

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION

AGM

To be held at Hellifield Village hall on 02 March 2013

Starting at 10:00

AGENDA

1. Apologise for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matter arising from the minutes
4. Officers reports
 - Chairman's report
 - Secretary's report
 - Treasurer's report
 - Conservation officer's report
 - Access officer's report
 - Training officer's report
 - Technical group report
5. Meets secretaries reports
 - Leck Fell
 - Casterton Fell
 - Birks Fell
 - Penyghent & Fountains Fell
 - Other areas
6. BCA report
7. Constitutional amendments
8. Election of officers and committee
9. Any other business
10. Date and place of next meeting and committee meetings



Council of Northern Caving Clubs

AGM 02 March 2013

Secretary's report

The item below (*italics*) is taken from the BCA secretaries report. It is included in this report because after discussion we decided the matter was closed.

Item 7 from BCA reports: *Both clubs co-operated fully in the investigation, apologised, assured us it will not happen again and removed the offending trip reports from their websites. Full details of their responses are included in Appendix 1. We need to decide today how we should react in accordance with BCA's disciplinary Procedure.*

I have discussed this item with CNCC Chairman who agrees that as far as CNCC are concerned the matter is closed as was stated to the BCA secretary in October 2012.

The past year has been an exceptionally busy year for the roles of secretary and Access Officer. Some weeks have been completely consumed with CNCC related work and problems with the bulk of November, December and January being devoted to the access issues on Leck and Casterton Fells.

Access Officer's report

Leck and Casterton Fells

Notes from the meeting with the land agents for Leck Fell and Casterton Fell, regarding the unauthorised use of their land for commercial gain 19/01/2013.

There is a new cattle grid being installed at the Fell gate on Leck Fell, CNCC has agreed to provide 2-3 tonne of limestone chippings to improve the parking for cavers when the installation is complete.

BCA member clubs are reminded that permits **MUST** be obtained for the private land where access agreements are in place. Failure to comply with the access requirements will eventually lead to possible loss of access to the land. Unauthorised access also makes negotiating the renewal of the agreements more complex. It is worth noting that the landholders and their agents do look at web sites, read Descent and other cave related material, they have a very good understanding of what is happening on their land. We all have a responsibility to gain the necessary permissions and respect the SSSI status of the caves we are exploring.

There are some changes to requesting permission for access to caves and ghylls in Barbondale. The requirement to contact the Estate Office Cowan Bridge for permission is changing and all caves on land owned by the Kay-Shuttleworth Estate

will be managed through the CNCC. The change will be published on the CNCC web site.

Over the coming months the access pages on the web site will also be changing and the access information will be in a downloadable pdf. file format for each area with the more popular caves have entrance photos and a more defined approach description.

At the meeting the landowner's agents issued a statement on behalf of the landowners.

**Statement issued by the landowner's agents
for The Whelprigg Estate and the Kay-Shuttleworth Estate
on 10 January 2013**

This statement concerns the use of the Leck Beck head SSSI which includes Leck Fell and Casterton Fell and the cave systems thereon.

The landowners of Leck Fell and Casterton Fell are increasingly concerned that the existing access agreement between them and the Council of Northern Caving Clubs (CNCC) and the implication of the SSSI status are being abused and in some instances for commercial gain by parties with no ownership interests or agreements.

The parties above are establishing a protocol forbidding the use of their lands for commercial exploitation.

All existing agreements for recreational caving are not affected by this statement which will take immediate effect 10 January 2013. For further information contact the CNCC access Officer L. Sykes secretary@cncc.org or les@speleoadventure.wanadoo.co.uk END OF STATEMENT

After the incident at Manchester Hole when it flooded due to North Yorkshire water undertaking scouring operations at the reservoir without prior notice, Graham Mollard has attended more meetings and still trying to resolve the problems that exist.

CNCC Technical Group

Since the last meeting the weather has played an important factor with very little progress on anything. We are anticipating testing a batch of maillons in the next couple of months; this follows a failure of a maillon during the testing of anchors.

In October 2012 we tested to destruction all the anchors in the Yordas test bed the report is appended to this report.

After removing the anchors and all debris from the test site the holes were thoroughly cleaned and a new test bed was installed. The report of the placements is appended to this report.

Rigging guides

During the summer of 2013 Glenn and myself will be publishing the book Northern Caving this will be one publication that will replace the two rigging guides. Northern Caving is the culmination of 23 years working on the anchor replacement program and will also cover SRT equipment and techniques, rigging techniques and rescue and a number of other caver related training information. The publication is primarily an attempt for us to try and recoup some of the personal finance that we have put into the scheme over the 23 years; CNCC will receive a percentage of the ongoing profits from the publication.

BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee

Glenn Jones will be raising matter under this heading in his report.

Training Officers report

No BCA training committee report received from Graham Mollard.

The CNCC will throughout 2013 be running a series of courses for the CNCC volunteers; these courses will enhance their capability and improve the safe systems of work.

In January 2013 the CNCC volunteers attended a First Aid Course which was funded by CNCC.

Les Sykes

CNCC secretary, CNCC Training Officer, CNCC Access Officer

Appendix A

The Equipment & Techniques Committee

Eco anchor long term test report 13th October 2012

Location

Yordas Gorge NGR: SD705792. The block of limestone is in an area that has vegetation growing in close proximity, the whole area is very damp and subject to periodic flooding. In winter the anchors will be under ice and therefore subjected to cycles of freeze and thaw. The anchors were installed so that a test rig could be suspended beneath a tree and pulled into place by a transverse tensioned rope. This would also allow for the rig to remain suspended while the anchor was being extracted from the substrate.

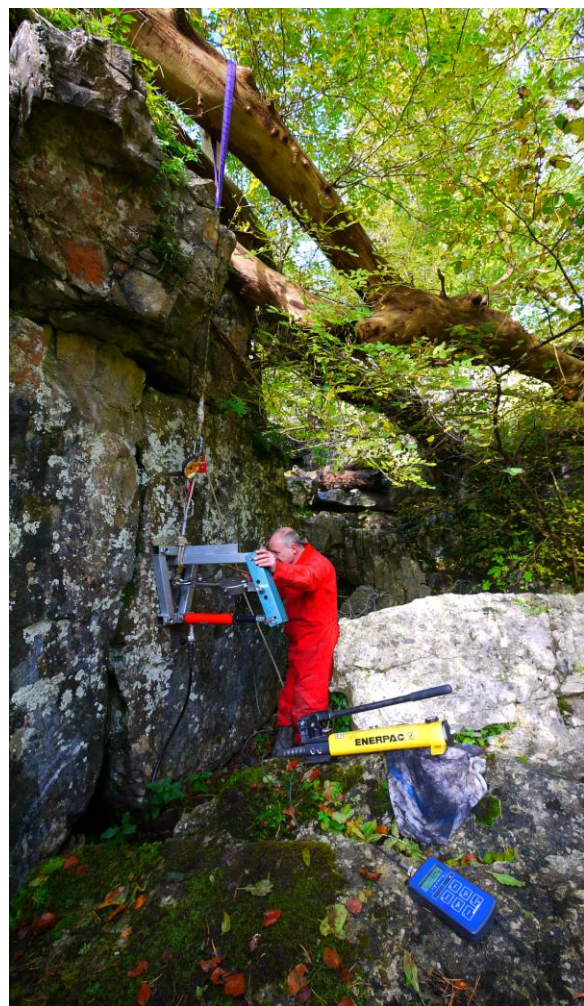


Introduction

This test report is for the Eco anchors that were installed as part of the long term testing for the possibility of degradation of the Resifix 3+ chemical anchor mortar due to the effects of freeze and thaw cycles.

Method

In March 1998 eight Eco anchors were installer horizontally into a block of mass limestone using Resifix 3+ chemical anchor mortar batch reference M277. The correct method of installation as defined in the document Permanent Resin Bonded Anchor Installation Guidelines 01.01.1998. The placements were chosen at random as would be the case when installing anchors underground.



Test results

TB101

Peak load 24kN, required continuous 22kN for extraction. Cone fracture of the substrate.

TB102

Peak load 27kN, required continuous 20kN for extraction some ejection of resin during extraction.

After cleaning, this hole was inspected there no substrate abnormalities visible.

TB103

Peak load 24kN, required continuous 20kN for extraction.

After cleaning this hole was inspected and a small fissure radiating around the hole at about 50mm depth was visible.

TB104

Peak load 27kN, required continuous 20kN for extraction.

After cleaning, this hole was inspected there no substrate abnormalities visible.

TB105

Peak load 25kN, required continuous 20kN for extraction.

After cleaning this hole was inspected and a small fissure radiating around the hole at about 75mm depth was visible. There was also a very small horizontal surface fissure that was on the left hand side of the hole and entered the hole for about 20mm.

TB106

Peak load 29kN, required continuous 22kN for extraction.

After cleaning, this hole was inspected there no substrate abnormalities visible.

TB107

Peak load 22kN, required continuous 20kN for extraction.

After cleaning, this hole was inspected there no substrate abnormalities visible.

TB108

Peak load 26kN, required continuous 22kN for extraction.

Additional information

All the anchors had signs of light surface rust staining along the shafts of the anchors.

Anchor placement TB105 was proud of the substrate by about 2mm; this protrusion was protrusion of the resin plug and anchor by 2mm from the



substrate. As there were no obvious signs that the anchor had been interfered with, it may be that water ingress had occurred at some point in time and with freezing the placement moved outwards. The anchor does exhibit a discolouration the full length of its shaft. After extraction the hole was re-drilled, washed, brushed and dried. The hole was inspected using an inspection probe and the following observations were made; a small fissure radiating around the hole at about 75mm depth was visible. There was also a very small horizontal surface fissure that was on the left hand side of the hole and entered the hole for about 20mm. It may be possible that the fissure at 75mm depth may of allowed the ingress of moisture during the placement period of 14 years.

Conclusions

The Yordas long term anchor test bed has provided some vital information especially for anchors that are placed in wet location on the surface where they are exposed to the effects of weathering. The anchors in Yordas stream bed at NGR SD704792 will be tested when water levels are lower as they were too high on this test date.

Eco anchor Gorge test bed from left to right

TB101

TB102

TB103

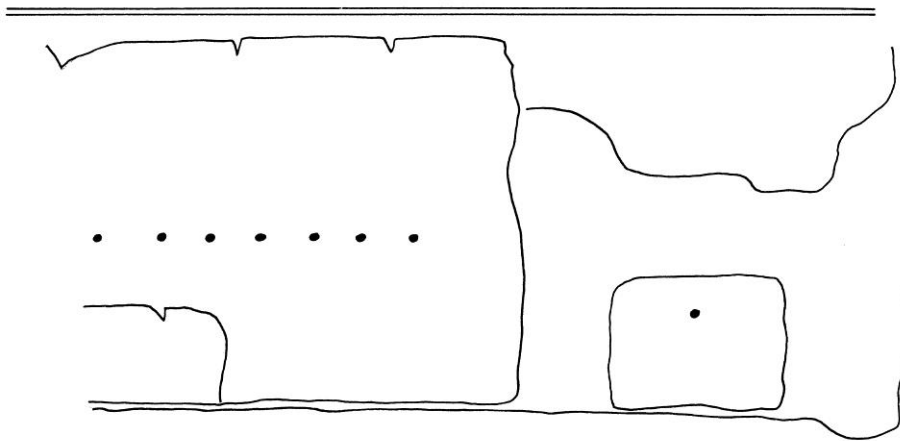
TB104

TB105

TB106

TB107

TB108



Operatives:- L.Sykes (CNCC), G.Jones (CNCC), R.S.Dearman (DCA),

Report compiled by L. Sykes

Photographs G. Jones

Appendix B

The Equipment & Techniques Committee

Eco and BP anchor long term test bed anchor placement report

20th October 2012

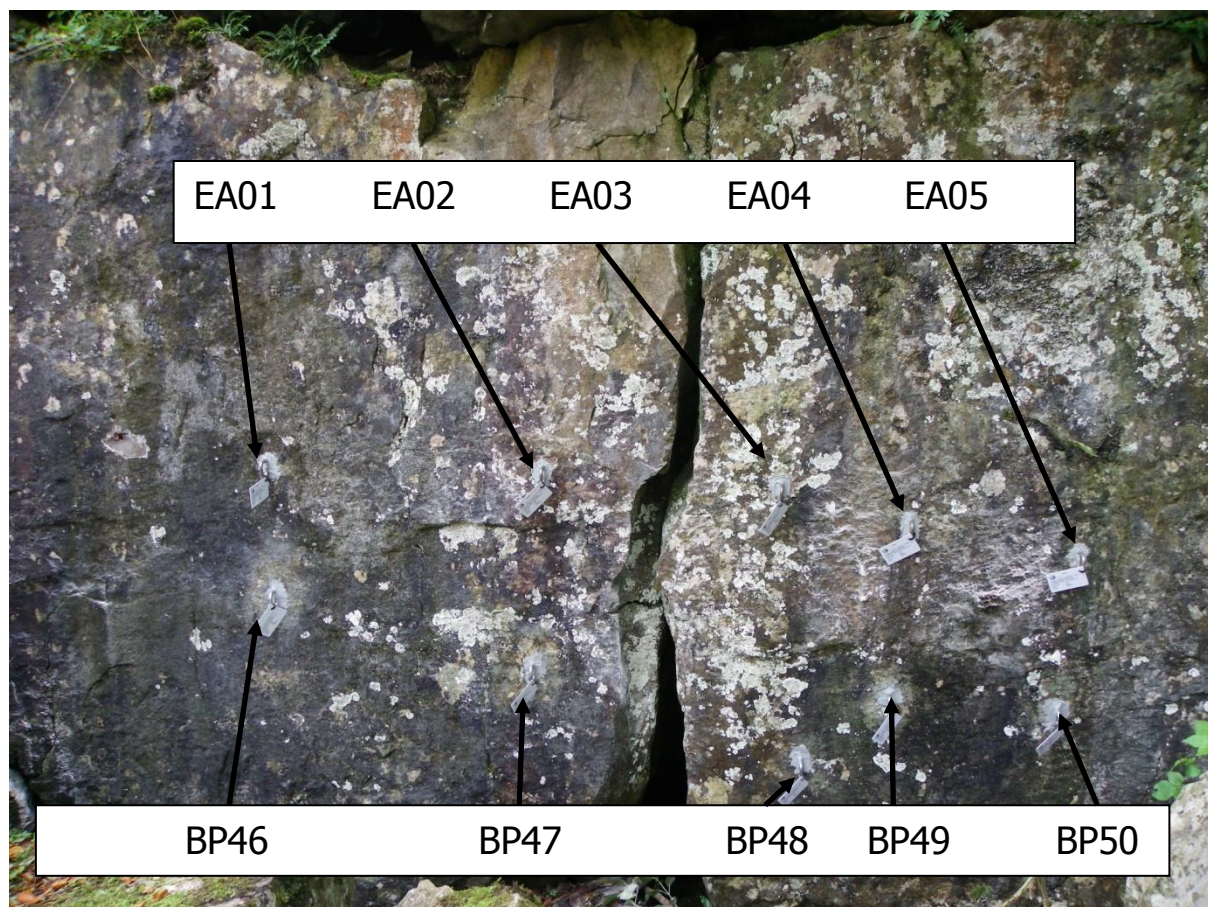
Location: Yordas gorge, West Kingsdale, North Yorkshire NGR: SD705792

Climatic conditions: Temperature 10°C, no precipitation

Progressive long term test bed

On 20 October 2012 five Eco anchors were installed in the cleaned holes of the previous test bed. The Eco anchors were installed using KMRES AUG 2012 to the installation procedure, as defined in the document Installation Procedure, Training and Documentation as approved by the BCA AGM 2010.

On 20 October 2012 five BP anchors were installed. The BP anchors were installed using KMRES AUG 2012 using the installation procedure, as defined in the document Installation Procedure, Training and Documentation as approved by the BCA AGM 2010. Issue 5 - Updated 13 December 2011 for installing BP anchors.



Placement notes

Eco anchor 01. The anchor was installed in a re-drilled hole of the original test bed. The hole was brushed and washed with pressure washer and then dried. The hole was visually examined with a camera probe and it appeared that the hole had not intersected any subsurface fissures. The surface of the substrate was visually solid in appearance.

Eco anchor 02. The anchor was installed in a re-drilled hole of the original test bed. The hole was brushed and washed with pressure washer and then dried. The hole was visually examined with a camera probe and it appeared that the hole had intersected a vertical fissure that was about 50mm from the surface and radiated around the drilled hole. The surface of the substrate had a vertical fissure either side of and within 6-7Cm. of the placement.

Eco anchor 03. The anchor was installed in a re-drilled hole of the original test bed. The hole was brushed and washed with pressure washer and then dried. The hole was visually examined with a camera probe and it appeared that the hole had not intersected any subsurface fissures. The surface of the substrate was visually solid in appearance but did have a calcite veneer of about 2mm thickness.

Eco anchor 04. The anchor was installed in a re-drilled hole of the original test bed. The hole was brushed and washed with pressure washer and then dried. The hole was visually examined with a camera probe and it appeared that the hole had intersected a vertical fissure that was about 75mm from the surface that radiated around the drilled hole. The surface of the substrate had a damp vertical and horizontal fissure within 5Cm. of the placement.

Eco anchor 05. The anchor was installed in a re-drilled hole of the original test bed. The hole was brushed and washed with pressure washer and then dried. The hole was visually examined with a camera probe and it appeared that the hole had not intersected any subsurface fissures. The surface of the substrate had a damp horizontal fissure within 5Cm. of the placement and a damp vertical fissure within 4-5Cm. of the placement.

Anchor BP46. The anchor was installed in a 16mm diameter hole. The hole was brushed and washed with pressure washer and then dried. The hole was visually examined with a camera probe; the hole had not intersected any fissures during drilling. The surface of the substrate appeared visually sound.

Anchor BP47. The anchor was installed in a 16mm diameter hole. The hole was brushed and washed with pressure washer and then dried. The hole was visually examined with a camera probe and it appeared that the hole had intersected a horizontal fissure that ran from the surface to the bottom of the hole on the left hand side. The surface of the substrate had a horizontal fissure about 5Cm. above the placement which was damp. There was also a damp vertical fissure within 5Cm. on the left hand side of the placement.

Anchor BP48. The anchor was installed in a 16mm diameter hole. The hole was brushed and washed with pressure washer and then dried. The hole was visually examined with a camera probe; the hole had not intersected any fissures during drilling. The surface of the substrate appeared visually sound.

Anchor BP49. The anchor was installed in a 16mm diameter hole. The hole was brushed and washed with pressure washer and then dried. The hole was visually examined with a camera probe; the hole had intersected a horizontal fissure which ran from mid-hole (50Cm.) to the base of the hole. The surface of the substrate appeared visually sound.

Anchor BP50. The anchor was installed in a 16mm diameter hole. The hole was brushed and washed with pressure washer and then dried. The hole was visually examined with a camera probe; the hole had not intersected any fissures during drilling. The surface of the substrate appeared visually sound.



Example of Eco placement



Example of BP placement

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS
AGM – March 2nd 2013

TREASURERS REPORT

Following the agreement by the CNCC committee that the accounts should be verified by a volunteer CNCC member club, rather than pay the increasingly expensive costs of an accountant, Craven PC have volunteered to verify the 2012 accounts for the 2013 AGM. The attached letter from Pat and Ric Halliwell verifies this report as accurate. The process is a little different from that of an auditors report, in that it verifies, by scrutinisation of bank statements, invoices, receipts and working spreadsheet (Quicken) that this report for the 2012 financial year is correct.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME

Balance c/f from 2011		£3,107.87
2011 BCA Annual Funding Grant	£499.45	
Bone Dating Fund	£1,080.00 ¹	
Natural England Funding	£3,422.51	
Other Income	£12.67 ⁴	
Resin & Nozzles (payment from BCA)	£338.52	
Rigging Guides	£4,500.80	
TOTAL INCOME	£9,853.95	

EXPENSES

Access & Conservation	£329.86
Bank Transfer	£2.00
Bone Dating Fund (payment)	£2,160.00 ¹
Conservation Pins	£540.00
NECMP Volunteer Payments	£1,692.95
Resin & Nozzles (purchase)	£338.52
Rigging Guides (printing)	£4,014.00 ²
Meetings (Room Hire)	£84.00
Secretarial, postage & 'phone calls	£178.53
Shuttleworth Pot Survey (printing)	£555.12
Treasurer Expenses	£221.12 ³
TOTAL EXPENSES	£10,116.10

¹Bone Dating Fund; the balance of this expense (£1,080.00) was received from grants during 2011

²Includes cost of further 200 copies in December

³Mostly postage and mileage for delivery of Rigging Guides

⁴Refund from Xerox, which took a protracted 12 month email exchange to complete

Balance c/f to 2013	£2,845.72
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During January, on the recommendation of Barclays Bank, I transferred the previous high interest account to an account with “better” interest, an Everyday Saver Account. Unfortunately this simple transfer has resulted in three accounts, as the first attempt was transferred to an account in my name (rather than CNCC) which I shall sort out in the coming weeks:

Everyday Saver Account (G M Jones)

Balance	£1.00
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Business Saver Account (old high interest account)

Balance 1 st January 2012	£20,184.67
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Transfer to new account (20/01/12); £20,000.00	
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Interest;	£1.34
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Balance 31 st December 2012	£186.01
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CNCC HIGH INTEREST ACCOUNT:

Balance 20 th January 2012	£20,000.00
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Interest received:	£123.42
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Balance 31 st December 2012	£20,123.42
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ASSETS: No assets (*assets older than 5 years have been written off*)

I am prepared to stand as Treasurer for the next 12 months.

Glenn Jones

CNCC Treasurer

BCA Grant to Regional Councils: CNCC Claim 2012

The CNCC Treasurer will be submitting a claim to BCA for a total of £1,246.41 comprised of the following budget heads:

Sub Budget Head - **Meetings** (Covers - photocopy, postage, room hire, stationary, phone bills, travel expenses of officers to meetings. Does not cover - travel expenses of members)

Meetings: £262.53: comprising:

Room Hire: £84.00

Photocopying, Postage and 'phone calls: £178.53

CNCC officers do not claim mileage.

Sub Budget Head - **Conservation & Access** (Covers - Negotiating access to caves and mines, gating of entrances, stabilising (and opening up of alternative safer) of entrances, working with landowner to maintain access, payment of "peppercorn" rents for access, other liaison and public relations work related to maintaining access and promoting conservation, travel expenses for meetings, photocopy, postage, stationary, phone bills. Does not cover - digging as part of new exploration.

Conservation & Access: £983.88: comprising:

£100.00 access agreement for Kay Shuttleworth Estate

£100.00 access agreement for Boreham Cave

£56.00 mileage attending access meetings

£14.14: postage & stationery directly related to Stump Cross/Mongo Gill, Birks Fell and Robinsons Pot landowners (covering 2 years).

£23.11: postage and annual access agreement for Fountains Fell

£1.50: postage directly related to Casterton Fell

£69.61: Drill bits for anchor testing

£540.00 for 450 s/s Conservation Pins

£74.07: Protective clothing for anchor testing

£5.45: Dry bag for drill

(The majority of 2012 work under this heading has been funded by Natural England)

Sub Budget Head - **Insurance** (Covers - Provision of Public Liability cover for all persons (including officers, members, volunteers and land owners & their employees) involved in activities on behalf of the RCC activities, public liability cover for land owner access agreements. Does not cover - insurance for clubs or individuals not undertaking authorised work on behalf of the RCC)

No expenditure in 2012 under this budget head

Sub Budget Head - **Provision of Information** (Covers - Production of "Regional" Circulars (regular or spasmodic) on access, Production of "Regional" Access Handbook (regular or spasmodic. ***Does not cover*** - Production of a "Regional" newsletter (regular or spasmodic), Production of Handbook (regular or spasmodic), Production or sponsoring of "Regional" (Area) Guide Book, Topo sheet, Bolting Guide etc, Participation in events to promote caving)

No permitted expenditure in 2012 under this budget head

Conservation Officer Report

March 2013

Since the last report in September the CNCC cave conservation volunteers have completed the stabilisation of the entrance to Brown Hill Pot – Kingsdale. This was a major undertaking which ran to 5 days work in mid winter conditions. This was, I believe, the first time an original degraded steel drum (mid 80s) has been removed and replaced with a 600mm twin wall plastic pipe. The project was every bit as difficult as sinking a new shaft. The same principals of scaffold frame and wooden shoring were adopted to protect the workforce and allow the introduction of a 3m length of TW Pipe. The experienced crew managed to withdraw most of the scaff and shoring during the back filling phase. This is now available for similar projects elsewhere. We are indebted to all those who volunteered under some gruelling conditions, and Ged Benn in particular for acting as project manager and gang master. The volunteers and I would also like to acknowledge the essential administrative work done by Kay Easton (as well as her on site contribution).

Ten of the conservation vols have now completed a specially procured Outdoor First Aid training course. This was aimed at situations where longer than normal casualty care would be required with limited resources, both above and below ground.

The work of the volunteers has been written up for articles in Descent and Speleology by the vols themselves. It is vital that the wider caving community understands who, why and how this work is undertaken on their behalf.

Projects that remain outstanding include the cleaning and re taping of Curry Inlet and clearing the site at Whitewell – Bowland.

Public funding from Natural England for cave SSSI projects has been applied for. In the current economic climate and the ongoing tri annual review of NE it will be difficult to guarantee any funding in the immediate future.

Andrew Hinde

15/2/2013

BCA Report to 2013 CNCC AGM

Discussion Document

Background;

It is now 12 months since BCA's E&T Convenor admitted deceiving CNCC and DCA. Whilst the details have been previously documented and circulated to the CNCC Committee, the key facts are as follows:

- **October 8th 2011 E&T meeting;** an agreement was reached between CSCC, CNCC and DCA over accepting the IPTD
- **March 17th 2012 E&T meeting;** the E&T Convenor admitted to agreeing something with CSCC that he did not make clear to DCA and CNCC. That admission was witnessed by all who attended the meeting and was recorded as such in the minutes of the meeting (although those minutes are not yet on the BCA web site....)
- **March 24th 2012;** the BCA National Council meeting were informed of the deceit and were not interested in the fact that one of their officers had deceived two Regional Councils
- **October 2nd 2012;** BCA's Chairman (Andy Eavis) met with DCA and CNCC and agreed to look into the dispute and prepare a full report
- **January 12th 2013 BCA Council Meeting;** BCA's Chairman reports simply that there was *categorically no deceit*.

The last statement from BCA's Chairman is extraordinary as the minutes of the March 17th 2012 E&T meeting record the admission of the deceit.

It would seem from the above, that BCA National Council have no intention of taking CNCC's (and DCA's) grievance seriously, even though CNCC is a Constituent Body of BCA and CNCC supported the creation of BCA and the concept of the "one stop shop" for membership to BCA by changing it's (CNCC's) constitution to allow BCA member clubs to be considered as CNCC Associate Member clubs in order that permits could be provided to those BCA clubs. Whilst this dispute is not about money, it is worth noting that CNCC's relationship (with BCA) has resulted in a negative financial impact on CNCC in as much as CNCC receives on average £550.00 per year grant funding (from BCA), whereas when CNCC had Associate Member clubs, the incoming would have been closer to £1,000.00 per year.

During this time, there has been no CNCC representation on BCA National Council. (Given that most BCA Officer reports are not circulated {if at all} in a timely manner prior to BCA meetings, there is no opportunity to discuss and consider the business of the meeting beforehand in order to make a useful contribution – so no real problem in not having representation).

Since 12 months have elapsed and there has been absolutely no progress in this dispute, it is suggested that during the next 6 months CNCC discuss how it sees its relationship with BCA, with an aim (if no resolution to the dispute has been reached in that time) to presenting a proposal to the CNCC 2014 AGM to re-negotiate the CNCC membership of BCA.

Glenn Jones

Casterton Fell Report for 2012

A total of 47 clubs were issued with permits for the whole of 2012- (9 more than in 2011) this added up to 209 permits issued in total, a increase from the 179 permits issued for the whole of 2011 (105 of these in the last 3 months of the year) and came after the landowners agent complained about cavers using the fell without permits.

We still have quite a number of clubs who are not BCA members making requests but these are refused and passed on for Glenn Jones to deal with.

Permits can now be requested and issued by email make everyone's life much easier, They can also be turned around in less than a week (provided I am not on holiday) and the CNCC web site has been altered to reflect this. A growing problem is Clubs sending emails very late Friday night asking for permits the following day especially if it has been very wet that week.

Les Sykes, has and is dealing with problems – especially with reports of commercial caving and no doubt will update us with progress on that matter

There are plenty of permits available but some weekends are full booked up already.

Alan Speight (CNCC Meets Sec – Casterton Fell)

Council of Northern Caving Clubs

Meets Secretary's report for Birks Fell, Robinsons Pot and Mongo Gill

General

This is my 24th year as access controller and I know of no problems regarding access to Birks Fell, Robinsons Pot or Mongo Gill

Birks Fell

We now have a more formal agreement drawn up in a similar way to Robinsons Pot although the conditions of access remain the same as before. I have received 8 requests for permits for 2013, one more than 2012 at this time.

1977	22	1978	35	1979	40	1980	41	1981	50
1982	47	1983	52	1984	63	1985	46	1986	55
1987	44	1988	28	1989	32	1990	25	1991	41
1992	49	1993	35	1994	41	1995	39	1996	34
1997	35	1998	28	1999	32	2000	15	2001	0
2002	21	2003	27	2004	10	2005	12	2006	15
2007	17	2008	15	2009	10	2010	13	2011	12
2012	10								

Average number of permits per year for the last 10 years is 14 (15)

Robinson's Pot

The access agreement allows a maximum of 5 permits per year on the second Saturday of each month, June to October inclusive. Four requests for permits have been received, 2 from Clubs who have never had a permit and two from clubs who have previously held a permit. I would ask that we come up with a fifth name (or ballot for 5th place) from the floor.

Mongo Gill

The new access agreement with no closed season but no access on Bank Holiday Weekends appears to be causing no problems. There was one problem with a solo caver turned up with a photocopy of the permit and was refused permission to descend. Since then the owner has requested that the agreement be changed to specify no solo caving trips and I have agreed to this. I have issued 5(4) permits for 2013 so far. No permits have been requested for Great Expectations, nor were any issued last year. The connection with Stump Cross stream way remains well and truly blocked by a major collapse.

1981	28	1982	39	1983	39	1984	44	1985	24
1986	28	1987	29	1988	36	1989	38	1990	38
1991	36	1992	43	1993	34	1994	36	1995	20
1996	26	1997	0	1998	0	1999	22	2000	22
2001	5	2002	5	2003	3	2004	9	2005	6
2006	10	2007	6	2008	8	2009	10	2010	3
2011	8	2012	4						

Average number of permits per year for the last 10 years is 7(7)

Ric Halliwell
13 February 2013

Report to CNCC AGM on 2nd March 2013 – Leck Fell Access Agreement.

During the last twelve months 725 permits have been issued to a total of 56 clubs. The figures for previous years were as follows:

Year	Number of permits	Number of clubs
03/04	197	63
04/05	191	58
05/06	181	48
06/07	187	41
07/08	354	46
08/09	367	51
09/10	363	40
10/11	317	47
11/12	465	48
12/13	725	56

Since the last AGM demand for access has grown significantly. It is estimated that about two thirds or thereabouts of the increase has resulted from regular access for digging purposes and the remainder has been due to requests for sporting trips, both during the week and more especially at weekends. It has been noticeable this year that clubs from further afield have been making more regular requests for permits. It has been quite a bit harder to provide clubs with first choice of dates for their trips. While no club has been turned away without some access, difficulties were encountered where one or two clubs wanted specific dates.

In relation to the remainder of 2013 March is now more or less fully booked at weekends. After the closed season availability is reasonable although during the first two weekends of July there is now only one permit remaining for each of the days, as is the case also for Sat 3rd August. So far for 13/14, 27 member clubs have now been issued with permits for the coming year which is 8 more than for the same time last year going forward.

There have been a couple of complaints about unauthorised access. One in particular involved a private school and resulted in staff being reprimanded/disciplined by the school in question.

Clubs are asked to emphasise to their members that for all caving visits to Leck Fell, for whatever reason, a permit must be obtained. The access agreement issued is clear and cites no exceptions. Transgressions here will only adversely affect the good working relationships that have been built up with the landowner and his agents, in relation to our activities on the fell.

Jim Sloane (CNCC Meets Secretary – Leck Fell)