

LOGBOOK

Year: 2024

Season: autumn

Logbook pages converted from an online *Google Doc*

Juan Corrin, November 2024

Autumn 2024 Logbook



[LOGBOOK HELP](#)

STARTED 11th September 2024

11/9/2024 Various surveys

Drawn up surveys for sites [0151](#), [0429](#), [0816](#), [1391](#), [2082](#), [3762](#), [5162](#) and [5362](#) received from Si and Di.

18/9/2024 Various surveys

Drawn up surveys from Si and Di: 3 Hoyuca drawings [#0107](#) and [#4867](#) (El Rincón).

22/9/2024 Blog from La Cambera Torca No Binaria [#2211](#) (LC229)

Se trata de un pequeño agujero situada unos metros por encima de la LC228 (Torca de los 5 Cráneos)

La jornada anterior ya habíamos desobstruido su entrada con ayuda de Adriel así que instalamos y descendimos aproximadamente 3,5 metros hasta una repisa que continúa con un resalte de unos 6 metros al cuál accedemos a través de un fraccionamiento.

A primera vista en su base no encontramos una continuación evidente. Tras una pequeña trepada a la derecha encontramos la continuación a través de un estrecho descenso que nos deposita en una pequeña rampa de techo bajo que obliga a tumbarse, cubierta de un barro espeso y pegajoso que termina en un pequeño paso el cuál tenemos que desobstruir.



El pequeño paso se desfonda en un pozo de unos cuantos metros.

La desobstrucción se hace ardua debido a la posición y a la imposibilidad de atacarla de cara. El barro se pega a las manos y al martillo cubriéndolos por completo y haciendo aún más difícil la tarea si cabe.

Después de casi una hora tumbados sobre el barro húmedo picando en posiciones propias de un campeonato de joga, conseguimos agrandar el paso a unas proporciones medianamente humanas. Aún así hay un saliente que se resiste y al que nos es imposible llegar y que nos impide pasar a pesar de unos cuantos intentos.

Decidimos abandonar. La próxima vez lo

volveremos a intentar con otras herramientas.

En esta torca da igual que seas mujer, hombre, cisgénero, heteroflexible, intersexual, andrógino o cualquier mierda de esas, que sales de barro hasta los cojones.

Participantes: Toñín y Gustavo

This is a small hole located a few metres above LC228 (Torca de los 5 Cráneos) ([#5101](#))

The day before we had already cleared its entrance with the help of Adriel, so we set up and descended approximately 3.5 metres to a ledge that continues with a ledge of about 6 metres which we access through a subdivision.

At first glance at its base we do not find an obvious continuation. After a small climb to the right we find the continuation through a narrow descent that deposits us on a small ramp with a low ceiling that forces us to lie down, covered in thick and sticky mud that ends in a small step which we have to clear.

The small step collapses into a well of a few metres.

Clearing the blockage is difficult due to the position and the impossibility of attacking it head on. The mud sticks to the hands and the hammer, covering them completely and making the task even more difficult if possible. After almost an hour lying on the wet mud, chopping in positions worthy of a joga championship, we managed to enlarge the passage to a moderately human proportion. Even so, there is a ledge that resists and that we are unable to reach and that prevents us from passing despite several attempts.

We decided to give up. Next time we will try again with other tools.

In this sinkhole it doesn't matter if you are a woman, a man, cisgender, heteroflexible, intersexual, androgynous or any of that shit, you come out with mud up to your balls.

Participants: Toñín y Gustavo (*Photos downloaded; approx GR 20m uphill (south) as 449223 4804860 Alt. 330m*)

26/9/2024 La Cambera Exploration Journals 2021, 2022, 2023

Above Journals downloaded for 'dissecting' into the cave descriptions and bibliography / webography. Looks like good info in these: grid references, some surveys, etc. JSC.

2/10/2024 [0725](#) photos from Carlos Lamoile

From: llambriales@gmail.com

To: juancorrin@matienzo.org.uk

Wed, 2 Oct at 12:01

Buenos días Juan, ¿qué tal va todo?. Qué tal la campaña veraniega?.

El otro día estuve en el sitio 725, muy bonita, ya sabes que me gustan ese tipo de cuevas donde no va nadie y son vistosas. Tiene una sala muy hermosa.

Te remito unas fotos, para que completes su ficha.

Un abrazo

Carlos Lamoile

2/10/2024 Bibliography / webography

Note the Matienzo mention on page 16 of Descent 300.

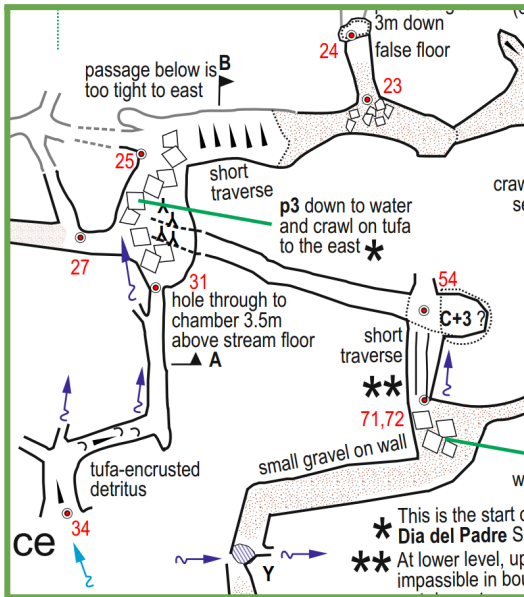
30th September [0028](#) [0019](#) water trace

Good afternoon Juan

Andy and I are doing some water-tracing in Selvijo, possibly as a preliminary if you want to do a bigger test when you're here, for example to see if water is going straight into Loca 2.

This morning we put detectors in Loca 1 and in the '2nd stream' in Selvijo, and then put about 0.7 litres of OBA in the stream where it resurges at the top of the Selvijo shakehole. Lots of possibilities: both positive, both negative, one or other positive, the other negative? We'll probably check the detectors on Wednesday.

Cheers Pete

3rd October [0028](#) [0019](#) water trace

Good afternoon Juan

We went back to the caves today (it was raining all day yesterday). Both detectors were positive. So Andy's idea that water sinking at the top of the shakehole feeds the second stream appears to be right.

We also tried going downstream. After the first crawl it's walking and traversing in a rift passage. We soon stopped at a junction with a crawl on the right above stream level, and the stream passage continuing. It still needs surveying, so that's something for you to look forward to.

Cheers

Pete

Hello Juan

The detector was in the stream between 54 and 71,72. For me, it's probably the same stream, downstream from Y (I was referring to the two segments collectively as the '2nd stream').

No, I don't remember hearing a stream down that narrow shaft, but the passage Andy and I were in, from 54, is heading that way.

Cheers

13/10/2024 **Report for Sept log:** Alf Latham Chris Camm Phil Parker.

(No dated entries for a three-week trip up to end of September. Logbook search will have all of these individual items dated as 00/09/2024.)

Not a lot to report with weather and injuries leading to quite a lot of time off from exploration and caving.

However, Phil and Alf had a few visits to site [5353](#) near house. To continue capping a potential lead, more capping and trips planned.

Over in the 4474 valley Alf and Chris continued the enlargement of Site [4480](#). Really crappy rock means the progress is very slow, with more trips planned.

Elsewhere a talk with a local spoke of a cave with good formations and walking passage! A walk to investigate the area led Phil and Chris to conclude the entrance was one previously located by Bob Mackin and Phil Papard. Site [3567](#).

On the way back Phil and Chris noted a small entrance in side of road at 30T 450234 4800428 what may dig.

NEW SITE 5442

Near Solorzano., Alf and Chris. An attempt was made to locate the site [3997](#). The Spanish publication talks of going along the Elguero road (Helguero?) to a house with 3 silos, the cave entrance being a small bedding feature (ref survey) on a flat area on the slope of the property. The road was found to lead to a gate, so we parked on the space near Site 2415 and walked from there. A house with 3 silos was found, a search between the property and the Rio Campiezo drew a blank. However a track on the left a few metres before the house and silos has been put in recently. A large concrete slab covers the ditch on the left side of the track (facing house and silos) and may obscure the entrance? Some land drains lead here also. There appears to be a natural hole too. From map locate site 2764, hole is approx 100 m N where track runs N to house with 3 Silos.

Chris dug and extended Site [3404](#) by a couple of metres, before rain and muddy squalor forced a retreat. Draughts.

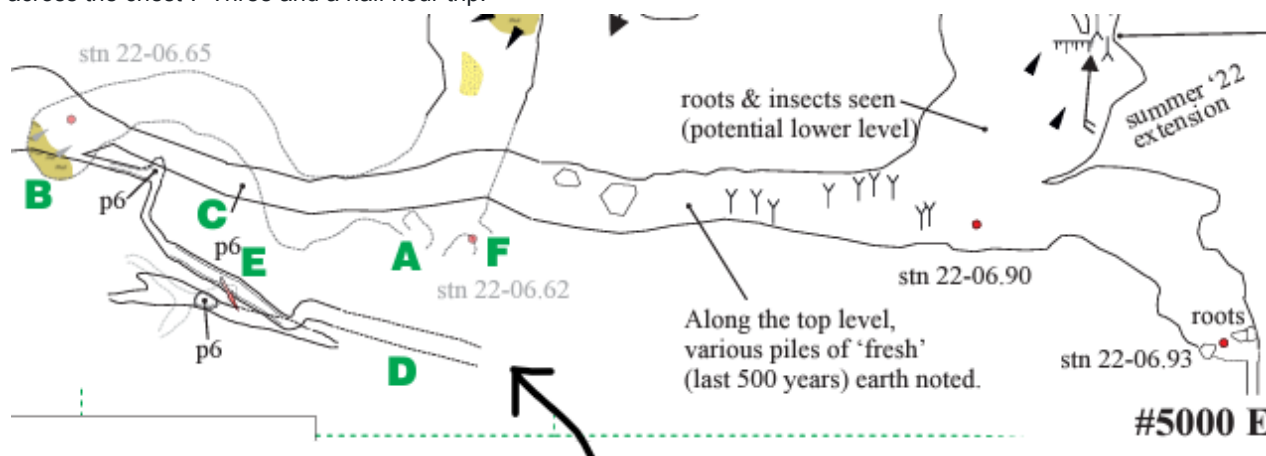
14/10/2024 Fridge Door ([1800](#)) via The Boob tube ([5000](#))

Torben, Dave, Santi, Peter

A short trip to check out a traverse previously seen by Peter and Torben whilst exploring a rift near the entrance.

We all entered the cave without problem (getting out would be a whole new story) down the short entrance slope the left hand passage with pits in the floor leads to a hole on to a 6m pitch to the start of the rift. Further 6m pitch and rifts below have no way on. The bottom of the pitch requires you to pass a constriction on your LHS. The rift is directly ahead. But before we could do any of this Peter had to return to the van to get the rope and hangers, which we all forgot about.

Torben rigged the start of the rift using bolts placed for the pitch below plus a bolt placed on the previous trip as we had a drill. Two more bolts and we were across the rift and at a corner with a bolder blocking the way. This was dispatched down the rift without too much trouble. Around a short corner the top level of the rift has to be followed to a blockage. This was broken up by Torben and then combined tactics enabled us to remove the block entirely. The rift now became a walking size passage with ways on ahead in a low arched passage with calcite and mud floor (not pushed) a walking passage slightly above where we entered leads to a 3m dia ish chamber beyond a flake with echo (also not entered) We had no survey kit, so it worked once again, don't take a kit and you will find new passage. We finished rigging the traverse and rejoined Santi and Dave, who complained that our hammering had woken Santi from his sleep. Dave confirmed that there was snoring and it wasn't him. Upon exiting Dave confirmed that the Boob Tube is still "a bit tight across the chest". Three and a half hour trip.



Boulder removed at "D"

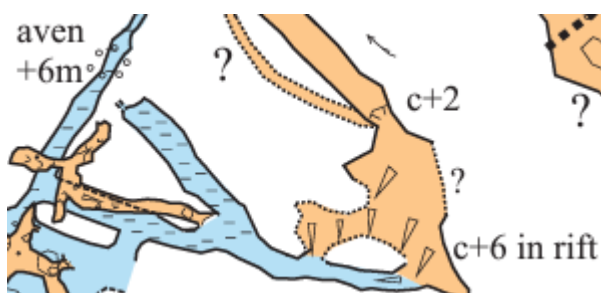
15/10/2024 [0103](#) Espada

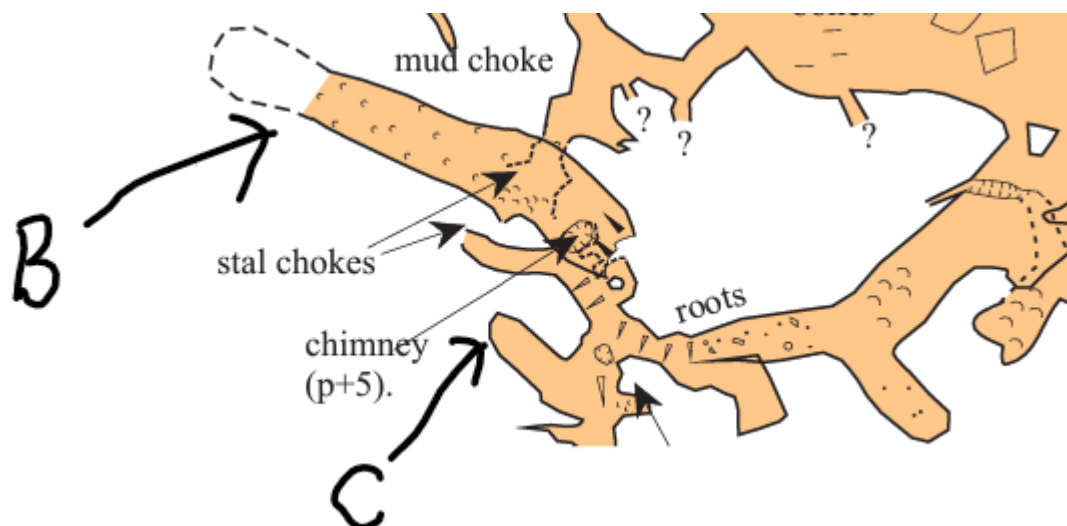


Peter, Torben, Dave, Santi

A 6 hour trip to the upper level.

At the rift where the c+6 leads up the rift was climbed deep in the rift to do it rather safe, but it was quite slippery at the bottom. This place was rigged with a rope out of the rift for faster access and comfortable descent.





B:

The wide and low passage at B was entered. Around B the roof gets very low, but it looks like someone has been squeezing past in the southern side. After the squeeze it gets much higher.

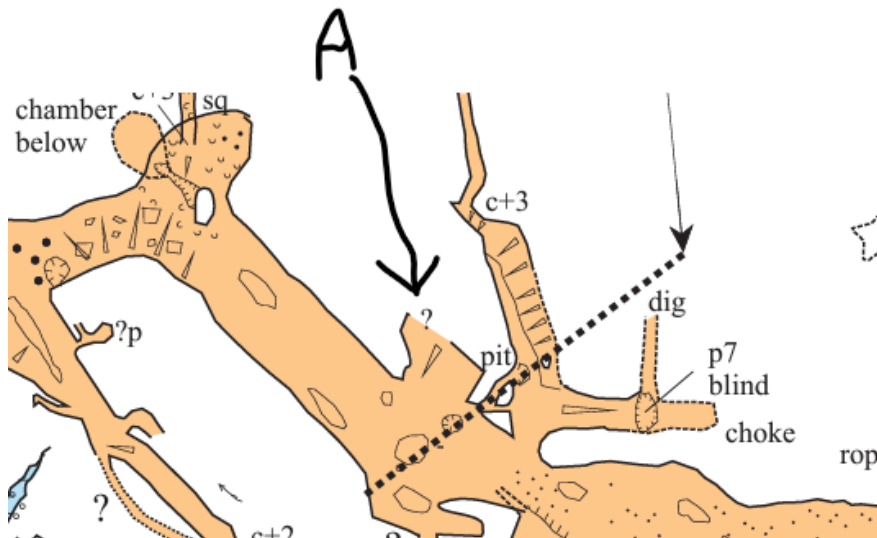
At the top of chimney p+5, a rock was removed at the N wall to get access to a 3 m passage heading NE, but it closed down.

C:

At C there is a 5 cm wide slot, where a very strong draught is about to blow your hair off. Looking into the slot a 4 m wide and 2 m high passage is seen going left and right. The slot is narrow only for a few centimetres and will easily cap. A handline may be enough to get down about 3m into the passage.

At the Aven with bones below we found wild boar, cow and other. Picture below is from wild boar.





A:

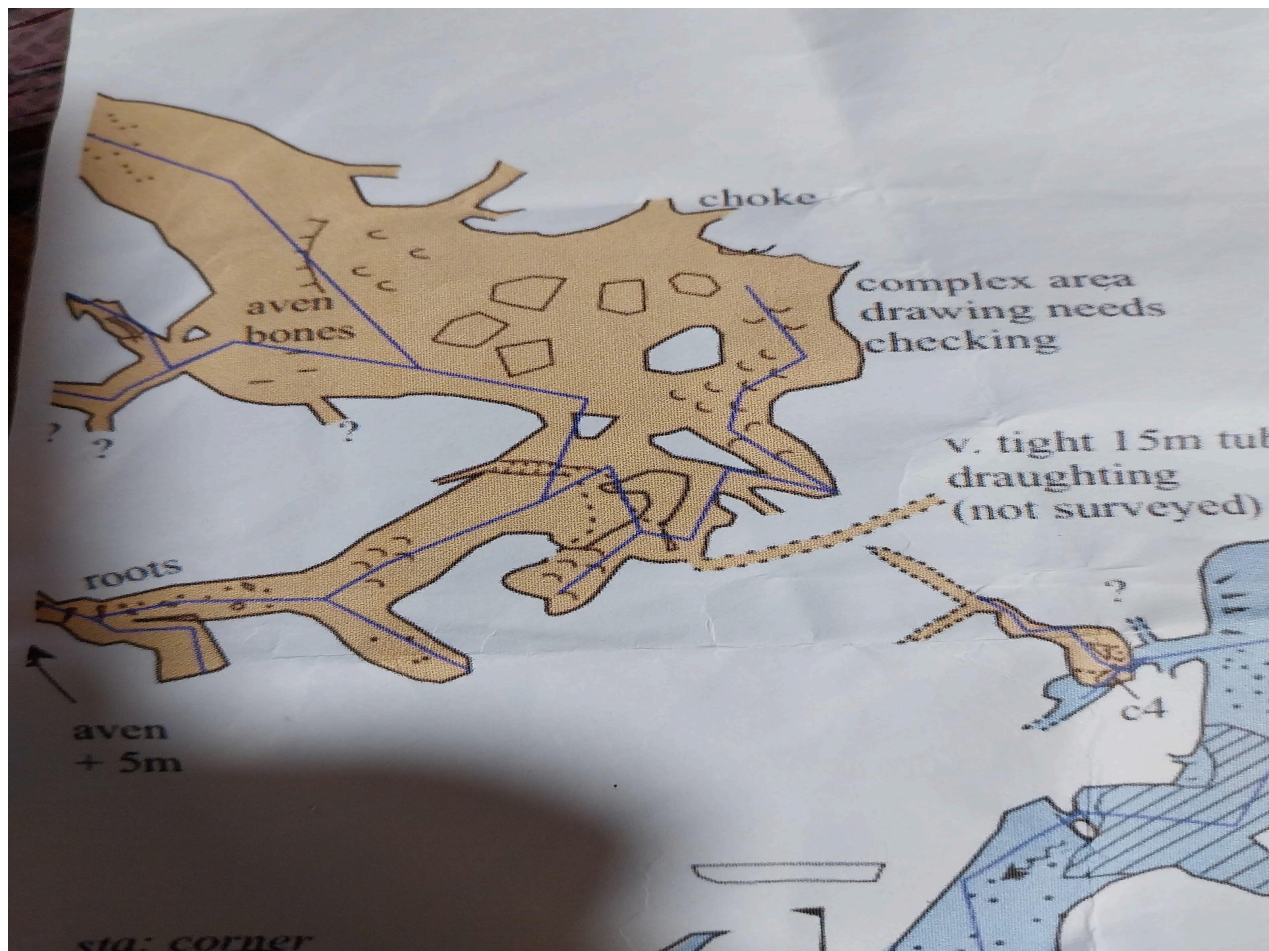
On the way out, A was climbed (Torben) with 2 bolts for about 15 m. Muddy and slippery in places. At the top it gets wider to the sides, about 2 metres to each side, but there is no way on. Lots of small stalls in the roof.



The stream at the entrance increased comfort, as we could get rid of all the mud.

16/10/2024 [0103](#) Espada

Torben, Dave, Santi, Peter



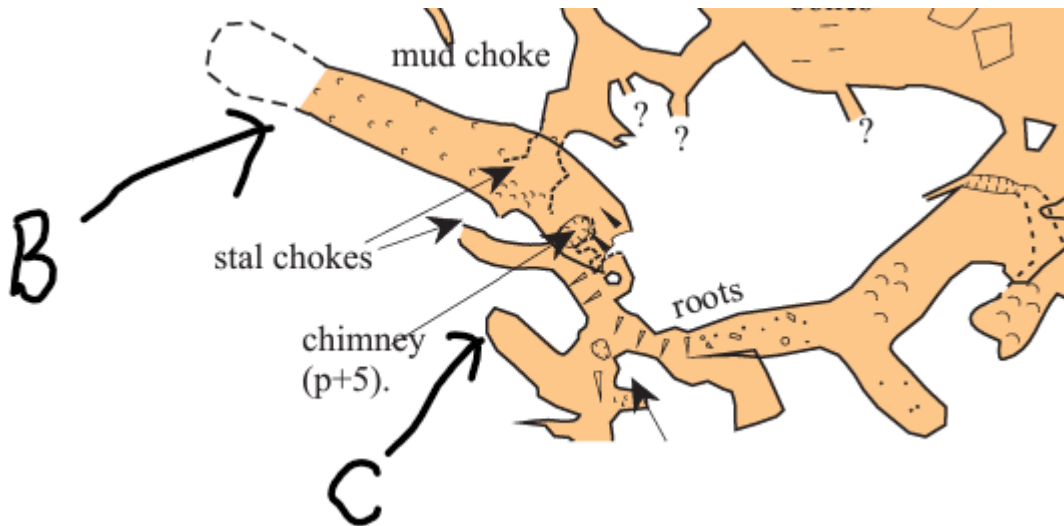
Santi and Peter dug out the tight draughting 15m tube and Peter pushed along and entered a 3m wide slope with no ways on except for a possible hole in the roof 5m above. There were tree roots and signs that someone had been there before and tried to get into the tube. There is the possibility that this was something else and the actual tube is yet to be found. The whole of this area of the cave near the bones has many routes in the floor which lead to others which return you to the bones. We are going to check out the 4m climb from near the top river entrance as it appears to be very close.

Torben and Dave went to cap at C

Entered at 13.00 for a 7h trip. A large number of caps was used as we capped and chiselled from about 14.00 to 19.00. After emptying 2 batteries the slot was just large enough for Torben to get through. But Dave said that it may not be large enough to get back out. After entering, chiselling from the inside made the exit much better.

Past the squeeze a 2 m wide phreatic passage with sand heads SW (left). It starts out crawling, and a trenching tool may be good for further progress, it gets higher after about 2 meters. The draught comes from SW. To the right of the squeeze it looks like the passage continues, but thin stalls may have to be removed.

The squeeze could do with a bit more capping, but that will be easier to do from inside the new passage.



Santi and Peter went to the c4 climb to check out all possible ways but only one had a good draft and it was tight. This turned out to be moon milk and mud, so after a lot of digging and scraping Peter passed it to a small calcite floored crawl which opens out beyond but requires the floor digging. Some debris was left so if found from the other side we know where to attack it. On the way back through the dig it was possible to widen it a lot, but it will be difficult to spot from below as it is on the LHS looking towards main cave and over a flake. There are a lot of short climbs and tubes which all choke.

The small section of tube below the climb becomes too small but does have a faint draught.

We then carried on up stream and looked at the first passage on the left which leads to a dig. This was muddy and squalid but the draughting small short section of passage on the RHS looks like a very good prospect for capping out.

17/10/2024 #[4774](#) Cueva Buena Suerte



(Photos by Marites on FB.)

18/10/2024 Prospecting above Espada (#[3443](#))

Santi, Peter, Dave

We drove and parked at the road corner above Espada only to encounter an angry farmer's wife, who insisted there were no holes in the ground in her field and we should go elsewhere. Which we did. We relocated to the sewage farm but had to park above Riano resurgence as they were working on the plant.

We tried to search the woods above the top entrance but it was very hard going with thick brambles and ferns. Eventually we ended up re-finding dig [3443](#) along with another few small holes in the area. We dug 3443 (mainly Dave) and could see down 2.5m deep but rocks seem to rumble on a further 2m ish.





Entrance 3443, as of today. Work still needed.

19/10/2024 Torca la Decepción ([4732](#))

Diane Arthurs (Di) & Simon Cornhill (Si)

Trip to rig and check the status of Decepción entrance pitches.

Small Slam was found to have a rope already on it, which was re-rigged to make the hangs more optimal. Curiously the final short pitch/straddle wasn't rigged. Di opted to return to the surface and secure a decent route through the woods, as a local farmer has added another electric fence and filled in gaps with branches where you cross it to go up the final slope to the cave entrance. Meanwhile, Si carried on to Grand Slam and noticed on the way that it must have been very wet at some point since anyone last visited, as the floor of the crawls were becoming scoured down to bedrock in places and ripples had formed in the remaining sediments. Arriving at Grand Slam this was also found to be rigged but with a fairly used looking rope, so it was replaced with a new one and the old rope designated to be taken further into Uzueka for rigging bolt climbs/traverses etc.

19/10/2024 Fridge Door ([1800](#)) via The Boob tube ([5000](#))

Torben, Santi, Peter

Return to traverse left rigged and going on previous trip 14/10/2024

We pushed on forward to a flat out crawl which has a good draught to dig in pebbles. Short climbs and other small digs were looked at before we turned our attention to the passage heading in the same direction as we entered. This was too tight for Santi but he quickly enlarged it and we all entered a domed chamber 2.5m dia with a slope down to easy walking passage. This led to a low section which was easily dug out then finally became too small with a draught. On the RHS on the way there were digs in the floor which we managed to dig out mainly in soft sand and plates of calcite (all joining up) before it began to climb with still more potential for digging.

Movie from Torben will follow on mail



Traverse below 6 m pitch (a bit wide)



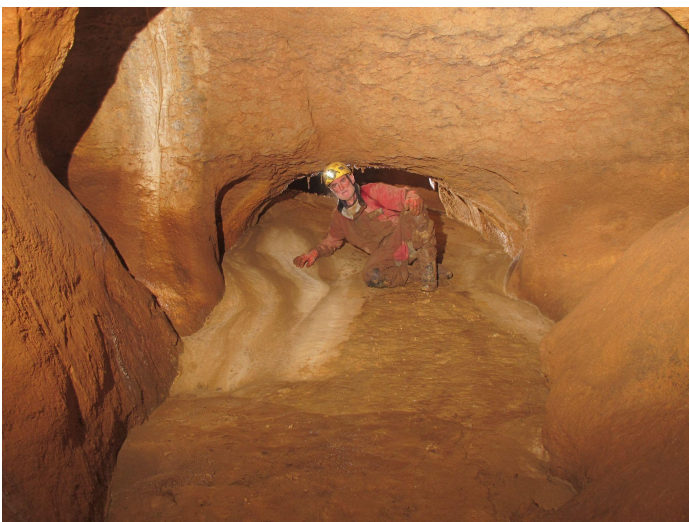
Dig after traverse into new stuff



Passage to draughting dig



Main way on found to calcite squeeze



Beyond squeeze



The way on



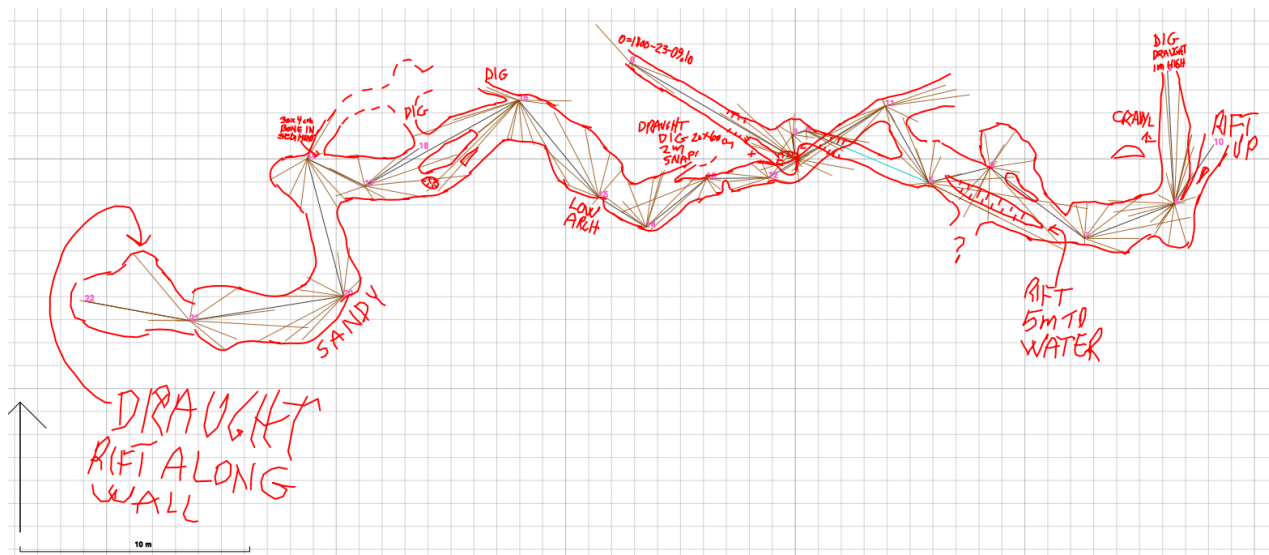
Before dig to continuation



Easy dig before the end ????

All surveyed, and photos taken; plus derigged for another day. Just short of 100m surveyed. (Batch 1800-24-09 94.7m. However, 17m should be subtracted as there were some duplicate legs in batch 1800-24-09. **New length surveyed - 77.7m**) 4VS length is 76361m.

Quote of the day from Santi: "No need to wash our kit, we will be in another shit hole tomorrow".



19/10/2024 Prospecting above Fridge Door

Dave Bell

I went to walk back to 3443 to continue a bit of digging from yesterday.

But I followed the same outcrop that we had walked along further to the west from the house, over Fridge Door entrance towards Espada.

Before I got to the section of dense undergrowth I found a new prospect. It is likely very close to the "area" described as 3228. (Juan, you might just want to call this 3228 - I'm guessing that "area" was actually the rock outcrop just above and to the left as seen in the photo)

New Dig #5443 0451100 4800700 Approx 130m altitude (Juan - this altitude is a guess, my GPS is not good at altitude!) Actually **451113 4800790 Alt. 134m**

The dig is at approximately the same altitude as Boob Tube (and 3443), and is almost equidistant from Fridge Door entrance and Espada entrance.



Entrance Photo



It is currently about 1m x 0.5m and dug 1m deep.

The surface soil has been removed, and the dig is currently through "cave mud" with bits of embedded rock, some with calcite on it. There are also walnut shells in the mud - which were a common feature inside Espada at those levels.



Under the LHS there is "proper cave roof", with space above the spoil, although, to be fair, it will all need quite a bit of digging - but I think it is worth spending one or two days at least on it before it's written off.

The typical passage inside the cave has soil run-in completely filling the tubes down from the roof, so no draught (yet).

Worth spending a little time on ...

Now covered with a pile of branches - it will need a better covering if it gets deeper as cows are sometimes in the woods.

20/10/2024 Juan & Penny walking on El Nanso

Careful not to find any new holes, apart from

NEW SITE #5444 @ 30T 0451413 4796492 altitude 490m

A 2m step down into a 2m long "passage" behind a bramble bush. Moving a sheet of black plastic revealed a choked, draughtless floor. Photos.

Also photo of [2125](#)

20/10/2024 Torca la Decepción ([4732](#)) into Uzueka ([0107](#))

Di & Si

A 9.5hr trip to re-survey half of Shrimp Bone Inlet and check out the original bolt climb up the 10m waterfall - entered via Torca la Decepción. Re-surveyed 565m to around halfway along it.

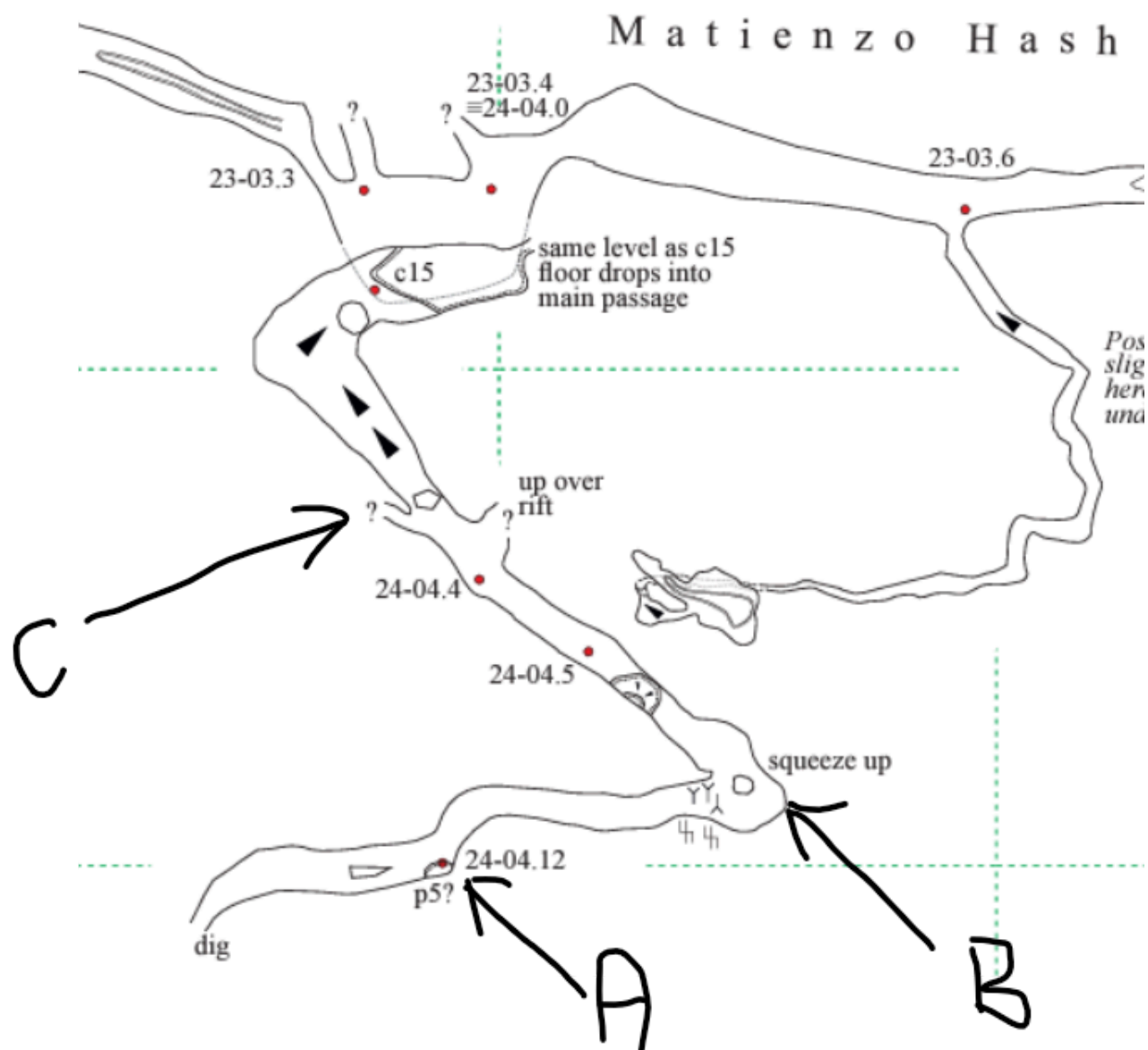
The original explorers' ancient 25+ year old climbing rope is still hanging down the imposing looking waterfall - it is not advisable to try and climb this rope!

A possible alternative and dry climb could be from the ledge at the start of the chamber into some dark spaces in the roof, which will hopefully connect to the upper chamber.

20/10/2024 Fridge Door ([1800](#)) via The Boob tube ([5000](#))

Louise and Torben

A 5 h trip to check a shaft.



A

The shaft/rift was dropped, and unfortunately ended blind after 6 metres. The dig towards west at the end of the passage was draughting.

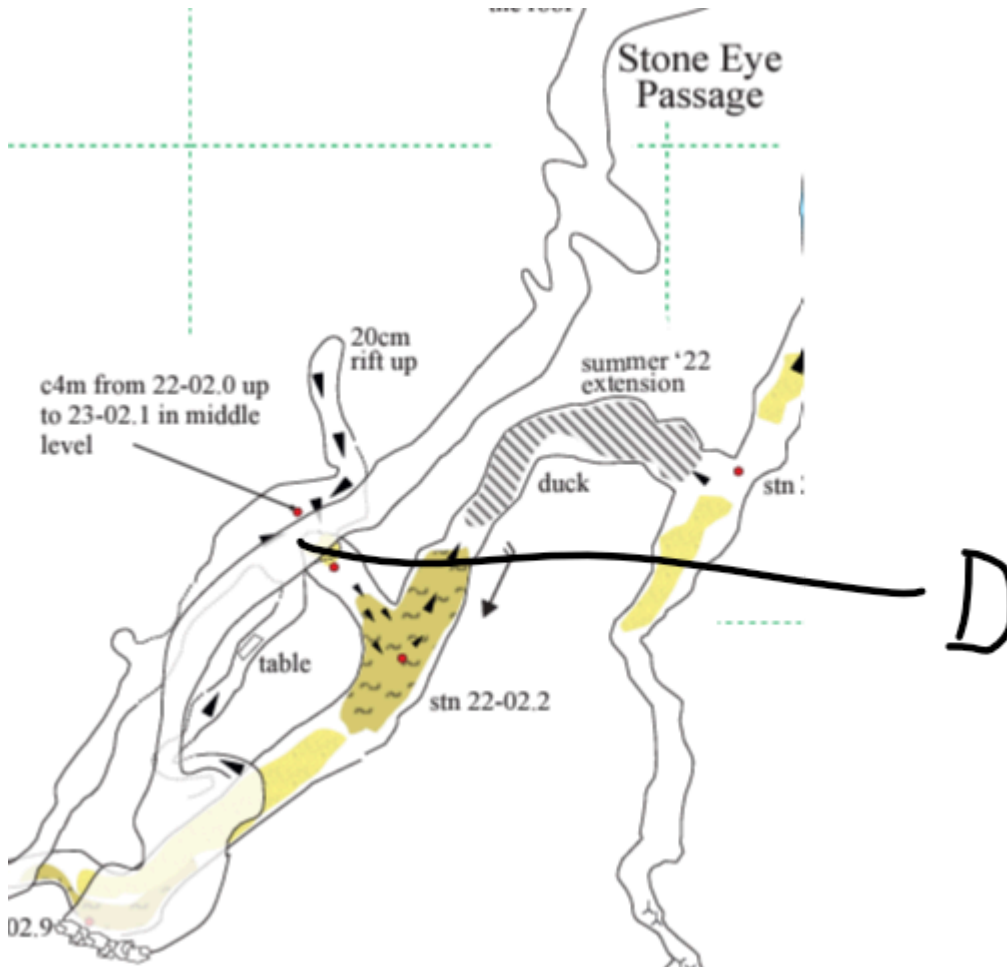
B

In the grotto at B, there can be seen continuation towards east. It will require digging. A 40 cm boulder may need to be split, chisel crowbar and hammer should be able to do the rest. On the other side of the dig water is heard and there is echo.

C

At C the crawl heading west was surveyed until it got too small. Possibly a weak draught.

In the survey file: stn4=1800.1800-24-04.4 **Length (Adjusted) = 17m** (Batch 1800-24-10)



D

Tube just 3 metres above top of the c+4 was entered. The entrance tube is 3 m up the mud slope and is about 60 cm wide. After 4 metres it ends in a 1.5 m round chamber with no way on.

Movie of the passages leading to A and B, will follow on mail.

20/10/2024 Espada ([0103](#))

Peter, Dave, Santi

A 5 hour trip to cap open the draughting hole in the northbound passage upstream of the top entrance (see top of Page 10).

We thought it might be a shorter trip as we only had 24 caps - but we spotted Simon at Casa German as we drove off, and he gave us about 150 more caps ... thanks!

The rock on the left side was hard, kept trapping the capping rod, and wasn't cooperating. The rock on the right side was fragmented, easily shattered and was removed. We ran through both drill batteries, and made fair progress. Peter could eventually squeeze through to look to the left (but the right closes down) but the left-hand corner wall needs to be removed. The left-hand wall is the one that doesn't cooperate ... !

The draught all comes from here, so it is worth the effort, and should be continued until we can at least see properly around the corner. There is a possibility that the way on will be too small - but it might not be. The "dig" which is further along this passage looks like it is "run in" - possibly this passage is an oxbow, and will rejoin the "main" passage beyond the choke. There is a small stream at a slightly lower level which must come from this section of passage.

Slightly more work required ...

21/10/2024 New site 5445

Juan

Just before the hairpin travelling down into Solórzano, the road drain on the left drops into a small shaft apparently about 5 or 6m deep with stones thrown down. Concrete cover could be moved to allow easier access?



Shaft looks narrow.

#5445 @ 30T 0451616 4801974 altitude 219m

21/10/2024 ([0311](#))

Di & Si

A nice afternoon trip to check out this hole, there was no draught today. Surveyed: 35m long, and 34m deep.

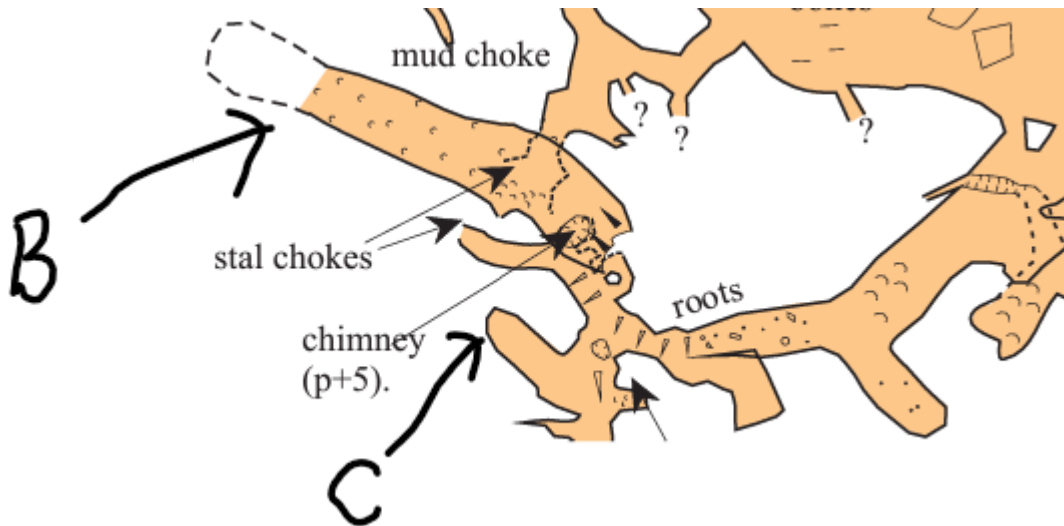
We rigged the cave for SRT and descended to the bottom of the shaft, where as previously reported it was indeed blind, two very small holes were seen but not worthy of any attention. We didn't survey or enter 'the small chamber to the right of the surface pitch'.

Of note is that the whole cave and in particular the shaft(s) below the 6m pitch from the surface are very loose and should be treated with care.

21/10/2024 Espada ([0103](#))

Peter, Dave, Torben

5h trip to survey and push the capped slot from 16oct2024, see C below.



Total surveyed 49,1 m, but 3 legs (stn 0-2-3-4) connect back to known stn. Stn4=0103_espada.0103-10-02.10
Adjusted length = **35.1m**



Back to point C on the map last visited 16/10/2024 in [0103](#) Espada by Torben and Dave. It had been capped out wide enough for a quick investigation by slim cavers with new oversuits on.

Beyond the capped out section (see looking-up photo of disappointed Dave who could not get his chest through) left went straight to a wide but low sandy dig. Right hand side ended in small chamber.

Whilst Dave and Torben tied in the survey. Peter dug this out, but still tight bedding, and followed it to a curtain of stalls with a gap (see Photo (below) of happy Torben who did get through the capped squeeze).

The passage quickly widens to a higher section with two run ins; the left looks impenetrable but with slight draught, the right hand one will dig with a long crowbar, mash and chisel as it is calcite in blocks.

A way ahead can be seen with a very good draught. The bottom of this run in is like a butcher's chopping block of bones, some quite big, probably Cow.

We surveyed out and took a few photos.



Near the extension there are an abundance of roots hanging from the roof.

On the way out of the cave we looked at lots of potential leads; the main one being bolting up in the roof above the wild boar's jaw. Around the area of "the fault" there are 2 or 3 holes in the floor (about 5m to 7m deep) which look interesting - they are probably best tackled with a ladder. An interesting crawl was entered, also near the fault shown on the survey, but will need digging gear to get through.

The pitch was left rigged (15m rope plus 2 hangers), but the hang is not very good, and requires a longer rope and some additional bolts placed higher and further to the right (as you look up) - but it is passable.

We will revisit presently.

22/10/2024 Torca la Decepción ([4732](#))

Di, Si & Pete O' (O'Neil)

We went to drop off a bag of climbing gear and other stuff ready for tomorrow's trip.

Whilst at Decepción Si went down the first short pitch and squirrelled the small inlet at the top of Small Slam to check out if the water flow could be redirected. The inlet continued straight ahead for about 4m then a tight right hand bend prevented further movement, a further 3m could be seen and then a left hand bend. Some sort of digging tool would aid further progress.

Pete O' and Di explored the area before the pitch, finding two resting bats.

We then headed out onto the hillside for some spotholing. Nothing new was found but we did discover the source of the unpleasant odour. A half decayed vaca wriggling with maggots higher up the hillside!

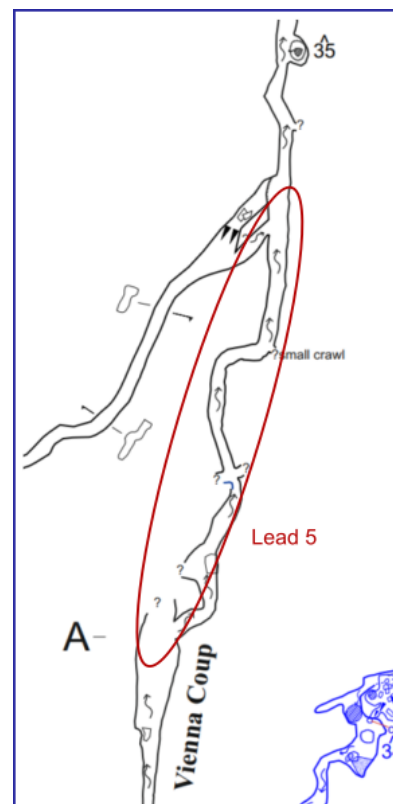
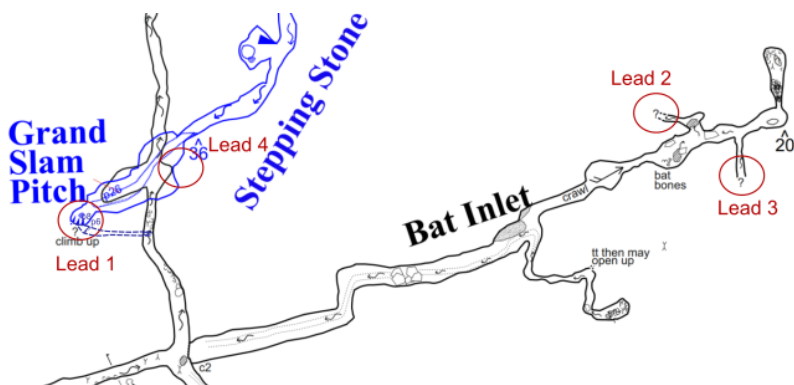
23/10/2024 Torca la Decepción ([4732](#))

Di, Si & PeteO

A trip to climb and check various leads around the bottom of Grand Slam. Total of 102m surveyed

First lead was climbing into the hole at around 8m metres up from the large ledge at the bottom of Grand Slam. Quick progress using the Petzl Coeur Pulse reusable bolts, reaching the window and a 6m pitch down a slot on the other side. Unfortunately this led to a tight muddy rift which was ended overlooking the BTM streamway. (*Not surveyed*)

Whilst Si extracted himself Di & Pete went to check some leads in BTM (Bat Inlet) surveying leads **2 (Batch 24-02)** & **3 (Batch 24-01)**. Then after reconvening Pete set off out and Di & Si surveyed lead **4 (Batch 24-03)** - the 3m climb up from the base of Grand Slam, the blocks guarding entry to the lead were brought down and a climb ended in a tall aven. To finish off (lead no:5) we surveyed (**batch 24-04**) the '?' up into the big passage downstream which ends dropping back into the streamway.



24/10/2024 5445

Di & Si

After a lovely three course lunch we decided to checkout the roadside drain Juan had spotted a few days earlier. On closer inspection there is a throbolt in the small cliff above the cover, so I guess this has attracted a caver's attention already. The shaft is 10m to a slope which closes down after 10m and an alcove under the road. Surveyed 22m.



25/10/2024 Cueva
Vallina ([0733](#))

Di, Si, PeteO & Rupert Skorupka

A nice trip to help retrieve the last of Rupert's diving gear from the bottom of the big pitch after it had been washed away and recovered downstream by RS.

26/10/2024 Torca la Decepción ([4732](#)) into Uzueka ([0107](#))

Di & Si

Completed surveying upstream Shrimp Bone Inlet up to the 10m waterfall. 9.5hr trip. Re-surveyed 556m

The weather forecast was grim and a downpour was predicted (up to 60mm!) so we decided to leave climbing the waterfall for another day.

Interestingly, the water levels are currently low. Small Slam and the Superduck only have a light trickle flowing down and through and Shrimp Bone Inlet had signs that the water levels get a lot higher.

27/10/2024

As forecast, there was exceptionally heavy rain overnight and into the afternoon resulting in the Rio Clarin bursting its banks. Not really a day to be underground!



28-10-24 [0593](#)

Peter O'Neill

Parking at high point of Bosmartin road.

Entrance found and descended on a ladder. The 3mtr entrance climb is actually free climbable, there's two pitches descending further from a small bridge of jammed boulders, the pitches are probably the same pitch, bridged by the jammed boulders.

First pitch is narrow at the top and will require capping, it's approx 10mtr deep. The 2nd pitch which is approx 5mtr deep requires some boulders removing to gain access, however removal of the boulder floor your standing on maybe an easier option.

There appears to be a draught.



28/10/2024 Torca la Decepción ([4732](#))

Di & Si

Trip to check out if Decepción can be descended.

Small Slam was ok but miserably wet, so after some faffing trying to divert the water running down the pitch with a groundsheet, a deviation arranged near the top might avoid the worst.

We then went roaming around the hillside above Decepción.

29/10/2024

Pete O'Neill

Checking out sites Socks [1018](#), [1017](#), [2101](#).

Descended 2101 to look at prospects after summer break through, slight draught detected. Sites 1017 and 1018 both draughting strongly. Broken drill bit removed from 1018.

29/10/2024 Torca la Decepción ([4732](#)) into Uzueka ([0107](#))

Di & Si

In Small Slam the spray down the pitch was still miserable, so a Y-hang was arranged below the new deviation in the parallel shaft, giving a dry hang but more complicated descent.

Moving onto the bottom of Dealers' Choice, the Shrimp Bone inlet streamway was around 3cm higher than normal, so it was deemed that the climb up the 10m waterfall at its end would be far too wet and we moved onto Rocky Horror. Here we followed and surveyed hugging the left hand wall past the impressive resurgence pool of Duckham's Sump and on downstream as far as we could, finally escaping back to right hand wall and the usual route. We then went to check the route which leads to the end of Rocky Horror, finding many carbide marks.

Surveyed 196m Batch 24-03

30/10/2024 [5052](#)

Pete, Pete O, Si & Di

Progress is good. Draughting in gently to start, but the draught increased as the day progressed.

Capped and removed the restricting boulders. Soft sand bedding easily dug out to gain access into a slot, below which Continued in a constricted passage. Rock shelves were removed with a hammer, and progress made for 15m to a constricted pitch head, which needs more work for a descent to be made. The Pitch was distorted at 11mtr deep.

Surveyed 11m



Passage to pitch head

31/10/2024 Torca la Decepción ([4732](#)) into Uzueka ([0107](#))

Di & Si

A trip up Shrimp Bone Inlet to climb the 10m and 2.5m waterfalls and continue beyond.

After some deliberation, instead of a direct assault up the big waterfall itself we decided to gamble on a dry option of climbing straight up the rift which enters the 10m waterfall chamber, in the hope one of the black spaces seen at the top would lead to the continuation. In less than an hour, Si had navigated the poor rock on the way up and gained entry to the upper chamber rigging a dry if very muddy pitch - we were in! Inspecting the belay of the ancient climbing rope hanging down the 10m waterfall, it was heavily calcified and badly frayed down to the core, never mind the state of the bolts, very glad we didn't attempt to ascend it!

Having read the previous accounts we knew the shortest but by far the hardest climb would be the 2.5m waterfall at the end of the next chamber. It was just how we imagined it, very crumbly walls with a large overhanging chert ledge and the full water course going over it, the 25+ year old ladder was still in place but only just as it was heavily rusted and couldn't be trusted. The original explorers overcame this obstacle by creating a human pyramid and boosting someone up the waterfall to rig said ladder, there only being the two of us this presented a problem. So after digging some large foot holds up the left wall a 3cm area of rock which might possibly take a bolt was located under the lip. Using combined tactics the bolt was placed and didn't pull out straight away, so Di taking one for the team stood under the waterfall holding Si in balance whilst he scaled the etrier to successfully perform an acrobatic manoeuvre into the higher passage - we were in, again! A y-hang was arranged which should be out of the water in normal levels, then we went to checkout The *Mongoosees Don't Jump* Extensions for leads. The passage starts off walking but soon degenerates and at the end it's cold and appears to draught everywhere, the many tall impressive avens make this an interesting area, however finding the way on could be equally as interesting.

1/11/2024 (Friday)

Di & Si

As far as we can gather, for the want of a phrase, this weekend it appears that it's the Spanish equivalent of Hidden Earth and is being hosted in Ramales leisure centre. We've met several cavers today who have been very friendly and they are running amongst many others, trips into Trident via Decepcion. A large party is expected to visit on Saturday. This may, but hopefully not, add complications/delays to our intended trip tomorrow. (update - there were no issues at all)

2/11/2024 Torca la Decepción ([4732](#)) into Uzueka ([0107](#))

Di & Si

A final trip up to the bitter end of Shrimp Bone Inlet for this visit, to checkout the various leads in Mongooses Don't Jump. A 16hr trip. Surveyed $89 + 173 = 262\text{m}$ new = 223m Batches 24-04 and 24-05

Long story short - We haven't yet unlocked the secrets and the way on in ShrimpBone inlet, which maybe at the top of one of the many avens in the area, but we did push and survey several leads to a conclusion - around 200m new.

We didn't want to get held up in Decepcion by other visiting potholers, so we were parked up at Casa German and getting ready before 10:00. Fortunately, we didn't meet any other cavers today, however there is currently red & white tape marking the route through the Mushroom field and the woods up to the cave entrance. Markers have also been installed throughout the cave pointing presumably towards Trident.

At the end of *Mongooses Don't Jump* we climbed the 'unclimbed 4m climb' - the right hand of the four avens, which seemed a bit higher than this. We daren't even look at the massive perched boulders halfway up, never mind touch or even stand on them! This led to a 1.5m climb down to meet the bulk of the Shrimp Bone Inlet water falling from yet another 20m aven. Behind this curtain of water was a tight slot onto a short (undescended) pitch, this is likely to connect to where the stream is last seen. We also resurveyed all of the avens here to give a better understanding of the heights and positions of the top of them. We then surveyed upstream as far as we could until the passage became too tight, finding another large aven.

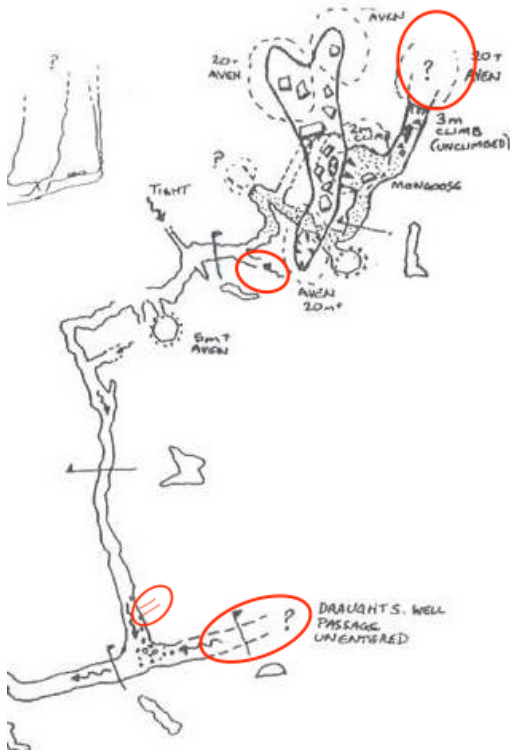
Moving back downstream to the junction with the '*unentered but reasonable and draughting inlet*', which passed yet another aven on the left, however this passage then seriously degenerated at a right hand bend the *Shrimp Shredder*, which was forced after some distance and effort into the base of another aven, which did seem bigger above. Getting any sort of climbing gear here would be very difficult.

Going back to the main passage and just upstream from the junction, Di spotted a climb into a small slot in the right hand wall above some beautiful popcorn formations which was taking a draught, *The Last Stand*. This passed a climb into a small aven on the right and then a tricky climb above a small hole back into the streamway, into a narrow rift which ended in an aven to the left and ahead a balcony to a tall aven and a 10m(?) pitch yet to be descended. Checking the survey data this looks to be heading back to the main streamway.

Cold, wet, clattered with mud and sporting yet more bruises, we packed up and headed out with massive heavy bags.

As the Spanish cavers had rigged over the top of our ropes for an unknown period, Grand Slam has been derigged with the rope left coiled up at the top of the pitch and Small slam has also been derigged, with this rope stashed in the small gallery directly above the 1st bolt. All maillons have been removed for lubrication.

To top it off we missed last orders at Casa German by 20mins, arriving back at the car at 02:20. This felt like quite a tough trip today.



2/11/24 [5052](#)

Pete Smith, Pete O'Neill

Entrance crawl to pitch head has been widened using a hammer and chisel. The large block at the pitch head has been partially removed, the remainder of the block has several visible cracks, and should be easy to destroy on the next visit. Good draught all day.

Then we had a quick look at [5053](#). A dig in the floor of the shakehole next to the draughting rift soon opened up some small holes down.

3/11/2024 ([0260](#))

Di & Si

A quick trip to get some gear left at Deception and check out and survey 0260 as it's almost directly over *Aven Alley* in *BTM Series*. As previously described there is a variety of rusting enamelled pans and a plethora of bones at the bottom. Surveyed 16m, new = 4m.



3/11/2024 ([0105](#)) ([0207](#))

Di & Si

On the way to the ferry we decided to check out the draughts in Riaño and Cuvia with an anemometer I found.

Riaño



Cuvia



Di & Si logbooks now completed. 👍

5/11/2024 Selvijo [0028](#)

Pete, Andy, Juan

Another sunny November day so we had to escape underground. Plan was to dig at the eastern end of the larger, walking passage (stn 24-02.57) then push on at leads beyond a downstream wet crawl just after the crawl below the stal chamber. (stn 24-02.54)

The three possible digs were inspected and the best, on the right, partially opened up to reveal the top of a possible rift which requires capping to make human sized. (*Photo: Andy digging*).

Retreated back to the bouldery chamber where Pete disappeared down a hole at the back and Juan inspected a hole off to one side. These were



seen to connect and everyone dropped into a new passage which was followed upstream. Varied going in fairly uninspiring passage (slabs, mud and water appearing and disappearing where, not often, could you stand up). At the "end", the passage is perhaps 3 - 4m wide with a floor of roof slabs where progress is flat out or requires digging.

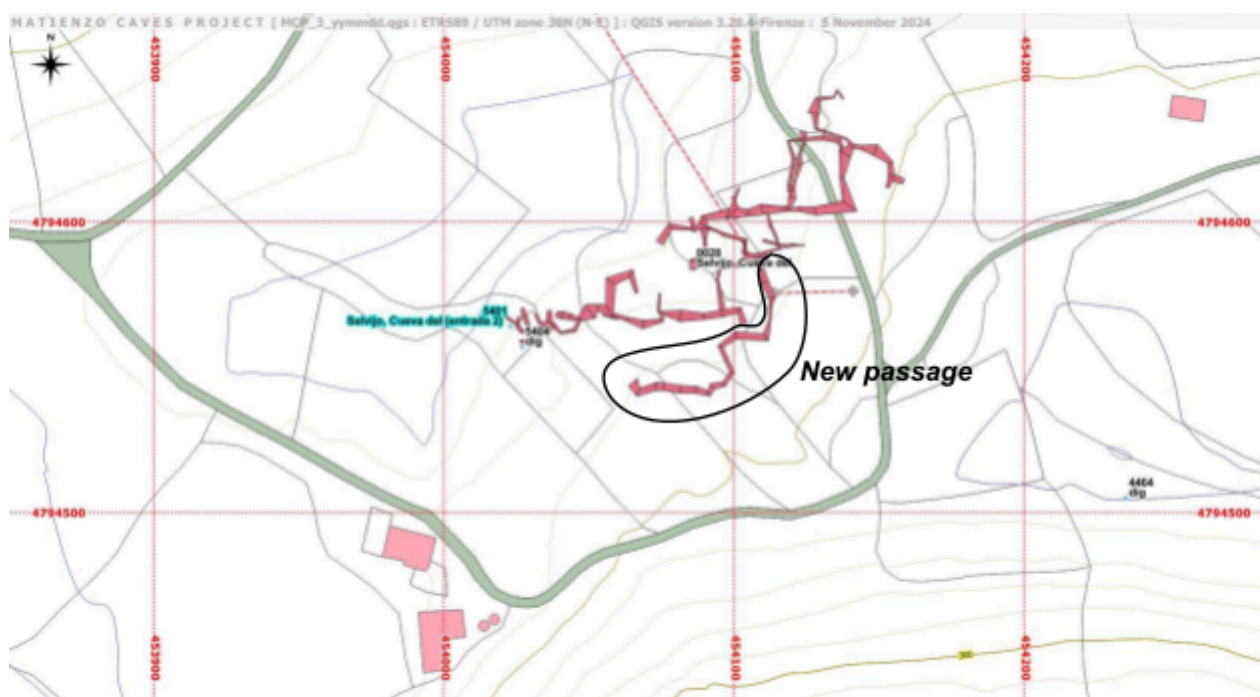
Just over 99m of new passage was surveyed, batch 0028-24-12. Part way along, at station 10, Pete found the top of a pot (possibly medieval) in the stream and, along with an old bone, this is now on the route to the "end". The upstream here is flat out and the water is across the passage. It is likely that 2 streams were encountered up this route. *(Photo: bone, pot top, gloves and stream beyond.)*



After tying in the survey to station 71 at the top of the small traverse, the team agreed that it was enough new passage for one day and left the original pushing routes (and the new ones here) for another time.

A quick overland trip to dig [5404](#) showed that the bedding at the entrance sloped down to a small tube in rock at the back with little hope of extension. Total length is 3m.

On plotting the survey, it looks likely that the rift dig in Selvijo will drop into the new passage, possibly around station 24-12.11.



Batch 0028-24-12; length = 99.2m. Length of Selvijo is now 693m.

7/11/2024 [5052](#)

Spent an hour and a half bashing the rock in the entrance and the shelves in the passage to make the route to the pitch a little easier. Good inward draught. PS

Logbook closed 26th November 2024

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT