

Norsk Grotteblad nr 46, Mai 2006

Prosjekt Jordbekkgrotta 2003-2005

Jordbekkgrotta is situated on the west slopes of Virvassdalen, Rana municipality, Nordland County. The altitude of the cave is proximately 570 m a.s.l. The cave was surveyed in the sixties of an English caving club. They ended up with a length of proximately 1450 m, and a depth of 85 m. The cave entrance is in a sinkhole where a branch of the small river Jordbekken goes submerged. This stream can be followed partly in the cave until it disappears into four different sumps. Later on another sink/sump has been located in the end of a roof passage. In addition to this there's also two dead sumps in the cave. One of these is close to the cave entrance, just about 40m in. The other of the dead sumps, huge and deep, is in the end of a parallel passage to the streamway. It is not necessary to wear wet suit for most of the cave. There are three pits in the cave, which can be tackled free climbed. Yet SRT-gear or ladders are preferred. A survey of the cave is presented on the last page in the bulletin.

In addition to Jordbekkgrotta is there a lower cave, Nedre Jordbekkgrotte. This one is narrow and a lot of mica schist shaping sharp points makes it easy to get injured. The length of this cave is around 40 m. A little stream emerges from the cave entrance, but it's too narrow for diving.

Jordbekken, which leads from Jordbekkvatnet, sinks into a huge swallow. It emerges after 750 m (as the crow flies), at an altitude of 485 m a.s.l. This spring is from now on called "Utløpet".

The first year our exploration was motivated by literature and survey of the cave system. The first fieldtrip brought to light a huge potential for great discoveries. During the Summer 2003 the motivation increased, and we decided the project to go further on.

2003

From Utløpet there were eked out 133 m of longline. Maximum depth was measured to 6,0 m. An air chamber was estimated to have a length of 300 m. Total surveyed length ended up to around 350m.

We stated further projects had to be planned for the exploration of the rest of the system. Still a lot of the cave system was undiscovered. We gave the air chamber the name "Elvekammeret".

2004

In the system there were eked out 930 m of longline. There were dived from four different places, three of them have possibilities for extension. In sump I it was eked out 20 m, the sump ends up blind. In sump II it was eked out 30 m, and in sump III 60 m. From Utløpet and in, the old longline was replaced and extended to 820 m into the system. Maximum depth of water so far was measured to 22 m, situated in sump II. Two new air chambers were found, called "Fossekammeret" and "Det Stille Kammer". The cave was surveyed from Utløpet in to 95 m. The system is not completely discovered, so the project will carry on.

Some positions:

2005

Totally 1308 m of longline is eked out after this year, of which 1005 m is in one length from Utløpet to the end of the discovered area. In addition to this, the huge air chambers are not surveyed. The whole system starts to grow huge, together with the survey the English cavers did in the sixties, when they ended up with 1450 m (plus a lot of not surveyed passages found in later years).

This year there was just dived into Utløpet. Totally it was eked out 378 m of longline. Two new air chambers were discovered. They got the names "4. Luftkammer" and "Småen". Three submerged courses got the names "Lillestrøm", "100 meteren" and "Sløyfa". Det Stille Kammer showed up to be the biggest air chamber until now, and it also has a sump that is very promising and still not discovered. Lots of side passages were also discovered. The Main Passage starts to go deep; the end of the longline is at 29 m depths. One forehand we had decided to survey the length, bearing and depth. It ended up with 910 m. When the survey was drawn the distance from the sumps in the cave to the nearest surveyed point is 200-300 m. The party discovered a (new?) cave further upstream Jordbekken, the cave was named "Øvre Jordbekkgrotta". Positions Øvre Jordbekkgrotta:

Positions taken with a handheld GPS, type Magellan Meridian Platinum.

Visit our homepage www.viking-cave-divers.com where more pictures, film clips of the cave and the project will be added.