

# LOGBOOK

Year: 2014

Season: autumn

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*Juan Corrin, January 2015*





(1)

## AUTUMN 2014.

### 22/10/2014 Wednesday 4069 Pete Eagan; Alasdair Neill and Phil Papard

Short trip following arrival from ferry, to check Pete's new flashes/fireflies and to photograph the cave and check if there were any useful sites to dig etc. A number of photo's were taken of formations, no significant sites for digging were identified.

### 23/10/2014 Cueva Riocueva 4042 4043 - Pete E; Ali and Phil P

Photographic and survey trip using Torca de los Caños. Surveyed beyond stal squeeze in passage above ladder pitch in Galeria del Laboratorio (batch 4043-14-32); higher passage on north near beginning of Galeria del Tembleque (batch 4043-14-33); and two oxbows off Galeria del Yeso (batch 2023-14-34) - total surveyed 125m.

### 24/10/2014 Alisas Pete E; Ali and Phil P

Walk to 3938/9 to survey the find we made last autumn, surveyed 66m and spent some time digging at bottom of entrance rift and also boulder choke in chamber between the two entrances. Both will need more work and snappers/caps - should check for draught in hot weather to judge prospects.

After survey of 3938/9 we walked down and in a circle back to car. Phil P followed a gully/valley down over sandstone to a depression with a 2m cliff on the east side, with what looks like a sink (flood debris) and a small cave that needs the soil/leaves etc digging out. Good outward draught.

Site ~~4065~~ 4082 447895,4794093 alt (from map) 446m

Peter found three holes:

1. Large open shaft with sloping sides about 6m deep. Needs a rope to get to bottom due to loose leaves etc. - needs GPS ~~4015~~ 4015 ↗
2. Small hole covered by rocks at head of shallow valley, will need crowbar to move rocks to gain entry - needs GPS ~~4099~~ 4099 ↗
3. 4066 site 4092 447585,4794270 - 625m alt - covered shaft at head of shallow valley on a track near edge of field. Needs large rocks moving to get in, no belay nearby.

### 25/10/2014 Fridge Door Cave 1800 - Pete E and Ali

Tried to lower the water to pass the upstream sump. After two hours of digging the floor we had managed to lower the water about two inches. More work needed or a diver. The roof of the sump appears to be level about two metres wide and deep. The water clears quickly. Checked out possible climb but closed down to tubes. The water at the bottom of ladder pitch down slope, stayed clear and appears to be just a pool with no way on.

### 25/10/2014 BigMat Calf Hole 3916 - Phil P, Pete E and Ali

Stainless rebar steps placed in bottom of ent just below tube, and one placed in bottom of tube. Tried to saw out bottom of round holes in tube to make it easier to get boots in - found it was difficult due to restricted room and nature of tube, only one hole partly completed. Need a smaller saw and a sharp chisel.

### 26/10/2014 Sunday Cueva Riocueva 4042 - Pedro, Juan, Pete E, Ali, Phil P

Surveying and photo trip using the archaeological entrance as a team were working on the site and Pedro had arranged for us to go in while the gate was open. Juan used his GoPro to film the trip while Phil P and Pedro surveyed the main passage up to the choke. We were told by one of the archaeological team that you could go down to the stream through the choke. The route is at first a crawl to a climb, followed by a small crawl and a 2m drop through a tight hole to a sloping stal ramp down to a boulder floored chamber and the stream passage. A ladder would be best for the 2m drop, but we managed with a rope - a bolt was placed at the drop top. Above the climb up in the choke a chamber was also surveyed. Total surveyed 198m. Batch 4042-14-02 Pete E and Ali surveyed and took photographs Galeria del Tembleque from the climb into the main passage to the west - 101m surveyed (batch 4042-14-04). This ended in a section of cave 3m wide with large amounts of fresh animal shit, digging would be required to get any further. Also an inlet some 70m into the cave on the south side was surveyed and pushed passed an oxbow until it required digging - 68m surveyed (batch 4042-14-03).

Some photos were taken in the entrance passage and a small RED splodge on the wall was photographed. This makes the cave length surveyed to date at 4,575m.



After the survey work in 4042, Juan had a quick look in the sites below.

**Site 4087** – the wet weather resurgence. After a 3m crawl water is met at a pool with the draught coming over. Length 5m

**Site 4086** – A 2m climb up enters a chamber with a rift going off on the right. There was little draught. Length 8m

27<sup>th</sup> October 3938/9 Pete E, Ali and Phil P. Aim was to dig the end of the slope down from the entrance of 3938 which Ali thought would take only a little time, and then go on to the other holes we found on the 24<sup>th</sup>. But it took all day and 2 snappers, many caps and a lot of hammering for Pete to squeeze through to find the extensive continuation was only a metre or so to a choked small slot – not worth a dig. The best option now is the choke in the chamber between the two caves marked as dig on the survey.

28<sup>th</sup> October General purpose trip into Cañaos 4043. Phil, Ali, Peter Eagan and Juan. Peter took photos with Phil and Ali along the Galeria de Yeso while Juan filled in missed survey detail. New passages were surveyed: small addition to the oxbows (batch 14-34) and *Bold Step Passage* (previously explored by James) which was connected to the G. de Yeso further back down the passage. (Batches 14-35 and 14-36). Also a higher level roof tube entered (on the Villaverde de Pontones / Hoznayo boundary!) which went for a stooping 25m (not surveyed).

Photos were taken down the streamway off the entrance shaft. Both this and the possible passage up boulders at the drop down into the river need surveying.

Total surveyed since Easter 2014 is now 4682m

29<sup>th</sup> October 3916 BigMat Calf Hole Phil, Peter and Ali prepared the top of the shaft with a pentagon of cement board, rebar and the previously prepared bolt in a limestone block for the gate, while Juan mixed 2 bins worth of concrete outside Andy and Julie's at La Via. Concrete delivered to hole, thrown into the formwork, tamped, smoothed off and left to set.

Pete and Ali then went to **Hoyuca 107** to finish off the Tiler's Way resurvey, batch 0107-14-03.

30<sup>th</sup> October Thursday Reñada 0048 Phil and Pedro took Patrick Degouve to the sump as part of the Alto Asón hydrology project. Peter Eagan with Ali and Juan photographed from the entrance through to Breakdown Chamber, including Anastomoses Hall and Sanatogen Passage.

31<sup>st</sup> October Reñada 0048 Ali - solo trip in the entrance series, starting the resurvey of Reñada. Batch 0048-14-02.

3<sup>rd</sup> November BigMat Calf Hole 3916 Quick visit by Juan to fill up the holes around the entrance with clay and soil. Will it grass over by Easter?

10th, 11th November BigMat Calf Hole 3916 Dan Hibberts, John Palmer and Bob Toogood. Two trips spent trying to find the way through to the main route from the BigMat Calf Hole entrance.

12.11.14. Dan Hibberts, Bob Toogood, John Palmer  
 Trip through back door of Vaca to look at  
 leads around Nearby Dan Chamber  
 Unsuccessful trip but the climb up  
 towards Queno Chamber at Jack's Rate  
 is collapsing and dangerous. ~~Next trip~~ The  
 climb requires some gaudering and the  
 placement of a handline.  
 From Dan Chamber, we first looked at  
 an open lead in High St at station 618



(3)

This proved to be a 250 m long easy passage with scree and gypsum floor leading north and ending at a boulder choke that looks ~~like~~ and dangerous to push.

The passage contains some large crystalline formations and some delicate evocatively shaped gypsum flowers. Fanny Blamble Passage may have been named after these formations or after Dan's favourite cider. Depends on your level of P.C.

Next was a look at the higher level passage leading south east from Nearly Dan's. The end of which does not look too promising although there are a couple of holes high up that would need a couple of bolts to climb up into.

Moving back towards Nearly Dan we chucked out leads to no avail until a short climb <sup>on west wall</sup> and a couple of squeezes popped up into a large well decorated passage "Should have gone to Speersays".

This passage is generally 10m wide and is truncated to the south and North ~~East~~ by boulder chokes which may repay further visits, both ends heading into blank areas on the

Approx 360 m in  
~~the~~ should have gone  
to Speersays.

Survey to (approx) 200 m above the main passage, superbly decorated passages lead west terminating in stal chokes. The survey was tied into the known passages and a hasty retreat was made to the pub.

**14th November Torca del Coterón 264** Dan, Bob and John through trip down the Edge of the Universe and out of Refiada. Noticed possible passage going off above the second pitch.

**15th November Torca del Coterón 264** Dan, Bob and John back to look at the possible passage seen above the second pitch. Not a passage.

The yellow Matienzo Caves GPS went missing along with some bolting gear from a bag left at the entrance pitch top.



9/10/14 Pete Smith around sites 2346, 2347 & 2345 above the TV mast track. Photos + GPS.

15.11.14.

COTERON.

Bob Toogood, Dan Hibbards  
John Patman.

Quick trip to investigate  
area above 2nd pitch.

After scrambling round shining  
bright lights into dark places,  
we could not see any  
defuncts leads to climb into.

On way out dropped pitch  
in upper level of coteron, first  
pitch on right of passage  
previously reported as having a  
boulder requiring work to shift.  
Dan was able to abseil past  
this boulder. The pitch is  
20m and blind.

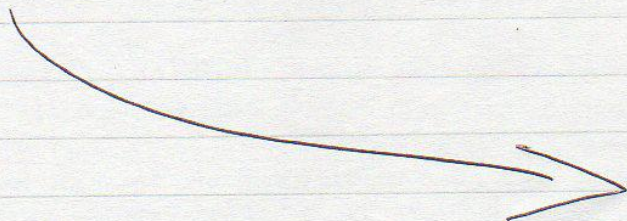
(The pitch is previously reported as  
being on left of passage).



adinata

Got out to find a GPS and  
rigging gear stolen from  
entrance.

© KFS TM Hearst





Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November

⑤ Cueva, El Cubillon (2538)  
Alf Latham, Phil Goodwin

To the end of higher South Passage, to aven bolted at Easter. As reported at Easter there is a downward rift from the top. Not reported was that the rift is too tight for most people - a determined 'thinny' might get through. Rock drop a considerable distance.

Slightly higher than the top a large space can be seen through a 130mm calcite eye-hole - needs capping.

Just above the bolt 8m up from the bottom of the aven, an opening on the left (looking up) descends through flowstone to a grotto and then links to the bottom of the pitch.

In the entrance series the collapse down an aven just before the last pitch now has a strong draught which appears to be surface related.

~~Saturday~~ Friday 14<sup>th</sup>

Small valley behind El cubillon - Phil Parker

Open hole reported in stream bed below 'water-fall' (4094)

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>

John Southworth, Dave Milner, Alf Latham, Phil Goodwin.

Roomy 10m shaft descended. Goes into rift downstream then blocks with boulders:- diggable.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November

Cueva de los campizos (Yo-Yo) (3812)

Alf Latham, Phil Goodwin

To the bottom, depth of shaft measured by altimeter as 125m  $\pm$  10m.

Up-slope vadose trench tackled. The passage gently meanders in a direction of 340° with a general width of about 40cm with widenings at bends.

The initial descent of 8m can be climbed if you trust the boulders. This is followed by a pitch of 7m, another of 5m and a climb down of about 5m.

The pitches are simply washed out sediment. After about 40m it becomes slightly too tight at the bottom level. However, the rift is about 40m high and draughts inwards so there may be a way through at another level.

Since the summer, the floor of the main chamber has been reshaped by floodwater. The flat silt has gone revealing entrance to downstream passage



~~Wednesday 19th~~

~~Tuesday 18th~~

Simon Latimer, Andrew Latimer, Alex Ritchie

Cueva de los Campizos 3812 20th Thursday.

Downstream passage pushed for 110m in SE direction, calcite formations and side chamber. Becomes phreatic at the end and probably diggable.

REPORT ON MATIENZO TRIP 13.11.14 TO 24.11.14 JOHN SOUTHWORTH

PEOPLE INVOLVED IN WRITE UP.  
PHIL GOODWIN, ALF LATHAM, ANDREW & SIMON LATIMER, DAVE MILNER  
PHIL PARKER, ALEX RITCHIE, JOHN SOUTHWORTH

13.11.14 DAVE, PHIL P, JOHN

A LOOK IN THE AREA TO THE WEST OF ENTRAMBASAGUAS, ONE SMALL CAVE FOUND AT THE BASE OF A SHAKEHOLE, WILL REQUIRE DIGGING, SLIGHT DRAUGHT OUT.

4093 0446538-4802843 ALT 111M

PHIL G AND ALF DOWN EL CUBILLON (2538), SEPARATE REPORT FROM PHIL G.

14.11.14 PHIL G, ALF, DAVE, JOHN.

A LOOK IN THE GARZON AREA WITH NO RESULTS APART FROM DAVE BREAKING HIS WRIST IN A FALL, HOSPITAL VISIT.

15.11.14 PHIL G, ALF, DAVE, JOHN

AFTER NEW ROCK FALLS AT THE TOP OF THE LAST PITCH IN THE ENTRANCE SERIES IN EL CUBILLON WERE SEEN BY PHIL G AND ALF A LOOK IN THE RIVERBED ABOVE FOUND A NEW 10M SHAFT AT THE BASE OF A NORMALLY DRY WATERFALL, ALF DESCENDED THE SHAFT AND ANOTHER DROP OF 2M TO A NARROW RIFT CHOKED WITH RIVERBED SANDSTONE BOULDERS, A VERY STRONG DRAUGHT COMING THROUGH AT THIS POINT BUT NOT CONSIDERED WORTH DIGGING IN THIS FLOOD PRONE RIVERBED, ALSO PRESENT WAS CHARLIE FROM THE HOUSE NEARBY

4094 0446066-4796439 ALT 259M

SAME DAY WENT AND CLEARED RUBBISH FROM TOP OF ENTRANCE SHAFT AT SITE 1969 READY FOR ANDREW AND SIMON TO VISIT.

16.11.14 PHIL G, ALF DOWN YOYO 3812 SEE PHIL'S REPORT. DAVE, JOHN DAY OFF

17.11.14 PHIL G, ALF, DAVE, JOHN 1561

A TRIP INTO THE MINE AT BARRIO ARRIBA TRYING TO FOLLOW THE DRAUGHT WHICH WAS SOON LOST, A LOT OF NATURAL DEVELOPMENT, SOME CHAMBERS FULL OF MINE WASTE, IT SEEMS THE MINERS EXPLOITED A LARGE AND EXTENSIVE CAVE.

18.11.14 PHIL G, ALF, JOHN.

CONTINUED THE DIG AT THE END OF THE HIGH LEVEL PASSAGE IN 3543. FOUND AT 4M DROP BUT ENDED IN ROOF OF 1ST CHAMBER INSTEAD OF THE TOP OF LOOSE UNDESCENDED PITCH OFF THE LOWER CHAMBER

ANDREW, SIMON

SHAFT 1969 WAS PART DESCENDED AND BOLTED ACROSS TO A PARALLEL SHAFT WHICH WAS FOUND TO CHOKED AT SAME LEVEL AS THE MAIN SHAFT

19.11.14 PHIL G, DAVE, JOHN

INVESTIGATED AREA NORTH OF PERMIT BOUNDARY AT RIOLASTRAS, THREE SITES FOUND BUT NOT ENTERED, MANY LARGE DEPRESSIONS NOTED BUT NOT INVESTIGATED

4095

0454352-4803803 ALT 127M

OPEN CAVE ENTRANCE  
IN SIDE OF SHAKEHOLE,  
OUTWARD DRAUGHT.

4096

0454360-4803768 ALT 125M

A 2M WIDE DESCENDING  
RIFT ABOUT 3M DEEP

4097 3

0454618-480415 ALT 178M

IN BASE OF SHAKEHOLE  
IS A SMALL CAVE WHICH  
MIGHT CONTINUE BUT  
NEEDS LARGE TREE  
STUMP REMOVING.



⑦

19.11.14 ANDREW, SIMON, ALEX.

WENT TO INVESTIGATE THE UNDESCENDED PITCH UP THE SLOPE FROM THE LOWER CHAMBER IN 3543 (REFUGE) BUT UNABLE TO FIND IT, THIS MAYBE NOW LOST UNDER A NEW RUN IN OF BOULDERS, WILL REQUIRE ANOTHER VISIT BY THE ORIGINAL EXPLORERS TO CONFIRM THIS.

20.11.14 PHIL G, ALF, DAVE, JOHN

INVESTIGATED KNOWN UNEXPLORED HOLES NEAR TO SITE 3812 (4040) 3807 IS AN IMPOSSIBLE TIGHT RIFT WHICH SEEMS TO CHOKE.

3811 AN 8M DEEP SHAFT WHICH IS CHOKED, ALSO LOOKED AT ASSOCIATED RIFTS NEARBY, ALL TOO NARROW.

21.11.14 PHIL G, ALF, DAVE, JOHN

TOOK DAVE TO HOSPITAL FOR CHECK UP ON HIS BROKEN WRIST THEN ONTO SITE 4050 TO START DIG AT THE ENTRANCE BOULDER BLOCKAGE, 6 ROUNDS OF CAPS GOT TO THE TOP OF A NARROW START OF A LARGE SHAFT.

22.11.14 PHIL G, ALF, ANDREW, DAVE, JOHN

RETURNED TO 4050, ONE ROUND OF CAPS OPENED UP THE TOP OF A SPACIOUS 17M SHAFT TO 30M OF WALKING AND SCRAMBLING PASSAGE TO A LARGE BREAKDOWN CHAMBER, THE END OF WHICH IS AN 8M PITCH TO A BLOCKAGE OF LARGE BOULDERS WHICH WILL REQUIRE CHEMICAL PERSUASION FOR FURTHER PROGRESS, A GOOD DRAUGHT AT THIS POINT, TO BE SURVEYED EASTER 2015.

23.11.14 PHIL G, ALF, DAVE, JOHN

A LOOK IN VALLEY BOTTOM TO THE EAST OF ENTRAMBASAGUAS AND N.E OF 4030 SINK, FOUND RESURGENCE IN A SMALL SIDE VALLEY ON SOUTH SIDE OF THE MAIN DRY VALLEY, THIS IS UNDER A SMALL LIMESTONE OUTCROP WHERE WATER EMERGES FROM A LOW SONPED BEDDING PLANE, NO DRAUGHT, HAS A CONSIDERABLE FLOW, THIS SITE IS OUT OF AREA, BUT COULD DRAIN SITES TO THE SOUTH WHICH ARE IN AREA INCLUDING 4030 SINK WHICH IS 1000M AWAY.

4098

0447390 - 4803303 ALT 54M

2345 Location and description ok. No entrance photo (but see 2347) No sign of 606.

2346 Description and entrance photo ok. GPS: 452244 4794685

2347 Location and description ok. But entrance photo is really 2345.

Pete Smith 9/11/14

From: Peter Smith <smith\_peter2004@yahoo.es>

To: john southworth <direct.station.limited@hotmail.co.uk>; Juan Corrin <szueka@aol.com>

Subject: House near 3422

Date: Sun, Dec 14, 2014 11:10 am

Hello John

Yesterday I went to the house near Barrio San Antonio and spoke to the man there. He said that he let a farmer keep goats on his land for about a month earlier this year and it must have been the farmer who stopped you going to site 3422. He works in Santander himself.

I'd suggest that in the future when you want to go back to the cave, you go on a Saturday or Sunday when he might be around. He seemed fairly interested in the caves, told me about some that he knows, and he has seen you around, at least he said he'd seen Dave Milner with his arm in a sling last month. (He also said they have a house they rent out...)

All the best

Pete



**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>** Phil checked **Washing Machine 3420** - comfortably open, the crawl appeared to be little or no different to the April visit. Two entrances spotted in the roadside bank some way up the road from the Washing Machine parking spot later identified as **2502** and **2503**. Adjacent hole **2504** not apparent and may have been filled in. Chris spotted something on the far side of the valley below the Alisas main road.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>** Phil went out with John and Dave - see their report. Chris had work to do but in the afternoon went to take a look at yesterday's prospect below the Alisas road - draughting slot at the bottom of a small cliff (**4100**).

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup>** A quick inspection of a fairly newly clearance in the Hornedo area near the Y junction turn off produced one very small draughting hole in a shakehole side plus a shaft in a small depression (**4101**) - return required. Onwards to **El Cubillon (2538)** where Phil went for a ferret in the stream bed to see if there was any surface sign of the run-in above the 6m pitch - there was - a rather large hole (**4094**) later descended by Alf et al. On to look at the "below the Alisas road" **4100** with minimal tools but little progress so it is a potential dig. The continuing outcrop was examined but nothing else was found. We looked at the nearby **3195** which was draughting slightly and appears passable for a couple of metres if the entrance is opened up.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>** Back to the Hornedo cleared area where a sandstone edge was spotted. Following it from the road two potential digs appeared at the base of the edge (gps altitude of 118m) - **4102** (0447746 4801314) and **4103** (0447773 4801331). Further round the edge an open entrance gave **4104** (0447805 4801320) - 3m x 4m standing height passage blocked at the back with sand fill and a good draught coming out of the narrow gap between roof and sand fill. Rift to one side entered and descended 4m to tiny cross rift with no way on. One other rift not entered/descended. Survey made and photographs taken.

Other possibilities located in the area are **4105** - a small hole on the edge of top of gulley (0447830 4801306),

**4106** - 2m long narrow rift on north side of a small shake (0447818 4801396),

**4107** - a 3m deep potential dig in small shake cum gulley (0447831 4801440).

Finally over to **4101** where, after rigging a ladder from a jammed drill bit (drill reverse switch packed up!) Chris descended past a section of vertical fill to a sandstone block occupying the bottom. No draught and depth estimated at 10m - grid reference to follow when notes located.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>** Chris and Phil first visit of the trip to 3901, digging and clearing debris adjacent to a small "Inverted V" feature blocking the way on.

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup>** Alex (Richie) had arrived and was raring to go but as it had been raining quite heavily **Washing Machine 3420** was given a miss. Phil and Alex went to **Cueva Six Four One (3917)**. The debris left from the final summer trip was cleared but the narrow part still needed work. About an hour with hammer, chisel and bar removed the offending section and Alex slid through the narrow gap and pool of water into the continuing wide open(!) rift passage. Unfortunately it closed down almost immediately to a pair of tiny draughting rifts at floor level. A higher level continuation was examined, initially Alex falling from 3 or 4m up the climb and then insisting that Phil had to come through into the extension as a safety(!) precaution. He then succeeded in getting up into the upper passage but that quickly came to an end. Another cave broken! The pair surveyed out.

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>** Chris took Dave to 3901 for further digging. Phil and Alex went to **Washing Machine 3420** carrying all manner of equipment intended to get Alex down the 8m pitch at the bottom of the cave. Whilst in the entrance crawl there was no sign of the previous days' rain the pool at the bottom of the big pitch was larger than at Easter and there was a pool in the tight crawly tube. This precluded the intended bolt placing at the corner of the crawl as (a) Alex would get thoroughly wet lying in the pool and (b) the drill would get extremely wet. Plan B appeared. A couple of naturals were located at the entrance to the crawl, a stal boss and a small rock bridge, the srt rope was rigged and Alex disappeared feet first into the crawl, wearing his sit harness and dragging the rope and his hardware after him. He returned some time later with the following story:

"Small ?daunting? tube discovered in Spring, leads to an 8m pitch. On this occasion I rigged it from a stall boss and a small rock bridge at start of crawl. I was able to back down the crawl with my stop on and attached my stop to the rope at the corner of the crawl and backed out. I then rigged a re-belay to avoid rope rub on the edge, one metre down using a natural rock spike (all anchors were natural, crawl was too wet to take drill in and bolt it really). At the bottom of pitch big passage (aven, about 30m high) leads down a small dry cascade into further large but short length of passage. On the left the passage quickly changes into a rift. The rift contains a rock bridge with a jaw bone sticking up on it about 3m above the floor, must flood severely at times. I followed the passage down several small climbs where it turned left and then right where it shrunk down to a U shaped tight crawl. I attempted to push through feet first but could not make any more than a couple of meters progress. Looking in the crawl head first with my camera I saw that there was a rock in the way. If removed it will likely yield more passage as black space beyond but as I would be head first down a tight crawl I did not try to reach it head first without someone to pull my feet out."

This means that, amazingly, the bottom the cave is in the "might continue" rather than "broken" category. As Phil was certain that he

would not get through the unmodified tube whilst wearing a harness the pair evacuated the cave, Alex detackling the large pitch and that rope was removed from the cave. Note - one of the Y hang bolts had loosened and may need replacing. The nut was removed from this bolt. The route to the head of the big pitch has been left rigged.

Note - Later in the week Alex returned with Andrew and Simon. On this occasion they dropped the undescended 16m pitch at the end of one of the upper level side passages. After 15m of rift passage it enters the main 52m pitch about 5m below the traverse to the pitch head.



9  
**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>** Alf, Chris and Phil to **3901**. Further capping and clearing at the "inverted V" revealed a definite way on but it would require capping for as far as could be seen - about 3m. As normal the draught continued to offer encouragement.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>** Chris and Phil to **3901** digging and capping to explore the possibility of a way downwards adjacent to the "inverted V".

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup>** Chris and Phil yet again back to **3901**. Further capping revealed a narrow draughting rift going downwards for a couple of metres, located just before the "inverted V". This will require considerable work to make significant progress.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>** Chris, Alex and Phil. The plan was to visit **3106** and give Alex some capping practice whilst removing the boulders at the top. However, on the way, the team kept spotting and investigating possibilities ending up at an interesting looking, recently cleared area on the northern side of a road, opposite the **2831** location. Needless to say nothing was found. As it was getting late Chris lead the team to **2831** where Alex got his capping practice at the lower (sink) location. This will need a lot more work to make progress but did have a nice encouraging draught.

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>** Chris and Phil went to look at a fenced shaft spotted just below the Alisas road, round the corner to the south of **2990/2993**. The area was examined and three possibilities found - **4108**, **4109** and **4110**. Chris descended two of them on ladder, both effectively ending at boulder infill floors, the third would require enlargement of the entrance and a thinnish person to make downwards progress. Further details of these when the relevant notebook puts in an appearance.



## **MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT**