MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT

LOGBOOK

Year: 2003

Season: summer

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

Juan Corrin, January 2015

1 3

PRESENTACIÓN. Un momento del acto. / ROBERTO RUIZ

La Guía del Paleolítico se presentó ayer en el Ateneo

El volumen persigue difundir el patrimonio rupestre de la comunidad cántabra

REDACCIÓN SANTANDER

El Ateneo de Santander acogió ayer la presentación de la 'Guía de Cuevas de Arte Paleolítico', obra de Peter Smith, con la que se pretende difundir el patrimonio rupestre. El consejero de Cultura, Turismo y Deporte, Javier López Marcano presidió el acto. El volumen ha sido editado y coordinado por la 'Asociación Cántabra para la Defensa del Patrimonio Subterráneo (ACPS) que se fundó en 1978 para tratar de proteger las cavidades de la región y sus valores: espeleólogico, arqueológico, biológico, etcétera.

Subj: **peter plummet dives**
Date: 10/07/2003 15:55:30 GMT Standard Time
From: rupert@skorupka.freeserve.co.uk
To: juan.corrin@matienzo.org.uk
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Hi Juan, after some 4 abortive attempts, due mainly to poor diving conditions, things finally slotted together on a trip in June that myself and Julie made to cantabria. After a few set up and familiarisation dives, I reached my old limit at -72 m in the shaft. Continuing downwards, a definate floor was reached at -81 m on a slope of silty boulders. Following this led downwards into a gallery of modest proportions with a snaggy boulder floor. Only a short amount, about 20m of line was laid to -83 m, due to the difficulty of manoevreing with the side mounted 20 litre cylinders in the poor vis.
The cave is definately continuing downwards though. I have passed this info on to Josep Guarro of the SIE for their cave diving website. I have invited any Spanish divers to continue pushing this sump, but I would be most surprised if they get anywhere as it is a truly daunting prospect. It is unlikely I will return as having invested £5k in a rebreather system I would like to find a site where it fits !
I have also made a couple of dives in Comediante this year. This is a very complex and large sump, the vis is usually not good enough to search passage of this size. However, Im gradually building up a feel for the place and Im nothing if not persistent. We will probably have a couple of dives here this august, conditions permitting, and see what we find. Hope the info is of interest, have a good summer, Rupert.

Some things to do:

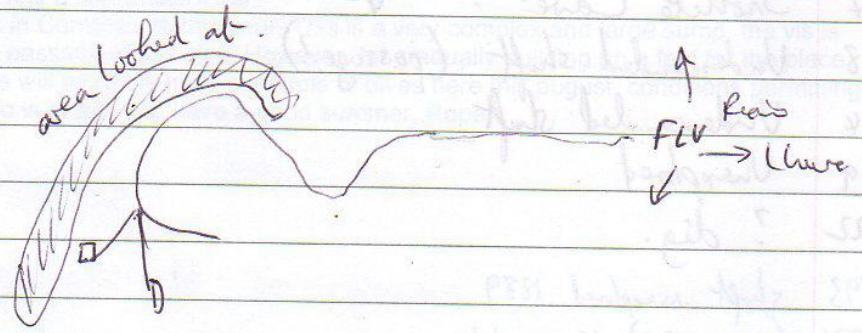
50 Sesruco – 2 pitches undescended. ✓
580 Unexplored parallel shaft – Terry?
413 Mega Mill shaft – complete re-exploration + survey
1817 Shaft requires enlarging above chamber 15m below.
116 Torca de Yusa – exploration and survey of system (117m pitch).
1887 Droughting digs near 1514
1874 Snottite Cave? VC
1888 Undescended shaft (passage?)
1914 Undescended shaft
1919 Unexplored
1922 ? dig.
1893 shaft unexplored 1889
1876 (1877 + 1878) 10m u/d.
1875
187
188 GET PISSED.
189 DO IT AGAIN.
190 OK JUST ONE MOR SOL Y SOMBRERO
VALLINE (Downstream Sump)

24th July.

Juan wandered up to Tres Niños to try to inspect holes on the cliffs below. Shoots, brambles, thorns, etc don't mix.

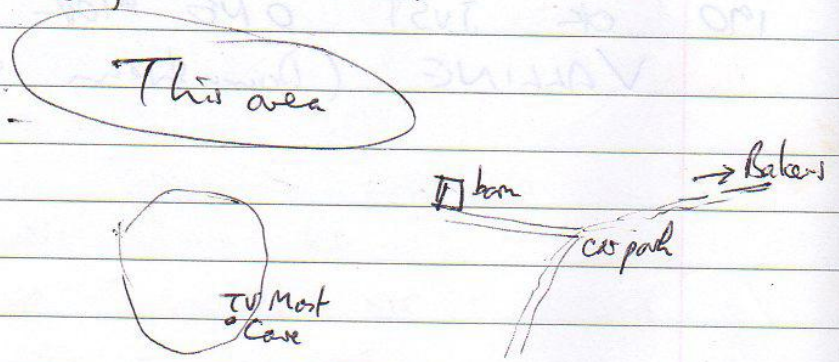
25th July.

Juan, Penny + Jen motored to end of Fuente las Varas track to investigate lack of holes on map. No holes found.



27th July

Phil, Hilary, Juan, Penny, Jenny up to TV Mast area to continue logging new holes, explore, etc.



1920: Removed cover. Juan down 4m narrow shaft that chokes

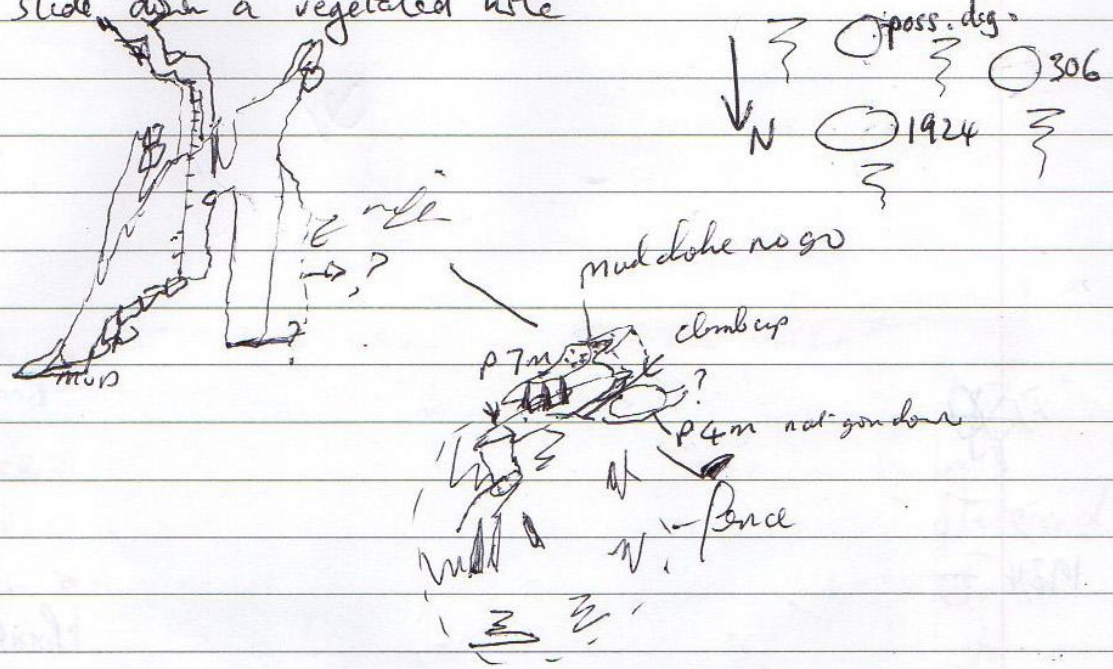
1923 NEW: At base of 4m high limestone face. A 4m wide cave entrance that enters a 7m long crawl that chokes all round.

1918: At end of cave is a narrow slot with a good draught. Poked video spy camera down to reveal a slot to the

left through which the draught might be coming.
A possible "high tech" dig.

306: Then got to Torca de la Llana del Cuto which Pete and Nigel explored on 19/8/81. Phil went down on one ladder to check out the shaft was 25m deep.

1924 NEW: Then down hill to the east (20m) where Phil slide down a vegetated hole



1925 NEW 3m drop down soil slope to a small choked chamber

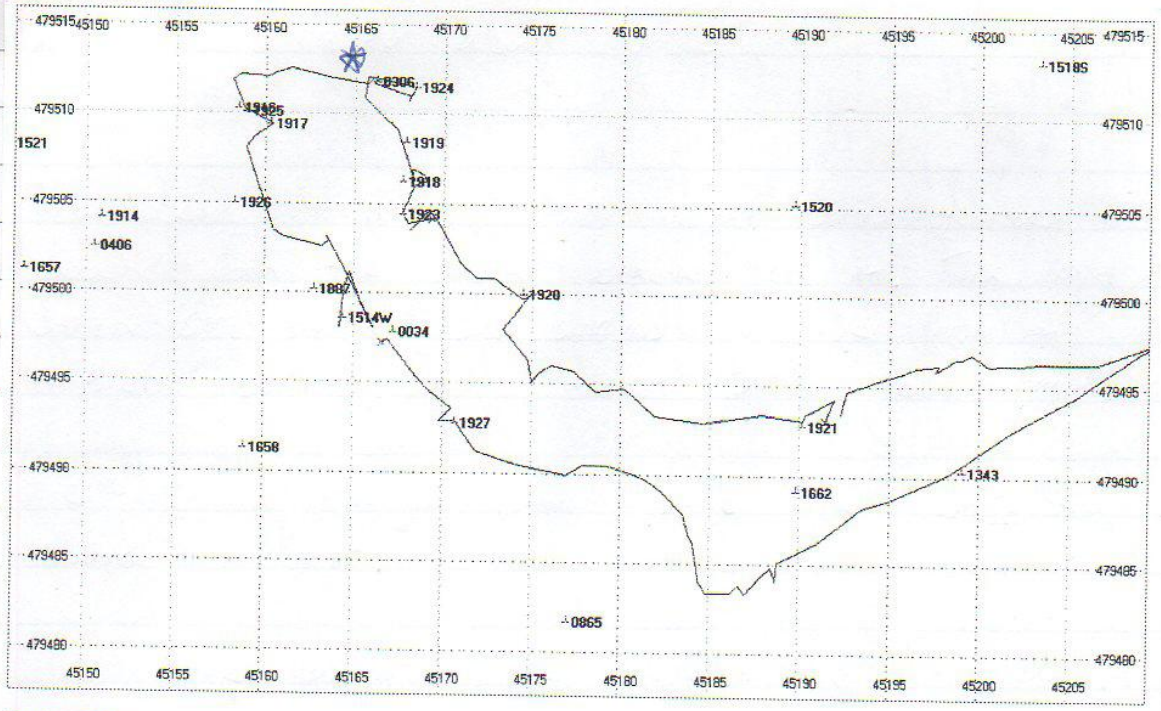
1917: Removed 2 planks. Jump down 4m shaft to a slot through into "chamber" that sloped down to a choke.
Total depth ~ 9m.

1926 NEW A small phreatic tube that has a 5m drop in a narrow rift just inside the entrance. It may enlarge

1927 NEW Just below track past TV Mast depression. One hole is boulder-covered. Others need investigation.

1923	30T 451677 4795044
0306	30T 451662 4795118
1924	30T 451684 4795115
1925	30T 451589 4795101
1926	30T 451583 4795050
1927	30T 451707 4794928

Plot of 030727SVega.txt 29/07/2003 13:45:04



Scale 1:4000

Barn on track.

1924

Possibilities.

View east from 306.

30/7/03 Serruco – Dave B, Dave T, Nick

We arrived yesterday, we leave tomorrow!
So we went to Serruco to look at the bottom lead. This turned out to be a 35° slope of loose rock leading down. After a bit it was checked, but a little digging opened this out and a continuing passage with an outward draught was created. However shortly after the rift closes briefly and the squeeze is just that but too awkward (and sharp) to attempt today. Passage beyond beckons – echo is good and there is a "black space" above 5m or in the rift.

Squeeze needs either the right hand wall Hilti-capped away, or all the sharp bits flattened with a hammer, or a smaller caver (say, a bit like Pete Egan). Not difficult.

Ropes left in place.

Note – the last bolt on the "entrance" pitch series needs a second maillon added to it because the knot rubs!

The route through the cave is effectively "roped" – the start of the second roped section is on the opposite side of the main chamber about 5m above where you come in.

Watch out for the slime – it will get you!

DHB

31/7 Some info about Drills BJB

The new Hitachi drill is about 30% quicker than the Bosch with the metal bracket on it. The old Bosch still works, but seems to have lots of wear on the gearbox, so is about 30% less good again.

The Hitachi charger will charge the batteries in about 1 hour.

The large box with the knobs and meters is a charger - here are the instructions:

x) Make sure that all 4 knobs are turned fully to the left (anticlockwise).
x) Turn it on (small blue switch)
x) Turn the leftmost knob (Voltage - Course) fully right (clockwise)
x) The CV light should go out and the CC light should come on. The voltage indicator should go to 20 V
x) Attach the battery
x) The voltage indicator should fall to the voltage of the battery (about 26 V)
x) Adjust the current knob (right hand set) to the desired charge current
x) Wait

The small Bosch battery is 1.2 Ah the large one is 4.5 Ah

So, using this charger you can charge the big

battery in about 1¼ hours — or trickle charge it slowly overnight.

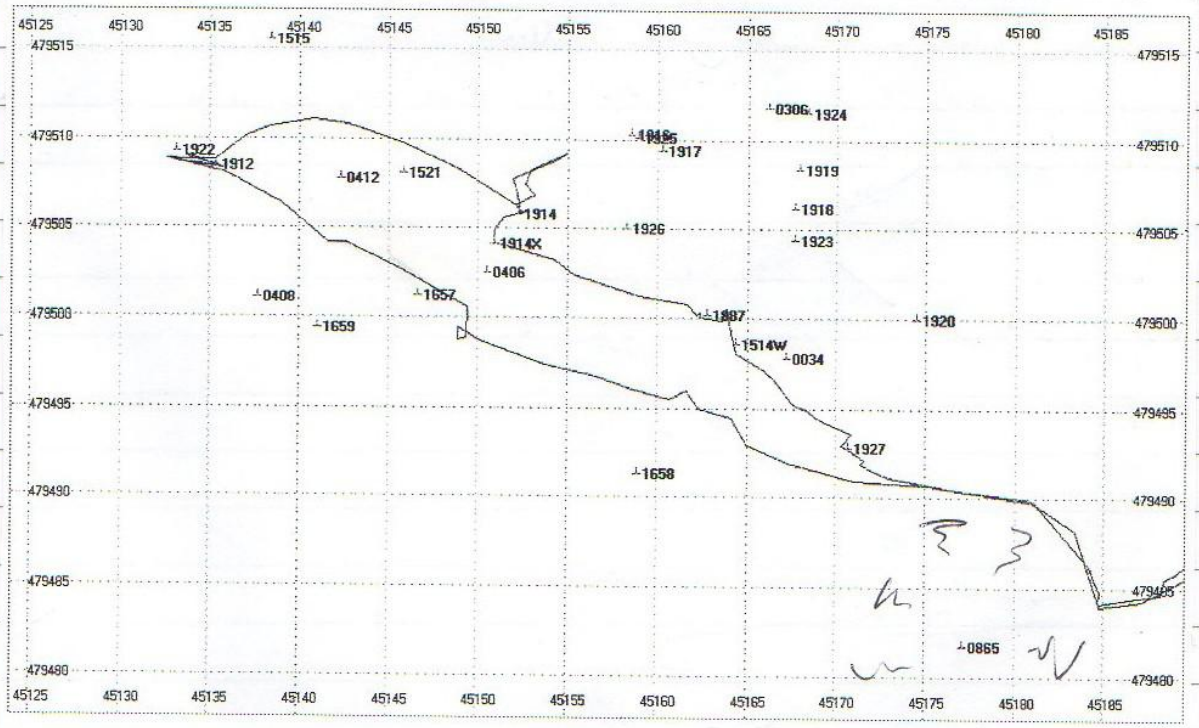
You can do a lot of damage with this charger — be careful

If you use a high current rate you must make sure you pay attention the how long it is on for and how hot it gets!

That's it!

30/7/03 Phil, Hilary, Jean, Kenny, Jen back to area below and to the west of TV Mast Cave. (See 27/7).

Plot of 030730SVega.txt 31/07/2003 10:15:33



Scale 1:4000

1927: Removed some boulders in rift, but appears to be filled for 4m. No draught. Other holes nearby are well-choked.

1887: Dug at right hand end of this for about an hour. Removed loads of ancient animal droppings and clay. Probably Pete Egan size now. Cool, ~~too~~ weak draught.

Then to find 1914 at the base of a cliff – GPS gave position with no visible limestone. Cliff was 20m downhill with a cold draught coming out of rift. Needs hilti caps to remove large flake.

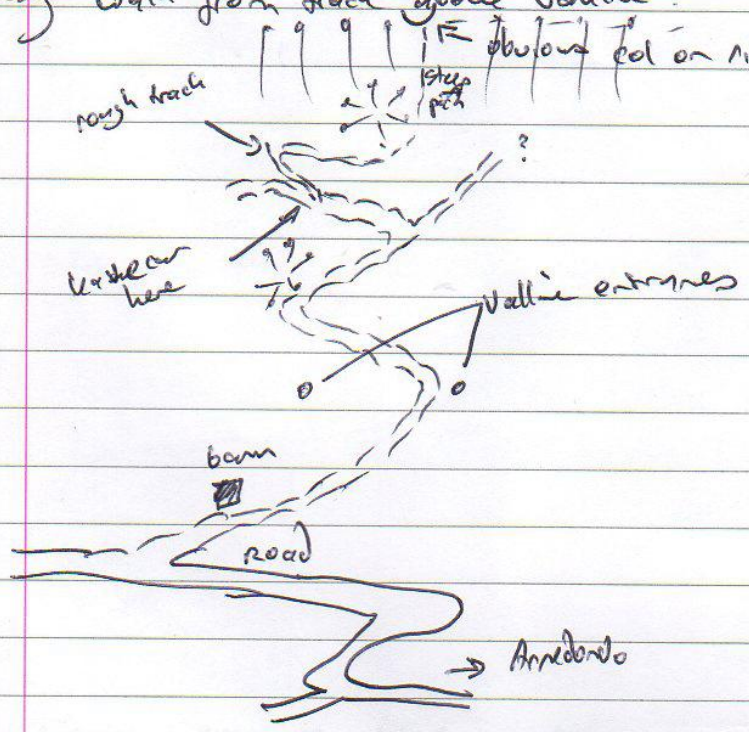
Up to site 1922 on side of large shakehole. Phil dug to enter top of descending rift that is currently too tight. Hilti cap job again. Good draught.

29/7/03 Cofrades. Ali, Kieff Jackson, Zoe Sawyer.

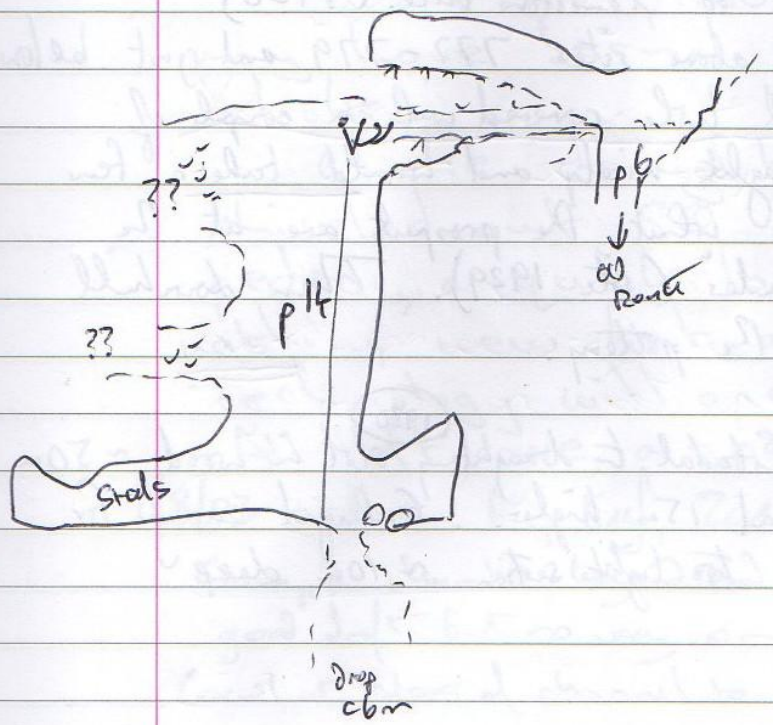
Carried digging in R.H. dig (up rope) ~~at~~ towards Hidden Hole. Still very claggy so not much progress. Slight draught.

30.7.03. Vaccinator. Kieff, Ali, Sam – (1128)

Easy walk from track above Vallina:

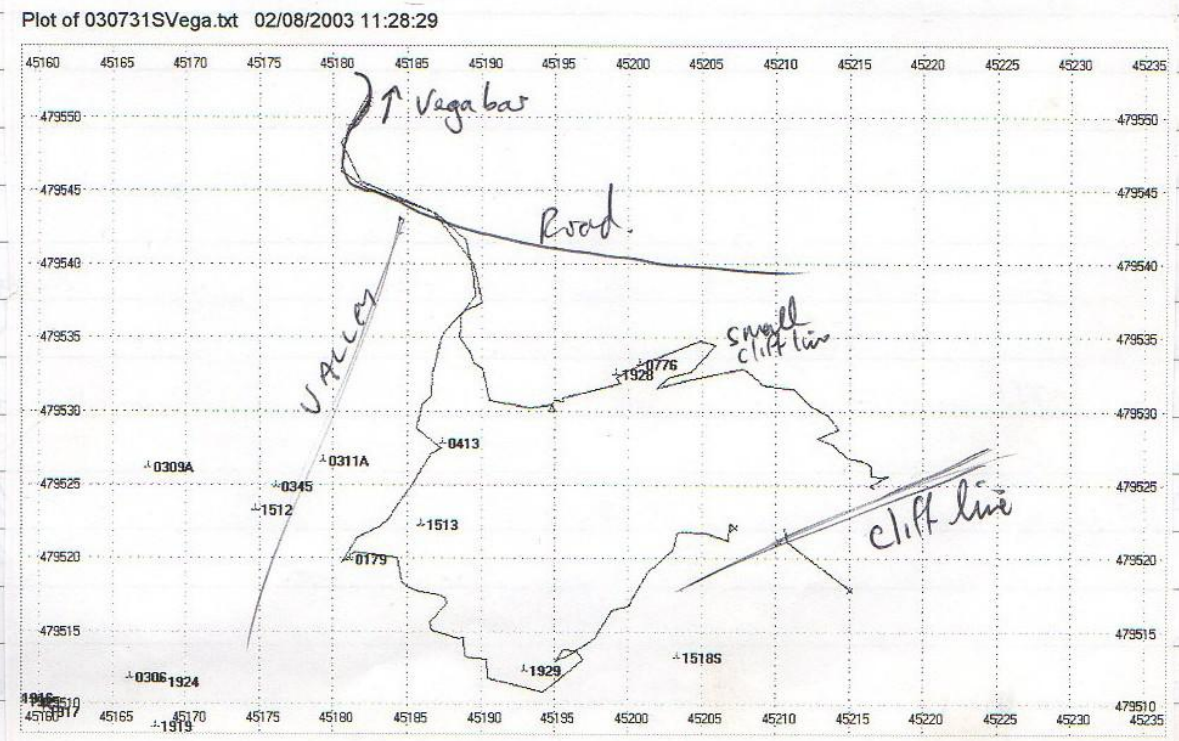


Resanded pitch in side passage over top of Run Rocks/Pb,



Hi

31/7/03. Penny + Jran went for walk above and to east of Mega Mill shaft (413)



Just ~~before~~ to west of 776 (full of shit) is a small 2m shaft (closed) against ~~b~~ wall of limestone face. (1928)
Around from cliff line above sites 777-779 and just below level of boon is a small hole covered with a couple of sandstone blocks. Draught nicely and would take a few minutes digging to see what the prospects are at the back of a small "chamber" (site 1929). Then downhill to visit 179 and see the pottery.

1/8/03 Hestie, Phil, Jean to Covadal to draughting (1930) slot in wood ~50m from the sink and 15m higher. Enlarged enough for Hestie to descend to tow tight section ~10m deep

Sketch

Then to main (553) sink which was draughting well. Surveyed cave to tight squeeze. Video.
Then GPS of various sites. 1725, possibly 768 (or 552) (D on GPS) and 915 Porquerica.
1/8/03 Draughting rift at head of gally trending left from Covadal sink. 3m rift followed by 4m rift at 80° to constriction. Constriction passed but followed by impenetrable rift with strong draught. Constriction needs removing. — Jean, Phil & eski.

2/8/03 Rancavieja Pete S + Pete C + Ali, Jen + Carol + Helen
Went to photo skeleton, which may have been a wolf then visited choke.
Choke draughting well Pedro + Peter chiseled out SQ but too small for pedro, a quick look beyond revealed nothing new but a further visit with Technology will open SQ out easily.
All left cave, a good trip. PL

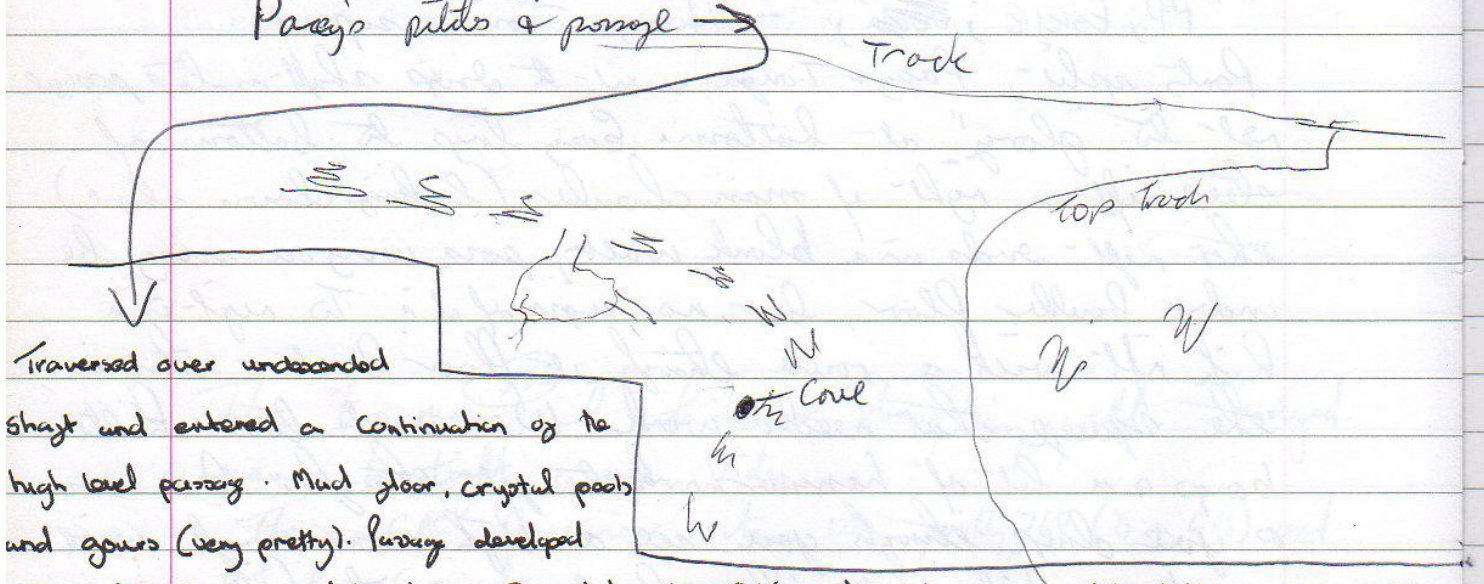
1/8/03 Valline. Ali, Kev, Zoe.
Surveyed chamber beyond end of Channel in Top level — good draft but no way on feasible
Crawl at start of channel to undescended drop was choked

2/8/03 Sesuco. Pacey, Tonya, Steve O" et al
P.P.; Eskie; ~~Tonya~~, — Helen + Jeon in support.
Party split, Pacey + Tonya went to drop shaft in top passage rel to "glory" at bottom. Easy trip to bottom of steep rift on right of main chamber (looking down slope) this rift ends in a blank wall, poss way on may be under boulder floor, but no sign of it. To right is a high rift with a route through at floor level — this is the squeeze that needed work. We used two Hilti bangs + a lot of hammer work to get through. As soon as you drop through you see a high narrow rift with much calcite, at floor level round the first corner is mud + this lower section backs up in wet weather prob due to a calcite dam in front — NO Go at floor level + no draught. Spent 2 hrs climbing up rift to see if any levels would go — none did

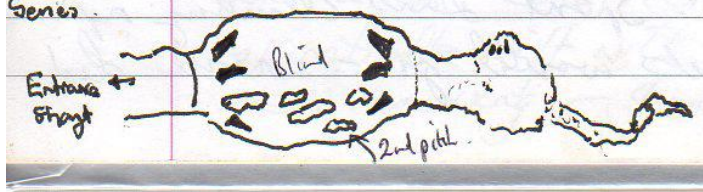
the rift is some 10m high & narrow at about 0.5m, but heavy calcite makes progress very difficult. Best way seemed to be new top, but a calcite flow blocked way on. A few feet more progress may be possible for a very thin person, but as you can see the rift is narrow for much more than this, any progress would need a lot of hilti work over many days! No chance of easy progress ~~in any~~ at all.

This would seem to be the end of it, except you can hear water(?) flowing/falling at bottom — long way off but it is clear, — not easy to hear where it comes from?

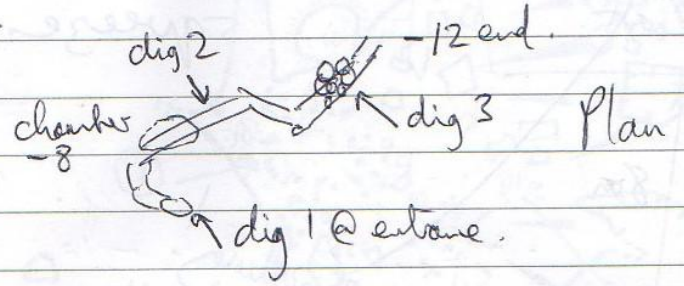
Surveyed out & also surveyed Pacey's top passage this did not fit in with old survey — reason my compass was 120° out — very odd as it was OK two days before — must be due to the heat?!!



Traversed over undercondd shaft and entered a continuation of the high level passage. Mud floor, crystal pools and gours (very pretty). Passage developed into a rift ending in a calcite choke. Descended shaft 9.4 (10m) pitch, way on at the bottom very small, continuation tight right. Noticed another hole, again 10m (9.2) into a large passage and another pitch of 10m. Made a visual connection with the shaft series going down jam to entrance series.



3/8/03 Site 1847. Pete had previously opened up this muddy-floored area to reveal a bouldery rift down to a crawl. Juan + Pete descended to crawl and dug it out to enter a low passage to a boulder choke blocking the way on. This was dug out for 3m to allow Pete to squeeze through to where the flat out crawl turned into a two-narrow rift.

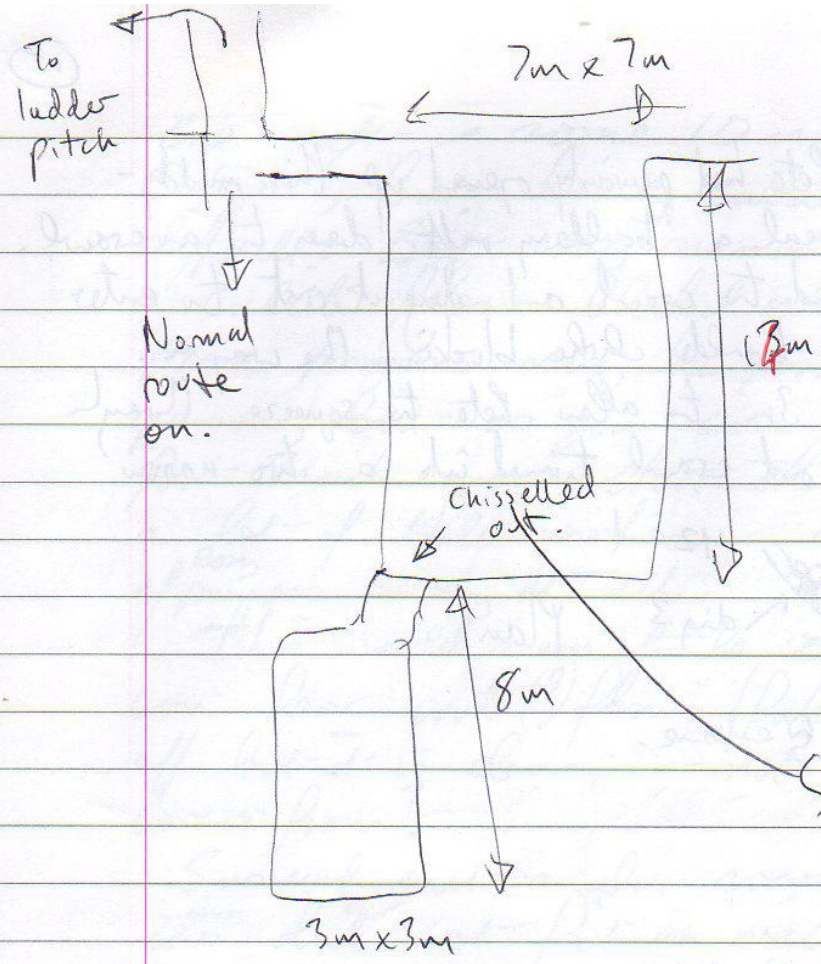


3/8/03

The Vaccinator

Pete Egan, Keith Jackson, Ali Niell

Decendend previously rigged pitches to approximately half way down, decendended pitch close to normal route down to a small hole seen two days previous. Some chiselling allowed access to 8m pitch going nowhere at the bottom. Derigged this and continued normal route to bottom to attempt siphoning wet crawl. Siphon tube worked but head was too small to produce good flow. Frantic bailing did litte to lower level. One or ~~to~~ two other digs investigated, some drafts but not any way on. Derigged leaving siphon tube in place. Should anyone need 20 foot of hose pipe, it will still be there.

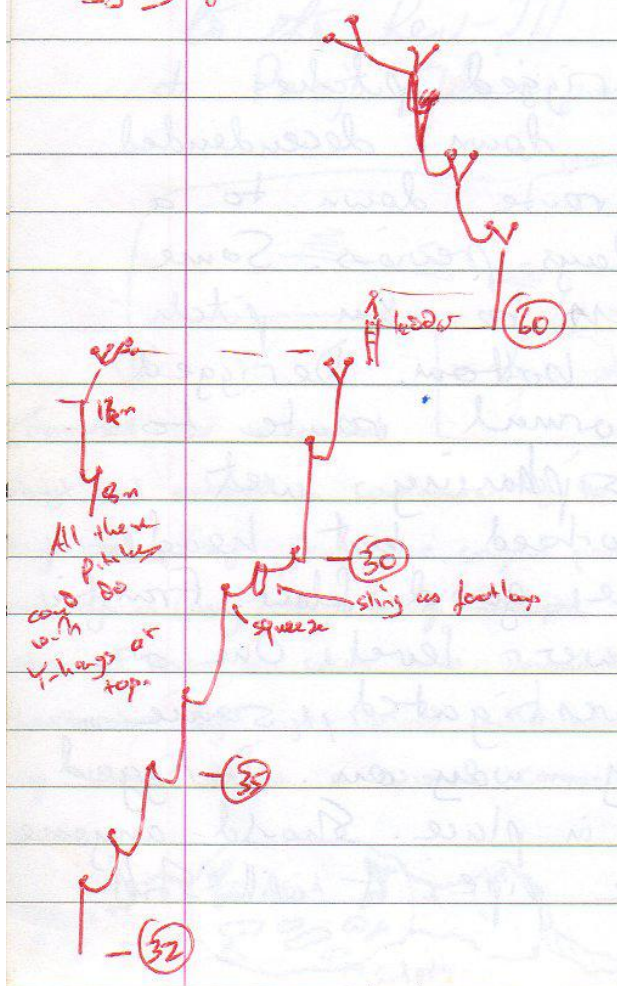


Vaccinator

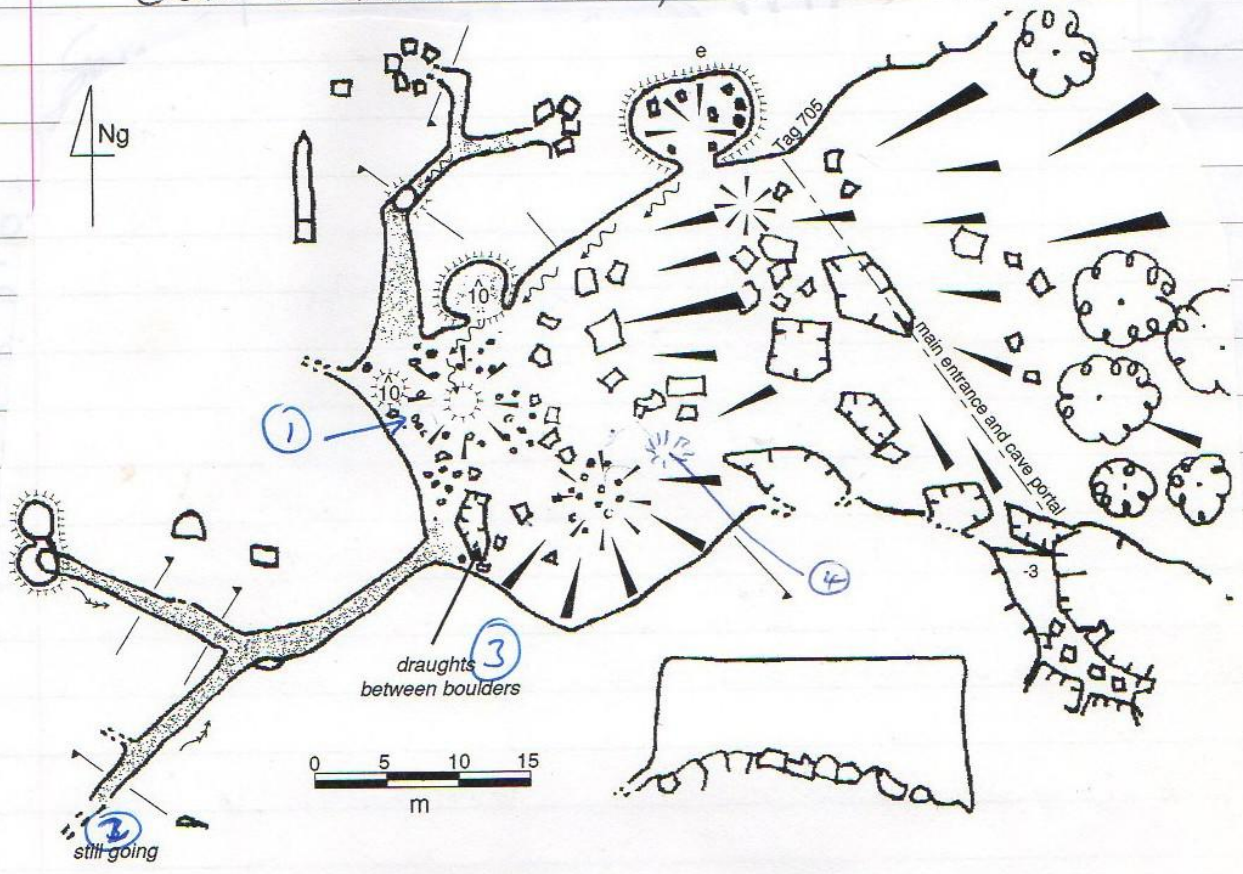
Pitches investigated after laddered squeeze.

Spelling! See Me.

Rigging for Vaccinator.



5/8/03 Terry, Juan + Penny to Cobadal to eyeball Cueva Candenosa area. (681)

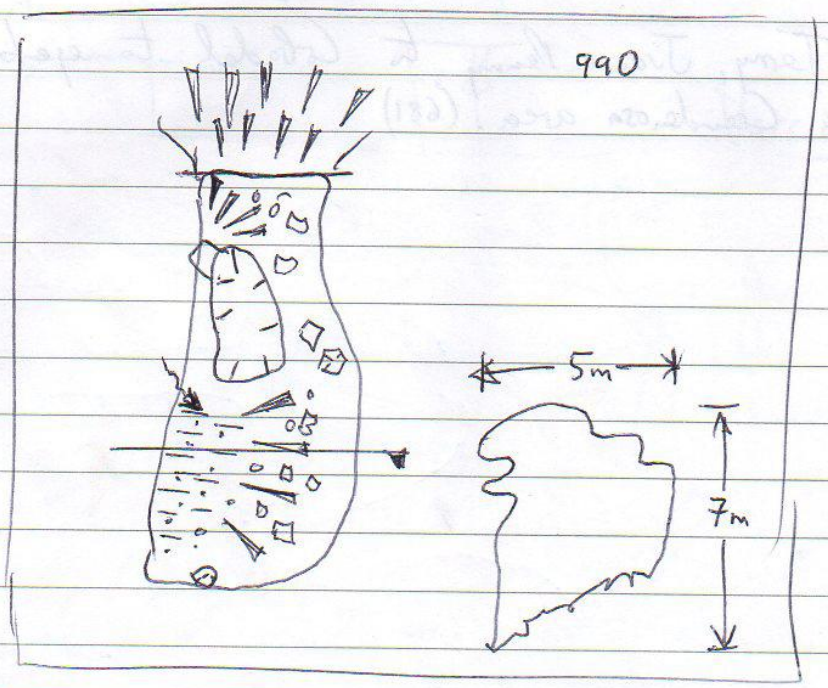


Site 681: Cueva Candenosa
Cobadal VN49259810 Alt: 270m
Surveyed 1987 to BCRA grade 5c (h-s)

PLAN
Length: 120m
Drawn by TW

Rift (1) Good draught – can be chiselled out to meet water sinking in sandstone boulders nearby.
Passage (2) Slight draught. Sediment dig in small passage.
Boulders (3). Drop down to boulders. Floor under large blocks. Good draught.
No apparent archaeology.
Photo of Torca Candenosa (682).

990 Also upstream of track in valley is another deep shakehole containing a blind cave. Water in streambed drops over uphill side of shakehole to dribble into entrance. Sinks in sandstone inside. Terry's sketch over:



6/8/03 Cruz Llorada area – PP; Estelle; Steve "O"; Helen
Walk in 35°C heat, Steve "O" with bike!

(1932) (1) Elev 538m (GPS) 451042 : 4798562

Small shake hole on ridge line, brambles fill hole & small dry fence around – about 3m deep – mud floor – not descended, but does not look any good.

(2) 931 Location is wrong
near where it should have been is
(1933) :- 5031:9807 1m wide 6m long choked rift
some 4m deep – Pic in Helen's camera – does not look good

? Possible 931 true location :- 5029 : 9821 (alt 401m GPS)
rift 10m (ish) deep, poss way on in boulders – but did not descend into cave – No draught. – entrance capped with large slab & two boulders – Pic in Helen's camera.

(1934) 4995 : 9825 – Estelle's dig – Shake hole with

Hazel nut-tree – ~~all~~ walk down to 3m long 50cm wide rift – closes down – no draught. Pic in Hilary's Cave

Gave up walk due to sun + heat & went for swim at Riva.

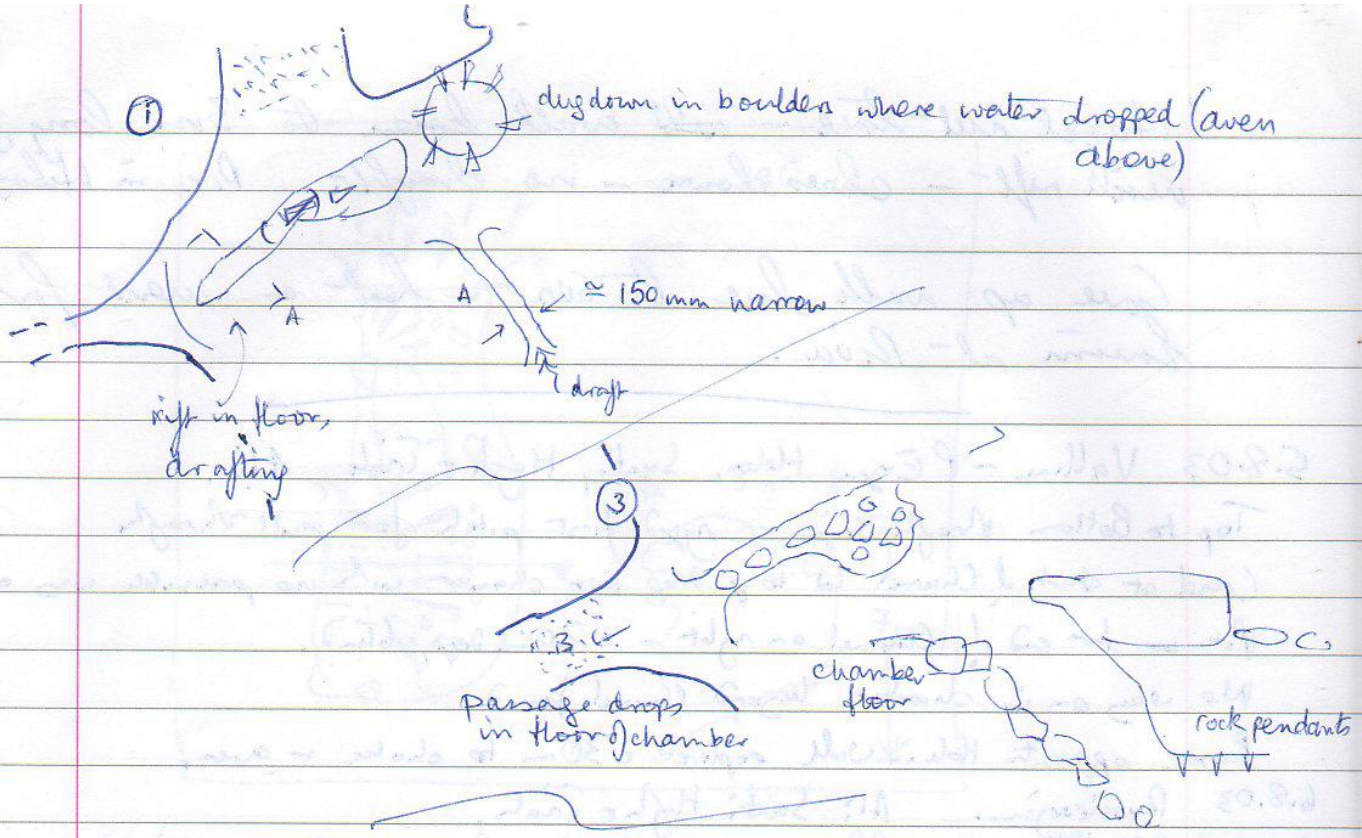
5.8.03 Valline – P Eryn, Helen, Santi, Hugh + Trish, Ali.
Top to Bottom through trip – rigged first pitch for pull-through
Crawl at start of Channel led to drop into chamber with no passable way on.
Pit at far end of Channel on right – c 20m deep, blind.
No way on in chamber beyond channel found.
Passage opposite Hole in wall explored c 30m to choke + aven.

6.8.03 Ruscieargin. Ali: Santi: Hugh + Trish.
Climb over wolf skeleton attempted, but rock v. dodgy so pan away.
Choke beyond wolf. Dig through – draft comes out through impossible choke in chamber beyond.
Centre-line survey of old part of cave.

5/8/03 Pete, Carolina, Jenny, Nigel, Andy Q. Valline to survey about 30m section beyond La Pita. Andy climbed up and laddered climb for rest of party. At end, climb up to right led into unsurveyed section. Surveyed out. No obvious way on. On way back, diverted through Sala Pin and surveyed section to include bottom of climb being bolted by Catalans in clean washed shaft.

7/8/03 DCC to 489. Tried to enlarge route to final chamber. Enlarged first part of squeeze but needed more battery to enlarge next squeeze. We will be back!

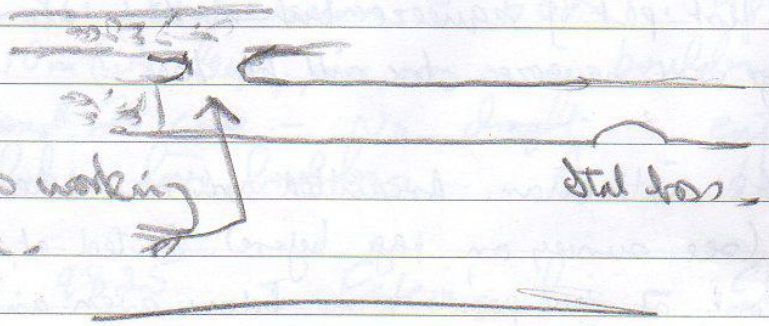
8/8/03 DCC to 681 with Juan. Assaulted various holes in main chamber (see survey on page before). Started at hole ① throwing boulders out at two points – one below aven and one in



(cont...) drafting rift. After throttching around for awhile, rift turned out to be no more than 150 mm wide although drafting. Potential to bypass tight bit by digging straight down. Moved on to number 3 which is more promising. Removed a lot of boulders and got into clean washed area with anastamosis roof. Potential of slope cleaned up to remove more boulders. Also dug at area 4 creating new crater in chamber where part-time stream descends. Loose roof. Potential for site:- reasonable - need rope and bucket plus spade. Also worth looking up sandy crawl 2 with a spade and tray.

8/8/03 Buava de los Belgales? #0042.
Hugh & Tricia to Alis' dig.

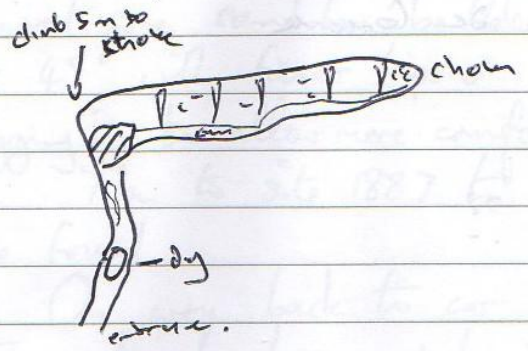
Way on?



Opened out working area here.

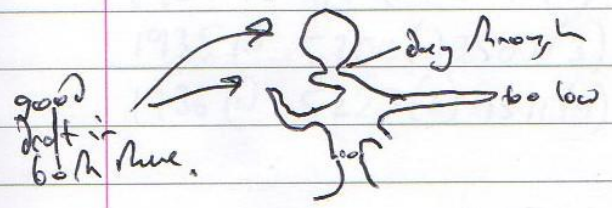
7/8/03 Cobaddah – Heski Phil Jan Pedo Steve O. Nidi.
Near Pepper Cave 1931 – dig into continuation, stream flowing out over sandstone floor, to stal choke

Surveyed + video



Heskie + Pete capped in sink.

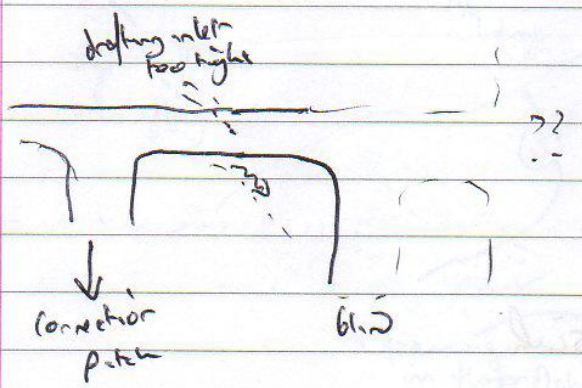
8/8/03 Valline – Heski, Santi, Al: (also with PP + Steve O" see below)
Chamber to right at junction of Clapham Bypass + Roads to Moni – ? on survey – squeeze thro' stal into chamber with a dig thro' stal into chamber with good draft



~~Beyo~~ Just after the Canyon – dig through stals to open + muddy drafting inlets which got too tight.
Heski went down hole beyond canyon – to surveyed passage + connection to Canyon.
Between the canyon + Road to Nowhere a 4m wide passage with howling draft followed to squeeze into Canyon peaked at several levels + continues tight.
Passage opposite Hole in wall surveyed.
c200m surveyed – much extend before.
8/8/03 Valline – PP + Steve O" went – much above + then on ~~to~~ to new passage (Albert's Passage) + ~~turnse~~ – took RHS + went – halfway ready for Pitch with Calabria – left 3 ropes + 10 spits in for Pitch

9/8/03 Pepe Noel Santi Ali Pete E Torben

~~Sam~~ Rigged Teamwork to connection pitch to Plaza de Concorde
Traverse over top led to blind 6m pitch traversed over to chamber
~~[illegible]~~ – presumed to be Plaza de Concorde



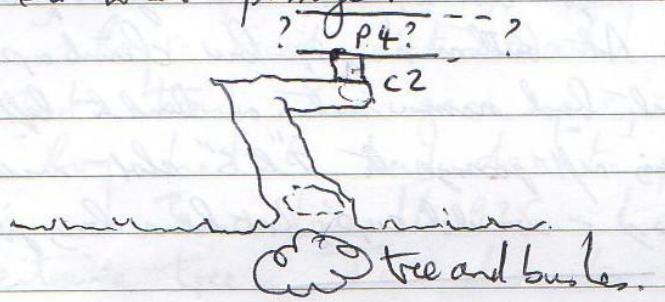
Pitch beyond sump-plate area from Easter dropped – ~~[illegible]~~ blind
↑ Long Straw Pot now Short Straw Pot (Torben)
good draught at pitch head may be from above.

9/8/03 Steve M. and Pete S. to dig in field up valley from Sima del Picón. Strong draught in. The entrance was widened and rubble removed from floor. It appears to continue down through boulders. About 3 m deep. Needs more work, possibly capping some boulders.

10/8/03 Juan + Penny park @ Codisera car park on TV Mast Track and contour round to dig @ site 1929. Removed some sandstone boulders in entrance but now digging at 45° with fingers tips or toes. Needs a trench digging in to allow more comfortable digging. Good cold draught.

Then to site 1887 to find more bits of pottery — none found.

On way back to car came accross cave entrance behind tree and bushes against 2m high limestone face. (site 1935) A 7m crawl turns right to meet a 2m climb down to the sloping head of a pitch ~ 4-5m? entering a 3 or 4m wide "passage".



1929 re GPS @ 5192(9)9512(1).
1935 @ 5204(1)9507(3)
1936 @ 5227(3)9511(9) — this is an unexplored depression surrounded by square barbed wire fence.

10/11/03 Phil P + Steve M to 051 Torcon de Beralta cave & pot not gone down since 1981 — trips to survey & check for any passage or possibility for further work with Hilti copes etc. V hot going up & had problem getting to entrance due to cows + two ~~bulls~~ bulls in way! Put in ponkalts to avoid boulders on first slope — bottom no go, small rift takes water, but is full of boulders & stones with no gaps of any depth, rift (inlet) followed for some 20m to 7 to 8" wide squeeze with

Draught into hill is away from you, showing it must go to bottom of hill - would cap, but at least a 1m would need to be taken off to a corner - may need a lot more!

Description:-

Hole is collapse into an old passage at top of cole at head of Codexera valley & slope down to TV mast on Basalta - cave must be cut off in both directions due to hill slope.

Slide down entrance slope to flat floor with choked cave to SW & slope to pitch to NE - our pitch is continuation of cave - not gone into, but must be cut off by hill v. soon. Traverse to south (Right) down boulder slope for 6m to two bolts (nuts in place) for 12m pitch to Big boulder a ledge - rope is hung on right to avoid any rock falls. Next pitch is free 25m shaft behind flake that gives protection from rock from above. At bottom no go, but climb up (or swing in) to right to south, at back narrow section on bend to left gives access to 20m of climbing right passage to 7" to 8" slot with draught away from you (summer) - would cap, but be a long job.

19/Aug/03 CARCAVESO - MS + AP

Went to look at the OVLOV Sump in case it had drained and was no longer a Sump. Water level had gone down and there was no flow from Sump so would be a good place to dam and bail; estimated time for bailing this with bucket leaving a 'dry' Sump. First Sump would take about ½ hour to bail but then this just leads to a right with a sandbank and the other Sump would have to be bailed. It's approx 4-5ft deep in current conditions

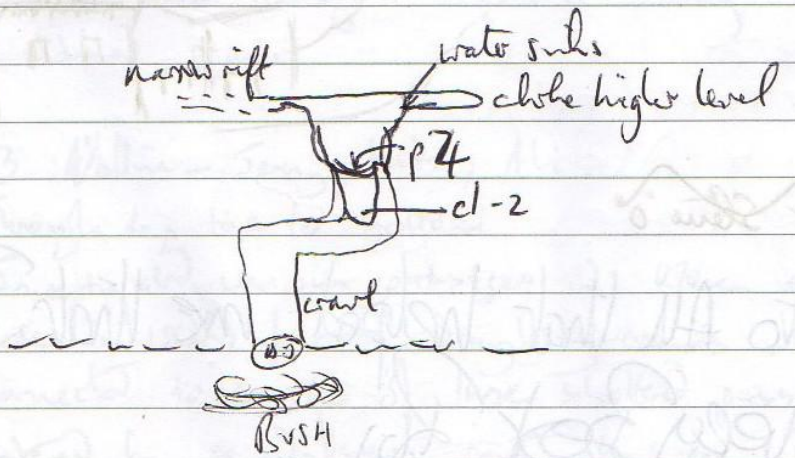
* Ladder in entrance to Western Series broke whilst climbing it. Therefore replaced it with similar ladder that we took in to the cave for Haymaker Series. Old one still attached however as karabiner has seized

8/Aug/03 – Hole in the Road – MS, AP, DJ

Went to explore in new passage at bottom of boulder collapse. Squeeze down under boulders to left at last survey point (Ø) leads to 45° rift ~~and~~ with hole down (unexplored). Over top leads to boulders leading eventually to crawl under solid walls with gravel bottom. Passageway then opens out and enters the reasonably big stream passage down a ramp. This is followed keeping to the left hand side into large passage. On right aven can be seen up mud slopes. Continuing cave ends at ~~end~~ large boulder collapse. Directly ~~under~~ above last survey station is an aven with water dripping down. Boulder collapse can be climbed up about 15m with small hole in ceiling with small draft between boulders. At stream level a squeeze gains a small chamber with stoi (2nd visit) giving view down to streamway.

11th Aug. Tony + Roy (DCC), Andy P + Juan up in Roy's Escort Estate towards site 1935 below the TV Mast track. Car gave up just above the vineyard and Roy had to back down to park.

3 continued to 1935. Ladder pitch & belayed to entrance tree. Juan down to find just enough to coax Tony down. Tony dug at bottom into squeeze through and choke. Daylight seen coming in probably from draughting hole 10m in limestone face.

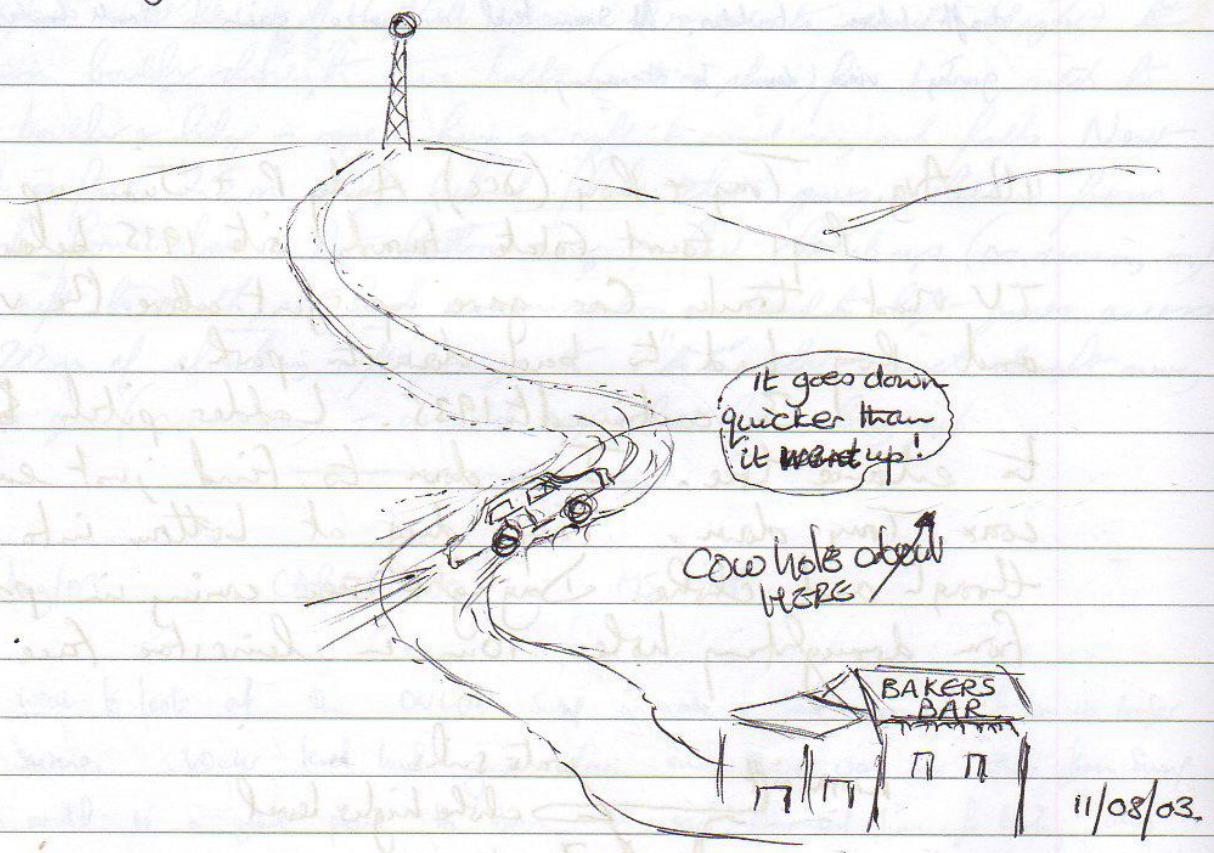


Surveyed + videoed

Then site 1937 @ 5225(5)9511(0). A vegetated depression has sandstone blocks and a limestone face. 3m deep. No draught

Site 1936 descended by Tony. Square 2.5m shaft to low passage 3m long and a possible dig.
Site 1915 eyeballed – a possible multi job. Sounds quite good below.

Back to car, left tackle and walked to Bakers where previous radio contact brought in transport and money for beers. Retrieved Roys car – a freewheel from the vineyard to the Baker's.



11/08/03.

11/8/03 PP + Steve "O"

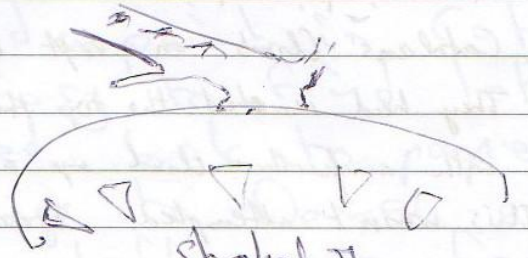
Thanks to All that helped me that Day.
All the very Best Roy.

29 April Bobby.
Walk on Enaso to search for site F from 17th/24th April still did not find it. Noted hole above 1595 needing digging.

August 10th Bobby + Ted.
Dug into hole noted from 29 April. Needs rope to remove rocks. Still could not find site F. Looked into 1603.

August 11th Bobby Ted + Alan.
① Removed rocks and got into cave. Draughts in along almost horizontal crawl with slope.

561 (top).



Shakehole

② Site F turned out to be a larger than usual surface collapse in an area full of them. Noticable because of obvious rocks covering up holes.

✓ ③ Cave 1861 entered. 2m drop to tight rift with flat floor ends in blank wall after 4m.

1940 ④ Cave in ridge of rock between lower end of 1880 and horse trough. 3-4m long with choked bedding plane.

'03.

10/8/03 Vallin – Jerry, Helen, Ali.
Through top top to bottom.
Investigated various passages in Mole nr Junction to Hole in Wall, found daylight crawls which eventually connected to series of large shafted passages apparently entered by a different route by the Jantosa.

10/8/03 Peter Torben Sam Li dropped ladder pitch to haymarket to look for climb, short to tight, opposite a second climb led to SQ + passage back to top of ladder pitch. PE

11/8/03 Vallina II Ali, Santi, Nigel Ritter.
To unsurveyed passage running south from W. side of First Abyss. 3-6 m wide 1-4 m high, v. well decorated, ending at choke - diggable, small draught, some skeletons (? bat or frog) near it. Tried to go back down via Thornton Force but in situ ropes are destroyed by flooding - anyone wanting to do this should take a 30 m rope which should allow a pull-through off existing rope & bolts. 10 hrs.
Ali.

Vallina I - Andreu, Pepe, Josep, Carol and Pete S.
Went to Catalans' Climb on left of main passage in D.D. pitch area. They had reached the top the day before. It slopes up steeply with a further climb up a wall of mud and boulders. This wasn't attempted. Straight on it goes to a narrow vadose passage. One tight bit was hammered out so Josep could get down to the stream, but it immediately got too small. Surveyed back.

11/8/03 Peter, Alex (Catalans) Torben, Louise Christinea
Rigged down to Plaza de la Concorde Danes started rigging tumbling dice Pitch reach 6 second drop, bolted ready for a return trip.
Peter + Alex looked for pitch down to Paper Plane. Rigged of crap and descended to Paper Plane, visited end and lost survey marker (Peter + Pedro 2000) First dig tootight second loose + no draught was started with re bar found near TU Mast barn. Several large boulders removed to reveal narrow slot with 5m drop, more digging

then it was possible for small caver to SQ down and follow wall through boulders to head of climb, further boulders and a second climb down into passage, which proved to be Cotero. Returned to Alex who returned for survey kit at Pitch, more digging and breaking of rock it was possible for Alex to get through SQ. found a point in Cotero which would be easy to find left a marker and surveyed back to paper plane. Caught up to Dave on Pde la Con pitch and left cave feeling very pleased.

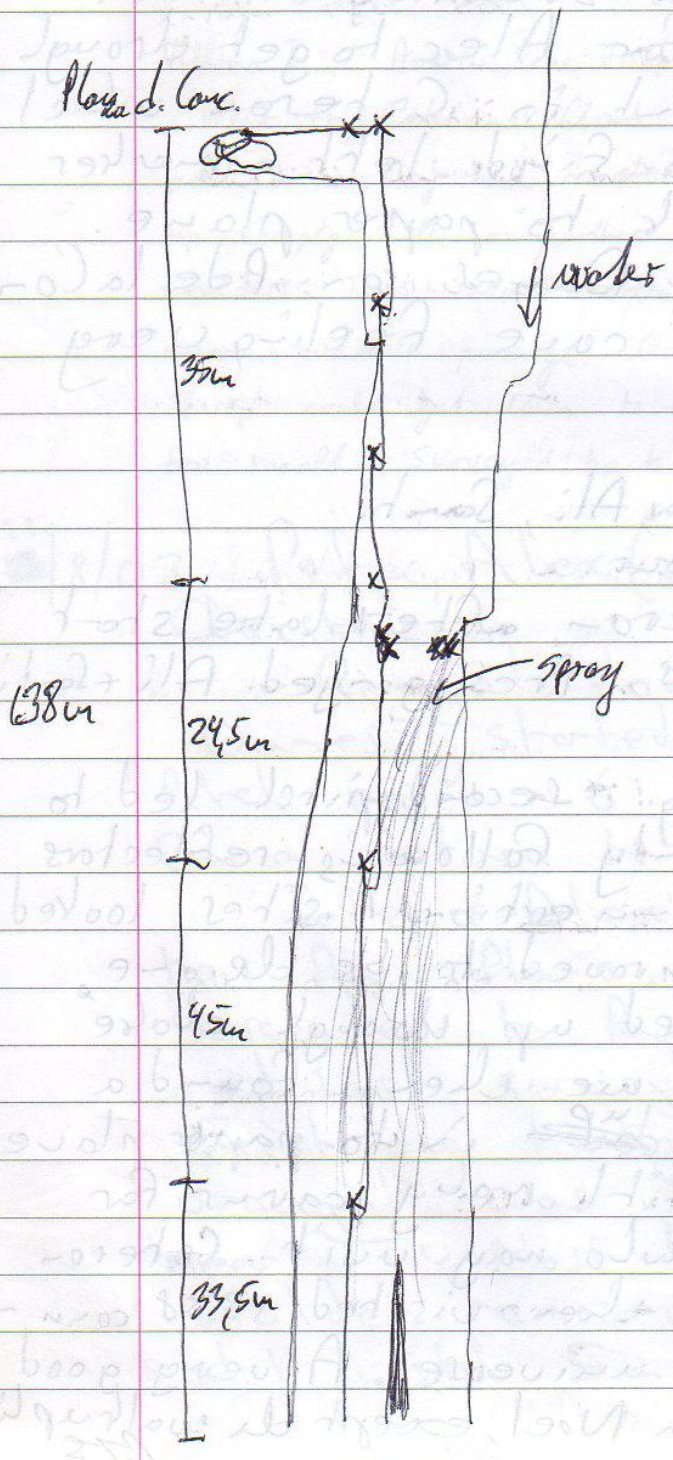
13/12/03 Peter, Pedro, Ali, Santi
Connection Tour.

Descended Cotero after late start looking for cavers. Pres ganged Ali + Santi into action.

Easy walking + second pitch led to Renada arm, mainly following reflectors two possible connections sites looked at second one proved to be the one. All cavers climbed up through choke into Papa Noel, we then found a by pass to pitch ~~down~~ up in to paper plane. By pass marked with many cairns for ~~Sam~~ ~~for~~ Dave who may visit Cotero via Papa Noel. We then visited 1338 connection near edge of universe. A very good trip easy way to Papa Noel, except the walk up hill

13/8/03 Vallin – Ali, Hugh + Trish
Back to Shelter Passage entered 0–10 – surveyed another ~200m
Various drafting crawls in chamber part way along not previously entered – need to return.

14/8/03 Papa Noel – Kristine, Louise, Tosten
Trip start 13/8 and end 14/8. Made connection from Papa Noel (Tumbling Dice, 138m pitch) to Renada.



The bottom was as described by Phil Papard and we found survey station put by PP + Pedro, 27/12/01 in a chamber/junction. Went through the small hole that leads into Renada.

12/8/03 DCC + PP, Kev, Bob + Jean & Steve "O" 4.89

Took snappers up to DCC dig. V. hot – Kev, Bob + Jean still tired after 28hr drive from Doncaster – I told them dig was new road! used 3 Snappers but rock broke ~~below~~ down to void, tried caps but after miss-fire used one more Snapper – on next trip DCC reported this had split the main calcite boss to allow progress.

13.8.03 Bobby, Ted, Lloyd, Alan

N Vega : 1 Site 1235 GPS 51558 96418

(2) Entrance to Rascaviéja + 1271

(3) Entered 354 ? GPS : 52029 96423

Found a miserable 5" slot on way down hill.

14.8.03 Bobby Ted Alan . S. Vega

A GPS 51899 95177 Two entrances to

B GPS 51908 95178 same cave which

✓ matches description of 781

C Overgrown fenced shaft with trees GPS 51844 95157

Seems to be 40' shaft + boulders continue to

roll down slope.

D Fenced shaft below, also with tree

not as deep.

CD may be 777/778 — Grid refs do not

match

✓ Note GR for 779 is way off map !

Below D : E/FG. E = shaft in clints 1942

1943 F/G two shafts in clints, two adjacent rectangular

1944 fences (with no trees apart from a small ash.

E 51847 95190 FG within 5-10 metres.

H visited cave 179 51810 95201

I On way back in fork in track just

before barn. Hole ? 52262 95107

✓ At barn (1379) There is more than one hole.

15.8.03 Bobby + Ted. found 776 — GR 52015 95352 Bobby

(1) 1942 3m deep

(2) 1943 4m deep to 5m tight rift

(3) 1944 3m deep

(4) 1513 descended. 9m deep shaft choked with over to shakehole

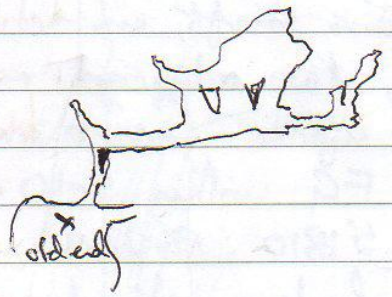
(Ref 2000c summer log : An unexplored area of fenced off entrances.)

Arenal — 12/8/03 Tim Allen / Pete Hall.

Dug at end of higher passage across from Foam Dome. Up 45° bedding angle Then along strike following good draught from small fist sized hole. After 7m could see up into hading chamber. Broke through stal raft and although quite big no real way out could be found. Small hole in stal draughted and could see into space. Big Nose turned up just in time to exit-again.

13/8/03

Same team returned hammered into space and Pete pushed up calcited boulders for 20' with no real prospects. Surveyed 50m and abandoned the site.



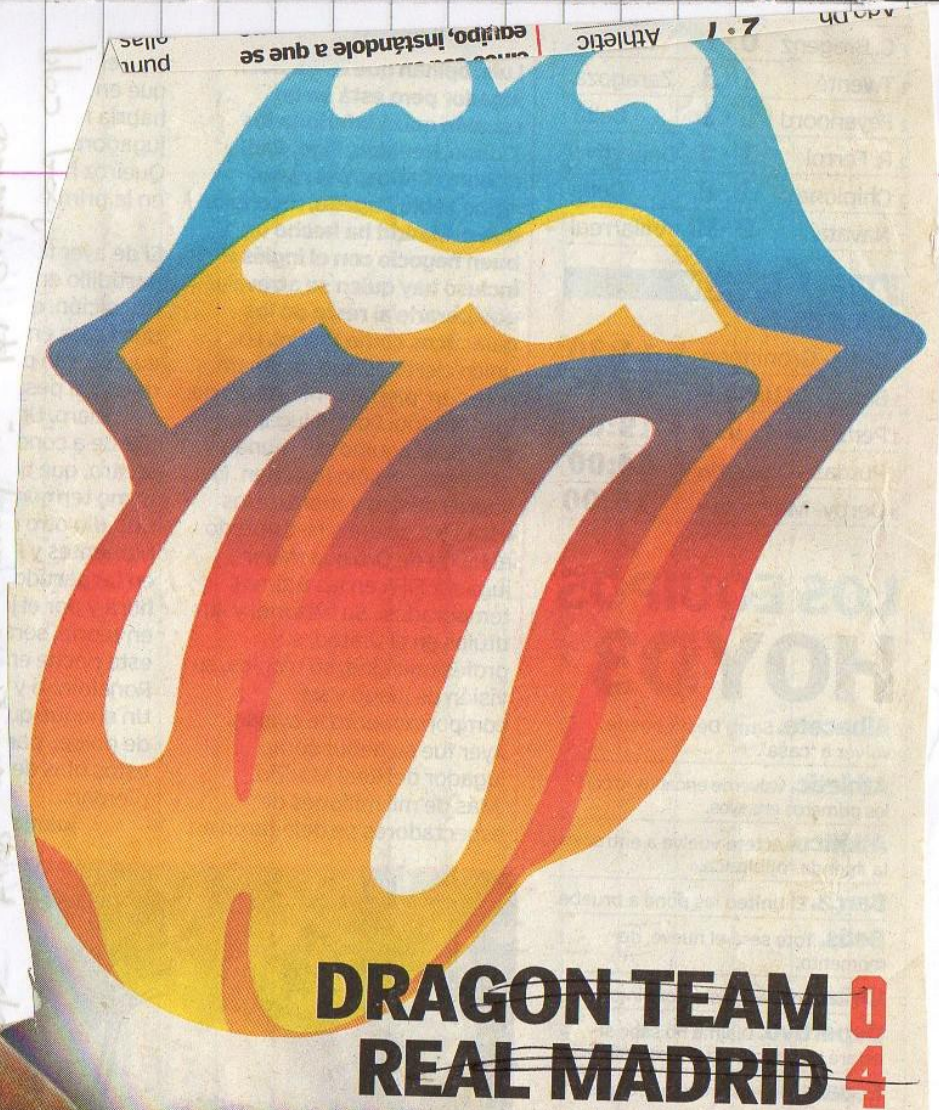
14/08/03. Billy, Lenny, Nigel, Chris, Roy & Tony : 489.

Following several days of 'blasting' & hard work, entrance made into large chamber. Approx. 15 m in length, at far end a bank leading upwards into a crawl. Through crawl — into a second chamber. Decorated with stals, etc. also hole in left side of floor with what looks to be a 10 foot drop blocked at but not checked out in any detail. However, main way on at present seems to be more likely from a draughting hole in the right hand side of the floor in the first chamber.

1941

PTO for story of --

I cant get no --



DRAGON TEAM 0
REAL MADRID 4

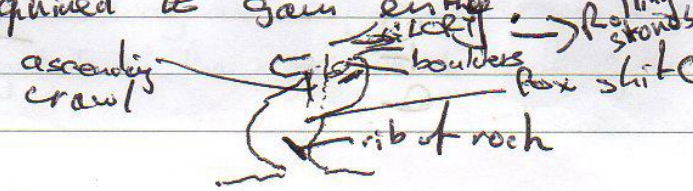
SATISFACTION

Wednesday 13TH/8/03 (1941)

Mr Pringle was contracted for a day of "wife sitting." The first clients, Mrs Allen + Mrs Palmer enjoy a guided walk from the call at Enaso to Smoothy's Bar where drinks + lollies were consumed. Walking back down the road the next customer were encounted. Mrs Chilton was booked into a quick trip in to 1289 "little cave".

With a satisfaction rating of 5 stars, from Mrs Allen + Mrs Palmer, Mr Pringle set off to 1289. Entering into the 'good' wife sitter inside must have gone to his head as 1289 was missed. However another drafting hole was seen. This had a good cold draft with tree roots + mud in the entrance, indicating that it had not been entered. After a quick trip in 1289, the new site was visited again. This took Mrs Chilton's satisfaction rating was 5 gold stars. A return was planned.

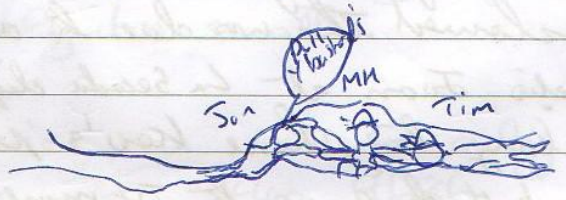
Thursday 14TH/8/03 Toby Jane C Jane A Juan Andy P Returned to site 1941 found yesterday. Removed mud bank + tree roots from entrance to allow Toby sized person, ie Toby into small chamber. A rock ridge was then modified to allow Juan Jane C + Andy in. An ascending crawl was dug following the draft. From the top of this a passage/chamber could be seen. However copping would be required to gain entry.



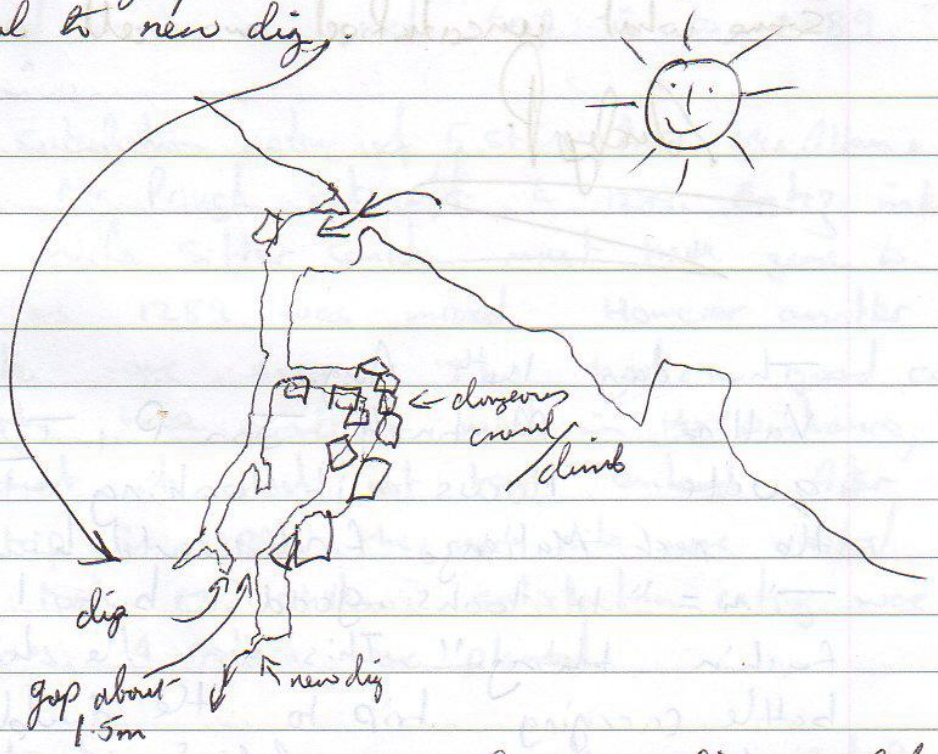
Friday 15th/8/03 Same crew as yesterday + Tim A as capping sub contractor. Tim soon capped out enough to allow everyone into passage soon yesterday. A hand line was used to get down into 40 metres of Satisfaction Passage. At the end of this a dig in mud between boulder lead to a continuation with more nice stuff. This ended in boulders which gave us all the Blues as there was no way on. Some what unsatisfied we all went to the pub.

Andy P.

Thursday 14th August
Valline Martin H, Jon P, Tim A
quote "Hows it looking Tim ??? " as the next Matienzo find would have Tim's name on it.
Tim = " It looks good but I can't see a fuckin thing " This was the highlight of a bottle carrying trip to the double dutch pitch with a diversion to Pete Smith's extensions from November 2002. A steeply descending tube ended at a low calcite squeeze which was dug out over 2 hrs using 'natural HANDS digging tools. Jon + Martin endured lacerations to the torso in following Tim through into a stal, helactite decorated passage which ~~looked~~ joined back to previously explored cave. Fun whilst it lasted.
M.H.



13/8/03 — 1391 (Volcano) — PP; KEV; Bob Making; Jean
After a late start - due to drink & needing oil for Kev's motor we took gear incl gen set up new track to 1391 — KEV not happy with taking his new motor up it only looking like a 4 wheel off road motor, when it was designed for school runs & Tesco car park - telling him I took my hire car up most of it did not seem to help! Several bangs later we got all gear to site & started dig from old bottom to by-pass the dangerous crawl to new dig.



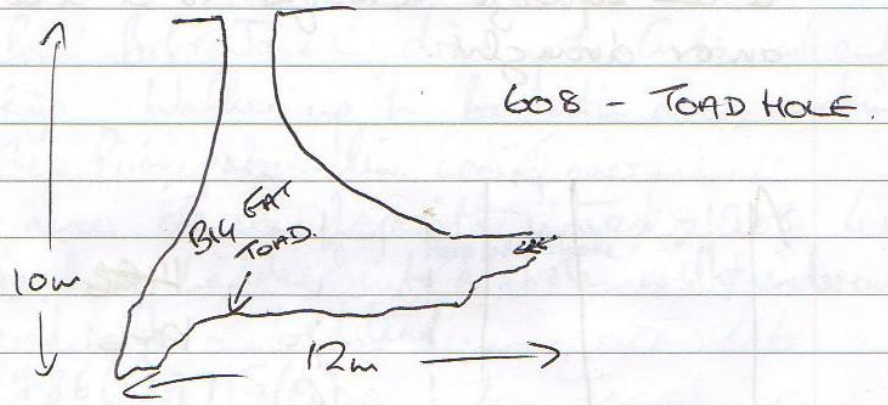
Went well using snappers, but we did not take rope & bucket so digging was slowed up. Very good inward draft - pulling grass into entrance!

15/8/03 — 1391 (volcano) Jean, P.P. Kev; Bob - Helping in support
Continue with dig — Gen Set would not give power, examination showed this was due to a blown capacitor, managed to radio Joan at La Secade dig (over 3K away!) & he got Helen to phone Kev's phone & we got her to bring batt drill up to TV most track - did try

to get Helen to get a capuchin out of a tight filling. but ~~then~~ they were not accessible. Using 9 snappers a lot of rock was removed & lost 3 seemed to have broken down to space below, poss the new dig "over". Left - come for next trip/dig when the NPC team are here!

16/8/03 DCC to 608 and other bits.

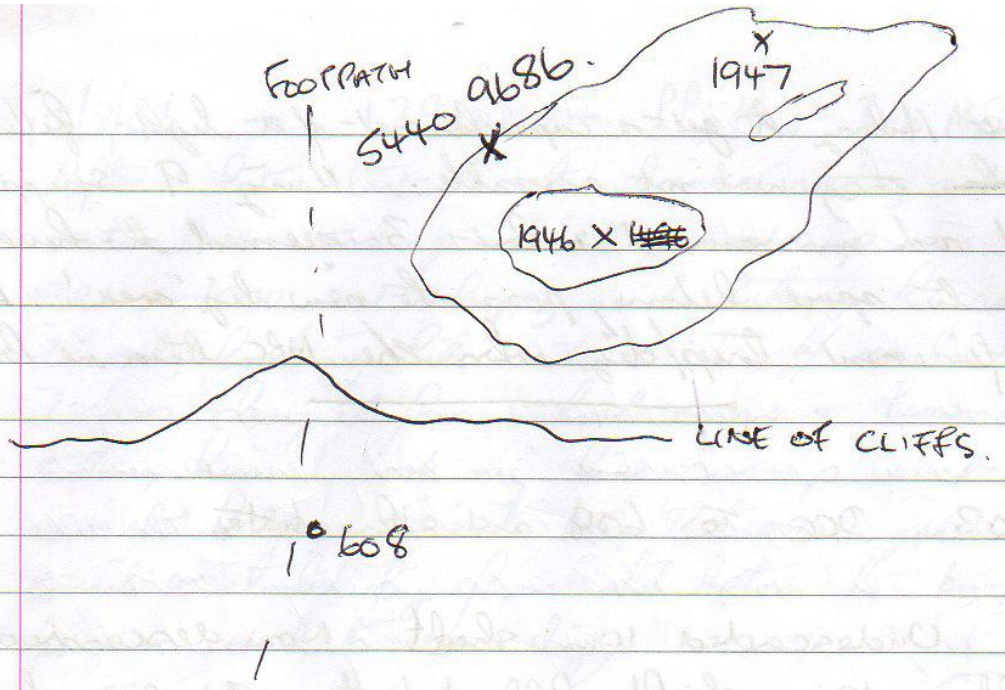
608. Undescaded 10m shaft. Now descended. Still a 10m shaft, fill at bottom. No sign of draught but a bad day to check.



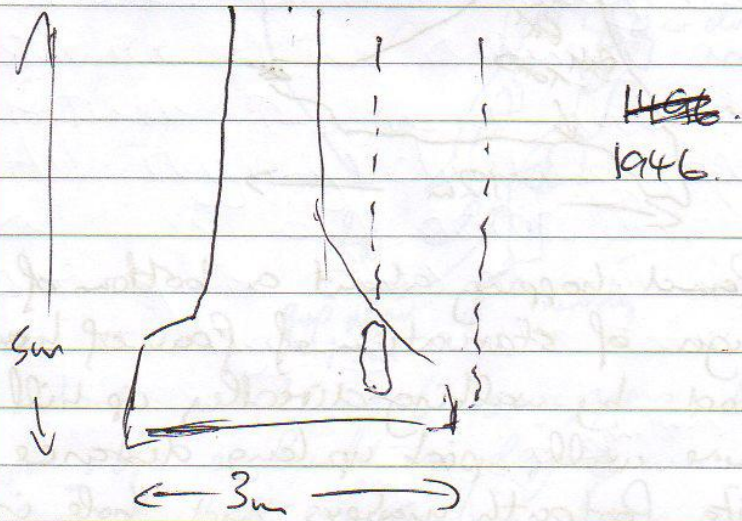
Large toad found hopping about a bottom of pitch showing no sign of starvation of food of humans. Best approached by walking directly up hill from end of enclosure wall, pick up long distance red and white footpath markers and hole is on the path. GPS co-ords ok.

1946. Just uphill from 608 is large shakehole to right of path, containing several shafts and holes, mostly too small.

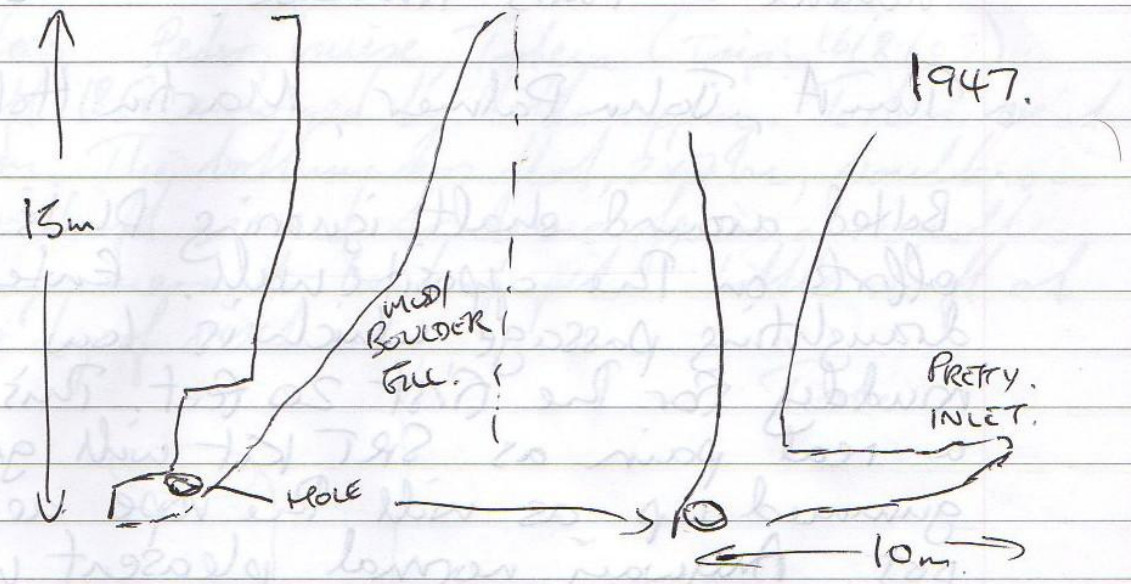
GPS batteries ran out so only one ~~co-ordinate~~ bearing was taken. - 5440 9686



1946 is a shaft near bottom of hole. 5m deep with a ~~[illegible]~~ squeeze through to a second shaft. No way on or through.



1947 is higher in the same shakehole a large obvious shaft with fill. Possible dig in floor of mud and boulders was enlarged and needs visiting on a draughting day with a big bar.



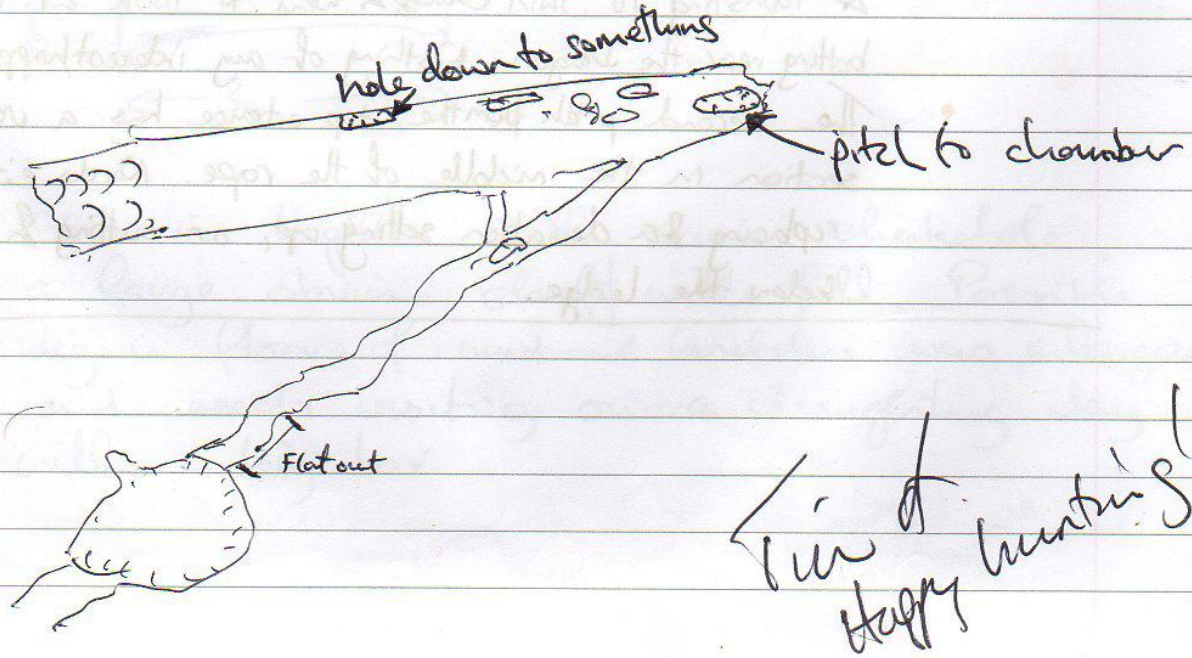
17/8/03. Jran, Penny, Bob + Jane C drive up to Cubin at end of Cubiga. Walked up to Bosmartin area, reaching the col with the Picón power line coming over.
Came across one site of possible interest - 1948 4m ~~shaft~~ drop needs a ladder into a steep sided shaft hole with undercut. Presently covered with a bedstead.
4986(5)9715(9)

15/8/03 Jenny C, Carol, Nigel, Roy & Tony to Vallina for through trip & touristing to Swirl Chamber. Went to look at Catalan's bolting near the Dragon. Nothing of any interest happened.
The second pitch from the top entrance has a very worn section in the middle of the rope. Needs either replacing & a deviation setting up, or cutting & a rebelay below the ledge.

Valline – "Phil's traverse". 16th Aug.

Tim A, John Palmer, Martin Holroyd.

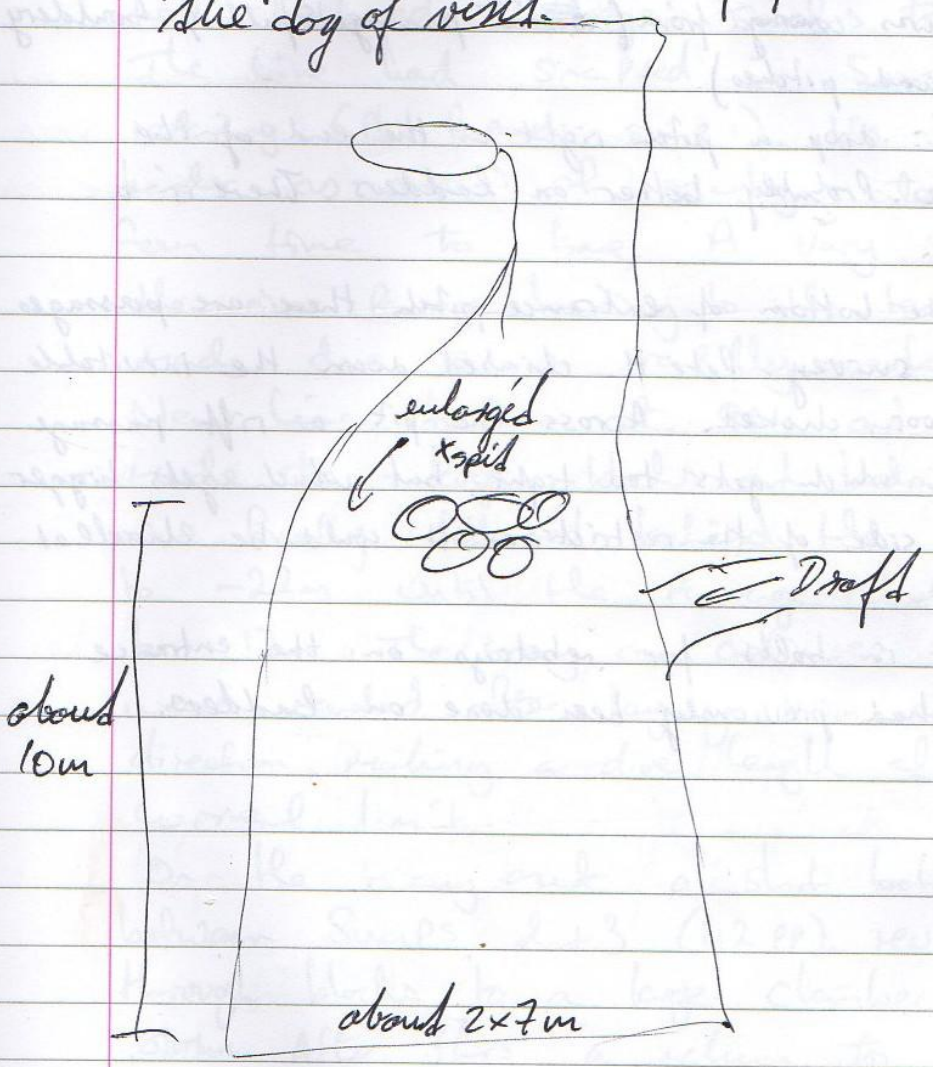
Bolted around shaft ignoring Phil's fine efforts on the opposite wall. Entered draughting passage which is low and muddy for the first 20 feet. This will be a real pain as SRT kit will get very gummed up as will the rope across the pot. Anyway normal pleasant walking passage resumed for 40m to a junction with a much larger passage. Right soon ends with a pitch down into a chamber (undescended). Left goes 50m to total choke. Didn't really check for the source of the draught as planned to return the next day never happened. All rigging/climbing ropes derigged leaving a long loop across the pitch. There are spare tails at either end so a bit of re-rigging could save a lot of rope.



Happy hunting!

16/8/03 Pedro, Louise, Torben (Trip: 16/8/03)
Shaft 1817 enlarged by Hilti-capping. Torben went down. The bottom was flat, 2x7m, boulders. The draft seemed to come from a small passage near to head of pitch. Little draft at the day of visit.

Torben



18/8/03 Emigin, Ben, David (3x SUSS), Louise, Torben
1471 Papa Noel. Descended 20m pitch at The Rodeo. Bolts in a big flat block next to a crack one ~~metre~~ rebelay after slab. New shaft about 10m deep in the northern side of the bottom is undescended. Cave designed. Comment + drawing in "Matiero Underground"

Torben

15/8/03 Mega Moll - Torben, Peter Hall, Pete S.

Trip to re-check this cave explored 20 years ago, and descend pitches undescended then. Torben free-climbed a p10? on the left of the western passage, that was blind. The draught seemed to be coming out of eastern passage, Peter Hall had a good look round but couldn't find where it was coming from (the passage is full of bouldery rifts, aivens and pitches).

Still to do: drop a pitch right at the end of the western passage. Probably better on ladders. There is a slight echo.

Right at the bottom of entrance pitch there are passages not shown on survey. Pete H. climbed down the inevitable pit in the floor, choked. Across the pit a rift passage can be entered which gets too tight, but which gets bigger on the other side of the restriction. It could be chiselled out.

Torben put in bolts for rebelays on the entrance pitch, as it had previously been done on ladders.

15/8/03 Valline Downstream Sump
Martin Holroyd. John Palmer.
John offered sherpa services and to wait at Sump. B.i.b. kit was thrown on to the never ending pile of kit. A steady trip took us to the downstream sump, grateful of the Catalans who had lumbered 3' large' sacks to the sump. The line had snapped in Sump 2 and needed repairing (Phil Papards sump 1). Vis could have been kinder as areas of murky water ~~[illegible]~~ was entered from time to time, A very steady traverse of the river passage leading to the terminal sump was made due to a rapidly overheating/overloaded diver. New line tied on at 90m and a steep descent made to large blocks and below, the way on was finally followed behind the blocks down to -22m until the passage started to rise gradually to -17m, The way on continues the same. 1/3rd weare needed after laying 110m of line in a westward direction making a dive length of 200m to the current limit.
On the way out a short look at the choke between Sumps 2 + 3 (1+2 PP). revealed an easy walk through blocks to a large chamber with no way on. ~~John~~ After 3hrs a return to base was made. John added brewing up to the long list of debt re-payments. Efficiently fed and watered we crammed all the gear into ~~5~~ 5 loads and made it all the way back to the top of double dutch Pitch. A line reel for line repairs was left in the choke leading to Valline 2 for future use.

7
16/8/03 Valline
Martin Holroyd, John & Geraldine Palmer
Still eager to carry John was joined by Geraldine to help carry out the gear. The pile grew again as SRT kits from the previous day needed to be brought out. Tim's fast one there ensured our afternoon would be no picnic. An efficient team however, soon had all the ~~tut~~ kit deposited in the car in time for beer.

18.8.03 Enaso
Bobby Lloyd + Evie West
877
① Hole to right of tract 100 m short of 1603 (looked at 1603 for map clues)
② Assorted shakeholes in field below 1603 (Scene of goat rescue in 1990)
Two/3 have a respectable noisy rattle to a stone
③ Just below field + overlooking Torcon a hole at the base of a tiny cliff opens into a 20-30' deep hole of respectable size.
Bobby

17/8/03 Muela
Brendan + Jenny, Steve + Tim
Brendon + Jenny walked to entrance to 116, then went prospecting. A few good sites found
D02 - hole under small face in shakehole; stones drop, + roll under (R) side looking at face
1449 D03 - beaning on top of shaft with pine tree in. Climb down into shakehole, enter

passage. Pass under shaft, under arch, then crawl continues. Approx 4ft high, 2ft across. Weening shoulders so decided to be soft and back off.

1954 D04 - 1-2 s drop, + rolling for 5-6 s
Tightish entrance, but persuasion by hammer would ease passage in. Looks to widen below surface

D05 - Large open entrance 5m x 15m. ? going off towards 116, but can't see properly from surface, + steep walls ≈ 15-20m deep
? 805 or 159

116 Steve + Tim: Rigged down int p. Climbed mud slope at foot. Numerous shafts at bottom. No footprints near big (2s + drop) hole at top

18/8/03 Bretislav S., Steve S., Tim W., Ben S. 116
Re-rigged shaft with rebolting (at end of 70m rope). TW + BeS. started survey. BeS dropped shaft nearest en ~3 5m, spits check in. Too dangerous to shaft rub point + LOTS of chess / big perched rocks) to drop final 5m. Appears to be small descending tube at foot, choked after ~3 m, heading E from foot of pitch.

18/8/03 Louise, Torben
Had a look at 1896, 1897, 1900 No progress.

18/8/03 Juan, Martin, Jane C, Dave + Jen (SUSS).
Photo/video trip in Picón to the helicitites at the end.

19/8/03 Jenny, Jenny, Hugh, Ben, Brendan, Trish, Louise, Torben
264 Coleson

Went to the choke leading into Papa Noel (Plaza de Concorde). Entrance + Slab/p13 ~~left~~ left rigged. Bag with 45m rope (Belcher slab) + 30m rope for pushing Papa Noel, left before connection.
3 bangers, 2 krabs and 1 sling also left. Bring rope-protector for Belchers Slab.

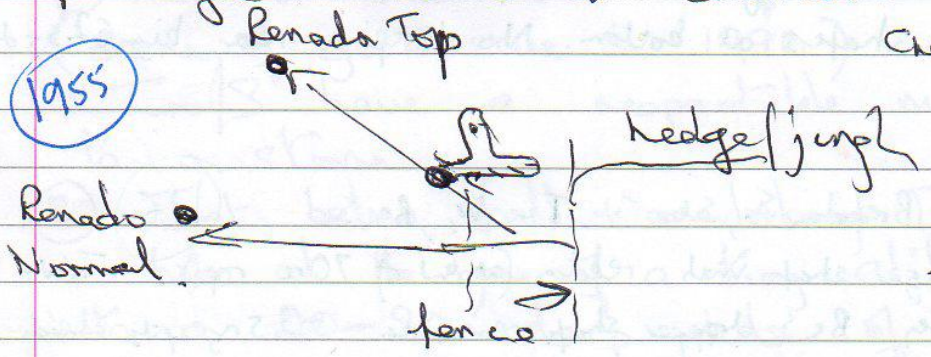
Torben

19/8/03 Checking previous records: Ali / D Jean / Bob + several
5.8.94 On return from Renada came out via top old entrance. Noted hole which was dug into. A further dig yielded a side passage. Two small chambers with old stal

l=6

Check ref to 384.

1955



Bobby

19.8.03
Bobby, Lloyd, Ivan and Penny.
Earnesto: 7 sites from 18th

1. Cave near track matches description for 877 but not grid ref.
2. 1950 4m wide cave.
3. 1951 hole in shake-hole slope to a dig
4. 1952 Small shaft in shake hole
5. 1953 1m² entrance under cliff into 10m flared shaft

Lloyd

19·8·03. Tim Webber / Imogen Farley / Steve Jones + David Harley.
Cueva del Agua
Fun, wet trip. lots of life in cave. Saw two dragonflys one large (8cm) yellow + black tipped about 0.8 Km in, another smaller green/blue dragonfly. Also spiders. Took photos.

20·8·03 Tim Imogen Jenny
1569 Phreatic tube Dig.
Prediction of easy digging was correct. Passage dug in soft sand and loose rock in floor. Small chamber
Continuation visable in same direction
4m @ 80° - level
2m @ 120° - flat then up
Continuation 2m 90° continuation visable
2 or 3 more in 90°.

20·8·03 Tim, Imogen, Jenny
1581 Dig.

Boulder filled rift some 1.5m wide Extending back up the hill 230° on same alignment 15-20m uphill is another choked shaft - not cold.
Looking down between boulders reveals another rock hole about 2m of rubble down. Cold.
Blocks too large for us to move today.

20/8/03 Brendon, Steve, Dave
Trip to try to locate 324, and visit 845, with some prospecting thrown in for good measure.
324 - reached GPS location, and searched hillside thoroughly. It does not exist at this location. No sign of anything matching this description near this reference. We never

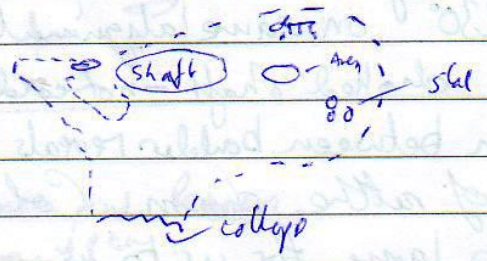
reached 845

Sites found

A ≡ 1573? - Pit under tree in shakehole
4m choked shaft, ≈ 1 × 2 m, no ~~draft~~ draught
2x photos

B 1956 - 3x shaft tops, along rift with tree at top
1st dropped for ~ 5m to ledge, and window
to 2nd shaft, again 5m. Small ledge,
4 m final shaft leading to mud + rock floor
~ 14 m deep in total, 6m long
Probably extended rift. Photos x 2

C ≡ 1578?. - Obvious 4m shaft by tree. Dropped to
chamber 10 m long by 5m wide. Formation
in roof, + aven to surface. Sheep skeleton
metal + plastic found. Off to right from
base of shaft leads to choked collapse,
with way to (R) leading to rift with daylight
to side and from above Photos



D 1957 Undescended choked 5m shaft - seen all
the way to bottom

E 1958? Undescended 2 m shaft - choked

F 1959 Dig. In bottom of shakehole, DRAUGHT
increased on digging. All in boulders, ? 1 solid

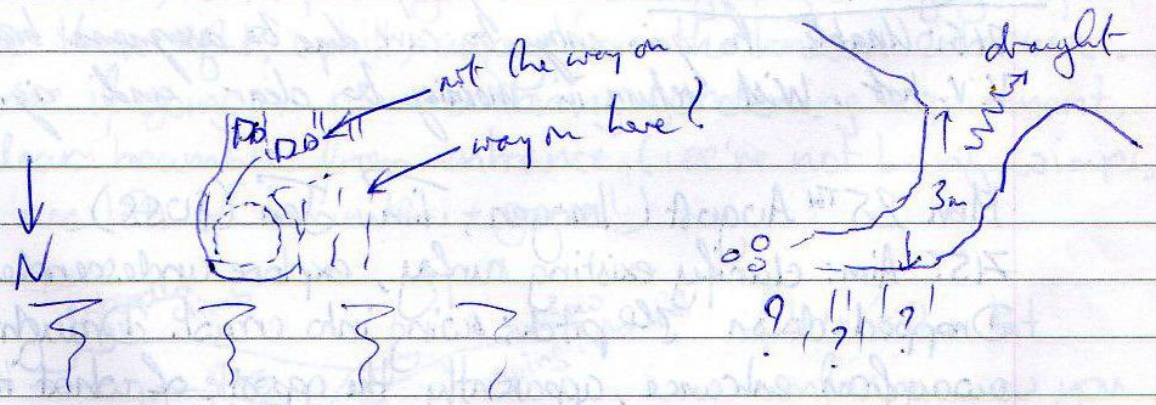
wall. Draught flowing outwards. Photos

19/8/03 Vallina - November Passage - Andy Q, Pete S.

Photographing trip, to see formations near end of this passage. Previous advice about taking boots off is now useless as the calcite floor has broken through and the second chamber now involves trampling through soft mud. The formations have been taped off and it's probably best to stop there. In any case they are good but not among the best in Matienzo. Most curious feature: the "insect trails" in the floor.

Friday 22nd August.

Pete, Joan + Penny to draughting dig below TV Mast track, site 1929. Dig down to where Pete could squeeze through into a place which wasn't the way on. Way on possibly seen. Needs a return trip with hammer + chisel, and something to cover the shaft with



Saturday 23rd August

Joan + Terry up to Torca de Beralla over to find Terry's lost shaft from 2001. Eventually found it with a few ~~stones~~ rocks at one side rather than a full wall. Ladders didn't reach bottom so estimate about

20m. (Site 1698).

On way down Terry pointed out site 1960 @ VN5196(5)9439(9) Hole at base of 3m face in steep shakehole. Squeeze ~~the~~ down slope into small chamber.

Then down to dig (1929) where Pete found us collecting fence posts for the cover.

Farmer had thrown all the stones into the hole since yesterday, so first job was to reinstate the dig. The view under the right hand wall was enlarged. Possibly bigger behind large blocks / low roof. Needs capping.

Hole now capped with fence posts and rocks and is at least Terry-proof.

Sat ~~Friday~~ 23rd August SUSS - Jen, Imogen, Ben

Trip to Ceava Comalosa. To the lake and out.

~~[illegible]~~

Sun 24th August Imogen / Tim Suss

715: Unable to gain entry to cave due to overgrown brambles V. V. hot. Will return in morning to clear and rig.

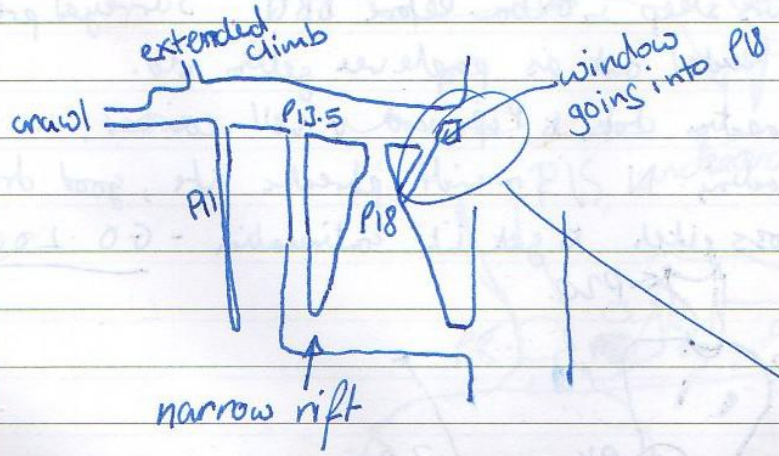
Mon 25TH August: Imogen, Tim, Jen (SUSS)

715: Aim: clarify existing survey, explore undescended pitch(es). Dropped down 3RD pitch; swing into crawl. Draught going away from entrance, apparently the opposite of what it was doing at Easter. Crawl through. Immediately above + behind you now, bolted climb, extended by 1 bolt, progress halted for now by unsound rock. Facing back towards entrance at top of this climb, inaccessible inlet passage on left, more rift going up + right. Back down + continues into cave, ~~traverser~~ traverse over already dropped P11. Traverse over next pit, dropped to a depth of 13.5m. Rocks thrown forwards into extension tight rift:

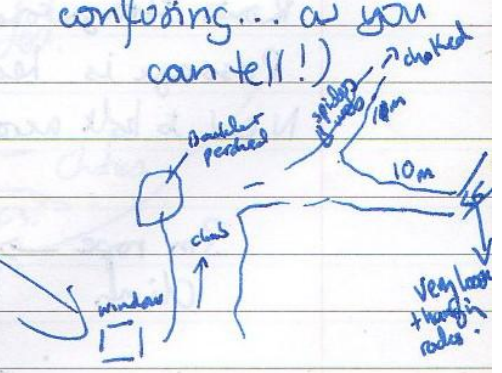
produced a rattle sound coming up next pitch, P18. By dropping 1 person down this next P18, another traversed over the top of P18 to small window, low, on left which had questions about what it opened into. Rocks dropped down this window, were actually seen to whistle past the poor sap who was hang down P18, for some bizarre reason, actually asking to have rocks thrown down on him!

Climb up above window in the passage to a large precariously perched block. Cross cut passage, followed on the right-hand side. Branches after 3m, right hand branch at approximately 90° to the passage that traverses the pits, rises and after 10m, terminates in a small chamber on the rather scary underside of a boulder ~~chock~~ choke. Left hand passage, trends off at about 45° to the traversing passage. Small amount of digging produced some 11m of tight virgin passage (phnarr!) ending requiring a bit of hammering to progress the visible 3-4m. This passage contains some small spiderwebs, both passages were draughting strongly, left more than right, uphill, away from the known entrance.

* Advise if going in summer bring gardening equipment, to clear brambles from entrance (we're not being wimps, there are lots of brambles + gorse!)

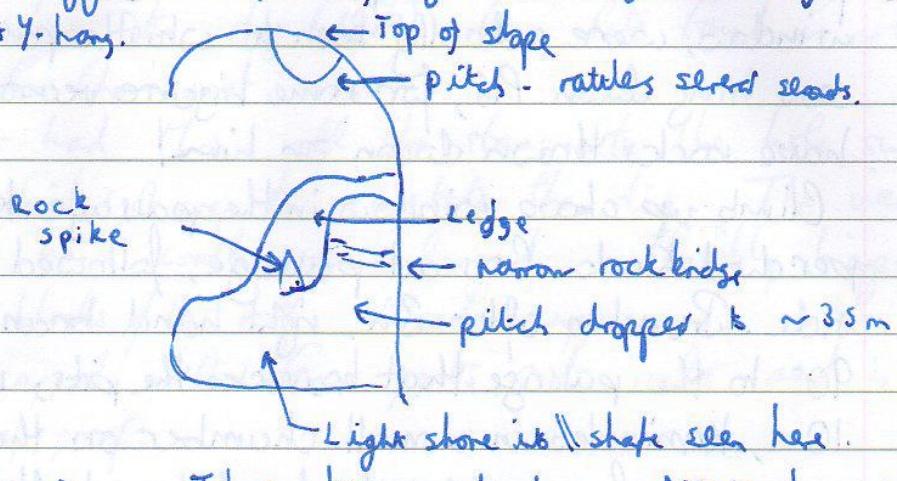


(It's still a bit confusing... as you can tell!)



Fri 22/8/03 (116) Tim, Brendan, Dave, Steve (SUSS)

Finished survey. Dropped 'big' shaft on right near top of mud slope - p-35 to very small tube at foot, and windows into \\ shaft which appears to be deeper. Rigging: 2 spits off edge onto ledge. Along ledge to spike belay + Y-hang.



Come out, de-rigged. Threw big rock down. Never have to go back up the hill. Yay. Steve

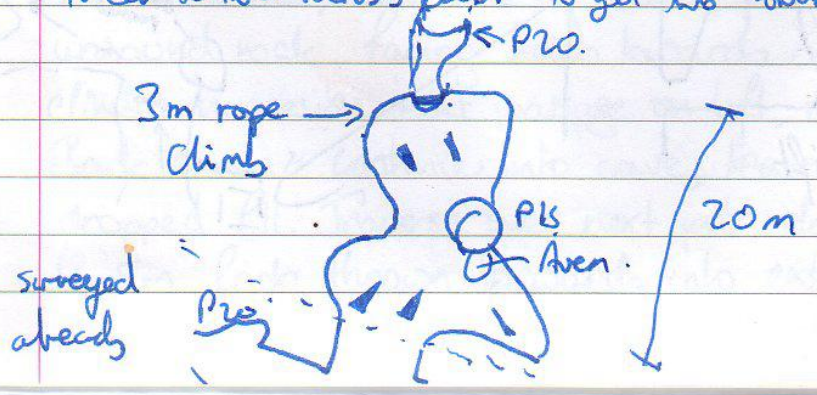
Sun-Mon 24-25/8/03 1471

Into Plaza de la Concorde from Coceron. Bob + Brendan dropped pitch at Rodeo - see below. Steve + Dave continued to major junction on R. at end of BBQ @ Sameepan Street. Found spits (didn't see logbook.....) + regained continuation previously found (unsurveyed) in Easter '01. Re-rigged climb up, investigated pitch down (out of rope)

Took a few hours sleep in oxbow before BBQ. Surveyed previously found passage + headed out as people were getting cold.

Route through connection doline to Lapa rock v well coined.

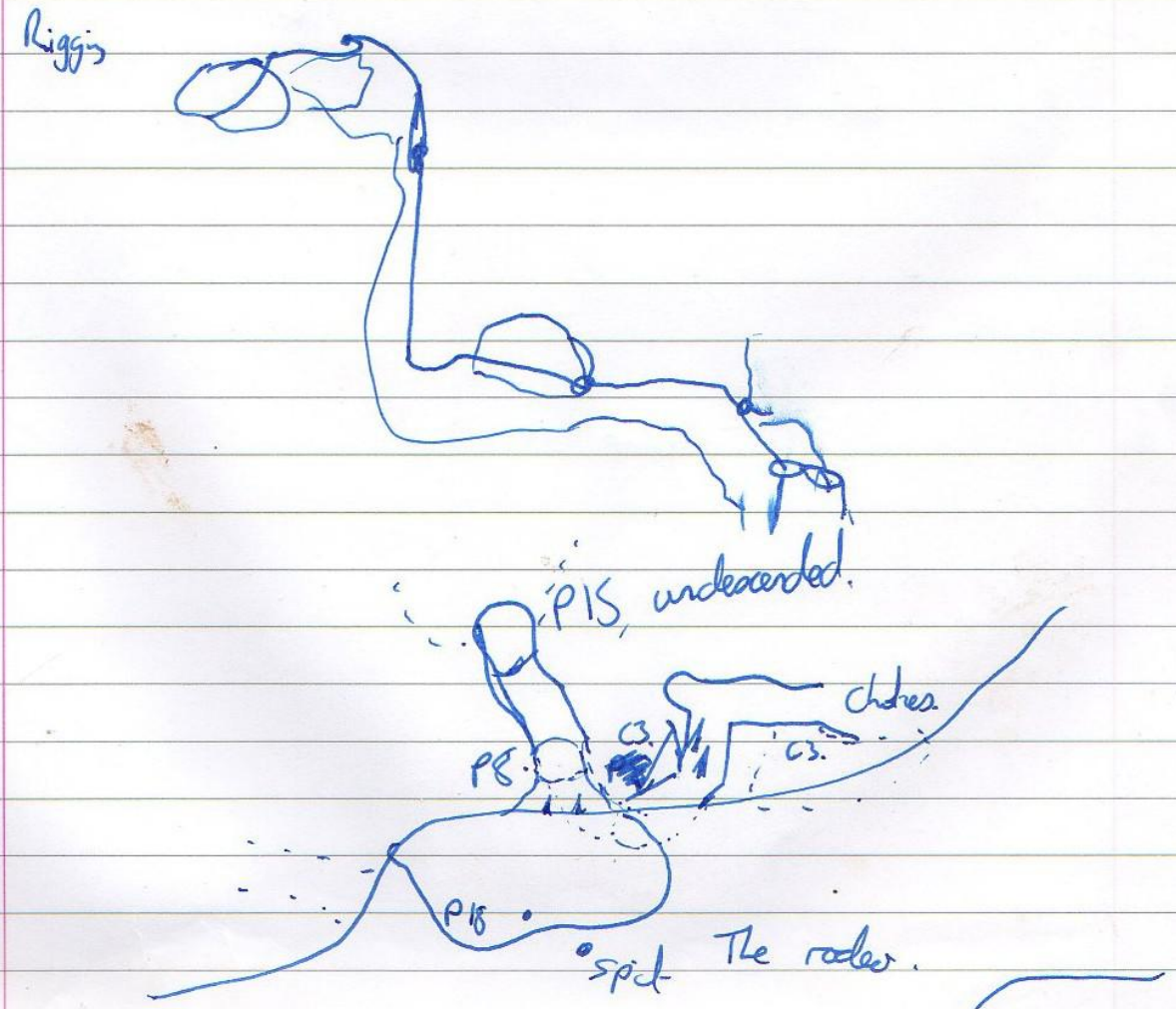
Passage is heading N, 3m wide phreatic rift, good draught. Need to hold across pitch to get into continuation - GO LOOK!



P20 at Rodeo.

Descended to previous low point reached with dares last sunday. Another spit + a deviation dropped into ≈ 8m long rift by 1m wide. South drops through window, 3m climb down to top of 10m slope in boulder choke. Strong draft present (going up pitch). Boulder choke explored for about 20m into chamber. Way on not obvious.

Going North in rift leads after 4m to head of P15 not descended. This also drafts up the pitch. Pitch is constricted at the top (needs lump hammer) and is calcited. It is awkward to place anchors. Can see into larger chamber.



25/8/2003. Pete, Ivan + Ian up to sites 1698, 1962 and 1237

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT