

Monday 17th November



1 across top of p5 in Chispas

Pete, Ian and Juan out for the afternoon above and to the east of Cefrales. Aim – to check out the Chispas / Graciento connection and GPS some entrances.

Last night, a small map drawn by Frank Addis in 1982 was found, and this indicated that there were daylight shafts in Graciento – just like Chispas. However, he also wrote that there was an undescended 15ft pitch to the left, something that had not been found when surveying Chispas.

First to Chispas (**site 3070**). Immediately found the pitch just off the final chamber. Juan descended to find small calcited holes over sediment – a choke. Pete traversed around the side, over the top of the drop and entered another small choked area, with a deposit of small stones which must have dropped down tiny holes from the surface.

So **site 396** should now be call “Cueva Chispas (Cueva Gracienta)” and this frees up the number 3070 for re-use.

Above and to the southeast of Chispas there is a fenced shaft which was descended by Pete and Juan. It was originally thought to be **site 1249** (which is supposed to be next to Gracienta) but it was a 15m pitch with holes in the floor so we decided it was **site 397**, way out on it’s original position (75m to the north). The hole has seen recent collapse around the top, so the pitch was more like 13m, landing on a mud pile, which may have covered one of the holes in the floor. Photos taken.

We then wandered up the hill, spreading out, Pete and Ian up the main valley to investigate a depression and Juan to the east, towards the general area of **site 577**, Torca Limestone Lump. Found a 6m deep shaft quite a way outside the 100m circle of error for 577, with a couple of fence posts across the top. Disto showed 6m deep and looking down from the top it didn’t seem to drop to a “boulder in a rift”. However, it was close to a dark grey “limestone lump”. But on balance, this site is now **3070** and site 577 has still to be definitively located.

Dropped down the hill to GPS site 37, Cabritilla. Holm oak and strawberry tree in the entrance (among others). GPS here is little different from the surface survey done years ago.

Then back to the Chispas area to try and locate site 1249.

Eliminated the shafts above Chispas by Pete shouting up them.

There was a quick search for other sites around the cave, but nothing was found. So site 1249 is “lost”. On previous grid references, site 1249 is shown a few metres south of Gracienta.

GPS values

0397	0451101 4795425
New 3070	0451102 4795292
0037	0450950 4795325 (bolt on low side entrance lip)



2 site 397