

LOGBOOK

Year: 2023

Season: Xmas / New Year

Logbook pages collaboratively produced online using a shared *Google Doc*

Juan Corrin, January 2024



2023 Xmas / New Year Logbook



[0039](#) 17/12/23

Buenos días,

Este puente de diciembre estuvimos en la Cueva Codisera. Después de muchas entradas a Codisera, y de retomar el trabajo parado durante unos años, parece que la suerte nos ha sonreído. Después de una nueva escalada de unos 10 metros, se accedió a un meandro sobre el camino anterior. Las piedras que movíamos caían antes de subir la C8. Llegamos a una arriesgada desobstrucción y salimos a una sala colgada. en cada punto cardinal hay un pozo. Uno es el conocido P40 (según vuestra topografía) que está justo al salir de la gatera de arena. Otros dos pozos se bajaron, aunque se acaban, los pozos chinos. Uno de ellos tiene posibilidad de escalar, aunque no parece fácil. Un cuarto pozo se desarrolla en material muy descompuesto y accede a una galería. En su base hay unas grietas no descendidas. Más adelante, un meandro con fuertes giros, lleva a una escalada de 3 metros y después una escalada que queda pendiente de unos 15m. Arriba se intuye galería, esperemos que sea así.

Este nuevo recorrido es corto, pero hace ver un nuevo nivel entre los ya existentes.

No pude hacer topografía, solo tengo este croquis. Hemos dejado todo con material y cuerdas, para intentar ir estas navidades. Os ruego no publiquéis por ahora esta información. El acceso es atlético pero muy fácil de seguir por otra gente.

Os mando el croquis y posibles continuaciones no exploradas. Si vamos os comentaré las fechas

Good morning,

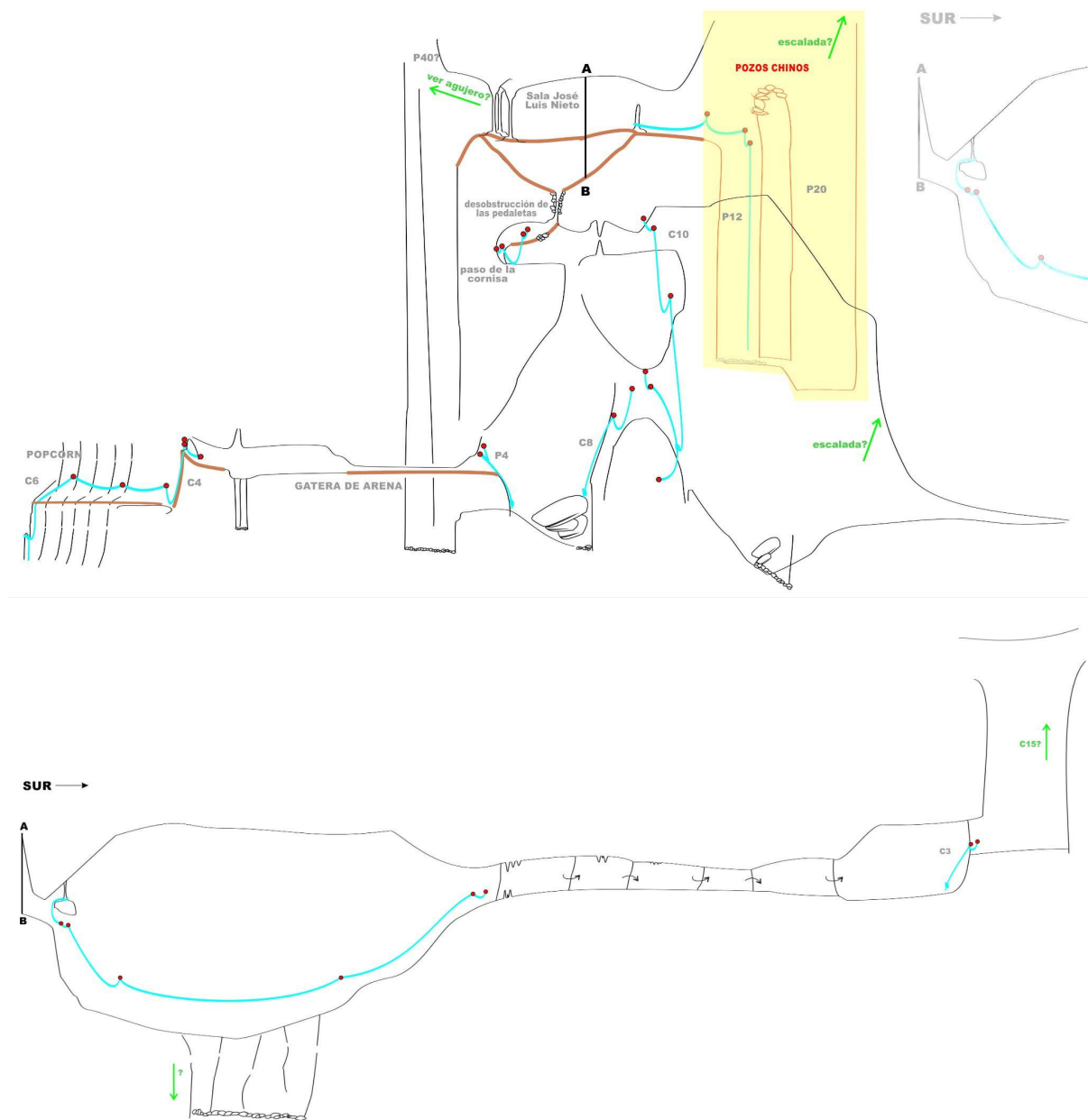
This December long weekend we were in the Codisera Cave ([0039](#)). After many entries to Codisera, and resuming work that had been stopped for a few years, it seems that luck has smiled on us. After a new climb of about 10 metres, a meander on the previous path was accessed. The stones we moved fell before climbing the C8. We reach a risky opening and emerge into a hanging room. At each cardinal point there is a well. One is the well-known P40 (according to your topography) which is just outside the sand trap. Two other wells were lowered, although they are finished, the Chinese wells. One of them has the possibility of climbing, although it does not seem easy. A fourth well is developed in very decomposed material and accesses a gallery. At its base there are some undescended cracks. Further ahead, a meander with sharp turns leads to a 3-metre climb and then a pending climb of about 15m. Above you can see the gallery, let's hope it is like that.

This new route is short, but it reveals a new level among the existing ones.

I couldn't do topography, I only have this sketch. We have left everything with material and ropes, to try to go this Christmas. I ask you not to publish this information for now. The access is athletic but very easy to follow for other people.

I send you the sketch and possible unexplored continuations. If we go I will tell you the dates

Sketches follow



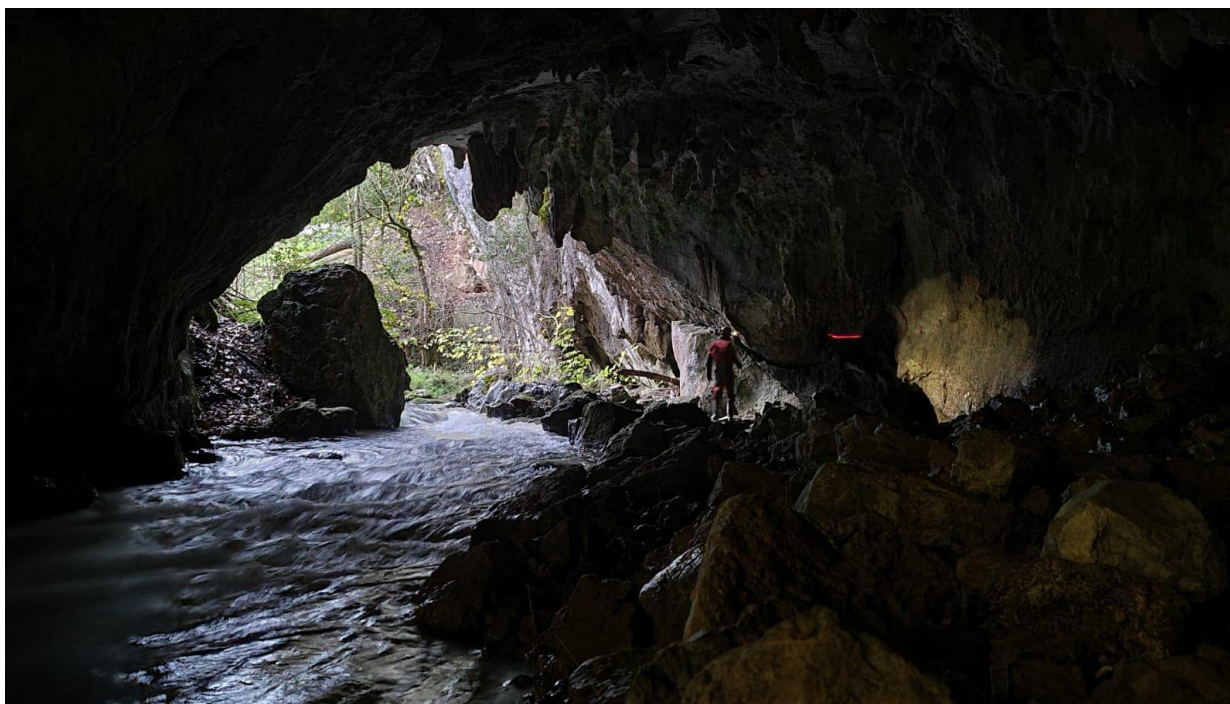
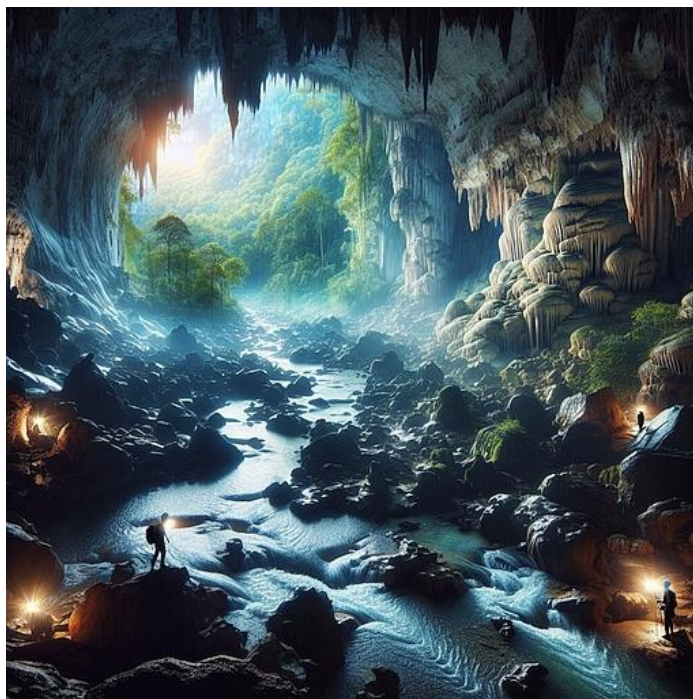
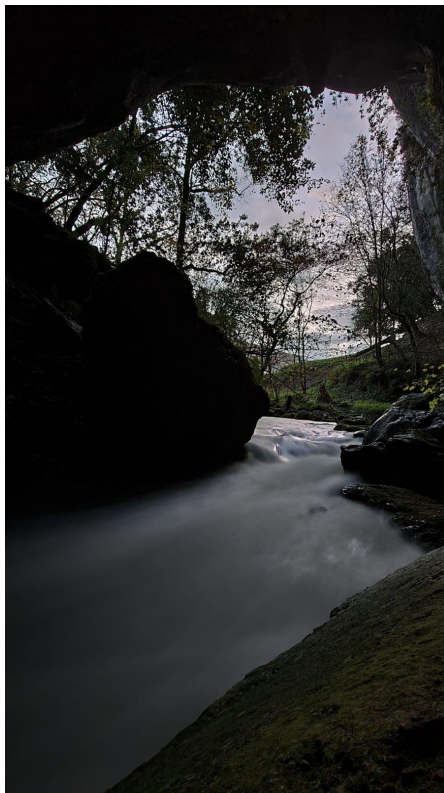
4732: 14/12/2023 Torca la Decepción – Di & Si

(Diane Arthurs and Simon Cornhill)

First trip straight off the ferry, to find it's been wet in Matienzo! The Mushroom field was very soggy and the usually dry streambed followed on the way to Decepción had a healthy stream flowing down it. A pleasant surprise was finding Small and Big slam pitches had been left rigged after the summer saving us a job, however as suspected Small slam was very wet and the dribble going through the 322/1/6 *Super Duck* had been upgraded to a stream, so we spent some time digging the floor of this.

0059: 15/12/2023 Cueva del Agua – Di & Si

Mainly a day of fettling one thing or another, however we did get underground in Agua to check the disto calibration and try out some new photography equipment and techniques.



Photos:Di

[4732/0107](#): 16/12/2023 Torca la Decepción/Uzueka – Di & Si

We went to Trident, dropped climbing gear off and Si drained the muddy pool in the squeeze whilst Di had a nice wander to the start of Double Decker.

[5162](#) 17/12/2023 – Di & Si

5162: (surveyed: 14m, new: 3m)

Juan mentioned that this site could do with a second opinion, fortunately as we were going to BT's for a nice three course lunch before they closed for the winter, this fitted in well for a trip on the way home.

A lovely walk up in the sunshine locating the pothole which was quickly rigged and capping the 'oscillating block' stopping progress commenced. This was duly dispatched and with six of the best (three in each wall) a descent was made into the bottom of the shaft, which only had a tiny hand sized rift leading off at floor level, however dripping water in to what sounded like a larger bit of cave could be heard not too far away. This would be a reasonable capping project but unfortunately, we didn't have enough time to get this job started. We also found at the bottom of the shaft what was first thought to be a large worm, then a small snake, but turned out to be a slow worm. Si & Di



[4732/0107](#): 18/12/2023 Torca la Decepción/Uzueka – Di & Si

(surveyed: 273m, new: 9m)

A swift trip to *Trident Camp1* picked up the climbing gear and moved on to the start of *Gypsum Traverse*, the wet muddy squeeze below the climb is drying out nicely and is much more pleasant! Surveyed from the main passage to where James did the bolt climb over the calcite blockage, we rigged the rope to give a free hang on the up and down pitches and then continued to survey along the bottom of the trench to the final calcited chamber. On the way back part way along the trench, Si climbed up into the higher level passage and made his way back to the pitch and rigging a traverse line up into the higher level. 9.5hr trip.

[1018](#): 19/12/2023 – Di & Si

Started off this dig close to Torca de J.R. spending a few hours capping this reasonably strong draughting inwards hole.

[0084](#): 20/12/2023 Cueva las Cosas – Di & Si

We were ready for a big trip into Trident, however the overnight rain put paid to that and seeing the Rio Clarin almost bank full and still pissing down we decided to postpone this trip. Instead, we went to Cueva las Cosas as we have never been and calibrated our two backup disto's, irritatingly our new Distox-BLE for some reason seems to easily drift out by up to 5°, the other two very well used distox2's we have keep a rock solid calibration.

[4732/0107](#): 21/12/2023 Torca la Decepción/Uzueka – Di & Si

surveyed 489m new: 197m

Reaching Trident we went back to Gypsum Traverse, up James' climb and surveyed the high level chambers which were exceptionally well decorated, but unfortunately one branch calcited up and the other ended in a fault/breakdown chamber. We then dropped back into the bottom of the trench and resurveyed this again with a different and more reliable distox2, more satisfyingly when we now closed a loop the error was down to 0.09%! Returning to the pitch the rope was rigged into the higher level going back the opposite direction ready for the next trip.

Twelve and a half hour trip, exiting at 1am we encountered more wildlife than a Borneo rainforest!



Photos: Si

Length for the 4VS now is $72973 + 9 + 197\text{m} = 73179\text{m}$

2099: 22/12/2023 – Di & Si

Unsuccessfully tried to locate the 2004 ADCC dig again (#2099). The fence in the 2004 photos running steeply up the hill was found but after nearly 20 years the whole area and what was originally a footpath is densely overgrown with chest height gorse – and this is in December!

On the way up Di spotted a new cave, a crawl in entrance leading to an enlargement 1m high by 1.5x1m

5396 NewCave2023.12.22-1 30T 448834 4797801 Alt. 270m

On the way down Di spotted what could be another new cave entrance blocked with tyres.

5397 NewCave2023.12.22-2 30T 448837 4797820 Alt. 265m

23/12/2023 – Di & Si

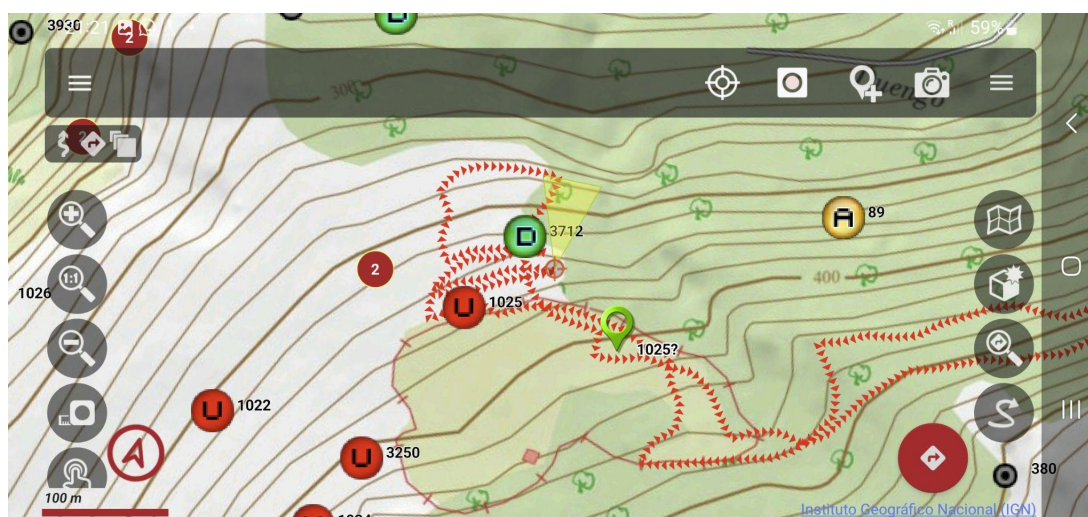
An unsuccessful trip to try and find [1023](#), [1024](#) and [1025](#)

However Di spotted a new very short cave

5398 NewCave 30T 453318 4797015 Alt. 405m

A small grassy entrance in the lower meadow, a wriggle in goes to a sloping enlargement for 2m containing empty animal feed bags and then a 1m drop to a choked floor.

Depth 1m total length 3m



4732/0107: 24/12/2023 Torca la Decepción/Uzueka – Di & Si

surveyed 521m new: 335m

An efficient trip into the start of Trident, where we went up the short pitch into the higher level of Gypsum Traverse and surveyed back along this (heading SW) checking for any passages to the knotted rope climb on the main route. The traverse involved two exciting rock-climbing style pitches along steep sketchy terrain. From the top of the knotted rope climb, the (re)survey continued to the junction with Sandstone Passage and Snow White taking in the previously un-surveyed passage on the right, where all passages choke up.

Climbing up into the stunning Snow White we surveyed along the main passage and then along an un-surveyed smaller but amazing walking gypsum encrusted passage which eventually rejoined the main route after a climb up from the trench in the floor. A trip to the end of this will have to wait until next time as we had to race out for Christmas eve last orders at the bar! 11.5hr trip.

Length for the 4VS now is $72973 + 9 + 197m + 335 = 73514m$

0429: 25/12/2023 – Di & Si

surveyed 35m new: 30m

A Christmas day trip to re-explore and survey this pothole. The only prospect is a fairly big capping job along the tiny rift at the bottom of the entrance pitch. We were treated to a spectacular moonlit walk back to the car.

26/12/2023 – Di & Si

A bushwack around the hill East above the Mushroom field on a nice warm sunny winter's day. 0603: Along its length this cave was littered with flood debris, on the floor, ledges and rammed high into the roof. A gentle but cold draught in. We then went up the hill behind this, coming across the large depression containing 4213 and 4214 which had slumped somewhat and then on to the entrance of 4212. We then dived into chest height gorse and traversed the hillside trying to locate 1063, 3639 and 1064 but were unsuccessful, the failing light didn't help.

4732/0107: 27/12/2023 Torca la Decepción/Uzueka – Di & Si

surveyed 895m new: 336m

Another grand sunny winter day in Matienzo! The walk up from the bar began wrapped up with extra jumpers, coat and thick gloves, it didn't take long for the sun to work its magic with bizarre wave after wave of really warm air coming blasting down the hillside, the potholers ending up stripped to the waist! The entrance was strongly draughting out and a steady trip into Trident ensued. We re-surveyed the lower passage from the start of Gypsum Traverse to tie in with our survey at the top of the knotted rope climb in the main route. Moving on to Left Hand passage/Snow White, we surveyed this stunning passage to the end and thoroughly checked for any leads here but didn't find any. This area is a hading rift which is also very heavily calcited, particularly at the end. Some side passages marked as 'to chamber' were surveyed, the 'chamber' turned out to be a view into the large junction of Sandstone Passage and Snow White from a high vantage point.

We exited after a 15hr trip at 01:30 to find that the entrance was now strongly draughting in and back to the bar for 02:00, it was shut!

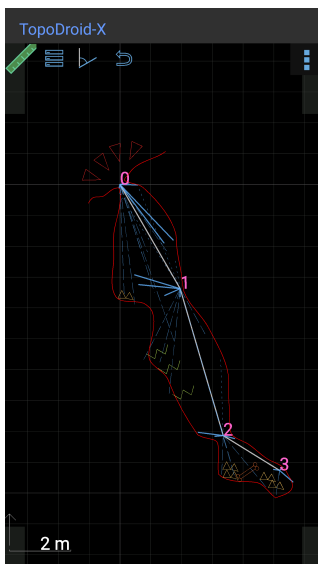
Length for the 4VS now is $72973 + 9 + 197m + 335 + 336 = 73850m$

0816: 28/12/2023 – Di & Si

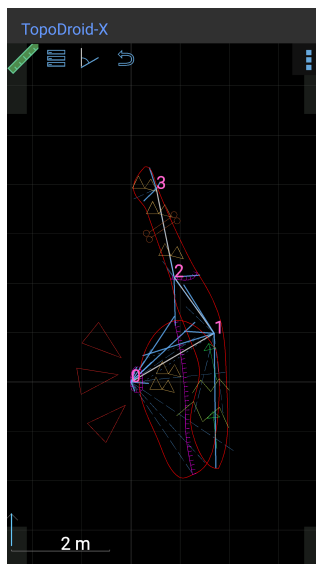
surveyed 11m, previous(estimation): 6m, new: 5m

The entrance was located not too far from the original coordinates at: 30T 450139 4796974 319m. Di descended this shaft passing a ledge at 4m with a steeply sloping calcited passage choked with small bones at the bottom.

Extended Elevation



Plan



From: llambriales@gmail.com

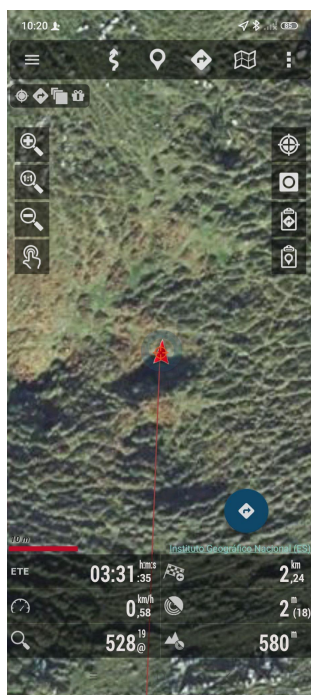
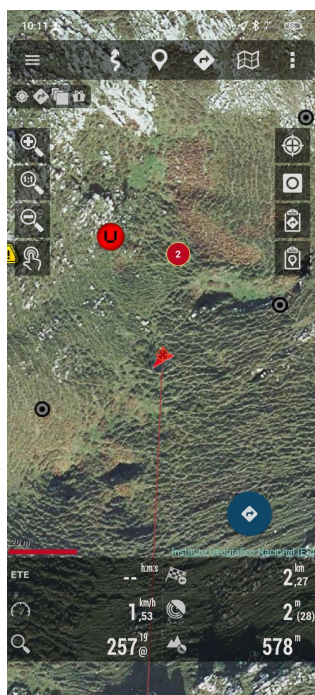
To: juancorrin@matienzo.org.uk

Fri, 29 Dec at 11:30

Que tal Juan. En primer lugar, Felices Fiestas y buena entrada de año.

He estado buscando el site 714 en la depresión de la sima de la Piluca y no he sido capaz de localizarla. Tiene pinta de que allí no está. Por otra parte, las coordenadas que tienes en la web están algo movidas te mando las fotos satélite de las ubicaciones correctas, así como alguna foto de la zona y de la cueva 473.

Un saludo



How are you Juan? First of all, Happy Holidays and a good start to the new year.

I have been looking for site [714](#) in the depression of the Piluca chasm and I have not been able to locate it. It looks like it's not there. On the other hand, the coordinates you have on the website are somewhat shaky, I will send you the satellite photos of the correct locations [*L=ubicación 472 o sima de la Piluca.jpg*; *R=ubicación 473.jpg*], as well as some photos of the area and cave 473 [*3 photos for online description*].

All the best
Carlos Lamoile Martinez

Amended grid references from satellite photos to replace "shaky" ones:

[0472](#) @ 30T 0451712 4794023 Alt. 578m

[0473](#) @ 30T 0451701 4793996 Alt. 585m

29/12/2023 – Di & Si

We dropped our bags off at the Torca la Decepción entrance ready for another big trip tomorrow and then carried on up the main gully coming across:

[0260](#): This was found a little way from its current location at 30T 453171 4798363 260m

[4534](#): Two-way Cave and I have a very strong feeling that this is also 1623 as the surveys and descriptions match, [1623](#) is placed in the wrong location 310m up the hill on the opposite side of the gully. The entrance photo taken in 2012 and description is of something else.

[0229](#): this now mythical cave still couldn't be found!

[4732/0107](#): 30/12/2023 Torca la Decepción/Uzueka – Di & Si

surveyed 146m new: 146m

A cold crisp early start to find the entrance was draughting in strongly on both entry and exit to the cave. A steady trip to Trident Left Hand passage/Snow White where we climbed into numerous cross rifts and alcoves, which all unfortunately closed up. The final bolt climb was at the highest point in this area into the largest cross-rift which also became too tight, interestingly this elevation is around the height of the survey station set at the top of the Astradome, and makes it one of the highest places in Uzueka. We also took the opportunity to take some final photos and video, heavily laden with gear the return journey was somewhat slower!

When we got back at 02:30 bar German was closed, however up the valley a group of locals had taken one for the team and were keeping the Bakers Bar open, we were grateful for the late last orders even if Miguel wasn't!

15.5 hr trip.

Length for the 4VS now is $72973 + 9 + 197m + 335 + 336 + 146 = 73996m$

[1488](#): 31/12/2023 – Di & Si

Being a dig close to the road and I'd been meaning to check this site out for a while, so this was ticking a lot of boxes for today! The tree the small fissure was under had grown to quite a size over the past 24 years but had been uprooted as has many trees we've seen in Matienzo this trip. The entrance was dug open and the 3m climb descended to check the dig, it looks like a reasonable prospect but would be quite some effort requiring a bucket & rope to pull the spoil up to the surface. (*This is over passage in [1232](#) - JC*)

1/01/2024 – Di & Si

We dropped some gear off at Decepción entrance ready for tomorrow and retrieved a bag of unneeded rope. We then went to look for [1551](#): finding a small shaft at this location about 4m deep but requires capping to enter, although it wasn't fenced off but a flattened barbed wire fence traversing the hillside was in the undergrowth above it.

Walking back along the high level meadow above Decepción a largeish hole behind a big tree in the upper corner of the grassy area was spotted, we thought it was new however it turns out that it was recorded in July 2023 as [5362](#). The shaft was partially blocked around 3m down with rotting branches containing some fine fungal specimens and then continued for another 4m down a shaft with no way on, a parallel shaft from the 3m ledge requiring some future enlargement to reach the bottom surveyed at 11m long.

[4732/0107](#): 2/01/2024 Torca la Decepción/Uzueka – Di & Si

surveyed 890m new: 0m

For a change we went down Decepción into Uzueka and headed for Armageddon, Paisley Passage, Giant's Causeway and Sandstone Passage as far as Duckhams Sump. First of all, we placed two ring hangers on Judgement Pitch to give an SRT free hang and also added a second rope with foot loops to help climbing back up without the need for a harness. We then surveyed up the inlet at the end of Paisley Passage, this was fairly squalid going until two large avens of 45m & 37m height were met, a further thrutch landed us in an impressive very large circular aven with a custard-coloured flat floor where the disto would only read a maximum of 62m up due to the spray from falling water, however it looked much higher than this as our powerful 3000lm aven blasting torch couldn't illuminate it to the top! Returning to Paisley Passage we continued surveying the main passages up to Duckhams Sump, as there seemed to be some sort of issue with the resurvey of this we did in the summer. Returning back to Paisley Passage we took some photos and then headed out **derigging Small and Grand Slam pitches on the way**, finally getting back to Bar Germán at 03:30 after a 16hr trip!

Length for the 4VS now is $72973 + 9 + 197m + 335 + 336 + 146 + 0 = 73996m$ (1012m new)

Surveyed in 4VS (incl. new) = $273 + 489 + 521 + 895 + 146 + 890 = 3214m$

3/01/2024 – Di, Si, Pete Smith, Support: Carolina & Oscar

[0670](#): Pete Smith asked us to cap out a constriction in this cave, which was swiftly dispatched. Unfortunately, the continuation was just big enough for three cavers to stand in with no way on!

[0814](#): Pete got Si to go down this hole on the walk back to the car. It was a very tight vertical drop down for a body length into an area just big enough to turn round in, the way on being into boulders headed towards the centre of the shakehole with no solid walls seen - 'a classic Matienzo unsupported deathtrap dig!

4/01/2024 – Di & Si

With it being a really nice warm sunny day and poor weather forecast for our final day, we decided to pick up the Grand and Small Slam ropes which were left at the Decepción entrance and then continue walking the hillside above. We came across several known entrances apart from [0229](#)!!!



[1232](#): 5/01/2024 – Di & Si

With the car packed, a break in the rain and a few hours spare before the Kings were due to arrive, we went for a nice visit to Cueva de Germán and to take some photos as Pablo was excited we were going. What a gem this cave is with potential for further discoveries, however this will probably be at the far end in the area of large breakdown and could prove to be 'exciting'!

6/01/2024 – Di & Si

No caving as it's ferry day and we had to be in Santander by lunchtime.

A final note: after biblical rain overnight, the Rio Clarin on the way to Torca la Decepción has gone from extremely low yesterday to nearly bank full by the morning and we left the happy valley to torrential rain!

¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

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JSC 7/1/2023

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT