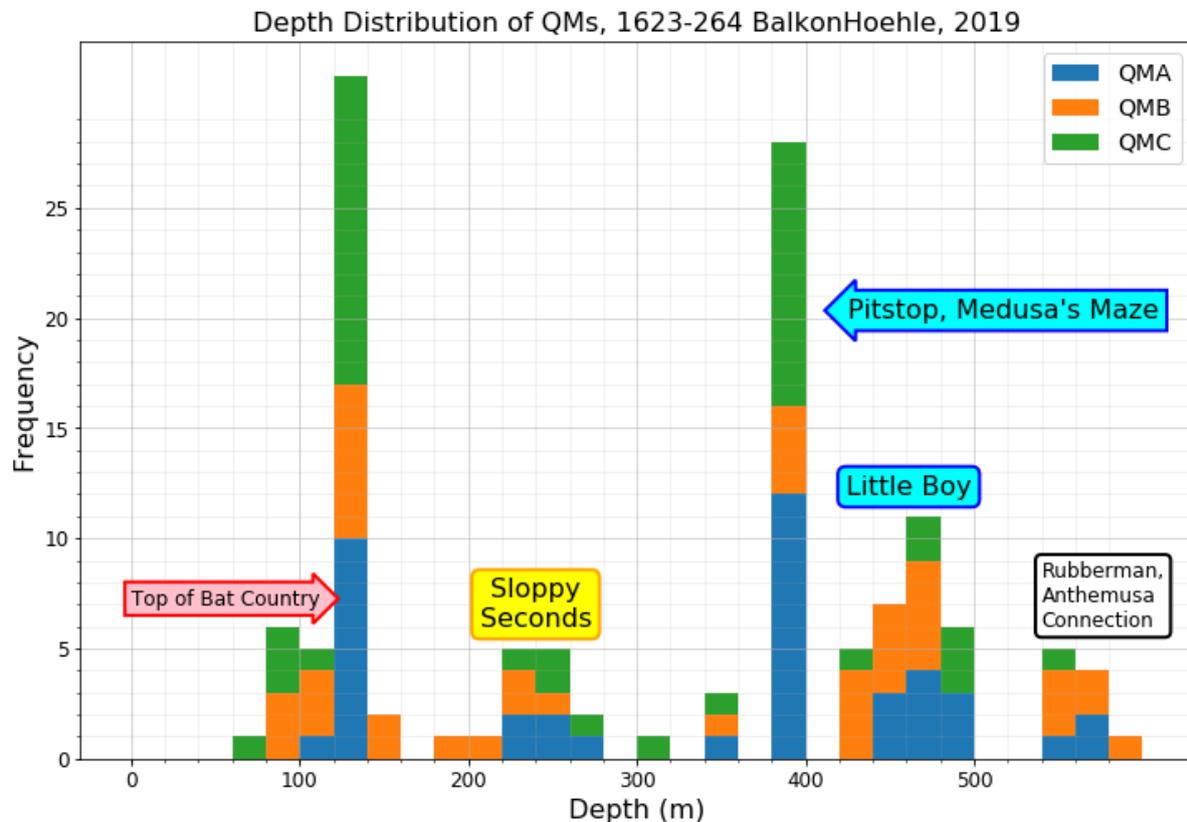


EXPO OBJECTIVES 2020 – CAVE-BY-CAVE BREAKDOWN

BALKONHOEHLE



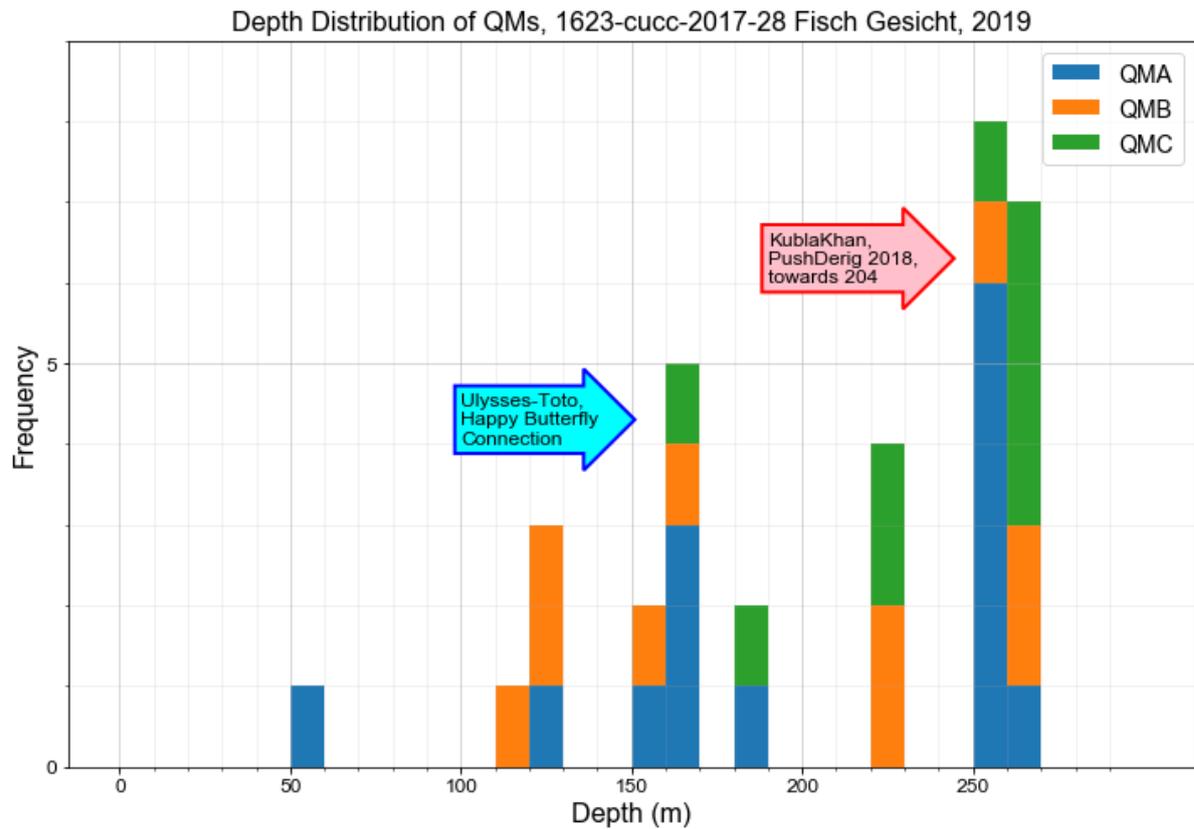
PROS:

- Amazing leads all over the cave going to completely new places
- Close to Stone Bridge
- Lots of people know the cave already
- Could keep going for another 5-10 years so can leave a lot of the passage rigged
- Can address resurveying issues (Wookey) and add new cave to the system synchronously
- Can access the remaining unfinished areas of Tunnocks (Champagne on Ice, cave below Kraken) directly from 2018 discoveries

CONS:

- Doesn't necessarily help with Schoenberg connection (the 'grand prize') to keep pushing here instead of in the West
- Could eat up a lot of resources if not managed well
- We've been going here for several years – time for a change of scene?

FISH FACE



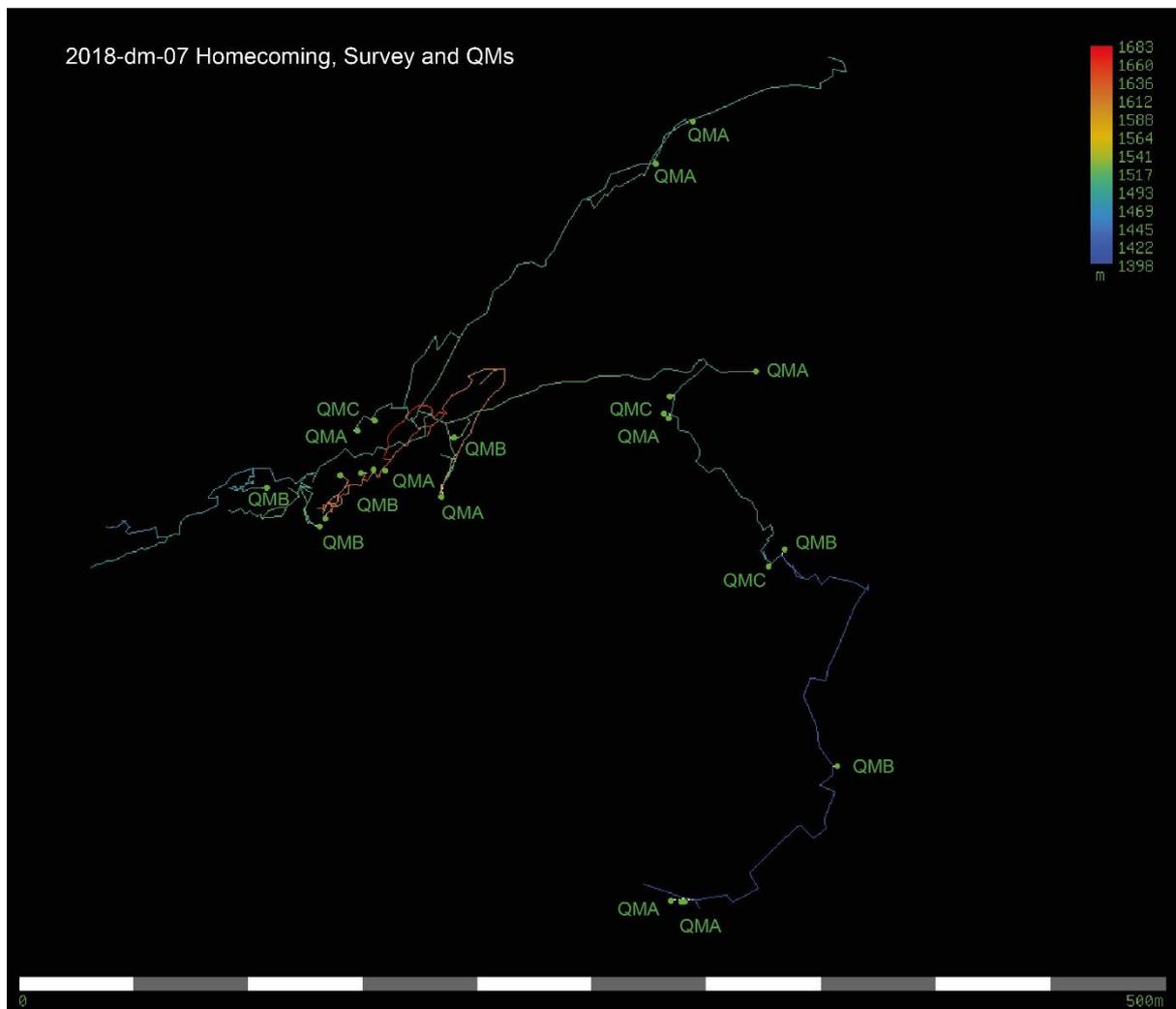
PROS:

- Potential to connect to Happy Butterfly offers potential to lengthen cave with minimal effort and check the survey
- Excellent leads deeper in the cave heading towards an interesting part of the SMK system (the Subway in 204) – could be really interesting in the next 2 – 5 years
- Not far from Stone Bridge and has potential campsite (flat grassy space) close by
- In an interesting position between Schoenberg and SMK systems

CONS:

- Not many shallower leads to explore after Happy Butterfly connected
- Could eat up a lot of resources if not managed well

HOME COMING



PROS:

- Lots of QMs not far from the surface
- Interesting location to the North and West of main system
- Starting from a 'clean slate': good test cave for new data recording systems etc

CONS:

- No bivvy site close by, a long way from Stone Bridge
- Unlikely to connect to SMK system within the next 5 years

GENERAL POINTS TO CONSIDER

1. SURFACE BIVVY LOCATION:

- A majority of responses to Fleur's survey suggested that we should stay at Stone Bridge again at least for this year but begin to prepare to move to new pastures in the West of Loser in years to come. Therefore, it seems to make sense to try and **tie up loose ends in the caves proximal to Stone Bridge (258, 264, Fish Face) this year** (or certainly in the next few years) to maximise the returns from this surface bivvy location.
- There has been suggestion that Garlic Cave (2018-ad-02) could act as a base for more western exploration. **While Garlic Cave is closer to Homecoming than Stone Bridge, it is much further from Fish Face and Happy Butterfly** (very far to the north) and isn't close to any other known cave. So Garlic Cave may not be suitable as a new base for all western exploration.
- There is a nice patch of flat ground close to Fish Face where a tent could be pitched to facilitate exploration in this area.
- A possible option, depending on numbers and keen-ness for certain objectives, could be to coordinate teams to recce these sites as bases for exploring Homecoming and Fish Face respectively for a 2-week period, ie try the Fish Face bivvy for 2 weeks then move and try the Garlic Cave bivvy for 2 weeks. This would require careful allotment of human resources and caving equipment but should be possible.

2. TUNNOCKS EXPLORATION – WORTH CONTINUING WITH?

- We haven't explored any of Tunnocks for 2 years and it seems enthusiasm has waned for a number of reasons: trips are long and deep, lots of gear needed, people weren't up for camping. However, that doesn't mean there aren't excellent leads down there. Two areas in particular, **Champagne on Ice and Hydra**, have immense potential. The cave below the old Camp Kraken is particularly interesting from a hydrological perspective and dye tracing here was discussed in previous years (a complicated but very worthy scientific undertaking).
- The leads in these parts of the cave **could be explored without having to rig any of Tunnocks above Kraken**, since they can now be accessed from Balkon. This means that, if people are willing, we could push some leads in these parts of the cave without rigging Tunnocks at all, thus not using much extra resources.
- If we have the keenness and the human resource, time and equipment, we could **push deep Tunnocks on bounce trips from Balkon**. These trips would be demanding but well within the capabilities of experienced expo-goers and are not dissimilar from the kind of trips done on the Dachstein exped. If they can do it then we can...
- Overall, we shouldn't just forget about Tunnocks: we have unfinished business down there and its one of the most interesting parts of SMK system!