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Matienzo Caves Project

# Selected site list for prospecting in 2026

The list below is only some of the sites that need to be investigated, and these have been updated for 2026 to cover both new finds and updating those previously listed that were looked at in 2024 & 2025.

They vary from surface undescended shafts, possible digs as well as pushing some known sites. All have been picked as the writeups suggest they have some prospects and/or are in very key locations. Quite a few require surveying and taking a photograph of the entrance. The latter is important as this helps to identify the site when other sites are nearby. Also, very important is to record draughts as this is an indication of potential.

The sites vary in their demands of the explorers i.e., from hard thin cavers to more average cavers and to those looking for surface walks with some speleological interest! Help is available to give coaching on surveying and capping, with limited equipment in the MCP store.

The list only covers sites in our current permit area. Also leads in the main systems and other work (such as continuing the survey of Reñada and the Four Valley's System) as well as digs and sites that are currently being worked on are not listed. Discussion with some of the old hands and studying the surveys are needed to identify best prospects in the longer systems.

If you decide to look at a particular surface site, you should look at the "site entrance in context" link at the top of the website description. This brings up an interactive map with the entrance and all surrounding sites shown. Entrance icons are coded: ! still going; D dig; U unexplored; A Archaeological; B Biological interest. Clicking an icon will provide a link to the description. This facility is also available in the Office at the back of Pablo's restaurant during the expeditions, along with the QGIS mapping system that provides all the data - useful for getting the very latest information!

It has been shown that having both ropes/ladders as well as capping gear can be a great asset for a team doing surface work and may avoid the need to just record a site as needing further work.

To be most effective if you have access to an Android smart phone, then load Oruxmaps https://www.oruxmaps.com/cs/en and then upload the MCP map and details from the website at http://matienzocaves.org.uk/OruxMaps/index.htm so you can check sites while on the fell. Also load onto your phone site entrance descriptions http://matienzocaves.org.uk/descrip/pdfs/pdfs-index.htm which are useful to consult on the fell, and in particular show if the site is lacking an entrance photo, if this is he case for holes you come across then take one.

Phil Papard

February, 2026

| Site | Name | Area | What to do | Date done |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2052 | Shaft | Alisas | The shaft at Alisas can be pushed as we have an agreement with club G.E. Pistruellos. The shaft was found to be shorter than originally stated with about 25m to a tight section and then an estimated 15m drop below. The tight section was too small to safely push through, so it needs more work to progress or a very thin person. | April 2024 |
| ~~5313~~ | Shaft | Alisas | 5m pitch followed by a short slope. It *"may be diggable at the bottom but probably not worth it."* | October 2025 |
| ~~5314~~ | Shaft | Alisas | "is just a depression that ends." | October 2025 |
| 2834 | Pallet Hole | Barrio la Mina | Site needs a survey and check for any leads. | |
| ~~4937~~ | Nepa Hole | Beranga | Ent opened up and pushed in 2024 past original end but only to further chokes with low prospects. | August 2024 |
| 2938 | Shaft | Camposdelante | Continue work at 6m 45deg drop those needs opening up to get access – small draught. | |
| 5031 | Toca del Viejo | Cierrolinos | Site needs surveying and capping rift at bottom of 60m pitch – Check as site may have been pushed by La Cambera club who found it in Jan 2023 and named the site. | Jan 2023 |
| 5035 | Cueva de la Llusa 3 | Cierrolinos | Push/cap lead needs BCRA 5 survey (current only BCRA 2b) – check that La Cambera has not pushed, they re-found site in 2023 and named it Torca del Spray Rojo. | May 2023 |
| 5102 | Shaft | Cierrolinos | Push/cap any lead needs BCRA 5 survey, current only BCRA 2b) – check that La Cambera has not pushed, they re-found site in 2023. | Jan 2023 |
| 3685 | cave | Cobadal | Continued digging in draughting dig, but need scaffolding to secure roof blocks first | Summer 2024 |
| 0919 | cave | Cobadal | Check if can dig narrow section “sounds bigger below” | |
| 2099 | dig | Cobadal | Continue draughting dig (stones fall further 6-8m). in Dec 2023 area of site very overgrown and dig could not be located. | 22/12/2023 |
| 2777 | shaft | Cobadal | Cap 4m draughting shaft to possible passage, photo ent. | |
| 3685 | cave | Cobadal | Continue digging required at strongly draughting site where site was pushed in 2023 to a slot that opens up beyond to a potential dig but with hanging deaths overhead. Scaffolding will be required before any progress can be made. | August 2024 |
| 5425 | Shaft | Cobadal | Shaft 8m deep but only partly explored, needs picture of ent, dropping to bottom and surveying. | |
| 1930 | Cobadal, Sumidero de | Cobadal | Reported that the main ent is open but needs stabilising. Dig/snappers at top of draughting boulder slope against wall high above end (serious undertaking at this key prospect) | |
| 1362 | shaft | Coterón las Llanas (Bosmartin) | Dig/cap tight section 15m down second pitch | |
| 5326 | Shaft | Cruz Llorada | Undescended shaft covered with pallets and tyres | |
| ~~0813~~ | dig | Cubija | Strongly draughting dig next and to steep concrete track at bend. Dug in 2025 and considered "a mining job" with no strong prospect in sight." | Summer 2025 |
| ~~5402~~ | Shaft | Cubija | *Pushed to tube 50cm by 50cm in sharp knobbly rock and down steeply to very small with no draught present.* | August 2025 |
| 5403 | Dig | Cubija | Site opened up via drop (p6) to ledge and second pitch (p10) to floor of a large chamber with possibilities in the floor, needs checking in good draughting weather ie hot. | Easter 2025 |
| 0558 | Mariverde | El Naso | Check digging prospect (now we have caps), photo ent | |
| 0561 | cave | El Naso | Dig/cap end of upper strongly draughting cave. | |
| 1600 | Shaft | El Naso | Pushing and surveying needed. Situated above new passages in Rascavieja this roomy shaft lands on a choked floor at -22m. A tight rift leads to the top of a 7m undescended drop. The 3m long rift requires enlarging. | |
| 5495 | Cueva Oscura | El Naso | Survey needed also check for draughts and pushing potential. | |
| ~~5417~~ | Cave | El Rincón | In 2025 the cave was found to close down. | April 2025 |
| 5466 | Depression | El Rincon | A large shakehole with possible voids at its base needs a ladder or rope to descend it for a better examination. | |
| 5479 | Shaft | El Rincon | Bottom of hole needs checking as ladder was short, take rope or three ladders, | |
| 2540 | dig | Fresnedo | Cap into undescended shaft. Check draught, photo ent | |

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| 3221 | sink | Fresnedo | Not in our area but worth look and small dig to see if any prospect as it is exact above the end of Gour Inlet in Hoyuca although 140m above. If worth a dig, we will apply for it in our permit or agree with local club with permit. | |
| 3118 | Alum Pot | Fuentecil | Large open hole with slot at bottom, above sump one in Aguanaz – worth a look to assess digging prospects. | |
| 5457 | Sink | Fuente las Varas | Check out for digging possibilities (water may not sink in dry weather | |
| 4917 | shaft | Hazas de Cesto (E) | Push hole where stones “rattle a fair way”. Photo ent and check for draughts | |
| 3569 | Twin Entrance Cave | Hornedo | 7.7m pitch to a too tight 5m drop where stones dropped sound as if space below. Survey of site needed. | April 2025 |
| 5343 | Collapse | Hornedo | Photo of ent needed and digging needed - a 2m drop with a way to a drop in boulders that needs opening up to descend. | |
| 5350 | Dig | Hornedo | A 5m ladder into passage. Good draught from 7m+ drop between pillars that needs work to open up. Vegetation stopped access in summer 2024 – so best looked at early in year. | August 2024 |
| 5353 | Cave | Hornedo | Major digging work carried out with a *draught coming down the rift and there is a small hole visible in the rift roof that needs a look, if it can be reached. P*rogress down the rift needs "thinnies". The site has been detackled apart from a hand line (not for SRT). | August 2025 |
| 0186 | shaft | La Colina | Dig/cap to gain entry – stones rumble down 6 secs | |
| 0271 | cave | La Colina | Climb draughting rift to possible passage. Survey cave and take ent photo (one on website may be wrong cave?) | |
| 2286 | shaft | La Colina | Dig calcite run-in at end of crawl. Survey. Fence/wall ent as a risk to walkers and dogs. | |
| 2572 | shaft | La Colina | Dig/cap leads, incl at bottom of 51m shaft – see survey | |
| 5197 | Ant Hole | La Colina | Ladder needed for 4m ent pitch to bigger space, hole hard to find use GPS to locate in the jungle. | |
| 5478 | Shaft | La Colina | Push draughting rifts at bottom and survey site. But top of pitch needs checking it is secure first. | |
| 5184 | Cave | La Estrada | Water supply cave, just to the north of our area but very likely to drain Monte Llusa area – Access is possible through below building at resurgence, but it will need permission to explore as a water supply. | |
| 5185 | Cave | La Estrada | Cave that seems to flow in very wet weather and above a small resurgence. Dig (need spade) rising slot near to possible sump, check “sump” in dry weather. Survey cave and check for draughts. | |
| 2223& 0127 | Cave & Cubio de la Gatuna | La Gatuna | Push (survey any finds) and in particular with the aim of joining up the two caves – see survey and take with you. | |
| 2319 | shaft | La Gatuna | Drop draughting 20m undescended rift, will need bolts and probably caps. | |
| 5393 | Shaft | La Gatuna | Photo of ent. A 1m diameter hole to an undescended 5m drop with slight draught. | |
| 1089 | shaft | La Rasa | Dig/cap entry to draughting tube at base, photo ent | |
| 1108 | Cable, Torca del | La Rasa | Shaft at bottom of the entrance shaft ends in a rock filled choke with no worthwhile leads. Bolting to “hole in wall” where draught may at ent shaft may not have been done? | August 2025 |
| 1109 | shaft | La Rasa | Push (caps?) unexplored 20m deep rift at base. Photo ent and new GPS | |
| 1168 | shaft | La Rasa | Drop (caps?) 15m drip at base of 30m shaft. Photo ent | |
| 0583 | dig | La Secada | Check digging prospects and draught. Photo ent | |
| 1017 | Socks | La Secada | Very strongly draughting dig. In summer 2024 found main draught was from boulder choke at bottom of ent shaft and not crawl in chamber – needs digging, stabilising etc – team of 3 at least needed. | August 2025 |
| 1222 | shaft | La Secada | Drop undescended draughting 15m shaft. Photo ent. In August 2023 it could not be found in thick jungle, or at Easter 2024 or Jan 2025 GPS seems wrong? | Jan 2025 |
| 1488 | cave | La Secada | Looked at in 2023, needs caps to get to chamber, but no draught felt in 2023. Cap 10cm strongly draughting crack at base. Looked at in Dec 2023 and considered a reasonable dig, needs rope and bucket to aid digging. | Dec 2023 |
| 4131 | Dig | La Secada | Dig less than 40m from Trident at similar level, worth a further look and dig. | |
| 4740 | shaft | La Secada | Open (caps) rift to 3m deep wider section. Check draught | |

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| 4805 | dig | La Secada | Strongly draughting hole on right of track. Has been dug down some 5-6m. It is likely if it can be dug it should link into BTM passages in Torca la Decepcion. | |
| 5362 | Tree Shroom Hole | La Secada | Shaft partly blocked by tree trunk 3m down - 4m shaft with no way on explored Jan 24 with a parallel shaft from the 3m ledge requiring enlargement to reach the bottom distoed at 11m. | January 2024 |
| 5379 | Dig | La Secada | Photo of ent. A 4m drop that has a small draught, needs tyres removing and digging to descend. | |
| 5470 | dig | La Secada | Check out to see if site is worth a dig, if in area. | 5470 |
| 5116 | shaft | Monte Llusa | Ent needs GPSed and the whole surveyed and any leads pushed. Needs checking for draughts. | |
| 0803 | shaft | Muela | Check base for prospect given the strong inward draught, but site not found at location in 2022 | April 22 |
| 1795 | shaft | Muela | Cap/push lead (see into a chamber) at base of p8 ent. Ent seems to be covered by a boulder partly grassed over – will need to be removed – see 2022 photo | 13/04/22 |
| 1954 | shaft | Muela | Not found in 22 but location should not be far off. Open/cap shaft (stones drop 2s the roll 5s). Photo ent | 13/04/22 |
| 5471 | Shaft | Muela | Shaft covered with rocks, needs descending – but cover of rocks must be replaced, Photo Ent | |
| 0132 | cave | Mullir | Dig lead (echo, disto 14m) base of chamber. Photo ent | |
| 1451 | shaft | Mullir | Climb & ladder to slot needing opening up to progress to chamber, but no draught in August 23 | August 2023 |
| ~~2967~~ | shaft | Mullir | Dropped April 24 10m to floor with small dribble of water sinking, very slight draught. Given distance for access thought to be a very low digging priority. | April 2024 |
| 2968 | shaft | Mullir | Drop 10m unexplored shaft. Check draught. | |
| 3039 | shaft | Mullir | Open/cap top of 30-40m unexplored shaft, check draught | |
| 5430 | Hazel Doline | Mullir | A 20m across and 10m deep doline with what may be a pitch at bottom from sound of stones dropped in. Needs rope to check base and push. | |
| 0049 | Torca del Somo | N Vega | Assess choked shaft at bottom for digging and check if it draughts (Should be inward draught in warm/hot weather) | |
| ~~0429~~ | shaft | N Vega | Check "draughting alcove" at base of first pitch. Survey. Explored Dec 23 no good prospects found has been surveyed. | 25/12/2023 |
| 4113 | cave | N Vega | Cap draughting slot at bottom of cave, stones drop 25m. Site needs survey. Site not found in 2025 Take ent photo with you.. | April 2025 |
| 5484 | Dig | N Vega | Stones roll a metre or so down to the left out of sight. A constricted dig, Check for draught in hot weather. | |
| 5177 | shaft | Quebraduras | 4m pitch with small draught needs work to get past constriction. | |
| 5410 | Field dig | Quebraduras | A small slot under 1m rock face goes down at an angle and distoed to 4.8m. Would be an easy dig. There was a little draught in August 2024. | |
| 5411 | Shafts | Quebraduras | In vegetated depression two ladders used mainly as a hand line to a narrow 6m drop to a chamber with no real prospects. The east 6m drop goes to a further undescended pitch that appears to collect water from a shallow, faint stream bed in wet weather, so may feed into the inlet in the chamber | August 2024 |
| 0936 | Fox Cave | Riaño | Check to see if origin of draught can be found and assessed for digging, then look for Beef Surprise Pot nearby or in next small valley | |
| 3451 | shaft | Riaño | Need thin person team to push (cap) and survey finds. | |
| 4173 | Shelob, Cueva | Riaño | Digging onward crawl, should link to Llanio. Dense vegetation stopped access in Oct 22 and April 24. | April 2024 |
| 5227 | Cueva Sin Sendero | Riaño | Site needs surveying and photographing incl the entrance – two leads checked (no go) in April 2023 & 2024 may still be leads to push. | April 2024 |
| 5443 | dig | Riaño | Site near Espada has been dug with more work thought worthwhile. | |
| 0047 | Rellanos, Sima de los | S Vega | Check for leads/draughts - survey | |
| ~~0242~~ | Tablons, Cueva de los | S Vega | Draughting leads found in 2023 found at Easter 2024 to be poor prospects, with main draught through boulders in chamber – big project to push, but it is a key site with a strong draught. | 2023 leads found to be poor – Easter 2024 |
| ~~0311~~ | dig | S Vega | Need to check for leads (see 2015 web entry) and survey | Nov 24 Site bottomed to choke |

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| ~~0408~~ | Helechales, Cueva de los | S Vega | In 2025 found to be no capping prospects around the final 2 pitches, all pitches now boltted. | August 2025 |
| 0445 | shaft | S Vega | Dig/cap undescended tight rift at base, photo ent. | |
| 1340 | shaft | S Vega | Dig draughting lead at base (only if strong draught at ent) | |
| 1390 | Twin Stream Sink | S Vega | Dig draughting sink, in very key location, A long dig, some digging in 2022 more needed incl to stop infill. | 23/08/22 |
| 1391 | Volcano Cave | S Vega | At bottom below massive slab draughting up from below – from draught this must come from either Renada or Vallina it is laying between the two. Dug a little in 2023 but needs shoring to dig safely any further (a serious undertaking but a very key site/prospect) | August 2023 |
| 1690 | dig | S Vega | Drop 3m to dig and easy continuation. Photo ent | |
| 1708 | cave | S Vega | Cap lead in 3rd chamber, check inward summer draught, said to have a warm out draught in winter. | |
| 1719 | shaft | S Vega | Cap/dig rift that drops 8m, at base. Check for draught and photo ent and survey | |
| 1850 | shaft | S Vega | Ent dig to descend pitch of about 10m, check for draught | |
| 1888 | shaft | S Vega | Undescended short shaft. A passage is said to lead off. | |
| 2146 | dig | S Vega | Cap/dig ent of draughting site in key location | |
| 2564 | shaft | S Vega | Dig stal blockage 11m down. Check draught, photo ent – site could not be found in 2023 | April 2023 |
| 2582 | dig | S Vega | Easy dig/cap with 3m drop and echo. Check draught. | |
| 2589 | shaft | S Vega | Cap/dig inward draughting rift (seen to get bigger) | |
| 2594 | Wood Dig | S Vega | Dig/cap leads at strongly draughting site, key location. | |
| 2656 | shaft | S Vega | This location seems to be site 0470 which is choked – need to check log book for better location! Drop 10m unexplored shaft. Check draught, photo ent if found. | April 2025 |
| 2895 | shaft | S Vega | Look for (see web entry) and if found cap rock blocking 9m shaft that takes water. Check draught, photo ent and take GPS | |
| 3264 | shaft | S Vega | Check and push/dig this strongly inward draughting site – a key site given draught. | |
| 4950 | shaft | S Vega | Push shaft that has going routes off final chamber. Needs survey and checking if “sump” is worth a look (2025 trip by SUSS not written up!) | August 2025 |
| 4998 | shaft | S Vega | In 2023 there was a slight draught, but could not get stones to drop 5 sec, but this was from ent not at base of 2,4m ent drop – still needs digging out top of 5 second drop at base of 2.5m ent. Photo ent check for draughts in warm weather. | Nov 2023 |
| 5157 | Shaft | S Vega | 5m undescended shaft - worth a look if in area | |
| 5158 | Shaft | S Vega | 5m undescended shaft - worth a look if in area | |
| 5162 | Shaft | S Vega | Capping/digging to open up top of 7m second pitch with good echo. In Nov 2023 it was thought boulder on top will be easy to remove but below it looks too narrow without capping – check for draughts and survey, explored Dec. 2023 to a small rift needing capping, sounds bigger below. | Dec 2023 |
| 5201 | Dig | S Vega | Open up to get access to 2.4m drop with stones heard to fall further. Check for draught. | |
| ~~5418~~ | Rift | S Vega | Site found chocked in 2025 | April 2025 |
| 5422 | Shaft | S Vega | At bottom of shakehole (ladder useful) a wall is visible under a holly bush this and two more possible holes to the southwest need a proper examination. | |
| 5423 | dig | S Vega | Large boulder needs moving to access a 3m shaft. 15m downhill is another shakehole that needs a proper examination. | |
| 5485 | Shaft | S Vega | Drop and push, prob 5-7m deep | |
| 3011 | shaft | San Antonio | Ent was found in 2023 to be blocked by tree trunk and tyres, so needs work to both enter and then make safe for farm animals. Dig/cap rift at end of 12m pitch, strong draught and echo | April 2023 |
| 5487 | dig | San Antonio | Draughting dig worth more work, needs gear to remove sandstone blocks etc, Above avens in Fuente Aguanaz | |
| 0056 | Salamandra, Torca de la | Seldesuto | Ent blocked by sawn tree trunks, best to remove with chain saw. Survey, photo of ent, check for leads & draughts and ensure hole is left safe for farm animals. | Tree trunks noted April 2023 |
| 0371 | cave | Seldesuto | 25m passage ends in low draughting crawl that needs assessment for digging. | |
| 3025 | dig | Seldesuto | Draughting hole need checking out and opening up to assess prospects. | |

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| 0572 | shaft | Seldesuto | Drop undescended pitch. Photo and new GPS | |
| 0665 | shaft | Seldesuto | Check digging prospects and draught. Photo ent | |
| 0666 | shaft | Seldesuto | Location high on ridge is ill-defined but it is near 0665. Find and photo and GPS ent. Drop 30m pitch, cap undescended 40m pitch. | |
| 1124 | shaft | Seldesuto | A good prospect. Cap and push inward draughting lead at 15m base, survey. GPS is good. May need bolt to descend. | 03/08/22 found, not descended |
| 1149 | Oh no, I've Ordered a Heineken | Seldesuto | Found in 2023 to be a 20 through trip. Has been surveyed but still needs photo of entrance if in area. | April 2023 |
| 1298 | dig | Seldesuto | Key site above and just past end where fault cuts off the river in Reñada. Passage to ladder pitch into boulder chamber. Work is to stabilise and try to follow the very strong draught through the boulders. | |
| 1357 | dig | Seldesuto | Cap top of undescended 10m echoing shaft, photo ent | |
| 3468 | shaft | Seldesuto | Undescended 30m shaft, check for draughts. | |
| 3627 | shaft | Seldesuto | Cap draughting rift to 20m pitch at base of p5 in chamber | |
| 5324 | Torca de Valla | Seldesuto | A "significant" undescended fenced-off shaft, more than 10m deep, needs pushing, photo of ent hole and survey. In May 2024 depth estimated at 30m | May 2024 |
| 4000 | Cueva del Embalse | Solórzano | Needs surveying (for MCP) and pushing and entrance photographing | |
| 3961 | Cueva de Nicanor | Solórzano | Part has been surveyed by Pete Smith (check with him if there is passage detail) rest needs surveying and pushing the two parallel passages at far east end | |
| 3991 | Lolo, Cueva de | Solórzano | Pushed through sump (duck) in 2022 to a boulder dig and two passages that need pushing/capping | 03/08/22 |
| 4064 | The Deaf Gerald's | Trillos | Cap narrow rift (or very thin person) continuing at base of 18m pitch. Check draught, photo ent | |
| 5383 | Dig | Trillos | Photo of ent and check for draught. Site seems blocked on purpose. Large boulders need removing to gain entry | |
| 5023 | Villanueva, Fuente de | Villanueva | Diving site, sump (not numbered) before sump 4 to be checked out and pushed. | April 2023 |