

# Expedition Caving Experience CV

Last updated :- 11/02/2020

## Personal Details

<b>Full Name</b>	Robert Middleton		<b>Nickname</b>	
<b>Age</b>	34		<b>Gender</b>	Male

## Short Caving Summary

<b>Short Summary</b>	<p>Caving runs in my family. Both my dad and uncle were cavers and introduced me to the sport and associated tales of adventure from a young age. However, it wasn't until I joined SUSS (Sheffield University Speleological Society) in 2004 that I really caught the bug. I began sport caving and digging in Derbyshire, but quickly travelled throughout the UK picking off the most exciting sporting trips from other regions. In 2006 I went on my first exploratory expedition to Crete, opening up a whole new world of exploration to me. I have returned 3 times since, leading the expedition in 2010. I am also a veteran of the Mulu caves project, having been 5 times between 2009 and 2019. My expedition caving travels have also taken me Spain, China and Peru.</p> <p>In 2015 I began cave diving (qualifying in 2017), and have been busily finding little bits of new passage in the UK and in Tresviso Spain since. I'm currently secretary of the Derbyshire section of the Cave Diving Group.</p> <p>I have been an underground leader for Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation since 2011.</p>
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## Personal (Sport/Digging) UK Caving Experience

<b>Personal Caving</b>	<b>UK Trips = 1000s UK Underground Hours = 10000?</b>
<b>UK regions caved in</b>	Derbyshire, Yorkshire Dales, Mendip, South Wales, North Wales, Assynt, County Fermanagh
<b>Summary</b>	Initial sport caving and digging in Derbyshire with SUSS, then a collection of the best sporting trips in all UK regions but particularly the Yorkshire Dales. More recently sporting cave diving trips in various regions, and new underwater exploration in Gaping Gill, Peak Cavern, Dub Cote etc.

## Foreign Expedition Caving Experience

<b>Number of Expeditions</b> (Attended, Assistant leader, Leader)	<b>Total Expeditions = 14</b> <b>Leader = 1 (SUSS Crete 2010)</b> <b>Co Leader = 1 (Mulu 2019)</b>
<b>Expeditions Countries</b>	Malaysia (5), Greece (4), Spain (3), Peru, China
<b>Foreign Sport Experience</b> (Attended, Assistant leader, Leader)	<b>Total Foreign Sport Expeds = 9</b> <b>Leader = 2</b> <b>Assistant Leader = 2</b>
<b>List of foreign sport Expeds countries</b>	France (6), Ireland (2), Spain (1)
<b>Summary of Foreign Experience</b>	<p>Expedition experience initially through SUSS in the White Mountains of Crete including the discovery and exploration of Colosuss at over 500m deep. I was involved in 4 Crete expeditions in total between 2006 and 2010 leading the final one before passing over to the next generation.</p> <p>I have also been heavily involved with the Mulu Caves Project since 2009, participating in 5 separate expeditions including explorations of the very remote 'Hidden Valley' in 2017, and co-leading the 2019 expedition which brought home 10km of exciting new passage in the Whiterock system. Work continues.</p>

	<p>In 2011 I was lucky enough to join an exciting international expedition to Ting Xing China, exploring the 'People Go Down system to -800m, while in 2012 I joined another international team in Peru exploring some of the highest caves in the world at altitudes over 4500m.</p> <p>More recently I have become heavily involved with the Tresviso Caves Project exploring the exciting potential of the Picos Massif and the sporting cuava de Nacieomiento Resurgence. This culminated in exploratory cave dives in the system in 2018 and 2019, with more planned for 2020.</p> <p>I have also enjoyed sporting trips to bottom the Gouffre Berger, Pierre Saint Martin, Grotte de Diao, Dent de Crolles etc. and sporting cave diving trips to the Lot region of France and County Clare in Ireland.</p>
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### Caving Qualification & Instructor Experience

<b>Qualifications</b>	None specifically but IRATA Level 3 since 2010
<b>Instruction Experience</b>	None formally, but extensive informal caver training and mentoring within SUSS, for CHECC, and for specific expeditions. This has particularly built on my ropework experience from both a caving and professional background.

### Caving Club Membership

<b>Clubs (years joined &amp; Positions held)</b>	<p>Sheffield University Speleological Society (SUSS) – Since 2004 (Underground leader since 2006)</p> <p>Bradford Pothole Club (BPC) – Since 2012</p> <p>Cave Diving Group (CDG) – Since 2015 (Qualified Diver since 2017)</p> <p>The Alpine Club – Since 2013 (Full member since 2015)</p>
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### Other Related Cave Information

<b>Any other supporting evidence (e.g. involvement in Cave Rescue, Cave Research etc.)</b>	<p>I am a rotational member of Ghar Parau</p> <p>I have been a member of Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation since 2007, and an underground leader since 2011. I am also a qualified casualty carer.</p> <p>I edited the SUSS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal in 2011</p> <p>I recently finished a dissertation in part completion of a masters' qualification looking into the reasons for and perceptions of cave access restrictions within the UK. This was presented at Hidden Earth 2019 and well received.</p> <p>I am also a keen climber throughout the UK and worldwide and participated in a successful exploratory expedition to Kyrgyzstan in 2014, climbing new peaks and routes up to 4800m and TD.</p>
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