

# VALLINA – NOSPOTENTRA

## INTRODUCTION

This text describes the usual route of the Vallina-Nospotentra crossing. Is based on the translation by Pepe Serrano from the original English text of the Group Matienzo. The main text describes the journey, and in cases where there is option to deviate from the usual route will indicate in footnotes. To facilitate the journey on the mole, it has been marked with a blue line the route described in this text.

## ACCESS

Coordenadas (todas en UTM y Datum WGS84)

**Parking (curva a la izquierda en la pista)**

30T 0450476 4792354 Altura: 397m

**Cueva Vallina (Boca Superior)**

30 T 450016 4792412 Altura: 420m.

**Nospotentra (Boca inferior)**

30 T 450747 4792364 Altura: 315m.

Arredondo (Cantabria). From Arredondo we take the CA-261 that goes up to the Port of the Alisas. 1km from Arredondo we pass by the junction with the CA-655 that goes to Bustablado. 1.4km from that cross and continue along the road that goes up Puerto de las Alisas, we will find a track on the right that goes up to the Colorado cabins. At 900m of track, and where the track takes a sharp curve to the left we can leave parked the cars. The cave of Nospotentra(1). It is a ten-minute walk down the hillside, and if we continue along the path walking about ten minutes, Vallina(2) you will find on our left and uphill below.

*(1) From Nospotentra to the curve where we will leave the cars there are abundant paths (of cows, yes) that will take us to the car, although we will have to pass under some enclosed.*

*(2) A stone milestone marks the point where we must leave the road to take a path that leads us will lead to the mouth of Vallina.*

## **CAVING DATA**

Development (summer 2009): 31654m

Depth: -176 meters deep

## **INTRODUCTION**

The upper entrance is hidden between trees after a short approach to foot and downhill, from the steep track which part of the Arredondo highway - straightens. The entrance is an opening of 15m

wide that has been used as a refuge through the centuries, and the evidence of its occupancy has been tested, both by pieces of flint found as by pottery of the Bronze Age. The discovery, in interior of the cave, of a small ceramic container (Cubilete), possibly the Bronze Age, led to the reopening, after thousands of years, of the second entry, the one at the bottom.

The cave was first explored from of the top entry in 1989 by the group British. The cave continued to be explored in the following years by the Tortosa group to go from 3 km to 12 miles of development. In 1994, after being crossed a passage downstream, they explore about 7km more of shaped galleries together with the Spanish. the length of 31,201m includes 3.5 kilometers of those of Tortosa discovered in the early 90's that are being surveyed again.

## **TRIP DESCRIPTION**

### **VALLINA - NOSPOTENTRA**

After about fifty meters of cave and maintaining about 5m height, the ground descends to a flat and muddy area (outside light limit), which overlooks a small passage with draft located on the back wall. There we will find a cat flap of about five meters that can require the drainage of water in the rainy season rain (there is a carafe and a sponge for to drain the water from the cat flap). Immediately behind this cat flap we will find a short laminator that leaves on the head of a pitch of 10 meters. Under this pit a mud ramp, cracked in its flat part, situates us in the Vallina Gallery that turns a few

meters to the right heading east. In the same site of the turn there is a high blind chimney to the left. The gallery, 10m high and wide, continue, and past formations in an advanced state of deterioration we find a declimb of 4 meters(3).

*(3) In the top it appears as E3, and it is possible to descend easily searching for a passage between blocks by the right side of the gallery.*

The gallery is then enlarges by keeping the soil covered with blocks. Finally, the gallery descends forming a room 20m wide by 25m high, east point where the progression ends at ground level due to a large cluster of blocks. the wall of the right is made up of sand and blocks and an easy climb of 23m takes us to a raised area where we will find the continuation, also next to the wall of the right. This point is great for take a look back from the top of the balcony to contemplate the journey tour of the Vallina Gallery. This point It is 20 meters away in plan from the cavity 1823. The Vallina Gallery continues from the balcony by an area called "Sunday Stomps" (Sunday Footsteps) during about 250m until you reach the "Glitter Run" (Corridor of the Glitters), so called by the small and crystalline stagnations of water that adorn it. In this Corridor of the brightness, we will find two zones with water inputs, one that drips from the roof, and is lost through a drain in the lowest point of the gallery, and another that looks like from the right side of the same. Less than fifty meters from this second contribution of water we will see that the gallery collapses to the right and left in a spacious room(4).

*(4) Here we can take a detour to visit several galleries before returning to the usual route: Towards south (our right) the path skirts a subsidence and leads us towards a muddy P25 located in the corner that forms the gallery when giving new 90° turn to the right. This P25 was the original access to lower levels. This is one of the points where we can deviate from the "Standard" Traverse: The Gallery Takes a New Twist But this time to the left (east) and leaves us in the superb gallery "Chunnel" (the Tunnel), with the floor covered with sand and maintaining the 10 wide for 10 high we progress placidly during 70 meters until you reach a ramp that once above leaves us close to a P10 that we keep at our right. Continuing in front of us low path towards a short downclimb between blocks that takes us to a P30 with a small step in its unexplored background. immediately before this pitch, a climb leads us to a large room in which airflow is lost. at the beginning of the Chunnel gallery a rolling mill (crawl) takes us to a non-continuous room.*

The normal route of the crossing continues towards the east (following practically the direction that we brought, that on the mole is the fork on the left) towards a step where the roof goes down, we'll climb down a small projection of two meters, and we will find the head of our second pitch of the traverse(5).

*(5) We will pass by a fireplace equipped in the that no superior continuity was found.*

This wide pitch is divided into two sections of 12 and 18m respectively (the header of the first section is equipped with a handrail of mounted rope approach directly on the sheet, likewise the two head bolts are attached by a flat ribbon hoop(6). The shelf where is the head of P18 has space for at least four people, but we must be careful, since there are no handrails to anchor to, except for the header, which is in a extreme and where they can hardly be placed two people (7). The descent of the P18 leaves you on an area of blocks, where we will continue descending, passing through the base of the P25 that formerly served for go down to the lower floors (see note number 4), until arriving next to a new P12 (8) (that we must not descend). Here we must turn slightly to the left (9), and the normal route runs through the area evident in E-NE direction for 150m where, upright and sometimes crouched down, we'll follow the air current up a steep descending ramp with arena (10) that leaves us in a room high ceiling. On one side of the room (11) we will have to climb about three meters to

*(6) It would be convenient to touch up this installation, replace the handrail rope and mount the handrail with a maillon. The motherboard should also be replaced. of one of the anchors by another with a ring, to be able to remove the flat tape)*

*(7) The head of the P18 is mounted with two parablots, one with a ring and the other with a maillon (which should be replaced by another plate with a ring), which which can complicate rope recovery.*

*(8) At the base of P12 we find a series of conduits that have been forced up a step clogged with strong draft after to have climbed through an opening.*

*(9) If we go around P12 we can access a small room with sandy floor and low ceiling with beautiful formations*

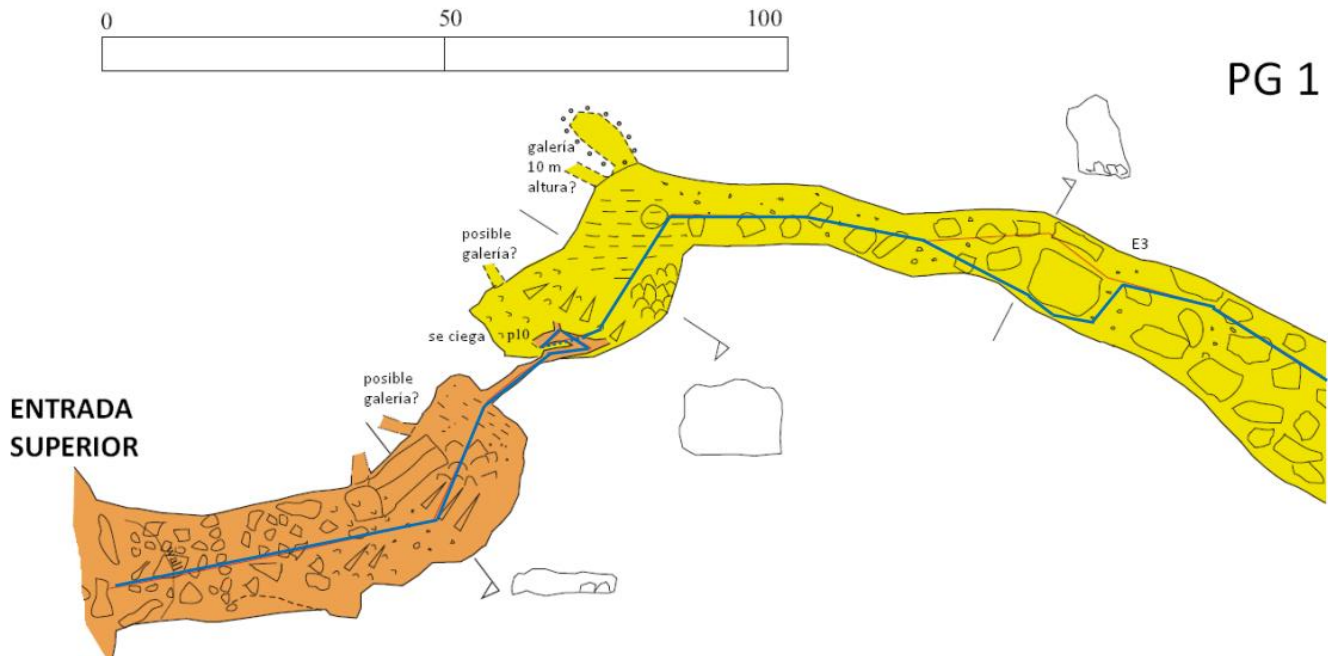
*(10) Before the sand ramp, a fork to the right takes you to a series of rooms and galleries with a downclimb 20m to the left of the first one which leaves you at the B-flat-Passage (Gallery B Flat)*

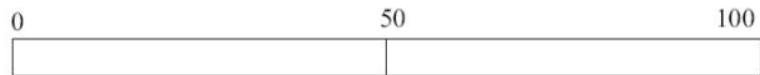
*(11) To the left and near the top of the ramp of sand there are some ducts with beautiful formations of plaster.*

approach the head of the third pitch (P13). At the base of P13 (12) the path divides: a ramp (heading northeast) leads you to the rest of cavity; the widest path is which takes you to the lower entrance It empowers us. From the base of P13, following this wide gallery in the direction southeast, barely twenty meters we will find a ramp with an easy 4m downclimbing (the Windy Corner, or Rincon del Viento) and increase the calcite formations. our route continues to be varied, comparatively Smaller in size, but easy to progress. We passed by a few entrances sides until you reach an area of blocks (13). Here we will continue through

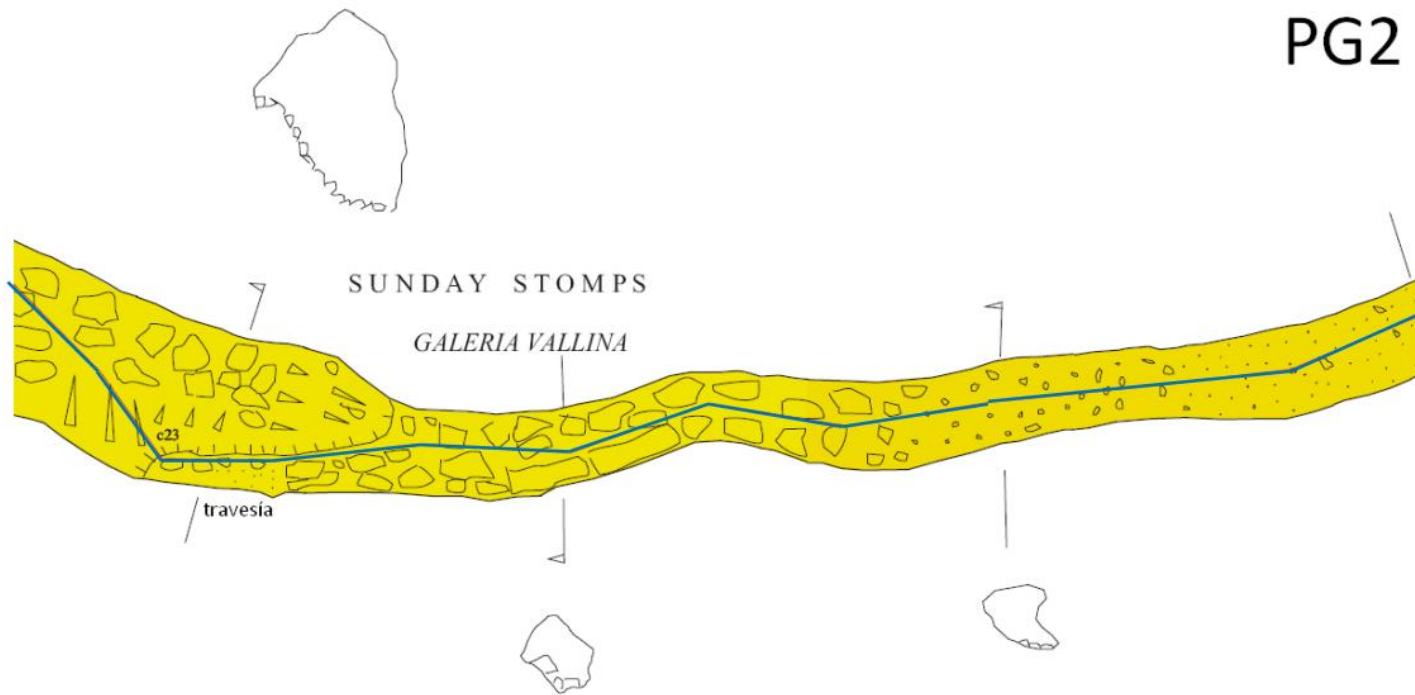
a small hole that opens slightly to the left hand (14) . After this the gallery widens allowing us walk, but only a few meters; until let's find an upward cat flap that leaves at the base of the artificial opening, of the that with a climb of three meters We will go outside.

- (12) Just above the head of this pitch was equipped the access to ducts without continuity.
- (13) At this point the earthenware tumbler of the Bronze Age and in the background a cat flap
- (14) Seeing the mole before this hole, there is the option to take a branch to the left just before from this hole. This branch will take us to the same gallery, but it is not highly recommended, since we will have to go through a cat flap with almost a span of water.

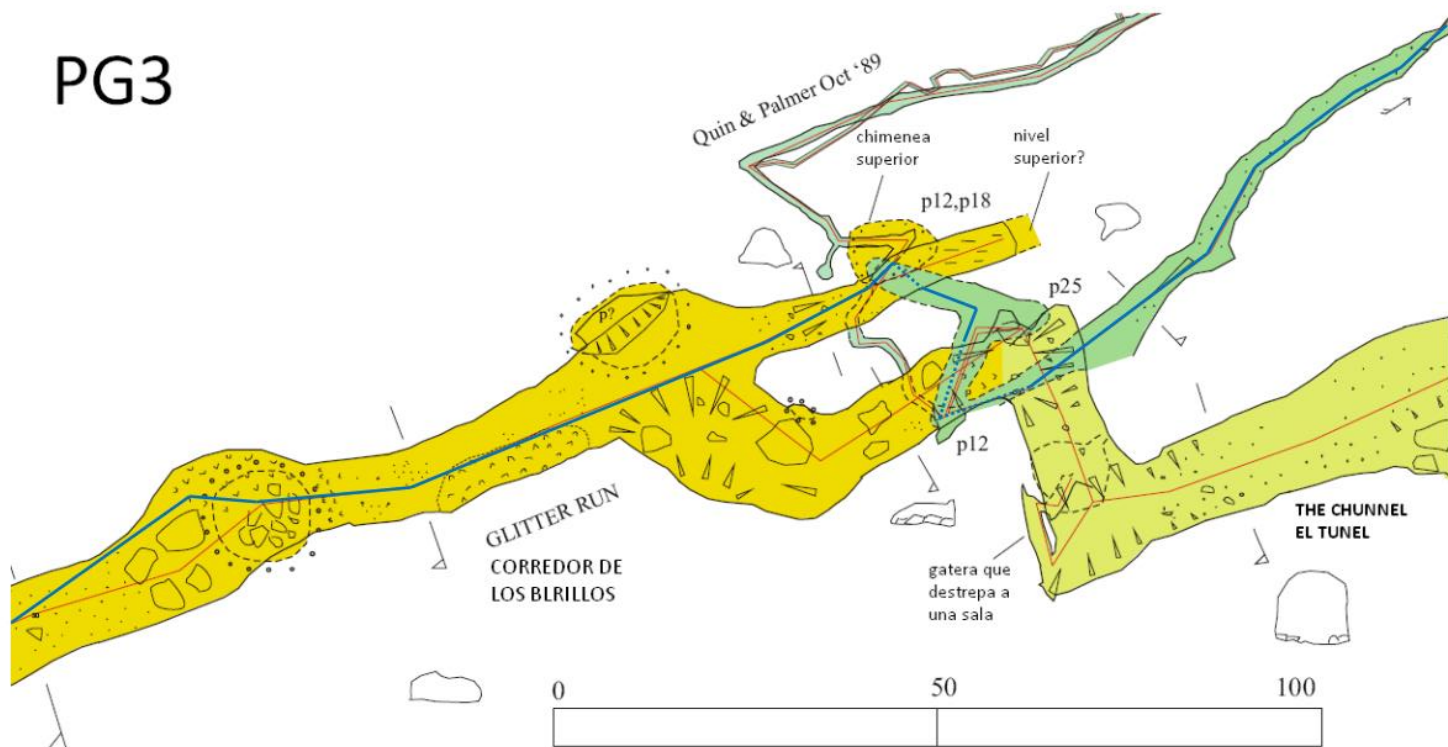




PG2

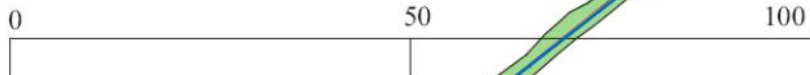


# PG3



# PG4

pasadizos finalmente obstruidos y con fuerte corriente de aire



Quin & Palmer Oct '89

## LA UNION

chimenea?

nivel superior?

p12,p18

p25

paredes lisas

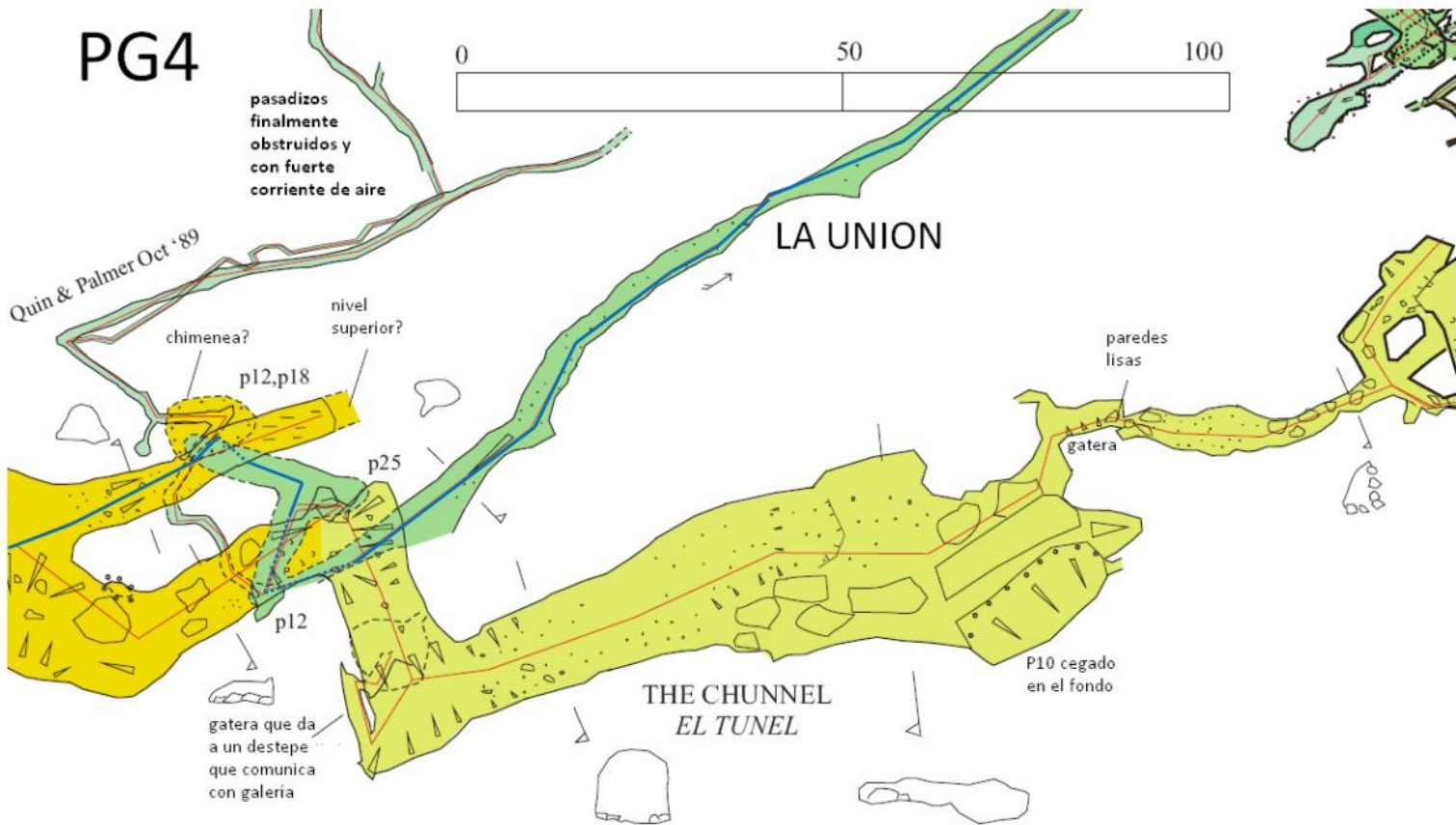
gatera

p12

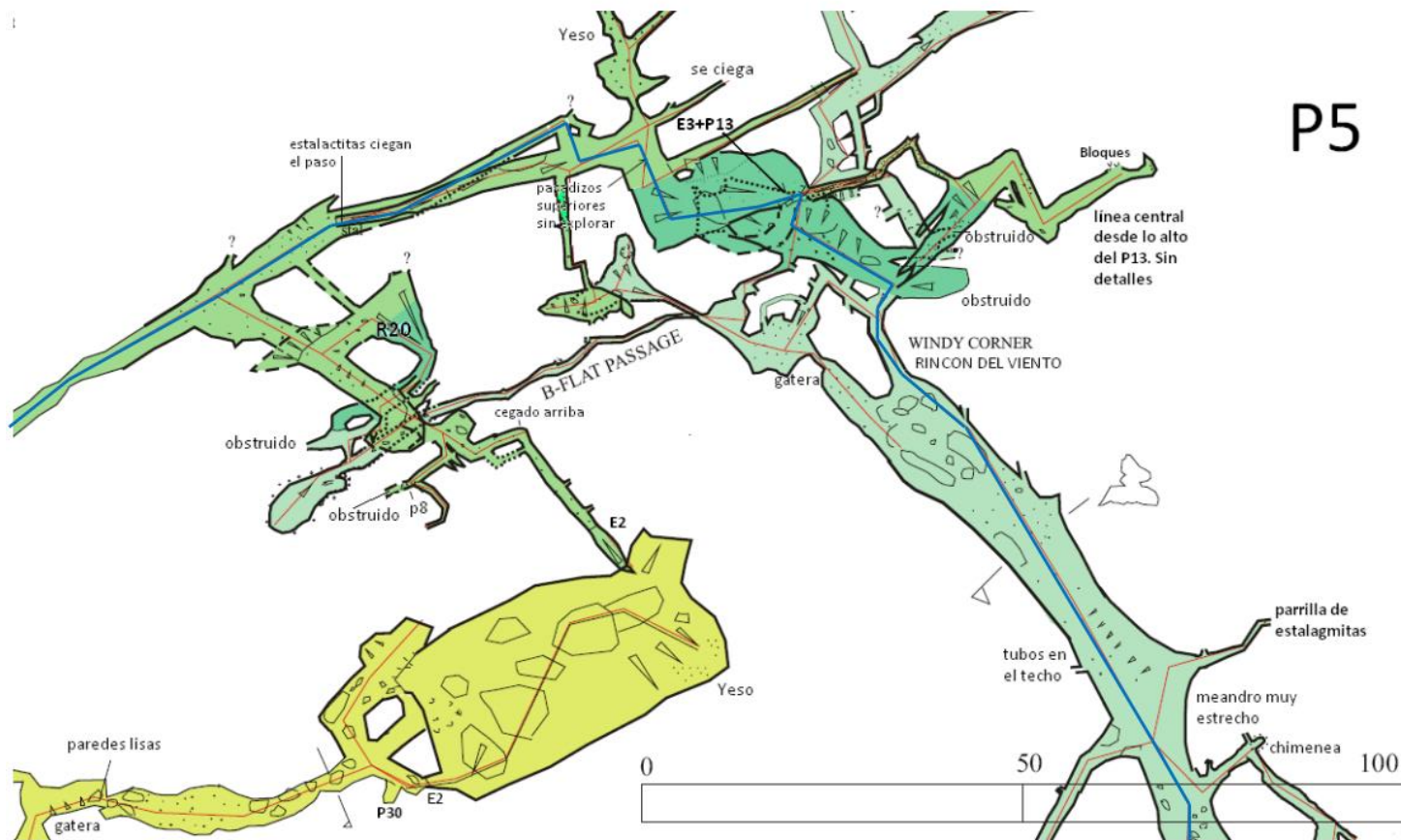
P10 cegado en el fondo

gatera que da a un destepe que comunica con galería

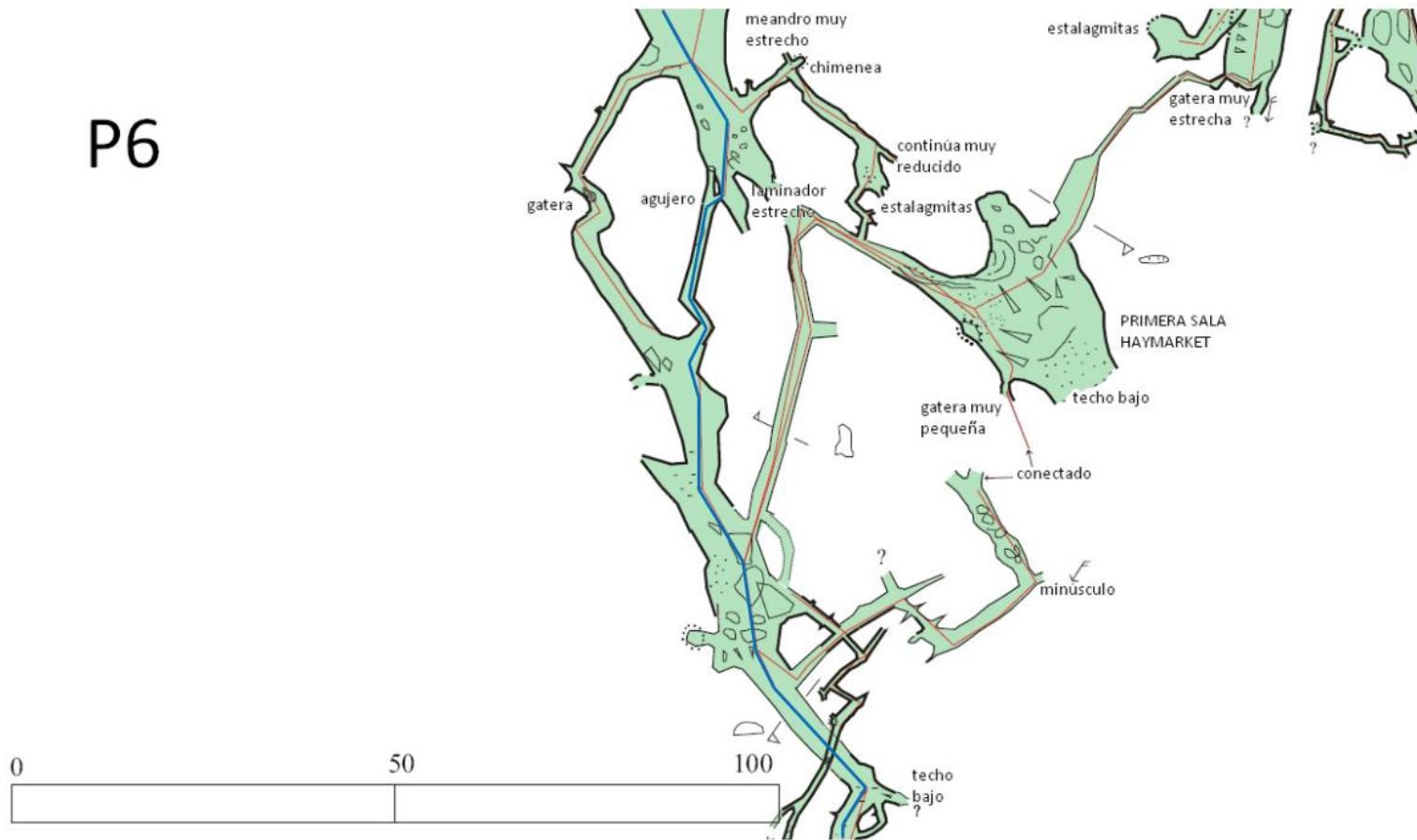
## THE CHUNNEL EL TUNEL



# P5



P6



PG7



LOST POT ENTRANCE  
*ENTRADA "NOSPOTENTRA"*  
altitud 315m

