

LOGBOOK

Year: 2007

Season: February

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

Juan Corrin, January 2015

FEBRUARY 2007 LOG

120207

Ian, Juan, Penny walked up from Cubija valley around nose of hill into next valley west and followed track up to Lastrilla and beyond to just meet the Calzadillas track. First to site 2611, spotted at Christmas off the bottom of the valley that leads up to Lastrillas.

Site 2611

Lower hole is a small cave which chokes about 2m in. Upper hole is a tight draughting dig where it is possible to see down about 2m. Needs capping. Then found **Lastrillas 427** up a side valley. GPS and photo.

Site 2618

On R true bank below Lastrilla. Small tube to head of 3m drop. Would need excavating.

Cueva Acebo 433 found (GPS / photo) just below the track and higher up the same valley as Lastrillas

Site 2619

Steep-sided hole with holly trees to a hole down through rubble/leaves which needs excavating. Stones rattle about 4m?

Site 2620

3m deep shakehole contains 2m choke shaft

Site 2621

Shaft at top of limestone uprights. 3m deep. Undescended.

Site 2622

4 to 5m deep, wide shaft with a wide boulder cap which could be awkward to remove.

0076 Cueva del Campo

Had a quick look in here. Water dripping down the stal after the recent wet weather. Found some black pottery in a 20cm deep but dry pit in the calcite. Pottery seems to have some decoration (chevron lines) on it.

130207

Penny and Juan into **Campo 76** again. Another piece of black pottery found in the same place. Also lower jaw of boar, with tusk; deer antler, more modern pottery - probably hand-thrown found up on left before pool.

150207

Steve and Lugger to **Campo 76** to try digging at the end. Calcite too thick. Some photos of various bones taken. Joined by Juan - another piece of black pottery found (this time with apparent dot decoration) in the same eroded stal boss. Needs a proper dig as the rest is likely to be buried. Photos of new black piece and horn / tusk. Lugger then decided to dig at passage near entrance and followed the draught to join Campo with site 1403 near the pool at the base of the entrance slope. Steve and Lugger re-explored 1403, Lugger finding a 50ft pitch in the western passage through a constriction that can be enlarged. Various other leads also exist in this area.

First Campo to site 1403 through trip by Juan as he went for his device to check the survey. First 1403 to Campo through trip by Steve!

Then to Agua to take a look at the bone breccia. This passage requires surveying along with the lower series that goes down to the left. Various bones brought out by

See
pages
over



Lugger for identification back in England. Could be a hyena den, in use for a long time.

160207

Andy, Worm and Lugger walking east from Alisas on the Matienzo side of the ridge.

2623 30T 0447771 4793975

8m deep undescended. Also on other side 4m undescended drop
A Choked hole 2m deep. Above the depression.

2624 30T 0447911 4793861

Depression goes to choked 5m rift. Debris and animal bones. On the shoulder of the depression is a shaft, 6.2m deep, with possible passage at base.

2625 30T 0447932 4793810

Small cave ends at narrow rift.

2626 30T 47999382 approx (Needs re-GPS-ing)

Shaft in closed 5m deep depression, vertical on 3 sides. Shaft at base is 7.1m from base of depression (undescended). 30m up slope is large open rift with slope down (photo).

2627 30T 0448387 4793869

Capped shaft where tree has fallen over and pulled the rocks away. Undescended 6.3m deep shaft with possible route at base.

2628 30T 0448417 4793850

A free-climbable 8m deep shaft ends at narrow rift which chokes.

2629 30T 0448417 4793850

Just on the Matienzo side of the ridge. Shaft in side of rocky depression. 11m deep on Disto, but stones go further. Two ways down separated by rock bridge appear to join and shaft continues. Total depth may be 15m. Rocks roll off to greater depths. (Disto in it).

2630 30T 0448038 4793747

Large shaft on top of ridge with Spanish markings T9. 20m deep? There are other shafts to the west, including another large one. All undescended.

170207

Lugger into Agua looking at the archaeology. Found a couple of large pieces of thin-walled, red/black pottery (one is about 10 x 7cm) at the top of the climb up to the left of the route out to the second entrance. Other pieces have been left calcified in.

180207

Steve and Lugger up to site 2629 to retrieve Disto. What happened in the hole?

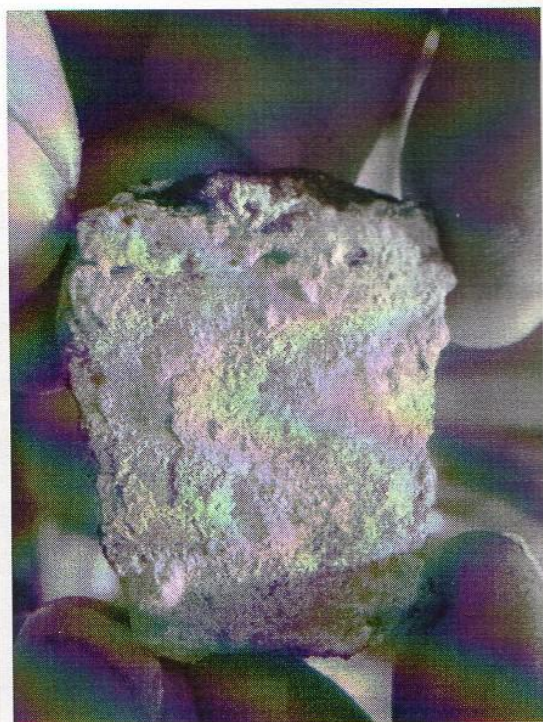
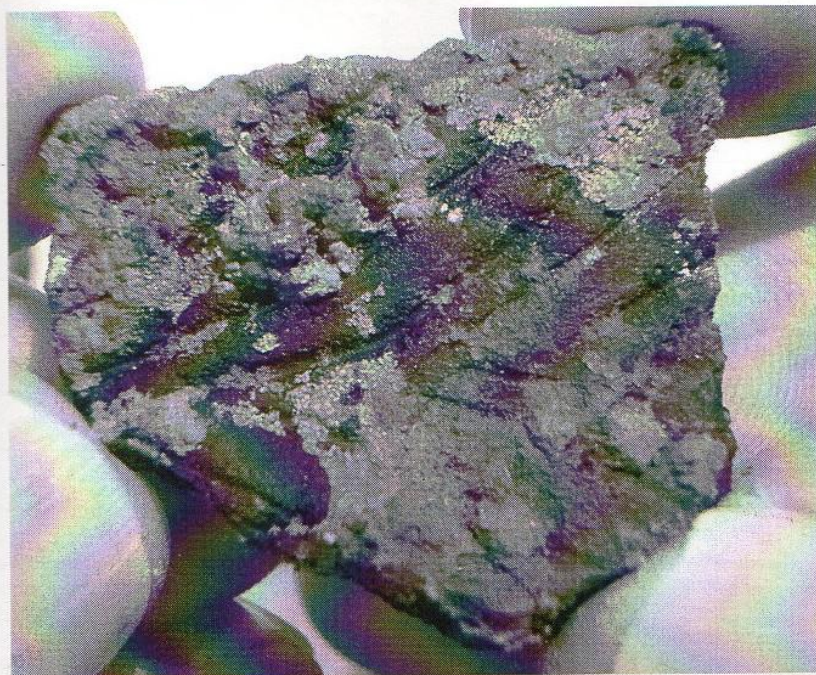
See 2 pages on

Yes I did reply last week almost immediately. Judging from the photos, the pottery from Campo looks like a Bronze Age type, similar to a series of pots from a cave in Soba known as Cueva del AER, (but that isn't its real name apparently).

Again from the photo, I'd agree that the painting in Agua looks like carbide, and it doesn't look good at all.

I've had a look at your log, too. Plenty more entrances!

I'm in touch with Chuchi a lot, mostly about another B.A.R. he's doing about the archaeology of Alto Asón, in Spanish. So there's a mention of Valline and Molino in it, but not much else in our area. He's coming up with ideas about a box to put the skull in, and he's still convinced they'll get a grant for a couple of radiocarbon dates. I'd suggested raising money by bringing back cigarettes and selling them here! But we haven't got so far as to set any dates.



PIECES FROM PORTÓN

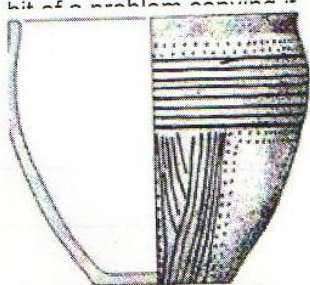
Lines and dots.

Subj: Pottery
Date: 20/02/2007 20:57:25 GMT Standard Time
From: smith_peter2004@yahoo.es
To: Uzueka@aol.com

0076

Hi

This is the type of pottery how I imagine the pieces you found may have been. This is from Cueva del Aer, or whatever it's called, I've copied the drawing from Chuchi's book. I hope you can see it all right, as there was a bit of a problem copying it.



B = BONES
T = TOOTH
H = HORN
P = POT SHERDS



FOSSIL TOOTH
HORSE?

SEVERAL
SHERDS IN
ROCK BASIN

B
SHEEP OR
GOAT?

SINGLE SHERD
WITH CHARCOAL
FLECK, IN SMALL
POOL

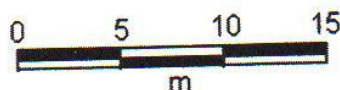
WILD BOAR
CATTLE (DOMESTIC?)
HORN UNIDENTIFIED



Entrance
site 76



THORACIC VERTEBRA
RED DEER?



CONNECTION

LEAD 1 AA

JAW IN CALCITE

6 METRE CLIMB DOWN
HADING RIFT TO
LOWER PASSAGE

LEADS 4

MANY BONES BELOW ENTRANCE
B CLIMBS. (PIT FALL TRAP)

ENTRANCE CLIMBS 2
& 3 METRES -

SITE 1403

BB

LEAD 2

LEAD 3



LEAD 1 = THIS IS A SMALL HOLE AT TOP OF FLOWSTONE RAMP, THE PASSAGE WIDENS BEYOND AND HAS A GOOD ECHO, REQUIRES A HILTY HIT.

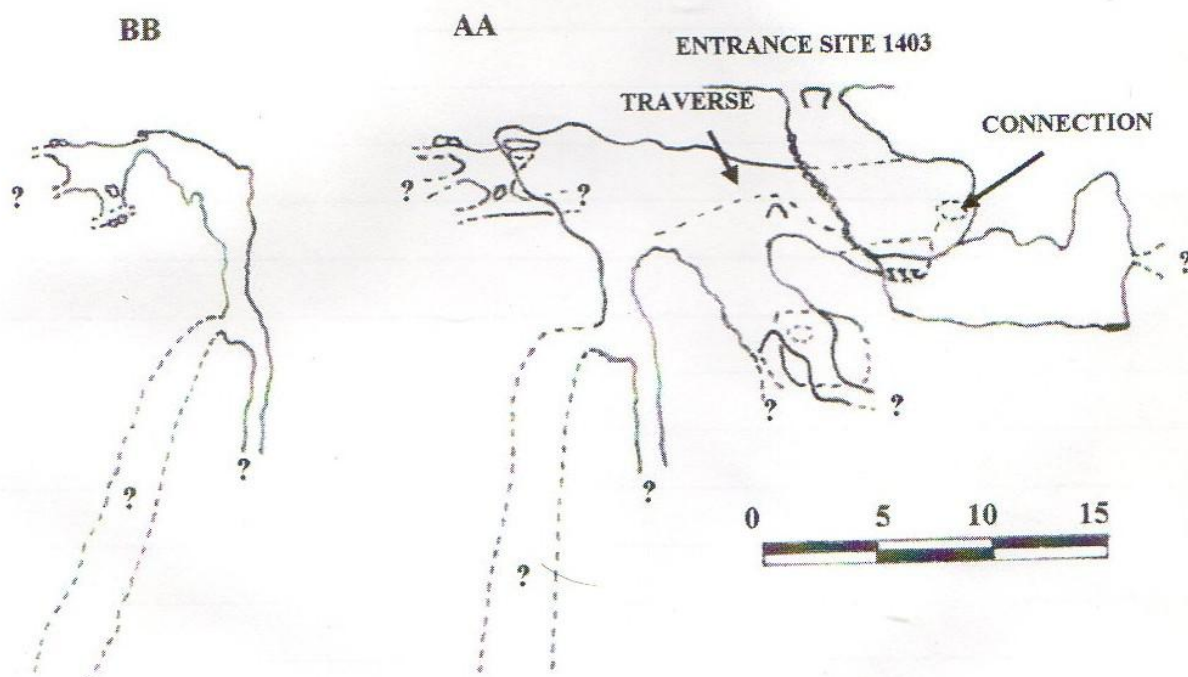
LEAD 2 = AT BASE OF 6 METRE CLIMB PASSAGE DIVIDES, PASSAGE HEADING SOUTH TERMINATES AT CONSTRUCTION IN CALCITE, PASSAGE CAN BE SEEN TO ENLARGE AND DROP AWAY, THIS IS A GOOD LEAD, REQUIRES A HILTY HIT. PASSAGE NORTH REACHES A ROCK WINDOW ON LEFT WHICH DROPS INTO A SHORT SECTION OF RIFT AND PROBABLY CHOKES, JUST BEYOND WINDOW IS A TWO METRE

DROP INTO A PASSAGE, THIS IS TIGHT BUT PASSABLE AND DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CHECKED OUT. (5)

LEAD 3 = TRAVERSE OVER CLIMB TO FLOWSTONE RAMP LEADING DOWN TO SECOND HOLE IN FLOOR. A 4 METRE CLIMB REACHES A FLOOR WITH AN UNDESCENDED TIGHT PITCH OF ABOUT 5 METRES ON THE NORTH SIDE (? 2.) TO THE SOUTH IS A SLOT IN FLOWSTONE 15 CENTIMETRES WIDE AND A METRE HIGH. STONES THROWN THROUGH THIS GAP BOUNCE DOWN AN ESTIMATED 15 METRES WITH RESOUNDING ECHO'S, THIS IS PROBABLY THE BEST LEAD, REQUIRES A HILTY HIT.

LEAD 4 = AT TOP OF CALCITE FLOW AT WEST END OF UPPER PASSAGE IS A SQUEEZE UNDER FALSE FLOOR TO A DROP DOWN INTO A SMALL CHAMBER, HOLES IN FLOOR ON NORTH SIDE DROP INTO A BLOCK STREWN PASSAGE GOING BOTH WAYS, ENTRY NEEDS A FEW MINUTES WORK WITH A CROW BAR. PART WAY UP SLOPE ON WEST SIDE OF CHAMBER A HOLE AGAIN REQUIRES EXCAVATING TO ENTER A CONTINUATION. AT TOP OF SLOPE A RUN IN FROM THE NORTH BLOCKS A CONTINUATION WHICH CAN BE SEEN TO CONTINUE, SHOUTING ALONG THIS PRODUCES AN ECHO. THE LEADS IN THIS AREA ARE ALL DIGABLE.

ALSO WORTH CHECKING IS HOLES THROUGH THE LARGE BLOCKS ON NORTH SIDE OF ENTRANCE TO SITE 76.



PROJECTED ELEVATIONS

DISTO SHAFT 2629

DISTO SHAFT CHOKED AT MINUS 26 METRES. DISTO WAS RECOVERED AND STILL WORKS. SHAFT IS 8 METRES TO A LARGE LEDGE OF WEDGED BLOCKS WHICH SPLITS THE SHAFT. NARROW RIFTS DESCEND ON BOTH SIDES OF LEDGE AND UNITE 10 METRES LOWER DOWN. LAST 8 METRES IS IN A RIFT 6 METRES LONG AND A METRE AND A HALF WIDE. LEVEL FLOOR AT BASE OF SHAFT IS A MIXTURE OF CLAY, SMALL ROCKS AND BONES. WATER SEEPS AWAY AT EACH END OF RIFT DOWN NARROW JOINTS. MIDDLE SECTION OF SHAFT IS QUITE AWKWARD AND IS BEST DESCENDED ON SIDE NEAREST TO SURFACE DEPRESSION. I WILL NOT BE GOING THEIR AGAIN AS I GOT PISS WET THROUGH AND CAUGHT THE DREADED LURGY FROM BIG STEVE. IF YOU NEED A SKETCH SURVEY I WILL DO YOU ONE. HOPE YOU LIKE THE B.C.A. GRADE 16F SURVEY. F STANDS FOR FUCKWIT AND 16 FOR THE NUMBER OF LEGS I ESTIMATED.

YOURS TO THE FIRST CRAWL LUGGER.

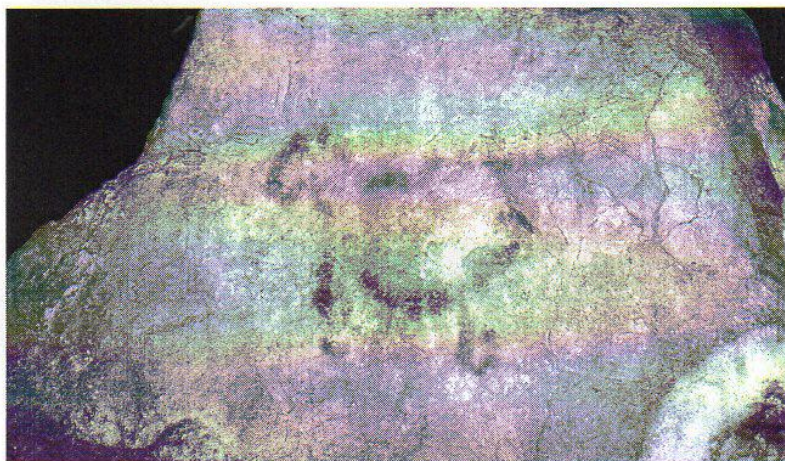
CUEVA DEL MOLINO (CUEVA DEL AGUA)

This site was investigated in February 2007. Juan Corrin took Steve Martin and John Thorp to see the bone and clastic breccia bed, a major feature in the connecting passage between the dry entrance and the river gallery. The breccia bed is a mixture of rounded pebbles and cobbles with some larger more angular blocks cemented together in a sandy matrix. Calcite bands have formed in the lower levels of this stratum which is several metres thick; this suggests different periods of deposition. The *rounded cobbles* also suggest this upper entrance was active when the bed was formed and could pre-date the main entrance.

Broken bones were found in the walls, roof and floor of the compacted breccia. Bones of more recent origin are to be found on the floor of this passage concentrated near the entrance; these are mainly of domesticated species such as goat and sheep. One large broken bone probably Bovine was found on the floor half way along the passage, the rich patina suggesting some antiquity and it has a typical cut glass fracture of processed bone; faint striations on this bone have probably been made by a flint implement. A number of loose bones were removed for identification among these was two mandibles. On this trip a few moments of excitement arose when Juan found a charcoal drawn figure of an animal on the side of a large block. Photographs were taken of this graffiti, which we believe to be quite recent, although thoughts of Palaeolithic art did cross our minds.

Two days later John Thorp spent two hours pottering around the entrance series, nothing over exciting was found on the bone front. A skull complete with horns was recovered from a low level chamber below the dry entrance probably goat, the lower mandibles of a small deer? were also found part way down the entrance slope with the upper part of the skull firmly embedded in calcite. The most memorable find was a number of pot sherds located at the top of the calcite slope in what is known as the first chamber. The sherds were imbedded in a soft calcite, two were removed and several more are still in situ though these will be more difficult to extract as they are firmly cemented in a hard calcite. The sherds probably date to around the Roman period though this needs confirmation.

Lugger



GRAFFITI DRY ENTRANCE

This site was investigated in early January 2007 by Steve Martin and John Thorp, the calcite floor at the end of the cave when hammered with a rock produced a good echo which seemed to travel beyond the limit of the end choke. The choke has probably formed by roof breakdown which is heavily calcited and does not appear to draught. On this trip a number of bones were noticed on the floor of the bedding running up to the choke, these are bleached and are probably relatively recent, possibly goat or sheep and smaller animals. Before exiting the cave the east side was checked for possible extensions, in the so doing a small number of much older bones were found in the sediments of a gulley adjacent to the east wall about 40 metres in from the entrance. Two bones were removed for identification one of these was identified as the humerus of a Cow (Tom Lord personal communication). The other is a mandible fragment possibly Deer. Plans were made to return to the cave at the earliest opportunity to try and break through the calcite floor and to assess the sites archaeological importance.

The next visit was by Juan Corrin et al in Mid February when the Mandible of a Wild Boar and an unidentified horn was located, in the course of this trip two sherds of Bronze Age pottery was discovered at the bottom of a dry swirl pool formed in calcite located in the central part of the cave. A few days later Steve Martin and John Thorp were back at the cave and made a futile attempt to break through the calcite floor. The cave was then checked for more bones and a small number of these were located including a small potsherd little more than a crumb from the base of a small rock pool twenty metres north east of the other sherds. The fabric and colour of this sherd did not match those previously recovered so we have two pots in the cave, also noticed on the floor of the pool were flecks of charcoal. Around this time Juan Corrin joined the party and promptly located another pot sherd from the dry swirl pool site of the previous finds. Other finds were a probable fossil Horse Tooth from the north west side of the cave near the entrance and a thoracic vertebra probably from a Deer this was found at the end of the south passage close to the entrance.

During the bone search John entered the east passage and noticed it was taking a draught, the end looked possible to enlarge so he went back to fetch a hammer and chisel. Juan informed him of a small cave located near the end of this passage and said the two would probably connect, undeterred John set off back with the tools for the job. The flake of rock stopping progress was only a calcite rib and this was soon removed to gain entry into a small chamber, no obvious way on could be detected so a quick puff on the old pipe saw the smoke whistling through a fist sized hole. Luckily only a thin layer of calcite covered a clay bed and this was removed to reveal a body sized hole. Looking through the hole a glimmer of light could be seen which dampened enthusiasm somewhat, by this time Steve Martin had turned up and he offered to go to the other cave entrance (Site 1403) while John enlarged the hole. In minutes John was through the hole and Steve was descending the climb down from the other entrance and the two caves were connected. The connection entered site 1403 close to the roof of the passage leading down from the entrance, and the floor of this passage is littered with bones from animals which have been deposited or naturally fallen down the entrance. Two passages lead off from the base of the entrance slope; a narrow rift to the east was looked at by John while Steve took the larger passage to the West. The rift described above involved a climb down to a



shuffle along a short passage with calcite flows to a small circular chamber and 6 metre high aven, a pool formed the floor of the chamber and a jaw was calcited into the rim. Bat pellets were noted leading to a little more than fist sized hole in the calcite flow at the extremity of the passage. Looking through this hole the passage can be seen to enlarge immediately and gives of a good echo when shouted into. On exiting this passage Steve was shouting for back up to pass a narrow section above a drop, this is the squeeze mentioned in the original report. John and Steve then passed the squeeze to enter a well decorated chamber formed in a hading rift. Two holes in the floor were checked out and two very good leads were found, though both would require technology to progress, the better of the two leads seemed to drop into a large rift with a resounding echo. In the roof of the hading rift at the far end a crawl under a false floor entered a small chamber; passages could be seen going off in a number of directions and a minimum of work here with a crow bar should see an extension. By this time Juan had found John and Steve by way of the connection crawl, our evening meal and a quick snifter was beckoning so in high spirits we exited the cave. Steve and John went back via the connection to Campo to retrieve the digging tools by which time the draught had picked up to a gale, Juan climbed out of site 1403 entrance to complete the through trip. A return to this cave was thwarted by flu and the loss of a disto down a shaft on Alisas which involved a recovery trip. The cave has a great deal of potential though the draught is peculiar, I find it difficult to believe that two entrances so close and on almost the same level can produce such a strong draught on a still day.

Lugger

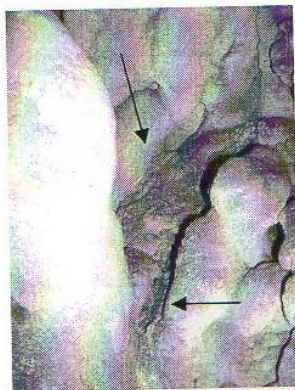
Subj: **Matienzo**
Date: 27/02/2007 20:41:59 GMT Standard Time
From: john.thorp@tiscali.co.uk
To: uzueka@aol.com

Hi Juan enclosed are two articles on Matienzo caves for your files. One is on Campo and the other on Agua. One thing I do not mention in the Campo article is something I noticed while coming back through the connecting passage, the floor had a definite hollow ring about it at its lowest point, might be worth checking. Also there is gaps between the boulders on the opposite side of Porton entrance, these could be worth checking out in light of how things are dropping away in site 1403. Lugger.

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ORATTO DRY EXTRACT

AGUA ENTRANCE SKETCH



POT SHERDS IN SITU



PROCESSED BONE FROM FLOOR DEPOSIT BELOW BONE BED DRY ENTRANCE PASSAGE

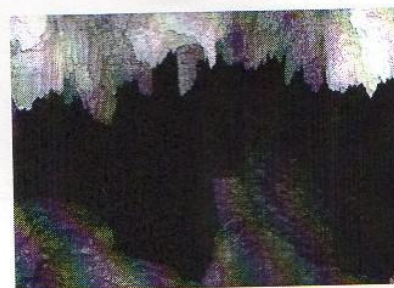
SCALE



FLOOR DEPOSITS

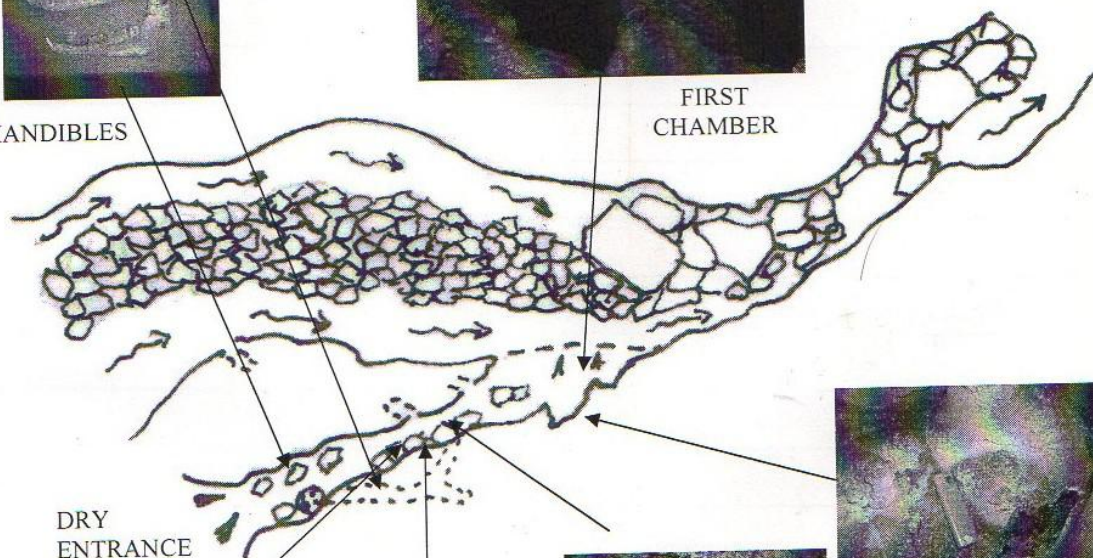


SKULL



FIRST CHAMBER

MANDIBLES



DRY ENTRANCE

BONE BED



MANDIBLES FLOOR DEPOSIT



WALL



ROOF



POT SHERDS IN SITU

FEB 07. LUGGER

Subj: **Matienzo - snappers**
Date: 03/03/2007 14:44:26 GMT Standard Time
From: papard@easynet.co.uk
To: Uzueka@aol.com
CC: PEagan@carlisle.ac.uk, smith_peter2004@yahoo.es, redder@post6.tele.dk,
a.quin@lancaster.ac.uk, big_stevemartin@hotmail.com

Juan

Myself, Bob Mackin and Kev went to Matienzo last week-end with 100 snappers giving us about 110 in total – so we have a good stock for Easter/Summer etc. I will need some expedition money as a contribution, but no problem for now we can sort out when in Matienzo.

I also took a grinding wheel with a “green stone” so we can sharpen the rock drills – its in my house on the Bench by John’s cupboards.

Weather was poor and we did not do any caving etc, we did plan to go up to volcano and got all the gear together but rain and wind was sufficiently bad that we went to bar instead!!!

We all agreed that we will not do the trip like this again, ie drive via Dover on Thur night through Friday and leave by road on Monday!! Using freight route via P&O at Dover was easy (just had to declare snappers, get customs clearance, put orange 1.4G signs on side and back of car, and pay well over the standard rate!!) but better than Brittany Ferries who said we could go but only on their freight service from Poole, seemed ok until they told me it would cost £1,500 each way!! But for that we could have taken a 50foot artic at trailer – ie all one price for any size vehicle!! – Hence the Dover route!

I had problems with my PC a few weeks ago and lost a lot of emails – one was from you asking about a description of the “walled cave” that we explored in Nov – I did not go into this and let Lugger and Steve have the glory – I expect Lugger may have given you this by now, if not we can sort it out at Easter. I also had some gear stolen just prior to Christmas incl my laptop, camera, PDA etc etc. I now have a PDA similar to yours and I will need some software re the Matienzo web site etc, from you – again we can sort out at Easter.

Let's hope the weather in April is ok and we can get some good exploring done!

Phil

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT