

LOGBOOK

Year: 2023

Season: Easter

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

Juan Corrin, June 2023

EASTER 2023

①

On Tuesday, 7 March 2023 at 20:14:31 GMT, Peter Smith <smith_peter2004@yahoo.es> wrote:

Hello Juan

After Andy and I were last digging in La Vega, we looked at what else was round there, were impressed by your excellent photos of 3355 and wanted to see it for ourselves and do a survey. The length came to 43m (previously 25m). We also had a look in 0477 on the way.

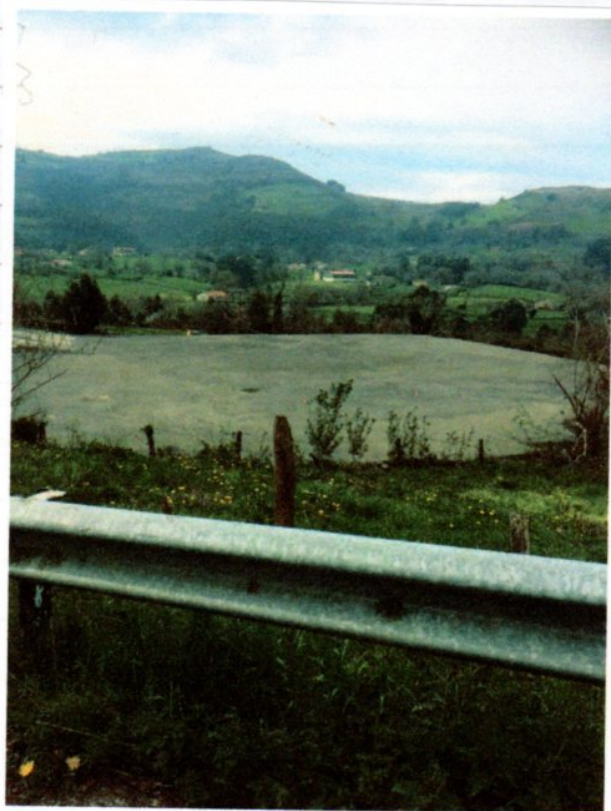
Cheers

Pete

20/3/23 Photos of 0747 (Ogarrio) from T.W.

20/3/23 Re-written description of Fresno II (0841) ✓
From James C.

23/3/23 Photo of field at Llanio (3234) ploughed over or stone
or tarmac covered? (AQ)



On Thursday, 23 March 2023 at 17:22:55 GMT, Quin, Andy <a.quin@lancaster.ac.uk> wrote:

Hi Juan,

At the moment it is compacted gravel. However I am sure that it is awaiting its concrete topcoat. When we were over there a few weeks ago I spoke with Nardo's (the happy man from next to Telmo) granddaughter who was in the Llanio field with her horse. She told me then that a workshop or storage building to do with the honey business was going to be installed soon. I suppose that with them having sold Nardo's house they are investing the money in the business. She was more than happy for us to go in the cave and did point out that there were no bees to worry about. It was a bit embarrassing really as I didn't recognise her at all but she knew exactly who I was and my name!

See you before too long

Andy

From: Quin, Andy (a.quin@lancaster.ac.uk)

To: uzueka@aol.com

Date: Thursday, 23 March 2023 at 18:11 GMT

Hi again, the newly covered area is about 50% of the field so only directly over the passages immediately to the west of the road. Whilst the size of the levelled area is a little surprising I got the impression that the building would be mainly used for storage so sewerage may not be too much of a problem and in any case they will have to have proper septic tanks in place. I think it is now just a case of see what happens or in scientific terms a longitudinal monitoring project.

El jue, 23 mar 2023 a las 19:31, Antonio Higuero (<higuero.antonio@gmail.com>) escribió:

Dear Juan Corrin,

Dear Juan Corrin,

#0103

My name is Antonio Higuero Pliego, I am a post-doctoral researcher at the Universidad de Cantabria, under the supervision of Professor Pablo Arias.

At this moment I am preparing a conference about the Espada de Ruchano that will take place at the MUPAC on Tuesday 4th of April, within the conference cycle "La pieza del mes". I am wondering if it would be possible to use in the presentation the map that the Matienzo Group did of the cave. Always citing the source of the image and referencing the group.

El jue, 30 mar 2023 a las 11:36, Juan Corrin (<uzueka@aol.com>) escribió:

Hi Antonio

Yes. You're very welcome to use the map. There are also many photos on the web site which you are welcome to use. After your presentation would you be able to send me a pdf of your work, or a link to it - so that I can link to it from the matienzocaves.org.uk/descrip/0103.htm page?

I'm sorry I missed your original email. Good luck with your presentation!

Regards

Juan

Re: Cueva de Ruchano map

0103

From: Antonio Higuero (higuero.antonio@gmail.com)

To: uzueka@aol.com

Date: Thursday, 30 March 2023 at 10:46 BST

Dear Juan,

Many thanks for your response. I'll send you the presentation. However, the main point of it is the masculinities during the Bronze Age, so the Ruchano sword is an "excuse" to introduce that issue. The conferences is open to the public and held at the MUPAC on the 4th of April (next tuesday) at 19:00pm.

Best regards,
Antonio Higuero

31/3/23 #0050 Serruco. Photos from Carlos L.M.

28/3/2023 ICCC shown around speleological sites by Andy Q and Julie B.

ICCC team: Julien Jean, Erica Keung, David Kirkpatrick, Matti Mitropoulos, James Perry, Ben Richards, Se Hun Sohn, Anastasia Teck, Laura temple

29/3/2023 ICCC beach day

30/3/2023 ICCC 9 people into 3450 El Suto after removing tyres from the entrance.

31/3/2023 ICCC 5 people into 3450 El Suto. Right hand series surveyed down to 78m depth. See written account below.

1/4/2023 ICCC No caving around Matienzo

2/4/2023 ICCC De-rigged RH series in 3450. Going home tomorrow. Bat droppings collected for Jess Eades from 0040 Comellantes.

2/4/2023 Paul Fairman and Olly Brain. Tourist trip and photos in Reñada 0048

→ Survey drawn up in Interscape *Survays Folio*

Description of El Suto: Right Route 3450

If parking by the small inlet opposite the field, walking diagonally across the field bearing slightly right rapidly brings you to the start of the relevant path, starting at the tree line. About 50m down this path, a pothole is found 5m to the left of the path. Previously filled with a selection of large tyres that have been hauled out to clear the entrance, the entrance pitch is a ~15m spiralling slope, to be rigged by a 22m rope. The topmost attachment point is the nearby tree, which provides two anchors. There are two deviations on the way down - one from a spit (from previous expeditioning) and one from a newly bolted through bolt, both about 3m apart. Just before the final drop a through-bolted rebelay provides a clean drop to the tyre-filled chamber.

Here there are two ways down - one directly behind where the rope drops down (the 'left route'), and one down a small climb to the top of a pitch (the right route). The left route has two spits of questionable vintage which was left undescended in 2023. A long traverse line was rigged from the middle of the chamber down the climb leading to the right route until the pitch head was reached. This traverse passes some pretty formations, and the top of the pitch head is also well decorated. Here a Y-hang of new through bolts drops was bolted in 2023. A long deviation was rigged off of the large stalagmite to allow a clean drop all the way to the bottom of the chamber. This is a ~30m drop, lined with fragile formations and various nooks and crannies along the walls.



At the bottom of the pitch, there is a small inlet that leads away from the drop which quickly chokes and dies, despite looking to be a connection on the original survey. The obvious way on down a ~15m climb was rigged with a loose traverse line, leading to a squeeze at ankle height that opens up into a 3m drop. The small chamber that this drops into contains a false floor, and a small crevice on the right hand side leads to the final pitch. This squeeze is slightly tighter than the previous, and quickly opens out to a 5m diameter, 15m deep pitch. At the bottom of this, a crack in the wall appears to lead on to a passage below, however is too tight to be passable by any reasonably sized human. If this were to be widened, it is possible that the passage below continues, as there is no end visible from the chamber.

02/04/23 - Martyn Crayson + Jess Eades

Short trip into Reñada (0048) bottom entrance joining Ollie Brain + Paul Fairman as far as the crawl after the 2nd pool of water. We returned back to the entrance of Reñada and calibrated the survey kit. Our best calibration to date!

Later in the day we met ICC team reporting back at the base camp and was pleasantly handed bat forms and poop. After taking a look at the photos Martyn and I went round to 0040 Camellantes to locate the cluster of bats reported, photograph, and confirm species identification. (suspected Schreiber's bent wingbat from ICC photos/video). Upon entering located the big guano pile + alcove where cluster had been seen. No bats but alcove goes much further back. They have probably moved further back up the alcove. Found 6 lesser Horseshoe bats singularly dotted around the place and a single possible Schreiber's bent wing bat.

Will go back later in week to see if colony has re-positioned. May place a bat detector in the entrance to record some data.

(5)

RENADA 2-4-23 PAUL FAIRMAN + OLIVER BRAIN
FIRST TIME EXPLORE + PHOTOS TAKEN - EXCELLENT TRIP 4½ HRS
V, Stuffed Panage to end and passage to N.

Monday 3rd April 2023 - Cave # 4004 - Martyn Grayson, Jessica Eades, Paul Fairman, Ollie Brain

An early start to check the project cave for bat activity. Last checked during December 2022 to find very little fresh / recent bat activity. However there had been new logging roads cut through the Eucalyptus plantation. So possibly the heavy plant and equipment had moved the bat colony on to other caves / roosts in the area.

Today's visit proved successful, with two bat species identified, Lesser Horseshoe (Est QTY 4-6) & Greater Horseshoe (Est QTY 12-15). Still not huge numbers, but a step back in the right direction.

Ollie had been asking how big the Greater Horseshoe was when it was in flight and today he managed to see one both at rest and flying at close quarters.

Monday 3rd April 2023 - Cave # 0423 - Martyn Grayson, Jessica Eades

A lunchtime session to take a look in this cave as Juan and Steve had reported the night before about accumulations of droppings. We parked up and found the old footpath that works its way up the hillside. Rigged as an unsuccessful pull through from a good sized bush/tree just below the footpath, we abseiled into the entrance. What an amazing cave! Such cool formations. Took various samples from the piles of droppings throughout the cave, but sadly only 2 lesser horseshoes in residence at the time. Clearly it's been a bigger roost at some point. Really cool to see all the footprint/scratch marks in the pockets of glacial mud on the ceiling where the bats had been trying to hang up. Numerous photos of the formations and the accumulations of droppings taken. Some of the droppings had a notable brown/green tinge to them. Samples taken. Likely a result of the shift in prey items being consumed.

Monday 3rd April 2023 - Cave # 0040 - Martyn Grayson, Jessica Eades


A quick trip back into 0040 to see if the bats had gone back to their favoured roost spot where ICC had spotted them earlier yesterday. A night of feeding must have re-settled them as we recorded approximately 25-30 in a single cluster in the roof, and a further 4-6 in the immediate adjacent pocket. They were still fairly active. Took some macro photos to aid in species identification, but am fairly sure they will be Schreiber's bent wing bats. Will confirm once I'd looked in a few books.

MONDAY 3RD PAUL FAIRMAN + OLIVER BRAIN
CAVE 2564 SET OFF TO FIND BUT WASN'T IN RECORDED
LOCATION SPENT 90 MINS EXPLORING WHOLE AREA - ALL SMALL
DEPRESSIONS + ON TOP OF CAST TOPS TO NO AVAIL.

31/11/23 Big Steve + Pete Smulkin

8.3

first visit since Christmas 22, slight draught in an ^{arrival} ~~arrival~~, but this reversed as the day warmed up. Tapping session to remove real wall (left hand side) using chisel action on drill to remove compact mud on right hand wall. temporary hole ^{revealed} ~~revealed~~ in floor not quite body size. Tapping still now "needs removing, to quote Annie "I'll be back" Good progress made.



Tuesday 4th April 2023 – Surface walk to find obvious entrances in the valley and look for bats – Martyn Grayson, Jessica Eades

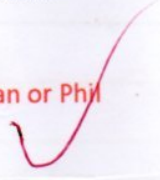
Cave 1510 – No bats or evidence of bats inside ☹ re-GPS'd the entrance (30T 0450622 4795373 283m altitude) Photos taken of both inside and outside the cave.

Cave 0042 – Top entrance. No bats or evidence of bats inside

Cave 1537 – 1 x Greater Horseshoe bat fast asleep along with a light scattering of droppings in the location of the bat.

Cave 1538 – 2 x greater horseshoe bats and 1x brown long-eared bat. No evidence in the main central chamber, but the first horseshoe was spotted in the rift passage off to the right from the main chamber after entering from the lower entrance. Light scattering of droppings along this side passage. When back on the surface, we walked further along the contour and found what turned out to be the upper entrance. A slightly airy climb uses holds on the right hand wall, but then you have to climb through the vine growing out the base of the portal. Another rift passage covered in moon milk leads to a window which draughts and looks back down into the afore mentioned main central chamber. The long-eared bat (suspected to be brown long eared due to the length of the thumb and thumbnail) was encountered first, rapidly followed by the second horseshoe bat. Again, a light scattering of droppings seen along this upper level passage. Both these side passages where bats were found are warmer than other parts of the cave and less noticeable draught.

Noted some confusion on Orux maps between locations of 3437 and 1539! Will speak to Juan or Phil about this.



Cave 1539 – is a 6m long walk-in rift passage at grid reference **30T 0450984 4795355 294m altitude**. Light scattering of droppings in the floor of the rift.

Cave 3437 – the description and photo currently shown on the log is actually the upper entrance to ~~Cave 1537~~ **1538**

Cave – 0267 "Overhang Cave" – no bats seen, but there are several significant piles of droppings. The largest pile being directly at the back of the larger entrance. Samples of the dropping taken. Will go back and survey the cave with the disto to get a more detailed survey, so that I can then mark on the locations of where each of the dropping samples has been taken. When we go back, we will also aim to climb up where the significant pile of droppings are to establish if the passage continues and see around the corner and confirm if there are any bats up there which are currently out of line of sight. We were only wearing leggings and wanted cave kit on before climbing up all the poop.

⁵³²¹ ~~Cave 1481~~ ^{needs new number!} – location currently shown on our maps is wrong. This makes sense why it was not re-found in the Feb 2023 as stated in the log. The entrance lies further up the hillside at the edge of the scrub/woodland. The entrance is covered with a number of cut branches and there was barb wire noted below the branches. Grass had started to grow up between the branches and so it was assumed it had been covered some time ago. New grid reference **30T 0451396 4795364 220m altitude**.

NEW CAVE

4/4/2023

EL CURBILLO SITE: 2538

PRESENT: OLIVER BRAIN, PAUL FAIRMAN, JIM LISTER
BASSENTINWAITE WATER FREE DUG, TRENCH
DUG ON FAR SIDE TO LOWER WATER, THE
SUMP NOW HAS AIR SPACE ABOVE IT.
TEAM THEN MADE WAY TO THE "LOW
GRAVEL CRAWL IN THE DOWN STREAM
PASSAGE, AND DUG OUT FLOOR AND USED
GRAVEL AND CLAY TO FILL SAND BAGS TO
CREATE A DAM TO STOP MORE WASHING
IN. MORE WORK NEEDED BUT DUE TO HARD
WORK OF TEAM JOB ALMOST FINISHED.
RIGGING ON FIRST FIVE PITCHES WORK AND
NEEDS REPLACING.

4/4/23 Phil Papard & Terry ~~4892~~ 4867

Capped section at end of entrance rift. One rock needs moving out of way, then whole cave need surveying & crawl off small chamber needs pushing. Best if a 2 or 3 man/woman team of thin people.

4536 — Cleared jungle from road to entrance
Took about 1hr to remove & get a clear route

Tuesday 4th April 2023 — Martyn Grayson and Jess Eades

Cave 0059 — Explored around the large and impressive entrance area looking for bats. Possible sighting of two high up in the roof, but too far away to be certain. Further visits to be made with more powerful lighting rigs.

5321
Cave New — After finding what we thought was going to be Cave 1481 earlier in the day, we returned with equipment to drop the entrance and survey. After removing the cut branches placed covering the entrance shaft, we lowered the ladder down off a scaffold pole. Cave 1481 should only have been around 5m deep maximum, and the ladder was swinging in the passage, not touching the bottom. Good job we had a rope with us too. Martyn backed up the scaffold pole to a nearby tree and descended. It was more like 10-12m deep. Descending through formations and passing water worn calcite the passage was quite pretty. Skeletal remains of a dog at the bottom of the entrance shaft, and skeletal remains of a dead goat (complete with ear tag) in a small alcove chamber at the bottom off the entrance shaft. Very little horizontal passage present. Mud and calcite blockage was broke open to reveal a short section of passage that ended in a clean washed aven that was about head and shoulders size. A small amount of water was seen washing down the wall. Surveyed on the way out.

Cave 0477 — Entrance stumbled on by chance as we were walking back to the car. A quick look inside for bat activity revealed a single lesser horseshoe bat in the entrance chamber. Several feeding perches located within the outer perimeter of the chamber. As it was already dark upon entering, the site may hold more bats, but these may have been out feeding already at the time we entered.

Tuesday 4 April 2023 Pat D, Pete E, Dave B
 Walked up to 874 with Pat's endoscope.
 Managed to see down ~2 metres → very
 tight & solid looking. Would need heavy
 kit to dig out. Film being edited for
 archive.

Walked back down through mushroom field.
 New collapse (~2m² & 1m deep) at bottom
 of field (to the right of the barn
 looking up). Photo taken.
 Probably 1744 ✓

Wednesday 5 April 2023 Paul, Alex, Ollie
 Trip to El Suto 3450. ICC had pushed right side previously
 but leads left on right. Plan to re-bolt right side and push
 unexplored leads. Dropped first pitch to find mismatch in drill bit
 size and bolt size brought - caps. Abandoned trip (to return tomorrow)
 and went surface walking - found unrecorded cave dubbed A hole,
 will talk to Juan to document further. North 4800836 East 445915

5335

Tuesday 4th April Fran, Mike, Raoul
 Trip to azziliaveta 333. None of us had gone before so
 just wanted to get an idea of the cave, with a plan of returning
 to survey the 1987 extensions. Rigged the 1st 3 pitches, & had
 a look down the 4th & down the top of the main pitch.
 Traversed along the passage above the 4th pitch, ~~up to where~~
 rope in place with slightly questionable anchors. At the end of
 the traverse the passage continues to the right before a
 pitch, there are no bolts here but can probably be rigged
 off a natural ✓

**Wednesday 5th April 2023 – Surface walk and exploring cave entrance looking for bats -
Martyn Grayson, Jessica Eades**

Cave 1481 – walked around the field looking for the entrance now that we know the site we found the other day is not this cave. Still no sign of it within the field. It must be covered, or perhaps not even in this field.

Cave 0477 – popped back in the entrance during the day to see if any other bats were present. Still just the **single lesser horseshoe** bat seen the night before. Hung in the same location. Took new photos of the entrance as a large amount of the vegetation shown in the previous images has now been removed.

Cave 5199 – small rift cave entrance in depression next to **cave 0477**. Photos taken of this entrance. Close observation inside the tight rift revealed a static pool of water. This appeared to have dropped slightly in height since the night before.

Cave 2682 – checked the goat pen rock shelter for roosting bats. No bats or evidence of bat activity found.

Cave 5208 – Jess went through this entrance into the Main section of **Cave 0177**. No evidence of bats or bat activity.

Cave 0177 – Re-grouped with Martyn at the main entrance. Descended into the cave. At least **20 Lesser Horseshoe bats** present scattered individually throughout the cave. A slight increase in frequency in the chamber before a crawling restriction into the gour pool chamber with columns. A very pretty cave.

Cave 0035 – **A single lesser Horseshoe** bat found in the right hand passage. Nothing in the far left hand passage, however a number of feeding remains and evidence of perching in this passage. A number of **tissue moths** recorded in this passage. **A single Greater Horseshoe** bat found in the central passage beyond the pools of water and immediately before the roped climb up in the roof.

Cave 0491 – Found this entrance whilst walking up the hillside from **Cave 0035**. New photos of the entrance taken. Did not descend the cave as we didn't have kit with us.

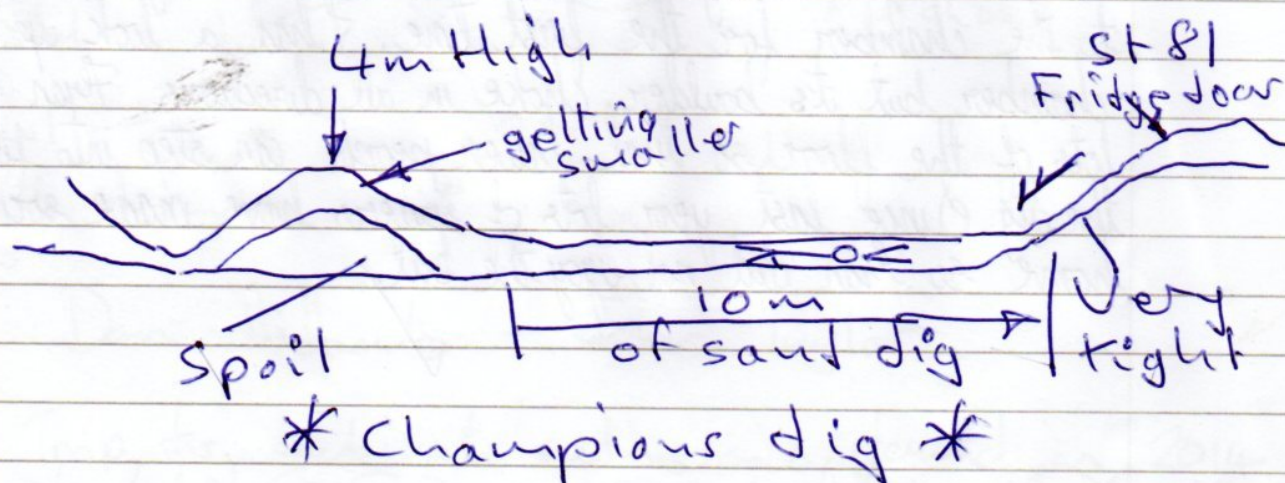
Cave 0546 – Took new surface photos of this cave as it appeared slightly less vegetated than previous.

Depression – ⁵³²² **In field adjacent to Cave 0546** – bramble filled depression with a large fallen branch at the edge of the depression. **Grid reference 30T 0449069 4794829 273m altitude**. Photos taken.

5/4/23 Torbin, Louise, Dave Bell, Pete Eagon

L/anio (3234) → Fridge Door (1800)

The Dig Beyond 'No Breast Feed Crawl'



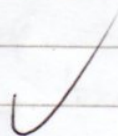
Trip to continue digging 3234 to 1800.

Much spoil moved in the new digging bucket - which was, unlike the speculation, not 'too big'.

The spoil heap was becoming more like Everest and the ceiling was getting closer - when suddenly 'sand that appears to have footprints in it' was spotted.

Work was limited by dinner time, but the connection was pushed through by 'the slim one' and St 81 Limit was sighted.

Work to continue.



5/4/23 Iran, James, Eleanor, Iran, Ian, Liz, Emily + Toby into Coras (0084) for families trip and 360° video.

Weds 5th April

Fran, Mike, Raoul

Trip to rocks 1017. Brought capping gear to make the entrance pitch big enough for Mike. After hammering the firing pin for ~15 mins, I decided to let Mike have a go, I being clearly stronger than I set it off quickly. Now it was wide enough to get through so Mike was able to get through to the chamber for the first time. I had a look up into another chamber but it's boulder choke in all directions. Fran dug out lots of the floor so that taller people can step into final bit of the dig. Since last year lots of spiders have made rocks their home so Fran did not enjoy the exit.



Thursday 6 April 2013

Pat D (sdo) to #880

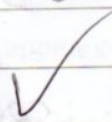
Filled last four bags. Approx 40 bags ready to lift out.

Continued digging down at end. Closer off but might be two separate blocks rather than a corner. Isn't only wide enough for a strength bar to enter.

Water still draining away into the floor. Clay, sand & small boulders.

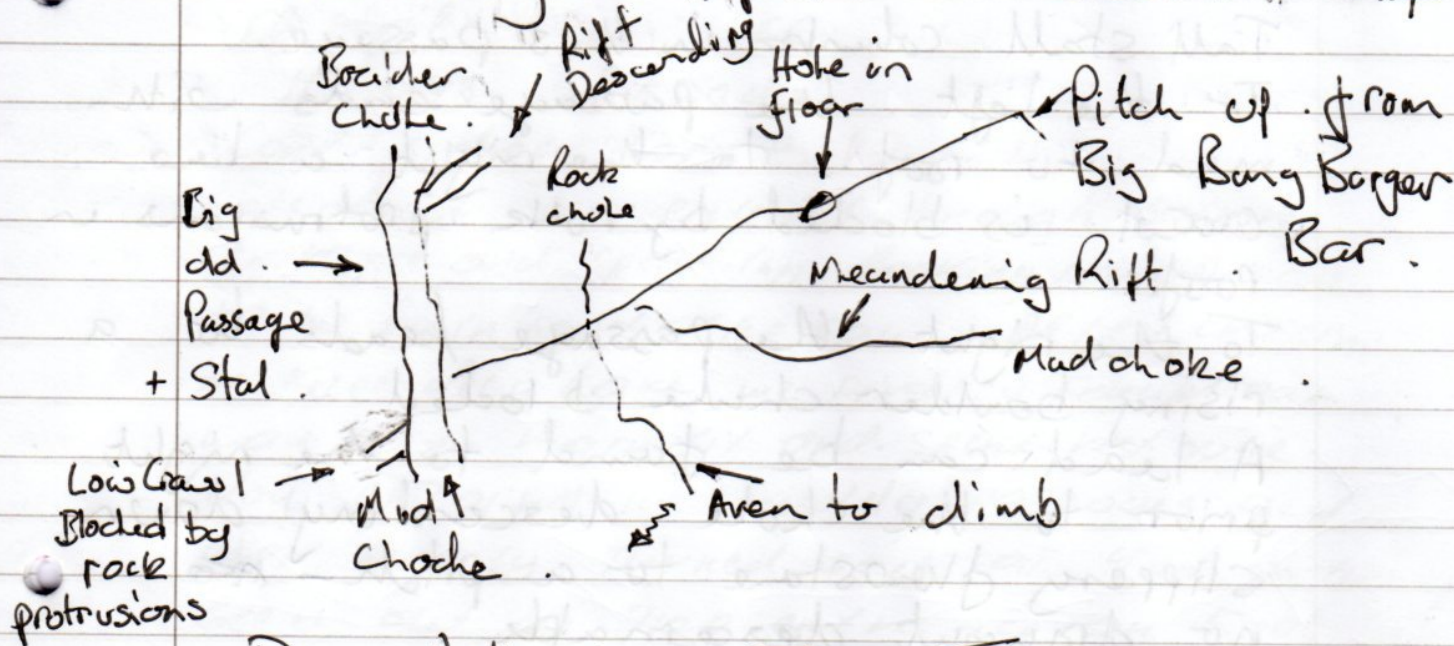
Derigged; hanger still in the wall.

Shoring in very + poor and has / rotten.



Wednesday 5th April.

Biggo. # 0114



Dan Hibbents - John Taylor.

Trip to look at extensions found in 2014 above Big Bang Burger Bar.

From pitch a moderate rift passage is reached and traversed at roof level with holes in the floor. - one possible lead above.

A meandering rift on left was followed and was draughting, possible lead above? ends with roof coming to a mud choke. no draught.

A cross rift is met with climbs up left & right. Right - leads quickly to a choke (boulders). Left - is a short passage to another rift to the right water runs away below a drop. to the left is a climb across a glass stone cascade to an apparent aven.

A return trip is planned to climb this aven. Continuing the passage, enters old fossil passage running left and right. cont.

Cont.

Tall stall columns in this passage.

To the left. the passage ends with mud to roof. to the right a low crawl is blocked by rock protrusions in roof.

To the right the passage leads to a rising boulder chute blocked

A lead can be found to the right prior to the chute descending down slippery gneiss to a pitch - ~~no~~ no draught discernable.

Thursday 6th April.
0154

Cave by Biggo
Resurgence.

Dan Hibbents - John Jaylar.

Walking Passage to right and left.
becomes bigger.

Straight on is a loose boulder chute.

To the right is a climb down.

Bottom of climb to left is a rift traversed above or below.

Above is a low crawl to a squeeze passable with a bit of digging - continues

To the right the rift continues to water wet swim or Sump.

Water in floor to left could be a Sump also.

06 April.

CCC

#0048

Reñada

Carl, Andrew, ~~Katy~~, ~~P~~ ^{Labriano, Henry}

at about 1pm entered through bottom entrance and spent the morning looking for the way to the main part of the camp. After crossing the knee deep lake we finally found our way to the main bit and spent rest of the day enjoying the muddy passages and over beauty. Turned back at 4pm on time. Been out the Top entrance. on 5:20.

6th April - Aquarius Team into 3234 Llanio to bring out ~15 x 10 litre containers of drip water collected by Peter Wynn + Alastair from LEC. Andy Q, Phil Papard and Juan pulled the water out and up the mountain of compacted gravel to the road.

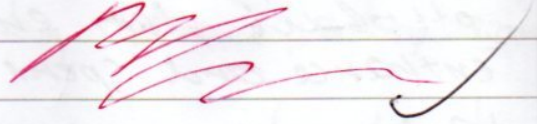
6/APRIL/2023

LLANIO 3234 - FRIDGE DOOR 1800

PRESUMPT: PETER EAGAN, DAVID BELL, TORBIN
JIM LISTER, LOUISE IN SUPPORT.

PETER AND DAVID MOVED 30 TUBS OF SAND TO UNLARGE DIG TO GAIN ACCESS TO FRIDGE DOOR CAVE, PHOTOS TAKEN BY PETER AND TORBIN, PETER AND DAVID TOOK PHOTOS WHILST TORBIN BOLTED ACROSS THE "JAWS" PITCH, PASSAGE CHIMES OUT, CLAY/SAND AT TOP, SMALL PASSAGE BELOW CONTINUES, NEW BIT SURVEYED

PETER FOUND SMALL INLET BUT VERY
SMALL, TEAM MADE WAY OUT. SOME
RE-ROUTING AND PLANNING FOR TYROLER
SYSTEM.



Thursday 6th April 2023 – Matienzo Bats in Caves Project - Citizen science element – Family-Friendly Bat Search in 0040. Led by Jess Eades and Martyn Grayson

A 10am start brought together a group of 20 people of all ages to go on a Family-friendly bat search/walk at cave 0040. The aim of the session was to try and find any bats roosting in the cave. When we found any bats, Jess would go through the basic species identification to show people what species of bat it was and show the differences between them.

Three species identified in the cave:

Approximately 12 x Schreibers bent winged bats

6 x Lesser horseshoe bats

1 x Greater Horseshoe bat.



Tuesday 4th April, Deception. 4732.

Ian, Chris, Alex, Grace, Andrew, James

Re-rigged all the pitches, but unfortunately the bolts at the top of the first pitch were completely decayed and some were spinning in the hole. We managed to get it safe, but it needs some proper attention. The bolts for lower down Small Slam seemed better, but they have only been in situ since last summer. We dropped Grand Slam too, then went to push some of the open leads.

1. The climb up into black space before 'The Griffon's Club' was reassessed and we decided it needs gear to get up looks good enough.

2. There's an inlet in the righthand wall near the start of downstream 'Vienna Coup'. We didn't pursue this, but noted that it wasn't marked as a lead on the original survey.
3. The uprushed passage in for at the NE corner of 'The Griffins Club' was pushed ~~there~~ ~~through~~ ~~under~~ under an over arch into a network of thickly & tunnels, eventually descending down a rft to a squeeze to the ~~the~~ into the junction just before 'Moleous Moog'. Technically, this is a short cut, but practically it's much easier the other way.
Batch 0252-23-02 L= 51.1 ~~17.5~~
4. The inlet in the righthand wall between the normal way to 'Moleous Moog' and 'The Bermuda Bowl' was pushed to a complete dead end after 20m, in a small cave.
Batch 0252-23-01 L=

After that, Alex & Andrew headed out, whilst the rest of us^{7.75} went for a look at the Armageddon boulder choke. Here, Chris climbed up into a new section of passage high in the roof, about 50m back from the choke. This was unmarked although Chris did find foot prints leading up to it, but not into it, from the opposite end.

Thursday 6th April, Deception, 4732,
Fran, Mike, Raoul, James

Went back to re-try the pitches with Phil's extremely expensive stainless thru-bolts. This started well, but problems with dodgy rock, and all the best bolt placement spots having been taken, made it a bit of a challenge. Also, a few times the nut broke off the thru bolt before whilst tapping it in, which added a massive ~~paramount~~ factor to increase the stress levels to maximum. ~~The~~ Also since they were so expensive. Most of the bolts went in okay, but a few failed, because

presumably because of soft pockets in the rock below the surface. ~~one for that~~ However, we managed to retrieve the hanger itself each time this happened.

I hit one such failed bolt with the hammer, to make sure no one used it by mistake. — it snapped. Very worrying!

Eventually, we got everything rigged satisfactorily, although it needs a couple of tweaks in a couple of places (see below).

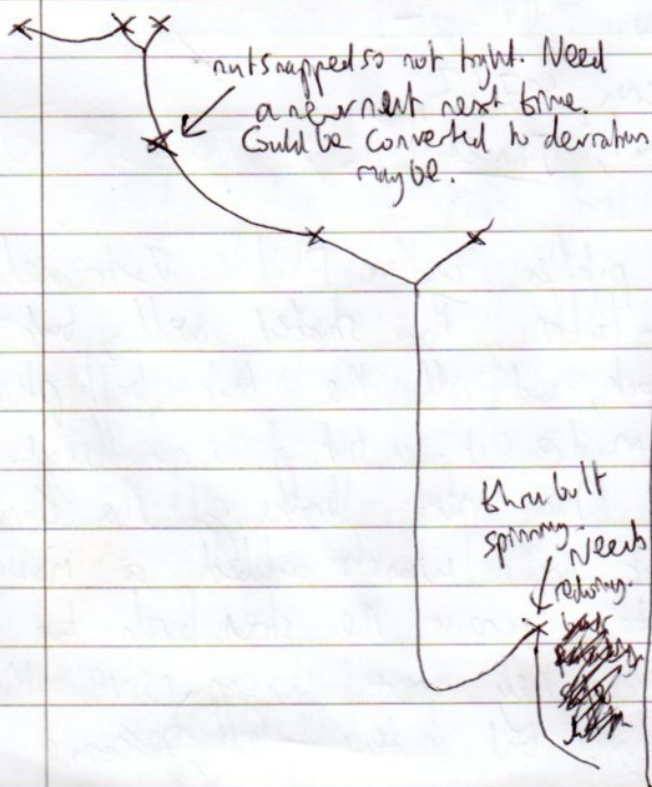
Grand slam was also difficult because the righthand was more like rock 'flam' than rock.

The only way to rig it safely was to climb up a Sft in the rift above the 40m pitch head.

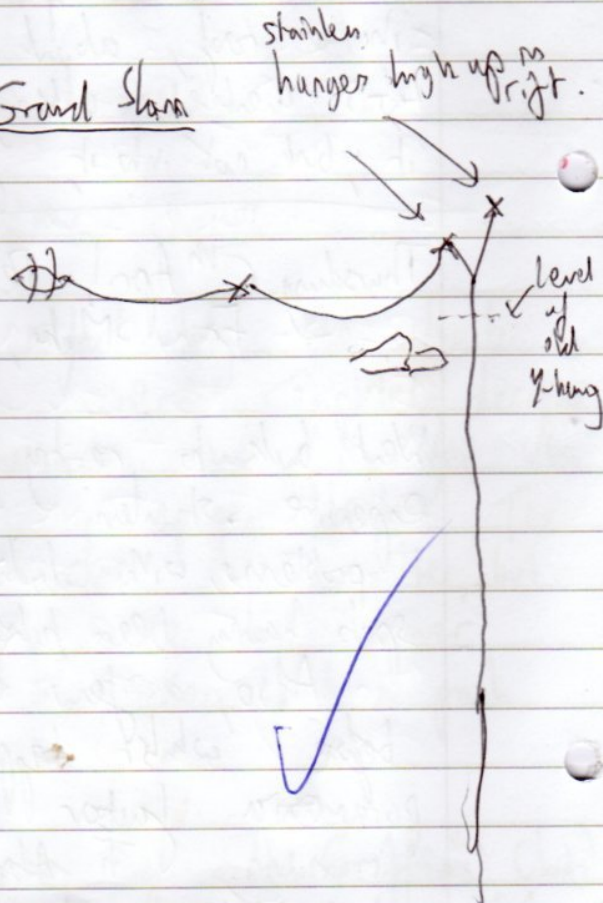
We also extended the traverse line here to make it safer.

We planned to bolt over the top of Grand Slam pitch but ran out of time.

Small Slam



Grand Slam



(See two pages back)

6th April 2023

Reñada 0048

Carl, Andrea, ~~Katy~~, ^{Carrion, Henry} A

This cave deserves a prize for actually being muddier than Budevisleigh - many moments of walkers getting mired into the mud. Luckily for us, after we exited we found a lovely clear streamway in which to wash off our muddy kit. Given that some of us had been down Reñada before, we received some instructions prior to entering the cave, but ~~unknown~~ unknown to us, we went in a straight way, by entering a different entrance than we had planned. This led to a lot of backtracking and exploration, trying to find the way on. Eventually, we found the lake and sent Henry across to 'test the waters' so to speak - much to his dismay! After a short walk across the lake we found ourselves by top entrance - where we had aimed to enter. So, after 2 hours underground, our trip could finally begin! ~~Unfortunately~~ He headed down and off and managed to find our way through, via some traverse holes, muddy passages and wet cranks. It was definitely worth it all though to see the ~~best~~ beautiful formations of black limestone. ~~With~~ All-in-all, a very successful trip!

Thursday 6th April 2023 - Jess Eades and Martyn Grayson

0553 / 1930 Sumidero de Cobadal - Preparation trip undertaken to scope out the route to the streamway to find the way onto the boulder choke at the far end. Found the streamway with relative ease and explored around the larger passages and entrance series. Will be going back to have a look at the choke now that we know the way.

2908 - Bus Stop Shelter Cave - Found this entrance whilst walking the hillside immediately below the road. Entrance is located directly below the overhead powerlines which may make following a GPS tricky if the cables interfere with the signal. Orux maps took us pretty much straight there. Obvious small depression at top side of large gorse/shrub area. Entrance is at the base of a small rock outcrop. Snug entrance slopes down steeply over earth/mud and agricultural bags. Once you can sit up there is a short climb down over flowstone to a rift passage. Another squeeze drops you through to the bottom of a pretty rift passage. Bang wire found where earlier progression was being attempted down at this point. Possible climb up into higher passage, but this is likely very close to surface level. Photos taken. Will return to survey before we leave Matienzo.

Friday 7th April Juan + Leray walk from Gnarro top car park NE
towards Cruz Uloradi. One new site found.

Small shaft about 4m deep, underscended. Boulder about 2m
down. No draught. No stone drops deeper than about 4m.
Covered with rocks which will be easily removed. Photos.

30T0450403 4797510 5323

Also photos at 1892

Thursday 6th April - El Suto 3450 - Ollie, Paul, Alex
Dropped first pitch again + collected tackle. Ollie bolted second
 whilst Paul + Alex began surveying from Station 'O'. Continued down
the left hand route reaching previous limit of exploration at a large
pitch. Bolted and dropped, then surveyed no leads, though impressive
pitch. A possible traverse across the top of the pitch to a continuing
horizontal passage may be worth a visit. Likewise another
bolt traverse further back in the cave may find new options.
Old surveyed length = 139m New Total = 216m.

Friday 7th April - Paul, Patrick, Christine, Ollie - Vallina 0733
A fun, sporting trip. Entered at top entrance and hauled an exposure
through LARGE passage to the first pitch - checked out a possible
lead of a bolt climb up an even - promising. Dropped ~~pitch~~
pitches with a few SRT lessons along the way. Out bottom entrance.

A great trip! 3 3/4 hr

(LAST ROPE ON FULL THROUGH (FIXED) HAS WARNINGS AS WORN OUT)

More on the above - PSN

• Following a suggestion of Phil P. - investigate "high level?"
at end of Sunday Stamps - Glitter Run, past the p12 + p18
of the pull thru. This appears to be a 4m x 3m tunnel heading off
above a c12-15m pitch which would need bolting.

• After the p10 entrance and ascent to Galeria Vallina, noted
a 1m x 1.5m hole in the RH wall (travelling inwards) behind a

2.5m up

boulder

boulder. ~~Would~~ Appears to continue as a passage fragment in the roof of the main passage. Would require 2-bolts, or scaling pole, or builder's ladder to access.

The description on the website page for U733 is confusing after the p12+p18 the main route is from the top of the p12, ^{not} ~~not~~ the base. The description should read

"~~The main route~~ "At the top of the p12, the main route continues...."

Summary of pull thru — all pitches are rigged with traverse lines to double anchors suitable for pull thru.

The in situ ropes are dubious! The pitches are therefore:—

p10 — enhance series

p12+p18 — end of Sunday Stomps — Glitter run ^{decent ledge} ~~at bottom~~ between them

p13 — ^{after a 3m} climb up to a balcony above Windy Corner, at end of La Unio.

Friday 7th April 2023 — Martyn Grayson, Jessica Eades

Site — 0613 (Torcida, Cueva de "Fat Boy G T")

A surface walk in the region of 0613 looking for other entrances and depressions. We entered 0613 to look for bats. The entrance series smelt, as there was a **decaying baby badger** in the edge of the passage on the right-hand side. Lots of evidence of night-time bat feeding roosts around the entrance. We went to the bottom of the first deeper section located off the first right-hand turn on the main way in. Free climbing the slope and 4m ladder pitch. Several large accumulations of droppings identified. Samples taken of the droppings. **1 x greater horseshoe bat** located in the middle section of passage. **1 x lesser horseshoe bat** in the lower passage area. Many other mammal droppings scattered around the upper entrance series suspected to be fox.

BIG ^{BANG} BURGER BAR, (7hrs)

7/4/23.

CATRIONA, CARL, Henry, Andrey, DAN & John.

Excellent trip, a bit more than John sold it to the kids,

Boulder chute was quite confusing @ the end Dan & John bolted up 20m or so, I took some photos & small survey by Andrey. Henry explored 15m of new ^{side} passage, Lots more rope needed. ✓

Trip to 1149 & 2796/3254 Raoul, Fran, Mike 7/4/23

1149 was exactly where the coordinates said, unfortunately while it seem like the promising draughting gave as described, as soon as you got in you could see the exit as it was a 20m tunnel.

We suggest the name "Oh no, I've ordered a Heineken"

3254 was more promising, rigging off two trees we descended to a rift going down at ~45° angle. Needs bolting because going down this would probably involve the rope doing some gardening above you. Dropping a ~~rope~~ rock down it rolls for a while with a fairly loud boom at the end suggesting a large chamber.

2796 sounded less exciting with rocks giving a soft thud after not too long

We also had a quick look on the way back at a shaft near the coordinates for 1153, this was either 1153 or unmarked, but it looked significant ~20m+, fenced off, & lies just above vallina.

Grid ref: 0449457 4793330 ~~1875m~~ 674m

NEW NUMBER: 5324 ✓

Juan ~~to~~

8/4/23 New dig just off road and on uphill side of fence above dig 0813 in Cubija
Barbed wire in floor. Cool. 2 routes off allow stone to drop/roll 3 or 4m. Worth a dig in the floor. Photos.

30T 0450125 4796963 NEW NUMBER: 5325
↑ 306

Saturday 8th April 2023 – Martyn Grayson and Jess Eades

²⁹⁰⁸
Cave ~~2980~~ (Bus Stop Shelter cave) – Return trip to survey the cave. Climbed up into the higher level passage at the far end, as last time we visited we didn't have proper cave kit on. Final station to outside entrance was done to a small boulder. GPS for this station may be off as it's immediately under the overhead power lines. $L = 35m$ $d = 8m$

Cave 0613 (Torcida, Cueva de "Fat Boy G T") – A return trip to take a look at the boulder choke at the far north end. In preparation to go back with a larger team to dig in the summer expedition. Scaffold needed to make safe progression.

8/4/23 SITE: 0733 JIM L
4 x 7 LITER CYLINDERS + DIVE KIT
TRANSPORTED IN. SPANISH CALLOS HAVE
INSTALLED STAIRCASES STEEL STEPS IN
A NUMBER OF PLACES.

FM 31 March²³ Pull PAPER, Air CAPTAIN, Caves can
Wanner Road AREA OF SITE 3026 NORTHERN NEW
FOUND ✓

SUN 1 APRIL 23 PP + CC SID BENDERO (5227)
FOUND TAKE PUT IN IN NW BY PETE SMITH + COUNCIL
HAS AN BEEN REMOVED.
DUE AT NE END OF ENTRANCE RIFT TO TRY TO FIND
UNDOUBTED UNDER LEFT WALL, CUPBED (6 PUNCH WOOD)
SIDE AT END, MOUNTAIN IS HIDDEN. ✓

SUN 2 APRIL CC, FOUND START IN MIDDLE OF FIELD
COVERED WITH PAPER AND BURNED WITH TYRES
UNDOUBTED. 30T 451609 4798083 AS 332m 372m Frm GTS.

NEW A SHORT DISTANCE BACK DOWN TRACK TOWARDS ROAD
IS A 0.6m WIDE SANDY DIB 30T 451640 4798098 AS 373m 5327

MON 3 APRIL PP, PP + CC (5227) SID BENDERO
AIR CAPTAIN AT END OF A PASSAGE LEADING BACK
TOWARDS ENTRANCE RIFT. GOT PASS OBSCURE INTO
WANNER PASSAGE!, 3m LONG (n) PULL + COUNCIL WENT
END OF ENTRANCE RIFT OPENING OF A GAP INTO +
THROUGH THE RIGHT HAND WALL, MORE WORK REED. ✓

WE 4 APRIL PP, PP + CC COUNCIL TO THE HOUSE & WERE
STAYING AS IS KNOWN. (3736) IS SHOWN IN WANNER
HOUSE AND IN ANY CASE THE MAIN ENTRANCE HAS BEEN
COVERED BY BORDERS BUDGETED IN (INFO FROM AIR NEW FOUND
IT IS MANY). PULL + COUNCIL TO (3720) SHOW DIB BUT NEEDS
BORDER REMOVING TO GET IN. THE BORDER MAY BE
SUPPORTING THE ROOF! AIR FOUND A FENCED SHED IN
A FIELD @ 30T 448746 4800578 AS 126m 5328
THIS WAS DISCOVERED A FEW DAYS AGO. ← NEW

TWO 6 APRIL AIR DISCOVERED ABOVE SHED 8m TO END OF LADDER
+ 2m DOWN INTO CATCHER WITH NO WAY ON + LOTS OF
FARM RUBBISH. ✓

451609 4798083
30T 451640 4798098
3736 3720

Friday 7th Pure P + unres C TO SITE 3012 Digging END
 8th " " " + AUF LATER MORE DOWN IN 3012 -
 continuing search. ends down ✓

Saturday April 8th 2023 Ian Lawton, Patrick W., Christine Z.
 Definitely (along with others pushing)
~~likely~~ 2796 at 30 T 449018 4793643 acc. 5m
 Descended by IL ca. 30m - choked - flat bottom GPS
 (matches entrance photograph) ✓

New site at 30 T 449138 4793573 5329 ↑ 669
 acc. 6m
 5m deep shaft at SE side (back) of depression ⁶⁷ - very undrains.
~~Back side~~ descended - choked.

Another site about 20m NE of 3254
 Fine shaft dropped ca. 25m - choked with floor of beech leaves
 Entrance shape is S-shaped - becomes oval at bottom. no leads.
 One spit placed ca. 2m down on NE wall.

New site: 30 T 449061 4793670 ↑ 629 5330 ↑ 528

Sunday 9th April 2023 – Martyn Grayson and Jess Eades

Cave 0012 – Cueva del Concebo – Inspected the cave for evidence of bats. No bats found to be present at the time, but **skeletal remains of a bat** found. This has been protected by a small ring of stones (see photos). Scattered droppings throughout the entrance and evidence of feeding remains on the right hand side as you look into the cave.

Had some impressive views of **Griffin vultures** on the approach and when leaving. There appears to be a **nest** approximately 1m in diameter on a ledge a short distance before the cave entrance on the left hand side when looking up at the cave.

Cave 0013 – Cueva de Cuatribu – Walked the hillside from cave 0012 to reach 0013. A very impressive cave with various bat interest. At least four species of bat present:

1x Natterer's bat (found in daytime zone)

1 x Brown long-eared bat (found in daytime zone)

1 x greater horseshoe bat (roof alcove)

2 x lesser horseshoe bats

Various scattered droppings found within the entrance area, several samples taken. Large accumulations along with ammonia smell present after the shallow crawl over the dark "soot-like" floor leading to a bend around to the right.

Areas of historic bat roosting present where staining in the roof can be seen where colonies are considered to have previously roosted.

Friday 7th April. Dan Hibberts
John Gaylar
Andrew Kozhenkove, Carl Gibbs.
Katrina, Henry Gibbs. Biggo #0114

Return trip to push / climb over
in 2014 extensions.
Aren climbed by Dan to within
15m of top & ran out of rope.
Aren actually steep muddy slope.
confines to spiral up seems
to communicate with men next door.

8th April

6th April in 1800 - not in logbook
All through dig. Photos Jan ext.
23-01

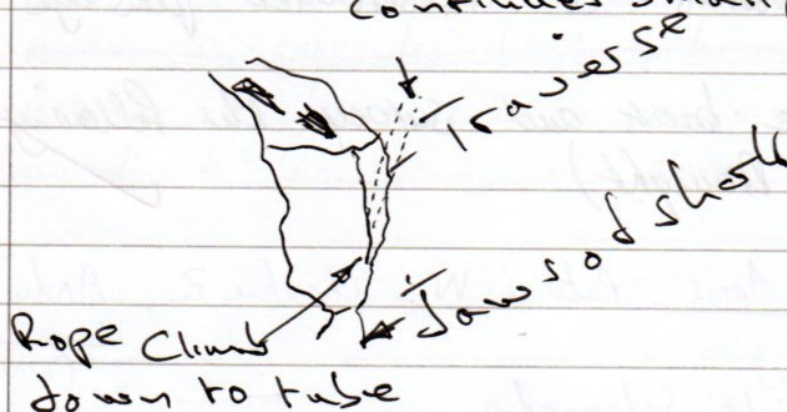
(27)

8 April 2023 Tarben, Dave Bell, Louise, Peter E
3234, 1800 Fridge door, Liano

Trip to check out some levels lake
photo's, re-rigs pitches for divers
Dropped pitch at end of Arienda passage
which got too small.

Returned to Jaws of shark and
climbed down to below traverse
where a small passage could be seen.
A small amount of digging made it
possible to crawl about 4m. This
continues similar size but a marsh
hammer would make it easier.

continues small (Freshair)



We bolted a traverse line across
sump 2 as the slope is very slippery.
We followed passage towards sump 3
but stopped at the duck.

A large void can be seen above
corner past boulder collapse.

Photo's were taken in most
locations visited

PSV

Saturday 8th April. John Gaylor.

Andrey Kozhenkov
Dan Hibberts. ~~Andrew Kozhenkov~~,
Carl Gibbs, Henry Gibbs, Katrina ~~Downer~~ ^{ON A} Downer.
VALLINA

Grip to explore higher land passage
above coven, on main drag before
dagheg to The Chumel Tunnel.
Wall on right climbed by Dan
to slope up into passage

Had a quick look about and walked into
about 100 meters of un-surveyed passage.

Plan to come back and survey the following
day. (Good Draught) ✓

Easter Sunday 9th April Patrick W, Christine Z., Andy + Mindy
(American Filer
(Americans))

0056 Torca de la Salamandra

Located this after some searching - it has apparently
been filled in with tree trunks (sawn). Would require a
cutter to begin to clear. Poked about but no obvious holes. ✓

New site 20m E is a hole under a boulder with a good
outward draft (warm weather, 2pm) - would require digging
- need spade + ^{tools} to clear but would be fairly easy to do. Interesting!!
All other draughts we checked were weaker. - en route further up
we passed (1710) behind ~~the ruins~~ Tiano's house (now falling into
ruins). This was a cold stone ~~and~~ a dig, but the draught was ^{much} weaker
than the above hole, under the same conditions

5331

This now GPS to 30T 0449912 4794480 next page
see also entry Fri 11 April. (acc. 6m) ✓

Then ascended to 460m contour line to check out
1877 & 1878 ^{both} - recorded as "undersanded shaft of about 2m to a choke"

Actually, there are four such features on a N-S axis along the same level. From S → N there are: -

1) 1877 - open fissure, 2m to choke

(5332) 2) New site - half way to ~~1878~~ 1878 - 3m deep hole with slight outward draught - also choked. loc: 30T 450099 4794578 (acc. 6m)

3) ~~1878~~ 1878 - 2½ m ~~deep~~ deep hole - also choked - dug out a few rocks but nothing promising. ^(no draught) Now has a cairn in front of it!

(5333) 4) New site - 40m N. of 1878 - 4m deep hole also choked. loc: - 30T 0450096 4794622 (acc. 5m)

Finally - visited Walled Cave 2587 - seems as prev. recorded.

Below this noted two orchids: Ophrys sp., ~~maybe~~ 😊

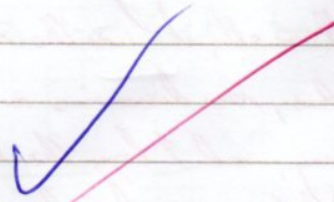
~~prob. maybe O. sphegodes (Early spider orchid) given the time of year.~~

Actually, O. fusca (Sombre bee orchid)

PBW

app according to Chris Scaife, who knows about these things!

JS



CAVE 733

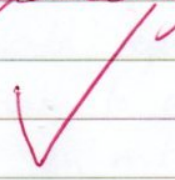
Den, John, Andre, Carl, Henry, Catriona

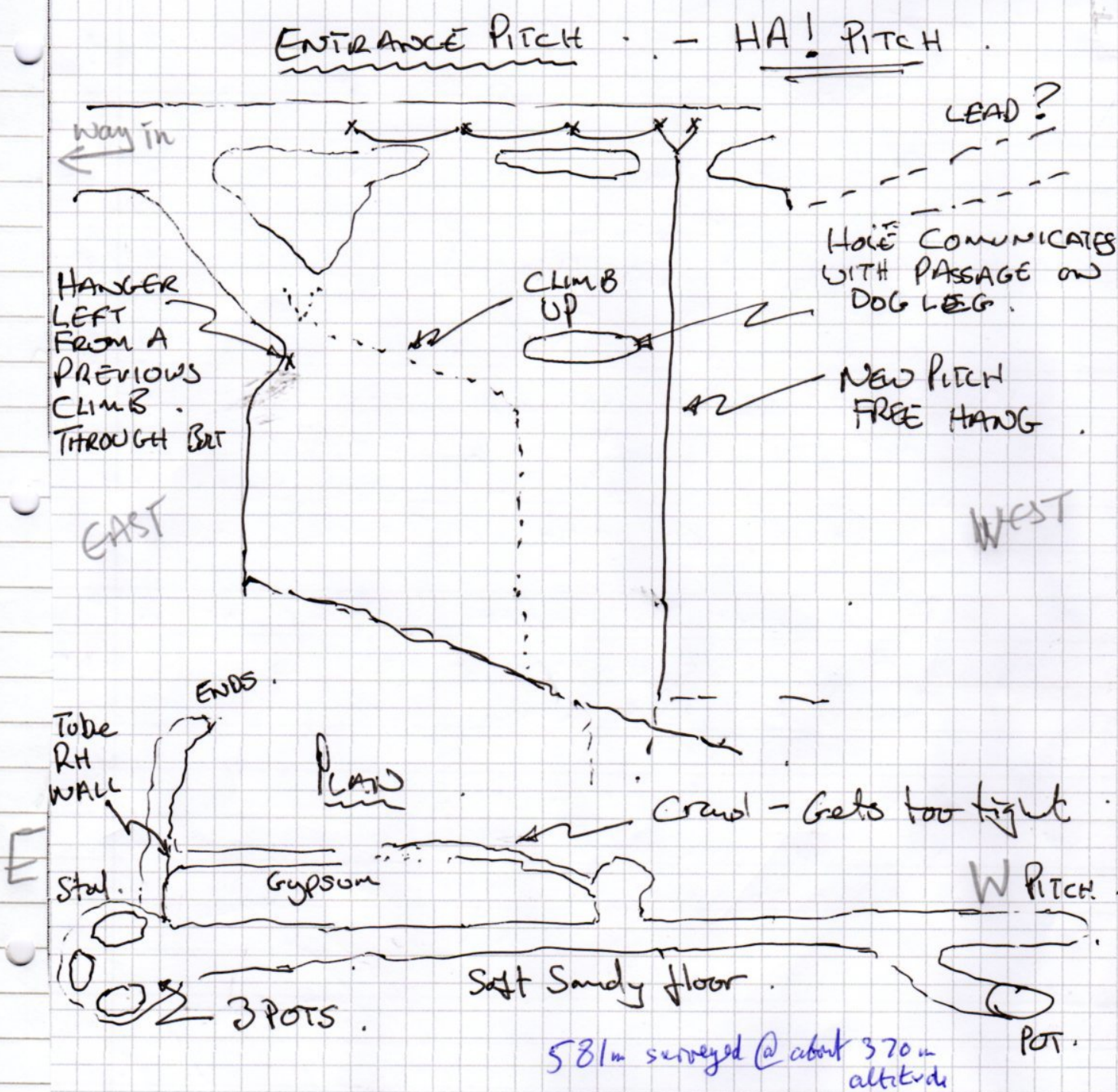
VALLINA

'NEXT DAY FROM 8/4/23

Cueva Vallina: 9th April 2023

We returned to CV today after our trip yesterday yielded new passage at the top of a 18m pitch (courtesy of Dan and John's hours of dedicated belting). We pushed forward through this passage and discovered 580m of new passage, with many potential leads for further exploration. A side shaft yielded a headlamps dark crawl through some very, very squarish rock which we have dubbed 'The Witch's Grotto', this eventually narrowed to a very small hole which was too small to squeeze through, but appeared to widen again. Further exploration of the main passage led to a beautiful new chamber filled with incredible stal. As a newcomer to Motenigo, I was astounded by the sheer, rugged rock beauty of the chamber - nothing like I have ever seen in the UK. There were multiple pitches from the chamber which require further comparison to the existing survey to reveal if they link to new or existing passage. However, excitedly we managed to discover another passage to the right, covered in sparsely white gypsum that resembled snow and ice. It truly felt like a winter wonderland, leading Henry to dub the passage 'Arctic Passage'. Andre was our dedicated surveyor throughout, and the survey seems to suggest that Arctic Passage links to Witch's Grotto. All in all, it was the most incredible trip I have ever been on, filled with SRT pitches, new discoveries and lots of fun! I am so excited to see the completed survey, and I hope the names Witch's Grotto and Arctic Passage will stick! I just want to say a big, big thank you to Dan and John for allowing myself, Henry and Carl to tag along on their expedition - it truly was the most incredible experience and I will be forever grateful to have been included. Further thanks to Andre for his dedicated survey work, and unrelenting patience the past few days as he has been so much help to me as I have experienced my first ever SRT trips. - Written by Catriona





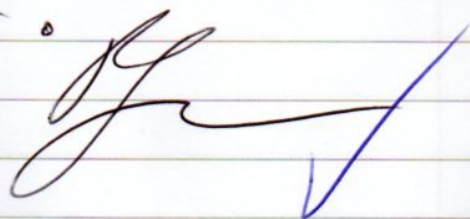
Cave continues on same level as top of pitch following bedding in roof. Walking passage. Way on appears to be down the pots in the floor which will need rigging. Pitch has been climbed before but new passage was not entered - hence HA! Pitch.

~~5.0.11~~ Valline 10/April/2023 all day
Torben, Peter E, Dave Bell

Returned to Zona Blanca for the last time. Climbed down into dodgy pit (see survey) a small drop was cleared and led to a short section of walking passage into an 10m Aven. No way on could be seen at top or bottom. Other leads were looked at but led back to known passage in Zona Blanca.

We carried three bottles of air in to double dutch pit which we found on the way into the cave.

We also left a red flashing light at bottom of Aven next to the dragon which we collected - the way out.



Monday 10th April 2023 – Site 4669 – Dron Pot

Andrew Northall, Gracie Sharp



A trip into Dron Pot, site 4669, was conducted to look at the undescended pitch marked 'water splash below' on the survey.

The entrance pitch was found to be rigged however the anchors are rusted and will require replacement at some point. The rope at the entrance (tied to the concrete bars over the top with a sling) is slightly mouldy however still safe to use for now.

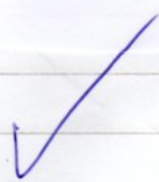
The 'Lift Shaft' 80 metre pitch was also found to be rigged although leading into 'The Haberdashery Department'. A new rope was rigged alongside this and a pendulum made to swing into the 'His & Hers' development level. It was considered unwise to unrig the rope to 'The Haberdashery Department' as it will become very difficult to regain access to this level once it is unrigged.

Once in 'His & Hers', the undescended pitch was easily located and rigged from a stalagmite natural and a bolt for a traverse down a slippery flowstone ramp, and a Y-hang installed for the pitch of approximately 8-10 metres. This pitch landed in an extremely muddy but quite dry streamway that appeared to be very old and had almost no water flowing.

The streamway passage immediately descended another pitch of around 6 metres before a run of around 10 metres of horizontal passage to a third pitch of around 6 metres. The 8-10 metre pitch and two 6 metre pitches were all rigged off a single 44 metre rope.

The final 6 metre pitch landed in a large chamber (again, extremely muddy) with an aven around 15 metres high (separate from the pitches) and a further two pitches (via two separate tight muddy crawls) which appeared to (but are not guaranteed to) unite in a further large chamber below (approximately 10 metres pitch down).

We turned around at this point as we had run out of rope but intend to return to continue following this descending passage.



Monday 10th April - Andy + Mindy Filer, Christine Z,
(Gypsum Paradise) Patrick W.

0733

Back into Vallina to investigate hole in wall spotted on Friday
8th April trip, $\frac{1}{2}$ way along Galeria Vallina (Sunday Stamps)
after the 23m climb up, on LH wall. Placed a single bolt
to ~~gain access~~ look into passage, then 2 bolts to the left
to gain access and for a Y-hang. Passage initially walkable,
became lower + lower, horizontal, contained gypsum wool,
gypsum flows. After ~~For~~ 3.6m passage became shorter and narrower,
turned to left for another ~ 12 m straight now crawling passage,
sharp turn to the ~~left~~ right ~ 7 m, then another left turn and ~ 6.5 m
long passage, at the end of which were extensive bat droppings (black + white)
After a right turn and ~ 1.5 m distance the last narrow crawling space
(lined on left with gypsum) ended in a dead end ^{c. 7m} small hole on top,
 $\frac{1}{2}$ m \times $\frac{1}{2}$ m, no draught there. In the middle of last passage hole in
ceiling, bodysized tube. no draught.
Access rope was cut + left in place. Survey station cam + paper markers
left in place. Total length per survey: 40 m.

CZ



Monday 10th April 2023 – Martyn Grayson and Jess Eades

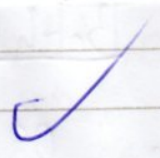
Cave 5209 – After finding this entrance during a surface walk at Christmas 2022 and seeing that others had also found it in the October 2022 we headed up the hill to drop the entrance and survey what ever was found. A rather warm walk up the hill today. Martyn rigged from an adjacent mature tree and descended down into the rift. A short wriggle at the entrance over mud and boulders dropped you down onto a ledge of boulders (approximately 2m) where a small Y-hand was rigged to drop the next section (approximately 2-3m). This handed you on a steeply sloping boulder strewn floor (still within the rift) where you could come off the rope and wriggle down. The passage continued down the slope, with the rift staying a roundly the same size, until a step down, where the rift narrowed lightly and impeded any further downward progression. The rift continues along the same decline and bearing, but human progression would require capping or other forms of persuasion. From the first survey station, the rift trends towards a doline further up the hillside approximately 30m away. Cave was surveyed and more entrance photos taken both externally and of Martyn whilst he drilled for the Y-hang. $L = 15m$ $d = 9m$

Cave 1035 – entrance inspected for roosting bats. No Bats or evidence of bats found.

Cave 1037 – entrance inspected for roosting bats. No Bats or evidence of bats found.

Cave 0263 – 2 x lesser horseshoe bats located spread out within the left hand passage of the cave. Scattered droppings throughout both the left and right passages. Many tissue moths present within the cave. Samples of droppings taken.

Cave 1042 - entrance inspected for roosting bats. No Bats or evidence of bats found.



2538

EL Cubion 08/04/2023 Alex R Paul, Olly B

After speaking to Tim Lister and with me working on easier trips we took on the project - to resurvey/explore 2538.

After a bit of route finding we eventually found where we need to survey. Our first place we surveyed was part-way up Mud stairway. This was a lovely mud filled passage which splits into two but both are pre-maturely. Batch 01 39.81

We then entered the main passage to the start of the resurvey work. We ignored our route as it was up a 10m high pitch and we had no idea of the state of the anchoring.



We then resurveyed the passage to the right - going up a steep slope and noting a few potential leads up and a pitch down. We stopped at another pitch up surveying 120m with about 30-40 new passage Batch 02 126.13 (new)

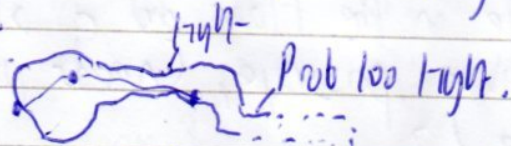
2538

EL Cubion 09/04/2023 Alex R Paul Olly (Surface)

It was a time restricted evening to a dinner being cooked. Upon arriving Olly discovered he had forgot his SRT ~~trip~~ kit, so we would be surface support - talking to the guy from Yorkshire who owns this bit of land.

Our first bit to explore was an inlet going off of the second P19, about a third of the way down I noticed yesterday. I bolted this and me and Paul followed it up some climbs before it became choked with calcified rocks, there is possibly a high way up if anyone wants to take that risk. Batch 03 21.73

We then continued down and dropped that short pitch we noticed yesterday. This quickly led into a constricted rift that soon got too tight, no draft noted.



Batch 04 9.31m

2538

El Cubion 10/04/2023 Alex R, Olliv, Paul

We planned this one to be longer trip and explore all the stuff up the primarily rigged 4m up pitch (~~end of~~ Batch 02, 26).

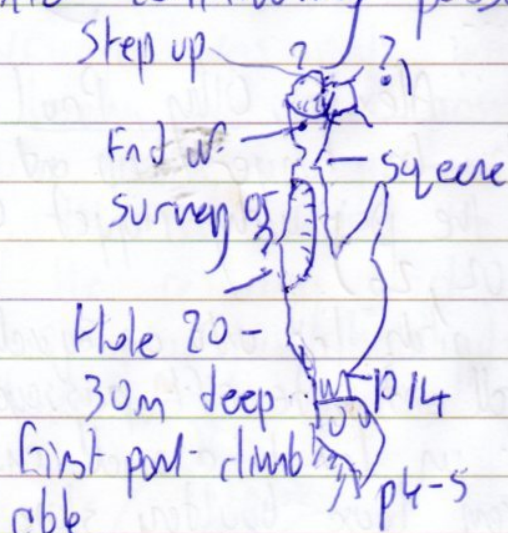
Up here this muddy pitch led into an equally muddy slope into a very tall and wide rift passage with 3 ways up. Straight up led to a small choked over. Left led up a very loose bouldery slope to where it flattened out.

There are two holes in the floor here the first we dropped, where it closed down after 10m (unsurveyed). The second hole on the left dropped much further, we did not have enough rope. To the right in the same over is a pre-rigged up pitch on dodgy spits 4-5m, which was where we went next. There are many unclimbed pitch down over in this area.



Up the 4m pitch, across some dodgy boulders led to a pitch down (again rigged) 14m deep...

at the bottom of which was some holes in the floor that dropped down some distance. A squeeze beyond led to a small chamber (surveyed in Batch 5) to another hole in the floor and a step up to the right into continuing passage, (needs protection)



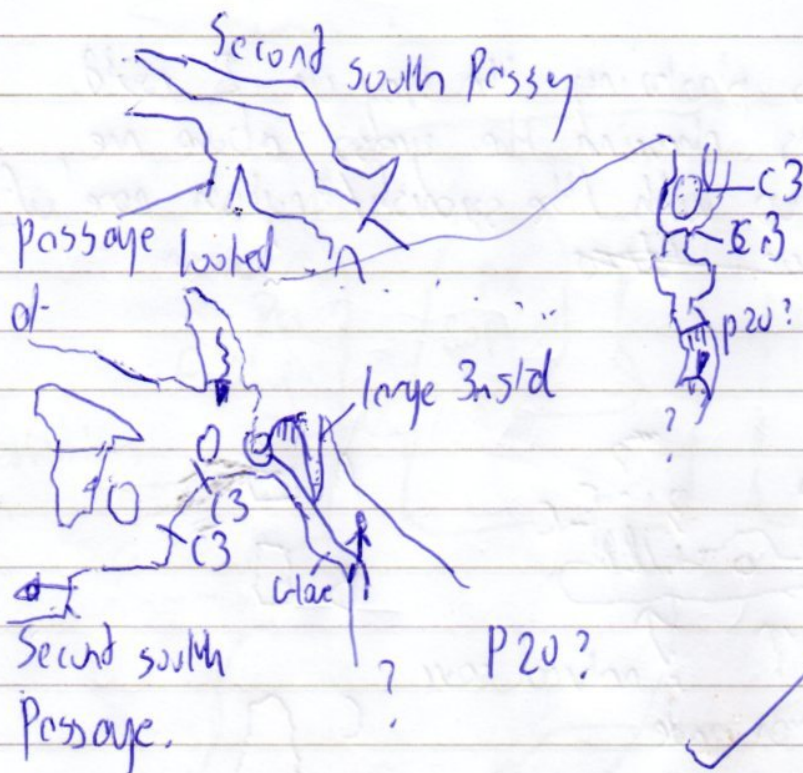
2538

returned to

After the fun here we continued the passage to the right in the big rift-chamber. This led to a muddy slope with some serious sucking in places. This ended after 30m in a too tight hole and would probably connect with Batch 01 - All of the above is Batch 03 area

Having finished exploring/re-surveying we planned we went down Second South Passage to look at how the cave ends down there. However we got distracted by a side passage, that was unknown/unsurveyed. This after a combined tedious muddy climb led to a clean washed over (No way up) However at floor level was an easy squeeze leading to a pitch down next to massive stal. I promptly dropped my glove down so we had to retrieve the rope so I could go down. The glove was on a ledge and it continued to drip down at least another 10m down into what could be a streamway passage however the survey indicates we are at least 50m from there...

2538



Alex R. (lost 3 logs)

0733

Valline: Mark Smith and Jim Lister - 10/4/23
 Aim was to dive Sump 9. We met with a pleasant surprise, Pete Eagan and David Bell, plus Tobin had carried out cylinders to the slope leading to the pitch. Jim dried Sump 9 which was only 7m. Led to stooping sized passageway for ~60m which became crawling passage for ~60m. The passageway then became flat out which continued for ~

5334

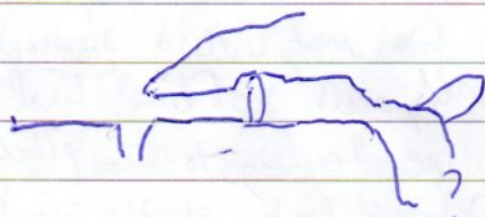
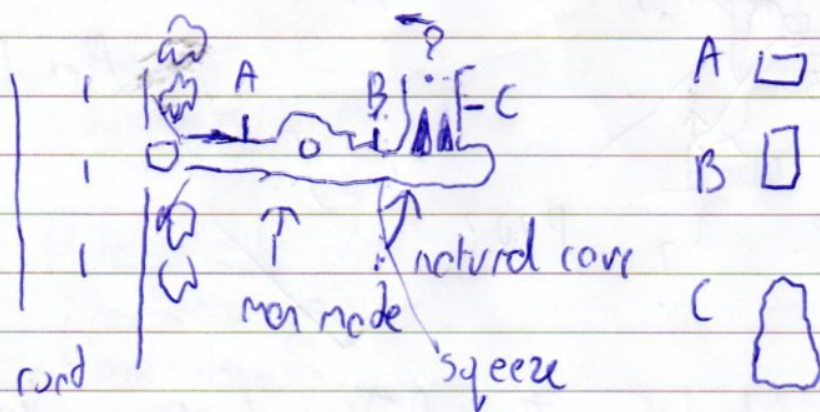
Vacc - (ad) - Alex Ritchie 11/04/2023

Cave passed by 100, w/ covers between McIntenzo and Baker's bar but never entered. When I first ~~re~~ passed it, I was suspicious it could go somewhere as next to the hillside, however the meagre light of my phone did not do it and all I could tell is it went on.

So I went back to my apartment and grabbed my caving light and went in, in my normal clothes. A flat out non made drain went on for 15m to a cave passage! A squeeze leads into a slope and walking passage. As I was in my normal clothes I did not push further...

When I was photo'ing the way on I could hear the cows chewing the grass above me, so I come up with the spanish/english note w/ Vaca-lud, ~~as~~ ~~there~~

S334

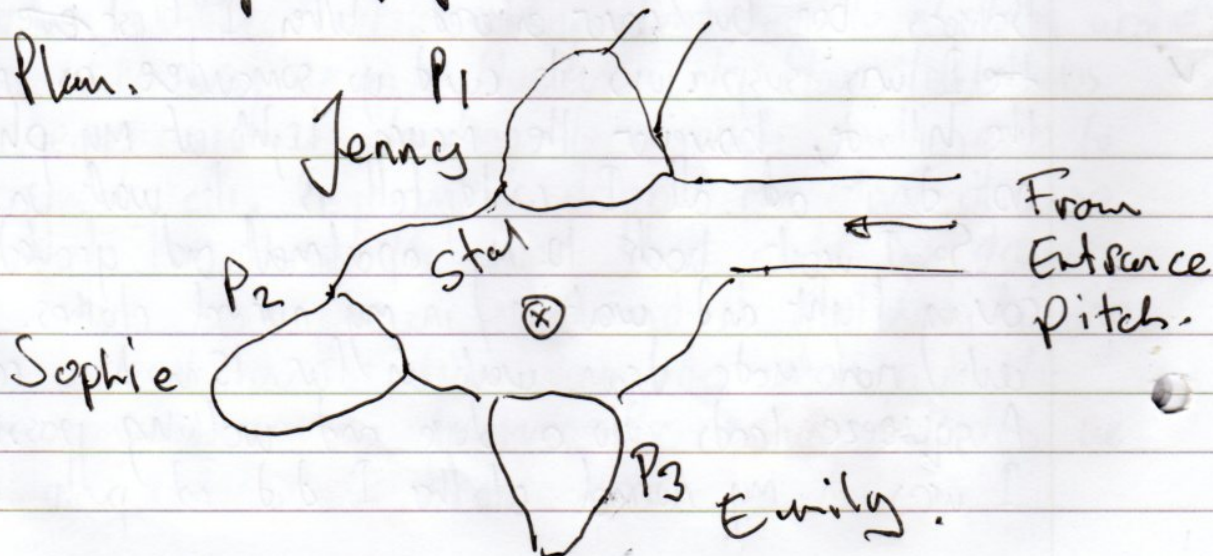


gsc

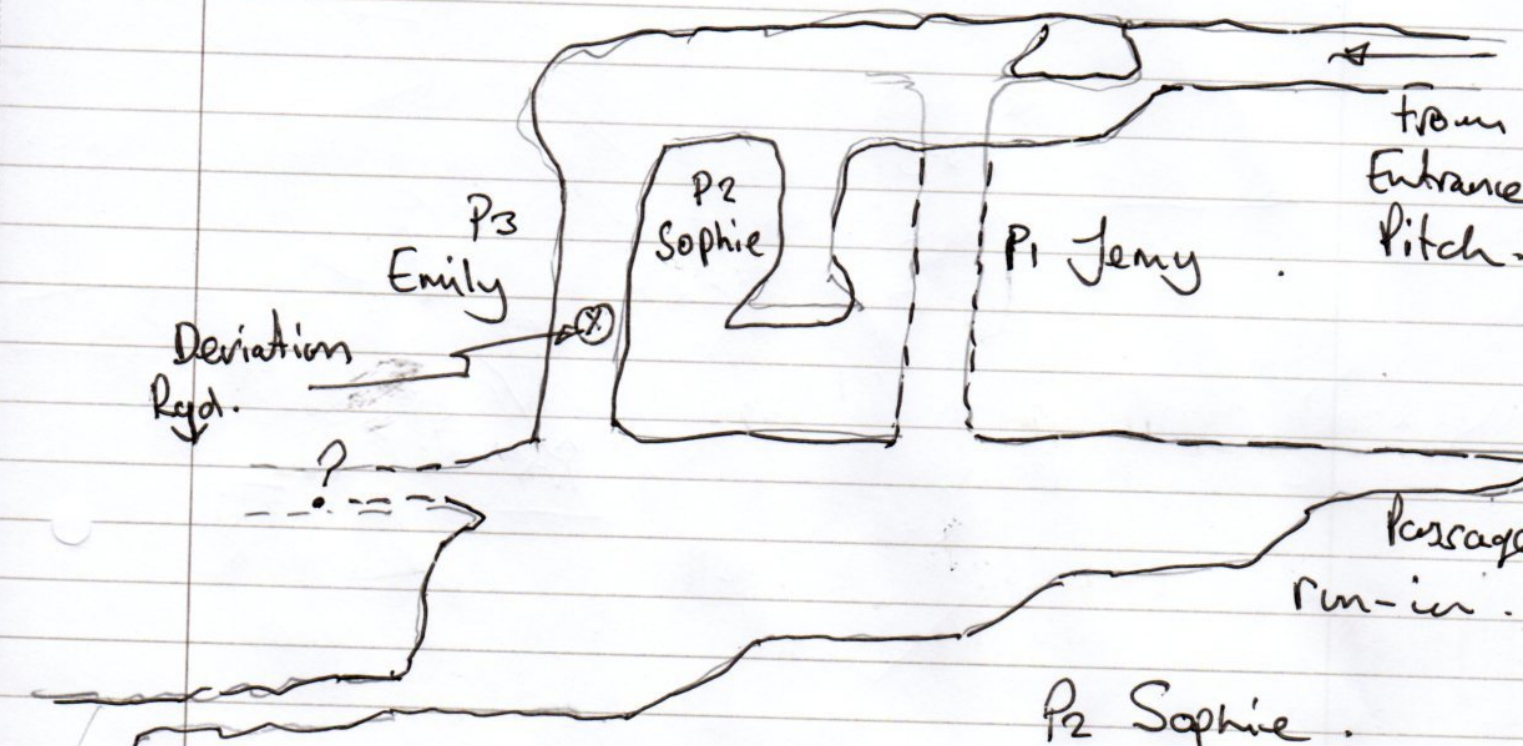
Tuesday 11th April Vallina.
Andrew + Andy Filer, Dan Hibberts John Jaylar.

Follow-up trip from 09/04

Plan.



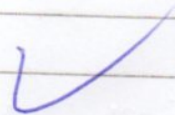
Section .



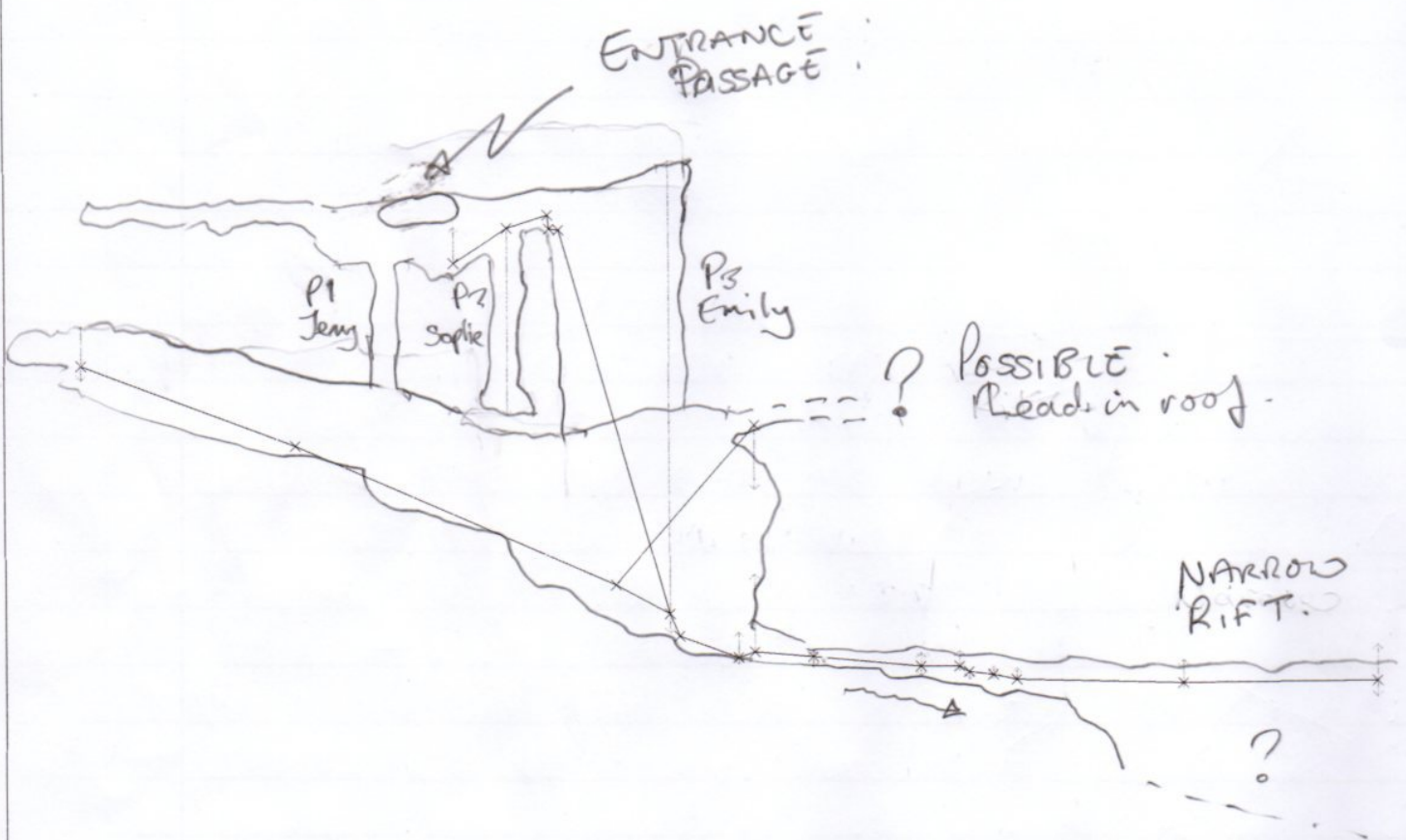
Rigged & dropped ~~P1 Jenny~~ no leads @ bottom .

Rigged & dropped P3 Emily into large chamber
P1 Jenny can be seen coming into roof . Much / conglomerate slope up to a run-in passage
Opposite in roof of main chamber a dip can be seen with possible lead on floor under P3 Emily water runs into a an hands and knees crawl that becomes a narrow rift - too tight without digging .

109.34m sunny



11/04/23 VALUNA



JOHN TAYLOR

0733-23-03

Profile facing 297.4°

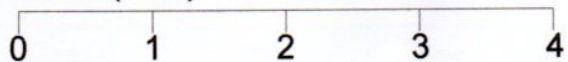
Scale 1:550

Profile on



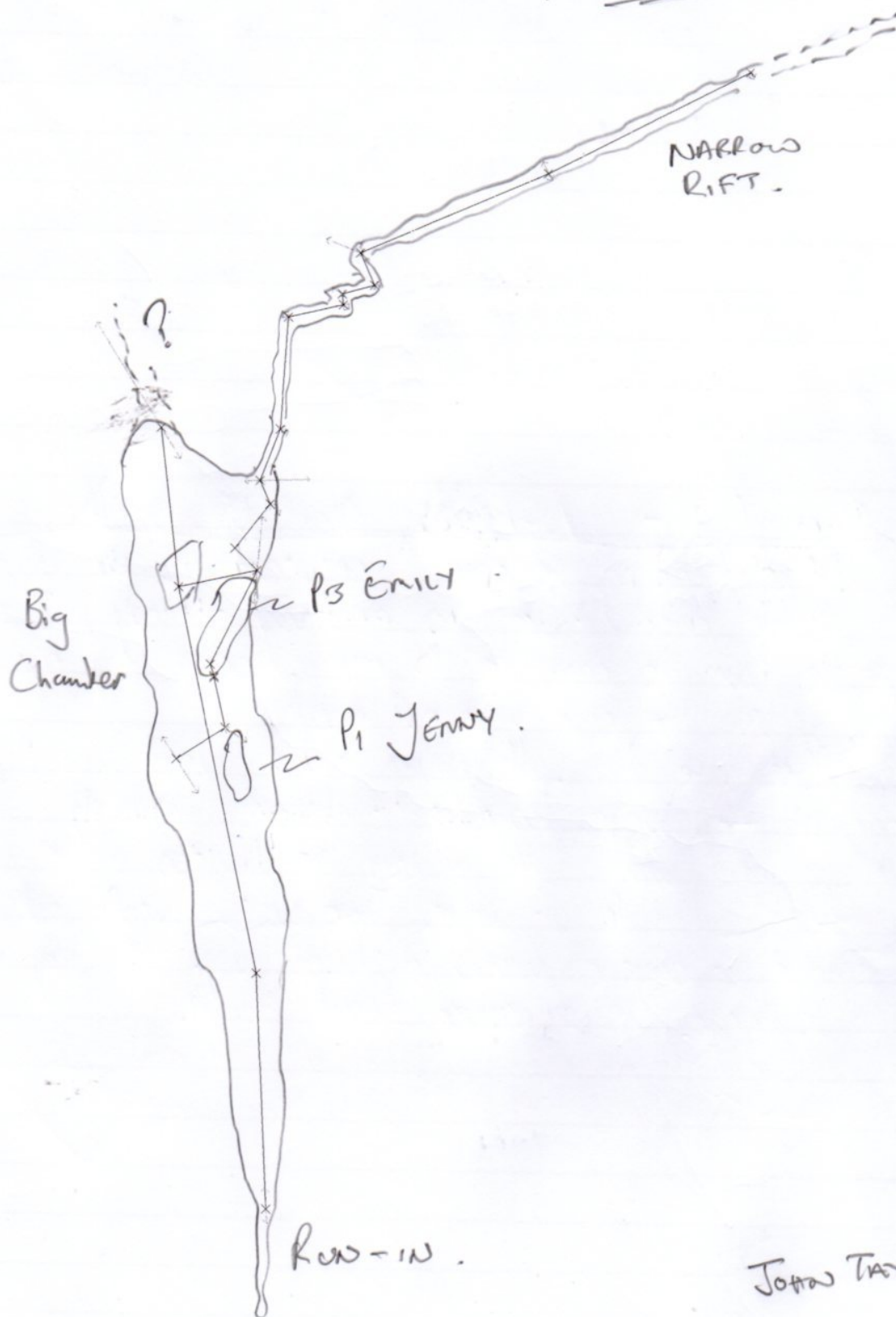
207.4° 027.4° Survox 1.4.3 - <https://survox.com/>

Scale (10m)



11/04/23 VALLINA

43



John Taylor

0733-23-03

Plan view, 000° up page

Scale 1:500

North



Scale (1m)

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40

Survex 1.4.3 - <https://survex.com/>

0733-23-03

↑000° 1:500

1/1

Processed: 2023.04.11 18:06:27 GMT Daylight Time

Tue, 11 April 2023 (overcast, cool)

[5331] New dig - follow up from 9 April 2023 - ~~overcast, cool~~ (while was warm, sunny)
Patrick Warren, Christine Zubold, Paul Fairman

enlarged entrance from ground level of opening (less draught today)
to 1.65 depth, 1m wide, 1.40m long with 3 shovels x 4 hours.
smoke did not travel out of hole on left, while we did not enlarge
(see photos)

GPS 30T 0449912 4794480
(accuracy 6m)

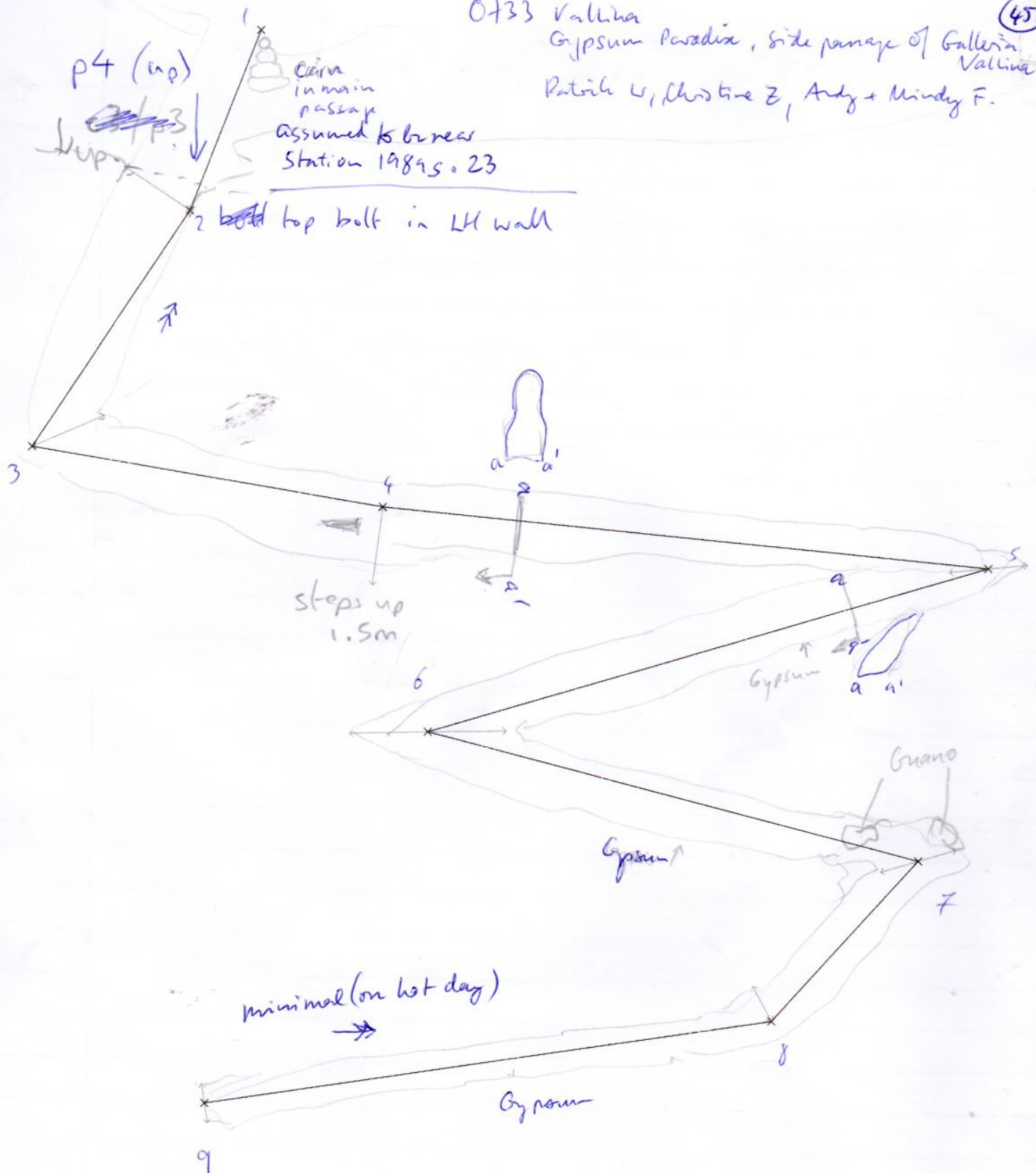
[5334] Vacc - Cud - 11/04/2023 Alex R, Ollie B, Paul & Patrick

After finding the core I returned to the off-ice
to double check it was not existing already, I recruited
people from the campsite and collected my roving gear
to survey the core with excitement.

After some difficult going it did indeed lead to walking
height ~~ex~~ passage, however it almost immediately closed down
at a mud wall. We prodded the boulders at the bottom,
finding a trickle of water. There was a draft and it's
digable if anyone wants a local dig. You may want
to enlarge the entrance crawl though.

~~Checked~~ Location GPS on kerb in front of field drain ent:-
Checked 30T 0452518 4796635 acc. 3m — Patrick

0733 Vallina
Gypsum Paradise, side passage of Galleria Vallina
Patric L, Christine Z, Andy + Mindy F.



0733-23-02

Plan view, 000° up page

Scale 1:67

North



Scale (1m)

0 1 2 3 4 5

Survex 1.4.3 - <https://survex.com/>

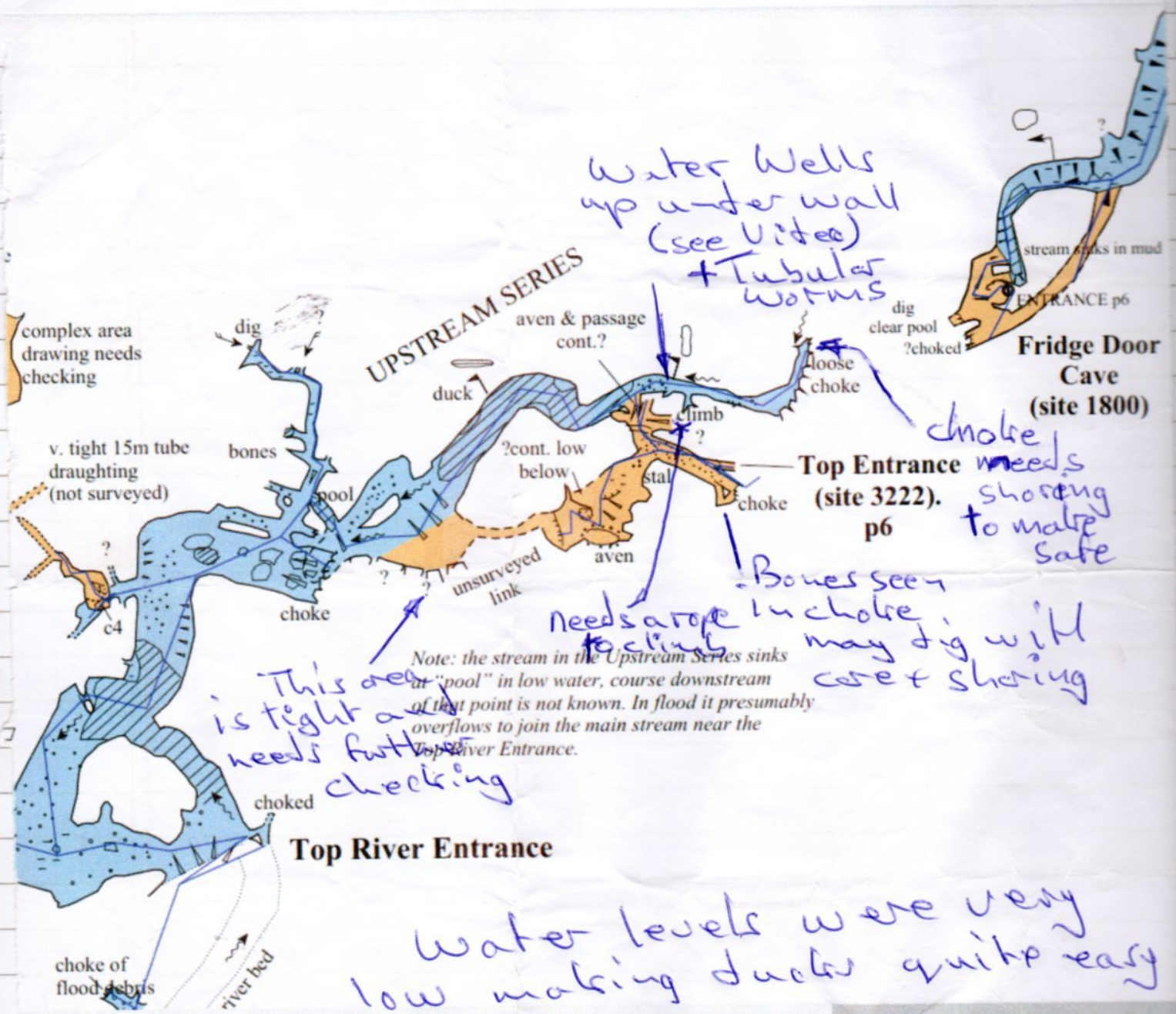
0733-23-02

↑000° 1:67

1/1

Processed: 2023.04.11 20:09:30 GMT Summer Time

11th April 2023 Juan, Dave Bell, Peter E



We had a good look around chokes but both will need shoring. The area around Site 3222 needs more attention and a rope to get back down climbs. Note one was climbed but became tight. 360° video was made by Juan.

9th & 10th April - 3254 Raoul, Mike, Fran

We returned with proper bolting gear so that it could be rigged without knocking loose rocks down. After going down a muddy leaky slope for about 20m you end up at the top of a ~8m pitch. This chamber slopes down to the left before another drop down & following a rift in the same direction as the initial slope. At the end of this rift you end at the top of a large, very echoy pitch. We'd run out of bolts this point so returned the next day with more bolts & rope. Unfortunately the pitch ends in a muddy clay pool where the water drains out of, the rift continues but would need significant capping & doesn't seem too promising, the air is much stiffer than it at the top of the pitch. Somewhere on the pitch you might be able to swing out & follow the rift, so it might be worth going on a drier day.

But more importantly Fran managed to save a toad that had fallen into the cave, that we had spotted the previous day. Carefully wrapped in a buff she prissiked out being careful not to squish it, found a nice spot on the surface & gave it some water, so hopefully it recuperated. Surveys 105° 21m

11th April - Azpikueta Raoul, Mike, Fran, Carol

We returned to have a look at the '87 extensions now knowing where it was, & not the '95 traverse around the pitch.

We added two bolts on the ceiling & towards the inlet to make the traverse a bit less sketchy, can be done with a 10m rope. Unfortunately once you get to the muddy pitch you realise none of the walls are solid, so we spend a good half an hour trying to find rock beneath the mud & gravel, but could only find some flakey stuff we didn't trust, though had clearly been trusted in the past. Talking to Phil afterwards, 0675, a higher entrance into azpikueta goes into the pitches but ignores that horrible muddy rift, perhaps something for next year

Tuesday 11th April 2023

Site 4669

Torca del Dron

Gracie Sharp, Andrew Northall

Another trip into Torca del Dron Pot, following on from our trip the previous day, to return with more rope and to survey the new passage found.

The undescended pitch marked 'water splash below' was surveyed to a depth of 7.5m (P7.5) which then continued to another pitch of 4m (P4), followed by approx. 10m of horizontal passage and then another pitch of 8m (P8). This landed in an extremely muddy chamber with an aven of 10m horizontal length and 15m height. All three can be rigged using a 50m rope. The top of the P8 is awkward and constricted and the anchor is very low down – this could do with re-rigging if in regular use (photos show this feature).

Two more pitches, one accessed via a tight rift and another via a tight, muddy, and crumbly crawl (P12) were found here. Both lead to the same circular chamber (Draughty Broccoli Aven) with a height of 15m and a width of 7m. Various small tubes were seen to connect to this chamber; all are too narrow to access. The chamber is well decorated, very cold and a draught is noticeable. However, there is no obvious way on. The floor consists of flat, firmish, mud with some water visible through a very thin slit adjacent to the floor underneath the flowstone walls.

93.59 4669-23-01

The total survey length of the new passage found concludes at 94m with a vertical range of 39m. 'Draughty Broccoli Aven' is 30m below the bottom of the 'Lift Shaft', and is 30m above the lowest known surveyed point of the cave. It is 35m south-west of the main continuation of the cave.

Rigging:

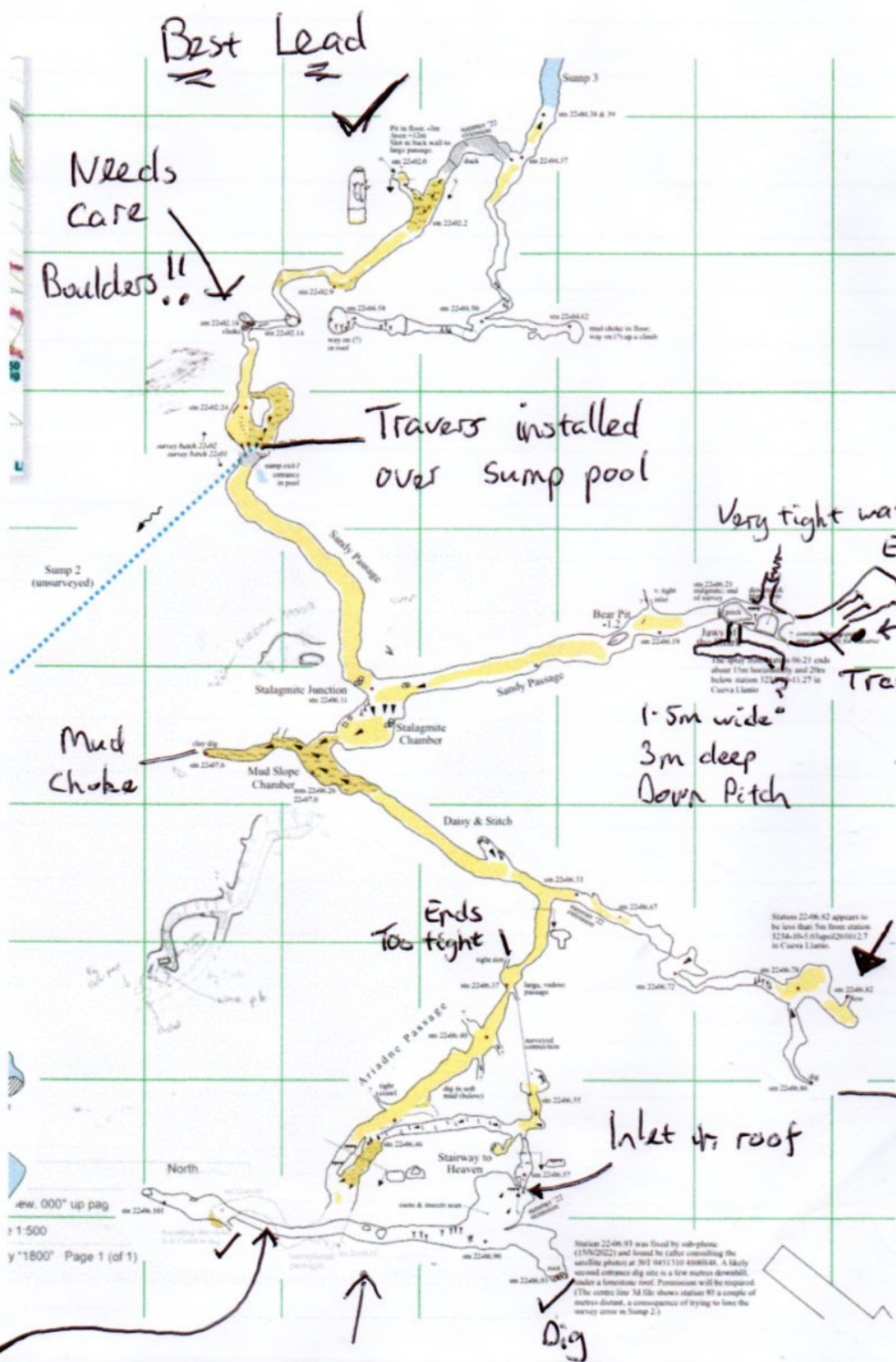
P7.5: Natural stal belay in floor after the climb down into His & Hers to single bolt anchor in opposite wall to traverse under and down slippery stal to a two bolt Y-hang in wall above pitch.

P4: No further rigging, the P7.5 lands on a ledge and the same rope can be used to continue straight down.

P8: Single bolt rebelay low down at the pitch head. Awkward and constricted pitch that ideally would be re-rigged.

P12: Climb down from the penultimate aven chamber and turn right to step up into a muddy crawl. Two traverse line anchors located on the left wall before a reach over the pitch to access two anchors for a Y-hang in the far wall.

12th April 2023 SITE 0025 RISCO
PAUL FAIRMAN, SAM, MINDY & ANOM FILER
PHOTO TRIP - PHOTOS SHARED TO PROJECT

$$\frac{3242}{1800}$$


At bottom of pitch
Body sized tube
continues E-4m
take a hammer!

Very tight water inlet flooring S
End

Traverse (see other notes)

1.5m wide
3m deep
Down Pitch

Connection from
3242

Closed up ~ could
be dug - sharp
rocks though!

Various piles of 'fresh' (last 500 years) surface soil in this passage. If dug at E end doesn't go there are other possibilities

Hole in floor, through a false floor, may have potential. Needs a ladder and a bolt in the roof. About 4m.

13.04.2023

2538 El Cubillon

Present: Andrew Filer, Mindy Filer, Jim Lister



The ropes on the upper pitches were badly warned and desperately needed replacing. The team replaced the ropes with 10mm Mammut semi-static line and also placed the hangers and mallions. Further work will need to be undertaken to reduce rub points and improve access and egress for diving equipment. It had been intended to replace the through bolts but the correct drill bit was unavailable. The old rope was brought out and disposed of. A longer deviation cord is needed for the next trip.

It was nice to reminisce- the three had not been together for 8 years.

13TH APRIL 2023 SITE 0071 MOSTAJO

PAUL + OLLIE

PHOTO TRIP - PHOTOS SHARED TO PROJECT

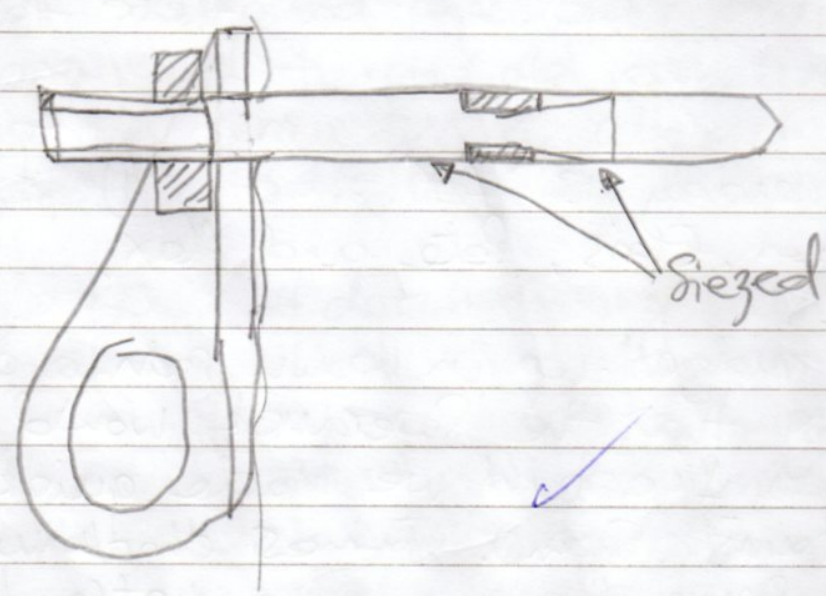
1

Monday April 10th - Disappointment Pt
Rocky Horror

Chris Scaife, James Carlisle, Pete Hall

The objective was to visit the Rocky Horror and correct James's nightmares with fixing hangers at the first pitch.

The hanger trouble was traced to an undersized drill bit causing the bolts to stick in the holes. Some could be tightened but the studs were sticking out more than usual. They were judged to be safe. The last one at the final rebelay was sticking out beyond the thread and had to be replaced.



We gave Shrimbone Inlet a thorough recce an inlet on the left, which soon closed down. We then recce'd the start of Rocky Horror as far as Duckhams Sump before a quick look at the stream, which is hopping across slippery, crumbling blocks. We climbed up to the right hand upper side of the passage where going was easier to a camp/brew stop with

a pile of ancient rubbish. Continuing up to the right reached a steep calcite ramp where we turned round wishing we had brought a printed survey.

After that we searched the left-hand, lower side crawling between blocks in the stream and over blocks. Eventually it goes up into a higher chamber where we called it a day. Turns out this was near the dotted line on the survey.

On the way out, I swam across Duckham's Swamp to have a look before an uneventful exit.

Pete Hall ✓

Wednesday 12th April

Disappointment - Pet-

James, Chris, Pete and Alex,

We trudged up in heavy rain and went down fearing that the Superduck would be too wet. It was fine and we made quick progress to Duckham's Swamp. James checked water levels and found they were a metre higher than on Monday, ruling out a trip downstream.

After a break at the camp/brew stop we searched both walls of Packer Horror with only the odd few metres of alabes.

Keeping up to the right took us up the steep calcite seen on Monday into the Trident Series. A slabby section led to a big ramp chamber with a ~~was~~ short passage ahead with

an inlet and sink but no way on and another brew spot with rubbish pile. After photos we started through a well-decorated section with a wet wallow. Soon after Alex was attracted by a crawl on the right and dug through a squeeze before meeting James at the other end of the Oxbow.

A little further reached a ramp up on the right to a T-junction after 50m, going both ways walking sized.

Soon after a crawl on the left was spotted not entered and left for later. Soon after that a climb down and along a floor slot led to a knotted rope^(up). After a discussion on the properties of 40 year old rope, and James making an unsuccessful attempt to climb it, we decided to return to the crawl to survey.

After 50m of deteriorating survey, it ended at a wall of mud.

With time short, we made a largely uneventful exit. The only point of interest was a draughting Vint off Shrimphorn inlet halfway from Rocky Horror to Disappointment last pitch. This was followed through 50m of hands + knees crawl with a floor slot and stream before being left for next time

Batch 23-01 L=60m.

Rele Hall

13 April - Thursday - Bus Stop Cave

John Southworth, Gordon Proctor, Pete Hall,

First we stopped 500m west of Beranga on the N634 to GPS a railway embankment visible from the road. John thought it might lead into a cave. A quick look at Google Maps satellite view showed the watercourse on the other side of the railway ending near the motorway - maybe that is a better place to look.

On top the next site at a bus stop at the end of Barrio de Igleria road.

5336

John had entered 40m previously. He and I continued another 40m of crawl on sticky mud floor to a total mud choke before surveying back to the entrance. On the way in a loud rumbling from a passing train took us somewhat by surprise. Rodent and bat guano littered the floor as well as a rat skull.

Gordon had dug through a mud choke in the other direction into a grotto. I was posted through and removed some more boulders to see on another 4m or so but it was only 30cm high.

Outside, another hole was visible 15m to the left and was reached by a 5m climb, 1.5m of low crawl leads to a crawling passage with a strong inward draught. It started raining so we left it for another day.

5337

0451614 4806560 174m

✓ Pete Hall.

13/4/23 Ben Davis, Julia + Clare, Chris Scaife, Oscar, Carolina Families trip into Tiers 2. Photos. (0017)

4732 0252 Disappointment Pt. 14/03/23. Chris, Pete, Alex, Jane

We needed a short trip so that Chris & I could get out for a dinner date. We therefore decided to look at some side passages from Shrimp Bone Inlet, then down.

We entered the passage that Pete had entered on Wednesday. This was an oval shape at the top, with a thin, 10m wide, rift below, down to the stream.

Immediately upon entry, we ~~heard~~ were treated to cries of 'fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck' from Alex, who had dropped his phone down the right rift.

He then proceeded to swear some more before attempting to fish it out with a makeshift snare formed out of cord. Needless to say, this was fruitless. Pete, Chris and I had a look and ~~decided~~ agreed that the chances of him retrieving his phone ~~were close to zero~~ were somewhat south of zero.

Alex continued to attempt to retrieve his phone whilst the rest of us continued to survey. We decided to call the passage 'Shrimp Bone Inlet' in Alex's honour.

Eventually, the cries of 'fuck, fuck, fuck' ceased into the darkness and we shivered up to a big canal ending in a duck. This was passed to a cross rift chamber with a tidal sump.

We returned to Shrimp Bone to find that Alex had vanished, leaving behind all his gear. An inspection of

the pitch in from Reception created that his SRT
kit had gone! However, the why would Alex leave
his gear there in the cave if he had gone out?

At this point, we were in a quandary. Should we
descend or not? We didn't want to trap Alex down the
cave even though it looked like he'd gone out.

We decided to continue to look for side passages in
upstream Shrimp Bone and then see if Alex reappeared.
We left him a note, then proceeded.

We found two interesting side passages. The first,
Wolf passage, was the ~~down~~ 20m to a squeeze
and didn't look very promising. The second
was Tantrum Passage which was a long oxbow
(~70m) back into Shrimp Bone Inlet. Clearly this
had earned a lot of drought in the past. 107-23-02
L=66m

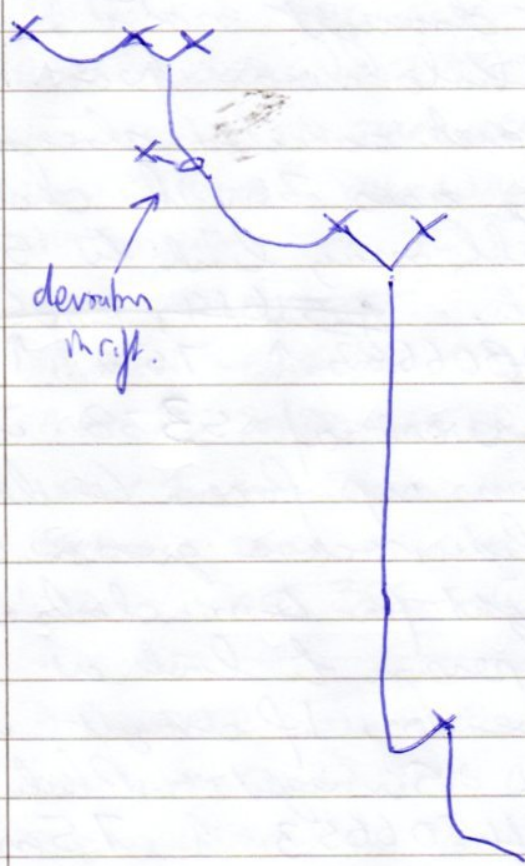
At this point it was turn-around time. Returning to the
Shrimp Bone pitch, we were very surprised to find
Alex waiting for us! What's more, he had
recovered his phone!! It turned out that he'd gone
all the way back to the surface to find a big stick,
then ~~back~~ he'd brought it underground and used the
stick to push the phone along the rift until it
reached a point he could climb down into.

We were all very impressed that he'd gone to so
much effort to get it back!

174.22 SURVIVED

4732 Deception R. Updated Rigging guide

The cave is now rigged with ~~the~~ 8mm stainless bolts and ~~key~~ hangers.
~~Bolt~~

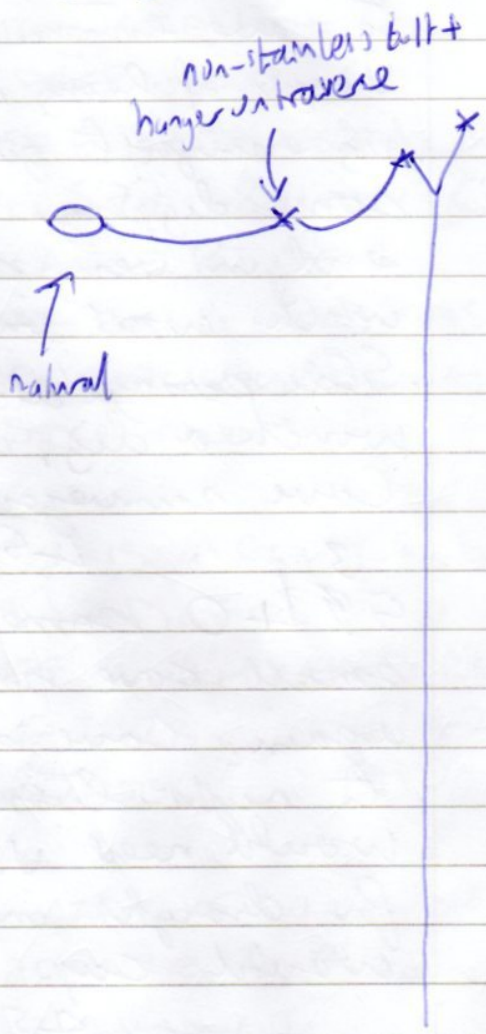


Small Slam.

Requires 55m rope

7 mailons,

1 short deviation sling
and krab.



Grand Slam

Requires 55m rope.

3 mailons

[Signature]

17/04/2023 Beranga Area, John S. Gordon & Phil Papard

³
5338 Cave - Took ladder from Juan to get to cave entrance some 5m up road side rock wall. Danger of being run over crossing road! Cave entrance big enough to get in, but to get to far end needs some digging. Slight draught noted. Cave end in very small hole down what a supposed wall on east side calcified stream deposit. Side passage at entrance goes 3m to choke, not worth a dig, it probably may link to 5339. Cave surveyed & photo. ~~451614, 4806560~~
451834, 4806683 ↑ 75m ↑

³
5340 some 40m west of 5338 is a small cave some 4m up face. Ladder used again. Cave is in solid rock & goes in 0.5m to right turn to right for 4m closed. would need v. thin person to look at & check for draught in hot weather. If draught rock would cap easily. Surveyed & Photo
451777, 4806653 ↑ 75m

9/4/23 Remigence 2801. Juan + Penny.

Opened fence to inspect hole in field in east of 2801. No sound of tiny remigence stream but a can ~~can~~ should be gained to the cave at this point beyond a line of blocks. (Photos) Should be inspected in wet weather.

Written up 19th April.

MD Area. 3 Small Pools Around HONEYDO CC,
 in Success Vasey Behind Stone Bases at Edge of
 A Wood. Boulders Buried? across a Fairly Wide
 Widespread and a Hole 4-5m Deep Opened up to
 where a Boulder drops Earth into a Deeper Undercut
 Drains? Suggest, Bot 448577 4801009 ⁵³⁴¹
 Left Corridor ~~by~~ BY 2 LARGE Boulders, ^{↑107}
 Immediately to the Left of Above Fairly Wood was
 the Original Dig which has been Backfilled with
 Dry Stone with to make it Stock Proof.

A Fairly Narrow SW of (3923) is a Gully with
 a Fairly Sandstone Slab at SW End of this is a
 Very Small Draining Shaft which could be
 Beyond the Current End of 3923, ⁵³⁴²
 Dig is at Bot 448514 4801006 ^{↑110}

A 2m Deep Corridor was Examined with a Layoff
 Part Lay Down this Goes to a Further Dig which is
 Too Narrow in Boulders at the Moment.

Bot 448451 4800932 ⁵³⁴³ ↑112

A Successive with 3 Holes in N Side Draining Hole
 E Side Hole that would Dig. S Side a Boulder
 Boulders the Way into a Air Passage Formed
 in Sandstone + Limestone Beds with Very Fretted
 Linings, Drains out from a Lay Down in the
 from 3-4m in (Depth) from the Entrance which
 About 10m Depth S. All 3 Holes are Around
 Same Boulder Circle Below Stone.

Bot 448465 4800941. ⁵³⁴⁴ ↑112

could come,

Cubija 20/4/23
670 On looking at this possible new site is shakeake
on North side above bottom under 2m cliff, Pete
went down one ladder & description fitted 670. New
pictures taken. Left at bottom needs Moonmilk on
walls removing to get down or capping if needed
New GPS.

1961 GPS OK checked for drought - in word on 17°C
0525 GPS OK poss wensday dry! day

6/4/23 0084 Coras - Family trip. Jones, Juan & Juan, Ian &
Liz Lanton, Emily & Toby, Eleanor. 360° video

Log book entry for 14/04/2023

From: Alex (alex@eyetandgames.co.uk)

To: juancorrin@matienzo.org.uk

Date: Sunday, 23 April 2023 at 09:33 BST

Hi Juan,

As I left the next day and was too tired to put the log entry in at the time, could you please add the following trip report to the log please.

The call of the Shrimp - Decepcion pot 14/04/2023, Alex Ritchie, Branch Atree, Chris Scaife, James Carlisle & Pete Hall

It was meant to be a reasonably simple trip to drop down this moderately difficult pothole, that now gives access to the remote regions of Hoyuca, Cueva. It now takes only 3 hours rather than 6 to 8 with swimming to reach the rarely-visited and amazing Trident series that has a lot still to find. With the exception of our visit on Wednesday the 12th these passages had not been entered since the 80s.

Today however, our intentions were to explore the less amazing but equally as remote area (until recently) called Shrimpbone Inlet, to survey a secondary branch leading off that we noticed whilst exiting on Wednesday.

So, we entered the new entrance (Torcal la Decepcion) that drops directly into Shrimpbone inlet. However, this entrance is not straightforward. After a short crawl and a dug out passage one descends an initially restricted pitch of 40m down a muddy rift. After that a caver is forced through a flat out "mainly" dry ex-duck (322/1/6 Super Duck) that James had dug out previously. More awkward, twisting passage eventually leads to a second, far more dramatic 40m pitch down a large shaft. From here it's just 30 minutes of easier caving to the connection to Hoyuca via a short pitch into Shrimpbone inlet.

We had made reasonable time through this taking just over an hour to get to the inlet of interest and set about surveying, when disaster struck (me). You see, I rather daftly (some may argue), took my phone caving in my over-suit pocket and it seems things can escape it rather easily. So, my phone did just that and fell 3m down a crack into the stream below the passage we were surveying. At the bottom the passage was at most 8 inches wide with a 2 inch gap above that before the reaching the larger crawling passage we were in.

I was most distressed by this, but unfortunately my companions did not seem to want to help, as they were more interested in surveying than helping so I was largely left to it (though Chris at-least did fetch my rope). This was partly because surveying must be done, but largely because they thought my chances of getting my phone back with or without their help precisely 0% Or, perhaps they just don't like me much, the reader will have to ask them!

The phone was unreachable and submerged in water a few inches deep, 3m below us, I knew it was somewhat waterproof, but it would likely not survive for long. Anyway, I was determined to get it. First, I tried hooking it with a rope snare – Result, I pushed it downstream 1m before it was in a worse position than before.

Then I tried scooping it into my bag – Result, No change. The rift even at water level was too small for even the bag to fit properly, even when I added a rock to weigh the bag down.

Finally, I tried knocking it upstream with my hand-jammer tied to the rope – Result – No change, though the principle should work, without something rigid I just could not bring the force to bare to move it, neither was it accurate enough.

I concluded I needed something long and at least semi-rigid, with a length a bare minimum of 2m long. With that tool I could shove it upstream about 10m to where the rift was big enough to allow me to climb down and get it. But I had nothing like that! A stal – nah - despite my mood, I could not contemplate vandalising the cave for this. Besides it would be too brittle, anyway. The only thing I could think of was a stick, but there are no sticks in the cave of course!

The only sticks were on the surface, so I had to go and get one! So back up the two 40m pitches I went and forced myself yet-again through the grovelly passage I went to emerge in daylight once-more at 4pm? I was already feeling somewhat tired. While I was prussiking up the rope, I had already made my plan. I would need 2m as previously stated but it would have to be supple to survive the trip in the cave or heaven forbid a drop down one of the 40m pitches.

I located said branch a few meters from the cave entrance, proceeded to "borrow" it from tree that it was attached to... for the next 10 minutes! A Petzleknife does not make a good saw.

Branch in hand I returned once more to darkness, I used a bag left to de-rig the entrance pitch to try and hold the branch in-place wrapping the haul cord around it a few times. To my amazement this worked and me and the branch made it down the pitch safely despite my stop descender not opening due to grit.

I washed off the grid and proceeded through the gnarly passage with the branch, which thanks to it's flexibility was persuadable around some of the sharper bends. For the second pitch I used the same technique, this time however the branch did escape, but this was thankfully only 5m from the bottom and the heroic branch was unharmed.

I waltzed down the larger stream passage feeling like Gandalf from Lord of the Rings, thinking if I ran into the others I would shout "You shall not pass... until you help me" but I never met them. Arriving at the scene of the incident I found a note telling me where they had gone, as their survey work here was done and they had gone looking for other inlets upstream in Shrimpbone.



The phone was barely visible now, the water being murky from the explorations up-stream which made things even harder. Nonetheless, I set to work with the out-of-place stick tool. Slowly but surely, against the flow of the water that was working against me I pushed the phone upstream until eventual success. Even-more amazingly the phone still worked (though has somewhat died since 😞) .

I met the others on the way out who were impressed with me managing to get it out and all was left was to go out, going up those two pitches and gnarly passage once more for the 2nd time this day, it definitely felt more tiring the second time around.

They surveyed 90m in the inlet until the passage ended in a dismal, muddy sump and 90m in other passages. Trip time 7 hours, or in my case 3.5 hours and 3.5 hours. The branch remains in the cave, pointing in its forever vigil the way out from Shrimpbone Inlet. I believe that one of these new passages surveyed is named ShrimpPhone inlet due to this days events.

Best regards,

Alex

EASTER PICS .

From: john southworth (direct.station.limited@hotmail.co.uk)

To: uzueka@aol.com

Date: Monday, 24 April 2023 at 16:35 BST

Hi Juan .

All pics taken by me accept 5336 taken by Pete Hall which are 1 and 2 choke at end of rh passage.

Left hand passage .

3 and 4 low way on at lh side.

5 and 6 low way on at rh side.

Missing entrance pics of 5339 and 5338 .

Cheers

John.



[5336 \(1\).JPG](#)



[5336 \(2\).JPG](#)



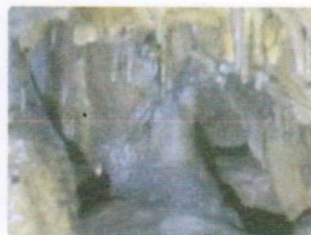
[5336 \(3\).JPG](#)



[5336 \(4\).JPG](#)



[5336 \(5\).JPG](#)



[5336 \(6\).JPG](#)

(To re-allocate 4132, 4242, 4513, 5191 (some still available))

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4.4.2023 JOHN SOUTHWORTH, GORDON PROCTER.

INVESTIGATED INTERESTING FEATURE SHOWING UP ON LIDAR MAP IN THE GARZON AREA, FOUND TO BE LARGE STEEP SIDED SHAKEHOLE TO CAVE ENTRANCE IN A CLIFF FACE. THE CAVE CONSISTS OF A SLIDE DOWN AT 45° FOR 5M WHICH THEN IS BLOCKED BY A FALLEN BOULDER, THE WAY ON PAST THIS OPENS UP AGAIN TO A SMALL PROP AND SEEMS TO CONTINUE BEYOND SLIGHT OUTWARD DRAUGHT NOTICED ~~4132~~ (4132)

4A 449337 4803632 LENGTH 5M. PIC

ON RETURNING TO THE CAR FOUND A SHAFT ABOUT 3-4M DEEP, WOULD REQUIRE TACKLE

4B 449394 4803605 4M DEEP (4242)

FOUND SMALL CAVE IN CLIFF FACE IN THE NAVETEDA AREA NEAR A PROMINANT TRACK. (4513)
LEFT CLOSSES DOWN AFTER 2M AND RIGHT CHOKES AFTER 3M

4C 0443751 4801304 LENGTH 5M PIC

5.4.2023 JOHN SOUTHWORTH, GORDON PROCTER

INTENDED TO HAVE A DIG AT THE END OF CAVE 5036 BUT FOUND A BADGER IN RESIDENCE SO PLAN TO RETURN WITH SOME STRONG DISINFECTANT APPLIED NEAR THE CAVE ENTRANCE WHICH USUALLY WORKS, IN THEM LEAVING THE SITE.

DRIVING THROUGH VILLANUGVA WE SPOTTED A CONCRETE WATER TROUGH SO INVESTIGATED WHAT WAS THE SOURCE OF WATER FOR THIS AND FOUND A SMALL CAVE ABOUT 5M LONG ENDING IN A SUMP ABOUT 6 INCH HIGH AND ONE FOOT WIDE

5A 447828 4804543 LENGTH 5M (5191)

6.4.2023 JOHN SOUTHWORTH, GORDON PROCTER
DIGGING IN CAVE 5222. DUG IN PASSAGE TO THE LEFT AND ONE STRAIT FORWARD AND ONE TO THE RIGHT ALL OF WHICH CLOSED DOWN. NO PLANS TO RETURN. MADE ENTRANCE STOCK PROOF

7.4.2023 JOHN SOUTHWORTH, GORDON PROCTER

EXAMINED WOODLAND 500M SW OF VILLANUEVA.
FOUND 2M DEEP MUD SIDED SHAKEHOLE WHICH CHOKED
WITH SMALL STREAM SINKING

7.4.A 0447251 4803867 PIC (5345)

ON THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE WOOD AND FIELD
ABOVE IS A TYRE FILLED SHAKEHOLE IN THE FIELD AND
AN EARTH SIDED COLLAPSE 3M DEEP IN THE WOOD,
WHICH TOTALLY CHOKES

7.4.B 0447281 4803847 PIC (5346)

8.4.2023 JOHN SOUTHWORTH, GORDON PROCTER

LONG TRIP INTO CAVE 5192 TO INVESTIGATE PASSAGE
AT FLOOR LEVEL WHICH IS WHERE CAVE SPLITS
INTO 2 WAYS ON JUST PAST SECTION B ON THE
SURVEY. DOWNWARD SLOPING MUDDY TUBE SEEMS
TO TURN RIGHT BUT NOT POSSIBLE TO SEE AROUND
THE BEND WITHOUT SOMEBODY TO PULL ME BACK
UP THE SLOPE, HAS A GOOD DRAUGHT.

9.4.2023
DAY OFF

10.4.2023 JOHN SOUTHWORTH, GORDON PROCTER

EXAMINED SITE 4401 TO SEE IF THE SUMP AT
THE ~~DAY~~ DAYLIGHT ENTRANCE HAD DROPPED AND
WAS FOUND TO HAVE VANISHED, GIVING ACCESS TO
8M OF HANDS AND KNEES PASSAGE TO DEEP WATER
AND THE PASSAGE CONTINUING FOR ABOUT ANOTHER
5M TO A LEFT HAND BEND, DID NOT FANCY A
SOAKING SO LEFT IT AT THAT.
~~ABOUT~~ ABOUT 7M OF PASSAGE WAS FOUND AT THE BOTTOM
END OF THE ~~SHAKEHOLE~~ SHAKEHOLE WHICH CONNECTS
WITH A TIGHT RIFT IN THE FIELD BELOW THIS SITE SO
20M OF NEW PASSAGE FOUND. PICS

11.4.2023: JOHN SOUTHWORTH, GORDON PROCTER, PETER HALL, PETER SMITH, OLIVER BRAIN, STEVE MARTIN

AT SITE 4.4.A THE BOULDER BLOCKAGE WAS REMOVED TO A DROP THEN SHORT TIGHT SECTION TO A SECOND DROP TO A PASSAGE WHICH BECOMES TO TIGHT.

THE PITCH AT 4.4.B WAS DESCENDED AND THE SHAFT FOUND TO CHOKED. NOT WORTH DIGGING (4242)

A 2M DEEP CHOKED SHAFT (11.4.A) WAS LOOKED AT BUT WOULD REQUIRE SOME MAJOR DIGGING

4.4.A 9M DEEP, 8M ~~LENGTH~~ LENGTH (L=17m)

4.4.B 5M DEEP

11.4.A 3M DEEP. 449 254 4803647 (5347)

12.4.2023 JOHN SOUTHWORTH, GORDON PROCTER

SPOTTED CAVE IN CLIFF FACE WHILST DRIVING FROM BERANGA TO ANGERO NEAR A BUS STOP. CRAWL FROM ENTRANCE INTO LOW CHAMBER WITH A LEFT HAND BRANCH NARROWING OFF WITH CALCITE ~~WALL~~ WHICH WOULD REQUIRE REMOVING TO GAIN ACCESS TO A LARGER PASSAGE ~~BEHIND~~.

FORWARD IN CHAMBER IS A PIT IN THE FLOOR WHICH CHOKES AND ABOVE THIS IN THE ROOF IS A BOULDER WHICH WOULD NEED REMOVING TO WHAT LOOKS LIKE A CONTINUATION.

A PASSAGE ON THE RIGHT OF THE CHAMBER WAS FOLLOWED FOR 40M OF HANDS AND KNEE'S CRAWLING WHICH STILL CONTINUES.

~~12.4~~ - 12.4A 0451599 4806560 (5336)

RETURNED TO CAVE 5036 AND SPRINKLED DISINTEGRANT ON OLD BADGER SET PRIOR TO START ON DIGGING

13.4.2023 JOHN SOUTHWORTH, GORDON PROCTER, PETE HALL IN CAVE 12.4.A (BUS STOP CAVE). GORDON ENLARGED LEFT HAND PASSAGE WHICH ENABLED PETE TO PASS THE SQUEEZE TO 3M OF LOW CALCITE PASSAGE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE A THIN PERSON TO PASS THE NEXT RESTRICTION. GOOD DRAUGHT. BOULDER REMOVED OVER THE PIT BUT FOUND TO CLOSE DOWN ~~OFF~~. ABOUT 80M OF PASSAGE SURVEYED ON THE RIGHT HAND PASSAGE WHICH ENDED IN A MUD CHOKER. THIS CAVE RUNS UNDER THE RAILWAY AND TWO TRAINS WERE HEARD PASSING ABOVE ~~THE~~. FEVE PASSAGE?

CONTINUED PAGE 4

13. 4. 2023

5337 ¹³ TO THE LEFT OF 12.4.A ABOUT 5M IS CLIMB UP TO A CAVE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE SOME DIGGING TO WHAT LOOKS LIKE AN HANDS AND PASSAGE GOING INTO THE HILL SIDE.
A SHORT DISTANCE DOWN THE ROAD FROM ABOVE MENTIONED CAVES AT REFERENCE 0451835 4806687 IS AN BACKWARD CLIMB OF 3M INTO AN EYE HOLE AND A DROP OF 3M INTO 8M OF PASSAGE WHICH CHOKES.
5338 ⁹ — 13.4.A 0451835/4806687 3M DEPTH 8M LENGTH PIC

14. 4. 2023

SITE 4955 WAS BEING CONSIDERED TO USE AS AN OBA TEST FOR PROOF IF ANY CONNECTION WITH FUENTE AGUANAZ. THE BEST APPROACH TO THIS SITE IS JUST PAST THE 15 KM OUT OF ARREDONDO AT A LEFT TURN ONTO A TARMAK LANE AND THEN A RIGHT TURN ONTO A GOOD GRAVEL TRACK TO A LARGE PARKING AREA ON THE LEFT. AT THIS POINT A GOOD TRACK HEADS UPHILL TO MEET A NEW CONCRETE SECTION TO A BARN WHICH IS ABOUT 100M-150M FROM SITE 4955.

LOOKED IN RIVERBED AND FIELDS AROUND THE JUNCTION OF ARROYO REVILLA AND ARROYO BENICANO AT SNAKEHOLES SHOWING UP ON MAPAS CANTABRIA LIDAR BUT ALL ARE WELL CHOKED.

5337 ¹³ RETURNED TO CAVE IN ROCK FACE ABOUT 5M LEFT OF SITE 5336 AND REMOVED SOME ROOTS AND SOIL WHICH WILL REQUIRE MORE WORK INTO WHAT LOOKS LIKE OPEN PASSAGE WITH A STRONG DRAUGHT.

15. 4. 2023

CONTINUED DIGGING AT SITE ⁵³³⁷ UP STEEP GRASSY BANK 13M LEFT OF 5336 WHICH GAINED ENTRY TO A TIGHT SQUEEZE TO A 1M HIGH AND 2M WIDE PASSAGE FOR 2M THEN TURNED RIGHT FOR 3M TO A STALL CHOKED, GOOD OUTWARD DRAUGHT WHICH COULD BE A CIRCULATING DRAFT FROM SITE 5336 LENGTH 5M

16. 4. 2023

RETURNED TO CAVE 5036 AND REMOVED ALL THE BADGER MATERIAL THEN DUG FOR SOME TIME JUST BEFORE THE END MAKING SPACE FOR EASIER REMOVAL OF ROCKS ETC ON ANY FUTURE DIGS, GOOD INWARD DRAUGHT.

17.4.2023 JOHN SOUTHWORTH, GORDON PROCTOR, PHIL PAPARD

(67)

TO THE RIGHT OF 5330 ~~BY~~ BY ABOUT 4M AND 5M HIGHER UP THE CLIFF FACE IS CAVE 5338 WHICH WAS ENTERED BY THE USE OF JUAN'S EXTENSION LADDER WHICH GAVE ACCESS TO A SHORT CAVE (SEE PHIL'S REPORT).

ALONG THE ROAD AT SITE 5340 (0451775 4806657) THE LADDER WAS USED AGAIN TO GAIN ACCESS TO A SMALL KEYHOLE SHAPE ENTRANCE (SEE PHIL'S REPORT).

SPENT SOME TIME IN LARGE DEPRESSION (449235-4805945) WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE AN OLD QUARRY PROBABLY LAST WORKED IN THE 1970'S PRIOR TO THE MOTORWAY CONSTRUCTION, NO SIGN OF ANY CAVES

18.4.2023 JOHN SOUTHWORTH, GORDON PROCTOR

SPENT SOME TIME LOOKING FOR 2 SHAKEHOLES SHOWING UP ON THE MAP IN THE GARZON AREA (449165-4803753 AND 449141-4803727) IN A EUCALYPTUS PLANTATION BUT DEFEATED BY THE UNDERGROWTH, BEST TO RETURN WHEN THE PLANTATION IS CLEARED.

NEARBY BELOW A RUINED BARN IS A TREE LINED DEPRESSION WITH A 2M WIDE AND 2.5M DEEP SHAFT WITH EARTH SIDES WHICH IS CHOKED WITH FARM RUBBISH (449258 4803452). DOWN THE FIELD FROM THIS AT 2100 AND 95M IS A SHAKEHOLE CHOKED WITH CHOPED TREES AND BRASH.

(5348)

Villanueva Resurgence

From: phil@papard.uk

To: uzueka@aol.com

Date: Monday, 8 May 2023 at 19:28 BST

Juan

I spoke with Mark yesterday (he flew in from HK for the week-end!!) and I asked him about their work in Villanueva. It appears they had major problems with a bottle valve blowing off and one demand valve also failing resulting in not having enough gear to dive any length of sump. So they dived Sump 4A which is short and surveyed the open passage that had not previously been surveyed. Mark had a quick look into Sump 4B and confirmed it was the main way on, ie the source of the water etc. I have modified the entry for this cave in my report and the revised report is attached.

Phil

MATIENZO EASTER 2023

PHIL PARKER'S ACTIVITIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALF LATHAM & CHRIS CAMM

Friday 31st March Team visit to examine entrance to **3026** and look at the immediate surrounds. (Also CC a/c)

Saturday 1st April CC & PPa to **5227**. (See CC a/c)

Sunday 2nd April Day mainly spent mooching about. However towards the upper end of the long drag from the (Matienzo) valley to Fuente las Varas CC went for a scout around to the north of the road and found a couple of possibilities. (See CC a/c)

Monday 3rd April Team visit to **5227**. (See CC a/c)

Tuesday 4th April Team trip half a km round the corner from the cottage to look at **3720**. AL spotted fenced shaft (ACP01=**5328**) in field on opposite side of road to **3720**.

(Also CC a/c different GPS for **5328** PPa 448757 4800597; CC 448746 4800578) Use CC's.

Wednesday 5th April CC & PPa walked to **3720** area looking for some one to ask for digging permission. Spotted **3736** position on Orux map is incorrect. Also track work adjacent to **3736** had partially covered entrance with slab of rock, cave probably still accessible. (See CC a/c)

Thursday 6th April Team trip for Alf to descend ACP01 **5328**. (See CC a/c)

Friday 7th April CC and PPa to **3012**. PPa through capped out section (see Autumn 2022), going to left to dig out very dry floor, spoil shovelled back through tightish bit for disposal by CC. Passage seems to turn right beyond low arch, however still need to lower floor to get to the corner.

Bailed and went to look at **3011**. No sign of 2013's cow carcass but large tree trunk, smaller timber and tyres now blocking access. Went to check field immediately east of the **3011/3012** depression. CC found horizontal low slot on sloping west side of field (ACP02 **5349**) No draught but appears to open up to flat out crawling and a metre or two in may head diagonally right. Disappointingly nothing in the field bottom.

ACP02 = new **5349** @ 446798 4801255 ^103

Went to check a cleared area visible to the east. This was in the vicinity of **3406**, which has vanished - entrance appears to have been bulldozed out of existence.

Saturday 8th April Team trip to **3012**. With three people spoil disposal was easier, however critical narrowing of passage made digging out under the arch a near impossibility for a grumpy PPa. However, an on-the-back forcing move allowed a view round the bend - another low arch immediately round the corner followed by a mini-aven and then, after a couple of metres, more lowness. It needs someone small to dig or a fair bit of capping.

Sunday 9th April CC and AL to **3048**.

PPa thoroughly thrashed/checked the floor of the valley behind the team's rented cottage, from the end of the garden to level with **3470/71/72** - nothing found except for a very minor collapse in a small, shallow depression. Sites **3471** and **3472** were draughting nicely. Between them there was an undercut which was noted for later checking - see Monday.

Monday 10th April CC to **3048**, PPa back to the **3470/71/72** area. About 10m north of **3472** there was a narrow draughting slot with an apparent drop of two to three metres (ACP03 **5350**).

The undercut from Sunday (ACP04 **5351**), located some 10m nnw of **3471**, was about 2m wide but no more than a metre depth into the hillside. However, in it's left hand side there was a small strongly draughting hole/tube.

Next onto the **3470/4182** shakehole where what was later identified as **4182** was a small draughting hole near the top of the shakehole, camouflaged by grass and bracken, whilst an obvious draughting entrance (ACP05 **5352**), partway down the slope to **3470**, was not **4182**.

Photographed the entrance to **3470**.

Contouring northwards along the valley side, the next find was a drop into a short gulley with three possibilities at it's head (ACP06 **5353**, **5359**, **5360**).

(1) **5353** The duck-in entrance was walking size passage for 5m to a 2m climb down fluted pillars and calcite to limited space and good draught. Stones rattled down one small hole for several metres.

(2) **5359** Outside, the middle feature was a square recess that seemed to be blind whilst

(3) **5360** on the left was a small draughting slot into a curving rift.

On to the last find which was located immediately outside the back fence of the property adjacent to the cottage - smallish steep sided shakehole with a 1.5m gently draughting rift in the west corner (ACP07 **5354**).

ACP03 = new **5350** @ 448448 4800661 ^130 (est)

ACP04 = new **5351** @ 448442 4800632 ^134 (est)

ACP05 = new **5352** @ 448422 4800616 ^140 (est)

ACP06 (1) = new **5353** @ 448463 4800718 ^122

ACP06 (2) = new **5359** @ 448463 4800717 ^122

ACP06 (3) = new **5360** @ 448463 4800716 ^122

ACP07 = new **5354** @ 448506 4800770 ^112

Tuesday 11th April CC had a successful day investigating area and woodland immediately north and west of the cottage. PPa went to ACP06 (**5353**) area to photograph then thrashed around in the woodland area immediately to it's north, not fun and nothing found.

Wednesday 12th April Team visit to Altamira. Later CC started work on one of his finds - about 90 metres from cottage front gate!

Thursday 13th April PPa to ACP03 (**5350**), opened up the slot for 5m ladder pitch into passage with floor similar to ACP06 (1) (**5353**). Length 4m to back wall with a side passage becoming parallel to main rift, adding 5m for overall length of 9m. No way of descending between spires/pillars but good draught and stones rattling down estimated 7 or more metres.

Ladder removed as CC arrived, then went to look at **3472** where draught still good so possible project.

Next to **3470/4182** shakehole. Took surface photos and PPa investigated ACP05 (**5352**) - 4m slide cum climb down under and into boulder ruckle with 5m of passage and draught coming up a narrow slot from larger space, hence think it needs it's own number.

CC then headed north and west whilst PPa entered serious thrashing territory to the immediate south. One large depression with nothing obvious, followed later by nearly falling into rockwalled bramble filled shakehole with small squarish entrance in uphill side. This was 1.5m long with small draughting opening at the back (ACP08 **5355**).

Next PPa rejoined CC for various investigations (*see CC report*) then they went uphill towards nearest road. On the way CC directed PPa towards a cliff face that yielded three entrances/rifts with small dams for water collection. ACP09 (**5356**) probably enterable for several metres, ACP10 (**5357**) would require some hammer & chisel or capping to enter an enlargement, ACP11 (**5358**) not closely examined as PPa had "had enough".

ACP08 = new **5355** @ 448442 4800582 ^138

ACP09 = new **5356** @ 448289 4800659 ^157

ACP10 = new **5357** @ 448297 4800648 ^158

ACP11 = new **5358** @ 448305 4800637 ^160 (est)

Friday 14th April Team visit around corner from cottage to CC finds of Tuesday 11th.

Saturday 15th April Easy day, CC and AL working on hole 90m from cottage (5341), PPa to look at 3174 (Pooch Cave) as interested in upper entrance passage. This did not go far but the cave was draughting well - no mention of draught in description, is this significant?

Sunday 16th April CC to hole 90m from cottage (5341), AL and PPa to ACP06(1) (5353). AL entranced by possibilities of the walk-in entrance cave (5353) so immediately started hitting things with hammer and chisel, later switching to capping, made good progress.

PPa examined the slot entrance (5360), digging out floor and rigging ladder to help exit. Sideways slide down narrow rift for 2m to a leveling with a small shaft in floor, awkwardly forward for a couple of metres became too tight immediately before right hand bend into enlargement. No echo, no draught plus awkward capping so not high on the priority list. The draughting small narrow shaft was about 3m deep with some sort of way off at the bottom. Exiting was "interesting". Needs someone smaller and younger than PPa for progress.

Monday 17th April In the afternoon AL to ACP06 (1) 5353 to continue downward work, later joined by PPa. Starting to open up which provides encouragement.

Tuesday 18th April PPa to ACP06 (1) 5353 for further downward work. Later CC working in wood on the finds of Tuesday 11th (5341 area). AL visited both, bringing spare battery to ACP06 (1) 5353 and having a hammer whilst PPa had a rest. At day's end the climb down was 5m to the capping spoil heap with a narrow rift heading back towards the entrance. In front, through a hole large enough for both feet, was a narrow downward tube that appeared to break out a metre or so below foot level. Stones bounced down what might be a steep slope or, if unlucky, a too narrow rift.

Wednesday 19th April Last day so PPa took AL to look at the possibilities of ACP03 (5350). Agreed that if ACP06 (5353) gives up the ghost it'd be worth giving ACP03 a "go".

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT