

LOGBOOK

Year: 2017

Season: summer

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

Juan Corrin, October 2017

SUMMER 2017 LOGBOOK

①

2017-6-7

easter

From: Rupert S <r.skorpka@btinternet.com>

To: uzueka <uzueka@aol.com>; papard <papard@easynet.co.uk>

Subject: easter

Date: Wed, Jun 7, 2017 12:20 pm

Hi Juan

have just looked over the report for easter and it reminded me there were a couple of trips I didnt write up (as they were just carrying gear) but which may be of interest ;

Towards the end of our stay I didnt fit in another diving trip specifically because I had an offer of help carrying gear from a spanish cave diver called ADRIAN GONZALEZ from Oviedo. Adrian did a couple of trips into Vallina and I made sure we had plenty to carry to make full use of his help.

Of more interest was the fact that Adrian co-ordinates rescues involving cave diving in the Asturias and is closely involved in other caving areas. As an ex- Guardia Civil officer, he was in a position to give a factual account of the situation involving cave diving rescues in Spain. I have heard many versions of how this works, no two being the same, so it was interesting to hear what he had to say.

In effect when you ring 112 you are then under the direction of the Proteccion Civil, who oversee all the emergency and police services. The PC then use their local contacts and expertise to assemble, hopefully, a rescue team capable of carrying out the task in hand. The complication in cave diving is that there is no unifying national body (eg. the CDG) to which they can turn in order to put the right persons the place where they are needed. In Spain, cave diving is carried out by various groups that tend not to co-operate or even contact each other. Some are cavers, some are sea divers, others are commercial instructor type operations. So often it is not possible to contact the persons directly involved with exploring a site, let alone arrange a national callout list.

As far as diving in our area is concerned, Adrian assures me that his group would be quickly contacted by the PC if we had a dive related problem. However, their level of experience is limited ; there are only a couple of 'certified' cave divers whom have completed several courses, and several others in the learning process. They do have a very competent support team however, including a couple of caving doctors. It seems they have learnt most of their cave diving through helping Jason at Pozo Azul. Im not sure how they would interact with the Cantabrian local cave rescue team, but he does know Danny from Ramales who holds this 'contract', so presumably they get on.

So there you have it; probably it is fair to say no two rescue procedures are the same given the above.

Changing the subject to the Vallina survey, specifically the new bit drawn up relating the Sump 6 area to the SOPI extensions ; I mentioned this to Carmen and she has put a note in the logbook concerning the following....

Phil will understand this : when Phil and Pete surveyed the main river between sumps 5 and 6, the final station was on a rock flake projecting from the stream, just where the sump 6 pool starts (according to PE, because they didnt want to be swimming across a deep pool). But, the co-ordinates for Martins sump 6 survey begin at the line belay. There is a gap of approximately 20 metres between these two points. So, if MHs sump survey is tacked onto the streamway survey, you will have an error caused by this unsurveyed gap . Perhaps that is why sump 6 had to be rotated to fit the passages surveyed in the muddy gallery down to sump 6A ?

On my next trip I will survey this leg so it can be included. Martins survey will be rough and ready, for the simple reason he was doing everthing in one hit, ie. carrying dive gear, surveying the stream way, and line laying and surveying the sump. He will have been rushed by pushing his air supply to the limit. I will get around to re-surveying this sump more accurately once I have a good line established.

Im not sure who drew all this new stuff up, but if you could make them aware of this.

Cheers, Rupe

②
7/6/17 Pete mentions descending 4379 + 4380 with Guy. Both choked.
↑ about 20m ↑ about 10m

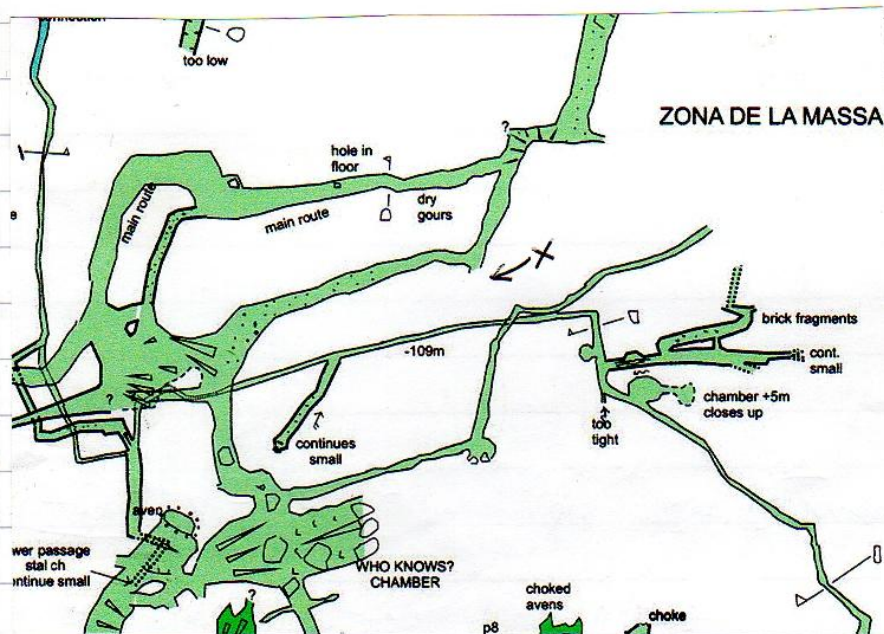
Sat 15th July Valline

Accompanied Rupert into the cave and then looked at side-passages to explore. An alcove on the right (coming out) which the survey shows as blind, isn't blind. A crawl ~~pass~~ stal continued for about 30m (surveyed) and is still going.

Sun 16th July 387 - "El Nanso"

Wandered up the hill for another attempt to find where the draught is coming from (unsuccessful) and took some photos in the chamber.

Thurs 20th July Valline - Juan, Francois Tollemer, Pete S.
(continuation of new passage (above)). It went for about another 35m to a pitth of about 5 or 6m with dripping water and a choke (pitth undescended). Juan took photos. (Suggested name for passage - "Galeria Jesus Leue" - a friend from Matienzo whose funeral was last Saturday)
On way out checked an "open" passage roughly in the area between the "Dragon" and the Road to Nowhere. It was rapidly dug open with a hammer but then seen to choke immediately. X ↘

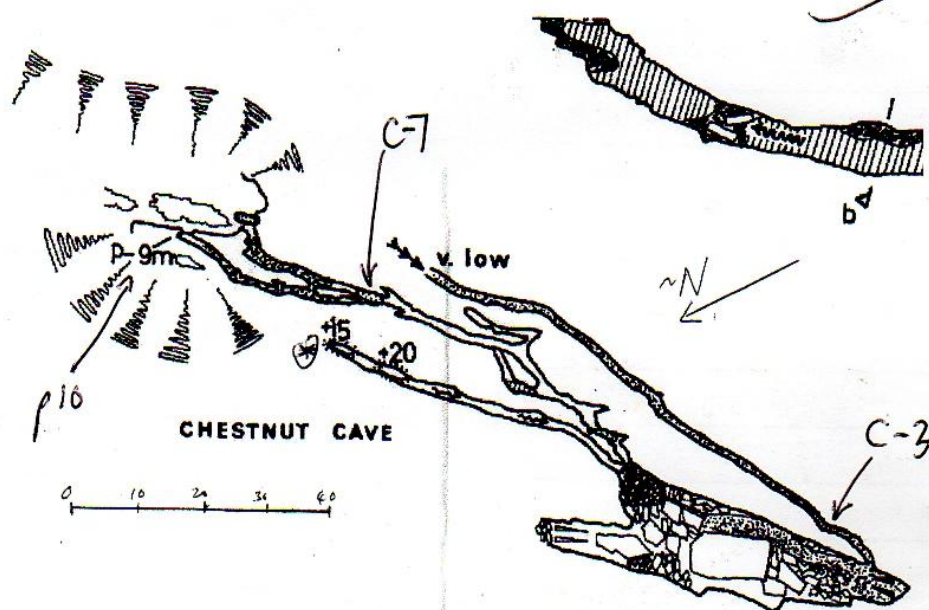


New stuff
is batch
0733-17-01
L = 85.9m

22/7/17 Saturday.

(3)

James, Francois and Juan into Chestnut Hole (#0102) to check out the 'draughting' flat-out end. (James' account below).
James + Francois excavated while Juan surveyed out, 258m surveyed without side bits, so length needs re-evaluating. Depth is about 40m putting the end only a couple of metres above the level of the Gorilla Walk, but 200m away from where the dye was seen in an inlet in 1988. Photos taken.



23/7/17 Juan, Pete S, Francois + Phil P 4536 Subphox Dig
Did 2 cycles of digging & lowered floor some half a metre or so, Quite hard going as many small sandstone blocks in clay fill. Very hot in sun & down hole at first as sun was over head & shone into bottom. At end a small hole was opened up and a draught came out - looks good for a connection, but may need snappers or caps. hole now about 2.2m deep.

→ James C. Passage marked v. low continues v. low through liquid mud. Progress made for several body lengths, continues with draught; v. synalid and requires brace kicking mud to progress. On way out hole at ②. Draughting passage needs a couple of bodies removed to progress, but going back towards entrance, so prob. not worth it.

24/07/2017

vallina dives

From: Rupert S <r.skorupka@btinternet.com>

To: Juan Corrin <uzueka@aol.com>

Subject: vallina dives

Date: Mon, Jul 24, 2017 1:14 pm

Hello Juan

During July I did a couple more dives which were not recorded. The details of the last, interesting one are as follows ;

Vallina Downstream Sump 6.

70 metres into this sump, MH's line begins to rise up and to the left. I wanted to avoid an ascent as far as possible so laid my line over to the right in a very big tunnel. Quite soon, an opaque white ceiling loomed into view. This was a halocline of warmer, turbid water that had possibly come in as a result of a short but heavy downpour on Sunday night, 4 days ago.

This may indicate that the inlet into Sump 6 explored via the SOPI Extensions is fed by a stream that is relatively close to the surface.

The milky vis descended gradually, til progress was made looking along a few inches of clear water at floor level. MH's line was bumped into again, and by 90 metres I was expecting to have reached the junction with the branch line to the deeper part of the sump. An old lead weight was encountered with what looked like a bit of white tat tied off to it, but on pulling this, it emerged from a layer of mud and continued.

Laying the last 10 metres of new line alongside this, it dropped through the murk back into clear water in an equally large passage. A steep slope was followed down, but the old line was thin and in a frayed condition , so this will need replacing. I belayed the end of my new 100 metre line to a flake at about 10 metres depth.

On the way out between sumps 5 and 6, I climbed up into the high levels and recovered my drysuit. This was brought down to the streamway, and a changing area found where a sandy gallery crosses the streamway with a slope up to a dry flat area.

On the next dive a few days later, a full cylinder and new reel of line were carried to sump 6. A dive was not carried out though, as rain was forecast and I did not want to spend too long in the far reaches of the cave. I climbed back into the high levels and recovered the rest of my dry gear and bits needed for a drysuit dive. It is worth noting that in high floods, the water in the river passage between sumps 5 and 6 reaches a height of at least 8 metres above normal.

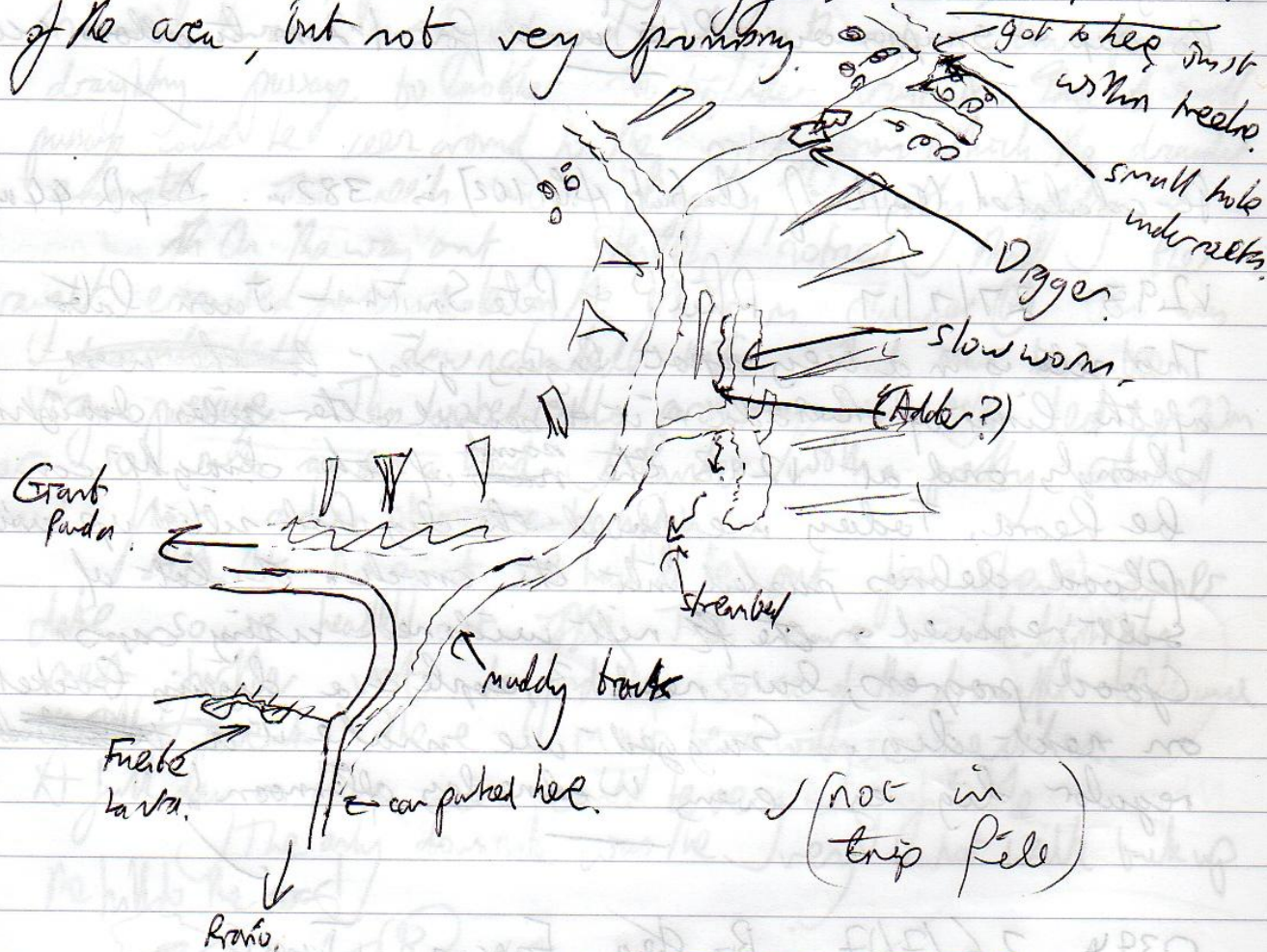
4519

24/07/17, Phil Puyard, James C., Francois.

Opened up the top of the pit with snappers, but very little drop caught. Laddered the pit, which was 6 mung short of 2. 8m ladders to the bottom. There was just enough room for 2 people to stand sideways on in a very narrow way on.

23/7/17 Little Juan, Nora, James, Jenny.

Went for walk in newly deforested area south west of Fuente La Vía, Roró. No caves found, but a slow worm was seen, as was 'something' bigger. We looked at most of the area, but not very promising.



25/7/2017
4536 Subphone Dig Juan, Phil P & Torben.

Continue digging, but hole was a little wet & muddy after a day of heavy rain. After a lot of clay removed Torben managed to move a block from next to where the draught had been found on the 23rd. It was then easy to dig down & after about half an hour the draught was found again on a 6" dia hole into a rift. Then using 4 mappers & two caps much of the rock was removed, but a large "crowbar" is needed to remove flake & then a few "capping" goes should allow access, it may need snapping to make it big enough for all.

4536 Subphone Dig 26/7/17 Phil P, Torben, Terry, Juan
More digging & snappers with some caps! Can now see
down light 3m drop to connection with 3234 Cueva-Cubco
del Clonco. Torben tried to go down but was too fat,
having eaten too much Danish food since Easter. Need
to cap & snapper out RITS well for 1.2m to allow access

Re-calculated length of Anbut file (102) is 382m. Depth 44m

1298 27/7/17 Phil P & Pete Smith - Juan later
This site is in a key spot laying just to the west
of the limit of Reñada - it & several other sites draught
strongly and at 1298 the ^{sound} ~~noise~~ of the draught can
be heard. Today we found the dig had filled up with
flood debris pushed into the crack. A lot of
silt remained & the pit left widened using caps.
Good progress, but need 3 people & a digging bucket
on next dig. Suggested we make it a ~~regular~~
regular dig eg every Wednesday afternoon!

0394 26/7/17 Big Steve, Francois, Janos C.

Visited Cueva Colada ~~via~~ the newly opened Eastwater
Entrance. The aim was to locate the source of the draught
and check out Nevaron dry sites.

The Entrance was found as easily by following the line
of pylons and the downborder vegetation from Easter.
Inside, a slot down was worked from the inside to
make it easily passable.

First we investigated (A) an area with several
marked dyes. Then we used smoke to detect any draughts,
but it was suddenly a no hope, with hardly any draught

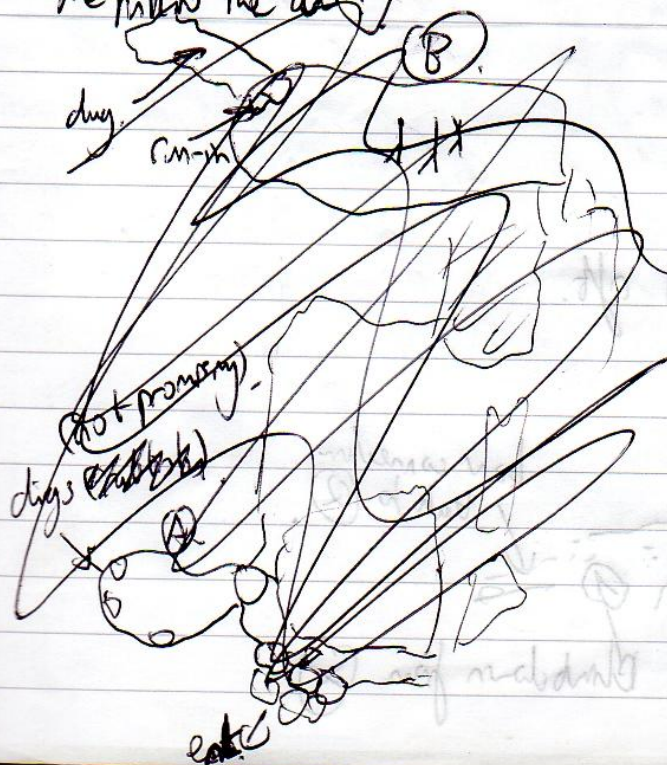
here (compared to the entrance choke, in which the draught is very very strong and cold) (7)

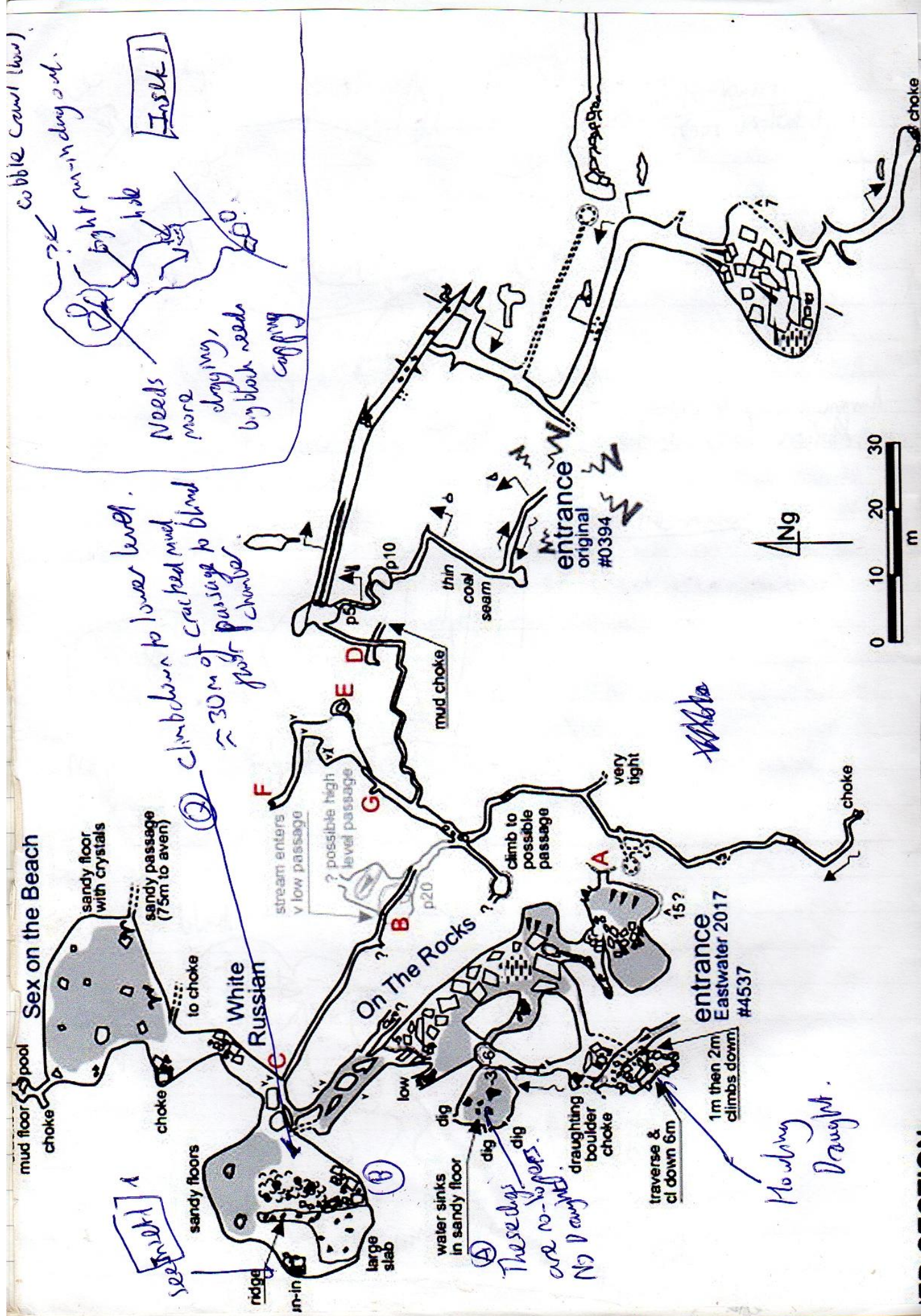
We then moved on to (B). This is a very large and well-decorated chamber, and the survey doesn't do it justice. A photographic trip here would be good. Here, the area marked 'run-in' was investigated and dug through a low passage draughting passage to another 'run-in'. This is a small passage which could be seen around to the right, from which the draught emanates. This needs more digging, possibly capping.

On the way out, Steve noticed that the draught emanated from a hole in the floor in chamber (B). This was ~~downchambered~~ downchambered into what may have been a virgin passage. This looked really promising but only led for 20m or so into an area a blind chamber with a pretty cracked mud floor and no obvious continuation.

At this point we had to be out for Steve's dinner date, so we headed out. The cave would definitely merit further visits to find the source of the draught because ~~it's all present~~ there must be a way or somewhere.

A full day in there ~~was~~ could be very profitable. The only downside was the very hot with baking me into the wall!





ED SECTION

(9)

Juan wandering up the Seldesato trail

27/7/17 IK photos of Arenal; site 3318; 879; 1298 (where Phil and Pete were working) and some tiny draughting holes just north of site 3318.

New grid references for 879: 0449576 4794509 ↑ 293

3318: 0449558 4794516 ↑ 293

1298: 0449570 4794493 ↑ 300.

4536 Subphone Entrance 28/7/17 Juan, Torben, Phil P.

Yet more digging using ~~an~~ caps to remove ledge that turned out to be a plate about 6" thick at top getting thicker down with clay pit on far side. Made capping difficult near top.

Removed about 1m of rock to where Torben thought he could get down. This he did but realized he may not be able to get out; due to the 2.5m drop below the opened out section being body size (just!) so you need arms above & hence with no SRT etc, no way to move up.

Juan felt sorry for him & he & Phil pulled him up with Torben using a foot loop. On the positive side the hole went into 3234 so the second entrance now exists (but need 1 or 2 days work to make it easy) & hence the name change from Subphone Rig to Subphone Entrance!

28/7/17 2889 MudAxe, Si, Di, Ben, Janet.

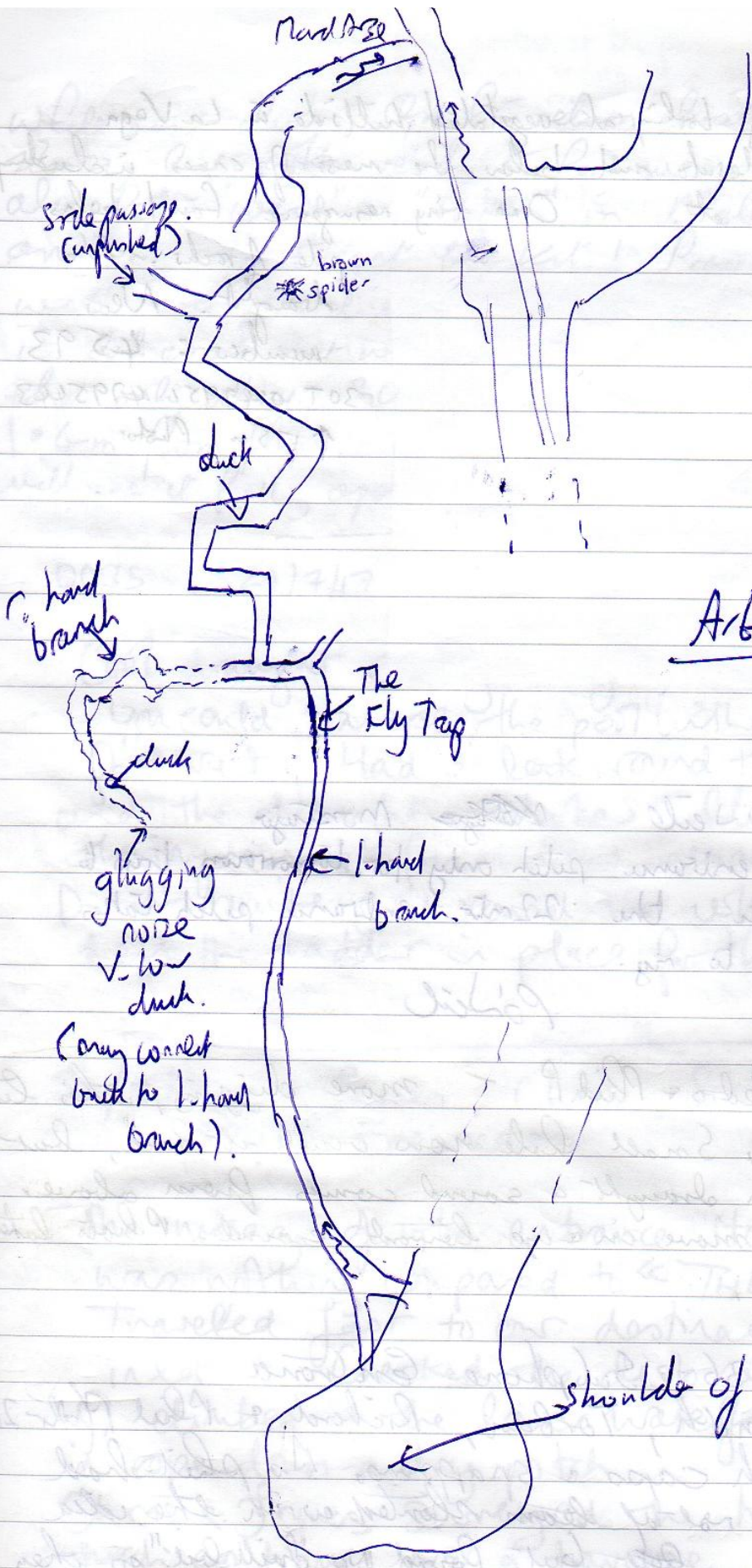
Went to push MudAxe to a conclusion. Got to 'Don't Make me Laugh' in area 2 hours, then reopened up. MudAxe was found, but was not a new passage as hoped. Simon remembered a flat out crawl, but it was actually a high rift. Threw it for 100m or so until a duck was reached in deep

(P)
Water. This was passed and a couple of corners later a junction was reached, both ways bright. This was the end of the original survey. Jones went right through a squeeze around the corner several corners to a dark patch under a low arch. Under this a bright light in deep water led to an inch high ~~shallow~~ muddy arch with an ominous gurgling sound ahead. This was not pushed, but assumed to be a trap.

The left-hand branch of the junction was pushed by Dr and Buns to 'The Fly Trap' a bright ~~near~~ squeeze down a slippery muddy pit into deep water that looked difficult to reverse. It was as bit like a Giant Pitcher Plant!

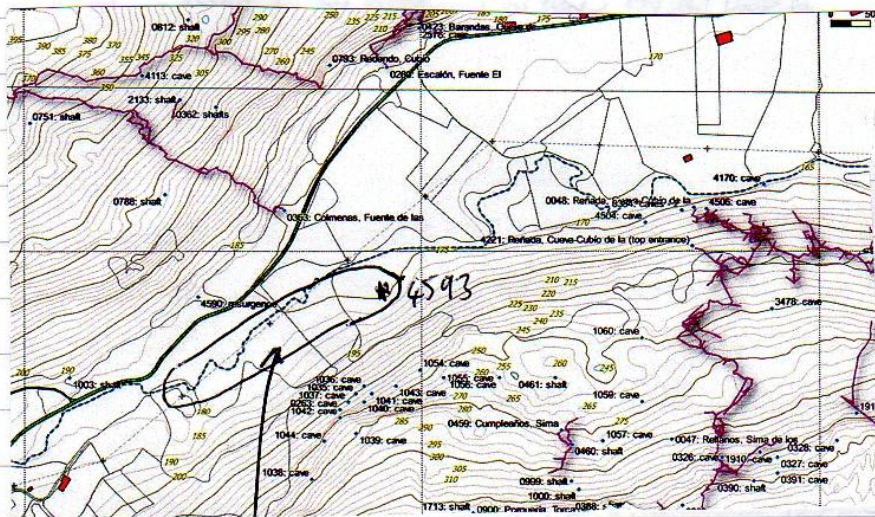
The passage ~~then~~ continued beyond in bright, wet patches and was surveyed for 12m or so until it emerged ~~right at the end~~ about 30m back from the end of the shoulder of Muckin man obvious side passage. This was one that Sr & I had missed, ~~which~~ I personally hadn't thought was possible. This was a may be a life-changing revelation on the same magnitude as ~~an~~ ^{the} day I found out that Father Christmas doesn't exist!

The only remaining lead to a side-passage on the right about 30m into the start of Mark the! This is on the original survey. The other thing of note is that Simon thought that the draught came out of the ceiling just before the first duck. We didn't go back to investigate though.



Arbort's Impressions.

29/7/17 Fran + Kenny looking at vegetated hillside in La Vega
before Saldesuta and below the mess of caves including
263, 1035, 1036 etc. One tiny resurgence found below
pile of rocks. No
draught. New
numbers: 4593
30T 0449951 4795443
↑ 175m Plaster



looked here

29/7/17 Pete O'Seill ~~Montijo~~ Montijo
Trip to reg entrance pitch only for tomorrow's trip to
Wonderland, note the 22mtr entrance pitch takes
45 mtr rope to reg.

Pencil

29/7/17 1298 Pedro + Phil P - more digging, this time
with tray + rope. Small hole now visible at back, but
it looks as if main draught + sound comes from above.
Will now work to move in + up towards sound. Photo taken
& tray left in hole.

30/7/17 4536 Subphone Entrance
Juan, Pete Smith, Torben, Richard + Phil (after 2 hrs)
More digging with caps + snappers. As Phil had
to go to Ramon's rat of beam started with the idea
of using snappers - ~~But~~ - but found no "drill bit" so they
used caps; When Phil returned it was found drill bit
had been left - so he went to Matenzo to get it

while rest-dug. On his return drilling for snappers shorter, but when ready to fire we found Phil had also left "wine" & "Finner" in Matengo - so yet another run to get the kit! Progress was slow even with snappers due to trying to break a curve of rock, it did crack but was still tight. By end it was clear that only about 30cm of tight section remained some 1.4m from floor. One more dig with caps & snappers will see it fully open.

0035 29/7/17 Si & Di

Cool draught coming out of travel. Water levels low - you could traverse the pool without getting your feet wet. Had a look round the lower passages and the draughting choked. Climbed up into the impressive foam dome checking out the digs. Didn't quite get round the whole area so left the ladder in place for the time being.

30/7/17 James, Chris, Si & Di
0841 Fresneda

The misery of the entrance stooping and creaking was nothing compared to «THE HOWLING» !!! Travelled fast to our destination of COYOTE inlet. Checked the disto calibration whilst Si climbed up the lower waterfall then rigged a rope down a dry pitch.

Chris & James surveyed the higher level (17-04) which continued over a traverse for 30 metres ending in a draughting small desludging tube. Dug for an hour - about 1 metre from the end now
cont...

Meanwhile, Si and Di went through the squeezey crawling passage to the aven - 'Pepe le Puits'. Si ^{with} climbed the short but difficult aven - hammering the sides to find a good bolting hold enormous chunks of mud and rock falling to the pool at the base. Avoiding the waterfall he rigged the pitch at the top just as Chris & James arrived after surveying the higher level. We (Chris, James & myself, Di) ascended as Si fettled the climbing gear. The top of the pitch is chossy and loose. A ~~3~~ 3 metre wide passage leads off and continues.... It starts off excitingly wide but narrows after 5 metres to a rift climb but then opens up again. A higher level could be seen. The passage continued getting lower and then enlarging, partially filled with boulders until a stream was met... we turned around at this point. Another passage can be seen on the other side of the top of the aven - crawling passage, could continue, worth looking at.

Draught felt throughout. Fresno is a pretty miserable trip though, for someone with an aching back. So much stooping and the mud from "THE HOWLING" adds a little too much extra weight to your kit to add a challenge.

We also looked at the passage near wonderland on the survey marked as ending at a steel grill, this doesn't appear to be a draught but may reward effort like with hammer & chisel, but is not heading in an exciting direction (15)

30/07/17 ✓ Mostajo 0071 - Tom, Pete O'Neil, Ash Hishcock

- TRIP TO WONDERLAND TO VISIT THE TERMINAL.
CHOKED FOR CHECKING PROSPECTS OF DIGGING. ALL
DECIDED A BIG CAPPING JOB & NO REAL EXCITEMENT
NO DRAUGHT & COMMITTED DIGGING TO PROGRESS.
TOM TOOK PHOTOS ON EXIT (SUMMER CAVE
FOLDER & OUT TO BAKERS) PETE O'NEIL CAN
ADD MORE. * note both entrance pitch & golden void require 4 5m

Ropes for full descent. 3 of the 4 bolts at the top of the golden void pitch are shot & at least 1 should be renewed to allow descent on 2 good bolts.

29/07/17 0040 Cueva del Comellones - Ash with Terry
+ Steve in support.

31/7/17

4536 Subphone Cnt - Pete O'N, Torben, Louise, Phil P
Yet more capping getting nowhere! After 10 tries it was noted
that the problem was a shale band. This was too soft to
cap but too hard to easily dig. However Pete & Torben
were able to get down & out with out too much trouble
while down they went to Ali Chamber. The cave is
now ok for thin people to use. We will open
out the entrance when we have a dry day & use
a 'Jack hammer' to break up shale band

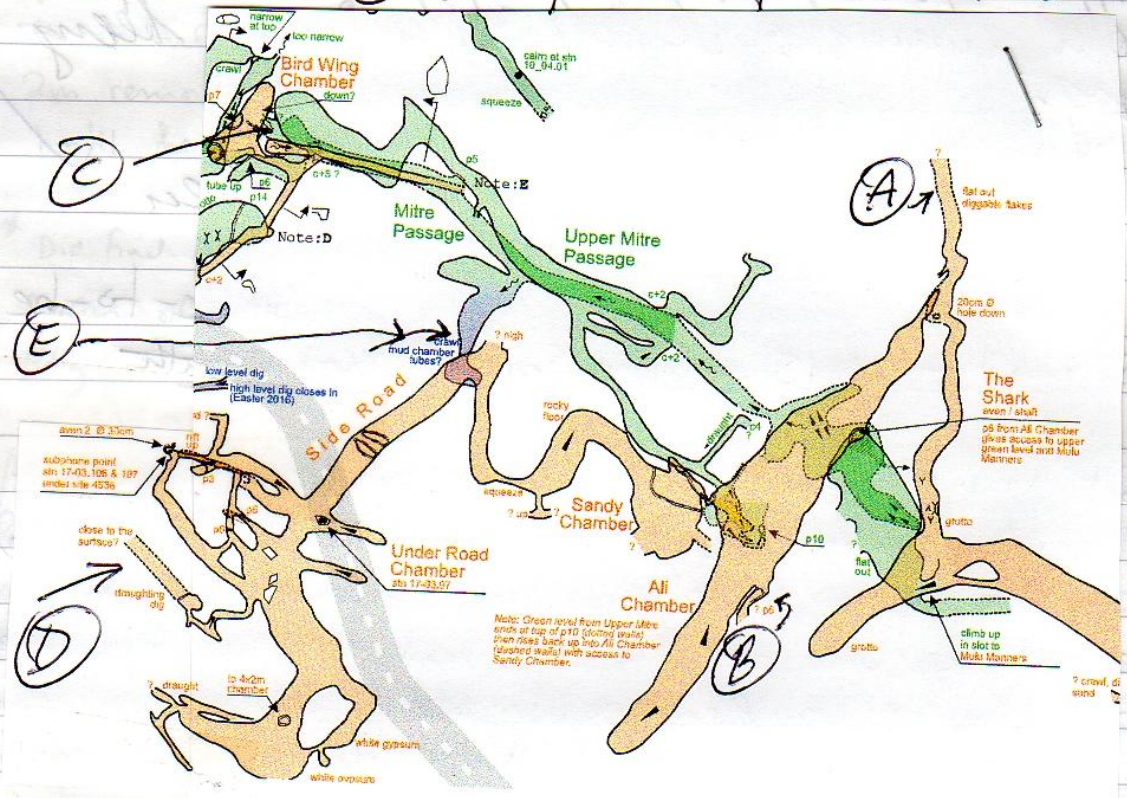
31/7/17 1189 Daing Dig | 1253 Dead Fox Passage DCE Diggers' Nigel P, Pete C, Dave D, Richard B

First full day in the valley for Nigel, Pete & Dave. We made a return visit to two digs we looked at last year; 1189 Daing Dig & 1253 Dead Fox Passage. Last year, 1189 was abandoned due to a collapse and left for a year to settle. On entering 1189 we found there had been a major collapse in the digging area with several tonnes of mud & rock previously on the wall now on the floor. Decided not to pursue this year. It was still draughting well even in mild wet weather. If it proves to be stable, then there is a large void that can be entered to pass the collapsed section. Maybe one for another year? Did a full survey of the cave before exiting. Nigel took some photos at 1189 before we departed. Re found 1253 Dead Fox Passage. Draught seems to be coming from the 'wrong direction' from where we dug to last year. Looks like a big job to continue the dig. Left alone for now. RB ✓

30/7/17 0081 + 0603 Footleg, Dave Gasman, Tacklebury, Sam Man. Evening stroll to check if Carcavese entrance needed excavating. Found rift filled with sediment and thought it was completely beyond hope. So decided to look for the alternative entrance to get in. Dave said he had found a drafting rift over the next rise, which turned out to be the real entrance. Completely free of debris! So we headed up to the mushroom field for an orientation walk in the pleasant light rain. Ended up taking a look down 0603 with Dave and we both thought it looked capable to gain access to the horizontal crawl beyond. A much more promising prospect than I had been led to believe from previous trip reports I had read. JDC ✓

1/8 17 #3234/4536

Peter O'Real, Topher
 Down through the tight remains of 4536.
 This time I felt that it would be possible
 to get out without getting pulled out,
 like a cork in a ~~plastic~~ bottle, by Juan
 and Phil, like on the sap 28/7.
 We had a good look around Mulu Mannes
 and Mitre Passage.
 The crawl (A) was pushed for about 30 m



Towards D. A crowbar may be needed to remove
 a rock in the middle of the passage. Draught
 coming towards us.
 (D) Need caps / crowbar to shift rock, to get
 access to rift and possible passage.

(C) NE end of Misse Passage checked for passage in floor. That is where the under rocks. Too small.

(D) Started pushing the dig (mud). Geyser may be useful to dig and break off mud layers.

(E) Mud tubes in roof in the inner chamber seems closed. No draught and damp in the chamber, despite Misse Passage being dry.

Torben ✓

Scaife-to-be.

01/08/2017 - 0415 - Chris Scaife, Carol Smith

Short trip to check the undescended pitch in the end series: 4 metres down to a small chamber (4m x 1.5m) with a hole in the floor that soon becomes too small.

There was a climb over the pitch head that lead to another ~~the~~ tall chamber with flowstone (8m tall).

~~the~~ The only thing left now to finish the survey is to tie in the new survey with the Helictite passage survey and the big pitch survey. I'm afraid the mythical connection with Mastaja cannot be found. ✓

1/8/17 0035 Aranel. 0366 Torca del JR.
Quick visit to Aranel to check out draughting holes then into Torca del JR. Riggged the pitch (needs re-riggig) and capped the way on. Draughting well Rock was very hard & difficult to cap. Si & Di. ✓

1/8/17 Above the Mushroom Field Nigel, Pete Clewer, Dave Dillon, Richard Bullock.

Following instructions from Phil, went to check out some old sites on the hillside north of the Mushroom Field. Started at 2709 - "undescended shaft" - dropped down about 2.5m to fill, no obvious prospect. Moved on to 1553 with bit of draught. Depth 4.1m overall and 3.6m to soil floor. Again, no obvious dig. Also looked at 1552 and shakehole in between but no prospects*. Moved on to 4180 in side of gully. Quick survey showed 14m of passage from daylight to daylight. Two bats. Could not get through because of roots. Then on to shakehole at 30T 0452759 ⁴⁵⁹⁴ 47982416 ²²⁶ (new site). Three holes with draughts. Dug central hole down for about 2m removing sand stone boulders. Still going. Good draught. We'll be back ...

* Did find another hole in shakehole between 1552 & 1553 at 30T ⁴⁵⁹⁵. Several other shakeholes found with draughting holes - will be documented (new site) fully on the next trip.

1/8/2017 Digging at 603 Paul Carlewicks
Bog Skee, Sam Drake, Paul Welman, ~~Sam Drake~~, Jessie Welman, Pete Thom?
Sweaty walk to Mushroom field to strongly outwound draughting hole. 3 raps enlarged the entrance drop down to small chamber. Now fit for normal sized people. A short ladder would be useful if the ground is wet. Underground write up to follow.

At Bottom of Shaft small Boulder Removed with Hammer + chisel To clear way on the Horizontal Passage Approx 5m long flat sand leading to small rift that leads to ~~cont that~~ next horizontal crawl that needs Enlarging for normal ~~size~~ sized people to fit thru.

31-7-17 0081 Footley, Dave Garmen, Tack & Pac Man.

- Sump at end of Stragh Warkney Passage.
- Free dive attempt Dave tried to get far air with feet (running water can be heard through the sump). A free dive - attached to 4 delay belts was tried, no air space was found - although running water was louder.
 - very deep pool noted at far end of sump passage
 - Sump seems to be down stream.

2/8/17

Nigel D, Pete C, Dave D, Richard B 'DCC diggers'

4594

Returned to yesterday's dig to try and make more progress. Removed several large boulders. Some larger ones required some capping to extract. Enlarged the hole to allow easier digging room. Dig is still draughting well and the whole shakehole is several degrees colder than at the rim. The dug shaft now measures 75x55cm in cross section and 2.26m deep and still heading through a boulder pile with loose soil between rocks. Nigel took some more photos. On way to the site, spotted draughting holes in other shakeholes, all new sites

4596

1221

New site A: 30T 0452679 4798153 (GPS) A small hole that will require digging to gain access at the bottom of a shakehole, between rocks at the base of a small multi-trunk tree. Draughting well. Photos taken of the entrance

New site B: 30T 0452697 4798155 (GPS) Moss and fallen leaves were removed to reveal draughting holes between two sizeable rocks at the bottom of a shakehole at the base of a tree with two trunks. Photos taken of the holes.

New site C: 30T 0452738 4798206 (GPS) An open hole about 30cm across at the side of an elongated shakehole which was draughting slightly.

Needs digging to make progress. Appears to drop about 1m to a mud choke but couldn't quite see full extent. Photos taken of entrance.

Several other shakeholes between the track and the dig site were looked at but no obvious draughts found.

2/8/17 Llanio (3234) (Through the Subphone entrance (4536))
Phil used jack hammer with generator on the vertical squeeze at
down the hole while Torken and Juan assisted on the surface.
By 2pm (after 1 1/2 hours) the slot down was deemed large enough
so Torken rang Louise. She left the children with
Hilary to supervise and drove over to join the team.
All down the entrance to the top of draughting
hole partly descended by Pete O'N a couple of days ago. Juan
took photos in the vicinity and back in Mule Manners.
The Boss descended the hole.

Batch 17-04 
A grass slope at the end of Mule Manners,
just W of Mule Junction leads to a grassy field with
sandy floor, willing soil. Grass slope has a
handmade. The grass meadows, occasionally big
boulders for pass, and slopes for pass. Down
to the left, there is a patch where stones
surround for a few seconds. Finally a slope up
leads to a chamber. There are cracks up ~~there~~ in
the N end, but no way on. Sandstone end has a
climb up in stiff sandstone, but too high.
Maybe way on in sandstone end towards S.
Draughting lead towards E. (see slip 4/8) Taken

2/8/17 0035 Aranel Si & Di
Explored the area down the draughting hole after the
foam dome. Looked at Sta. 65 (Survey file) Station
no 3 on the survey paper 2000. Boulder choke with a
continuing crawl. Had a good look round. No easy prospects.
Continued to the area Sta. 69 (Survey) paper Sta. 0.
Climbed up the oven. No prospects here either.
~~Had~~ Think we got into new passage - unsurveyed.
but draught behind us and appeared to be heading
back towards the main chamber. On the way out
had a look around the foam dome chamber.

2/8/17 0059 Llagas Lizzie W,
Schel M, Alex S.

Small Under around the entrance to
get new Matanzas members excited about
the expedition.

3/8/17 ⁰⁰⁴⁸ Juan to Peña with IR camera. Outside temperature
about 30°C. Bottom entrance blowing out - shows
well on IR. Inside cave, although draughting, there
was nothing to show on the IR.

At the Blow Hole, with a strong draught expanding out,
there was also nothing showing on the IR.

The top entrance was draughting in. This showed
up well on the IR with red at the entrance changing
down the slope to orange, green, then blue + black.

2/8/17 0841 Cueva Fresno II James + Chris S.

Went back to survey the passages above 'Pepe la Pinta'. Got
there in about 2 ^{1/2} hours taking it steady. Above the pit
we followed the streamway for around 80m until it degenerated.
However, further back were several climbs up into passage above
that may have been climbable. However, we decided to push the
streamway just. Unfortunately it became too bright after only
20m or so. Luckily, there was a climb up the left side
that gained a higher passage that was well decorated. North we entered
a draughting boulder choke in black rocks. Surveying the other way led
to a junction. One way led above the lower passage to a pit
down that we haven't entered yet. This may be worth a look. The other

Way led back above the main passage until a very strong draughting hole above was met. Climbing up here led to 'That's All Folks' a very impressive, well-decorated chamber. This looked like it was going to go in at least three different directions. However, all ways but one quickly closed down and the ^{same way} very strong draught could not be pinned down. As we went at the SE end side was draughting, but not strongly. This was pushed for 30m or so to an easy dig beyond which a large continuation (hands and knees on floor) could be seen. We surveyed all we found and decided to return in next year with fresh eyes. Things to do:

1. Draughting dry South of lower waterfall. The very strong draught will take about 1hr's digging. Found by going up headline at top of pitch and down another pitch.
2. Muddy draughting dry at SE end of 'That's All Folks'. Needs about 1hr's digging to gain large passage.
3. More work pushing the streamway. It bifurcates just before the climb up and becomes two rights in both banks. However it may be possible to dig back into either bank further upstream:
 - Left hand branch: could be followed by starting halfway up climb into higher passage.
 - right hand branch: possibly able to dig back into it upstream of right section by climbing down into understated pit.
4. More general working around in 'That's All Folks' to try to find the way on.

3/8/17 0071 Mostay's D. & S.

A late ^{start!} rubber-neck down to the end of
Mostay's and back. Grand trip :)

2/8/17 - 4040 3812 Tom, Paul Willmors + 2
FINALLY GOT TO DERIG UOIC AFTER TRIP TO BOTTOM
TO FURTHER ON & SURVEY INTO PASSAGE. AFTER
IT CONTINUED TO NOWHERE EXCITING WITH NO
DRAUGHT WE GAVE UP & DEREGGED. SOUTHWEST
NOW DISLIKE ME, THINK B I WON'T BE
GOING BACK.

CAVE NOW TOTALLY DE-REGGED & ALL ROPE
BACK IN STORE, ANYONE TO TAKE AN
INTEREST IN THIS DOUGH CAVE, TAKE
NUTS FOR THE TRIP & NUTS FOR THE
BOLTS... TOM ☺

3/8/17 Cueva Las Cosas 0084 Tom, Charlotte, Nigel, Peter, Pete O'N
Bill Booth, Richard
DCC dodgers finally got to the entrance thanks to
Juan's rediscovery at Christmas. Chamber much
bigger than expected so Richard started a survey.
Lots of photos taken by Nigel, Tom, Charlotte and Bill.
Will return to complete the survey - just for the record.

P.S. ^{TOM} ~~Richard~~ found draughting hole at 30T 0452870 4797247 (new site)
Will return to check it out. ^{Likely} to be another way into Las Cosas?
Photos taken. Will try to tie it in when the full Las Cosas survey is done.
Will need digging to get in.

2000 2000

(25)

4/08/17 603 JESS WILMAN & PACMAN

After all the work we did on the 1st, I (not being a normal sized person) managed to fit ~~through~~ through the gap after moving some larger rocks out of the way of the second crawl. I managed to fit through the gap after a bit of wiggling. Once eventually through to the other side the passage opened up to about 5m⁺ high. Even though it was tall it was still very tight to fit through, so much so I had to cave without a helmet for about 10m of passage. Once I was as far as I could I got the passage bent round to the right to a very small gap which is impossible to get through without some additional help "blowing things up". Through out the trip we also managed to survey the known parts of the cave as well as the new passage I went through today. Also managed to get some more photos of the known and new passages.



4/8/17 Jenny, Jones, Eleanor, Ivan, Jude, Sean, Daisy & Ivan into Peña de - bottom to top entrance via the Black hole. Photo + video. (to edit).

4/8/17 0084 Cueva Las Cosas Richard, Nigel, Bill, Pete C, Dave D.

Return visit for the DCC to Las Cosas to complete the survey. Nigel & Pete did a survey of the perimeter. Richard & Dave did some radial spokes & location of prominent features. Will have to ~~collate~~ collate the numbers together to get the full picture. Key numbers: the main chamber measures over 86m in length - far higher than previous surveys suggest. Including the entrance & side passage at the back: it's approx 100m long. In width, about 56m.

The Daylight was spotted north of the main entrance, so the draughting hole found ⁴⁵⁹⁹ yesterday does appear to be a 2nd entrance - but far too small to enter.

4/8/17 - 3234 - Tom Howard, Pete O'Neill, Pete SM

Batch 17-05 SMITH, LOUISE & TORBEN,

via Subphos entrance

- Trip into 3234 to push & survey into & beyond the chamber. TORBEN RIGGED CLIMB MEANT FOR SET BUT TURNED TO BE & HANDLINED CLIMB. THIS WAS AFTER AN HOUR OR SO OF SEARCHING FOR WAY ON & BEFORE PETE & LOUISE LEFT. AFTER THE HANDCLIMBS A QUICK SCAMPER & WE SURVEYED INTO THE ONGOING OPEN PASSAGE & CONTINUED AMAZED FOR A FEW HOURS. ONCE REALISING THE TIME WE DECIDED TO STOP AT 600M OPPOSED TO GOING TOO FAR BEYOND CALLOUT TIME. PLENTY MORE TO DO, PICTURES, SURVEY & VIDEO TAKEN.

off

4/8/17 - 0081 - Dave Gorman, Foolteg, Ali Smith, Tim Kent & Dan Kent

Dive sump @ end of Strong's Working Passage. Previous free dive did not find air-space. Inspection with a 3L cylinder surfaced 3' beyond my free dive limit. 6" air space. line tied off to boulder. Roof rose to chamber and boulder choke above. Inspection of boulder choke led to discovery of orange guide line leading through choke & crawl - one East, One West, East crawl followed (CARE), ending in chamber with cascade (app 2m). Cascade climbed and route up and through boulders found, coming up into another chamber with bedding leading off. - Sump, line now bolted both ends and now a short 4-5m free dive.

6/8/17 0366 Torca del JR. Si a Di
 viz, clears quickly. Beware of flake - on right (us).
 - crawl to cascade chamber, CARE is required as
 there is a loose boulder (moved behind me). It is
 now propped but jack or timber will be needed
 as a second measure.

4/8/17-0081 - Ali Smith, Dave Gorman, Sootley, Tim Kent
 & Dan Kent.

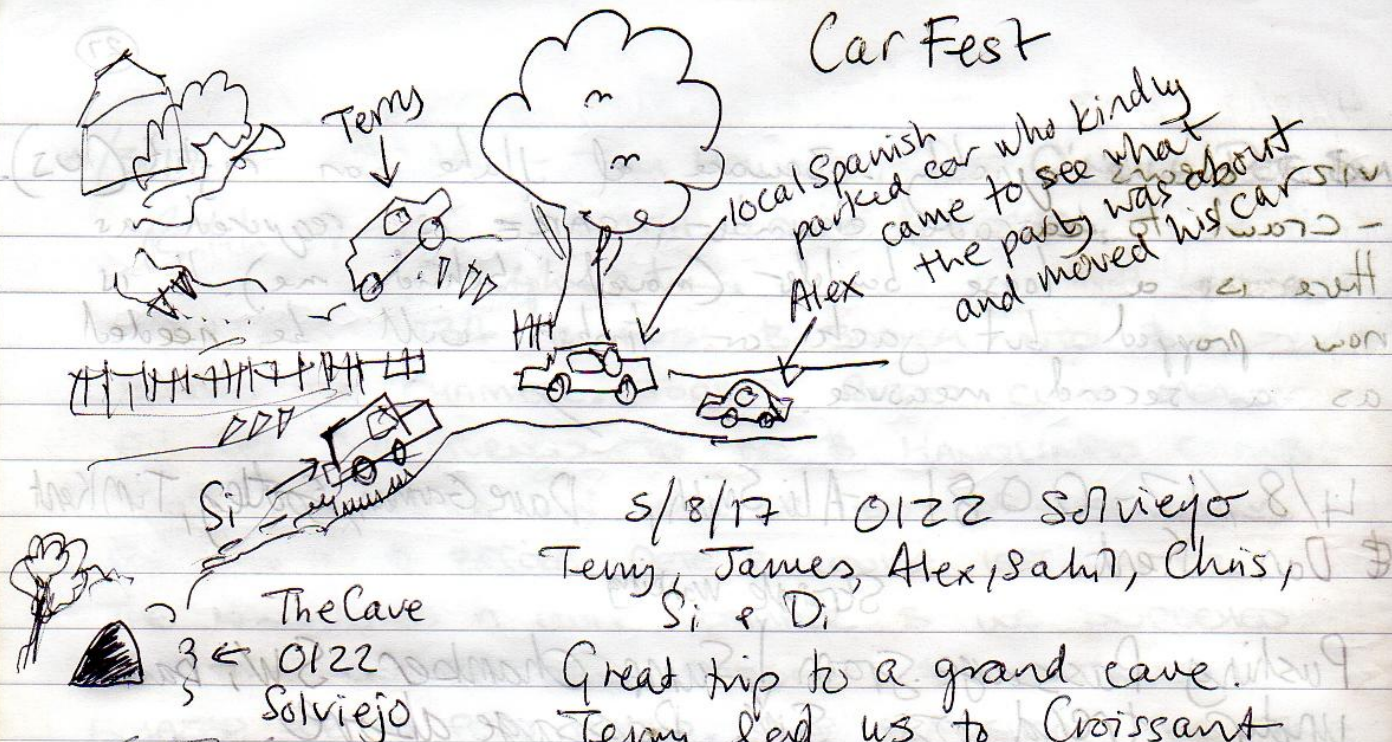
Strangle walking

Pushing Passage from Sump Chamber SW, back
 under trend of S.W. passage above.
 Crombar used to move a couple of boulders
 3/4 way along, passage ends at collapsed
 boulder choke blocking ongoing passage;
 removed few boulders but more came down!
 Back above 3/4 way along, passage sorts off
 slightly right. Emerges in Boulder Choke where
 it is possible to reach Strangle, walk passage
 above, through multiple routes. Footley, Dan & Tim
 followed with Surrey.

3/8/2017 Lizzie Wilkins, Lloyd Cauterone, Chris Scryge,
 Carol Smith, Pete Smith. Risco - 25
 Tourist trip through Risco to work up
 an appetite for goat.

4/8/2017 0366 Torca del JR. Si a Di
 A more productive dig at the bottom, using the chisel
 bit on the drill rather than capping. The rock fractured
 easily - used four batteries and more to do...
 Felt a strong draught coming out of pants and
 Underpants as walked past! :-)

Car Fest



S/8/17 0122 Solviejo
Terry, James, Alex, Sahl, Chris,
Si & D.

Great trip to a grand cave.
Terry led us to Croissant
passage. A few awkward
climbs to get there.

Dinner dates forced everyone
out apart from Si and
myself. We surveyed the
buttery, flaky pastry!

A low crawl through up
the streamway through
continuous stal grilles.

A couple of avents
passed en route, first
46 m high - 500 high to
see the top. The second
appeared to have

passages leading off in two

directions. The watery crawl was interspersed
with squeezes and deeper pools until it progressed
into stooping - then walking passage! Wahoo!

The large passage at the end had potentially a number
of ways on - back down to streamway stal grille or climb
up to higher level. BATCH 0122-17-01 C = 200m

Currently 500 metres from Fresno! Thankfully.

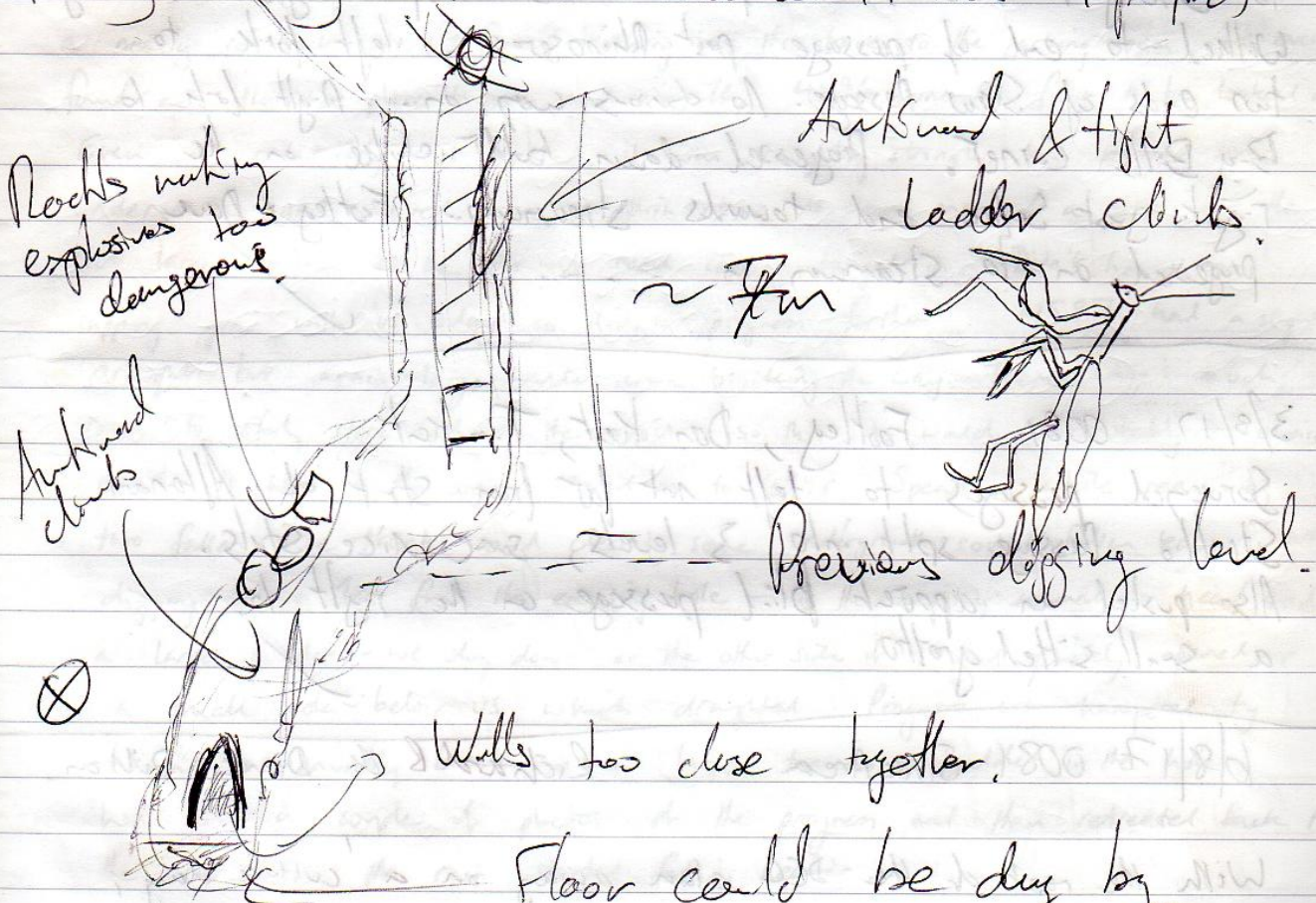


6/8/2017 1017 Socks

Chris Saife Lloyd Cauthorne,

Pushed to a depth of 11.5m Lizzie Wilkins

We took some digging gear up to this hole, but found that the previous blockage had disappeared, perhaps following a storm in the last two years. Following a fairly narrow and awkward ladder climb down, a steeply sloping rift leads down to a blockage. The draught is quite strong, but the walls are far too close together. There appears to be a widening about a metre or so through the too-tight rift, but capping would be a dangerous business, as there are loose rocks a-plenty. The ground beneath our feet, at this point, could possibly be dug with a determined team (at least 4 people)



Legal



Lizzie's broken sunglasses

Doyle incident #1

5/8/17

0072

Sima de Los Hoyos

Paul Wilson, Sam Drake

Tim Kent, Louise Kent

Short trip to view the bear skeleton - formations in both chambers. Walked on chamber floor carefully in websacks on the calcite. Took a few photos to upload. Very pretty all round. (entrance took some liking - too many depressions with trees growing from them. Easy if you know what are!) ✓

1/8/17

0081

Footley, Dave Curran, Teckleby, Sosh Ulte, Tim Kent

Surveyed oxbow lake from Afternoon Stall + then on to emergent hole in the floor at start of Strangle Creek Passage. Walked to end of passage past Rhinoseros, left fork to two ends of Staw Passage. No doors way on. Right fork to Big Balls Corner. Progressed down boldt choke on the right just before end towards streamway. Footley + Dave progressed on to Steamway in - - - ✓

3/8/17

0081

Footley, Dan Kent, Tim Kent

Surveyed passages to left not far from start of Afternoon Stroll. Passage split into 3 levels, some nice stals. Also pushed an apparent blind passage on the right to a small silted grotto ✓

6/8/17

0081

Sink Area

Richard B & Dave Dillon

With the rest of the DCC clan away on a 'culture day', we took a short walk to investigate the main sink area after yesterday's rain. Water sinking in multiple places including some not marked on the Easter 2015 survey. Suspected signal crayfish spotted & photographed. Some other photos & videos taken. ✓

1298 Dig Saldesuto - 6/7/17 Pete S, Phil + Juan
 More digging + capping. Working up to sound of draught
 seems to be more open. Lower back wall hole found
 last time seems to be a small tube going down from
 above, as crack does not seem to exist - past here. Very
 good cold draught - more work needed.

gsc

7/8/17 4596 4597 4598 digs above the mushroom field Richard B, Pete C, Dave Dillon

Return visit for the DCC to have a closer look at some of the other draughting holes in the shakeholes near our 4594 dig. After an initial false start when we found a newly constructed electric fence blocking the track to the parking area, we eventually found an alternative place to park and set off. 4596 was the first to be looked at.

Even in relatively cool weather it was draughting strongly. We cleared some undergrowth and moved some smallish stones to reveal more of a gap, but the two large boulders at the top with need capping to get in. Didn't have the capping gear with us today so didn't progress further. 4597 had a slight draught but again large boulders were blocking the way. There wasn't much room to safely store all of the spoil - so this site would be probably 4th choice of the 4 holes in the area. Moved on to 4598. Spent a while removing two fallen tree trunks and clearing some undergrowth, soil & fallen leaves. Started digging about 1m from the existing hole - as the existing seemed to head under a large boulder - we dug down on the other side of it and quickly opened up a small hole below us which draughted. Progress was hampered by having to manually break up a large limestone boulder in the hole. We took a couple of photos of the progress and then retreated back to the car when the rain started falling heavier.

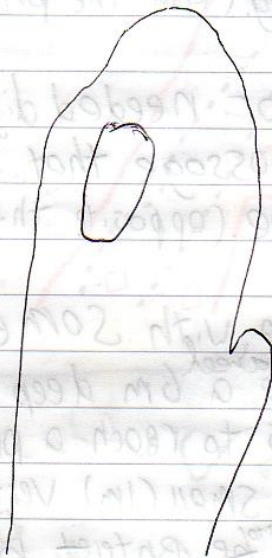
6

7/8/17 Penada - Lleyl, Sahil, Alex S.

This 5 hour trip was intended to bolt a small climb to the right after Ghost Lake. In reality it was a 'fail-o-thon' showing how Lleyl does not know the way to Ghost Lake & went in the complete wrong direction to Samotegon passage. We also managed to take a 2 hour scenic tour to Stuffed-Mark on the way in. Sahil & Alex loved going around the awkward pit at the end of Stuffed-Mark & Alex thoroughly enjoyed the view at the end of the steep slope. Other highlights included cars randomly falling over, repeatedly.

7/8/17 415 Chris, Carol, Tom, Nigel

A photographic trip to Jaws 19 chamber, the Zoo and Helicite Passage. We also did a few survey legs, to tie in a couple of loose ends. The new Survey files are now on the computer. *



Jaws 19

* The line survey is now finished, I will start with the digital drawing over my paper draft.

My intention is to go back on my next visit to clear some muddy stalls and mark some delicate areas.

I will produce a new description before the end of the summer.
Caled

8/8/2017 Torca Lancaster 4407

P. Orel Big Bull Shennyster Big Stone Charlotte Machin.

Quick trip to check on state of dig down loose slope. It's slipped again since Christmas and now needs boards and ~~sc~~ ~~sc~~ scaff and pins. Slight draught out on a cool afternoon.

7-8-17 Valline 733

Po Seils, Si & Di, Slim,

trip to bolt over at end of rio rignu reserve, got there to find over had already been bolted, slim re-checked the over to go. Big question who has bolted the over. ?

Po Seils

Author: Alex Sheppard-Musc

8/8/17 Mostajo-0071 Lloyd, Chris, Alex, Sahil

A 7:30 hrs trip originally ^{Not originally intended hole to explore, straight & goes away from main cave} intending to cap a drafting hole in Tenebrous Passage, but ^{the hole} this was ~~less interesting~~ than we first thought. So we decided to turn back and investigate some of the question marks on the existing Survey. (from the pit to the entrance) ~~and back~~.

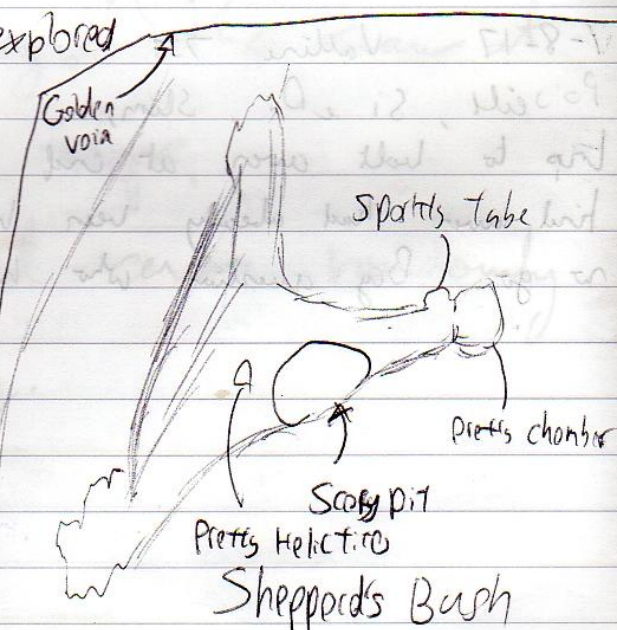
The question marks were generally busts or needed digging, but on having a look down some unsurveyed passage that Chris took a look at, we found some new passage. (opposite the Golden Void).

After going through some very pretty passage with some lovely helictites on the roof, the new passage ^{contained} a 6m deep pit which could be bypassed ^{by} crawling along a ledge to reach a pretty arch which could be crawled through to reach a small (1m) vertical tube and a very pretty small chamber which ^{is difficult to} ~~can't be entered~~, but you can stick your head through a hole to have a look.

While very pretty and sporty, neither went anywhere. Chris bravely descended a very crumbly climb into the pit, but this didn't go anywhere either. In honour of their fuzzy nature (and me) these new sections were named "Sheppard's Bush".

After penetrating Sheppard's Bush, we explored three more question marks. One was a dodgy-as-fuck pit rimmed with lots of moving rocks that Lloyd descended, though it quickly ~~charted~~ ^{thanked} (thanks all, no rocks fell on him) (Fig 1, overleaf). Me and Chris explored a nearby climb which ended in a clay-blocked passage (Fig 2, overleaf).

* ~~decided best not to explore~~ ^{decided best not to explore} ~~in the interest of getting~~ ^{in the interest of getting} everyone out alive.



Author: Alex Sheppard-Muse

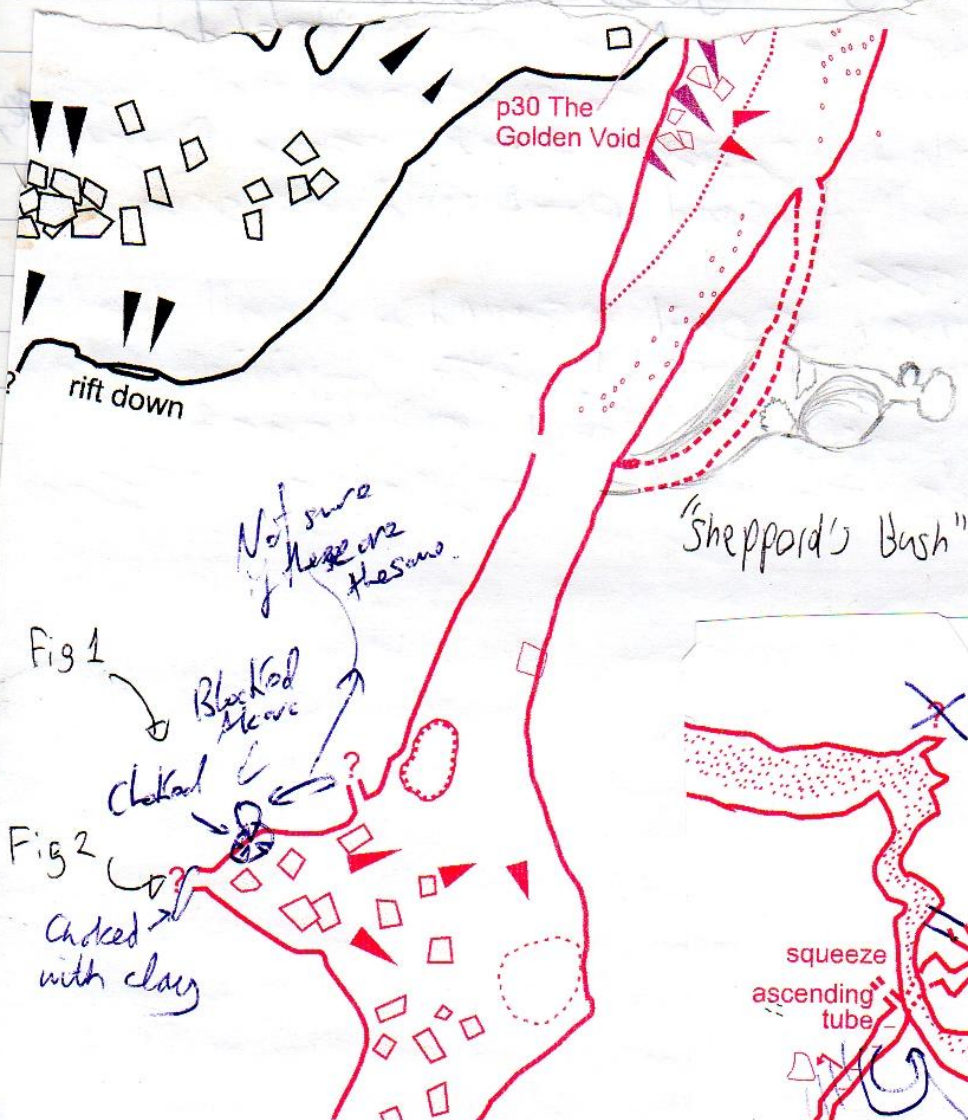
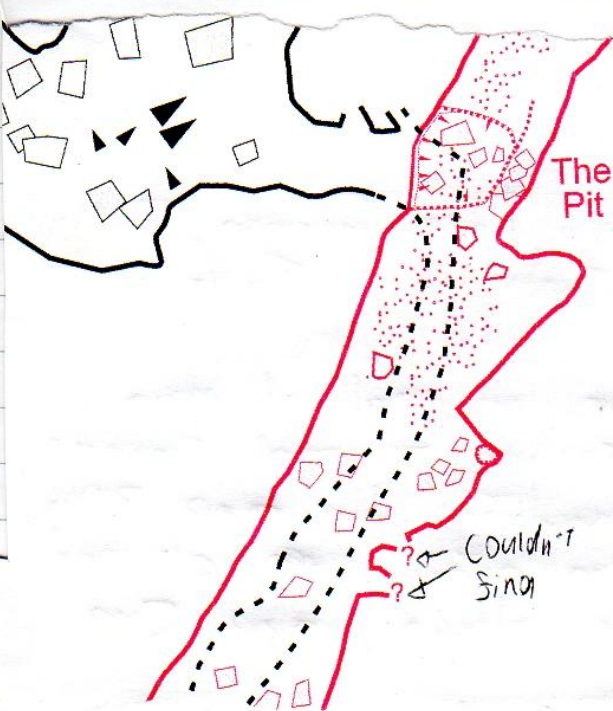
Lastly we explored a question mark around the horrible squeeze (Fig 3) but this was nowhere to be found, though we did correct some existing passage in the area (Fig 3)

Sadly none of this required copping, so Lloyd once again took a copping hit for a walk.

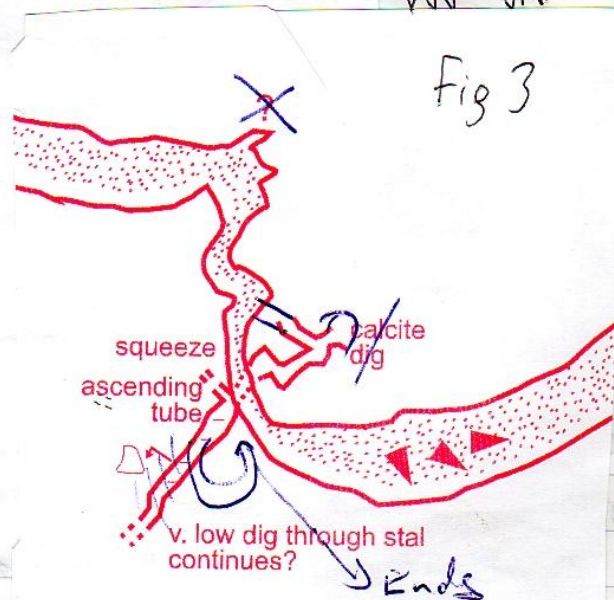


Lloyd + Hornor + Dill

We also rescued O'Sage.



'Sheppard's Bush'



Edited by Lloyd Cowthorne.

7/8/2017

6-8-17 — 565, Tres Ninos Dura Gorman, Fostley
Josh White, Tade

Bolt climb to high level passage in roof of main chamber. App 12m climb leading to roof traverse into rift passage. Easy crawling for app 30m leads to blank wall. 10m are free climbed (overhang calcite) to close down app 5m later.

7/8/2017 - 603 - Jess, Tackelburg + Dave.

Dig at top of Mushroom shield.

Jess showed way to end through tight passage, located Drilled + Capped Rock. Strong Blast! Dug away all capped rock and chipped an extra lump off.

When moving spoil #8 found a small hole under dig, running parallel. ~~with~~ Convenient place to dump spoil. Need at least 3 more caps to make ongoing passage passable.

4/4

8/8/2017 — 3234

— — — DCC — TOM, NIGEL, DAVID
Peter C
Llenio — survey + photo + pushing
(not in Danish area)

In 1200 on wet day. Fairly direct to Mulu Junction then down to clean-washed chamber to NE of Mulu Junction.

On to chamber with rift across looking for way to Rario.

After while, continue to station 21 on survey. Tom surveys

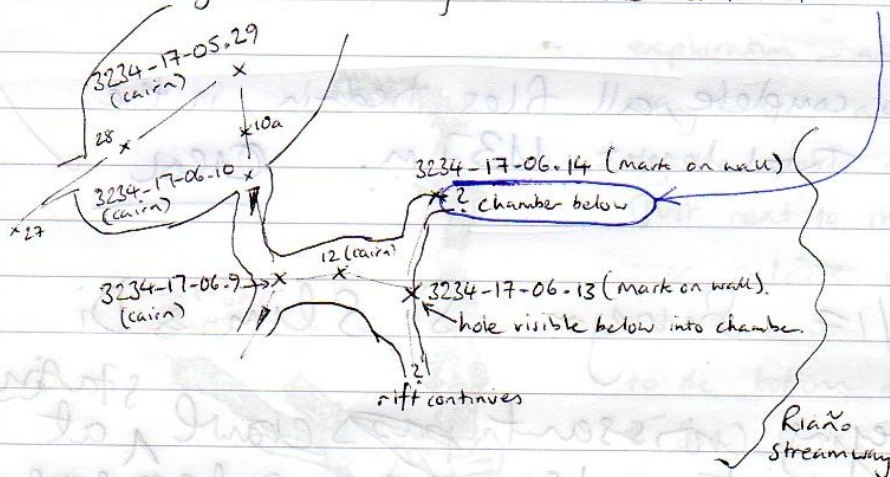
17-07 branch to south then into two new passages (A) approx 64 m

17-08 to south west ending in boulders and slight draught with bit of white calcite on walls and (B) approx 30 m

Heading NE and rejoining ^{main} passage at station 27. Then
 PC explored with RB down tube east at station 50 which
 connected back via crawls to chamber then up to station 29.

Also drop off to sandy passage from branch on east side (station RB13). Pack up and start out stopped at 201 before reaching Mules Junction where Tom dropped down a 15m + phreatic tube to muddy floor with no obvious way on. Am packed and left cave about 1900.

Sandy passage/chamber below station RB13 & RB14 (batch 3234-17-06) would definitely be worth checking out as latest survey file suggests it should be only 20m vertically above the Riaño streamway (& about 30m horizontally).



0733 Coeva Vallina - Jim Lister & KILLEN
 402.60m surveyed in Dry Passage Batch 17-02
 (See report - Bridges ~~need some to fill in detail!~~
 on)

8/8/17 0366 TORCA DEL JR Di Si Slim

JR IS DEAD. SHOT THRU THE HEART!

FINISHED CAPPING THE CRAWL. REMOVED FLAKE GUARDING
 THE NEXT DROP & IT DOES NOTHING WITHOUT SOME
 VERY SERIOUS DESTRUCTION.

9/8/17 0035 ARANCL Si, Di, Slim

DROPPED 15m PITCH OFF FOAM DOME TO IMPENETRABLE
OUTLET.

WENT DOWN THE "DRAGUTINE HILL" KNOCKED A CLUMP OFF
A SQUIZZER & SURVIVED ABOUT 50m IN MASSIVE
CHOKER BACK UNDERNATH THE FOAM DOME. NO REAL
WAY ON, NO REAL PASSAGE JUST GAPS IN Boulders. DRAGUT
LOST. Batches 17-01 25m + 17-02 74m ✓

10/08/17 0415 -

The survey is now complete, all files tied-in, in the
working folder. Total length: 1137m. Carol ✓

0122 10/08/17 Snviejo Si, Slim & Di

Continued surveying croissant ~~pass~~ crawl ^{starting} at
choix corner into a temporary enlargement.
Some more stal-infested crawling gained a
collection of delicious avenus.

Surveyed and video footage. No way an -
climbing avenus didn't look worth it. A tiny
water slot at the top of one aven.

The stream split into 3 branches. Loose
boulders throughout. Slim climbed one
of the calcified avenus on the route back
to the croissant.

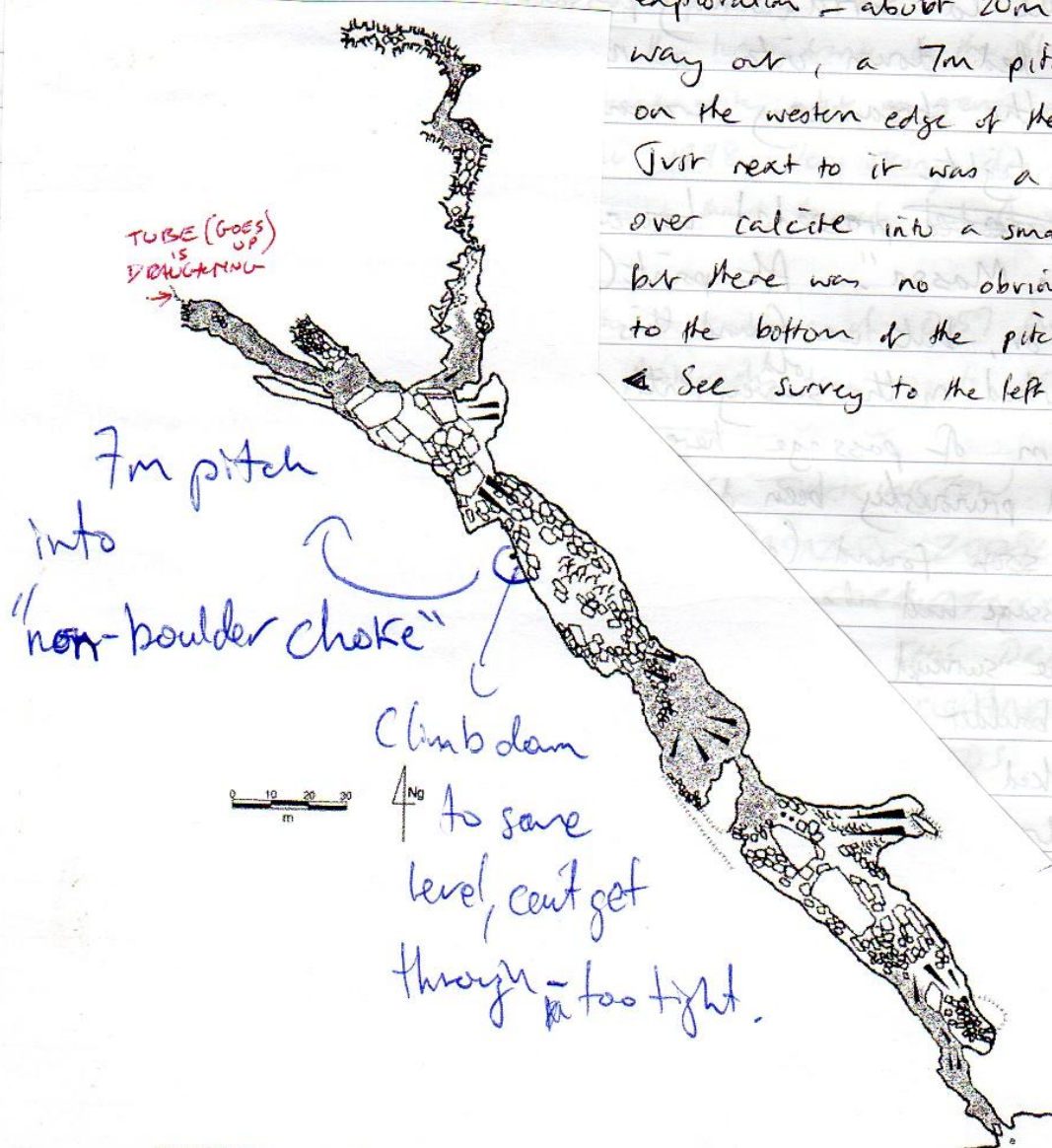
Total length = 330m (Batch 17-01) ✓

10/8/17 0077 Rascavieja

Nigel D, Pete C, Dave Dixon, Richard B,
Bill B, Lloyd C

Pete O had recommended a visit to Rascavieja, but with his knee playing up, couldn't go caving today. Consequently Lloyd's trip with Pete into Mostajo had been cancelled. To avoid being without a trip, he joined the DCE dodgers. Parking at the climbers' car park, there was a well defined path leading almost straight there without too much altitude gain. Not much draught at the entrance compared to previous reports, but it was a cool day a bit akin to Yorkshire than Spain. After some photography in the huge chambers, Pete & Lloyd explored the terminal boulder choke, following the string left yesterday by Pete O & Bill S - but only as far as the previous day's exploration - about 20m in. On our way out, a 7m pitch was spotted on the western edge of the 2nd chamber. Just next to it was a climb down over calcite into a small chamber, but there was no obvious way through to the bottom of the pitch.

See survey to the left.



11/8/17 0733 Chris Scäfe, Carol Smith, Peter Smith, Lloyd Cawthorne

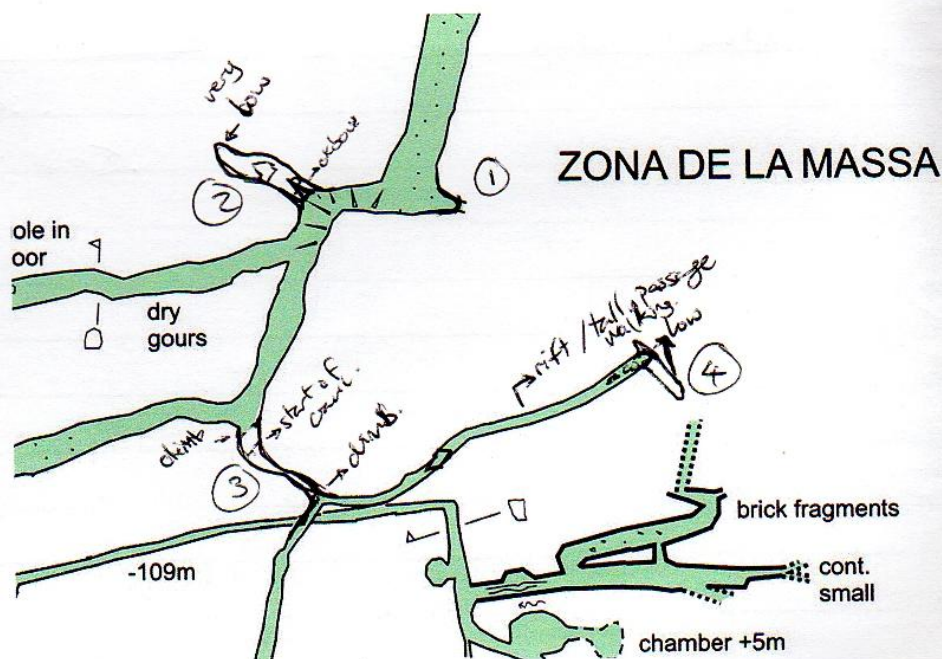
On our last day's caving we decided to go for a short trip into Vallina. On arrival we found Tim and Matt, who had just emerged from a very early trip to remove kit.

We went through the entrance series to Swirl Chamber. ^{In the passage leading to this} Pete placed a printed out quote from Ali, from the Matienzo logbook, in which he had described this passage eloquently.

On our way back, we had a look at some small un-surveyed sections.

First we climbed down the Pits at the eastern end of the Averaguda de la Sorra (Sandy passage). Quite a straightforward free climb led down into a narrow streamway (un-surveyed). We followed the streamway around several sharp bends, until it became too tight.

We then ~~proceeded~~ proceeded towards the area of the survey marked "Zona de la Massa". At point ①, the survey appeared to show a possible way on, but we found this to be a definite dead end. Point ② was marked on the ^{old} survey with a Question mark. We found and surveyed 15m of passage here, with an ox-bow on the right wall. Point ③ had previously been dismissed as choked, but we crawled through and soon found (after 10m) that we had entered known passage. This known passage had also not been surveyed right to the end, and we found that beyond the surveyed part, a rising boulder slope was choked at the top, but draughting. As Juan had dismissed the crawl at point ③ as impassable, we have named the section from point ③ to point ④ Juan's Walk of Shame.



12/8/17 James's tour of the valley Nigel D, Pete C, Pete O, Richard B,
James Johnson, Dave Dillon

Since it was James's first trip out to Matienzo, Nigel organised a tour of the valley for him. Our first stop was 0017 Jivero 2.

Several native crayfish ranging from about 2-5cm were spotted in the entrance and one further in towards the reargence. Many fire salamander juveniles were spotted & photographed in a side passage near the entrance. We completed the through trip and went in to 0018 Jivero 3 as far as the sump - then returned back the way we came to the cars. Pete O & Nigel had a quick look into 0016 Jivero 1 but decided it was too wet so didn't go in far.

Our next stop was 0048 Reñada. A short through trip from the lower to the top entrance with some photography. We were surprised to find that the 'wet weather lake' between the top entrance & the blowhole was very full - but then it had rained quite a bit on previous days.

We took a walk up to the dig at 1298. Very strong draught was noted, making a loud noise as it went through the choke. A possible DCC project next week maybe?

We stopped by for a look into the entrance of 0059 Molino/Agra, before returning for some lunch. A final photography trip was to 0084 Las Cosas.

————— I —————

12/8/17 PETER CHOWES + BILL SHERINGTON.

DCC BIG FROM 2009 - ~~IMPROVED ZOOM~~ SIZE ACTUAL
ON 3318, ~~LOG RECORDED~~ ^{BOOK} ~~IS NOT CORRECTLY IDENTIFIED~~.

WE REMOVED ROCKS FROM THE DIG, BUT THE DRAUGHT WAS COMING UP FROM UNDER THE ENTRANCE. THE FLAKE NEEDS REMOVING & ENTRANCE NEEDS OPENING UP.

————— II —————

12/8/17 Bill S, Pete O + Juan with Pete Chowes. Up Saldesoto to dig on the corner where the stream crosses the track. Start with 1298 in stream bed but capping rod jams then snaps (not a Pete Hall one) leaving a guided missile in the hole. Juan returns to La Secoda to pick up & snapping gear and

12/8/17 0071 - Mastajo Lizard.

A de-rigging trip to retrieve a ladder beyond the two traverses after the Golden Vord.

Explored the passage ~~back~~ heading towards a possible bottom entrance, it would be a challenging dig, but there are some animal bones at the far end.

No matter how well you know a cave, solo trips are not very pleasant. ✓

→ Fresh capping bar. Meanwhile Pete C + Pete O + Bill looked at 3318 (See account above).

Snapping released the bar but failed to remove the 2 live caps. Progress made beyond. Draught increased when boulder in left removed.

Pete C found new hole up the stream bed @
(4600) 307 04491574 4794392 1329 Small hole draughting out. Photos.

Videos in 1298.

0394 LA COLLADA Si, Di, Scm 11/8/17

VISITED NEW EASTWATER ENTRANCE. IMMEDIATELY FOUND AN UNMARKED & UNEXPLORED CRAWL. WENT TO A PITCH WHICH DROPPED TO KNOWN PASSAGE. CONTINUED TO DIG THE NEXT CRAWL WHICH AFTER AN ENLARGEMENT WENT DOWN A SLOT INTO KNOWN PASSAGE. A NOT VERY USEFUL SHORT CUT !!

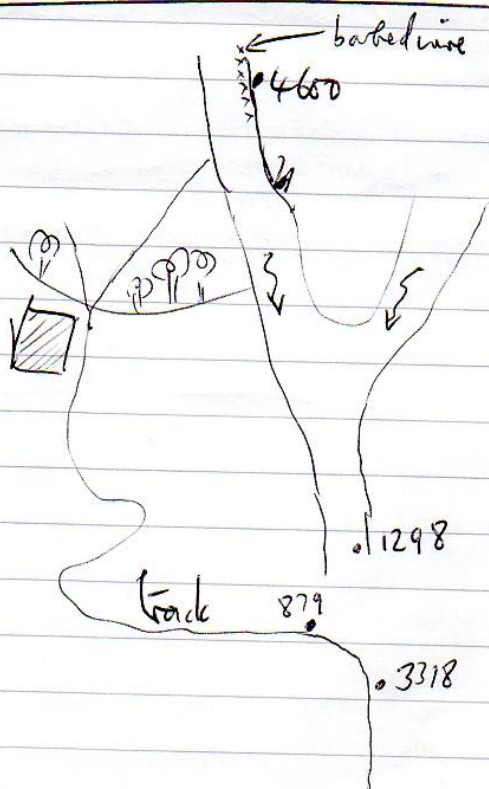
2889 VACA 12/8/17 51, D1, 51M-P
 PUSHED BANNER NO 5 FOR ANOTHER WHOPPING
 28.5m VACA GROWS !!
 LOOKED AT SOME OTHER DEAD TUNDS
 FANTASTIC VACA TRIP YET AGAIN! survey? ✓

3802/0813 - Surface Digs - Sahil & Alex

Had a quick look at two of the surface
 digs near Murtajo today. Both of the
 depressions have become quite overgrown since
 last looked at. Didn't feel comfortable making our
 way down there, since the foliage made it difficult
 to ascertain the difficulty of the climb down.
 It was only a few meters for both, but I
 didn't want to risk stepping onto what looked
 like a patch of grass, only to fall all the
 way down to the bottom. Recommend someone
 have a go at getting rid of some of the
 vegetation at some point.

12/8/17 4600 continued.

Best approached
 up track to wood
 post barn. Lower
 "back" reaches
 stream valley with
 4600 just over a
 barbed wire fence.



9-8-17

RASCANIEJA

Bill Sherrington

Pete O'Neill

Capped initial chimney down into choke at start of 1985 extension. Used approx 20m of string into choke following original push. Still approx 40m short of end, very good draught. This site really needs pushing again!

1298

13/08/2017

Phil & Pedro

P.O'Neill

More capping & getting rid of ceps that did not go off on day before. Managed to remove rock that had been cracked but was very tight & would not cap very well due to cracks. Lot more work needed

4th August 2017 - Vallina (733) - Vallina Three - up stream sumps

Present: Jim Lister, Ash Hiscock and Bill Lister Surface support
Diving Equipment taken in and the water levels checked.

5th August 2017 - Vallina (733) - Vallina Three - up stream sumps

Present: Jim Lister, Ash Hiscock, Dave Garman, Alistair Smith, "Tackleberry", Josh White and Bill Lister Surface support
Diving Cylinders and Equipment were transported to Dive Base.

6th August 2017 - Vallina (733) - Vallina Three - up stream sump two

Present: Jim Lister, Ash Hiscock and Bill Lister Surface support
Ash Dived Sump 2B until he reached Jim's line reel at 570 meters? (Ash has doubts on the surveys accuracy) He attached his dive reel and continued to descend steeply but found the sump choked by gravel a short distance ahead.
Sump 2B needs resurveying? A disappointing result for such a promising dive site.

7th August 2017 - Vallina (733) - Vallina Three - up stream sump three

Present: Jim Lister and Bill Lister Surface support
The diver headed to the junction in upstream sump 2 and found the water from sump 2B was crystal clear and the water from sump 2 and sump 3 was very murky with less than 90 cm visibility.
This suggested to the diver that these sumps were part of an active stream way so he headed up towards sump 3 to investigate.
The dry passage between sump 2 and 3 had a substantial but murky stream running along it, crystal clear water also flowed into the stream from impenetrable inlets in the roof.
Sump 3 was very cloudy but the diver entered the sump and followed the dive line, purple/pink string followed by orange 6mm polypropylene to where it terminated in a cross rift.
The diver attached his guideline 4mm blue polypropylene, tagged every 5 meters and started to search for the way on.

(45)

The visibility was limited and the way on was not obvious, forward, left, right, and above were blank as stated in previous dive reports but the diver used his experience from diving in Torca la Vaca and Riaño and looked at the sediment patterns and found from this the way on was directly behind and above in the divers blind spot. The diver eventually surfaced in an active stream way, which he followed for 30 meters to sump 4 and 5, both of which were relatively short.

On surfacing beyond sump 5 in a foam-covered sump pool, the diver encountered a reasonable sized stream way which had a junction a short distance from the sump pool, the passage heading east ended in another sump (sump 6) after a short 5 minute walk. The left hand side passage heading north was followed and another substantial steam way entered from the left.

Although this stream way appeared slightly smaller it emitted a substantial amount of crystal clear water.

The main stream passage was followed to a boulder ramp that entered a sizable breakdown chamber, the stream way continues on the other side.

8th August 2017 - Vallina (733) - Vallina Three - dry passage beyond upstream sump 5

Jim Lister & Mark Smith and Bill Lister Surface support

Aim was to explore and survey leads left by JL at the first breakdown following sump 5. Pair took the left hand, north passage directly after sump surface. Stream way 1m wide x 3m high was followed passing an inlet on the left hand side carrying a decent stream... left un-investigated. Followed streamway until breakdown chamber reached. Way on found over the top over boulder pile back down into stream way. The stream way (4m wide) with muddy banks and white moon milk/calcite bed consisted of partly crawling and partly walking passage.

The streamway opened up into boulder strewn inclining passageway 20+ degrees incline. Passageway on right hand side (going in) noted but not explored.

Further climb up ramp with boulders led to apparent choke. Way on found on the right hand side with a climb up through boulders into floor of sizeable chamber (30m x 30m approx). Stream could be heard on the far left. Boulder ramp up to far end of chamber and window noted and explored on right hand side up about 7m. This was climbed to reveal large, well decorated chamber of similar proportions (30m x 30m) with some nice formations. Above climb possible aven with flowstone noted.

Back in initial chamber the left hand side was followed up a 20 degree slope to a small climb down back into the stream way which was followed for a short distance when it divided into three. Middle route, with the least water, was explored and ended in an impenetrable calcite fissure. Other two stream ways were not investigated. Last available diving day.

10th August 2017 - Vallina (733) - Vallina Three - up stream sumps

Present: Jim Lister, Mark Smith, Ash Hiscock, Bill Sherrington, Alex Sheppard, and Sahil Maharaj and Bill Lister Surface support

Most of the equipment transported to surface Sahil and Alex shown equipment-hauling techniques on 40-meter shaft using pulleys etc.

11th August 2017 - Vallina (733) - Vallina Three - up stream sumps

Present: Jim Lister, Mark Smith and Bill Lister Surface support.

Final few bags and cylinders removed, meet up with Peter Smith, Lloyd, Carol Smith, Chris Scaife, at the entrance who kindly carried two cylinders back to the cars for us. Project completed until Easter, as we do not wish to cause Rupert Skorupka visibility problems on his downstream sump project.

Many Thanks to the Expedition Organizers for making it all possible!

Site: 0713, Fuente Aguanaz

Date: 12 August 2017

Present: Jim Lister, Bill Lister

We borrowed Phil's Machete and cut a meter wide trail through the jungle from the Aguanaz upper entrance to dead dog entrance in preparation for the following days trip and hopefully Easter?

Site: 0713, Fuente Aguanaz

Date: 13 August 2017

Present: Jim Lister, Bill Lister support

Following a conversation with Mark Smith and consultation with Juan and Phil, it was decided to confirm that the sump, which is located shortly before the terminal choke, at the far end of Aguanaz and which had not been previously dived, did not have any under water junctions?

The diver entered the sump which was 3 meters in diameter and very pleasant and thought for a short time that this really could be the main way on and not the passage blocked by the choke? Unfortunately after 20 meters (approximately) the diver surfaced in the stream way next to the choke, confirming the information on the survey to be correct.

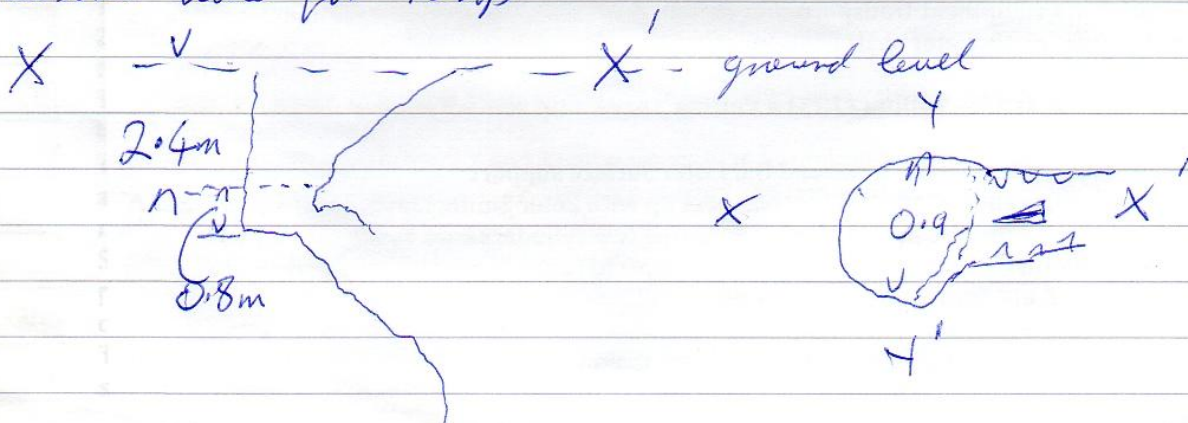
The diver then removed his diving equipment and had a good look around the choke, which is accurately described in the earlier reports.

Before diving the "tight sump with sharp rock projections" which again is as described. Engineering work would be possible but best left whilst there are open leads still in Aguanaz.

A useful day, as now all attention at the site can be concentrated at "Sarah Jean" passage.

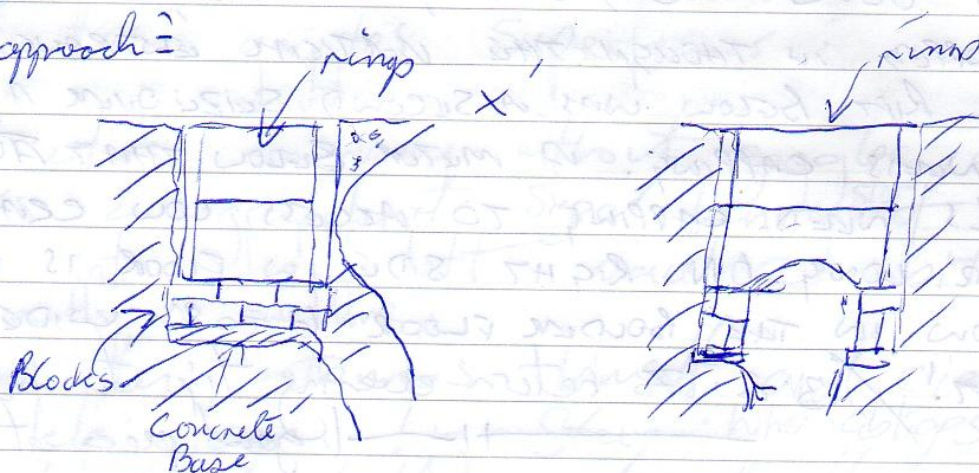
Re-calculated length of the 4-Valleys System: 107, 114, 105, 81 + 575
is 5910m. This is after summer re-survey + removal of duplicates.
(Previous reported length is 58572m)

(3234) Subphone Entrance 4536 Phil P 16/8/2017
Check on entrance to see what is needed to secure entrance
& install concrete rings etc. Drilled into clay at bottom
of drop to ledge - no rock found that could be seen. ~~Me~~
Measured hole for rings



3234 cont

possible approach =



1211 Di/Si, Slim, 11/8/17.

TRCA DEL FONNY

THE SNAKEHOLE IS BLOCKED WITH ROTTING MATTRESS AND PLASTIC SACKS.
IT LOOKS LIKE A CONCENTRATED EFFORT MAY BE NEEDED TO GET BACK INTO THE CAVE.

0373 CUERVA DEL BOSQUE 13/8/17

Di, Si, Slim

SLIMS FINAL TRIP SOME WENT OFF THE USUAL CIRCUIT TO CUERVA DEL BOSQUE, WENT UP TO THE NEW FOREST AND FOUND A HOLE IN THE FLOOR - ~~Below the~~ below the old dig - found a false floor and began removing boulders which revealed spaces below. Capped the larger boulders to reveal approx. 5m x 2m pit through loose boulders. Slims last day and had to deliver him back to the happy valley for his flight home !!! Will save 4th Xmas

0373 Cuerva Del Bosque 15/8/17 Drops

~~Drop~~ film requested we checked the pitch wasn't a blind pit!... ~~the top~~ ^{Gardener} the top but lots of loose rocks but may require cementing on next trip. Dropped into a chamber approx 6 x 10 m with a further hole amongst boulders which requires capping. Will continue digging with Slim Xmas/Easter.

13/8/17 0603 Big Steve, Bill S, Pete C

I DROPPED IN THROUGH THE VERTICAL ENTRANCE, DOWN 1.5 MTR RIFT BELOW WAS A SECOND SLICE OVER A BOLDER THAT NEEDS CAPPING. A METER BELOW THAT TWO ^{MORE} BOLDERS NEED CAPPING TO ACCESS LOW CRAWL ABOUT 1.5 MTR LONG. ON RIGHT SIDE IN FLOOR IS A NARROW WAY ON IN THE BOLDER FLOOR 6 TO 8" WIDE. A GOOD DRAGGAT!

13.8.17 return evening trip to install
+1 - 1 good piece of steel scaff in entrance

15/8/2017 Jim Lister with Bill Lister. Fridge Door Cave. 1800

Dived to far end and climbed Aven, capped constriction marked on survey and broke through into rift, with streamway leading off. (1.5 meters wide and 2.5 meters high) followed streamway to Duck/Sump 31 meters from break through point. Enlarged capped passage on way out.

16/8/17 Joan & Penny walked up the Seldorito track to site 3318 to watch other work. Video & pics.

~~Bill S, Nigel, Peter C, Bill S, Dave~~
16/8/17 Site 3318 ¹²⁹³ Set of round of 6 caps: The right hand wall seemed to fair better. The left hand wall seems to be becoming a swiss cheese of capping holes and fractures. Unable to persuade fractures to yield using hammer & chisel. Elbow yielded instead.

15/8/17: Big Steve / Black Eye Bill:
0603 "Handy for the bar pot"
"Goggles Steve!" Nope they were left behind so the digger / Bill / returned to fetch fresh goggles: Meanwhile Big Steve sets two "Sons" goggles and broadens out the approach crawl:
0603: Upon return with goggles Steve announced no more capping ✓

and thus goggles superfluous.

Bill enters crawlspace without goggles, and using
^{clumsiness} knocks a grapefruit sized heavy store of the
 shelf into his left ocular orbit! EYE!
 : This results in swelling:

The Digger then astonishes himself and cries out
 for help from his Steve: who obliges with
 Good Cold draft and ^{helpful} ~~commence~~ ^{commence}
 help for the Bar: ~~Steve~~ where ice //
 and packman are applied: ~~liberally~~ liberally!!

3318 16/8/17 Nigel D, Peter C & David D.

Removed front of dig ^{floor} 10.5m to make access possible leaving
 a flake in centre preventing further access. Needs further
 capping. Good draught. Before and after pictures taken -
 Juan has pictures. GPS checked. Dave said that he didn't
 find anything new but it draughts like hell. ✓

Added some photos from 2000 summer for 1565, 1566, 0879
 and 3318.

1298 16/8/17 Bill Sherrington

Dug and capped for a while but found rock very friable
 and difficult to shatter.

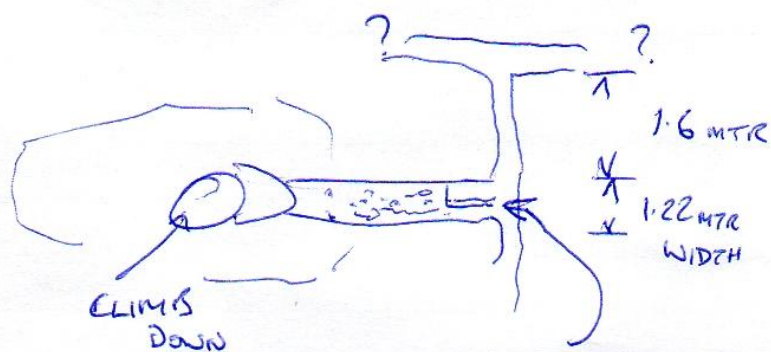
0603 Handy for BAR POT.

17/8/17 Bill Sherrington, Pete Chawes

BREF SURVEY DISCO ONLY.

SURFACE TO CAVE ENTRANCE 4.8m, CAVE ENTRANCE TO
 FOOT OF CLIMB DOWN 2.9m W 1.45m, FOOT OF FIRST CLIMB DOWN
 TO FOOT OF 2ND CLIMB DOWN 2.0m 0.98m, CLIMB DOWN TO

0603 Dig 17/8



WATER DROPPED IN SLOT ??

Visit To PANTS 1655 AREA. Bill Booth & Dave Dillon 17/8/17

Snake Draining Hole 0451287 4601 $\uparrow$ 242
 MARKED WITH CHALK, JUST BELOW PATH TO
 45, BEFORE PANTS, (BELOW 1682?). DROP DOWN A METRE AND LOOK ALONG DRIFTING TUBE 15cm
 TO A RIFT. DRAFT MAKES NOISE IN THE TUBE. PROBS EASIER TO DIG DOWN TO RIFT FROM
 SURFACE, IF TRUMPED.

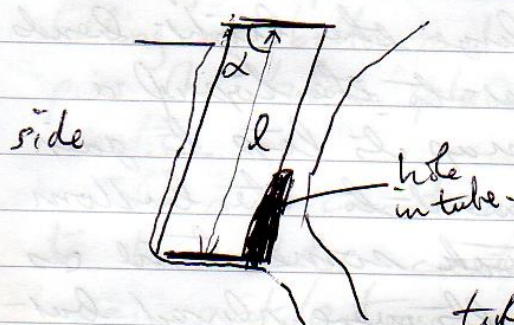
ANOTHER DRAFT ABOUT 20M AWAY 0451298 4797589. 4602 $\uparrow$ 242
 VISITED 10/8 - LOTS OF DRAFTS.

Snake Hole AT 0451248 4797546 DRAFTS FROM UNDER TREE. 366 DRAFTS. 4603 $\uparrow$ 235

Snake Hole AT 0451224 4797558 HAS FIRST DRAFT IN BATH. CAN SEE 4.5m INTO END
 OF NARROW CRAWL. 4604 $\uparrow$ 244

18/8/17 Subphone Cave 4536 Plan B - entrance lined
 with 80cm diameter plastic tube - much lighter than
 concrete sections.

Iron measures up with $3\frac{1}{2}$ m copper tube ~~with~~ and
 thin "propeller" - 80cm long.



$l = 3.12$ m but best to cut length
 3.5 m to allow for sloping top, etc
 $\alpha \approx 80^\circ$

Clay still to remove to allow
 tube to sit on ledge.



top



middle



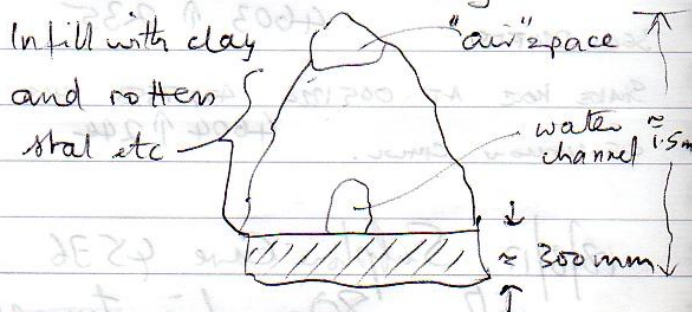
base.

A lot to
 remove from
 base

Photos on computer.

19/8/17 Phil + Juan @ Subphone 4536 (photos)
A couple of hours spent enlarging shaft ready for
80cm ext. diameter pipe. Back by 1pm for paella at
Marga's.

19/8/17 Pete C, Nigel & Dave
Went to 4238 (Reurgence) to investigate digging potential.
Dropped water level by syphon then had short dig at
blockage beyond.
Dirt'd over top 3.2 m from dam and underneath to 3.0 m. No draught this
visit although draughting in
2016. May deserve a serious dig
but would start with at least 2m of solid fill to remove.



18/8/17 Pete Smin, Phil P, Cho-chi, Goya Patrick - Torca de Corcada 0780
Enter natural loop to push cave! The French team of Goya &
Patrick used their "straws" to enlarge the tight bends
at the end of the 'active route' to get to the top of a
pitch - more work needed to open up its top to gain
access. The UK & Spain team went to the bottom
of the "Fossil Route", but this took some time as
it was not rigged for SR. Bolts were placed but
one rope had to be cut to allow Phil to reach bottom (
rope only reached to 1.5m off floor) to confirm it will
go with some "caps", a very small person may be
able to get through, but likely to be difficult on return.
Cho-chi's gear not suited to SR, but we did not
kill him, but if he goes again, let's pick a better cave
eg through route in Rio!

956

A.

H.

53

H.

21/8/17 Five hours spent enlarging 4536 - Phil down the hole; Juan hauling buckets etc on surface where it was well into the 30's

Take cut for sloping hole down into continuation and eventually, the main event where, with a bit of push and pull, the tube dropped into the hole in almost exactly the right place!

Went to Gutierrez construction yard for a lid with no success. Then to Arhwrights for a cool drink. (Photos; videos)

Wednesday 23/8/17 Phil + Juan back to 4536: Framing, back-filling at bottom and top. ~~Site~~ Stainless has now pins the tube in place and acts as steps in the lower section.

To do: concrete around the top of the tube; apply resin to bars + holes: create more steps or holes to enable easy exit/entrance. (1 photo)

Thursday 24/8/17 Phil made cover for tube in 4536 - metal sheet plus angle aluminium. Juan spread a couple of bags of gravel around tube; put in shuttering at back, and cleared a vertical drop off the road for delivering concrete.

25/8/17 Pete makes concrete at Sancepan Street. Juan delivers the ready-mix to Phil @ 4536 (4 journeys). Phil installs lid on boulder now concreted in. (Videos + photos)

From: Simon Cornhill <simoncornhill@dsl.pipex.com>

To: 'Phil Papard' <papard@easynet.co.uk>; Juan Corrin <uzueka@aol.com>

Subject: Final logbook

Date: Thu, Aug 24, 2017 10:46 pm

2889 :: Big Mat Calf Hole to Far Frizzington

16/08/17 Si & Di ✱

A final-day trip to complete the survey of Far Frizzington. Took one and a half hours to get to the sloppy mud crawl at Helmet Hunting Horror chamber. Surveyed all the areas beyond the crawl (around 110m). At the end there is an area with three 13 metre pits. Si descended one of them and found they all connected at the bottom with no way on. On the way back we discovered an alternative route avoiding the muddy crawl. We raced out of Vaca as we had to pick up Emsy and 8 month old Joe from Matienzo and get to the ferry in time...Took us 40 minutes to exit from Helmet Hunting Horror! (17-02)

24/8/17

366 Torca JR survey set by Si & Di $L=25$ $d=20m$
(Added to 4/8/17 on spreadsheet)

✱ 2889 Far Frizzington extension (2889-17-02) $L=127m$

Sp

27/8/17 After instruction from Phil for Ron Taylor's Sulphure, Pete and Juan went into Vallina (733) for a 3pm connection. ~~with just where~~ The underground point was just where the Chaplain Bygan enters the bigger passage at nice formations; the surface point was in the vicinity of Torca Rotura (753). This was chosen as Smelly Hat Area is vertically above the point and Rotura may well be another entrance in the future. Also there ~~was~~ is an altitude difference of 95m or so - enough to test the sets.

Unfortunately, at 3pm, it rained heavily on the surface, forcing Phil and Hilary to retreat after a couple of minutes of "beeps" and "voies".

So the sets are capable of about 100m range (but very faint). A fix was not possible due to the weather.

SITE 780 - Corcada

Vendredi 18 août 2017

L'équipe est multinationale, 2 anglais (peter et phil) un espagnol () et 2 français (guy et patrick).

Les 3 premiers vont dans "Fossil Route" (voie fossile). (voir le cr de peter et phil)

Les 2 "frenchies" vont au terminus de l'"Active Route".

Une série de tirs dans le passage impénétrable permet d'avancer rapidement de 2 m dans un méandre haut de 3 m, puis une deuxième série mène à 5 ou 6 m depuis le début des travaux, au sommet d'un nouveau petit puits estimé à 6/7 m.

Si le fond semble bien praticable, le haut nécessite des travaux pour passer, usant la troisième et ultime batterie du perforateur.

L'obstacle devrait être vite franchi lors d'une prochaine sortie.

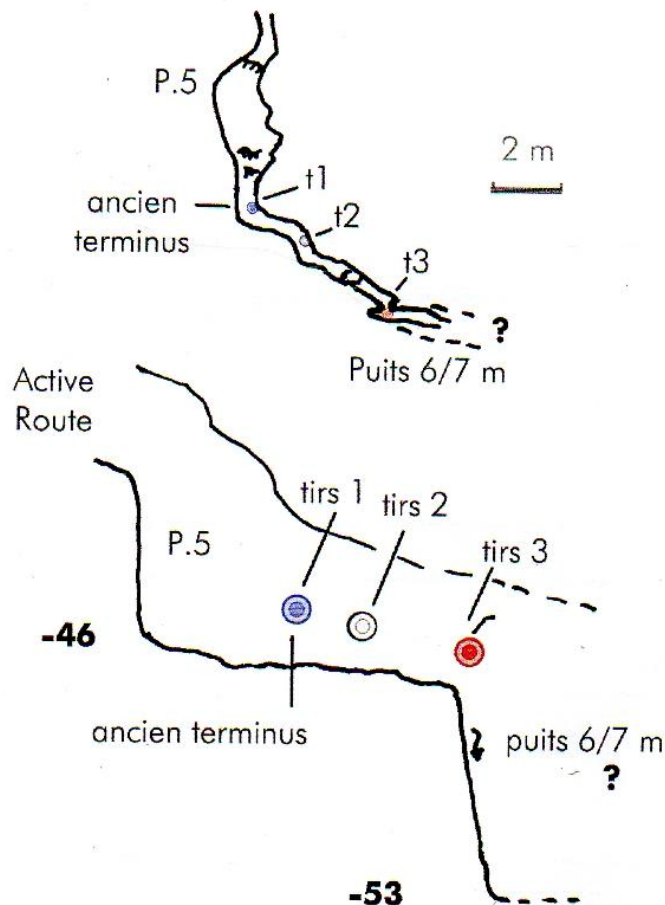
À noter que le net courant d'air aspirant évacue les gaz et permet pour l'instant un travail dans d'assez bonnes conditions. À suivre !!

Guy Simonnot

Torca de la Corcada

Site 780

désobstruction 18-08-2017



29
30/8/17 Phil + Juan finish off the entrance to Subphone 4536.
Soil surrounding top; foot-holds in tube and rebar steps
resined in.

30/8/17 Pete + Phil diggy @ 1298 in wet conditions.

1294 Epiglottis (4114) 15 Aug. Andy Q., Pete S.

On our second day's digging, we finished opening up the squeeze. On the first day we'd found some large stal lying buried in the sediment and some smaller pieces apparently beneath a layer of flowstone, which seemed a little strange, as if someone in the past had broken them and left them there. Andy got through the squeeze first. Inside we soon spotted some faint footprints. Someone had definitely been in the cave. A few small bones and a canine tooth or 'fang', and some marks on the walls only increased the impression: someone had been here before us!

On the other side of the squeeze, the passage rapidly increased to walking size with some pools of water and some quite nice stal. It soon ended at a low crawl which we opened up later, after fetching the hammer and chisel from the first dig. The passage sloped up and down again to a choke.

We took some photos and surveyed everything. When the survey file was plotted, it all became clear: the survey was identical to number 1294, Epiglottis Cavern, which had been located too low down on the hillside. Now the only mystery was, in the 19 years since the cave was first explored how did the first squeeze get to look as if no one had ever forced their way through it? And how had their footprints got so faint? After we'd been up and down the passage a couple of times, we'd left some very obvious footprints. Let's hope the cave recovers from our visit in the same way.

Description:

1294

A 1m high and wide entrance leads after 6m of crawling to an excavated squeeze. This opens up in a larger passage with old gour pools. The passage then increases in height to over 3m. There are a couple of pools of water in the middle of the passage and excellent formations mostly along the right-hand wall. After 20m, this passage ends at a low crawl over flowstone. This leads to a calcite slope up and then down again to a choke with little potential for digging. At the start of the bigger passage, a passage on the right turns back towards the surface and chokes.

5th September DropBox

Hi, I have managed to find the video we took in 383 Fuente De Escabor on 7th August 2014. We somehow ended up with a local resident who was keen to come into Escabor with us, it turned out he knew Pete Smith! From what I remember the description is accurate, and as you can make out from the videos it is too tight over the final gour. I started to carve a drainage channel in it but the local wasn't happy about this as he is an artist and liked it the way it was, oops. I do recall that it would be worth surveying as it must have been around 50m in an interesting spot. We will probably do this next time we go to Matienzo as we are rapidly ploughing through our to-do list.
Simon.

From: Lloyd Cawthorne <lloyd_cawthorne@hotmail.com>

To: Juan Corrin <uzueka@aol.com>

Subject: Re: Matienzo site 1017

Date: Wed, Oct 4, 2017 3:30 pm

Hi Juan,

Both Chris and I have looked at the video. It is hard to say as the cave is quite narrow, but we both feel we got at least 2 meters below where Adam is. At the bottom when he is sat down there is a flake to his left, I remember using that as a handhold above head height.

I hope that helps,

Lloyd

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT