

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT

LOGBOOK

Year: 2024

Season: Easter

Logbook pages converted from an online *Google Doc*

Juan Corrin, May 2024

Easter 2024 Logbook



[LOGBOOK HELP](#)

STARTED 18th February 2024

[0733](#) 18/2/2024

WhatsApp from Vicente of the ECT. Vallina explorations will be coordinated by Marc Martinez (Carlos Martinez's son) this coming year. An attack on Vallina is planned for February 29, there are 9 explorers and they will be inside for two and three days. The intention is to work above Tocadome and Novadome. (A flooding streamway hindered the exit of 4, but the 112 response was not needed. See [Diario](#) 3/3/2024)

[4340](#) 18/2/2024a

Vicente agrees that "Torca Pusi" (pp13-14 of the Explorations in Vallina 2023 document) is the same as site 4340. (Extract photos and put on [descrip/4340](#))

[0059](#) 19/2/2024

Andy and I were in Agua today and the detector was still negative. We replaced it for a last chance. *Pete Smith*
(*Re. water trace from sink in Cubija Valley*)

[1800](#) 16/2/2024 Fridge Door Cave

Louise Korsgaard, TORBEN REDDER

We entered via #5000. The draught was going the cave in these colder conditions. The stream feeding into Sump 2 was more active, and had washed away footprints about 0,5 m high. Sump 2 had more surface foam than in October 2023. Two flood monitors (a cork tied to a rock put on top of the rock) were put on the bank of Sump 2, to see if it sometimes floods.

A: p6 was dropped. Through a slot on the south side rocks were removed so it is possible to enter a small stream running E to W. Stream probably connected to streams in Low in Knickers. Passage size is about 0,7m across. There are 2 studs at the top of the pitch.

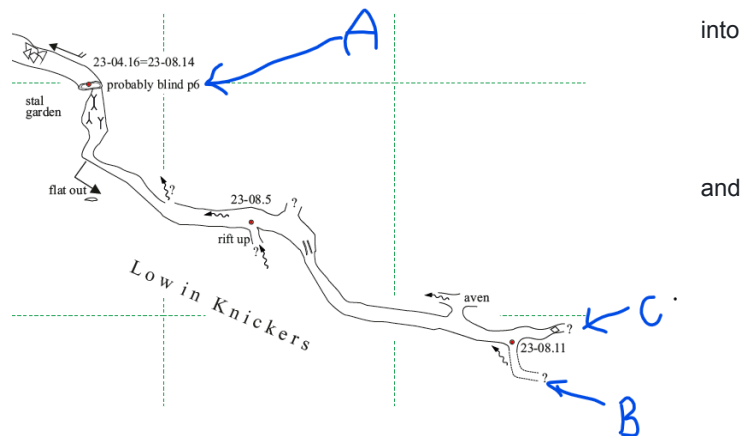
B: Muddy passage sloping gently up. Ends too small, possibly digable in mud. No draught. Surveyed 10m from stn 1.11 (october 2023). Batch 180016feb2024 = **1800-24-01**

C: Dry passage. Crawled under a big boulder to carry on. From there the passage goes two ways.

1) North for 2 metres with a bend towards E, looking into about 10m long passage with draught.

2) East there is a space between two boulders where it may be possible to pass into a large chamber or passage. Hammer/chisel/crowbar may remove the lower rock to ease access. Surveyed 3m from stn 1.13 (october 2023). Batch 180016feb2024_2 = **1800-24-02**

By that time we had to rush out not to miss call out time 20.00



2 - Matienzo Caves Project 2024 Easter Logbook

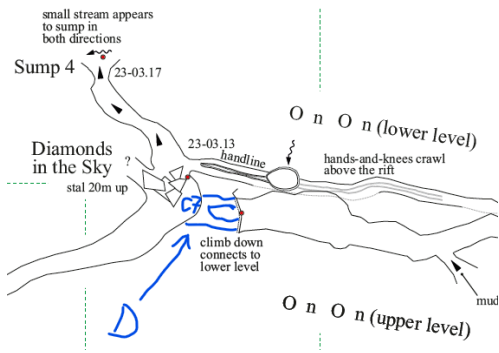
Attached files from TopoDroidX **Length = 10.4 + 3.4 = 13.8m**

Just found the svx stations from oct 2023:

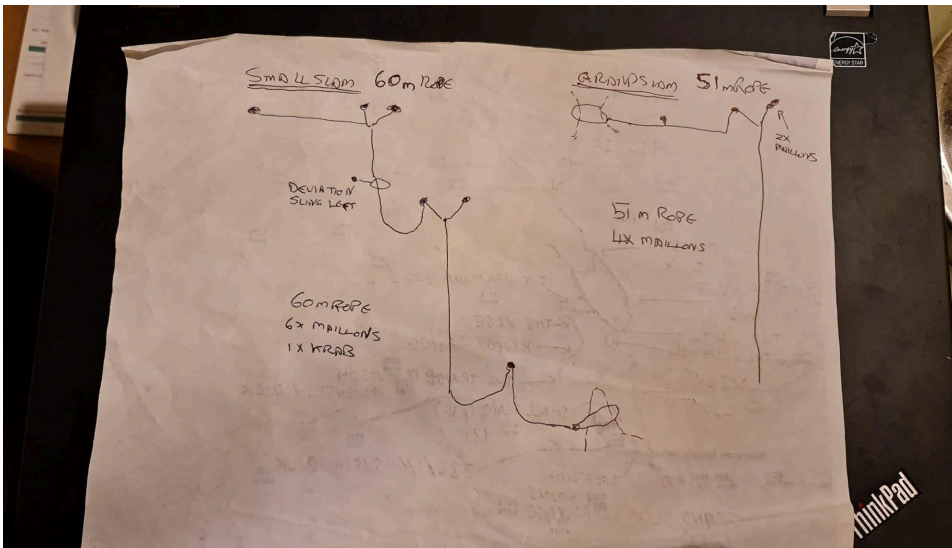
B ties in at: 1800-23-08.11

C ties in at: 1800-23-08.13

Last addition: D: We climbed c7 up and rigged rope for SRT and dry access (12 m rope, 2+1+1 bolts).



[4732](#) via WhatsApp 21/2/2024



I measured the ropes which came off Small and Grand Slam pitches.
Small slam: 60m rope, 6 x maillons, 1x crab (short deviation sling left on)
Grand Slam: 51m rope, 4 x maillons.

Simon Cornhill

[0039](#) Codisera 5/3/2024

From: mortacleto@hotmail.com

To: Peter, 'Juan Corrin' Tue, 5 Mar at 21:20

Buenos días,

os mando el alzado desarrollado y el archivo de Visual topo de lo explorado en Codisera. Estamos muy contentos

porque tenemos varias incógnitas que seguir mirando. Abajo pongo una descripción de Rafael Coronado de lo que hicimos el 3 de febrero.

Los próximos objetivos son añadir alguna cuerda más de seguridad en la punta de exploración y bajar el último pozo sondeado, así como la galería que se ve en la escalada (se ve en el jpg a la derecha del todo). La escalada tiene acceso a varios lugares por distintos pasamanos a realizar.

Queremos ir Susana y yo el próximo fin de semana a hacer topografía en el mismo pozo de las chinas, falta por completar algo de esa zona. También a cambiar algún spit de esa zona. Esperamos que la próxima semana tengamos buen tiempo para hacer otra entrada larga de exploración, y seremos 4. Estos últimos fines de semana no hemos tenido suerte con la meteorología. Las entradas vienen siendo de 12 horas porque nos lleva mucho tiempo equipar. Sospecho que la siguiente será más larga.

También me gustaría saber los topónimos de las zonas que ya teníais explorada en años anteriores. Creo hay nombres que desconozco, sobre todo de la zona "pop corn".

"TRABAJOS REALIZADOS: (Jornada del 3 de febrero de 2024)

Realizamos la escalada en una zona donde la piedra es de buena calidad, evitando así zonas concrecionadas e irregulares. Intuimos que será necesario realizar un pasamanos aéreo puesto que la continuidad parece estar en el otro extremo del pozo a unos 15 metros de altura. Instalamos 8 Anclajes tipo "Parabolt de 8mm", hasta alcanzar la altura deseada.

A su vez nos percatamos de una posible continuidad unos 2 metros sobre la base del pozo. Se intuye un pequeño meandro que torna dirección Este. Para poder acceder al meandro, es necesaria la instalación de un pasamanos que evita el desfonde de 3 metros en la base del pozo. El pequeño pasamanos en su parte final es ascendente, superado así, unos bloques empotrados. Se colocan 6 anclajes tipo "Parabolt 8 mm".

La primera parte del meandro es algo estrecha, y en la base hay que evitar pisar un pequeño gours con pequeños cristales de calcita. A unos 15 metros, el meandro gira 90 grados dirección Sur, donde una rampa descendente cada vez con más pendiente termina por desfondarse en un pozo de unos 20 metros de altura. Este nuevo pozo, muy concrecionado, gana dimensiones en orientación Suroeste. Podemos observar una posible galería en su base, y también una ventana con posible continuidad justo en frente de la cabecera.

También se recogen medidas topográficas desde la "Sala José Luis", hasta el final del meandro y base del pozo donde se encuentra la escalada.

Para mejorar y asegurar mejor el pasamanos entre la "Sala José Luis" y el meandro, colocamos un anclaje más, tipo "Parabolt 8mm con anilla", evitando así un gran péndulo en la cuerda.

Se sustituyen anclajes con mosquetones por chapa con anilla, recuperando material. Cabecera del resalte del pozo de la escalada (2 anclajes), cabecera final del pasamanos entre "sala José Luis", y meandro + anclaje nuevo (3 anclajes).
"

Si me da tiempo, me gustaría tomar un café con vosotros en Matienzo. Espero que podamos ir porque estamos superando un catarro Susana y yo.

Un cordial saludo,

Ángel San Juan Gálvez

Good morning,

I am sending you the developed elevation and the Visual topo file of what was explored in Codisera. We are very happy because we have several unknowns to continue looking at. Below I put a description by Rafael Coronado of what we did on February 3rd.

The next objectives are to add some more safety rope at the exploration point and lower the last probed well, as well as the gallery that can be seen in the climb (seen in the jpg on the far right). The climbing has access to several places through different handrails to be carried out.

Susana and I want to go next weekend to do surveying in the same Chinese well, something in that area remains to be completed. Also to change some spit in that area. We hope that next week we will have good weather to make another long exploration entry, and there will be 4 of us. These last weekends we have not had luck with the weather. The tickets are 12 hours long because it takes us a long time to equip. I suspect the next one will be longer.

I would also like to know the place names of the areas that you had already explored in previous years. I think there are names that I don't know, especially from the "pop corn" area.

"WORK DONE: (Day of February 3, 2024)

We carry out the climb in an area where the stone is of good quality, thus avoiding concreted and irregular areas. We sense that it will be necessary to make an aerial handrail since the continuity seems to be at the other end of the well at about 15 metres high. We install 8 "8mm Parabol" type anchors, until the desired height is reached.

At the same time, we noticed a possible continuity about 2 metres above the base of the well. You can sense a small meander that heads east. In order to access the meander, it is necessary to install a handrail that prevents a 3 metre deepening at the base of the well. The small handrail in its final part is ascending, thus surpassing some built-in blocks. 6 "Parabol 8 mm" type anchors are placed.

The first part of the meander is somewhat narrow, and at the base you have to avoid stepping on a small gours with small calcite crystals. At about 15 metres, the meander turns 90 degrees towards the south, where a descending ramp with increasing steepness ends up collapsing into a pit about 20 metres high. This new well, very concretized, gains dimensions in a southwest orientation. We can see a possible gallery at its base, and also a window with possible continuity just in front of the head.

Topographic measurements are also collected from the "José Luis Room" to the end of the meander and the base of the well where the climb is located.

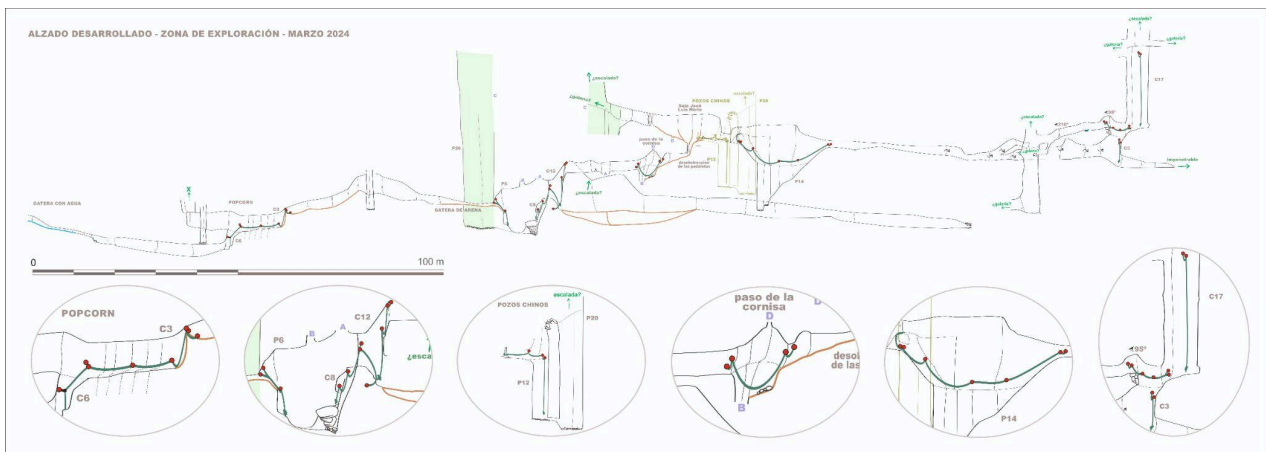
To improve and better secure the handrail between the "José Luis Room" and the meander, we placed one more anchor, type "8mm Parabol with ring", thus avoiding a large pendulum in the rope.

Anchors with carabiners are replaced with plates with rings, recovering material. Head of the projection of the climbing well (2 anchors), final head of the handrail between "José Luis room", and meander + new anchor (3 anchors). "

If I have time, I would like to have a coffee with you in Matienzo. I hope we can go because Susana and I are getting over a cold.

A cordial greeting,
Ángel San Juan Gálvez

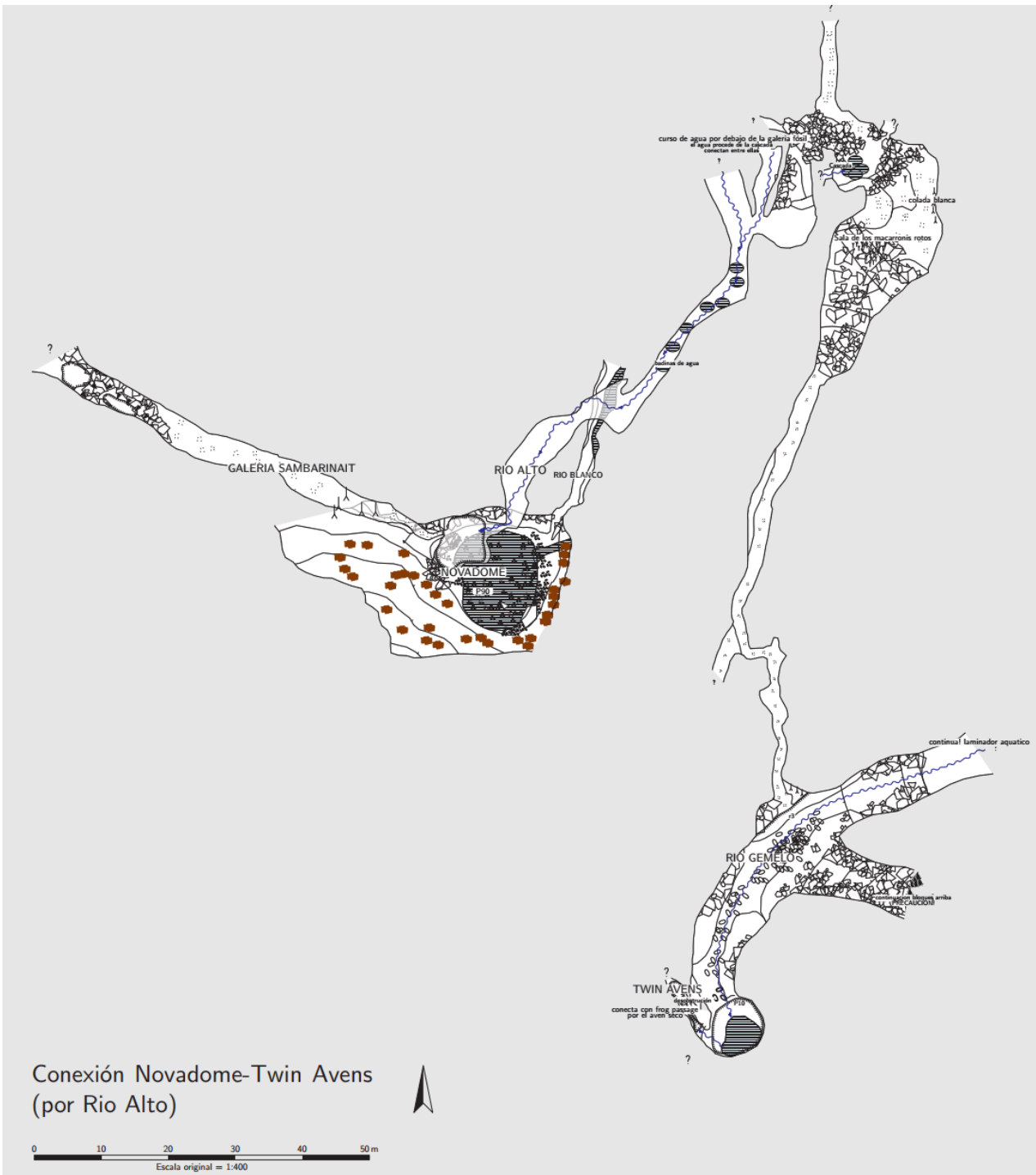
Attached jpg (below) and a "Codisera_feb 24.trox" file (Visual Topo) for later processing (exports kml file, for example)



0733 Vallina 08/03/2024

.3d and pdf received of Catalan connection up the Novadome into passage that links around Twin Avens. (Asked for .svx files and connection station to main centre line.)

Pdf survey over...



9/3/2024 from Simon Cornhill

Unless I was man reading the fantastic Matienzo 1981 BCRA article; the coordinates for [0229](#) are missing from this and [0249](#) & [0250](#) (both currently placed close-ish to 0229) seem to be something completely different and currently undocumented! These locations are close to the road behind El Mazo and could be worth a look to see if they exist...

0249: Secada VN 53369868 Alt: 303m length 5m depth 5m

<https://www.matienzocaves.org.uk/logbook/1981s-A0.jpg>

La Secada 30T 453258 4798471 (ETRS89) Alt: 297m (From website)

Hole under blackberry bush drops into small chamber.

From 1981 BCRA

0249: Beralta VN 522 956 Alt:250 Length: 100m

452098,4795391 (ETRS89)

Small entrance leads to large passage which chokes. An arch to the right leads to a parallel large passage choked in both directions. The haunt of many bats.

0250: Secada VN 53369872 Alt: 308m depth 6m?

<https://www.matienzocaves.org.uk/logbook/1981s-A0.jpg>

La Secada 30T 453220 4798523 (ETRS89) Alt: 286m (From website)

Bramble covered shaft too tight at top.

From 1981 BCRA

0250: Beralta VN 521 956 alt: 250m length 40m

451998,4795391 (ETRS89)

Walking sized passage at stream sink gradually lowers to a crawl which becomes too low.

(JSC - these could be some repeated and misplaced sites 0177 and 0178, but worth a check, see 18/4/2024)

10/3/2024 Wind Farm at Mentera-Barruelo

This proposed wind farm may affect caves, landscape, wildlife and drainage at the southwest of our current and previous permit areas. A residents' meeting rejected the proposal by 36-34 and the company's plans now go to the Cantabrian government.

See [Diario article](#)

0039 Coquisera 9/3/2024

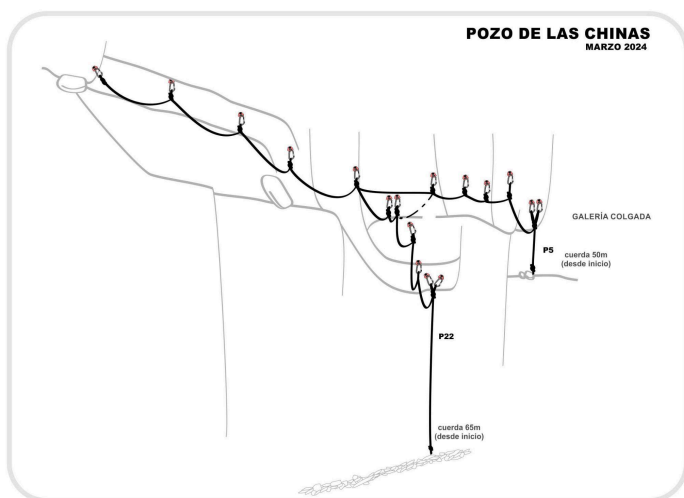
To: Peter, 'Juan Corrin'

Wed, 13 Mar at 18:59

Buenos días,

el pasado 9 de marzo, estuvimos haciendo la topografía de la galería a continuación del pasamanos del "pozo de las chinas". También cambiamos la instalación de la bajada al pozo, así evitamos el incómodo pequeño pasamanos.

Adjunto un gráfico con la instalación de la bajada del "pozo de las chinas" y del acceso a la galería siguiente. Este sustituiría el anterior colgado en la web de Matienzo Caves. También adjunto el archivo con la última topografía en ZIP y Visualtopo.



Este fin de semana queremos ir a explorar en la zona más alejada, Queremos descender el pozo posterior a la galería del gour y seguir con los caminos superiores de la última escalada.

Nos llamó mucho la atención que vimos más de 30 murciélagos en la mencionada galería a continuación del "pozo de las chinas".

Un cordial saludo,

Ángel San Juan Gálvez

=====

Good morning,

On March 9, we were doing the topography of the gallery below the handrail of the "pozo de las chinas". We also changed the installation of the descent to the well, thus avoiding the uncomfortable small handrail.

I attach a graphic with the installation of the descent of the "china well" and access to the following gallery. This would replace the previous one posted on Matienzo Caves' website. I also attach the file with the latest topography in ZIP and Visualtopo.

This weekend we want to go explore in the most remote area. We want to descend the pit after the gour gallery and continue with the upper paths of the last climb.

We were very struck by the fact that we saw more than 30 bats in the aforementioned gallery next to the "china well."

A cordial greeting,

Ángel San Juan Gálvez

pozo de las chinas 2024.jpg

(Also in the 0039 Codisera/240309 folder: *Codisera_completo.zip*; *Codisera_completo MARZO 24.trox*; *Codisera_completo marzo 24.tro*)

15/3/2024 Vallina #[0733](#) WhatsApp from Marc Martinez

Hola Juan,

Estamos revisando las uniones del sur vex general con el sur vex de la topo de Novadome_a_Rio_Alto.
(Batch 0733-24-01 Length **after** adjusting for overlaps = 470m)

- la estacion topografica 0733-vallina.1994s.1261 corresponde a la estacion topografica N1 del sur vex Novadome_a_Rio_Alto.
- la estacion topografica 0733-vallina.1994s.1259 corresponde a la estacion topografica N12 del sur vex Novadome_a_Rio_Alto.
- la estacion topografica 0733-vallina.1994s.1260 corresponde a la estacion topografica N22 del sur vex Novadome_a_Rio_Alto. (A leg part way up Novadome, not used as an EQUATE)

Ahora te pasamos otro sur vex de una pequeño enlace desde Crystal Passage hasta Cobra Passage:

- la estacion topografica 0733-vallina.1994s.1313 corresponde a la estacion topografica A10 del sur vex Crystal.
(Batch 0733-24-02 Length ~~after adjusting for any overlap is 371m~~) See 20/3/2024

18/3/2024 sites [0265](#) and [4112](#)

Two little things:

1. Cave 0265 (Copudia) is situated wrongly. It seems the given grid reference is really for the NW large entrance. I get 451192 4795224 330m for the SE smallest entrance. That shifts the position of the survey.
2. Cave 4112 (Cuesta de la Encina). Since we surveyed the cave in 2016, a track made presumably for logging has broken the roof of the SE entrance and destroyed about the first 4 or 5m of the cave. Photos attached.

Pete Smith

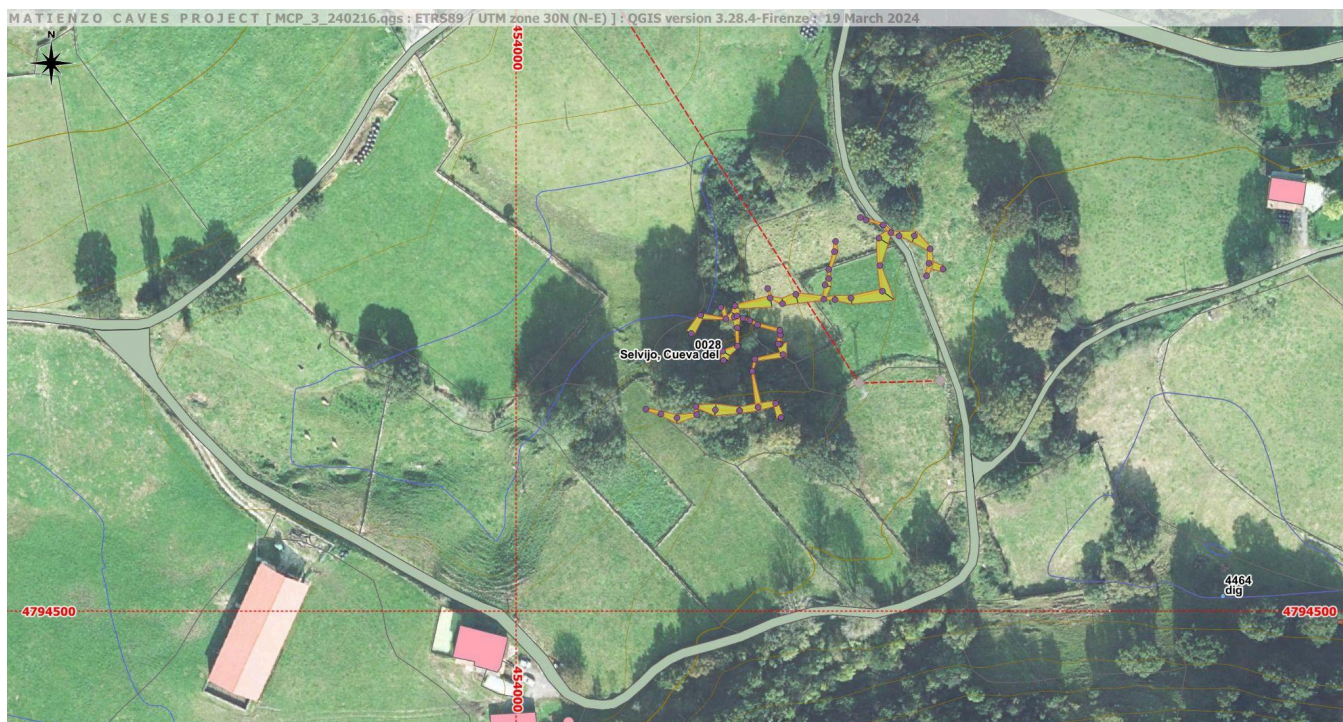
19/3/24 Cave [0028](#) Selvijo

Juan, Andy Q. Pete S.

A trip to look at leads noted during the resurvey of the cave in January. Andy started by going down the rifts in the first big passage to stream level. Downstream it soon got too small, but in the other direction he shouted that there was a crawl, he'd been along it for about 5 m and it was worth pursuing. (*Start of the Dia del Padre Series*) It opened up where it met an inlet. Again, at stream level it was too small ((AQ) actually downstream at this level almost immediately

gets to a point where you would need to crawl flatout in the stream but looks to get bigger again very quickly so needs looking at), but a climb up led to bigger dry passage. It crossed the stream again momentarily and then came to a T-junction. Down to the left the passage choked, but up to the right the passage ended at a small run-in and a climb to a visible continuation where a draught could be felt. Juan's survey shows that the new passages turn round to the south of the entrance and the draughting climb is at the western end. It is all quite well decorated and there are sediments with unusual red and white beds. Talk of Easter Grotto and the Grand Canyon might be overhyped though ! and the new series could be called something in connection with today being St Joseph's Day and Father's Day in Spain. Apart from the lead at the end, some side-passages still need looking at, as well as the leads we were initially going to check. *Pete Smith.*

Batch 0028-24-02 L=114m



Very interesting position for the passages. Looks like it is nothing to do with any of the existing cave which means that some of the climbs up that we saw today should lead to new stuff and also some of the climbs down that we noted in the previous trip are still well worth looking at.

Not sure why but I am liking the biblical theme to names. How about Gatera de San José for the crawl and el río Jordania for the little active inlet that we passed? *Andy Quin*

20/3/2024 #0733 Vallina WhatsApp from Marc Martinez

Hola Juan, respecto Novadome, OK (Batch 0733-24-01)

- la estacion topografica 0733-vallina.1994s.1313 corresponde a la estacion topografica A10 del survex Crystal.
- la estacion topografica 0733-vallina.1994s.1319 corresponde a la estacion topografica A1 del survex Crystal.

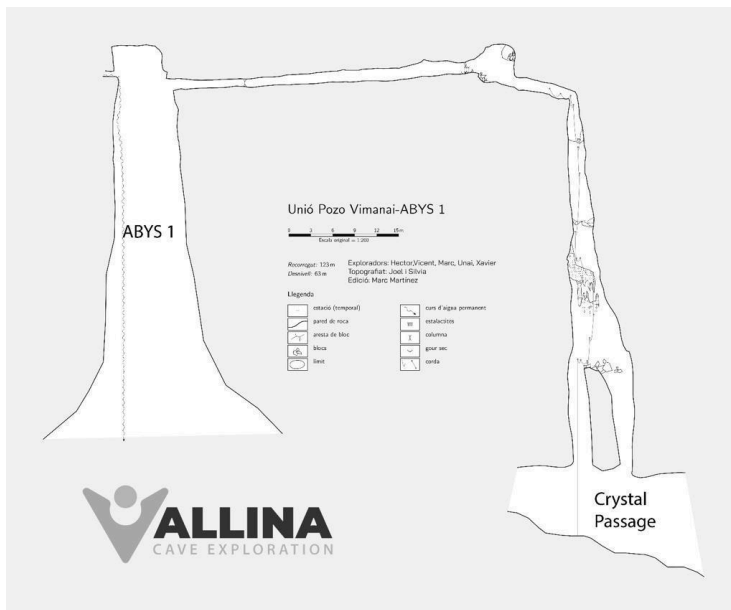
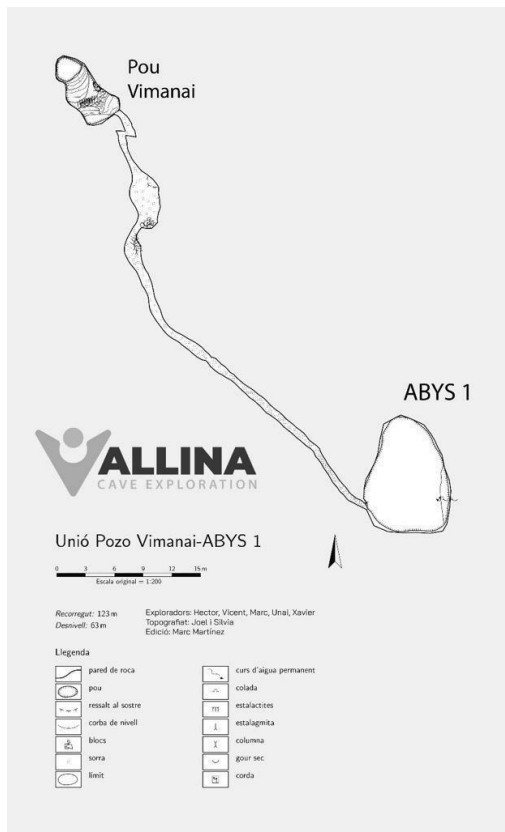
con esta correccion tendria que cuadrar. a1, a2, a3, a4, a5, a6, a7, a8, a9, a10 equivaldrian a la galeria dibujada por el mismo camino que 0733-vallina.1994s.1313,1314,1315,1316,1317,1318,1319. Me explico? És la poligonal del crystal passage.

sí, B31 del survex de Crystal tendria que unirse al topo con cobra passage. (Batch 0733-24-02) Length = 244m)

Ahora te paso otro survex de la escalada que te he mencionado esta tarde. (Batch 0733-24-03)

- la estacion topografica 0733-vallina.1994s.1319 corresponde a la estacion topografica 19 del survex P_paralelo_Abby.

(- la estacion topografica 0733-vallina.1994s.1324 corresponde a la estacion topografica 0 del survex P_paralelo_Abbyss. : actually 66m above. The drop down Abyss 1 has not been surveyed)



Abys-1: 2 drawings and 3d file.

Batch 0733-24-03 length = 122.7+ 66 unsurveyed down pitch = 189m

23/3/2024 #0028 Selvijo area

Juan: drone up to video Selvijo (#0028) area and take a panoramic 360deg photo. Also carried out a surface survey down to the entrance from the pylon and transformer poles. Batch 0028-24-00

24/3/2024 #0028 Selvijo area



Juan and Penny: drone up to video Selvijo (#0028) area and take a panoramic 360deg photo. Slight mod to Batch 0028-24-00 after checking out entrance position and satellite photo.

25/3/2024 #0028 Selvijo

Andy, Pete, Steve and Juan into Selvijo to push on. Some 360deg video was taken on the way in. The squeeze up into the first chamber near the entrance had to be destroyed to allow all four to pass.

The far western end, first entered last week, was revisited to climb up into a visible enlargement. Andy climbed up first



with shoulder assistance from below, then rigged a rope and sling to allow Juan and Pete to climb up. Steve climbed up through an alternative hole to reach the nicely decorated chamber with a number of ways off. (photo)

The continuing west-heading passage soon met a 5m deep, choked pit with stal at the top. A low level, alternative route climbed up to a choke with the sounds of activity off to the south. A smaller passage at the top of the pit met a small junction with the passage to the right paralleling the route to the

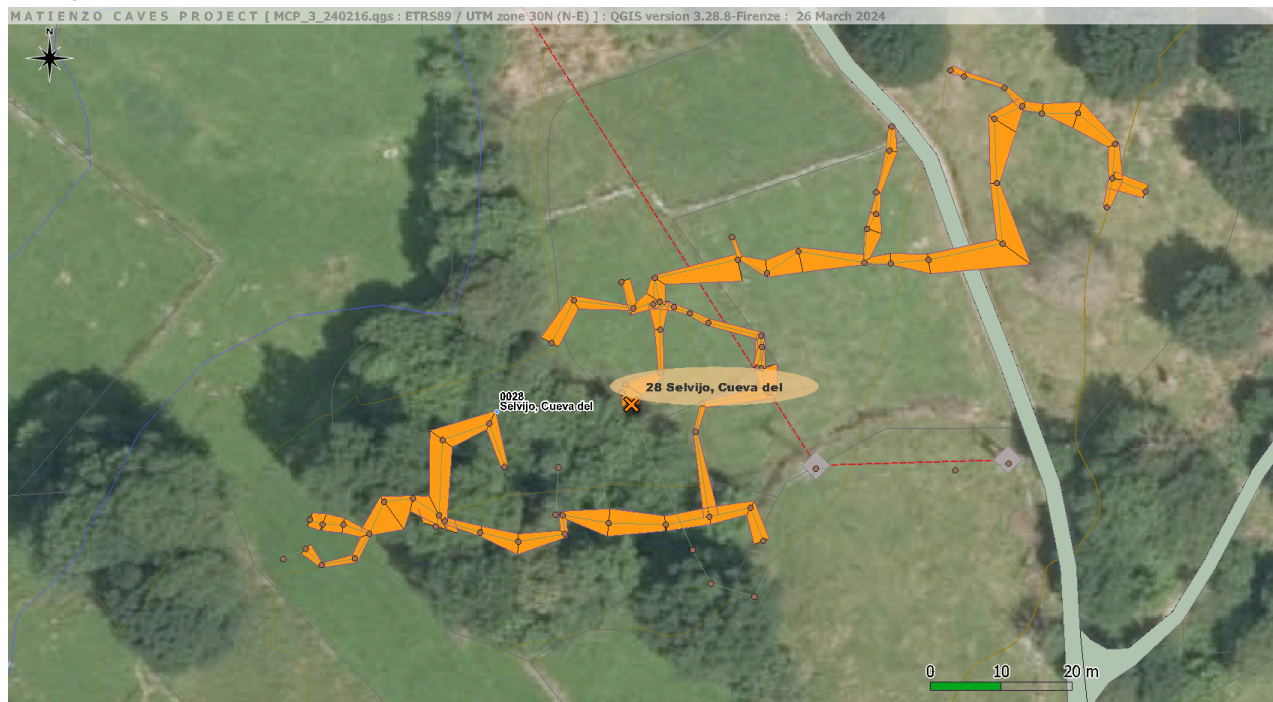
choke. At the "end", Pete climbed down to larger routes that were left open.

Survey started in these two passages then up a walking passage to the north from the top of the climb. This had a small bat hanging from the roof. The passage choked straight ahead with a 5m drop below, then swung to the east then south again in a smaller hands-and-knees route that choked(?).

The climb has been left with the rope in situ. On the way out, further photos were taken in last week's find. (All media on NAS in Office.) Four hour trip.

Survey batch 0028-24-03 and -04 Length = 82.4m Total resurveyed cave length = 381m

On the way out, a side-passage was looked at, starting in the wide low chamber at the top of the first climb up (almost obscured by the ellipse over the survey). A squeeze that needs digging out opened in a passage heading east for about 10m, with a side-passage on the right. After turning left, the passage reached a chamber with possible passages leading off in opposite directions. PS



26/3/2024 #1800 Fridge Door Cave

Philip Papard (taxi driver and surface support), Dave Bell, Dave Barrett (surface support), Peter T Eagan

Trip to check out possible digs from 1800 to 0103 Cueva de la Espada. Pete and Dave Bell went down on ladder. Only possible dig is at the bottom down slot but was flooded. We know it takes time for water to drop. Needs digging in a spell of dry weather - ie prob Summer. Bat noted (large but no type given GHB?) A frog was given a lift out from the bottom of the shaft. We hope it wanted to get out. 🐸

We saw 1 bat

26/03/2024 #2538 El Cubillón

Andrew Northall, Alex Ritchie, Gracie Sharp, Sam Davis

Trip to survey extensions found last year and tie in floating survey and drop a tantalising pitch with water heard.

A usual Matienzo start saw us underground by 12:30 and we got going. The first thing of note is that there is a **bad rub point** on the entrance pitch just below the second y-hang. We have isolated it with another alpine butterfly.

We quickly made it out of the nice passages into the new extensions which were extra squalid due to Easter rains. Andrew did a great job of keeping his disto dry while surveying down the 15m pitch/climb. We then made it down to the drain-pipe where we surveyed upstream to connect to my survey from last year (2538-23-06).

We then surveyed the other way on to the pitch. We had dragged a 50m rope here, only to find out I could only get down 6m as it got way too tight. There was a loud sound of water out of sight an unknown distance below. The survey does put us on the other side of the sump, capping project? But to get here is some squalid muddy passages!

Alex

Batch 2538-24-01 length = 81.5m (last station is the top of the pitch detailed below)

Also batch 2538-23-06 (left floating from last summer) length = 59.5m

Additional notes from Andrew:



It's worth highlighting the fact that the aforementioned pitch is a significant prospect in this cave and for the expedition in general. Cubillón takes a really significant draught, far outsized for what you'd expect for the known size of the system, and a healthy portion of said draught is observed at the top of the pitch which was found to be too tight.

Capping this pitch is a truly miserable prospect, as is even getting to the top of it, but there is every indication that someone both brave and stupid enough to do so could be well rewarded. Equally, they may be rewarded with simply capping the next rock protrusion instead. The level of sticky mud encountered in this area of cave cannot be understated - using any sort of electrical equipment, such as a Disto or a drill, should be done only with a device for which the owner cares not if it should break.

It may be worth looking at the survey in detail to see if an easier way into this area can be found - indications are that such a way may exist, as red flagging tape was found near the pitch head (potentially dropped from above), despite the rest of the chamber clearly being "new" cave.

Andrew Northall, 27th March 2024.

Additional notes from Sam Davis

Right by where the above new section takes off from the new passageway, there is a mud and boulder choke immediately adjacent to the passage. A way on can be seen down through the choke but this would be extremely dodgy considering the material composition.

Approx. 10m into this new section there is a hole to crawl up to and through to get to the first pitch head. Once through a bridge climb can be seen leading back towards the main passageway, but it is uncertain whether this goes back into the main passage or into a separate passage above. Greasy climb, would need a bolted line for cowtails.

#0662 26/3/2024

Tonsillitis pot had bolts in when explored in 2022?

26/3/2024 #0084 Cosas

Aura, Seb, Liz, Matt, Jim.

Fun visit with photos.

La Cuevuca #0177 28/3/2024

Buenos días Juan, por si os interesa investigar y explorar algo más.

El otro día estuve en el sitio 0177, La Cuevuca, que me gusta mucho y de nuevo llegué hasta el final de lo que tenéis topografiado con la intención de bajar el pozo final de la sala final donde se yergue una estalagmita blanca (te adjunto foto). Se baja hasta una zona de coladas y allí me colé por una gatera y alcancé otro pozo, pero como no llevaba más cuerda no pude continuar, pero la cueva tiene toda la pinta de continuar por allí. Te lo comento ahora que estáis en plena campaña de Semana Santa, por si alguien tiene interés de seguir explorando.

Si es así, por favor, dime algo para volver.

Gracias y un saludo

Carlos Lamoile

=====

Good morning Juan, in case you are interested in investigating and exploring something more.

The other day I was at site 0177, La Cuevuca, which I really like and again I reached the end of what you have surveyed with the intention of descending the final well of the final room where a white stalagmite stands (I attach a photo). It goes down to a lavatory area and there I sneaked through a cathole and reached another well, but since I didn't have any more rope I couldn't continue, but the cave looks like it could continue there. I'm telling you now that you are in the middle of the Easter campaign, in case anyone is interested in continuing exploring.

If so, please tell me something to come back to.

Thanks and greetings

0242 27/03/24 Tablons

Pete Smith, Rowan Jurgens-Manthei, Big Steve

Trip to Cueva Tablons to check out dig spotted in summer 2023, re bolted entrance pitch with through bolts (hangers needed next trip) slight route finding problems through boulders to three metre drop, ladder needed for exit, spits only, care needed through final squeeze into bottom chamber - loose boulders - found squeeze to dig site and removed boulders, pushed it on for one body length were it closes down with no draught using joss sticks. Back in main chamber various likely holes down were checked out again with joss sticks and one squeeze down through boulders draughting in. This would be a major dig using scaffolding, shoring and using major rock removal techniques. Back to bakers for traditional beer after Tabones trip.

Big Steve

27/03/2024 #3234 Llanio

Dave Barrett, Sam Davis, Jim Davis, Matt Wire, Liz Wire, Seb Wire, Aura Wire

Tourist trip down Llanio to Monster ski slope area to look at the passageways to understand direction of flow etc.

Sam Davis

Impressive Anastomosis in passages and an interesting @8cm limestone band all eroded in 3D- Incipient cave formation?

Jim Davis

16/3/2024 #0039 Coquisera

Buenos días,7

actualizo el alzado desarrollado de la zona de exploración y adjunto la memoria del 16 de marzo. Queda por hacer la topografía del ramal de la "bañera". En el texto indico cuales son los próximos objetivos. No dudéis en preguntar lo que no se entienda, o cualquier aclaración que se os ocurra.

Tenemos unos vídeos que no sé si os interesa guardar. En la carpeta compartida con Juan Corrin en dropbox no tengo sitio para este material. No sé si hay alguna manera de mandarlos si los queréis ver ¿por whatsapp?

Mañana 28/03/24 queremos ir a ver y topografiar dos pequeñas escaladas (seguro que están vistas) en la zona del pozo de las chinas. No sé si estáis por allí para tomar un café con vosotros.

Un cordial saludo,

Ángel San Juan Gálvez

====

Good morning,

I update the developed elevation of the exploration area and attach the report of March 16. It remains to do the topography of the "bathtub" branch. In the text I indicate what the next objectives are. Do not hesitate to ask anything you do not understand, or any clarification that occurs to you.

We have some videos that I don't know if you are interested in saving. In the folder shared with Juan Corrin in dropbox I do not have room for this material. I don't know if there is any way to send them if you want to see them via WhatsApp?

Tomorrow 03/28/24 we want to go see and survey two small climbs (surely they are seen) in the area of the Chinese well. I don't know if you are there to have coffee with you.

A cordial greeting,

Ángel San Juan Gálvez

(files in Easter 2024 / 0039 Codisera / 20240316 folder; the Word document is shown below with translation)

El sábado 16 de marzo del 2024 hicimos una entrada "larga" en la zona más alejada de la exploración. El "alejado" es relativo, no es tanto en longitud como en tiempo de trabajo. En esta ocasión estuvimos unas 15 horas dentro de la cueva.

La estrategia de trabajo fue:

- Llegar al lugar más alejado de exploración.
- Hacer un avituallamiento, para tener body battery para las siguientes horas.
- Dividirnos en dos grupos de trabajo: zona de la "escalada muelle" y zona de la bañera.
- Juntarse para compartir el resultado obtenido y realizar otro avituallamiento con comida caliente.
- Subir todos a la "escalada muelle" para evaluar: la continuación de la galería de los gours a través de una posible desobstrucción, y evaluar la continuación desde el nuevo el pasamanos a realizar, hasta la galería que está al otro lado de la escalada.

Trabajo del equipo en la "escalada muelle":

Nacho y ángel ascendieron hasta el final de la escalada. Desde ahí se ascendió 1,5m hasta llegar al meandro que hay encima. Este meandro está muy bien formado y es la escalada el lugar por dónde se desfonda. Tiene solo unos pocos metros de recorrido y ninguna posibilidad de continuación. Se retiraron los siete anclajes instalados en escalada inversa.

De vuelta en la cabecera de la escalada, se comenzó a instalar una vía descendente hacia la cómoda galería divisada. Con algunos MMS se llegó al inicio, dónde un camino ascendente y otro descendente parten. El resbaladizo camino descendente se ciega a los pocos metros. Según la topografía, este camino está muy próximo al techo de la bañera. El camino ascendente, es accesible en pasamanos con 3 MMS sobre débil roca sobre colada. Al final, dos anclajes naturales dan seguro acceso a la galería horizontal “de los gour”. Esta galería es de poco recorrido, acabando en una posiblemente fácil desobstrucción. Se puede dar acceso a una pequeña apertura, en la que no se alcanza a ver si tiene posibilidades de continuación. Se dejó equipado para seguir trabajando esta zona.

Desde la cabecera de la “escalada muelle”, se inició la travesía horizontal a la galería que se ve al otro lado del pozo. Se inició la colocación de anclajes, cambiando de pared en “volado”. La roca parece ser buena, pero hay abundantes piedras que pueden desprenderse de la pared. No es aconsejable continuar equipando la travesía con espeleólogos debajo.

Trabajo del equipo en la zona de la “bañera”:

Susana, Juan y Alberto avanzaron por el pasamanos que da acceso al meandro antes de la “bañera”. Los primeros metros son estrechos. Se continúa hasta alcanzar una rampa que da acceso a un espacio amplio. Un bloque divide el descenso hasta el desfondamiento de un pozo, que baja a la “bañera”. También, una cornisa horizontal da paso a otra galería que se ve enfrente.

Bajando unos 18 metros, se llega a la bañera, lugar dónde hay un gran gour de más de 1,5 metros de profundidad. Se sorteó la parte más profunda por un lateral, sin llegar a superar el nivel de la bota de goma. Hay un hueco en la parte superior, desconocemos si continúa. Al otro lado hay un gran pozo ascendente.

Continuando desde la rampa por la cornisa, denominada “la terraza”, se accede a otra pequeña galería que da con un nuevo desfondamiento que parece más profundo que el de “la bañera”. Este lugar está lleno de barro. Se trepó un escurridizo paso ascendente con mucho barro, da acceso a otro descenso con barro. Queda por ver la posibilidad de hacer una instalación en el barro, que asegure este descenso. Hay que verificar que no existe continuación, tanto en el descenso al barro como en el posterior a la escalada de barro.

Desde la rampa hay que continuar con la topografía. Evaluadas las incógnitas se retirará el material instalado.

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On Saturday, March 16, 2024, we made a “long” entry into the area furthest from the exploration. The “remote” is relative, it is not so much in length as in work time. On this occasion we spent about 15 hours inside the cave.

The work strategy was:

- Get to the furthest place of exploration.
- Make a provisioning, to have body battery for the following hours.
- Divide into two work groups: “pier climbing” area and bathtub area.
- Get together to share the results obtained and carry out another provisioning with hot food.
- Go up everyone to the “pier climb” to evaluate: the continuation of the gallery of the gour through a possible unobstruction, and evaluate the continuation from the new handrail to be made, to the gallery that is on the other side of the climb .

Team work in the “dock climb”:

Nacho and Ángel ascended to the end of the climb. From there it was ascended 1.5m until reaching the meander above. This meander is very well formed and the climbing is where it breaks down. It only has a few meters to travel and no possibility of continuing. The seven anchors installed in reverse climbing were removed.

Back at the head of the climb, a descending route began to be installed towards the comfortable gallery visible. With some MMS we reached the beginning, where an ascending path and a descending path start. The slippery downward path becomes blind after a few meters. According to the topography, this path is very close to the roof of the bathtub. The ascending path is accessible on handrails with 3 MMS on weak rock over flow. At the end, two natural anchors give safe access to the horizontal gallery “of the gour”. This gallery is short in length, ending in a possibly easy clearance. Access can be given to a small opening, in which it is not possible to see if it has the possibility of continuation. It was left equipped to continue working this area.

From the head of the "climbing pier", the horizontal traverse to the gallery seen on the other side of the well began. The placement of anchors began, changing walls in a "flying" manner. The rock appears to be good, but there are plenty of stones that can fall off the wall. It is not advisable to continue equipping the traverse with cavers below.

Team work in the "bathtub" area:

Susana, Juan and Alberto advanced along the handrail that gives access to the meander before the "bathtub." The first meters are narrow. Continue until you reach a ramp that gives access to a large space. A block divides the descent until the bottom of a well, which goes down to the "bathtub". Also, a horizontal cornice gives way to another gallery that can be seen opposite.

Going down about 18 meters, you reach the bathtub, where there is a large gour more than 1.5 meters deep. The deepest part is negotiated on one side, without exceeding the level of the rubber boot. There is a hole at the top, we don't know if it continues. On the other side is a large rising shaft.

Continuing from the ramp along the ledge, called "the terrace", you access another small gallery that leads to a new depth that seems deeper than that of "the bathtub". This place is full of mud. A slippery ascending pass with a lot of mud was climbed, giving access to another descent with mud. It remains to be seen the possibility of making an installation in the mud, which would ensure this descent. It must be verified that there is no continuation, both during the descent into the mud and after the mud climb.

From the ramp you have to continue with the topography. Once the unknowns have been evaluated, the installed material will be removed.

28/03/2024 #0733 Vallina

Dave Barrett,, Alex Ritchie, Matthew Wire, Sebastian Wire, Gracie Sharp

Dave led a trip into Vallina with the aim of finding a connection between Shatter and "Dangerous" chamber.

Dave led the way expertly and Sebastian who was 9 was having no issues and was keeping up with the best of us. We reached "Dangerous" chamber and obviously Sebastian stayed behind for this bit. I was able to get up above the boulders and found the only way back down was by a 40ft pitch, where it looks the other team could not get through either (see their log book entry).

We then took a side trip into the very impressive passages leading to Swirl Chamber, which itself was very impressive.

Alex R

28/03/2024 #0733 Vallina

Pete Eagan, Dave Bell, Sam Davis, Rowan Jurgens-Manthei

We explored passages around Shatter passage area to check the survey was accurate and to explore the old route to Dangerous Chamber. All routes appeared to be correct. We found the Hole In The Wall and the start of the corkscrew climb, which we didn't enter due to the pure white formation. We had a quick look at the start of Resistance Gallery. The end of Edward Scissorhands aven can be seen to continue by climbing easily over the stall choke; this will be checked out properly soon. We took the northern route into Shatter Passage, and returned via the southern route. Immediately north of Edward Scissorhands aven there is a lower level streamway that is not shown on the survey, and is likely connected to the aven; this will also be checked. We continued towards Dangerous Chamber, looking back through the Hole In The Wall; the oxbow on the survey is correct, and the "too low" passage was extended a little bit through a dig, but is now solid and goes nowhere. We reached a choke which was probably Dangerous Chamber which has a sketchy climb out of it, so we decided to turn around and take the more modern route to Dangerous Chamber from the other side. Sam climbed up into the chamber and decided the name suited it, made a quick video in there, then left before a giant boulder fell on him. During this time, the others explored a draughting choke which we agreed needed further pushing. We checked out the choke to the east of Dangerous Chamber, but it needs further digging and shoring up. There is a good draught from a small hole in the floor. Above the entrance to the choke, Peter and Rowan climbed and squeezed into a narrow slot (which needs widening and made safe) and followed a short

section of passage, which avoids the choke before becoming solid and continuing. This will be checked out soon when the climb and squeeze are made safe.

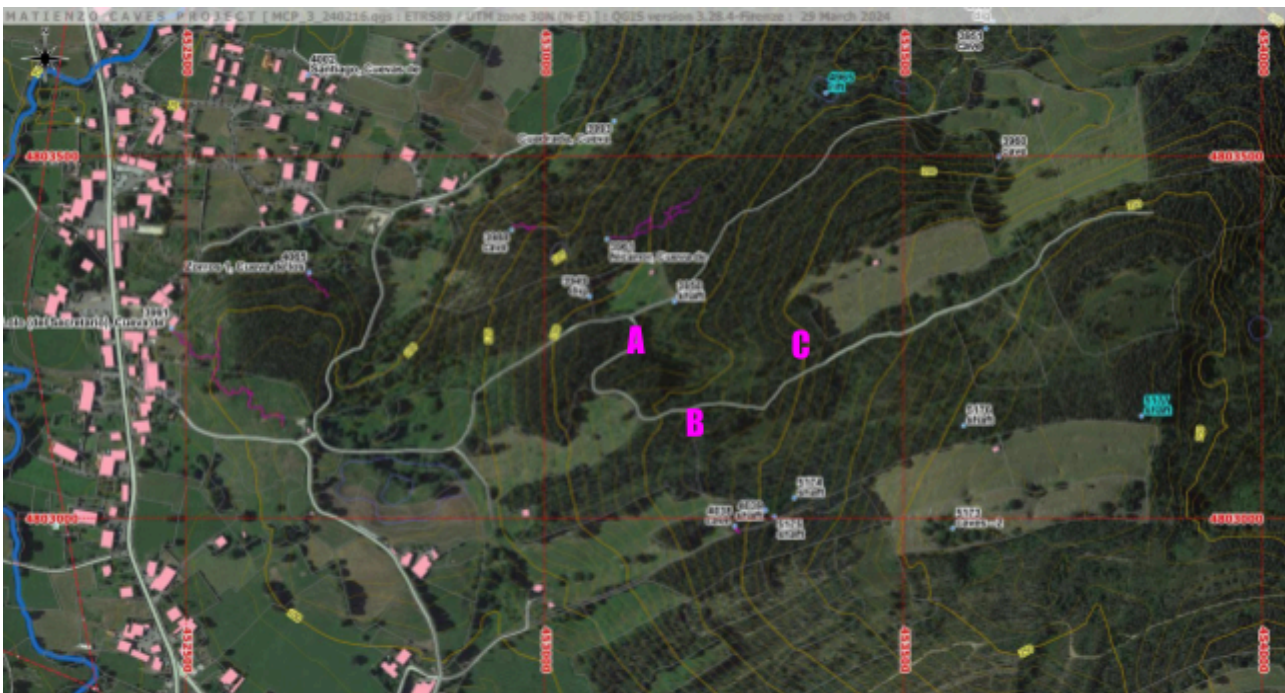
Sam Davis, Peter, Dave.

29/3/2024 Jungle-bash / depressions recce

Juan and Penny drove out to the east of El Picón at Solórzano. After wrongly arriving at where [5174](#) and others were explored last year(?), (and the proposed and rejected Quebraduras windfarm centre) we realised that the main route shown going E then ENE was behind a new barbed-wire fence - a walking track going off at a bend. This path seemed to disappear before the end was reached. (The main driving route is a faint line on the map.)

Walked up in boring eucalyptus wood with little of interest next to the track. For another day, marked on the photo below are A: 3 or 4 depressions; B deep depression running down to road + shaft on other side; C valley heading down west from the fields. These should all be investigated.

Map follows



29/03/2024- Jivero 2, [#0017](#)

Liz, Seb and Aura spent 2 hours in Jivero exploring all side passages, seeing how many small children could fit in the crawls that might lead to new possibilities. After which decided as there was no new cave to find, it was time to build a dam and divert the water outside the cave to see what might happen. Seb and Aura have already explored 2-3 caves in the area and are really enjoying themselves. Lots of cave photos were taken which hopefully can share. *Liz Wire (LWe)*

29/03/2024 - [1222](#)

Gracie, Alex R, Sam, Rowan Jurgens

After substantial jungle bashing we reached the GPS location, however the cave could not be found in this location or nearby, either it's well hidden or the GPS location is wrong. Alex Ritchie

29/03/2024 - [1231](#)

Gracie, Alex R, Sam, Rowan Jurgens

Apparently the shaft was 10m deep, but after some jungle chopping by Gracie with a machete the drop turned out to be 2m, to a slot. The slot was easily opened up by Alex as the roof was just made out of mud. This led to an easy 2m climb into a chamber that is 1.6m across and about 2m high. The roof here too was made out of mud, spiders and slugs. There was a way on which was a low crawl with a solid rock roof about 3 inches high with a mud floor, it should be easy to dig, but there's no draft. Alex R

Additional notes from Sam Davis - The entire length of the cave is only 4.5m long. The bottom is full of mud but a dig could push at a 20° north angle.

29/03/2024 - [4937](#)

Gracie, Alex R, Sam, Rowan Jurgens,, Phil and Jim

Aim to remove part of tree trunk blocking entrance to this cave not visited since 1977. It took some time to remove enough trunk to allow access for Alex but it was too tight below to allow exit once in. Soil and clay were removed to allow better access and exit, but both Alex and Sam confirmed the cave below was too narrow, due to back fill by the farmer prior to putting in the tree trunk. Site can be dug but it needs a spade, bucket and digging rope and some time. Entrance trunk was excavated just enough to make blocking after with fence post and tyre to make farm animals safe.

Above the site to the north is a hole filled with tyres. It looked like these blocked a cave, but on removal of enough for Alex to crawl in through one big tyre it was confirmed it was a space closed in by soil and clay so is a no go.

29/03/2024 - [1800](#)

Torben Redder, Peter Eagan, Dave Bell, Matthew Wire

The floats left at sump 2 (16 February 2024) had moved, so about +1m of water in the sump and a lot more wet and muddy after sump 2 than usual.

About 1h20 to pushing front at stn 1800-23-07.32.

The new survey stn0 ties in at 1800-23-07.32

Across the east-west intersecting chamber leads to a passage with many stals. After about 8m there is a pit in the floor, but that closes down. About 12m further, the passage gets smaller and slopes down. It may continue through a 30x40 cm slot. No draught felt, but may be due to temperature, as no draught at the entrance either.

The east-west intersecting chamber heads up towards west, but it ends. Also towards the west it goes down, but it ends in a mud dig.

Surveyed 61.4m (Batch 1800-24-03) 4VS length now 74,071m

On the way out we checked other possible leads, but they were all either directly below or above known passage. Near the start of On On high level, a route over a thin bed of rock was followed but rejoined the main way to new clothes. This route also seems to levitate a bove known passage. A bolt climb in this area still needs to be attempted. The first rope pitch beyond sump 2 is getting very fast so needs care.

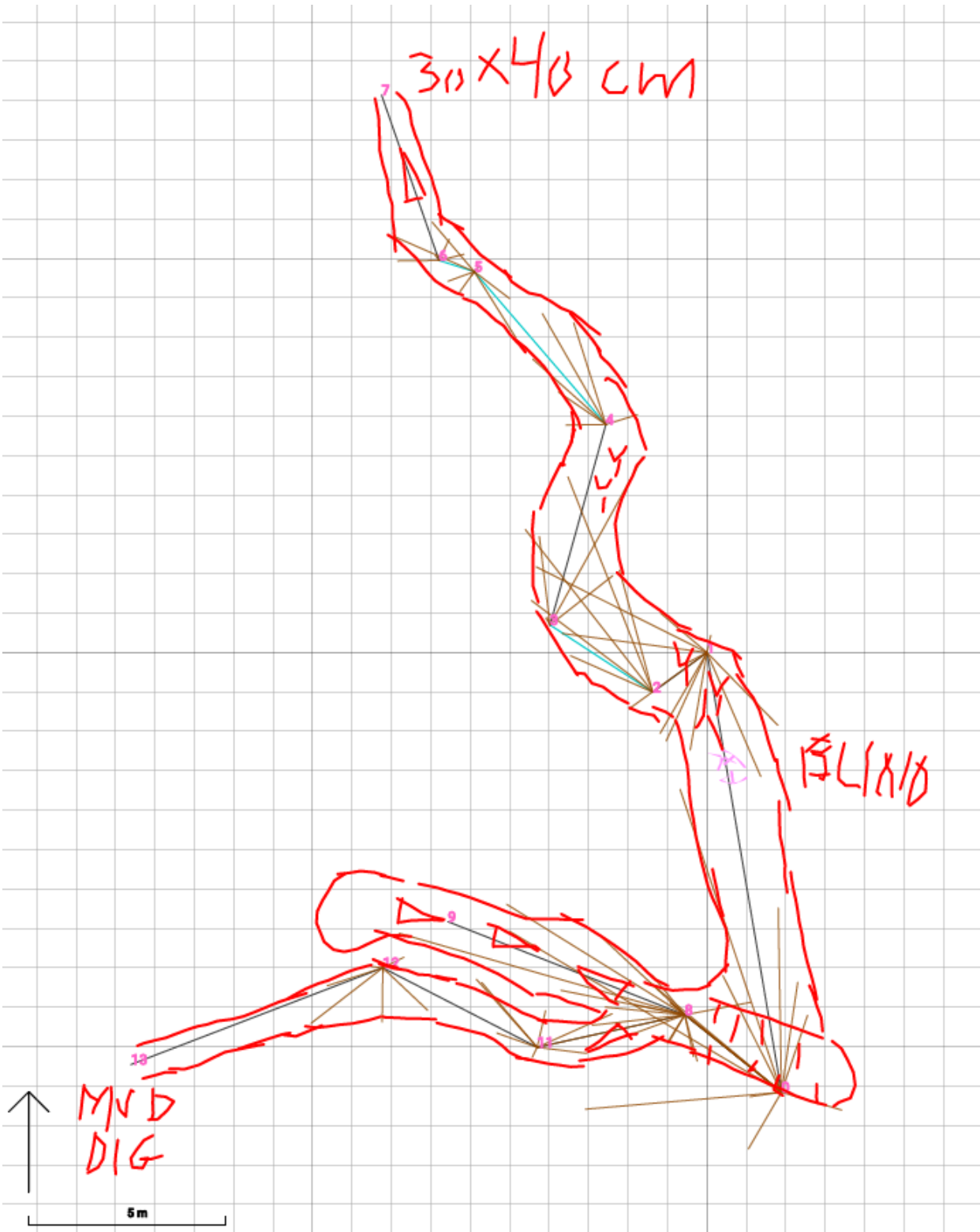




Photo. Just before 30x40 cm slot

30/03/2024

Peter Eagan, Dave Bell, Andrew Northall, Dave Barrett

Walk around a few entrances in the North Vega area. Regaton entrance seems to have been spared a large dump of rubbish in a nearby shake hole. Mostajo entrance has new P hangers at the entrance. We looked briefly around the hill side and found 2 unknown entrances, except one appears to have a spit at the top???. Now recorded as 5402 which is a shaft (human sized) with a chamber at the bottom, and 5403 which is a dig.

5402 has a spit anchor on a piece of exposed limestone near by but has not been previously recorded. The shaft is ready to be descended to check for leads, only a drill would be required initially.

5403 is a dig which leads into a flat out crawl where stones are heard to bounce down a slope for one or two seconds inside the entrance, but it will require some potential widening or a small person to progress.

We also visited Arenal, which had very little draught today.

Peter

30/03/2024 #[0565](#) Tres Ninos

Gracie Sharp, Alex Ritchie, Sam Davis, Rowan Jurgens, Jim Davis

Objectives to drop undescended pitches in the first large chamber.

Finding the entrance was hard, more undergrowth; it took 1 hour. Went via Mushroom field barn, up ridge, but should have gone one layer higher. A better route is to approach via the track nearer the water pump and cross fields to the

bottom of the dry valley and walk up the valley directly towards Cuvia.

The entrance passage was first surveyed for moths and other wildlife, with not many finds.

RH from chamber entrance slope (east), side LH wall- down through calcite boulders. No way on. Could see through calcite grill 15cm high; continues for approx 1.5m but could continue up. Ferreted further, but no leads found. Fresh rock here and there from roof.

LH (north) chamber side. Jim said he didn't remember lots of caravan sized boulders- Not like it used to be.

Climbed up 13m over very large boulders and found hading rift passage marked on the survey LH side of chamber with undescended 5m pitch. Alex bolted y-hang to second y-hang (4 bolts) and Samuel descended remainder to floor. Floor had a sandy bottom but no leads. Surveyed out to new cairn at bottom of entrance rope climb down. (*These paper notes have not been entered but are archived - see 0565 plastic wallet. JSC*)

Sam took photos, Rowan-Gopro.

Entrance GPS'd again. (*What is it?*)

Returned by directissima down faulted gulley and Pablo's barn.

New survey confirmed massive collapse in the chamber **WITH MORE READY TO FALL**. See photos and survey.

Consider altering the chamber name to the **Caravan Graveyard**

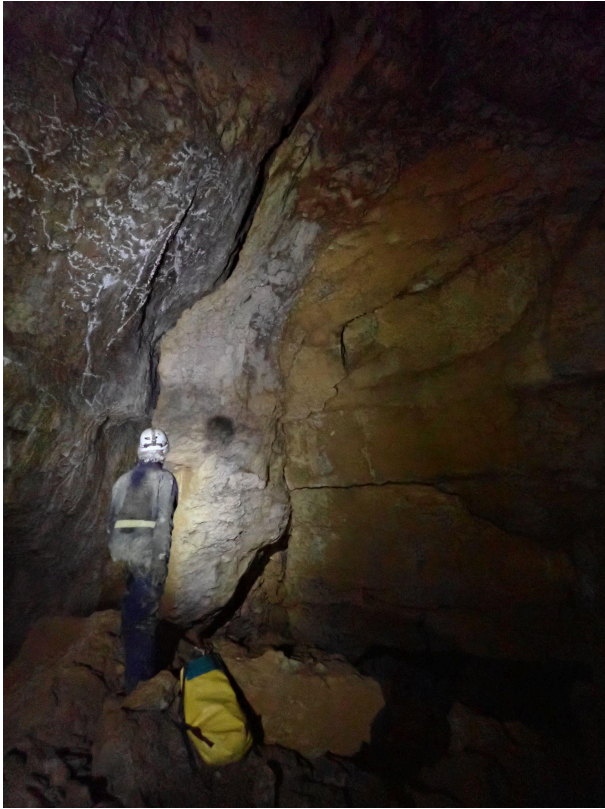
Jim's comment- Don't go there!

Additional notes from Sam Davis. The last time I went in this cave I was about 5 (now 37) years old, yet I remember dropping down the slope into the main chamber and seeing a few boulders, but not the monster ones we climbed over on this trip. Boulders appeared to be very fresh in appearance north of the entrance slope. I agree with Jim I don't recommend going to the main chamber at least. The pitch nearer the entrance ~50m deep may still be a worthwhile exploration objective. On review of previous images (B2 on matienzo page for 0565), several boulders now cover the place where someone is stood in the photo, with the roof changing from flat to classic breakdown shape.

Images from 0565:

1. Sam Davis age 37 at entrance
2. Sam Davis age 4 at entrance (left) with two brothers
3. Moth near entrance (determined as *Triphosia dubitata* Linn.) by Terry Whitaker.
4. Boulder collection in south main chamber
5. +6 Jim at top of new boulder mountain showing huge crack on left of images, and chunks of ceiling ready to go in lower right of images.
6. Bolt at top of slope into main chamber, needs replacing?
7. Gracie, professional cave model being told to smile







30/3/2024 #0028 Selvijo.

Pete S, Juan and Andy Q back into Selvijo to push on and survey with the main aim being the far western end of the 2024 extensions. A ladder was used on the original climb up which made access much easier. After a quick look around at the leads left by Pete at the bottom of the climb descended on the last trip we set off along the best looking and draughting route on. Quick and easy progress was soon halted when we encountered a wide open exit to the cave via a 1m high 2m wide previously unrecorded exit/entrance (NOW **SITE 5401**). On the surface here it was obvious that we were close to the bottom of an adjacent depression to the west of the one with the original Selvijo entrance. The route back to the bottom of the climb and various side passages were then surveyed from the new entrance. Two of these passages appear to lead to routes back to the surface although they ended in complete chokes with what appears to be surface debris. We decided to head back to the original entrance and de-tackle the climb on the way.

On the way out we took the opportunity to survey the side passages entered by Pete on the way out on the previous trip. A short climb up and equivalent drop down on the promising looking eastern passage ended at a choke. Various other options were pushed and surveyed. A crawl heading north from the chamber had to be dug but led to a cross rift after about 10m. A small crawl to the left (west) was left for another day. To the right (east) the rift was much larger but only went for about 10m before it ended at a rocky dig and another small passage heading to the north. Looking up the cross rift there appeared to be a larger passage above that would require some technical climbing to get into.

Not often that you can enter a cave and exit a system and do the first through trips in both directions on the same day!

After leaving the cave we did a surface traverse to the west and quickly found and GPS'ed the new entrance.

Andy Q

Good news and bad news. The good news is that the survey appears to be accurate; the bad news is that there is no need for technical climbing as that passage with holes in the roof lines up precisely with an "old" passage to the north with holes in the floor. *Juan*

Early draft survey below without today's passage detail:

Batch 0028-24-05 to the new entrance (#5401) length = 54.9m

Batch 0028-24-06 off small traverse, length = 52.4m

Total new cave today 107.3m. New this Easter 303.7m

Possible total for cave = (old length) 245 + (2) 114.4 + (3) 74.7 + (4) 7.8 + (5) 54.9 + (6) 52.4 = 549.2m

Site **5401** (new entrance) GPS'd at ~~454020-4704569~~ (on spreadsheet line 7 and map) Use surface survey 31/3/2024

Close to 5401 is another hole (and possible entrance). Needs a code: ~~454026-4704558~~ Use surface survey 31/3/2024

#0028 Photos on NAS, also **5401** entrance.

there was a look into 15m of going and untouched passage, probably heading E. The ramp needs a handline (10m will do).

The climb and traverse is derigged and there is now a p15 (?) and a traverse line to a safe place. Be careful with loose rocks at the top of p15 and at the traverse at the top.

Survey will follow on the next trip.

Picture: Louise going up the p15. The climb goes up to the left and the traverse goes from there to the right.

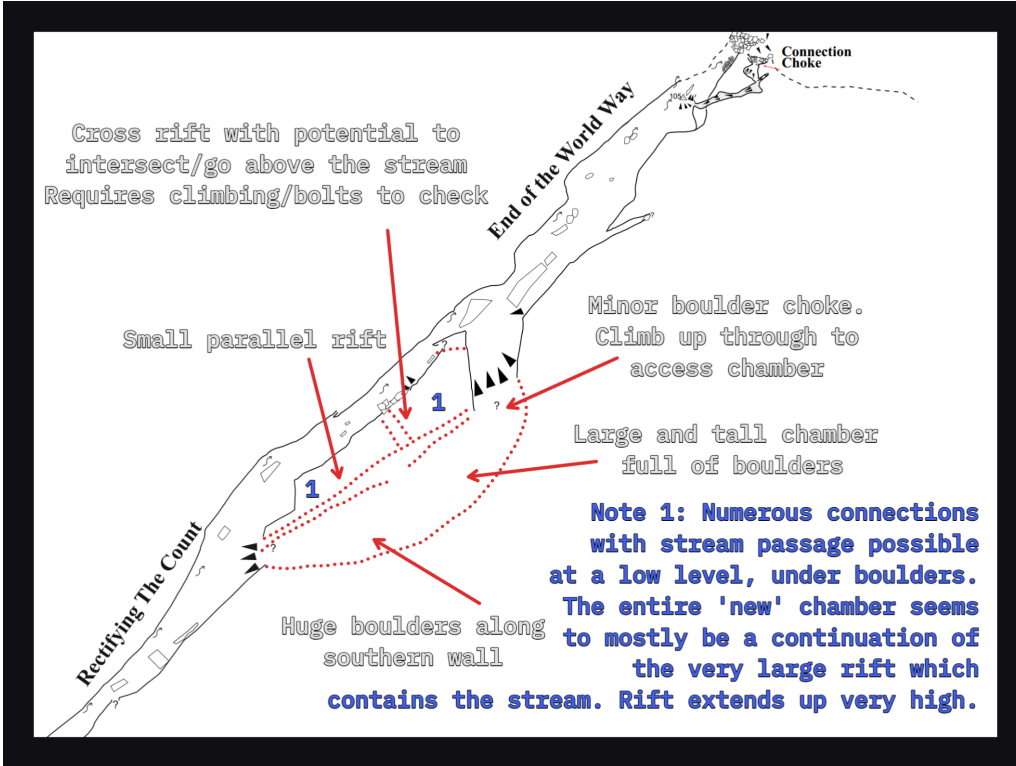


31/3/2024 #4732 #0252 Torca la Decepción

Andrew Northall and Matt Wire.

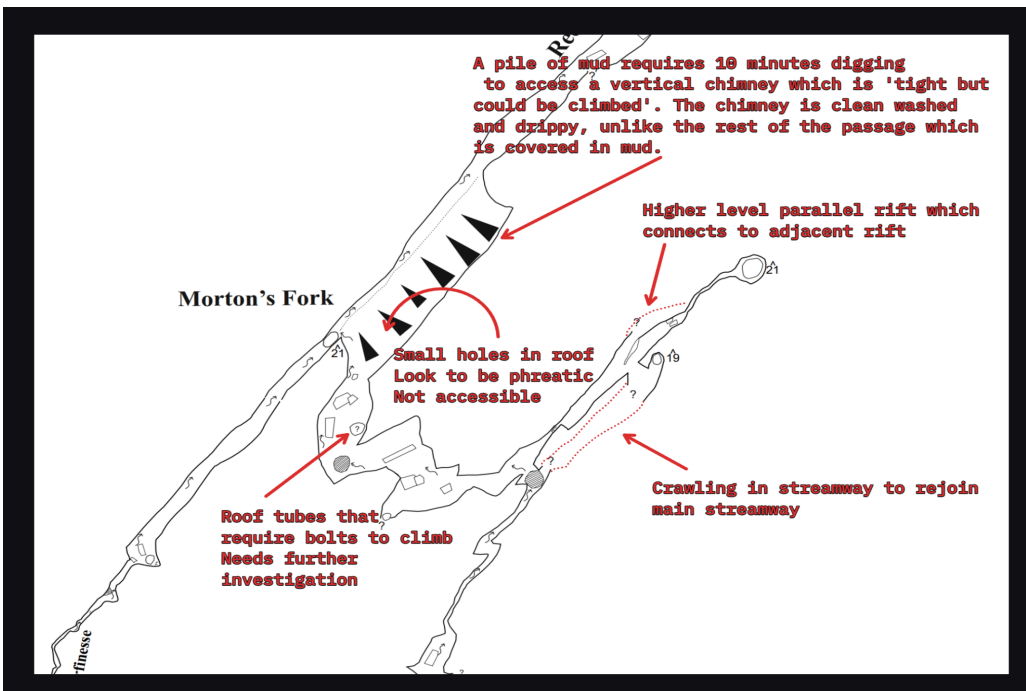
A trip to check out various question marks on the survey. Our findings reported as annotated surveys below.

Oxbow in streamway just before Armageddon



Passage climbing up out of streamway just before armageddon

The small passage leading to a question mark on the survey above (adjacent to the 'end of the world way' text) was investigated and found to be a climb up a mud slope to what looks to be a large space beyond. This will require bolting to access. I am intending to return to bolt it this expedition.



31/03/2024 #0733 Vallina

Liz, Seb, Aura, John, William, Rob, Rowan

It was a returning trip for Seb as we relied on him and the survey to give us some pointers. We started with a climb down to a crawl which soon led us to a passageway with boulders to climb around, we kept visiting the survey but Seb seemed to know the way so we carried on through the passages. When we got to Windy Corner we managed to loop the loop once and did not make that mistake again. We carried on through until Seb spotted we were at the dragon which was a great spot to look at the survey and realise we were doing well and on the right section. Bumped into the second Vallina group just before Dangerous Chamber and realised we needed to take our right turning to El Meandre, we made it through to the Canyon and down the climb, into more small bits before it opened up to larger passage some bones and headed towards the large Road to Glory, amazing large passages and beautiful pretties with just amazing. Seb carried on helping us through with route finding to Swirl Chamber. We carried on round to Double Dutch pitch and realised it was a good time to head out. Aurelia did amazingly and started to really pick up some good caving techniques on the route out. All in all a great trip and leaving us with a grand urge to return.

31/03/2024 #0733 Vallina

Pete Eagan, Dave Bell, Sam Davis, Rowan Jurgens

Continuing from where we left the last trip 28/03/2024

We returned to Edward Scissorhands Aven and free climbed down below Aven which has a small stream outlet too small to follow.

We then went to the Dangerous Chamber area and made the short climb into a high level boulder choke below Dangerous Chamber and pushed onto the end, approx 20 metres, which has a good draught out. The left side of passage is almost completely part of the choke, but at approx 10 metres from start there is a wide section with a climb down through dangerous boulders held up by pebbles which we did not pursue. Surveyed. Possibly connects back into Road To Nowhere at the "draughting rift" ...

We then went to some passages approx 50m to the east of The Canyon where we checked out a choked passage with a wet outlet below the start which was too small, but the passage above continues past the survey end and still continues body size with a pit in the floor which is choked. This will require two very small keen cavers to push and survey.

Lastly we climbed down an undescended pit to the left of the passage just north of Clapham bypass to a small passage which was pushed until it became impassable (not very far) a larger area above turned out to be just a blind roof tube. Surveyed.

There was a collection of bones in the area photographed by Sam. How did they get there? Possible via Torca De Rotura which apparently comes in above this area.

Suspect that the area just north of here (the original route through prior to the Clapham Bypass being opened) would merit some further looking ...

Comment from Sam Davis - When standing at the bottom of the aforementioned pit, a hole in the ceiling 20m up can be seen which may be a source of water in flood conditions.

Two batches surveyed : 0733-24-04 (L=33m) and 0733-24-05 (L=56m) (**Total length** = 38361 + 89m = **38450m**)

#0091 Orilla Mijeo 1/4/2024

Paul Gelling, Pat Devine, Terry and Juan walked from the houses down to the last field corner then followed the old road up some way to where it looked like a route back to the west might be OK to reach the entrance. Possibly 30 minutes later after battling through gorse, brambles, etc we reached the entrance above a chestnut tree. The



OruxMaps position is exactly correct.

Terry went in looking for moths then left. Juan and Pat stayed down to the left to look at poor possibilities. Paul pushed on at the top of the slope, watched by J and P, with all possible leads closing in. 360° video taken and entrance photo. Also photo of #[3536](#) entrance as we walked back down the road, after an uphill battle with more brambles at the side of the Cromwell Street rubbish site.

1st paragraph of description

The entrance, now surrounded by "jungle", has a large chestnut tree below. It is best approached from the road above, climbing down on the west side of the rubbish dump. A hands-and-knees entry leads into a long chamber sloping down to the left. Up on the right all routes close in. Children were frightened away from this cave by the story that it contained a large snake.

3rd paragraph of description

On a visit at Easter 2000, it was suggested that the draught was coming up through the floor back into the main mass of big boulders. The visit at Easter 2024 found little definitive air movement.

Surface bashing from TV mast to high altitude above Seldesuto 1/4/2024.

Sam D, Jim D, Hilary, Phil, Dave Barrett

An afternoon hike, parking at TV mast, took us up past Volcano to a high valley running down to Arenal area in the Vega arm.

Unlisted cave 5405 - just north of #[1321](#), this overall 10m deep shaft was dropped to find a choke containing sheep bones. The cave was surveyed and sketched. Gps 450819, 4794450. **Torca de Hiedra**

[1341](#) - attempted to find entrance but no where near GPS location. There is [1272](#) nearby ?duplication.

[1875](#) - located with limestone flake and fencepost covering the entrance. Rigged with ladder and lifeline and dropped down a shaft to a choked floor with "basketball" size boulders and smaller. Clean choke, cave walls with water erosion and calcite formations ?worthwhile digging site considering location above Vallina. Small hole also leads under calcited boulders to north for approx. 1.5m. Site distoed to 5.9m deep. Bottom 4m ~N/S x 1.3m E/W.

Track west TV mast may be possible with a van or high clearance vehicle.

#[3234](#) 23/3/2024

Three trips into Llanio via sub phone entrance to look at the cave structure in the dry fossil passages. Monster Ramp area had a big draught coming down from above, both in the choked passage and from the calcite ramp, on a very windy day outside.

#[2052](#) 02/4/2024

Alex Ritchie and William Helm

It was a wet and windy start, and a later time to start than originally expected due to me forgetting the drill and having to drive back and get it doh! Anyway, only an hour late we were soon underground. It starts off a little tight but soon opens out slightly at least to the first ledge at about 8m down. I rigged a y-hang for the next 8m drop onto a solid(ish) ledge and did the first squeeze into a parallel shaft. About 5m further down we reached the next constriction. This we passed quickly after placing another re-belay bolt, only to find an even tighter hole 5m lower. William volunteered to go down this bit bagless and was without the drill, but even then he could not fit through he did try and said it did not seem to get much bigger below. He said he might have been able to get through if he really forced himself, but was not confident enough as there was a good chance of him getting stuck.

Rocks knocked down from here fell 10 - 15m, not 50m+ as we were told, nor was the really tight bit at 40m, in estimate we got to about -25m and I think lower than the constriction that stopped the previous trip. In total I estimate the cave to be about 40m deep, including the undescended bit below.

Only draught we suspect was from the wind above, as it was on and off and reduced the further we dropped down.

#0039 02/4/2024

Pete S, Pete E, Dave B

(Trip to locate entry point to middle level that the current Spanish group (Colectivo Piezo) can't locate.)

#5406 Cueva GeeBee 02/4/2024

Jim & Sam Davis

Trip started investigating a new hole seen from the road travelling towards Fuente las Varas near site 0256. A vertical slot in limestone had been filled in with rubble. Stones were removed to show the slot continues back approx. 1.5-2.0m with a window over the top of the remaining rubble showing the cave may continue. Too narrow to dig further, would need capping. Slot is two fist wide, shaped like mainland UK. If it continues once dug, "GeeBee" cave? Needs number. Entrance walled up again. Need gps - approx is 453111,4799696

43.3486986, -3.5786241

30T 453103 4799700

Images of new cave:



1. Entrance before exploration
2. Jim removing rocks from the entrance
3. Remaining rubble in entrance
4. Photo showing location in reference to nearby barn/house

#0256 02/4/2024

Jim & Sam Davis

Further back up the hill on the tree line from 5406 site 0256 was possibly located. 2m wide shaft, approx 8m deep. Covered with a sheet of aluminium, and filled with rubbish at the bottom. Would be a disgusting project to remove all the rubbish. Only consider if location is crucial.



Good project for summer.

Images of 0256:

1. Jim pointing at aluminium sheet covering shaft
2. Trash at the bottom of the shaft (good project for students coming in the summer ;)

#1506 02/4/2024

Jim & Sam Davis

Site 1506 was located and checked against the survey. Entrance cleared of vegetation and cave photographed throughout.

Images from 1506





1. Entrance photo
2. Looking back towards entrance
3. Formations in entrance passage
4. Dig site at north end of entrance passage
5. Formations on the way to lower passage
6. Jim in mud floor passage in lower end of cave (TG-7 camera, two layers, light painted).



3/4/2024 New Sites 5407 - 5412

Phil, Gracie and Juan to the jungle area south of Cueva Nicanor, Solózano, where Juan and Penny were on 29th March. Parked next to the new barbed-wire fence, where the map shows the road continuing but it is actually a track. Sites were investigated in the order below often requiring jungle-bashing with stick and machete to reach.

(Site 5407 @ 453195 4803129 Altitude 181m Open 4m diameter, 6m deep shaft on west side of the road. Dropped by Phil onto a refuse tip and finding

01. **Site 5408. @ 453240 4803144 Altitude 175-ish** The deep and long, jungle-filled, double depression on the south side of the track was investigated by bashing down from the eastern end. A couple of small depressions were investigated then site 5408 at the base at the eastern section. This is a hole that may have a slight draught but requires digging and capping to continue. While Juan and Gracie continued up and down into the western half of the depression, finding nothing of interest, Phil located the next 3 sites.
02. **Site 5409 Almost a Cave** approx 453185 4803035 altitude 183m. Just in wood north of 5410 a 2m face goes into the NE face of depression so forming a cave entrance, but continuation is a spoil filled slot only a couple of cm wide, looks like it may be a fault/joint in line with depression just over the fence on the south side of track.

Site 5410 Field Dig @ 453187 4803024 altitude 183m. Found a small slot under 1m rock face in the field near the edge of wood. Opened up to 30x12cm. Hole wa

s found to go down at an angle and was distoed to 4.8m. Would be an easy dig but little to no draught on a warm day.

Site 5411 453244 4803043 altitude 193m (Juan / Gracie) While Phil was documenting 5409 and 5410, Juan lined Gracie 8m down onto a bridge between 2 drops in another large, vegetated depression To the left (south) a vegetated slope drops to a rift that appears choked at the base. Just beyond, at higher level in a south-heading joint, the route down was blocked with boulders which Juan later dispatched opening up a 6 - 7m drop which still requires some gardening at the top. Two ladders were used to reach this point, mainly as a handline on the slopes.

Gracie also explored down the free-hanging 5m drop on the north side of the bridge to a shaft with only one possible

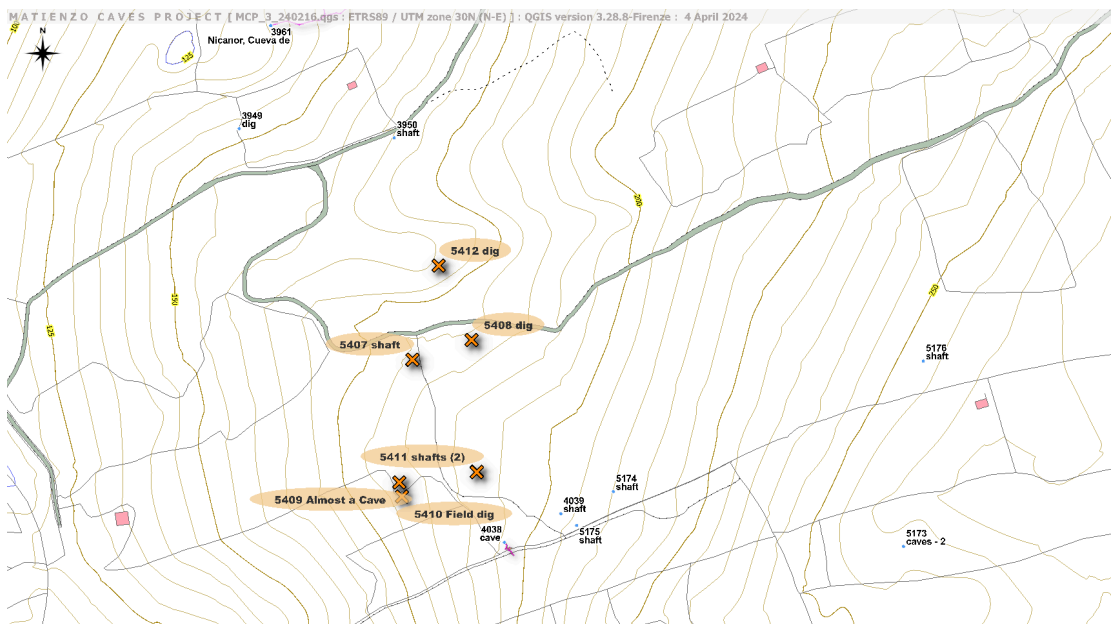


way on. A narrow rift (sideways Gracie sized) heading south underneath the bridge above, towards the other shaft. This rift went for a few metres with a small hole visible at the end. Some gardening opened the hole up more, but everything is loose and it will require more gardening and possibly the removal of some boulders to allow access. Stones tumbled down for a few seconds.

Pic: Site 5411. Gracie on the bridge between the southern (left) hole and free-hanging drop.

Then a quick bash down into the lower section of the vegetated valley that runs down from green fields 200m to the northeast. Phil opened up a small hole 5012 above the bottom while Juan investigated the barren jungle-filled base.

Site 5012 453215 4803201 altitude 168m



#0025 03/04/2024 - Risco

Andrew Northall, Pete Smith and Sam Davis

A trip into Risco to investigate the possibilities of regaining access to the upper level of the cave, namely Upper Arco and Disneyland. The intention was to bolt a traverse from the end of the Arco Gallery but upon sighting the location it was deemed a serious job (despite being told in the bar that it 'is quite easy and can't be too difficult'). An alternative route, an approx 15 metre bolt climb, was spotted and around 9 bolts and 4 naturals used to gain access to the Upper Arco passage, providing a safe way up to the high level in Risco, without needing to trust bolts put in 30-odd years ago. A free hanging pitch was rigged back down and a return trip is planned to investigate leads on the upper level.

Photos from Sam Davis:

1 + 2 Andrew bolting the climb

3 - Andrew and Pete by a formation ~100m before the climb.



3/4/2024 #1800

Peter Eagan, Dave Bell, Louise Korsgaard,, Torben Redder

Continue work from 31/3 2024. 7 hours spent in the cave.

The p15 is rather a c15 to the higher level.

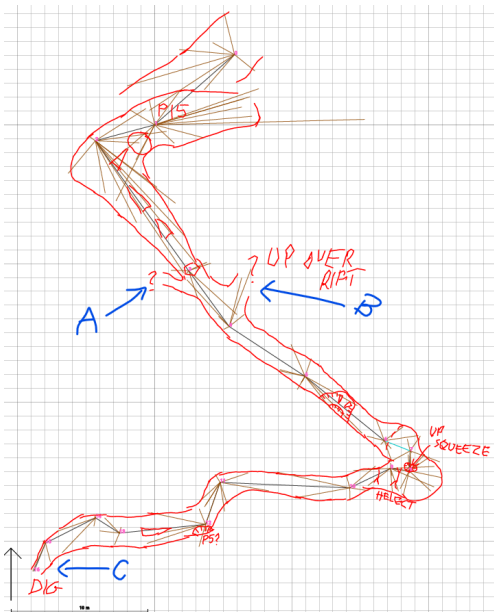
Handline put on the slope up after p15 heading SE. The slope is getting quite slippery.

A: Low dig

B: There is a deep rifthead about E. But about 4 m into the passage it looks like the way on is to climb up about 2 m into passage.

C: Seemed to draught, and it may dig.

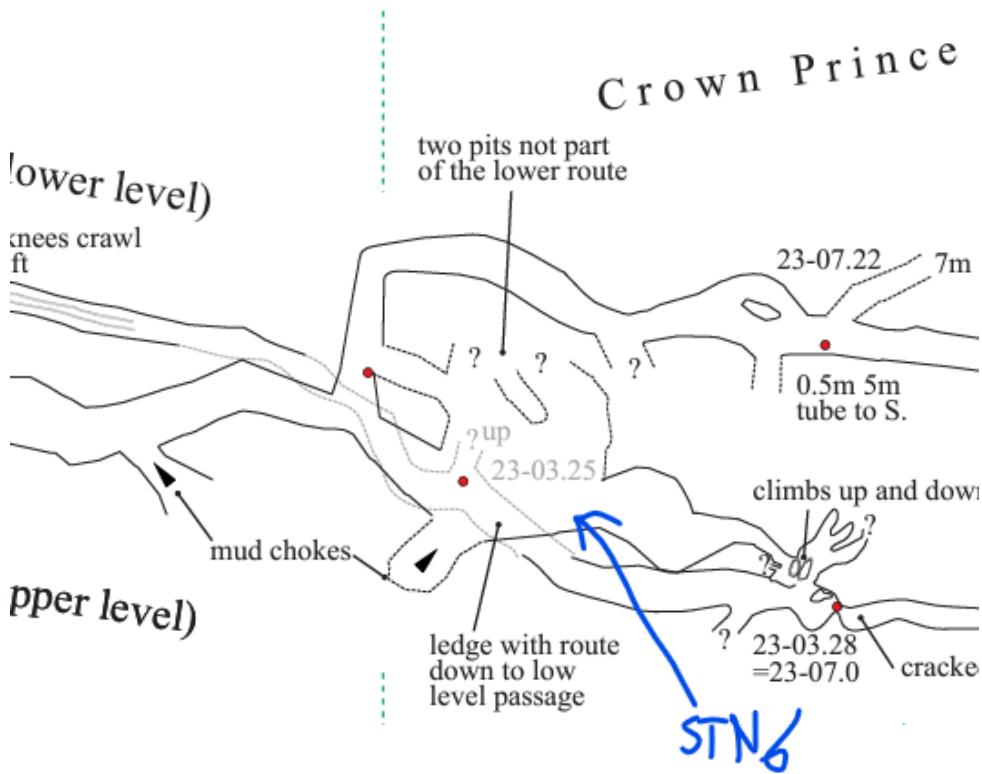
From A to Squeeze it is rather dry mud, and there is a big step to bridge across. The squeeze is in the roof of the little chamber. Just up the squeeze there are lots of stalls, helictites and a 3m column. On the way to C there is a p5, that may be free climbed with a rope to assist. There seems to be a draught at C and it may dig.



Surveyed 90,0 m. Batch 1800-24-04

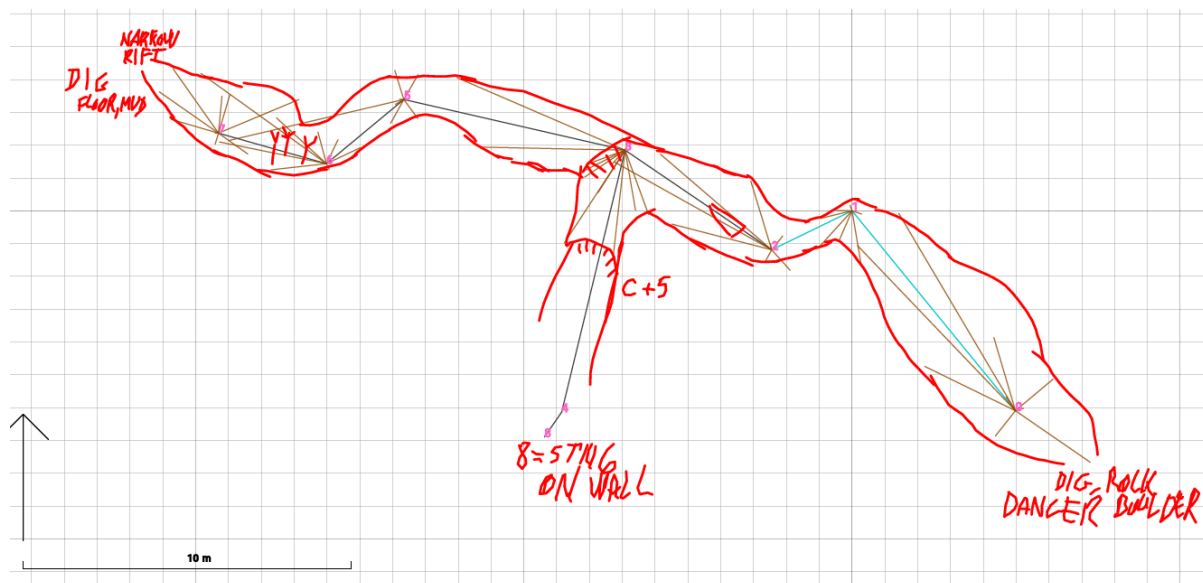
Stn 0 of survey equals to stn 1.4 30jul2023 i.e. *EQUATE 1800-24-04.0 1800-23-03.4

Around Crown Prince:



Surveyed 41,6m Batch 1800-24-05

Stn 8 is equal stn 6 on wall (in survey by Peter Eagan and Dave Bell, stn 1800-23-07.6).



Tombstone climb. The dig at east: Care should be taken to the hanging boulders. At both digs (E and W) there seems to be draught. The 4VS is now the 40th longest on the [World Cave list](#).

#0813 4/4 2024.

Dave Bell, Jim Davis, Big Steve.

Warm day today with good draught out. Good session from Jim with lots of spoil removed from base of dig tempting holes appearing down and forward. 2 large blocks capped and removed.

Rope/ bucket management excellent today. Rope and bucket and basic digging gear left on site ready for next session.

#1875 - digging trip 4/4/2024

Sam, Rowan, John and Will Helm

We drove past the TV mast and continued on the track to the next junction. Sam's van got a puncture so we changed the wheel. Will and John then drove up to the barn at the top of the rough section of track with the digging gear in the land rover. We set up a ladder and lifeline and digging line with a bucket. Sam removed a few stones then dug down approx a metre into a hole. A large boulder in the hole prevented further digging along with restricted movement in the whole (dimensions 1m length x 0.6m width). The boulder would need capping or a small person to get a rope around it, or drill a hole for a rope to remove. Sam thought he could feel a weak draft on his face, but Will then went into the hole and the draught failed a smoke test! Only consider it as a future project if the hole is thought to be in a key location. Hole covered with old fence post and limestone slabs.

Pablo's son fixed the puncture straight away back in La Secada!

[Dig video](#)

#0020 - kids' caving trip, 04/04/24

Eleanora, Juan and James

Went into Loca II for an explore. Trip curtailed by a combination of spiders, badger skeletons, dead beetles and marauding neanderthals. The children say they will try again if grandad comes with us.

#0105 - Riaño, 03/04/24

Dave B, Alex, John H, James.

Some cursory research from James whilst hungover/seasick, led Alex and James to push an inlet about 50m upstream from where the entrance series joins Riaño proper. Our luck was clearly in, since this soon became quite large. There were a few footprints here, so this had clearly been previously enjoyed. We surveyed and marked off several promising side passages. It degenerated into crawling in water towards the end of the passage, beyond where signs of previous enjoyment ended. However, it is still going, hands-and-knees, so looks promising. It's amazing that this hasn't been surveyed before!

Meanwhile, John and Dave went for an explore to familiarise themselves with the layout of the cave.

Batch 24-01 154m

#0028 Selvijo 5/4/2024

A mixture of re-survey, digging and new stuff in the old, north series. Andy Q, Pete S and Juan "finishing off" the known leads leaving a couple for James with a wetsuit hood to push.

Started at the north east side just after the 8m flatout crawl - down a laddered drop into previously entered hands-and-knees or crawling passage which headed west then south to boulders and a hammer and chisel possibility ahead (south) **Batch 0028-24-07 resurvey length = 41.4m**

01. Moved down the slope and immediately into a passage which had been left as “possibly bigger”. Pete opened this up and entered an enlargement with a hole in the floor. This was laddered down a sediment (mud) slope to meet a stream. Upstream is low wide crawl; downstream appears flatout in water - ideal for James. This small section of newly explored cave is the most northerly part with the water heading approximately north, into the unknown, with the possibility of regaining the higher (larger) level.

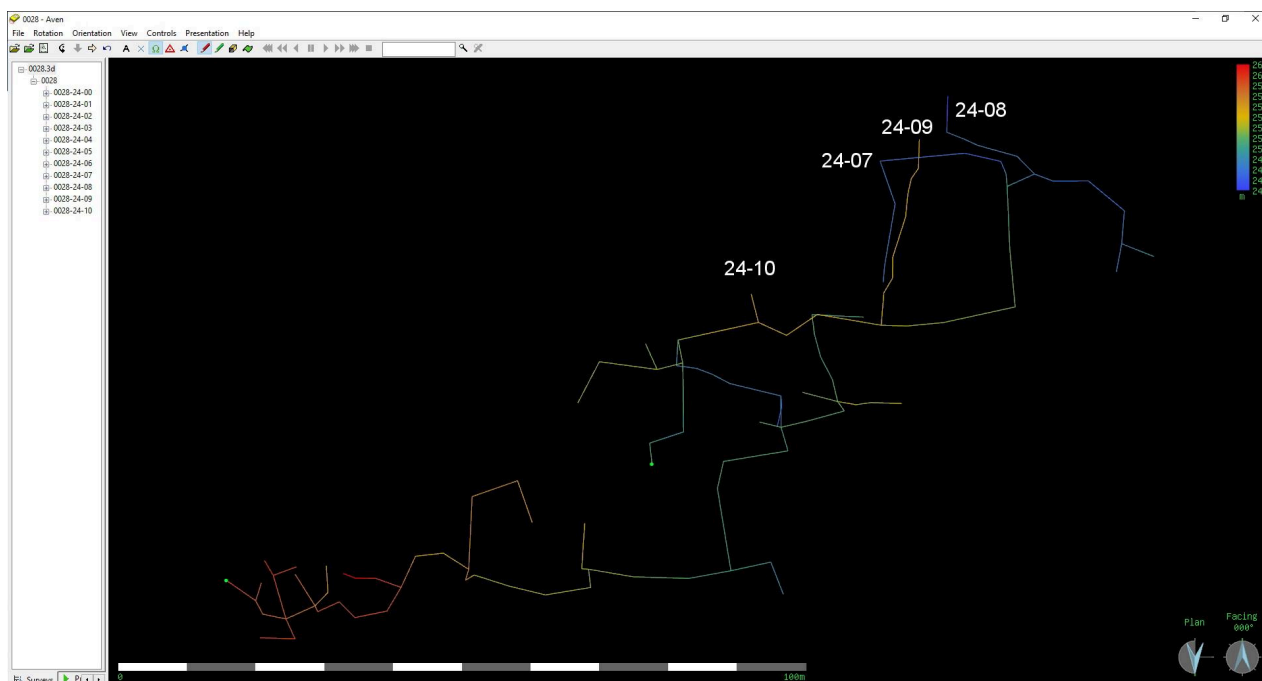
Batch 0028-24-08 new length = 9.2m

Moved back to the hands-and-knees passage heading north from the etched sediment bank. Fifteen metres on, Pete excavated a snug crawl through to a new, stand-up section with a low crawl off the east which appeared to become even lower. This followed the line of, and ended over, batch 24-07. **Batch 0028-24-09 new length = 8.3m**

Finally, Pete inspected the pitch down in the false floor passage. Depth has been measured to 10m but becomes very tight about 3m down. **Batch 0028-24-10 new length = 11m**

The passage beyond the pitch (with a thin false floor) wasn't entered but appeared to close down with calcite.

New this Easter 303.7 + 28.5 = 332.2m



#0039 Codisera 2/04/2024

Peter Eagan, Dave Bell, Pedro. We visited the cave to try and confirm where the now Phantom passage is. Over the traverse above the 95 metre pitch on the LH wall there is a climb (rigged) followed by a short section of passage leads to a pitch. At about 40 metres down (according to the survey) the Phantom passage should be visible. It will require quite a lot of rope work to enter. Previously a bolted traverse which was then rigged to allow an abseil into a loop then a pull across to the entrance which has large stals. Directly opposite the passage can be seen to continue and was entered also.

We saw 15 large bats plus 1 small bat in the cave, mainly before the big pitch.

#0039 Coquisera and Cosas #0084 05/04/2024

Jim and Sam Davis - Photo trip through main passage in 0039 to where it splits, took photos on the way back the entrance. 0084 - project to compare digital and film cameras using two Fenix LR40R torches.

[#2930](#) + [#3638](#) 06/04/2024

Jim D, Sam D, Dave Bell, Pete Eagan.

Search for high entrance above large aven in Toad in the Hole #0258. #2930 shows promising signs near limestone crag with a sinking stone in the middle (according to landowner) which acts as main sink for the area. Good draught. Slab obstructs entry, needs digging and exploration. Hole can be seen to continue south. A stone throw could be heard dropping a few feet.

Photos from Sam:

1. Looking down the 2930 from the surface
2. The way on along #2930
3. Entrance to #2930 (now covered with logs and plastic sheet).



#3638 was located down near the dry streamway and it well positioned for linking to #0258. After review of the description this should be pushed further and resurveyed as suggested.

New cave entrance has been revealed in a sandstone band behind the now renovated barn. Approx. 6m long, breathing at the end, but no clear way on. Was revealed by the land owner while renovating the barn. Cave is on private land, only accessible by going through the garage area, so permission must be sought from the land owner, Fernando, for access. Needs new cave number - position **30T 448163 4794976** - **"Plant Pot Cave" Site 5419.**



1209 Couldn't find it. 1996s logbook says> Rock shelter in brambly hillside depression; 1999s logbook is current description. JD/PP went there! 2002s logbook has a hand sketch and is included in the current description.

#0019 Loca1 06/04/2024

James C and Alex

James dragged a reluctant Alex into this wet cave. First we ignored the bypass and went through the so-called sump which was a duck. This led into a series of challenging squeezes and right-hand corners in water until after a small chamber a final left-hand turn was too tight to pass. Hard going!

We went back and took the bypass mentioned in the description, there's a good draft here. After some sandy crawls we found the upstream end of the corner we could not pass. The passage from there was walking for a short bit before it got low and wet. Already soaked we pushed through and after another small standing height chamber and another low and wet bit, we entered a very large passage/chamber about 10m high, 5m across at the widest and 20m long (estimates). Not realising this was potentially new stuff we looked at muddy floor level passage that dropped to a low crawl after 30m, continues. We then looked at a high level sandy passage and at this point being high up and undisturbed we realised we were probably in new stuff so did not push it further. However, there's no strong drafts but lots of passages to choose from going off this chamber. Be prepared to get wet if going here!

Alex R

#4732 Decepción 06/04/2024

Dave Barrett

Rigged Y-hang at top of main drop first pitch using new stainless steel hanger placed by Phil. Cheers

Dig #0874 6/4/2024

About 35m south-ish from 0880 - which is now called *Patrick's Folly* (aka *Bingo* or *Two-and-a-half Fat Ladies*).

Phil and Patrick (and later Juan) enlarged the small, nicely draughting rift with a black hole below so that it became a choked, wider rift with little draught. Rock is packed with small fossils (orbitolina) so preferred removal techniques not working well. 360° video taken.

GPS 30T 0453029 4798213 altitude 216m

6/4/2024 GPS readings

for some of the jungle bash sites (3/4/2024):

5412 is at 30T 0453246 4803220 altitude 171m

5408 is at 30T 0453230 4803135 altitude 175m

Riaño #0105 07/04/2024

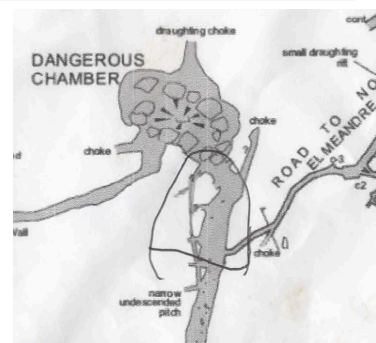
Third trip into Riaño to understand the cave routes and look at the rock structure. Went in with the survey team then branched off to see Upper Series east side. I was amazed to see such large and decorated passage which continues for some distance in this series. Roof just past La Playa is flat, very wide and still has the scallops on it from original flow; the first time I have ever seen such an extensive bed like this. Got to a point where a climb up and over a large greasy boulder halted progress. I could not make it over or under, needs a fixed line to be left on it which I will do next time with help from another. The metal work at top of C4 Up To Glory needs to be replaced also. Lots of fresh air circulation.....

Dave Barrett

#0733 Vallina

Reported by Sam Davis from trip on 31/03/2024

Very small passage connects the three question marks before Dangerous Chamber.



#0733 Vallina - 07/04/2024

Jim Davis, Sam Davis, Pete Eagan, Dave Bell

Photo trip to Swirl Chamber area. Photos to follow. Dave and Pete also explored surrounding passages. Dave to update.

06/04/2024 #1721

ROBERT BRYNIARSKI, Imogen Furlong, Rowan Furlong

Fine phreatic shaft, 4m x 2.5m, descended to a depth of 29m with the bottom still a further 3m away. Bottom clearly choked with rocks and rubbish. No draft. Appears to have been previously descended on account of 6mm drill holes and shrub pruning evidence.

New roadside dig, 30T 449821 4792521 460.8m **site 5413**

road side hole which takes drainage water, 0.8m x 0.4m, entrance squeeze leads into drafting rift, 1m wide, 5m long and 3m depth. Rift continues vertically down, but initially tight, body sized. Rocks can be heard to bounce successively a fair way down. Not pushed further.

08/4/2024 #0020 Cueva Loca

Explorers Juan Little, Juan Big, Eleanora, James. We went into Loca 2 because we were going to look at bones. There turned out to be lots of possibly a young badger or of a stoat. We found fossilised poo splat.



Golden algae was on the roof and walls.



There was a chamber with lots of columns, stalagmites, stalactites and straws.

An anticlockwise round trip took us back to the entrance. A cool spider. (Photos & 360° video)

Nora and Juan

07/04/24 [#4808](#)

ROBERT BRYNIARSKI, Imogen Furlong, Rowan Furlong

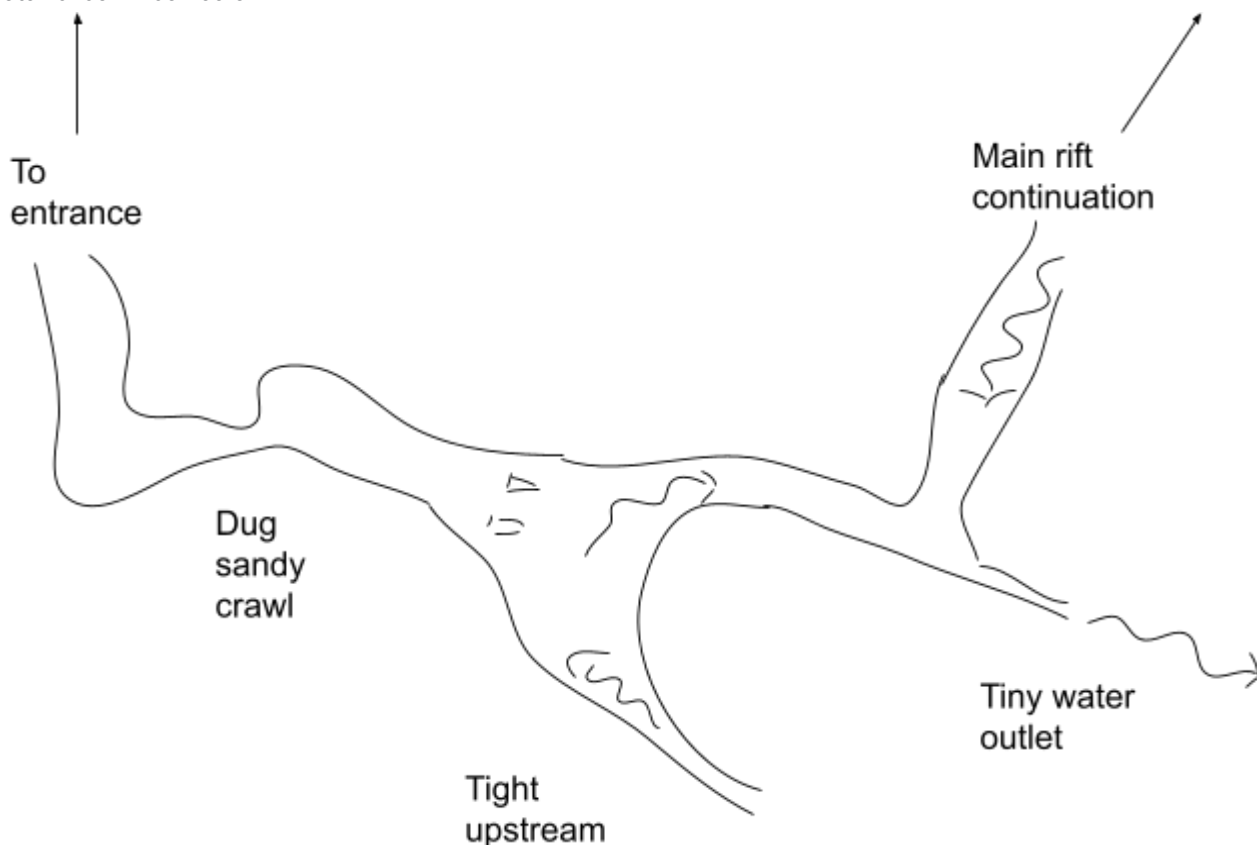
Inspected cave as described by Guy Simonnot. To the North, the undescended crack is certainly passable, but returning may prove difficult so we didn't push it. There was a draft blowing out from what looked likely to be a dig in the floor of the next small chamber. Lots of bones in this cave, and some bats.

Riaño [#0105](#) 07/04/2024

Rowan, Alex, [James](#).

We continued pushing our big 'downstream' eastward-bound rift, heading away from the rest of Riano. Rowan hadn't explored any new cave before, so we sent him first! This was initially tight, but soon became quite wide at ceiling level. We followed this passage for about 100m until we hit an area invaded by calcite. Getting past this required some hammering to drop back down into the stream. At this point, Alex decided that he was worried about getting a migraine, owing to dehydration, so we stopped surveying. Rowan and I continued to push, to check whether the passage was getting bigger or smaller, whilst Alex retreated to find some water. The lower passage was forced for around 50m in a tight, unpleasantly muddy, immature passage. This was still continuing, in a similar vein, with a respectable draught. We decided to stop at this point, since we were no longer surveying. This passage was the first we'd seen the water since the start of the rift, and we were very surprised to realise that we were now heading upstream, not downstream. Confused, we returned along the passage, trying to peer down to the bottom of the rift for the water direction. It turned out that the downstream water at the start of the rift disappeared almost immediately, meaning that what we thought was the upstream part of the rift was probably a later interloper, which would explain why it looked so tight ahead. I suspect that the passage we had entered by was actually the main downstream continuation of the passage, now fossilised and blocked by fill, and the newly entering stream is much more immature. We will probably return in summer to continue pushing, once we've forgotten the squalor of the final passage! Survey

batch 0105-24-05 - 99.52m



Note: Batches 0105-24 -02 to -05 are currently "hidden" inside 0105-24-01 with the following hierarchy:

- 0105-24-01
 - 24-02
 - 24-03
 - 24-05
 - 24-04

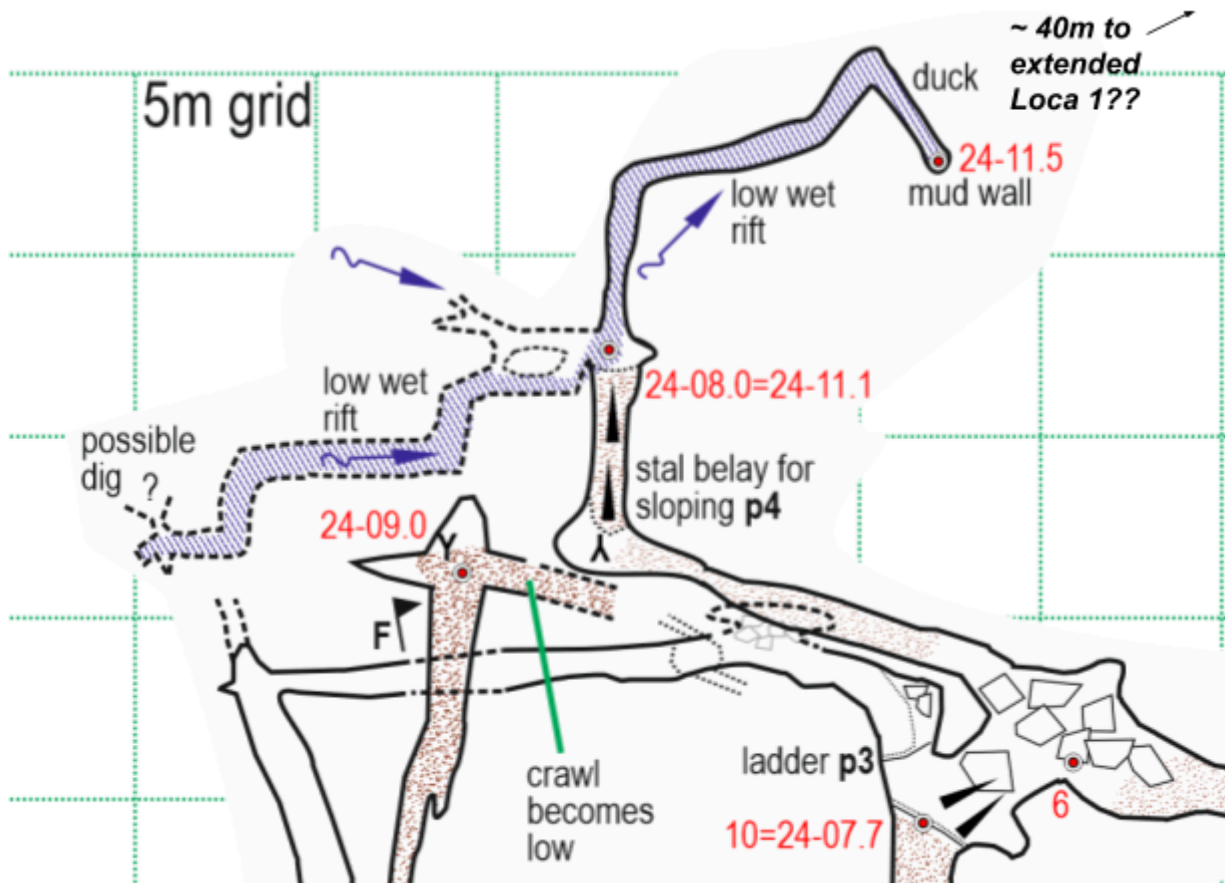
Reñada #0048 06/04/2024

Eleanora, Juan, James.

We did our usual bottom to top entrance tour, taking in the Blowhole and the rope climbs just afterwards. The lake was about waist deep on the kids. Lots of fun was had making mud pies and makeshift slides. Juan spotted a hole up under a fossilised rock on the left when crossing the muddy pool leading up to the Blowhole. We climbed up into this with combined tactics, and could see through a window into an ongoing small passage. An old neoprene hood was on the floor here and we didn't investigate any further. On the way out, Juan came face to face with a hibernating bat, which he didn't appreciate! The children decided to explore a patch of brambles on the way back to the car, and had to be rescued by their daddy. Other than that, we all had a lot of fun!

#0028 Selvijo 9/4/2024

Batch 0028-24-11 downstream at N end. Length = 16.5m



Paul Gelling, James

Paul and I donned neoprene to push the stream below the sloping p4 at the northernmost end of Selvijo. We surveyed downstream for around 20m in an angular passage that was of almost identical character to the streamway in Loca I. This led around several bends to a low duck under roof pendants. Keeping the instruments dry was getting tricky, so we abandoned the survey at this point. We pushed through the duck but unfortunately the passage 'ended' immediately afterwards at a mud barrier blocking the passage completely (apart from a small bit of airspace above it). There wasn't much airspace, so it was hard to move one's head around to get a better look! I guess it could be dug by bicycle kicking it, in the canonical fashion... We retreated and had a crack at the upstream passage instead. We were too cold to survey by this point, so we just pushed. It started off with a flat out wriggle in the water, but then became similar to the downstream. We pushed around several corners until no more progress could be made: the passage was again blocked with mud in the floor, but this time there was enough space above it to slide oneself up into a narrow rift and look into a small but dry chamber ahead, with a loud sound of falling water. This might be accessible once the mud has been removed, but it is very possible that the rift will still be too tight. The chamber beyond looks a bit bigger, though.

#3234 Llanío. 10/04/2024

Andy Q, Peter Wynn (Lancaster University) and Andi Smith (British Geological Survey) into the entrance series of Llanío (High Hopes chamber) to retrieve data loggers and check drip water chemistry. No active bee hives to worry about but the entrance was a bit brambly and also contained the smelly rotting remains of several small animals and a large bird, possibly the work of a fox. The scientists appeared pleased with how the project is progressing.

Andy Q

#[0086](#) La Cuvia 9/4/24

Pete Smith reported that he couldn't find the route down between boulders into the main chamber. Boulders possibly moved? Associated with roof falls in Tres Niños ([0565](#))??

#[3234](#) Llanío 11/04/2025

Andy Q, Peter Wynn and Andi Smith back into Llanío to redeploy the temperature loggers removed yesterday and undertake more drip water chemistry. Two calcite collecting plates and several drip water collectors were also reinstalled. Better draught (inwards) today so the stench wasn't quite as bad.

Andy Q.

#[1506](#) 03/04/24

John Southworth, Patrick Devine and Paul Gelling. Hole at side of the road visited by Sam and Jim Davis on the 2nd April . We went to dig the far end of the upper level. Clay/sand infill dug out but needs further work. No obvious draught.

#[5036](#) Cueva Covachera 04/04/24

John Southworth, Pete Smith, Patrick Devine and Paul Gelling. Cave in Villa Nueva. Comfy hands and knees crawl to dig at the far end with a good draught. One metre of fill removed to a point where the passage turns to the right. Unfortunately only a space 30cm x30cm over solid fill for at least two metres revealed. Decision made not to pursue it any further.

#[0880](#) Bingo? 05/04/24

Patrick Devine, Phil and Hilary Papard and Paul Gelling. Small pool of water at the bottom could not be drained despite a bar being banged in up to the hilt in several places. No detectable draught. Patrick has come to the conclusion to call it a day on his favourite dig. We therefore went to the nearby site [0874](#) which did have a good draught. It is a tight rift which will need further work. Patrick's endoscope seemed to show a widening about a metre down.

31/3/24 Hazas de Cesto (west)

John Southworth .

Having found 40m of passage in [4941](#) in the summer, had a look for [4939](#) for a possible dig . Spent a couple of hours thrashing about in the vegetation in the ravines and gullies and called it a day when heavy rain stopped play. Quite possible there is more to be found in this wooded area .Did not find 4939.

01/04/24 Villanueva then Beranga

John Southworth

Had trip into [5036](#) to check if badgers were back in residence but all clear so will return to carry on the dig at the left hand passage near the end. Examined large shakehole past the end of the cave which was found to be full of old roof tiles , bricks etc so a non starter.

Had a look at the surface area beyond the end of site [5336](#) .After several hours bashing in head height brambles and pampas grass gave up completely knackered , a small depression is showing up on the LIDAR map just past the end of this cave and tree roots are at the end of this cave .

02/04/24 San Antonio

John Southworth

Partly explored hill to the west of site [3095](#) , some places were quite easy going under the broad leaf tree cover , some not . Found a 2m long over tight vertical rift at the base of a large shake.

New site 5414 @ 30T 0447251 4801628. Alt. 72m. Photo.

Near the road found low cave 3m long which becomes too tight with a slight draft out.

New site 5415 @ 30T 0447239 4801605. Alt. 66m Photo.

#[1506](#) 03/04/24 La Secada

Pat Devine, Paul Gelling, John Southworth.

Paul passed the tight squeeze at the entrance of 1506 then enlarged it for Pat then enlarged again for me. We proceeded to the end of the high level passage and started digging for an hour or so. More work required. Had a look at the lower level but could not find any obvious ways on. Good formations.

#[5036](#) 04/04/24 Villanueva

Pat Devine, Paul Gelling, Pete Smith, John Southworth

Spent several hours digging in sandy fill with the odd awkward boulder removed for a distance of about 1.5m but seems to be closing down, though a good draught . No plans to return.

#[3754](#) 05/04/24 Moncobe

Alf Latham, Chris Camm, John Southworth.

This was the fourth trip up the Bencano valley to find 3754 and [3755](#) . With very little jungle bashing we found 3754 and started removing the fill from 3754 which is now 4m long to a slight lifting of the roof with boulders in the floor which will require capping. A return trip is planned with more digging gear ,it has a good draught . Ran out of time to find 3755 but now it should not be difficult to find its location.

06/04/24 Hazas de Cesto (west)

Paul Gelling , John Southworth.

With some interesting features showing on the LIDAR map of the woodland to the south west of the now blocked site of [4937](#) we started the search at the lowest part of this wood . Thick undergrowth made for difficult going with no trace of any limestone showing by the time we reached the top of the wood. The LIDAR features showing up seem to be large mounds of earth and clay, no prospects at all.

Returned to the area looked at on the 31/03/24 to attempt to find site 4939 . After some time there Paul found the gully with [4939](#) in it. The cave is a tight vertical rift about 10m long becoming very tight at a T junction, no draught.

08/04/24 Hazas de Cesto (west)

John Southworth

Area best described as “open ground” with a track at west side and bounded by woodland N, E and S about 250m west of [4934](#). Depressions showing up on the map in the “open ground” and in the woodland surrounding it. The open ground is covered in vegetation in some places above head height so gave up trying to advance in this and kept to the woodland. At the bottom of the open section is a large shakehole with dense undergrowth and standing water in the bottom. On the north side of this is a small cave 2m long which is blocked by a roof fall.

New site 5416 @ 30T 0452280 4806065 Alt. 88m Photo

Although this is an insignificant find, they are worth recording so other people do not waste time looking in this large shakehole. Managed to find a good animal track up the hill towards other noted features but then lost it and from then on a battle up a steep hillside back to the car.

Hope to return when I have had my long awaited hip and knee replacement.

09/04/24 El Rincón

John Southworth.

A distance of 500m north on the road from the restaurant at El Rincón is a cave in a field 30m on the right. Having pulled some boulders and dry soil out gave about 2-3m of cave to a right hand bend then a very low passage continues about 2m to a lowering of the roof then possibly a space and a far wall. Any further progress would require the cave to be dug larger from the entrance. A slight draught out on a cool day.

New site 5417 @ 30T 0451618 4805749 Alt. 88m Photos x 2

18/4/2024 Surface prospecting below Las Bernillas, South Vega

Juan & Penny up the road and area south of Cueva del Mazo (#0312) to investigate Simon Cornhill's postulations about sites 249 and 250. (See logbook entry 9/3/2024).

(A) A tiny stream runs north in a well-vegetated and sometimes up to 4m deep gully that, about 70m downhill from the barn, emerges in a flat area to further run over sandstone heading towards another wooded trench. There is no sign of shaft 250.

(B) 100m down the road a wooded area appears on the south side. This shows as a rocky area on the 1950's aerial photo. Sure enough, the now-wooded area has large limestone blocks separated by tracks wide enough for cows in places. During the very cursory and incomplete visit, a tiny resurgence was seen and one new site was found:

#5418, a 5m long, 3 - 4m deep, unexplored rift at 30T 452129 4795397 Altitude 243m.(photo)

Site 249 was also not found, so it is likely that 249 and 250 are repeated and misplaced sites [0177](#) and [0178](#).

This area could keep a couple of prospectors happy for an afternoon and could include the patch of woodland further south (containing site 0466) which was also exposed rock in the past.

A pre-programmed drone flight (*DJI Mini 2*) skirted the hillside just south of the road into the gap between the woods, and 4 360° panoramic aerial photos were taken. (*Map photo follows...*)



16/4/2024 [1106](#) - Nacimiento del Campiazo

Phil Papard and Mark Smith went to check out the resurgence last dived in 2002 and also to check diving equipment.

Resurgence had collapsed with no dive line and the water pipe destroyed. A path was dug out through the boulders, finally finding the line laid in 2002. Visibility was poor, but tied on to the end of the line and tried to look for a way on deeper. The way on looked like a boulder collapse and, after trying a couple of the larger openings, returned to base. Needs clearer vis to look for a way through the boulders and the entrance needs digging out as it looked pretty unstable.

20/4/2024 [1800](#) - Fridge Door Cave

Access via Site [5000](#), "Boob Tube" Entrance

Mark Smith and Jim Lister transported diving equipment to sump 4 dive base.

Side passage was noted on the way out, just before station 11. Easy dig in descending tube, partially filled with rock debris, drafting outwards. Was partially dug and looks easy to excavate. Could see solid wall after about 5 metres.

Author Jim Lister/ Mark Smith

21/4/2024 Site: [1800](#) - Fridge Door Cave

Access via Site: [5000](#) - Boob Tube Entrance.

Present: Mark Smith and Jim Lister.

Mark dived upstream sump 4 and found the sump was restricted in places with a thick silt floor. Initial duck into a sizable chamber, followed by the diver proper which surfaced after 20m in a large cross rift. Dug out a trench underwater to move forwards and found another airbell but there was no obvious continuation. Followed the passage to the left and ended up back in the original airbell. Jim then dived and took his hood off in the main airbell and heard

the sound of running water from a small inlet that requires digging. There is a slope on the right hand side that needs looking at. Both divers returned to the first airbell and scaled the mudbank, falling in occasionally and dug a small alcove which was blind. Another more interesting mud ramp on the left of the slope needs climbing and looks more promising with stals seen at the top. Off back in to continue tomorrow.

23/4/2024 Site: [1800](#) - Fridge Door Cave

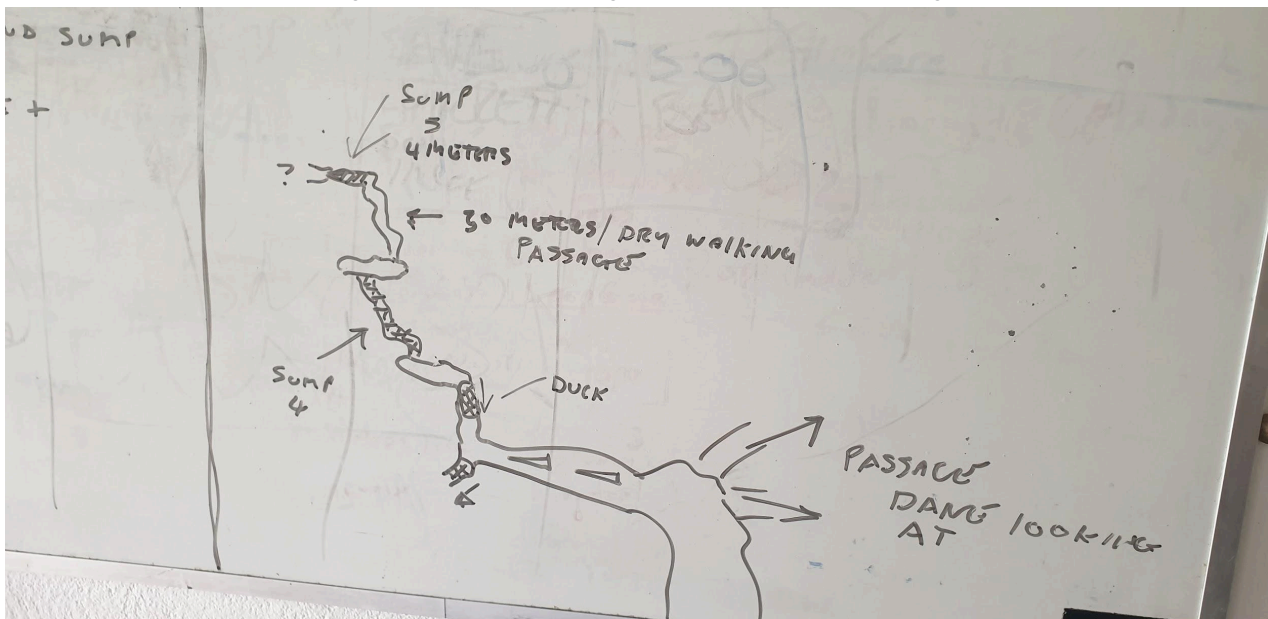
Access via Site: [5000](#) - Boob Tube Entrance.

Present: Mark Smith and Jim Lister.

Mark and Jim took it in turns to bolt up to the formations in *Diamonds in the Sky* Aven, no way on was found. Concrete screws were used as the rock is Sandstone, the expedition rope was recovered with all equipment except for two concrete anchors used for the pull-through.

Sump 4 was then dived and Jim attempted to free climb the steep mud ramp in the aven, located just after the first duck in sump 4 but was not able to pass the 7 metre point before falling back into the sump, Mark took over and made it to the rock, He was able to fit a sling and Jim was able to belay him up from this point to where He was able to lasso a arch and ascend using his "SRT" Kit, He reached the top of the Aven, 16 metres up and found a 2x 7 metre passage that led off, but closed down quickly, the Passage was well decorated.

Both divers then dived the continuing sump 4 to second airbell in a cross rift and after checking the rift to the right hand side (closed Down) the divers dug open the inlet on the right were Jim had heard running water the



day before. This opened up into a walking sized passage which lead 40 metres, to sump 5, It was Jim's turn to dive and He found that sump five was restricted with undercuts, but only 6 metres long, He tied off the line off at the far side in walking sized passage, the team intend to return tomorrow and survey and continue exploration.

Note visibility in sumps is zero

Film footage taken of bolt climb up Diamonds in the sky.(Go pro, film taken)

Water in Sump 3 was clear when passing over it on way in, but very muddy on the way out.

Good to see Andy and Julie on return, Had a meal at Pablos and got locked in as He forgot we were there?

Report by Jim

24/4/2024 Fridge Door site [1800](#) by Boob tube site [5000](#).

Team in 14.00 to survey and push past Sump 4 and 5, and explore and survey.

Sump five was passed and a large sandy chamber with passages leading off was found.

The passages all ended in sand blockages.

The streamway continued and Jim Dived two further short sumps, with short muddy walking stream way between, sump eight was dived a short distance but the way on was blocked by mud which will be dug next time.

Mark and Jim surveyed back from sump Six to the Danes survey station at 1800-23-03.13 as survey "jjj"

Batch **1800-24-06** has a length of **159m** (some duplicate legs) and still going.

(Length of 4VS now 74770m)

Report will be amended in morning as just out of cave.

24/4/2024 Site [2967](#)

Hi Juan,

When I was out last August with John and Miranda one of the sites on the hit list that we aimed to look at was 2967, described as a 10x3m shaft 10m deep. For various reasons we never got to it and it felt like unfinished business. We were over there again last week so I had a solo trip to find it and, for what it's worth, here are some details.

It turned out to be a reasonable sized shaft, more like 3m by 1m and around 10m deep. I visited on a very wet day and it was taking a dribble of water that was sinking and there was a slight draft but it was not clear where the draft was coming from. If this was closer to the road it would be worth a bit of digging. Attached are some **photos**, 1: the top of the hole, 2: looking up the shaft and 3: the bottom showing the end of a 12m rope.

The location according to my phone is 43.306275,-3.541978

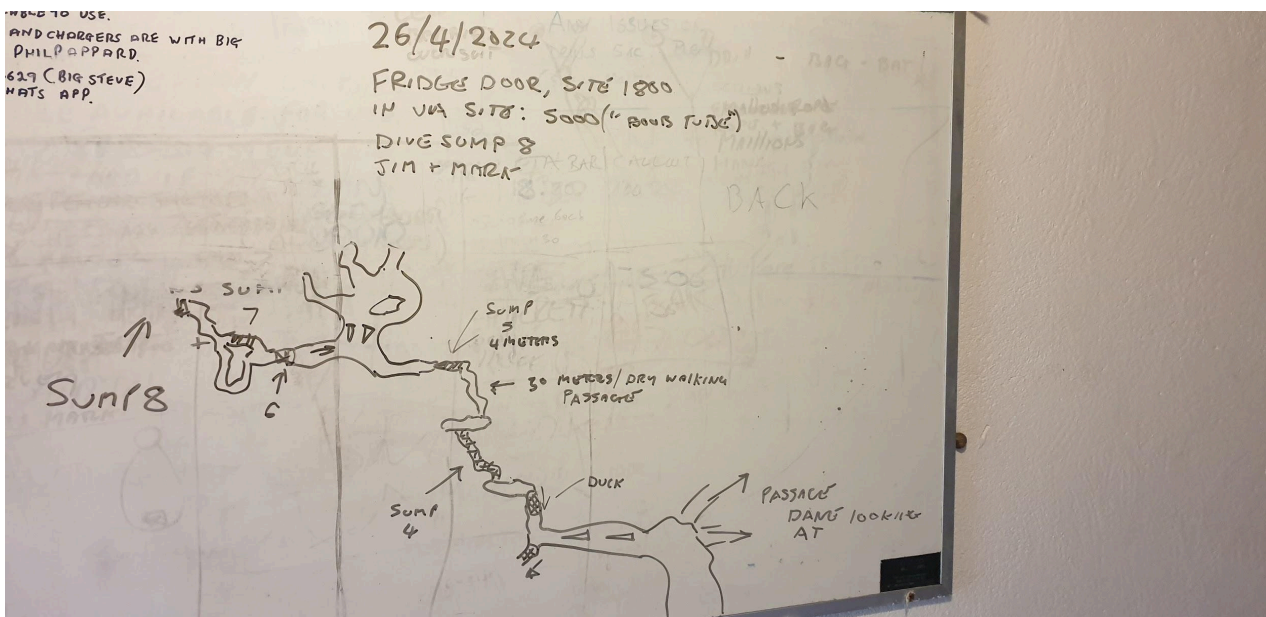
30T 456044 4794970 (This is about 45m N of the original GPS reading, and close to 2966. JSC)

Chris Hunter

26/4/2024 Fridge Door site [1800](#) by Boob tube site [5000](#).

Mark and Jim

Pushing sump 8



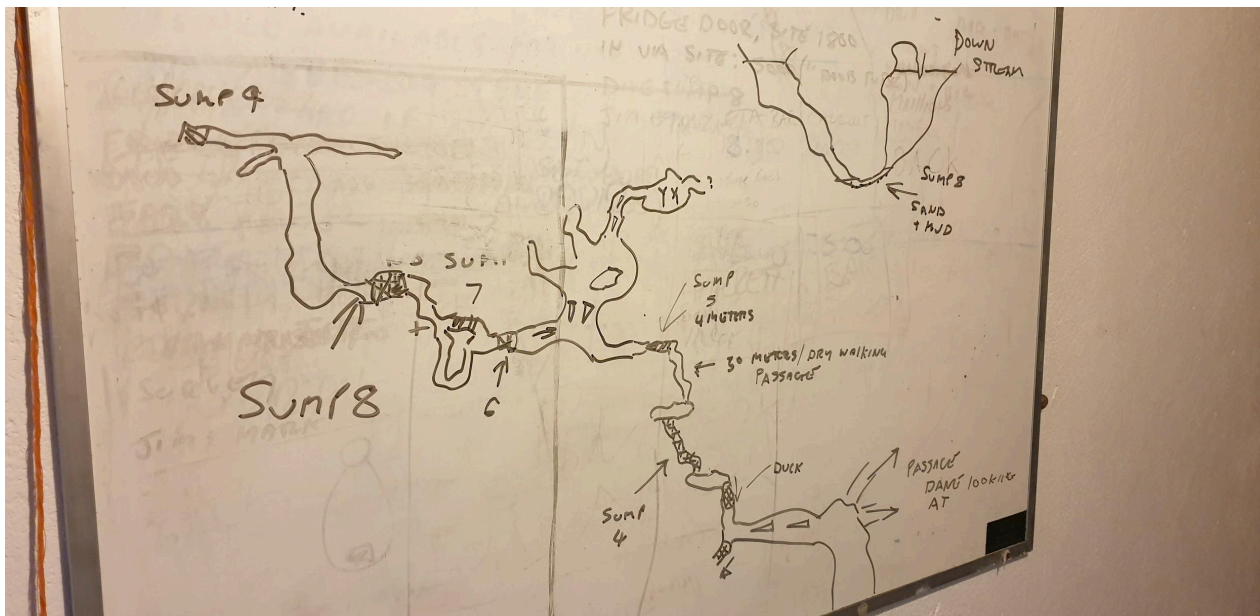
Jim dived sump 8, this involved more underwater digging but the sump was passed, Mark followed through the sump and they both made their way along the walking sized stream passage for a rough distance of 50 metres? Where sump 9 was found, (Mark to dive next trip) some side passages were followed but closed down.

There is now enough passage to survey (from sump 6 to 9) on the next trip.

Mark dug out the sand blockage back in the big sandy chamber and found a very well decorated chamber that needs photographing !

There is a drafting dig just past the prettys!

Jim broke his helmet battery box fixings when He slipped climbing up the slope towards the formation chamber but was able to do a temporary fix.



The sump 8 needs more digging out, Mark had an unpleasant dive out due to the slope slumping and making route finding difficult. Jim who followed also had to do a lot of digging to get through for the same reason it is not a pleasant sump.

Cylinders have been removed from the cave for refilling.

The way on is continuing.

Report by Jim needs amending.

The drawing for batch 1800-24-06:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/19NviWDQud8HrrUPpUDhHYpgDHsEjLTrK/vi
ew?usp=drivesdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/19NviWDQud8HrrUPpUDhHYpgDHsEjLTrK/vi
ew?usp=drivesdk)

27th April 2024 #1800

(Phil asking John Gunn for latest thinking on how helictites grow - indicate a draught? Emails rearranged in time order)

Hi John

I have a question about how helictites form with respect to draughts. Below is a message chain from Mark Smith who is in Matienzo diving with Jim Lister. You will see they found a chamber with helictites in it, and he asks about a draughts. I assume he is asking because given its beyond a sump he wonders if these indicate a draught and hence a possible way on above sump level. I have given a rather unscientific (i.e. probably wrong) answer. Can you let me, and Mark know the correct view on draughts in relation to helictites?

Regards Phil

So we went back down and Jim and I redived sump 8 which is short but very awkward. The mud slips down the slope and you have to dig your way out each time which is not ideal. Anyway goes to some walking sized streamway again ending in another sump. This one looks slightly different in that it looks to

have some clean rock on one side but we will see. Heading directly North still. Also dug a passageway up two sumps before that lead to a nice chamber with some helictites. Do they only occur when there is a strong draft? passageway is ongoing upwards but needs digging.

Hi Mark

The sump 8 sounds horrible. Can it be dug to make it better? There is debate about how helictites grow and if a draught is a factor. But often they are in places with low or no draught so in my view they certainly do not suggest a strong draught but may suggest some air circulation.

Regards Phil

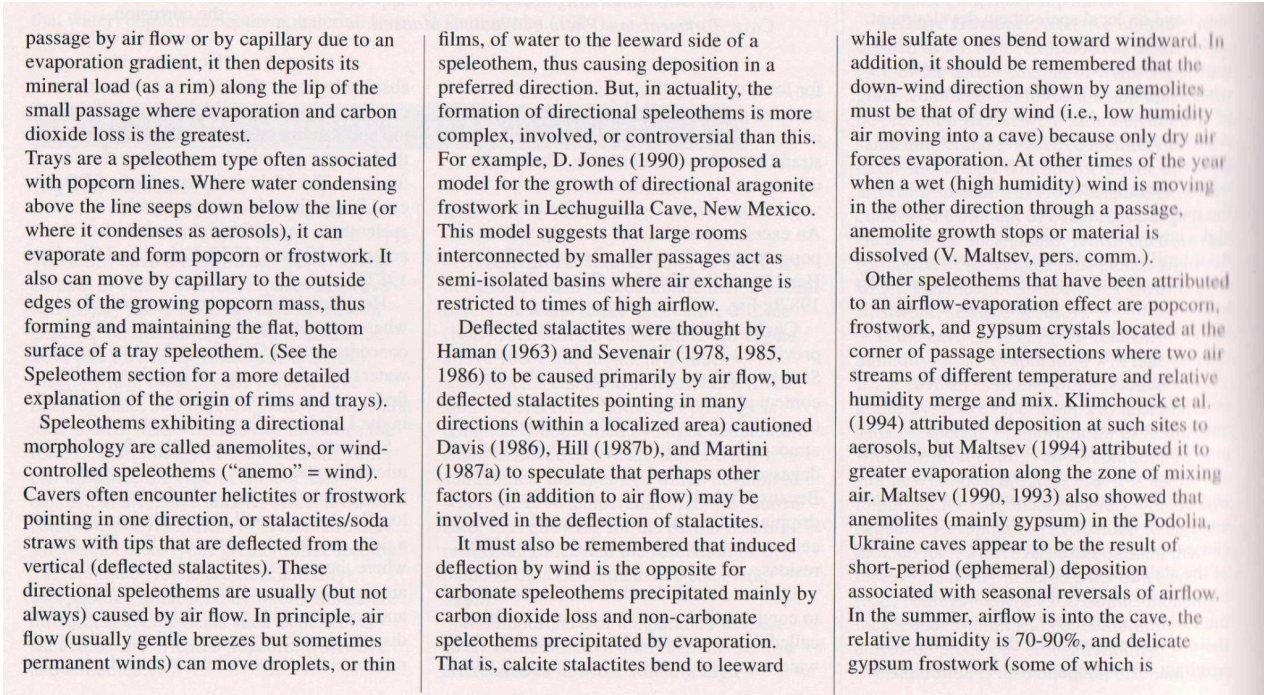
+++++

Hi Phil,

Your reply is spot on in that helictites per se do not provide any information on draughts. However, some helictites, commonly termed anemolites are directional and the attached extract from Cave Minerals of the World has some useful discussion. One other factor that may be of use is that the presence of any speleothem is an indication that the carbon dioxide concentration in the cave air is less than the concentration in the overlying soil. This means that if a chamber between two sumps is totally isolated it is unlikely to contain speleothem. With that in mind how many is "some" helictites. Just a few suggests low chance of connectivity; a lot, especially if there are other speleothem suggests good air circulation although that might be via passages that are less than caver-size. Hope this helps.

Cheers,

John



+++++

Hi John

Thanks for this information. The chamber does have quite a lot of stal, i.e. straws as well as other types, so your comment about likely air flow is very useful.

Regards

Phil

+++++

Appreciate your insight John. Definitely helpful. There is a passageway going off the other side of the chamber that needs digging, but worth pursuing (in my opinion). One point to note, looking at the photos I have, is that the helictites are protruding in different directions. I assume this suggests there is unlikely to be a constant unidirectional flow of air.

Anyway, thanks again.

Mark

29/4/2024 Fridge Door site [1800](#) by Boob tube site [5000](#).

Mark and Jim

Sump 8 blocked, both divers tried to get through unsuccessfully, dry passage and Sumps surveyed back to Sandy



Chamber.

The Side Passage leading from Sandy passage to Cock Womble chamber was also surveyed, photographs were taken of the beautiful formations before the choke was dug and passed.

The passage continues low and narrow, but has a draft and a small amount of excavation would enable further progress if minded.

Some of the diving kit was taken out of the cave, the rest will be recovered tomorrow all being well.

Photos and survey to follow, probably tomorrow as late and food required

(Mark has taken some very good photos in CockWomble Chamber!

😊)

These are not them! These were taken in the sump 7 bypass.

Jim

30/4/2024 Fridge Door site [1800](#) by Boob tube site [5000](#)

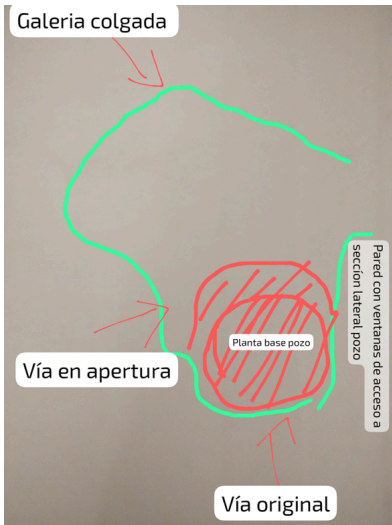
All caving and diving equipment has now been removed from the cave. We have brought the Family that owns the property/land a new hose pipe as they have kindly let us wash our kit using theirs, which to put it politely is passed its best.

The survey data and drawings of the passage detail will be forthcoming, we have had the usual technical problems but these have been overcome.

Mark and Jim

20/4/2024 Coquisera #0039 email from Ángel San Juan Gálvez

El 20 de abril estuvimos haciendo los siguientes trabajos:



A: Exploración en pozo Toni Asensio: Patri, Miki y Susana.

Ascendieron por la cuerda instalada hace años, escalada realizada por Susana y Diego. Llegamos a la instalación realizada por nosotros tras su descubrimiento, para realizar un primer ataque, bajar unos 30m y pendular en busca de una ventana. El pozo es bestial, enorme y no ofrece más que una grieta donde poner los pies durante todo su recorrido. Miki intenta llegar a una ventana no muy grande que se ve al sur, sin éxito, pero parece que lleva al mismo lugar, con lo cual no le ponen mucho empeño. Se ve una galería al norte, es una ventana muy alta y lejana, coronada en su entrada con unas formaciones blancas. Bajamos hasta el suelo del pozo, hay una grieta que sopla mucho, no se cabe y se necesita una fuerte desobstrucción.

Subimos hasta arriba para atacar el nuevo objetivo, dirección norte, pasamos por una diaclasa y vemos un spit suponemos que es "instalación de los ingleses" bajamos un par de metros para continuar la bajada siempre con péndulo por una ventanita pequeña, otro pasito más y seguimos bajando y penduleando hacia el norte.

Se termina la jornada, para intentar retomarla en otro momento, es costoso y desde la posición en que nos hemos quedado no vemos nuestro objetivo, el pozo es muy grande y muy irregular. Todo parece indicar que tenemos que cruzar al otro lado de otra ventana enorme que está en nuestra dirección, pero por ahora bajamos un poco a ciegas.

B: Topografía desde Pop Corn hasta el final ya conocido de Codisera: Ángel y Sara: han terminado la topografía del sector ya conocido. Queda una sala por topografiar y un posible agujero que mirar, pero no dan buenas sensaciones de continuación. La roca es muy mala y peligrosa en esa zona.

También han visto los pozos que hay escalar. Son de unos 20m. Posiblemente no estén escalados.

C: Desobstrucción en la Galería de los Gours: Juan, Mari y Álvaro. Han instalado la cuerda que da acceso a la galería de los gours. Al final de esta, en el paso del tigre, han desobstruido gracias al taladro utilizándolo en modo pistolette. Hasta llegar a la antesala del tigre, solo pude entrar yo a dicha antesala la cual solo tiene uno cuatro metros en horizontal, pero continúa haciendo arriba unos 8 metros por una pared tipo colada. Se puede escalar sin demasiado equipo. Desde este paso se consiguió meter la cabeza en la sala del tigre y desde esta posición, da la sensación de que continua tanto a derechas como a izquierdas. Hacia arriba no se podía mirar, pero es posible que se entre de pie.

=====

On April 20 we were doing the following work:

A: Exploration in the Toni Asensio well: Patri, Miki and Susana.

They ascended the rope installed years ago, a climb carried out by Susana and Diego. We arrived at the installation made by us after its discovery, to carry out a first attack, go down about 30m and swing in search of a window. The well is beastly, enormous and offers nothing more than a crevice to put your feet in throughout its entire journey. Miki tries to reach a not very large window that looks south, without success, but it seems that it leads to the same place, so they don't put much effort into it. You can see a gallery to the north, it is a very high and distant window, crowned at its entrance with some white formations. We go down to the floor of the well, there is a crack that blows a lot, it does not fit and a strong unblocking is needed.

We go up to the top to attack the new objective, heading north, we pass through a joint and see a spit, we assume it is an "English installation" we go down a couple of metres to continue the descent always with a pendulum through a small window, another little step and We continue going down and penduluming towards the north.

The day ends, to try to resume it at another time, it is costly and from the position in which we have remained we do not see our objective, the well is very large and very irregular. Everything seems to indicate that we have to cross to the other side of another huge window that is in our direction, but for now we go down a bit blindly.

B: Topography from Pop Corn to the already known end of Codisera: Ángel and Sara: they have finished the topography of the already known sector. There remains a room to survey and a possible hole to look at, but they do not give a good feeling for the continuation. The rock is very bad and dangerous in that area.

They have also seen the pits that have to be climbed. They are about 20m. They are possibly not scaled.

C: Clearing the Gours Gallery: Juan, Mari and Álvaro. They have installed the rope that gives access to the gallery of the gours. At the end of this, at the Tiger Pass, they have unclogged thanks to the drill using it in pistol mode. Until reaching the tiger's anteroom, only I was able to enter said anteroom, which is only four metres horizontal, but continues up about 8 metres through a lavatory-type wall. It can be climbed without too much equipment. From this step it was possible to get the head into the tiger's room and from this position, it seems that it continues both to the right and to the left. You couldn't look up, but it is possible to enter standing up.

(Attached to email: Visual Topo survey + other resources - to be published in the Easter web update)

26/03/24 to 10/04/24 The Navajeda Crew: Chris Camm, Nigel Easton, Alf Latham, PHIL PARKER

First three days were plagued by boiler problems and not-the-world's-best plumbing engineers. 26/03/24 written off because of torrential rain downpour and the boiler problem

27/03/24 [5353](#)

Nigel ill, Chris and Phil investigate the boiler problem so Alf Latham solo trip to 5353 to fix angle bracket aids for the climb down to the working area at head of the rift..

28/03/24 [5353](#)

Alf Latham solo trip to clear some rocks from higher up the climb down. Unfortunately some of these blocked the hole into the rift head.

29/03/24 [5353](#)

Nige and Phil enlarging the tight and awkward section of the climb down.

29/03/24 [4480](#)

Chris Camm and Alf Latham visited the "4474" valley south of the Barrio de Arriba to look (unsuccessfully) for a hole that Chris had spotted on a previous trip but not recorded. They then examined 4480 and started work on enlarging the end encouraged by a good draught. On the way back they looked at 4972.

29/03/24 [4972](#)

Chris and Alf. This collapse in the path up the valley had much enlarged since first spotted in 2019 and after poking at it they decided more gear would be necessary for investigation.

30/03/24 [5353](#)

Nige Easton, Phil Parker. Decided that to open up the hole into the rift capping the walls needed to start nearly 2m above the hole so worked on removing Alf's blocking stones by chiselling them apart and so sending them down the rift. The sound and length of fall suggests the rift is quite narrow but upwards of 50 metres deep.

30/03/24 [4972](#)

Chris Camm, Alf Latham. Back to 4972 with digging gear and a ladder. Unfortunately after some work they decided that it wasn't going anywhere so left it well-covered.

31/03/24 [5353](#)

Alf Latham, Phil Parker. Completed the removal of the stones blocking the hole into the rift and started capping the wall above the hole.

01/04/24 [5353](#)

Nige Easton, Phil Parker. Dropped Chris off for his trip to 4480 then on to 5353. Continued capping the walls. Play stopped early when Chris sent text asking for pick-up.

01/04/24 [4480](#)

Chris Camm solo to continue digging and capping the end of the passage. Retired to the village when bad weather was on its way, getting to a playground shelter just before the heavens opened.

02/04/24 [5353](#)

Nige Easton, Phil Parker. Continued capping the walls and by the end of the day the capper's feet needed to be hanging down the rift to clean and load the holes. Now with a clear view down it could be seen that Alf's autumn ledge was somewhat less than 7m down and appeared to be a point where the rift stepped sideways under the right hand wall. Noted that one boulder on the climb down had become loose and would need removing.

03/04/24 [5353](#)

Alf Latham, Phil Parker. Continued capping out the walls, now into the rift proper. Phil made an attempt at downward progress but this just demonstrated that there is a lot more work to be done.

03/04/24 [4480](#)

Chris Camm solo to 4480 to continue digging out the floor and capping.

04/04/24 [5353](#)

Nige Easton, Phil Parker. Mid-afternoon start for removal of the loose boulder on the climb down, then a continuation of capping before a late finish.

04/04/24 [4480](#)

Alf Latham solo trip to continue work at the end of 4480.

05/04/24 [5353](#)

Nige Easton, Phil Parker. An initial capping session was followed by a Phil attempt at downward progress using a foot sling and jammer on a fixed rope to aid (mainly) getting back up. He got further down than two days earlier but still a lot to do. Further capping was followed by placing a bolt to improve the hang of the fixed rope. Another downward attempt got further but not at all easy to get out.

05/04/24 [3754](#)

Chris Camm and Alf Latham accompanied John Southworth up the Bencarno Valley to find 3754. See John's report.

06/04/24 [5227](#) Sin Sendero

Chris Camm, Alf Latham. Alf, supported by Chris, climbed up the far end of the main (entrance) rift to check a possible high-level way on above a block, spotted during the Easter '23 explorations. A bolt was placed allowing ladder access to this point but only a small draftless hole was in evidence. Chris took the opportunity to try to reach **4173 (Shelob)** to check the gps coordinates but it is still surrounded by "jungle".

07/04/24 [5353](#)

Nige Easton, Phil Parker. Alf's birthday so it was bound to be a good day. Wrong! Disaster day! First of all, using etriers to solve the problem of cleaning and loading holes drilled below the driller's feet failed miserably. The rift is just too tight and awkward to be able to use the lower rungs. Then on the second hole, whilst capping at full stretch Phil dropped the pin and mat. Rattle, rattle into the depths below. One more attempt at downward progress gained an extra 50mm! End of play. 😞

07/04/24 [4480](#)

Alf Latham. Solo trip up the "4474" valley to bring back the digging gear from 4480.

08/04/24 [2751](#)

Chris Camm. The weather forecast suggested mucho rain later so Nige, Alf and Phil had a day off whilst Chris went and looked at 2751. This is another hole that continues to look interesting and worth a further return visit for a serious digging effort. Needless to say the promised heavy rain did not materialise.

09/04/24 [5353](#)

Alf Latham, Phil Parker. Final fling time before the end of the trip. After six hours of significant capping a final downward attempt by Phil got one foot to within 150mm of the ledge, which appears to be three or four metres below the top of the rift. This section is still too tight and awkward. A quick study suggested that the best and easiest way of making further progress would be to take off the bottom section of the right hand wall with snappers.

10/04/24 Bencano Valley [3754](#) and “4474” valley

Chris Camm. Chris took a hike up to the vicinity of 3754 and improved access to the hole by taking a saw to fallen trees.

Meanwhile Alf Latham and Phil Parker went up the “4474” valley, to where it splits into two, for a final look for Chris’ lost entrance (see 29/03/24). The conclusion was that it has been covered by a big collapse on the true right wall, further up-valley from 4480.

Logbook closed for additions and amendments, 9th May 2024

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT