**CUCC Expedition to Austria: Totes Gebirge**

Becka Lawson described the four week summer 2008 Cambridge University Caving Club expedition to the Loser Plateau, to the east of Salzburg. Since 1976, CUCC and the German caving club ARGE Grabenstetten have surveyed 97km of passage with a maximum depth of 1151m.

This year's mission was to connect a series of smaller caves to the north of the main Schwarzmooskogel system to one another. However, as CUCC has found before, connections are harder to come by than the survey might suggest. Despite passages overlapping, no link was made between Steinbrückenhöhle (16km), Hauchhoehle (1km) or Tunnockschacht (4km). However significant new finds were mapped in each of these three caves. The eventual connection will have to wait for another year.

The expedition was unfortunately marred by serious underground accident in the first week with a caver falling down a 30m pitch near an entrance. CUCC greatly appreciated the prompt and important assistance provided by the Austrian Cave Rescue and Mountain Rescue and the police helicopter in the ensuing, successful rescue.

Meanwhile Team Nerd began work on a new piece of software for organizing logbooks and data from expeditions. Time will tell if this effort will be as long lasting as Survex and Tunnel - check out www.survex.com/cucc/