MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT

LOGBOOK

Year: 2026

Season: Summer

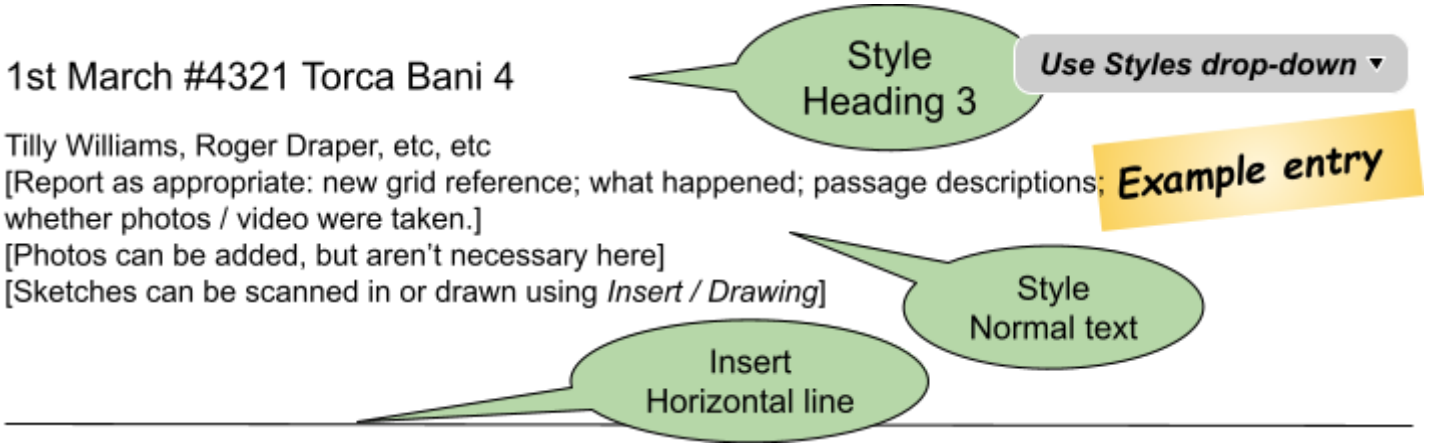
Logbook pages collaboratively produced online using a shared *Google Doc*

Juan Corrin, September 2026

2026 Summer Logbook

LOGBOOK HELP

STARTED June 2026



22nd June 2026 Hoznayo Caves

Good morning.

My name is Carmen Ruiz, and I recently gathered information via the *Prensa Histórica* (Historical Press) archive regarding the Fuente del Francés [#4171] spa in Hoznayo. Currently, using the notes I have, I am trying to reconstruct the history of the main cave—which has an exit [#4244] leading to the *Puente del Diablo* (Devil's Bridge)—though I am also interested in other caves in the area.

I would like to commend you on the work done through the Matienzo Caves Project. I am not a professional in this field, but during the lockdown, your website helped me clarify certain details about the main cave. Later, I discovered the *Injanas* I [#4001], II [#4444], and III [#4970] caves (known locally as "Los Picardos").

Regarding the latter, local lore suggests that people hid there during the Civil War and that one of them had (or has) an exit leading to the church of El Bosque (San Juan el Degollao).

Additionally, at the Fontaneda Foundation Museum in Ampudia, I came across a photograph of a fossilized head found in a Hoznayo cave (though no further details were provided).

I am also aware of the highly significant Mauranus project concerning the "Recueva" (or "Riocueva, #4042") cave, which is located on a property that once belonged to my grandfather.

There is another cave—which I believe you have included on your map—known locally as "Sixto's Cave" (*la Gruta de Sixto*); it is named after a man with a disability who lived in the village and used to sleep there. I mention this in case you might be interested in using that name (subject to confirmation, as my source is my father, who is turning 88 soon; I am attaching a marked map). [#4074 *The cave should be re-surveyed and drawn up*]

I have several reasons for reaching out, and I would be very grateful if you could address my inquiry.

1: What is the origin of the name "Los Picardos," and can you confirm the story about one of them having an exit to the nearby church? Could "Picardos" refer to the region in France? I am attaching a press clipping.

2: Could the Fuente del Francés cave have been longer, and—if so—might it have been possible for it to connect at some point with the Riocueva cave? The area near "El Francés" was known as "Recueva y Foncaliente."

3: Do you know anything about the origin of the fossilized head in the Fontaneda Museum?

4: The area surrounding Fuente del Francés has very distinctive place names—Puente del Diablo, Campo de las Brujas, Peña de Caín, Peña de Abel, La Picota, plus the legend of the French abbot, etc.—do you know anything about this?

5: I am sharing some of the notes I have with you, as you might find them interesting. Thank you very much. Best regards.

(JSC replied. Spanish original with graphics saved in E:\ARCHIVE\Caving-Years\2026\2026-summer)

24th June 2026 Info re Francés and Injanas Caves

Thanks for your prompt reply, Juan.

The story of the mummified monk in Solórzano comes as a surprise—one I will naturally look into, as the tale of the abbot must have some basis in reality, even if it later became a legend designed to promote mineral-medicinal waters for purely commercial gain (a topic documented in my book regarding the exodus of clergy fleeing the French Revolution after refusing to swear allegiance to the Civil Constitution of the Clergy). I would like to know if the mummy has been dated or if there is any information available about it (such as a reference book).

In "The Fuentes del Francés and Aguas de Hoznayo Thermal Complex," [book by Carmen Ruiz Ruiz] there is a map of the main cave—logically referenced as part of your project, the "Matienzo Caves Project." I did, however, come across your records regarding the three *Injanas* caves and those at Pozo de la Olla [≡*Pozo de la Hoya #4017*] (I wasn't familiar with them personally, though I knew of the existence of just one). I don't recall which year you explored the *Picardos* caves, but it is worth noting that the main entrance to one of them [?? #4001] was likely located behind the pump house near *El Francés*—next to Peña de Caín and the *Casa de la Pizarra*—but was probably cut off when the road to Galizano was built (that location would have been a good hiding spot during the war, given its proximity to a source of food).

I have a photo of the fossilized head from Ampudia Castle; I received a scan of it, but only after signing a clause regarding its potential publication. I can send you the photo I took with my mobile phone, though I'll have to send it later as I can't find it right now.

The idea that *Riocueva* and the *Francés* cave were connected stems from a story told by a local woman—surely an exaggerated one—about how her grandfather (a bellboy at the Hotel Suizo) showed the cave to Don Juan de Borbón, who paid him 10 pesetas (more than his father earned); while the story seems unlikely, sinkholes *can* bridge significant elevation changes. What *is* almost certain is that the *Francés* cave extended into the *La Ponderosa* estate and likely connected to the *Molino de Tranca* (either naturally or artificially, given that the road level has since been raised). I hope to find that photo and send it to you another time. Many thanks for the information.

2nd July #4017

Email from Carmen Ruiz: Further info and map re names around the Hoznayo area. No direct caves / caving info except for … "number 9 marks the caves near the *Pozo de la Olla* (or *Hoya*, depending on the intended meaning). There used to be a spring and a washing place there, though the basic structure is now hidden among the brambles."

21st July Surveys

Drawn up surveys from Si and Di for sites 0111, 0511, 1377, 5508, 5509 and 5513.

21st July Vallina #0733

Info re Vallina from RS email:
1: Climbs in the 6-ways chamber area, at the top of Zarcos Pitch, there one good lead in poor rock was poor. It may be better with 2 people.
2: At Swirl Chamber, a steep climb up to an aven visible in the ceiling. This is a continuing project in poor rock.

22nd July Toad #0258

According to an ESOCAN safety alert (24/9/25), the entrance to Torcón de la Calleja Rebollo (Toad in the Hole) is blocked by a large boulder.

23rd July Torca La Decepción #4732

Mike Wise and Dave Barrett. Trip to take a few photos of the streamway and to find our way through the Armageddon chokes.

Left the pitches rigged.

23rd July - SITE 5559 New Dig - Vega Valley

Allan Berry:

Arrived off the ferry and decided to have a quick look in Vega valley to find a new dig for tomorrow. Found one fairly quickly quite close to site 2741. Spent a little time opening the entrance and then returned to let DCC know. Will return tomorrow to dig it properly.

GPS coordinates: N 43.304712 W 003.629156 Elevation 264m from map (44897261, 479484581)

The above was using my Garmin watch. Will check tomorrow with a GPS device.

24th July - SITE 5559 (same as above entry - new dig - Vega Valley.

Allan Berry, Nigel Dibben, Billy Booth

Dug out the new site which turned into the top of a rift. After clearing enough rocks and soil to open up the top of the rift we were then faced with one small boulder preventing us getting down the rift. We hilticapped this which allowed Allan to get down to the bottom of the rift and remove more boulders from the bottom. The bottom chokes in rocks and soil. Could be dug but no real draught. Measured to be approximately 4.5m (mainly depth).Nigel GPS coordinates: 30T 448972 4794840 Alt:264m (possibly more accurate than my watch yesterday). Very close to site 2741.

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24 July 2026, #5000 Boob Tube to #3234

Louise, Karen, Marie, Torben

Entered 16.15, out 19.40

Derigging through trip. Equipment left from the time before #5000 was excavated.

This was Karen and Marie's first SRT trip. Karen had practised before, but Marie had never tried it. However as we progressed Marie realized that she better had to learn it, because the way back would end up as a lot more work.

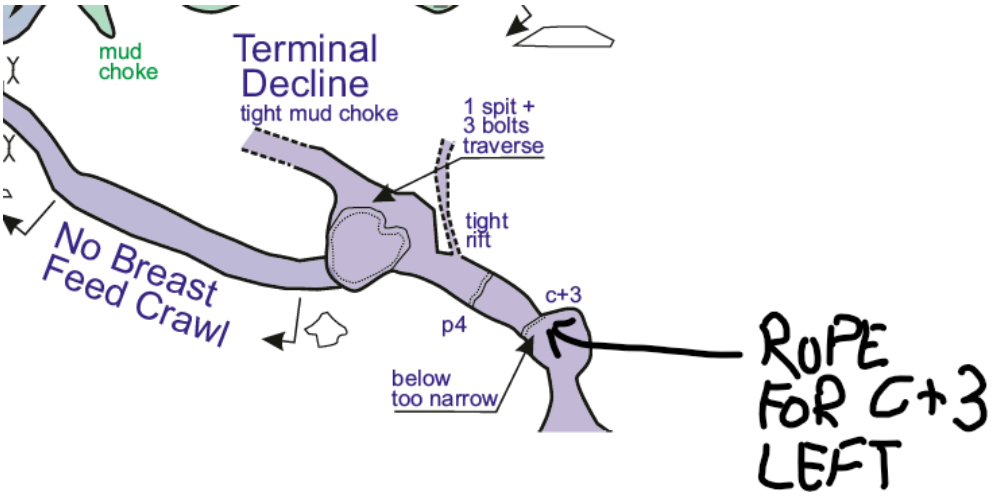
The spirit was high and the learning curve steep. The kids managed it very well.

Equipment out: ropes: 22m+25m+36m

2 ladders+ splitter (one ladder is marked with yellow+green strip, does it belong to Jim?)

13 hanger+maillon

Rope for the c+3 left rigged:





Louise was the first out of 3234, and we could hear a big laugh. Then she started talking about brambles and they were ready for eating. Great, but as we came out, we realized that the laugh was due to the fact that we were in the middle of a large 2m high bramble jungle, with no way out.

A heavy tacklebag pushed the jungle down, so that it was possible to walk out on the top of the jungle.

Torben

25th July Giant Panda #2691

Mike Wise and Dave Barrett to rig the entrance/1st pitch, check the in situ 2nd pitch rope and perhaps look further. High chance of rain forecast. The surface gulleys were clean washed as was everything below. First pitch rigged with both rebelays. 2nd pitch rope has damage and needs replacing but was descended. The fixed rope below was also descended but after that we exited. 2 hours after exit there was a big, wet thunderstorm and rain continued for most of the day.

Rigging left in place.

Mike

25th July #1149

Photos of entrances from Mike Topsom.

26th July Hoyuca #0107 via Field Entrance

Mike Wise and Dave Barrett looking for the route to the Gorilla Walk and taking photos. Proceeded to what turned out to be the '10m flat out duck' after looking around Pig Trotters and investigating the two downstream sumps. DBa proceeded to the entrance of Trapdoor Choke while MWs got his chest wedged in the '10m flat out duck' final section and retreated.

Wet and chilly on the way MWs used a 'Cheap Anorak From Decathlon' for the first time having only a light bib undersuit and tee shirt on. Excellent piece of kit purchased thanks to a tip from Tony Seddon.

Mike Wise

26th July Up track at Seldesuto

Penny, JUAN and Luke Moore.

At the main Seldesuto road end drove up to the flat area below the main draughting dig #1298. Walked up the continuation of the track which curves right past a cabaña then up the true right bank of the valley, passing the route to Azpilicueta and following a recently enlarged route, all on sandstone. The track soon meets limestone and passes to the other side of the valley, with more sandstone on the ground.

Just up from where the track crosses, a 2m high, 3m long through tube was investigated
#5558 30T 449511 4794258 Photo

The track continues to rise to where the excavator was parked. Near here is a built-up resurgence as the old track (soon to be enlarged?) heads north. Any cave passage is very small.

#5560 GPS 30T 449381 4794385 Photo

Following the unenlarged route north leads to another built-up resurgence with the remains of a large building below

#5561 GPS 30T 449338 4794466 Photo

A sunken track continues but soon deteriorates.

Back at the excavator, followed a small track heading south into an open space with some investigations into the woods up to the west.

The west of the main valley shows old walls and buildings and a charcoal pit (?) just after the track crosses the valley. This initial foray along the enlarged track was just a superficial investigation. It may be worthwhile following the smaller routes into the woods both up and down.

Map on page 71

26th July 2026 Site 2741

Allan Berry, Bill Booth, Nigel Dibben, Peter Clewes

Visited site 2741 and dug in the lowest part of the chamber for around 6 hours. Capped and hauled many boulders to reach a point where we could see back underneath the main chamber and in a direction that may be a continuation of the main cave (i.e. straight into the hill). Unfortunately both chokes very quickly (with a meter). The best option would be to continue to dig in the floor and lower the floor. There did seem to be a draught but not significant and might have been from the entrance circulating.

We dug down about 2 meters through mostly boulders (capping and crowbars). The floor now is more clay and in some places easier to dig but there is a calcite ramp that makes things more difficult. Too thin to cap, but still hard to break with

a hammer and chisel. No obvious way on - but worth digging the floor a bit deeper if bored as its an easy dig to get to (you can almost see the entrance from the dig).

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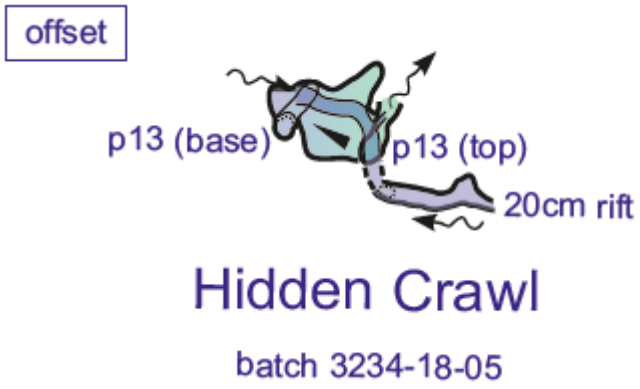
26 July 2026, #4536 Sub phone entrance into 3234

Louise, Karen, Marie, Torben

Entered 14.15, out 17.30

Pushing Hidden Crawl below Ali Chamber.



First and last visit was in 2018.

This time we were prepared with Snappers. The meandering crawl with muddy floor still had my hands and knees marks.

The first snapper removed a good piece of rock, to get 50cm further. The smoke dropped the visibility to about 1m. Not really that smokeless powder. After the second snapper another 50 cm of progress was made. But now the visibility was less than 50cm, so it was quite difficult to see what to do next and no way to judge the potential. The snappers were fired just from the bottom of the shaft where the crawl starts. It felt like being in front of a cannon, good fun. The girls at the top of the shaft also enjoyed the bang and smoke.

I expected the draught would clear the smoke, but the air just seemed to move forth and back.

A small caver may get through, but if not then one more snapper should be enough.

The shaft was left rigged for another trip.

Torben

27th July Surface walk

Mike Wise and Dave Barrett.

1. Locate #0871 entrance. Done and entrance photo taken showing the ladder belay point.
2. **NEW SITE 5562** Document the curious looking ½ shaft found by MWs on July 23rd near 4732. Done and photos taken. It is approximately 70m metres from 4732 on a bearing of 051 on the same side of the valley. Just 0.5m deep on the bottom side and ~2.5m at the back. 1/3rd of the circumference is dry stone walling. Fully infilled. Grid ref is 30T 453062 4798437. Ref is 260727-MW-A. Flat prepared area found some 10 away and below on the valley side. We found something similar when descending from 0871 via an alternate route.
3. Head up valley and look around. .Whilst wandering around on the true valley left the air seemed cool but no source could be found. It got a bit exciting when a large waterworn shaft was found. Unfortunately this turned out to be 0260. On the hillside above various other depressions could be seen.

28th July 2026 - TIVA (Site #0026)

Luke and Allan Berry

Trip into Tiva to look at something that does not appear on the survey and needed a Maypole to get into. This area is near to the boulder choke when travelling in the other direction from the Sandstone series. I.e. at the first major junction in the cave, instead of going left towards the sandstone series, go straight on to the terminal boulder choke. Just back from this boulder choke is a small passage at floor level heading North and then turning East (see on Survey from May 1975). However above this passage is another passage higher up that requires a maypole to reach. This one does not appear to be on the survey.

I climbed up into this passage using a Maypole and this passage started out walking size but very quickly became crawling size after about 10m. I then reached a corner where a small boulder blocked the way and it was clear that nobody had been past. I removed the boulder with a hammer and chisel and was then able to squeeze through a constriction into a very small chamber / continuation of the passage. Here there was a large flake in the way and only small holes which were draughting. It did not look too promising. Removing the boulder would be difficult in such cramped conditions. I would estimate the total passage length at about 12m.

I then returned down the maypole and set about looking at the passage below which has been surveyed. I dug the mud floor for a couple of hours until I could reach the corner comfortably and look around a corner to the right. I could see the passage continue for at least 8m but it was filled with mud to a point where I could not quite fit over the top of the mud. This would take some time to dig (I would estimate at least 3 days of digging) in order to reach the end of the 8m. I could see a wall at the end but could not confirm any way on. There may be a way upwards, or left or right at the end but I could not confirm this. I tried throwing a couple of small stones and they did not seem to rattle down anywhere at the end. Again - no significant prospect but easier to dig then the higher passage and only mud to dig out with a spade. Would only go back if nothing better to do 🙂

28th July San Miguel and Secadura

Juan & Penny - cool drive out on a hot day. Visited the Nacimiento del Río Clarín (#0115). Water very low; walk down into cave with resurgence sump pool ahead, but no apparent flow. Photo.

Then to #0117 Los Boyones resurgence gate with ‘access prohibited’. Photo.

Drove past Lenny’s Cave and the Sifón Claro then followed an enlarged track which meandered up the hillside.There’s a large vegetated depression by the track which continued around bends and up the hill. It appears to join with the Cellaron track above LLueva. It is a pity we don't have access to this area at present.

28th July 2026 Hoyuca #0107 via Giant Panda #2691

Mike Wise and Dave Barrett with a new rope for the 2nd pitch and another piece of old rope. The damaged 2nd pitch rope was replaced and taken down along with the 2nd piece brought in, to provide some additional fixed assistance on the two awkward climbs below. The ‘tight squeeze’ was happily no tighter than it had been a year ago.
We then headed downstream taking a few **photos** and notes. We looked at the inlet immediately beyond 2nd river inlet and generally poked around until we arrived at the end of The Crossover. Here we went up the 3rd inlet for about 200m until we found the roof descending into a wetter, lower and inspiring passage. The roof has nice dripstone throughout and we found a fine display of clean dripstone and flowstone at the base of a small aven before we turned around. On the way back we found the bypass to the deep pool. On exiting via Giant Panda, the added aid on the two climbs was appreciated. Pitches were left rigged.

Mike Wise

29th July 2026 - Cueva las Cosas #0084

Allan Berry

Went into Cosas to look at a lead I spotted last year. In the boulder choke on the left of the main chamber - a little further in than where the short ladder is, I could climb via a squeeze into a small void behind the boulder choke. On following this to its conclusion I relocated a small hole that I had put my camera through last time and saw an open space. I managed to enlarge this hole today with a hammer and chisel enough for me to get a better look. I managed to get close enough to put my spare light into the chamber to light it up and then get my arm in with my phone on video mode.

The resulting video showed a small chamber heading in the right direction - i.e. under the left hand wall of the chamber. This was a crawling size space I think. The camera picked out the chamber well and there looked like a small amount of potential. Probably nothing but for the sake of a few caps to get into this chamber it might be worth another look tomorrow.

29th July 2026 - Site: 0535 & 3302

Present: Andy Pringle, Phil Papard, Luke Moore, Jim Lister.

Andy wanted to look at the cave, which is located in a strategic location and risk assess it, for a possible digging project and to also carry out a time and material requirement assessment.

After a careful inspection (using Jim as a second opinion), it was decided to place it lower down the list, in favour of a site requiring less risk, time and cost.

We had a walk around the hill, before heading over the hill to look at 3302 a dig above sump 9 in Fridge Door cave. After Jim took us on a tour of Cantabria we found the right spot. Looked at the four holes under the undercut second from the left, draughted best but not a big draught. The hole above was also looked at. Decided it would take a lot of digging and with only a small draught it was not thought worthwhile for now.

Report by J Lister.(added to by Phil)

30th July dig #0813

Present: Mike Wise
Solo trip to have a look at the dig as I hadn't been back since 2024. Entrance was draughting out nicely. Ladder, bucket and rope were all there. Inside I found a bit of a dug pit I didn't remember. Down dip was largely blocked with dug out rocks. A cold draught was hitting me from the left side where there is a narrow sascending trench which seems to bear right out of reach. Down dip there was a whisper of a draught possibly inwards. I cleared all the rocks back into the left hand trench without blocking it then tested the down dip draught with the only tool available, a plastic bag. It seemed to bend inwards/down dip. 1.5 hours was then spent digging down and clearing back to the trench and pit. 2 very large rocks were manoevered out. Photos taken.

Mike Wise

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28 July 2026, #0427

David, Iris, Torben

Down p7 and p16 to start of the p37. Had a look at the balcony above where the p37 starts. We did not find any passages to push on the way down. The bolts were quite rusty in places and not all nuts could be removed.Torben

David: Uneventful trip to the top of the 37m but disappointing….36C outside and not a sizable draught in the cave. To me seems like the little draught that is present is recirculating from the multiple avens. Later in the day we went to Risco and the contrast of the draught was stark. **Not convinced that it's worth investigating further**

31st July #4600

Juan up Seldesuto to search again for site 4600. Not found after an hour looking.

30th July Trident Series Hoyuca #0107

Return visit after 2 years to see sections not previously visited. Fresh cool air felt in Double Decker.

Dave Barrett.

31st July dig #0813

Mike Wise, Miriam Walsworth-Bell and Guy Webb. The entrance and left hand side below were draughting cold as noted yesterday. Miriam and Guy took turns at the front and on the entrance climb for 30 out of 40 boats removed, all extracted from the down dip direction. A joss stick positioned far forward here showed a good draught outwards.

Miriam and Guy worked hard and with enthusiasm - well done

Mike Wise

31st July Field search San Antonio

John Southworth, Andy Pringle and Phil Papard

Aim was to look in the field that contains digs #3082 and #3083 and to look for a cave that was found by John when he first came to the area. This cave was under a small rock face and opened up after the entrance squeeze to standing size. As he had no GPS at the time it was not recorded. Since the original find much of the field is now covered in large bramble bushes that restricted searching and it seems very likely now cover the entrance. After a couple of hours searching only a small rock face was found but massive brambles prevented a thorough search.
Site 3082 was found using the original photograph of the tree next to the site, it is of little or no digging interest.
Dig 3083 was found at GPS point and is a hole under a boulder with a gap in the floor dropping a short distance, but no echo or draught, Photo take of both site entrances.

30th July 2026 - Cueva las Cosas #0084

Allan Berry, Pete O-Neil, Billy Booth, Peter Clewes

Went back to Cosas to look at the constriction under the boulder choke against the left hand wall (when looking inwards). Located the constriction and used hilticaps to get though it into a very small alcove with no way on.

Then turned attention to a potential way on a little further around the same left hand wall - but this time not within the boulder choke. This was a passage at floor level filled with calcite rocks which were small enough to move by hend but heavily calcited. Crowbars and hammer and chisel were used to remove enough rocks to enable a better view of this passage. However it closed down after about 2 meters. Still potentially goes but would require significant digging. Not a great prospect.

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01 August 2025 0427: Lastrilla, Torca de

Ben Marks and david foxton

Finished bolting the 37m pitch dropped into the big passage. at the bottom turning left (with your back to the rope) passes a rift on the rhs. Dropped this rift with a 6m pitch. Ending tight immature with no draught.
Continued back in the big passage to a short blasted section that opened out into a climb up with a tight rift down which we dropped again 6m in an immature rift with no draught.
Something has been missed there's little draught at the bottom of the big pitch would have another look higher up.

21st July Prospecting above Aven Alley #4732 - ~190m from the old house.

Iris & David

Started from the normal deception walk up the hill. Then just before the trees wanted to go straight up the hill to the old house, a big mistake. Heavy undergrowth prevented the direct route. Continued uphill on the deception path and just before crossing to the left the electric fence next to the dry stream, there is a vague path that winds up the hill to the right. Following this route was significantly better than the first. This opens up onto the karst mixed with brambles and gorse. Going was again very difficult and our legs & arms were cut to shreds. Hindsight is a wonderful thing and I would go from the top, walking down from the road and do it in winter or early spring when the vegetation is at the least.

23rd July Reñada #0048

Iris & David

Short trip into the system dropping off some weights for killer

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25th July Hoyuca #0107

Iris & David

My memory was hazy about the field entrance after so many years away. My easy entrance was a thrutchy challenge and not ideal for a beginner. Turned around and went to the beach

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26th July Sites 4196 4195

Iris & David

“New” to me, road makes for easy access with the car to a very interesting area, the field has a long line of shakeholes. Grid reference is spot on. Took lots of pictures as instructed.

L: 4196 was interesting so we spent a couple of hours pulling rocks out of a hole. Hole opened up into a rift 30cm wide blocked by rocks.





Unfortunately very little or no draught was observed. Covered the hole with branches will go quickly back on a warm day to double check the draught

R: 4195 large tree in the base of the shakehole, with pile of rocks, no draught.

27th July Risco #0025

Allan Berry, Luke Moore, Iris Bogdanov, David Foxton
Nice intro to Matienzo caving, uneventful trip to the big chamber up the boulder slope to really nice stals.
Then on the way back down the streamway we saw a crayfish.

29th July Reñada #0048

Mark, Jim, Iris and David

Carrying trip for Mark to Ghost Lake

30th July 2026 Site: 0733

Present: David Foxton and Iris, Mysti, Piper, Luke Moore, Jim Lister.

Diving and Capping equipment was transported in, the diving kit was left at “FN” junction, so that it can be taken either route depending on whether the bypass dig is successful?

The capping kit and drill etc was left in the passage next to stn 12. Near the “ Man trap” the location of which needs to be checked and confirmed as there are a few holes in the floor.

Note, since the trip Phil Papard has confirmed the location of station 12, so that we know which hole to descend.

Andy Pingle has located the log book accounts.

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01 August 2026 #1801

John Southworth.

Started as easy digging but tree root problems slowed the work down , plan to return with a wood saw .

Can now see about 3m to what looks like the roof of a vertical passage .

Photos taken

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01 August 2026 #5411- Mysti, Ben, Piper, Luke

We went into the main chamber to look at the other leads on opposite side to the second pitch after the entrance series. We took a left from the chamber through a crawl, then found a second upwards left with a sizeable formation that had not previously been found. We then explored further down the crawl, finding a potential dig ahead and a smaller crawl to the right, with a very tight squeeze ending in a small chamber. Finally we returned to the chamber, up a calcite slab, through a squeeze, and found calcite formations, animal bones, and tree roots hanging from the ceiling

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01 August #3221

Small stream sinking under rocks on hillside and above the end of Gour Passage in Hoyuca.

Selected from the current pushing list. It’s outside our permit area but worth checking for inclusion in our next permit.

After some faffing about which side of a solid looking hedge I needed to be on due to a poor GPS signal, I parked in a field entrance opposite the house on the road above the location just before the road forks down the hillside.

The stream is sinking higher than the noted location currently. Photos were taken of the stream bed just above and at the GPS location. For the photo only, a stick in the ground in front of and below an obvious tree at a small waterfall marked the spot. Cattle have trampled the ground and there is no sign of a sink. In wet weather water clearly continues on the surface down the slope towards the woods. A few metres to the east another stream in flow was followed down through cattle fords all the way to a stone covered sink at the tree line where a forest track was found. The stone sink channels water into a road drain pipe. Having spent some time in the heat chasing errant GPS info I did not investigate if a similar arrangement existed for the target stream. To find 3221 from above, cross the drystone wall just east of the house where there is an electricity transformer pylon. Go down left towards an obvious lone tree and then to an overhead wire pylon. From here continue roughly in the same line to a short section of dry stone walling which can be crossed on the right. After rounding some bramble, not far below on the left is the site of 3221 and its stream.

There are numerous other gulleys on the hillside to the east and the forest track could perhaps be a better point of access.

Mike Wise

2nd August 2026 #0813

Mike Wise, Guy Webb and Ben Edwards.

Old bucket was replaced with a new boat with a flat bottom. Entrance climb was gardened slightly more. 35 boats were extracted. Partway we paused to light the joss stick and tested the hole under the bedding which still blew out. The hole on the right in the pit was also tested and blew out more strongly than the bedding.

With lots of space available GW and BE dug both locations simultaneously and MW hauled out.

The Hole in the pit turned left and is narrow and is filled with mud and stones. MW dug out 5 more boats to finish for the day most of it coming from the pit bottom

A good session with photos taken

Mike Wise

2nd August #4732 Decepión to #2691 Giant Panda (in #0107)

Planned solo Decepción to Giant Panda trip by Dave Barrett was abandoned when he fell in Armageddon, bouncing on his back and face to the ground about 7m below. A good effort to get back to the Decepción entrance where he rang Mike Wise. Juan drove up into the Mushroom Field with Mike, Guy and Ben to transport him back to the campsite. Documents picked up, then a trip to the Ramales medical centre where he was immediately assessed and after half an hour was taken to Valdecilla by ambulance.

A CT scan shows two broken ribs and bone fracture in the face. Being kept in over night.
Update 3/8/2026: Small lung puncture. Should stay in hospital until healed. *(See full account around pages 24 - 27)*

2nd August #1801.

John Southworth and Andy Pringle spent several hours working on tree roots which have been hindering progress

then decided the best way would be to bring along a thiny to ascertain if it is viable to continue digging at this site .

2nd August 2026 - #5053

Pete Smith, Allan Berry, Pete O’Neill, Phil Papard

Pete Smith took us to 5053 which was a 25 ft pitch from surface waiting to be dropped. We drove all the way to the entrance in Allan's Landrover Discovery Sport without much trouble. Phil Papard followed in his Toyota Rav 4 also getting almost to the entrance.

Pete O-Neil free climbed the entrance pitch and reported a couple of possibilities at the bottom but wanted other opinions. We enlarged the top of the pitch to make things easier and put a bolt in for a ladder. Allan and Pete S then went down the pitch for a look. Although straight down seemed like the best way on, it would have undermined the entrance pitch which was already a bit loose. So Allan set about attacking a potential way on at the same level as the bottom of the pitch. After easy digging for an hour or so with hands and a crowbar, we could see black space in front of us beyond a very large boulder which was blocking the way. This boulder was impossible to get out without capping but Allan used the crowbar to tip it into the new chamber in front of us. It took it all easily! And we were looking into a void.

We squeezed through into this new chamber which had room for three of us to stand up in. But even better, there was a clean and open 6.2mtr pitch in the floor. On looking down this pitch it appeared to drop into large passage.

We set a couple of bolts and hung another ladder down this second pitch. We then each descended to a spacious chamber at the bottom which would have held about 15 people easily. Unfortunately however, there was no way out of this chamber.

Some digging in one corner has allowed us to see into a further void but this may just be part of the boulder choke. Would possibly be worth another day digging to open up that void.

Unfortunately the surveying equipment that Phil brought was playing up a bit and so we can only estimate the total passage found. We estimate this at about 25m including the 2 pitches of approximately 4.5m and 6.2m.

In the chamber at the top of the second Pitch, Pete O also climbed into another small void at the back of the chamber but this did not progress either.





2 August 2026, #4536 Sub phone entrance into 3234

Louise, Torben

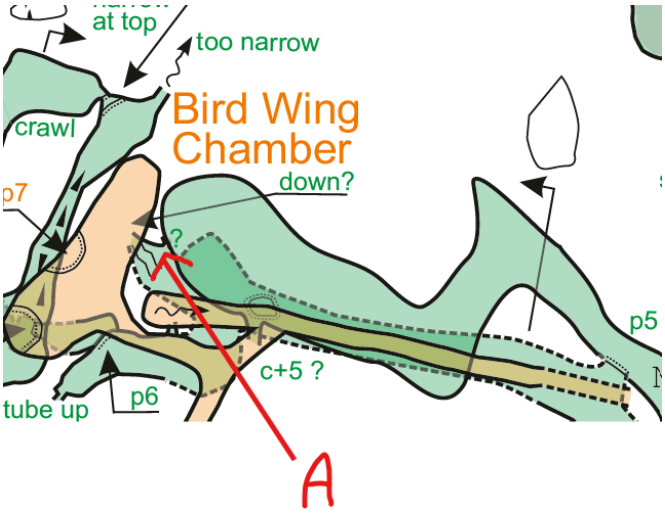
Continued from 26 aug 2026:

Hidden Crawl: It was possible to dig some mud and get through the squeeze, but only without helmet.

Beyond I could stand up, and climb up into a 1m wide tube, with passages that either choked or were too small.

Probably the draught came from these small (20x30 cm) holes.

We went down into Mitre Passage:



A: The question mark from 2016 was checked. A 30 kg rock was hammered away with another rock. Then it was possible to climb 2m down into a small passage. This passage continues up an enlarged squeeze towards NW. The passage turns and heads E as a wide crawl for about 20m. There the way on is a 1-1.5m wide climb up in a tube. I could see about 6m up. Looks like it is possible to free climb with protection. It may go up to Upper Mitre Passage level. But as shown in the survey and as I remember it, we did not leave any question marks around there in Upper Mitre Passage.

Access Subphone entrance:

We used to climb down at the drain running under the road. But after we cleared that path, we realized that 15m down the road, the entrance can be reached without any bush knife work.

Torben

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3 August 2026, #5379 and #0271 and more

Nigel Dibben and Pete Clewes

Trip to photograph 5379 and 0271. Photos and drone shots taken. Also located four other features, two small holes and two depressions (one quite large) not on the Matienzo map. Photos to follow.

The large depression will be visited again to penetrate the vegetation and see if there is anything there.

5379: grid reference confirmed, pictures taken.

NEW SITE 5563: Large depression: 30T 453560 4797660 tree filled Alt 367m

NEW SITE 5564: Small depression: 30T 453571 4797617 Alt 364m

NEW SITE 5565: Hole in field about 2m deep, no obvious prospects 30T 453596 4797590 Alt 357m

NEW SITE 5566: Hole in field about 2m deep, no obvious prospects 30T 453836 4797332 Alt 441m

#0271:adjusted grid reference to 30T 453810 4797162 Alt 494m With a light (and a Disto), the rift can be ascending about 7m up behind the cliff face. There is a “resurgence” at roughly that level. It is not clear whether the rift could be climbed or not.

Just for reference, there is a short cut to 0271 from the track along the back of the hill using a steep forestry (?) track starting at 30T 454049 4797340.

Monday 3rd August 2026 - Site #2754

Allan Berry, Dave Foxton & Iris

Wanted to go back to a shaft I (Allan) found in about 2012 as I didn't get time to look for leads properly in the bottom at the time. This time we decided to drive up to the Judges house to enable us to take more kit. We went via Arrodondo to get to the judges house and this enabled a 10 min walk in to the entrance.

Last time I was here I descended off a very small tree. So this time Dave bolted it properly with one Y-Hang rebelay on the way down. This lead via the pitch of about 8m to the chamber I had discovered in 2012. On looking around we could feel it draughting and there was a potential lead in the floor at one side of the chamber. On removing a few rocks we could see into a large open space. On the first attempt to squeeze through I got stuck but was able to remove the offending rock as I reversed out uphill with difficulty. On the second attempt we managed to push through into a new chamber 6m long, 4m wide and 10m high. I could remove boulders from this side to make the squeeze easier before Dave and Iris followed.

In this chamber there is still a draught but difficult to know where to dig as the chamber is quite large. We set about digging the left hand floor until we could see a few voids but only into small spaces. This turned out to be just an undercut in the wall with the exception of one point where it does appear to go on. However there is a large boulder in the floor and we didn't have hilti-capping kit. I would say that this is not very promising but might be worth a look.

On returning to the first chamber we then noticed that at the lowest point in the cave floor there were also some loose and fairly small boulders. On removing these we could rattle stones down some distance and poked a long tree branch down the hole between boulders. This could also be a possible way on.

I took some pictures of the entrance and of the first chamber.

3rd August 2026 #0813

Mike Wise and Guy Webb

We focused on digging deeper in the pit below the entrance. Guy broke through the fill into sandstone and limestone rocks with sandstone cobbles in a dry sandy matrix with gaps, an increase in the draught and possibly dubious roof integrity. Juan came up partway through, kindly bringing a section of ladder I had just requested😃 used to improve hauling and stayed to help. 36 boats removed. Will continue to clear out all the fill next trip. Photos taken.

3rd August 2026 #0048

Mungo Palmer, Thomas de Ath, Noah Lewis, Marty Hebden, Tess Hopes, Mark Smith.

Entered through bottom entrance and caved to sump 1 where Mark attempted to dive, survey practice was undertaken and the re-excavation of broken knee dig was started.

3rd August 2026 Site 0368

Chris Scaife, James Carlisle, Mike Topsom, Freya Bearn



Freya Bearn at the entrance to 0368 Photo: Chris Scaife

We crawled into this resurgence on the Hum, surveying from the entrance. At yesterday's limit, Freya squeezed through and then we dug a little to provide access for the older, less in-shape members of the party. The sandstone floor and mud-calcite ceiling came away quite easily. Nonetheless, we had to work to achieve something Freya had achieved with ease; hence the name Arbeit Macht Freya.



Mike Topsom in the first dig (Arbeit Macht Freya) in 0368 Photo: Chris Scaife

Another squeeze followed, which again needed enlarging with digging tools. This part was all quite wet and poor old Mike was wearing a cotton boiler suit, so took the opportunity to spend the rest of the day in the sun.

Around the corner from the two enlarged squeezes was a wet crawl, then the passage improved in size, with one or two sections where we were able to walk for a couple of metres. It remained a narrow thrutch upstream throughout, however, and as things lowered we soon encountered another dig. This was again quite easy, the soft rock breaking away with every stroke of the hammer. The damp crawling continued as far as another narrowing, at which point we turned back. No doubt this will all break away easily again and we can soon slither our way into more new passage. In total, we surveyed 106m today from the entrance. The previous survey length was 28m.

4th August site 5470 dig

Jim Lister, John Southworth, Ben Edwards, Andy Pringle, Juan

There are two digs at this site. The original one is the long hading slot. Slightly downhill is the dig that John Southworth started yesterday. This was continued today with capping (by Ben and Jim) to remove large blocks from the floor. Juan then Ben wriggled feet first into an uninspiring space about 2m diameter. Blocky walls and some stal.
A small amount of clearance was carried out in the hading rift and it may now be possible for a thin person to properly investigate the end. (360° photos and video). (Later surveyed)

4th August sites 2564, 0056 and 1357

Nigel Dibben and Pete Clewes

Went to check and photo entrances. After a slight deviation (heading to the wrong waypoint) we reached the hillside where 2564 is alleged to exist. Looked around for a while but no obvious entrances to match the description. Moved on to **0056** and took photos.



Then on to **1357**, in an area of pinnacle karst, described as “a small hole”. There were plenty of cracks but no obvious hole to match the description. Virtually impossible to check all locations around 1357 so we took photos and drone shots of the point identified by the grid reference.



Perhaps 2564 and 1357 should be marked as “not found”. On our tour around, we noticed quite a few improved tracks up to tractor standard and one was being improved (pecker and JCB) while we were in the hills. The maps don’t show all the tracks accurately.

4th August #0028 Selvijo

James Carlisle, Chris Scaife, Pete Smith

Aim of the trip was to survey a wet crawl and passages explored at Easter. We surveyed forward from the nearest known point to the crawl. In the dry passages on the left at the end of crawl, from a 4-ways ‘crossroad’ junction where the previous exploration had stopped, the cave continued through a muddy passage with some loose boulders, ultimately connecting with another branch from that junction. James tried to push on downstream in a very small streamway, but it got too small. The survey will show if any of the possible leads could be of interest.



James Carlisle in the very small streamway in Selvijo Photo: Chris Scaife

2nd August 2026 # 1801

John Southworth Andy Pringle.

Returned to this dig with a wood saw ,made some progress but very difficult going , the way on needs looking at by a thin person before any more work comences .

3rd August 2026 #1239 5476 .

John Southworth Andy Pringle .

Used camera at 1239 attached to a drain rod to pass a narrow rift at roof height to what looks like an open passage , work with caps will be required to open this up .

A closer inspection of 5476 revealed a small chamber which will require some chemical means to gain entry ..

5th August 2026 #1801. #5466

John Southworth

Met with Pete Eagan at 1801 , he is of the opinion that it is worth further effort .

Travelled to El Rincon area to check on recent logging clearance work , it might be possible now to access site 5466 .

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3rd August 2026 site #0813

Mike Wise, Guy Webb, Juan

Began digging in new spot in the hole. This proved easier, with the dig face being far more sandy. Juan arrived midway through with a steel ladder (2 metres ish). This was greatly helpful, as it meant we could unsnag the bucket far more easily. Encountered several cavities. Removed around 40 buckets. Very good day. Juan suggested the name ‘high hopes hole’ as we are very optimistic about our prospects. We agreed this is a good name.

Guy Webb

4th August site 0813 High Hopes Hole

Mike Wise, Guy Webb, Calvin the American, Patrick Warren.

Another successful day, with us removing a record number of buckets from high hopes. We continued our dig onwards down the cavity filled hole, working in teams of two, with two hauling and two working underground. Calvin and Patrick were the first ones down. We rotated every ten buckets as usual. Found a sloping rifty squeeze going down approximately 2 metres, but we cannot see much further than this. This squeeze looks promising and is draughting considerably, but also has the same texture as a cheese grater, so is not recommended until capping is done to widen it, which may take a considerable lot of effort. We have probably dug down around 2 metres in the last two days. Calvin put in a good shift and we are excited to return with caps, as even if it goes nowhere we can enjoy a good day of blowing stuff up.

Guy Webb

August 4th Reñada #0048

Pete O'Neill, Allan Berry.

Photographic trip to Stuffed monk, Sanatogen Passage area.

Bumped into Martin and Jess underground several times.

August 4th #1521 #1657

Mike Topsom, Fran Topsom, Freya Bearn, Mungo Palmer

Went and visited 2 unexplored shafts in S vega area.

#1657 cave was bolted and descended 8m but contained no further leads. Due to a boulder rolling incident was nicknamed Sisyphus

#1521 was explored second and after a 5m entrance pitch led to a slightly draughting dig through loose large boulders and a significant amount of animal bones. Dig was abandoned but continued for at least several more meters so has potential to continue. Nicknamed “Iglesia de las cabras” due to a goat skull and praying mantis being found whilst there.

5th August #0103 Espada to #3442

Peter Eagan, Sam Davis, Patrick Warren (John Southworth surface digging team)

Trip to climb/ladder into #3442 via #0103

Before our trip we checked out a tight entrance (#1801) with John Southworth. This has no draught but looks promising but will need more work plus capping, but in a great location.

We entered Espada and quickly calibrated the pony/rocket while Sam waited for the ladder.

Sam appeared minus ladder so Patrick started the climb and rigged a rope for us to enter #3442 from below, except it wasn't. We surveyed this (13m) then Peter started traverse/climb into another possible hole into #0103 once in we rerigged every thing and started to explore #3442 thinking it was new as everything had a coating of sandy mud and we had to dig through a tight slot while following a good draught. From the survey we noted that the draught is coming from a low diggable passage and not #3442 entrance (still unaware we were in our objective) We then tied both surveys into the main cave. During the trip Sam took a few photos and videos. We checked out another project on the way out of the cave and decided we would definitely need the ladder. As we walked up the track to the car we found the ladder left by Jim earlier. Even though we were late and not wanting to waste the ladder we went back into the cave and used it. The prospect entered via the laser is narrow but will cap out as bigger beyond.

We finally left the cave and ladder. Both objectives to be revisited soon. (2 surveys)

Peter E

5th August #4998 site check

Nigel Dibben, Pete Clewes

Went to check **site 4998**, a hole in the field found in 2019. Found the hole but UTM was wrong. Correct UTM for 4998 is **30T 451671 4795204** which was read from the 2019 photo and confirmed in the field.



The **NEW SITE 5568** at the original UTM 30T 451717 4795189 is a depression surrounded by trees with wood debris in the bottom; pictures of this were taken.



We then checked 4999 and corrected the UTM by a few metres to 30T 451661 4795215. Pictures were taken again.



Then looked at 0495 which is full of dead wood and nettles; the UTM was checked as 30T 451621 4795253, some way from the recorded UTM.
Pledged to return to correct 4998 to check out the drop below the initial 1.2m hole. Both 4998 and 4999 had draughts, 4998 being quite strong. 0495 could not be checked for draught.

6th August #4998 dig

Nigel Dibben, Pete Clewes, Bill Booth with help from Liz, David F and Iris

Back to dig at 4998. The entrance did not need enlarging as it is in fairly solid clay. Below, rocks and earth were removed revealing the top of a drop down between what are probably solid walls. One boulder was capped. The Disto reached 5.2 metres from the surface but probably caught a ledge as rocks sounded as if they hit two ledges before hitting the bottom. The hole was re-covered with logs and left for another day to try to get a bit further and see further down.
The draught remains strong - very strong.

6th August 2026 0813 High Hopes Hole

Mike Wise, Guy Webb, Miriam Walsworth Bell, Calvin the American, Vignesh from SUSS.

The biggest group to High Hopes so far started the day with enthusiasm, taking it in turns in pairs to dig out 10 buckets at a time. The dig is looking very promising as the turn down to the left appears to continue onto what looks like the ceiling of a potential chamber. Miriam dug out a big rock which had stals on it and calcite stuff (technical term). Despite a slow start, we soon got into the rhythm of it and also practiced capping on a rock nearby. Vignesh was very enthusiastic, and the dig has progressed around 1 metre depth since two days ago (optimistically). Calvin unfortunately miscalculated the number of buckets and gave us false hope that we had done 71, when really it was only 61 (still a new record!). Because of this, he has lost all human rights and privileges until he brings us up to 71 buckets. Still draughting. Spoil heap getting significant so a safety rail has been made to prevent workplace injury or accidents. Averaged a rate of around 1 bucket every five minutes.

Guy Webb

6th August 2026 3450 Torca el Suto

Arlen Messam, Alex Ritchie, Erin Doyle, Samuel Devey

After 20 minutes of jungle-bashing, the hole was relocated and Alex began to rebolt the entrance pitch. Once at the floor of the first chamber, some back-and-forth was had before descending the pitch into the Left Hand (West) Series, to the head of the 15+34m pitch, but rather than descending it, Arlen began to bolt a traverse across the top. There was lots of mud and loose rock, and a good amount of material descended the pitch - although not quite enough to avoid the traverse altogether. Arlen made some very acrobatic manoeuvres, switching from bolts to naturals at about the midpoint. From here, he was able to climb along flakes to attain the far side of the pitch, confirming it goes, but more rope was needed. Sam came across to have a look, but wasn't happy with the central section of the traverse, so Arlen set off back to bolt in a place unreachable from the near side to make it safe. As he drilled into the rock, leaning on the largest of the flakes, it dramatically broke loose, falling back against the wall. This rendered the already sketchy traverse quite unsafe without further bolting. Sam was therefore given an impromptu bolting lesson, placing his first bolt on an airy straddle above a 49m hole. With some re-tensioning on both sides, Arlen was then able to place an additional bolt, leaving us with a safe bolted route to return and push tomorrow.

Samuel Devey

6th Aug 26 #0733

Peter Eagan, Patrick Warren, Jim Lister (part of larger group see separate log entry)

The object of the trip was to push the G spot below the man trap.

Fairly quick trip into Valline down the man trap then through low crawl (previously enlarged to accommodate Jim) then straight to the G spot. To make further progress easier we capped out the short climb down to rabbit sized hole, then started work on the actual hole. We stopped work after the catastrophic failure of the firing pin of capping kit which stayed in the drilled hole. After removing it it refused to cooperate so we called it a day and exited the cave. It is now possible to see along the hole approx 1.5 m where it gets larger. There is a good draught. Jim is going to carry on work due to its excellent location.

Peter.

2nd August 2026 Site: 0733

Present: Jim, Mysti, Piper, Luke, Miriam, Oli

Checked out the holes in floor and shaft, looking for the "Man Trap". Anchor placement and installation at Man Trap and site A was undertaken, giving every one a go, along with capping at the bottom of site A by Oli, Mysti, and Piper under Jim's supervision.

3rd August 2026 Site: 0733

Present: Jim, Mysti, Piper, Luke, Miriam, Oli

The team made their way to the "Man Trap" Miriam and Luke descended with Jim and started capping training at the top of the dig, Piper, Oli and Mysti re- rigged the pitch with the 11mm rope, before following the others down. Oli and Luke used a hammer and chisel and managed to open up the pitch at the bottom of Chanel Chute. We rigged a rope going down, and Miriam managed to squeeze and descend down the short pitch, finding a draughting squeeze.

5th August 2026 Site: 0733

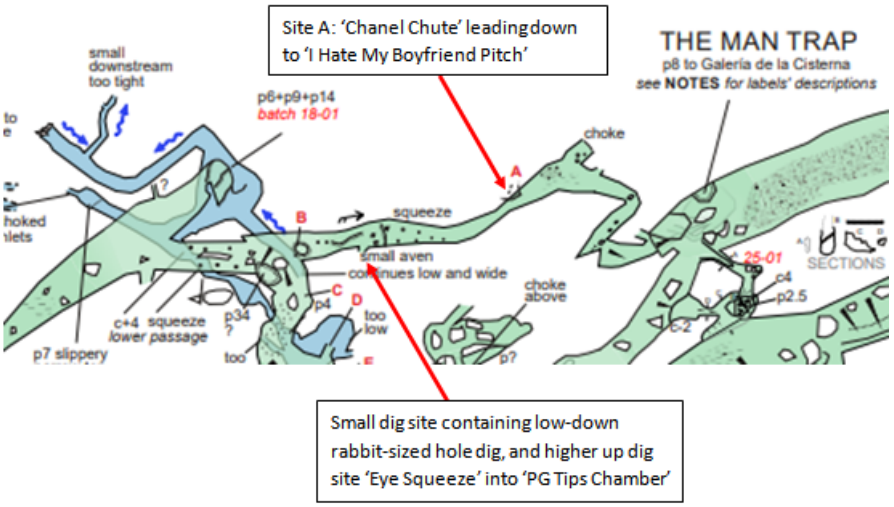
Present: Mysti, Piper, Luke, Calvin, Oli

Mysti and Piper began surveying site A starting with surrounding passage from station 6, disto stopped working at site A - 'Chanel Chute'. Calvin, Oli, and Luke dug the sandy squeeze/crawl further down the passage to expand it. Mysti began

digging a small rabbit sized hole on the left of the crawl. Piper, Oli, and Luke inspected site G. Piper made a lidar scan of Chanel Chute, I Hate My Boyfriend Pitch, and the surrounding passage.

LIDAR 3D SCAN of Chanel Chute down to I hate my boyfriend pitch (credit - Piper Cusmano)
https://poly.cam/capture/F4F6976C-8580-4odi42B-9CB2-0FD1D9B0E2E0

LIDAR 3D SCAN of Bottom of Man Trap pitch (credit - Piper Cusmano):
https://poly.cam/capture/6BD491AF-252D-4DD8-9F9B-C022D6BA56AF



6th August 2026 Site: 0733

Present: Mysti, Piper, Luke, Ben, Oli (Part of larger group)

Mysti, Oli, Ben capped and chiselled the small rabbit sized hole and another hole up and right of it in the small aven. Mysti managed to squeeze into the higher one, named 'Eye Squeeze', and found a small, pretty chamber ' PG Tips Chamber'. There was draught leading both up and down, requiring further expansion. We believe the two holes are connected, and the lower down dig seems to descend a few feet. Piper and Luke surveyed Chanel Chute and the pitch, and Piper also did a lidar scan of the two digs inside the squeezy crawl.

LIDAR 3D SCAN of entrance to two digs/ one of which leading to PG TIPS chamber (credit - Piper Cusmano):
https://poly.cam/capture/566496D5-94AF-4F26-85B5-47D1DF9CA3E1

LIDAR 3D SCAN of PG TIPS chamber (credit - Piper Cusmano):
https://poly.cam/capture/6FA6AFDA-57AC-466F-B2E4-C7412FF499AE

6th August 2026 site #0814

Tess Hopes and Marty Hebden

We were looking for Regaton the day before, due to the vegetation being incredibly dense, we got incredibly lost. Whilst this hunt for Regaton was happening I (Tess Hopes) found myself in a big bush on the hillside with a strong draft coming through. With Juan's help, we worked out that this cave (unfortunately for my sake) had already been found, however we cleared away the vegetation to make the hole more visible. A very strong draught led to a small hole (possibly squeezable) down to a shaft which may need some capping, but in doing this may also lead to a larger cave network, as the draught was strong.

5th August 2026 Site:#0048

Present:Juan Nora James Fran McDonald Mike Wise

We were aiming to go to blood alley but we only got to the top of the pitch. Fran and Juan went through the duck and straight back again.Partway through we found a clear small spring off to the side. We went in through the bottom entrance and through the blowhole and to the pitch and then we went back through the blowhole and out the top entrance.The slopes and climbs were slippery but there was not much water in the lake .We were getting cold and we went out early except Juan and Fran who were boiling.There was a very strong draught coming from the blowhole and it was a bit more blowey than usual.

5th August 2026 Site #0892

Tess Hopes, Marty Hebden, Noah Lewis, Mungo Palmer, Thomas De Ath, Freya Bearn

Firstly Tess, Noah, and Marty went down the pitches, having some teaching and practice rigging. However with the lack of a topo, we had to guess the lengths of the ropes needed. This meant we had to problem solve for each pitch. When the other 3 got to us (sat above the 4th pitch) who were planning on going to the peaky passage to explore some possible new leads. Due to the cold, the original 3 plus Thomas left the cave. And Freya and Mungo managed to get to the top of the main pitch, to examine what they may need for the next round of trying Regaton.

6th August 2026 Site #0892

Tess Hopes, Mungo Palmer, Marty Hebden, Freya Bearn

We came back to Regaton to try and get down to the last pitch. However we made it to the last pitch, and as Mungo was rigging it, they realised there wasn't enough rope, meaning an emergency rope run had to be done. This was then received back at Regaton and the final pitch was rigged. However with a short callout time, this was left rigged for a derigging the next day.

7th August 2026 Site #0892

Back for round 3: Marty Hebden, Tess Hopes, Noah Lewis, Thomas De Ath

We derigged the pitches.

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02 August 2026 #0107

Hoyuca (Armageddon) via Decepcion Entrance Dave Barrett (Written 8th August)

Here is an account of my journey out after the accident on 02 August 2026.

The intention was to complete a solo thru-trip from Decepcion to Giant Panda as both ends were rigged. On route I would observe and note the passage between the end of Armageddon west choke to the corner by 4th Inlet for my 4-valleys publication. Decepcion, I know well and Hoyuca up to Astradome also, so the trip should be straight-forward.

The trip in was easy. Decepcion is not a difficult cave. There are tougher ones done on a weekend trip in the Mendips. I passed through the east choke into Armageddon and arrived at the west choke. There is a clamber down where a reflective marker is positioned. This is the usual route to climb down to the water where the entry to the choke route is and I have done it a few times before.

Strangely, though I have been through before, I could not find the route through the choke. After 30 minutes of ferreting without success, I decided to exit the cave. I was not happy but I did not want to get lost in a choke on a solo trip. The climb up is the same place as the climb down and I started up it as normal. There is a solid chockstone wedged in which is a perfect foothold at a body length from the crux.

I had both hands on the crux which is like an inverted “L” shape so not a firm grip though usually good enough to shift weight. It was then that the ‘solid’ chockstone gave way. My hands scrambled for a hold like a dog scratching earth but

there was no purchase on the greasy surface and I slipped down. I remember hitting my side on a protrusion which bounced me the other way where the left side of my face hit another protrusion. I landed on a smooth cobble mound and rolled down toward the stream.

I was on hands and knees and immediately saw blood dropping to the ground from my face. The water was next to me so I cleaned my gloved hands and scooped water to my face to clear out any mud or grit that may have been there. I stood up. The realisation of what had happened now struck home. The only shock I felt was that I had fallen from a climb, a new experience for me. My climbing skills are pretty good and I have never fallen before. As a kid climbing trees, on the climbing walls or in a cave.

Mindset was important now. I have had several injuries in life, usually from football and I knew the injury in my side would stiffen quickly. The key was to keep mobile. Getting up the climb again was the first big challenge. I actually looked around for another way up and decided this was still the easiest way so I went for it. I got safely to the top but even now I do not remember the motions of how I did it.

Moving away from the boulders to the safety of a small mud path by a solid wall I stopped to prepare for the journey out. I established that I did not have any other injuries and I was mobile. I took one ibuprofen from my first aid kit to help keep swelling down, packed my bag and set off.

I had the route ahead broken into stages in my head. This works well for me as I claim a success when finishing one section and it boosts the spirit. Stage 1 was to get to the east side choke of Armageddon and it would be a test of my mobility. If I struggled then the best thing to do would be to stay in a good spot in Armageddon and wait for help. There are many boulders to clamber over in Armageddon and it was uncomfortable in my side but manageable if I moved slowly. The hardest part was the climb up boulders past the top of Judgement Pitch.

I arrived at the slot down, my stage 2, to pass the east choke into Decepcion. There are two slots and I double checked to ensure I went in the correct one. On my last trip to this point, a few days before with Mike, we had discussed this same problem and chosen correctly so I was confident about the way into the choke. Going through was easy, a gradual descent mostly on mud floor. Just had to be careful at the pop-out where it is possible to drop a few metres.

Now in Decepcion [Rectifying the Count] it was easy going in most places as it is walking with a couple of H&K sections This was stage 3 and would bring me to the base of the P40m. No issues and comfortable, even passing the short rope traverse over the pool easily. On arrival at the P40m base I kneeled down at the usual spot to put on SRT gear and hoped the harness would not be a problem on my lower back. It wasn't. Blood was still dripping onto the floor from my face though there was no pain from it at any point and I was not concerned by it.

Stage 4, big test to ascend the P40m. I knew it would be slow and I only used frog technique. It actually felt like a rest. Sitting was a relief. I could not extend my right arm up too much as it stretched my side and I fell into a routine with half prussics. However long it took wasn't important. The top of the P40m is very roomy, easy to use legs on the ledges to stand, attach cowstails etc and unclip the croll from the rope. I took some water here then moved toward the climb up into the crawl section. All SRT kit had to come off and be bagged.

I wasn't expecting this but the climb up was my biggest challenge. It is a 1.5m 'pull-up' which then enables a knee or a back wedge to clamber onto rock ledges of the passage. This was impossible to do with my back problem. I tried to build a small rock platform to stand on though there were not enough rocks. However, there are thick speleothems and one 10cm high thick stal on the ledge I wanted to get in to looked good to use for a sling to gain height. I had already put the bag on the passage ledge and now untied its drag sling to use as a leg boost. I hooked it over the stal, stood on the highest piece of 'ground' with my right leg and inserted my left boot into the sling loop. The combination of left leg and left arm with a solid left hand grab point worked perfectly and I eased up onto the ledge backwards on my left (undamaged) side. From there it was easy and I was into the initially stooping section of the 20-minute crawl (stage 5).

This was the most uncomfortable part. At the flat out sections I had to crawl with my right arm at my side. Even then it was still painful in my side moving forward. However, it had to be done. I used the ineffective arm to drag the bag behind me. There was no way I was going to attach it to myself as if it got stuck it might be a big issue to release myself from it. Usually, I can keep out of the tiny water flow on the grit floor but now I had to lie in it. Steady and careful movements were required though I admit to a few cries of pain, and maybe a few curses, on route! I arrived at the [Superduck]. This used to be a proper flat out crawl even for a small sized person like me but luckily it had been enlarged by persons unknown. I slithered through it slowly to the standing area beyond. Now I knew I was almost out.

SRT kit was put on again in readiness for the P25m free hang. First a short easy climb up using ledges and into the canyon to find the rope. Last stage. The ascent started ok though I found I was taking more rests on this one and I ached more. Quite normal as it was about 2 hours since I had started my journey out and stiffness was slowly creeping into the body. At one point I over stretched on a prussic putting my right arm too high and it gave me a sharp pain in the side.

Slow down and go steady. I could feel the ribs moving during this prussic and it felt like a relay clicking on and off so I knew they were not just bruised.

Getting off was quite straight forward as it is a left side entry onto ledges where I could stand legs astride over the drop, clip in for safety to the loop leading to the last piece of rope up, then come off the main ascent rope. The last section I knew would be tricky as it is tricky even under normal conditions. The partially blasted rift is narrow and gear catches on jagged edges. I used equipment to go up the first half to a ledge by the deviation then came off the rope to free climb the last part with a top jammer above for safety. It was much easier this way. It took me around 15 minutes to negotiate this 10m long vertical section. I also had to ensure the bag was safely brought up from harness to ahead on the traverse line; easier in front and clipped in.

I took off all SRT kit and extras like arm pads etc in the chamber before passing the U-tube out to fresh air. I had my mobile on the trip and now used it to call Mike to ask him to get ready to take me to the hospital. On the walk down the hill I was met by Mike and 2 others and at the Mushroom Field Juan had arrived with his car. I wasn't expecting company but it was very nice to have it!

After stripping off my caving gear (except undersuit and socks) we went direct to Ramales Clinic where they did an initial assessment and cleaned my face wound. They asked me to wee into a cup right there and then to check kidney function. It took a while to go with all the onlookers! As the fall had been about 7m they said I had to go to hospital in Santander via ambulance. The medical service was excellent. I had a CT scan 5 minutes after arriving at the hospital and later found my none of my injuries required surgery. I had 7 surface stitches in the face wound and 2 internal stitches as it was quite deep. I never felt any pain in the face from the moment I hit it to the time I write this. However, the ribs …. That's a different story! I fractured ribs 7-11 and damaged the bladder a little. Main concern was an air bubble they found and had to be monitored. It repaired by itself. After thinking about the fall I believe it may have been approximately 5m, not 7m.

In summary, the trip out was not that difficult and I would expect any experienced caver with similar injuries to self-rescue. If it had come to a cave rescue situation then there are a few locations in the cave that would need attention to get a stretcher out. They are:

1. The entrance slot at the top of the first pitch. It is narrow and jagged for a 5 metre section.
2. A small slab lying an at an angle in the crawl section needs to be removed. I think snappers would do it and there is space around it to work.
3. The hole down in the middle of the crawl section. The passage turns left at the hole. This is probably the worst obstacle.
4. The slot down in to the Armageddon east choke to Decepcion has a 90 degree turn. Needs a rescue expert to assess this.
5. The first U-tube in the east choke (passed by sliding through on your back). It needs deepening.

I think the rest of the crawl section is big enough for dragging and it is possible to scoop the gravel floor to gain more height if necessary.

Please note I am not cave-rescue trained and these are just my personal observations.

Solo Caving

There may be some debate about this so I outline my position below.

For my exit there would have been minimal benefit to have another person present. Morale booster (possibly) and someone to carry my bag (yes!). A second person could not have stopped the accident.

I have completed solo cave trips since 1999 without incident, am experienced, prepared, physically fit and determined. On Draenen explorations around 20 of my 100 plus trips were solo…. And that is a demanding cave. However, common sense applies. I do not go into difficult caves, enter deep water, pass ducks or even go through unknown crawls, unknown chokes and unknown squeezes on a solo trip.

Others, such as Jim Lister and Mark also solo cave and they take it to a level that I am not willing to go to by solo cave diving. I do not have the mental toughness for that and I admire them for what they do. And, if that is what they enjoy let them do it.

I prefer to cave in two's but sometimes it is not possible. Others do not want to go where I want to go and vice-versa. In Matienzo the vast majority are looking for new cave (digs) or to connect existing caves. They do not want to visit and enjoy known cave. I have no interest in digs and prefer to visit, observe and record some known caves. This fills the gap that exists in the Matienzo records, namely by completing cave descriptions. There aren't any consistent cave descriptions even for a very interesting system like 4-valleys. I was hoping to complete the Hoyuca section this summer 2026 but now it will have to be done in December on my next visit. Yes, I will be back ……..! Dave Barrett

7th August #0813

Mike, Guy, Miriam, Calvin and Erin. Took the floor on either side of the corner down considerably, widening access beyond. The floor in front of the central pillar - something went wrong here*****

the goal of checking question marks out next to the entrance chamber to see whether there were draughts towards the direction of Mike Wise's dig. This was not the case.

We then embarked, with Sam collabing, on a sport/photography trip. We had an EXCELLENT time, although John quietly escaped in an attempt to navigate a way through, and photograph some pretties. I believe he went out once unsuccessful.

Mostajo was one of the prettiest caves I have ever had the pleasure of experiencing. The experience was elevated by Sam's photography of us all.

Written by Vignesh

2nd August July 2026, 0312

James Carlisle, Mike Topsom, Fran McDonald, Freya Bearn

Going beyond the squeeze.

Last visit was in 1982.

Made the entrance wider so as not to filter out Mike. Then progressed to the ' squeeze'. Freya boldly led the way through, with a good effort from James to try and follow but alas he then too was filtered out. Thereafter Fran and Freya continued through a sequence of belly crawls with some slightly higher regions to continue onward for an additional 30-40 m following a N/NW trending route. The route was smooth with soggy puddles along the way. A sharp turn to the right then sees the passage change to awkward tight rifty passage that only the thinnest and stupid may potentially be able to push further. Fran and Freya returned to get the survey gear and to measure the additional passage. After this grovelling work, a cairn was built at the final station just before the very tight part and they returned to find Mike and James had already given up on the holes that they had been poking nearby (after accidentally filling said holes in with rocky restrictions) and were whiling the time away at the Baker's bar.

While the women were grovelling and before the Baker's bar……. Mike and James were investigating the entrance of the resurgence nearby (0368) and attempting to remove a boulder from another nearby hole (1808). These both need to be revisited another day.

PS: Was visited and explored (not surveyed) on 24/7/2006

2nd August 2026 0071 Mostajo

Tess Hopes, Mungo Palmer, Noah Lewis, Marty Hebden, Thomas De Ath

First day caving, sport trip to get back into SRT, looked at pretties along the top level.

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08 August 2026 0048 Cueva-Cubió de la Reñada

Alex Ritchie, Arlen Messam, Samuel Devey

The plan was for a tourist trip to the Stuffed Monk Gallery, with a possibility of surveying some of the question marks nearby. We headed over to the Gallery, and tried to ascertain our position on the survey, before tackling some question

marks. We surveyed several loops totalling some 169m, some of which were small decorated crawls which appeared not to have been previously entered. Other sections were big passages, which have probably been entered but weren't on the survey. We struggled to match up our survey legs with the existing passage, and think we may have misidentified the start point, and in fact we were likely drawing the area which only has centreline surveys around Eagle Passage. We plan to return to try and tie in to the existing surveys.

Batch 0048-26-01

Samuel Devey

7th August 2026 3450 Torca El Suto

Samuel Devey, Arlen Massan, Freya Bearn, Alex Ritchie

Our first job was to improve the deviation on the second pitch by bolting it. We then finished the traverse (Flakey Situation), only to be faced with a second hole a few meters further on. Sam took over bolting to place his second and 3rd ever bolts, with Alex, Arlen and Freya now surveying. Unfortunately not much further on the big rift passage ended in a boulder choke. We then dropped the hole with Freya now rigging and putting in her 3rd, 4th and 5th ever bolts. The drop was 12m (Rhubarb Crumble) down a loose rift and a further drop of 3.5m dropped into a final chamber (Gas Chamber). All that was left was to derig 160m of rope made even more difficult as we forgot the bag for the 100m rope! 50m surveyed.

Batch 3450-26-01

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8 August July 2026, 4131 dig - Jim Davis and Phil Papard

Easy access from wood. Cool in the dig with a small out draught. Dug out spoil and seems to be a solid floor at end. Now needs capping of the roof and drag tray.

Then to look at the area around Ladies Pot, found 5569 dig 453135, 4798163 - Hole found in area above Ladies Pot on fell to east of wood above mushroom field. Hole 1.5x0.8m 1.2m deep. The hole turns to the south and closes down. No draught.

8th August 2026 #4998

Pete Clewes, Bill B, Nigel D

Continued to dig down removing walls of the rift to add about another metre. Dig stopped for the day on chocked rocks. Disto'd down to earthy floor but shaft continues out of sight. We'll be back.

8th August 2026 #0039 - Erin Doyle and Calvin Dorn

Went to 0039: Cueva de Coquisera and ridgewalked the surrounding landscape for new karst features. We hiked for approximately three hours and found no new leads. Afterwards, we made our way to Coquisera for a recreational photography trip. We spent approximately two hours underground and made it to the back of the cave. Numerous skeletal remains of cows and possibly a goat were found in the first 200 meters upon entering the cave. Additionally, numerous brachiopod fossils were observed throughout a majority of the cave. No vertical work was done, only two traverses. The last traverse closest to the end of the cave, had a lot of slack. Newer cavers might find it intimidating, but it could easily be retied to take out slack.

8th August 2026 #1655

Andy Pringle, Marty Hebden, Tess Hopes, Mungo Palmer, Jim Lister

We went to attempt to cap a potential lead Andy knew of from previous digs however when we got to the entrance it was overgrown and collapsed. This ended any hope of capping this lead but we resolved to dig out the entrance to have a shot later on. A very strong draught was felt. We then went and practiced on some exposed rocky formations.

9th August 2026 #5530, #5563

Pete Clewes,Nigel D

Returned to check large depression 5563. At bottom there is a muddy floor with animal prints (deer (?)) but no visible cave development. Looked at 5530 while we were there. The depth was plumbed to 6m deep, not 3m as in site description. Pictures taken, 5530 is probably worth another look as it is quite open below the surface.





9th August #0813

Mike W, Patrick and Tom W, Calvin D and Myfanwy W.

Took the floor on either side of the corner down exposing the base of the roof pillar which is connected to solid rock on the left. The floor in front of the pillar was dug down and forward exposing more loose rocks which need dragging out with a rope. 75 boats x approx 20-25kg removed.

Mike Wise

9th August #1655

Marty Hebden, Tess Hopes, Mungo Palmer

Spent the day excavating the entrance to Pants (1655) moved approx 2 tonnes of loose soil and reached a drafty crawl, further excavations are required to reach the last known point of the cave. LIDAR scan completed of days work.

8th August # 0103 Espada

Peter E, Peter H, Patrick W

We took the rigid ladder past the water near Top River Entrance close to c4 on survey. This was capped open to a 1m climb down to a 2m dia blind pot. Patrick and Peter H checked out the 4m climb marked E on the survey but found nothing new. We then took the ladder to enter #3442 from inside Espada using previously installed ropes. The entrance to

the surface via #3442 was silted up with hard mud and proved too much digging so was left. The passage opposite was too small but may well dig. On the way back to the ladder we climbed up into a short but nice section of passage which ends at a tight section (draughting) which will cap out.

On the way back to the vehicle we capped a rock just inside a dig next to fridge door (see John Southworth for more details **#1801**)

Peter E

9th August #5326, #1279, #1280

Arlen Messam, Freya Bearn, Edward Green (written by Arlen)

Intention was to drop 3 undescended shafts in a field just up the road from base, but quite rapidly discovered that in summer the brambles quite like hiding pits… found the first of them (#5326), 3 hours later with a crowbar, a bolting hammer and a rope knife, we had cleared the entrance of brambles, pallets and tyres. Worked out that we could put a bolt and a meat anchor on a bit of limestone pavement 6m back from the shaft hidden in the undergrowth to squeeze down into the narrow pit. A bit of digging and whacking later and Freya was able to slither in… only for it to hit a dead end with no draught after 10m.

I then ran off to search for 1279 and 1280, unfortunately could not find 1280, but did find 1279, and with a spanner and a bit of determination I was able to dig through many more brambles to discover that it was only 6m deep and loosely free climbable but nada to report other than another hole in the ground.

9th August #0077 Cueva de Rascavieja

Alex Ritchie, Annabel Dunn, Ollie Enrico, Samuel Devey

The aim was to explore the undescended rift lead (marked “a good lead in a good place” in the description) near the bottom of the cave, beyond Beauty and the Beast. The team reached the lead and began surveying, descending the rift into a tall passage, Chamber of the Last Hope. We initially headed upslope, and found some pools with a mud floor which had not been entered before. However, a rope hung through a tiny hole in the ceiling - this is the bottom of an undescended pitch. Heading downslope in the Chamber of the Last Hope, all routes closed down, although a large centipede was found (identified as *cantabrodesmus lorioli*). Annabel pushed the only remaining hole, which was very small, and it also closed down. No leads remain at the bottom of this rift and there was no appreciable draught.

On returning to the exit, Alex took us into Antler Chamber, which he surveyed at Easter (still appears as unsurveyed in the description). This is the helictite chamber just 5 minutes inside the entrance. We pushed an unexplored hole in the ceiling there, rising through a squeeze at the top of the climb into a new chamber, Moose is Loose Chamber. This chamber is finely decorated with large helictites, pristine floors, and a large central stalactite. It has a climb at the far end which was not pushed, but is not expected to go anywhere particularly interesting. We were close to callout time, so plan to return to survey this on Tuesday.

Batch 0077-26s-01 >> 0077-26-18

Samuel Devey

9th August new_hole site #5575

Arlen Messam

On walking back from the pits earlier in the day, we decided to take a shortcut through the field, after getting tapped by the fence… twice… (apparently metal crowbars are conductive, who knew), I found a hole in the field! Poked my head in and it had a solid rock roof and walls, with soft soil in the floor for a possible dig. Given the location, it could be another entrance to an existing 100m+ cave, unfortunately it was only about 2m deep that I could worm myself into.

Location 43.330749, -3.597629 **NEW HOLE 5575 30T 0451551 4797718**

9th August #0258 Toad in the Hole

Noah, Thomas, Jim Davis and Phil Papard

The aim was to remove a blocking boulder, make it safe and then for Noah and Thomas to have a pushing trip in the cave. The walk up is much more difficult than in the past due to more undergrowth in wooded area and also masking the ground in open fell so gaps and holes in the ground can not be seen. Used digging rope on the entrance pit rigged from a tree and a (bolt 10mm) after about 3m, rope is a bit short but just acceptable. Boulder was drilled and 10mm bolt and hanger placed, did same for wall above. The leaver winch was attached but could not remove rock. Modified to 2-1 rig and attached a 6-1 pulley system so the set up can reach the boulder. After some time tweaking the rock and chiseling points that were holding it back, it was removed and made temporarily safe, securing it to the wall bolt using the pulley system. Unfortunately below this rock was another that will either need pulling out with the same system, or capping/snappering - will not be easy as it is down the small entrance and you can't bend down to reach easily with your hands.

Next slab to remove is oval and, as commented by Phil, is difficult to reach with two long arms and would be best removed in same way as first rock. Suggest putting extra 10mm bolt in hanging wall to get better pull direction on winch.

To prevent further blockage it needs wooden planks 1.5m long, total width @0.25m, with 3 no. scaff tubes >1.2m, <1.5m fixed with re-bar pins. Existing rope would be better replaced with longer to reach hole down. Jim Davis

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9th August #0081 Carcavuezo

Sam Davis, Mike, Fran, Ayo Olumade, Beth Downer, Jamie Burman, Kamran Karim (written mostly by Beth, with input from kamran and jamie)

We went to investigate a potential digsite to push through. At the junction just before Afternoon Crawl, approaching from The Boys Entrance there is a right hand turn, currently marked as a question mark on the survey.

The path curved left and was well worn, after about 5-10m there is a pocket which has an upward slope. We located an alcove on the left hand site which was identified as a potential dig site. In the alcove, the left hand side connected back to previous passage, and the right was dug out by Beth and Ayo. Before starting the gap was not at all passable, by the end of the dig it was possible to fit through head (only just with a helmet), and shoulders. It was not possible to pass ribcage through. The air on the other side of the dig was bad air. After failing to fit through, it was determined the dig could not be pushed any further due to solid rock restricting us– we had dug out as much mud as possible.

Turning to the right just before the dig leads to a short flat horizontal squeeze which opens up into a small rift. Going downwards on the right leads to a tight rift on small stones, which opens up into a small sloping chamber. Crawling through at the bottom of the chamber leads to another sloped chamber, where a difficult climb leads to the end of the passage in a small choke. Going right in the chamber eventually leads back round to near the boys entrance.

From the junction by afternoon stroll, Jamie and Sam turned right for about 3-5m (travelling the same route as Beth, ayo and kamran) but turned after 5m to go left into a helmet wide slit in the wall, which was visible 4m down with a rock bisecting the rift. Jamie squeezed through a squeezy hole under this rock (the area was too tight for sam). There was another slot in the wall on the right, and Jamie travelled feet first down this. You can enter the slot facing right and male sight contact with the previous passage where Sam was waiting. Jamie span to face the other way and reenter the slot, carrying on further. He turned left before travelling forward for a meter and then going up in a slot in the ceiling (only visible from within the slot). The area bells out into a crouching space where Jamie was no longer visible to Sam. Travelling up a bit more was a bit squeezy into a flat room with fresh undisturbed mud which contained large loose rocks. Continuing up the slope in the room, and shimmering into a crawl you can see down into a new room. What is visible of this room is possibly about 3m wide, and at least 3m deep with pristine mud. It was determined too dangerous to continue closer to the entrance to the room due to inability to determine the stability of the mud. The walls of the room could not be seen so there may be passages that were not identified. From his location Jamie had very clear verbal communication to Beth and Ayos digging site. Jamie returned to the previously mentioned crouching space and investigated a crawling passage from that space. This led almost immediately to a boulder choke. Following the largest squeezes for a few metres, he heard and saw kamran on his way back. He went down a squeeze, and emerged into a crawl offshoots the main walk through where he was able to high five kamran. Jamie then went back up retracing his steps into the boulder choke and continued in a vaguely forward direction. Kamran followed parallel in the main path. Jamie went through a squeeze offshoot to rejoin the main path again.

Jamie's description was given to Mike who made a very rough survey based in this description. (At time of write up I don't have access to this survey)

Below is a second report of same trip:

9th August 2026 #0081 Carcavuezo

SAM DAVIS, Io, Jamie, Beth, Fran, Mike, Cameron

A team of seven went through the cobbled crawl and found the route with the string that leads up through the boulder choke. We pushed leads at a ? on the survey just as the boulder choke enters the start of the afternoon stroll. Sam and Jamie found a way down a slot where the boulder choke string crosses over the Boys Entrance and headed down to indeed find themselves in the boys entrance.

Fran and Mike surveyed into the ? mark and found a loop around which also ended up in the Boys entrance. The other pressed short leads into the ? area but did not reveal any passage, but spaces and routes between boulders.

We all then headed to Red Column chamber, and the Sewers of Doom, then headed back.

10th August #0017 Jivero 2

Elodie, Sabrina, Jim, Sam and Will Davis and Anna Cole

Fauna and geological survey review. Saw lots of crayfish including one the size of a small lobster, which we called King Crayfish. Other wildlife spotted: one bat, one dragonfly and further in a shiny beetle of unknown name and lots of spiders of various sizes. Elodie found a small avon to the left of the main passage up a slope of stal which she considered to be her meditation chamber. Main passage followed downstream to the bottom entrance, and then retraced our steps. A small group led by Elodie followed the crawl along a side passage to the left of the main passage. The water level was reasonable considering the dry weather, certainly enough to go over Sabrina's wellies.

10th August 0733

Tess Hopes, Mungo Palmer, Jim Listo, Marty Hebden, Tom Warren

Day of capping in the G-spot! Jim took us on a special tour of all the beautiful sites in Villina, through the bottom entrance initially, we took photos of the dragon and squeezed our way through to the capping place. The plan was to cap away to make the passageway big enough for future Renada x Valline divers to bypass. We each had a go at capping the passage, having only capped once before. With many positive explosions came positive results, although there was a lot more left to cap unfortunately for Jim.

10th August: Fran, Mike, Vignesh and James C (#1808 and #0368)

#1808 Mike and I sought to remove two boulders and descend the pitch below to connect the two entrances 1808 and 0368, or, "the hum". Armed with a hammer, chisel, pulley and substantial rope, we tied ourselves to the boulder. With significant effort, we moved one boulder up, and decided to use an existing bolt to pull the next one up by some inventive rigging to rocks beside the entrance. However once pictures of Mike were taken, the bolt detached from itself, and he went slightly backwards, scarily. We then decided pushing down was the best move rather than pulling up.

After significant hammering and chiselling, we pushed the boulder down, with large "thuds". Mike saw a rusted out bolt down, and without a drill, we felt it best to return. As we walked to the other entrance with Fran and James, they also arrived.

Written by Vignesh

#0368 From the wet and wallowy resurgence side, James and Fran returned to where Chris, James, Freya and Mike had left off previously at a minor restriction. Using the handy tools that had been stashed there during the earlier trip, James and Fran forged forward, with James doing the core hammering work. Fran didn't feel too bad for James doing all the

hard work though as he joyously cried out this stuff is like ice cream! The duo continued onward slowly, disturbing calcite dams and enduring water surges each time along the way. After measuring an additional approximate 30 m, they reached a more substantial calcited region which became very small. Smallish people who are not shy about a crawl and a puddle, and who have the time to dedicate to soft calcite bashing will be able to forge further still. Logging the survey data onto the main system shows that currently the resurgence is running parallel to the upper hole (1808) where Mike and Vignesh were.

Written by Fran

8th August #0025 Sima-cueva del Risco

Sam Davis, Carol Smith, Mike and Fran, Meghan Hughes, Vignesh, Pete Smith

Two aims of the trip were (1) to survey and tie-in the new pitch from Upper Arco to Arco Passage explored last year. Hopefully this will make a new loop that will help to correct heights in the cave. 64m new surveyed.
Risco TL=12858 + 64

(2) to get photos of the pitch and in Upper Arco.

All was done successfully, additionally the photographing team removed the rope hanging from the middle of Upper Arco since time immemorial and went ahead to descend the rope at the far end. This makes an attractive round trip, up one rope and down the other.

The elder member of the team thanks the other members for their enthusiasm, abilities and help.

9th August 2026 Site #0733

Jim Lister, Meghan Hughes, Erin Doyle, Vignesh Sudarsan

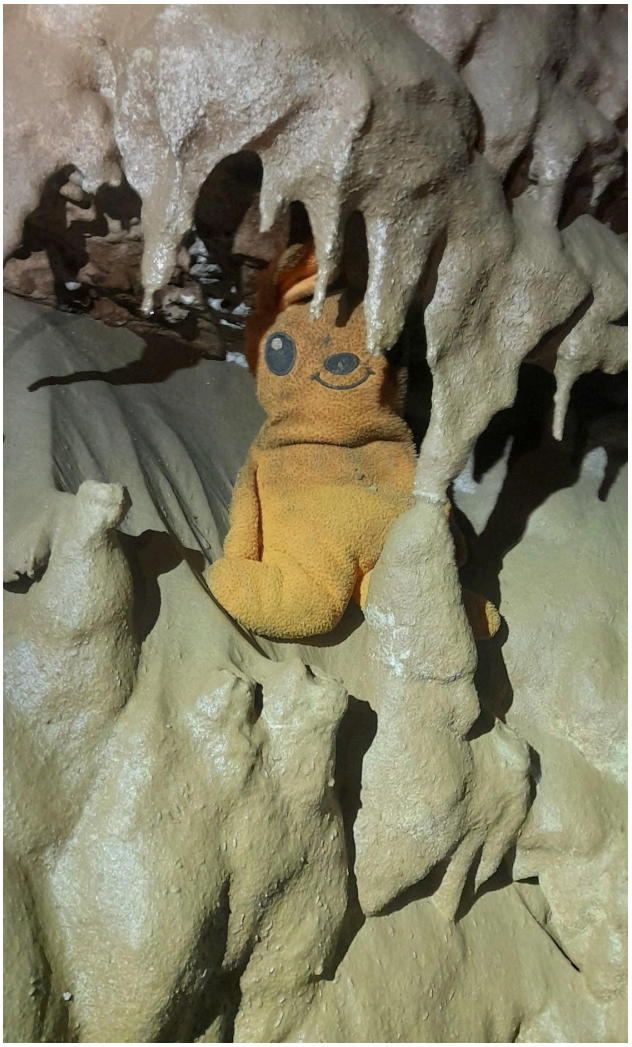
Arrived at approximately 11am thanks to Jake Watson's helpful driving. Continued Jim's work from last time, capping around G spot and learning the navigation through the entrance series. Managed to extend the passage significantly, making very promising progress and clearing the way for further exploration, which will be completed on the 13th August.

10th August #0081 Carcavuezo

Ayo Olumade and Beth Downer

We went to investigate a potential dig site to push through. At the junction just before Afternoon Crawl, approaching from The Boys Entrance there is a right hand turn, currently marked as a question mark on the survey. We had investigated yesterday in an attempt to find the potential dig site identified 2 years ago. Yesterday we thought we had found the potential site, but it failed to lead so we returned to reinvestigate today. The path curved left and was well worn, after about 5-10m there is a pocket which has an upward slope, this now has fresh disturbed mud as a result of yesterdays digging attempts; continuing up this pocket, there can be found 2 further pockets, one narrow and twisting upward to the left with some stalls, the second is accessed by continuing past the first pocket, looking upwards reveals this pocket– it is narrow and determined to be not worth pushing. Heading back from there you reach an alcove which is about 1m wide and 4m long, which is also the site of yesterday's dig. We could not get our chests past dug section. To the right of the dig site there is a narrow rift. This narrow rift cleft into two twelve metres long. It is difficult to access from the alcove; it is narrow for about 4 meters, before a hole allows you to access the right cleft of the rift. On the right side of the passage, a craw can be accessed heading back to the 'main' area of the unsurveyed section. Where the crawl meets the narrow rift, there is a passage of to the right, steep and 6m in length. Going up this path leads to a chamber that appears to be the ceiling. There were further potential pockets leading off this, but was not explored. If you head straight down the rift, you come to a crawl, completing this crawl leads to a large chamber, perhaps 4 cubic meters, but a smaller volume due to rocks reducing the outside volume. There is space to comfortably stand here. There is a path off to the left that quickly dead ends, potential upper paths not pushed, and a longer path to the right. Taking the right path curves round to another chamber filled with large blocks. To the left there was an alcove, which was considered as a potential lead with an

undisturbed pattern of cracked mud underfoot, closer inspection revealed that it was a dead end. There is a sort of stall wall on the far left side of this chamber, that you will need to go up a boulder to see (kangaroo not included with cave).



There is a potential lead off the flat block, a 4m deep rift with a potential hole in it, a handline would be useful here for pushing this. Going past the stall wall leads to another crawl, there is an upwards section that joins the crawl, and potentially goes in the other direction - this was not explored. Once you take the crawl, the space opens up into another chamber. Though large in volume, the path of this chamber is narrow and shaped like a boomerang due to large sloping walls. There are two pockets that deadend, then a longer vein accessed by going over or under a rock (can also be reached by squeezing through the closest pocket on the right of the path). This path also dead ends, but has stalls at its end. Going back on oneself to the entrance of the chamber, there is the left area of the chamber. A few holes here that peek through toa further area, but cannot access via these holes; the area has been dug (by Ayo). A slot on the right wall of the left area does lead through to the blocked off area (confirmed only through light check) but unclear how big the area past the section is, or how narrow the bottom of the slot to reach it is, Stall features of this section are visible from the

non-accessible holes in the left wall. This chamber has been marked (by Beth) with a Cairn.

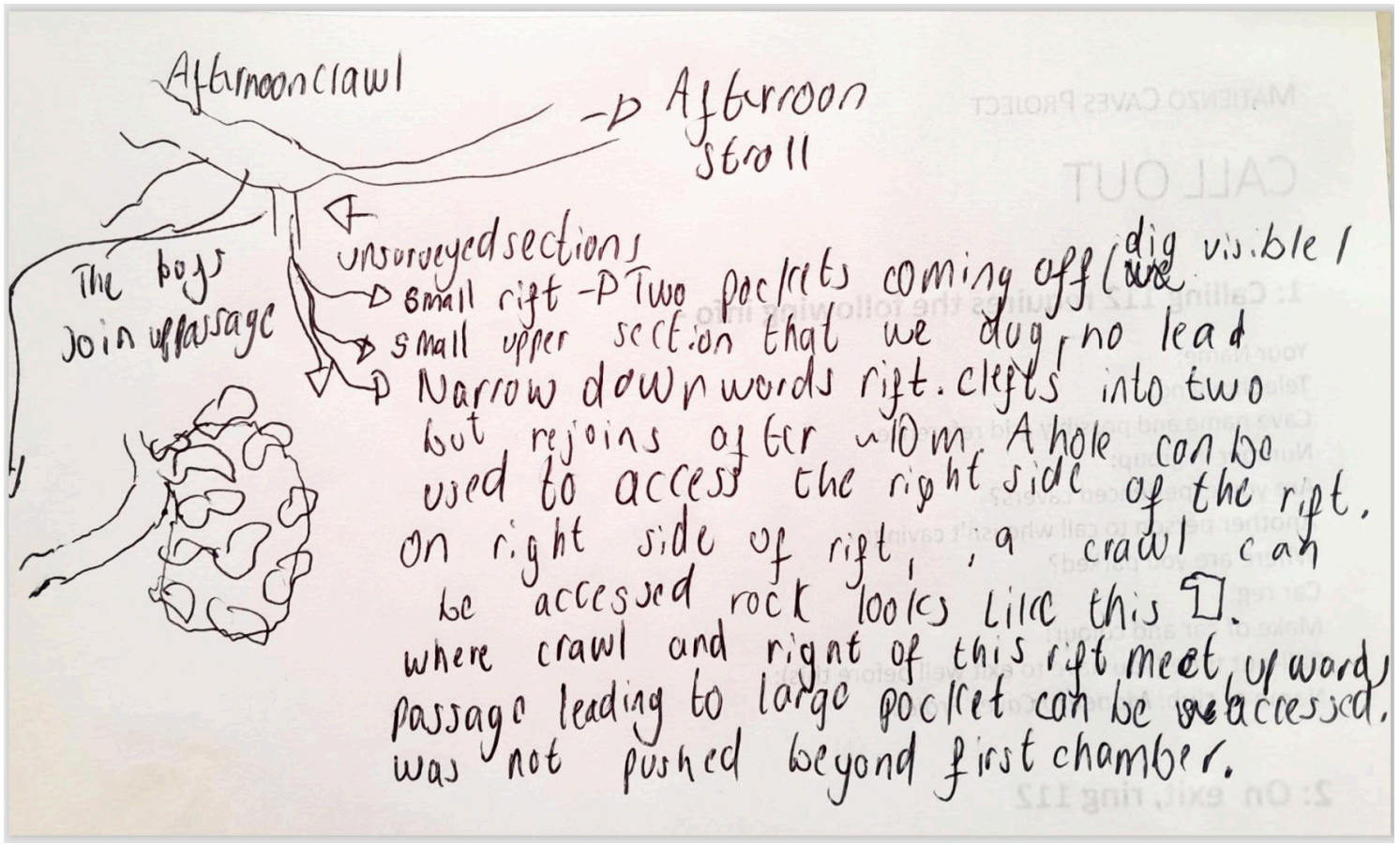


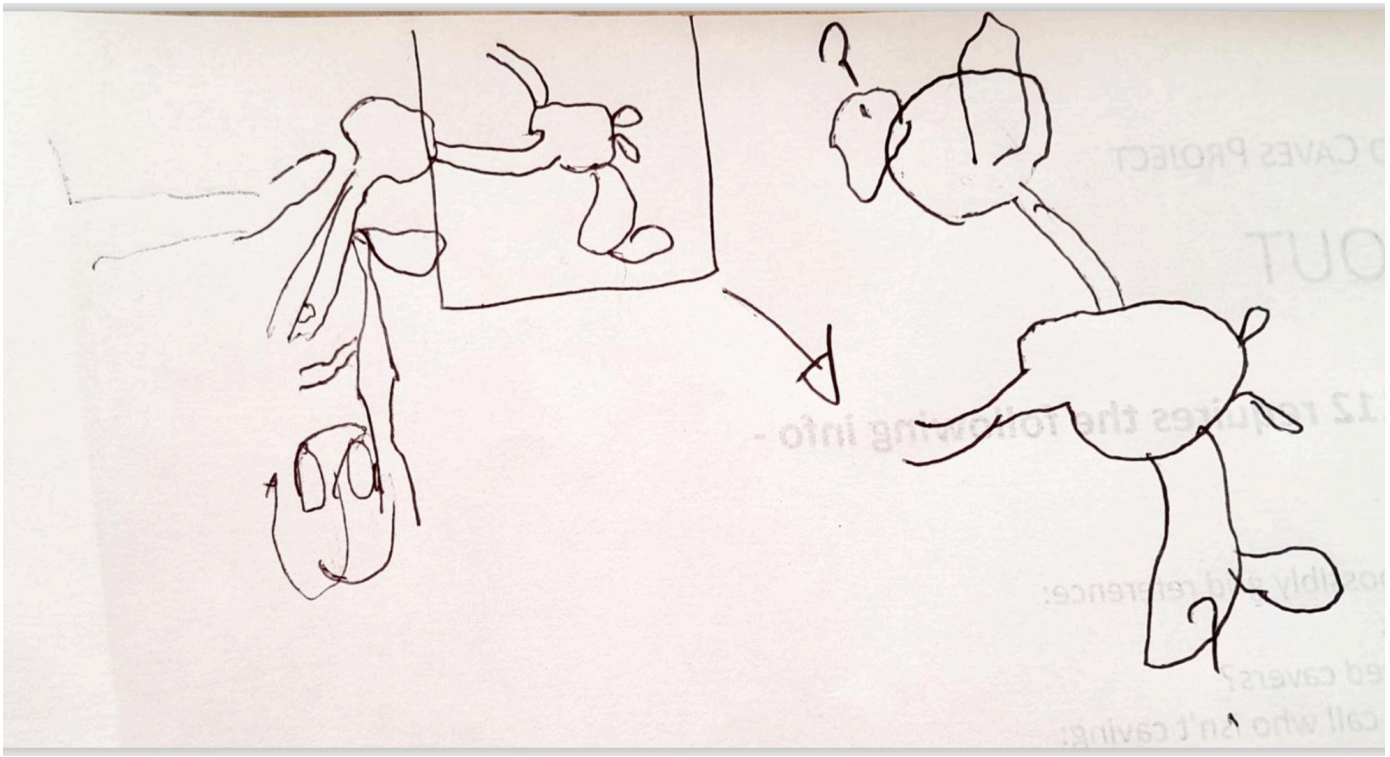
Instead of looking to the left area, there is also a passage on the right hand side (past the cairn), this looked promising so was investigated by Beth. There is a narrow slot downwards into another pocket, which hosted many stalls. There was evidence of a few being broken with the mus immediately under being disturbed, however this was the only disturbance seen in this pocket– the soft mud underfoot was completely undisturbed– stals possibly broken by rock fall.



Upon returning through all the above, and back to rift, it is advisable to go through the crawl with an interestingly-shaped brick seen in scan. From here, a narrow right downward squeeze can be taken or alternatively a wider passage, that you can stand in, and see further pockets. After either, you will need to go through two horizontal squeezes before being back

at the bottom of the alcove.





10th August 2026 Site #0813

Mike Wise, Meghan Hughes, Erin Doyle, Kamran Karim, Calvin Dorn

The loose rocks left last time were removed, with larger rocks being broken down using capping. A large boulder blocked a visible way forward. This was removed using capping and chiselling. This gave way to natural cave in the form of a clean 3m rift pot about 6” wide in its upper section with flat circular floor below. To return tomorrow to widen and enter the rift.





Meghan

10 August 2026 Cueva-Cubió de la Reñada #0048

Alex Ritchie, Arlen Messam, Joe Walker, Samuel Devey, Vi Hill

Following our surveying on 8th August, we aimed to tie that survey into a good, known station on the existing survey. We began by surveying from the cairn in the large sloping chamber with a big inclined rift in its roof, on the approach to Eagle Passage. From there, we connected into our survey from the 8th. We then surveyed the area immediately left of that (facing into the cave), heading back to said cairn. This turned out to be an accidental resurvey (batch 0048-26-02), so we only used those legs to align our other surveys. The original survey with full data is in the filesystem as 0048-26-02resurvey-unused.

Next, we moved along to the beginning of the first passage surveyed off Eagle Passage (centrelined in batch 0048-17-03) to include the short triangular loop of large passage near the large stalagmite boss, 0048-26-03.

Finally, we continued to the cairn marking the 4-way junction in an existing centreline survey, surveying some 102m of new passage, some of which is finely decorated (such as Fondle Chamber). The new passages are primarily linking bedding planes between passages already included in other surveys (by centreline only). Our new surveys include full passage detail for the resurveyed and new sections (batch 0048-26-04).

Batches 0048-26-02, 0048-26-03, 0048-26-04

Samuel Devey

10th August 2026 Various sites west of Fuente las Varas

JUAN, Andy Pringle, Noah, Thomas

Aim to visit shakeholes recently seen by Andy. Drive past the substation to the road "end" before it drops past the farmhouse down to La Gatuna. Spotted trees near the descending road. Surprisingly, we immediately found a walled shaft which was soon uncovered and a ladder dropped down. Noah descended to find a quite roomy choked shaft with a view into a small chamber.

NEW SITE 5570 : 260810-A (temporary) 30T 450762 4798704

Photos need downloading.

Some scouring of the hillside occurred back up to the car - to no avail.

Moved back along track to sites **4806** and **4807** above the road. Both sites appeared to choke about 2m down after some removal of old fence posts, barbed wire etc. Photos of both sites on the server.

Almost back at the car, Juan deviated to find a large depression above the road with water sinking at the base of a 4m-high cliff. Might make an excellent dig. Photos.

NEW SITE 5571 : 260810-B (temporary) 30T 451606 4798617

Nearby to the west is another smaller vegetated depression. (Photo)

10th August 2026 - #0036 Cabaña

Pete Hall, Carl Haken, Greg Allan, Andy Irwin, and Brit Wylie went into Cabaña to rig. The first pitch was ultimately rigged off a thick tree a few meters down in the pit. The second pitch is rigged inside of a nasty tight squeeze. There is quite a bit of ancient hardware in the cave (traverse ropes and rusted disintegrating mallions). The cave was rigged to the bottom of the entrance series, but not explored any further due to time constraints. The team intends to return tomorrow.

Written by Carl Haken

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11 August 2026 - #0036 Cabaña

Pete Hall, Carl Haken, and Greg Allan returned to Cabaña. Unfortunately, only Carl and Greg made it through the pitchhead squeeze. Carl and Greg explored westward and documented at least one lead that is not on the map. Greg attempted several nasty squeezes in the far western breakdown room, but they didn't go. On the way out, Carl and Greg modified the rigging beneath the pitchhead squeeze to prepare for potential capping.

---

11 August 2026 0025

Tess Hopes, Noahh Lewis, Thomas De Ath, Marty Hebden, Mungo Palmer

As it was our final day caving together, we decided to see something pretty, but enough time before the dinner festivities began. We took our Spanish flags and hats, along with a speaker to fulfill our cave dancing needs. We were on the hunt to find Spider Passage to take some incredible photos. However as the dinner was calling and the spiders had still not been found, we had to turn back. But soon to be our return.

11th August 2026

Mike Topsom, Francesca McDonald

On a walk towards Colina above the bar a hole "Fern Gully" was spotted east of Alpine Chough. The coordinates are: 43°19'28.3"N 3°34'01.3"W **NEW SITE 5576** 30T 454026,4797010



There is a short drop 2~3 m deep and the hole is filled with a Fern, no draught seen though.

12 August 2026 - #0036 Cabaña

Pete Hall, Carl Haken and Andy Irwin returned to Cabaña. Pete capped the pitchhead squeeze with assistance from Andy. The pitchhead squeeze is still a squeeze but it is now significantly less awful. Carl chiseled out a constriction before the pitchhead squeeze which is now also easier. Carl rappeled down and found no rope damage from the capping - even so, the next team down should definitely use caution on the first descent.

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13 August 2026 - #0036 Cabaña

Carl Haken, Greg Allan, Andy Irwin, Brit Wylie, and Jennifer Jain all went into Cabaña. The rope was found to be in good condition. All 5 went to the southernmost extent to search for leads. Many small holes were pushed and some small digs done, but nothing actually went. The pit in the wiggle tube was measured to be at least 10m deep (disto) and probably 20-30m deep (rock drop) - this lead is recommended, though the rock is crappy and may be tricky to bolt. With the new and improved squeeze pitchhead, the fastest exit time was 40mins, the slowest was 60mins, and people were spaced out ~15mins by the first climb.

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15 August 2026 - #0036 Cabaña

Three teams went into Cabaña:

Carl and Brit: dropped a wide 25m pit that is marked on the map in the southern-ish area, which ended with no way on.

Grace and Jess: dropped about 3 unmarked pits in the “lower passage” area (wiggle tube) near the westernmost extent, which looped around and reconnected to each other and to the main borehole.

Oliver, Ema, Ayo, and Camron: explored for leads in the southernmost extent and experienced the western formations.

Grace & Jess are planning to return with more people tomorrow, and de-rig at some point

Note: there is a 26m aid climb that could be done into the big hole in the ceiling which might be a good lead in the southernmost extent

Note: here is the survey station at the bottom of the entrance series from the new entrance series survey done by Carl, Greg, and Pete this year:


2026

13 August 2026 #1655 Pants

Mungo Palmer, Mowgli Palmer, Joshitha Shiv, Ayo, Andy Pringle, Dylan Tooley

Spent the afternoon expanding on the work from the 9th Aug, Another 2-3 tonnes of soil was excavated, a crouching passageway now leads to a slot in the right hand wall with further chambers beyond, capping in this chamber is the goal. Photos and a new LIDAR scan have been completed.

5th August 2026 - Not “New Cave” + 5567

Pete Hall,Iris, David and a guest appearance from Jim Davis

“New” prospect that appeared exciting after discovering it during a couple of hours walking around the surface the day before. Nice 2m high phreatic tube ending in a mud blockage in the eastern end. Started to dig out the mud an d made good quick progress but Pete rightly pointed out that there was no draught! Pete then did some further research with his iPhone (with comap and overlay with all entrances + known caves) and found out the new cave was **4534**. Jim Davis joined us and remembered discovering this cave 9 years ago.

The dig was abandoned in favour of **NEW SITE 5567** which was a hand size hole with a draught! (30T 453192 4798386). Dug out soil and rocks to reveal a narrow rift 15cm wide, after a quick trip back to the store where we obtained more appropriate tools this was opened to Pete size, allowing him to get in to confirm that it remained small and tight requiring further encouragement but with draught.

8th August 2026 #0733 Vallina - NW Extension

Catalans (Israel + brother) explore and survey new passage off New York Gallery. Length = ???
The passage, up to 40m wide, ends at a pitch with large passage continuing. Torca de la Vera Negra (Cabaña, #0036) is at the same level so that is being pushed. (See other accounts)

11th August #0077 Cueva de Rascavieja

Alex Ritchie, Annabel Dunn, Arlen Messam, Samuel Devey

The aim was to survey Moose is Loose Chamber, discovered in the entry from 9th August. The party proceeded quickly from the entrance into the chamber, making a detailed survey. The survey totals 32m of finely-decorated chamber with ancient helictites, large stalactites, and fine calcite floors. A crawl high in the south end of the chamber was explored, but closed down at the top of a further 5m calcite slope. A climb at the north end of the chamber (heading back towards the main passage) was not explored, as it would need a bolt and etrier to gain access. Finally, the party briefly headed down to choke 1 for a short grovel before heading out.

Batch 0077-26s-02 >> 0077-26-19

Samuel Devey

11th August Campsite



11 August 2026 Cueva Superfosfato #0200 - Big Steve, Tom,Chris and Viggy

Sweaty walk to entrance but cool draught out. 25 buckets of surface muck and claggy clay and cobbles which had been washed in since a brief visit at Christmas.

Major capping project for next visit (Saturday possibly)should bring rewards.

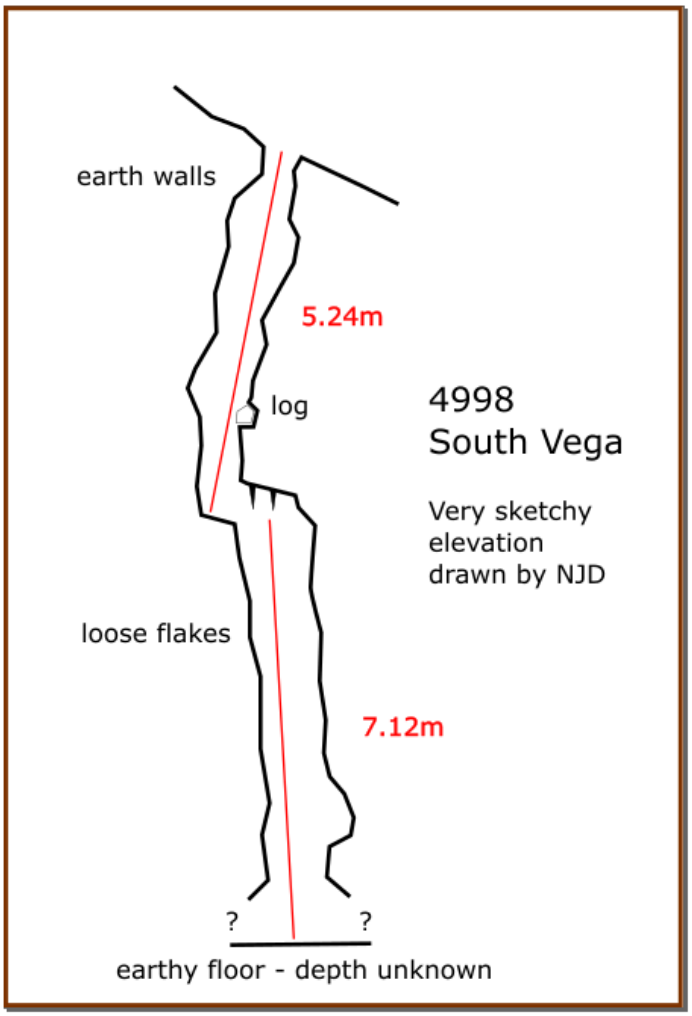
Cool draught coming from floor but a long term project.

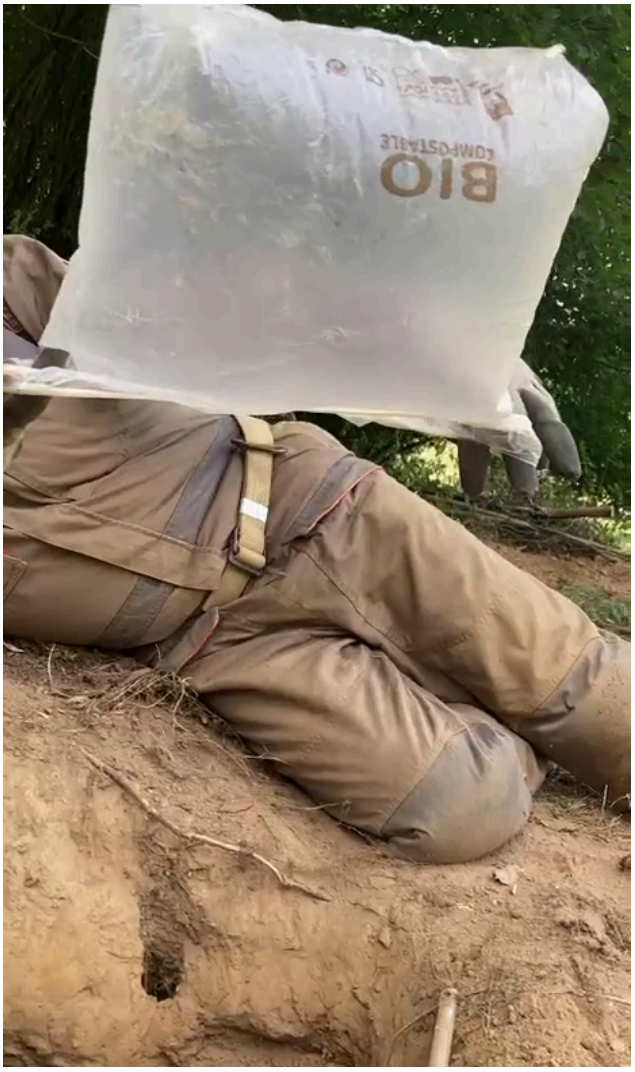
11th August #4998 - Nigel D, Pete C, Bill B



More digging in near-surface dig at 4998. Working in sight of daylight. The first section was enlarged enough for Pete to get to the bottom and Disto down to the next floor, another 7.12 metres. Total depth now approx. 12.3 metres. Work stopped due to lack of daylight, we were no longer working in an open (but very narrow) shakehole.

The draught remains strong but we will now hand the dig over to Pete O and Allan B for when they next visit.





11th August 2026 Site #0813

Mike Wise, Meghan Hughes, Erin Doyle, Kamran Karim, Calvin Dorn, Ollie Enrico

Further excavation allowed for an easier approach to the top of the pit. A handline was rigged to assist with the climb, which was presumed to be easier to descend than ascend, although in the future this is unlikely to be necessary. At the bottom of the pit, the rift continued. It visibly widened at the bottom, but the entrance was too narrow to access. We began capping this, a job that will continue into tomorrow as the firing pin became lodged in the rock and we need to return with another drill and more caps. We also removed the large amounts of scree complicating the descent into the pit. It is very exciting to see so much progress happening in high hopes!

Written by Meghan Hughes





10th August # 0103 Espada

Peter E, John H, Patrick W

The object of the trip was to practice surveying with Pony and Phone and return to previous dig into #3442.

The surveying didn't go so well as the Pony refused to cooperate (this has now been fixed)

We capped through the tight section up a calcite slope and squeezed through after what seemed like hours, just to connect with another dig we had highlighted. We then exited the cave removing the ladder and ropes. One short black rope is still in situ to aid any further visits.

Peter

PS the survey will be updated ASAP

8th August Fresnedo 2 #0841

Noah, Tom D, Freya, James C

Trip to Pepe le Puits to bolt across the top of the pitch into the passage seen opposite. For various reasons, it took a while to reach our destination, and we found ourselves with only half-an-hour before turnaround time to complete the bolt traverse. We got halfway across and called it a day. The passage we're aiming for looks slightly more promising than James had remembered, so he's upgraded its potential to 6/10 from 4/10. Despite a thorough search, there was no sign of Simon Cornhill's missing watch.

10th August #0841 Fresnedo 2

Freya Bearn, Oliver Enrico, Edward Green, Jamie

Went in to continue bolting the lead at Pepe le Puis but had to turn around as we ran out of time due to navigation issues. Much of the survey has not been drawn up, making navigation much more challenging. It would be worth certain sections being resurveyed. Freya

11th August Agua #0059

Jude, Sean, Daisy, Kristina, Max, Samira, James C, Eleanora, Juan (little), Miguel, Marie-Costa (?)

An enjoyable tourist trip for the children.

10th August 2026 #5519 and #5520

John Southworth .
5519 was found to be draughting 2m down from an intersecting passage running north south .
The north narrow passage closes down after 1.5m, the south one is draughting and about 2m long but would require a lot of digging with stacking of spoil being a problem , it draughts .
At floor level in a gap between boulders a passage floor can be seen but a lot of effort would be required to gain entry .

5520 was found to have a strong draught so a digging session is planned to return on 15th of August .

4th August 2026 #5533 Digging

Sam and Jim Davis

Headed up from the bar to the site found at Easter. We pulled out a few buckets from the choked shaft end of the dig, but there was no draught and digging was slow as you were pulling rocks from around the ankles. We then spent 1.5 hours pulling buckets of easy digging boulder clay from the end going into the hill. No passage revealed itself and there was no draught. It was however cold in the hole, might still be worth digging?

10th August 2026 #0081 Carcavuezo

SAM and Jim Davis

We headed into the entrance passage to locate the route up to the “big chamber” above the entrance. We did indeed find it up a slot just beyond where you drop into the stream way. The climb is reasonably tight between boulders, and leads up into a large chamber with significant breakdown, possibly made from sandstone. I didn’t hang around long, as there was evidence of freshly broken boulders. Advise only go up there if you really need to!

6th August 2026 #0258 Toad in the hole

SAM DAVIS, Mike, Fran, Noah, Thomas

We headed up to Toad with intentions of going beyond two owls passage to the large aven. Unfortunately the entrance was blocked with a large boulder which could not be moved with a Z rig.

We head down the valley and visited Arenal

11th August 2026 #0105 Riaño

SAM DAVIS, Patrick Warren, Vi.

We headed to a passage which leads high off Pendant Chamber heading south to bolt a traverse which was noted the previous year. We were able to bolt over large lengths due to the stacks of stuck boulders providing the platforms to bolt from. We believe we have now made it over the existing lower passage, to a what should be a new area with leads going south west and also a northwest lead.

Patrick W please upload your sketch! Good prospects to be had here in this beautifully decorated part of the cave! Patrick and others intend to return so ropes are left in the cave.

10th August 2026 #0084 Cosas

Jim Davis, William, Anna, Elodie and Sabrina

Training session for E & S on knots. Used handline, clove hitch, donkey knots (alpine butterflies),and piggy tails (stopper knots). Very impressed with safe descent. Explored all round the chamber and then loved their very rapid two hands on rope exit.

12th August 2026 Site #0813

Mike Wise, Patrick Warren, Calvin Dorn and Tom Warren.

PW started by digging the rift floor removing 3 chunky rocks revealing a too tight drop and dropping the crowbar to the cobbles 2m below. CD, having removed the stuck pin by hammering and firing it, continued capping in cramped conditions for a few hours while the rest of us shivered in the icy blast despite being driven dressed for the cold. Two surface coffee breaks were needed, one of which was used to clean up a small but bloody scratch on CD's hand.

Finally PW was able to bolt the newly revealed back wall hanging a ladder and a rope loop to aid coming back as the ladder space seemed minimalist and the exit below looked tight. However, CD and TW descended without difficulty landing beside the dropped crowbar. They found the floor to be hollow sounding. The ongoing rift was noted to be awkward and to have a hole through the hollow floor opening into a big echoing space carrying the draught. A concave slope of the same stony fill as above dropped off into a hole. Rocks thrown down rolled then dropped off for maybe 10m before landing. A tight popcorn crawl which was briefly entered.

Exit achieved without incident - 7 hr trip - Mike Wise

12th August 2026 site #0071 Mostajo

Meghan, Freya, Annabel, Erin, Ayo

We went in aiming to explore a couple of question marks near the entrance and a squeeze marked as “too tight”. However, on the way in, Freya fell on the roped traverse near the entrance onto her short cowstail, bashing her arm against the rock and fracturing it in the process. We carried on for a little bit but turned back shortly after.

The traverse could do with rerigging to be tighter with additional bolts to prevent further accidents.

Freya Bearn

(*Note: This traverse was “re-installed” by a Spanish Club a few years ago. JC*)

13th August Agua #0059

Fran, Mike T, James C; then Fran, Emma, James C

Re-explored Rio Tuerto inlet. Mike, Fran and James thought they’d passed the previous limit in dry conditions, so we came out to check. Turned out we were nowhere near! Fran, Emma and James then went in to explore a tight inlet passage. This was surveyed for 40m or so but needs some hammering or capping to make further progress.

13th Aug 26 Puerto #0024

Peter E, Dave B, Pedro S, Carol, Tom W.

Entered the cave and headed straight for the traverse. We removed the ladders which have been stuck there for a few years, replaced the traverse line with a shorter rope and used the rope which was in the cave to drop the pitch at the end of the passage that continues over traverse. Tom and Carole dropped the pitch which connected into the end of the Tonto series. They then surveyed the loop and came back up the pitch which could be climbed with care using the rope as a hand line (apparently). This has been left in place for further exploration.

Dave, Pedro and Peter dropped the second pitch which cuts back under the passage but needs capping to get further into the continuing cave, but it's small.

On the way out Carol and Tom checked out and surveyed a crawl while Peter, supported by Dave climbed in the roof. A shaft continues up in the roof but requires protection to climb. A small but passable crawl was followed for 20/30m until it entered an bigger area with stal but this may be the top section of the rift. This was not entered and left for another trip.

Peter

Ladders were left there last year, at Easter.

Dave, Peter E. and Pete S. also surveyed the bouldery climb part way along the passage across the traverse.

PS

13th Aug 26 Shaft #2415

Leila Nicholson, Emily Wormleighton, Tess Hopes

The entrance was rubbly and covered in rotten wooden planks and branches from the previous dig. We found a bolt in good condition at the top of the 16m entrance pitch and used our own hanger to rig which we took back after. About 2m

down there was a blockage of lots of loose rock, wooden planks and a bone. These were moved further down the cave, revealing a few more meters descent into a small chamber, halfway down the entrance pitch.

We were planning on rigging the second ladder off bolts as instructed in the description, however there was no bolt and the hole was rusty. We connected the ladders together and rigged a lifeline using a tall, thin natural anchor in the back left of the chamber, facing the chamber from the pitch. From here, our ladders were about 2m short from the bottom (although the lengths are correct on the survey). We all went part way down the ladder to have a look at the next chamber and on the return we surveyed the smaller chamber.

The entrance of the cave was much more overgrown and clogged up compared to the photos on the database in 2006 and 2011, but we removed the worst of the debris. There is still a draught after the entrance pitch, it would be worth rebolting the second half of the entrance pitch so the rest of the cave can be explored further. Throughout the cave there is lots of loose large rock so take care.

13th August Vallina #0733

Jim Lister, Noah Lewis, Meghan Hughes, Vignesh Sudarsan, Erin Doyle

The aim of the day was to enlarge the G-spot to make it big enough to fit the smaller cavers on the trip. We had a good time going in and got there ready to get on with it. We ran into many issues while capping though. The rock was very hard and contained quartz crystals which kept absorbing the shock and not cracking the rock. This was a major problem. We managed to get a few off and then the firing pin got stuck in the hole without the caps going off. The firing pin is still in there and will need to be retrieved at a later date.Everyone had a good time anyway and we all enjoyed it. We went in with another group who did some digging in the crawl, they have a separate entry.

Erin Doyle

13th August #0813

Mike Wise, Ollie Enrico, Patrick Warren, Annabel and Myfanwy Watkins

Plan was to tidy up the left hand wall leading to the rift pot, dig out the mud from the floor of the pot and for Patrick to place a bolt and short hand line through the hole leading to the laddered 3m drop. \the first 2 objectives were met with 23 boats removed, but during the changeover Myfanwy climbing up to the base of the entrance ladder, pulled on a big rock on her right which came out of its resting place and narrowly avoided landing in her lap. She came out shaken but uninjured. We packed up and returned to camp.

Mike Wise

13th and 14th August Carcavuezo #0081

Both days: Elizabeth Downer, Jamie Burman, Edward Green, Kamran Karim

14th: Ollie Enrico, Ayo Olumade

Following from their previous explorations on the 9th and 10th, the team returned to Carcavuezo on the 13th to survey and connect different routes (please refer to these entries for more details). It was found that the hole in the floor which jamie previously found on the 9th actually dropped into one of the pockets found by Ayo and Beth on the 10th. Both the previous log entries refer to the same rift, where Ayo and Beth had gone along the rift into a short crawl into a chamber, jamie had turned left going upwards, to find a hole into this same chamber. Jamie rigged a handline down from his ceiling vantage point; upon getting stuck and calling to ed and beth to help, beth went forward on the route she knew and ended up below jamie which was how this connection was found. This ceiling drop through has been nicknamed elo assassin, and the two fists are known as Zz'Rot portal.

The team successfully surveyed the first rift previously found by jamie and the connection into the second rift, they then surveyed along the crawl, with the final survey station being located into the crawl with some pings into the chamber. At this point, we were getting close to our ETR so decided to exit the cave and return the next day.

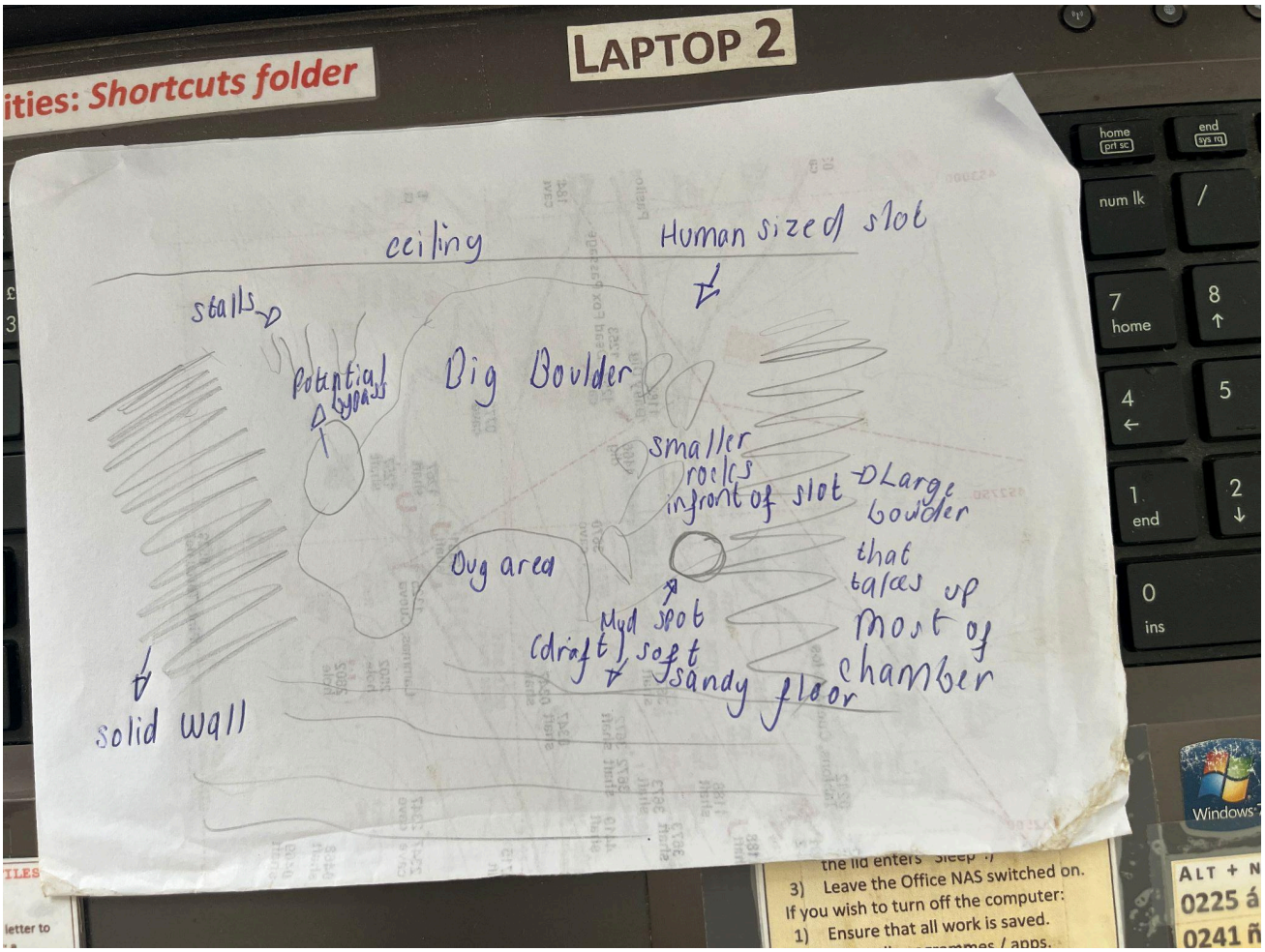
The next day (14th), Beth, Ollie, Ed and Kamran entered together as the survey team, closely followed by Ayo and Jamie who were aiming to push potential digs. Kamran deemed the rift too tight to go through so Ollie, Ed and Beth went through to survey. They surveyed starting at the final survey station of the previous day (in the crawl to the first pocket), through to the next chamber (nicknamed Kanga's hideout), through another crawl to the final pocket named Tiff's Dig. (described in Beth and Ayo's report on the 10th).

At Tiff's dig, they met up with Jamie and Ayo who were digging. Jamie and Beth investigated the right hand route in this chamber to the formations previously described in the report on the 10th. Jamie identified a potential digging route to the left in this small pocket. The mud on the floor was very deep so some was removed to make the squeeze easier, before beth went down and investigated. At the bottom of the visible squeeze, there is a very small window to the right. Beth estimates this to be about 15cm tall, 15cm wide at the base, and about 5cm wide at the top in a trapezium shape. The top and sides are solid rock, but the base is soft mud. Due to the awkward angles and limited space this was not further investigated, but a dedicated caver may choose to push this. This was recorded on the survey.

After surveying as much as they could, Ollie, Ed and Beth returned to the second rift. They then went up the route Jamie found on the 9th and surveyed his route through elo assassin back to the first pocket. Survey station 1 was reused to connect the survey up. As it stands the only section not surveyed is the tight crawl route from the second rift to the main chamber. If travelling through this crawl from the main chamber, this crawl comes out into the second rift where one would turn right to crawl into the first pocket, or instead take the passage above the crawl to go to elo assassin. Whilst Ollie, Ed and Beth had been surveying this area, Ayo and Jamie had gone straight to the end pocket to push the potential dig identified by Tiff 2 years ago.

There is a noticeable draft at Tiff's dig, and Ayo and Jamie have excavated most mud and large amounts of rocks, other multiple digging sessions that also involved Beth. The dig on this day culminated in Ayo sticking her head up the hole widened by Penny#s hand trowel (exactly as Tiff described in the 2024 report). There is certainly space to enter the drafting area = currently through a human sized slot that is perhaps 1.5m high when one stands in it. And at the bottom of the slot, there is enough space to bend crawl and perhaps turn around. However, due to only being able to get her shoulders into the hole they dug, Ayo could not see how far the slot ended, fromher perspective it looked as though it was interceded by a low calcite wall.

In terms of future digging projects here: Going beyond Tiff's dig to the drafting area is complex, due to the large boulder that blocks access to the drafting area, and the presence of the calcite wall. Capping also presents danger, as Tiff's dig is primarily composed of one large boulder. For future digging, I would advise potentially capping the left hand side of the boulder/ breaking it down with other tools, as this will allow you to bypass the calcite wall that blocks the lower slot. It's also an ethical question though, as to reach the next chamber, you will slide yourself across several stalls, and what space can be seen is steep and narrow, through the obvious draft is promising. Perhaps Tiff's dig will one day become Tiff's entrance?



Here is a rough sketch from Ayo about Tiff's Dig. The passage beyond is visible from several gaps around the left side, the slot is on the right, and the dug area is at the bottom. There is a mud area, with further potential to dig off to the right of the slot as well. The small rocks in front of the slot can e removed through straightforward digging processes. Much of the smaller rock is brittle and can be broken with a simply hand trowel. The potential bypass is where the space beyond can be glimpsed.

14th August dig #4016 above Carcavuezo + large chamber near the entrance #0081

Peter E, Dave B, John S

We capped the large boulder at the dig above Carcavuezo #4016 and checked beyond to see if any progress could be made. This looks unlikely as there are more large boulders behind. There is still a good cold draught.

Dave and Peter then entered Carcavuezo to check out possible ways out of the large chamber near the entrance. Dave didn't like the bottom of the climb and Peter didn't like the top so we came out. A rope would be useful, secured to some solid rock to aid the climb, but there is very little of that.

Peter

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12 August Vallina #0733

Eleven hour trip to cap, the restriction at point "G", light weight mattock taken in with spare batteries.

The walk back through the woods was very dark due to the solar Eclipse. Many thanks to Andy Pingle for cooking me a meal for when I got out.

Jim Lister.

14th August Risco #0025 attempted through trip to Puerta #0024

Tom W, Mungo P, Tess H, Myfanwy W, Noah L

The plan was to make the first through trip from Risco to Puerta since the connection was made in Easter 2025. We chose this objective because Puerta was rigged since yesterday's trip to Puerta, where myself and Carol descended a previously undescended pitch and linked it to the Tonto Series, leaving said pitch rigged. We would aim to do this while stopping for some sightseeing and photography in *Where are all the Spiders?.*

We descended the entrance pitch and headed to *Where are all the Spiders?* without problem, where we met Grace and Jess. We did some photography and stood in awe at the beauty of the chamber.

We then left and headed for our main objective, wading through much water and scanning the right wall for the side passage that would lead us to Puerta and the rigged pitch. However, the aforementioned side passage never appeared, and we then concluded we were certainly not in the Tonto Series and decided to head back to where we had climbed up to *Where are all the Spiders?.* Mungo seemed to think we were in the dambuster series, we are both interested in where we went wrong. We decided there that we should head out of Risco, since the Bristolians were leaving that night. We did that without issue, deregging Grace and Jess' ropes.

Tom Warren

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15 August Fresnedo 2 #0841 - Completed bolt climb up pepe

James C, Joshitha Shivkumar, Annabel Dunn

Went back in to complete the lead James had started a few days ago in Pepe le Puit. James went in to complete the bolt climb. Safe to say the cave was still muddy. We went up the pitch above the pool and james had finished bolting the traverse across to reach the muddy passage on the other end. The traverse is quite chossy. If going up this, would be best to have only 1 person on the rope and make sure everyone has finished going up the pitch before anyone starts the traverse.

We surveyed the other side of the bolted traverse, which did not lead anywhere. This was a short muddy passage that closed up at the end. The traverse line was derigged at the end but the pitch up is still in place. The mysterious watch of Simon Cornhill is still hidden in the depths of this muddy cave.

Batch 0841-26-01

4th August - new site below #5533 - Sam and Jim Davis

On the way up to #5533 we found a **NEW SITE 5572** ~5m deep shaft covered with a limestone flake. The flake would need rope and strong people to move it over to gain access. No draught felt. UTM 30N 453257.79 4797543.33

Site photos:

Looking down the shaft approx 1m square. (Photo put into header in error; now missing)	 Jim stood by the flake for scale.

15th August Cueva Superfosfato #0200 - Big Steve, Jake and Chris

Aim to carry on the capping the end tight rift.

Chuck problems on the 18volt milwaukee delayed the start. This drill was needed to remove calcite on the right hand wall; the left hand wall floor was attacked with Jake and Chris involved in this as their first experience of capping.

Cool draught coming out from the rift, work continues.

15th August High Hopes #0813

Mike Wise, Calvin, Dorn, Erin Doyle

Removed some loose rocks to the left of the bottom of the ladder. A large boulder fell out of the mud in the wall nearly onto Calvin but he managed to get away. Erin capped a few boulders that had fallen the previous day and we got them out of the dig. Erin then started capping the very large boulder that fell out on Calvin but we left it. Mike came down and wasn't pleased with the overhang at the bottom of the ladder and deemed it unsafe to carry on. We took all equipment we could out of the dig and called it a day for the summer. It is still looking very promising but extra tools will be needed to ensure it is safe. A ladder and rope has been left at the bottom of the dig for next time and a draughting rift is still looking exciting. We will definitely be back another day.

Erin Doyle

15th August #0024 Puerto

Peter E, Dave B, Patrick W

Returned to climb up in the main passage seen previously. As the climb was a bit dodgy we climbed up and bolted a rope in place.

Once we were all up the climb we carried on climbing but it requires a bit more protection. It looks like it may end in an aven but it's not possible to see a small area about half way up. This will get another visit one day.

After making a few large boulders safe we tried three different ways into a passage entered previously by peter. It was found that the highest route would be best so opened it out a little allowing Patrick and Peter to continue while Dave carried out more work. The route continues mainly easy crawling in a rift passage to a stal squeeze. Once past this it was possible to walk to a corner where a high a blind rift comes in. There is a pot in the floor requiring a dig and the possibility of something off to one side. Back in the crawl a calcite run in blocks the lower section of the passage but as there is a good draught and the possibility of a squeeze, it needs another visit. We surveyed out and met up with Dave who was still widening the crawl. We connected the survey back to known cave.

80m of new cave surveyed

Peter

12th August , 2026 - #0813 aka High Hopes Hole

Calvin Dorn, Mike Wise, Patrick Warren, Thomas (Tom) Warren

Previous trips revealed canyon passage that descends approximately 3 meters (straight) downwards; however, the entrance to the 3 meter drop required a squeeze reserved only for smaller cavers. Calvin planted several caps at said entrance to permit medium-sized cavers. After capping, Patrick set a single bolt and rigged an electron ladder down the 3 meter drop. Calvin then descended the 3 meter drop which revealed a higher canyon passage with a rock filled floor.

Approximately 3 to 4 meters away from the base of the electron ladder exists an S-bend passage with some small helictites on the left hand side (facing the S-bend with your back to the ladder). In the floor of the S-bend there exists a limestone shelf with several holes, and you can see the rock filled floor sloping downwards below the said shelf. Calvin dropped several rocks into the holes in the limestone shelf. In the holes closer to the entrance of the S-bend, the rocks slowly descended down the slope and then stopped, but dropping rocks in the holes and the end of the S-bend resulted in the thrown rocks hitting a slope, bouncing, and free-falling for an estimated 5 - 8 seconds.

Additionally, Calvin crawled over the hole that resulted in the free fall which revealed very strong airflow and a large echo when yelled into. Tom, who later descended the 3 meter drop and joined Calvin in the canyon, and Calvin both believe there exists a promising large pitch underneath the false floor. It is unknown if digging the rock-filled floor that continues from the base of the electron ladder to the entrance of and under the S-bend would permit passageway into the assumed pitch or if it pinches and becomes too tight to permit human passage and would require capping.

Neither Tom nor Calvin crawled to the other side of the S-bend, and Calvin tried climbing up the canyon, but after being approximately a meter and a half off the ground, it became too tight to continue forward or upwards. There was no observed airflow coming from Calvin being higher up in the canyon. We believe it would be worthwhile to dig out of the rock filled floor to try to create an entrance to the assumed pitch, but removing the false floor offers another possible entrance.

Calvin Dorn

15th August Mostajo #0071

Tom and Patrick W, Violet H, Joseph W

Our goal was to investigate the Golden Void pitch, enjoy the pretties and to derig the ropes that had been left in the entrance.

We descended the entrance, passed the traverse and proceeded to the Golden Void pitch without problem, which we found had only spits and naturals to be rigged off.

We then headed back and did some photography in the pretty parts.

We then proceeded out where we failed to derig as the mailions were tightened, we suspect, and we did not have neither the muscles or tools to untighten them, so this will have to be done another day

Tom W

15th August 2026 Site: 5520

Present: Andy Pingle, John Southworth, Jim Lister.

Entrance dug open, ongoing passage found, return planned for Tuesday.

Add photos

Sketch

15th August Coventosa

Carol, Chris, Oscar, Kristina, Max, Samira, Jude, Sean, Daisy, James, Eleanora, Juan

Family trip to the Fantasmos with the children. Great fun was had belaying twelve people up and down the ladder.

16th August - Summary of activity at #0813

The summer 2026 roll of honour

Name	Number of working trips
Annabel Dunn	1
Ben Edwards	1
Brit Wylie	1
Calvin Dorn	8
Erin Doyle	4
Guy Webb	6
Juan Corrin	1 (surface)
Kamran Karin	2
Meghan Hughes	2
Mike Wise	13
Miriam Walsworth-Bell	3
Myfanwy Watkins	2
Oliver Enrico	2
Patrick Warren	4
Pete Hall	1 (surface but also visited the bottom of the rift pot)
Pete Smith	2 (surface)

Tom Warren	2
Vignesh Sudarsan	1

I was introduced to this strongly draughting dig by Big Steve on my first visit in the summer of 2024. As a Mendip digger I was allocated to the sharp end 3m below the entrance in the company of a capping kit, drill, crowbar, hammer and chisel. Below the entrance climb a small chamber perhaps 2m long and with space to crouch ‘headed’ into the hillside with the draught emitting from the out of reach bedding roof at the back. Over a few short sessions a considerable amount of material was hauled out from a depth of 4m and then I went home.

Nothing happened in 2025 or Easter 2026 as far as I was concerned although the site had been visited,but written off as a mining job. In the summer of 2026 I came looking for a project and having looked around a bit I visited #0813 and found a very strong and cold draught and evidence of minor digging at the base of the entrance climb, rocks piled in front of the bedding roof and a strong draught coming from an impossibly small gap higher up on the left wall. I shifted the rock pile into a better position, verified a draught was still present in the gap under the bedding roof and returned to camp on a student recruitment mission,

Next morning I bumped into Guy and Miriam who were keen to come along and so began a 12 trip digging effort conducted over 14 days (31/7/26 to 13/8/26).

The first 2 trips focussed on opening up the approach to the bedding roof, but on the 3rd trip equipped with joss sticks supplied by Andy Pringle a draught test of a small hole in the side of the small excavation found during my solo visit emitted a draught much stronger than that coming from the bedding. We switched our focus to ‘The Pit’ taking out 35 boat loads to material with 2 diggers and 1 on the surface hauling. We also abandoned the old ‘bucket’ which was horrible to haul and switched to one of Phil’s Socks boats carrying 20-25kg much more easily up the entrance.

On the 4th trip with just Guy and myself present, I sent a message back asking if any sectional ladders might be available, specifically 2 x 2m to make a boat slipway up the entrance climb. Juan appeared shortly afterwards with a 2.6m ladder and stayed to haul out with us and do some 360° filming. 36 boats were removed in 3.5 hours with this improvement.

By the 7th trip we needed and got teams of 5 working for 6 hours and hauling out 72 boats. We had dug The Pit down 2m and into a comfortable working volume and meeting solid rock had turned 180 and started to mine beneath the chamber above. The left wall of the 2m Pit was a bit suspicious but work continued without any need for capping. Some small formations were seen initially low down on one wall but which rapidly changed to being overhead. We were digging out lumps of limestone and sandstone plus sandstone cobbles in a dry matrix which slowly became damp. Some nice layered calcite samples were also found. The airflow picked up and the temperature decreased.

On the 9th trip having reached a maximum output of 75 boats in 6 hours we found our way blocked by a dipping slab of bedding which was capped and hammered off. This plus removal of a chunky rock in the floor enabled us to see and reach a 6” wide and 2m S shaped deep rift in the floor. The very short trip along the passage to the rift was filmed the next day.

From this point the major boat filling exercise changed to a more technical approach. Digging at the end of the passage on trip 10 found a sloping tube enabling the cobbled bottom of the rift to be reached. The floor is of jammed rocks with a cobbled floor visible a couple of metres below through a too tight gap. The entrance to the rift descent was improved on this trip. A way through into a wider section of the rift was found and capping commenced. A video was taken here.

On the 10th trip after the onward access hole had been capped over several hours by Calvin in cramped conditions and a bolt and ladder installed by Patrick, Calvin and Tom descended a couple of metres to what seems to be another cobbled false floor. Calvin’s observations follow:

Approximately 3 to 4 meters away from the base of the electron ladder exists an S-bend passage with some small helictites on the left hand side (facing the S-bend with your back to the ladder). In the floor of the S-bend there exists a limestone shelf with several holes, and you can see the rock filled floor sloping downwards below the said shelf. Calvin dropped several rocks into the holes in the limestone shelf. In the holes closer to the entrance of the S-bend, the rocks slowly descended down the slope and then stopped, but dropping rocks in the holes and the end of the S-bend resulted in the thrown rocks hitting a slope, bouncing, and free-falling for an estimated 5 - 8 seconds.

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from the base of the electron ladder to the entrance of and under the S-bend would permit passageway into the assumed pitch or if it pinches and becomes too tight to permit human passage and would require capping.

Neither Tom nor Calvin crawled to the other side of the S-bend, and Calvin tried climbing up the canyon, but after being approximately a meter and a half off the ground, it became too tight to continue forward or upwards. There was no observed airflow coming from Calvin being higher up in the canyon. We believe it would be worthwhile to dig out of the rock filled floor to try to create an entrance to the assumed pitch, but removing the false floor offers another possible entrance.

On the last two trips during work to improve the peeling wall above the rift pot descent and again during a planned working trip to the bottom, large rocks peeled away from the suspicious wall of The Pit narrowly missing injuring team members. Due to these incidents and following an inspection of the area by MW work was stopped pending shuttering of the area to make it safe. The electron ladder and rope installed in the rift pot remain in place. Exploration will continue next year.

This has been an interesting and rewarding activity made possible by the enthusiasm of the student body assembled here. Long may it continue. Looking forward to pushing the bottom to see what lies below. Current depth is approximately 13m to the point reached by Calvin and Tom.

Mike Wise

16/8/26

16th August #0919

Using Orux and Google Maps gave me a driving route which turned out to be on good gravelled and metalled surfaces with great views and the occasional passing/turning spaces. However, around 2km from my indicated point for changing from driving to an uphill trudge, the mist rolled in. Turned and abandoned the trip. Maybe tomorrow

Mike Wise

10th August #0084 Cosas

Sabrina, Elodie, Anna, WILL and Jim Davis. Purpose: fauna, survey and notes check

From the small parking area by the water pump, the path uphill to Cueva las Cosas is just to the south on the left. The way up is marked by faded barrier tape wrapped around trees along the path and occasional sticks pointing in the right direction. The entrance now has some tree growth in front of it which could be removed. The scramble down was slightly slippery with some loose stone and eased by using a handline, although not absolutely necessary.

We spent about an hour in the chamber, walking around the perimeter, avoiding climbing on the large boulder fall in the middle although there did not appear to be any new rockfalls. Noteworthy finds include a candle placed on top of a stalagmite close to the bottom of the entrance slope and a moonmilk (? to check) pool to the left end of the chamber. Lots of nice stal formations remain, although many have been broken. Ways on were looked for but none discovered.

16th August Vallina #0733

Elizabeth Downer, Ayo Olumade, Jamie Burman, Kamran Karim

Went down top entrance to Ha! Aven and up to the upper series.

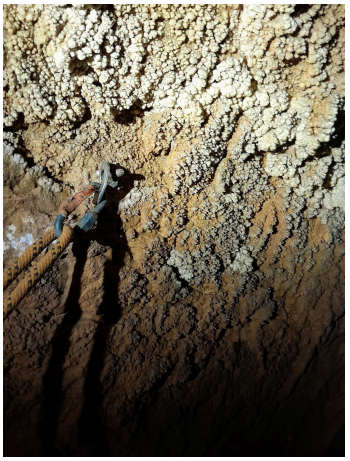
There were a couple of ropes already at the pitch for top entrance (one to floor, one just in the traverse), to our knowledge there were no other groups in top entrance so these may be permanent?????

In case this is not permanent i would recommend anyone bringing rope for this pitch brings at least a 20m rope. On the survey we used the pitch is marked as being only 10m, but this fails to account for the very steep, very slippy traverse down to the pitch. We brought a 15m rope which we only just managed to get away with by skipping the first bolts of the traverse, and some very tight rigging; even so the rope didn't quite touch the ground.

Ha! Aven was already rigged with a permanent rope. I took some pictures of the bolts. I''m not a great judge of bolts but you can see they're a bit rusty, they felt pretty solid though.

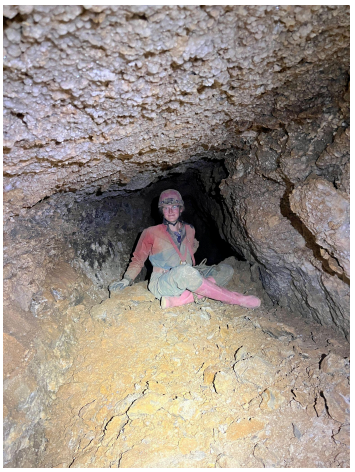
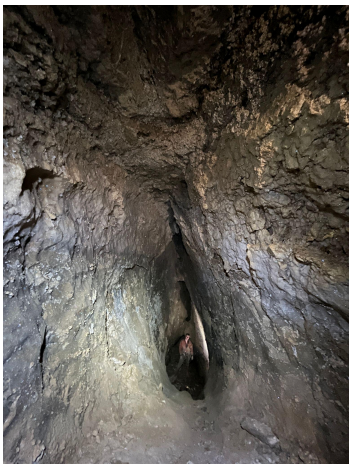
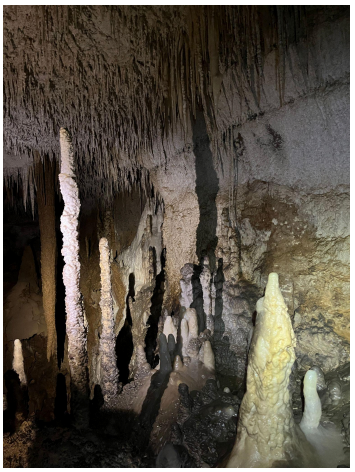
Pics follow…




The handline in the upper series (going round the corner to the dragon) has some loose bolts which were spinning.

Perhaps a future bolting project, some handlines on way to the alps would be of use, as there are big drops and crumbly rocks in this area. Some photos taken after Ha! Aven, Witches Grotto and just before the alps can be seen below.

16th August Vallina #0733

Peter E, Dave B, Patrick W, Tom W



After providing the helmet delivery service, faster, cheaper and more efficient than Amazon, we went straight to the Corkscrew Climb. This we found far more efficiently than on previous trips. We rigged the traverse and descended the first section to a small awkward corner followed quickly by another and decided this was not going to be a viable divers route to the canyon sump so abandoned the trip. and derigged.
We then had a look at the hole in the wall plus unsurveyed climb, all in the Shatter area then headed towards the Dangerous Chamber. We noticed two eye holes up the wall not far from 12m pitch down to the lower-series, so we tried to climb into the holes. With no hand or foot holds we decided to try another method. With absolutely no chance of success we tied a bunch of hangers on the end of a thin line and through them towards the top hole. On the fourth attempt the hangers went through and swung back through the second hole. (Time to buy a lottery ticket)

We pulled an srt rope through and prussiked up through the hole into the, now named Cowboy Aven. We surveyed this back to a known point, and got a pony reading of nearly 30m hight (which we could not repeat)
Batch 0733-26-06 - 11m of new passage - but no leg shot up the aven (yet).

In the same area we spotted another large high aven which will be harder to enter.

The Cowboy aven is not a huge distance away from the new large passages and pitches found above in the high level.

Peter

13th August Vallina #0733

Jess Brock, Grace Smith, Tom Headington

The aims were to continue exploring the Resistance Gallery area and bolt climb up above the P12 to get a look at a promising lead in the higher levels, and de-rig the ropes left in from Easter.

I taught Tom and Grace to bolt and Tom took the lead doing the bolt climb, made ever harder by the lack of eteriers but luckily I had packed two slings (60cm and 120cm) so we made do. Tom got four good bolts in until the good rock ran out. We tried throwing rocks into the obvious passage but couldn't get a good aim. We abandoned the bolt climb in the hopes for a swim in the Asón.

The lead is promising so the P12 has been left in situ but the traverse and P20 has been removed. As has the nut, washers and hangers by accident.

Jess

14th August Risco, Where Are All The Spiders #0025

Jess Brock, Grace Smith

Short bimble into Risco so Grace could show Jess the magnificent formations.

15th August, Cabaña #0036

Jess Brock, Grace Smith

Our aim was to explore a pit which was 'very promising' that would need bolting to get down in Wiggle Passage. We lugged a drill and a 35m rope down and found it to be easily rigged on naturals. We bottomed the pit and found many a fine formations. The pit has three passages. One side leads to a quickly reached fork, the left of which meanders in clean

pale passage until it ends abruptly, the other goes on over a mud crystal floor and into a tall chamber with some good stal, but ultimately a dead end. Back in the pit, there's a hole leading down which was later explored by Grace and Tom H, the other lead goes up a small climb and into a crawl where you quickly reach a T-junction. Turning left there's a chamber with a steep slope down to the left but crawling on leads you into the back of the large chamber with the notable red stalagmite.

The cave was well bolted :) Jess

16th August, Cabaña #0036

Grace Smith, Annabelle Dunn, Tom Headington, Joshitha Shivakumar

Following on from Grace and Jess' trip on the 15th, the aim of this trip was to survey the passages found and explored by us near Wiggle passage, as well as derig all the rope, slings and hangers used to rig initially. We bottomed the pit, and headed straight to Wiggle passage. To make the survey stations clear, we re-surveyed the whole Wiggle passage, and then began to survey the main, notable hole in the floor there (a cairn is left at our first survey point at the beginning at the wiggle passage). Annabelle sketched the Wiggle passage as we surveyed.

At the bottom of the sizable hole that Grace and Jess initially explored, there are three possible routes. The one to the right splits into a junction- climbing over the hole leads to a dead end- following the hole is the only unexplored section, as more rope was needed to climb down (would need rigging off naturals as rock is not great for bolting). To the left Grace and Tom explored down a hole, and through a tight passage that led to a small chamber with stals and a partly fallen roof, but did not continue further. Straight on, following a clear path, leads back round to the chamber outside wiggle passage, where the red stalagmite can be seen. All of this was surveyed by the team of four.

We then went to see the pretty straws, before heading back to de-rig. De-rigging was successful, as Tom de-rigged first, then Grace, then Joshitha.

Currently Batch 0036-26-01 Wiggle Passage top level is duplicate; lower level is new. Length =
Data entered into phone Excel underground, then sections copy/pasted into a .svx file.

Note: the 94 meter rope was cut into 2 by 'the Americans' (carl, andy, greg, brit), so needs re-measuring. Grace will speak to Phil about this.

Fab cave, lots more to explore / resurvey- Grace.

Pictures of our first survey station in wiggle passage in context [paste images- joshitha]

17th August #0024 Puerto Survey Summary

During the summer the following was surveyed:

0024-26-02 - 13th Aug - 18m

0024-26-03 - 13th Aug - 54m

0024-26-04 - 13th Aug - 16m

0024-26-05 - 15th Aug - 98m

This brings the total length to 1,056m

17th August #0103 Espada and #3442 Survey Summary

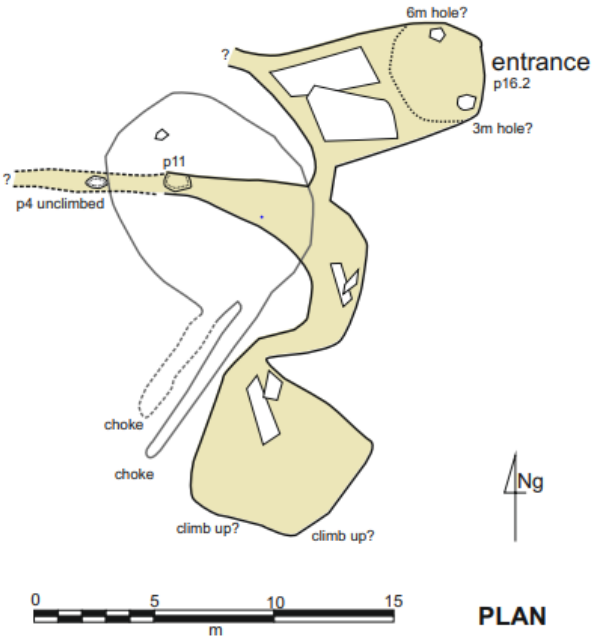
0103-26-05 - 74m

0103-26-06 - 13m

Some (most ?) of the 26-05 batch is a duplicate of 3442 - but is not currently marked as such in the Survex file. *(Now it has been - JSC)*

15th August #2415

Emily Wormleighton, Leila Nicholson, Dylan Tooley, Tom Headington



Returning after a previous trip where we were unsuccessful in reaching the bottom of the entrance pitch. In order to reach the bottom, we had to bolt the second half of the entrance pitch, whilst the first half was descended on the existing bolt and a ladder like before. The second ladder was again not long enough so this 8m pitch was done on SRT with a rebelay shortly after the Y-hang. Both the top and the rebelay have two bolts. Second half of the pitch is still possible with a ladder but at least 15m of ladder to be safe, we didn't know how long our ladders were.

At the bottom of the entrance pitch we followed the existing survey and description to have a look at the question marks. The holes in the entrance chamber do not appear to go anywhere/ are too tight. The survey is a bit misleading here as from the entrance chamber there is a second chamber where the 11m pitch is, and a third, with a crawl between both, rather than a passage between the entrance chamber and one other chamber.

Although noted later in the description, the 11m pitch is very easily bypassed through a short climb down and crawl in the bottom chamber in the survey attached. From the top of the pitch, a crawl at the same level can be seen on the other side and couldn't be accessed but could continue.

In the furthest chamber in the survey, the two marked climbs up were explored. The one on the right (looking at the survey) was a short climb up through boulders into a notably larger passage about 22m long. The other led to the same place but was too difficult. There was a dead end at each end of this passage, an 18m long crawling rift that went off with a dead end, and a very loose climb up which led to a new chamber about 10m long with some stal under a low ceiling at one end. There was a hole in the floor by the left climb up which led to a boulder choke with a small draught. Also, on the right hand side of the third chamber was another climb down through boulders which led to a short crawl- the shortcut to the chamber at the bottom of the 11m pitch.

Overall, the cave is very 'choss'. The only leads potentially worth returning to would be the small draught at the boulder choke found through a hole in the floor where the left hand climb up is on the survey.

**** New survey data to be added

16th August Vallina #0733

Present: Jim Lister, Calvin Dorn, Erin Doyle, Jake Watson, Myfanwy Watkins, Christopher Goodchild, Leila Nicholson, Emily Wormington

The trip was only possible because Jake drove over the majority of the team, this being the 3rd time, we are very grateful!

The stuck capping bar was removed by drilling alongside it, with an extra long and wider drill bit, making sure extra protection was in place for when the caps went off.

Six snappers were used but with poor results due to the calcite veins absorbing the shockwave.

The way on can be seen three meters away, but the one foot by 8 inch passage is resisting all means of enlarging it to date.

This is very frustrating as normally a full day of work would have got us through.

The hole has a very strong draft! And it was very impressive seeing the smoke from the snappers quickly move out of the pot and head along the passage towards the "mantrap". The snappers when detonated could hardly be heard and the steaming was still in place as well as sadly the rock.

The team also capped at the "PG tipps" dig and the choke, further back up the passage as training, but with the real possibility of finding some new cave.

Erin did a good job in cascading the training, everyone worked hard and the crawls were also enlarged which will help when the dig goes and it becomes an important short cut in the future.

After three weeks of good caving, I was getting very tired and was grateful to Calvin for watching our backs and helping where needed, always being at the right place at the right time to help and support all the team, I have met some really good people the last few weeks.

Draft

Report by Jim Lister

14th August Riaño #0105

Present: Patrick Warren, Violet Hill, Joe Walker, Emma Bladen

Objectives: Bolt the pitch at the far end of the large chamber the traverse goes to (Spousal Murder)

Survey the areas previously inaccessible that we bolted on the last trip

Explore and survey the canyon leading off of the right hand side of the large chamber

Quick progress was made to the traverse. Bolted and descended through a horrible squeeze and over the sandy edge down the pitch, although I could see that the passage beyond was a rift about a meter wide at maximum and perhaps 6m long, before ending at a 4m climb, which admittedly did lead to a sort of window I couldn't see into. I was ready to call it killed, but with Joe’s encouragement descended the further 5m through yet another horrible and very sharp squeeze. (For reference, me and Joe are both quite small and narrow, and we agreed this part of the cave is terrible and no one should ever return). I made an attempt to climb and got 3m up, and asked Joe if he'd like to come down and have a go.

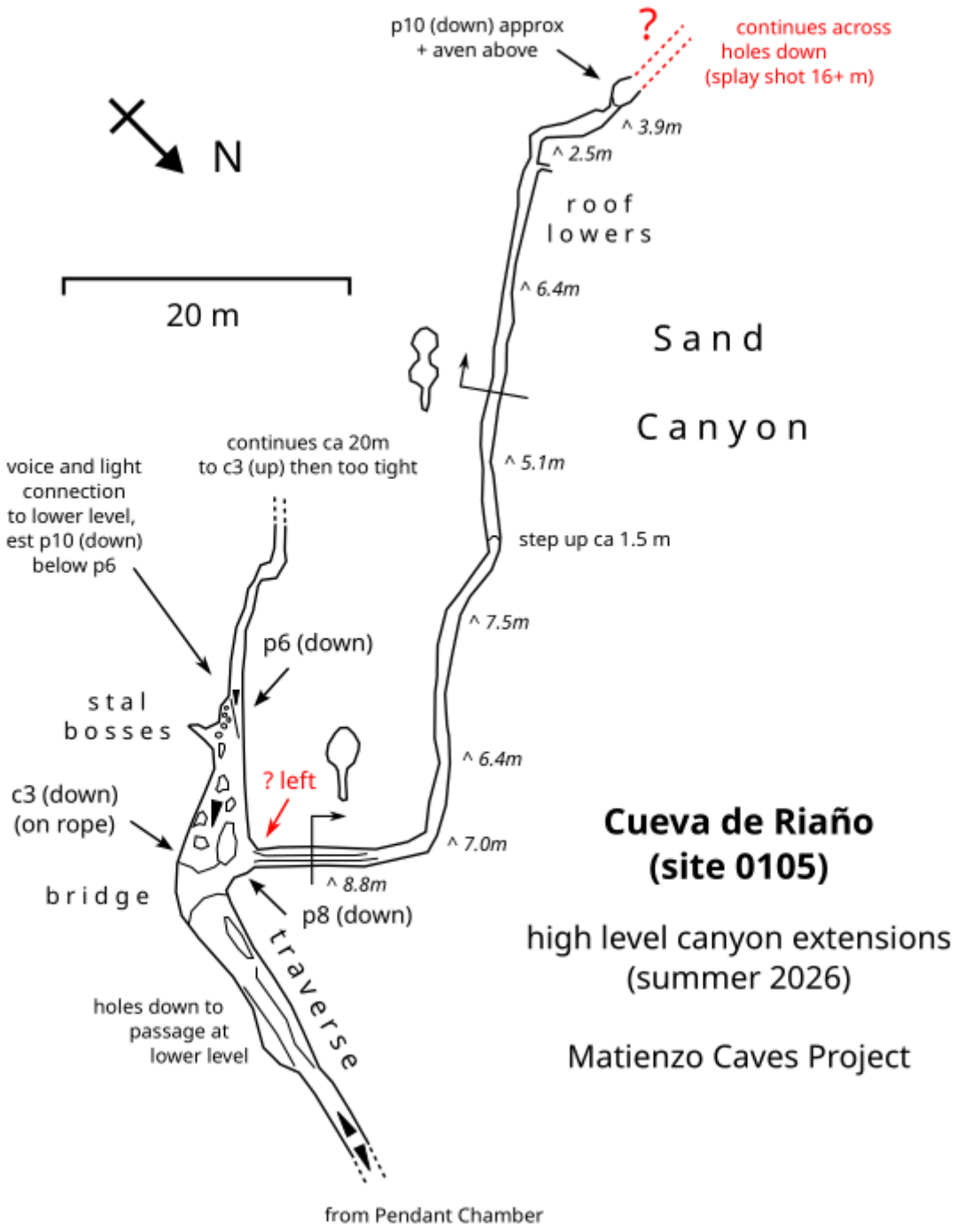
At this point we weren't using the bolting kit, and Patrick wanted it to explore the right leads as him and Emma had finished surveying, and had just requested for maybe the 3rd time, so I tried to shout up saying to not come down yet and that I was attaching the bolting stuff to the end of the rope to haul up and give to Patrick. However, a miscommunication around this time led to a bruise on my arm and the name of this godforsaken section of cave: Spousal Murder. Joe got up the climb and found that the window continued right but was too tight, a descriptor we arguably should have applied far further back. After we both fought our way back up through the vertical sharp rifty pitch squeeze and the squeeze just before the entrance to the pitch (both agreed worst we’d been through), took hangars off bolts, derigged, got through the other two squeezes, and derigged as far as the end of the traverse.

Patrick bolted the pitch towards the leads off right from the end of the traverse, and we all followed him down to find 125m of open stomping canyon! Him and Emma surveyed it, until they reached a loose hole in the floor, wherein rocks dropped would occasionally sound like they were hitting water. The passage seemed also to continue at the same level after about 5 meters.

- Vi

Drawn up surveys added 25th August 2026

125m surveyed in total, with 70m being in the canyon passage (plus an additional 16+m shot forward as a splay).



The holes down at the current end of the canyon passage *may* correspond to Phil's Aven in the Coffin Levels, as the following *approximate* superimposition shows (using 2024 Riaño plan from website). In this, the scale has been matched but the orientation seems off by several tens of degrees.



16th August Riaño #0105

Present: Joe Walker, Violet Hill, Dylan Tooley, Oliver Enrico

Objectives: Bolt a pitch down at the end of passage previously explored on the 14th.

Bolt a traverse across the pitch hole to access passage on the opposite side.

Survey newly discovered passage.

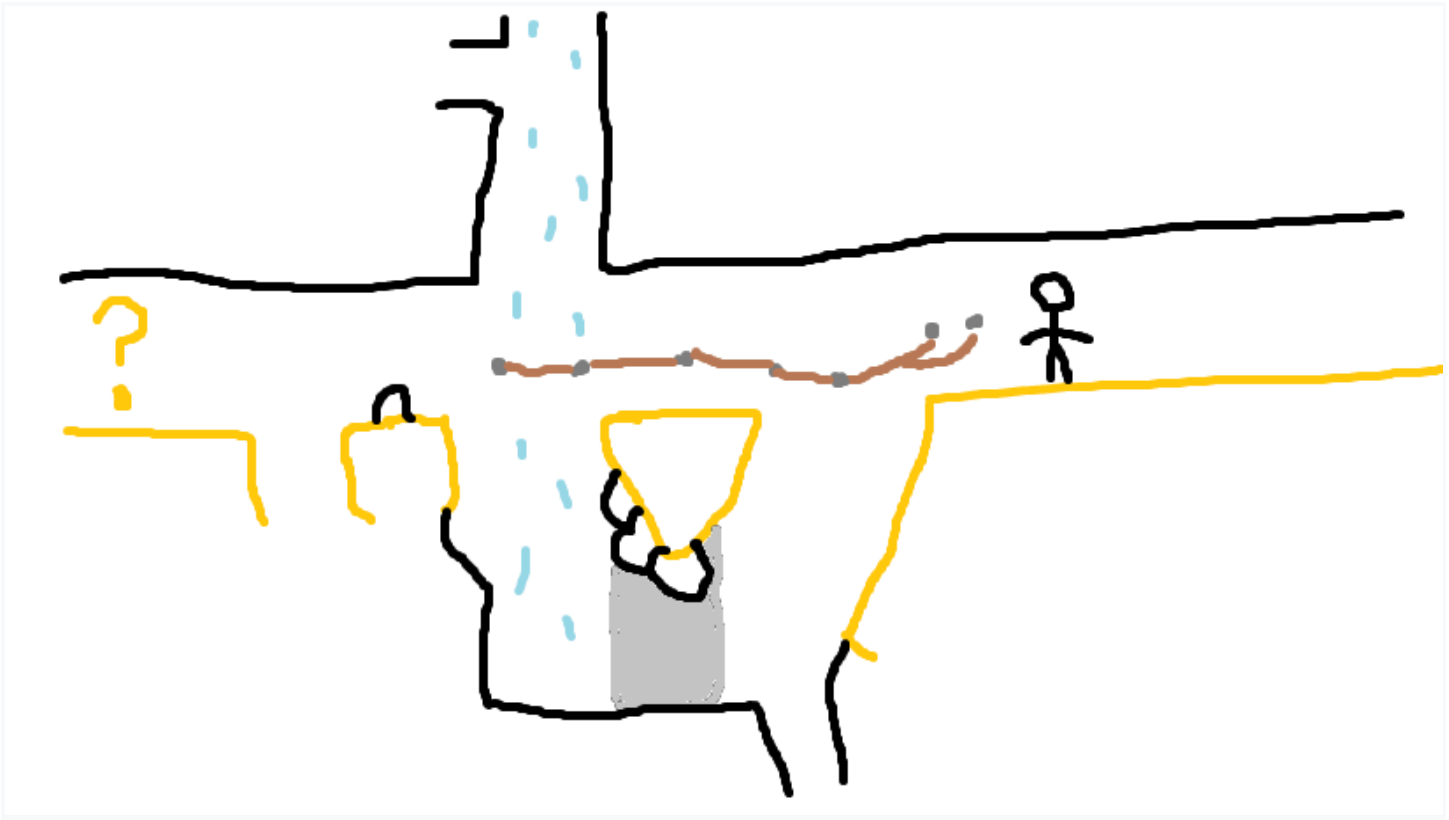
Use digging rope to tie a handline on a slippery climb up from Pendant Chamber.

After some faff with forgetting our bolting hammer we made it underground for 12. Route finding was manageable and we made very quick progress to the start of the traverse, previously bolted by P.Warren, arriving after 1h20. A 20m rope, previously left in the cave was used to rig the pitch at the end of this traverse that leads into the newly discovered Cañón de Arena (Sand Canyon). Once quickly through the canyon, Vi taught Ollie to bolt, who picked it up very quickly and was a confident and competent bolter by the end of the trip. Then Vi began bolting the pitch (5 or so metres), which ended up being rather disappointing:

The pitch began as a sandy steep slope that ran down to a section of very tight, sharp rifty passage. We squeezed along near the top. In the floor of this rift was a hole, close to the base of the pitch, which we could not see the bottom of. Dropping stones we estimated the depth to be between 10 and 20 metres. Following this rift took us to beneath the sandy floor visible on the other side of the pitch, to the bottom of a tall aven which we realised would form another hole to traverse in order to continue along the ‘canyon’ floor. We predicted this aven to be at least 20 metres tall, going to above the level of the sand canyon. Water that felt like light rain came from the top, and we could make out a potential side passage close to the top. The remainder of the trip was spent bolting a traverse across the first and second holes (the pitch and aven). For this the 16m pitch rope was reused. Vi and Ollie finished the traverse at our turnaround time and we

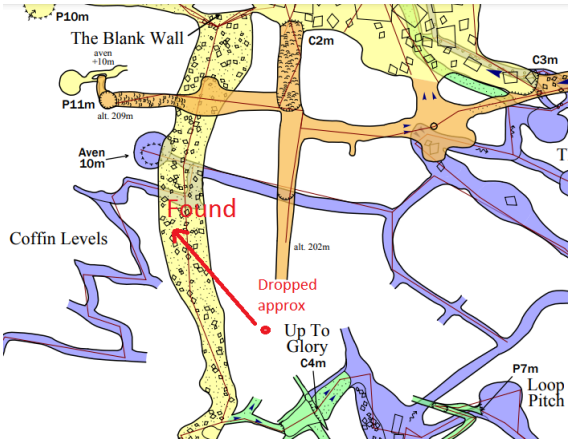
left all rope rigged for a future trip. Unfortunately Ollie found another hole in the floor of the canyon near immediately after crossing the aven traverse line.

We were unfortunately unable to survey due to technical difficulties with the SAP6, wherein it rejected almost every single splay. It was very difficult to make it take a leg. Instead I have made a diagram in Paint. We aim to return next year to survey and further explore.



On our way out we tied a knotted handline around a stalagmite at the top of the climb up from Pendant Chamber.

A final interesting thing: Emma's footloop, dropped on the 14th in the middle of the SRT traverse before the sand canyon was found on the floor of a passage upon our return.



Joe Walker

17th August #0036 Survey

17th August Giant Panda #2691 and Mostajo #0071 derig

Mike Wise and Patrick Warren

Giant Panda main pitch - due to an oversized bolt being found which could not be undone, all 4 hangers were left in place. All that is needed to rig from the upper two bolts and the two single bolt rebelays are 4 maillons or krabs. Note the second pitch rope has been replaced since on the first trip this summer it was found to be damaged in several places.

Mostajo - derigged entrance pitch without issue. Entrance was accessed using a well trodden path starting from the bend immediately below the #0813 parking spot.

Mike Wise

17th August Puerta #0024 to Risco #0025

Tom W, Oliver E, Violet H

We aimed to do the first through trip from Puerta to Risco since the connection was made in Easter 2025. This was previously attempted on the 14th August but failed due to a navigation error as we did not find the Tonto Series after entering through Risco.

This time round we entered through Puerta, as Aberwystyth had rigged the entrance of Risco and the way down into the Tonto series was left rigged after myself and Carol Smith went down the undescended pitch and connected it into the Tonto series - this rope was left.

We entered Puerta and proceeded to the traverse and descend the pitch without problem, and emerged from the Tonto Series into Risco main streamway, where we all agreed that the Tonto Series was very sporting and enjoyable, despite being very muddy! This took us less than an hour.

We then proceeded to *Where are all the Spiders?* the long way rather than the easy rope climb, which was quite hard work with a heavy bag containing 3 SRT kits. Nevertheless, we made it and did some photography in the magnificent chamber.

We then went down the slippy rope climb and stomped through the streamway in quick time and ascended *Torca Del Sedo* to complete the first ever through trip. We all agreed this was a good day, and was of great personal satisfaction to me having been lucky enough to have taken part in the Easter 2025 exploration.

Tom Warren

17th August Risco #0025

Erin Doyle, Annabel Dunn, Calvin Dorn, Christopher Goodchild, Jake Watson, Myfanwy Watkins

We went down for a fun trip/bimble. Annabel rigged for the first time with supervision from other team members, she did very well. We went down and strolled through the streamway and went to Where are all the Spiders? which was beautiful. Many photos were taken and maybe a small mud fight when back in the streamway. Everyone had a great time and some Sheffield people derigged for us on the way out.

Erin Doyle

18th August dig #5520

Leila Nicholson, Dylan Tooley, Tom Headington, Jim Lister, Peter Eagan, Juan Corrin, Andy Pringle

Tom, Dylan and Leila were invited to a promising sounding dig, so we crawled in the entrance with our reflectors to the end of the already explored portion of the cave. A bat woke up once we were all in the crawl/very small chamber and flapped about before disappearing into the abyss. We then turned the corner to virgin passage. There was much anticipation once entering the new chamber, although sadly all the exits were too small for even Dylan to fit through :(, although there are lots of boulders which could potentially be dug.
Tom, Dylan and Leila

After exploring and surveying the cave with Peter, the Survex and svg files were extracted from the phone, Dylan learnt Inkscape and produced a good, drawn-up survey the same afternoon.

19th August #0115 and Wind farms

Juan and Pete Smith with Penny and Dori to San Miguel for an 11 TV interview about windfarms and the Matienzo Caves Project. Met at the bar and were interviewed (with others) in the entrance to the Nacimiento del Río Clarín #0115.

19th August Tali 1, Tali 2, Musquia #0022 area



Andy Pringle, Juan

First objective was to investigate a dark spot seen by Andy next to a limestone outcrop in the north side of the Tali depression. This failed as a herd of cows in the grass-depleted depression very quickly decided to investigate us.
The next objective was a dark streak in the ascending field to the south of the road. This turned out to be a 2m long, tiny cave only documented to stop others wasting time on it. **NEW SITE 5573** @ 30T 453682 4795079 altitude 244m. (Labelled 1)

While looking for site **#0022 Torca de la Musquia**, we found a tyre-filled hole at 30T 453677 4795038 altitude 254m. The top is about 1.5m diam. This is unlikely to be Musquia. It looks like a fairly recent collapse, quickly filled with tyres to at least 2 deep. Labelled 2 This will be checked again for this logbook.

Higher up, lies a significant wide depression / shaft about 5m across and 12m? deep. **NEW SITE 5574** The edge of the 'shaft' is at 30T 453671 4795573 altitude 266m, about 80m or 90m south of the possible Musquia positions and overlooking the Jivero 3 depression. Labelled 3

I remember it as about 1.5m in diam. But not a recent-looking collapse, and, in the past, not filled with tyres. I saw it in 2017 according to my Orux map and marked it at 453676 4795018, remarkably close to your Position 2. PS.

19th August Reñada #0048

Leila Nicholson, Tom Headington, Mark Smith

Gear collection journey to sump 1; we went through the passages, occasionally admiring red stals and pretty formations. About an hour and a half later we got to sump 1 and divided the gear into 3 tackle sacks before beginning the very hot journey back out. The climbs and traverses were very enjoyable though the tackle sacks were notably more annoying to carry as the passageways got narrower and muddier.

Leila

P.s Tom and Mark were born in the same hospital

19th August Vallina #0733

Present: Dylan Tooly, Jim Lister

Trip to recover equipment from the Dig at point “G”.

Kit left at dig.

- First Aid kit
- Survival bag
- Drinking water x3
- Complete capping kit
- 8mm rope
- Pulley, micro traction, 3 screw gates all new.

Placed on a ledge just past dig, it is dry so should not cause a problem.

The kit is mostly Jim’s with the exception of the two firing pins which belong to the Matienzo project.

Kit left at “chanel chute”:

- Jim’s Adze (Mattock)
- Trowel
- 2 x lump hammers
- 2 x chisels
- Tackle bag.

Jim’s dive kit has been hidden at FDC chamber.

- Full set of dive kit in blue tackle bag
- Line reel
- 20kg lead
- SRT

The drills and batteries were brought out, with two tackle bags of kit.

Many thanks to Dylan!

Report by Jim

(full report on project to follow)

24th August 0733 Vallina files from Catalan cavers (Marc Martinez)

1: From Galeria Blanca, ‘Pas Cagandre’ Length =298m and not 428m as shown on the survey. (Surveyed 2024) Links to Hale Bopp and Toc Gallery. (Not surveyed through yet)
Survex file *Punta_Galeria_blanca_amended.svx*

2: CaosNorteNewYork: 830m Surveyed 2026 (<-- Wrong. Updated 1st September)

3: Rio_Norte: L=130m (Easter 2026) Survex file *Rio_Norte.svx*

4: TocaDome (upper): L=760m (Easter 2026) Survex file *tocadome_superior.svx*

Previous published 0733 TL=40499m

Include 2024 and Easter 2026 Catalan surveys 0733 TL = 40499+298+130+760 = 41687m

Summer 2026 finds = 11m + 830m
Total Length #0733=41687+11+830=**42528m**

See 2nd September for definitive lengths.

3rd August 2026 Vega Sur #0333 Azpilicueta

A team of four entered with the aim of reconnoitring the southern entrance route from Azpilicueta, specifically towards Síndrome de China. The team was made up of Joel, Héctor, Sergio and Israel.

We decided to rig Azpilicueta in fixed line and carry two additional ropes, together with anchors, in order to be able to install or repair any difficulties encountered along the way.

We descended the pitches and located the correct route. We encountered an initial 5 m step, already rigged. The installation was in good condition and we decided to use it.

We continued through the passages and soon reached the upper part of Giga Hall. An old braided rope assists the climb to the pitch head, and a descent line with two rebelays leads down to the base of the chamber, through which a river flows. The rigging in Giga Hall requires re-equipping.

We continued upstream and soon reached The Rub-a-Dub-Dubs, a section made up of several deep pools which previously had a handline. This is now completely destroyed, so we decided to progress directly through the water.

Immediately beyond, a climb between boulders leads into The Bedtime Series. We followed the passage until reaching another section where it is necessary to gain height and traverse above some constricted passages in order to take the route towards Reñada 3.

We found a comfortable sandy passage which soon led us to the lake junction, heading towards Easter Bunny Chamber.

At this point, we decided it would be more useful to spend the remaining time and equipment repairing the rigging in The Rub-a-Dub-Dubs, leaving the route prepared for future trips.

We rigged the first two pools, using approximately 40 m of rope and 7 stainless steel Parabolt anchors, with hangers and maillons.

We collected the remaining gear and headed out, finally stripping the fixed rigging in Azpilicueta.

5th August 2026 Vega Sur #0333 Azpilicueta

Three of us entered via Azpilicueta: Gila, Sergio and Israel.

This time we tried a different approach. We descended the pitches on recoverable rigging, carried out the work underground, and then exited via Reñada, with the aim of assessing the different access and exit options.

For a future exit via Azpilicueta it would be advisable to add rebelays to some of the pitches.

We decided to use the same ropes used for the descent to carry out the underground work. We reached Giga Hall and assessed the material required for a safe re-equipping: approximately 7 complete anchors and 40 m of rope.

We continued to The Rub-a-Dub-Dubs and began work on the first pools. We rigged the first pool section and the second pool, located where the passage bends.

Three simple pools remain in the central section, after which the whole passage will be fully re-equipped.

In the first section we installed two anchors and three Abalakovs. In the second section we installed four anchors, one natural belay and two Abalakovs. In total we used approximately 40 m of rope.

We left the following equipment hidden in the mid-section of The Rub-a-Dub-Dubs, ready to complete the work:

* One 65 m × 8.5 mm rope.

* One 30 m × 7.5 mm cord.

* One 10 mm pingo.

We then began the exit via Reñada, which turned out to be quite tough. The original intention had been to return and finish the remaining work, but we finally changed plans and went to survey the Galería dels Somnis, in Vallina.

Conclusions of the reconnaissance

The conclusion of this reconnaissance is that the system has great potential and there is still a lot of work to be completed.

The best option for both access and exit appears to be Azpilicueta. For the exit, it would be advisable to add rebelays to the 100 m pitch and the two upper pitches of almost 30 m, in order to speed up progression and reduce effort on the way out.

A fixed installation could be set up leaving the rings free for double rope descent, with a dedicated rope kit prepared specifically for the system.

Estimated times by sector

* Descent of the Azpilicueta pitches: 1 h 30 min.

* From the base of the pitches to The Rub-a-Dub-Dubs: 45 min.

* From The Rub-a-Dub-Dubs to the lake passage / possible bivouac: 1 h 30 min.

* From the lake passage to China Chamber: 1 h 30 min.

These times make it clear that trips to the end of the system can be very long and demanding. Therefore, it is essential to keep the rigging in perfect condition, minimising effort and time spent on future trips.

8th August 2026 Vallina report

We make a rapid trip into the cave to survey the new northern area discovered by our companions the previous day. The team consists of Xavi, Sergio and Israel. We get up early and enter the cave at 06:00, going in via La Rasa. Without wasting any time, we head towards the boulder choke giving access to the Eclipse Passage.

Once there, Sergio is unable to get through the second tight passage, as it proves too restrictive, and has to remain on the other side of the boulder choke. He finds a suitable spot and sets up a comfortable waiting point, as it looks like he may have a long wait.

Having lost one member of the team, we decide to leave the equipment and survey gear behind and concentrate on the survey. We spend some time exploring and getting our bearings before starting the survey.

We complete 850 m of survey legs, reaching the pitch where our companions had arrived the previous day. We pack up and begin the long journey out. Fifteen hours after entering, we are finally back on the surface.

15th August 2026 Reñada

Mark S went in to dive using his consistently knackered rebreather. The DSV turned out to be leaking water into the loop and so in a fit of pique he decided to dive Rub-a-Dub-Dubs sump on the two open circuit bailout bottles he had.

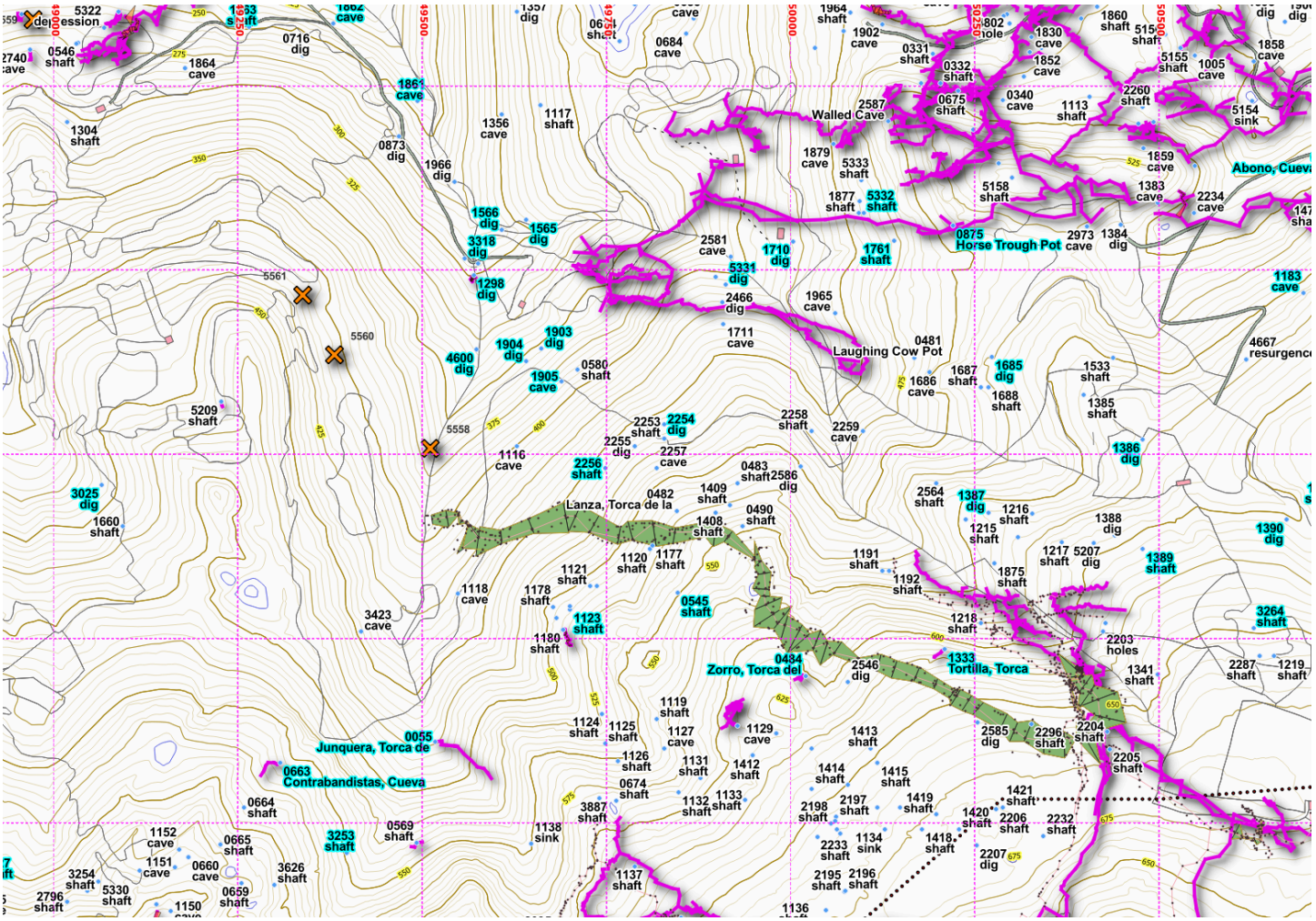
Visibility was terrible (see video link below) at about 0.5m compared to the 20m when Rupert dived it many years ago. Got to Ruperts reel at -13m depth which was running freely so dropped my reel and continued using his. Sump continued to descend to -24.4m in the roof. Diver couldn’t see the floor and kept to the southside wall of the sump near the roof. After about 200m the passageway started to rise until, at approx 280m the passageway reached -12m with visibility improving substantially. This may mean the passageway is heading towards the bedtime series sump with another inlet of dirty water coming in at -24m but, in the current visibility, trying to find the passageway would be difficult. Reached thirds at -12m and turned and exited the cave.

Video of the dive here (https://youtu.be/iwljM7CFzaU) but a bit like watching a film through a cup of Yorkshire tea.

1st September #0733 Vallina

"*2: CaosNorteNewYork: 830m Surveyed 2026*" from 24th August has been updated.
Stations a1 to a11 are duplicate, so 830 → 716m

Length is now 1247m - this (531m) is likely to be extra surveyed on the 23-hour trip.



On the above map extract, the purple line is Vallina including Rasa (which appears to distort the survey). The faint dots are Vallina survey stations without Rasa and includes the CaosNorte extension (with its stations and splays).

CaosNorte is consistently at 340 - 350m altitude. Near the western end of the extension, the "A series" of points appears finished and a shot up to B1 is taken - to an altitude of 366m (with a splay @ 373m). About 50m vertically below the surface - SubFone? B1 is up to the SW where the larger passage appears to finish.

While documenting site 5558 (page 5, 26th July), where the track crosses the valley, some interesting limestone features were noticed both upstream and downstream in the valley which may reward investigation.

Juan 1/9/2026

2nd September #0733 Vallina Definitive lengths after summer 2026

1: From Galeria Blanca, ‘Pas Cagandre’ Length =298m and not 428m as shown on the survey. (Surveyed 2024) Links to Hale Bopp and Toc Gallery. (Not surveyed through yet)
Survex file *Punta_Galeria_blanca_amended.svx*

2: CaosNorteNewYork: 1247m Surveyed 2026 Survex file *Caos_north_newyork-2.svx*

3: Rio_Norte: L=130m (Easter 2026) Survex file *Rio_Norte.svx*

4: TocaDome (upper): L=760m (Easter 2026) Survex file *tocadome_superior.svx*

Previous published #0733 TL=40499m

Include 2024 and Easter 2026 Catalan surveys 0733 TL = 40499+298+130+760 = 41687m

Summer 2026 finds = 11m + 1247m
Total Length #0733=41687+11+1247=**42945m**

2nd September Misc correspondence and updates

#5504 Cuvía de Lolo @ Ogarrio. Translated email from Guy Simonnot.

On Tuesday, (4th August) Magin and I returned to Lolo's Cave to survey it. After retracing our steps through the "Channel," we were able to continue up the high fissure. After a right-angle turn, a small forced conduit descends to a well-ventilated but impenetrable passage (d1, end of survey -8) from which the sound of a river rose. On the right, a conduit rising about 5 meters (narrow and smooth) also brings a strong draft (much stronger than at the entrance!). From the top, Magin was able to descend (through narrow passages!) to the main stream! (Exploration to be done...) We started digging at the bottom as it seems to us that access will be easier. To be continued!
Partial Visual Topo survey received *3799 lol.trox* (75 m). The full extent is over 100 m. Guy reference is 3799.

Site 5152 @ Ogarrio (Lluriangos, below #0003 Collusa) #3881 in Guy’s catalogue.
The entrance shaft is 14 meters deep in total. It opens into a chamber 18 meters in diameter.

On one side (-19 meters), an opening leads to a large, steep gallery (-40°?). The floor is a cascade of beautiful flowstone formations, and stunning stalactites hang from the ceiling. There's a first notch (-7 meters), a second (-10 meters), and a third (-10 meters), with each section becoming increasingly larger (8 x 3 meters). By choosing the least slippery sections, we were able to downclimb. But at around -45 meters, lacking a rope, we didn't dare descend this even steeper slide. A sounding indicates that the passage descends another twenty meters or so. That will have to wait for next time.

We took the liberty of naming the cave "**Torca de la Liana**" (Liana's Cave) in reference to the beautiful vine that crosses the entrance. (unless you had another name in mind); Peter, could you tell me who spotted the cave and when?

#5153 Fuente Lluriangos is #3879 in Guy’s catalogue.

Logbook closed and published 5/9/2026

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT