

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT

LOGBOOK

Year: 2016

Season: autumn

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

Juan Corrin, December 2016

October 2016 Log Book

1

17th October 0733 Vallina Rupert, Carmen and Peter Eagan

Trip to sump one to collect empty diving bottle and look at chamber above (not shown on survey). Water levels up a bit and vis poor.

Carmen and Peter climbed to the top of chamber and checked out a few leads, one which had a message from Patrick and Chris Binding saying no connection to Vallina 2.

Surveyed back to sump 1 via different way in (confusing?) but chamber still requires further checking out. Survey needs to be tied to a known point in the cave.

A major flood since summer had washed a considerable amount of sand from somewhere, and deposited it in the streamways (?).

Exited cave no problem then rain started.

Batch 16-09 L = 99.3m

PTE

19th Oct. same site, same people plus ^{Little's} Tony and Dave Bell

Rupe sneezed and snotted his way to sump 1 with the full cylinder and went out.

All passed dig above stream way (near Rupert's basecamp for sump 6). Checked out all leads with two promising ways on.

First and farthest in is a short climb down to muddy slope to 10 m pitch. Below looks sandy-floored and up to 5 metres wide. Water heard below but only small inlet seen.

Second, which is on left hand side upslope of chamber. Difficult climb down to dry mud slope to further drop into possible larger passage. Good draught but no water heard. This needs rigging from the very top. There are eye holes to rig from.

Left Rupe's dry suit at base camp ready for dive when snot clears.

Batch 16-10? L = 36.6
16-11 L = 22.5

PTE

21st Oct. Cueva Vallina

Return to the far end with 2 ladders and 2 ropes to descend to the final pitches from previous trip. Started with the nearer, easier one. 2 ladders required. Descended into small chamber with numerous leads off that were ultimately only 3 ways off. One to the large passage entered by Martin Holroyd umpteen years ago and the sump (20m wide by 15m high with large mud banks either side descending to the sump)

Another direction leads to some 3m by 4m high level traversing passage that lead back to, looking over the beginning of sump 6. Rupert's dive bottle were seen below but we were 10m above the stream way and couldn't find a safe climb down.

The 3rd way was through Swiss cheese tubes and took us to the high level passage going in the opposite direction to the sump. This in fact petered out although we have a high degree of certainty that further exploration lies in this direction in the inlet stream way below.

We followed the inlet stream way for a short way before retiring to complete more significant data to tie survey in. A bit of hand line rope may be useful if continuing up stream as it involved some steep muddy banks to continue.

Batch 16-12 L = 231.2m

22nd Oct Rupert, Carmen, Dave, Tony, Santi and Peter Eagan

Walked from Alisas back to accommodation (mainly as the weather was so good). Did not see anything that had not already been noted. Apart from Tony falling over banging his head and cutting his ear it was a good trip out.

23rd Oct 2016 Peter and Santi

Walked around area above Regaton (probably about 2 mile radius around 0433) approached from track in Cubija valley. Saw sites previously known - 0433 which will visit again to check out dig at bottom. A few smaller holes had little or no potential.

24th Oct 2016 Peter and Santi

Walked above and around Arenal area. Saw nothing of note.

PTE

Rupert went down Vallina and still felt shit from a cold which had conveniently started just at the start of this trip. So packed up my gear. Will swap the 50 metre rope tomorrow.

GRID REFERENCES AUTUMN 2016

0193 4475354 4793683

0192 447596 4793590

0191 447598 4793578

0190 447590 4793565

0189 447580 4793555

4492 Dig in Hoyo Rotura 450843 4792720

(bouldery dig with a good draught)

0880 453033 4798234

0551 La Riega 444394 4798697 by mill (second, smaller entrance (second photo) to left)

Peter Smith

MATIENZO - 14th to 30th October, 2016

Phil Goodwin (PG), Alf Latham (AL), Dave Milner (DM) & John Southworth (JS).

- ✓ 14/10/16 Site 4428 Bencarno Valley. PG, AL, DM & JS. Day spent excavating. More work required. Hole draughting where other were not.
- ✓ 15/10/16 PG, AL, DM & JS Pistruellos Group site at 0445420 4797427 (site 4480), Alt 207m. Day enlarging site of interest to the Group at Miguel's request. Draughting, but more work needed.
- ✓ 16/10/16 Site 2538 El Cubillón. DM & JS enlarged awkward take off at head of first underground pitch. PG & AL rigged extra rope on last entrance pitch (8m) in case of floodwater. Aven just prior to same pitch bolted, until no safe way on through boulders (10m). Some of debris build up below aven also cleared.
- ✓ 17/10/16 Site 3578 – PG, AL, DM & JS Capping down to continuation of descent. Further enlargement needed.
- 18/10/16 Site 3578 – PG, AL, DM & JS. Continued digging to 5m depth. Way needs substantial extra work.
- Site 4481, Barrio de Ariba (site A). 0445536 4799372 Alt. 185m. DM & JS. Open earthen slot on hillside above new forestry track. Approx 7m deep – undescended.
- Site 4482 6m NE above 4481 is further shaft, approx 7m deep, also undescended. Photos JS
- 19/10/16 Site 4048 - PG, DM & JS. Dug 2m beyond cross-rift to small, mud filled, continuation. Requires significant work to make further progress.
- ✓ 20/10/16 Site 4428 – DM & JS. Dug further down slope to where passage narrows. Major work needed to make progress so walled up entrance. Approx depth 2m, length 3.5m.
- ✓ Site 4483, (site B) Bencarno valley. 0446268 4795945 Alt 276 DM & JS. Hole in steep banking, 5m above track. Draughting. Needs enlargement. Photos JS & DM.
- Site 2538 Cubillón. PG & AL. Went to 'far climb', where large cavern is visible through stal gap in rift. Draughting. Previous snapper attempt did little, so new holes drilled and exercise repeated.
- 21/10/16 Day off

- **22/10/16** PG, AL, DM & JS. **Site 4481** revisited. Found to be 11m deep. Choked rifts at base, but one, too tight to pass, may lead to possible enlargement.
- Upper shaft (**4482**) also descended, and is 12m deep, also ends in small, choked rifts.
- **Site 4484**, Cobadal 0447902 4799184 Alt 287m (site C). Small depression against rock outcrop. Hole at base with stones falling a further 1m. Photo DM
- **Site 4485**, Cobadal (site D) 0447865 4799153 Alt 290m. Small hole up on side of large depression, Needs digging. Photo JS
- **23/10/16** PG, Al, DM & JS. Detectors placed at Aguanaz **0713**, Verde (^{La Riega 551} **site 4486**), Concrete Trough (**site 4487**) at Arronte & **site 542**. Pistruellos group put dye in their cave system at 12.30p.m. (La Riega 0551 is the resurgence for La Verde)
- Revisited Pistruellos Group **site 4480** (see 15/10/16) and enlarged entrance to corner at 3m in. Way on down small, sloping passage which may dig out. Good draught. Miguel informed of progress.
- **24/10/16** AL, DM & JS. Revisited **4484** and dug out to a depth of 6m. Major work needed to make further progress. Slight draught.
- Also revisited **site 4485** and found to be 2m deep to very narrow passage.
- **25/10/16** PG, AL, DM & JS. Checked all detector sites. Verde (La Riega 0551) location showed some probable contamination and was changed – otherwise all negative.
- **Site 4447** found to be only 1m long and 1m deep.
- Visited **site 1874** (Snotite) and found to be well filled with flood debris/earth.
- **Site 4488**, San Antonio (site E). 0445438 4800187 Alt. 234m Small resurgence cave . Photo JS
- **26/10/16** PG, DM & JS. Dug at sites **3902** & **3903**. Whilst sites draughted well they were both felt to be long term projects.
- AL. **Site 2538** (El Cub). Further enlarged top of first pitch. **WARNING - Rope found to be frayed at one point and left coiled at pitch head (no knot placed at frayed point. Also pitch not gardened after widening work**
- **27/10/16** PG, AL, DM & JS. Checked all detector sites at approx 12.00 noon and found negative. PG then climbed 'Monolith' hill above Revilla.
- 28/10/16** Day off
- **29/10/16.** PG, AL, DM, JS & Pete Smith - Visited all four detector sites – all negative. New detectors put in place for Pete to monitor after our departure.
- DM & JS – **Site 3027**. Dug out entrance crawl which was draughting inwards. New site description is now:- 3.5m crawl to junction. Right hand branch (too narrow without digging out more floor) 1m to T-junction. Left hand branch is 1.5m low crawl which needs more floor removing. Passage seen to continue for at least another 2m, to where roof lifts.
Navajeda DM & JS
- **Site 4489** 0444458 4800925 Alt. 149m (Site F). 12m shaft next to track. Not descended. Photo JS.
- **Site 4490** 0444288 4800697 Alt. 151m (site G) Fenced shaft covered with dense brambles. Est. Depth 6m. Not descended. Photo JS
- **Site 4493** 0444287 4800682 Alt 140m (Site H) Two small holes, partially cover by farmer. Est depth 4m Not descended. Photo DM
- **Site 4494** 0444257 4800690 Alt 132m (Site I). Another fenced shaft covered with brambles. Est depth 4m. Not descended. Photo DM
- **Site 4050** PG & AL. Intended dig/capping site was found to have washed out giving a tight climb down a short rift. A left downward climb (which need capping) led into a small chamber. Another downward climb led to a large chamber in boulders, and a slope down to a further chamber. At base a narrow vadose trench in sandy rock continues but needs 'thinnies' to make progress. Good draught. Estimated new depth 20m, length 30m

30/10/16 AL, DM & JS - Returned to NEW SITES F - 4489, G - 4490 & I - 4494 to investigate.

- ✓ 4489 – Found to be 10m deep to cone of debris and rotting animals. Strong stench stopped progress.
 - ✓ 4490 – 3m pitch to boulder. Further climb down slope to mud floored blockage. At boulder area, narrow rift appeared to close down. Total depth 7m.
 - ✓ 4494 – 6m descent onto old bones, with passage off to small, well decorated chamber. Window through stal. led to water filled passage, approx 1m deep. Further window through more stal. appears to be end. Total depth 8m, length 8m.
- Two more new sites were found, but not excavated, as would create stock hazard in farmers field.
- ✓ Site 4495 0444351 4800758 Alt 153m. (site J) Photo DM
 - ✓ Site 4496 0444343 4800852 Alt 143m (site K) Photo DM

(Photos to come from DM for sites B - 4483, C - 4484, H - 4493, I - 4494, J - 4495 and K - 4496)

From: Peter Smith <smith_peter2004@yahoo.es>

To: Juan Corrin <uzueka@aol.com>

Subject: Re: Cofresnedo viewer

Date: Thu, Nov 17, 2016 4:18 pm

Hello Juan

I see you got back ok. Sue told us about a problem with a bomb, if I understood right. You can view it with Adobe Acrobat. There's a "plug-in" or something you can download for 3D files.

Steve and I did a successful "dog rescue" yesterday. I think the shaft (nothing special) might be new, but we didn't have a gps or orux maps. I'll go back another day and check it. It's on the hill opposite the bar more or less above Las Cosas. (4497)

Cheers

From: Peter Smith <smith_peter2004@yahoo.es>

To: Juan Corrin <uzueka@aol.com>

Subject: Re: Book

Date: Fri, Nov 18, 2016 2:11 pm

Hi Juan

Yes, he means Cuevaona. The (scarce) archaeology might be an excuse to make sure the work they're planning to do there is done properly and in good taste.

The shaft the other day is a long way above Cosas, near the possibly mythical 1023-4-5. We walked there from the other side of the hill, from the track that goes round the side of Llueva. It was a fairly comfortable path. (4497)

Cheers

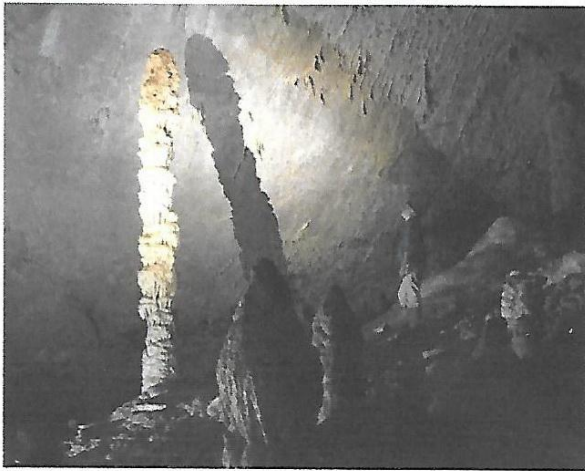
10th November 2016

Juan out to hunt for Cueva las Cosas (0084). Started well to the south, climbing up near the small resurgence (site 2801) to meet a faint path. This gave out beyond site 3930 and various animal tracks were followed until site 4472 was encountered. Photos taken. GPS agreed to within 1m.

Pete's photo "view from the entrance" of Cosas at Easter 2000 was consulted and it was occasionally possible to see La Secada between the 4m high trees and vegetation. Eventually Cosas was found at 30T 0452857 4797232 altitude 195m. The view from the entrance is now completely obscured with vegetation.

Various photos and videos were taken in a most impressive chamber with stal bosses and columns. Pity about one wall and stal covered in black graffiti.

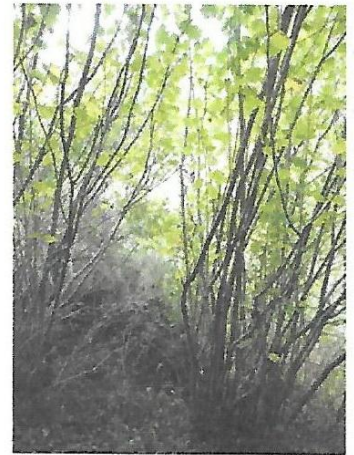
with 360° camera



with stal bosses and columns. Pity about one wall and stal covered in black graffiti.

The route back from the cave was an easy walk downhill to the right through open wood and then a turn down to the left to meet a faint track down to the tarmac road about 40m south of the Fuente Ramera (2800) pump house.

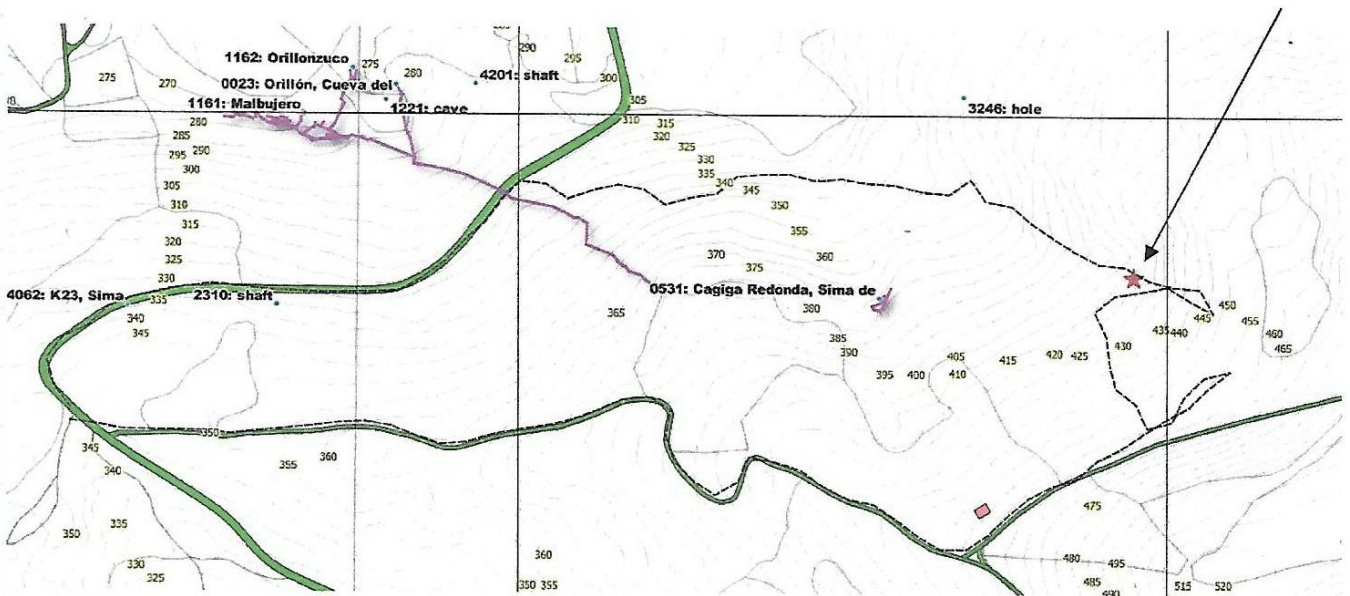
Certainly, at November 2016, this is the easiest way of getting to the cave; but there's no guarantee that the wood won't sprout loads of undergrowth.



12th November

Early start before the rain. Plan A: to look at the open, grassy field to the southwest of the end of Orillón. Parked at Cruz Usaño, walked up and spotted a bull in the field. Plan B quickly developed as an exploration of the woods. Found a valley with a good flow of water that emerged under a collapse in a number of places (probably run-off from the field above). The water was followed down to an indistinct sink and then further down with some investigation of the limestone that formed the right bank. (This is probably right on the major fault. It may be worthwhile having a proper look on the limestone up the northern bank of this valley). Continued down until the field was visible then veered off to meet the road up to Cruz Usaño.

Sink is site 4491 at 30T 0454974 4794377 Alt 417m



14th Nov Juan into Jivros 2 trying out 360° video.

The "It's Shite Man" Trip 2nd to 17th November featuring Chris Camm, Nigel Easton & Phil Parker

- ✓ **Wednesday 2/11** Arrived at Santander, weather good.
- ✓ **Thursday 3/11** Good weather. Headed to Shelob, worked on lowering floor in tight section of entrance passage and at furthest point forward, in preparation for next push forward. All spoil removed from cave. 4173
- ✓ **Friday 4/11** Very wet for most of the day, nowt done.
- ✓ **Saturday 5/11** Wet again. Visited Pete to arrange safety call-out system, Bar Thomas for a late lunch then "home" over the Alisas.
- ✓ **Sunday 6/11** Wet again. Rain reduced after lunch so we went to find the mythical "where does it come from" stream under the motorway. Having located where the water emerges from its culvert (north side of motorway) we went and checked out the steep wooded hillside that rises up from the motorway's south side. No sign of the stream or the culvert and not much else other than a small stream a little way further to the east running through its own culvert. The source bubbles up into a small pool, about 10 metres inside the woodland fence. It would need to be dry to check for any (unlikely) potential. One other thing was a pair of culverts, located several hundred metres further west but carrying no water. It would be interesting to know why they were laid. 4498
4501
- ✓ **Monday 7/11** Very wet overnight and during the day, nowt done.
- ✓ **Tuesday 8/11** Better conditions so off to site 4474 which continued to draught inwards although not as strongly as in the summer. Phil thrown down pitch into the tight, damp and draughty section by Nige, to place one snapper which took off the top of the obstruction (not much help!), plus a round of caps that removed the edge closest to the ladder. Phil down to bottom to find holes, large boulders, debris slopes, formations and two reasonable possibilities for extension. Back to base for a long, hot, shower.
- ✓ **Wednesday 9/11** More rain plus Phil's bad shoulder from previous day's exertions led to a lack of enthusiasm for action. However when the rain eased in the pm Chris bought a pair of waterproof wellies and we headed back to the "where does it come from" stream. Parker and Camm passed through 34m of 1200mm culvert to find a rock face with water welling up from its base, a 50/75mm wide rift which could be peered along for at least 3m and a roof that appeared to be shuttering ply so we presumed there is a concrete slab above. 4498
- ✓ **Thursday 10/11** A dry day so the action returned to site 4474. Two snappers and some brutal use of the bar finally managed to remove the obstruction to the sound of loud bangs and crashes from the pitch bottom. Nige and Phil descended to take a good look round and for Nige to take plenty of photographs. Possible ways on were (a) a caveable tube partially obstructed by small formations but with no sign of a draught and (b) up a slope to a higher level where there was a climb down through a hole that would require some modification to descend. Strangely there was a good draught coming upwards at this point. Out to find it was about 7pm and thus dark for the slide down through the wood.
- Friday 11/11** As Nige and Phil were not feeling at their finest the trio returned to the 4474 area but stayed on the surface, heading up the valley bottom examining all that there was to see. We spotted the hole that Miguel (Pistruellos) had asked John Southworth *et al* to cap, then further up the valley came across site 3669. Turning round point was the split in the valley with nothing else of particular interest having been found.

Saturday 12/11 Plan was to go back to site 4474 but the rain made yet another appearance so we went for a wander into Santander.

Sunday 13/11 More rain so we hung around the house and awaited a text/phone call from Miguel. He was out surface bashing with his brother so we met up and took 'em to the entrances of 4259, 4270, 4473 and 4474. Interestingly, the big cave they are pushing has a low level passage heading into the area of the 4473/4 valley and they could certainly use a bottom entrance to aid exploration.

Monday 14/11 More rain in the morning so the day turned into a "find a house for Easter '17" project.

Tuesday 15/11 Dry weather so back to 4473⁴ with joss sticks for chasing the inward draught. The capping gear was picked up at the pitch head and ferried to the hole with the upward draught, then back to the pitch bottom and light that joss stick to follow the inward draught. The usual frustrating experience ensued but eventually Nige and Phil thought they had followed it to the top of the slope near the unexplored climb down but there it seemed to disappear. Onto the climb down and Phil attempted to pass the hole, eventually succeeding after chipping the edge of the obstructing slab. Beyond there were several possible ways on, all of which will need some work. The most enticing was immediately below the climb down, a narrow, partially blocked, downward rift which was the source of the draught. The cave was cleared of tackle and the team headed home for dinner. It was noted that the pitch still requires more opening up to get all the team down.

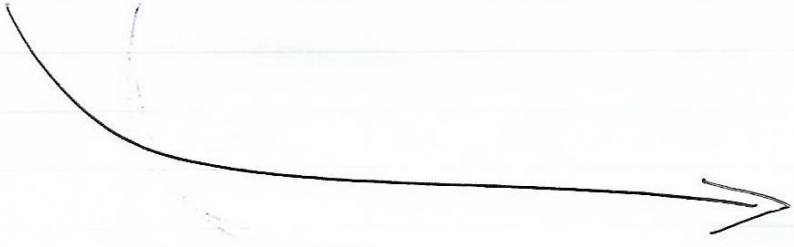
Wednesday 16/11 Pack up and get on the ferry for the crossing that would be disturbed by strong winds and currents, engine problems and the helicopter evacuation of an ill passenger, thus not arriving in Portsmouth until 8.30pm on Thursday, ugh!

Phil Parker

30 October Phil and Hilary – walk in area to south of Alisas.

On yellow marked track a small hole (448030,4793526 alt 755m (from map)) that after a meter seems to meet a shaft with narrow top where stones fall some 4m+. Needs capping or snappers to open up. **Site 4499** (pic)

Below Alisas in small valley a small sink (447700,4794018 alt 597m (from map)) no open hole seen but could be worth a dig if up in the area. **Site 4500** (pic)



29/11/2016

Re: Matienzo - 3rd

From: Phil Parker <phil_h_parker@btinternet.com>
To: Juan Corrin <uzueka@aol.com>
Subject: Re: Matienzo - 3rd
Date: Tue, Nov 29, 2016 4:14 pm

Juan

In message <158acce313b-632f-f72c@webprd-m08.mail.aol.com> you wrote:

> Thanks for getting back. Nigel been in touch to say he'll get photos to me.

I've got inside images for the "culvert" stream rising.

> I don't know about any of the resurgences because I don't know which
> stretch of motorway you've been investigating! I'm sure Google Earth
> or the Cantabrian maps site will get you grid references.

✓ Using Sigpac the entrance into the culvert is 442404 4804481 and the
rising which I estimate to be under the edge of the motorway (south
side) is about 442405 4804445. (4498)

✓ The other stream rising, which is within the wood to the south of the
motorway, is (estimate using Sigpac) 442571 4804431. (4501)

Checking my GPS I have readings for 4473 and 4474.

✓ 4473 - 445491 4797767 - agrees with one from J.S.
✓ 4474 - 445522 4797834

The entrances are in medium heavy woodland and the altitude readings
✓ definitely are to cock i.e. the lower hole has the higher altitude
reading by some distance. However checking on Sigpac suggests that the
locations are there or thereabouts. I'll run a check in April.

regards

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Phil
If it's wet get a diver!

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT