

LOGBOOK

Year: 2019

Season: Christmas : New Year

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

Juan Corrin, February 2020

2019 Christmas New Year 2020

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From: Chris Scaife <chrisscaife.cs@gmail.com>

To: uzueka <uzueka@aol.com>

Subject: Usaño

Date: Thu, Jan 2, 2020 9:19 pm

Hi Juan,

Happy New Year.

I was walking at Cruz Usaño with Pete today and we investigated a couple of caves.

We descended cave (4661) for the first time. This is a 5m deep shaft with small trees growing around the edge. The dimensions at the floor are 5m by about 2m. On the far side from the point where I descended, the way ahead narrows to a very small gap (less than 10cm wide). There seems to be a sort of chamber beyond, but no draught.

We also found a new cave (actually in our permit area!) at 453139 4794069 alt. 449m. We surveyed this to 7.4m length, 4.1m depth.

(5009)

I have sent photos and topodroid screenshots by WeTransfer. I hope it's obvious what's what.

Sorry to make the first finds of the 2020s such pathetic ones!

Chris

7/1/2020

Hi Juan,

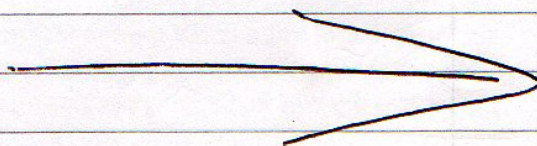
Some photos from Cueva Vacina (0096), which I surveyed today with Pete and Carol. I didn't make it down the pitch - it was too tight for me with SRT. Probably fine on a ladder. I'll send a description and survey later. We recorded the entrance coordinates as 30T 452355 4797852

Chris

(5010)

And these are from Pete's dig, 30T 452365 4797799, which we bottomed today. It's about 7m deep.

4942 Move to better position on map.



Matienzo December 2019

16/12/19 – Bat project - MG and JEa *Solórzano*

Retrieval of bat kit from project cave to download and reset. At least 2 bats (horseshoes) seen flying within entrance chamber upon arrival, but very few bats seen within the cave in and around the location of the two detectors. Did not go beyond bat detector to final chambers on this trip.

18/12/19 – (resurgence **4894**) Big Steve, Suzie, MG and JEa

MG donned a wetsuit and dive bottle to take a closer look at the resurgence and see if it would be possible to push/dig. Dive identified a boulder situated in a slot/rift which could be removed to further penetrate the dive. It still looks like it would be tight, with potential for a 90 degree bend to the right shortly after passing the slot/rift. Boulder to be removed on a different trip as additional kit will need to be used to shift the obstruction.

Resurgence **4942** (behind the obelisk) – Big Steve, Suzie, MG and JEa

MG dropped into the water (out of depth) with a mask (no bottles) to see if there was on-going passage which would be passable underwater. Visibility was lost rapidly due to fine silts at entrance point. Water could be seen coming in from small fissures in the rock here (opposite the damn wall, as seen in easter 2019 photos), but none are passable for diving. No future prospects in this part remain.

Big Steve, Suzie, MG and JEa – a driven tour of a number of the resurgences within the permit region. All known resurgences.

19/12/19 – (resurgence **4894**)

Bolt installed in rock face above resurgence to start dive line for future exploration.

Upper entrance to Reñada - (4221). Evening walk up to the entrance to check for bats. Greater and lesser horseshoe seen resting with further horseshoe bats flying into the cave entrance whilst we were there. Strong winds in the valley.

23/12/19 – (resurgence **4894**)

MG donned a wetsuit and dive bottles to re-enter the resurgence to attempt to shift the boulder seen on the previous trip. Flow had significantly reduced since visit on 18/12/19 and more silt/particulate appeared to be suspended in the water. MG shifted the boulder on second attempt, and tried taking a video to see what the situation in the sump was. Visibility was not great and the water took a long time to clear. No further attempt to push the cave was made due to poor visibility.

24/12/19 – Christmas Eve (Surface walk)

Big Steve, Suzie, MG and JEa surface walk from Busmartin following the tracks and roads to round the contours of the valley and then back down the track to where it meets the road to the south of cave 0076.

Generally, a walk to take in the views and see the valley from some different aspects. Steve pointed out a few known cave entrances. We found a entrance to a cave in the base of a doline, which didn't appear to have been looked at. A GPS of the entrance was taken and a photo of the entrance. MG went a short way into the cave with a headtorch and didn't find any survey stations or evidence of previous exploration and so we retreated with the view of checking the cave entrance map for the area. This cave was later found to be **0434**.

Big Steve showed MG and JEa cave **0076** at the end of the walk.

25/12/19 – Christmas Day (4892)

Big Steve, Suzie, MG and JEa spent a few hours shifting boulders in the dry resurgence entrance **4892** in the hope that a passage could be opened up which would by-pass the sumps and allow access to a dry way in. Capping persuasion required for a few boulders soon opened up the rift to allow a descent of around 1.5m. The rift gets tighter impeding progression for now, but a bedding

plane can be seen just below which trends north. When boulders were dropped down, some eventually splashed down into water (which sounded deep (ish) giving an obvious "Sploosh" sound. More effort required here to increase rift width and aid further descent to get to the bedding plane.

26/12/19 – MG and JEa went to bat project cave to check on faulty detector. Found to be flashing AGAIN! Detector removed from cave for more fault finding and repair.

new cave/dig opportunity (near 4004)

MG and JEa – where a track separates from the road, walk up the track approximately 20m looking for a doline on the northern (left) side of the track only 4m from the track. At the base of the doline is an earthy entrance leading to clean washed limestone. **Actually 4924**

N	43.38829	0454166
W	003.56590	4804091
Alt	207m	

Cave entrance likely not to be found in summer due to vegetation growth!

Rigged from nearby trees, descending pot approx. 5m deep trending slightly back towards the track (south). Loose mud/soil at the top with significant leaf litter infill. Clean washed limestone encountered approximately 3m down with a narrow rift continuing down. Passage is approximately 1m x 60cm, but to make further progress, digging will be required.

Likely to take water during heavy rains. Dig opportunity, but no stacking space within the entrance so everything must be hauled to surface and stacked within the plantation woodland. Would require haul kit and kibbles.

surface works (dig 4892)

MG and JEa went back to cave and erected a small gate (sticks and wire) to seal off the entrance from any potential cattle which may be put in the field at different times of the year.

28/12/19 - Bat project - MG and JEa

Bat detector re-deployed for hopefully final time in the cave. Faulting problem appeared to have been fixed.

Bat project - MG and JEa

An evening walk to go and check out the hole encountered during the Christmas eve walk. We'd searched on the map to see if it already had a number, but didn't seem to located it. Upon a more penetrating investigation of the cave two cairns were soon encountered, therefore trip was aborted/turned into a bat finding trip. Upon returning home, further study of the map showed that this was cave **0434**.

5003 = 5006 Remove 5003

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT