

# LOGBOOK

Year: 2023

Season: Summer

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

*Juan Corrin, September 2023*



Summer 2023

①

0670

From: Peter Smith (smith\_peter2004@yahoo.es)

To: uzueka@aol.com

Date: Monday, 5 June 2023 at 21:22 BST

Hello Juan

How's everything? Andy and I went back to 0670. We've dug out a second tight rift, which soon gets very small. So the original tight rift is still to be enlarged in the summer. Then perhaps the cave can be surveyed. For now, some more photos.

Cheers

Pete

Photos 1 and 3 should be vertical obviously even if the email turns them on their side.



0670-PS-2023whit-1.JPG

5.4MB



0670-PS-2023whit-2.JPG

5.7MB



0670-PS-2023whit-3.JPG

4.3MB

*Vallina*

El 11 jun 2023, a las 10:43, Juan Corrin <uzueka@aol.com> escribió:

Hola Vicente,

Estoy en el proceso de volver a dibujar la topo de Vallina, incorporando sus topos y doblando y moviendo secciones para que encajen. Adjunto parte de la topo con su dibujo de Galería Blanca.

La línea central morada se ajusta desde el Tocadoome a través de una ampliación y luego hacia el este hasta la cámara grande. Entonces, ¿los puntos X1 y X2 son iguales? Si es así, X3 y X4 son lo mismo, ¡lo cual tiene sentido!

¿La cámara más grande es el Segundo Abismo?

¿Dónde entra Walkie Talkie Passage en tu cámara más grande?

Saludos

[Original]

Hi Vicente,

I'm in the process of redrawing the Vallina survey, incorporating your surveys and bending and moving sections to fit. Attached is part of the survey with your Galería Blanca drawing.

The purple centre line fits from the Tocadoome through an enlargement then east to the large chamber.

So are points X1 and X2 the same? If so, X3 and X4 are the same, which makes some sense!

The larger chamber is the Second Abyss?

Where does Walkie Talkie Passage enter your larger chamber?

Regards,

Juan

Juan Corrin

UK : 015242 62809

Mobile: 0044 7815 745072



Re: Cueva Vallina

From: Vicente Barraquet (vbarraquet@gmail.com)

To: uzueka@aol.com

Date: Tuesday, 13 June 2023 at 22:19 BST

Hola Juan,

Perdona por tardar en contestar, tengo mucho trabajo.

Te hago un breve resumen de los trabajos realizados últimamente y te contesto en rojo. El próximo agosto estaremos del 1 al 7 en Matienzo ( Campo Base Bar Germán) para seguir trabajando en Vallina.

Calculo que seremos 25 personas aproximadamente espero q nos veamos y poder aclarar dudas. Igualmente si en esas fechas necesitáis algún tipo de ayuda en vuestras Exploraciones contar con nosotros, nos gustaría colaborar más con vosotros.

Resumen:

En diferentes ataques realizamos una escalada en la zona norte de la Sala Grande (1) terminando la escalada en una galería horizontal en la que tras pocos metros encontramos un p que se abre en el suelo, al descender el pozo este se divide en dos, descendemos el de mayor volumen y al bajar vemos que estamos en el Segundo Abismo, el descenso nos deja e galería de los Fojillones, por debajo del walkie talkie Passage, volvemos topografiando. (Pasaré datos antes de agosto)



En el Cristal Passage realizamos una escalada de 80m aprox. Esta conduce por galerías horizontales a una ventana en la parte superior de Primer Abismo y a otras incógnitas pendie de explorar y topografiar.

Seguimos escalando Novadome, hemos descartado incógnitas a 30m de altura en el primer anillo la única posible continuación aquí es un meandro estrecho q inicia tras un resalte, a revisar este meandro encontramos signos de paso por lo que descartamos seguir por aquí y volvimos atrás para seguir escalando, estamos a 76m de la base, la altura no la sé por qu Disto no mide aún el techo (+80m).

Fin resumen

Entonces, ¿los puntos X1 y X2 son iguales? **NO, no són iguales, la Sala Grande (1) se accede desde el inicio de penitents, no es el Segundo Abbis**

¿La cámara más grande es el Segundo Abismo? **No**

¿Dónde entra Walkie Talkie Passage en tu cámara más grande? **No está conectado aqui**

He de revisar los datos de las topografías te los enviaré con la topo general antes de agosto.

Un saludo

Vicente Barraquet

Enviado desde mi iPhone

Google Translate.

Hello Juan,

Sorry for the delay in answering, I have a lot of work.

I give you a brief summary of the work done recently and I answer you in red. Next August we will be in Matienzo (Bar Germán Base Camp) from 1 to 7 to continue working in Vallina.

I estimate that we will be approximately 25 people. I hope we will see each other and be able to clarify doubts.

Likewise, if you need some kind of help in your Explorations on those dates, count on us, we would like to collaborate more with you.



Summary:

In different attacks we made a climb in the north area of the Sala Grande (1) finishing the climb in a horizontal gallery where after a few meters we found a well that opens into the ground, when descending the well it is divided into two, We descend the one with the largest volume and when we go down we see that we are in the Second Abyss, the descent leaves us in the Fojillones gallery, below the walkie talkie Passage, we return surveying. (I will pass data before August)

In the Cristal Passage we made a climb of 80m approx. This leads through horizontal galleries to a window at the top of the First Abyss and other unknowns pending exploration and surveying.

We continue climbing Novadome, we have ruled out unknowns at a height of 30m in the first ring, the only possible continuation here is a narrow meander that begins after a ridge, when reviewing this meander we found signs of passage, so we ruled out continuing here and went back to continue climbing, we are 76m from the base, I don't know the height because in Disto the ceiling is not yet measured (+80m).

So are the points X1 and X2 the same? NO, they are not the same, the Big Room (1) is accessed from the beginning of penitents, it is not the Second Abbas.

The largest chamber is the Second Abyss? No

Where does Walkie Talkie Passage fit into your larger camera? You are not logged in here

I have to review the topography data and I will send it to you with the general topography before August.  
All the best

### OBA test in Arredondo

From: Peter Smith (smith\_peter2004@yahoo.es)

To: uzueka@aol.com

Date: Sunday, 18 June 2023 at 17:34 BST

Hello Juan

With Guy (and Patrick) we've done a test from 1757 Sumidero de Fuentes, or rather the 'impenetrable crack' after the stream re-appears out of 3270. Detectors were put in 1747, 4822 and 3278 (Bárcena Morel), and in Comellante in case it went the other way. The OBA was put in 3 weeks ago, on 28 May. But then the weather got very dry despite the forecast saying showers every day. Anyway, Guy has got a positive today at 3278 Bárcena Morel, with a detector he left on 3rd June.

Seeing that it's a private water supply, and the owner can be a bit grumpy, as you report on the website, I'd be careful about giving it much publicity, apart from in the water tracing section of the website.

Cheers

Pete



Fwd: La espada de Ruchano

0103/3232

From: Dave Linton (dave.linton@hendrecoed.org.uk)

To: juancorrin@matienzo.org.uk

Date: Monday, 19 June 2023 at 10:58 BST

Juan

A bit cheeky, but I thought I would contact Dr Ignacio and send him copies of my photos from 1975 – with the result below.

If I hear anything from him about the lead isotope analysis I'll pass it on to you. However, should you so wish, feel free to contact Dr Ignacio yourself.

Cheers

Dave

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ignacio Montero Ruiz <ignacio.montero@cchs.csic.es>

**Subject: Re: La espada de Ruchano**

**Date:** 19 June 2023 at 09:49:47 BST

**To:** Dave Linton <dave.linton@hendrecoed.org.uk>

Estimado David,  
me alegro que le interese el video y muchas gracias por el envío de las fotos del descubrimiento. Estoy publicando la información sobre la procedencia con isótopos de plomo de la espada y espero acordarme de enviarle copia de la publicación. Es una pieza de gran valor e interés, por lo que su descubrimiento y que lo comunicara y entregara a las instituciones españolas tiene aún mas mérito  
Un cordial saludo

Ignacio

El 18/06/2023 a las 21:53, Dave Linton escribió:

Estimado Dr Ignacio

Acabo de encontrarme con su artículo 'Pieza del Mes' en  
<https://www.europapress.es/cantabria/noticia-espada-ruchano-cierra-ciclo-pieza-mes-mupac-2021-20211102160303.html>

Me alegró mucho ver el artículo ya que fui la persona que descubrió la espada en 1975. Incluyo algunas fotografías de la espada tomadas poco después de encontrarla que pueden ser de su interés.

Me temo que he tenido que traducir este mensaje por máquina ya que tengo muy poco español, así que disculpe cualquier infelicidad en él.

Tuyo sinceramente

David Linton



Nuevo agujero

5

From: CARLOS LAMOILE MARTINEZ (llambriales@gmail.com)

To: juancorin@matienzo.org.uk

Date: Monday, 26 June 2023 at 16:35 BST

Site 3376?

Hola Juan, te escribo por lo siguiente.

Me ha comentado una amiga y vecina de La Collada que en la carretera de acceso debajo del asfalto se ha abierto un socavón y que posee mucha profundidad, han echado varias carretillas de grijo y se lo ha tragado observando que tiene bastante volumen.

Te mando la ubicación del mismo, está frente a un poste de madera en el lugar del mapa que adjunto donde aparece la mano.

Te lo digo, por si queréis echarlo un vistazo.

Un saludo.

Location photos on computer.

--  
Carlos Lamoile

686790233 [llambriales@gmail.com](mailto:llambriales@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/llambriales.carlos>

Hello Juan, I am writing to you for the following.

A friend and neighbor of La Collada has told me that a hole has been opened under the asphalt on the access road and that it is very deep, they have thrown several wheelbarrows of grijo and she has swallowed it, noting that it has quite a lot of volume.

I am sending you the location of it, it is in front of a wooden post in the place on the map that I attached where the hand appears.

I'm telling you, in case you want to take a look.

All the best.

## Life continues in Cueva del Gusnardo (#5150)

from La Cambera blog, 2/7/2023. Photos from blog on computer.

Day chosen to go to finish the Cueva del Gusnardo and survey the last part of the cave, a meander that progressively shrinks ending in a narrow passage, it was the last thing we had found on the previous visit. At mid-morning the Passage of the Sphincter engulfs us, this time it does not have liquid mud as on other occasions, we walk through the cave to the Galería del Desorden and we arrive at the Galería del Perejilu where the topography was pending. While Gustavo and Adriel begin to survey, Fede goes ahead to correctly install the Pozo del Compadre, which last time, due to forgetting the drill battery, we had to descend with this technique. We arrive at Paso del Perejilu surveying, a narrow pass that on this occasion presents us with water. After overcoming it we access the well. At that very moment, Fede struggles in solitude to overcome the pass of the meander. A descending meander, whose walls are broken, dark, narrow and with a small watercourse. He attacks him headlong, reaching a point where he locks in and can't back down. The scene is like that of a fat neonate trying to get out of Gusnardo's womb. After a few bodily contractions he manages to finally get expelled into life completely wet and sweaty. Childbirth has deposited him in a large room full of blocks, the Birth Room. The room is unusual for the gallery sizes that prevail in the cave. Between the blocks you can see a bottomless continuation which requires rope. But we have no more rope.

There is still life in the Cueva del Gusnardo.

The result of the topography up to the Pozo del Compadre is 350 meters and -83 meters of unevenness.

Participants: Fede, Adriel and Gustavo

### Continúa la vida en la Cueva del Gusnardo (#5150)

Día elegido para ir a dar por finalizada la Cueva del Gusnardo y topografiar la última parte de la cueva, un meandro que se encoge progresivamente finalizando en un paso estrecho, era lo último que habíamos encontrado en la visita anterior. A media mañana el Paso del Esfínter nos engulle, esta vez no tiene barro líquido como en otras ocasiones, recorreremos la cueva hasta la Galería del Desorden y llegamos a la Galería del Perejilu donde quedó pendiente la topografía. Mientras Gustavo y Adriel comienzan a topografiar, Fede se adelanta para ir instalando correctamente el Pozo del Compadre, el cual la última vez, debido al olvido de la batería del taladro, tuvimos que descender con dicha técnica.





→ Llegamos al Paso del Perejilu topografiando, paso estrecho que en esta ocasión se nos presenta con agua. Tras superarlo accedemos al pozo. En ese mismo momento Fede, lucha en soledad por superar el paso del meandro. Un meandro descendente, cuyas paredes se rompen, oscuro, estrecho y con un pequeño curso de agua. Le ataca de cabeza llegando un momento en el que se encaja y no puede retroceder. La escena es como la de un neonato gordito intentando salir del útero del Gusnardo. Tras unas cuantas contracciones corporales consigue salir expulsado por fin a la vida completamente mojado y sudado. El parto le ha depositado en una gran sala llena de bloques, la Sala del Nacimiento. La sala es inusual para los tamaños de galería que predominan en la cueva. Entre los bloques se puede ver una continuación desfondada la cual exige cuerda. Pero no tenemos más cuerda.  
Aún hay vida en la Cueva del Gusnardo.  
El resultado de la topografía hasta el Pozo del Compadre es de 350 metros y -83 metros de desnivel.  
Participantes: Fede, Adriel y Gustavo

## Site 5150 Cueva del Gusnardo (Cambera blog 9<sup>th</sup> July, with photos))

Never say this is over in Cueva del Gusnardo.

"When you think it's all over, there will always be a narrow and challenging passage at the last moment, surrounded by huge unstable blocks that you must clear and overcome. But don't worry, you have the strength to clear the way and keep going! Remember that each obstacle is an opportunity to grow, add meters and show that you are not shit." -Mr. Wonderful

This phrase that overflows with wisdom is exactly what has happened to us twice in today's new journey of exploration. After going down the Pozo del Compadre and overcoming the meander of the Utero, we headed for the Nativity Gallery. A large gallery, compared to what has been discovered so far, 30 meters long and 8 meters wide. This gallery leads to the Birth Room. A collapsed room with huge blocks with a couple of accesses to its lower part and where after reviewing a multitude of steps between blocks we did not find a continuation, concluding the exploration. But when we are going up the room we look at an opening whose direction does not match what we see below the room. We go back down to the room and with the help of the light from our headlights, we locate a small, well-camouflaged passage that, after clearing it, leads to an 11-meter well (Pozo de la Arena). We descend the well to its base. The first impression is final, the same as the Room of the Nativity. The base appears with another barrage of large blocks with a multitude of cavities.

We return to find another passage that must be unblocked again and that leads us to a small ramp, which after a gallery in s and a small down-climb, all screened with small blocks that continually crumble, leads us to a room of good dimensions and where we can see two apparently parallel wells of a good diameter through which the cave continues (Sala de los Dos Pozos) and which we left pending due to lack of material. On this occasion we have finished the cave on two occasions. In previous days we considered it finished a few more times, but there we continue.

With what was explored this time, the development is 455 meters of development and -135 unevenness. The morphology of the cave is mainly based on short-circuiting galleries, which have been formed independently, to continue its journey through narrow passages.

### Nunca digas esto se acaba en la Cueva del Gusnardo

«Cuando pienses que todo ha acabado, siempre habrá un estrecho y desafiante paso en el último instante, rodeado de enormes bloques inestables que deberás desobstruir y superar. Pero no te preocupes, ¡tú tienes la fuerza para despejar el camino y seguir adelante! Recuerda que cada obstáculo es una oportunidad para crecer, sumar metros y demostrar que no eres un mierda.» -Mr. Wonderful

Esta frase que desborda sabiduría es exactamente lo que nos ha pasado por dos veces en la nueva jornada de exploración de hoy. Tras bajar el Pozo del Compadre y superar el meandro del Utero, enfilamos la Galería del Nacimiento. Una gran galería, en comparación con lo descubierto hasta ahora, de 30 metros de larga y 8 de ancha.

Esta galería da paso a la Sala del Nacimiento. Una sala colapsada con enormes bloques con un par de accesos a su parte más baja y en donde después de revisar multitud de pasos entre bloques no encontramos continuación dando por acabada la exploración. Pero cuando estamos remontando la sala nos fijamos en una abertura cuya dirección no nos cuadra con lo visto debajo de la sala. Volvemos a bajar a la sala y con ayuda de la luz de nuestras frontales, ubicamos un pequeño paso muy bien camuflado y que tras desobstruirlo da paso a un pozo de 11 metros (Pozo de la Arena).

Descendemos el pozo hasta su base. La primera impresión es de final, la misma de la Sala del Nacimiento. La base aparece con otro aluvión de grandes bloques con multitud de oquedades.

Volvemos a encontrar otro paso que nuevamente hay que desobstruir y que nos lleva a una pequeña rampa, que tras una galería en s y un pequeño destrepe, todo ello tamizado de pequeños bloques que se desmoronan continuamente, nos lleva a una sala de buenas dimensiones y donde podemos ver dos pozos aparentemente paralelos de buen diámetro por donde continua la cueva (Sala de los Dos Pozos) y que dejamos pendiente por falta de material.

En esta ocasión hemos dado por acabada la cueva en dos ocasiones. En jornadas anteriores la dimos por acabada unas cuantas veces más, pero ahí seguimos.

Con lo explorado esta ocasión el desarrollo es de 455 metros de desarrollo y -135 de desnivel

La morfología de la cueva principalmente se basa en ir cortocircuitando galerías, que se han formado independientemente, para continuar su recorrido a través de estrechos pasos.

asc



18 July 2023 0813 Pete Smith, Steve M & Phil P.

No capping today, just digging in floor approx 3m down, holes between rocks seem to draught-out. One large rock removed. More work needed.

20 July 2023 2414 Si & Di

On way from ferry, took time to do some digging at this on-route dig. More work needed. Draughting in strongly.

22nd July - site 5000 - stood over hole

GR = 0451299 4800847 ~~Probably wrong~~ ✓

~~Looks wrong on map~~. Centre line is "wrong"? Can be checked on ground with aerial photo.

Trip to confirm location of possible second, bottle-friendly entrance to Fridge Door Cave (1800) turned into a dig when Torben, Louise and Pete Smith were heard close underground. They had entered 3234 and came to station 1800-22-06.93.

Phil, Steve and Juan using radios, voice, crowbars etc dug open the hole with some assistance from below. All 3 exited and site 5000 was confirmed as the 17th entrance to the 4 Valleys System.

Torben & Louise went back in to push a climb near sump 3 in 1800. Pete went in and out of 5000 to retrieve SKT gear. T + L later emerged to cover the entrance with rocks. (Photos + video 360°).

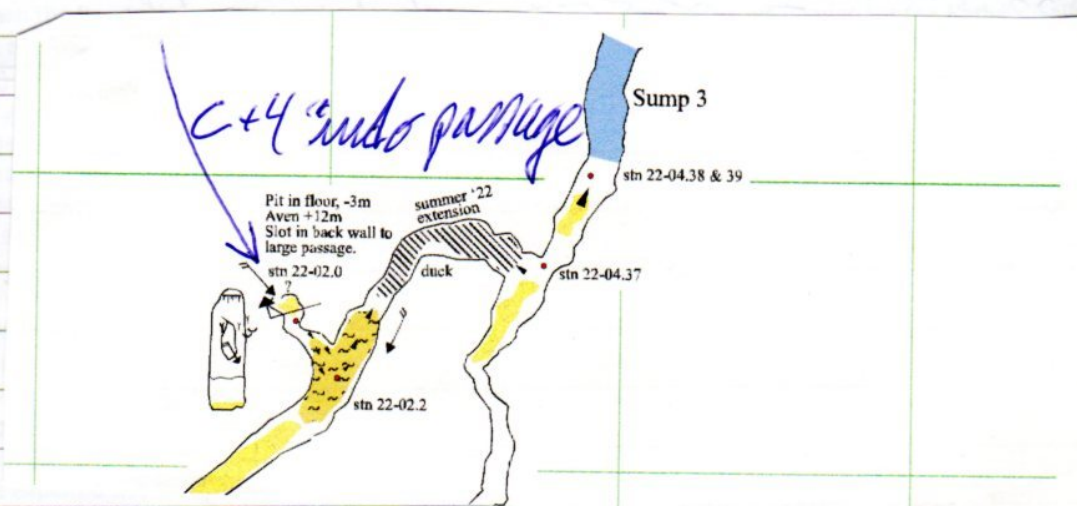
22. July - 3234 - Llanio Pete Smith, Torben R., Louise K

We went to Fridge Door Cave, to the passage that gets near the surface. Could hear Phil's drilling and soon after saw the drill, and established voice connection to the surface team (which was good since the radio battery did not work.



We dugged for about an hour and a half, before I managed to squeeze out. Felt like the mountain gave birth to me ☺. Phil gave me a lift to our car, so I could bring it to the new entrance.

Torben and I went to climb into a hole between sump 2 and 3. After 4 meters it enters a small chamber with ~~many~~<sup>4</sup> ways on - at least 2 looked good. We left the climb rigged and exited the cave using the new entrance.



21ST JULY Di & SE OZSB & TOND

WENT DOWN TORD AND COLLECTED 2X DISTOXS AT THE BOTTOM OF 2ND PITEN BEFORE BOZ'S CHOK, WHAT A NICE CAVE! WPTO THIS POINT ANYWAY.

22ND JULY Di & Se OZSB TORD

WENT DOWN 20m PITEN TO BIG CHAMBER AND SURVEYED SOUTHERN CONTINUATION WHICH WASN'T AS LONG AS THE ESTIMATED SURVEY SUGGESTED. THE FIXED ROPS AND THE BELTS ON THE 20m PITEN DRIFT VERY GOOD -



4732





25 July 2023 Site 5000, Torben, Louise, Steve M,  
Karen, Marie & Lisbeth, & Phil P

Took entrance tube up to hole (Marie wearing it!) & excavated  
sail & some rock using <sup>caps</sup> ~~scissors~~ & a lot of happier work  
Louise went in & cleared from inside. Getting out of  
tube not easy; need a foot hold to push on. Moved all  
spare sail to bungee line & foamed up tube ready for  
concrete & lid etc. Farmer in house below was told what  
we were doing & seemed happy enough.

25 July 2023 4732 Deception. Si, Di  
joined James, Chris, Dave and Ben on a  
trip down Deception. Si & I had a leisurely  
start following the first team down later.

We made our way straight to Rocky Horror (sta 381)  
and re-surveyed the passage to Drickham Sump.  
Strong draught coming out of D.S.

Returned to Rocky to find we had missed  
Team 1 who were on the way out.

Re-Surveyed along Rocky Horror starting ~~at~~ near  
Shrimpbone Inlet - station 381 up to the  
graffiti boulder. Total re-surveyed 214m. ✓

25 July 2023 4732 Deception Chris, Ben,  
Dave O, James.

Went down Trident Centre branch to look for more  
leads. We managed to get up the handline ~~in a cave~~ that  
stopped in at Easter, by sending Dave up a climb further  
back. That was intimidating but not too technical. This  
obscure passage we proceeded along a long, unlikely  
looking crawl. At the bottom of the crawl was a piece  
of survey paper with 'Ligger & Juan' on it.



The crawl popped out in a large continuation of the main passage, very well decorated and very draughty. Another low crawl followed, and kept led to yet another big chamber. This led to a third low crawl that ended at a 10m<sup>(ish)</sup> pitch down into a cobbled floor. This sounded quite loud and echoey, and seemed to have mark a change in character. However, upon returning to the bar, we found the old survey, which suggested that it had been descended and led to an unclimbed climb on the opposite side of the chamber. Unfortunately, Chris thinks he could see into this passage from the top of the pitch and thinks that it looks very unpromising. It may be a case of back to the old drawing board.

## 28th July Site 5000 (+ Giant Panda)

Phil + Juan to site 2691 to ponder the collapse @ Giant Panda 83cm Ø tube will fit after some clearance. Needs a team. Not as bad as advertised.

Then to site 5000 to rebar the tube and concrete around the top + side after installing the lid Mat Phil had made.

Just finishing off as Louise and Torben emerged. (See separate account). (Photos) on NAS

Stone Eye Passage

28th July Boob Tube entrance (site 5000), Fridge Door Cave

Torben and Louise. We went back to the climb we did on 22nd July. The passage to the NE closes down. The passage to the south west goes to a boulder choke with no way on.

The passage to the south south west goes to the same boulder choke - there another passage was entered - heading NE with a strong draught. We got to a steep slope down - needs about 20m rope. Rocks + mud fell into water when we send them down

Phil's  
Bath  
23-02

152m

9/16



26TH JULY TODD 0258 DI, SI, CHRIS, HELEN  
WENT DOWN TODD, - CHOCOLATE SLICE, THE TRAVELER  
AFTER THIS WAS A COUPLE OF RUSTY BOLTS & NAILS WHICH  
WERE BOARDED UP WITH NEW NAILS. THE 12M PITCH WAS  
RIGGED FOR FOR SALT BUT A TACKLE SACK WAS NEEDED AS A  
ROPE PROTECTOR AT THE TOP. ANOTHER WELL PLACED BOLT MAY  
GIVE A NICE FREE HANG. JUST DOWN FROM HERE WHERE THE  
2M CHIMP UP LEADS TO THE MAIN WAY ON, WHAT REALLY ISN'T  
MENTIONED IS THIS IS DIRECTLY ABOVE A 15M DROP AND THE  
CZ LOOKS TO BE QUITE SKETCHY! WE WERE AFTER GETTING  
INTO STANNES & THE DRAUGHTING DESK, BUT THIS  
SEEMS TO BEYOND ANOTHER 15M DROP WHICH REALLY NEEDS  
A HAND LINE, WE WILL BE BACK! RETREATING & HAD  
A LOOK AROUND THE BIG CHAMBER NEAR THE ENTRANCE GOING  
INTO THE NEIGHBORING CHAMBER THE GROUPS & MEGA STX  
ARE TRULY AWESOME!

27TH JULY 473Z DECEPTION (0107 HZCRD) DI & SE  
WENT TO CONTINUE RESURVEY UP TO TRIDENT CAMP 1 & JUST  
BEYOND THE MADDY SQUEEZE. GREAT STATION UP TO  
CAMP 4 IS NUMBERED IN SOME WAY.

28TH JULY - DI & SE AFTER A NICE BTE LUNCH  
& WAITING FOR THE ~~TRAIN TO START~~ WENT TO SUB SIDE WE  
WENT FOR A WALK PAST 2081 MISTAKE OF POT, WHICH  
WASN'T DRAUGHTING AT ALL; ~~2082~~ WE COULDN'T REALLY  
LOCATE 2561. ON THE WAY BACK WE DESCENDED  
2082 5.7m DEEP AND CHECKED. ALSO CHECKING OUT  
2083 WHICH HAS NO PROSPECT. TREATED TO A LEVELY SUNSET  
ON THE WAY DOWN.



29TH JULY 0258 TOND Di & SC

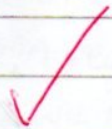
WENT BACK TO THE BIG CHAMBER AGAIN THE ENTRANCE  
AND LOCATED THE PHREATIC ~~MAZE~~ <sup>MAZE</sup>, WHICH WAS  
INTERESTING AND ON GOING. WE WILL RETURN & CONTINUE SURVEYING.

30<sup>th</sup> July 1800 Fridge Door via Boob Tube  
Torben, Rowise and Pete Smith.

Dropped the pitch (6m.) at the end of Stone Eye Passage and  
sure enough we could see a silent stream flowing  
into a sump about 4 m further down the mudslope.  
Climbing up a mud funnel (a traverse line is in place  
to stop you ~~from~~ from sliding into the sump funnel)  
a passage continues to the east. An (unsurveyed)  
inlet from the south ~~was~~ passed and the passage  
continues to a complex brakedown area, where big  
white stalls can be seen about 20 m. up. To the  
north a climb down leads to a small stream that  
seems to sump both up-stream and down stream (small  
passage) (and muddy). The continuation of the main  
passage heads east in a rift (needs a hand line/traverse-  
line) and water enters from an aven. A hands and  
knees crawl continues above the rift and leads to  
a complex chamber with several ways on - both  
up and down and straight ahead. We took the  
straight ahead one, which is draughting and has  
a few beautiful helictites. A crawl enters a bigger  
chamber with water dripping down and a climb  
seems to lead to another higher passage. And then  
we had to turn back - no more time - kids home  
alone waiting. Rerigged a handline on the way out  
and took some photos.

A total of 225 m. was surveyed.

Batch 23-03





Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July Si, Ben & Di

On previous trips to Toad we spotted 2 holes not recorded on the data. Looked at the details of everything close by but nothing matched what we found.

Descended the rift by rigging from naturals and landed into a large chamber.

Then found the rusty pick-axe and knew where we were - 0045 Hume.

Beautiful stal chambers and great through trip.

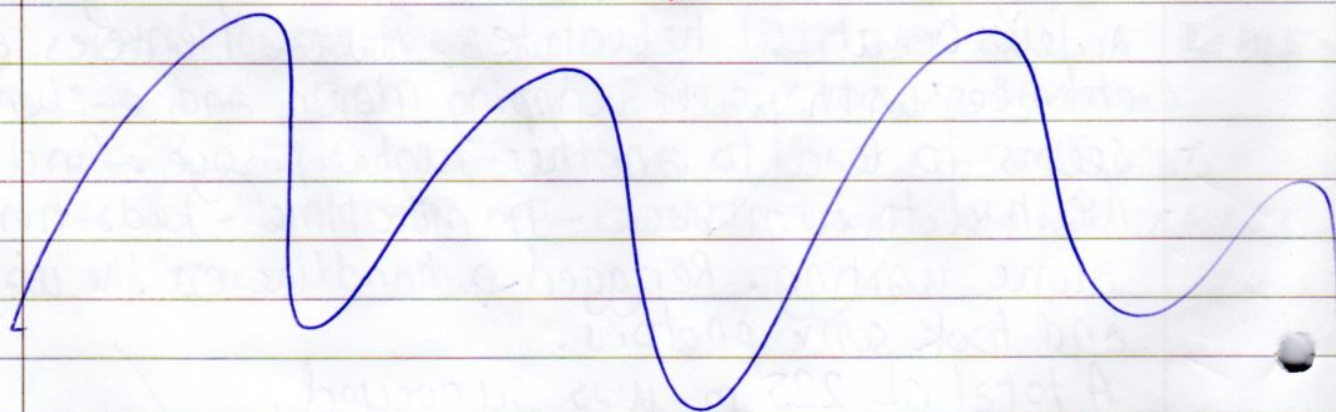
Use this  
entrance  
for map.

Entrance hole hidden by brambles Aprox 7m uphill from a tree: 30T 448950 4795074 (W)

Window into chamber: 30T 449011 ~~4795082~~ (E) (sheft) ps.

<sup>1860</sup>  
Fridge Door 30th - further info. In "brakedown area" (breakdown!) route over boulders on the left to a slope down to a crawl, it continues as crawling and sloping for about 25m to a small chamber and is probably a high-water route for the stream. Not surveyed. In the "complex chamber", one of the higher passages that re-connects with lower main passages has a crawl on its northern side that seems to diverge from the general direction of the passage. Not explored.

ps





31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 Juan intending to walk up the valley to east of 4732 Decepción entrance. Started off OK then diverted out onto the open hillside to the north.

**New site 5362** Open shaft with tree at the edge of wood. About 2.5m diameter possibly greater than 6m deep. (No stones to check.) Grid reference 453032,4798514 Alt 270m Photos, 360deg photos and video.

**New site 5363** Hollyoak shaft. Possible collapse which may be deeper than 4m at the downhill side. 360 video possibly shows no prospects. Needs clearing to descend. Grid reference 453096,4798562 Alt. 290m

**New site 5364** Good ripening blackberries. Vegetation needs clearing to investigate a possible shaft. Grid reference 453116,4798577 Alt. 296m.

A short distance up the hill is **site 4179**, photo taken.

Walked back via Carcavueso. Overflow sink, overflow channel and sink area have been completely cleared with trees removed, channel cleared, wood removed, etc. Unfortunately, the usual entrance

**0081** is still choked with logs and branches! The whole overflow sink area is cold with the draught.

Photos, 360 photos and video taken around

0713 31/7/2023

JIM LISTER

PITCH RIGGED - DIVE KIT TAKEN IN -

ALY LADDER (12 FT) SOLD, FIXED AT CLIMB IN MAIN STREAM WAY, BEFORE

SUMP 1 (FOR HIGH WATER) HAD

LINE PUT IN AT SAME LOCATION DUE

TO WATER STRUCTURE when it is AT HIGH LEVELS.

31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 4732 Decepcion - Dave O, Dave B, Ben W  
Dave O bolt-climbed up the rift just before the deep pool in Vienna Coup to reach a fairly large chamber 11m up. It's not clear if there's anything at the top, another 11m up, so a return visit with the drill would be needed.

Meanwhile, Dave B scoped out the route to Armageddon and looked at a few leads in that area, some of which need further investigation. After we'd begun to head out, Dave O shouted that he'd found something interesting and so he and Ben followed an inlet for some way which amazingly seemed to be fresh new passage! A calcite constriction required kicking through but when we were sure it was a goer we rejoined Dave on the surface.



1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 4732 Deception - James C, Helen B, Ben W  
A return to the new inlet from yesterday with survey gear ready to push the wide open passages. These of course quickly closed down but James and Helen made a good effort with a lump hammer to regain a little more crawling passage.

A branch to the left draughts but is too small, and a wriggle beyond the end of the surveyed section splits into several more passages, all of which would require enlargement. The best leads would be around the clean-washed area but there is nothing terribly obvious/exciting left.

All in all another fine trip and 142m added to the survey! The passage was tight and in places very muddy and enters Vienna Coup at survey station 41. ✓

#### DCC EXPLOITS IN BRIEF

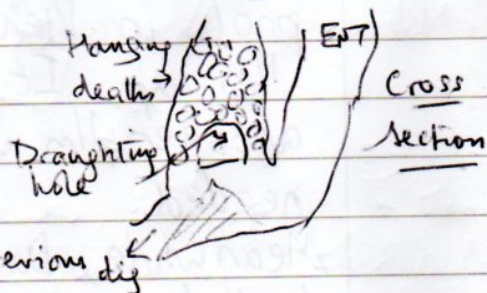
28/7 Up woods at S end of valley. Quick look at 3884 - might go back. Then jungle barked up to higher track finding nothing except a badger hole at bottom of cliff. ✓

29/7 Went digging at 2522 near Torno. Investigated

wall of mud-cemented stones with draught coming through. Dug out floor to get better view then went forward a bit. Lifting stones from floor exposed v. small water

washed saps below. Red rock on left and right. Will need some shoring to protect diggers. ✓

1/8 Quick look in Tiva (0026) at draughts in blockage on main passage. One from small muddy passage low down on left and other from boulders at top of slope. At least 10m vertical difference between them. ✓





2 Aug. Checked 2108 and 2109 above road in LaBecada.  
 New grid refs ( $\pm 3m$ ): 2108 30T 0451511 479 7712.  
 and 2109 30T 0451507 479 7718. Will return to dig 2108.  
 Checked 4393, 4532 (~~not~~ no draught) then down to 2101.  
 Good draught at 2101 - will return to dig. Went to look  
 for 707 and 1222 but neither found in thick jungle. (NJD)

2 AUGUST 2023

KIT TO SUMP 1 - LINE BROKEN - TEMP REPAIR - SEE  
 MARK SMITH DROVE KIT THROUGH - LINE BROKE  
 AGAIN - FIXED - NEW LINE WILL BE PUT IN TOMMORROW  
 MARK SMITH/JIM LISTER

2nd Aug 23

Tom Howard, James Johnson  
 Small Dig on Hill above LA CUBJA  
 house "Green Cottage House" 2m Deep rift  
 small draught with no hope of connection,  
 due to dept of fill.

453272, 4797801

Lat 43.3316 Long -3.5764. (5365)

02/08/23 - Tom Howard, ROB WHITEHEAD, SAM CARM, OLLIE BROWN  
 JAMES JOHNSON.

RENADA - TRIP TO STUFFED MAMM SERIES & PHOTOS.

3/8/23 5000 Bood Tube Phil & Hilary - completely lid  
 but no lid now fits flush. Helped Torben put-push  
 sleep in roof to ease exit.

500g Louise, Torben, Karen, Marie. Family trip  
 through connection to 3234. Torben



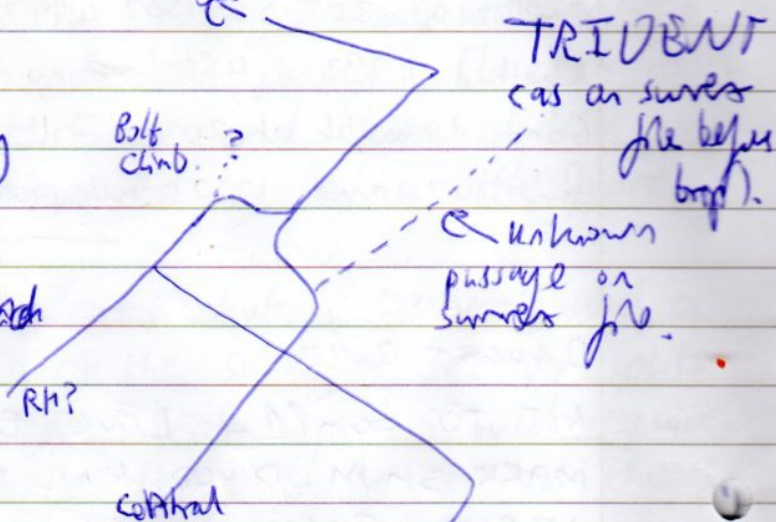
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July -

4732 Deception

Ben, Dave B, James.

Ruby Horror.

Went to climb the apparently unsurveyed bolt climb we reached the other day in Trident. This looked ~~like~~ dangerous to have been climbed before, but seemed hard to believe it hadn't been previously attempted



On the way in, it occurred to me that <sup>the</sup> 'dashed passage' I've drawn ~~above~~ on the above sketch might have actually ~~have~~ been the passage with the bolt climb anchored in the wrong place! This turned out later to be the case. <sup>(it has two climb readings throughout)</sup>

I bolted the climb safely via a long traverse from much further back in the passage. Eventually, I was in a position to look over to the other side of the ~~calcare~~ blockage and saw footprints! Out! Dave and Ben surveyed whilst I pushed ahead for a look. The whole passage had been well-squarrelled and was very well decorated. After 50m or so was a drag tube and it eventually jammed at a calcareous chamber. A tight draughtless tube went off from this area and was still going. I think this was one of the few ~~access~~ passages that hadn't been previously enjoyed. Halfway back to the bolt climb, I climbed up a hole in the ceiling up to a very large high level passage. There were bat prints everywhere! I didn't squarrel it thoroughly but there were passages (with bat prints) heading off from here. One passage had the

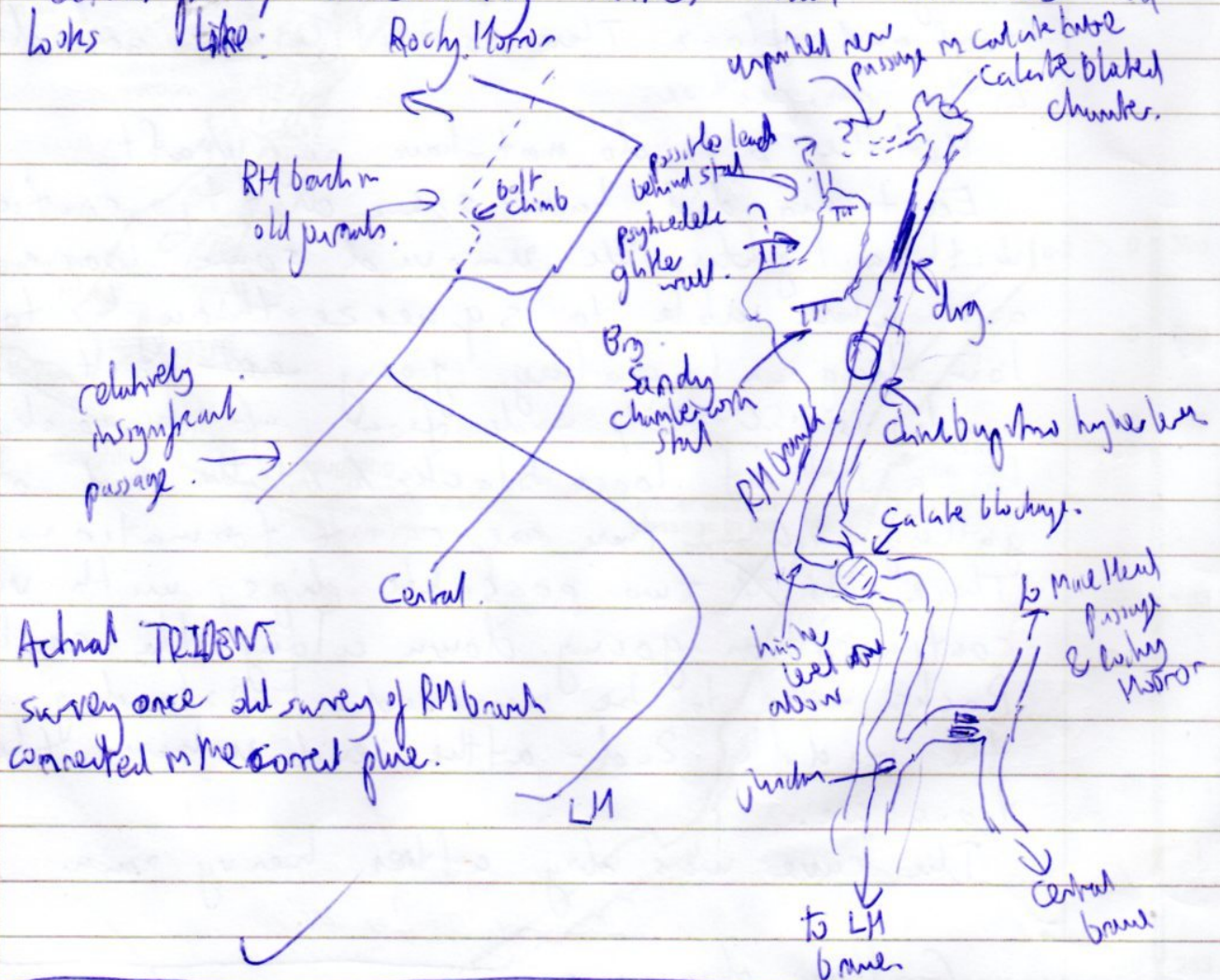


most amazing psychedelic glitter wall that was pretty trippy ~~asked if there was~~ in my peripheral vision.

There may be more to find here, so it could do with another visit. (Although I suspect it's been thoroughly scamped).

Ben and Dave surveyed up until the other side of the bolt climb (this time with chins reading), then we left it at that.

When we finally found the dashed passage to the correct place, the survey makes much more sense and looks like:



2/8/23 Jivero II, James, Juan, Eleanor, David O, Helen, Albair, Jade, Sean, Daisy, Keshin, Max, Samira.

today we went in Jivero we saw and held 15 crayfish we found a passage up a slope



4/8/2023 0242 Tablous

Jolanta, Laura and Saulius

We went down to Tablous to look for best spots to dig. The entrance was a diagonal jamming chimb down. The rocks in dig area around P2 did not look very stable but not caved in anywhere. After reaching the bottom chamber where we could stand we checked previous digs for drafts.

Dig to the west ends with a small space between roof and floor. There is little to no drafts. Little perspective.

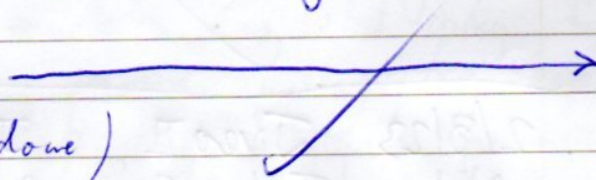
Middle pits do not have any draft.

East dig did have some draft, confirmed with a lighter. We removed some loose rock and were able to squeeze through to a low diagonal gallery going ~~west~~ east. The ceiling angle is 50-60°, made from "mother rock". Floor has a lot of loose blocks. At the end of the gallery, 10m, there are calcite formations.

There are ~~two~~ two possible digs, with visible continuation going down along the ceiling. Rocks need to be removed. First dig in the middle, 2nd - at the end where the formations are.

The cave was dry after heavy rain.

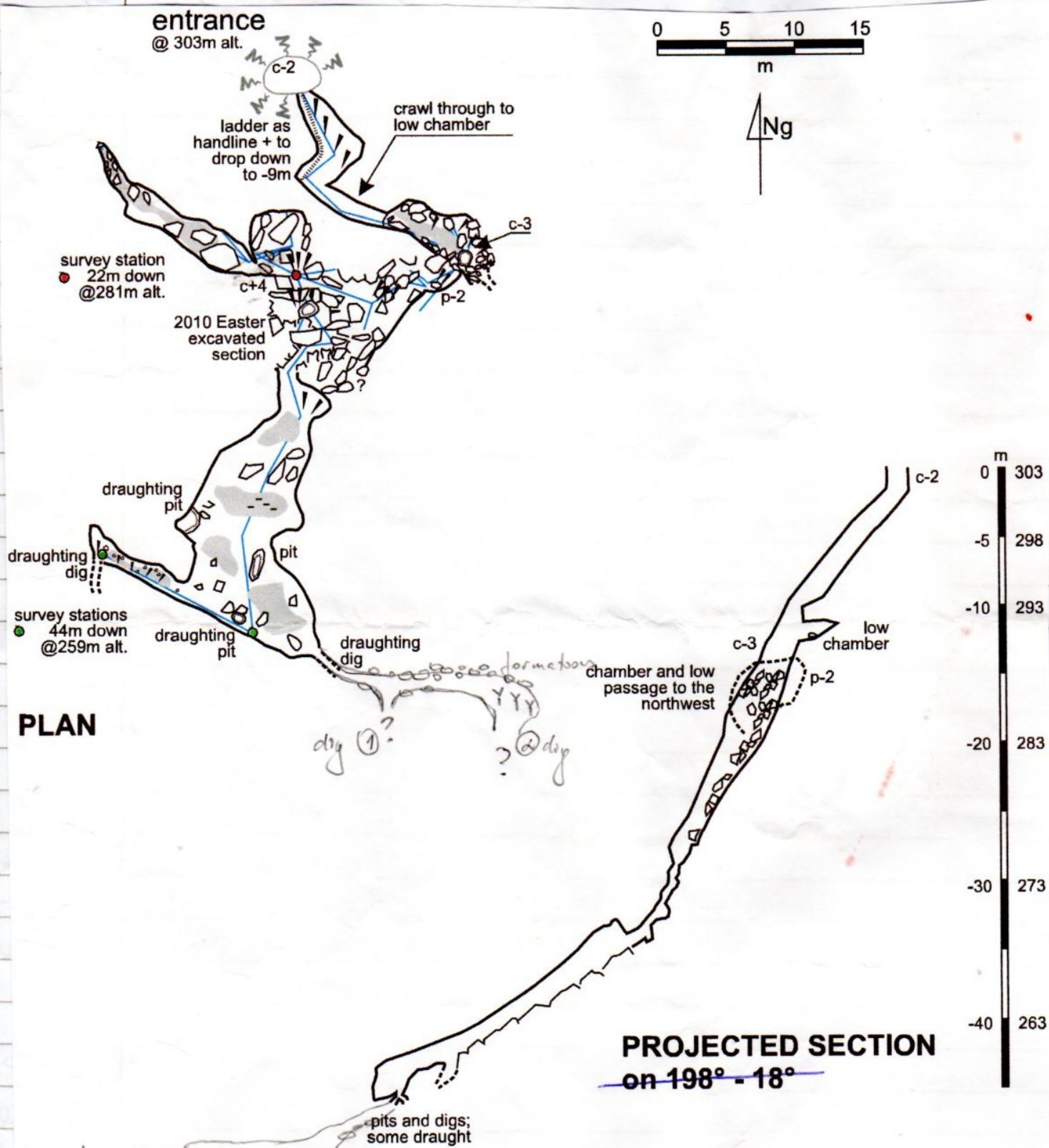
Gallery drawing  
(survey needs to be done)



4941 Cueva La Centinela 30/7/23 John S, Gordon, Phil & Juan  
Surveyed cave ~~from~~ dug by John day before, Picked by squeeze - no go.  
L = 44m

5361 Arch Cove 30/7/23 John S, Phil & Juan, pushed  
Photo & Survey L = 18m







0258: Toad

Si & Di

1/8/23

~~21/7/23~~

Trip into St Ann's. Put a hand land on the traverse over pits into St. Ann's passage.



Checked out the first 2 draughting leads which had been well squinted and more which hadn't been documented -

Draughting dig had been dug. Too tight

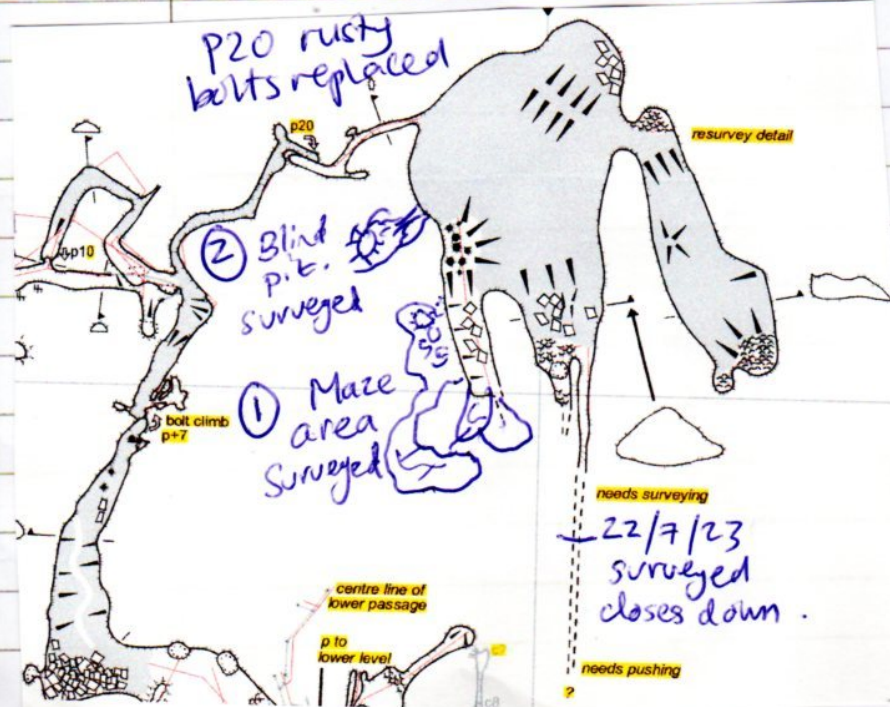
continues too tight. Surveyed.

Surveyed 35m of new but previously enjoyed passage. De-rigged.

P7 climb up - Newer rope left and new sling. Bolts ok.

0258: Toad Si & Di 31/7/23  
Ladder climb down into maze area (annotated ① on survey) whilst Si was replacing rusty bolts on P20 into large chamber I made my way down to the maze area we started surveying on 29/7/23.

P20 rusty bolts replaced



chamber I made my way down to the maze area we started surveying on 29/7/23.

Rigged ladder down calcited pit - blind 8m. Si & I continued surveying a 3m climb up - different levels of the maze - a second pit closed down after approx 10m. (2 parallel shafts)



Back at the ladder climb down into the maze area a climb up a slope <sup>(west)</sup> lead to further intersecting passages, eventually arriving at a 2m circular pit which had a small drain hole at the bottom. 2 further passages - North and N/W close down, too tight. A climb up in Stal also closes down. Maze area surveyed and photos taken.

→ Total length surveyed 339m but requires calculations as some legs in main chamber to connect to survey stations  
 Reduced to  $L = 260m$  Btth 23-01

Friday 4<sup>th</sup>. Badger / Jill: The plan was to go into Correntosa, but arriving at the parking, was unable to park. We was going to go & rig this for the following DCC. Phoned back with this today was a no go. Jill & I decided to go and do the Callejomadero via ferrata, position out the back of Ramales. After deciphering the information board, we found we were minus 2 x 40m ropes. Onto plan C Via ferrata del rio Calera - to find it closed, my translation - catastrophic damage to the zip line. Onto plan D. a trip into cueva mur. went as far as the big pitch. Badger.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>: Badger, Jill, Paul, Dylan & Sam.

~~Challen~~ Callejomadero via ferrata.

Suitably ~~equipped~~ equipped with 2 x 40m rope set of for the 1km walk to the start.

Initially the route take you down into a shale hole until you get to a hanging rebly to the 40m



abseil. To land on a muddy floor, to then start the upward journey. Approx 20m above the floor you come to a slippery traverse, across to a wire bridge. Once across the bridge, the route then continues upwards, with much of the route slightly overhanging.

The information board gives the route as a grade 4.

Very Difficult

Vertical, often overhanging, mostly very exposed. Wire rope, iron clamps & stepping pins are often far apart, on exposed & steep places, often just a wire rope.

Include very slippy in places & the description of the grade is very accurate.

Include the physiological factor, this via ferrata should not be underestimated. Badger. ✓

38m butch 0713-23-01 Jim Mark. 3/8/23  
Logbook entry to come. ✓

Deception pit to Astrodam

✓ Got Aug?

Jolanta, Laura and Saulius

We entered Deception to look for passage to Astrodam. On our previous trip we didn't find a way through Anaggedar. We followed Si Di's route this time, until we ~~at~~ found a pool where they crossed the water thigh-high. We turned left, crawled between the rocks where we could stand and up the ramp and to the right



found a by pass. Marked by a cairn.

Bypass gets back to the river on the right shortly and route is via the river until Sandy Junction. After that there are some met low crawls and a pool where you have to get met up to your hammocks. Chamber 44 is fairly straight - forward, but don't go too far on the left side - ~~bottom~~ get back to the river in case there is no obvious way. Astrodome is beautiful. ~ 4h to reach Astrodome and similar to get back.

We marked way back with green arrows and a few cairns.

4867 - Resurgence Di & Si 2/8/23 lunch ✓  
After a three course slap-up ~~dinner~~ in Bar El Rincon with Steve & Susie we were led to 4867 in the pouring rain. We were asked to survey the estimated 20m cave and have a look at the final squeeze. Expecting it to be a short trip we weren't concerned about the large lunch we had just eaten.

Reaching the limit of previous exploration the passage did indeed continue but requiring an Epley manoeuvre to pass the squeeze.

After passing a pool of water and a trench in the floor another steep ramp up on the left can be climbed for 10m where it



closes down in a calcified area - stal,  
helictites and flow stone.

Returning to the bottom of the ramp,  
to the right is an aven soaring up which  
could be climbed (Rope, Slings, maybe  
bolts advisable for the return)

A 3m climb here, following an inlet  
with a trickle of water coming out of  
it, quickly deepened to two ducks  
which had udder shaped stalactites  
adding to the constrictions - pushing you  
deeper into the water. The second duck  
needed a stride over a flooded pot (sump??)  
Climbing out of the water and around  
the corner a small and deep-looking  
sump was met. <sup>and very clear!</sup>

Next to the sump, a climb up to the left  
and a dig gained a parallel passage.  
Down the slope ended at a climb up to  
a calcite barrier which is high above the  
two ducks.

Up the slope in a well decorated area  
looks down to a big, deep clear sump pool.  
No draught felt in this area.

Si partially climbed down the stal to  
confirm there were no other passages going  
off.

Getting a diver in their wetsuit with gear  
to the Sump would be very challenging!

Length surveyed 155m.

Awesome trip, thanks ☺



1st of August

Site: 0713 Aquanaz

Objective: to install a fixed aluminium ladder to the Climb at the rapids, just before sump 1, and to transport diving Equipment to the Cave entrance, making sure that the route through the heavy undergrowth in the woods was clear? And then to rig the entrance pitch with a wire ladder and rope.

Jim collected a machete and other equipment which was kindly lent from Phil Pappard, Big Steve Provided a Wire ladder and some ropes, from the Matienzo tackle store, petrol was purchased on route and the six diving Cylinders were filled at the empty Car Park at the Resurgence.

Several trips were made to the cave entrance with loads and the route was found to be clear of excessive vegetation.

The pitch was rigged and Jim Swam both 2 meter ladder sections and drill/ bolt kit, to the gorge section where it was required.

Note: in low water it is very easy to free climb Further up stream, but this is not the case in high water, Jim had a fall of two meters at the location a few years before hand, resulting in a deep wound to left buttock! ( photos of 4 inch scar available on request?)

The ladder was installed successfully and used over the following days to good effect and improved efficiency, a 7 meter knotted rope was also attached to a new hanger placed above the chest deep water at the base of the ladder to enable people to pull themselves upstream to it. (Swimming here, against the flow with heavy kit is not very easy and some times not possible, the rope/ haul line should help)

A Quick exit was made from the cave to pick people up from the air port.

3/8/23 Volcano 1391 James, Dylan, Si & Di.

Visited to volcano although it looks unsightly it seemed stable. Got down to the final ladder chamber and spent some time digging & stabilising the way on to a lower chamber. Finally got into this space: 2 leads which will be long term digging prospects with shoring. A ~~st~~ draught out from the right hand dig. We started to pull a few rocks out which was easy going, - but not long before shoring will be required.



2<sup>nd</sup> August 2032

Site: 0713 Aquanaz

Present: Mark Smith, Jim Lister

The team collected the Dive kit at the entrance and We made our way to sump 1, progress was slow, but steady as we were heavily loaded, on reaching Sump 1, Jim saw that the guide line in the sump was broken, this was a surprise but should not have been as it had been a number of years since the sump had been dived, due to Covid and other factors and although the line had been carefully and well laid, the sump does take considerable flow,

Jim Slackened the line at the tie off point at surface to provide the extra line needed to the new knot to make a repair and then submerged to find the break, this was found 20 meters in and a repair was made, Jim continued through the sump to check the rest of the line which appeared to be ok, He turned around just below the surface at the far end and made his way back, to the down stream dive base.

Mark then dived through with several tackle bags and 3 cylinders, it had been planned for both divers to leave/ stage a full cylinder and valve at the Far side of sump 1, for the dive out, this would give the opportunity to leave/ stage a cylinder at the far end of the cave if the exploration was going well? And provide a greater safety margin.

After a agreed set time Jim kitted up and also taking some tackle bags and Cylinder followed Mark into the now murky sump.

Three quarters of the way through were the line follows the silt floor and is tied off to rocky out crops the visibility dropped considerably and Jim found it Necessary to use both hands on the line, not easy when your lugging kit, it was just after this point when Jims leading hand slide of the end of the line! Yes, it was broken again! Dam! Jim tied a stopper knot in the end of the broken line, an over hand knot to create a loop to tie the search reel to, He then with no visibility turned off his light and listened to try and hear Marks exhaled air if He was near? Jim dived out to take his load to a safe place and then returned to search for the other end of the broken guide line with his search reel with out success, He decided to return to dive base, conserve his air and search again when the strong flow had cleared some of the silted water, Mean while Mark has safely surfaced upstream and had put his load safe and was patiently waiting getting colder, by the minute, Mark was now getting concerned and headed back into the sump to look for Jim, but instead found the guide line lose and floating up to the roof! He sensibly turned around and waited again at the upstream dive base.

He sat on a rock his feet in the brown water covered in a light dirty froth, a few bubbles brock surface fifty foot away across the sump pool, there was some more rumbling and a dim orange light areared slowly from below the water, eventually Jim surfaced and following a brief conversation on what had happened it was decided to dive out and call it a day. The line in the sump had broken twice, it needed new line and Jims Cylinders were very low on Air, time to was getting on, the decision was made and we would try again tomorrow.

4/8/23 3762 Near Miffetoe S: 9 D:  
Found the open hole, 3 rounds of caps to  
open up the shaft - unfortunately choked  
at the bottom.

Photos + survey. 11.3m total

(Phil please see log added on previous page - Volano :))



6-8-23 2108

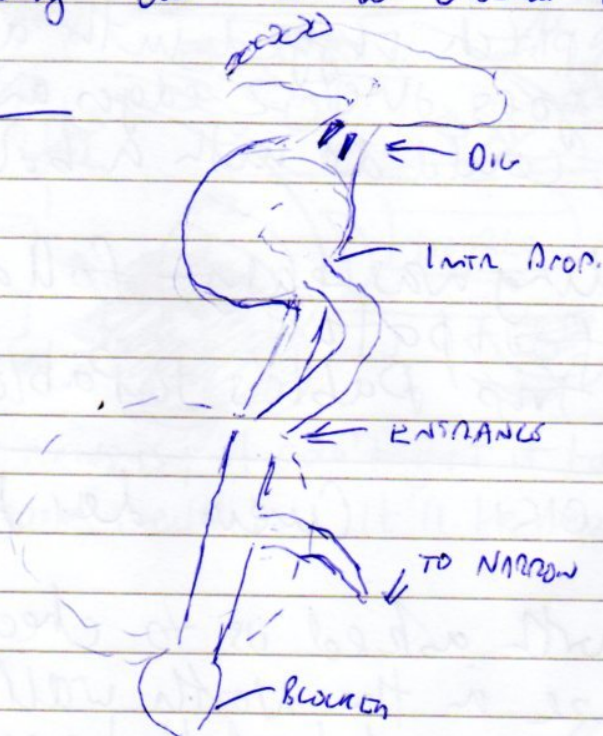
~~2808~~ apparent cave

Bill Booth Nigel DIBDEN PETE O'NEIL

Re-dug out entrance slope &amp; rigged entrance pitch.

Pushed uphill in small main chamber to upper stal chamber all ways on blocked with no draught.

Downhill from main chamber we pushed through 2 constrictions, to a rift passage with boulders too right and short dig to left, accessed small uphill rift which closed down after 23mins, at the end of the rift we dug out to a choked descending passage.



Probably 12mins of new passage with NO further prospects

Pete O'Neil



0107

5/8/23 Deception. Armageddon → Rocky Horror  
Si + Di

Re-Survey from Judgement Pitch to Durham Sump  
Incredible trip. Enormous passages  
culminating in a muddy, stinky  
duck for approx 2m before it widens  
up and you pop out into the inlet.  
A slippery climb up when coated in  
mud and dripping wet.  
630m surveyed = connecting re-survey Sta 21

Judgement pitch rigged with a rope for  
SRT but it goes over 2 edges and a scruffy  
descent. It could do with a bolt re-belay.

Route finding was easy - follow the polished  
rocks and footpath!  
Approx 8hr trip Pablo's to Pablo's. ✓

X \_\_\_\_\_ X  
6/8/23 0151 Cuervo del Año Si & Di

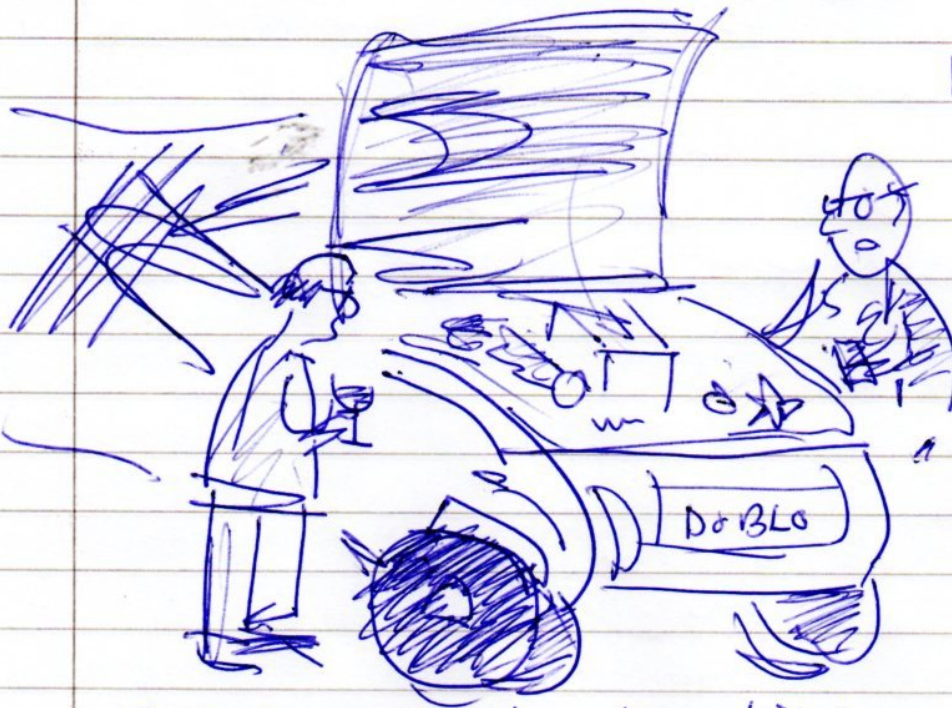
John Southworth asked us to check out a  
tight squeeze in the North wall.  
Surveyed 47m as it hadn't been done and  
pushed all possible routes.  
Di pushed the NE tight squeeze which  
turns-heading N and dropping down - a hand  
sized hole can be seen which goes for  
4m. Unclear if it opens up. Capping  
would be required to gain access.  
Si capped the ~~NE~~ NW passage.  
A low-to-tight ~~over~~ rift continues  
for 6m. further capping required.



7/8/23 Regolfo<sup>2414</sup> Di & S.

(31)

En route to the ferry home we had <sup>(should have)</sup> a capping trip to Regolfo to continue digging - c'



Matienzo 2023  
Auto repairs

Gear box  
Clutch X2  
tyres X2

AND PETE CLEWES  
+ WINDSCREEN

The bad news is; I can't get it to go ~  
The good news is; it'll be really low on fuel consumption.



3 August 2023

Site: 0713

Present: Mark Smith, Jim Lister

Jim and Mark undertook an overnight trip to push the extensions at the far end of Sarah Jean inlet, past sump 5b. The engineering work at the top of the choke past sump 2b made the transition much easier. A metal ladder and some scaffolding would make passing the choke easier still.

A large frog was seen in sump 4b.

Emergency survival poncho and fins left at downstream sump 5b

Full dive reel and snoopy loops at upstream sump 5b

Emergency, "Blizzard" Bag, (4 season tin foil sleeping bag) left at bottom of "GH" Aven

Video film taken of tangier alcohol Burner and pot stand, used with titanium mugs for tea, coffee and porridge, location downstream sump 5b

Sump5b the line was buried under silt and had to be pulled to enable safe passage. The objectives for this trip:

- 1) An open walking sized passage in the roof left of junction 75 in the roof.
- 2) Two smaller stream ways at the top of Hippodrome extensions

Full of anticipation, we quickly reached the 75 junction roof passageway and followed it in nice passageway with nice formations, before reaching a drop down into a stream way. All was going well, until a tipex mark was seen on a climb down after approx 40m. Very annoying, but at least gives a bypass to the ducks, if water levels are high.

We then got lost on the way to the Hippodrome and pretty much explored all the extensions again, including a muddy sewer and Jim went all the way to Sump 6b which was horrible with the mud giving off poor air in the crawl leading to it.

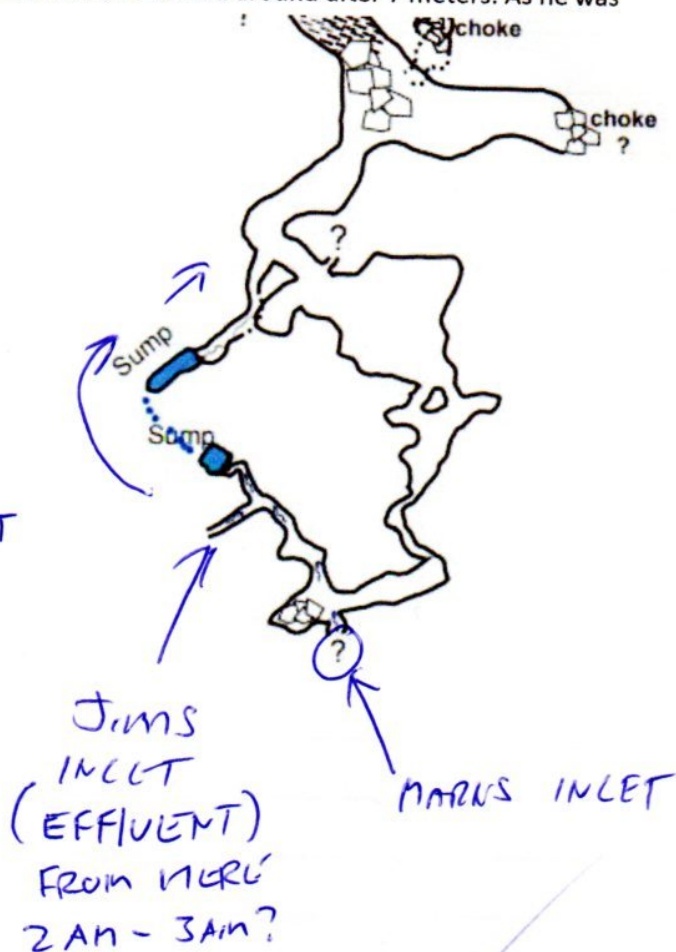
Still full of enthusiasm, we located the hippodrome, thanks to tipex marks describing the direction. It was hard work but brought back happy memories with the passage bigger and better than remembered. The passage narrowed just before the cascade and mark climbed up to the phreatic passage for another look it looks a lot older and may be worth a dig one day? The narrow rift was traversed and the point we got through the last times was found and it was with relief that we were able to then climb down before climbing the cascade and entering the Hippodrome. The back of the Hippodrome should link with the passage Mark was in with only a little digging (a useful by pass)? At the end of the Hippodrome, Mark reached the choke which Jim capped through a few years ago, We both found it challenging to squeezes through the space created into the large



passage above which runs at right angles to the Hippodrome, it seems likely that the choke here was formed by the passage above, floor collapsing into the smaller inlet passage below.

We carried on straight ahead and climbed back down into the inlet passage and made our way to the inlets of interest at the furthest point? The first on the left was dug open (Gnarly flakes) and mark entered He found a chamber where he could stand up which then lead on to a crawling passage which degenerated to a flat out crawl with flakes in the roof, Mark could see another 5 meters but his wetsuit was getting shredded and the passage looked unviable and not work pursuing further. The second inlet was not much better and Jim turned around after 7 meters. As he was turning around, he noticed the water was turning green and smelly as a small flow of green effluent passed him, on down the passage into the sump (sump on left as your coming out heading north) It was now the early hours of the morning so we started heading out objectives meet although disappointing, the downstream end of the sump was now emitting green effluent which confirms they are joined.

Conclusion: Area still has potential by ~~OUT~~  
Mark and Jim are going to concentrate on "GH Aven" Jim to fit ladder in choke and add more scaffolding to make it safer.



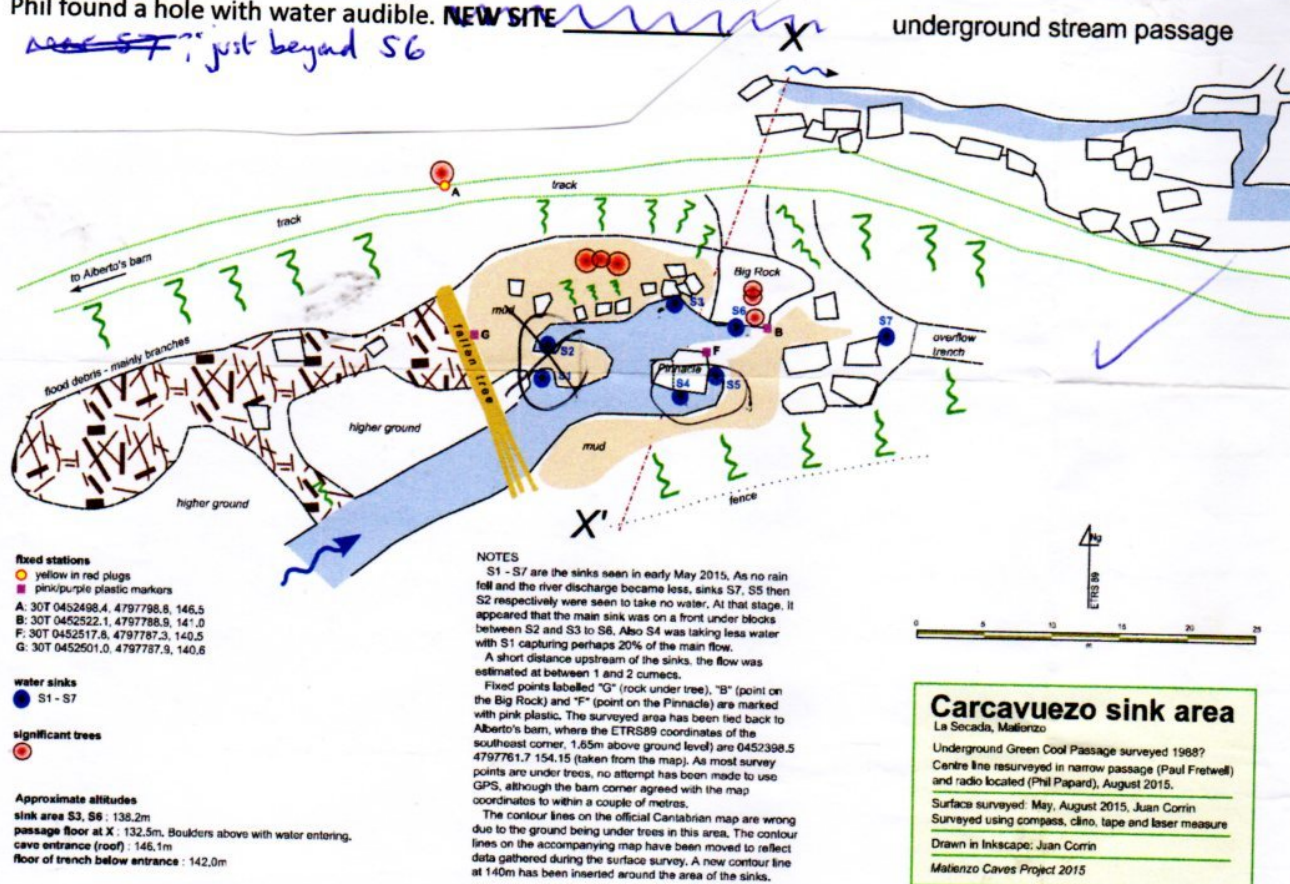


7<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Phil, Hilary, Juan and Penny investigating Carcavuezo 0081. Diagram below shows sink area in 2015. With the river "improvements" it looks as if there are fewer sinks – S1 and S2 are buried and only S3 and S6 appeared to be taking water. The water level was not high enough to reach possible sinks S4, S5 or S7. It's likely that S7 has also been buried. Some investigation of the draughting holes now exposed at the end of the overflow channel was also carried out.

Phil found a hole with water audible. **NEW SITE**

~~near S7~~ just beyond S6



A search of the wood at the side and N end of the Mushroom field (both going out and on the return) failed to find 2 reported draughting holes under a hazel tree although one new slightly draughting, small descending hole was found. L=3m d=2m. **NEW SITE** 5366  
 @ 30T 452904 4798130

Then onwards and upwards to the three sites 5362, 5363, 5364

Juan investigated the three, the first being 3m down to a three-pronged trunk which will require a saw to remove from the hole. Two rifts go down further, one 3.5m the other 4.5m but clearance and possible enlargement is required before these can be properly explored.

The second was 3m deep with a choked alcove. The third 1m deep down through vegetation.

Asc

✓



8/8/23. 3685 Peter C, Peter O, Billy B.

AFTER LOCATION OF DIG. STILL DRAUGHTING WELL. WE OPENED UP TO SLIDE IN ON OUR SIDE, WE REMOVED ROCKS ETC TO GET TWO BODY LENGTHS IN. WE WENT TO TAKE TOOLS TO REMOVE ROCKS TO GET FURTHER ON. SEE VIDEO FROM PETER O OF LOWER PASSAGE NEARS OPENING UP TO GET INTO CHAMBER THAT CAN BE SEEN.

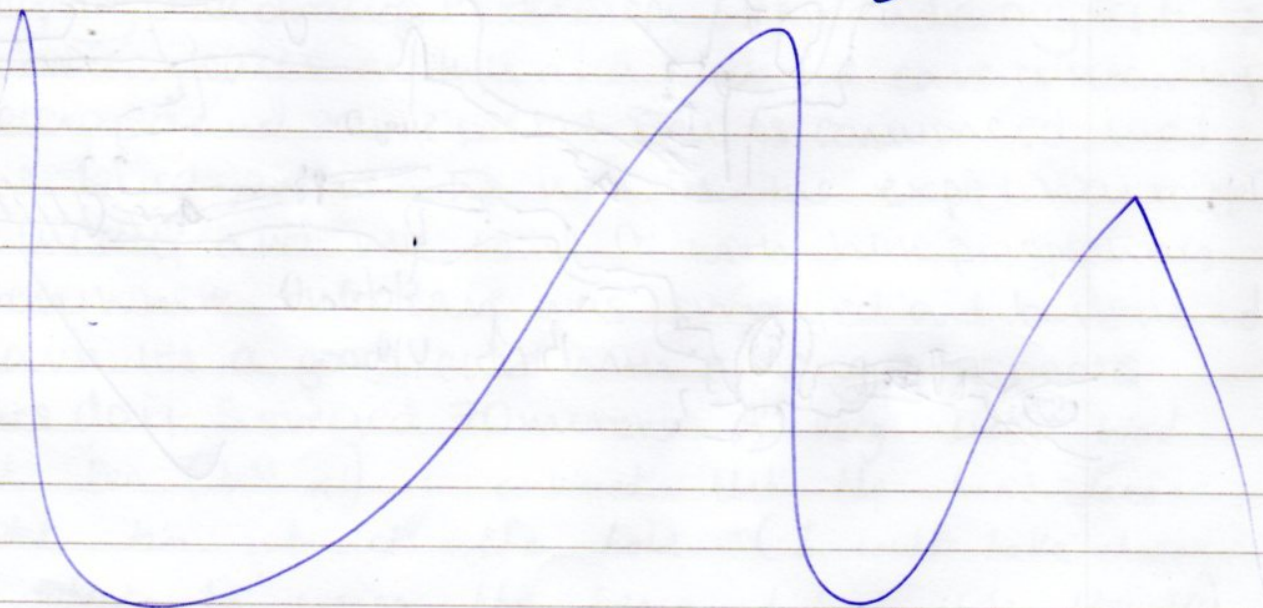
8-8-23 3684 Pete O Pete C Billy Borth.

Short climb down shaft 2m, drop into sloping chamber, chamber is approx 3m across and at base is head of pit, presently blocked by 3 small boulders which just need ~~careful~~ crow bar to dispatch down pit, drop is approx 6m. probably best to rig with ladder, passage can be seen at bottom. looks good.

POC ✓

8/8/23

5367 dig - Phil P just out side multi-entrance cave at Hajas de Cesto - crawl 2.5m to choke.





2538 8/8/23

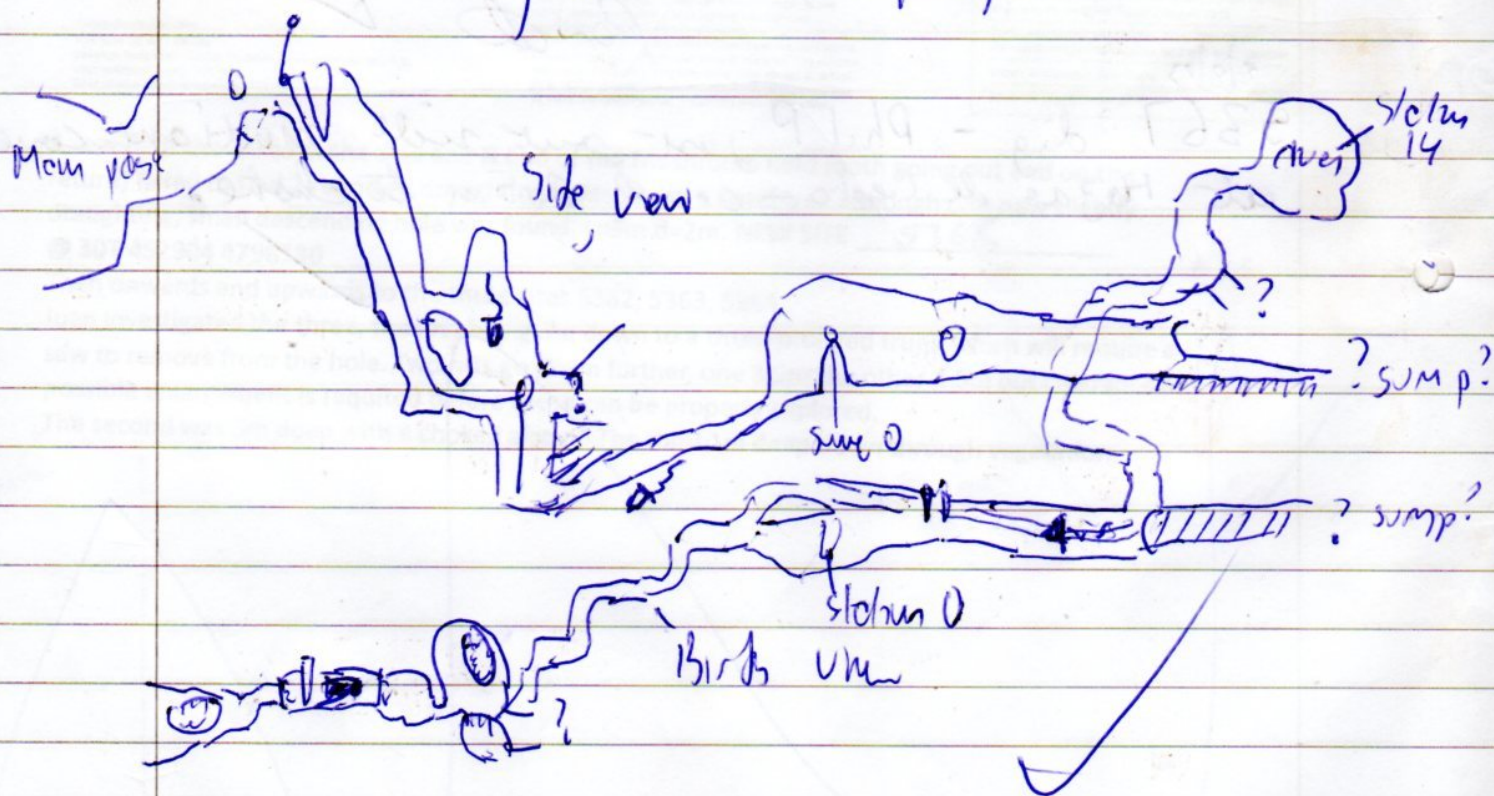
2585 - El Cubun - Alex Amondo, Dove, Sam

- Took two Molienzo Freshes down this core, we  
threw it to the pitch I spotted in east.

Me and Dove dropped the pitch off at natural, then  
dropped down around 2m. This led into an area with lots  
of small streams entering. A further muddy drop at 6m  
dropped into a strongly flowing stream.

Stream was immediately too high but there is a way  
to bypass it possibly by a chamber up.

Upstream started small but went into large passage  
where we started surveying. This went to a rock/sump  
and an inlet passage about 4m long, ending at a  
low high over. Sam and Amondo were phoning in  
the main passage so we did not see down. As we  
did not work there to get rid we have yet to  
be in the survey into the main passage.





Vaco Bypass 5368.

Bath 23-01

08/08/23

- Ben, Markus, Olivia, Hockings, Mark Smith, Jim Lister, Dave Foxton

On looking for entrance #5000 to ridge door cave (Rooftube).

we ended up going to the field across the field to avoid the cows! (they were scary). When returning back to the lower fields Ben Marks Climbed over the barbed wire fence separating the fields primarily and saw some ferns twitching in the undergrowth. Boulders were removed by the team and the entrance was enlarged enough for people to enter and a very good large draught was present - blowing sand into the eyes of the diggers. Olivia was first to enter, followed by Ben then followed eager Dave who was keen to descend the first pitch as a ladder with no lifeline but Ben and Jim convinced him to wait until we got drill, bolts, and rope to properly descend the cave.

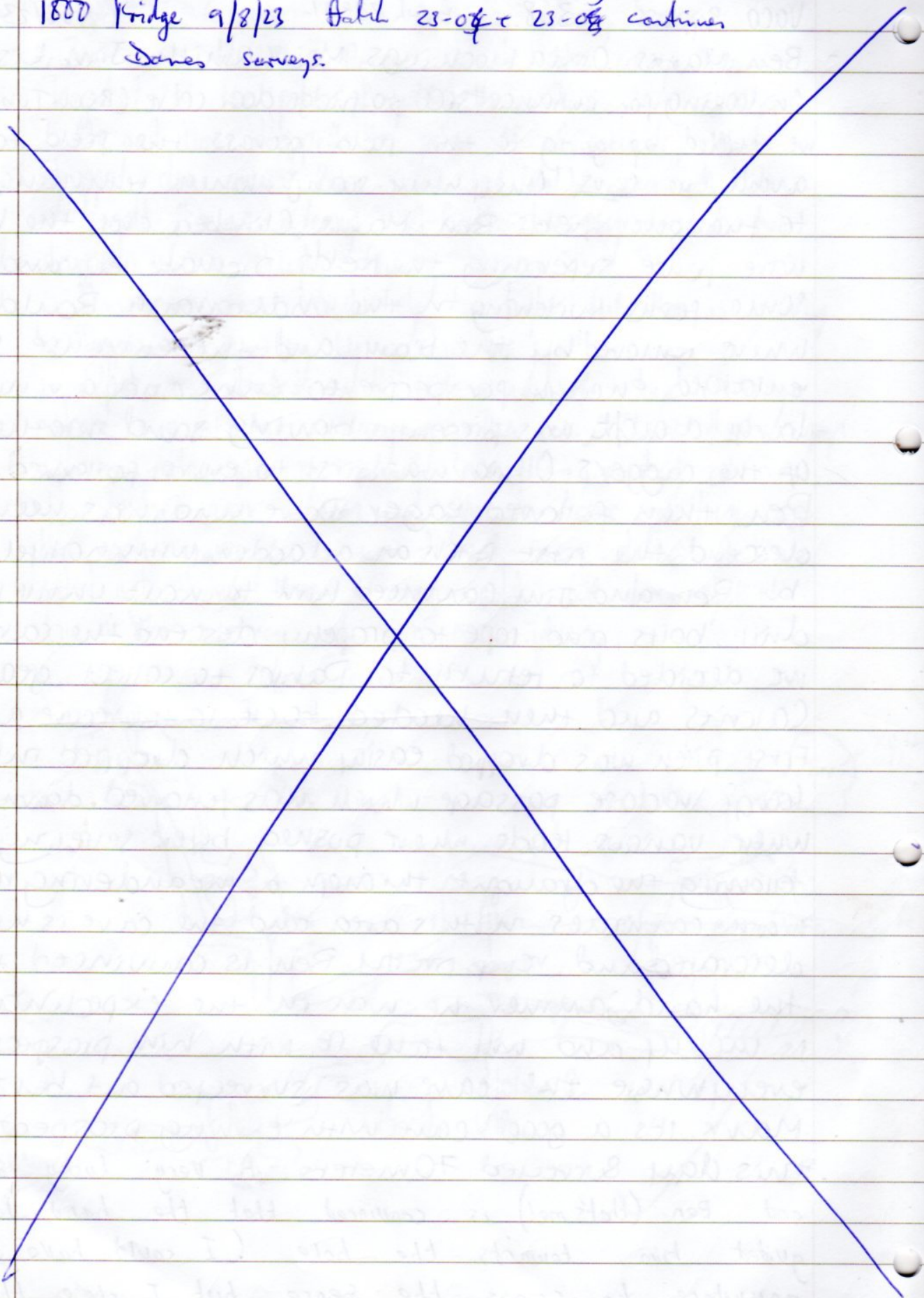
we decided to return to Pablos to collect gear and Calories and then headed back to the cave at 6pm (ish). First pitch was dropped easily which dropped into a large vadose passage which was followed downstream where various leads were pushed before settling on following the draught through a meandering rift. Work continues in this area and the cave is hearing decorated and very pretty. Ben is convinced that the hand jammer he won in the expedition raffle is lucky and will take it with him prospecting everywhere. The cave was surveyed and by Jim and Mark. It's a good cave with exciting prospects.

This day surveyed 70 meters. A very lucky find and Ben (that's me!) is convinced that the hand jammer guided him towards the hole (I could have chosen anywhere to cross the fence but I chose there!!)

WRITTEN BY OLIVIA (MOSTLY)



1800 Fridge 9/8/23 Attil 23-08<sup>5</sup> & 23-08 continues  
Danes surveys.





Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 2023 - Vaca bypass (5368)  
 Isaac Neak, Elin West, Ben Marks, Olivia Hookings,  
 Dylan Longdon, Dave Forton

Hello everyone! (had to switch pens - will the jiff ever stop?) This is my first time writing in the logbook, so if you have any grievances with my handwriting I do apologise, I hope it doesn't deter you from reading the rest of the entry:

I was not originally going to be a part of this trip. On the morning of Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> I had an image in my head of going to help out Joan with "The Tomb of the oil king". On arrival of Martin (Martyn?) Greyson however it was made clear to us that the presence of only three seats in his van would put an end to this plan of action. ~~I had been rendered~~ ~~a vagabond~~ I had been rendered a vagabond. In my new state, all my energy was immediately re-focused on a new task of the highest urgency - get on a caving trip, don't waste a day. Out of fear of being accused of 'dragging on', I'll summarise the next bit. Both trips left for me to join were ~~not~~ already quite large. I decided that if I were to be a burden I'd better be one to my friends - so we set off to Vaca bypass.

Dave, Dylan and I went in before the others. The rest of them caught up whilst Dylan bolted the climb up & out of Plaque Pot.



From PP we were faced with a chamber of moderate size and a tunnel round to the left, reached by a traverse, bolted by David.

From the end of said tunnel a pit was reached with a ~~said~~ sandy slot to the left, and  
a // PLEASE Leave The Next Page blank For ME!

sort of small ish hole thing to the right. Oh!

↳ Just remembered why I put in the lengthy pre-amble, it's so that you future lot reading this know why a cave standing at only 70m long had a trip manned by 6 people!

Anyway the junction bit! At this point, David was ~~regularly complaining about~~ voicing regular complaints about his need to urinate.

At this critical point in the trip, he took upon himself the executive decision to embark on a daring solo mission - swiftly rigging to the bottom of the pit ~~and~~ and retiring himself whilst continuing exploration of Vaca Bypass. This is made an even more commendable effort, readers, when you understand David was also suffering from a tummy ache.

Ben then bolted across to the sandy slot on the left where a descending sandy crawl was found. ~~This~~ From this crawl a heavy draft was blowing. We decided to return the next day with a spade.





Kinda a p.s - As I'm writing I'm reminded that Dylan had the drill in reverse for the majority of his bolt climb.

Blunted the drill bit to fuck... oops. ✓

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> - Vaca Bypass - Morning 5368

~~Dean Roberts~~, Isaac Neale, Olivia Hookings, Elin West, Ben Marks, Dylan Longdon

~~Between~~ Between 10 and 15 thousand years ago, the human race was nomadic. What finally allowed humanity to settle down was the development of the ability to ~~create~~<sup>grow</sup> their own food - no more would ~~we need to~~ they need to chase the natural crop cycles across the plains & like animals. To ~~by~~ cultivate the earth, the humans needed a tool.

The hoe actually pre dates the spade by quite awhile. Triangular stones and shells attached to handles via bitumen have been found in formerly mesopotamia, dating from the fifth millenium BC. Over time these elementary tools evolved to what we know as spades today.

The thing closest to what we know as a spade today arrived in Britain with the Romans

around 50AD. In Latin, the English "spade" finds its roots in the word "Spatha" - a word of course familiar to us all as the name of B Petzl's rope knife offering. ✓



10/26 VALLINA .

DAN HIBBERTS , JOHN TAYLOR .

Trip to check lead @ head of climb up which we completed an easier trip.

The fixed rope placed on easier trip was climbed and the bolts placed on the previous climb were used to traverse the wall. Dan then climbed up to the lead.

At the head of the climb the passage lead for around 80m to a pitch.

We dropped a large rock to the passage below and returned to the pitch.

We found the rock in the main passage about half way to exit.

The passage found appears to be a high level passage on same strike and above the entrance passage.



10/8/23 SHIAFT 1451

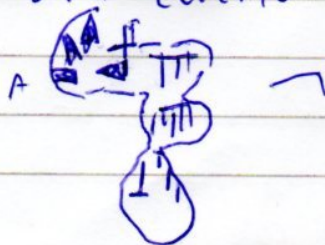
Chris Hunter, Miranda Forder, John Forder, Sam Davis

1451 was located above a small sink hole about 80m from the track. A short climb down of about 3m lead to a ledge where a ladder was rigged from a block. A body sized shaft lead to another ledge where a slot to the side could be seen. Chris, John & Sam all tried to enter the slot but there was insufficient room to bend legs so that the slot could be entered. It looked like there was a chamber below the slot but no draft was felt. Needs cupping or hammering to make progress.

<sup>2538</sup>  
~~10/08/23~~ - ~~2853~~ - Alex Milkie, Tim Lister, Mark-  
El Lubian

The trip had 3 objectives:

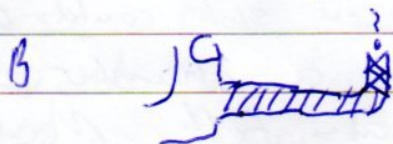
- A • Check out Hilory steps - a request by John
- B • Dive the duck/sump in the upstream extension found earlier this week.
- C • Explore the hole seen at the bottom of the extension pit.
- 1) • Survey and link up to the earlier survey
- A - We had two cylinders and diving gear and rope so it was slow going down the cave, before we stopped at the Hilory step. Although slippery we found access to this to not be too difficult. Unfortunately after a couple of well decorated chambers and a squeeze we found this to be completely choked with calcite.





B) Going down the exterior pitch was difficult to say the least with diving gear, being pretty high and snaggy all the way down, followed by a 5m further pitch very muddy pitch.

We made our way to the dive base and Mark entered the "Sump". I could see Mark go through the duck for 15m where he reached a corner where it sumped proper. Unfortunately there was no line below points or it undercut, so Mark abandoned the dive here.



C) At the <sup>bottom of</sup> pitch, a combined tortoise climb saw me up into a muddy chamber, a further muddy slope entered a series of muddy chambers before breaking up into large passages. No footprints on the muddy floor but there was some red and white tape on the floor. My only thought was it must have fallen from the above, perhaps there is an easier way down to here from above. At the end of the large passage which is about 20m<sup>30</sup> long was a steep slope. We used my 10m rope for this that went to a hole with a distinct sound of roiling water, well out of sight probably 10m below, then a bright looking rift.

D) The disto did not work as there was water in it, so see the sketch survey at the exterior.

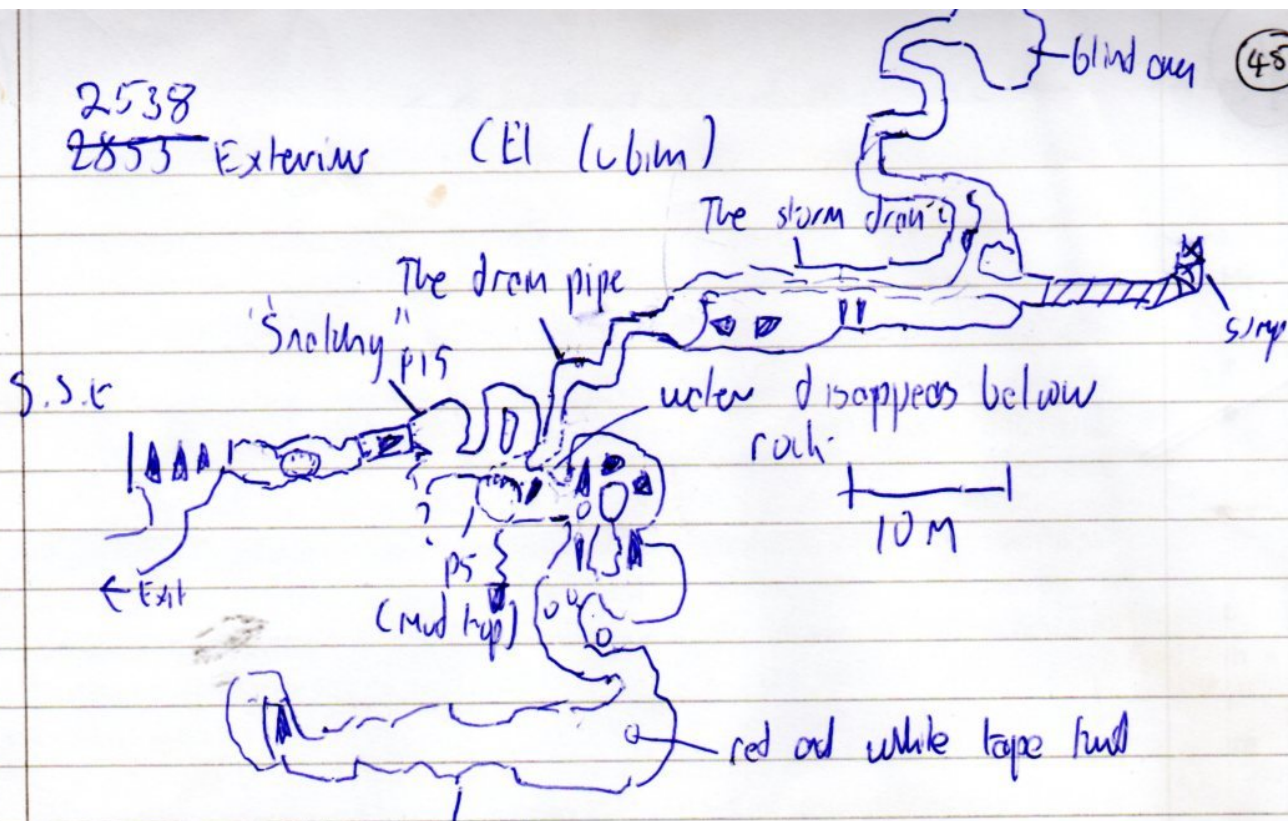


~~2855~~ Exterior

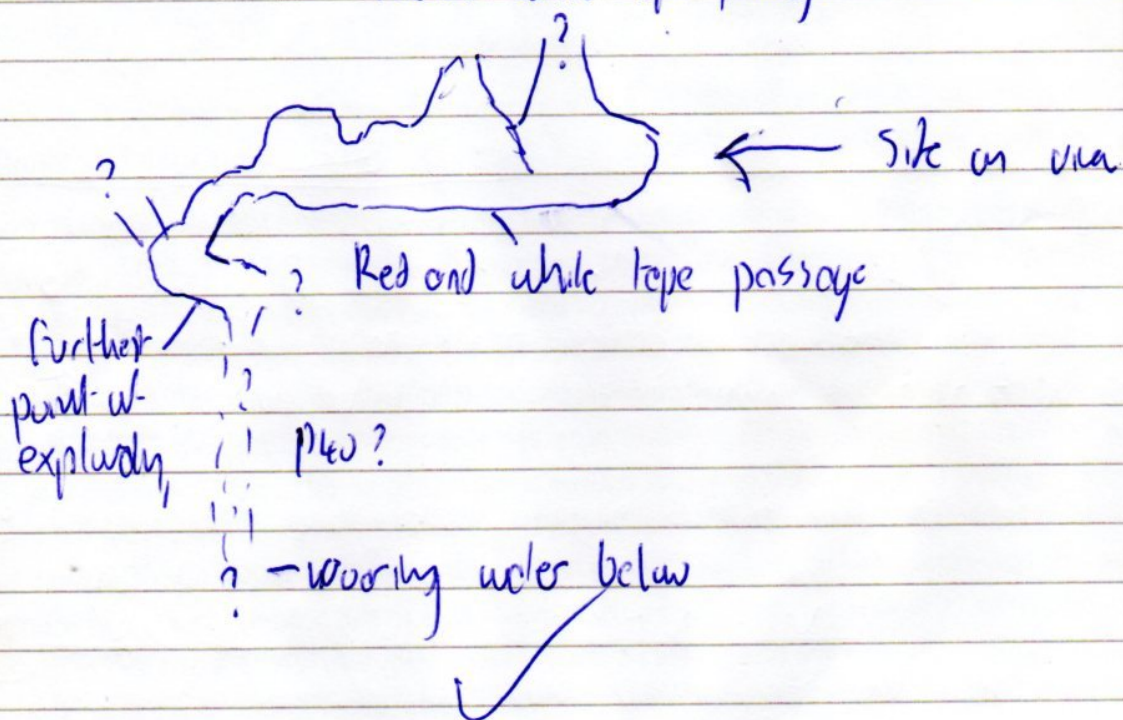
(El Lubin)

-blind only

(48)



Red and White type passage





2  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – Vaca Bypass – Evening Trip 54368

In Attendance: Elin West, Isaac Neale, Olivia Hookings, Ben Marks, Dylan Longdon, Ioan Roberts

Okay guys here's the 'sitch, I've now realised just how much I would physically need to write to continue the narrative style from my previous log book page, and in my slightly hungover state I don't know if I can be bothered to continue it. If the flow / structure starts to deteriorate that's why!

We arrived back to the campsite at a time I don't remember to find Ioan continuing his chilled rest day. The day before he'd seemingly been rather shaken by the Tomb of the Oil King and decided to take the 10<sup>th</sup> off to recuperate after a very active few days. In our minds our plan of action was to get back to Pablo's, have an egg sandwich and some pottatas-bravas, and commandeer some people to help surveying our new passage. These plans were derailed almost immediately when we learnt that hot food was not being served. We had Chorizo sandwiches. The hopes of getting Jess and Martyn down so we could prove to them Vaca Bypass was a worthwhile cave were also dashed when we noticed their 11am callout. With bolting kit acquired we headed back to the cave. Ioan got a lift with David as there wasn't enough room in the car – Thanks David ☺. Oh also important to note, that dig was enlarged from a body sized tube to a hands and knees tunnel in the hopes of one day getting David down there. He needs to be shown that digs are in fact useful sometimes!

Once at the pitch, Ben bolted and dropped it into what I think is a small chamber? I've not been down there myself so I'm afraid I can't really comment. Liv followed him down and their assessment of the drafting ways on was that they would not fit human bodies. With a slight disheartening we returned to the passage just after the dig to take a look at the continuing way on through that passage. A small pitch was dropped and a free climb back up to get through a little rift however progress was then halted due to a false floor over a 20m drop. It was decided an easier course of action would be to bolt the whole way as a traverse and Ben got started on that whilst Elin, Liv and Dylan began surveying the lower passage. Here's the interesting bit – whilst Dylan was in the chamber after the pitch he discovered the way on was indeed person sized. Due to the bolting already commencing further back in the cave though we now were faced with two leads! Since this reads a little short I'll chuck in some other cave events. We sang the digging song as we dug. The chorus is the amazing lyrical work 'digging away, digging all day, dig dig dig dig dig dig'. I was also blown away by the modern surveying app. The fact that it simply appears on the phone allowing you to put in the passage shape right then and there is absolutely awesome. Forget Compass and Clino, doing the survey on a disto X with a paper pad would have still taken bloody ages. I'm a big fan. Honestly I'm rather jealous I haven't managed to survey anything yet. I'll go grab the others to see if they want to put anything in. They don't! - just got shut out of the room so they could mop the floor

Note for the survey team (Dylan, Elin, Olivia) ↓

Don't use nail polish for survey markers, the fumes will do silly things to your head.

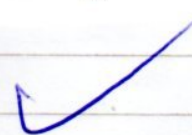


①

54368 rest of morning trip 10/8/23 (47)

A traditional spatha is actually a sword – it replaced the iconic silhouette of the Gladius amongst Roman legionaries around the 6<sup>th</sup> Century AD. In spades as we have them today though there are definitely still hints to its past as a tool to take life rather than build it (as what is the point in farming if not to promote life). What is it but a shovel which Cain wields as he kills Abel? And in digging are we not physically manifesting our discontent with nature's path? The lalochesia deployed at many a dig face would certainly seem to suggest that nature itself is the antagonist to our actions. Just as in war, when you must assess the enemy you are facing and know when to attack and retreat, in the dig we saw nature's defence of its caverns weak, and saw no reason to wait in launching our offensive. This would prove to be a prosperous decision.

I was the first to take a turn with the spade. Immediately I was blown away by the ease at which the ground was shifted. The ground itself only consisted of loosely packed sand with a layer of crumbly clay sitting under and replacing the sand after a couple of meters. After perhaps 10 minutes of work I swapped positions with Ben. It was his stint at the face where the hole was widened enough to see a chamber on the other side. Being the one to start the dig, Ben kindly let me push the new opening. Attaching my descender into the tail end of the traverse line I squeezed myself on by belly out backwards through the gap. At this point we weren't certain if we were going to be met with an immediate pitch – we had heard tumbling sounds as the last lumps of clay were kicked out the end of the dig – so the descender was a precaution against testing if Newton's discoveries still held merit. I was met with a T-Junction. To the right, a gradually descending slope of about 4 meters met a base of an aven, about 25 meters high with a glistening calcite flow reaching right to the ceiling. To the left, ever expanding river passage was seen. Similar in dimensions to Cwm Dwr Jama if I were to twin it to another passage. At the tallest point in the roof, a grand flat circle, reminiscent in dimensions to the Hall of the Mountain King, albeit not decorated and half the diameter can be seen. My headlamp was just bright enough to see the passage continue under some stalactites in the far distance, however progress was marred in this direction by a drop into a rift that would require bolting. Under and to the right of this rift however passage definitely continued. Elin, who hadn't had a 'first' yet, led us as we advanced in this direction. Wide phreatic and Vadose (former) streamway kept being laid out in our headlamps. In the end this was \_\_\_\_\_ meters long. After tightening to a wiggly rift we were met with a drafting pitch. Unfortunately we were short of bolting equipment. This would be our next objective as we came back that evening.





## Matienzo – Summer 2023

Arrived at the valley on Saturday afternoon.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023 - Jessica Eades, Martyn Grayson and Dylan Longdon

Dylan was at a loose end so he joined myself and Martyn to search some of the caves we had looked at during Easter to search for bats. We are looking to see how the distribution and numbers vary throughout the various times of the year and to build up a greater picture of what appears to happen in the valley.

**Site #0423 Cueva de Barandas** – No new evidence of bats this time, and no bats present within the cave during this search. Found **two bat skeletons** which appear to be of the same species. Will need to check their location against the evidence we found at Easter. Need to go back and take proper Macro photos of the skeletons and measure various bones in an attempt to confirm species. Both have a **characteristic radius bone**.

**Site #0048 Cueva – Cubio de la Renada** – Entered through the drougting lower entrance. Showed Dylan our Disto calibration station and then exited out of the upper entrance for a brief through trip. **1x Greater Horseshoe bat** present in an alcove in the roof near the upper entrance.

**Site #0040 Cueva del Comellante** – The roof was dripping in condensation for the most part of the cave. The only dry section appeared to be at the far back where we located two bats.

**1x Lesser horseshoe bat**

**1x Schreiber's bent-winged bat.**

No colony clusters identified during this visit.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023 - Jessica Eades and Martyn Grayson

After stopping for some lunch, Martyn and I headed over to Ramales to do a bit of shopping, but after finding the shop closed, we went over to Alisas view point, parked the car up and did a surface walk over the hill headed to the area where we had been prospecting on previous trips out.

We found various new cave entrances during the walk just inside the edge of the woodland where a series of dolines /shakeholes were. Some did not appear to have entrance within them, but several did, particularly those closest to the derelict barn at the edge of the field. 5

**New Cave 1 – 30T 0448075 4794941 (558m)** ? should it be 0448075, 4794041  
5370 ↑ 554

A small, body sized entrance under Hazel tree at the edge of the field and woodland.

Steeply sloping entrance under the Hazel tree leads to a small chamber with both sandstone and limestone blocks making up the floor. To the left, the chamber dropped down slightly to a small sink. Two bats present, both appeared to be relatively active:

**1x Greater Horseshoe**

**1x Lesser Horseshoe**



**New cave 2 - 30T0448070 4794076 (559m)**

5371 ↑ 552

An steeply sloping entrance covered in leaf litter leading back under the field appears to lead to a shaft.

**New cave 3 - 30T 0448063 4794077 (556m)**

5372 ↑ 552 ✓

Walk-in sized entrance gently slopes down and bends to the right where it stays wide, but height reduces to stooped walking then crawling. 2<sup>nd</sup> entrance crawling / body sized can be seen up the next gentle leaf litter slope letting light in (New Cave 4) creating a small through trip. New cave 4 entrance can be found in an adjacent doline / shakehole nearer the derelict barn.

**New Cave 4 - not GPS's See description above.**

448054 4794073  
Will GPS when Surveying. 5373

↑ 553 ✓

**New Cave 5 - 30T 0448055 4794080 (558m)**

5374 ↑ 552

Located in the doline / shakehole nearest the derelict barn. The side of the doline nearest the barn, a steep leaf litter slope leads to a large boulder which partially blocks the entrance to a shaft down. Rocks rumble when thrown from the top. Within the entrance, to the right closes down rapidly with rocks and boulders blocking the way. ✓

Came straight off the hillside straight into the Expedition Dinner. Flannel wash out the back of the van required before sitting down for dinner.

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023 - Martyn Grayson and Jessica Eades**

Calibrated the disto in our usual spot in **Site #0048 Renada**.

Surface walk around El Rincón and round the back of the obelisk up into the plantation. Unfortunately no caves found. Vegetation was impenetrable where we went looking.

Moved over to the plantation near **Site #4004** to see how much further the logging tracks had progressed within the woodland. These appear largely to be the same as we had found at Easter. Then drove up to the Solorzano Radio Dome to admire the view and then walk across some fields. Tried to locate **Site #2652** but **sadly this appeared to be lost now**. Managed to replicate the photo that Juan had taken of Penny stood at the entrance with the Dome in the background. Had a very good poke around and sadly no sign of the entrance. The vegetation does change slightly compared to the rest of the field and so might indicate that something was there previously, but sadly this appears to be covered. ✓



**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – Martyn Grayson, Jessica Eades and Thomas loan Roberts**

After a slow start to the morning and then arriving at Alisas view point to park up we found that loan had left his helmet back at the campsite. Decision was taken that loan would be surface support for the day and we would continue to head over to the new caves found on Sunday to start surveying and continue with searching the surface for new cave.

**New cave 1 – Surveyed** – plan and elevation done in sexytopo

Description: see Sunday diary entry.

Whilst Martyn was rigging **New Cave 2** ready to commence the survey, Jess prepared the through trip of New cave 3 -4 with survey stations to commence undertaking the survey.

**New Cave 2 –** 5370

Entrance with cow bones slopes off into a fluted rift running directly away from the entrance. Fluted wall made of very soft rock making free climbing down very difficult, and bolting non-existent. Fluted pitches not yet descended, however, Martyn has climbed over the top to a small inlet coming in directly under the field from the opposite side of the entrance.

To be surveyed later this trip by Jess and Martyn and pushed further.

**New cave 3 -4 Surveyed**– plan and elevation done in sexytopo.

When highlighting the stations in the central part of the cave, where you have to stoop / crawl, Jess noticed that there was a void on the right-hand wall (woodland side) partially blocked by fallen rock. Martyn and loan dug through the wall excavating the sandstone bedding layer roof and the sandy floor, opening up a body sized tube into void beyond. Using Martyn as a human belay, Jess slid through the newly excavated hole and came out into the top of the "pitch head". The passage dropped vertically down over mudstone, but was able to be free climbed with the aid of the rope for back up. Approximately 4m down the limestone was re-intersected. A step was encountered and at the step, a window opened out onto the top of a column of rock with a rift passage trending perpendicular to the main passage above. After climbing down the 2m from the step, to the base of the rift, a rock and boulder strewn slope trended downwards towards the end of the cave where the water was sinking to the far left corner creating a very tiny streamway continuing in the direction of the rift passage. Above is an aven with a hole approximately 30cm diameter above where a small trickle of water was dripping through the hole. Slightly back from the end of the cave, on the right hand wall (looking inwards) was a small inlet bringing in a small amount of water. The inlet was approximately 1-1.5m above the floor level.

No apparent ways on. The floor at the end has fine gravels in it and water appears to flow away in a small trickle of a stream rather than disappear through boulders in the floor.

35m survey



5374

**New Cave 5** – Jess prepared the entrance to the start the survey, but sadly the battery in the disto was depleted and causing problems with connections. The disto was placed on the powerbank to get a re-charge whilst Jess started trying to move some of the boulders partially blocking the entrance. No great progress was made, but the entrance is now slightly bigger.

Martyn and Ioan continued to walk the surface within the woodland looking for new cave, shortly joined by Jess.

Down in the woodland below the new caves, is a large doline / shakehole. Facing the bath tubwater trough a slippery climb up to the left leads to a small limestone outcrop which leads to a hole in the boulders and the entrance to....

**New Cave 6** – 30T 0448137 4794052 (542m) "Tomb of the Oil King"

# 5369

Martyn placed a primary bolt was placed which created a short traverse line over the hole with a Y-hang bolted on the opposite wall. Martyn descended and described a short pitch down drops you past boulders where you can see daylight coming through in at least two other locations (looking back to where you were stood outside the cave). The pitch drops to the top of a steeply inclined slope, covered in leaf litter. Bolts placed at the top of the slope to create a short traverse line and a handline down to protect the slope continuation. Martyn pushed down to find animal bones, a broken earthenware vessel. Martyn shouted up and Jess descended second where by she met Martyn whom had climbed down the first boulder choke to the first of the chambers and down the second boulder choke (more description to follow in future diary entries).

This needed more exploring and a survey started on another day as it was already getting late.

**New Cave 7** – 30T 0448138 4794052 (561m) – "Bath tub water trough resurgence"

Water emerges out of a vaguely triangular hole approximately head sized. Water descends into a semi-circular brick damn before cascading further into the bath tub water trough. The hole where the water first emerges draughts well even moving ferns some 2m away from the hole. This is too small to fit in and would require digging to make any form of onward progression.

**New cave 8** – 30T0448119 4794042 (554m)

A small cleft in the rock, on the upward side of a limestone gully located on the walk back up to the field from the bath tub water trough. A small cave / recess some 2m long trending down over leaf litter. Entrance is approximately 1m wide, by 1m high and vaguely triangular in shape.

**New Cave 9** – 30T 0448046 4793921 (587m)

A small hole within the woodland floor. Would be body sized if not for a tree root across the centre of the entrance hole. Vertical drop down through the soil leads to a clear water washed even. Too tight to descend, but drops at least 4m. Will shoot a survey leg down it when passing on a later trip.

**New Cave 10** – 30T 0448109 4794037 (555m)

A small water worn passage in a sandstone bedding just inside the woodland, down slope from the field boundary. The entrance is too small to access. No draught. Numerous badger latrines outside this entrance. Other entrances to the left along the same contour line, all used by badger. Clear mammal trails connect each entrance.



**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – Martyn Grayson, Jessica Eades, Thomas loan Roberts, Tom Howard and James Johnson**

# 5369

Back to ~~New cave 6~~ – “Tomb of the Oil King” to continue exploration and begin the survey. Martyn lead everyone to the first chamber and into the boulder choke, whereby Martyn advised we split into teams. Tom, loan and James pushed forward to explore, whilst Martyn and Jess went back to the surface to commence starting the survey. loan free climbed down a rift and reported back that there was a continuing tube. Martyn and Tom then bolted this and descended, whilst James went back to survey with Jess. Day 1 survey ended at this bolted rift. At the bottom of the rift loan descended a loose boulder tube which became too tight for progression. Back at the top of the bolted rift, Tom climbed over a greasy boulder to find the passage continued. Tom shouted Martyn across and they soon came to the head of a short pitch down. A message was sent back to loan to bring forward the drill, bolting kit and some more rope. Martyn bolted, descended, followed closely by Tom and they entered another wider rift area. Up the slope (right) lead to a water worn aven and boulders, down the slope Tom found a loose and narrow connection into a huge black space!!!! Martyn and Tom threw rocks into it and at first thought it was a large pitch. Martyn climbed down as far as possible to light up the space and realized just how big it was! Having run out of rope at this point, the decision was made to cut the bottom off the last piece of rope to allow the gully to be safely dropped into the chamber. loan went back and got the rope. Martyn and Tom began bolting into the chamber to further explore the chamber, whilst loan met up with James to bolt the first traverse which was installed at the afore mentioned first pitch. They then joined Martyn and Tom in the big chamber.

The cave was still on-going and so a return trip was planned.

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023– Martyn Grayson, Jessica Eades, Tom Howard and James Johnson**

#5369  
Back to ~~New cave 6~~ – “Tomb of the Oil King” to continue exploration and continue the survey. Martyn lead everyone to the big chamber installing “James’ traverse” on the way into the big chamber. Martyn descended pots in the floor to try and find a way on in the floor of the boulder choke. At the far end of the chamber from where you enter, Tom and Martyn climbed up into a clean washed aven, Tom spotted a further climb up over boulders on the left. It was climbed, and a hole down the far side was found, which looked possibly deeper than the pots in the boulder choke.

Jess and James then headed back to the traverse line and first pitch to recommence the surveying with the view of surveying the main stretch straight towards the big chamber. James swapped over with Martyn on the surveying in the rift area prior to the descending into the main chamber. The main chamber was surveyed up into the water worn aven by Martyn and Jess.

Further surveying still required to continue from this point onwards and to start adding more side passage details.

Full cave description to follow.

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023– Martyn Grayson and Jessica Eades**

Rest day to catch up on log book entries, and organize photos, surveys and descriptions so far.

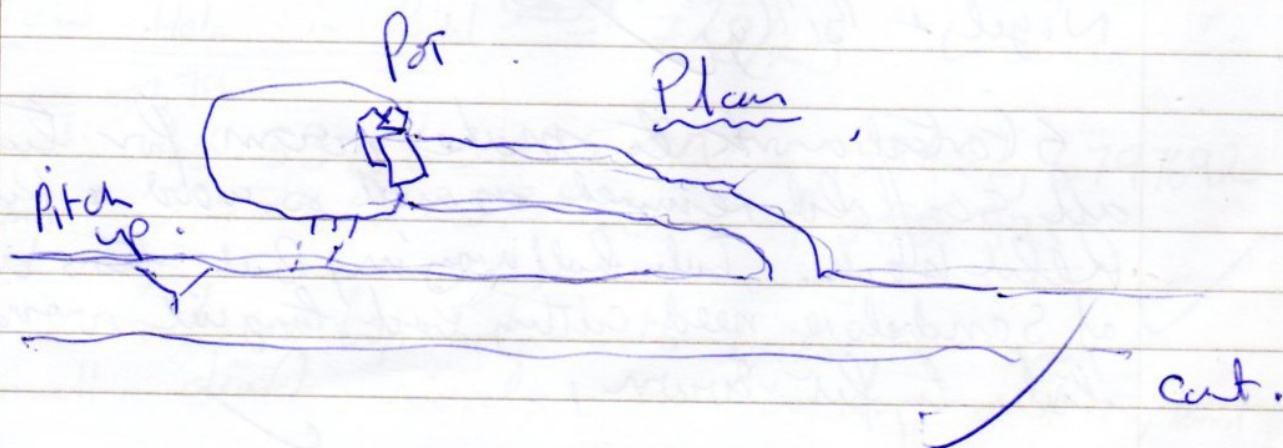
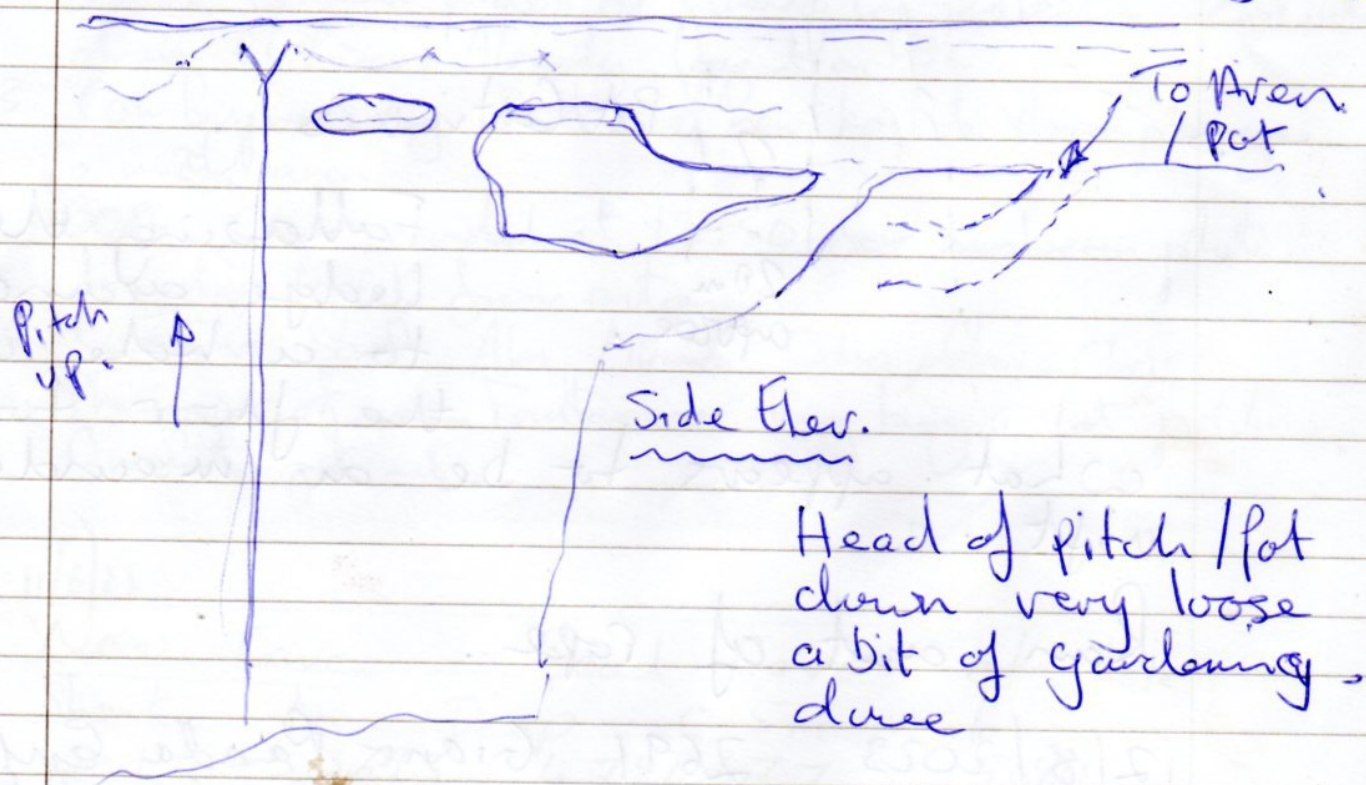
Went to see the cave photography exhibition at the Tourist Information Centre in Ramales. WOW! What excellent photos by Juan Montero of various caves and mines from the region and a few from further outside Cantabria.



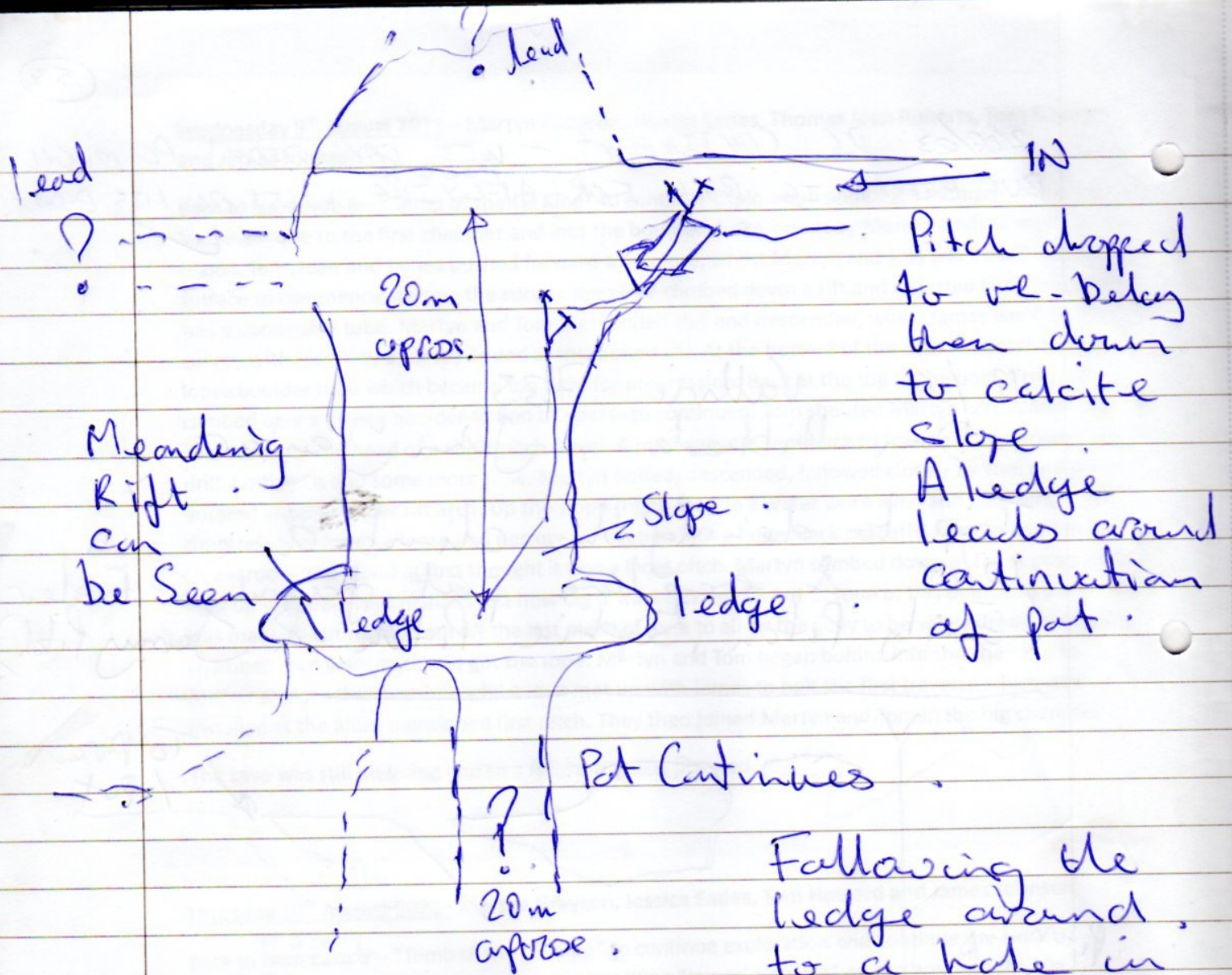
12/08/23 RL CONTINGENT - WET DAY DIDN'T DO MUCH!  
BUT KIERAN IS BACK FOR A FLYING VISIT ON HIS BDAY!

12/08 Vallini 733.  
Dan Hibberts, John Gaylor.

Trip to de-rig the climb done on  
10/08 & explore pot found @ Easter  
(Emily Pitch, Sophie Pitch & Jenny Pitch)







what appears to be a meandering rift.

Ran out of rope.

12/8/2023 2691 Grand Panda Exp  
Phil P, Juan, Tiger Davey, John S, Gordon, Peter C,  
Nigel + Billy

Started work to make room for tube with all scaffold removed as well as wood & full bench held back. Tube half way in, but two areas of sandstone need cutting back to give room for tube to fit down,



# Photographic notes from San Davis

(55)

- 8/8/23 No. 2538 El Caballón. Sam D, Alex, Dave & Amanda.  
Photographed formation of clay stone, Stal and crinkled floor.  
+ 1m pitch. Photos to follow.
- 9/8/23 No. 0048. Reñana. Sam D, Alex, Miranda, John, Chris, Dave,  
+ Amanda.  
Photographed Formations in stuffed Mark gallery & anastomosing  
chambers. Outside temp. 38°C.
- 10/8/23 No. 0084. Casas. Sam D, Paul & Sam, Amanda & Dave.  
Photos of various formations around cave.
- 10/8/23 Daytime, Entrance photos of already logged entrances on hills  
above El Risco. Already logged on PC.
- 11/8/23 "Cow Bypass" dig. Photos of new keyhole shaped passage  
& main aven.  
0084, Casas, revisited at 17.30 for sunbeam photo,  
dramatic light from entrance.
- 12/8/23 Carentosa. Sam D, Alex, Miranda, John, ~~Chris~~ Chris.  
Phone pics of main Fantasma. Very busy @ 1st pitch.  
Queue to get out!

11/8/23

New Cave - Road Cave - Pot hole  
Shout 1m Deep 0.5m wide.  
30t 453693 4794677 5380

New Hole in Field ~~5379~~ ↑ 325m 255m  
7/8/23 La Secada.

Lat 5379 43.33063295°N 453452, 4797692  
Long 3.57417237°W. ↑ ~~255~~ 325

Four foot deep hole with tyres in and  
Small draft, Needs to be dug and Explored



### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – Martyn Grayson & Jessica Eades

Return to **Site #5369**. The walk to the cave was steady as we had decided to do some additional vegetation clearing of the old drovers track this time. There had been a number of additional trees fallen across the track since our time up there at Easter and with the heavier packs on both the walk in and out expected today, we took the time with the pruning saw to clear the way as much as possible. Less fallen trees, meant less arduous bending over with the heavy packs on.

During the last exploratory trip to the cave, Martyn and Tom found a possible way on down the back of a large boulder at the far end of the large chamber. This was going to be where this trip recommenced (area now named "Shell Grotto" due to all the shell fossils in the rock). Capping kit had been taken to enlarge the gap down the back of the boulder, but after further inspection and some enthusiasm with a hammer, Jess managed to squeeze down the left side of the boulder after removing her SRT Kit, descending to the top of another pitch down into a chamber. Some gardening of boulders was undertaken and more hammering of the "walls" to break off nodules to make for a slightly easier ascent back to the top of the boulder. Martyn installed a rope on the left wall at the top of the boulder leading to a short traverse line out to a Y-hang at the top of the pitch head and descended into the chamber. Great care was noted at the pitch head and the tight squeeze down to it as loose sandstone boulders were noted at various points. Once in the chamber, Martyn noticed the rope was plucking at one of these boulders and so, Jess bolted a re-belay upon her descent to join Martyn in the chamber.

This chamber appears to be rather cold with a draught coming through boulders in the floor. Rocks were thrown down a narrow water worn fissure to be heard cascading for several seconds. Martyn climbed up above this fissure to find a blind pot. With a flat boulder strewn floor.

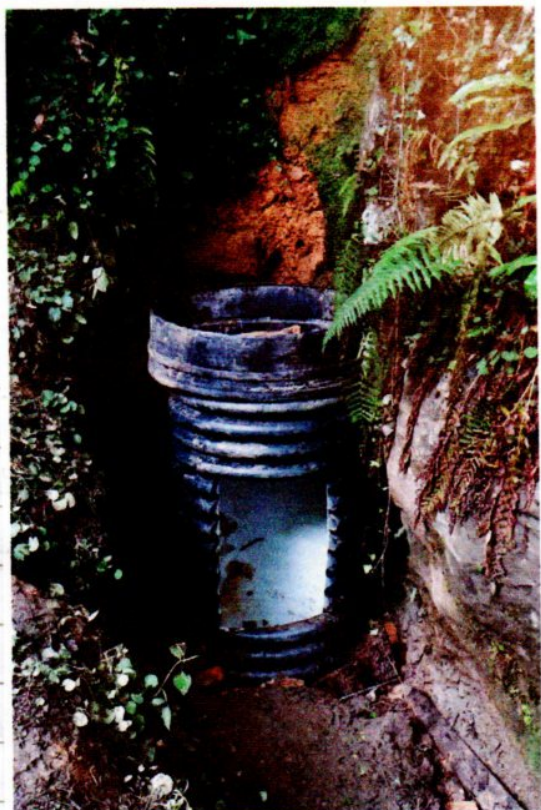
When Jess was climbing back up at the tight gap next to the large boulder, the drill or bolting bag must have caught a rock within the pack wall and started a cascade. Bracing a large rock with her back whilst the smaller rocks continued to fall, the rumble soon stopped. The larger rock at her back was wedged into a safer position, a brief check of the rope was made and she then continued to proceed up to the top of the large boulder. Martyn waited a while before commencing his ascent. Once at the pitch head he continued to do more gardening and try and re-stabilise the pitch-head and clear rocks from his way to fit back up the squeeze next to the big boulder. The floor at the start of the traverse line we had installed had slumped some 1/2 meter at the pitch-head. The pitch down from "Shell Grotto" and chamber below will now be known as "Terribilis est locus iste", which translate from the latin to "This place is terrible".

We then surveyed into this new section of the cave with Martyn de-rigging on the way back out.

En-route back towards the entrance, we surveyed down the pitch at the first traverse line down into "Mr. Tumnus Tube".

Exited the cave at 12:30am and had a slow walk back through the woodland in the fog, seeing a whole load of nocturnal animals along the way.

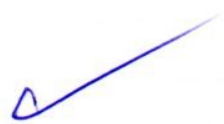




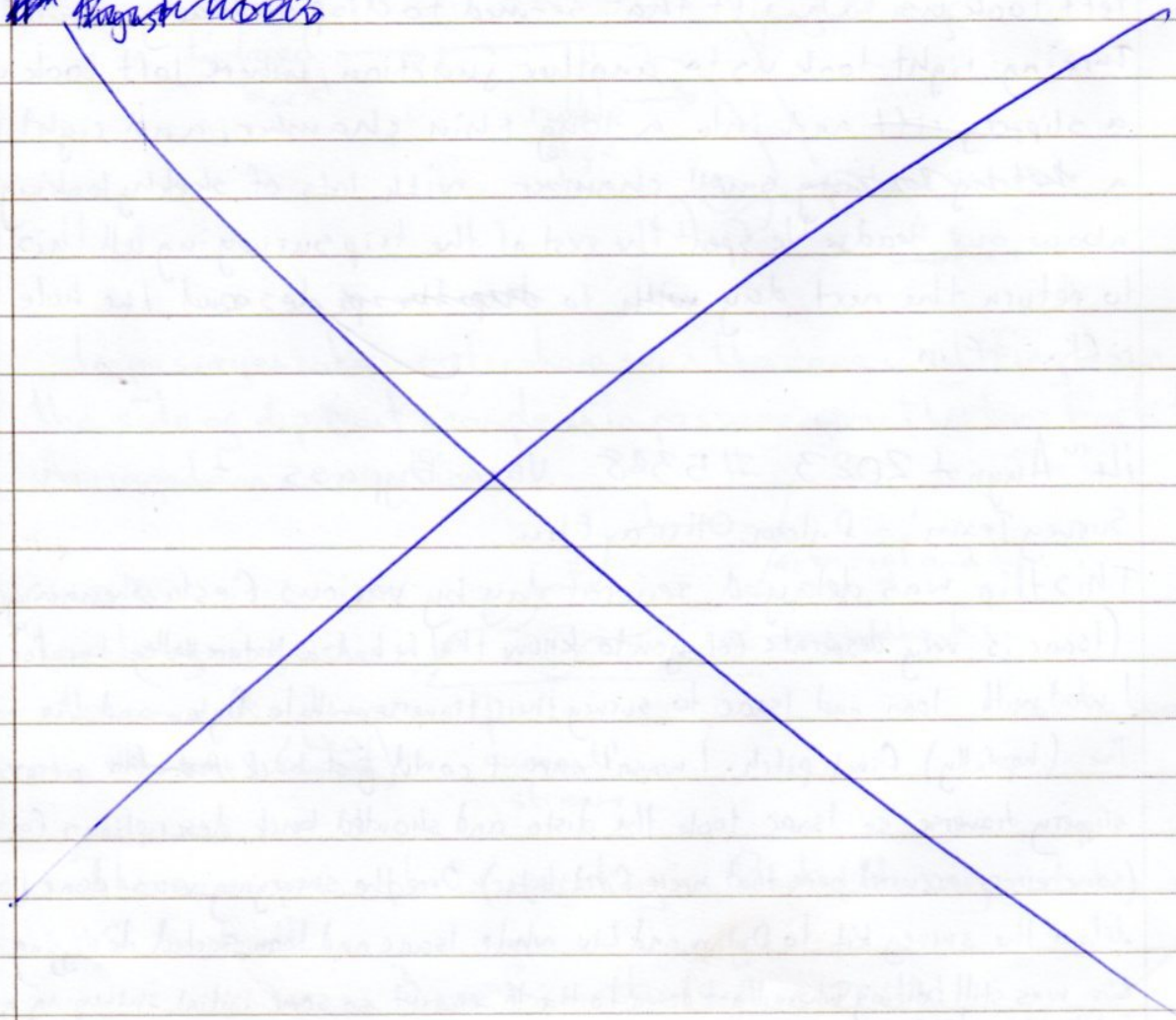
14<sup>th</sup> August 2023

~~23rd~~ 2691

Phil, Juan, John S and Gordon P continued the work at Giant Panda started on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Protrusions were obliterated and the tube was wiggled down to a suitable level where it jammed in place. A descent on a ladder showed that about a metre depth will need to be consolidated around the base of the tube. Nigel, Bill and Pete Clewes arrived as the opening was being cut in the side. Scaffold bars were cut to size and fitted across the top of the tube to form a heavy cap which should withstand any collapse from the back and sides. The ring cut off on Saturday and now placed on top should act as a circular retainer for rocks placed over the scaffold tubes.



~~14th August 2023~~





11<sup>th</sup> August 2023 #5368 Vaca Bypass

~~Evening trip~~ - Survey team (Dylan Longdon, Olivia Hookings, Elin West)

We all went into Vaca Bypass with different objectives. Ben, Isaac & Ioan rigged a traverse coming off the new chamber while we went to ~~drop~~ bolt the pitch Dylan found at the end of the rift on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Dylan did the bolting while Liv advised on y-hang placement. At the bottom of the pitch Dylan discovered a small hole leading back ~~below~~ beneath the pitch that draughted outwards. There was a small crawl above a false floor off the small passage near the hole that seemed to lead in the same direction as the hole and draughted similarly. Below the false floor was another crawl that diverged in path from the upper one and also draughted. ~~The crawls~~ The crawls and the hole would need capping or digging to explore further. The passage becomes a twisty crawl (about 24m) which then opens up to walking height passage ~~where~~ with a junction. Turning left took us to a rift that seemed to drop suddenly around 5 metres. Turning right took us to another junction, where left took us across a slippery rift and into a long thin chamber, and right took us to a ~~sketchy looking~~ small chamber with lots of sketchy looking boulders above our heads. We spent the rest of the trip surveying all this and planned to return the next day ~~with~~ to ~~drop the~~ ~~spides~~ and the hole in the rift. - Elin

14<sup>th</sup> August 2023 #5368 Vaca Bypass -

'Survey Team' - Dylan, Olivia, Elin

This trip was delayed several days by various fiesta shenanigans. Oops.

(Isaac is very desperate for you to know that he had a Nature Valley bar for breakfast)

I went with Ioan and Isaac to survey their traverse while Dylan and Liv went to bolt the (hopefully) final pitch. I wasn't sure I could get back ~~from the~~ across the very slippery traverse so Isaac took the disto and shouted back descriptions for me to draw (some errors occurred here that were fixed later). Once the surveying was done I went to deliver the survey kit to Dylan and Liv while Isaac and Ioan started derigging the traverse. Liv was still bolting when I got down to the lower rift so some initial surveying at the top of the pitch was done.

↳ ENTRY CONTINUED ~~on~~ 4 PAGES ON →

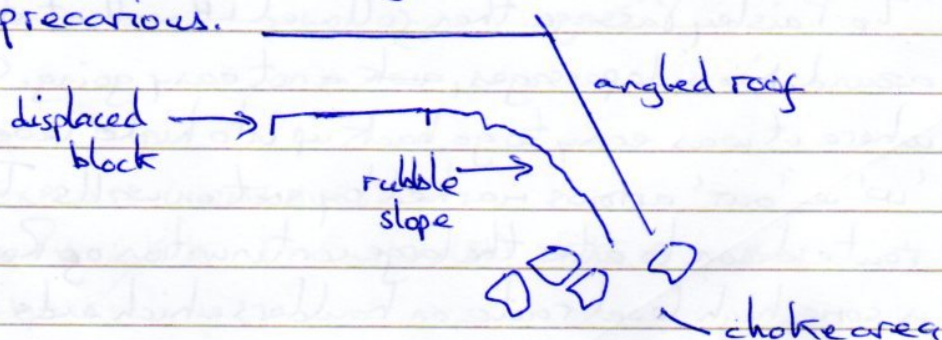


Wed 02 Aug

Armageddon. A chaos of blocks at the connection end with Torca la Decepción and at the choke end just before ~~Windy~~<sup>Sandy</sup> Corner. In the middle a great piece of streamway in huge passage.

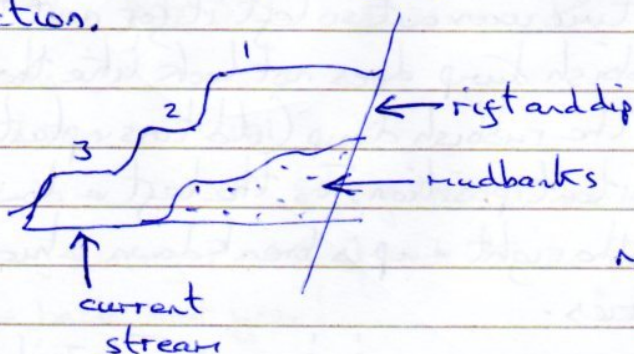
Both choke areas have block displacements which has caused collapse. At Decepción end two blocks meet at (almost) right angles. There was no sign of slickensides to determine movement direction and it is unclear if there is a fault here or not.

In the choke at the other end, about midway, you can climb up a rubble slope with steeply angled wall behind to reach a space. This area is marked as 'collapsed chamber' on the 80's survey. The 'chamber' now is actually simply a space created by a large block moving down under gravity. The whole area is fractured, loose, precarious.



In passages where rights were seen the cave is cutting down on the side of dip. Best example is in passage from Mortons Fork to Armageddon connection.

1, 2, 3  
levels of roof as  
stream cuts down  
dip to LHS (~~west~~<sup>new</sup>)



The same principle is operating in Rocky Horror; cut down on LHS to north.

Dave Barrett 15 Aug. 2023



Wed 02 Aug. Torca La Decepción to Armageddon.

Two humanitarian cavers & Dave to try to find route through Armageddon choke to ~~S~~ Sandy Corner. Great trip but failed to get through.

The entry point into the choke is marked by an arrow of soot on a large rock 'in'. There is a carbide dump on a flat rock just before it. Go down the slab to left of carbide dump & right to meet plastic hunting, the start of the route through. Bunting ran out & we could not find way on.

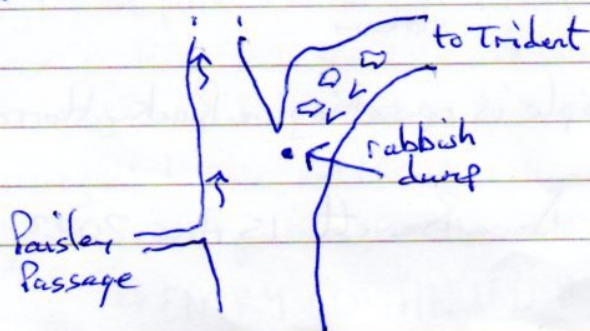
Saulius, Laura, Dave Barrett

Fri 11 Aug Torca La Decepción to Rocky Horror.

To Paisley Passage then followed Ltt wall at stream level looking around. No side passages, ~~and~~ not easy going. Came to a spot where it was easy to go back up into higher level & did so to find 'in' & 'out' arrows marked by soot on walls. This way is the route down to enter the large continuation of Rocky Horror. There is some high level route on boulders which ends at 20m above stream level.

The intention was to check the dotted lines shown on end of survey LttS. We were not sure if we had reached it or not & time was out so left it for next time. Rocky Horror from the rubbish dump does not look like the survey drawn shape.

The rubbish dump (old tins & plastic from the 80's) marks an important position. To the left & down is Rocky Horror passage. To the right & up is breakdown which eventually reaches Trident Series.



Alex & Dave Barrett



14th August 2023 #5368 Vaca Bypass CONTINUED

- Survey team - Elin, Dylan, Olivia

When Liv finished belting and descended she almost immediately saw a dive line leading into a sump. We began looking for survey markers and eventually found one just above our heads. We took some celebratory photos and ate some celebratory sandwiches. ~~Isaac~~ Completely forgot to mention that in between trips we looked at the survey and found that it looked like this pitch would connect to Fridge Door cave, so we were hoping to connect. Isaac came down to have a look (loan couldn't fit through the upper rift) and then we began the derigging, and got back ~~to~~ to Matienzo just in time for dinner with Badger. Later at Pablo's we went through Jim Lister's videos to ~~confirm~~ figure out where we had dropped into and ~~the~~ confirmed ~~the~~ ~~height~~ we dropped down between sump 1 and 2! - Elin

#### DCC EXPLOITS (CONTINUED)

4/8 Tourist visit to La Cueva (86). Pete O pushed on at end but v. tight.

5/8 visit out of area to Uchir mine penetrating to natural cave. Where we met cave, there was an incline down <sup>(mined)</sup> with Variscan safety notice at top and howling draught coming up.

6/8 Apprentice Cave. <sup>2108</sup> See Pete O'N's write up.

12/8 Help at Giant Panda

11/8 Dig for several turns at 2101

13/8 " " " " " " getting down to about -5m with continuing strong draught. Lot of rock to be removed but not dead yet. Be back next year!

14/8 Giant Panda again

15/8 Bill and Nigel to photo session in Cosas (84)



2.  
↓  
Date: 13<sup>th</sup> August

Site: 5000 ~~1800~~ via 5000

Present: Dave Foxton, Jim Lister

An 11mm diameter rope was belayed to natural anchors, above the squeeze and steeply sloping, mud covered calcsite slope below, this rope enables dive kit to be pulled up and also can be used with a hand ascender and foot loop or a pantin, to assist ascent. (Go pro footage taken)

Jim's Dive kit was taken to the slope at the bottom of the bypass pitch.

A second rope was then installed on the Anchor fitted by the Danes, on the travers over the sump (upstream sump 3? To be confirmed)

This will give divers access up, it may be worth considering changing it for a wire ladder? Which would save SRT kit being required, the slope will be too steep to free climb on reflection.

Survey training for Dave using Topo Droid, the system worked well whilst surveying the complex chamber above station ??? But crashed shortly afterwards.

The distox was used alone to survey the sandy floored passage that leads back to the junction that leads to sump 4, this was downloaded later but became corrupted and was not used (this passage needs surveying again but should be easy with only one junction on the left, a circular, stone floored, slightly ascending tube.

On return Jim tried to sort out the Survey problems but in the end found it best to save the data and uninstall the program and download it again, so far it seems to be working.

Report by Jim

16/8/23 Phil + Jon bought aluminium ladder - 2 x 9 rungs - at Big Mat Kamak. Installed in Giant Panda (2691) entrance tube. Tube proved its worth as part of the left wall slumped down and wedged against side as Phil was fixing the ladder top. Very sloppy conditions. Site needs to dry out to aid future work. 360° video of tube and base



**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – Martyn Grayson & Jessica Eades**

Parked up at the Alisas view point as usual and walked down the old drovers track to arrive at **Site #5369**. Here we ditched some of the kit and walked further down the hillside to locate **site #0539**, a previously undescended shaft near a barn and take a look at the wider hillside. We managed to easily locate **site #0539** which was now heavily overgrown, but the good news was that we would be able to create a y-hang and SRT from the now more substantial trees at the top of the shaft. Now knowing what kit would be needed, we ascended back up the hill to **Site #5369** with the plan to finish off the survey and de-rig the cave.

We descended to the first chamber and dropped the survey kit off here and descended down to the pitch into the large chamber and began the remainder of the de-rig. Once back at the first chamber we picked up the survey equipment and proceeded to survey into the boulder choke filling in the gap between the bottom of the entrance slope and above the first traverse line. This area is just one huge boulder chock trapped within the hading passage. After completing this section of the survey we grabbed the kit from the first chamber and continued to de-rig to surface. ✓

Now that **site #5369** was now de-rigged, we descended back down the hill to **site #0539** to have a look. Using the trees around the entrance, Martyn created a y-hang and descended down the shaft. From the funnel shaped opening at the top there is a vertical fluted shaft down with clean washed water worn sections. Everything narrows down in sections before the next fluted section begins to open up. There was a flat bottom to the shaft covered in leaf litter and other organic matter with a tiny sink in the one corner. Martyn ascended part way back up the shaft, where Jessica had began to survey the top, creating a station down near martyn and then sending the disto down the rope with using a tail of rope to allow a steady handover of the kit. Martyn then proceeded to survey the bottom section of the shaft from his location.

*Depth 17.5m Note Survey last-log 6 shown on a display - 25 19m*

Once **site #0539** had been de-rigged, we ascended back up the hill to the sites from our original days of the trip (**Site #5371 and site #5374**). Jess belayed to a tree and spent some time working the rocks and boulders in the entrance of **site #5374** to enlarge the entrance so she could fit in. Once enlarged she dropped through the slot created to look down some 4-5m to a rock filled, blind pot with a diameter of around 1-1.5m wide. The shaft dropped through the mudstone and sandstone and was very slippery and slightly too wide to bridge. There were no on-going prospects, but the intention is to leave the kit on the hillside and come back tomorrow to re-descend and survey tomorrow. ✓



**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – Martyn Grayson & Jessica Eades**

Parked up at Alisas and began our walk over to the area where we have been projecting. We don't usually see anyone on our walk to the cave, but this time around we met a man a short way into the woodland on the old drovers track collecting a particular type of orange – yellow mushroom. He'd had collected a large basket full already and had an equally large pile on the ground next to the basket. We had only seen these mushrooms come to surface over the last few days. We attempted a brief conversation with much broken English and Spanish, then said our goodbyes.

We headed to **Site #5374** to collect the kit we had left hanging in a tree over night and then proceeded to continue to drop down the hill to **Site #1312**. We found the entrance to be completely covered with bracken and bramble and proceeded to bash a way to the entrance. Once cleared we noted that the dead animal previously noted in blocking any possible way on was now fully decomposed and passable. Sadly, beyond the cow bones revealed little to no cave. The rift merely pinched down to an impenetrable size after an initial widening of the passage. The site was photographed and surveyed to allow completion of details for this site. *Access not on file*

We located **Site #2102** however, we did not re-open the site as it appeared to have been closed off with limestone rocks. We shall endeavour to head back to this site on another trip and descend to again, complete a survey. ✓

We ascended the hill back up to **site #5374** whereby Martyn rigged ropes from the trees whilst Jessica got changed into SRT kit for the descent. We knew this cave didn't now go anywhere, but the purpose of the trip was to survey and photograph. Once completed, Jessica finished drawing the survey on the surface, whilst Martyn then moved the ropes over to **Site #5371**. Once this was rigged, Jessica descended into the cave for a look, as she hadn't yet been in this cave. She dropped the small pot near the entrance to see if any passage dropped back underneath itself. It didn't. She then climbed back up the entrance and attempted to progress across the higher level to see how far she could get over the top of the rift. Progress is difficult here due to the mudstone being crumbly and everything breaking off. She managed to get to the same extent of exploration as Martyn's earlier attempt. She came back out to surface, collected the survey equipment and GoPro and descended back into the cave to complete the survey and photograph. *Access to follow?* ✓

As we were packing the kit away, Martyn had been walking closer to the derelict barn and located yet another cave entrance. This one appeared to have been purposefully blocked with large boulders, but Martyn had begun to make some progress moving them away. Jessica managed to wriggle a head and shoulders into the entrance and could see more boulders blocking the way, but a possible solid wall to the left, and more of a void beyond the initial entrance boulders that had been pushed in. An intact glass bottle could be seen to the right inside the cave. This will be looked at and excavated at a later trip.

**New Cave 1 – 30T 0448046 4794077 569m**

↑ 560

5383

On the walk back to the car we took a different route out and Martyn stumbled across an entrance and began to sing "How do you like you're caves in the evening??? I like mine with a draught!!". He was soon deflated after a brief check of Orux Maps and the site photo revealed his old pal Eddie Mason's face in the photo. We had found **dig site #4082** which appeared to be draughting outwards. ✓

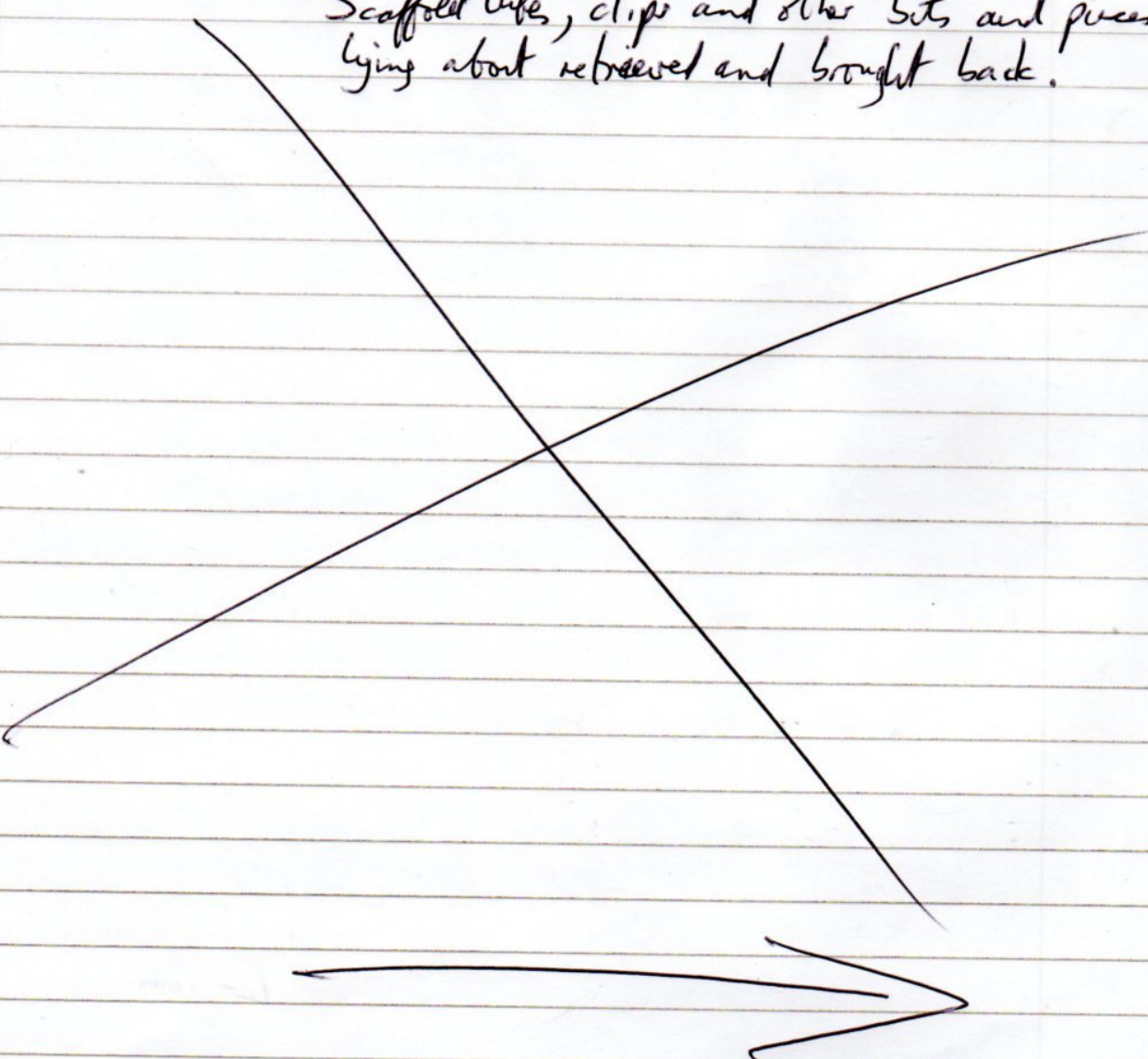


18-8-23, Cubija, above Picón, 449980 4796598 324m

5384

Small cave (which might just be 0971, which I can't find at its location), above pylon on the hillside. Steep scramble down a boulder slope to a restriction and a 1.5m drop into a small chamber with a mud floor. There is a 6m high aven or steep ramp on the right of the chamber (not climbed). 9m surveyed and photos taken.

24/8/23 Phil, Juan + John Dickinson to Grant Panda. 2691  
"Breeze blocks" installed and foamed in at base of tube after base and tube-to-pitch cleared out. Some work still needed at retaining wall to keep entrance clear. Also scaffold tube cap should be resined.  
Scaffold tubes, clips and other bits and pieces lying about retrieved and brought back.





John Southworth + Gordon Proctor. →

JULY TO AUGUST 2023, JOHN SOUTHWORTH, GORDON PROCTER  
LA SECADA 28 JULY.

LOOKED AT SIX SITES IN THIS AREA WITH PROSPECTS  
OF FUTURE DIGGING.

SITES 3064, 3054 AND 2752 WRITTEN OFF,  
CHECKED 1505 ~~1505~~ ENTRANCE FOR DRAUGHT, NONE.  
STARTED DIGGING 2770 INSIDE ENTRANCE ON RIGHT  
HAND SIDE BUT UNABLE TO FIND SITE 151.

HAZAS DE CESTO (WEST) 29 JULY

AT SITE 4941 JUST INSIDE ENTRANCE A FEW MINUTES DIGGING  
ENTERED ABOUT 30M OF WALKING, HANDS AND KNEES AND  
CRAWLING DRY PASSAGE TO A TIGHT SQUEEZE, WAY ON  
OPENS UP BUT DECIDED TO RETURN AT THIS POINT AND  
RETURN WITH SOME BACKUP.

GORDON STARTED DIGGING LOW CRAWL NEAR THE ENTRANCE  
CHECKED OUT SITE 4936 BUT CHOKED WITH A ROOF FALL AFTER  
2M.

COULD NOT FIND SITE 4935 BUT FOUND OPEN HOLE (5361)  
NEARBY AND PLANNED TO RETURN AT A FUTURE DATE.

IN THE WOOD OVER THE MAIN ROAD (EAST) FROM 4941  
WOOD FOUND A CAVE IN A RAVINE, BE ABOUT 4M LONG TO  
WHAT LOOKS LIKE A RIGHT HAND BEND, BUT WILL NEED  
A THINNY. IN SAME WOOD IS A WALKING SIZE PASSAGE WITH  
4 ENTRANCES ABOUT 10M IN TOTAL.

5361	452673	4805889	
RAVINE CAVE	452887	4805834	+ 5381
4 ENTRANCE CAVE	452888	4805803	- 5382

COULD NOT FIND SITE 4937 AT THE REPORTED POSITION BUT UP  
THE HILL ABOVE 4937 POSITION FOUND HOLE BLOCKED BY  
LARGE TREE STUMP AND A WAY ON BELOW CAN BE SEEN WITH  
A STRONG DRAUGHT EMITTING, 453064 4806504

HAZAS DE CESTO (WEST) 30 JULY

RETURNED TO SITE 4941 WITH PHIL PAP AND JUAN, THEY PASSED  
THE TIGHT SQUEEZE INTO ABOUT ANOTHER 5-6M OF PASSAGE TO A  
CHOKER. PHIL SURVEYED IN SO TOTAL LENGTH UNSURE UNTIL SURVEY  
DRAWN UP. GORDON DUG LOW CRAWL NEAR ENTRANCE,  
RETURNED TO SITE 5361 WITH PHIL AND JUAN. SEE PHIL'S SURVEY FOR ~~LENGTH~~  
LENGTH

L = 44m

L = 18m



## HAZAS DE CESTO (WEST) 31 JULY

CHECKED OUT SITE 4933 FOR A POSSIBLE DIG BUT WOULD REQUIRE A LOT OF EFFORT, NO DRAUGHT ON A HOT DAY. OTHER FIVE SITES IN THIS SMALL AREA NEAR 4933 DO NOT OFFER MUCH POTENTIAL

## BERANGA 1 AUGUST

INTENSION WAS TO CHECK OUT WOODLAND TO THE SOUTHWEST OF SITE 4937 BUT GAVE UP DUE TO THE VEGETATION BEING TO DENSE AND ALSO GAVE UP ON AREA BEHIND 5336 BUS STOP CAVE FOR SAME REASON.

## LA SECADA 2 AUGUST

LEFT GORDON DIGGING AT 2770 AND HAD A GOOD LOOK AT 151. NEAR END OF CAVE ON THE RIGHT SIDE IS A TIGHT VERTICAL RIFT I COULD NOT PASS WHICH SEEMS TO OPEN UP BEYOND. THIS IS NOT ON THE SURVEY, REQUIRES A THIN. BACK AT 2770 GORDON HAD EXTENDED AN UPWARD SLOPE ABOUT 2 M BUT HAS CLOSED DOWN. I DUG A PASSAGE TO THE LEFT AND GAINED ABOUT 3 M BUT THAT SEEMS TO BE CLOSING DOWN. TOTAL LENGTH NOW 9 M. HAD A CHAT WITH SI AND DI IN THE BAR AND IF TIME PERMITS THEY WILL HAVE A LOOK AT THE TIGHT RIFT IN 151.

## BERANGA 3 AUGUST

DIGGING AT THE END OF SITE 5336 (BUS STOP CAVE). GORDON MANAGED TO GET TO THE DIG SO SPENT A FEW HOURS AT IT BEFORE BEING COMPLETELY KNACKERED. GAINED ABOUT 2 M.

## BERANGA 4 AUGUST

LONG TRIP BACK TO DIG AT SITE 5336 WHICH IS BECOMING DIFFICULT TO DIG DUE TO CALCITE APPEARING IN THE CLAY SO ONLY 1 M OF PROGRESS.

## VILLANUEVA 5 AUGUST

RETURNED TO EASTER 2023 DIG AT 5036 AND REMOVED ABOUT 25 TUBS OF SPOIL FROM DOWNWARD SLOPE TO HORIZONTAL PASSAGE. GOOD DRAUGHT. G.P.S SHOULD BE 4804715 INSTEAD OF 4804740.



VILLANUEVA 6 AUGUST

BACK AT 5036 WITH GORDON EMPTYING THE TUBS JUST INSIDE THE ENTRANCE AND MYSELF AND PETER SMITH AT THE SHARP END. AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF DIGGING PASSED SMALL PASSAGE ON THE LEFT INTO A LOW CHAMBER WITH MORE DIGGING REQUIRED BUT NOT LOOKING VERY PROMISING. THE GOOD OUTWARD DRAUGHT SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN LOST AT THIS POINT BUT ON RETURNING FOUND THE LOW PASSAGE ON THE LEFT WAS TAKING A GOOD DRAFT. IT HAD REVERSED SO NEXT TIME WE PLAN TO DIG THIS WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THREE TO FOUR PEOPLE. TOTAL LENGTH OF CAVE NOW 15M.

7 AUGUST DAY OFF

HAZAS DE CESTO (WEST) 8 AUGUST

GORDON RETURNED TO HIS DIG JUST INSIDE ENTRANCE OF 4941. VISITED WOOD OVER THE ROAD FROM 4941 WITH PHIL PAP AND ELLIN AND ISAAC FROM ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY. ELLIN PUSHED THE RAINE CAVE FOR ABOUT ~~4-5~~ 4-5M BEFORE BECOMING TOO TIGHT. (S387) L=5m (S382) L=17m TOOK THEM TO FOUR ENTRANCE CAVE WHICH WAS SURVEYED ALONG WITH ONE FOR RAINE CAVE. SEE PHIL FOR THE SURVEYED LENGTHS. AFTER THEY LEFT DID SOME MORE POKING AROUND IN THE WOOD AND FOUND A WALKIN CAVE ABOUT 3M LONG TO DAYLIGHT. ENTERING FROM SURFACE RIFT THEN 4M OF PASSAGE WHICH CLOSED DOWN SO TOTAL LENGTH OF 7M. HAVING PROBLEMS WITH MY GPS THE COORDINATES FOR THIS CAVE ARE TAKEN FROM MAPAS CANTABRIA SITE. 452904 4805815. (S385)

GORDON HAS GIVEN UP WITH HIS DIG AT 4941. DUE TO LARGE BLOCKS IN THE FLOOR AND SEEMS TO BE DIMINISHING PASSAGE SIZE AT THE END. TOTAL LENGTH 3M

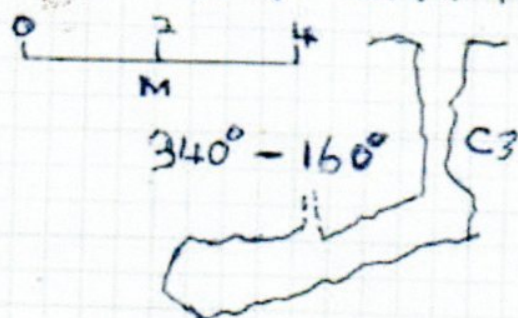
BERANGA 9 AUGUST

BACK TO 5336 WITH THE TWO OF US DIGGING FOR SOME TIME BUT MADE LITTLE PROGRESS THROUGH THE CALCITE AND CLAY. TREE ROOTS SEEM TO BE COMING VERTICALLY DOWN AND THE ROOF COULD BE LIFTING, ONE FOR NEXT EASTER? THIS CAVE PASSES UNDER THE RAILWAY AND TRAINS PASSING OVERHEAD CAN BE HEARD.



## CUBITA 10 AUGUST

PLAN WAS TO CHECK OUT END OF 1456 FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE DIG BUT TOTALLY CHOKED WITH CALCITE AND NO APPARENT DROUGHT ON A HOT DAY, POOR PROSPECT. STARTED OPENING UP 5325 WHICH REVEALED A 3M CLIMB DOWN A RIFT TO A 1M WIDE DESCENDING PASSAGE TO A CALCITE CHOKER WITH ANIMAL BONES IN IT BUT TOTALLY CHOKED, MADE STOCK PROOF ON DEPARTURE. TOTAL LENGTH 7M, DEPTH 4M



## MONCOBE 11 AUGUST

TRYING  
THE REASON FOR ~~NOT~~ FINDING FOR THE THIRD TIME SITE 37<sup>SS</sup> IS TO POSSIBLY PROCEED WITH A DIG/DIGS, IS IN THE HOPE OF DROPPING INTO THE CONNECTION BETWEEN EL CUBILLO AND AGUANAZ. ON ARRIVAL IN THE AREA FOUND THE VEGETATION MORE DENSE THAN IT WAS ON THE PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS. AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF BUSHWACKING AND A MISBEHAVING GPS ON THE HOTTEST DAY SO FAR, WE GAVE UP.

## RIANO 12 AUGUST

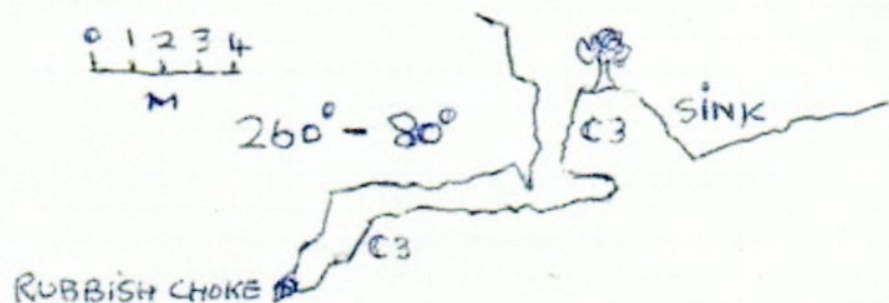
FITTING PIPE IN ENTRANCE OF GIANT PANDA 2691 WITH PHIL PAP, JUAN, TIGER DAVE AND FOUR D.C.C. REPROBATES. SOME TIME WAS SPENT CAREFULLY REMOVING THE OLD SHORING AND A LIFTING SYSTEM SET UP FROM THE TREES ABOVE. NOT POSSIBLE TO DROP PIPE TO DESIRED POSITION SO ANOTHER TRIP REQUIRED. GORDON CUT STEPS IN THE STEEP SIDED SHAKEHOLE TO IMPROVE ACCESS.



VILLANUEVA 13 AUGUST

538

EXPLORED OPEN WOODLAND TO THE WEST OF SITE 5026 AND FOUND ONE SMALL CAVE WHICH CLOSED DOWN AFTER 2 M. 447899 4803700. LOOKED AT NORTH END OF THE WOOD AND THE FIELD BOUNDARY ADJOINING. FOUND 3 VOIDS UNDER LARGE FALLEN BLOCKS BUT NO CAVE DEVELOPMENT. WHEN 5026 WAS FIRST FOUND IT WAS BLOCKED BY FARM RUBBISH BUT NOW OPEN AND CLEAR TO THE BASE OF THIS 3 M CLIMB DOWN. AT THE BOTTOM A DUCK UNDER A FLAKE IS FOLLOWED BY 4 M OF STOOPING PASSAGE TO A SHORT CLIMB DOWN A CALCITE WALL, ANOTHER DROP THEN DOWNWARD SLOPE TO A COMPLETE BLOCKAGE OF RUBBISH, NO DRAUGHT. FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE ENTRANCE CLIMB TO THE END THE FLOOR, SIDES AND ROOF ARE ADORNED WITH RUBBISH WITH BROKEN GLASS ON THE FLOOR. THIS CAVE SEEMS TO FLOOD TO THE BOTTOM OF THE ENTRANCE CLIMB IN WET WEATHER. L12, D6 M



RIANO 14 AUGUST

BACK TO GIANT PANDA WITH PETE, BILLY, NIGEL, GORDON, JUAN AND PHIL PAD. ROCK REMOVED AND PIPE POSITIONED, HOLE CUT IN THE SIDE AND TOP SEALED WITH SCAFFOLD POLES. SOME MORE WORK NEEDED AT A FUTURE DATE.

HORNEDO 15 AUGUST

A COUPLE OF HOURS SPENT REMOVING FLOOR AT ENTRANCE TO SITE 3088 BUT TOO TIGHT FOR ME ABOUT A BODY LENGTH IN, NOT SURE IF REMOVING MORE OF THE FLOOR FURTHER IN WOULD HELP. NEEDS A THINNY OR CARS. SEEMS TO OPEN UP AHEAD AT A SMALL DROP. MODERATE DRAUGHT OUT. THE FARMER LET US PARK OFF THE TRACK JUST INSIDE THE GATE AT THE ROAD.



Date: 14<sup>th</sup> August

Site: 5000 into 1800

Present: Jim Lister

Jim made His way from the new "Boob Tube Entrance" through the cave to the bottom of the bypass pitch to collected his dive kit, from where, He had left it the day before.

He then made his way with his equipment, down the downward sloping mud crawl to the water and ducks, He passed these and soon meet the junction, were He crawled up the mud slope and into the left hand passage, at the top of this slope, the mud floor changed from thick mud and clay to sand and gravel and the passage also had more space.

Jim looked down along the passage in front of Him, it was water filled and very muddy, He decided to kit up where he was, as it had more space, was cleaner and dry and would preserve the water clarity in the sump. In full kit, Jim crawled with some effort through the deep smelly mud and clay, to were a suitable tie off point for the guideline was located, the line was secured, He then crawled to the Arch of rock were the water meets the roof and sump 3 starts (Note: The Tipex triangle, this is the last survey station before the sump located here).

On entering the sump the water was clear, but reduced to zero, once the fine silt covering the soft mud floor was disturbed.

The underwater passage is 1.5 meters high and 4 meters wide approximately, it was followed until the way ahead was blocked by a mud bank, there were two possible ways on? To the right what looked like a passage leading off? behind a jutting out rock and to the left a gap between the left wall and the bottom of the steeply sloping mud bank that sloped down to meet it, Jim decided to follow this route.

Silt screws were fixed and it should be borne in mind by future divers that these will probably be buried as well as the line! As the top layer of silt, is very deep, before the firmer clay required to hold the screw is found.

The wall was followed in zero visibility for several meters until the passage opened up again at the bottom of a rock slope which was steeply ascending to the left, this was followed and soon lead up to Air space.

Jim noted that at the base of the slop He had just ascended that there probably is a passage leading off? Probaly going back around the mud bank to the start of the sump? This is speculation and will need to be investigated at some point in the future. Back at the upstream sump pool the diver looked around and saw the rope Dave and Jim had rigged the day before confirming the location, a small inlet passage was found at water level but this ended a few meters in at a pool/ sump, it did not look very promising at all.

Conclusion: there may be a way on in the sump? And the sump does bypass the pitches, but any benefit as a quick route is debatable, as SRT kit or a lader will still be required to get out of the sump at the upstream end.

Line reel left at upstream dive base, lead at down stream dive base.

From: Johnny Latimer (johnny.latimer@gmail.com)

To: juancorrin@matienzo.org.uk

Date: Saturday, 26 August 2023 at 14:02 WEST

Morning Juan,

In-between concreting the floor we've got another cave. Description below.

*Cueva de Dana*  
*5387*

Discovered by Miguel Ángel Fernandez (Catula) & his dog, Dana. A small hole in the left banking 20 metres before the entrance to Molino. Excavated to allow access to a bigger than body sized cave. A head first 2-3 metre crawl down a slope gets to a tight gap where beyond to the left it is full of rocks which would be easy to dig out. Very strong outward draught on a warm day.



30/8/23 Photos of "lake" at 0081. Had earlier flowed up towards crest.

31/8/23 Jan to Giant Panda to check foaming. Little expansion seen but blocks seem firm enough.

Photos + Video. Red and white tape put across entrance in tube.







## **MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT**