

Ghar Parau Foundation

Expedition feedback.

Ref No.
Please leave
blank

This form is to be completed and returned to the Committee at the address below within three months of the Expedition's return to the UK. Write legibly (or type) using black ink.

Expedition Name: Cambridge University Caving Club Austria Expedition

Date you left the UK: 04/07/15

Date you returned to the UK: 16/08/15

Total number of UK nationals participating in the Expedition: 33

Did your expedition's results differ substantially from the objective(s) set out in your original application form? (For instance, did the number of people vary by over 10% or did you not reach the original target area?)

~~YES~~/NO* *Delete whichever not applicable

Contact name and address:
Please give a permanent name and address where people interested in the expedition's results in future years can contact you. Students should give (for instance) their parents' or Student Union address; other suitable permanent contact points might be a club hut address etc.

CUCC Austria Expedition
C/O Wookey
23 Nightingale Avenue
Cambridge
CB1 8SG

Please complete the following financial details as accurately as possible:

Total award received from GPF (incl. report deposit)	£550
Other grants received	£0
Other external finance	£400 food/gear sponsorship
Total of contributions from members	£9450
TOTAL EXPEDITION INCOME	04/07/15
Total of transport/travel costs (include all fares, vehicle hire, fuel etc. but not insurance or equipment)	£4000
Total of all other costs (incl. rations, group equipment, insurance etc)	£3500 + £400 (see above)
Best ESTIMATE of total cost of personal expenditure, including caving gear, camping equipment etc.	£2500
TOTAL EXPEDITION EXPENDITURE	£10400

Please also complete the reverse side of the form before returning it to:

Paul Ibberson
4 Kilmory Fold
Glossop
Derbyshire
SK13 7PH

Expedition contact name and address:

CUCC Austria Expedition, C/O Wookey, 23 Nightingale Avenue,
Cambridge, CB1 8SG

Please give a **brief** (300 - 500 words) report on your expedition's activities and achievements. This will be edited for publication. Include an outline survey if you think it useful. Please type this section if possible.

The 2015 expedition to the Totes Gerbirge was one of the biggest in recent years, with 35 cavers joining us for various lengths of time over a six-week period. The expedition was a great success. Balkonhöhle (264) was connected to Tunnockshacht (258), and along with the new finds in Tunnockshacht (258) and Gemshöhle (107), this has taken the total length of the Schwartzmooskogel (SMK) to just over 114 km (making it one of the longest and deepest systems in the world). Additionally, a re-survey of the entrance series in Organhöhle was carried out, to confirm that it had been correctly relocated, and sediment samples were taken from several of the newly-discovered passages for extraction of DNA as part of the proposed science project.

Gemshöhle (107): A small number of teams went in 107 again this year. Smooth Sandy Bottom (a promising lead off China, found at the end of last year's expedition) was explored and surveyed, ending in a collapse with a possible dig through drafting boulders. Wonderland and the original route in 107 were further explored in an attempt to connect through to the nearby Eislufthöhle (76). A few leads are still going, but the connection was not made. Finally, 107 was used as a shortcut to investigate some of the promising leads at the far end of Kaninchenhöhle (161). This was previously a 5 hour trip each way, before the connection to 107 was made. A shortcut between the Runnlestone area and YAPATE inlet was found, which reduces the commute to the pushing front from the 161 side to 2 hours. In light of this, future exploration is probably more practical from 161 (as less gear is required and the caving is easier).

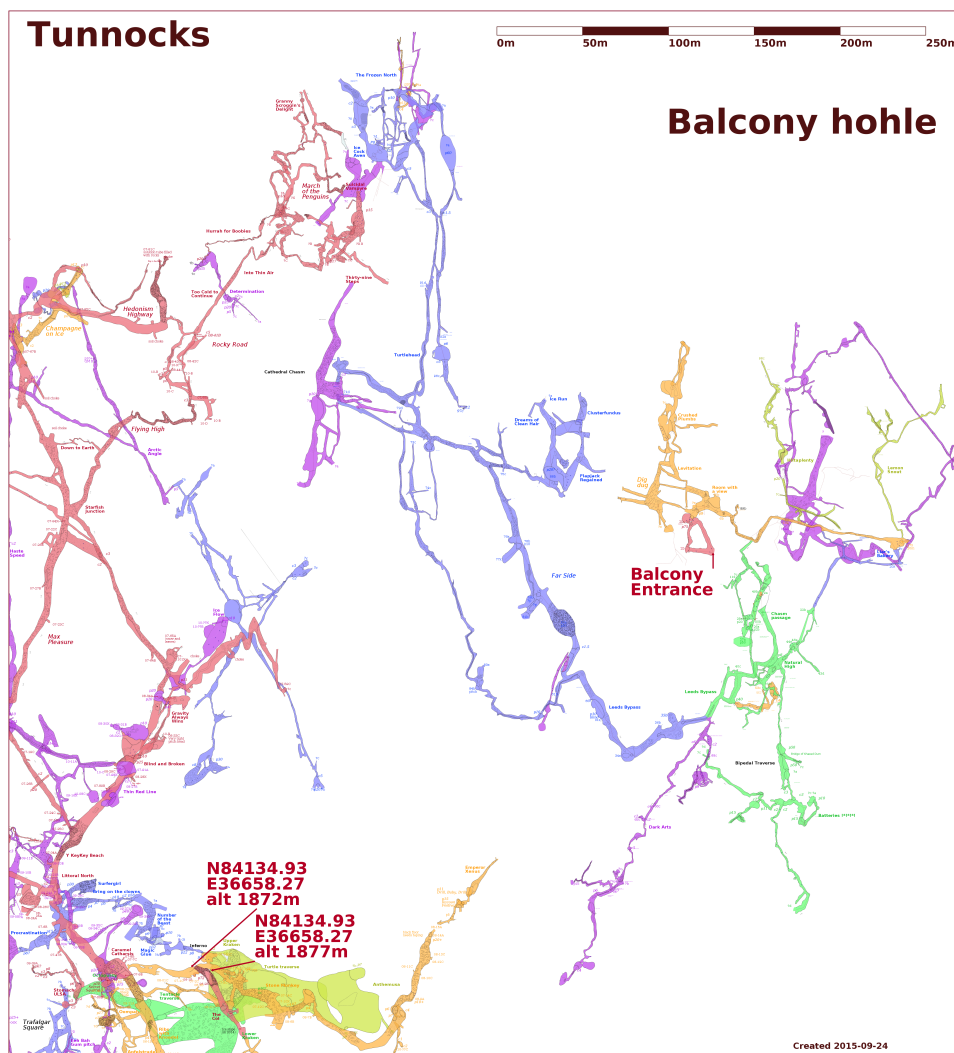
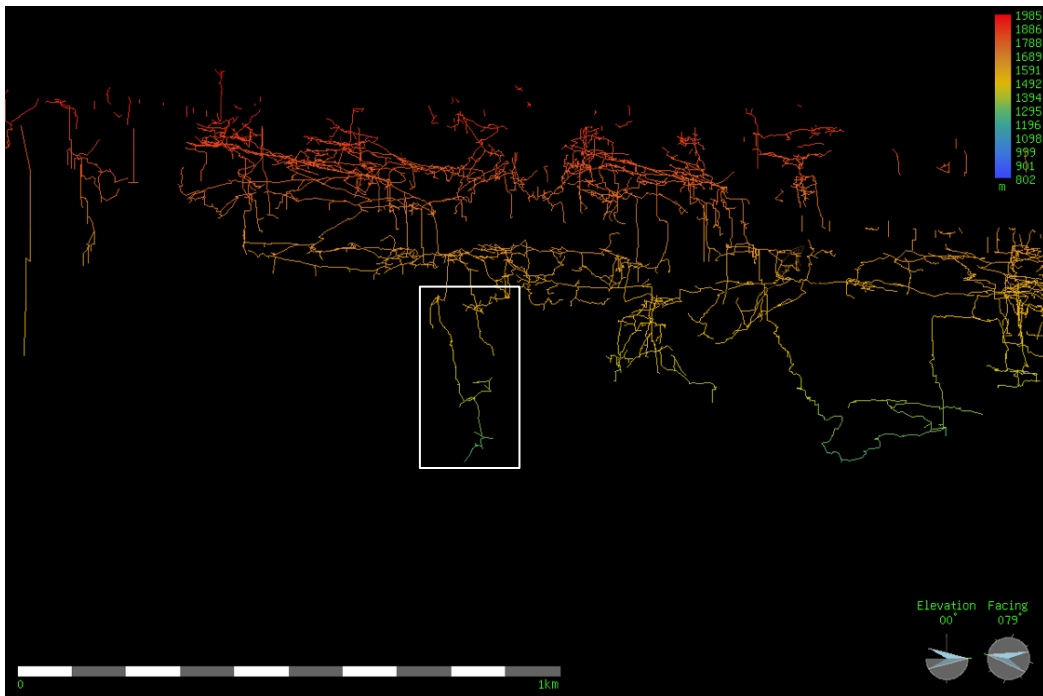
Tunnockshacht (258): The main focus in Tunnocksacht this year was going deep. Significant changes to the snow and ice levels in the entrance meant yet more re-rigging of the entrance pitch, but this was quickly achieved and teams got on with pushing the two deep leads (Number of the Beast and Clayton's Cockup). Number of the Beast was pushed from 485 m to 651 m deep, with several new finds, including the impressive Kraken chamber. There is an extremely promising large phreatic tube at the bottom, but camping will probably be needed in future for efficient exploration in this area. A new pitch series in Clayton's Cock Up was dropped, leaving this section at just over the 400 m mark with a good drafting lead at the bottom.

Balkonhöhle (264): This was the major find of last year's expedition. This year saw a lot of teams going in 264 and there were several significant new finds including Hilti-a-plenty, Bipedal, and Ice Cock Aven/the Frozen North. In the last week of the expedition, a connection to Ice Cock Aven from March of the Penguins in Tunnockshacht was made, taking the total system length to just over 114 km. So far, most of the exploration in 264 has focused on the upper horizontal levels, but there are lots of promising pitches still to be dropped and this will likely be a major focus of future expeditions.

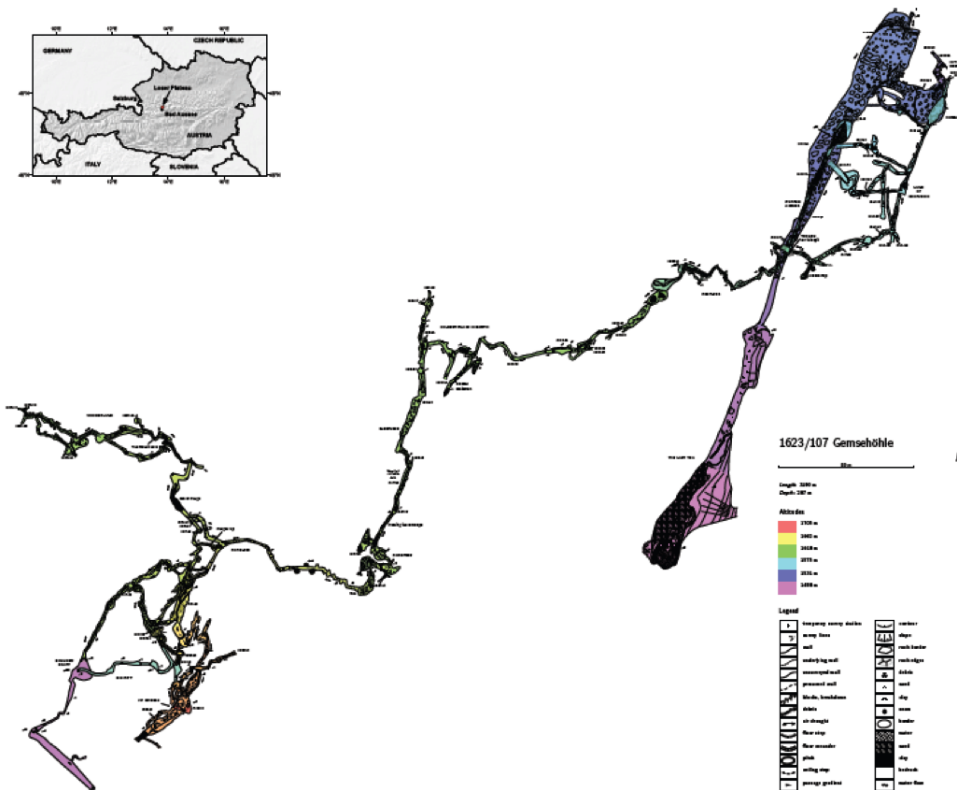
Organhöhle: We have confirmed that the entrance has been re-found, and surveyed the upper series to the first pitch (this data matches up well with that taken from the previous UBSS survey). A couple of nearby entrances were found and dropped, but neither lead to significant finds. It is clear that there is a lot of potential in this area; however, it is a significant commute from our current bivvy site. In future setting up a small camp in this area will be needed to facilitate exploration.

Soil Sampling: Several soil samples have been taken for the proposed science project (extracting ancient DNA from cave sediments), and are currently in storage waiting further funding to carry out the lab analysis.

Number of the Beast and Clayton's Cockup



Gemshöhle (107) end of 2014 expedition



Gemshöhle (107) end of 2015 expedition

