

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

Agenda for Committee Meeting 17th January 2015, Hellifield Village Institute, 9:30am

- (1) Apologies for absence
- (2) Acceptance of minutes from the September Committee meeting (on website, please review)
- (3) Any matters arising from the September Committee meeting?
- (4) Officer's reports
 - a. Chairman's report
 - b. Secretary's report
 - c. Treasurer's report
 - d. Conservation Officer's report
 - e. Training Officer's report
 - f. Access Officer's report
 - g. Technical Group report
- (5) Meets Secretary's reports
 - a. Leck Fell
 - b. Casterton Fell
 - c. Birks Fell/Stump Cross/Fairy Holes
 - d. Penyghent and Fountains Fell
 - e. Other areas (Excalibur, Bowland, Barbondale)
- (6) Cave digging guidelines

This was prepared by Andrew Hinde and circulated to the Committee in November. The draft is also included in this agenda (**Appendix A**). Please gather feedback for discussion at this meeting. We will vote whether to accept this draft document.

- (7) New access agreements for Dow Cave and Ingleborough Estate

Geoff Whittaker has been appointed by the Access Officer and Secretary as intermit permit secretary for Ingleborough Estate. The Committee need to ratify this appointment, or propose an alternative permit secretary to take over after this meeting.

Geoff's continued appointment to this role is strongly supported by Matt Ewles:

"My support for Geoff taking on this role is on the basis of his experience as interim Leck Fell permit secretary and as full time Aygill permit secretary, his enthusiasm to perform the role, his excellent communication skills and his availability to respond to questions and permit requests (including by email) very promptly indeed. I offer my personal recommendation to the Committee to ratify the continuation of this appointment for the benefit of the CNCC and northern cavers, and I would like to thank Geoff for his involvement in establishing this access agreement."

(8) Leck Fell and Penyghent permits

Jim Sloane wishes to stand down as Leck permit secretary after the AGM.

Malcolm Hughes wishes to stand down as Penyghent permit secretary ASAP in 2015.

Nominations, suggestions and invitations for a new permit secretary for each region can be discussed and presented at this meeting. Please could all committee clubs make every effort to identify potential nominees for these positions.

(9) Draft constitution document

The draft constitution has been updated to reflect what was agreed at the September meeting. The final draft is available to review on the CNCC website (meetings page).

This final document will require a proposer and seconder before it can be put to a vote at the AGM. It would be desirable to have this in place before the meeting to demonstrate our confidence in the document. Please decide whether your club, as a full member club of the CNCC, would be willing to be a proposer or seconder of this document.

(10) New motion affecting the constitution

Before the end of November, Johnny Latimer submitted to Matt Ewles a motion affecting the CNCC constitution (**Appendix B**).

Please decide whether your club, as a full member of the CNCC, would be willing to be a proposer or seconder of this motion. Note that this would be voted upon at the AGM in a second, separate vote to the one to accept the full draft constitution document.

(11) Access agreements

In the September 2014 meeting there was unanimous agreement in principal to the issuing of access agreements (full documents) to full member clubs. However, it was identified that

some actions may be required first (for example the censoring of some personal details in some of the agreements). Please discuss this with your club and present to this meeting any issues/concerns associated with making our access agreements more widely available.

Depending on the proceedings, a vote may be taken to decide:

- a. Subject to agreed actions, whether to make documents available to full members
- b. Subject to agreed actions, whether to make documents available publicly

(12) Appointment of new CNCC representative to the BCA

Due to time restraints, Matt Ewles is standing down as the CNCC's BCA representative. An alternative volunteer should be identified to represent the CNCC at BCA meetings.

(13) Sheffield University Speleological Society

Application for full membership received from Rachael Rix and Thomas Gamble, chair and secretary of Sheffield University Speleological Society (SUSS). Their application letter and constitution will be circulated to the committee.

Their website is: www.shefcavers.org.uk

At this meeting we should:

- a. Establish if we have a proposer and seconder for this application (ULSA have already agreed to be either proposer or seconder and the EPC support this application)
- b. Discuss the application (a SUSS member will hopefully be available)
- c. Vote on whether to accept the application

(14) Rubber Duck Caving Club

Application for full membership received from Peter Bennett, secretary of the Rubber Duck Caving Club (RDCC): The application letter will be circulated to the committee. Their constitution is available to review on their website.

Their website is: www.rubberduckcavingclub.co.uk

At this meeting we should:

- a. Establish if we have a proposer and seconder for this application
- b. Discuss the application (a RDCC member will hopefully be available)
- c. Vote on whether to accept the application

(15) Discussion of CNCC position on new IC anchor

A suggestion has been received from Sam Allshorn (**Appendix C**). A proposer and seconder will need to be sought, followed by a vote to decide whether the CNCC should seek BCA E&T approval to allow the anchor to be used by the CNCC in the future.

The following may be useful to assist the Committee research this ahead of this meeting:

- Sam Allshorn has provided his email address on the letter in Appendix C.
- The IC anchor has a website: www.resinanchor.co.uk with information and contact details for Simon Wilson (the designer of the anchor)
- The CNCC Technical Group contact is Les Sykes (contact details on CNCC website). The CNCC technical group have been responsible for overseeing installation of resin-bonded anchors in northern caves for many years so have substantial expertise in this area which may be valuable to the discussion.

(16) Date and time of future meetings

Next meeting: Annual General Meeting, 7th March 2015, 10am, Hellifield

Preliminary suggestions for meetings for the following year: It would be very helpful if everyone could please consider whether any of these dates clash with any major events which may seriously impact attendance.

Saturday 13th June 2015 – Committee meeting

Saturday 12th September 2015 – Committee meeting

Saturday 16th January 2015 – Committee meeting

Saturday 26th March 2016 – AGM*

* This is later than usual. However, if we adopt the new constitution document, eight weeks' notice will be required for committee and officer applications, and six weeks' notice with the AGM agenda will be required. Therefore, it is desirable to have a ten-week gap between the January committee meeting and the AGM to provide time for any matters raised by the January meeting to be incorporated into the AGM agenda.

(17) Any other business?

Appendix A

Draft SSSI digging guidelines page 1



A SSSI is a Site of Special Scientific Interest

SSSIs are areas of land above or below ground which have been designated by Natural England for their unique flora, fauna or geological interest. Natural England is the statutory body responsible for the monitoring and protection of these sites.

Most of the Cave systems of the Dales are designated SSSIs. The owner / occupier of a SSSI must “notify” Natural England if they wish to undertake work which is considered likely to damage the SSSI features of interest. This includes works by third parties such as cavers looking for new entrances.

Natural England may choose to “Consent” a “Notification” of a landowner’s intent to carry out work. This means that Natural England takes on the liability of the work for the specified duration of the “Consent”.

If you want to dig a cave entrance you should follow these guidelines:

- ✓ Ask the landowner for permission;
- ✓ Check to see if the site is within a SSSI boundary. See maps attached. If not a SSSI then only landowner permission required. If it is a SSSI, then continue to no. 3 below;
- ✓ Landowner submits a “Notification to undertake works” form to Natural England;
- ✓ Natural England’s Conservation Adviser will make a site visit and discuss any areas of concern they may have (usually regarding where spoil is to be located);
- ✓ Natural England sends the Landowner written “Consent” for the works for a specific time, usually a couple of years;
- ✓ You may now commence your dig.



This official procedure can be speeded up by the cavers submitting a notification to NE on behalf of the Owner/ Occupier (with their agreement). Make sure the notification includes your intended goal and how you intend to go about it, plus what you intend to do to restore the site after gaining entry or if the dig fails.

DRAFT FOR REVIEW PURPOSES ONLY

If you want to dig underground you should follow these guidelines:

- ✓ Ask the landowner for permission;
- ✓ Do your research, has anyone dug here before?
- ✓ If the cave is a SSSI you may need Natural England "Consent";
- ✓ Seek advice on the scientific value of the sediments you're digging;
- ✓ Be careful with the storing of spoil, avoid contamination elsewhere in the cave;
- ✓ Have 'conservation tape' available for the moment of breakthrough;
- ✓ Keep your dig site safe and remove all equipment at the end of the project.



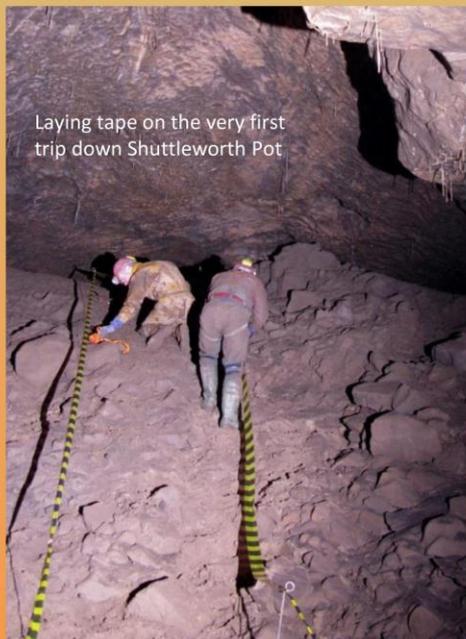
Inlet 8, Notts 2 – A dead end?



The joys of digging?



Wild boar skull found on the Cupcake dig



Laying tape on the very first trip down Shuttleworth Pot

Natural England encourages cave exploration when undertaken with care and forethought.

If you are lucky enough to discover new passage it is your personal responsibility to conserve the pristine condition by applying all reasonable conservation measures immediately (not after an hour of excited explorations).

Future generations will judge harshly on failure to respect a fragile cave environment through thoughtless actions by impatient original explorers.

Good Luck and Happy Digging.

To acquire a SSSI "notification" form contact NE on their helpline 0845 600 3078. www.naturalengland.org.uk

Or contact Andrew Hinde- NE Cave Conservation Adviser for advice and guidance.

andrew.hinde@naturalengland.org.uk

For the location of the SSSIs see the following two links or go to the cave monitoring website

http://www.northerncavemonitoring.org.uk/maps/doc_download/15-northern-caves-sssi-names

http://www.northerncavemonitoring.org.uk/maps/doc_download/17-sssi-boundary-map-east-nidderdale

DRAFT FOR REVIEW PURPOSES ONLY

Appendix B

Motion suggested by Johnny Latimer regarding the CNCC constitution

The following request was provided by Johnny:

The constitution states "Applications for permits will only be accepted from member clubs of the Council".

Ingleborough Estate have historically not insisted that permission to use the caves is open only to member clubs of the Council. As we will now be handling the permits, if we don't amend the constitution we're actually reducing access for cavers, or breaching our constitution.

Please add this request to the next meeting's agenda in January.

Overview (by Matt Ewles)

The new CNCC-administered Ingleborough Estate permit system allows all BCA member clubs, CIMs and DIMs to apply for permits, in accordance with the Estate's wishes and previous practice.

However, our constitution states that we can only issue permits to member clubs.

This decision has been taken by the Access Officer, with support from the Secretary, to proceed with the access agreement and accept that this overrides the constitution.

Therefore, the suggestion put forward here is to remove this line from the constitution. This will need to be put to a vote of all full members at the 2015 AGM.

If this were accepted at the AGM, there would no longer be a blanket policy in the constitution against non-club cavers getting permits. Instead, details of who can be issued with permits would be defined by each individual access agreement. At present only the Ingleborough agreement allows non-club cavers to apply for permits so there would be no impact of this change on who can apply for permits elsewhere (all other access agreements specify that permits will be issued to clubs).

This suggestion is not related to whether the CNCC should actively pursue negotiation of access agreements to include individual (non-club) cavers, nor whether the CNCC should seek a greater representation for the interests of individual cavers.

This suggestion is simply to remove a line from the constitution which now contravenes one of our major access agreements. It is my personal belief that this is the right course of action.

Appendix C

Suggestion from Sam Allshorn regarding the IC anchor

Mr S. Allshorn
s_allshorn@hotmail.com

Date 01/12/14

Dear CNCC,

We would like to encourage this council to support us in asking the BCA E&T committee to consider approving the IC anchor alongside the BP anchor under the BCA's policy on the 11th March 2015. Mr S. Wilson has shown that his anchor meets the criteria of EN959.

There are several reasons for the request. The latter can be demonstrated to this council.

Firstly the removal of the BP anchor; any resin anchor should be removable as far as is possible to enable the placement to be reused. At the moment the BP anchor is not easily removed and the preferred method of decommissioning Peco anchors by the CNCC TG is to hammer them flat. This seems at odds with the original premise of placing of resin bonded anchors.

Secondly the distribution of stress within the drilled hole for the BP anchor may lie close to the surface, which is of concern when considering placements that may occur in less than ideal substrate. Whilst we would always aim to avoid such placements some may happen, even by accident. We feel that the E&T would be best placed to advise on this issue.

Finally, as part of the equipment required when placing anchors the largest single item is the drill. We acknowledge that every bolter uses a different drill. For example Sam Allshorn has two drills a 24V Makita with two 3.3Ah NiMH batteries and an 18V Bosch drill with two 4.4Ah Li Ion batteries.

Bolt comparison table

	BP anchor	IC anchor
Depth of hole	100mm	90mm
Diameter of hole	16mm	12mm
Volume of hole	20106mm ³	10178mm ³
Difference	49% less volume compared with BP anchor	

Drill comparison table

	24V drill	18V drill
Weight of item	4.12kg (additional battery 1.48kg)	2.18kg (additional battery 0.61kg)
Size of battery	3.3Ah NiMH	4.4Ah Li Ion
Number of BP bolts	5	None, manufacturer suggests not exceeding 12mm diameter hole in concrete.
Number of IC bolts	7.5	6

In conclusion the IC bolt has a considerable advantage over the BP bolt because it appears to be more easily replaced enabling the hole to be reused in line with the original premise of the placement of ECO hangers. The IC anchor appears to place the stress closer to the bottom of the bolt hole. It requires a smaller hole enabling either more holes per battery or the use of smaller drills.

Mr S. Wilson has also produced a tool specifically for the removal of the IC bolt. No other manufacturer has as yet done this.

We as members of the BCA bolting scheme would like to encourage the CNCC to seek BCA E&T approval of the IC bolt, such that it can be adopted by the CNCC.

Signed
Sam Allshorn, Graham Coates, Mark Sims, Damian Weare