

Trip into area 4 (iNuevo Area!) Mel and Graham
Short description in no 3 shaft-bashing kit.

Two caves in bottom (on RHS) of large depression on left hand side of culicentro path about 15 mins from pass above tents. We marked a stone on one of the calans with two orange dots (turn left here - depression ~ 50 yds away) Caves are marked 1/ and 2/ , first descends ~ 15' to slope to pitch head (~ 50'). Large chamber at bottom (~ 30' diameter). Deep vadose trench leads each way from pitch head. - definitely goes. Second cave down through tight-sharp squeeze ~ 10' to rift (constricted) to ~ 45 stone rubble. We headed south from here through several depressions with obvious cave development some entrances, some of these crossed off by the SIE. A going SIE cave (number 1) was situated near the edge of the gorge - prime location! - worth a look - it must be above the limits of Xiter. The area further over towards culicentro looks promising - worth looking at.

42

free climber

6m

3m

wire

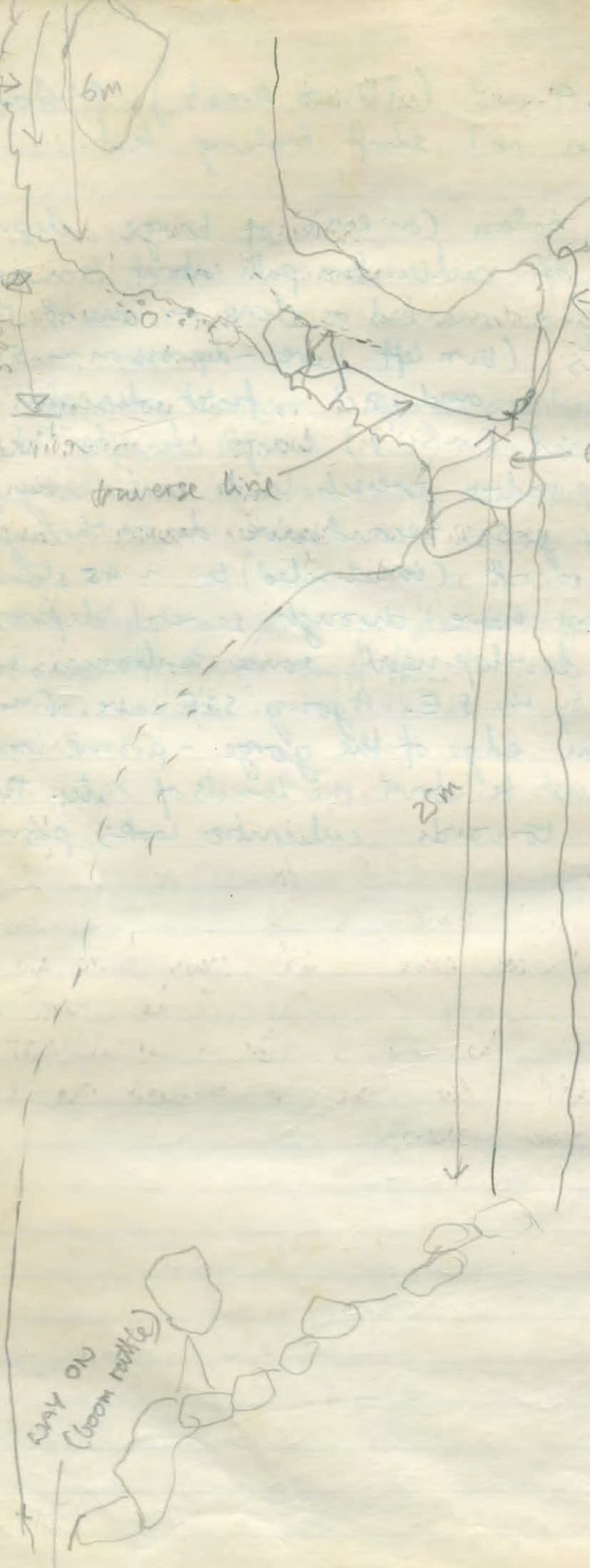
useful rock to get on pitch head

traverse line

25m

down

way on (boom rattle)



1/4 Sherry + Johnny (T)

Freeclimb down from upper slot down about 6m (easy hand/foot holds) onto soil/mud floor sloping down. Through hole (1m x 2m) onto downwards slope of mud & rocks leading to pitchhead. Put a bade up around wedged large rock at top of slope & use as hand line down to pitchhead (no, you dont have to freeclimb the pitch!) Wire looped around natural to form almost free hang (needed a slightly longer wire (7ft?) or rope protector round knot)

Abbed down 25m pitch onto sloping ~~low~~ fake floor of boulders & mud. Small holes near landing place dont go. Way on is in far corner at the bottom of the boulder slope. ~~But~~ There is a small hole leading into a rift, Boulders dropped down it rattle & then go \cong BOOM \cong after 5 secs (or a bit more?). We tried to rig a ladder & lifeline down the hole ~~so~~ & Johnny tried to go down it but it was a bit tight so we decided to leave it 'till we could enlarge the hole a bit with a hammer also we would need a LOT of rope (& bolts) shouldn't be hard to make the hole bigger - we shall return!

Wt
An attempt to Organise what has already happened.

- 2/7
4/7. Investigated - bottomed.
6/7 Found - Full of snow
7/7. Bottomed - may be worth looking at later
8/7 SEE SBK
9/7. Grong (sort of) p. 31
10/7 Bottomed - Too tight.
11/7 Near surface dig
12/7 Rabbit hole - a dig if we're desperate.
13/7 Cueva del previsto. (Piss pot) (Unfound)

22/7 - 24/7 Bottomed

AREA 5

- 5/5 Dig with possibilities. (Planned)
11/5 To be found.
23/5 Horizontal cave. Bottomed.
26/5 Unmarked but has SE mark. Bottomed. (20m)
30/5 Near Trea Path. Red circle cave. No go
31/5 OPTIMISTO (marked 30/5!!!)
32/5 SBK
33/5 Paul's 50m shaft. p15
34/5 Reserved for future expansion (by Paul)
35/5 Surface dig - unmarked
36/5. SC's cave. Bottomed. p. 33
37/5 Bottomed. p 33
38/5 " p 34
39/5 SIE SHAFT (previously 31/5 in this book) unmarked by oval
40/5 SHEEPFOLD CAVE - Valle Extremum
41/5 Plastic entrance, above valle by here

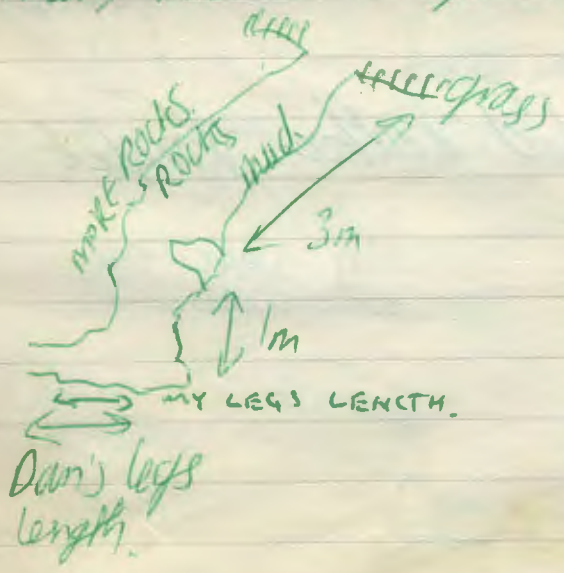
16th July 1987

Rained all day. ^{17:10} ML went off to look at area 4, PMS went off to look at a previously unvisited part of Area 5: Leave the Arico basin SE, 50 m or so up & to the left of the pastore's huts/ruins. You come out into a little valley ABOVE the Valle Extremera. This contains a large rock slide/rockfall on the left & eventually drops down into the Valle Extremera. High up on the left side is a surface shaft with snow in it (unexamined closely) and a lot of surface shafts nearby all choked, as you go down quite a way - needs chiselling out. On the left hand wall is an obvious phreatic ^{4/5} entrance, I went in this until ~~out~~ it got too dark to see - it looks as if it continues but may

16th July 1987. A foul, miserable day. Dan & Jonathan Cooper set off in the rain & mist to find the cave that will keep this expedition occupied.

We climbed up towards Zuluaga, guided by the dull red light that was Graham's dayglo cascade shining through the mist.

At Rabbit Hole, which is not labelled, Dan threw on an oversuit & scrambled down the muddy crawl to a short climb (1m) to a horizontal squeeze that he could just get his legs thro'. Jonathan had a quick look and saw two jetroped shaftbushers then decided to leave it for another, more desperate, day.



The duo then ascended to 1017, leaving Duns gear there so that he ~~could~~ ~~return~~ could scramble about the steep slopes with ease ~~they~~ scrambled along a high level route between Curicote and the base of La Verdelluenga. However the gods of the caves were guarding their secrets well for only two small refuge caves high in the side of Curicote. The first was large enough to stand in, very muddy & ended after 6-8m. The second was small, not so muddy & body lengthed.

The two, cold, wet, miserable, ~~stodgy~~ knackered, mountaineers staggered on to the base of LV & then the elements finally beat out all enthusiasm. The hikers may have had for shaft bashing and they returned on a lower route.

Again, two small pots were found, the first being a 2m climb into an impenetrable boulder choke, the second being somewhat smaller and more bouldery.

And so, downcast, the walkers staggered back to Ario, in the mist, soaked to the skin, dejected and depressed.

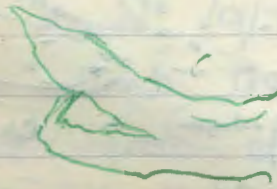
Oh well - A day I'd rather forget!

RESURGENCE I

67
BCRA GRADE -1



ELEVATION!

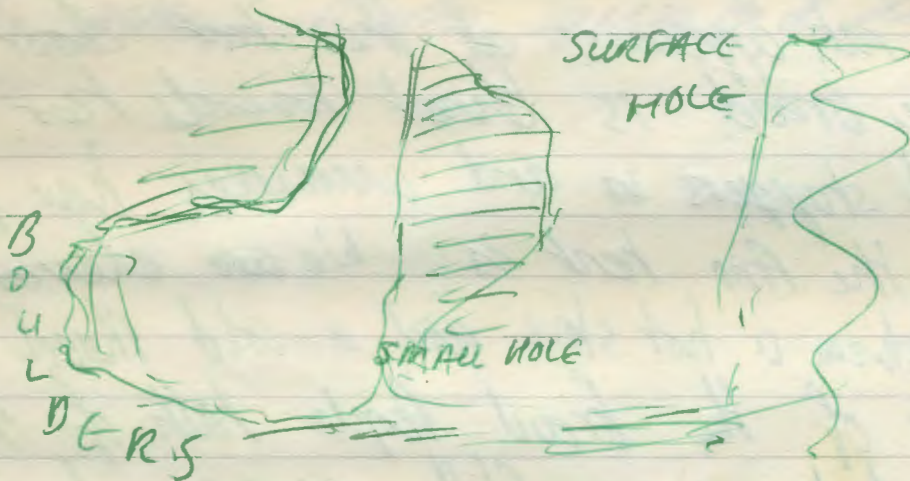


~~PLAN~~
PLAN

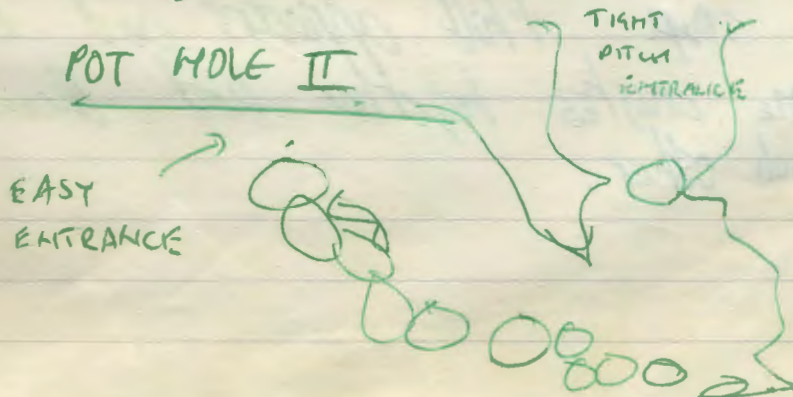
RESURGENCE CAVE II

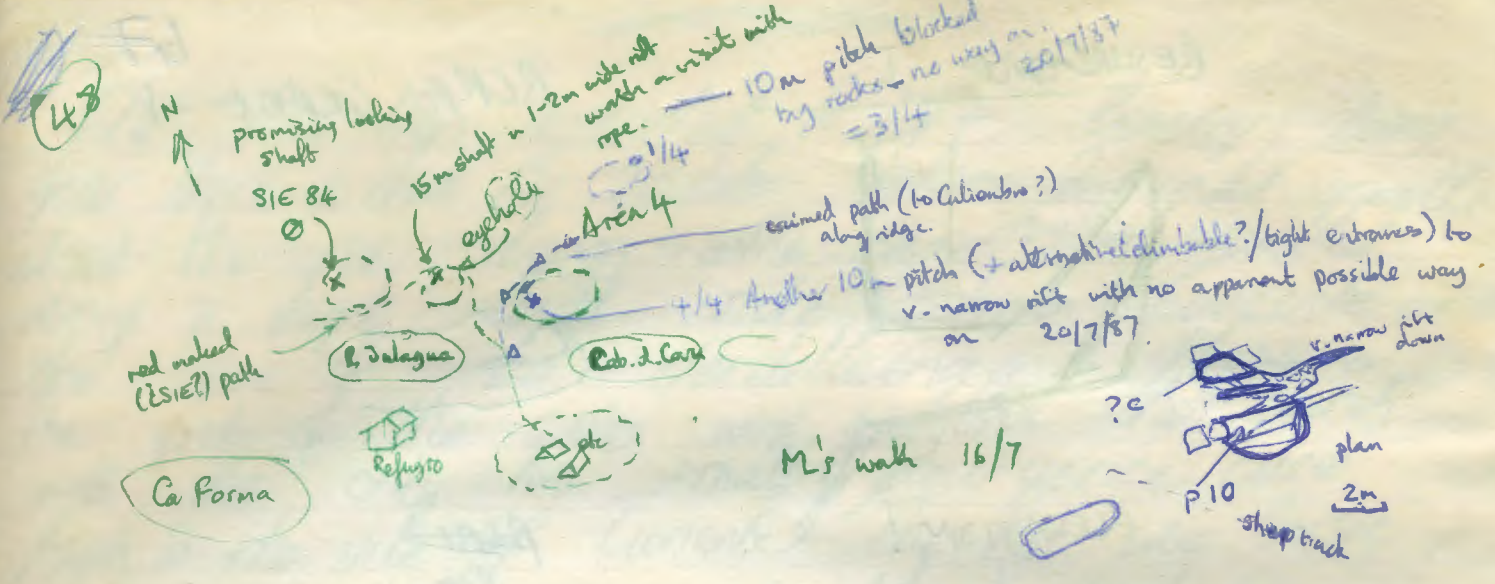


POT HOLE I



POT HOLE II





10:26 Friday 17th July

It has been raining solidly for two days. Dan, Jonny, Lynn, Martin, Jonathan, Dave, Graham, Martin, Martin & Sherry sit in the Ario tent. The rain beats solidly on the sides of the tent. Jonathan dons a wet suit and starts off on the long canoe back to a sodden base camp.

Murel, doing an excellent impression of a drowned rat, appears at the tent door. A soggy sponge, i.e. bread, is thrust towards her.

Paul staggers in and announces how positively roomy the Ario tent is. We are eleven. I am crushed between a hot stove and a cold Murel. We devour the last of the bread. People talk of oversuit stew and carbide soup. Phil appears and hovers in the doorway. Everyone cringes together and throws peanut butter at each other.

Thurs 16th July.

Martin, Graham & Lynn went down 9/7 with the hope of finding a way on via a climb that Martin had previously started. Unfortunately, despite heroic efforts to get past a boulder, the climb continued upwards past choss with no end in sight. A packet of peanuts was eaten and then devious tactics on the part of Graham & Lynn ensured that they were body lined past the boulder, but Martin then discovered he had to free climb it! Surveyed the cave (taking sum total of about 5 measurements!) & then on finally getting out of the cave it decided to rain.

Friday 17 July

Don, Martin M. & Martin L surveyed 2315 partly to get out of the rain & partly to see how long it was ~ 40m Oh well, it'll answer the BCKA if this is the longest cave so far. Smashed a rock into another hole, near me & the yoke. Martin squeezed down, didn't go.

Martin's business & I have been
 busy of finding a way on or a stand that Martin had
 previously started. Unfortunately, despite Martin's efforts to get
 out a number, the club continued against past chess with
 no end in sight. A great of parents was eaten and
 then believe comes on the part of Graham & I have been
 that they were badly tired the number, but Martin
 then discussed the fact to the club it! I enjoyed the
 one taking our lot of about 2 measurements of a stand
 on finally getting out of the case it decided to run

[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible due to bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. It appears to be a continuation of the handwritten notes.]