

LOGBOOK

Year: 2018

Season: Christmas : New Year

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

Juan Corrin, January, June 2019

Christmas / New Year 2018 -2019

Hi Juan/Phil,

We're now home after a trip with fantastic weather but not so much new cave passage, great caving none the less. I suppose last Christmas's discoveries would be hard to top!

Attached is our logbook there are a few new holes that need a number, two of which we surveyed. When you send me the designated cave numbers I'll amend the surveys/photos and send you the data via dropbox.

As we couldn't get into Cueva de los Urros the snappers weren't used and returned to Big Steve, thank you for arranging them at such short notice.

The new cave surveyed:

0107: 85m

190102-Cave1: 13m 4847

180104-Cave2: 23m 4850

A very modest total of 121m

Cheers

Si & Di

23rd December 2018 – Di & Si

2246: 5 Ways Junction Cave

An uneventful trip to the bottom of the cave, the two through bolts on the ladder pitch were unusable but a nearby large natural was an adequate belay.

The lead at the furthest downstream limit is too tight. I'm not sure if digging the floor would do it, capping is probably needed to make any progress here, as for '*water could be heard gathering pace in the distance suggesting the passage gets taller?*' maybe it was drier today but we didn't get that impression. There was very little air movement in this area today and with the heavily mud coated walls to around 2m above stream level and lack of footprints it seems that the water backs up to a reasonably high level.

We also checked the high level passages at the downstream end, there are no leads apart from long term looking digs and no draught to speak of either.

The inlet on the left that goes into a modest chamber appears to have also been well explored, leaving very little hope for this cave to grow in size. However, we didn't really find out where the draught went that was felt on the way in, possibly up the aven part way along the streamway by a tiny inlet.

What on earth inspired us both to go back down this sweaty shithole I'll never know!

24th December 2018 – Di and Si

2691: Giant Panda

We went to Giant Panda to rig the entrance series, but found entry to the newly installed tube blocked with several large torso sized boulders which had fallen out of the short climb from the surface, this had left the walls of the climb down overhung and in a very precarious state. The decision was made not to descend until some shoring had been installed.

2917: Cueva de los Urros

We continued onto Barrio de los Urros to try and negotiate access to cave 2917. Unfortunately the 'incident' from 2008 appears to still be very prominent in the resident's minds who live in the house

above the entrance, as they kept mentioning the use of explosives. No matter what we could say, they were adamant that there is absolutely no access to this cave.

This situation feels odd, as when we explored this cave in 2013/2014 having spoken to all of the local residents at the time there were no issues.

It is worth noting that on the owners property there were two new looking signs, one said neighbourhood watch and the other had images of a cctv camera, a police officer's head and a radio mast! This could explain how the Guardia Civil arrived so quickly when we attempted to approach the cave at Easter this year.

25th December 2018 – Di, Si, Jess Eades, Martyn Grayson, Beardy, Julia

2889: Torca la Vaca via Bigmat Calf Hole

Jess and Martin were keen to learn the Bigmat Calf Hole entrance and the route through the high level series through to Walking On Eggshells/High Street and the main route heading South. A nice guided tour Tour of Vaca to just past High street Oxbow and photos in Lechugilla Passage and Kendal Mint cake Passage. Kendal Mint Cake and in particular the gypsum crystal formations up to the end of the passage are an amazing piece of cave and well worth a visit if anyone is passing by.

26th December 2018 - Di, Si

2691: Giant Panda

We brought a car load of scaffolding, clips and rebar out a year or so back, luckily it was all still lounging about the tackle store so this was dually pressed into service for its intended purpose down the Giant Panda Entrance, along with whatever wood we could get hold of. The original acro-props holding back the rotting pallets and the banking are now connected to scaffold pinned into bedrock, wobbly blocks secured and boards fitted to hopefully stop anymore spoil slumping in,

27th December 2018 - Di, Si, Nez

0107/2691: Uzueka via giant Panda

Nez spent a bit of time gardening on the 'other side' of the tube at the head of the first pitch, it doesn't look brilliant in this area – then again it never did!

An efficient trip up to Tixtu Aven ensued via the alternative and longer but dry route avoiding a good soaking in Sloppy Inlet. The tatty rope that had been taken off the Tixtu pitch a few years ago and left on a high ledge at the bottom of it, couldn't be found anywhere. Now this caused us a bit of a predicament as a 20m rope was needed to descend into the lower levels of Professional Advice chamber, so once we were all at the top of Tixtu Aven Simon de-rigged the 'up' pitch to recover enough rope. Meanwhile Di and Nez were busy inspecting the skeleton found some five years earlier, taking photos and video.

Finally we completed the descent, started surveying and eventually found ourselves at the limit of the 2014 exploration in the 1.5m wide 5m high rift. Unfortunately this was short lived and ended after around 40m, in total 85m of new passage was surveyed. Very disappointing, but every lead can't be a winner I suppose.

We returned re-rigging Tixtu Aven and as we were wallowing out of the Sloppy inlet canal the missing rope was recovered!

28th December 2018 - Di, Si, Nez

0892: Regaton

With our 'A' lead well and truly dead, a new focus for the rest of the trip was needed. I remember several drunken conversations with Andy Pringle who kept going on about The Powerhouse in Regatón, with no other suggestions and it being rather close to the road we went to take a look.

Apparently a year or so ago the entrance series was re-rigged with permanent 10mm through bolts and hangers, also an alternative route onto the head of the final 70m pitch had been manufactured bypassing a squeeze. This all made our descent rather easier especially as the big pitch had been left rigged. This is one long hang to the floor of the shaft with three deviations, the top one is only a couple of meters down from the belay and can be tricky to pass for folk with short legs, unfortunately this is necessary as the rope is only just missing a rub point. Maybe another deviation could be fitted around 20m down to allow the top one to be extended a bit? We had a look round the area at the bottom of the shaft to familiarise ourselves, Simon went as far as Power House Junction whilst everyone started prussiking out.

NOTE: From the head of the new pitch above the big pitch, it is possible for dislodged rocks to bounce and go all the way down the shaft. Although unlikely, but if a 'big one' escaped from here it could start a landslide of stacked debris – stay **well** clear at the bottom of the big pitch and be careful at the top!

29th December 2018 - Di, Si, Nez

0892: Regaton

We went along Powerhouse to the end at Peak Passage looking at various side passages along the way, however we didn't realise that there was a 4m pitch to get to the final sump and boulder choke so this wasn't inspected. What a great trip along fantastic and varied passage, with a grand final pitch in the entrance series!

30th December 2018 - Di, Si, Nez

0892: Regaton

Of all the possible leads that we saw on the day before, we decided to climb the aven in Powerhouse above large pit in the floor, which is just before Alcove Junction. Unfortunately this ended after around 30m, where the climb went through a slot in the roof to enter a parallel aven with no way out of it. The ropes were pulled through. During this time Di was checking the immediate area for any likely side passages, nothing significant was found.

Nez then had to leave to pick Lucy up from the airport, so Simon and Di pushed the inlet just north of alcove junction. I guess that we got a bit further than previous explorers as we dug through a couple of squeezes ending in an inclined wriggle over blocks which then went flatout through water being too tight after a couple of metres. It's hard to tell how much was new as most of the scamper marks had been washed away along with any evidence of survey stations.

1st January 2019 - Di, Si, Nez

1512:

We went to check this old dig to see if it was worth pursuing. Having looked round the final snapped corner it became apparent that this was a big job, in the UK this lead would be getting riddled with one metre shot holes stuffed full of something rather more vigorous!

0179:

A quick lap round this interesting hole, which seems to have little prospect.

2nd January 2019 – Di, Si

2691: Giant Panda

A visit to the entrance to retrieve unused scaffold and insert a few more boards.

NOTE:

The surface down the climb and through the tube seems (hopefully!) stable now. However, care is needed exiting the tube and on the climb down into the small chamber at the head of the first pitch, due to the close proximity of the loose roof and walls. Also it is still possible that debris from the surface can fall all of the way to the bottom of the pitches, so it is still recommended one at a time on the rope and keep well clear at the bottom.

There is a short rope through the tube at the bottom of the Giant Panda entrance climb, but the rope on the main pitch has been removed due to damage, however the hangers are all in-situ.

On our drive up to Giant Panda we noticed that the La Cabañuela hillside behind Rianó church had been logged, so parking near the Uzeka entrances we spent the rest of the sunny afternoon looking for new caves in this area, where we found and surveyed one short hole.

4848:

30T 451282 4799537 Alt:240m This was 10m deep and 13m long, ending in a small blind enlargement with an animal skeleton at the bottom. *surveyed.*

3rd January 2019 – Di, Si

0892: Regaton

We went straight to the choke and sump at the end of Peaky Passage, although it is reported that the 4m pitch to this area can be free climbed it is well worth taking a ladder. The sump which had a green hue to it and a very soft silty bottom appears to be static, as there was no flowing water in this area when we visited. We spent several hours trying to pass the choke, recovering and laying the original string into what seems to be the way on. Digging through many squeezes we eventually emerging into a 5m diameter breakdown chamber with no real obvious way out of it. There wasn't much draught in the choke to speak of with it being January, maybe returning in the summer would help? We couldn't find any survey stations in the extensive sump/choke area, so on checking the survey files when we got back we realized that the nearest station is in the chamber before the wriggle to the 4m pitch, which means the sump/choke on the survey must be an estimated sketch. Other anomalies were also spotted in the survey data which I'll try and straighten out before our next trip to Regaton.

Another mystery is after The Stoop on the crawl over fallen beds a side passage on the right was entered, this had written survey stations from 2005 by Pete Eagan & Pete Hall but isn't on the survey or centreline.

4th January 2019 – Di, Si

Another glorious day after a late night watching the awesome Quadrantids meteorite shower from the col at Cruz de Usaño, so we returned to the logged area behind Riaño parking by the farm at the top of La Cabañuela.

Just over the wall from the farm's lower meadow we found two shafts:

4849:

30T 451154 4799488 Alt:286

A shaft 4m deep choked with empty food cans.

4850:

30T 451143 4799491 Alt:284

⑤

A tight entrance to a narrow shaft emitting a good warm draught, surveyed @ 23m deep it enlarges at the bottom but is unfortunately blind.

5th January 2019 – Di, Si

Following a heavy frost overnight was blazing sunshine, so on our final day we decided to have another surface bash in the logged area near Riaño.

We came across **1317** – no draught and no prospect. Shaft **1316** shaft couldn't be found, it's possibly buried under logging track.

Two other holes close together were found on the way back to the car:

4851:

30T 451493 4799452 Alt:236

A large boulder blocks entry to a tight shaft, rocks rattle down for a couple of metres.

4852:

30T 451487 4799457 Alt:234

Slightly lower than the previous cave a 3m deep hole chokes.

0713 Fuente Aguanaz 25/12/2018

Main Upper cave Pete Smith and Big Steve.

Bolt placed on surface wall for handline down over fallen block to chamber at the pitch head down to streamway. Nut left on but no hanger. Rope needed for the next trip.

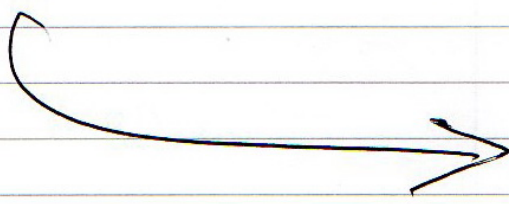
More gardening at pitch head now no loose rock or debris, much safer.

2 bolts placed in left hand wall now a comfortable ladder pitch. Nuts and hangers left in situ and ladder left with P.S. specifically for this pitch. Bolt in roof above pitch head ideal for pulley but hanger could do with swapping for ring hanger.

Rope left in from August is in ok condition but perhaps could do with changing after heavy traffic.

Big Steve

12/01/2019



Matienzo December 2018

(Jess Eades, Martyn Grayson)

18/12/2018 – Tuesday am – re-orientation and supplies

Scoped out the start of the via ferrata

18/12/2018 – Tuesday pm - 3014

Afternoon surface reconnaissance to find **cave 3014**.

Parked further up "Un-named Road" past cave to park in a wider section of road opposite a small cave with small resurgence stream that has been damned up (water trough). Walking back down the track towards the main road, take the forestry track on the right down and then bear left into the trees. At the time of writing, a faint track through the vegetation could be picked out through the undergrowth.

A quick trip inside in our regular clothes to see what was what.

A small pit in the floor of the entrance chamber appears to draft and appears to have had digging efforts in this area.

The stall area previously photographed has already been broken through and appears to continue. Echo still apparent, but doesn't go anywhere. Sound just reverberates in around you.

Will return with camera and survey kit to continue to detail the cave.

19/12/2018 – Wednesday am – via ferrata

Did the local Matienzo Via Ferrata. Really good. Only took around 1 hour from start to finish, but a good little workout and a fun Tirolese at the end to finish off the route. Took some video.

19/12/2018 – Wednesday pm – search for 0714

A surface walk to locate and recheck cave 0714 (cave with the dog skeleton). Only a short drive outside of Matienzo up the hill behind La Taberna apartments/ Baker's Bar. We know for next time to park nearer the transmitter tower, then follow the footpath markings (yellow and white) up to meet a large conifer tree. After that, just keep headed up the hill into the large valley basin/plateaux. Followed the GPS to the location, but no cave fitting the description found. Had a good search around for approximately 2 hours, finding several other large entrances, but nothing that fitted the description to cave 0714. Had to abandon search as was starting to lose the light. Think the cave should be in the basin somewhere. Other promising caves found on the approach, but need to check if these have been recorded previously.

Possible 1 - This is site 4681

Longitude	N 43.30410 = Lat = 451949 UTM Easting
Latitude	-3.59245 = Long = 4794756 UTM Northing
Altitude	456m
GPS Accuracy	15m

7

General Description	Small entrance at base of rock outcrop leading to small rift. Estimated depth approximately 2m. Entrance will need to be dug to enlarge access, but this is only blocked by boulders and what appears to be relatively loose soil. Boulder cammed in rift so likely extends beyond 2m deep. Elder tree growing to right of entrance in the small basin at the base of the outcrop of rock.
Entrance photos?	Yes

Possible 2 In the area of 2451 / 2452

Longitude	N 43.30155 = Lat = 451934
Latitude	-3.59261 = Long = 4794473
Altitude	555m
GPS Accuracy	8m
General Description	Small triangular shaped entrance at base of small cliff face. To right of entrance is a small gully leading further up the cliff. Entrance appeared undisturbed with no signs of prior exploration. Hading passage descending approximately 3-4m leading to a small chamber with cobble/small boulder floor. Does this connect to Possible 3?
Entrance photos?	Yes

Possible 3 Likely to be 0669. Sketch in logbook Easter 2006

Longitude	N 43.30171 = Lat = 451918
Latitude	-3.59281 = Long = 4794490
Altitude	555m
GPS Accuracy	8m
General Description	To west of Possible 2. A large rift passage/gully open in several places to surface (approx. 2 or 3 cascades). Floor descends steeply down towards the valley floor. Water-worn fluted sides. Approximate depth 6m (that can be seen). Will need bolting kit to drop the pitch. May descend further. Does this connect to Possible 2?
Entrance photos?	Yes

Possible 4 This is 1238

Longitude	N 43.29815 = Lat = 451756
Latitude	-3.59477 = Long = 4794096
Altitude	578m
GPS Accuracy	8m
General Description	Slot in floor (1m wide by 5-6m long) at base of boulder. Grass was growing over the gap so it appeared initially to be a much smaller entrance. Pointed the disto down, to around 6m, but very likely to go much further.
Entrance photos?	Yes

20/12/2018 – Thursday

Morning – a quick trip out to get more food prior to the shop closures over the Christmas Holiday

An afternoon digging in **cave 603 – Near the bar pot.**

Broke up the flake that had fallen into the start of the entrance crawl. Spent some time clearing the crawl of rocks and then continued to have a look at the dig face. Rattled some boulders in the floor and opened up the hole in the floor. Descends approx. 2m but is too narrow to descend and appears to choke off again. Continued beyond the hole to the terminal chamber. Had a look at the dodgy slab on the right hand side. Needs either shoring up or removing somehow (Apparently scaffold and board near entrance are for this bit). Began to dig in floor near draft.

21/12/2018 – Friday

Rest day. Lunchtime drove out to recon Ramales and Arredondo via ferratas. Visited the hermitage at Arredondo. It was well worth the trip. Met Big Steve and Susie in the Baker's Bar.

22/12/2018 – Saturday

Up early, breakfast. Via ferrata at Arredondo. It was AWESOME!. 2hrs. Did the harder section in the middle which was a challenge. Vulture gliding over the valley and cool cloud inversion over the top of a hillside up the valley near the wind turbines.

Afternoon dig at **Cave 603 – near the bar pot.**

Continued to dig in the floor. Moved some other boulders to make the passageway a little more comfortable. Stacked rocks in the available side cavities with shingle/mug being pushed back down the hole that was opened two days previous (20/12/2018).

Si and Di arrived and we all went out for dinner at Bar Tomás.

23/12/2018 – Sunday

No caving. General bumble around.

24/12/2018 – Monday

Started off by going to check out **Cave 0624**. The cloud was down in the valley so we stopped on the top near the substation to take photos. There was a fire over towards Arredondo where you could see the smoke rising out the valley so we thought the smoke we were smelling was from there. We parked up and started to descend the hillside looking for 0624. As we approached closer to the grid reference point we noticed that there was another fire, this time immediately down the hill from our location. We were now on a zero meters reading on the GPS and starting to scan the hillside for the cave. We could hear the fire crackling below us and getting closer, so we abandoned the rest of the search in the hope that perhaps the search may be easier with some of the vegetation gone after the fire. We noticed the fire around 11am and it was still burning at midnight. Photos attached show the extent of the burn.

After abandoning the search from Cave 0624 we drove around the other side of the valley to find **Cave 1246**. Located the entrance via the grid reference (seems very accurate). Took additional photos of the entrance and then descending into the cave. Entrance is steeply sloped for approximately 13m down an

initially leaf littered slope (from the trees immediately above the cave) then fine sand covers the rock below. A very short body height climb down gets you to the base of the cave. Boulder strewn floor appears to be breakdown and have rolled in from four locations (entrance, left hand gully 1 and 2 and straight ahead). Boulders in the floor are somewhat loose and capping probably wise before descending down between the boulders (there's some large hanging death). We spent some time digging the floor at the base of the entrance slope following the solid wall down. Photos and video taken.

25/12/2018 – Tuesday – Christmas Day

Trip into **Torca La Vaca 2889** via 'BigMat Calf Hole' with Si, Di, Martyn and I. Route finding and re-orientation trip. Got as far as the pitch traverse before turning around to take photos on the way back crystal chambers.

Christmas dinner at Steve and Susie's with Si, Di and Phil.

26/12/18 – Wednesday

Continued to try and find **cave 0624**, through the freshly burnt areas. No luck finding the entrance. Could the power lines overhead be throwing out the GPS?

27/12/18 – Thursday

Up on the edge of the basin near **0714** (dog skeleton cave)

Possible 0714B. No evidence that anyone has previously descended. Probably **NEW. Site 4950**

Longitude	N 43.29778= Lat = 451668
Latitude	-3.59585= Long = 4794056
Altitude	590
GPS Accuracy	
General Description	Hidden amongst the limestone outcrops. An entrance descending immediately to around 8m. Bolt placed and backed up around Natural features, Martyn descended the shaft. It keeps going and has a small dog leg in the shaft which requires an additional bolt placement for a deviation cord. Drops into a chamber with a pool of water. Still going routes off.
Entrance photos?	Yes

Photos also for **site 1437**

29/12/2018 – Saturday – headed back home ☺

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT