

LOGBOOK

Year: 2006

Season: Christmas : New Year

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

Juan Corrin, January 2015

(CHRISTMAS LOG '06)

①

NEW YEAR LOG 06-07

29th December 2006

Walk at the top end of Cubija. Lugger, Wendy, Steve, Sue, Ian, Terry, Penny and Juan.

2597 dig 30T 0449861 4797045 Z = 382 (from map)

At the end of a small valley, a wet weather stream sinks against a 4m high limestone face. There are a couple of possible digs, but the site needs looking at in warmer weather.

2598 dig 30T 0449833 4797056 Z = 390.000 (from map)

Higher up the same valley, below where the track passes over the stream bed. A small hole appears to enter a small, boulder-floored chamber.

2599 dig 30T 0449809 4797048 Z = 393

A small pile of rocks mark a covered hole just above the track.

2600 cave 30T 0449456 4796913 Z = 455

A tree marks this rift. A 4m climb down onto a boulder slope down to a choke under a large, jammed block. Length 20m; depth 8m. Photos.

2601 cave 30T 0449209 4796759 Z = 463

A small hole at the top side of the recently enlarged track from Calzadillas (?) through to Bosmartin. The hole has been filled from the excavations and is a crawl, choked after 5m.

1275 Steve down 4m climb to head of 7m climb down and possible dig. Are 1275 and 2401 the same site? Photos. Scrub 2401

2602 30T 0449200 4796947 Z=490

Small crawls under a limestone face in a shakehole. Length 5m

1274 Photos.

2603 dig 0449073 4796719 Z = 523

Steve down into small space with a possible dig.

1500 Photo

0076 Steve and Lugger into Cueva del Campo. Prospects under calcite appear interesting near the back of the cave.

30th December

Trip into the entrance series of Torno 2366. Lugger, Juan, Terry, Ian and Steve with Wendy on the surface at slight undercut 37m N of barn corner. Eventually got to chamber which appears to come close to the surface. Most northern passage had bone under a filled rift. The larger southern passage rises to a choke over large boulders and this gives the impression of being a possible early entrance. At one of these passages Wendy heard banging on the surface (probably the larger choke)

There is a possible high level dig to the skull area up on the south side of the

Unfortunately the plan to survey the dig in Torno Chamber had to be abandoned as the rain was pouring at Casa Thomas and a heavy water level was reached.

chamber. There is at least one dig in the Tigger Series (shit on the floor) which is low over mud but appears to rise perhaps 5m in.

31st December

Steve and Lugger digging in Boil in the Bag. Some progress made.

2nd January 2007

Penny, Juan, Lugger, Ian and Terry parked car at the second bend and walked up to Bosmartin then to Fuente las Varas and back down the main road.

On the climb up to the quarry, just before the final T-junction, a shallow valley with depressions heads down to the east. There are various depressions still to look at.

Site 2604 is a draughting slot on the left bank above a wet weather sink. **Site 2605**, a small hole in a depression, is away from the main line of depressions but also draughts.

Site 2606 is on the north side of the track beyond the quarry and appears to have to been excavated. A low choked hole lies at the bottom of 5m deep depression with a limestone face.

Site 2607 is above Sprog on the Rock and is a small hole on the uphill side of a wide, choked rift. Stones roll and drop about 5m down a small hole.

Site 2608 lies up from the track and is a wide rift about 30m long. The interest lies at the top end where the site appears about 8m deep and may continue. Ladder required?

Site 2609 is a shaft covered with rocks next to a faint track a few metres from the farmhouse. Stones appear to drop about 8m.

1355 photo + GPS

3rd January

Juan and Penny retracing steps taken above Cubija on 29th Dec., after GPS info lost from the device. Took GPS positions of 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603. (These are now included on the 29th Dec. write-up). Also found **site 2610**, a 3m deep shakehole with a limestone face on one side, under which is a low crawl going down. Unexplored.

5th January

Ian and Juan to Torno to look at digs to the skull. Had a quick look at a high level, low space to the south of the chamber heading to the surface. This has a number of tiny holes.

Looked in the Tigger Series at the first crawl off to the left after a flatout squeeze, just before the passage splits again into two. Spent an hour or so digging sand out of the floor and then clay. The passage ahead has holes above the clay and seems to be below the skull chamber. Rather awkward to dig; there was a slight draught; needs molephone etc., and a warmer day for good draughts.

6th January

Juan & Penny walking up from Cubija along track above La Cuvia de La Vega and up to Lastrillas area. **Site 2611**, about 100m northeast of Lastrillas, is a hidden rift/depression on the true left bank of a valley running off the path. May need an oversuit to thrash down. On return, located **site 836** - shaft. Then had 40 minutes in Cuvia del Campo (76) taking photos.

Pictures from Lugger/Phil for sites 271, 273, 2589, 2590

Torno downstream lead 08/12/06

Paul Dold, Carl Clarke, Dr Footleg, Dave Garman, Chris Agnew

Dee Autumn continued.

③

2366

The aim of our first day underground in Matienzo in December was to have a look down stream in Torno chamber. Although the majority of the water goes straight across the chamber and disappears into boulders under the left wall of the chamber, there is a significant second inlet coming in from the roof which flows down the chamber and in to a 2.5m wide, 0.4m average height bedding at the lowest point of the chamber. So I set off gouging a way through the stream bed here. At a few points the roof reaches a staggering 0.5ish metres in height to allow for a change in head direction. For some reason I was on my own for this one, no matter how much I tried to convince Carl that he would enjoy the exercise he manage to find an appropriate excuse to avoid getting wet. Anyway after about 15m (ish) the passage bears left. It was at this point that I could hear the water starting to gain speed and I got excited thinking that it might be dropping into a deeper trench. But after about 10m it drops down about 2m in height at about 20deg into an opening big enough for two people to sit in and directly beyond is a sump (pants). Carl joined me at this stage to confirm my findings. I decided to have a poke around in the sump and inserted my body into it feet first until only my head remained above water. I estimate it to be about 1m wide and about 0.5-0.6m high with about 0.25m of soft silt in the bottom. This was the end of our exploration so its down to the divers from here. Just before our return to the main chamber a toad hopped in front of us hence the name (Toad Crawl) for this passage.

We all had a look around the main chamber for other possibilities including starting a dig where the majority of the water disappears under the rocks but this looks like a long term project with possibly not much glory.

Paul Dold December 2006

Respects to Granny 09/12/06

Paul Dold, Carl Clarke, Dr Footleg, Dave Garman, Chris Agnew

We went back to Torno the day after our sump Discovery with a few projects in mind. The first was to pay our respects to Granny and take a few pictures and to re-tape the human bones. Whilst Footleg was taking pictures I had a closer look around the skull area and found another skull its not human but possibly a dog (Granny Pet?) its about 4m to the right of Granny with a couple of other bones including a vertebra. We removed the bailing string and replaced it with visible red and white tape and at the bones area in the passage before granny. Just beyond this area of bones in the passage heading up to the chamber with granny at the end we had a sniff around the gravel sinks as on the way in the day before I found another bone in a passage which the survey data tells us is around 15m directly below (This bone is located on some flowstone just before one of the climbs up on the way into the cave. Look for the vertical leg on the survey Stn 2366_06_02.19). On the right of the passage we found a 3m deep hole that we made wider, then I descended to have a quick dig but again this does not look hopeful.

Task two was to survey Toad Crawl, but due to high water levels we decided to leave this for another day. The stream entering the chamber had risen considerably from when we had come in, and now the flat out crawl on gravel to exit the chamber had a couple of inches of water flowing along it.

Task three was left to me and Chris due to a lack of time we headed back out of Torno on our own and up Dead animals all around to get some fossil samples. I forgot what a sporting inlet this is and Chris enjoyed the challenge. I took a sample of rock from the boulder in the first chamber and about five samples of fossils from the aven. Animal or Plant ????? I have a few options including a contact at the Natural History Museum in London. Watch This Space!

Paul Dold December 2006

Given the proximity of the passage containing the bones to the entrance passages (11.5m horizontal, 2.6m vertical) we also investigated the potential for a connection between them on the way into the cave. The best prospects for a dig were found in the short section of passage between a climb up followed by a climb down (stns 2366_06_02.21 - 25). However there was no obvious point in the passages at the end for a dig to emerge into.

(Footleg)

After two days down Torno Paying our respects to Granny and looking at a few leads including around 30 unsurveyed meters down to a sump at the bottom of Torno, we set out on our second project of the trip. Tour guide Footleg managed to get the team fired up with tales of stomping glory after "just knocking out a few small rocks at the top of an aven". No mention of one hour of strenuous caving including 400 meters of narrow crab walk!!!! (Note for the future, Read the tour guides notes when not influenced by Rioja)

So myself (Paul) and Carl (Sharky) started on the aven. I first free climbed the aven to a ledge and placed a bolt to allow me to swing out under the small hole in the roof and place two more bolts for a Y-hang. While drilling the hole for this bolt, a large lump of rock fell off the wall near the bottom of the aven, landing just behind Dave's head and pinning one of the tackle bags to the floor. At this point Footleg thought maybe it would be better to take Dave and Chris on a surveying lesson to survey an area he found in August while work continued above. Once clipped in I was able to assess the hole widening situation. I decided that the best option was to attack the calcited rocks on the right of the hole and not the solid lump of rock in the middle of the U shaped hole. With my lesson in Yorkshire caving techniques fresh in my mind from a trip into Torno at Easter I got to work on the stall restriction. Due to tired arms we each took a couple of turns at smashing the hell out of the opening the only problem was that the club hammer we were given was old and did not want to play ball, on a few occasions it needed to be hammered back together but eventually it got it's own way and died so we had to result to swearing and another plan, enter the big man-size non-Latte-drinkers hammer drill, then within a short space of time the calcite was reduced to Swiss cheese and we looked like two frost bitten ghosts. I went up without my SRT kit and only my belt with cows tails on, I then gave the rock a few more hits with the bolting hammer and chisel and decided this was the time for a squeeze up in to glory. Halfway in to the squeeze and with my chest feeling the pressure I realised that I had committed a quality "School boy error" by leaving one of my cows tails attached to the Y-hang below me. Unable to get a full lung of breath I whispered to Carl for assistance and under a flurry of piss taking he assisted in releasing me from my predicament. The piss taking turned in to shouts of encouragement and with a good amount of B.F. & I was through. At this stage I was in a phreatic passage going left and right with good echoes in both directions. So I then set to with enlarging the hole to Carl gauge. After another 20 minutes or so Carl popped through with a howl of delight as this was the first time he had entered a virgin passage! We set up a good Y-hang from the roof so the others could join us and after a lengthy wait for the team (5min) we decided to set off left into the unknown.

After a short stooping passage it opened up to allow us to walk upright to a T-junction we decided to go left as the sound of water drew us in. the passage led to a short 2m down climb in to a mud floored aven with an area on the right that had some nice water droplet formations on the floor, stepping to the left of the formations led to another 2m down climb into a chamber with an inlet coming in on the left hand wall (Mungo Inlet) and the continuation of the passage heading right round a corner past some nice straws, now carrying the water from the inlet. We climbed along the top of the passage with the water 3m below for about 15m and down into a beautiful stal lined pit (The Jail) after a careful squeeze through the formations we could see a sump (Jerry's sump) ahead. As this was the end of the passage and deciding to leave Mungo inlet for one of the others to explore at a later stage we headed back to the T-junction and took the right hand passage, after a few meters this entered a 3m diameter aven with water entering from an oval hole in the roof and a mud slope opposite.

Once up the 2m mud slope we had a 3m climb (Sharky's step) with limited hand holds so I decided to use Carl as a handy step as he is only 3ft high and perfect for the job. A few meters after Sharky's step there was another T-junction, again left seemed the best option and again I was driven by the sound of water. So as we had been away from the rest of the group for a while and feeling a tad guilty of grabbing all this new cave I left Carl at the climb and headed up the Rift saying I'll only have a quick look ahead before heading back to School boy error aven to see if the others were back from their surveying trip. As I turned left after a few meters there was a large opening on the left which turned out to be the top of the aven with the oval hole in the roof I shouted down to Carl to confirm this a told him that it was about another 10 meters above me to the top of the aven where the water was coming in.

The rift (Quake Rift) passage started with a narrow hands and knees crawl along some very sharp small knobbly formations then got wider allowing an easier traverse. The rift also gained in height and depth but the most striking thing about this rift was the evidence of possible a earthquake, there was lots of broken stal on the ledges on both sides of the rift and formations on the sides of the rift with big cracks. After a good distance past some nice formations I gradually lost height and the rift opened out into a large chamber with water coming in from boulders that stacked to the roof, the water was heading back down in the direction of the rift. On the last step down in to the chamber I noticed a dinner plate sized fossil of an ammonite on the right, so named this Ammonite choke. The atmosphere in this chamber created by the water has a great feel so I made my way back to Carl to tell him the news of what I found. Once back with Carl at the top of Sharkey's climb (he got twitchy

and decided to come and find me) we made the decision to go back to the head of School boy error aven to check on the progress of Footleg, Dave and Chris, but there was still no sign of them so this left us with the tough decision to see where the passage to the right of the aven would lead. (5)

The first part of this passage is a hands and knees crawl which then opens out in to a bisecting phreatic tube 2m wide by 1.5m high with a vadose trench in the floor of about 3m deep. The left option up a calcite flow we decided to leave for another day and head down the right turn. Most of this zig-zagging passage is well decorated with a nice calcited floor which we avoided by staying above the trench. Just after a calcited hole in the floor and a right-hand bend there is a tight oval angled squeeze which I got through but it was too tight for Carl, so again I steamed on alone. This part of the passage (The Doyleys) has a very delicate web of calcited mud in the trench which needed to be avoided by some interesting bridging above. Just after the Doyleys there is a 3m deep mud floored chamber with some very spectacular straws one of which (The Hypodermic Lance) is around 3meters long and tapered from about 30mm Diameter to a point. From the base of the careful climb down past the Lance and between two meter long straws the passage continues through a squeeze into the last 8 meters down where the floor almost reaches the roof leaving an inch or so of air space for a potential dig site.

When I returned to the chamber at the bottom of the Lance I was greeted by the excited yoo-hoo of Carl who had found a bypass to the squeeze and the pretties and he was about 4 meters above me. Happy that we had achieved something in return for the effort of breaking through the aven we returned again to the head of the pitch only to find that we were still on our own. By this stage the time was really pushing on and we decided that the best thing to do was to descend the pitch have a tidy up and start making our way out and hopefully bump into the others on the way. Fortunately we found the others a short distance into the crab walk and after a short conversation to ask how their surveying went we both burst out with excited tails of the new passages we found. The decision was made that we would leave some of the kit in the cave for a major surveying trip the next day and so we headed out for a deserved beer at Pablo's.

Paul Dold, December 2006

While Paul and Carl were breaking through into glory at the top of the aven, I took Dave and Chris off down the inlet to survey the roof passages which Caroline and I had discovered in August. This was primarily an exercise to pass the time, and give Dave and Chris their first experience of cave surveying. But like so many things, it turned out to be more valuable than I expected. The total length of the passages was more than I had expected, and their position when all the survey data was drawn up showed a strong relationship to the passages which we surveyed the following day. Both ends of the roof passages had potential leads, and Dave managed to push through the squeezes at the most northerly end to see the promise of more passage beyond. He was stopped by a third squeeze, but plans to return next year and dig out the floor here. The aven at the south-westerly end looked like a good prospect for bolting up, to see what lies beyond too.

Footleg, December 2006

Passage explored whilst on surveying trip with Footleg and Chris

Once the main passage had been surveyed we stopped to sort out the information we had gathered, it was here at the end of the passage I noticed a tight mud slope at the base of the wall. It appeared that this slope had also been noticed by Footleg and Caroline on their previous trip but had not been passed as neither of them could get down it-Caroline had been down on her front, head first but did not want to continue as the bottom of the slope became tight and would mean no easy return if passed.

I thought I would give it a go and after kicking and scraping with my boot managed to make a little more space. I went down the slope facing up on my belly-to make and easier escape if things became awkward! Luckily once down the slope a way I could move my feet more, telling me it must open out slightly after the squeeze. Once my entire body was down the slope I managed to squeeze through the gap at the bottom and with some very interesting bending of my body I managed to turn round.

I was now in a small passage facing the opposite way to how I had come in, the next problem was a short flat out crawl and then another squeeze. This squeeze was tight height wise but had enough room to move sideways comfortably, which I fitted through easily enough. After this the passage became a little higher, still flat out crawling, and I was almost immediately met with another harder squeeze. This second squeeze was very low and narrow and after several attempts and shouting from Footleg I managed to push through not before taking off my helmet and pushing it in front of me. I was now in a small bell and moved forward to the final squeeze which was impassable and needs some gentle persuasion with a spade to take an inch or so off the floor. But even though the squeeze was too tight I managed to get my helmet and head through and saw another passage to the right and a short way to the left a chamber. I then headed back out to Footleg and Chris to finish off our surveying trip. All in all I had traveled approximately 6.5-7m.

Dave Garman, December 2006

Following the discoveries of the previous day, those of us who had spent the trip surveying 200m of passages discovered in August above the crabwalk were keen to see the new stuff, and explore some open leads for ourselves. Breaking all records, we were packed ready for a long day underground with a BDH container full of sandwiches and at the cave entrance by 10:30am. It took just over an hour to reach the bottom of Schoolboy Error Aven, where we started the survey from the point we estimated the last survey leg of the existing survey data was located. This could be estimated fairly accurately because there was only one way to fit the last two survey legs of the old data into the passages here, where you climb through a small hole at roof level to reach the bottom of the aven. I had brought the data for the last couple of legs to aid us. We were able to get a vertical plumbed leg down the aven which saved any awkward high angle clino readings. While we were recording these legs, the two SRT kits were passed up and down the rope in order to get everyone up the new pitch and through the squeeze into the new passage above. The area around the pitch head had become a bit of a quagmire by now, but the passages going either way were dry. The water coming down the pitch remained in a narrow slot in the floor of the phreatic passage above.

We set off first in the direction where the streamway and sump had been discovered yesterday, turning left at the first junction, left again at the second, and then emerging in a much larger rift passage down an easy climb. From here we turned right, passing a fine mud floor with drop holes to reach a climb down into a chamber where a waterfall came out the opposite wall. With 5 of us in the group people were getting restless with the surveying, so we sent Dave to climb up the waterfall and explore this open lead. Meanwhile we surveyed down to the sump. On returning to the waterfall, we met Dave who described a passage leading to a large boulder choke where a prominent cairn was seen. Paul confirmed that he had built this cairn the previous day, so the two 'going leads' which Paul had not grabbed the previous day turned out to be opposite ends of a short section of streamway.

Surveying continued up the passage below the waterfall heading away from the sump. We took in a short dead end side passage before completing our first loop back at the climb down in the large passage with the fine mud floor. This was interesting for us because we had never completed a loop in our brief surveying experience, so we would now have some indication as to the accuracy of our work. Back up the climb and back to the junction where we continued the survey in the other direction to the base of an aven. We stopped for the first round of sandwiches here, before continuing. At this point we sent Dave and Chris off to explore so they did not get bored, and continued along a rift. A side passage off this leads to a view point half way up the aven, which remains to be climbed to the top. We then continued along the rift past fine flowstone with fractures in it and broken curtains until the floor receded and we ended up traversing a long way about a stream. At the end of the rift the floor is regained and a large boulder slope leads up to the face of a boulder choke with the stream emerging. The boulders appear to be mostly sandstone. Dave and Chris were back with us by this stage, having had a good look round but not finding any new leads. Dave climbed up into the choke and appeared on top of a massive boulder, so we took one vertical survey leg to measure the height of the passage at the end. Dave reported that there was no obvious way on even at roof level. This area requires closer attention on another trip. From here we surveyed back down stream to emerge at the top of the waterfall and complete a second longer loop.

Next we looked at the passage going off at the first junction we had surveyed past. Paul had not been up this passage, so with some excitement I took the lead and headed off into the unknown. This passage appears to be the source of the water coming down the Schoolboy Error aven, but the stream is at the bottom of a 3m deep, 10cm wide slot in the floor. The passage above the slot is a walking height narrow rift for a short distance until it branches. Left looked smaller and was left for another day. Right was crawling height, but too narrow to crawl, forcing you to progress on your side around many bends until I decided I was getting too tired to push this further with much still to survey. So we stopped at a prominent stalactite in the middle of the passage and started a survey from the top of this, going back to link it into the main passage survey. This would give us a good idea of the trend of this passage. Dave tried to sabotage the work at one point by dropping the survey tape reel down the 3m deep, 10cm wide slot in the floor, but luckily he kept hold of the tape end. Much fishing and gentle teasing (of the tape reel and Dave) later he managed to recover the reel and the survey could continue.

Now all that remained was the passage heading the other direction from the top of Schoolboy Error aven. Chris was getting cold by now, and we decided to split into two groups so he and Dave could head out. Dave first wanted to see the other passage so headed off to see the end of the cave while we had another sandwich break. Carl, Paul and I then started surveying up this passage while Dave returned to the aven and headed out with Chris and some of the equipment. The passage we were now in has a fine pure white calcite floor which has been covered by a thin layer of mud. In places the mud would stick to your knee pads and pull off to reveal the once pristine calcite below. An interesting example of a cave ruining fine formations through natural processes.

The crawling passage eventually emerges into a much larger phreatic tunnel which is largely filled with flowstone. To the left the flowstone fills what must have once been a 3m diameter tunnel to within 0.5m of the

roof, making a flat out crawl. In the other direction a trench in the floor enables walking until the formations in the trench force you to crawl on top of the muddy flowstone filling the rest of the passage to protect the formations. Eventually a junction is reached, where left is a long oxbow (left unsurveyed) while right continues through an awkward calcited squeeze which looks deceptively larger than it actually is. Carl could not fit beyond this point, leaving Paul and I to complete the survey from here to the end. After the squeeze the passage changes into a narrower rift with traversing over delicate looking muddy plates below. This reaches a 3m climb down into a larger chamber with an impressive long thin stalactite which is right alongside the climb. A nervous descent to the floor left this in tact, and we surveyed through a high decorated chamber where Paul pointed out where the unsurveyed oxbow emerges high up the wall. A careful crawl between two long straws leads to a flat out squeeze into a final smaller rift chamber. At the end of this the passage becomes too low as the ceiling slopes down to the mud floor.

Our survey work done, we headed out exhausted but satisfied to emerge at the entrance after 13.5 hours underground.

Footleg December 2006

(Additional comments after the data was plotted up)

After the survey data from the two days was plotted up, it was apparent that the passages we had surveyed above the crabwalk, and the final end of the decorated passage surveyed beyond the aven breakthrough all appear to be one continuous old phreatic passage which has intersected the active inlet in multiple places. The various loops surveyed around the streamway and rift appear to be one high rift with the boulder choke at one end and the unclimbed aven at the other, with the various survey legs weaving back and forth over each other at different levels in the rift. The small side passage with the stream deep in a narrow slot in the floor is heading away from the rest of the known passage, and needs to be pushed to a conclusion the next time we can get up there.

Footleg December 2006

Surface Day: Exploring above Riaño 13/12/06

Our plans to do a bit of surface prospecting on the last day of our trip were curtailed by rain, and instead we had spent the day packing and plotting up the survey data from the previous few days. On reaching the airport in the evening, we found out that our flight was delayed due to fog, and then eventually it was cancelled about 2 hours after it should have taken off. Faced with 24 hours to kill before the next available flight home, we quickly decided that it would be better to return to Matienzo than to spend a day kicking our heels around Bilbao. Overcoming the challenge of getting Ian's phone number by phoning Pablo's armed only with a Spanish phrase book, we managed to hire a small van and headed back to the valley. We got to Ian's just after midnight, and then stayed up rather late drinking Paul's wine which he had bought to take home. The following day we woke up about 10:00 to brilliant sunshine.

First job of the day was to drive up the road to the South to get mobile phone reception (Ian had already gone out for the day) and phone our various bosses to inform them we were unfortunately forced to endure another day of hard exploration in Spain. We then packed everything ready for the flight home and drove up to the area above Riaño to look for possible new sites while the undergrowth was down for the Winter. First we had a quick poke about in site 2469, a hole discovered last Easter with bags of animal bones in it. These were examined and found to be pretty much just bones now, so not a real barrier to digging. We then moved on down the field, finding and documenting eleven new sites in total. The undergrowth was less of a visual barrier in the open field margins at this time of year, but in the woods the brambles and gorse was just as difficult to find a way thorough as in the Summer!

New Site D01 (Prize Cock Pot): 30T 0452277 4800513 Alt. 284m (2595)

Located at the side of the field just below the fence at the bottom of the trees next to the field. This was something I had seen at Easter, but not really determined if it was worth looking at further as I was feeling quite ill that day. Now with no bracken it looked much more promising, and with a few minutes of digging revealed a 4m+ deep hole which was draughting (at a time when none of the usual draughts had been felt in Riaño). Paul, Chris, Dave and Carl all descended to report a rift which ended after a couple metres at a wall of fill, not quite to the roof and a draught coming over the top. No-one was in caving gear as we were en-route to the airport, so further investigation was left for next year. On the drive up from the valley Paul had come round a corner to find a cockerel running for it's life across the road in front of us, hence this cave was christened 'Prize Cock Pot'.

New Site D02: 30T 0452222 4800364 Alt. 251m (2612)

A curious bubbling puddle located in thick undergrowth. Carl heard the bubbling noise and located a small muddy pool (0.3m diameter) which periodically bubbled, then fell silent again. See video clip.

New Site D03: 30T 0452177 4800351 Alt. 235m

(2612) D03

Paul Dold found two holes (D03 & D04) below some bare rock in the undergrowth while trying to find a way back up to the bubbling puddle (D02). The lower of these (D03) requires digging and does not appear to be immediately connected to the other (D04), but emits a slight draught.

New Site D04 (Cueva del Petirrojo): 30T 0452178 4800356 Alt. 242m

(2596)

Enthusiastic digging at the second hole by Dave quickly revealed that rocks which fell in could be heard bouncing down for some way. While trying to record the sound of a rock bouncing down the hole for a video clip, Dave loosened a rock which bridged the hole and opened it up enough to climb in. The entire breakthrough was captured on video from the surface, and followed by a short video interview of Paul Dold describing the find as he returned to the surface. A vertical rift about 6m deep was found, leading to a sloping passage containing old cow bones including more than one skull. The way on continues down an oval tube for around another 6m to a dig site. Again we could not explore properly being dressed for the airport. While Dave, Carl and Paul were underground, a robin came and starting digging in the freshly dug earth from the dig, hence we christened this one 'Cueva del Petirrojo'.

New Site D05: 30T 0452147 4800296 Alt. 215m

(2613)

A low rock undercut, which may be the start of a bedding? Located on the hill above trackside cave (2418).

New Site D06: 30T 0452202 4800093 Alt. 168m

(2614)

Bedding plane under slab, located above the track leading from the end of the valley back towards Hoyuca. Requires digging as too low.

New Site D07: 30T 0452172 4800094 Alt. 175m

(2615)

Sink located next to the track leading from the end of the valley back towards Hoyuca.

New Site D08: 30T 0452160 4800083 Alt. 178m

(2616)

Bedding located above the track leading from the end of the valley back towards Hoyuca.

New Site D09: 30T 0452143 4800066 Alt. 177m

(2617)

Small vertical slot at field edge between the end of the valley and Hoyuca.

New Site D10: 30T 0452106 4800068 Alt. 169m

(1142)

Sink by electric fence along edge of crops in the field near Hoyuca.

New Site D11: 30T 0452014 4800039 Alt. 162m

(2401)

Pair of sinks at field edge close to Hoyuca.

(2402)

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT