

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT

LOGBOOK

Year: 2018
Season: autumn

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

Juan Corrin, December 2018

(1)

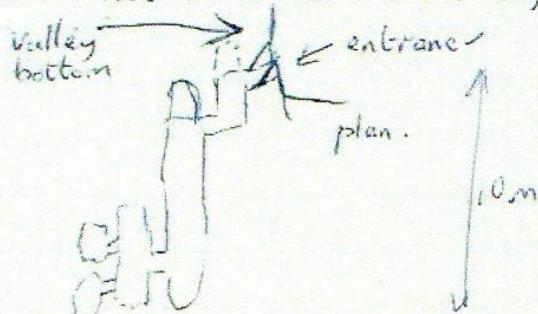
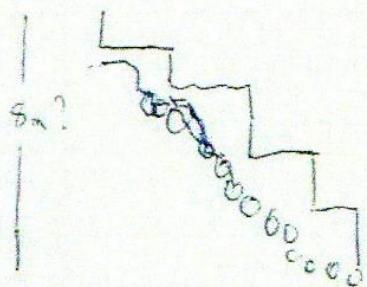
AUTUMN 2018 Log.

25th September 18 Gordon Proctor, Bob Riley, John Southworth, Phil Goodwin

Cave 4758

With low water levels it was possible to dig the left hand side to form a flat-out crawl under an overhang. This led to a small chamber followed by a descent to another slightly larger chamber then a flat squeeze into a chamber about 7 metres long, 1.2 metres high and about 1 metre wide. Holes in the far back end can be descended but choke. The cave consists of a series of inverse steps with the other side rubble. Not worth the effort of digging.

Cross Section



26th September 18

Gordon Proctor, Bob Riley, John Southworth, Phil Goodwin

(1) San Antonio. Researched the area where the minor branch of Aguaonaz ends at the moment looking for possible entrances but nothing found. Cave 4692 was visited and the round, small tube was draughting well.

(2) Rioño Valley - visited the next valley west of the valley with 4758 in. Nothing found.

27 SEPT 18

JOHN SOUTHWORTH GORDON PROCTOR

WENT TO INVESTIGATE SITE 4766 DUE TO A VERY VAGUE DESCRIPTION AFTER ITS LAST VISIT. ~~REACHED~~ IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO REACH THE BOTTOM, THE END OF LADDER BEING SHORT BY 15' FROM REACHING THE FINAL CHAMBER. THEN MET UP WITH PHIL AND BOB TO LOOK IN AREA BELOW 4766 AND 4772, NOT MUCH OF INTEREST FOUND.

(2) Bob Riley, Phil Goodwin

Descended the impressive chasm of 4772 to look at new features. Bob descended a chimney at in one corner, about 1.8m down a crack at the back of the chimney shows a parallel shaft about 1.2m diameter. Rocks fall at least as far as the lowest point of the chasm. Needs capping.

28. SEPT 18

Gordon Proctor, Bob Riley, John Southworth, Phil Goodwin

Cueva 4759

To the chamber at the bottom of the depression there is a low access under an overhang led to a low long chamber. At the far end a descent of 2m led to a larger chamber in the middle of which a rift at right angles descends at least 20m. The start of the rift was enlarged ready for a descent.

29th September 18.

Gordon Proctor, Bob Riley, John Southworth, Phil Goodwin

Cueva 4759

Descended pitch with a re-hang across the rift a few metres down. The pitch soon becomes a fine shaft of 1m diameter onto a solid floor at 2m. A further short pitch and climb down, 8m in total to a solid floor ends the system. There is definitely no way on, only small cracks in solid rock.

SURVEY DATA FROM PG.

30th September Garzon

Gordon Proctor, Bob Riley, John Southworth, Phil Goodwin

H610 Second descent of cave - New description

- (1) A cave in the very steeply bedded limestone of this area. In an open field a shallow depression, sparsely ringed by trees has a hole in the bottom which descends through boulders for 5m to land on a rubble slope at about 35°. The bedrock upper wall (root?) slopes on at about 60° to meet the rubble slope. Where the two meet there are holes through which boulders drop possibly 10m. In one hole a small team could dig out boulders to assess further the likelihood of progress.
- (2) Looked around area east and south of the main Garzon expression.
Nothing found.

1ST OCTOBER 18

DAY OFF

2nd October 18 Gordon Proctor, Bob Riley, John Southworth, Phil Goodwin

To Fresnedo area. Nothing new found but went down 2539, no sign of blockage but description did not tally with what was seen i.e. no sign of climb and upper chamber.

(3)

3rd October 18 Gordon Procter, Bob Riley, John Southworth, Phil Goodwin

4767 Dug for 3 hours including some capping. Draughting strongly. Photos JS

4772 Descended half-enclosed shaft for 17m. After several hours we broke through to parallel shaft and descended 4m to a constriction. Needs more work - draughting. Photos P.G.

Main shaft measured as 12m by 13m.

4th OCTOBER 18 CHRIS CAMM, GORDON PROCTER, JOHN SOUTHWORTH

(1) INVESTIGATED CALCITE EYEHOLE MENTIONED IN A PREVIOUS REPORT. BOULDERS AND CALCITE REMOVED FROM AN UPWARD UPWARD VERTICAL SIDE SHAFT WHICH GAINED ENTRY TO AN INLET AVEN CHOKED AT THE BASE, NO WAY ON.

JOHN SOUTHWORTH GORDON PROCTER

(2) VISITED SITE IN LOW WATER CONDITIONS. POSSIBLE TO ENTER SINK AND EXIT 5M AWAY IN SAME SCAR. THE NEXT CAVE ALONG HAS A VISUAL CONNECTION WITH A FORTH(?)CAVE. ALL THESE CAVES ARE CHOKED WITH FARM AND DOMESTIC RUBBISH. TOTAL LENGTHS 25M

5th October 18 Gordon Procter, Bob Riley, John Southworth, Phil Goodwin.

4767 Chiselling, capping and snapping opened up a descent of about 6m to a roomy crawl which goes under the adjacent depression - 6m. However, the strong draught comes from an arrow descending boulder slope too tight and requiring a massive effort to dig. Total length - 12m.

6th October 18 Gordon Procter, Bob Riley, John Southworth, Phil Goodwin.

In Lokerwastra ~~Near~~ Navajeda Area.

4114

Cave A 0444 3690 4801272

At the top of a knoll. A care remnant with old stal has an arched entrance 2m wide, 1m high which gradually lowers and stops after 5m. Photos P.G.

Cave B On the knoll a hole in the flat top is about 1.5m deep and is undercut to reveal ~~big~~ passage fragments full of old stal.

Photos P.G. Position 0443690, 4801233

7 october 18 BOB RILEY GORDON PROCTER JOHN SOUTHWORTH TRIP UP BOSMARTIN ROAD AND TRACK INTO ~~THE~~ NORTHERN VEGA AREA. FOUND DRAUGHTING HOLE IN SIDE OF WOODED DEPRESSION, 2-3M LONG BUT WILL REQUIRE DIVE TO 0449383/4796924 AT 45CM, CAR WOULD NOT START. GREEN FLAG TO THE RESCUE. PHOTO JS

4645

(Re-using old numbers).

From: Guy SIMONNOT <guy.simonnot@gmail.com>
To: peter Smith <smith_peter2004@yahoo.es>; Juan Corrin <uzueka@aol.com>
Subject: Corcada juillet 2018
Date: Thu, Oct 18, 2018 2:28 pm
Attachments: Corcada 2018.JPG (520K), Corcada 2018 compte-rendu pour peter et juan.doc (34K)

Mieux vaut tard que jamais !

Better late than never !

Un petit compte-rendu et un croquis de la séance désobstruction à la t de la corcada.

Nous avons fait (lundi) une première désobstruction à la torca MCE 190. Nous avons pu ouvrir l'étroiture et descendre de 1,5 m. Nous sommes en haut d'un étroit méandre qui se poursuit mais nécessitera des agrandissements (Peter on t'attend !). Courant d'air aspirant fort (en régime estival)

Amitiés

Guy

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Guy Simonnot

mobile français Guy 0033783047510

mobile espagnol 689 211 627

25 A, Barrio La Maza, 39813 Arredondo Cantabria ESPANA

Torca de Corcada (#0780) 25 juillet 2018 Patrick et Sandrine Degouve, Guy Simonnot

Le but de la sortie est la poursuite des travaux du 18 août 2017 dans l'"Active Route".

A l'aller nous rééquipons le P.9 (nous laisserons la corde en place). Nous détournons le ruisseau au sommet du P.5 de l'ancienne voie active ce qui permet désormais de descendre sans se mouiller (à l'étiage !)

Dans un premier temps une série de tirs achève l'ouverture du sommet du P.7 (terminus 2017) et nous élargissons le méandre d'accès qui devient bien plus confortable.

Au bas du P.7 (base assez spacieuse) le ruisseau se perd rapidement quelques mètres plus loin dans une étroiture impénétrable. Une escalade latérale de 4 m permet de retrouver une partie plus élargie du méandre en hauteur et tout de suite un P.5 et un ressaut de 2 m redonnent sur l'actif en contrebas de l'étrécissement. Hélas un fois encore l'eau disparaît dans un soupirail totalement impénétrable.

Au dessus le méandre, haut de 7 à 8 m, est trop étroit dans sa partie supérieure mais nous avons avancé de 4 m en élargissant avec une nouvelle belle série de tirs le passage le moins pire à environ 3 m au dessus du ruisseau.

L'eau et le courant d'air aspirant (régime estival) sont là : travaux à suivre !

English from Google Translate

The goal of the exit is the continuation of the works of 18 August 2017 in the "Active Route".

On the way we re-equip P.9 (we will leave the rope in place). We turn the stream at the top of P.5 of the old active way which now allows to go down without getting wet (at low water!)

At first a series of shots completes the opening of the summit of the P.7 (terminus 2017) and we widen the meander of access which becomes much more comfortable.

At the bottom of P.7 (rather spacious base) the stream is quickly lost a few meters further in an impenetrable narrow. A lateral climbing of 4 m makes it possible to find a wider part of the meander in height and immediately a P.5 and a projection of 2 m give back on the asset below the impenetrable narrowing. Alas once again the water disappears in a completely impenetrable window.

Above the meander, 7 to 8 m high, is too narrow in its upper part but we advanced 4 m by expanding with a new nice series of shots the passage less worse about 3 m above the creek.

The water and the suction air flow (summer diet) are there: work to follow!

Survey as well

From: dave-d <dave-d@wavey.com>
To: Juan Corrin <uzueka@aol.com>
Subject: Almost....
Date: Sun, Oct 21, 2018 9:47 am

(5)

Hi Juan,

(4211)

just seen La Colina to area of site 4211
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=erEeNfhK8zg>

At about 3.02, top left is a dark X - the 'thing of interest'

From about 3.40 to 3.47 there is a bird flying right to left. The bird goes into the 'thing of interest'...

:)

Date: Sun, Oct 21, 2018 12:38 pm

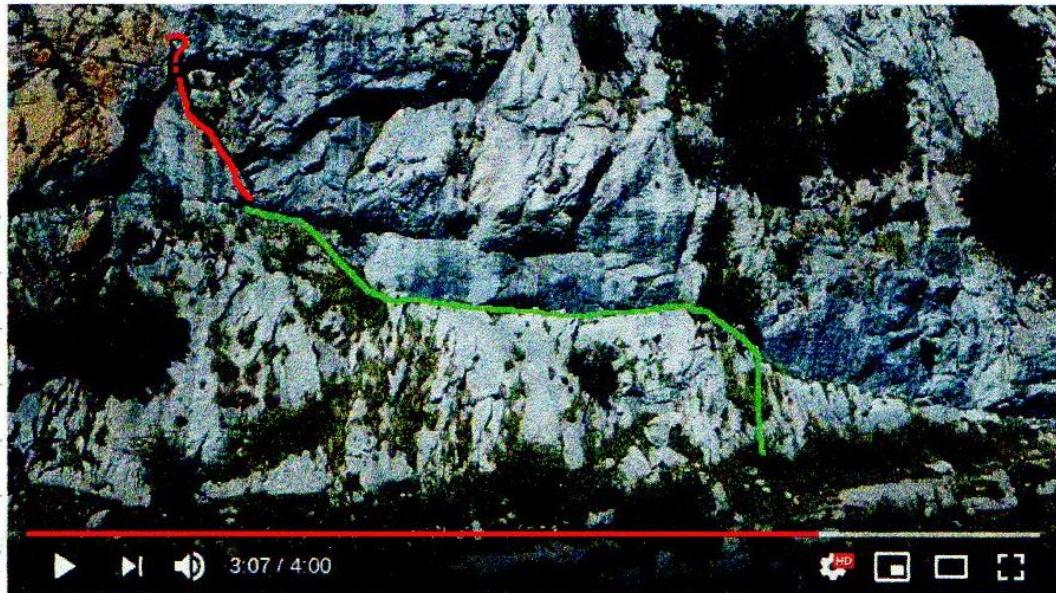
Attachments: site4211.png (713K)

Well, the green line is where I think I went, mainly traversing along the top of a slab with big hand holds. The red line is where I thought I could go, up a sort of ramp/slot.

Moving from green to red is not difficult, I just thought it would be wise to have a rope when I came to reverse back from red to green.

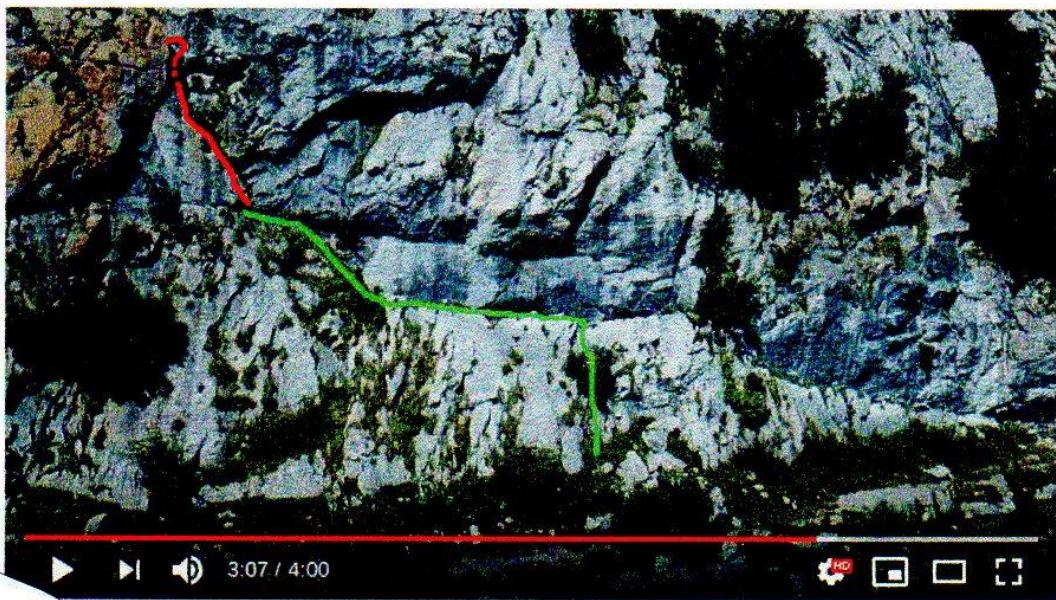
I hope it's not too much of an anticlimax when you get to peer into the bird's nest. Might need evening sun, an overcast day, or head lights to see in there.

Another few minutes of amusement perhaps.



From: dave-d <dave-d@wavey.com>
To: Juan Corrin <uzueka@aol.com>
Subject: Re: Almost....
Date: Sun, Oct 21, 2018 12:55 pm
Attachments: site4211v2.png (714K)

Not that different, I think I started a little more to the left.
Different set of bushes. In case anyone ever went that way again.



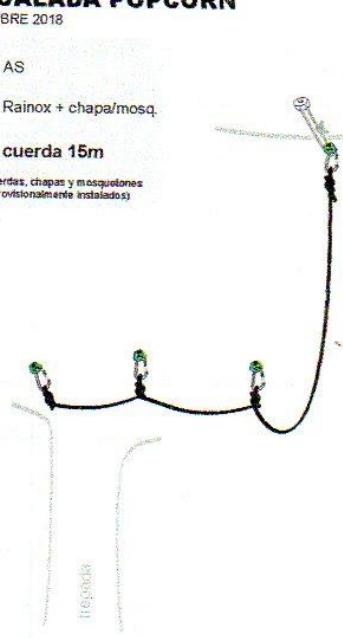
ESCALADA POPCORN

OCTUBRE 2018

- AS
- Rainox + chapa/mosq.

cuerda 15m

(Cuerdas, chapas y mosquetones
provisionalmente instalados)

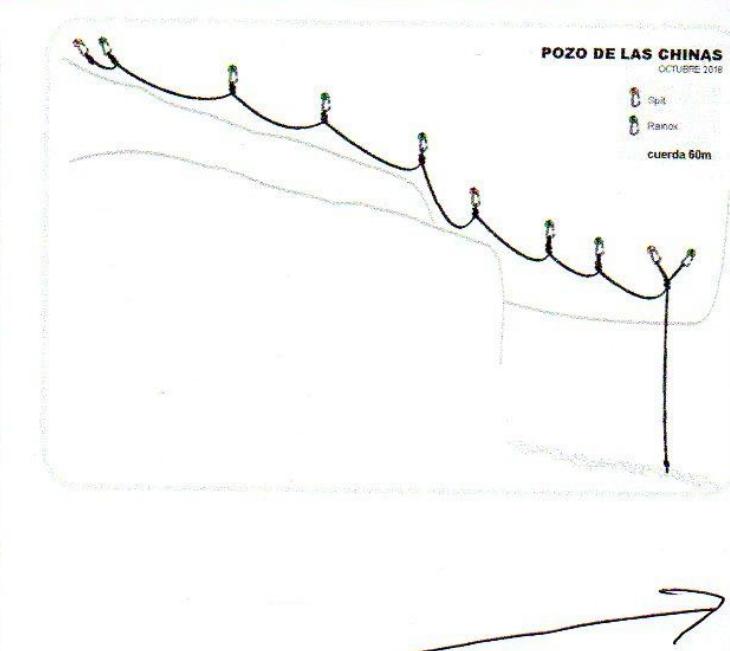


POZO DE LAS CHINAS

OCTUBRE 2018

- AS
- Rainox

cuerda 60m



(7)

From: Peter Smith <smith_peter2004@yahoo.es>
To: Juan Corrin <uzueka@aol.com>
Subject: Rv: trabajo realizado el 12, 13 de octubre 2018
Date: Sun, Oct 21, 2018 8:16 pm
Attachments: topo Codisera piso superior.jpg (285K), alzado desarrollado piso superior.jpg (150K), Codisera.tro (20K), escalada pozo paralelo.jpg (105K), pasamanos entrada.jpg (128K), pasamanos marino.jpg (124K), popcorn.jpg (110K), POZO DE LAS CHINAS.jpg (104K), 7 simas.jpg (142K)

Hello Juan

I'm forwarding this email from Angel. You can see that they're meticulous, and caving has changed. 10 bolts in the top of the Chinas pitch. Gone are the days of hanging a ladder from a belay. I hope Angel and his group can continue to come, hopefully at Easter or in summer. I think he'd fit in.

For the record (logbook): 2806 was a 2m scramble down into a 3m long space, hardly a passage or a chamber.

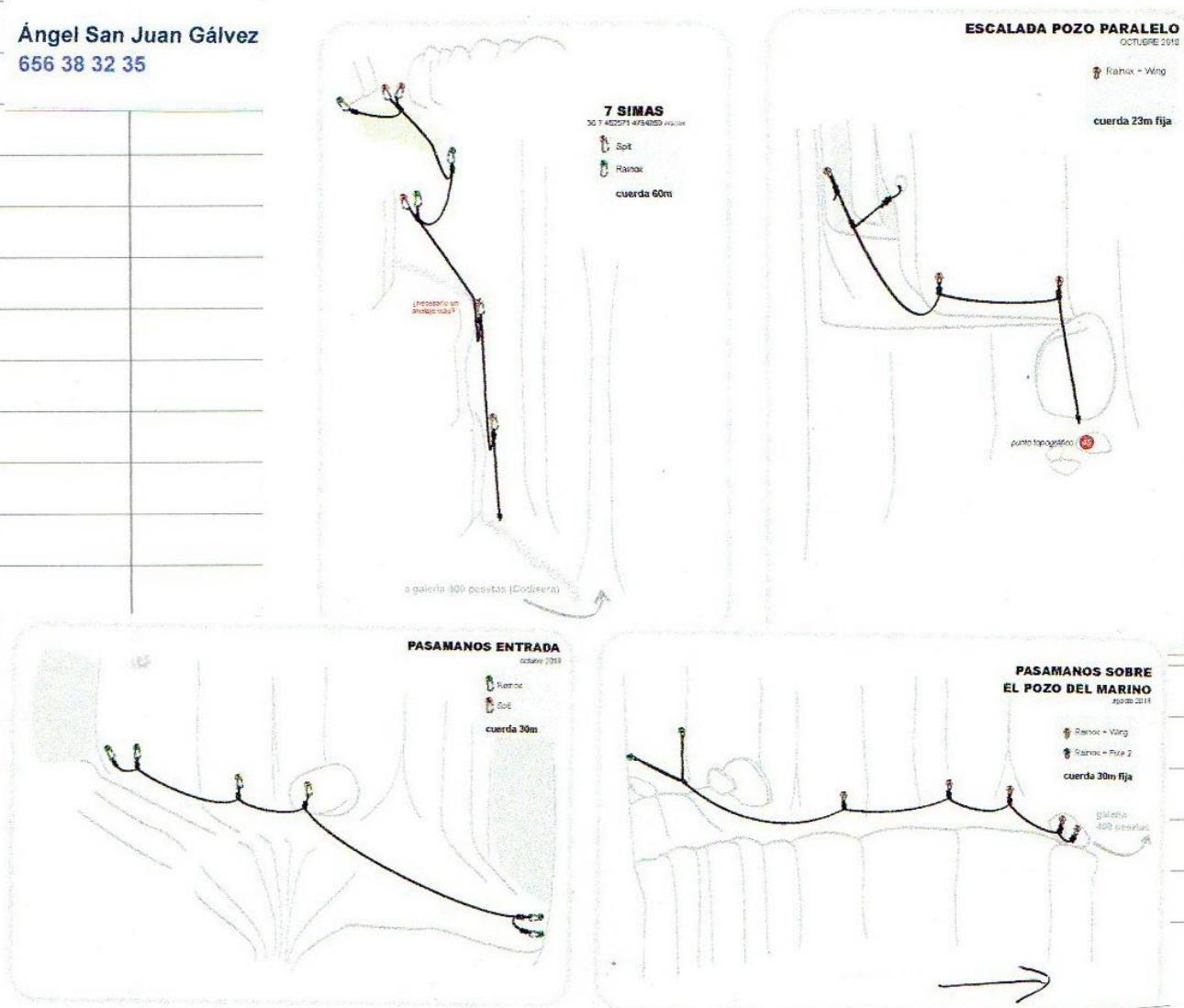
Cheers
Pete

El Domingo 21 de octubre de 2018 20:31, Angel San Juan <mortacleto@hotmail.com> escribió:

Buenos días Peter,
te mando los croquis y topografía qué hemos hecho. La memoria de actividad en texto creo es mejor cuando tengamos más trabajo realizado.
Los croquis son simplemente eso, croquis.
La topografía la mando en formato Visualtopo, la puedo exportar a otros formatos.
Para cualquier cosa no dudes en comentarme.

Un cordial saludo,

Ángel San Juan Gálvez
656 38 32 35





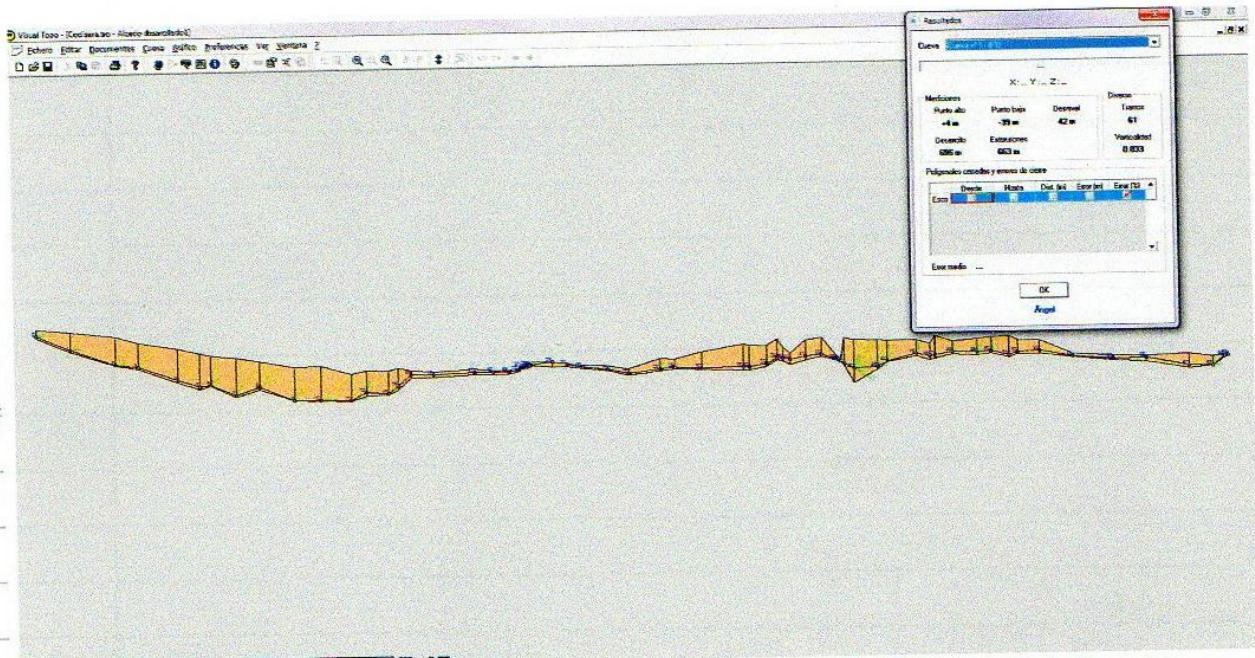
0

50m



octubre 2018
Mortacelo, Rover Lumbreras, Marisa Ferreras

(9)



Using Visual Topo from TopoDroid originals

From: Rupert S <r.skorupka@btinternet.com>

To: Juan Corrin <zuzueka@aol.com>

Subject: october 2018

Date: Mon, Oct 29, 2018 4:14 pm

Hi Juan

The weekend I arrived there was a significant rainfall so I went into Vallina with the intention of checking water levels. At the bottom of Double Dutch Pitch, gear I had left in the summer had been washed around, indicating a water depth here of 2 to 3 metres. The small streamway between here and the Rio Rioja had flooded to the roof. In the Rio Rioja there were large deposits of sediment in many places. The ladder and rope on the Catalan Bypass had been washed up the climb. This was not climbable alone, so I had to return and bolt up it to reach the tackle.

There had clearly been a massive flood sometime since June. Continuing unstable weather meant that a bivi and dive in sump 6 was unlikely. However I did manage a dive through to my camp area which had stayed high and dry above the flood, a big relief. The sums 1 to 5 were all very muddy and vis on the return was less than one metre, of no consequence here, but this would have rendered further exploratory diving hopeless as all this mud would soon find itself in sump 6. The streamway was also muddier than usual, and my gear at sump 6 was in such a shitty condition that I brought out my regulators to properly clean them. I also carried through my sleeping bag, gas, food and a bolt kit to enable a better lowering rig to be set up. So it was a very useful trip.



I took the rope off the D.Dutch Pitch, and replaced it with a new 60 metre length. This old rope was then carried to the base of Jochens Aven where I used it to drop the undescended pitch directly below the aven. This was mainly a broken slope, and about 20 metres deep to a small hole down through dribbly boulders. A rift entered just above floor level. This had footmarks in the mud. I think this is the passage that is entered via a climb down, en route to the Catalan Avens. Upslope goes to the Avens, downslope probably leads to this rift, but it has not been written up in the description.

What was of most interest , was , looking up here, the ceiling pinched in to a vadose inlet. So, this is definately not the base of the big pitch that I have discovered at the end of the Dog House passages high above. These must go off in a different direction. The rope was de-rigged but left there, as I intend to re-rig the Aven to avoid the worst bits and the pendulum, next time I am here. Then I will need some advice on how best to survey all this area on my own ???

Not much going on at your house, roof wise. I have booked my next trip for April, before the easter weekend, but after Brexit.....

Rupe

11/11/18 Late, Ivan + Penny met with the Madrid cavers
who are re-exploring / surveying Codicera (0039).
Some may turn up for the Easter and/or summer expedition.

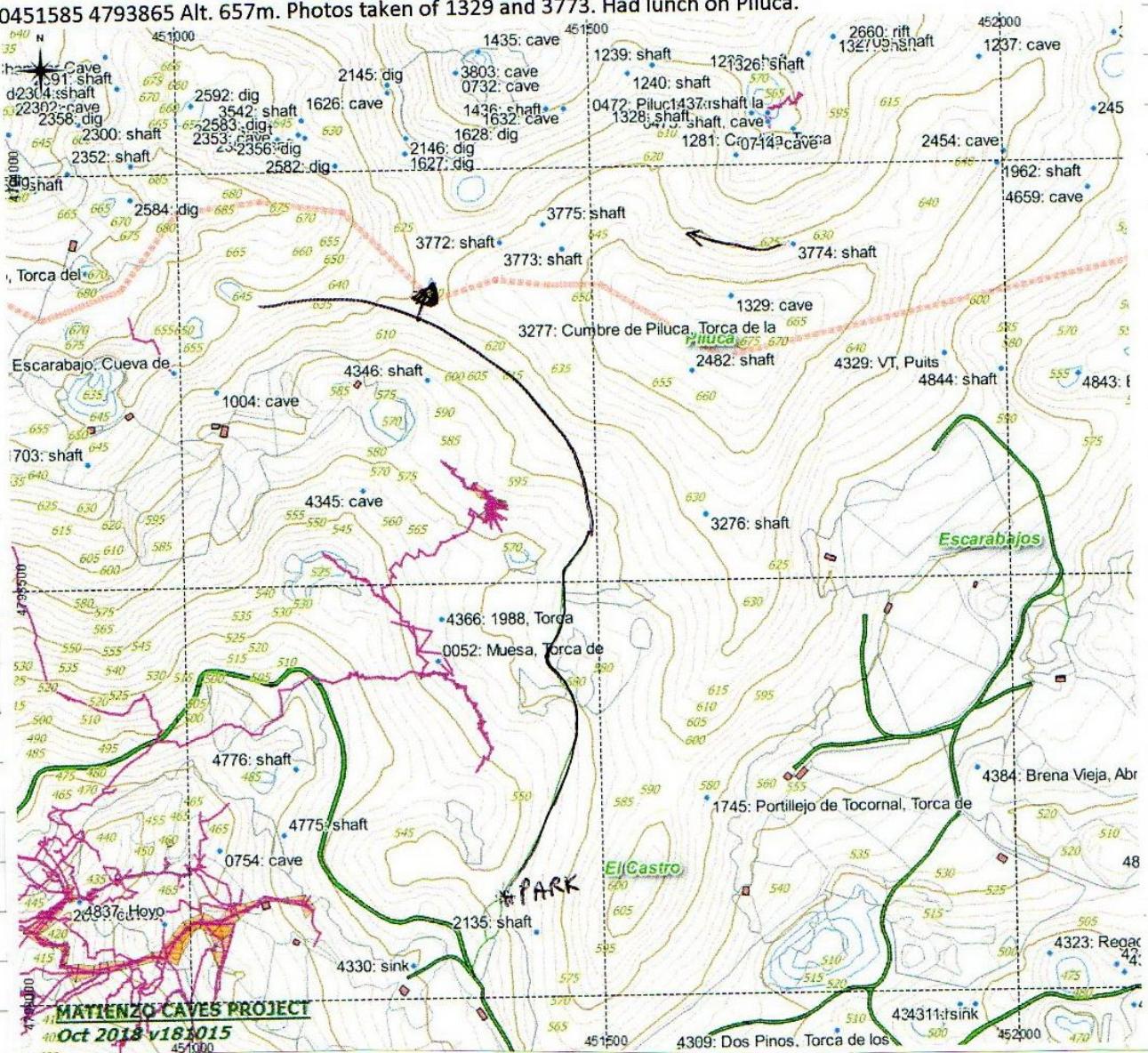
13/11/18 Ivan + Penny drove up over Cuesta Vallera ⁽⁷³³⁾
to take 4 aerial videos + 4 aerial panoramas

13/11/18 Guy sent info and surveys for the following
sites : 0189, 4364, 4365, 4379, 4826, 4827

: 14/11/18 Ivan along track skirting S side of ~~Codera~~
and up to Hoya de Yusa. Aerial videos
& panorama taken but would have been better
with sun overhead or overcast. Too deep
shadow cast by Mullir.

18th November 2018 Juan drove up over Vallina on the Colorado track and parked about 50m up the track that leads up to la Piluca. Walked the track to the col then around Piluca on the north side to the northeast spur at about 635m altitude. From here, sent the drone out on 3 pre-planned flights (to the west of Codisera) and 5 panoramic 360 aerial shots.

Walked back higher up the north side, finding site 1329 about 60m west of where it was marked on the map. 30T 0451585 4793865 Alt. 657m. Photos taken of 1329 and 3773. Had lunch on Piluca.



1902 Nov. Same as above - Juan + Penny to El Somo on the track. Drone video and panoramas to east and west.

25/11/18 Complete documentation of site 1529 from Pete,



MINISTERIO
PARA LA TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA

Confederación Hidrográfica del
Cantábrico, O.A.
Registro General
SALIDA
Nº Reg.: 000004493+1800021779
Fecha: 30/10/2018 10:03:23

CONFEDERACIÓN
HIDROGRÁFICA
DEL CANTÁBRICO O.A.

COMISARÍA DE AGUAS

O F I C I O

S/REF.

N/REF.

FECHA

ASUNTO

S/39/0059/18/VN

ACUERDO NO INCOACIÓN

Peter Smith
(Expedición Espeleológica a Matienzo)
La Secada, s/n- Matienzo
39812 - Ruesga (Cantabria)

Denuncia formulada por la existencia de materia orgánica en el interior de una de las galerías de la cueva de la Fuente de Aguanaz, en San Antonio, en el término municipal de Entrambasaguas (Cantabria)

SA/av

29 OCT. 2018

Con fecha _____ se ha dictado por esta Confederación Hidrográfica, el siguiente acuerdo, adoptado por el Comisario de Aguas en virtud de delegación de competencias del Presidente del Organismo de fecha 13 de septiembre de 2017 (B.O.E. 09-10-2017):

"Con fecha 21/05/2018, tiene entrada en este organismo la denuncia formulada por parte de Peter Smith en representación de la Expedición Espeleológica a Matienzo ante el Gobierno de Cantabria-Dirección General de Medio Ambiente-Subdirección General de Aguas denuncia por la existencia de materia orgánica en el interior de una de las galerías de la cueva de la Fuente de Aguanaz, en San Antonio, en el término municipal de Entrambasaguas (Cantabria).

El informe emitido por los Servicios Técnicos pone de manifiesto que "La Expedición Espeleológica a Matienzo, Cantabria, presenta escrito con fecha de entrada 09/05/2018, ante el Gobierno de Cantabria, informando sobre la existencia de gran cantidad de materia orgánica que forma una capa de aproximadamente 60 cm de espesor, localizada en el interior de una de las galerías de la cueva de la Fuente del Aguanaz, término municipal de Entrambasaguas (Cantabria). Dicha materia orgánica parece proceder de la superficie y, debido a que la galería comunica con el río, se considera que existe riesgo de contaminación de las aguas subterráneas que finalmente afloran en la Fuente del Aguanaz, utilizadas para el consumo humano.

CORREO ELECTRÓNICO:

registro.general@chcantabrico.es

PLAZA DE ESPAÑA 2
33071 – OVIEDO
TEL: 985 968 400
FAX: 985 968 445

Por su parte, el Gobierno de Cantabria-Consejería de Universidades e Investigación, Medio Ambiente y Política Social, advierte que lleva tiempo padeciendo estos hechos que afectan al Plan Hidráulico Aguanaz. Para intentar combatir este problema, se dotó a la estación de bombeo de Aguanaz de un sistema de detección en continuo de amonio en el agua bruta, gracias al cual se realiza un control permanente de las condiciones organolépticas del agua que llega a la Estación de Tratamiento de Agua Potable ubicada en el Bº de San Antonio.

Mediante inspección realizada a la zona por el Servicio de Guardería Fluvial en fecha 24/05/2018, se localiza la sima descrita en la denuncia, así como otras tres simas más, localizadas en un radio máximo de 300 m: dos de ellas a unos 100 m de la sima origen de la denuncia, y una tercera a unos 300 m de distancia de la misma. En el momento de la inspección no se observó en ninguna de las simas restos de materia orgánica, presentando el caudal de agua del nacimiento del río Aguanaz un aspecto óptimo en cuanto a olor y color.

A lo largo de todo el mes de junio se ha practicado un seguimiento del estado de calidad de las aguas del río Aguanaz en este punto, comprobando que, en los días de inspección (5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21 y 22 de junio) a diferentes horas, no se observaron indicios de degradación del entorno fluvial ni en el nacimiento del manantial Aguanaz, ni en las proximidades de las simas ubicadas en la verticalidad del mismo. Solo un día observó turbidez en el caudal de las aguas del manantial Aguanaz como consecuencia de las lluvias acaecidas en la zona. El resto de inspecciones se realizaron en tiempo seco, sin observarse indicios de contaminación, en cuanto a color y olor de las aguas.

Puestos en contacto el Servicio de guardería Fluvial con el Servicio de Planes Hidráulicos del Gobierno de Cantabria, manifestaron no haber detectado ninguna elevación de los parámetros de pH ni NH₄ en las aguas.

En consecuencia, y debido a que en las inspecciones realizadas a la zona no se ha podido constatar contaminación o degradación del dominio público hidráulico, ni la procedencia del posible foco de contaminación denunciado por la Expedición Espeleológica a Matienzo, Cantabria, este Servicio propone el archivo de posibles actuaciones sancionadoras."

A la vista del referido Informe Técnico, así como de la propuesta realizada por el Servicio de Régimen Sancionador que obra en el expediente, se infiere que no procede incoar expediente sancionador por infracción regulada en el artº. 116 de la Ley de Aguas (Texto Refundido aprobado por Real Decreto Legislativo 1/2001, de 20 de julio; B.O.E. de 24 de julio), y del Reglamento del Dominio Público Hidráulico.

En consecuencia, y a los efectos de lo dispuesto en el artº 11 del Real Decreto 1398/1993, de 4 de agosto, (B.O.E. de 9 de agosto), por el que se regula el reglamento para el ejercicio de la potestad sancionadora, esta COMISARIA DE AGUAS,

ACUERDA: No incoar procedimiento sancionador contra el denunciado, con archivo de las actuaciones practicadas hasta la fecha.

Contra el presente acuerdo podrá interponerse recurso potestativo de reposición ante el Presidente de la Confederación Hidrográfica del Cantábrico o recurso contencioso-administrativo ante el Tribunal Superior de Justicia de Asturias o el correspondiente a la circunscripción del domicilio del denunciado. Los plazos de interposición de ambos recursos serán, respectivamente, de UN MES y DOS MESES a contar desde el día siguiente al de la notificación de la resolución.



En el caso de tratarse de Administraciones Públicas, éstas podrán interponer recurso contencioso-administrativo, en el plazo de dos (2) meses, ante el Tribunal Superior de Justicia de Asturias o el correspondiente a la circunscripción del domicilio del denunciado, sin perjuicio de poder efectuar el requerimiento previo en la forma y plazo determinados en el artículo 44 de la Ley 29/1998, de 13 de julio, reguladora de la Jurisdicción Contencioso-Administrativa."

Lo que se trasmite para su conocimiento y efectos.

**EL JEFE DE SERVICIO DE REGIMEN
SANCIONADOR Y AS. JURIDICOS,**



Alfredo Ramón Álvarez García

Matienzo Autumn 2018

Chris Camm, Nigel Easton, Alf Latham, Phil Parker

Tuesday 25th to Thursday 27th September

Travel to Matienzo, gear sorting and medical matters.

Friday 28th

Alf and Nige to **4699** to examine end of passage leading off from head of fourth pitch. Only possibility would require a lot of work to open up the floor to get down into a low mud floored area.

Saturday 29th

Alf, Nige and Phil into **4474**. Nige and Phil down the narrow rift and pitch (see previous reports) to check all possibilities and survey the big passage. Back under the entry rift, where the passage roof steps down, possible to crawl for 3 to 4 metres to draughting low continuation that would require digging.

At the other end of the large passage, under the climb down below the ladder pitch, the low level way on was entered feet first to find that it became hopelessly low after 2 metres. No draught to encourage thoughts of digging although the air seemed fresh.

At the bottom of ladder level the main passage continuation as a narrow rift was entered by crawling past a large block but ended after a few metres at a vertical wall of debris.

Meanwhile Alf had been playing in the passage which heads to the left from the junction situated a few metres beyond the Nige and Phil's narrow rift. He opened up some sections to make it easier to traverse.

Sunday 30th

Alf, Nige and Phil walked to **4639** (10Camms), starting from the Washing Machine parking spot. About 10 metres before the entrance there was a new collapse [30a = **new site 4768**] in the logging track bank, this was draughting and looked worthy of some digging.

4768 Grid reference: 30T

Altitude:

At **4639** the entrance was opened up, a bolt placed and Alf dispatched down a ladder to explore. Unfortunately it was only a chamber that had no draught, no air movement and no prospects, size approximately 4m by 3m by 7m high, with the pitch measured at 5.5m. After tidying up the party continued up the track, deciding that **4640 (The Fridge)** merited a return with capping gear but finding that **4641(Nigel's Delight)** had been covered by a collapse of the bank. After that retreat was made by continuing up and over the ridge and meeting Chris and the van at the Cubillón parking spot.

Monday 1st October

Nige and Phil went to check the high level track situated to the north of the Cubillón that gets close to the ridge above **4639** etc, where there are a number of 2006 finds [**2531, 2545, 2757**] that might repay more attention. Meanwhile Chris and Alf went to look at a newly planted area situated to the east of the Alisas road but found nothing there. However, they did spot a possibility in a road bank within the Cobadal area.

Nige and Phil found that the track was not good enough for a vehicle but appeared to be the quickest way to the ridge top when compared to walking from Washing Machine or Cubillón parking spots. A quick look established the whereabouts of some of the entrances plus one new shaft [01a = **new site 4787**], close to **2495**.

4787 Grid reference: 30T

Altitude:

On the way back they spotted a large entrance at the bottom of a cliff face this being outside even the old permit area. It draughted slightly, had a decent sized passage together with a decorated aven and continued beyond an up and over climb.

Tuesday 2nd

Chris, Nige and Phil to Chris/Alf's find in Cobodal [02a = new site 4846], where excavation and capping an awkward sandstone boulder opened up a body length or so of passage. This will require a fair amount of work to make significant progress.

4846 Grid reference: 30T

Altitude:

Further up the road, located a couple of metres up the banking behind a tree stump, there was a small hole down into what looked like a small chamber [02b = new site 4847].

4847 Grid reference: 30T

Altitude:

Wednesday 3rd

Alf and Phil taken to 4699 by Chris who then went on to have another go at the Cobodal dig [02a, 4846]. In 4699 the target was the crawl below the 3rd pitch where Alf attacked the boulder choke along the left turn at the T junction whilst Phil headed to the end. Here it was clear that it was the end with the floor sloping up to the roof. However, just before the final 3 or 4m there was a draught blowing along the passage which presumably goes down the slot in the floor. As Alf and Nige had said it would take a lot of work to open up this slot, Phil then surveyed back to Alf who had given up on the gritstone choke that had no encouraging features. They cleared the cave including removing the hangers etc from the belay bolts, then were picked up by Chris who had made a little more progress in Cobodal.

Thursday 4th

Mob handed trip to the end of 4474 with Alf, Nige and Phil being joined by Phil Goodwin and Long Bob from the other group. After Chris dropped the team at 4474 he went to meet John Southworth and Gordon to help at one of their digs.

In 4474 the team headed into the section entered from the right hand corner of the end of the big passage. Phil G stood on Phil P's shoulder to get past the slab blocking the climb up the steep sand slope only to find there was no open passage at the top. Bob went rooting around below the climb and found a way through some interesting boulders to a lower level that consisted of a large passage/chamber sloping down to a narrow vertical section choked with rocks but with a draught. Partway up (or down) the chamber there was a draughting low way on over dried mud and sand. The two Phils attacked this and got to a state of knackeredness at the point where it appeared that a couple more metres would reach an enlargement. Meanwhile Bob had gone into the capped and dug continuation of the main passage and got far enough up the strongly draughting roof slot to see that the floor seemed to drop steeply just a short distance ahead. After that it was time to bail out.

Friday 5th

Alf and Phil to the end of 4474. Alf looked at the slot, attacking the left wall with a hammer thus creating another foothold, then looked somewhat unenthusiastically at the capping prospects before going forward under the slot to look at digging at the lower level. Phil went up the slot, getting far enough to see the same as Long Bob, then by estimate of body length and position it was decided that there might only be a couple of feet of digging below the slot to get through. Alf dug and capped whilst Phil cleared the debris back to the open passage. By bail-out time there was a mixture of nasty looking broken roof to the left, with an upward slot full of loose stuff. However, to the right side there was an strongly draughting space that would be the focus of the next visit.

Saturday 6th

A split party day with Nige and Phil going back to the ridge above 4639 but this time with caving gear, whilst Chris and Alf went to look at 4137, just up the road from the Cobodal road bank dig [02a=4846].

Nige and Phil made it to the ridge and the cave locations in about 50 minutes, only being held up by some hunters who seemed to say they were watching for a bear! Once on the ridge they passed 2496 which

was checked for depth with the rope - 3m as per description, but does appear to open out at the bottom and so worth further examination.

Next was the hole found on the previous visit [01a=4787]. A bolt was placed, the shaft was descended and found to be 5m deep, with the bottom a 1.7 x 1m lens shape and a gentle draught coming from the choked narrow end on the valley side.

Then it was onto 2531. Looking into the entrance provided lots of encouragement but at that moment the bad weather arrived so it was time to depart from the exposed location to be picked up by Chris and Alf. They were quite enthusiastic about the possibilities of 4137 and were planning a return visit.

Sunday 7th

A wet day but a dry spell early in the afternoon so Chris, Alf and Phil headed to the strongly draughting 4137. Chris and Alf went immediately to the dig spot whilst Phil first went photographing in other parts. At the dig site Chris and Alf had followed the draught by digging under some big boulders into a continuing crawl but the way on was choked. The draught was coming from a narrow but fairly deep rift heading off, into the distance, at 90 degrees to the left. Unfortunately quite a lot of rock removal is needed to make progress due to the too narrow width of the rift but the draught is very encouraging.

Monday 8th

Wet weather overnight but by mid-morning things were improving so after lunch Alf, Nige and Phil were dropped off at 4474 and Chris went on to 4137 where he capped and moved boulders to improve visibility of and access into the rift.

In 4474 Alf and Nige continued with the dig under the slot whilst Phil took his small spade to attack the low passage he and Phil Goodwin had been opening up 4 days before. The spade worked a treat and after a while the enlargement was reached. Unfortunately 4m further on the fill once more sloped up towards the roof leaving a very low and narrow continuation that would be a very awkward digging site.

Phil retreated to join the others, taking some photos on the way, arriving back in the big passage just as the others came out of the dig, where substantial progress had been made, bringing with them a large flake that had decided it preferred to drop onto Alf's helmet rather than stay on the wall. The offending item was photographed and the cave vacated.

Tuesday 9th

Lack of action due to Phil's INR testing at a local medical centre but later on Chris went to take a look on the opposite side of the road to 4137, looking for the sandstone bed evident in the cave. He found a number of undercutts and the like but nothing with any promise.

Wednesday 10th

Alf, Nige and Phil taken to 4474 by Chris who then went for a look around the uphill side of the depression holding 4137. At 4474 dig site Alf headed to the front with Nige and then Phil in the line to move the large quantity of spoil out into the main passage. After a while Alf took a natural break giving the others the chance to look at the front, black space where the roof turned up a vertical rock face but had lots of nasty looking cracks .

Alf back to the fray: "That was close" and "If this were the Dales we'd be scaffolding", amongst the comments that floated back from the dig face. Eventually he retreated for another comfort break so Phil went for a look and successfully tried the open overhead slot. There appeared to be a way on over a large slab but first some gardening of the top of the near vertical spoil slope was required. Then all up and onwards through a few metres of low passage, into a chaos of boulders and out into the upper section of a large, partially collapse filled passage. The roof had moved up a bed and was several metres higher than the roof level in the previous large piece of passage. Forward the boulders climbed to the roof, whilst to the right routes downward led only to small sand

choked rifts and passages, probably situated above the high level section of the right hand branch large chamber. Also on the right there was a number of cracked flows attesting to the age of the passage. Despite a good look round, the draught was so dissipated that no way on could be found, hence the name of Bother Chamber.

Thursday 11th

Rest day for all but Chris who headed off to **4137** for some more boulder capping.

Friday 12th

Alf and Phil taken to **4474** by Chris who then headed on to **4137** for a continuation of his battle with the obstructing boulders. At **4474** Alf and Phil headed to the end. Whilst Alf surveyed into the new stuff. Phil deviated into the sideways extension, to photograph a geological feature and some formations, recover the ladder from the pitch and carry out a little surveying. Then he followed Alf into the extension photographing on the way. Alf had finished surveying but after the thoughts that we had finished with this awkward little cave it was not to be as he had found a way on. Adjacent to and below a van sized boulder that after careful examination he had decided probably was 'ok' there was a small (maybe 1.5m high) boulder jammed in a slot with a draught coming out from under it through some loose stones. These he had removed to observe space and a wall some metres back. Phil had a go but some more digging is required to gain access to the continuation. As a result of this the chamber name changed to Bother Squared Chamber. Some more photos were taken, then the cave was left, the 1st pitch ladder being removed en route.

Saturday 13th

Chris and Nige went for some more capping in **4137** whilst Alf and Phil lazed around and cleaned some ropes.

Sunday 14th to Tuesday 16th

Tidying up, gear sorting and returning to Pete Smith, then travel home.

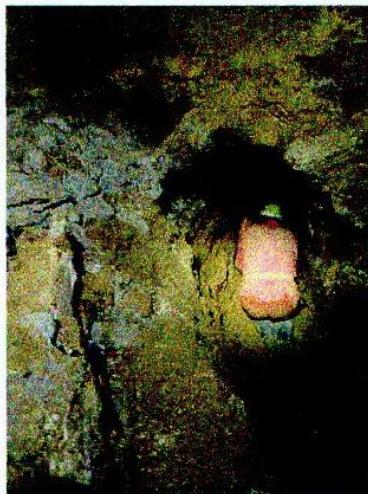
24/11/2018 – Site 252 (via 4732 entrance) – Phil Papard; Kev Millington, Iain Crossley, Steven Thorpe

Digging trip to start work to excavate the start of the slope to the small draughting lead at the NE end of the cave marked as a "Dig". Very good progress digging down to same level as the ongoing lead (in the summer it was found too difficult digging down slope at the tight section. It was noted a very large number of cave spiders inhabit the cave.



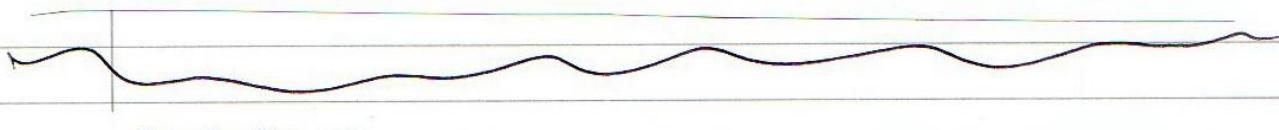
25/11/2018 - Site 252 (via 4732 entrance) – Phil Papard; Peter Smith, Kev Millington, Iain Crossley, Steven Thorpe

Continued digging out floor and infill on south side of dig, left at start of the tight crawl that now needs excavating to gain progress (probably easier to dig the infill on the left (south) side and then floor as needed. During the dig a number of animal bones were found including a tooth (probably a bear tooth) was found, still to be fully identified.



26/11/2018 – Reñada – Phil Papard & Iain Crossley

The aim had been to go to "Itchy Crutch" series to push a lead up into a large boulder ramp, but the wet weather changed our plan to just check out the lead. However, we found the water levels very high with about 15cm depth of water flowing through the "duck past the last rope climb" with a lot of water flowing down the calcite drop to where the water sinks and can back up closing off the "duck". In view of this only about half an hour was spent showing Iain the Stuffed Monk area and Breakdown chamber before a retreat was made.



From Guy Simonnot

Bonsoir

Un petit compte-rendu en supplément du courrier envoyé par Patrick à Peter.
Nous comptons sur les forces (vives !) anglaises pour la suite !

Corcada

29 novembre 2018

Patrick et Sandrine Degouve, Guy Simonnot
Suite des travaux dans l'"Active Route".

Il a plu deux jours auparavant et l'actif coule bien mais l'équipement hors crue laissé en place permet de descendre au sec, tout juste nous recevons quelques gouttes au bas du P.7

Le matin le courant d'air est faiblement soufflant et nous renvoie les gaz des premiers tirs.

Heureusement rapidement il s'inverse et les gaz sont ensuite bien aspirés durant toute la journée.

Nous taillons l'étroit conduit en ligne droite sur encore près de 3 m. Après avoir usé les 4 batteries et la boîte de pailles, nous pouvons passer la tête au départ d'une chicane droite-gauche, descendante et qui semble pénétrable. Le virage ne nous permet malheureusement pas de voir très loin.

Au retour nous remontons les cordes en tête des puits pour les protéger des crues, y compris la corde "british" du P.9 qui est donc actuellement équipé en double.

Google Translate:

Continued work in the "Active Route".

It rained two days ago and the asset flows well but the equipment off flood left in place allows to go dry, just we receive a few drops at the bottom of P.7



In the morning the current of air is weakly blowing and returns us the gases of the first shots. Fortunately it is quickly reversed and the gases are then sucked well throughout the day. We cut the narrow conduit in a straight line for another 3m. After having used the 4 batteries and the box of straws, we can pass the head from a baffle right-left, down and seems penetrable. The turn unfortunately does not allow us to see very far. On the return we go up the ropes at the head of the wells to protect them from the floods, including the "british" rope of the P.9 which is thus currently equipped in duplicate.

From Patrick Degouve via Pete Smith

El Domingo 2 de diciembre de 2018 9:30, Patrick Degouve de Nuncques <patrick.degouve@wanadoo.fr> escribió:

Hi Peter,

Lamentamos no habes podido venir con nosotros el miércoles pasado. Es probable que Guy te haya dicho que avanzamos en el meandro más de 2 metros. Nos detuvimos en una curva pero detrás de eso parece un poco más grande y penetrable, pero no vemos muy lejos. Adjunto un pequeño boceto pero no es una topografía y la orientación es incierta. Al pie del segundo pozo pequeño, perdemos el flujo activo en un conducto impenetrable y en el fósil no lo escuchamos. La próxima vez te esperaremos porque con un poco de suerte podremos ir más lejos. Regresaremos en Socueva del 20 de diciembre hasta principios de enero.

Hasta pronto

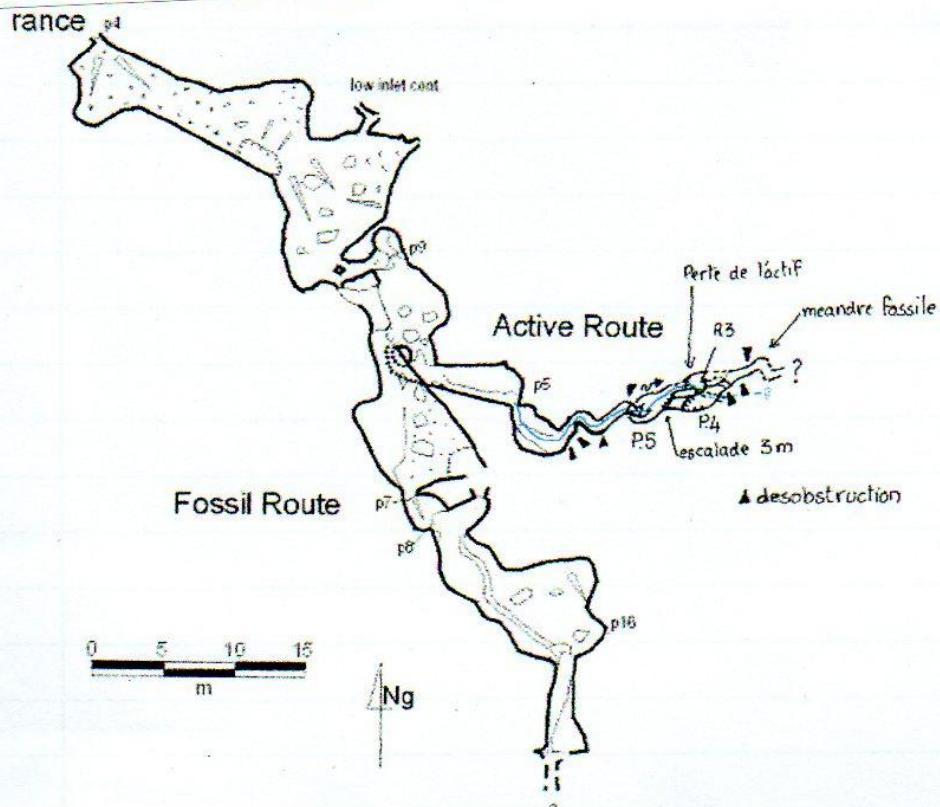
Saludos

Patrick

Google Translate:

We are sorry you have not been able to come with us last Wednesday. Is Probably Guy told you that we are moving in the meander more than 2 meters We stopped at a bend but behind that it seems a little more big and penetrable, but we do not see very far.

I enclose a small sketch but it is not a topography and the orientation is uncertain At the foot of the second small well, we lose the active flow in an impenetrable conduit and in the fossil we do not hear it. Next time We will wait for you because with a bit of luck we can go further.



MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT