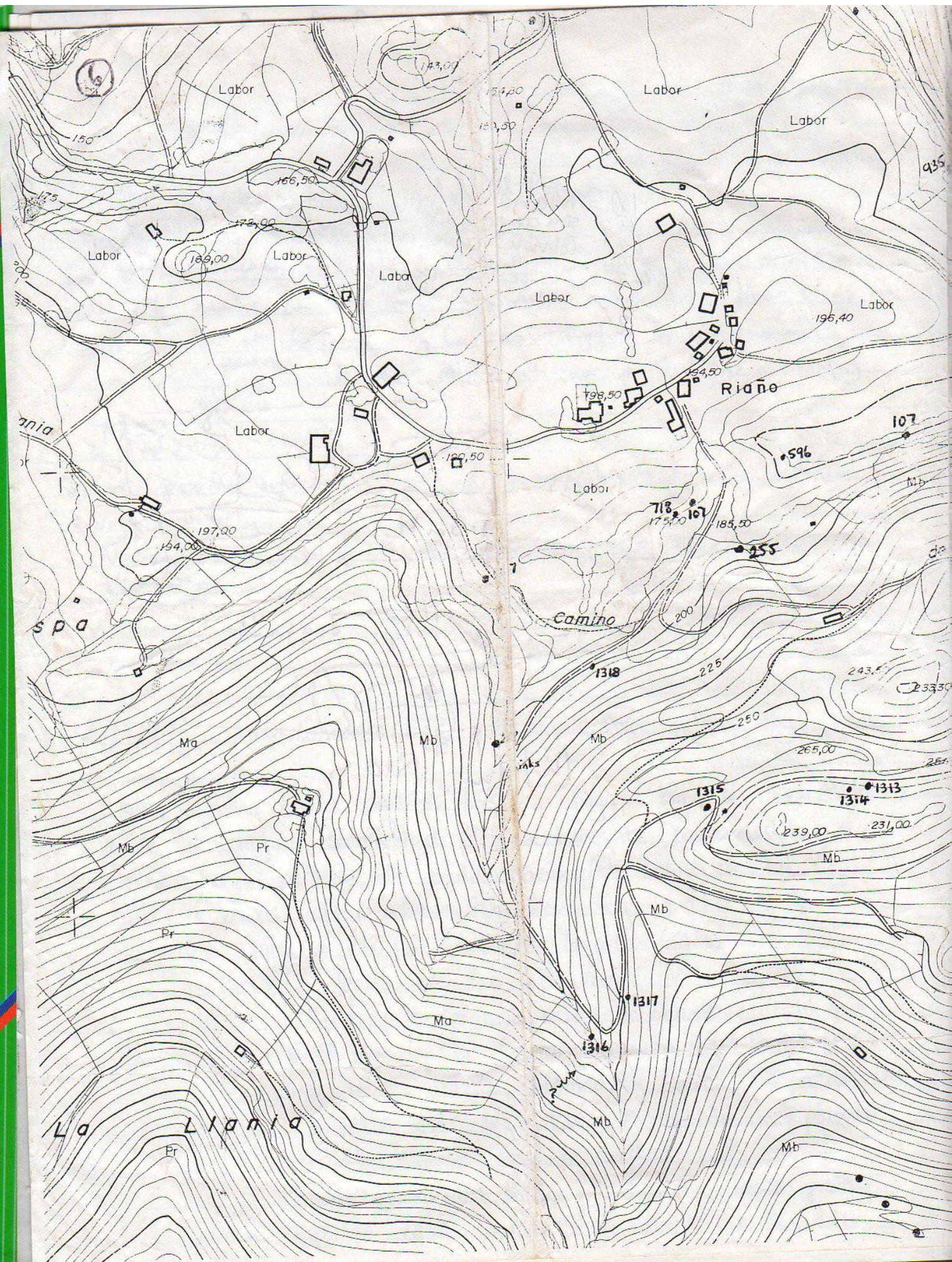
14

14

14

14

14



climb chamber, pitch not fully explored.
Rift through the hole in the wall needs climbing.
Perhaps a hot sunny day would be a good time to return
to chase the elusive, but often very strong draught in
the cave.

Jane

28/7/99 ✓ Toby, Pete Egan, Jane. Walk above Riaño.

Went to look at 640 & 641 above Riaño as it was a
miserable day & we didn't want to be too high up in
the cloud level. Looked at 641 which goes to a pit in
the floor which is blocked. Didn't bother with 642.
Found the following (marked on the map).

- 1422 1. 5m low bedding under sandstone in a field, getting
too low.
- 1423 2. Rift hidden in brambles. Descend over blocks & traverse
across holes 8m deep. Move down climb among
blocks to lower level with walking sized passage for 25m
approx heading out of the hillside. Ends where rocks come in.
Lower passage leads to diggable mud slope, but again
heads out of the hill. See sketch on back of map.
- 1424 3. ~~5m low bedding under sand~~ small choked rift at the
back of a fine sandstone walled recess.
- 1425 4. choke after walk in entrance 3m deep.
- 1426 5. Small entrance. Sandy hands & knees crawl
to hands & knees cross rift. Slight draught & possible
way through boulders at NW end. SE end chokes
in blocks. Fresh animal droppings on the floor & skulls
at the entrance ranging from mouse to small dog size.
- 1427 6. Approx 20m through hip.
- 1428 7. 3m deep rift near a standing stone on track.

On the way back down we saw another sandstone
bed above us which appeared to have entrances in it.
Worth a visit.

Jane

28/7/99 ✓ Juan, Pete, Andy, Julie, Penny, Arthur to 1403.
Small cave with 2 short-climb entrances. Nicely decorated. 52m surveyed in 10m depth.

Then resurveyed Porton (properly called Cueva de los Campos?) to gain an extra 23m of length.

1403' description

Two boulder-covered holes lie next to the track below the entrance to Porton. Both drop ^{into} a bone stream passage which immediately splits. To the right a 3m climb down in a narrow rift reaches a calcited chamber after 10m.

The left passage is scrambling over a rock barrier and pool to a squeeze at roof level and then a 6m climb down a calcited rift to a narrow passage which closes after a squeeze. All ways in appear calcited-up.

76' New Porton description

A portion of major passage now half filled with sediment and calcite. The cave is about 18m wide at its widest point and is closed with calcited & debris and sediment. Main passage length is about 60m.

Down on the right, past high tension cable insulators, a small discrete passage heads south for about 15m but becomes too narrow with calcite.

1248' 27/28 July.

Digging small hole at bottom of shaft, hoping for an easy route into Saville Row in Toad.

No luck - hopelessly tight!

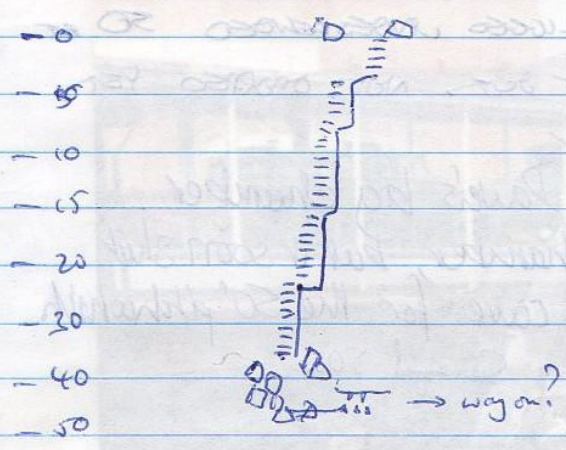
P.S. Ali told us lies - it's not above Saville Row!

High & Trash

30/7/99 ✓ Return to 1411 on Enaso. Andy P, Andy Q, Penny, Julie B, Arthur, Juan. Early 4-30 start.

One ladder on the entrance climb then 4 ladders down the main pitch which reached the bottom with about 8ft to spare.

Andy Q lined Juan down straight forward drop in impressive shift.



At bottom of ladder a hole in the floor drops another 5m, bypassed by clambering round to the right. Ahead is a calcited section where a '3ft high' passage appears to go off a small grotto through a passable squeeze.

Needs pushing, photos, survey etc. etc! Only quick look around bottom section.

Second pitch probably best on SRT.

28/7/99 ✓ Ali, Paul, Jim, Terry - READ BAZ'S PITCH CHAMBER

RIG TO CHOCOLATE SLICE & THEN RELOOK AT STUFF IN BAZ'S CHAMBER. DROPPED PITCH IN RENEWITATE CHAMBER TO LOW LEVEL V.A P28. (BOLT AT RESEAL NO GOOD BUT WILL SERVE AS DEVIATION) NO WAS ON AT LL. BUT POSSIBLE CLIMB UPS MAY BE WORTH A BOLT TRIP. DRAUGHTY GROTTO WHERE AT END LOOKED AT, BUT NO WAS ON FEMO. PITCH BACK IN CHAMBER NR. BRK THRU' CLIMBED TO TIGHT CONTINUATION WHICH NEEDS DIGGING - DOESN'T LOOK TOO GOOD THO' NB: - TUBE PART WAS DOWN P28 CONTAINS A TUBE WHICH ENDS AT A VERY NARROW PLAT WHICH APPEARS TO DRAUGHT. VERY NARROW TUBO

Back

Rearranging these letters to find out what's

COCK / IDS

29/7/99 - Paul, Az, Jim, TOAD

RIG THRU TO TWO OWLS - RUSH INTO 1st RETURN LED TO
 EXPOSED ^{3RD STEP} TRAVERSE INTO CONT. OF PASSAGE OVER AREA OF HIGH
 VERTICAL RIFTS. ~60m OF RIFT/TUSE TO TAIL RIFT WITH AVEN
 AT ONE END. CONT. OF DRAUGHT LOST.

PAUL + JIM SURVEYED LARGE CHAMBER BACK ON MAIN ROUTE
 CONTAINING 100m+ AVEN WHILST AZ. RIGGED UNDESCENDED 50 FT
 PITCH BACK NR. POSED TRAVERSE ON WAY OUT. NOT ORDERED YET.

29/7/99 ✓ Jane, Dave, Peter E. 1332

went photographing & looked at Dave's big chamber.
 found a passage off the chamber, but it soon shut
 down. left a 2mm rope down the cave for the 50' pitch which
 hasn't been descended yet. Surveyed 50m.

(*) 29/7/99 ✓ Paul before rope traverse (end of passage on S. side)



3 bolts placed. Not enough rope to descend. Prob 15m deep.

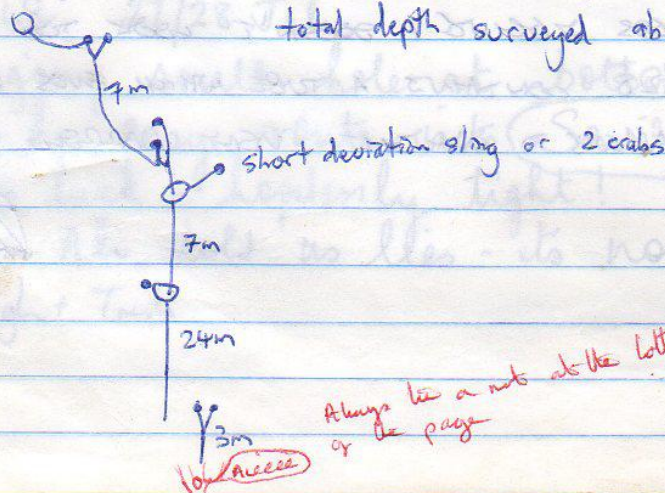
29/7/99 ✓

484

TERRI, STEVE, PAUL

ZORRO

Obvious shaft with whitebeam tree on E. side of pyramidal peak
 Steep gully leads to large chock stone and small hole to 3m pitch in
 leading shaft. Roomy shaft bottom choked with cobbles. West side is
 a narrow fissure 3m deep leading through tight horizontal squeeze
 to further shaft estimated at 10m. The shaft seems quite roomy
 total depth surveyed about 45m.



Always tie a knot at the bottom
 or the page

Is Big Steve & the Fuente Las Varas Road the definition of (11)
gravel & chips?



Rearrange these letters to find out what Big Nose
has broken for the 3rd time. COCK & IDS

Jim Davis, Paul Satchy, Terry Whitaker

1429 3m climb down shaft ^{10m} below field edge in trees. Hands on rubble. Dig may lead to head of shaft. Slight inward draught on cool day. ENT Photo.

48379519

1430 3m climb down to rubble floor with no obvious way on. No draught ^{on cool day}. Contains CShe bottle exp date 28/6/97. 10m east of 1429.

48389520

1431 Walled up small cave entrance next to base of large tree on side of pasture ^{30m down slope from} ~~below~~ walled trackway. Unexplored but permission has been granted to explore. No draught on cool day.

1/8/99. JD/P.P. Removed walled entrance only to find disappointing 5m long 3m deep rift. No draught. Walled entrance back up and took picture and video.

48439542

1432 Cheese cave now disused but called green door as it had one when first seen in the '80s. Has cut ^{stone} door jacks for 3'x2' doorway to 6'x6' floor. Dig in floor draughts only ^{on cool day} but more digging will undermine the walls.

48929607

1433 Small hole in bottom left hand corner of field to west of BARN. - - Peculiar square structure draughts out on cool day.

48259520

1434. Wooded depression to North west of 1433 contains
 draughting (on) boulder ~~person~~ run in on west day.
 48249517

1213 - T. Whitaker took another piccy.

1209 - Description unclear. Think new location should be

11/8/99 48389522. Small ^{sandstone} ~~shale~~ on little ^{rock} spur 80m
 east of beam 5 ~~ma~~ below. Covered with poles; contains

glass bottles ~~from~~ rubbish etc. 3m down slope to west
 turns 180° to 5m slope to east and descending right ~~to~~ ~~now~~
 narrows to 9" and chokes. Strong upward draught.

31/7/99 ✓

Motayo. Checked top of ladder road for supposed
 passage opposite eyehole. Descended approx 10m. Nothing
 seen. Hugh & Maria

31/7/99 ✓ Site 1411. Andy Q + P, Pete and Juan to
 push on at calite squeeze. All down on rope and
 through hole down boulder slope and calited chamber.
 Squeeze into second chamber and then the end.
 Length 94m (35 vertical) Depth 48m. Surveyed and
 photographed. Possibility of pushing in boulders to northwest
 but Pete not impressed.
 Nicely decorated chamber at end.

31/7/99 JANE, PAUL, ANZUS, JANE (MINE), JIM, KEVIN + 2. CREEK
 VISIT TO HAVE A LOOK FOR HIGH LEVEL PASSAGES IN ENT. SERIES +
 CARACAPHEA. SEVERAL H. LEVEL TUBES (?) GLIMPSED BUT MAYBE A
 SORTING NEEDED. JANE + PAUL ENTERED 'INLET' MARKED AS '---' ON
 AUG 74 SURVEY (ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF SHEET) - APPEARED TO BE UNPUSHED
 AT END? NEEDS A RETURN VISIT FOR SURVEY ETC.
 DOG SERIES RE-VISITED - SOME PASSAGE
 APPEARED UNENTERED.

1/8/96

1/8 ✓ Hugh, Tricia, Terry South Vega NE Track from TV Mast.

1240 New grid ref VN 5165 9432

Nothing found at original ref. description OK

1435 VN 5147 9435 Rock shelter 10m wide x 3m high entrance

Impressive pool of cow shit behind low wall

1437 VN 5180 9427 Fissure under sandstone bed which forms small cliff. crawl in to rift unexplored

732 Correct location small Phreatic Fragment L = 5m

1239 Not found

1436 ✓ VNS 155 9428

Shaft

Small rocky depression with hazy mud lurch. Top of lurch not far above ground level. Situated at western end of rock band, and between ash tree and nearest corner of enclosure. Old pit at surface. Approx 4m to sloping ledge, (5.60 to re-belay) 23m to bottom, ~~which~~ which is nearly choked. Small hole continues steeply down over loose rubble. Not pushed any further. No drought.

1/8 ✓ PAUL, JIM, PHIL, Dave Paul

RE-VISIT OF SITES SEEN ON 30/7/99

ONE A PAUL JOB 1433. MUCH ROCK EXTRACTED TO REVEAL GOOD DRAUGHTING HOLE DOWN RIFT CHOKED WITH MUD ETC. 'DERBYSHIRE' REQUIRED FOR FURTHER PROGRESS AND/OR LARGE TEAM OF OTHERS.

JIM & PHIL EXPLORED / JOB OTHER SITES - NOT MUCH FOUND

AVOIDED CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH CHARGING PIG BEING CHASED BY JOBS ON RETURN TO CAR. See 30/7/99 one page back.

Paul

Not got the bottle to buy a jazzmag...?

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of them! Where's
me Kleenex?"

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(don't worry - only $\frac{1}{4}$ of a page)

100 READERS'

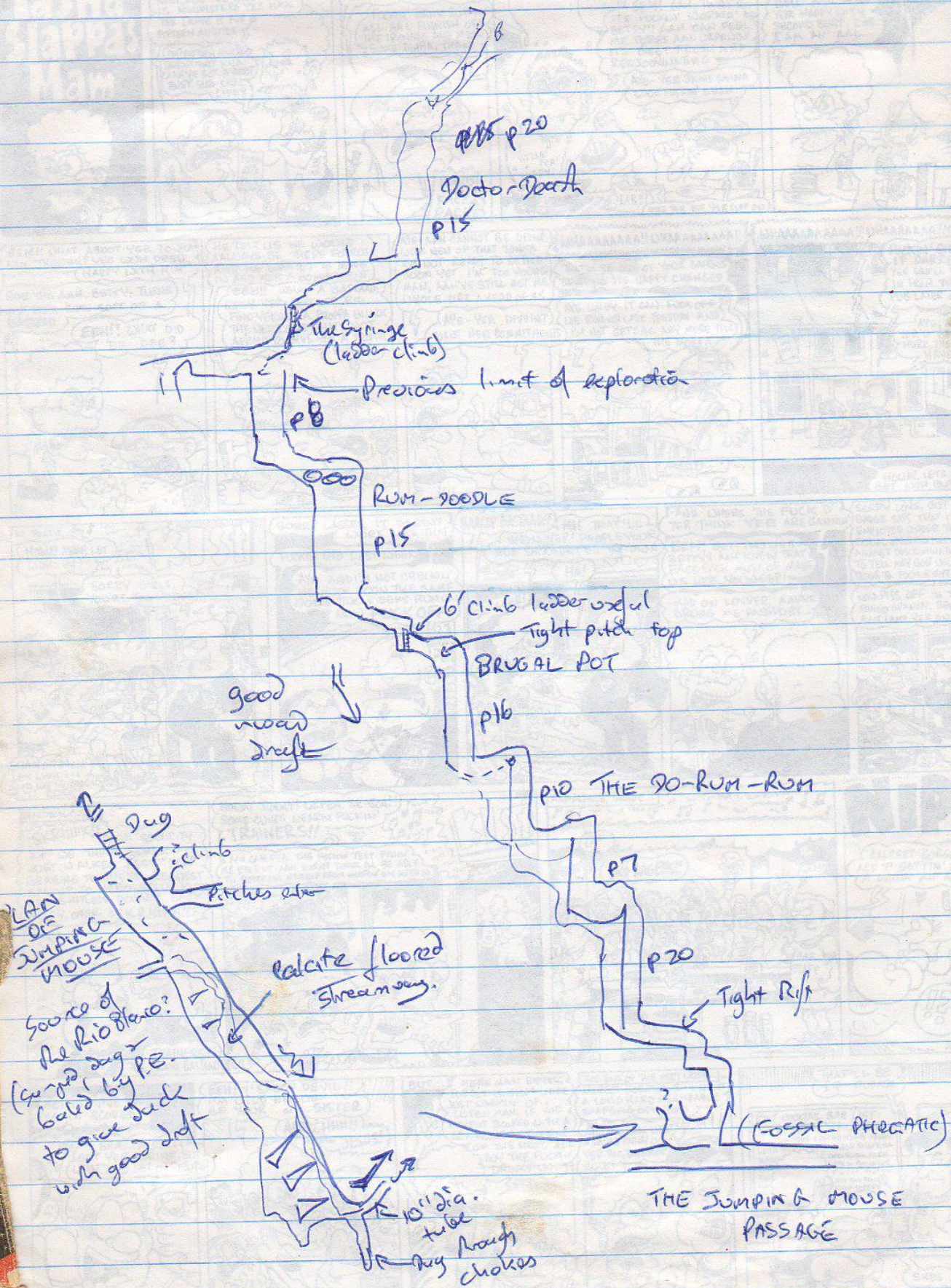
GLAMOUR PICTURES ASSESSED

Our Photo-Clinic editor drones on about composition and
depth of field - while you stick the pages together

I'd rather
play with the
Masturbos
dig it - all

OUT NOW

1.8.99 ✓ The Vaccinator - Ali Neill, Pete Eager, Jane M., Tuffy.



2/8/99 ✓ 868 BGL IN THE BAG ANDY P RAT.

(17)

A GOOD DAY MULTI CAPPING, BOULDERS REMOVED FROM TOP OF RIFT, WHICH HAS NOW TURNED TO THE LEFT, ENTRANCE ENLARGED TO EASE FURTHER WORK. CAN SEE 4 FEET ACROSS TO BESS. THIS SHOULD TAKE $\frac{1}{2}$ A DAYS WORK TO GET TO.

DRAFT WAS GOOD ON CLOUDY DAY.

IF ANYONE HAS TIME TO SPARE (A FEW HOURS TO A WHOLE DAY) PLEASE SEE ANDY.

2/8/99 ✓

Cacumeno Jim / Stone O / Phil / Jane Ch & Terry. Parallel Saurages

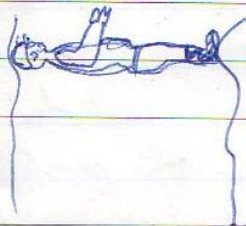
See 2/4/98 for previous trip.

Back to series around Pudding Passage which we entered at Easter via Tinders Series.

On way into system tried to improve the rig climb up from streamer. Re rigged as transverse which seemed better (at least on the way in!).

Started to survey as two parties into two side passages opp Shaw Passage Loop and met up fairly quickly. Area is quite "messy" but ends up heading S-SE it to end above Pudding passage. Poss to drop into Pudding Passage where a new passage was entered at the obvious "dog leg". This eventually pinches out but a light shot in the rock enters upper passage which to the S ends in calcite sponges and is 'cool' and to the N ends up looking like a bit of a hole. Leads chamber which was entered at Easter 528m surveyed.

On way out found that the new transverse rigged on the way in was a complete waste and we de rigged it leaving a better haul and more knots in the rope.



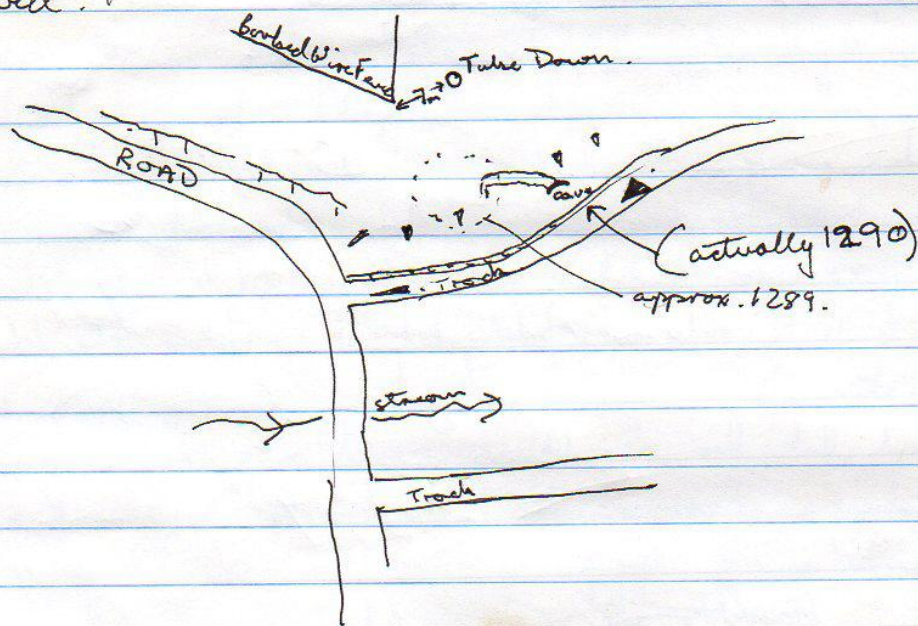
Transverse technique

Stone O

3/8/99 very p.m. Ray Diffy, Dave Edland, Mark Wildg

Walked to end of village heading north into dip and just as it rises took second track on right before road swings left gently. About 100m up the rising track before it steepened we climbed up the wall and approach a hole, stated by A. Pangle to be dig 1289, a cave of about 130m of walking passage with formations that I, Ray was going to photo. It wasn't!!! What a surprise!!! It was about 20m long with quite a strong cold draught blowing out of flohey type stal/rock at high level and sanded/calcitery type floor for digging at the bottom of tracking rift at end.

Floundered about for a while looking for correct entrance and Dave found a 7m? tube/shaft above, which could have been Pete Egan's entrance tube to 1289 OR!!! it may be something different, it draught going in quite well.



Still it was most likely Pete Egan's hole and we'd been shown the wrong entrance in the first place, to be expected. Then spent 10 mins trying to get down onto the road through brambles & gorse, great fun!!

Ray

2/8/99 / Risco Candy Oparshaw, Dave Edmond, Mark Wild (19)

Tourist trip down Risco. V. nice except for dead sheep in entrance (what's that about the local farmer promising not to dump rubbish down this?) + fact that local farmer's wife gave us wrong directions to find the cave.

3/8/99 Candy Oparshaw, Andy Pingle, Jim + Helen Davis
1379 - Cave ~~so~~ found at Easter revisited. Still dripping strangely. 1m x 0.5m entrance drops into small chamber (2m x 3m approx). Hole in floor leads to short passage - continuation up into cherty bouldery choke (~ 5m). Draft into floor - 1hr digging doubled draft, silt in floor removed to reveal bedrock + extra few metres of cave - needs more del digging.

1438 14 ?? Surface dig discovered by Helen ~ 200m uphill + south of 1379 at western edge of Lye shelve. / Strangely dripping, needs hilti capps for further progress.

1442 Shallow shaft covered by logs in middle of pasture. No draught. Suddie.

2/8/99 / Az1 + Az2 Torca del Zorro (434)

CONDUCTED SURFACE SURVEY BETWEEN ZORRO A VACINATOR TO TIE TWO ENTRANCES TOGETHER.

DESCENDED CAVE TO PUSH SQUEEZE AT END, SMALL AMOUNT DUG FROM FLOOR ~~IN~~ IN FRONT OF TIGHT PITCH HEAD (WHERE A GOAT COULD BE SEEN!) TO BASE PLUMMIT. 16m PITCH DROPPED TO STEP WITH 3m CLIMB DOWN, ENDS AT TIGHT S-BEND NEEDING MULTI CAPS - SEEMS TO LEAD TO SMALL PITCH INTO CHAMBER - DRAUGHT ALTERNATIVE DE-RIGGED CAVE A CARRIED POLES TO VACINATOR FOR NEXT TRIP.

PS: A WIRE BELAY MARKED 'NMCC' WAS FOUND AT THE BOTTOM!

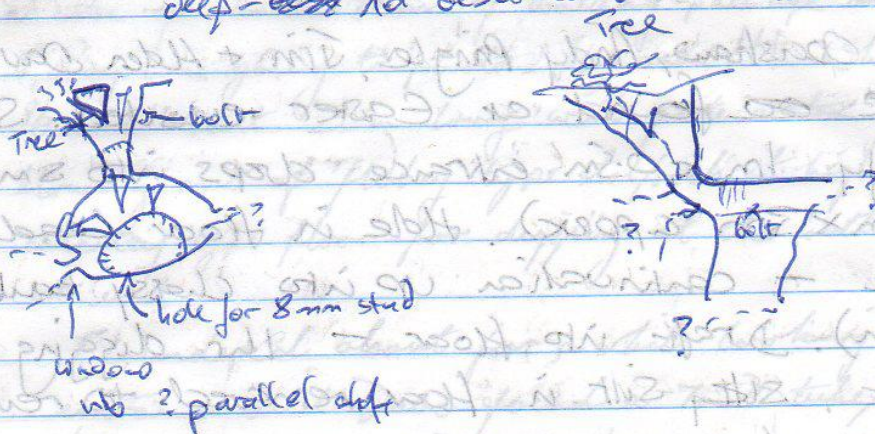
4/8/99 High & Trashy Al: Null

Hammered Hole - failed 2nd mallet at capping. Will try again.

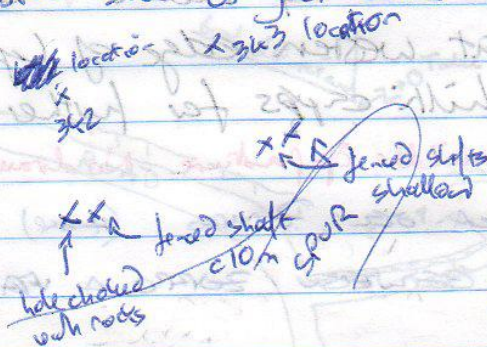
Hole approx 35m SSE of 37 - 4" dia. pot descended 10 ft. to choked hanging rift. No draught! (1439)

1338 Descended approx. 15m to top of pot approx. 6m

deep - ~~desc~~ not descended due to lack of fiddle.



Sites near 342 & 343 which may be true but if so appear too low - eastern site is just below top of spur 4725/4720 elev.



Not numbered

None of them explored.

1440

Al:

1441

3/8/99 Peter, John, Paul, Dave, Ali

1332

(21)

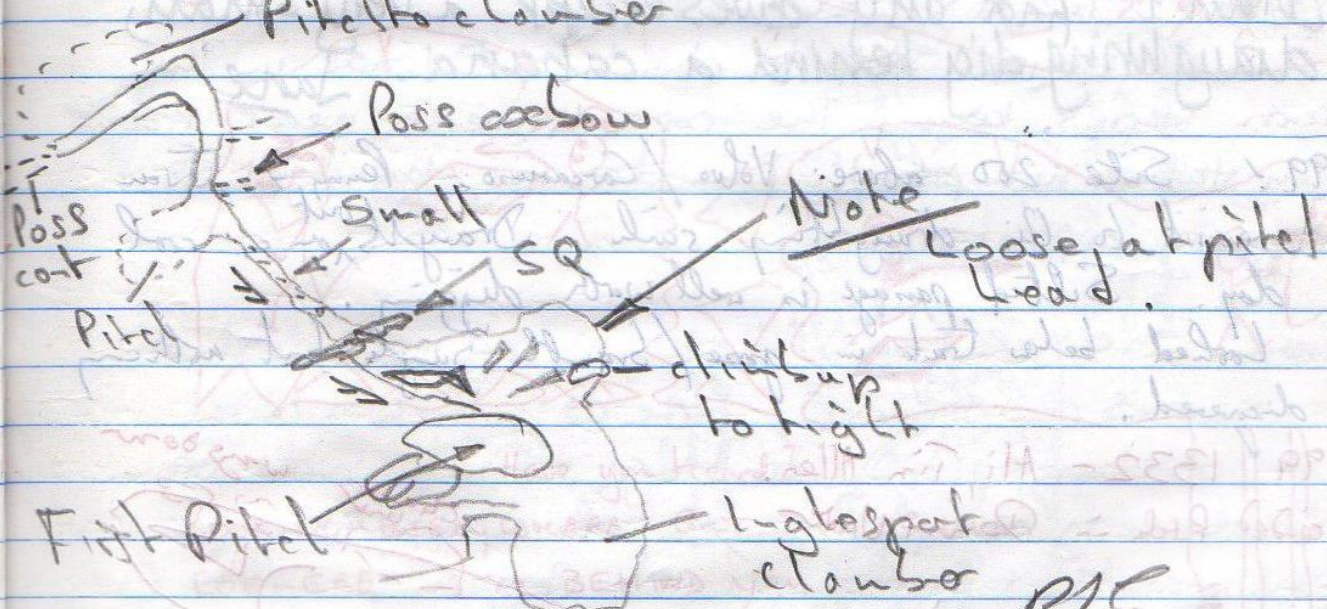
Entered cave to descend undescended pitel previously bolted on (27/7/99?), and check other leads at bottom of first pitel and breakdown chamber.

Squeeze at bottom of first pitel was passed to a partially closed crawl this was left for return from breakdown chamber.

Pitel was descended 22m (see later description) and various dig etc checked in chamber.

Crawl ~~at~~ at base of first pitel was dug out and a good draught followed to phreatic tubes entered these past a pitel down into chamber, and followed past junction to a balcony into large chamber and soft pitel? also pos continuation of tube.

Pitel to chamber



Descended 22m pitch into a large chamber (Paul whooping with excitement) approx 15m x 35m. This chamber funneled to a central pitch (undescended, 3sec delay on rock drop) huge boulder (Australia) being the main feature behind the central pitch. Surveyed around chamber. Treacherous and slippery parts. Checked a nutcracker

Wrapper taped to a rock down central pitch
with message in hope that it will find its way to
Peñada.

Jane Bone

1/8/99. Toby, Jane, Andy Pringle: Fresnedo.

Trip to hilti-cap a small draughting inlet
near the boulder choke below Paul's Chamber.

Unfortunately the hilticaps wouldn't go off,
so we went for a look at the howlings
then went out. Jane

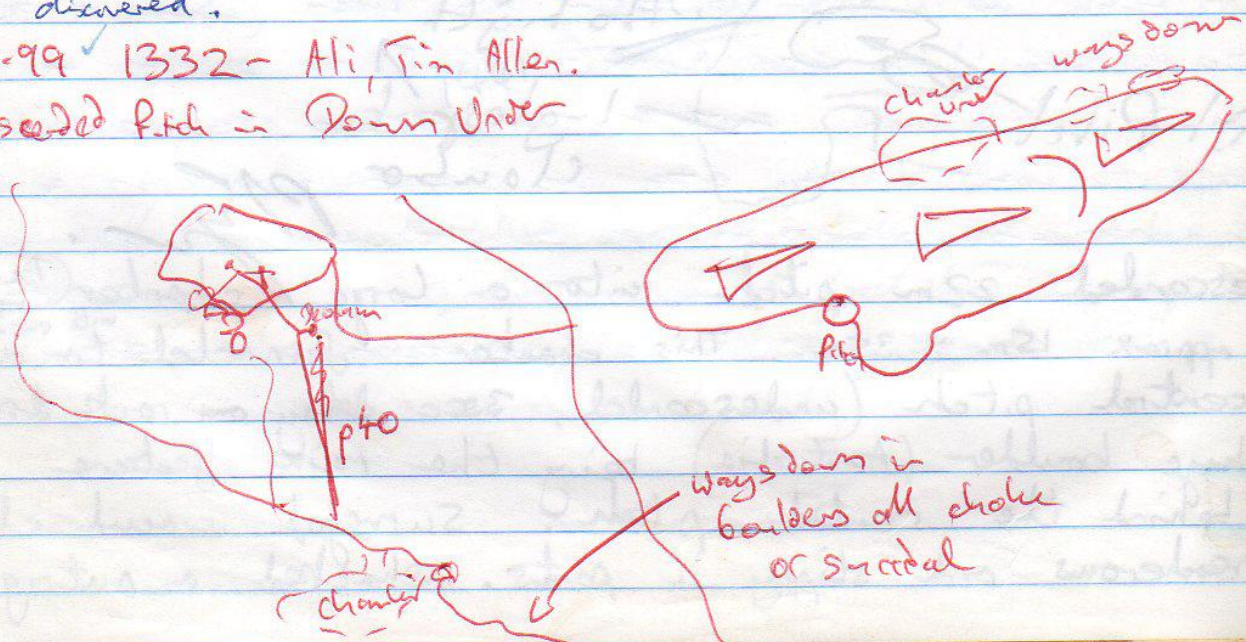
3/8/99. Pete O, Angela, Toby, Jane.

Walk around near La Granja. Walked
up more or less just to the South of Riño
on the hillside. Ended up in the same area
we looked at at Easter by mistake. Then walked
round on the same contour towards Riño.
Didn't find any caves except a very small,
draughting dig behind a cabana. Jane

4/8/99. Site 200 above. Volvo / Carcamoso. Penny & Jon
revisit to the draughting sink. Draught^{out} on a cool
day. Silted passage is well worth digging.
Looked below track in gorge / scrub jungle but nothing
discovered.

5.8.99 1332 - Ali, Tim Allen.

Revised P.tch in Down Under



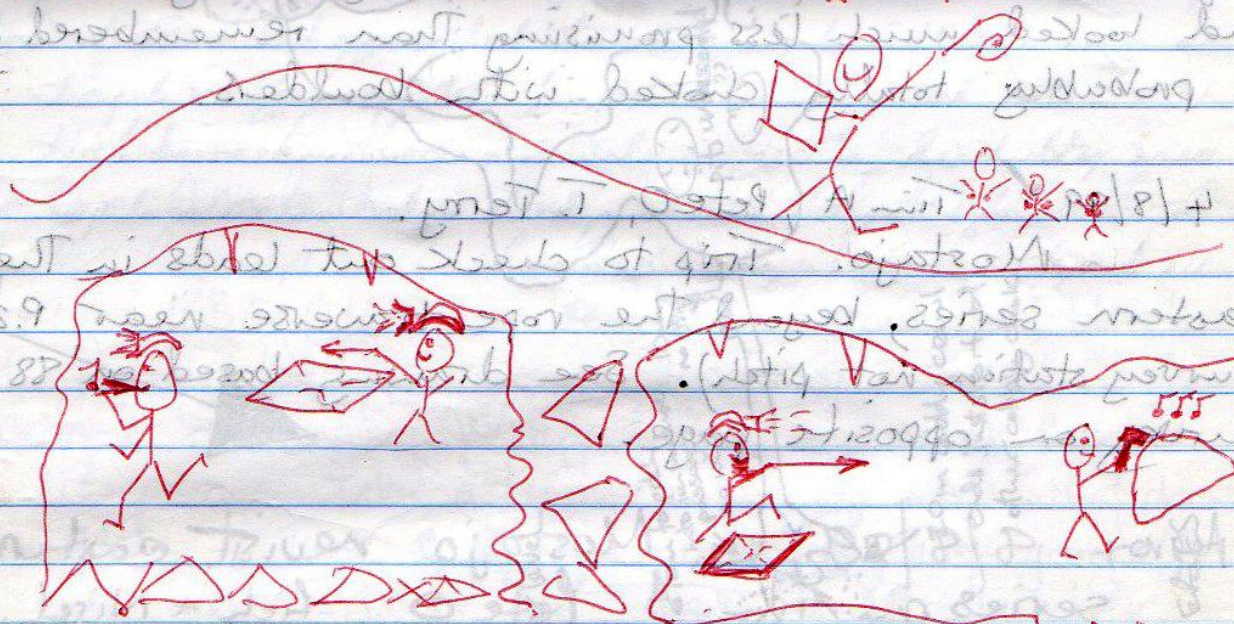
Passage in wall near patch top - c 10 m to total choke (10 m
dink up to it).

Going off 20m (3rd) patch into tube - chokes in both
directions

✓ Caravanserai

4/8/99 : Molefornig chamber in entrance series
and beginning of Western Series.

Entrance to chamber somewhat tight and definitely
not a trade route entrance to anything!



Have you heard?

LOOKING EVERYWHERE BUT THE OBVIOUS.

COO-EEE I'M BEHIND you.



A successful location. We learnt some lessons and now
suggest that the Meedip Hymac shaft sinkers are
contracted to install a new entrance. Christmas 99.

5/8/99. Steve O. Happy and Tim + TW, HS & Boys
Began trial dig in ^{Mudhorn ridge} meadow to right (east) of barn.
Rapid progress to 3 feet with good draught appearing
and disappearing in clay/boulders became and
extremely rapid reinstatement job when farmer
appeared with mowing machine.
Further work required - exact Molephone location of
choke ~~at~~ in roof of western series start and then
Hymac (well insured).

2/8/99 ✓ Tim A, Pete O, Angela H.
Arenal. (Tight rift dig). Squeezed along 20' of
v. tight rift to the same limit of 4 years ago. The
end looked much less promising than remembered and
is probably totally choked with boulders.

4/8/99 ✓ Tim A, Pete O, T. Terry.
Mostajo. Trip to check out leads in the
eastern series, beyond the rope traverse near P.20
(survey station not pitch). See drawing based on '88
survey on opposite page.

Approx 8/8/99 ✓ Mostajo revisit eastern
series. Tim A, Pete O, Rich + Nigel.
descending pitch to ledge. Southwards from
here very complex area of breakdown, washed
out joints + beddings. No footprints. Pete O
foraged one route which connected to known
passage footprints + survey marks (see plan →).
Not all routes checked. Tight passage from
this area heading east had a good draught
followed by a tight + sharp squeeze.
At bottom of pitch chamber large hole in
floor. Bolt noticed which ties in with '88 log
and possible connection to lower series.

large descending chamber
leads to holes down between
boulders. Bolt noticed see 88 log.

↓ This is the one
Needs a further look.
see 27-29/7/88 log.

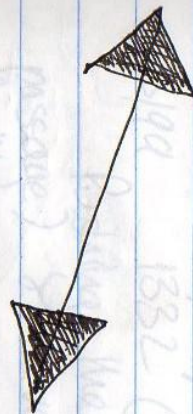
Very complex area
one route connected
to well trap passage
probably here

Ends in beds.

area of collapsing
beds.
some draughts
not way on.

all these end in draughtless
breakdown or tight slots.
immature crumbly ~~and~~ crud.
Not the way on.

end in alcove.



St. P.20
enters in rock
50m higher level
passage
Rope traverse
hawsers rope
in situ. Easy.
climb up
draughting
slot.
20m cobbly crawl
ends just short of
other cobbly choke

10m to pit
into immature
passage.
no wind

10m
no 99%

Pits underscotted
??

P.12

MOSTAJO-EASTERN SERIES

20

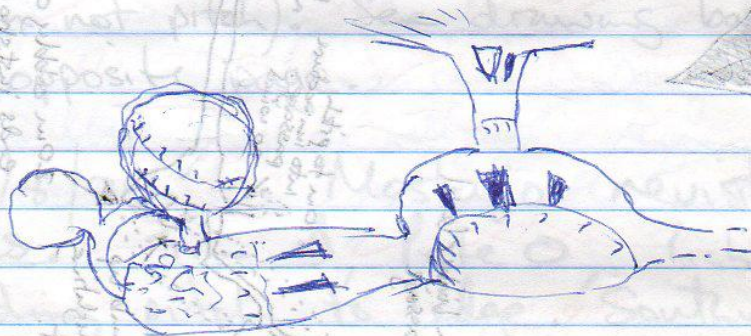
5/8/99 Jorja & Hugh,

457 Hammered Hole - Returned, and Hilti rapped entrance successfully. Suspect that raps in hexagonal plaster box may be defective.

Possible passage seen in wall opposite entrance and approx 10m down. Walls covered with moss/milk. No draught at bottom of pit.

1338 ✓

Descended pitch described by Ali (4/8/99) follow by little slope at bottom of ~~which~~ which an eye hole over boulders opens into undescended chamber; a small bypass leads past an open into this chamber almost below eye hole. Pitch about 15-20m. but no more tackle! Slippery floor deposits near pitch head. There is also a narrow undescended rift at bottom of 1st pitch trending back up entrance slope. No draught.

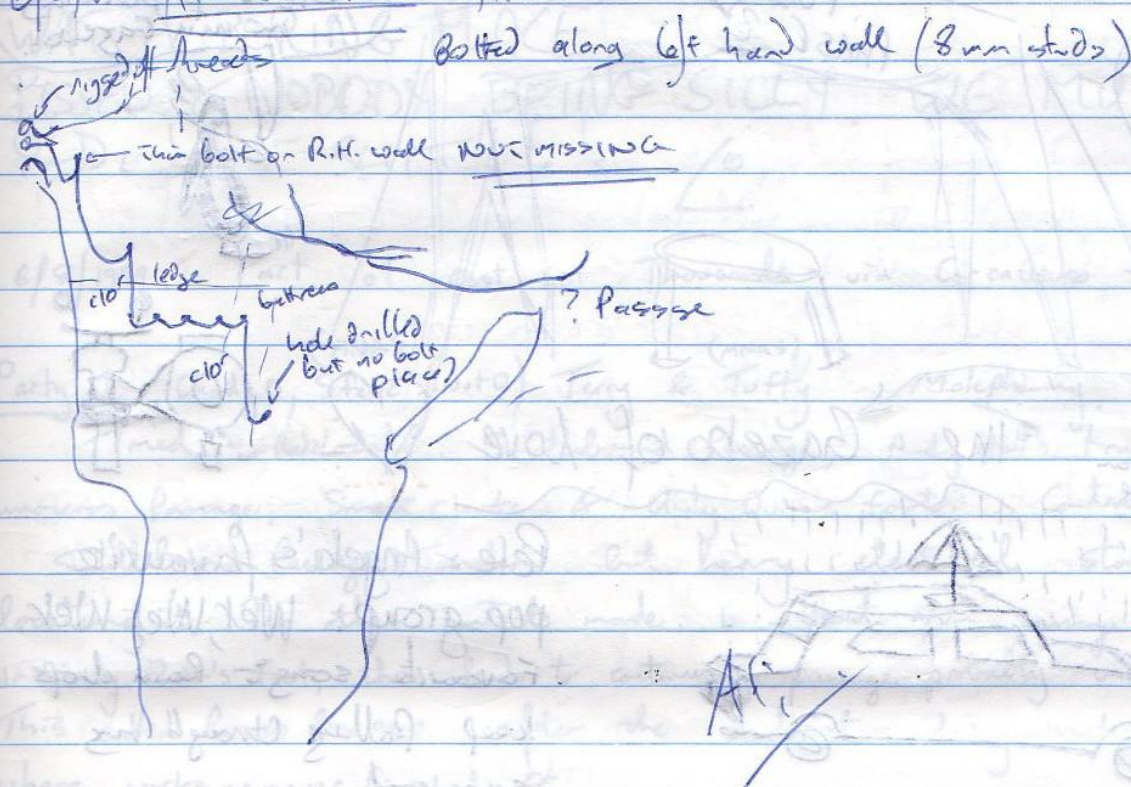


4/8/99 Penny Gird open hole above Mushroom field 1443. Directly above large 'clint' at edge of wood, about 100m round from the barn. ^{2m} Drop into large boulder. Another 2m drop on the uphill side chole. A narrow 2m drop on the down hill side to & unexplored.

1443
barn

6/8/99 Hammered Hole A.D. Neill

(27)



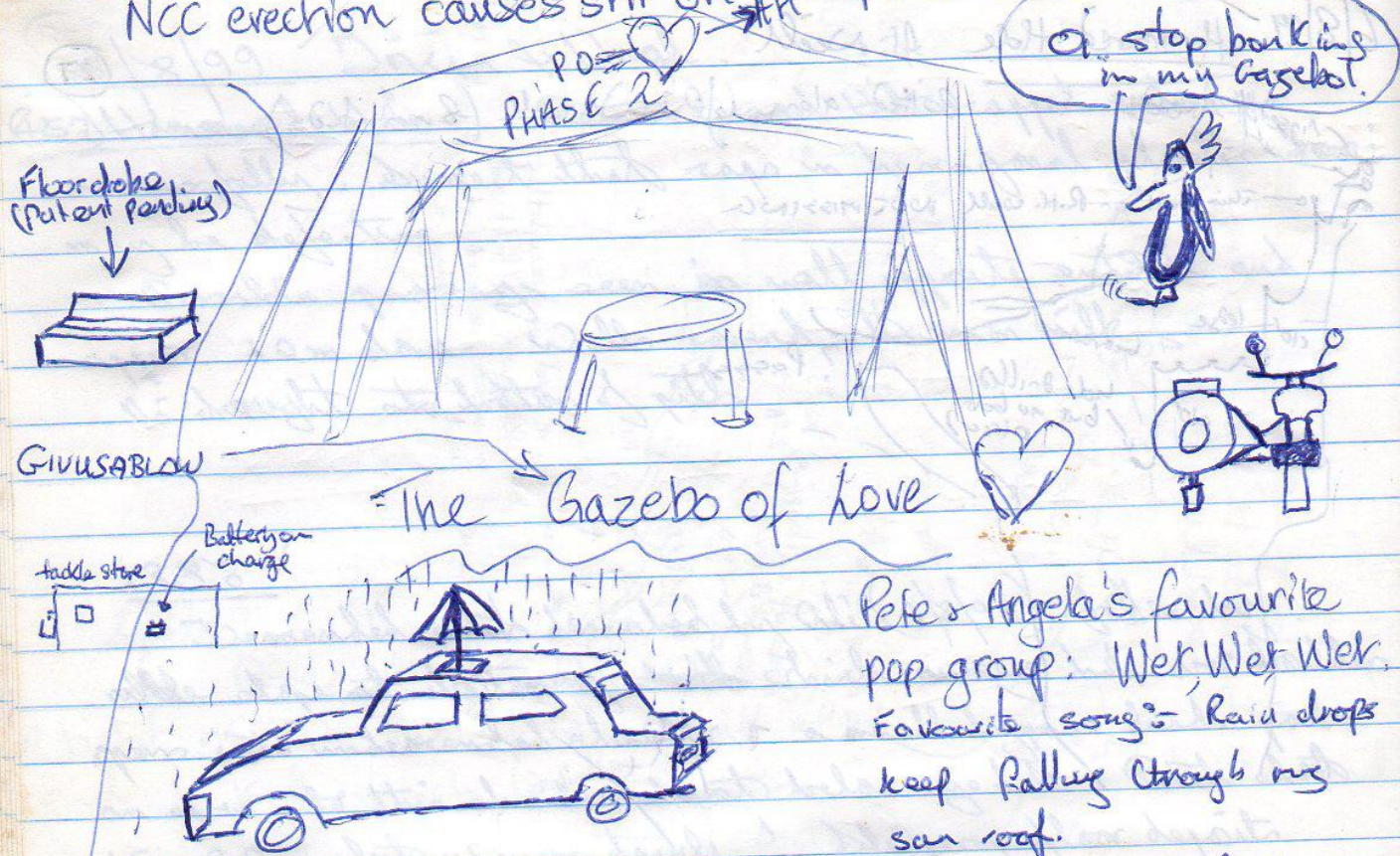
! Pete O' & Angela H go back to Gm. at 10.20 after being unable to keep up with the OCC bus!

5/8/99 1332 (Juan Lombroso) Pete E, Paul, Dave, John, Jane.

Pushing the passage over the top of the 2nd pitch (abandoned passage) & surveying. Dropped an 11m pitch at the end of the passage into a 12m wide chamber full of choss & boulders. There are still unpushed tubes going off in the floor & at the bottom of the chamber. 2 unextended 'pitches', one roughly 11m deep & the other guessimated at 50 plus m. It isn't a straight drop. At the top end of the chamber is a horrid climb up gravel with lots of loose stuff which goes to up to a big chamber with soft white calcite which eventually chokes. There were animal bones up the initial climb up to this chamber. The cave was derigged, but it is still going. There is an unpushed tube down a pit in the floor halfway between the 2nd pitch & the pitch into the chossy chamber.

Jane

NCC erection causes shir on campsite.



Pete & Angela's favourite
pop group: Wet Wet Wet.
Favourite song: Rain drops
keep falling through my
sun roof.

NCC looking for connections round Mahienzo fail
to find one between a Citroën battery & its lead.
DCC supply good screen
luffer

Bigfoot found in GERMAN'S BAR (ask Ray)
Ray's least favourite music: - heavy rock.
least favourite crisps: rock & cream.

Penny says it was the smallest & cheapest there was.

Thanks to clear instructions and working diagrams,
they were able to get it up in minutes.

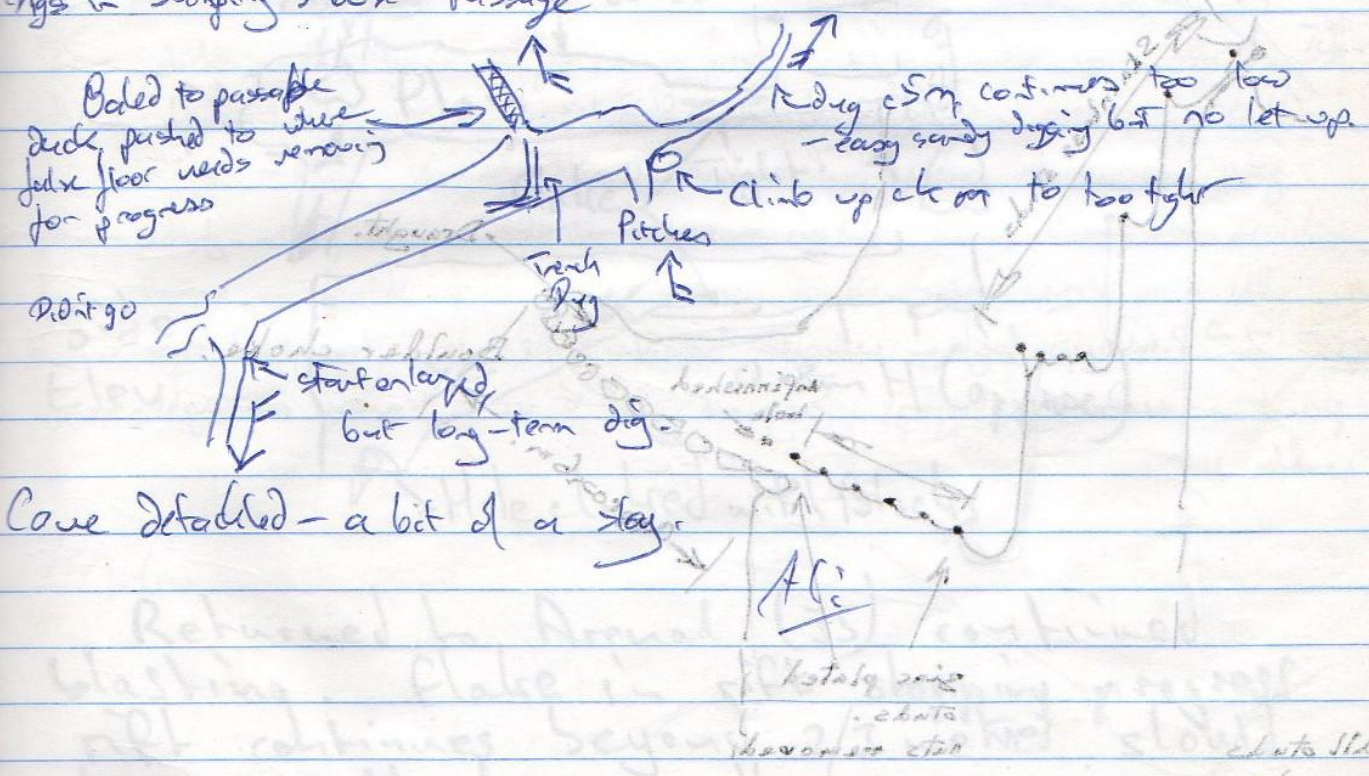
Ray (I cannot believe it) Duffy stars in: One Foot
in the Ice Pack.

~~08/08/99~~ 08/08/99. WHEN ARE WE!?!
WAT A BORING PLACE,
PISSED & NOBODY BEING SILLY. WE MUST BE
OLD. !!! SHIT !!!

6/8/1999 ✓ Part of east of Thousands via Carcabeuso to Lueva II

Party 1 ^(MNAS) Candy, Steve (noto) Terry & ^(MNAS) Toffy Molephoning.
Tried to relocate Southbound Passage, Andy Hall's fringed,
Quinceiro's Passage, Snake Choke & Andy Quinn's foot. Contact made
Southbound Passage Junction but heavy electrical storm prevented
locating it. No other contacts made. About 100m passage surveyed
N- Andy Quinn's foot, this leads to continuing passage probably unexplored 2m square
This called RAMO BOLADO after the contractor doing matienzo's roads
whose works are never finished off.

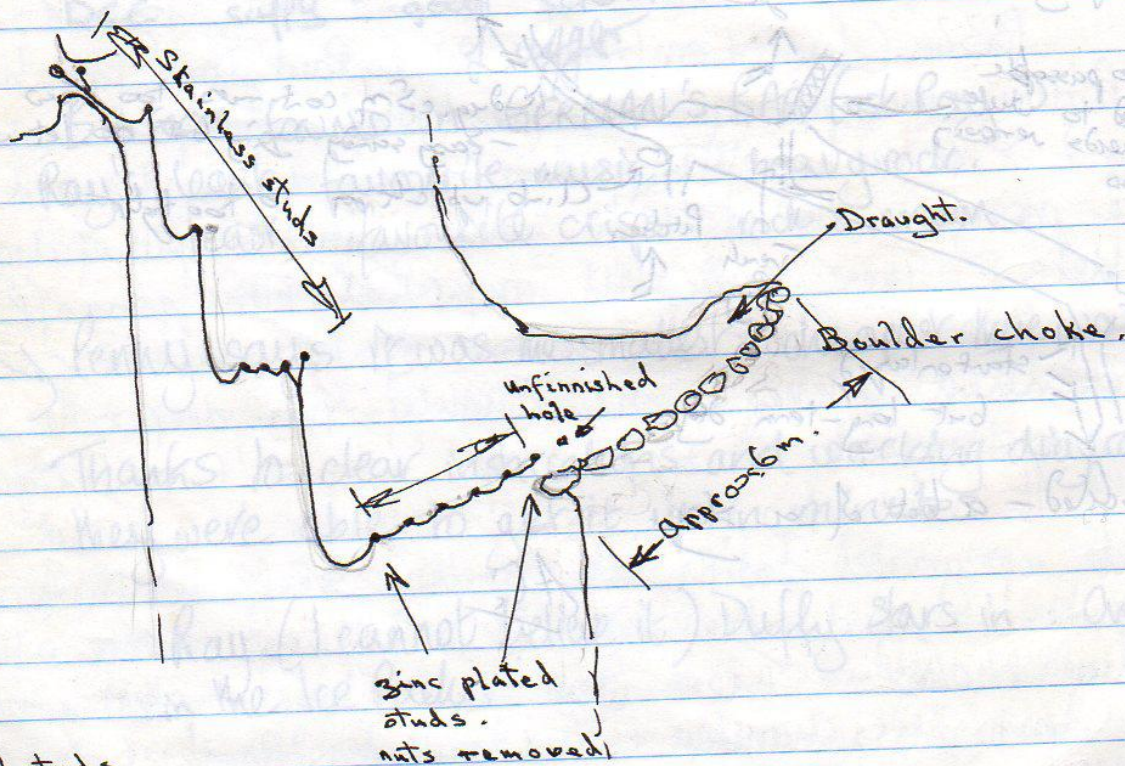
7/8/99 ✓ The Vacuator - Al, Paul S, David, Helen.
Pigs in Tamping Moor Passage



✓ 8/8/99 Ali, Hugh & Trish, Paul S. Muela.

- located Etn 478' correct - (~~5550 9606~~) (~~5555 9606~~)
- 1445 Site (A) - 3 m climb to top patch, undescended, into ? chamber, (~~5555 9606~~) (~~5555 9606~~)
- 1446 (B) Choked bedding in opposite side of depress - to 761 (5557 9602)
- 1445 (C) Unexplored hole in side below tree (5567 9593)
- 1446 (D) Unexplored small hole 5572 9583
- 1447 (E) Choked shaft 5581 9577
- (F) Correct!! location of 903 No sign of massive shaft nearby.
Still tagged a point marked 5582 9573
- 1448 (G) 5 m climb down into shaft or cave, unexplored 5552 9572
- 1449 (H) Shaft on right line, 20 m deep unexplored 5496 9562
- (I) Cave on NE side of col, 1 m. # of top. ~~At~~
- 1450 Descending, small, approx 20 m to start right with moonlight 5574 9633
- Ali:

7/8/99 ✓ Hugh & Trish
Hammered Hole, 457



All studs
8 mm

Approx. 32 m. rope used.

9/8/99 Catalans, Paul, Peter, John (35)

(31)

Returned to Tight rift, 3 Bang's enlarged rift to previous limit virtually, lots of rock removal and exploring, various clothes went on.

Left series passed muddy crawl explored by John & Paul, needs surveying to find out its extent.

Bang'ing to carry on 10/8/99 to reach end of rift.

Hole in roof just past pool

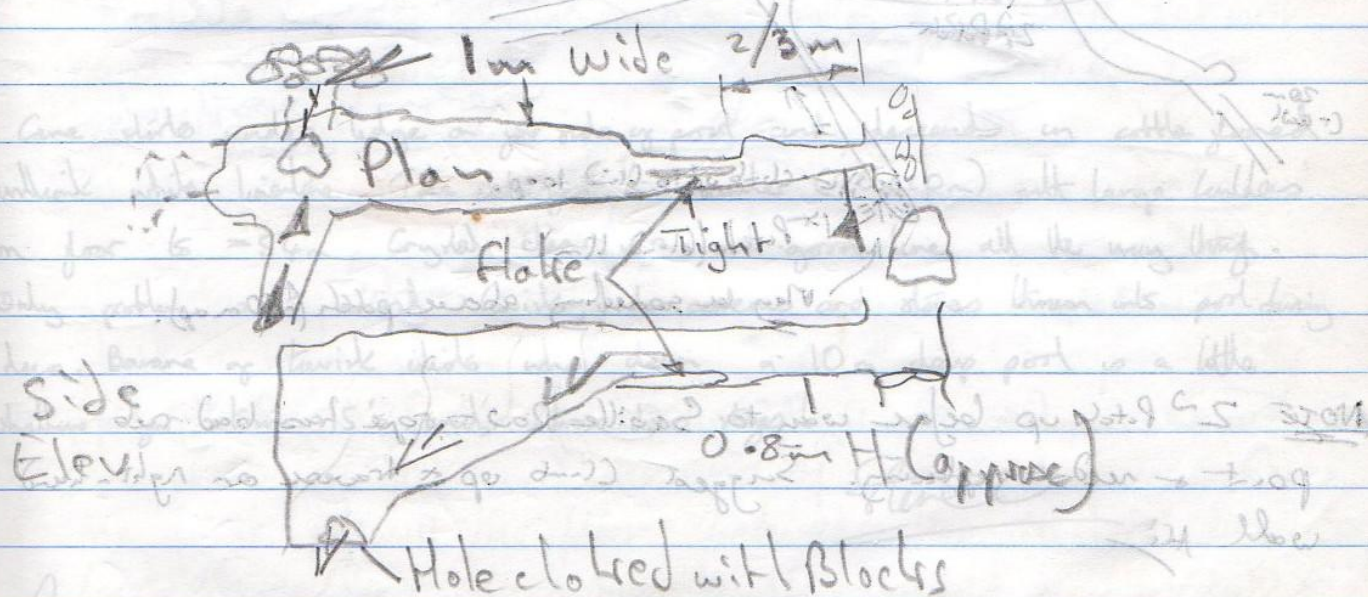
6/7m high closed.

PEZ.

B: ARENA NEEDS A RESURF - A 2000 PROJET??

10/8/99 Catalans, Peter.

(35)



Returned to Arenal (35) continued blasting. Flake is rift stopping progress rift continues beyond 2/3 metres should be passable by small person.

PEZ.

10/8/99 TOAD✓ - Ali, Paul, Dave, Mark.

Detackling trip with a look at a couple of undescented pitches on pot. passage on left before the traverse in '2. outs' passage.

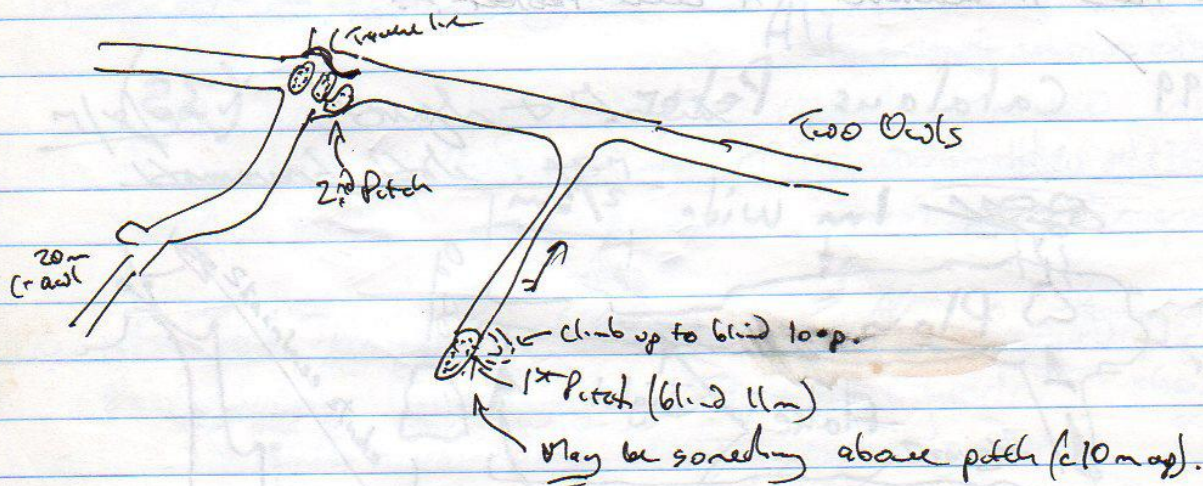
~~1st~~ 1st pitch - blind v. muddy. 11m. ~~11m. 11m.~~

~~2nd~~ 2nd pitch - ~~climb off traverse line in which route~~ climb down to 10m pitch into rift.

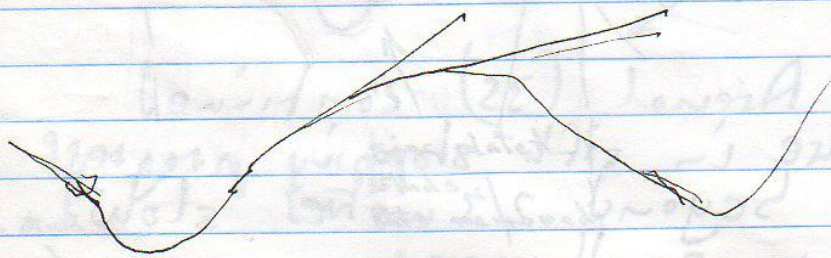
to left dead end.

to right 5m to a window into a further pitch at $\approx 60^\circ$ (5m) - No draft, probably a muddy blind pitch judging by the rocks I checked down.

far a Mark suggested 10m to 100 ft high calcareous cont. shown as sunset as '10m to source of water' - NO WATER HEARD. PS

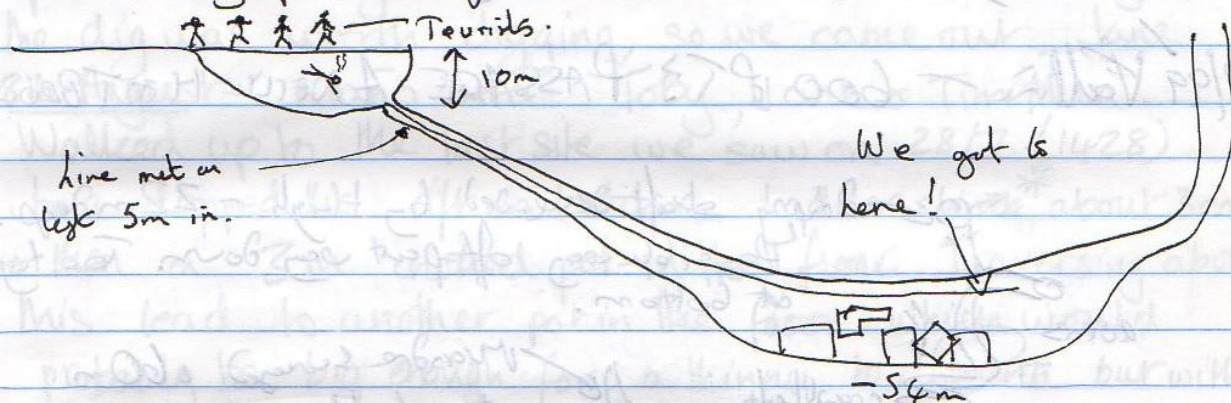


NOTE 2nd Pitch up before way to Saville Row - rope has bad reb point & needs replacing. Suggest climb up & traverse on right-hand wall. Ali



S.O. / P.P. / H.P & C.O. Frente Muni, Sorra. 9th Aug 99

Axos caught regulation a permit was obtained from the Spanish Caving Festival and was promptly left at Phil's home. Directions:- Go to Burgos and turn E. Follow the flat featureless scrub until a feature is passed on the left before a feature on the right indicates where to turn. Then take the flat featureless road to the S.E and turn left at the low feature on the right. Here is a large blue pool which says 'Dive Me'. Here is a survey postioned from a bush.



Cave starts under ledge on far side of pool and descends in rather flawed brilliant white limestone. Tide enlarges to chamber (20x10m) with large boulders on floor to -54m. Crystal clear viz and good line all the way through. Only problem is to avoid twists, video cameras and stores thrown into pool during deco. Beware of tourist idiots who claim a 10m deep pool is a little shallow for their 15's and nitrox deco stops!

Steve

Phil.

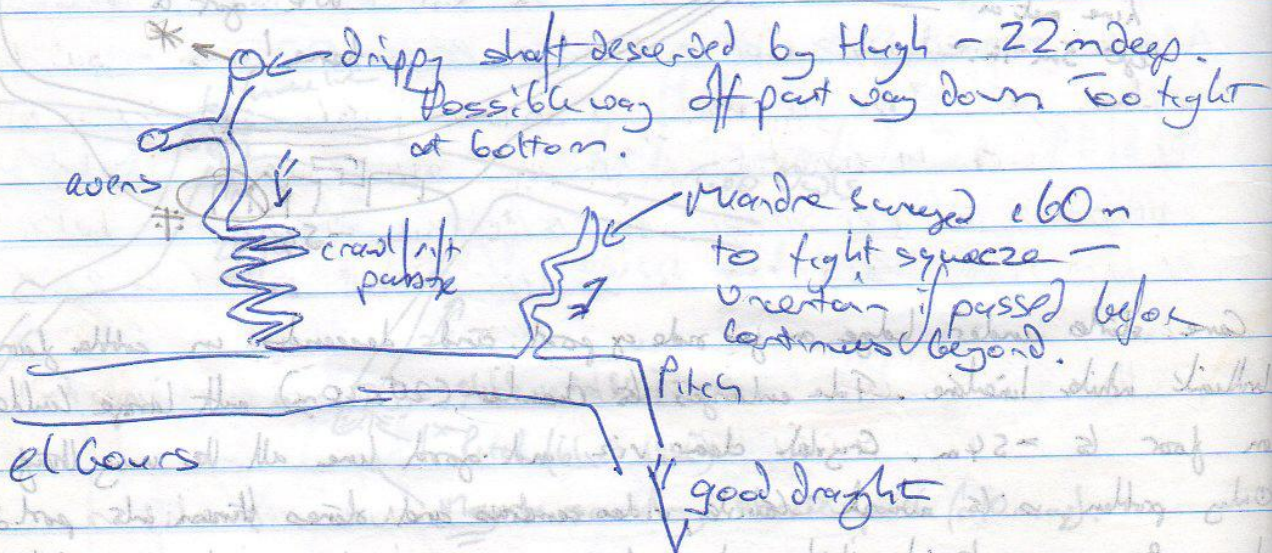
Angela Hare Quotation.

"You can always rely on The Derbyshire to give you a good shaft."

"I've got a good feeling about the banging tomorrow."

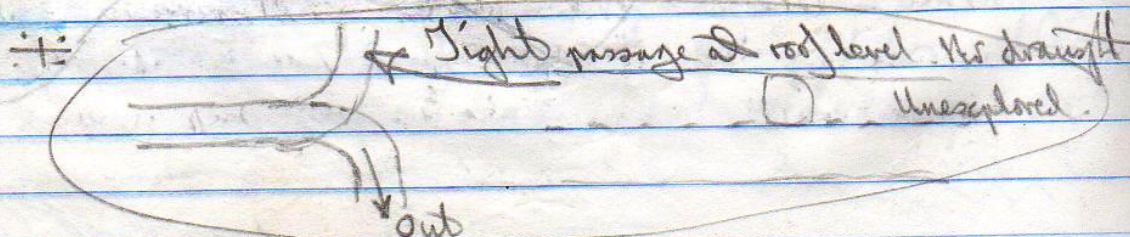
Helen Every one give me one in Inglethorpe.

11/8/99 Vallin - 600 ft? PASSAGE A NEILL H & T BROWN



Entrance - rocks are getting very polished - evidently frequently used.

* Possible way on in direction of arrow about 4 m down. Could not see properly and did not have the equipment to get across the pit. The shaft continues up out of sight with an electric lamp.



Phil Papard Goes home at

3.30 What a whippers?

7th August ✓ Regato Jane & Toby.

Went to look at a draughting dig in a passage near the top entrance. Had to climb over piles of dead gorse & earth to get in as the farmer has been clearing the fields above. Also passed lots of enormous spiders. Toby didn't think on second viewing that the dig was worth digging, so we came out. Jane.

8th August ✓ Riano area. Toby, Jane & Tim Allen.

Walked up to the last site we saw on 28/7. (1428)

Jane dropped the ripton ladder. Ladder climb about 3m & then a 3m choked pot in the floor. Traversing above this lead to another pot in the floor which would probably be big enough for a skinny to descend but with no draught. Walked on further round towards 253 but didn't find any more sites. Jane.

9th August ✓ 415. Angela, Dave, Helen, Dave Edland, Jane, Mark Wilde.

Mainly a tourist trip but Dave brought a bolting kit & rope just in case. Didn't find the pits in the floor. We thought that the draughtiest places were a small roof tube at the end of the 2nd chamber & the first pit in the floor between the 1st & 2nd chambers. Lovely formations. Jane.

10th August Coventza Toby, Pete, Angela, Mark, Dave Edland, Andy Pringle, Jane, Lee, Dave Ormrod.

Tourist trip to the lakes & helping take in some buoyancy for the through trip. Excellent trip - superb passage & the Salta de Fantasmas is brilliant. NB. Don't believe Irish Mancunians who say that SRT kits aren't needed after the entrance pitch unless

(22) you are a human squirrel eg. Toby & Pete.
For people with a much more intense relationship
with gravity like me, at least a descender &
hand jammer are needed. Jane

11th August: Renada to Sumpl. Angela, Candy, Dave
Edland, Jane.

Candy's birthday trip. Very pleasant, jolly time.
We left a note in English & Spanish on the
rope hanging out of the boulder choke above the
breakdown chamber to say that it is not belayed
properly. Jane

Tinkle, tinkle little Hare,
How can we guess you were there?
Smashing stat from side to side,
How can one bum be so wide?

~~Tinkle, tinkle~~ little Hare,
How can we guess you were there?
Smashing stat way out in front,
You are such a --- pilly girl?
Sugger

Humpty Duffy made a mistake,
Humpty Duffy pulled on a flake,
All Terry's molephones & all Terry's gen,
Couldn't put his bootsies together again.

Volvo — GONE (PTO)
 Arenal — GONE
 Colin Davis — GONE !!
 Stacey — Luger

Paul has been great this year. This comment is unhelpful.

Lenny, Billy & Andy P

12/8/99 ✓

Larnas

Entered by Pete Egan last year.

Trip 1 Raced to last pitch from last year - Billy & Andy P took it large.

Trip 2 (before 12th) Lenny, Billy, Andy P, Angela & Pete O' hiked up top of first pitch from previous year.

Then on to small passage with good echo, we capped this to head of new pitch 11mtr deep but not dropped.

Trip 3 Tim Allen, Angela & Pete O' Bolted up 11mtr pitch and Angela dropped it, the continuation was a tight rift which Tim & Pete pushed for possibly 20mtr down an awkward climb then through a very awkward & tight squeeze. Two pitches were discovered beyond the squeeze.

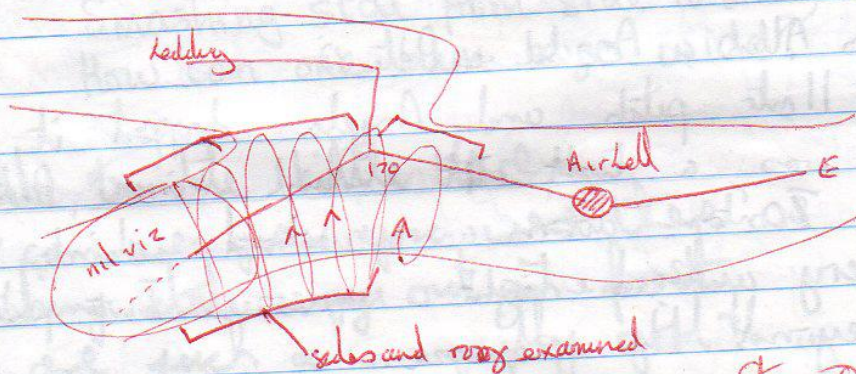
Trip 4 Pete E, Paul S, & Pete O' Pete O' bolted & dropped the larger pitch which is below the squeeze, which was 20mtr to a cross rift the main continuation went too tight after 10mtr on a sandstone bed, with a good draught. Pete E dropped the other pitch the 5mtr the passage at the base again went too tight and is probably the same passage as seen in the form of an inlet at the base of the 20mtr pitch. Dressed ropes

Trip 5 Lenny & Billy
Deranged Ladders & Rats?

Vozvo?

13/8/99 am

Comdrante Steve O Support Murtz (LUPC) & Candy O
Diver swim to air bell and reelayed the line at floor level since there
was limited use in the airbell helix. Good viz 10m+ to 170m
where line continues to R and up towards flat out bedding around corner
Investigated line to left at this point and finding viz rapidly diminishing to
nil bed off line and needed off to explore passage sides and rays
Nothing noted apart from rays in ceiling - too light at -18m



Steve O

13/8/99 pm. Mark, Steve O, Candy O

1379 Returned to continue dig. After digging and enlarging hole for
a half hour it was decided that for any efficient progress to be made the floor
above needed removing. Starting at the entrance and enlargement of 100%
in size should make it very easy to get hypod lifting gear over the
entr. to pull out the floor. A DEC 2000 dig. Winner drafted.

12/8/99 pm ✓

39

Volvo Push - MARK SMITH + BARRY EDWARDS (L.U.P.C.)

Shown to entrance by Sam & Toby, the entrance has been stabilised by the New Road works since they have covered the entrance in concrete. Entered cave and followed it to Sump 3 as per description in the log on the 95 expedition. All this mud was ~~fresh~~ fresh so the going was very slippery. Sump 1 live were ~~in~~ secure and ok, sump 2 was a duck and then we got to the long pool at sump 3. The first attempt at the Sump was at the end of the pool near the passage. Mark dived the pool to a Smetes at a angle at 30° down to the right of the passage under the right wall. Mark came up quickly complaining of a wet mouth valve. After a quick play with the gear we had another attempt, this time in the middle of the pool where there is a alcove in the wall. Barry heard mark surface and a voice connect was found through a small hole in the alcove. The sump 3 was only 3 metres and could be ~~see~~ easily ~~see~~ after dived. Barry follow Mark through ~~the~~ into new passage (not ~~bad~~ bad since this was the first time he had ever used ~~the~~ diving gear, let alone doing cave diving). Walking passage continued ~~the~~ as before the sump to a lowering of the roof @ approx 20m ~~and~~ and then continued as walking passage for another 20 odd metres to the ~~the~~ bottom of a boulder chock going up. This was climbed in a chamber, ~~with~~ with a boulder slope and many

ways on (note boulder chokes very mud and slippery)
cave required). Some exploring was done and
then we ~~return~~ returned (since Barry was ~~stuck~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~
himself about the dig out). (Helpful note - watch out
for ants nest since the little buggers get everywhere like
in your ~~g~~ shirts). A return trip is planned for a
few days ~~the~~ survey the new passage ~~see~~
(this proved to be over 100 metres and ~~was~~
ended up only 30 metres away from 'Boil in the
bag' and chaffin).

3. Edwin



13/8/99 ✓ Rascavieja Jane, Bernice, David.
Had a look to see if any of the holes
in the floor of the passage went anywhere.
Nothing seemed to continue at all. There was
a noticeable draught coming out of Pete Egan's
climb up at the end of the left branch of the
cave. Jane

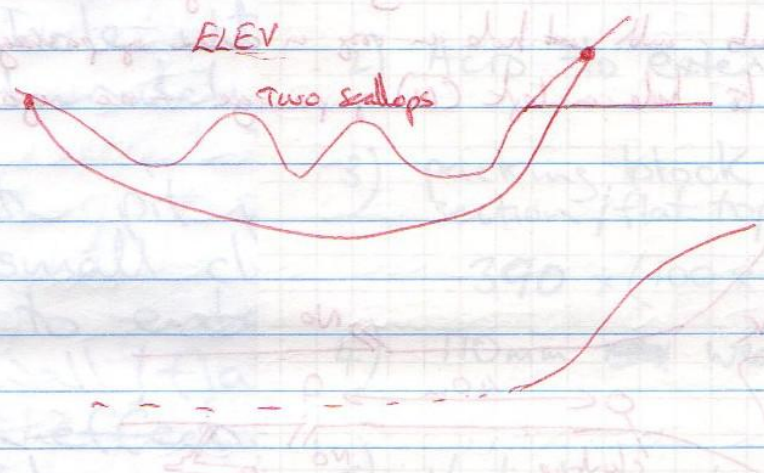
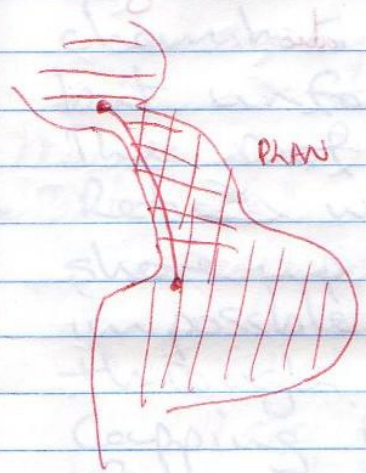
17/8/99 ✓ Andy P, Larry, Bill, Jack, Larry to 1100 and valley
above the ^{new} end of Vals. Entrance ~~located~~ 30cm from
tarmac and dug out using Stone Age technology.
Tight entrance slips down and bends to right turning at
draughting out rocks blocking downwards continuation.



Redicmond 1100 in field above
Appears to close all round at
base. Relocated.
Also 1453 - small hole above
track. - see map

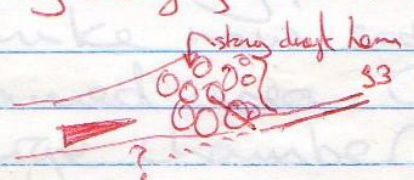
14/9/99 ✓ Volvo Steve O & Mark Smith

Entered cave with two minibladders for rumps but got a confident cavern all rumps and easily free diveable at current water levels. Sump 1 is currently 2m long with two scallops to be passed before surging.



On entry to large passage described on previous trip the most obvious route is up through boulders on a 30° slope where new passage was entered. There is a large amount of collapse debris and care should be taken since boulders do have a habit of moving. A short passage around to the right at the top of the gentle slope leads to an overhang 20ft from the gas wall where it is possible to climb down to a section of passage containing large old steel with bars fallen. Continuing past there still ahead is a plank wall but left is a second slope of $\sim 30^\circ$ leading past a small bunch of boulders before emerging on a sandy plateau. The slope continues upward beyond this and ends at boulders where a Yorkshire pot type inlet is seen on the right and other possible inlets are seen in the rock. This area is beneath ¹⁴⁵² 1100 & 898 and draughts. There are many leads and crannies to examine throughout the cave including the streamway continuation beneath boulders before the climb up. Most promising is the area directly opposite where the climb up from the streamway enters the top of the boulders. Climbs down are very draughtier but a ladder and a rope may make progress.

Steve O



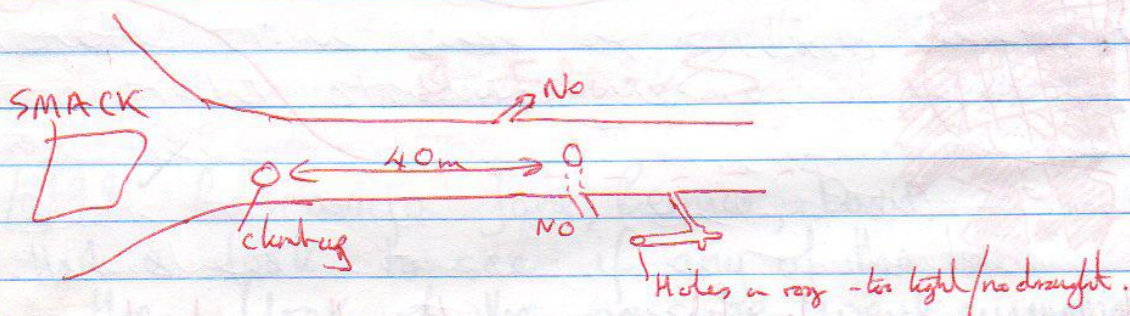
6/8/99 ✓ Done O & Jim

Cacavero - Hone

Mapped up to holes in roxy near the climb up from Cue - Hone in Rhinoceros passage. Succeeded about 40 m in one hole on S side of passage.

Batted into next hole along - mud jammed at top and no way one. This connects with hole in roxy in centre of passage also.

Mapped to hole on left (N) of passage - no go.



18/8/99 ✓

~~1100~~ 1452

Pete O & Angela H.

Carry on dig down in floor, after short effort possible continuation could be seen below. It draughts well and is well worth more effort.

Arenal 10th → 18th Aug (approx)

- 2 x banging trips by Catalans and other
Demolished tight section to the boulders.
- Banged boulder.
- Removed boulder debris + dug out small chamber. hole with draught noticed but unfortunately the way on held up the roof.
- Return with pit props + acro and shore up small chamber making it impossible to enter. Plan to lift cap through wall/flake to gain way on. Capping ineffective.
- Return with generator, breaker and cable. Set up and start chiselling solid rock. This works but typically live equipment fails. Out for repairs.
- Return same day and continue until arms nearly drop off. Hole football size.
- Return next day (17/8/99) hole soon passable. Into flakey chamber with way on up steep boulder slope. Looks very good but no one fancies it. More technology needed.
- Visit builder merchants in Ramales Purchase 10 tins of expanding foam.
- Enter cave early morning and shoot all tea tins into choke. Exit for 4 hours to allow to dry. 18/8/99.
- Return for glory. Choke now safe. A little loose above framed area. Core still needed. Enter large chamber

Manaclera

Lago

- 1) chunky prop ✓
305-310mm long
- 2) Acro to extend to 850
- 3) packing block square section / flat top. ✓
390 x (100 x 100 ish)
- 4) 110mm ~~rod~~ wedged packing
- 5) Vertical prop (chunky)
950mm

6) brace 800-850
check later

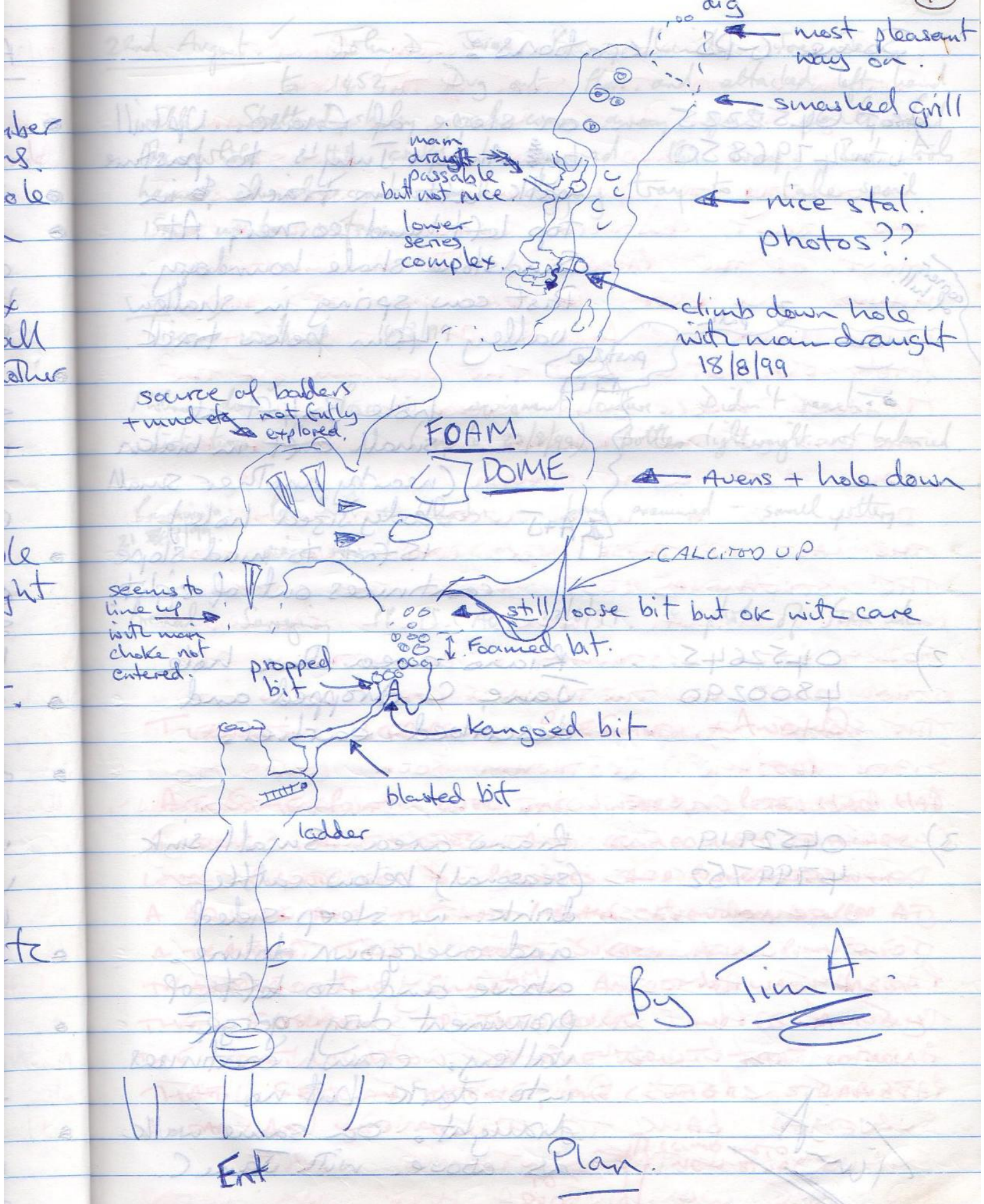
7) arch support
500
check later.

30 x 20m approx. Passage continues
echo good, spirits high. Race down
passage 40-50m to stal'd up chamber
Very pretty with translucent formations.
Search out draught coming from hole
in floor. Descend 10-15m through
hole following draught. Flood prone,
black rock, sharp with mud. Complex
area but draught whistles from small
rift passable but not pursued. Another
route from base of climb leads to
too tight stream passage probably at
the level of the entrance or lower.

- Back to stal'd up end. Stal grill
smashed, crawl leads to mud + cobble
blockage with ~~the~~ voids above. draught
small but cold day so this could
be main way on. I hope so.
Check on hot day, needs crowbar.
See plan opposite for more info.

Participants? include.

Tim A, Pete O, Angela Hare, Phil P,
Steve Op, Billy, Lenny, Pringle,
Hillary, Juan, Jane C, Catalans, etc
etc.



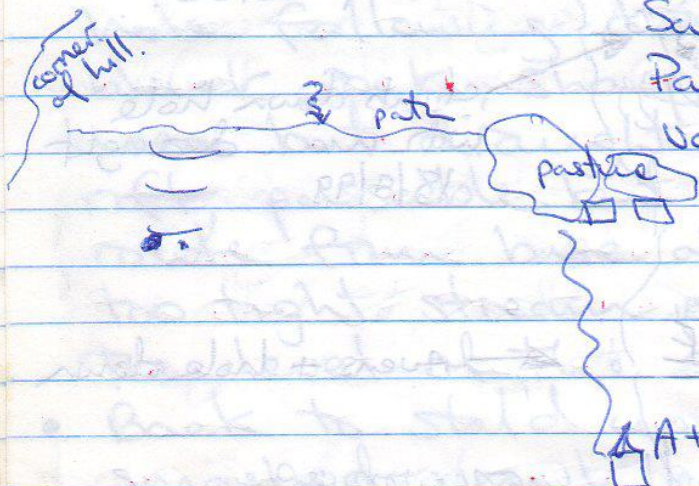
By Tim A.

Plan.

Some GPS locations:

1) 0452225
UTM 4796850

on slope of Enaso. Up hill by Andy + July's to pasture walk left on track & in top left hand corner. At Sandstone shale boundary. Past cow spring in shallow valley 40m below track.



hole 3x4ft at small cliff in bracken (nearly another small body sized hole) 15 feet to mud slope continues out of sight.

2) 0452645
4800290

Riano area. The hole Jane C dropped and described earlier.

3) 0452919
4799752

Riano area. Small sink (seasonal) below cattle drink in steep sided and overgrown doline above and to left of prominent dry gorge valley. crawl continues into dark but no draught. On same walk as above with Jane C.

Tim A

22nd August ✓ John D, Ivan, Penny, Linda, Joe, Jenny
to 1452. Dug out floor and attacked left hand
wall. Shattered, shaley rock comes away quite easily and
the whole LHS could be removed this way. Best tools
hammers, chisel, crow bar and digging tray to take spoil
15m up to surface.

Tizones wrote up 14/8/99

Molins dives: Poor vis, equipment failure. Didn't reach
last times limit. (up to 23/8/99). Bottles lightweight - not balanced.

Lascaveja: ✓ Pete Smith + Chuchi - bones examined - small pottery
21 24/8/99. pieces found.

Arenal - Surveying PP, PS, AQ 22/8/99. + photos of foam etc.

TIZONES IN 2 TRIPS A) PETE SMITH & ANDY Q.

Went to Somewhere, over the winter, no Pete. Had had
a look with Tizones and Andy. Came into a higher
level. Inert set of passages and busier. Through
a square and the two passages eventually stalled at
a traverse. Trav 1 was to survey and open the
traverse. The climb was about 1/2 way through
the entrance to the rock and is actually
the continuation of the joint that controls
that section of cave. The climb is straight
ahead as you go in. It was very
easy to climb into the new shaft
to the entrance.

WE GOT A NEW LINE SURVEY FROM THE
ENTRANCE TO THE START OF THE DUCK.
THE CLIMB OF ABOUT 4m IS FREE CLIMBING
WITH CARE AND THEN LEADS ALMOST
IMMEDIATELY TO AN AWKWARD SQUEEZE INTO
THE JOINT CONTROLS AND AND PARALLEL LEVEL.
MOST OF THE PASSAGE IS ~~IT~~ A COMFORTABLE
HANDS AND KNEES OR CRAWLING SIZE, 100m
OR SO LATER WE ARRIVED AT THE LIMIT OF
LETE'S EXPLORATION AND THE BEGINNING OF THE
TRAVERSE. A ROPE WAS NEEDED FOR THIS.
THE END OF THE TRAVERSE MET WITH A BLANK
WALL BUT WITH SEVERAL 10m DROPS
DOWN TO A LOWER LEVEL. DROPPING DOWN
THE LAST OF THESE DROPS LEADS BACK TO
THE STREAMWAY LOST AFTER THE DUCK
IN THE ORIGINAL CAVE! NEW PASSAGE
GOING BOTH UPSTREAM & DOWNSTREAM. THE
OTHER DROPS ON THE TRAVERSE LEAD DOWN TO
THE SAME STREAMWAYS. LARGEST WATERWASH
SIZED PASSAGE UPSTREAM SOON LEADS TO
A BOULDER CHOKED WITH THE STREAMWAY
(CLOSE TO THE END OF THE ORIGINAL SURVEY).
DOWNSTREAM GOES FOR A 200m OR SO
OF STREAMWAY PASSAGE THAT IS AROUND A
JOINT CONTROLS. SECTIONS NOT THIS A
PASSAGE ALMOST A CONTINUITY OF FLOOD TO
THE FLOOR. EXPLORATION STOPPED WITH
A COMPLEX BOULDER CHOKED. A NEW
PASSAGE. LETE'S ORIGINAL FINDS WERE
SURVEYED BACK TO THE NEW LINE
SURVEY. THE ENTRANCE SECTIONS.
ON THE WAY OUT OF A HOLE WAS NOTED

(4)

HANK WAS UP THE PITCH BACK UP TO THE TRAVERSE LEVEL. MAYBE THE WAY BACK UP TO THE ABANDONED PEREATIC LEVEL. THIS WAS LEFT FOR A RETURN TRIP SO THAT WE COULD FINISH THE SURVEY.

TRIP 2. PETE'S. & AWAY @.

RETURN TO THE HOLE MENTIONED ABOVE. A LARGE TRENCH WITH A WATER PIPE HAD BEEN DUG TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE CAVE. A BRANCH OF THE NEW WATER SUPPLY FROM COMEDIANTE! THIS WE FOUND OUT TO BE AN OUTLET TO DRAW SEDIMENT FROM A LOW POINT IN THE NEW WATER SUPPLY? N.I. SHOULDN'T AFFECT THE CAVE TOO MUCH.

BACK TO THE END OF THE TRAVERSE. CLIMBING $\frac{1}{2}$ WAY DOWN THE PITCH LED TO A SCRAMBLE BACK UP INTO THE MUDDY HOLE SEEN PREVIOUSLY. WE ~~WERE~~ WERE SOON IN A CONTINUATION OF THE HIGHER LEVEL PASSAGE. IT CONTINUED AS BEFORE BUT WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY, LENGTH & DIFFICULTY OF TRAVERSING. PETE PUSHED ON PAST ONE MORE TRAVERSE (I REFUSED) BUT MORE EQUIPMENT (MORE TRAVERSE LINES) WAS NEEDED, LEFT WIDE OPEN FOR A RETURN NEXT YEAR.

AWAY @

VT62 (site 1176)

(50)

This cave was originally explored by the Catalan's in 1989, when they reached a tight rift section which they were Hilti capping, they have not been back since? Having spoken to them, they were happy for us to continue their exploration. It is positioned quite nicely- near the top of the ridge (651m alt.), between the resurgence for the area (El Molino) and the Valline. The grid reference for the entrance is accurate and it is marked with red paint "VT62". Most importantly is not too far from the car, with quite an easy walk of around thirty minutes. This is a -340m deep pothole that is split quite neatly into two vertical sections (all on rope) & two horizontal sections.

DAY ONE- Helen Blyth & David Foxton

The first section is down to -140m, this split into 5 pitches. The entrance shaft is around 35m landing on a slope of boulders, the home for a family of toads. The next pitch follows quickly with an "awkwardish" section at the top. This had been blasted by the Catalans.

You have to be careful at the top of this pitch because there are some small stones on the ledges that fall down the next two sections. At the base of this pitch the shaft continues, with a further two re-belays, landing you in the roof of a large chamber. Once on the floor, a slope of loose debris (around thirty feet in length) continues to what appears at first glance to be a solid floor. However this "solid" floor is nothing more than jammed boulders with a loose shale covering, suspended over a 40m drop. Consequently we continued the rope from the previous pitch, using some handy placed stals for belays.

This first section is very well bolted, with all bolts in exactly the right places (nice job by the Catalans)- which is a good job, as the top of some of the pitches are very loose, however with a bit of common sense you can get out of the way. Two full bags of rope are required for this section. Carbide & food were left at the base of the pitches for further trips.

With additional manpower we could have continued quite easily to rigged to the bottom, but we were unable to carry four bags of rope plus all the other equipment between two.

DAY TWO- Helen Blyth, Barry Edwards & David Foxton

Helen did not make it down the entrance due to a bowel problem & was left sunning herself.

So this left two again, but Barry did not want to continue past the top of the big pitch, due to his lack of fitness, & had stated this before leaving the campsite.

This meant we were short of people again.

The bottom of the first series of pitches is followed by about 300m of mostly stooping passage, with some sections of climbing over boulders. It is quite awkward caving and takes about 30 to 40 minutes to get through, (just like back home in Yorkshire). About three-quarters of the way down this section, an inlet passage enters on the left-hand side. This was not explored. There is a strong draught present at this point. As you approach the top of the next pitch- the floor of the passage has a small stream flowing over a covering of slippery calcite, with milled potholes in the calcite. This is very nice until you slip on your arse, falling in the lovely crystal clear water. We rigged the next two pitches; these are followed by a permanent rope leading to the top of the big pitch. I had agreed with Barry, before going underground that we would turn around at the top of the big pitch. The bag with the ropes for bottom series, was then left here as I did not fancy continuing on my own- call me a big girls blouse but I did not think it was wise considering the position.

DAY THREE- Helen Blyth & David Foxton

Then down a superb 60m shaft, then 3 short "pitches" of no more than 10m each.

These pitches/climbs all follow one after another, dropping in between the boulders at the base of the 60m pitch. (The climbs have permanent rope on, which appears to be ok so we used it.)

The water sinks through the boulder choke at the base of the pitch and you meet the water once again after the last short climb.

The passage now becomes quite immature, with less of a draught than in the horizontal passage further up the cave. Progress is made by crawling mostly in the water, with the roof of the passage lifting occasionally, where you find other larger passages above.

These larger passages generally continue a short way and then you have to go back to the lower level. On the wall above the stream, scribed in the mud, was "Adolfo" (the name of one of the Catalan's), we continued in the stream pushing a bedding plane.

We reached a point where we had to remove a portion of the wall to allow Helen to access a continuation of the passage. Once through the constriction the passage continued in a similar vain, low and wet. Great! Light was becoming a slight concern and as this was only a reconnaissance effort, we decided to call it a day, as we had no spare carbide with us.

(51)

On the return through the low wet section, we found a way up into higher level passages, Helen went one way I the other, for "a quick look, no more than five minutes".

Helen went in the larger passages & I followed the stream in a trench passage.

The trench passage is around 3m high & 0.5m wide with the stream at the bottom. The walls are covered in dark brown barnacle like formations; these fall off and crumble when you stand on them. It did not look like anyone had been through this section, as none of the formations appeared to be damaged. I turned around to rejoin Helen, as we had been gone around fifteen minutes. I had turned around at a point just before the stream went down a small cascade of around three feet.

On the way out, whilst on one of the climbs through the boulders; a foothold became detached from the wall, causing me to slip a little way. More importantly the rock then hit Helen on the knee but fortunately she was wearing mining kneepads which prevented any damage.

All the spare rigging gear, bolting kit, spare rope etc. was taken out to make it easier on the de-rigging trip. It was a good job as this weighed an absolute ton, much more than an average rope bag.

We got out in the nick of time just as the light was fading, but with just enough to see our way across the pavements. (We had left our lights and caving stuff at the entrance to save carrying them up the hill the next day.)

DAY FOUR Tuesday 17/8/99- Helen Blyth, Dave Omeroyd, Richard & David Foxton

The trip started in fine style with Dave Omeroyd forgetting his harness.

The original plan was for Richard and Dave to continue to the bottom and Helen & I would start to survey.

This was now shelved in favour of retrieving as much tackle as possible, so that we did not have to go back to the bottom to de-rig the entire trip in one day.

Helen decided that big strong Dave, was more suited to a big day out carrying lots of gear, than poor weak little Helen, selflessly offering her harness, to replace Dave's missing one.

Thus Dave's plans for sitting in the sun were scuppered.

(Important Point- Helen is 5ft 2" & about 7 1/2 stone and Dave Omeroyd is considerably larger at 6ft ish and around 13 stone)

Eager Dave, rapidly made progress to the bottom of the cave, but both Richard & I could not be bothered and so we waited briefly at the top of the main pitch for the Dave.

This then was the start of the fun!

Soon the pitches were de-rigged to the start of the horizontal section, & the survey was started whilst carrying the two bags we already had accumulated. This was painful!

The clino became covered in mud/ sand at every second station, I managed to burn my face on my carbide flame whilst incompetently taking readings, and all in all it was not the most pleasant of surveying trips. (If there is ever a pleasant trip?)

We continued the survey to the bottom of the next pitch.

Richard and Dave started prussic out with bags one and two & I then started to de-rig again, soon filling the third bag. The fourth bag was reached at the bottom of the second pitch, & I continued carrying both bags, until a hauling rope on the entrance pitch gratefully received the heavy bag.

I was so thankful we had completed it all in one day & I did not have to go back to the next day, now all that remained was to wash the rope before setting off back to England.

For the Future

There is a very strong draught present up to the top of the big pitch.

At the bottom of the pitch the draught diminishes as you get into the smaller passages.

This raises the question whether we are following the main route, but a closer inspection at the bottom of the big pitch is required.

Once we reached the bottom the problem was a lack of man power, what we needed to do was spend longer looking for the way on, but were not able to do that in the time available. At the bottom the Catalans had previously been using explosives at a narrow rift section, we did not noticeably reach this point, but may have by-passed it (because some of the passages at the end had definitely not been entered before), or we were somewhere different to the Catalans. The Catalans do not have a plan survey of the system, only a cross-section.

At the bottom the passage is old and large, similar to some of the passages in Valline, but below this is a small immature streamway. The two sections of passage old and new are separated by a false floor (calcite floor which you can break through to get from small streamway to large passage).

If the cave were rigged, you could be at the bottom in 2 hours, then 3 hours out. This would mean around 3-4 hours at the bottom, for an acceptable day trip without killing yourself.

I have encouraged a larger group of people from Liverpool to come out at Easter, as this would be an excellent project for 6-8 keen enthusiastic people.

(It currently appears there will be a minimum of eight and a maximum of twelve out from Liverpool at Easter.)

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT