

PWLL DU CAVE MANAGEMENT GROUP.

Annual General Meeting 3rd July 2010

Report by Geological Recorder

I am unaware of any new research projects/issues. Although we had a request for sampling of bat guano by Vanessa Johnston for her research using Cl-36 isotope signatures as a proxy palaeoclimate signature, she did not in the end take any samples, mainly due to time and budget constraints. She instead focussed her efforts on a much thicker sequence in Romania.

On a more positive note, we have finally obtained some Uranium series (U-Th) dates from Ogof Draenen. A total of 12 dates were obtained from 6 samples in 5 different locations, from samples collected by Mike Simms and I back in 1996 (its only taken 14 years!). However, some proved to be un-datable, either because they are beyond the limit of the technique or because they lost uranium during re-crystallisation. Without going into details, the samples are old. ... [specific dates not shown here as we still working on the samples as they are approaching the limit of the U-Th method, and they have the potential to be dated using innovative U-Pb techniques]... demonstrating the antiquity of the system.

I would also like to see aspects of the Draenen written up for Cave and Karst Science. Lou Maurice and I have started to compile papers on the hydrology and geomorphology of the system, but it would be great if someone could contribute an article on the history of exploration or perhaps the biodiversity of the cave. I would be grateful for any articles or text by the end of August.

A. Farrant 23rd May 2010