

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Secretaries report to the meeting 18 January 2008

A review of rigging guides 1 – 3 has shown that a number of caves and surveys are repeated, this was due to the completion of routes and the completion of the guide itself. Because of this I have been compiling the information and updating the surveys with the new routes in certain caves with the intention of publishing guides 1, 2 & 3 in a single guide, this will only happen though if we can keep the cost at or below the cost of the 3 rigging guides (£18), and initially, all three guide will be available for cavers who have individual copies. The intention is to use the publisher that RRCPC use to produce a good quality guide for the caves covered in the current guides.

The caves that have been re-anchored and not currently in a guide book, will form the basis of the next guide, hopefully with a section on SRT and rigging.

There have now been a number of occasions that certain individuals have requested permits for access controlled caves. I wish to remind these persons that the CNCC and BCA promote the concept of caving through a club based ethos; this formed the basis of CNCC negotiations with the relevant landholders and subsequently the requirement for clubs to apply for permits on club headed note paper signed by a club official. Under the current constitution CNCC permit secretaries cannot, and will not, issue permits to individual cavers.

A couple of notes for consideration and for BCA and their newsletter

The rumours of parking problems on Leck Fell are unfounded. However, I would like to remind all cavers that parking along the road (which is not permitted) needs to be better, remember access for large farm vehicles along the road, and that there is additional parking at Cowan Bridge.

Casterton Fell and the Easegill system. On 29 September the number of cavers underground far exceeded the numbers for whole weekend's permits. There was also a group of children in the system and a commercial team building group; there was also complete novices practising SRT (but not for long). I wish to draw everyone's attention to some facets of the access agreement.

1. The system is not suitable for children
2. Clubs should only have 8 cavers per permit
3. The system is not suitable for novice cavers
4. It is still an access controlled cave.

Eventually the landholder will become aware of such activities; this could put CNCC in a difficult position on maintaining an effective permit system.

Les Sykes