



# MOUNT EVEREST FOUNDATION

Patron: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT



BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

## SUMMARY REPORT FORM

### from an MEF and/or BMC SUPPORTED EXPEDITION

Support for an expedition is offered on condition that you submit detailed reports to the MEF and/or BMC. To assist in fulfilling this commitment, it is requested that you fill in this form and return (preferably by E-mail) to the secretary (ies) of the organisation(s) within four weeks of return from the expedition. Please expand/contract the spaces in this form as required. Include or attach at least one good digital photo of your main route, with the line of your route marked.

**1 - Name of Expedition:** Ala Archa 2018

**2 - Expedition Leader/Organiser:** Samuel Gillan & Alex Hyde  
**Address:** 12A Birkendale, Sheffield, S6 3NJ

**Preferred telephone number(s):**

Home: 07709410050

Work: Same as above

Mobile: Same as above

e-mail address: [sgillan1@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:sgillan1@sheffield.ac.uk)

**3 - MEF reference:** 18 -28 **BMC reference:** n/a

**4 - Country/Region:** Belgorka Valley, Tien Shan Mountains, Northern Kyrgyzstan

**5 - Names of all expedition members, indicating leader, climbing members, and support:**

Samuel Gillan - Leader

Alex Hyde - Leader

Tom Drysdale - General Assistant

Louise Reddy - Research Assistant

Calum Sowden - Lead First Aider

All Undergraduate students at the University of Sheffield.

**6 - Original objective(s) of expedition – mountaineering / scientific / medical, include location of objective (or study area) with indication of special points of interest (e.g. ‘first ascent of NW Ridge’) and heights of peaks:**

The primary objective of the expedition was to complete scientific data collection, for both Alex Hyde and Samuel Gillan’s undergraduate dissertation projects, D1 and D2 respectively. Both projects followed the theme of investigating how climatic changes affected the Fedorovich Glacier of the Belogorka Valley in Northern Kyrgyzstan. Several methods were used, D1 involved taking daily measurements of ice and snow melt on the surface of the glacier, using ablation stakes to measure changes in the height of the glacier at 8 locations along the surface of the ice. D1 also involved taking meteorological measurements at different

points on the ice, as well as installing a fixed pressure transducer in the primary glacial outwash stream. This allowed for measurements of the changing volumes of glacial melt to be observed during our study period. D2 involved mapping the glacial drift region, identifying notable glacial landforms such as moraines, trimlines and eskers. Following this, each landform was dated using the methods of lichenometry and schmidt hammering. Once combined and calibrated, the data collected using these two methods will allow for a glacial reconstruction to be completed, and in turn an inference of the rate of glacial retreat to be calculated.

The secondary objective of the expedition was to complete an 'Educational Week' during the final week of our expedition (23rd July - 27th July). During this time 4 students from the local American University of Central Asia were invited to the site of our expedition to become involved in our project and learn about what we were doing. This involved our team of British students leading daily activities, such as First Aid Training, a Camera and Photography Training Session, Glacial Research sessions, several treks of varying difficulty, roped glacier hikes and more.

Both objectives were completed safely, and provided an excellent experience for all those involved. Our data was collected successfully, and upon preliminary analysis, both data sets look promising! The Educational Week ran very smoothly as well, and the experiences shared by both parties was truly fantastic.

In addition to the successful completion of both objectives, we also climbed 1 named peak in the region, and led 2 new multi pitch rock climbing routes on a crag opposite our basecamp location.

#### **7 - Overall dates of expedition (e.g. 'March-June 2015'), showing time spent on approach, climbing, and return:**

Saturday 23rd June - Wednesday 1st August 2018

*23rd June - 27th June:* Arrived in Bishkek. Preparation Period (purchasing food, sorting equipment, meeting local partners etc.)

*28th June:* Departed Bishkek, arrived in Belogorka Valley, 1st hike to basecamp location (10 hours trekking)

*29th June - 1st July:* Set up basecamp, hiked down to road head 2 more times to collect stashed equipment

*1st July - 22nd July:* Research period. Priority was to collect data. Completed rock climbing routes and peak Shirokaya Climbing in this period also.

*23rd July - 27th July:* Educational week with AUCA students completed. Began to pack down basecamp on 27th July and stashed some equipment at road head.

*28th July:* Full basecamp pack down and final return hike down to road head. Returned to Bishkek.

*29th July - 31st July:* Rest and relaxation period in Bishkek/Lake Issy-kul

*1st August:* Returned to UK

#### **8 - Give the following details for each route climbed or attempted:**

Name of mountain/crag, altitude, estimated route length, dates, grade, style (eg alpine, fixed rope), whether first ascent, successful or not, high point reached, reason for retreat (if applicable), weather conditions, and names of climbers:

Shirokaya Peak, 4002m ASL, length of route - 800m, dates: 21st July 2018, Style - Alpine, not a first ascent.

Rock Climbing - 2 new routes set up on crag opposite basecamp.

Crag name: Horseback Hunter's Crag

1 - Name: Tomatin's Legacy, 3200m ASL, 90m long (3 pitches), dates: 13th July 2018, grade - HS 4A, Style - Trad, First Ascent.

Climbers: Tom Drysdale, Samuel Gillan, Louise Reddy

2- Name: Pulling on Spring Onions, 3200m ASL, 240m long (7 pitches), dates: 19th July 2018, grade - VS 4b, Style - Trad, First Ascent

Climbers: Tom Drysdale & Samuel Gillan

Photos are attached at the bottom of document.

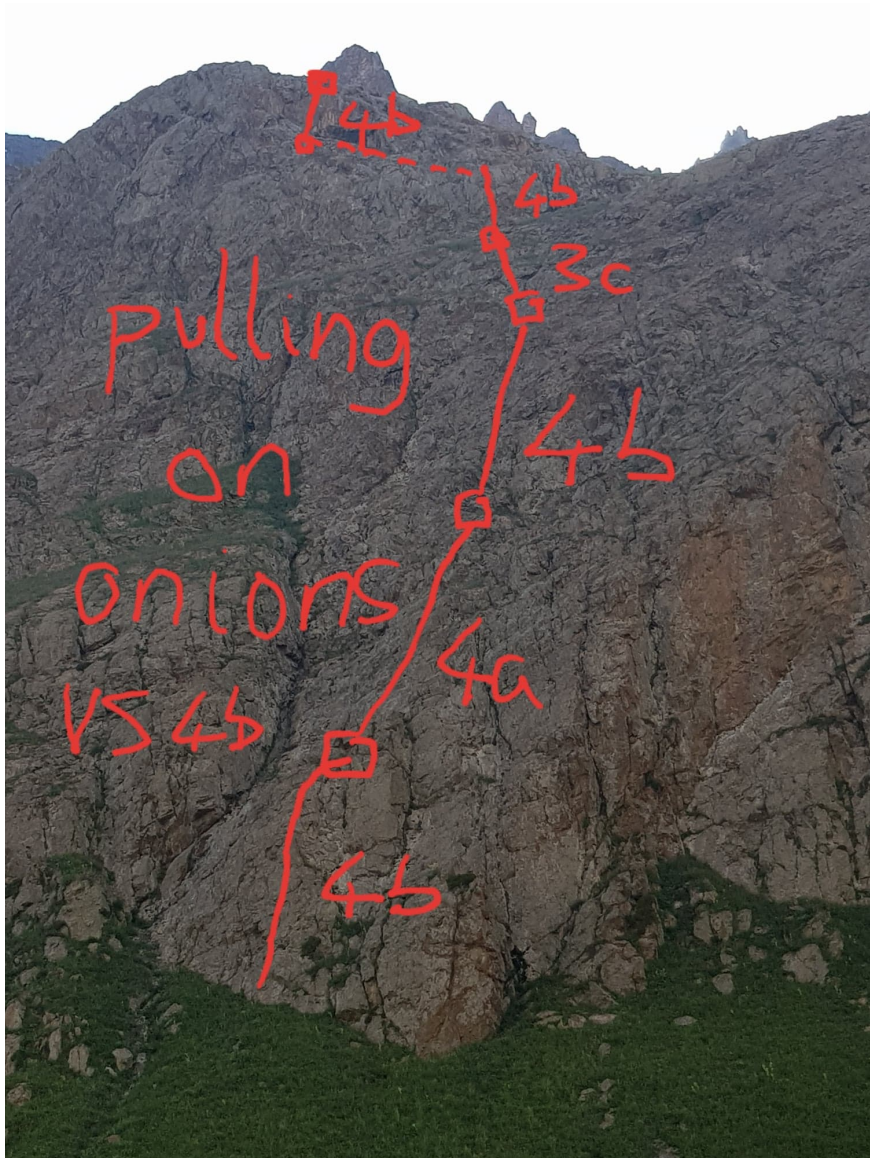
**9 - Any other relevant comments (permits, liaison officer, etc):**

- No permits were required to enter the valley.
- We used the services of local Adventure Travel Consultancy “ITMC” to organize and register our team with local Mountain rescue services - which were not called upon.
- Prior to the expedition, in order to organize our “Educational Week”, our primary point of contact at the American University of Central Asia was Alessandra Sztrimbely - (*Assistant Professor in Environmental Management and Sustainability Department*) - [sztrimbely\\_a@auca.kg](mailto:sztrimbely_a@auca.kg). Ally provided great help in the planning of our trip, pointing us in the right direction for lots of our questions!

**10 - Expected date of submission of Final Report:**

January/February 2019

MEF-Z (2016)



**PULLING ON SPRING ONIONS ROUTE**



**ANCHOR POINT ON PITCH OF TOMATIN'S LEGACY**



**SAM SECONDING THE FINAL PITCH OF TOMATIN'S LEGACY**



**ALEX AND SAM AT THE SUMMIT OF PEAK SHIROKAYA (21.7.2018)**



**GROUP PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN ON SAFE RETURN OF A.U.C.A STUDENTS AT END OF EDUCATIONAL WEEK**



**UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD TEAM PHOTOGRAPH DURING HIGH CAMP ON THE GLACIER  
LEFT TO RIGHT: CALUM SOWDEN, LOUISE REDDY, TOM DRYSDALE, SAMUEL GILLAN,  
ALEX HYDE**

