

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT

LOGBOOK

Year: 2024

Season: Summer

Logbook pages converted from an online *Google Doc*

Juan Corrin, September 2024

Summer 2024 Logbook



[LOGBOOK HELP](#)

STARTED 2nd July

2nd July 2024 Site: [0713](#) Aguanaz

Present: Mark Smith and Jim Lister

An electron ladder and hauling rope were rigged on the short entrance pitch and diving equipment was transported to sump 1 ready for tomorrow's trip to look again at the boulder choke blocking the main streamway beyond sump two. (where the main water flow in the know cave seems to be coming from) two 11 litre aluminium stage cylinders, one for each diver, should enable several trips trough sump 1, over the next couple of weeks.

Jim

3rd July 2024 Site: [0713](#) Aguanaz

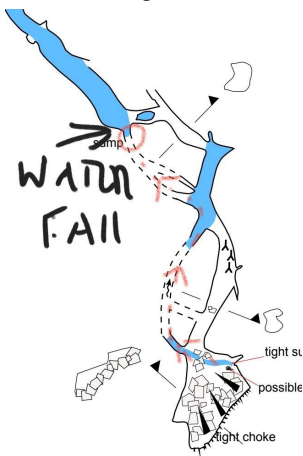
Present: Mark Smith and Jim Lister

The team carefully inspected the cave for leads in the terminal bolder Choke, both above and below the water; several large flakes of rock were moved from the end of sump 3 below the choke, but further digging was futile and the team believe passing the Choke here is unviable.

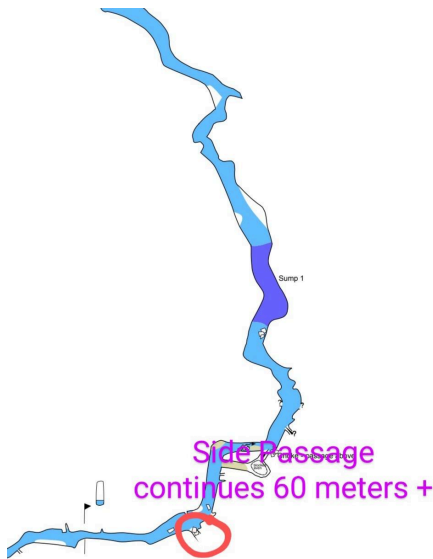
The area leading up to the choke was also searched with no success.

On the way out, the team made their way from Sump 3 along the stream way that leads down stream to Waterfall sump (Dived By Jim Lister a few years ago) following this route out, enabling them to search all the routes again.

Heading back down stream towards sump 1, an inlet passage was seen on the right hand side, this was investigated and found to go, the team intend to return and to push it on the 5th when they have survey equipment.



(The red arrows shows the route taken out)



Report by Jim

5th July 2024 Site: [0713](#) Aguanaz

Present: Mark Smith and Jim Lister

The team made their way to the side passage that they had seen the trip before and started to survey it, the passage leaves the main Aguanaz streamway and you climb over some big boulders, before dropping back down to the gravel stream bed, 4 to 5 metres further along.

The passage here is a comfortable walking size being a metre wide and 3 metres tall,

The passage then starts to meander until a junction is met, the stream way continues to the left, it is a comfortable walking size although smaller than the passage leading up to it, the passage to the right is of similar proportions but is sloping upwards and the floor is of sand and occasionally gravel, it meanders along and then descends slightly, Water from upstream descends down a gravel sink, on your right, you turn left and the passage next feature is a chamber where sharp, brittle sand coloured rock has to be negotiated, this is soon passed and another chamber is soon reached this has a sand bank and a rock out crop with a baseball sized rock balanced on top hence its name "Wobble rock Chamber" looking backwards above you, it is possible to see a passage leading off in the roof above the passage where you entered.

The way on is by following some hands on knees crawls to "Three Way Chamber" which has a near vertical passage in the roof and a blind passage to the right, the way on is to the far left up a sand slope, which leads to walking size passage.

A very deep impenetrable slot in the floor is then passed on the left, it emits a loud rumbling sound.

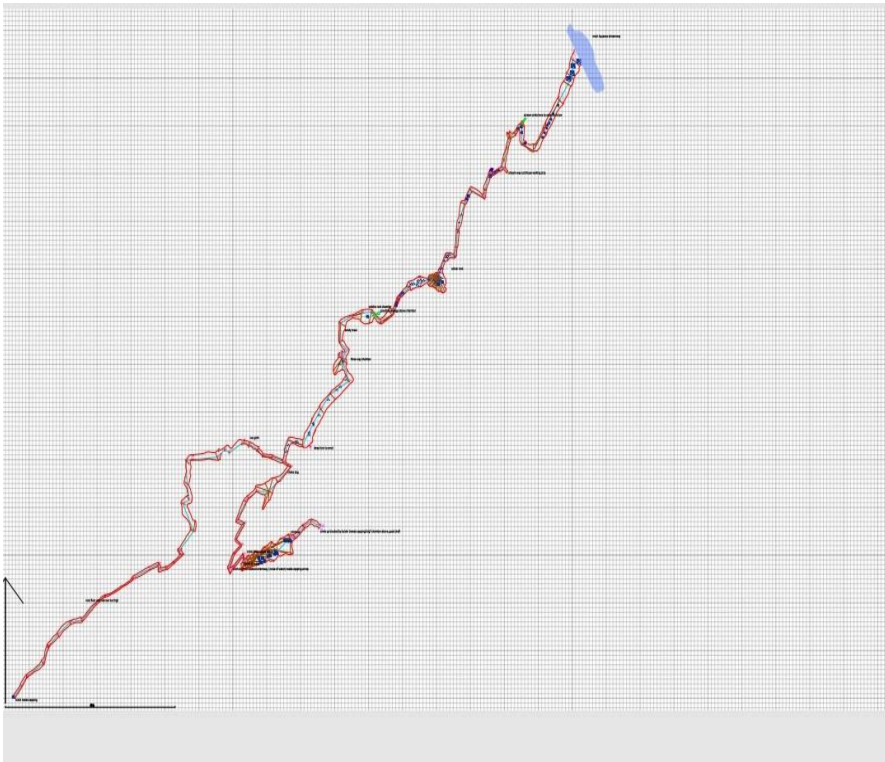
A junction is then met, the right hand passage continues for a very long distance but is extremely tall but narrow, the floor is soiled rock or mud covered rock, a slot is passed in the floor that emits a loud roaring noise further along a passage drops down in the floor heading back under you but would need capping, the very narrow smooth passage then meets a blockage which was partially dug by us, but would need capping to make progress, the passage continues ahead and has air movement.

Back at the junction a rock blockage was removed with a lump hammer and after a short distance a chamber was reached at the end the passage meandered before a hole in the floor was seen, this was not big enough to enter but a walking sized passage with a cobbled floor could be seen 3 to 4 metres below.

The passage then meets a big chamber with a 4 metre climb down to get to its floor, an impenetrable crack beneath the climb emits the sound of a streamway, the chamber is then crossed by climbing over boulders to get to the far end (you can follow a route under them but safer to go over the top?) Were a passage the size of the one were you entered leads off a roof height, the main way on however seems to be to climb up 4 metres to a walking size passage that ends at a squeeze through fallen clay and rocks, this was enlarged and Mark helped Jim up into a void, above was a slot in the roof blocked by a bolder a large passage or chamber could be seen above and there is a good draft, but the hole will need some caps.

The stream way at the first junction still needs looking at, it is walking/ stooping size.

Report by Jim .



Batch 0713-24-01: 356 metres surveyed. Stn 0 links to old station 75.

7 July 2024 Site: [0713](#) Aguanaz

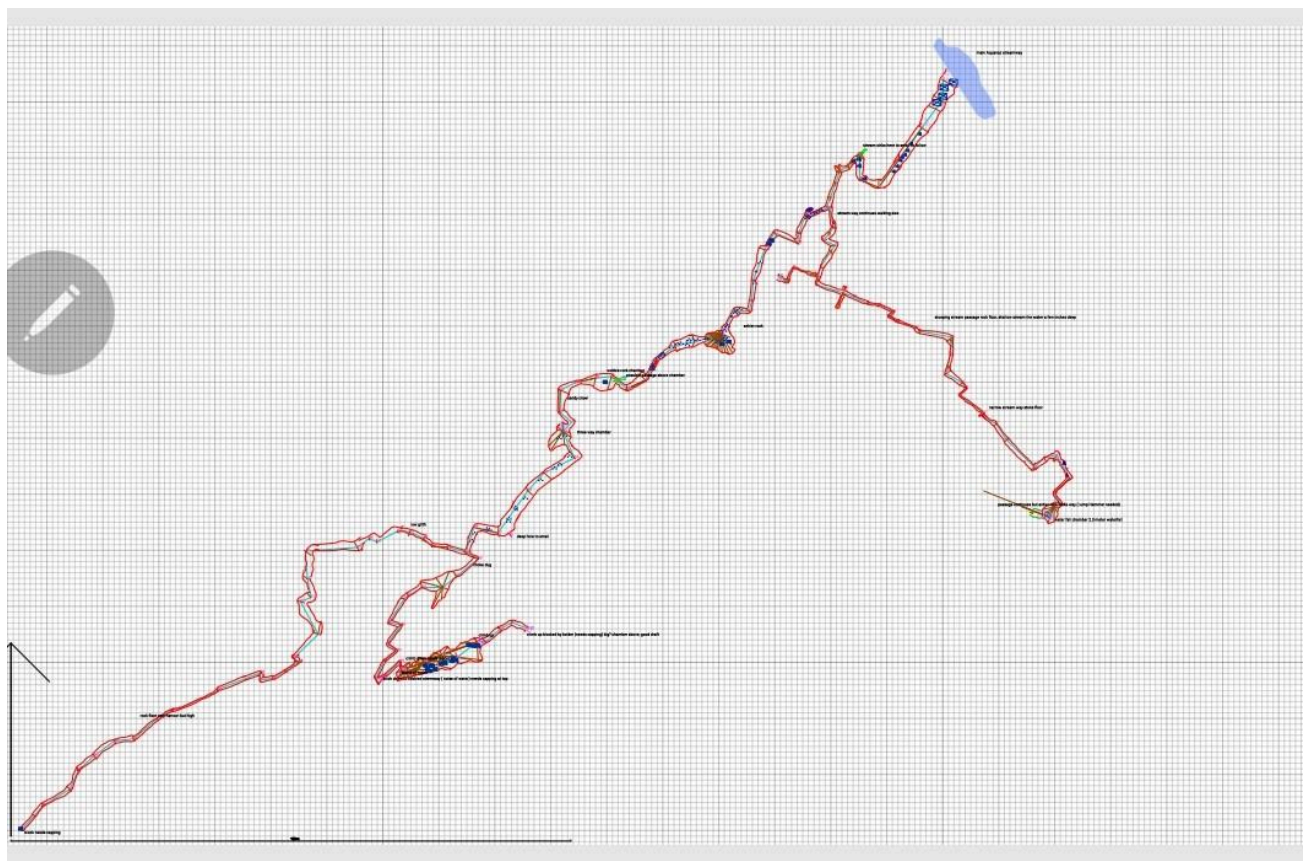
Present: Mark Smith and Jim Lister

Following the heavy weather and impressive thunderstorms the night before, the water in the cave had risen around a metre, the bypass passage near the entrance needed to be used, to pass the low arches which were underwater/ sumped.

The team made their way to the junction "Station 10" where the unexplored streamway leads off (please see survey below) and followed it along the walking and crawling sized passage, which had a rock floor with a small active stream, the passage meandered for a distance of around 100 metres where it ended in a small chamber 4 metres by 4 metres in size, a waterfall 2.9 metres high, fell from a passage partially blocked by antler rock, it could be seen continuing, but a lump hammer would be needed to enable access.

"Station Zg"

On the return, a side passage was investigated, but terminated at a very small pool/ sump, a short way along.



Report Jim

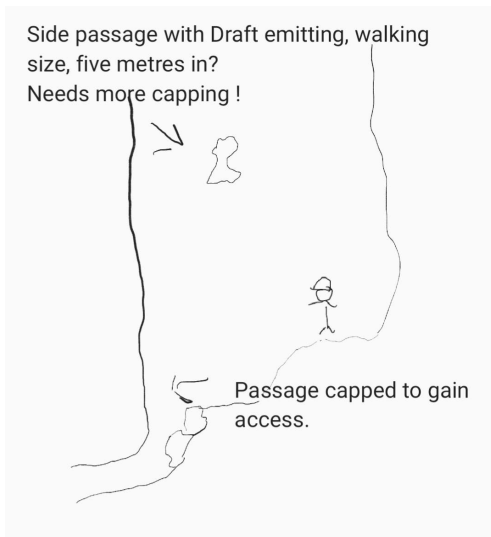
Batch 0713-24-02 (which contains 24-01). Total new surveyed length (-01 + -02) is now 462.3m.

9 July 2024 Site: [0713](#) Aguanaz

Present: Mark Smith and Jim Lister

A few hours were spent capping, access was gained to the bottom of an Aven, the right hand side had a sand and bolder slope which was climbed to a ledge, after careful looking around on full light beam, a side passage was seen, this was bolted too, and a future hour was spent capping it, good progress was made but the team ran out of capps! The passage has a strong draft and looks a lot larger a few metres in.





Report by Jim

11th July 2024 Site: [0713](#) Aguanaz

Present: Mark Smith and Jim Lister

The water levels were low and the duck bypass at the entrance was not needed.

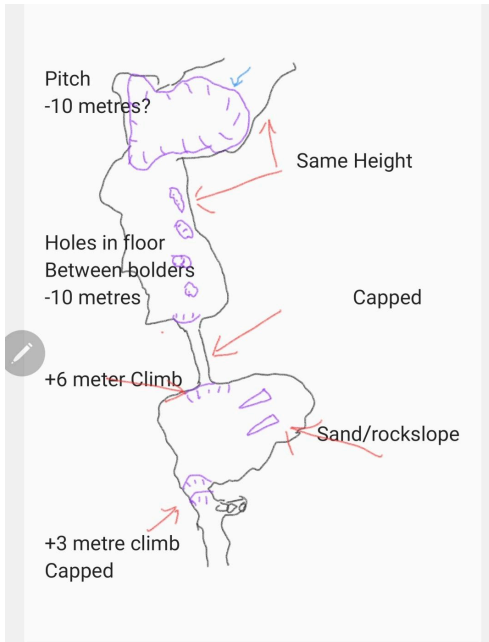
100 caps and two drill batteries were taken to the Aven ([no name](#))

Mark gave Jim a leg up through the previously capped passage, as it was still very restricted, so that He could continue to cap the Passage at the top of the Aven, Mark then headed to the blockage in (passage not named) with a lump hammer and chisel.

After lots of hard physical work He managed to make enough space to crawl through although it took a lot of patience/effort and nerve, He followed the Passage [Mark report here](#)

Meanwhile Jim working off etriers, was able to enlarge the passage at the top of the Aven, after several hours capping it was large enough to follow and after 5 metres entered a 5 metre by 3 metre high passage, the floor being made of boulders with a 10 metre drop between many of them.

This passage continued to an Shaft the height of which could not be seen, but appeared to be 10 metres deep, the base being flat, water washed gravel, opposite at the same height as the entrance passage was a streamway, being 3 metres wide by 5 metres high, it had a small stream emitting from it which fell to the gravel below, this passage could be seen heading off for some way, the rock changing from a brown colour to a dark grey with what looked like fossils embedded in it. The capped passages were then enlarged on the way out before the capps ran out (90/100 used)



Report by Jim and Mark

12th July 2024 Site: [0733](#) Vallina

Present: Pete Smith, Mark Smith, Jim Lister, Rupert Skorupka.

Trip to transport kit down to the streamway for Rupert, who had already carried all his heavy kit such as cylinders in the days before, He gave us a guided tour of some areas of interest on the way out before heading for some beers, a good day.

13th July 2024 Equipment Repair

Present: Mark Smith and Jim Lister



The 36 volt "Nemo" SDS drill, is the first commercially produced battery underwater SDS drill, Jim purchased one (first used in UK?) for use in Aquanaz and Ink Sump, unfortunately the electrics burned out, Mark living in Hong Kong has been able to get hold of the chipboards required and has now soldered them in ready for testing in a few days, the ability to drill hole underwater will enable the team to instal anchors for lifting and moving of underwater rocks and boulders, it will also enable the use of plugs and feathers for splitting rock for enlarging underwater passageways.

Good use of a rest day.



Report by Jim

15th July Cueva del Gusnardo [#5150](#)

Nueva visita a la Cueva del Gusnardo para seguir explorando. Esta vez de nuevo se ha apuntado Adriel así que aunque la progresión sea más lenta servirá para que poco a poco vaya mejorando.

Después de recorrer todo lo conocido, llegamos hasta el punto donde nos quedamos la anterior visita, una sala con dos pozos pendientes de bajar, la cuál rebautizamos como Sala de la Caca de Abuelo. Instalamos primero, el que queda a nuestra izquierda. Un pozo limpio de unos 10 metros cuya base esta cubierta de bloques y que a los pocos metros de su cabecera se comunica con el otro pozo mediante una estrecha e incomoda abertura. Deslizándonos entre ellos encontramos un paso que da acceso a otro pozo regado el cuál de momento dejamos pendiente para intentar proseguir por la ruta principal.

Seguimos por la vía principal, instalamos un largo destrepe y un pequeño pasamanos para poder acercarnos a la cabecera del siguiente pozo. Instalamos y descendemos, allí encontramos una pequeña galería y un nuevo pozo regado. En este punto decidimos dejarlo. Comemos y vamos saliendo poco a poco sin prisa.

Participantes: Fede, Gustavo y Adriel

New visit to the Gusnardo Cave ([#5150](#)) to continue exploring. This time Adriel has joined again, so although the progression will be slower, it will help him gradually improve.

After covering all the known areas, we reached the point where we stopped on the previous visit, a room with two wells yet to be descended, which we renamed as the Grandpa's Poop Room. We first rigged the one on our left. A clean shaft of about 10 metres whose base is covered with blocks and which, a few metres from its head, communicates with the other shaft through a narrow and uncomfortable opening. Sliding between them, we found a passage that gives access to another wet shaft, which for now we leave pending to try to continue along the main route.

We continue along the main route, we set up a long downclimb and a small handrail to be able to approach the head of the next shaft. We rig and descend, there we find a small gallery and a new wet shaft. At this point, we decide to call it a day. We eat and start exiting slowly without rushing.

Participants: Fede, Gustavo, and Adriel

15th July 2024 Site: [0713](#) Aguanaz

Present: Mark Smith and Jim Lister

Rope and bolting kit were taken into the cave, the new passage found last time was surveyed and the pitch in the floor was traversed, the pitch could be seen to be blind, with the water sinking into the gravel floor at its base, the passage on the other side ended after a few metres in to an Aven approximately 16 metres high, this was bolted to a height of 9 metres before the team ran out of through bolts, a return trip is planned for tomorrow to finish the vertical bolt climb and push the two stream passages seen leading off at the top.

(Still a strong, cold draft)

Tackle bags fitted with buoyancy system



Report By Jim

16th July 2024 Site: [0713](#) Aguanaz

Present: Mark Smith and Jim Lister

The team completed climbing the Aven and completed the surveying to that point, the stream passage at the top, 10 metres in a large boulder choke was met, with due caution the team made their way upward into a large void with a steeply ascending, unstable, boulder ramp to the right hand side, to the left a comparatively narrow 1.5 metre wide slot descended, presumably back to the top of the climbed Aven, (two passages can be seen at the top, We bolted to the right hand one as it was emitting the water)

Just beyond the slot in the floor could be seen a solid passage seeming to end at a blank wall, this area was looked at on the teams return on the way out and a passage in the roof looks big, access would require bolting 3 to 4 metres.

The large, loose, boulder choke ramp was climbed, not without unwanted excitement due to it being very loose, a number of large voids were entered and passed.

Around 15 metres of height was gained until a climb up was reached onto a caravan sized boulder wedged 3 metres up, Mark pushed Jim up who managed to get into the area above, where He could see a big Aven continuing up

Photos by Mark Smith (note: we took it in turns with the bolting, but Marks photos came out better 😊)





(60+) with water falling, future progress could have been made but was not undertaken, as the choke is very unstable! And rescue from such a large and unstable choke in such a remote location, would be very unlikely! The team will not be returning to the choke!

On the way out, another solid section of cave (chamber with pitch) could be seen and would need to be entered by descending a 3 metre slot, but a very unstable section of choke would need to be passed for by anyone intending to do this!

The team descended the pitch which is rigged with two hanging rebelay's (not stainless bolts!) and started to remove the equipment.

Total Surveyed length: **523.3 metres**. Now batch **0713-24-03** containing 01 and 02. Total cave length = 5299.3m

Report by Jim

18th July 2024 Site: [0713](#) Aguanaz

Present: Mark Smith and Jim Lister

The equipment was completely removed from the cave except for the ropes on the Aven and traverse.

Mark removed the old guideline from sump 1, leaving the new "yellow guideline" Jim put in last year.



Mark surfacing on way out of Sump1

(Photo Jim Lister)



Mark Smith diving kit through Sump 1

(Photo by Jim Lister)

The Aluminum, 11 litre, 200 bar, stage cylinders worked well, as they could be floated most of the way to the sump and lasted all the expedition, this save filling and carrying in cylinders every day.

The Drill was dived in, using a Pelicase, these are water proof to - 18.5 metres if the seal is not compressed for too long before use! (more than 24 hours) We carry two foam seals, Round in profile and fit one just before entering the cave, then remove it and place the second one in for the dive out.

We do the same for the smaller Peli Case, we use for the survey equipment, the foam, round profile seal, is sold by the metre and you cut it to the size, you require, and glue the ends together with "black witch" contact adhesive, which is sold in most dive shops.

An Aluminum short extension ladder was also taken into the cave entrance, to be used in "Sarah Jean Passage" next Easter when it is intended to finish bolting up "GH"Aven.

Thoughts

The large boulder choke at the end is very loose and unstable!

In hindsight We should not have proceeded through it! The Aven that continues above is big and 60 metres + it has a good air flow and a steady fall of water.

Surface exploration/ field walking above may prove worthwhile?

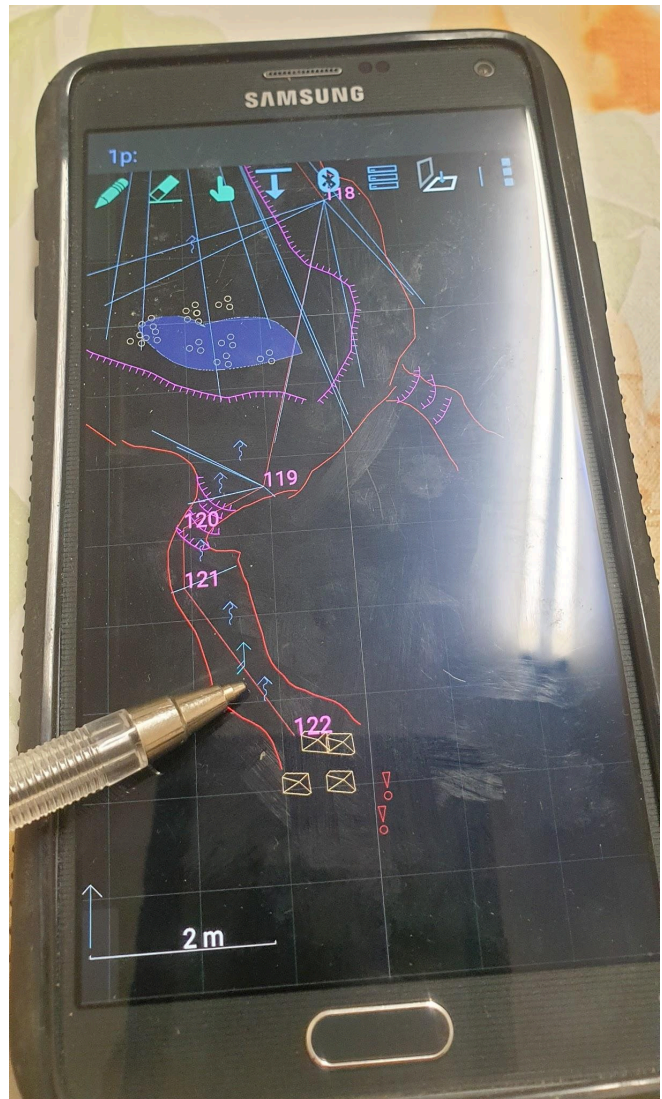
Teams thinking about going need to be aware of the following:

- Don't enter the choke
- There are deep holes in the floor of the chamber, at the end of " Thunder Passage" the floor seems ok but is false so be careful, the holes and pitch a little further in have not been descended.
- The " through bolts" ' used for the rigging are not stainless. (20 Maillions, Hangers and 40 through bolts used from the "MCP" ' store as well as 60 metres of "Mamut 10mm rope.)
- 150 caps, supplied by Big Steve, thank you.

The best lead is to go to the top of the rigged Aven (two hanging Re-belays) and at the top go past the Boulder choke on the right, through to a blind passage with a three metre climb in the roof going into a chamber/ big passage.

The last survey station is " Station 122" just past the "Y" hang attached to bolts in the roof.

Report by Jim Lister



23rd July 2024 Juan & Penny

Up the TV Mast track. Parked down below the first cattle grid but just before a pool of green slime. Track beyond is perfectly driveable, to just beyond the carp pond or swimming pool in the valley that drops down to Comellantes, or further.



Walked to a view point above Torca de la Vera Negra ([#0036](#), Cabaña) and flew the drone in "orbit mode" around the top of the entrance. Also a couple of photos.

Going back up to the track came across

new site 5421 @ 450360 4794937 a small depression with a hole at the back and a stoney slope down into an enlargement. Could be dug. There may be a slight draught. Photos.

new site 5422 @ 450306 4794876 Possibly ladder required to drop into shakehole. Wall visible under a holly bush. Photos. To the southwest are 2 more possibilities that need a proper examination.

new site 5423 @ 450507 4794925 Just off the track, a large boulder covers what looks like a 3m shaft. Photos. About 15m downhill is a better-looking shakehole that needs a proper examination.



When we returned to La Secada, the way points and grid references had disappeared from OruxMaps (possibly because the track was deleted). Juan went back up, driving beyond the swimming pool to the cattle feeders. A 10 minute walk produced new readings which were written down this time.

Also came across an open hole which is [#0338](#), a bit out of position @ 450332 4794906. Photo.

Sites [0011](#), [0024](#), [1261](#) (23/7/2024)

Checked these three sites during the last couple of months. Suggested slight change to location of 0011 (Carrasquilla): 453357 4795859 255m.

Photos and surveys to be delivered on a USB memory. PS

18 / 19 / 21 July Riaño [0105](#) Dave Barrett

Three visits to look at the rock structure in the cave and collect rock samples and take some bad photos of rare structures. On the practical side I replaced the sling at 'up to glory' with a hand made rope ladder and replaced the rusty maillon so now it is easier to get up the slot. Put a rope on the greasy boulder just before Acid Bath. I think this location is Acid Bath as there is no acid here and no bath. This important location is a watershed and is marked by fractured blocks and a change in rock dip (east now, not north). There are passage endings with question marks to check here.

Found that the breakdown area which crosses the route after La Playa is missing from the drawn survey. The choke is missing too. There is so much fresh air from this area it made my nose runny. There are some other details that need amending on the survey. I will provide an updated drawing on good old fashioned paper to Phil.

There are some small passages which are open ended and need to be surveyed. They are crawling routes and hopefully I can find someone to complete this with me during the summer trip. To build it up a bit Riaño is the most interesting cave I have seen in Matienzo to date: sporty trip but not hard, large fossil series to amaze at, some (smaller) passages still left to explore.

25/7/2024 misc files

Pete's files for 0011, 0024 and 1261 now in "2024 Summer files".

26/7/2024 [#2101](#)

Pete O'Neill, Pete Clewes, Bill Booth, Nigel Dibben

DCC dig at 2101 on road out of Matienzo towards Fuente Las Varas. Petes (2), Bill and Nigel with Liz in support. Dug down another 1.5m still following the draught. Need another metre or so out of the floor before we can start to go forwards. At the moment, the onward passage is a small triangular opening about 20 cm x 20 cm x 20 cm.

27/7/2024 #3684 #3685

Pete O'Neill, Pete Clewes, Bill Booth, Nigel Dibben

DCC visit to sites 3684 and 3685. Drove round Arredondo to Alisas and then up to farm in Barrio Robanzo. Walked over to 3684 and 3685.. Checked with GPS and relocated both sites;

3684 at 30T 448672 4796685 (2m accuracy) and **3685** at 30T 448643 4796695 (2m accuracy).

3684 is drop down into chamber followed by a shaft (laddered for about 3m but dropping about 5m) then climb down into choked chambers. All very spikey rock. Site was surveyed out (to be drawn up) and abandoned as having no serious prospects.

3685 is horizontal draughting passage (draughting out) in a large shakehole feature. Squeeze at entrance was enlarged by capping leading to a chamber previously visited by the very slim. A large boulder in the chamber was partly destroyed. Once the boulder is removed, there appears to be a way on in reasonable sized passage. WE WILL RETURN!

On the way back to the car, we met the owner ar Barrio Robanzo - very friendly. We shared a bottle of blanco with him before returning to Matienzo.

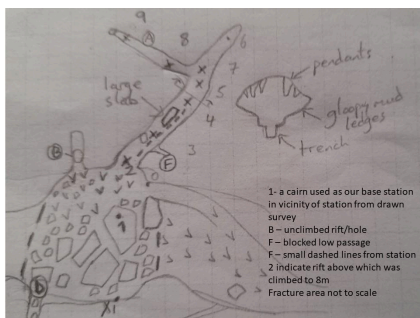
27/7/2024 #0105 Riano

Three Daves (Barrett, Foxton, Ottewell) and Albert Sims to La Playa area - 72.28m surveyed of new passage. **Batch 0105-24-06**

Small passage to the north off the fracture area after La Playa . Crawl through the breakdown and passage proper starts at station 3 just before a slide over a rock. Passage is about 2 metres high, phreatic in origin with roof pendants and gloppy mud on small ledges. Vadose channel in the floor. Ahead it stops in a mud blockage. Left at the junction goes to smaller route until it meets a flat out crawl to a hole in the floor. Slight draught.

At station 3 is a water worn rift going up which was climbed to about 8m and it continues. Rift is in the same rock and style as around the entry point into Upper Series. At the bottom at station 3 is a mud blocked passage..

A few metres to the west in the fracture zone is another rift up, not climbed. It is marked on the drawing. The fracture area has a crack in the roof edge and side on the east side which is in line with the choke at the end of La Playa. The choke and indeed all of this area has very fresh air. Some drippy water only. Fracture orientation broadly NE-SW. The fracture area is not marked on the current drawn survey. Revision to be supplied.

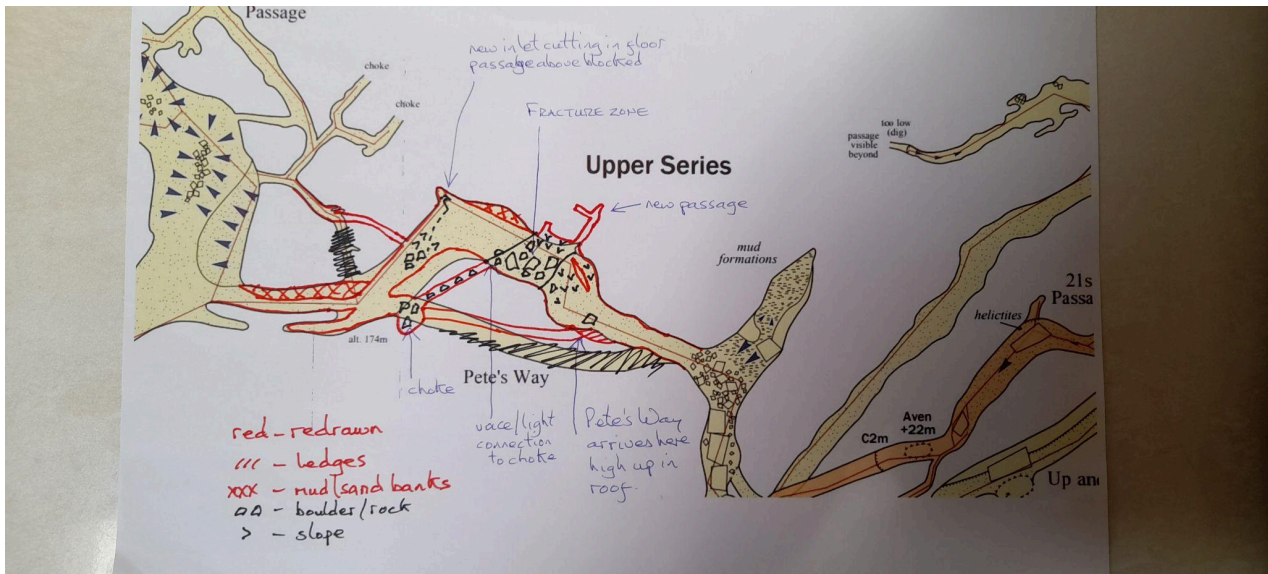


27/7/2024 #0105 Riano

Three Daves (Barrett, Foxton, Ottewell) and Albert Sims to the end of the cave. On the same trip as above, we went to the (almost) end of the cave to find the connection to Hoyuca. Air was also very fresh all down this route, especially at

Caravan Choke. Despite low water levels everywhere in this cave, there was still good flow from the last passage in the east [no name] into the Hoyuca connection.

Sketch of Fracture Zone drawn onto current survey and other corrections. Not to scale. Dave Barrett



27/7/2024 #0105 Riano

Three Daves (Barrett, Foxton, Ottewell) and Albert Sims

Started to check the loose ends in Riano central intermediate passages as shown on the survey below. Blue lines are surveyed and the blue circle shows the checked area. Survey data not entered yet, total about 30m of crawling passages on dry mud floor. One end connected with another. Other two passages ended in too tight or mud to the roof. Can't tie in survey as linked passages need some surveying to locate station points. (Now tied in) Surveyed length (new) 35.96m **Batch 0105-24-07**



28/07/2024 # 0813 Dig

Helen Blyth, Mike Wise, Dave Foxton, Big Steve and Phil P.

Hot day with a powerful draught out. Good progress down and across in final chamber with Mike doing sterling work at the sharp end. A few problems with the hang of the pulley snagging on its way out to the surface but this can be resolved easily enough.

30/07/2024 #0105 Riaño

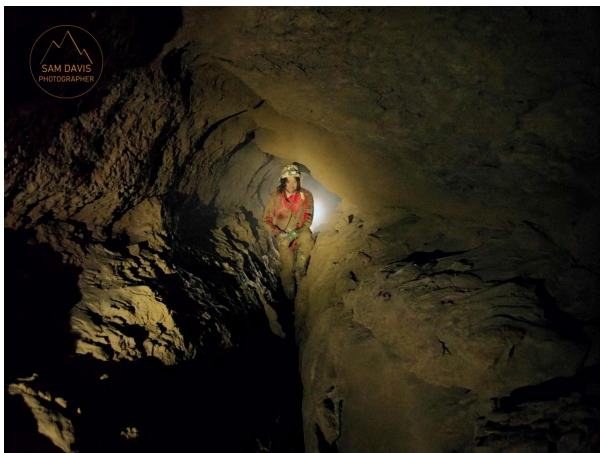
Alex Ritchie, Sam Davis

A trip to investigate inlets on the streamway which were left open. These lead up to a series of parallel maze cave passageways and a large chamber. Surveyed through. **Batch 0105-24-08 L=40m** and **batch 0105-24-09 L=134.3m**

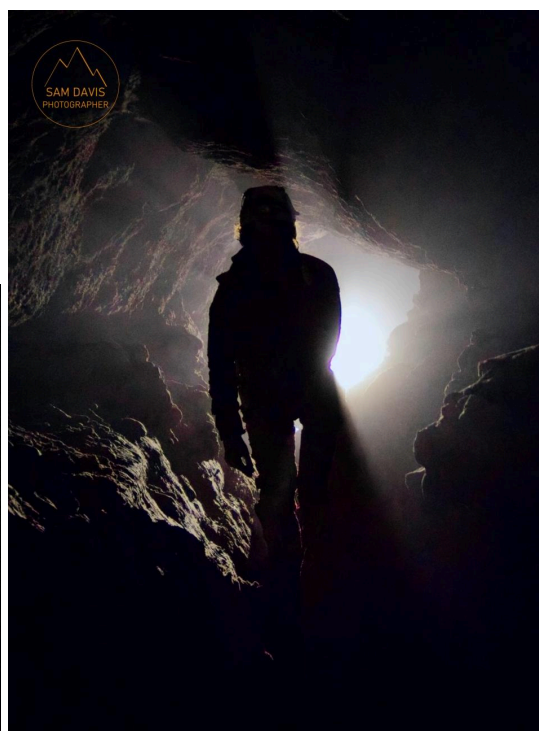
Also a T junction section was resurveyed nearer the entrance series as it appeared longer than on the survey.

Photos from Sam:

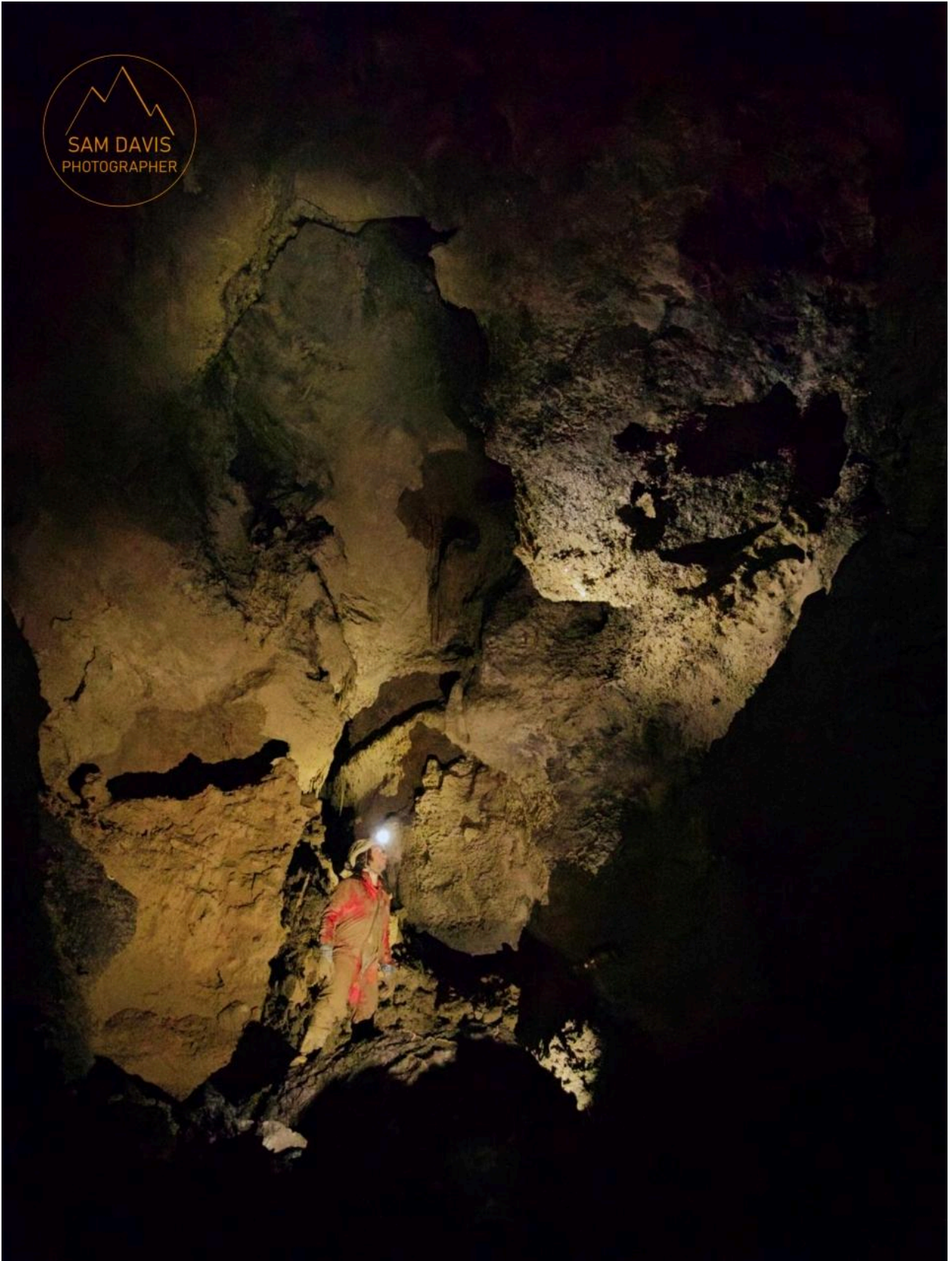
1. Alex in a new passage east of the streamway



1.



2. Alex in the large chamber



3. Photos showing the fragile rock that easily shattered throughout the chamber



30/07/2024 #1017 Socks Patrick D & Phil P

Trip to check out route, location and draught at Socks in view to it replacing Bingo as Patrick's Dig. Very strong draught. Route is easier going higher up and dropping down to wood where Socks is located. Going lower from the road bend at the level of Socks has too many brambles to fight through. Also looked at sites **1015** and **1016** noted on the website. It says in 1016 that there was a voice connection with Socks - this is clearly wrong it should have been with 1015.

30/07/2024 #2366 Torno Dave Barrett, Dave Ottewell, Chloe Almond, Mike Wise

Reccy trip to Torno to see what it is like. Took all the surveys and descriptions to find our way but they did not help! The cave is a maze of passages so we followed a worn route and (I think) ended up in Axe Wars. Importantly, found the streamways and a rope traverse, the only point we could relate to the description. Will return to learn more and write a route guide. Big draught out today and felt it in many passages.

31/07/2024 #0105 Riaño

Sam Davis, Alex Ritchie, Chloe Almond, Gracie Sharp, Albert Sims

A return to the area surveyed the previous day to survey the short link back to the main passageway. We then moved on to continue on the upstream side south of the main passageway. On the east side there were two new areas that were surveyed. The first went to a short series of passageways with a large aven and in the opposite direction a 8m pitch. The only leads in this section would involve crossings the head of the pitch so bolting and SRT work would in-volved.

The second series of passageways surveyed were also on the east side of the upstream passage. This leads into a maze cave area with only one persons footprints and the odd carbide black arrow on the wall here and there. This section has multiple leads and needs to be explored further. Strong draught throughout.

Batches 24-10, 24-11 and 24-12 surveyed. Lengths are 23, 123.4, 80.9m = 227.3m
Total surveyed in Riaño so far is 510m

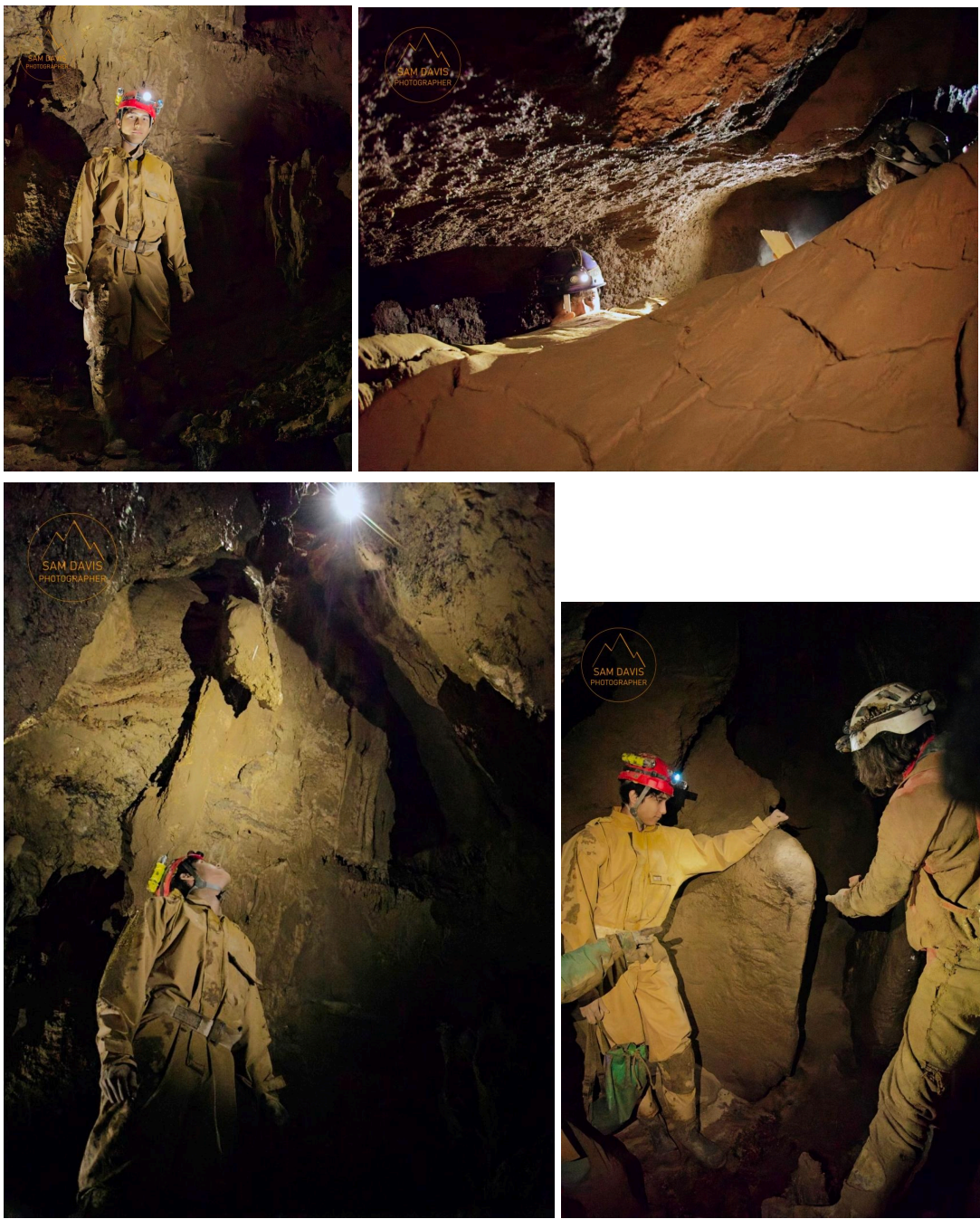
Photos from Sam Davis:

1. Gracie and Chloe in the end of a passage explored the previous day
2. Chloe striding the crack above the streamway in the maze section surveyed the previous day
3. Sam surveying over a muddy bank of crap

4. + 5 Albert at the base of the 8m pitch in the newly surveyed section

6. Albert and Alex by one of the carbide arrows from time gone by.

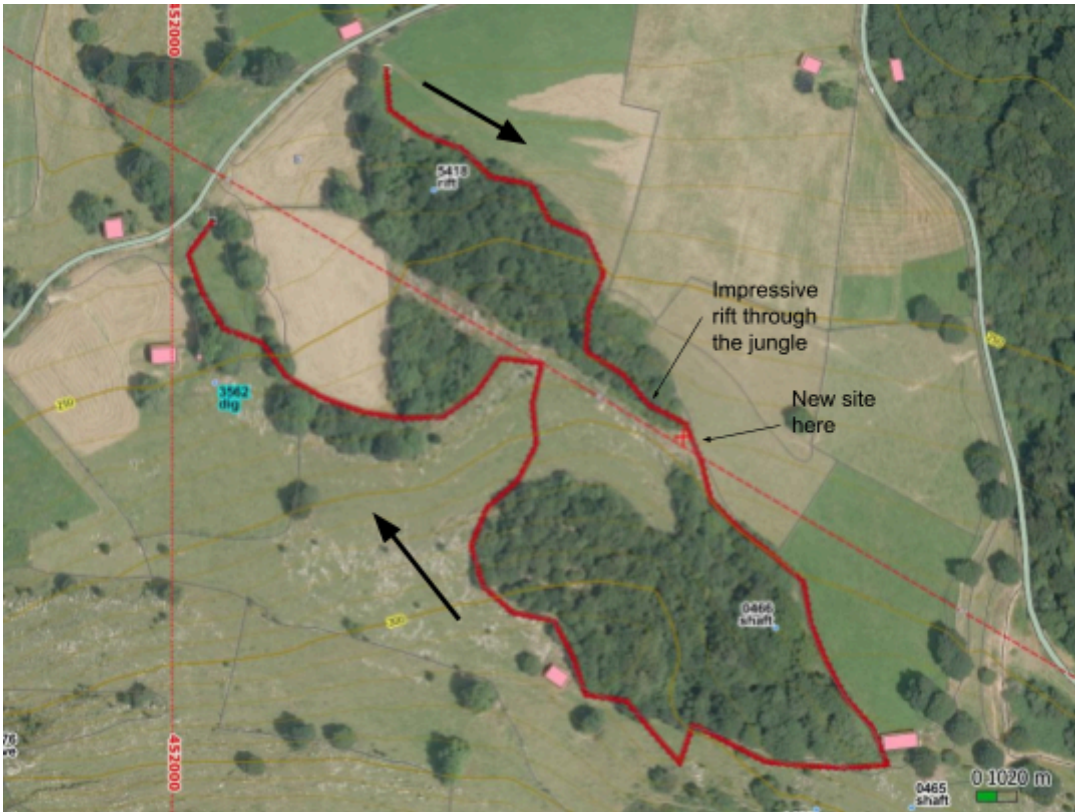




1/8/2024 New site 5424.

Juan investigated around the wooded area containing site 5418, up to the southeast, the two patches of limestone woodland / jungle. This had little vegetation back in the 1950's when an aerial photo shows bare limestone. Needs 2 or 3 people to properly jungle bash and investigate the many "tracks" between the limestone blocks. Near the top of the first patch of wood, a 6m wide rift with walls 4 and 5m high makes an impressive feature. Small, narrow cave found above seepage collection point just outside the wood is only 3m long. This is site **5424** at 452252 4795275 altitude 268m. (Photos of rift and of cave).



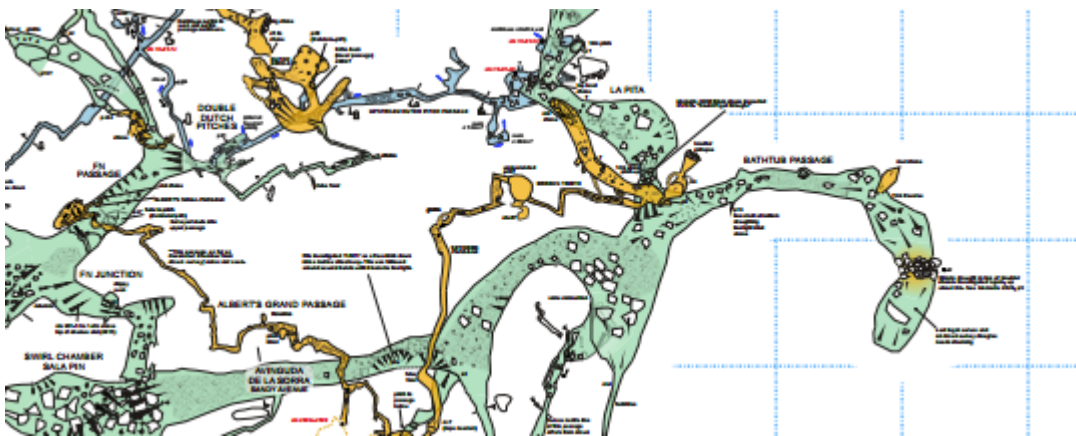
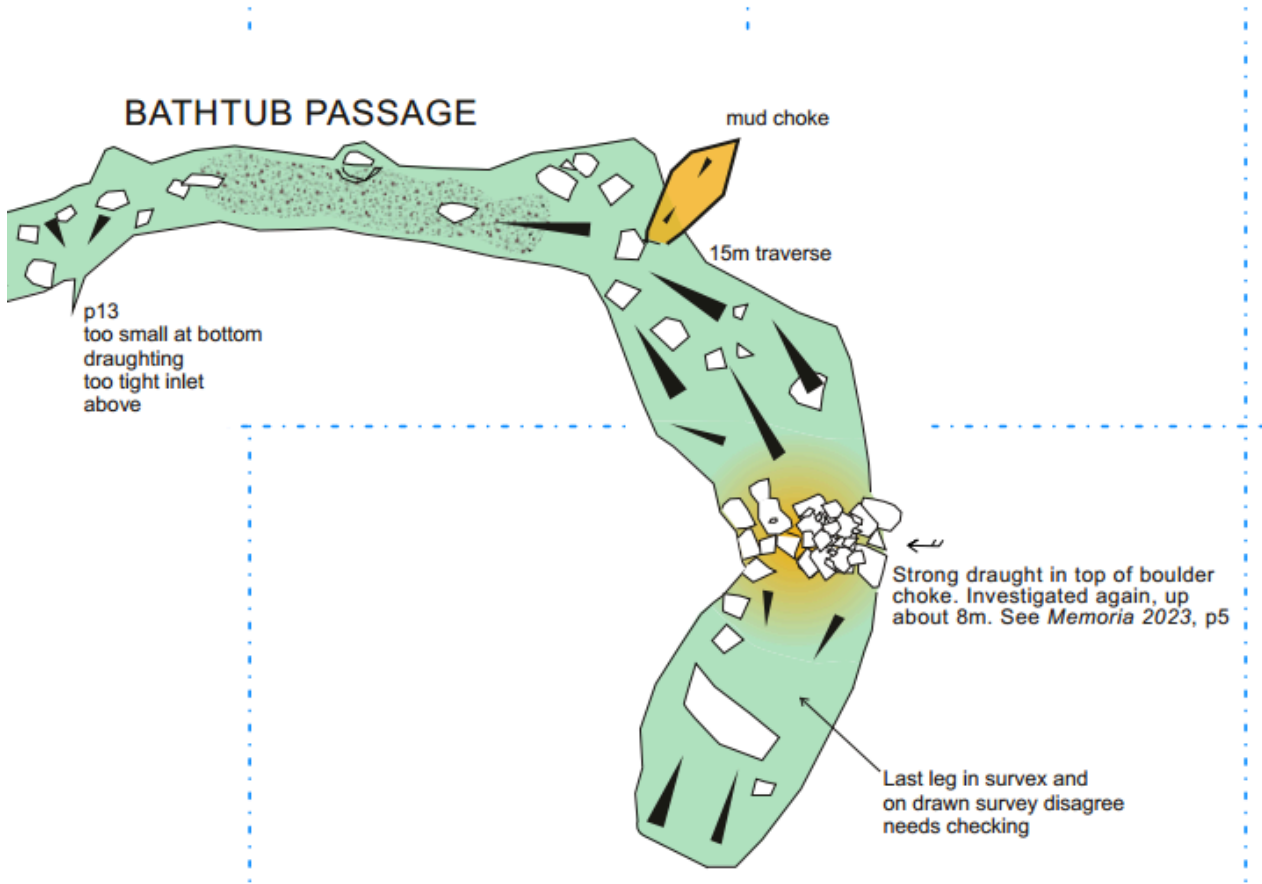


Looking at this old photo, it would appear that the rift feature extends to the northwest for another 80m.



31/7/24 [0733](#) Vallina Bathtub Passage

Lee from the Catalan team reported that a group of them had extended Bathtub Passage a short distance up into a chamber with a very dodgy roof of small material. (They may possibly return and possibly use a crowbar and long rope.)



01/08/2024 [#0105](#) Riano

Sam Davis, Alex Ritchie, Chloe Almond, Gracie Sharp, James Carlisle

A return to the maze section which we started to explore and survey the previous day. We split into two survey teams. Alex and Sam explored more of the maze section which resulted in multiple passageways that evening ended in boulder chokes of crumbly shale crap or unclimbable rifts with water dripping down. Nearly all of these passageways

had no evidence of previous exploration. There is evidence of snail shells and rodent claw marks ?bats in one section which may indicate short distance to the surface. Still some leads to explore.

Photos from Sam Davis:

1. Alex, James, Chloe and Gracie at start of survey
2. + 3 Fossils in maze section



Chloe, Gracie and James explored what looked like the main route which extends for some 200+m with some leads on side passageway. This ended in a well decorated chamber with some tree routes and mosquitoes/flies nearby, plus some litter, indicating very close proximity to the surface. The reverse of this route was marked with carbide black arrows so someone has been before, but was it ever surveyed? Due to time constraints, our survey didn't make it to the chamber, but it is only approx. 30m away.

Photos from Sam Davis:

4. Dead bat near survey station B6
- 5 + 6 Decorated chamber at the end of the long surveyed section heading south,
7. Medicine bottle found in decorated chamber
8. Dead fly covered in calcite





Batches 24-13 and 24-14 surveyed. Lengths are 271, 223m = 494m
Total surveyed in Riaño so far is 1004m

31/07/2024 #1017 Socks

Patrick, Pete O', Peter C, Peter S and Phil

Work on the entrance shaft to make it easier for access and bucket when digging below. Drill bits Phil had seemed to drill a bit under size making capping more difficult.

01/08/2024 #1017 Socks



Pat Devine

Couple of hours gardening and starting to stabilise and cut steps into the steep muddy slope down to the top of the pitch. More to do. Much cooler day so less draught but still noticeably cold in the shake hole.

02/08/2024 Stroll around Embasaguas area

Pete O'Neill, Pete Clewes, Nigel Dibben, Mike Wise.

Parked up at Barrio Robanzo off Alisas road. Walked through fields to previous dig at [3685](#). Surveyed from the end out (length 9.9m of legs with VR 3.2m). Cave ends in tight potential dig but with hanging deaths overhead so left for now. Survey to be drawn up.

Moved on to shakehole with shaft (30 T 448713 4796663) worth getting a number. **NEW SITE 5425** PO went part way down shaft and measured it (Disto) to about 7.9m deep to bouldery floor. May be worth another visit.

On to blind depression at 30 T 448767 4796714 (not worth recording). **New site 5426**

Moved on to site in woods with rock face and potential cave at base. This seems to be part of a feature which probably includes [3687](#) and may represent a fault. Continued to site [2071](#). Grid reference was confirmed.

Now in clouds so we started to return downhill briefly looking at a useless depression at 30 T 448710 4796624 (not worth recording). **New site 5427**.

Finally, when getting near the start, we looked in a large depression at 30 T 448420 4796840 which had no visible outlet. The depression at nearly 20m deep was probably the deepest karst feature we found! **New site 5428**

01/08/2024 [0105](#) Riano Dave Ottewell, Mike Wise, Dave Barrett

Passages near Loop Pitch.

Survey of some small passages. Later, we looked at [Mouse Print Passage]. It is a fine abandoned walking route which meanders a lot with some small side passages. It draughts from somewhere. End is direction 300 degrees and lowers to H&K then crawling on dry mud. Found broken snail shells in the low section and whole snails in the chamber at the start. Will return to push the passage to conclusion and re-survey the passage.

3/8/2024 [0076](#) Juan



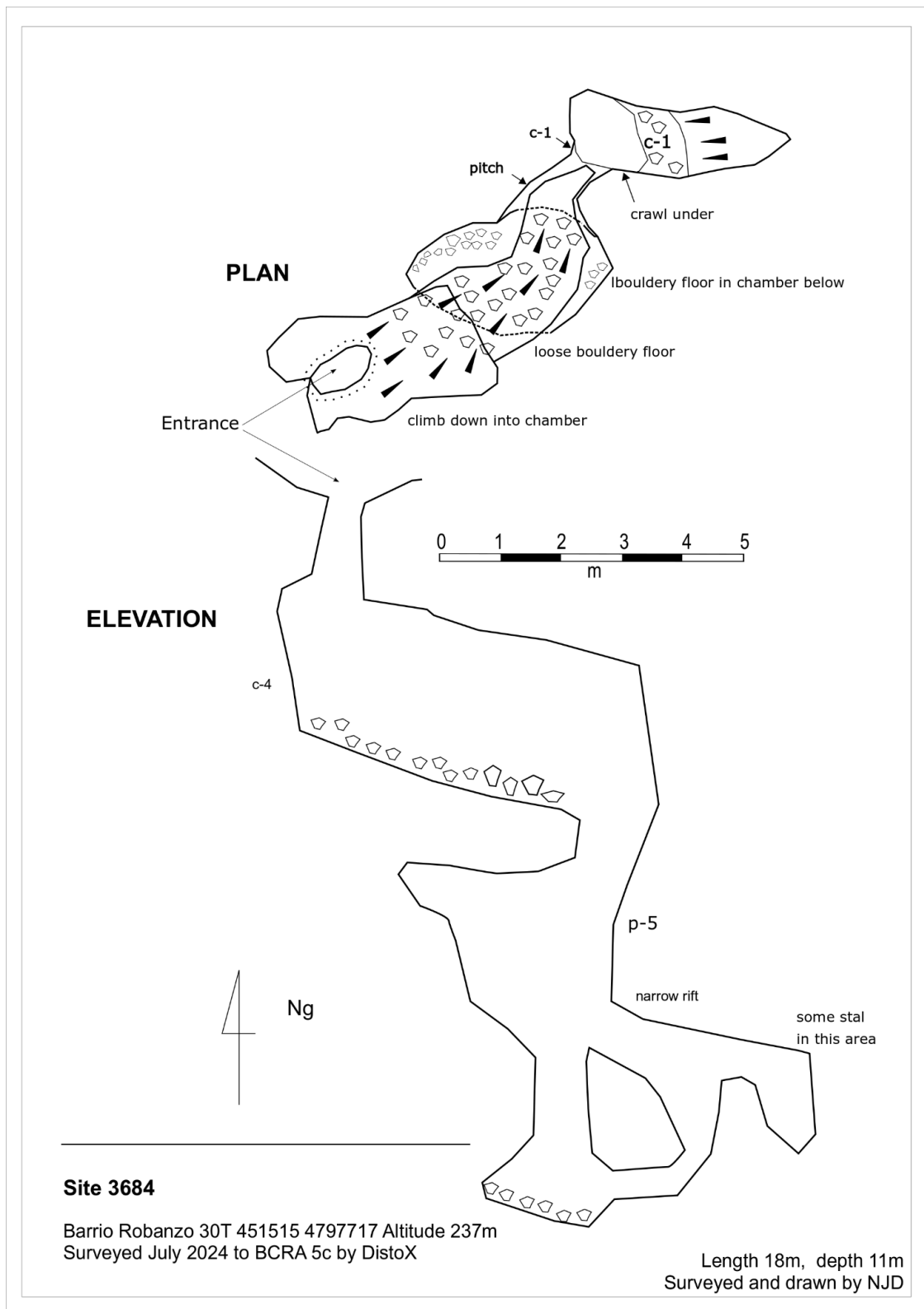
Solo bimbled up into Cubija to try out a 15000 lumens Fenix torch and wifi camera in Cueva del Campo #0076. Some examples here, others in the summer2024 folder.

Stopped first at top of hill (climbers' car park) to examine an agricultural structure above the road that could have been guarding a shaft or dig - it wasn't.





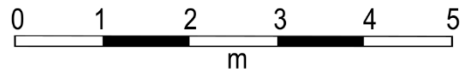
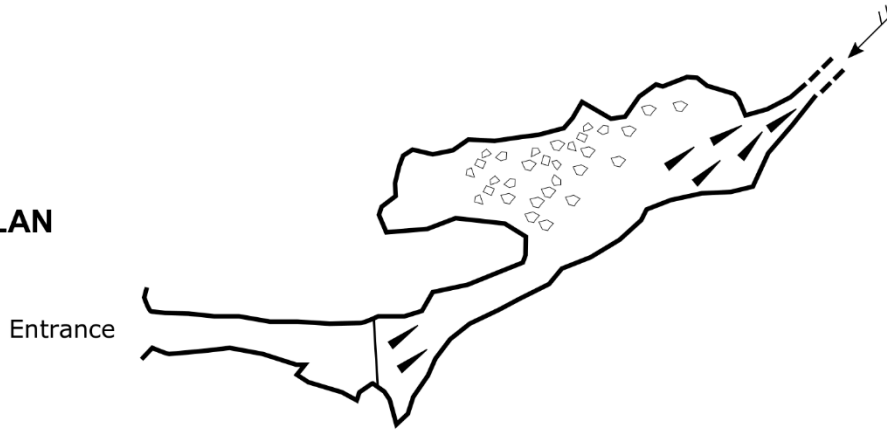
3/8/2024 Site [3684](#) survey from Nigel Dibben



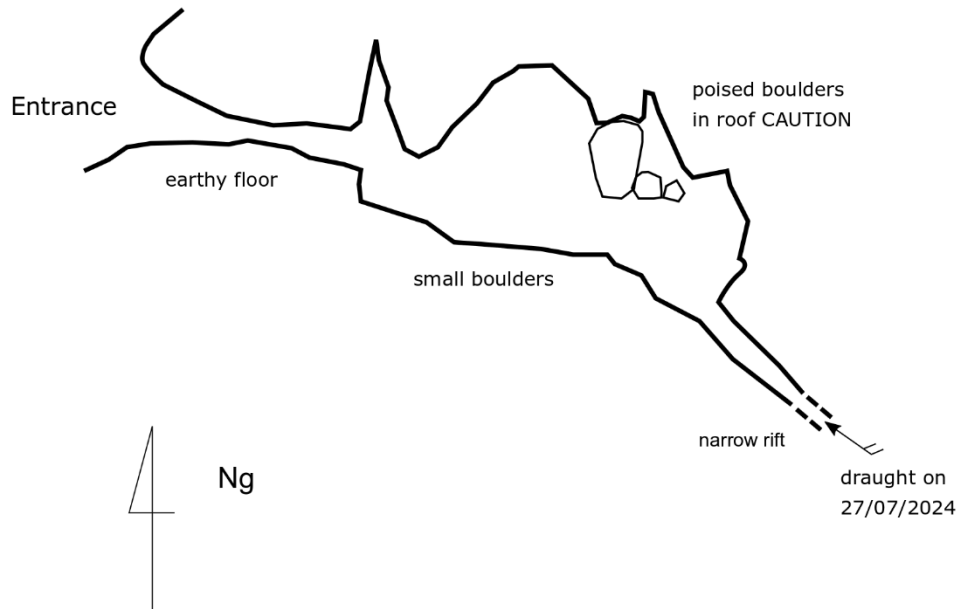
("v3" of survey sent by email 12th August)

3/8/2024 Site [3685](#) survey from Nigel Dibben

PLAN



ELEVATION



Site 3685

Barrio Robanzo 30T 448643 4796695 Altitude 443m
Surveyed July 2024 to BCRA 5c by DistoX

Length 11m, depth 3.2m
Surveyed and drawn by NJD

03/08/2024 #0105 Riano

James, (little) Juan

Took Juan in as far as the first big chamber (through the entrance series, up the climb and through the sandy passages to near where the new stuff has been found this expedition). Juan loved it – apart from the entrance crawl, where he was a bit worried about spiders. He was really brave, though, and went for it after a few deep breaths. What a star! We built sand castles in the big chamber, then headed out. In retrospect, we could have gone further, but we thought it best to quit while we were ahead. *Did you spot Mike's water bottles?* Alex

03/08/2024 #0105 Riano

Alex Ritchie, Mike Wise

Despite still suffering from Covid and being a bit ill, my time on the expedition was short. Mike who had recently had Covid was a willing volunteer, and my health was good enough to only require 1 paracetamol.

We went to the new inlet passage just beyond the "meaty stick maze". We saw from the survey that we were only 15m from connecting to the further reaches in Riano, however unfortunately this lead became too tight after 15m and all other passages in the area went to mud chokes.

We then went to the end of the inlet with hopes of finding a way to the surface, and although there were lots of insects and some tree roots (1 was an inch wide) we were unable to find a way to the surface. The mainstream way became very small and was blocked with boulders, all other passages that looked to head to the surface were filled with mud.

Batches 24-15 and 24-16 surveyed. Lengths are 16.2, 92m = 108.2m
Total surveyed in Riaño so far is 1190.2m

30/7/2024 site 3685

Pete Clewes, Billy Booth, Phil Papard, Peter O'Neill

Returned to finish off enlarging the route into a visible continuation, entered continuation to be met by some rather dodgy suspended boulders. The way on is visible but needs boulders in floor removing, however the ever present threat of the suspended boulders above your head would require scaffolding to allow a safe working space. The way on does draught quite well.

Pete o

4/8/2024 0071 Mostajo area drone flight

Set up a 3km, 14 minute backwards-and-forwards hole-spotting drone flight along the slope from the bend level with the Mostajo entrance. Although carefully planned (I thought) to be within the 40m height limit, the flight path would not be followed by the drone due to the "altitude being too high".

An orbit of the Mostajo entrance was completed. (on summer 2024 folder)

Flight paths back in La Secada with over-the-limits altitudes performed without any error messages. Issue to be further investigated.

4/8/2024 0071 Mostajo

Report from Beardy and Julia after a trip into Mostajo to the Going Home Series. The route is now well trodden with many reflective markers. They removed some.

5/8/2024 [1017](#) Socks

Peter Smith, Patrick and Juan



A trip to cut steps in the right hand bank leading down to the top of the vertical shaft. It may be worthwhile putting in a stage platform (Gaping Gill) at the shaft top with further pulling arrangements above that.

6/8/2024 [1017](#) Socks

Phil, Patrick and Juan

Rigged safety line down new steps to head of ladder take off point. Also rigged lines for hauling; can probably be worked by three people. Phil continuing to cap/widen the shaft. Must remember to take ladders up with us next time.

5/08/2024 [#0081](#) Carcavuezo

Sam Davis & Chloe Almond

A trip to explore and navigate the cave with the intention of reaching the eastern series and going to "Chase the Dragon" area. We entered through a small entrance that was cleared of debris the previous day. This led into the passageway where we didn't expect. We spent about an hour in the entrance series, getting used to the scale of the map and exploring the side passages.

We eventually found a route down to the streamway which still had a hand line about halfway down. We then tried to follow the streamway downstream, which didn't last long, and had to climb over several areas of boulders and eventually made it into the wide river passage. We stomped down there looking for any line or ladder back up but didn't find one. Eventually we decided we had walked too far and explored a couple of side passages to confirm our position. We noted a traverse in one and that confirmed we had overshot where we were supposed to climb up. In the end we found out that where we had climbed down to get into the river, was actually where we were to climb up, and then found the passage into what we think is "no way out chamber".

We decided at this point, 2.5 hours in, to turn around and find our way out in case we got lost, but it only took 40 minutes to get out. Hopefully we will return to explore the leads noted on the survey around "Chase the Dragon".

3/8/2024 [#0733](#) Vallina

Sam Davis, Dan Hibbert, Dave Otterwell, Chloe Almond, Gracie Sharp, Albert Sims

Entered via the top entrance to assist Dan in bolt climbing. We ascended "Ha! Aven". Dan and Chloe descended an adjacent pitch to find some extra ropes down there, so didn't continue as already explored but not on the survey ?spanish team exploration.

Below the rebelay a rock fell and hit Chloe on the head, but did no physical harm. The pitch head was also covered in loose so caution should be taken on further excursions in this area. During this time, the rest of the team explored a short distance of the upper series and found two tube like passages that went in a WNW direction. The first linked back to the a different part of the pitch that Dan and Chloe were exploring ?safer pitch head for the future. The second tube

was shorter but had some Gypsum stuck to the wall still. The rest has shelled off and can be revealed simply by turning over fallen slabs on the floor.

We returned down the "Ha! Aven" pitch. I (Sam) was the last one down and noticed loose nuts on the traverse and on the Y hang bolts! I hand tightened them but did not have a spanner. Future trips should take a spanner to tighten them.

We then returned to an unascended aven west of "Ha! Aven" and Dan started bolt climbing. A good lead can be seen at the top. We will return. Photos from Sam to follow.

5/8/24 #[0040](#) / [0059](#) / [0248](#) / [0081](#) / [0117](#)

Dave Barrett and Mike Wise

Surface walk following the water from Comellantes to Carcavuezo in the depression and out to Los Boyones at Secadura. Photos taken. The compound at La Secada has a new chain link fence on both sides of the gate which was locked. There also seems to be a security camera some metres beyond the gate. We followed the small stream up the valley to a point where it issued from a concrete construction being used to pipe water.

05/08/2024 #[2101](#)

Pete Clewes, Bill Booth, Nigel Dibben and Dave Pass (part time)

DCC dig at side of road out of La Secada towards FLV. Dug down to point where we could see forward. We capped a couple of boulders and can now see clearly into a chamber where there is a hole in the floor where boulders rattle down. Quick survey showed depth now 5.7m which means we are below road level. Work will continue!

06/08/2024 #[5350](#)

Mike Wise and Dave Barrett

Plan to examine 5350 with a view to opening up the 7m+ drop were foiled by our failure to find the entrance. We approached within 300m of its GPS position, but aggressive vegetation forced a strategic retreat. We returned via quick visits to the entrances of Aguanaz (wet and dry), Vallina top entrance and Coventosa (as far as the first drop).

5/8/2024 [0105](#) Riaño

James Carisle, George North, Richard Bendall

James had promised Richard and myself the perfect introduction to Matienzo to continue the exploration and survey of Pessimist Passage, previously pushed at Easter. Half way in, Richard decided to return to the surface, and James and myself pressed on. Surveying conditions were challenging; sticky mud soon coated everything. We carried on for 120m until the disto ran out of battery. At this point there was a good echo and the sound of falling water ahead, so we dropped down the rift and carried on another 20m to enter a 20m x 6m x 15m chamber. Two inlets entered, one straight ahead which looked small but passable, and a more interesting looking phreatic tube in the right hand wall. Both needed a c. 6m free climb, but would need a rope installed for the return.



Photo - James at the small chamber after the sand sump in *Pessimist Passage* found at Easter.

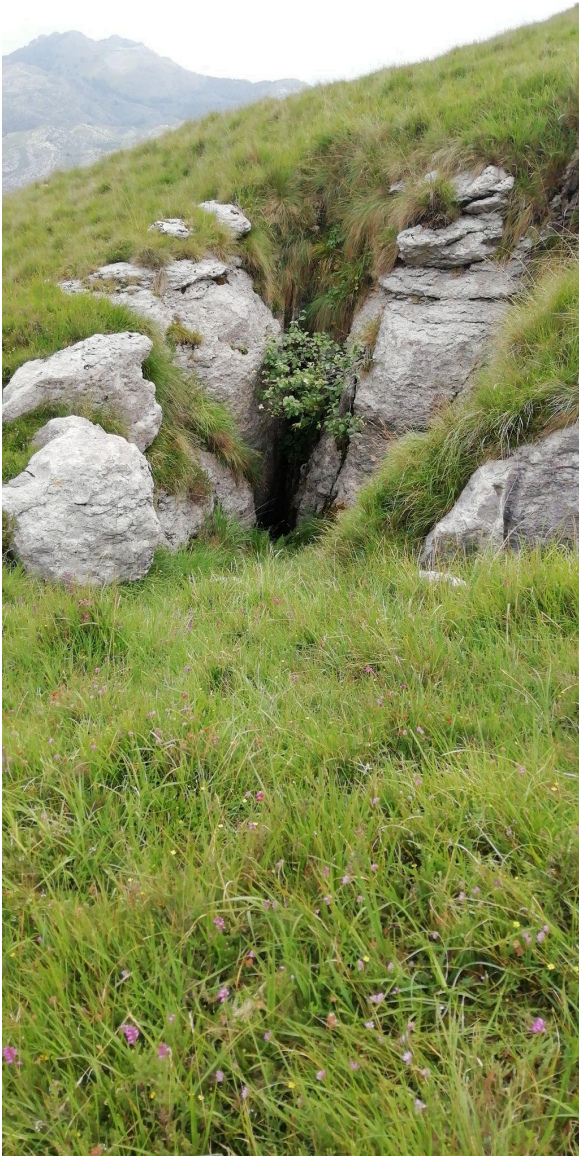
6/8/2024 Mountain wanderings

George North and Richard Bendall

Juan dropped Richard and myself as far up the track as possible and we walked up to look at three undescended shafts in a depression 250m east of the summit of Mullir.

3600 looked the most promising due to the undescended shaft being 10m horizontally from the base of the doline. I dropped the pitch for 10m and landed in a 6m x 1m rift. The floor of the rift was choked with debris, but rocks could be thrown down an 8" slot to fall a further 10m. There was a slight inward draft but it wasn't considered a worthwhile lead.

3601 455118 4795478 Alt 760 (no change to GR) As previously described. Tiny slot, down 2m to choker floor. No draft. Not worth another look.



NEW SITE 5431 7m Blind Pot 455213 4975788 alt 711 altered to 4795788
1767 455176 4795675 alt 744 (New grid ref)

NEW SITE 5432 Top Hole 455201 4795593 Alt 772 8m free climb down to choke with small holes continuing below, not worth pursuing further.



in line of shakes from 0228 three further holes delineate fault - labelled on pic





2 pics above : **site 0228**. Free climb down 3m using Ash tree to vantage point. Left 2m into blocked alcove . Ahead and down further 3m to blockage. No draft.

NEW SITE 5433: Twin Holes 455161 479550 (need to check as need 7 numbers!) Alt 755 Not entered, jungle bashing gear required. Most likely choked.



Below: **NEW SITE 5437** Vegetation rift 455171 4795491 Not entered, jungle bashing gear required. Most likely choked.



Left (2): **NEW SITE 5434** Bramble hole 455181 4795479 Not entered, jungle bashing gear required. Most likely choked.

#5429 Scabious Pot 455147 4795488 Alt 753 was a previously unrecorded shaft which was descended next. A 6m pitch landed on a ledge followed by a 7m pitch with no way on at the bottom.



5430 Hazel Doline was a previously unrecorded location noticed on the return journey. A 20m diameter, 10m deep doline filled with hazel trees. Stones dropped at the west end of the doline suggest a pitch. A rope was needed to safely access the doline floor. This feature is c. 100m from the main track, so might be worth another look.

NEW SITE Grid reference?



03/08/2024 #2366 Torno Dave Barrett, Mike Wise

Route finding trip and check some side passages. Lots of leeches in entrance..

07/08/2024 #2101 DCC Dig on bend above La Secada

Second of two days digging on this old dig yielded a small chamber with a drafting rift in the floor. Way through from the entrance "shaft" was cleared and dig left with rock walls visible below. Rift Disto'd to about 3-4 metres. Stones sound as if they drop down a second rift/shaft. To be continued ...

Below: way through into "chamber" and looking down the rift.



07/08/2024 #0019 Cueva de la Loca 1

James Carlisle, Richard Bendall and Chris Scaife

Batch 0019-24-01 Length = 274m (old length =100m)

James had been into this cave with Alex at Easter and they had found a couple of leads that they hadn't pushed. Alex decided not to go back this summer, so the open leads were up for grabs.

The cave begins with a hands and knees crawl through a shallow stream. At a junction we turned right and entered a slightly higher level that bypasses the duck we'd have had to do if we had turned left. We then followed the stream as far as a chamber that Alex and James had found at Easter.

Our first lead was up a climb from here. It continued as a sandy crawl round a few corners and on to a long straight section before the sand/clay filled the passage to the roof.

We looked up a side passage in here and after about 15 minutes of digging we were into a chamber, with a possible continuation 7m above, up a climb that would need bolting, and a death-inducing hole in the floor that led down to the stream.

Back in the Easter chamber, we followed the main way on, which Alex and James had not pushed to the end. This was all quite complex. The continuation of the stream itself was a small tube. James had a half-hearted look at this. It continues, but a neofleece might be needed to push this properly.

Another passage leading off to the chamber needed a minute or so of digging and we were into a sideways crawl that continued for more than 20m to an aven, 7m high. There was a strong draught in here but it was coming through a too-tight hole.

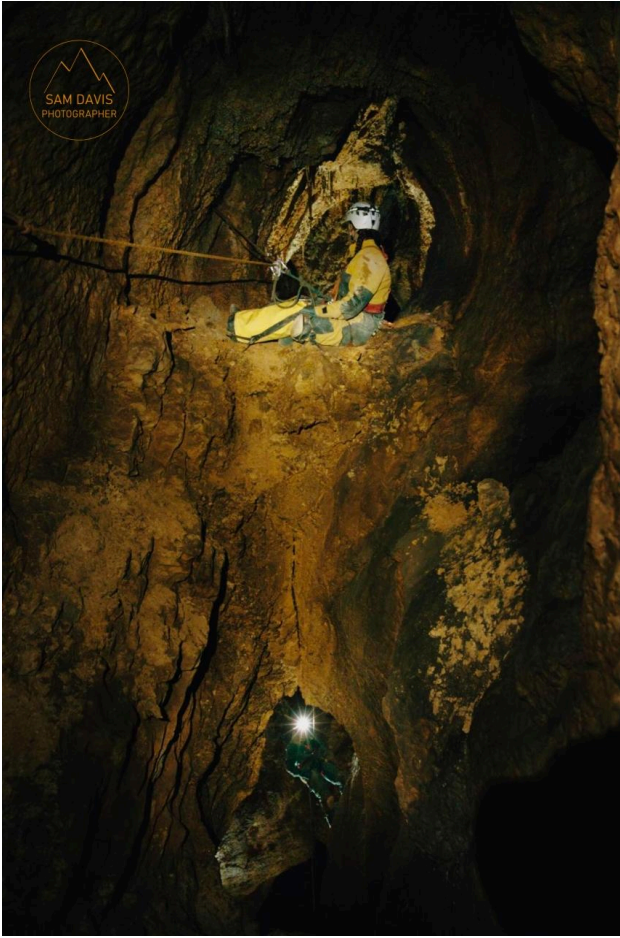
We surveyed from the entrance: 270m in total, of which about 100m was new.

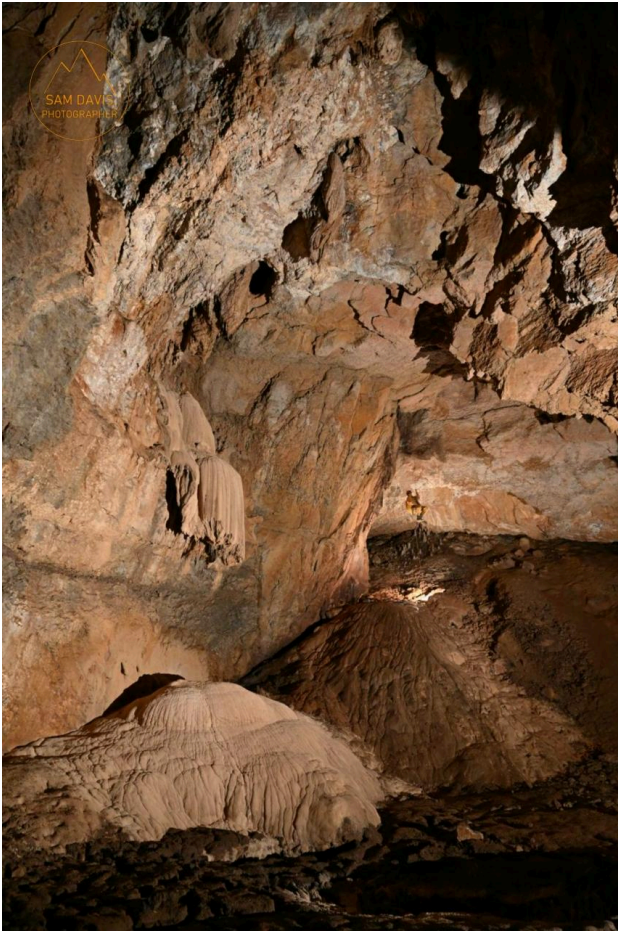
06-07/08/2024 #0733 Vallina

Sam Davis, Dan Hibbert, Gracie Sharp, Chloe Almond, Albert Sims, Peter, Tiff

Continued bolting to the top of the aven over two days. Dan finally reached the top, but with some SRT related drama! I (Sam) attempted to reclaim the bolts on the second rope up, but after the rebelay, the chest jammer was loaded at 90 degrees due to tension in the rope and decided to come open! I used my small emergency jammer on the cows tail to regain security and then after much faff managed to get back onto the first rope and descend to the bottom. While this was going on, Dan lowered from the top to derig his bolt climb to create more slack in the second rope, but then discovered halfway down he had forgotten his hand jammer at the top of the pitch! So had to haul himself to the top using his hands on the rope.

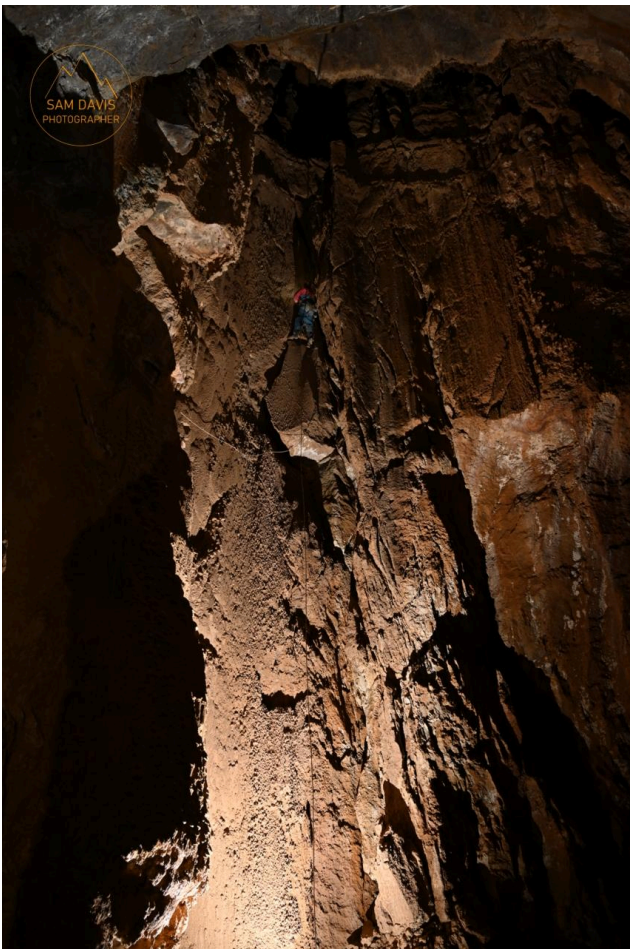
At the top a small sandy crawl continues for approximately 30m and can be seen to go on. A small spade or trowel is needed to progress through the sand. On the opposite side of the pitch head a larger chamber can be seen with flow stone and stal. This needs a traverse bolting over to progress on. Due to the expedition meal that evening, we did not survey the new area, but will when we return to bolt the traverse.











08/08/2024 #0039 Codisera

Sam, Ben, Julia, Clara, Monty, Liz Wire, Seb, Aura, Gracie Sharp

Families trip to Codisera. Absolutely rotten hangover after the expedition meal, but we decided with must do something with our lives so went caving! Went in past the traverse to a large chamber and did photos.



7/8/2024 Vallina 0733 Catalan report

Hola Juan,

Aunque no hemos acabado los trabajos de verano como ya sabes pues soy sabedor que estas en contacto con Adolfo y Carlos, te resumo brevemente los trabajos realizados en el interior del sistema:

1-Tocadome: -Se substituye la cuerda que se instaló en la escalada y se empieza explorar la parte superior, el laminador superior y inferior continuan uniendose mas adelante, en el recorrido aproximado de 250m se encuentran diferentes posibilidades, galerias fosiles y pozos activos-

2-Parte alta de Novadome, se revisa el caos de bloque sin ver una posibilidad de continuar. Se arreglan las cuerdas que conectan con Twin avens y queda pendiente las incognitas aguas arriba.

3-Tras una desobstrucción el meandro final de galeria blanca se abre a una gran sala que desemboca en un pozo. Este pozo descompuesto pero de gran volumen se parte (de momento) en tres secciones diferenciadas, la primera hasta una repisa a -16m de la cabecera donde se abren galerias horizontales fosiles que toman direccion a Abbys 2 (todas las posibilidades cierran) una segunda parte del pozo que tras bajar aprox. 25m nos deja en una zona activa del pozo que continua almenos 30m tomando direccion este, queda pendiente descender el pozo por falta de material.

Although we have not finished the summer work, as you know, since I am aware that you are in contact with Adolfo and Carlos, I will briefly summarize the work carried out inside the system:

1-Tocadome: -The rope that was installed during the climb is replaced and the upper part is explored, the upper and lower laminator continue to join up further on, in the approximate 250m route there are different possibilities, fossil galleries and active wells-

2-Upper part of Novadome, the chaos of the block is reviewed without seeing a possibility of continuing. The ropes that connect with Twin Avens are fixed and the unknowns upstream are pending.

3-After clearing the blockage, the final meander of the white gallery opens to a large room that leads to a well. This decomposed but large-volume well is divided (for the moment) into three distinct sections, the first up to a ledge at -16m from the head where horizontal fossil galleries open up that head towards Abbys 2 (all possibilities close) a second part of the well that after descending approx. 25m leaves us in an active zone of the well that continues at least 30m heading east, it remains to descend the well due to lack of material.

8/8/24 #0077 Rascavieja

George North, James Carlisle, Nora and Little Juan., Richard Bendall, Chloe Almond, Tiff

Family trip to Rascavieja, with a quick look at both chokes. The choke on the right (with the green string) was blowing a gale - got to be worthy of a bit more attention!





8/8/2024 [1017](#) Socks

Phil, Patrick and Pete Smith

Continuing to cap down the shaft with most material falling down. Ready for a hauling session before continuing to cap down.

8/8/2024 [#0081](#) Carcavuezo

Elin, Emma, Percy, Hannah HW, Ioan, Jasper, Hannah UG, Peter and Albert

Expedition to push inlet 2. Group 1 (Elin, Emma, Percy & Hannah HW) were the first group to enter the cave and navigated to the start of inlet 1, where we were met by Group 2 (Ioan, Jasper, Hannah UG, Peter and Albert) who had followed our tracks. We had been slow to navigate and had trouble figuring out our position on the centerline survey. Because the cave floods, there was very little sign of past caving activity beyond the occasional pair of grooves in the floor, so our footprints stood out. From here the second group continued along the main passage and reached inlet 2, which they pushed to the ends.

The left passage in inlet 2 lead to clambering over muddy boulders, that lead into a muddy crawl which ended in a tight, mud to the floor dig. This passage appears to continue in the direction of another passage heading west in a lower part of the western series. It is likely that they could be connected with digging.

The right passage in inlet 2 lead into a dried streamway which looked as if it flowed somewhat regularly, perhaps in a season with more rain. The passage continued for quite some way through gaps and boulders eventually ending in a boulder choke with sparse flowstone. The boulder choke had no obvious way through but it appears to be underneath the main sink area, meaning that there could be a possible route to the surface.

For the last part of the trip, we carried on through the passage beyond inlet 2 to the end of the passage, it ended with a small chamber to the right and a large puddle the left with a dive line, although there appeared to be no way through.



9/8/2024 4937 A Murder of Cows

Chris Scaife, Chloe Almond, James Carlisle, Raoul Hidalgo Charman

We all took it in turns to try the entrance — a narrow descending tube. After Raoul nudged a boulder, we realised this could be moved and once we had taken this boulder out the entrance was much easier.

Some cows approached us at the entrance and Raoul had to wave his enormous stick at them.

Down the entrance, we were into a small chamber. In the stream flowing through, we saw water scorpions and leeches. We followed the passage upstream, through a small tube and past a column, then by moving a few rocks aside we entered the chamber and boulder choke that had been the previous limit, described as having “many leads, most very dubious”. We probed all of these and only one went any distance.

From a climb up in the boulder choke, I found a flat-out crawl through formations. This led to a small turning space and a narrow slide down into a chamber of sorts. This seems to be through the boulder choke and the way on was a draughting passage, which will need digging initially but looks caveable beyond for at least another 6m. No idea what's beyond that, but it's definitely worth pushing. I think we probably found about 20m of new stuff.



Raoul, Chloe and James at the entrance to 4937

Photo: Chris Scaife

09/08/24 #2930

Richard Bendall, Tiff, Gracie Sharp, Sam Davis, George North

A jolly trip out to start digging this promising looking site. The hole was draughting out cold air, suggesting higher entrances. The cave lies about 180m elevation above passages in 'Toad in the Hole'.

The hole was cleared of mud to reveal a couple of large boulders which could not be removed from the hole with the tools we had available. Despite this we could get a good view down a 30cm diameter, 5m deep hole entirely within mud. Further progress at this site will therefore require serious shoring (scaff and boards) to continue. With this in mind we blocked the hole with large rocks in order to make it child and animal proof.

10/8/24 Comellante

Chris, Carol and Oscar; James, Nora and Juan; Ben, Julia, Carla and Monty

We had a leisurely start at Pablo's, then cycled to the entrance. The youngsters led the way to the end of the cave and then back out into the sunshine. Oversuits are not needed, but wellies are definitely recommended.

Afterwards, we all went to the Bakers Bar for ice cream.



Comellante entrance

Photo: Chris Scaife

10/08/24 #1017 Socks

Richard Bendall, Raoul Hidalgo Charman, Phil Papard, George North

Richard, Raoul and myself walked up the hill from the village. This approach is not to be recommended due to 20 minutes of bashing through brambles (contested!). Once in the cave Raoul filled the bucket at the base of the shaft, I redirected from half-height and Phil and Richard hauled from up top. Unfortunately this proved to be extremely

inefficient due to the cramped position at the base of the shaft. It was recommended that enlargement of the shaft is completed before any more spoil is hauled out. A couple of boards across the base of the shaft would stop spoil running on into the crawl and make removal easier later on.

Unfortunately the capping mat wasn't up to the job, so no further digging was done. Me and Raoul took the opportunity to take a look at the final chamber though. This is essentially the base of a choke. Most of the draft was entering from higher up in the choke. Black spaces are visible, but the best line of attack wasn't obvious and will need a closer look. The current dig in the floor of the final chamber also draughts, and may provide another option to the choke.

09/08/24 #5369 Tomb of the Oil King

Ioan Roberts, Emma Caspers, Elin West

After much faffing, Me (Ioan) Emma and Elin headed up Alisas with at least my high hopes of beginning a push through Mr Tummnus Tube into the potential Narnia. After the long walk through tremendous amounts of coo poo and me kinda remembering the way i reached the spot which seemed to be a bit squelchier then before. I had Emma start to rig the pitch as while I can technically rig I'm far too lazy to do that and took me sweet time instead putting my own kit on.

Anyway Emma goes in first and I proceed after as Elin was suffering debilitating back pain beyond comprehension! I was quite worried to not see Emma soon after my descent down the slope bone pile but I quickly realized the great Martyn Grayson and Jess Eades had left behind a lovely path for any caver to follow down. Emma was already rigging the about 10-15 meter pitch down to Mr Tummnus Tube where I told her where to go down. We both realized that the entrance had been sealed up with big boulders crushing all hope I had left in this darsted plane of existence. We did try going over the traverse line and carrying on (instead of going down into the big big boulder chamber) which we did find maybe 5-10 more meters of cave but quickly stopped again by more bloody sandstone boulders, although there was a bit of a drip at this further section of the cave.

After this we headed out and found Elin had gone walkies and found another cave **(need gps and photo)** not a big one so far, but renewed my hopes that a potential Narnia may be real and thus god's blessing for me on this wonderful world!

11/8/2024 Loca 1 and 2 depression, surface survey.

Assuming that downstream water in Selvijo #0028 heads to Loca 1 (#0019) it seems odd that downstream Selvijo appears to be lower than the upstream water in Loca. Juan surface surveyed from Loca 1 to a known point on the road and, while he was there, Loca 2. A couple of draughting holes were spotted against the small vertical face while surveying back from Loca 1. Selvjo has already been surface surveyed at Easter so should be 'correct'.

5435 NEW SITE Aug11-01: (stn 4) Small bedding dig with a small draught @ 30T 454191 4794715 altitude 252m (photos)

5436 NEW SITE Aug11-02 : (stn 5) Small rift with a good draught @ 454197 4794713 altitude 252m (photos & video)

Possible new **0020** @ 454215 4794755 alt. 248m

Possible new **0019** @ 454217 4794721 alt. 247m

Photo and 360deg photos taken of Loca 1 entrance.

Map

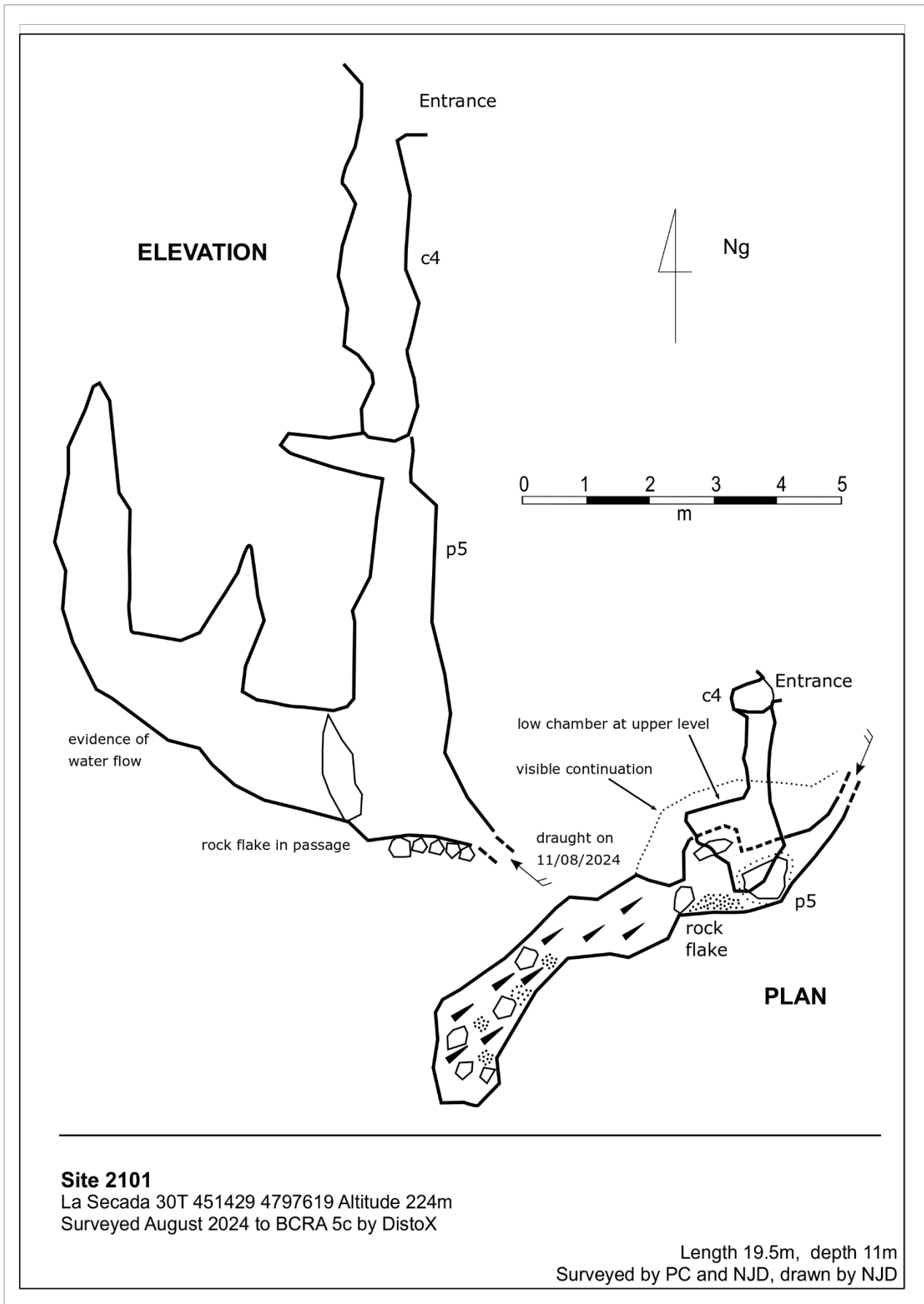
Map shows surface survey and possible new positions for Loca 1 and Loca 2 entrances. The consequences for overlaps and water levels will be checked later.



11/08/2024 [2101](#) Dig in La Secada

Pete Clewes, Nigel Dibben, Bill Booth and Liz Taylor

Continued dig at 2101. Way into low chamber cleared and boulder removed from top of rift. Pete descended into the passage below. One way leads up-slope and appears to be an inward route for water. Other way leads down-slope to a draughting rift. To be dug further. Cave was surveyed. Depth now about 11m (well below the road). Draught is excellent and provided a nice cool spot to be on the 40 degree day. Draft survey attached.



(Updated version sent by email 12th August)

11/8/24 4937 Nepa Hole aka Autosexual Hole

Chris Scaife, Chloe Almond, James Carlisle

With outside temperatures of 37C, we chose a roadside option and this time were not harassed by a murder of cows at the entrance.

The leeches were just as abundant as last time, but we were soon into the chamber that had first been reached almost 50 years ago. We surveyed from the entrance and found that the old cave was 72m long. Our small finds from a couple of days ago brought the total to a round 100m. And then we had to dig.



Chloe Almond crawling above the boulder choke at the start of the new stuff

Photo: Chris Scaife

The blocks ahead took a fair amount of hammering, but eventually we were through. Chloe passed the squeeze by accident — having just planned to improve her hammering posture, she thought she was stuck, then pushed on until she was into the comfortable space beyond. She then immediately rolled a boulder to one side and made the exit much narrower. We hammered away until there was a bit more space, then things seemed to be collapsing from above so she shot back through to join us. After a bit more hammering, we had made things safe enough for us all to pop back through.



James Carlisle at the enlarged squeeze, today's breakthrough

Photo: Chris Scaife

We crawled on to a small chamber and the draught was fairly strong. There were a few small holes up loose climbs that looked uninviting, but the draught was coming from a sandy tube. We followed that to a boulder choke, at the end of a flat-out crawl. There is a draught here but I doubt anyone will ever bother to dig it.



Chloe Almond near the end

Photo: Chris Scaife

In total we surveyed 121m, of which 50m was completely new. We also brought out a leech, in a specimen jar, for Terry to identify.

11/8/24 0081 Carcavuezo

Tiff Cooksley, Percy, Sam Davis

Trip to take a look at question marks on the survey in the Eastern Series. The objective was to find the 'Red Column Chamber' and then take a look at the leads further on past this.

Navigationally challenging, we made it to the 6 meter climb up into 'Afternoon Stroll' passage after around 3 hours of route finding through many awkward up and down climbs. There was a possible lead to the right of the passage at the point that we popped up out of the 6 meter climb. We explored the pile of boulders, with nothing promising spotted until Sam noticed a way on down below the middle of the pile. Involving a squeeze over sharp rocks, initially it was decided to leave it as a question mark, however after having a look herself, Tiff decided she fancied it. A short flat out crawl over pointy rocks popped out into a short rift. A hole in the floor here dropped down a re joined the main passage in a too tight squeeze. Following the rift to the right, the passage continued, popping into a small chamber after a few meters. Several holes in the chamber were explored but the way on was straight ahead. Another flat out crawl for a few meters popped into another, slightly larger and decorated chamber. As before, the way on was ahead, following the noticeable draught. This continued as before, with another small chamber. Finally, after another crawl, a final chamber is reached. This finishes with an area of calcite covered small boulders, with a tantalising triangular hole directly ahead. The draught is strong here and at least a further 10 meters can be seen through the hole, however, the hole is not human sized unfortunately. To the left of the calcite area is a low sandy area which may possibly go around to the left of a boulder to potentially create a bypass through to the ongoing passage. A trowel or similar would be useful here to dig out the sand.



Photo: Forked Straw in the final chamber. Taken by Tiffany Cooksley.

[Video of the final chamber](#)

Evidence of arachnids were seen, including two webs and a small (thumb-nail sized), live non-pigmented spider.

It took Tiff 11 minutes to get back to the main passage from the end of the new section. Approx. 30 meters but could be more or less because Tiff is bad at judging distances :)

Sam and Percy had began surveying when it became clear that Tiff may be a while, however they had started at a point not near the new way on and so when Tiff reemerged, it was decided that there wasn't enough time to survey.

We carried on down Afternoon Stroll to enjoy some 'nice' walking passage, reaching Red Column Chamber where some photos were taken before turning around. From turning around to reaching daylight it took 2 hours.

3 people was an ideal group size due to the numerous challenging climbs, which due to how loose they are, needed to be taken one at a time. On the way in a large rock was knocked loose and fell on Tiff's leg, thankfully wedging itself into a crack as it did so, which prevented the full force of it hitting her.

For any concerted efforts in the Eastern Series, it is worth potentially worth rigging the ladder down from Afternoon Stroll (or crawl, or somewhere else, not sure where this is meant to be?) as this would at least halve the commute.

< Need to add photos and links to videos taken of the new chambers >

Notes from Sam Davis - I believe after reviewing the survey and discussion with Terry, Juan and Phil, that "The Boys Entrance" is just a name for a passage/route through, rather than an exit point to the surface! Therefore, consider renaming the route "The Boys Passage" to avoid future confusion. It sounds like it would be beneficial to have someone with experience in 0081 to show us the route into afternoon crawl, or have a trip that could re-rig the rift climb up into afternoon crawl if necessary. It's still very unclear as to where this entry point into afternoon crawl is supposed to be. It was a particularly challenging trip for me, as a dog had pissed on my oversuit the previous day. Despite washing it, I was accompanied by the smell for the whole trip!

12/08/2024 [#2101](#) Dig in La Secada

Pete Clewes, Nigel Dibben



Final visit for the year. Both descended to new section below pitch. Added detail to survey and took photographs in

the "new" section. Cave now just under 20m long and 11m deep. Draught good but digging needed now at bottom. Disto read 2m looking into currently inaccessible section. Survey amended and sent to PP and JC with SVX file. Pictures above show Pete in the passage below the 5m pitch.

addition to 9/8/2024 Oil King

NEW SITE 5438 Elin's find at ///thornier.velvet.irrigation and 43.2985822 -3.6371750 (448317,4794170) Photos from Ioan & Elin.

Small hole was found by following the dolines away from Oil King until I found one with visible rock, and excavating a few rocks and a young tree. ~10 metres of accessible passage after 2-3 metre drop into a rubble filled rift. Passage does continue back towards Oil King but not quite large enough to access without extensive capping or hammering and in the other direction it's entirely filled with rubble. Likely not worth pushing but promising for more in the area, especially due to the dolines.

0733-24-07 is a check on 0733-24-06 Photos from Far Left Passage.

7/08/2024 #0081 Carcavuezo

Hannah UG, Ioan, Emma, Elin, Jasper

Orientation trip with the intention of finding the traverse to the western series. Obvious original 'T slot' shaped entrance was filled in with debris. At the base of the rocks smaller strongly draughting entrance was found, upon entry an awkward climb down was found into the first main chamber. Upon inspection of the survey, we had entered through a question mark between two entrance areas. The boulder choke entrance to our left had appeared to have collapsed. A small passage with a puddle to the right led up to the original entrance series, Emma and Ioan on the surface heard us and dug out the original entrance for a more accessible exit. The rest of the trip involved climbing down into the streamway, following it along to the rifts and turning back on ourselves to find the traverse to the western series. It was agreed within the group to the next day with cows tails for the traverse.

9/08/2024 #0019 Loca 1

Hannah UG, Jasper

Surveying trip to the passage left of the first junction. We managed to survey about 11 meters of passage with four survey stations before turning around due to temperature concerns as Jasper could not find neoprene prior to the trip. We also did not bring anything to mark survey stations which added to the faff and difficulty in already squalid conditions.

10/08/2024 #0019 Loca 1

Hannah UG, Jasper

Continuation of surveying trip of the tight left hand passage with the intention of pushing further into the cave afterwards. Continuing from our last survey station, we surveyed the remaining passage through the water and right angled turns to the bypass. The passage tightened as we approached the bypass. It should be noted that there are two ways into the bypass from this passage, both are tight. The furthest one being extremely tight with the other being doable, but awkward from below, although possible from the bypass downwards due to the assistance of gravity.

Afterwards we continued through the main passage, eventually reaching the main chamber deeper in the cave. We explored each passage off, finding the various digs. Having acquainted ourselves with the cave, Jasper pushed into the tight inlet to the left of the middle passage. It is a wet low passage, which leads to an extremely tight wet portion with sand angling downwards. Jasper decided not to push any further as it would be unsafe to do alone without a lifeline or someone to hold his boots. This passage also connected to the muddy "hole of doom" which can be accessed from a muddy climb to the left of the chamber and turning right. Beneath the wet portion of this passage, the nearby cave Sevlijo has a passage reminiscent of the tight wet bits of Loca 1.

Upon heading back to the main chamber, we inspected a muddy climb to the left of the rightmost passage, which led up into the rift. We considered climbing it, as there is a possibility of passage above that connects to Sevlijo. Due to the muddy nature of the cave, we deemed it unsafe to free climb it, however we would like to see it climbed safely in the future. Exploring the muddy climb to the left once again, there is another rift that runs parallel to the other rift. This also looks climbable through a small hole, with possible passage above.

12/08/2024 #0019 Loca 1

Hannah UG, Jasper, Ioan

Surveying passage to the right of the entrance chamber, investigating hole in passage towards entrance chamber. Before we progressed to the entrance chamber, we inspected a small hole in the ceiling that was noted in a previous trip. Through this hole, daylight could be seen, it approximately lined up with a hole that had been noted on the surface (5436 rift). Upon arriving at the entrance chamber we surveyed from the central survey station under a rock to the right, expecting a short amount of passage towards the bedding planes. However, we found it connects back to the entrance chamber to the right, and along a low 15cm passage under the bedding planes. This passage splits, the left leads to the first inlet seen from the bypass while the right leads to the first inlet of the main passage. This connection between the two sections of the main passage was called the "Bi-Century bypass" owing to the fact that it bypassed the bypass and we had been eating a brand of snack bar called 'Bi-Century'

Upon entering the passage under the bedding planes, we looked behind and saw a small hole into a rift adjacent to the portion which connects back to the entrance chamber. With the intention of surveying the rift, Jasper entered this on a whim. After entering the hole we could stoop through the rift around a left corner and pop out into a whole new chamber!

This chamber is the longest and by far the prettiest thing in this squalid cave. The roof and walls are heavily calcified giving the appearance of fluffy pure white clouds, and the entire chamber is full of straws, flowstone and larger formations. The chamber also goes up to the right from the entrance rift, into a lower portion with large stalactites and stalagmites. At the end of this the earth seems fresher with roots protruding through a visible collapse, with a slight draught. Looking at the survey later we saw this is about 1m from the surface. It should also be noted we saw a mouse in this area. We dubbed the new passage the "red light district", owing to the phallic formations and red lights (sexy mode) that we had on going through the crawls.

The rest of the chamber vaguely follows the rift, allowing for walking and stooping. The chamber eventually leaves the path of the rift into a crawl to the right at the end, connecting to the second inlet of the main passage after the bypass. This inlet was originally 10cm high, reflected in the survey data and explaining why it had been previously missed. The inlet was dug out to fit a (small) mendips size caver.

We surveyed all explored passage on this trip, totalling 147m of passage.

TOTAL LENGTH OF LOCA =458.1m i.e. 358.1 new

(Photos by Ioan)





10/08/2024 #0733 Vallina

Dan Hibbets Albert Peter Emma Elin

Surveying and exploring upwards of Dan's bolt climb in the aven leading to the discovery of Far Left Passage (which controversially but obviously heads on straight rather than veering left). Elin Emma and Albert stayed behind to survey while Dan followed by Peter headed up the pitch. Dan began to bolt a traverse which leads perpendicularly across the top of the aven, the ground here is very loose clay crumble and the survey team was showered in gunk and boulders. There is no more passage on the right of this area. The top of the aven is very well decorated in many long and beautiful straws.

At the (slightly) left side of the top of this aven is an obvious low sandy crawl which did not appeal to Dan so Albert and Peter set off to see if this went anywhere, which it did- they moved some rubble and rocks to make this accessible. The crawl is very loose and sandy and therefore quite comfortable, starting out mostly hands and knees height until a lovely big calcite formation we have named Fauna's Cake. After this the crawl drops down to flat out for 20 or so metres, leading to a comfortably big chamber with shallow muddy pit, after which the crawl continues low underneath a false calcite floor for a few short metres.

Now a chamber is entered with calcite on the right wall and mud on the left, leading down into a rift. We did not have the rope to drop the rift, but Dan bolted the traverse across to the point where we would drop it next trip. Behind this traverse is another metre of sandy crawl to enter a bigger rift chamber that is horribly loose and appears to end in a t-junction above another massive drop (assumed to be the same passage as the first drop).

12/08/2024 #0733 Vallina

Dan Hibbets, Albert, Peter, Elin, Emma

We returned to drop the pitch discovered in Far Left Passage and complete the survey. Our survey suggested it would drop into a parallel passage, but we also found that due to as of yet unknown fault, but probably error in the original survey, the centre line was out by about 20 metres.

Dan rigged the new rope and dropped the pitch, but quickly found we had dropped into known passage, only a short distance from the originally bolt climbed aven. Dan Albert and Peter speedily made their disappointed exit while Elin and Emma completed the last leg of the survey in hopes of tying it into the original survey. The rift further along the passage was peeked into but not fully traversed, audio connection from here with Dan in the known passage was excellent and therefore assumed to be one and the same, but potential for more high level passage beyond the possible t-junction has not been ruled out (though might not be particularly fruitful as a pursuit).

Survey team also resurveyed the duplicate section of survey (starting from an old short rope climb up shortly before the aven) to see if the error was in our new survey, but this resulted in pretty much exactly the same data, so an extensive resurveying project might be needed (and yield more leads..!)

13/8/2024 #0107 email from Footleg

Hi Juan,

Just finished the drawing up of all the survey work done in Uzueka entrance area (to 2013, the latest drawings I have). Nice to get another part of Ali Neill's work fully drawn up. Interesting to see how various passages align along faults. If anyone is looking for a project to escape the Summer heat, it would be good to have the site 0718 drawings made, and linked into 0107 which from the descriptions sounds like has been connected but not surveyed through the canal. Footleg

Copy of survey 0107-2024s-Entrance-Plan in Summer 2024 files. Juan to look out archived material for site 0718..

13/8/24 Riaño 0105

Chris Scaife, Chloe Almond, James Carlisle, Tiff Cooksley, Raoul Hidalgo Charman, Gracie Sharp

We went to the Redeeming Feature at the end of the long, squalid section that has been explored recently. A phreatic tube up a short climb had been noted in here on the previous visit.

I free-climbed up to it and attached a ladder. At the top we found a chamber with another climb up, for which Raoul rigged a handline. I now returned to the foot of the ladder to survey with James and Gracie, while the others were told to scamper off into the sunset and find whatever glory awaited.

Up the handline, a short crawl led into a chamber with an easy climb up into an ascending rift into another chamber.



Raoul, Tiff, James and Gracie in the chamber. Photo: Chris Scaife

A short climb up in this chamber led to a too-tight continuation. Following some creative use of the bolting hammer, Tiff squeezed through into a final chamber, which she said had a possible continuation up a climb that would need bolting.



Photo: The squeeze before it was hammered, *Tiff Cooksley*

[Video of the final chamber with window above](#)

[Video of entrance squeeze to chamber](#)



Chloe on the climb up to the tight continuation Photo: Chris Scaife

In total, we surveyed 70m. As well as the possible bolt climb in the final chamber, there is a waterfall flowing into the far end of Redeeming Feature. There seems to be caveable passage above this - about 6m up and would probably need bolting. **Batch 0105-24-18 Length = 70.2m**

Nepa cave #4937

Survex from Chris. No drawing yet.

14/8/24 Agua 0059

Chris Scaife, Chloe Almond, Tiff Cooksley, Raoul Hidalgo Charman, Gracie Sharp

With Carolina Smith and Oscar Scaife

A late afternoon trip to the end of Agua, to see the formations and the ancient wall. We followed the river all the way.

Carol and Oscar explored every nook and cranny in the entrance.

14/8/24 Riano 0105

Juan Carlisle, James Carlisle

First, I went through the belly crawl (for the second time) and did it all on my own for the first time, even though daddy was carrying a ladder to go down a pitch, which made him slower. And then, after the pitch (which I went down, up and then down again), I got into a pit of deep water, and then we did the round trip, and we saw the sandcastles that we made when we went down there the previous time.

15/8/24 Socks 1017

Chris Scaife, Raoul Hidalgo Charman

Surface team: Oscar Scaife, Carolina Smith, Peter Smith

Raoul made a basket of sticks and placed it about 10m down, to catch the falling debris. He and I then took it in turns to cap just below the first ledge on the entrance pitch. This part is now Zimmer frame friendly, ready for a big push.

The draught is always strong here and a concerted effort could well lead to something major.



Raoul capping at the ledge

Photo: Chris Scaife

15/8/2024 #5411 area

Gracie, James, Chloe and Juan drove up to the area around 5411. First to some jungle depressions next to the road.

- 1: **NEW SITE 5439** Sofa Hole. (1 photo) 0453125 4803261 on W side of track. Chloe descends over a sofa through drainage pipes etc and a choke about 5m down.
- 2: **NEW SITE 5440** Nothing Hole (1 photo; 2 videos) 453109 4803220 Just off E side of track. Gracie uses machete to find nothing at the base of a 7m deep vegetated depression.
- 3: **NEW SITE 5441** Number plate Hole (1 photo; 1 video) 453090 4803215 Slightly further up the track, an open hole but with a choked base. Gracie's machete out again to look at the 7m deep depression.
- 4: **5411** (9 media items incl. jpegs, 360deg photos and videos) Gracie down the 2 ladders to the top of the rift, opened up last Easter. Gracie explored part then joined by Chloe. James and Chloe pushed on ...

At the bottom of the steep entrance, open air, slope (8m?), a further pitch of 3m dropped down into a descending rift passage, heading in a vaguely southerly direction. This dropped through a slot and continued until the rift became narrow and sharp. A downwards squeeze gained access to a small chamber, and from here, a climb down (back under the rift in the direction of the entrance) dropped into a largish chamber. From here, a climb up reached a passage leading back up under the entrance rift, which was eventually blocked by boulders.

Back down in the chamber, the main outlet was a narrow passage, which Chloe pushed through a small hole to where it started to reduce in dimensions. Halfway along this passage was a narrow window through calcite, up into a well-decorated chamber, This would need digging to access.

Climbing back up to the bottom of the downwards slot, we noticed that the original rift actually continued (in its original, southerly direction) behind a large outcrop of rock. We dropped into this and landed on a sandy slope, which went for about 20m or so until it reached the lip of a 4m pitch into a much bigger space. This stretched several metres in each direction and we couldn't see the right wall at all – it might even be a full blown Vallina-style passage. We had a look around for a suitable natural from which to rig the drop, but there was nothing obvious and the rock seems very friable in this area. We will return with a drill to rig it properly. It's very possible that the chamber below will be a choke, but there's only one way to find out!

13/08/2024 #5368 Vaca Bypass

Hannah UG, Elin West, Ioan Jones, Emma Caspers

Trip with intention to bolt and investigate pitch down discovered last year, just past the mayonnaise escalator. We entered the cave quite late, while Hannah was rigging crack-pot, Ioan looked up and saw that it was possible to climb up into the rift.

Above the rift is a split junction leading two ways, the right passage leading to stalactite, then stalagmite formations followed by a crawl. Coming out of the crawl is a small downward sloping platform, where roots can be seen coming out of the left hand wall in one layer of sediment. The platform leads to a rift that can be climbed down to reach a lower level, or traversed across to reach a potential new entrance through a squeeze.

This potential entrance consists of an enclosed space and a muddy slope with a 1cm diameter root and water dripping down, potentially from the surface. It could be dug from the surface to create a new entrance, cutting out the first pitch (full of large spiders)..

Following the rift down, rather than across....

[More detail from hug here at a later date](#)

The group spent the rest of their trip exploring the new passage, so the pitch down discovered last year was not investigated.

14/08/2024 #5368 Vaca Bypass

Hannah Urquhart Greaves, Elin West, Emma Caspers, Ioan Jones, Percival Verney, Hannah Hannon-Worthington

Trip with the same intention to bolt and investigate the pitch down discovered last year, survey the new loop above the rift, discovered on the last trip, locate the potential new entrance point on the surface and begin a surface dig.

Elin, Hannah UG and Emma arrived earlier than the rest and began rigging the pitches up to the mayonnaise escalator. When rigging was complete they surveyed the new passage.

[More detail from hug here at a later date](#)

A few hours later the second group: Percy, Ioan and Hannah HW arrived. Percy was assigned to help with the surface dig. Hannah HW was supposed to help with surveying. However upon entering the cave we discovered that the surveying was almost complete, Hannah HW and Emma began investigating the potential new entrance point on the other side of the rift in the new loop. Percy entered the cave. Hannah HW squeezed through the rift and waited in the closed area blowing the whistle. Percy and Emma formed a trail of communication to help direct the whistling and searching. Ioan and Hannah UG were unable to locate the sound of the whistle from the surface. Hannah UG and Elin West took a break from the cave to pee. Ioan went back down into the cave

Hannah HW, Percy, Emma and Ioan made their way past mayonnaise escalator to the start of the pitch down. This involved crossing a rift and false floor, if the pitch leads to something I (Hannah HW) think this should be bolted, there is already one bolt in from a previous descent into the rift.

As Emma was hammering the wall to find hard rock, Hannah UG arrived. Emma placed the first bolt as an example, teaching Hannah UG, Percy and Hannah HW. The pitch called for two bolts because of a wall of loose rock that stood between the platform and start of the pitch. Hannah UG then placed the second bolt under Emma's supervision, this was her first bolt placement.

After rigging the pitch Hannah UG then descended approximately 20m into the rift, in contrast to the rest of the rift, this section is open and without a false floor. The descent consists of an initial 10m descent onto a slopy ledge, from which there is a window offering a view beneath the false floor, just after the mayonnaise escalator. Over this ledge and a further 10m into the pitch, the floor is eventually reached. This is a 5x2.5m area. At your feet there is a horizontal passage to your right, this passage looks like an ex stream way, with drips of water flowing down it. The passage is slightly sloped down, but still horizontal. It narrows and bends left, at this point you would need to be small or take off your SRT kit to enter and look left. Hannah decided that with her SRT kit being so caked in mud it would delay the expedition for too long to investigate this lead.

loan then exited the cave, shortly followed by Hannah UG, they drove home with Elin ready to collect another car load of cavers as we were one seat short.

Emma de-rigged the mayonnaise escalator and was de-rigging the hanging traverse when Percy was strung up descending the next pitch into crackpot. He called Hannah HW for some assistance and was lucky to escape with his life as a large flake became dislodged from behind him and Hannah HW witnessed it, and subsequent rockfall, narrowly missing his back and head. Percy was pulled back up, as was the rope, and the loose rock was knocked down from above. When Percy and Hannah descended the pitch it was discovered that the flake that had fallen was larger than the yellow tackle sack, approximately 65cm x 40cm. When it fell the rock glanced off the wall before landing on the tail of the rope for the next pitch, obscuring a tackle sack from view. The tackle sack and rope were recovered and the tail of the blue and black rope was inspected - no damage could be found.

The heavy bags tied to the end of the rope had to be pulled up with a pulley system that Emma set up. Once the bags were recovered, Percy took them up the next pitch and out of the cave. Hannah HW de-rigged crack pot under Emma's supervision - this was her first time derigging. Hannah HW then de-rigged the next pitch and followed Emma out of the cave. The Peli-case containing survey equipment was dropped at the entrance, and had to be recovered by Hannah UG and Hannah HW on 16/08/2024.

16/8/2024 #5411 at Quebraduras

James, Gracie, Raoul, Chloe, Juan

Surveyed length from tree belay: 95.2m. Depth 33.7m

2nd shaft is probably joined hydrologically, and is below survey start, so keep the two as one code.

PLEASE ADD OTHER DETAILS and AMEND if REQUIRED

Raoul and Gracie went to the top of the chamber pitch and installed bolts into chossy rock. Meanwhile, Juan surveyed into the cave and James and Chloe enlarged some of the tighter sections in the rift. When Juan reached the top of the slope down to the pitch head, Gracie was ready for the first descent which was 360deg video'd. Everyone dropped the 4m pitch into the chamber. (Dimensions: L x W x H) Raoul dug and pushed a small hole at the eastern end to a choke after about 10m; Chloe climbed and pushed the rift climbing up at the western end, finding a squeeze into a chamber.

The main chamber appears to truncate the joint on which the cave is formed although it may be worthwhile digging in the floor against the southern wall. The chamber back down under the rift was surveyed with a leg along the small route at the back. James later found ——

Phil was waiting as we all emerged. Chloe dropped the second hole (p5) to another pitch and continuing passage. This needs pushing and surveying.

(Photos and video on file server)

16/8/2024 #5410 at Quebraduras

Phil Papard

Site checked and small outward draught and dug a little leaving site stock proof with branches and a few rocks covering the hole. Needs a few hours digging with spade to gain entry and may need tube and lid if it goes, so further work was not attempted. Distorted to a little over 4m.

Site 5410 left stock proof.



17/8/2024 Sam's media download

Videos and pics from 0025, 0081, 0039 and 0733

17/8/2024 Hike in Asón

Raoul, Hannah, Tiff

After a very late start and a visit to the Soba fair, we walked up Asón from the viewpoint at El Nacimiento del Río Asón with Phil and Hillary, and planned to follow the trail on maps to Riba which we thought should be a nice easy hike for the afternoon. The weather was pretty lovely so far so we weren't expecting much, and after Phil and Hillary turned back we just continued along the same route. The path became less and less obvious so we started relying on our phones for GPS to follow the route which should have been a warning, but we continued onward, finding the occasional cairn to confirm we were on the right way. Once we got past the false peak we realised the main peak was in the clouds but thought this would be ok. However, when we got into the clouds the combination of a not-really-there path and quickly deteriorating visibility meant progress was very slow.

This is the point we should have turned around but we were still in high spirits and just continued. But as conditions got worse, becoming windy and rather damp as we remained in the clouds, we realized we'd made a bit of a mistake and doing the route we'd initially planned might not be possible by nightfall. At this point we decided to cut our journey short and go down to the village of Asón, as we'd committed too much to just turn around by this point. We eventually found the slope down and tried to continue following the supposed path, but eventually we came out of the clouds briefly and caught sight of our destination. We weren't entirely sure we'd make it down before nightfall but at least we were almost out. Eventually we figured out the best way down the ridge and went down with greater speed and just about got to Asón for nightfall, with Phil giving us a lift back to Matienzo.

If we'd been an hour longer this could have ended up quite an ordeal so we had a bit of a close call, and Phil thinks it might be good to have a hiking survival kit (lights, bivy bag, etc.) in case another group has an experience that doesn't get quite so lucky. Luckily guardia civil weren't called this time.

18/8/2024 Phil's media download

for 0105, 1015, 1016, 1017, 5411, and 5410

11/8/2024? 0025 Risco

Andrew, Gracie, Sam, Chloe, Tiff, Matt, Pete S.

Trip to explore and familiarize ourselves with the Upper Arco passages, via the pitch climbed by Andrew at Easter. This goes upwards at the end of Arco Passage. We first went south-east to the 'Disneyland' area, and checked most of the passages including a small extension. But some things are still not clear, such as the Breakdown Chamber marked on the old survey and if this is the chamber where there is a traverse line installed by Footleg and Paul Dold round the top. A resurvey next year will help.

We then had a look to the north-west, where the old survey marks passages left unexplored and even ends in dotted lines that are very close to the Dambuster Series. Plenty still to be done, and access via the new up-pitch is now relatively simple.

12/08/2024 0415

Carol Smith, Raoul Hidalgo-Charman, Percival Verney, Hannah Hannon-Worthington

Short trip to check a few question marks for my final survey. Hannah and Raoul also checked the helictite passage.

The rope in the first chamber going up to the higher level crawl is in a bad state and is knotted. Discussions are in place to change it (it's a 23m rope).

The big stal on the left hand passage series is still broken, if I have time I will attempt to fix it at Christmas.

19/08/2024 1017 Socks

Raoul Hidalgo Charman

Thought I'd spend my last afternoon capping at Socks, hopefully get the rift down to the squeeze wider, so it's easy to haul everything out. First hole went well, but the second one went off but didn't remove the rock. Unfortunately when I tried to get the firing pin out the following happened so it was a short trip. I had just given a little wiggle to shift it which broke it, so it must have been close to shearing.

✓ [Spreadsheet updated to here.](#)

✓ [Card index updated to here.](#)



CLOSED 15th September 2024

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT