

Experts call off search for life in Antarctic lake

December 27 2012

British scientists have called off the hunt for exotic life in an ice-bound Antarctic lake after their mission was hit by a technical hitch.

Researchers with the [British Antarctic Survey](#) had hoped to drill into [Lake Ellsworth](#), which they believe has been frozen over for hundreds of thousands of years, in the hope of finding [microbial life](#) forms that might provide new insight into the evolution of life on Earth. They also hoped the lake floor's sediments might yield a new record of the Earth's climate.

But the project had to be called off following difficulties with drilling. A statement posted to the survey's website on Thursday said the operation had been canceled, and it was not clear if or when the scientists would try again.

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