

BOSS HILL CAVE

Exploring the Port Royal Mountains



Good Hope, St Andrew, 2800 ft above sea level, is small remote community in vicinity of Flamstead.



The community formed around the once a prosperous Good Hope Estate. Sugar cane and coffee was grown, now small farmers grow a variety of crops.



The access to the area is done on a rough, narrow farm road. The road was recently cleared, landslides are very frequent.



The road is only accessible for 4x4 vehicles. Once this road was drivable all the way to Bull Bay.

In search for a cave in Good Hope, St. Andrew

About a year ago I heard of a cave that is situated in Good Hope area of the Port Royal Mountains. I couldn't find any information about it so I decided to try and find it. I grabbed my headlight backpack and machete called my friend Anthony and set out to Flamstead, St. Andrew. The main road has seen better days; however if you take your take you can probably make it even in a regular a car. Once we reached Flamstead Main Square we turned left onto a farm road. From here on, only SUVs' can make it. Once this road used to be the main road to Bull

Bay. We continue to Roses Valley, this used to be the end of the drivable road. However the owners of a coffee farm cleaned the road a few months ago so it is possible to drive all the way to Good Hope .At the spring we met Bradford and his wife, they live in Roses Valley. Bradford grew up here so he knows very well the history of the place. We continued through the gap and pass the entrance to the Great House. Here other two farmers, Keith and Scatta, joined us.

From the end of the drivable road, we did short 5 min walk to the area where the cave is.

First we found a small entrance, which is situated at the end of a little gully (probably a doline). However it was not obvious that is actually possible to enter, so we continued looking. Next we found a small sinkhole. We looked for a possible entrance, but we could not find one. The area has a lot of limestone, typical for a karst

area.

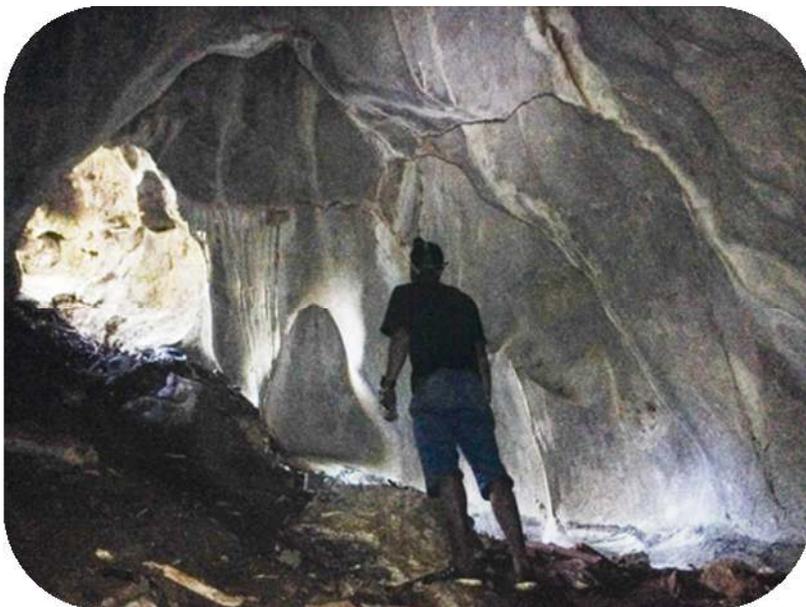
Eventually after a long search we found the main entrance. It is about 3-4 meter wide and 2 m high it goes steeply down in to a fairly large room about 8 m high 8-10 m wide and maybe 15 m long. From There it goes down through a narrow low passage. After that you have two choices: right and further down or left



The first entrance we found

*On the map marked as
Entance#3*

Exploring the passage on the right.



Anthony, looking back at the entrance.

We went right (N), and eventually got in to a larger room with some small flowstone formations. From here it continues narrow, steep down. This area has a lot of rocks held together by dirt. It narrows down a lot and turns behind a rock, I went head first to get a good look, but couldn't decide if it will get wider again or not. I had to reverse to get out of the hole. I think I felt cool air coming through, it is possible that it continues further, anyhow we turned back.





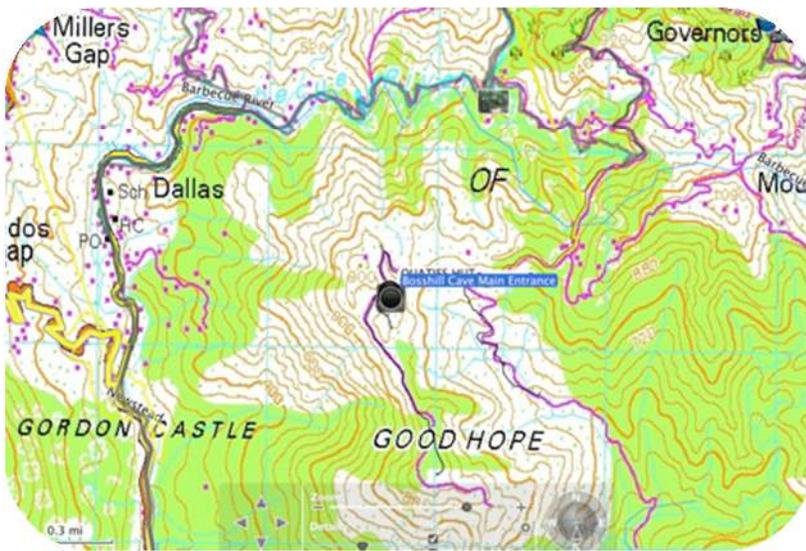
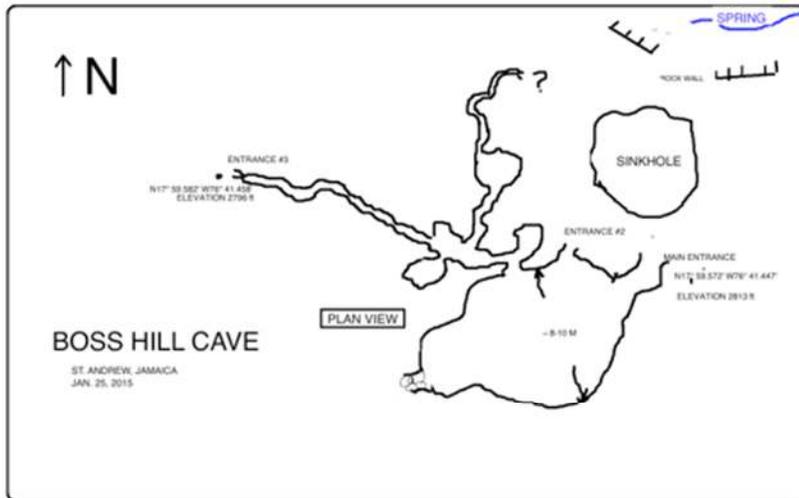
Exploring the passage on the left

We returned to the junction to try the passage on the left (NE). We found a small room, just high enough to stand up; a little frog is living there. We continued with more crawling until the gallery got a bit higher so we could continue on our knees. After a little while we spotted light and through a very narrow hole we climbed back to the surface. We were at the entrance we found earlier. The cave is home for a few bats and it has some modest speleothems. The cave is situated in a very beautiful area; there are pine forest everywhere and beautiful views of the Blue Mountains, Port Royal Mountains and the Palisadoes!



(Continued)

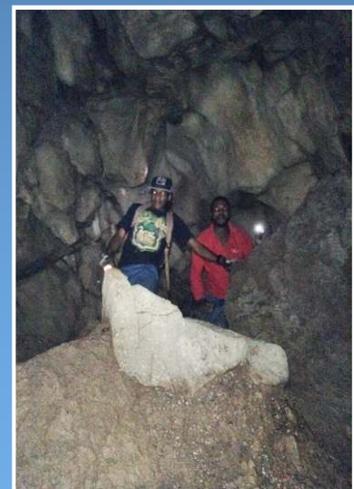
through a very low ceiling



CONCLUSIONS



The cave could be longer than what we explored, especially considering the existence of a rock wall and the spring just below the cave on the north face of the hill. The area needs to be further explored, especially the rock walls and spring area below as well attempting to pass the narrow passage.



Thank you to Bradford and Anthony for the good company and helping find the cave!