

CNCC Anchor Coordinator Report To Committee meeting 18th Jan 2025

Version 2 (11th Jan) by IW on behalf of AS

Anchors installed since last meeting

Summary of anchors in the database with an installed date of 26/10/24 to 31/12/24 inclusive

Cave	Number of anchors	Notes
(Get Down) Shep Pot	4	Legacy Pitch. To replace 2012 exploration spits.
AKA Hole	25	New discovery. One further anchor “AYT” recorded as decommissioned.
Simpson Pot	4	Slit Pot. To replace loose/worn anchors.

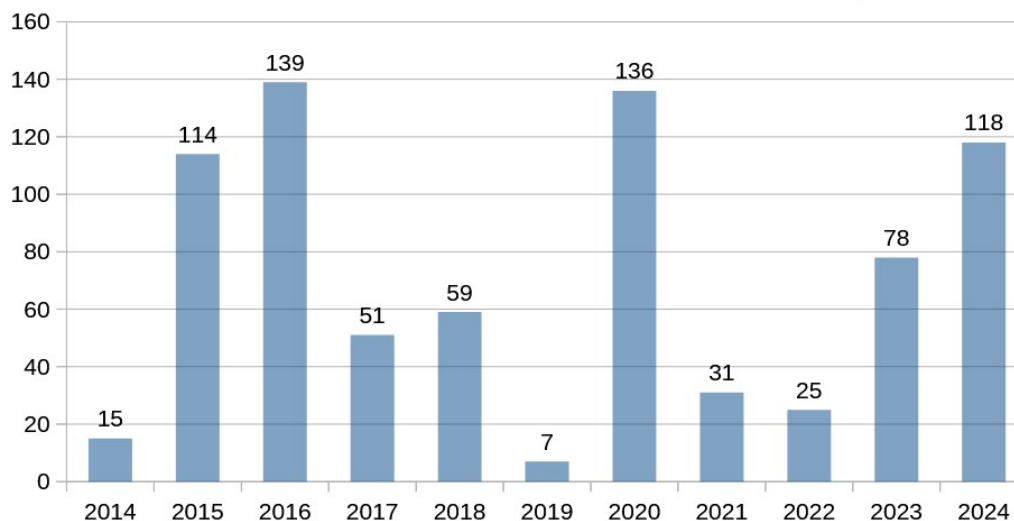
Supply of anchors

How many anchors in store / how many installed last few years / how many years supply

From AS:-

- There are about 550 IC anchors in stock at my house (these are the ones ordered by BCA). I also hold two tubes of resin and drill bits.
- SA has quite a few IC anchors that he was adding a 3rd letter to.
- SA has destroyed all the BP anchors that were made using the wrong type of Stainless Steel. The only ones that I know about that exist are on the Red Rose Cottage (Bull Pot Farm)

There are 773 anchors recorded with an installation date between 2014 and 2024, see chart below:



This is an average of about 70 per year. Therefore 550 anchors represents about an 8 year supply. This assumes all the records are dated correctly, and that no further anchors are given to other regions.

There would seem to be no immediate rush to procure additional anchors, however it is worth keeping in mind CNCC and BCA budgetting cycles, manufacturer lead times, keeping in touch with

suppliers, using funds effectively whilst available and the potential for increased usage (including other areas and Ireland).

Anchor wear

anchors have been removed from Simpson Pot (at Storm Pot and Slit Pot) due to wear. These were inspected by SA, who produced two technical reports; these are published on the CNCC website:

<https://cncc.org.uk/equipment/documents/>

anchors decommissioned

A number of anchors have been removed from service as part of the reanchoring of Simpson Pot. This was done by cutting off flush with an angle grinder.

Anchor Scheme update (?)

The CNCC anchor scheme was most recently updated in October 2019.

<https://cncc.org.uk/equipment/documents/>

It is based on a now-superseded version of the BCA policy (BCA policy was updated in 2021)

<https://british-caving.org.uk/documents/bca-anchor-policy/>

Some of the clauses in the CNCC scheme document do not seem to align with how the scheme currently operates, and place a large amount of responsibility on the Anchor Coordinator that is awkward to implement.

I suggest we review the CNCC scheme to ensure

- it aligns with the BCA anchor policy
- reflects how we operate in practice, and
- suits our aims and goals for the coming 5 years.

(This approach is intended to complement the review of the constitution, and the recent change of wording for the Individual Caver rep requirements.)

Installers

I am occasionally asked how many installers there are, and how to become one (which is detailed on the website at <https://cncc.org.uk/equipment/installers/>), suggesting that there are people who are interested in becoming an anchor installer.

There are 10 installers listed in the anchor database.

5 of the installers logged an installation in 2014 and 2015 (the first years in the database). Three of these installers are not shown as having any installations in the past 5 years.

Another 5 installers have their first installation recorded from 2015 to 2023. On average there has been a new installer every 18 months.

It is noted that the anchor scheme requires a yearly review of the list.

Regional Councils shall maintain a list of persons authorized to place designated anchors on their behalf within their region. Those persons shall be Individual Members of BCA.

The list shall be reviewed annually with a view to deleting from the list persons who have insufficient recent training or experience in designated anchor placement or are no longer Members of BCA.

Defect reports

Summary of anchor user reports received and action taken

There 51 reports logged in the system, these are dated from 2018 onwards. Of these,

- 33 are shown as completed
- 10 in progress
- 8 pending

From 2020 onwards there were 4 to 6 reports logged per year. In 2024 this increased to 14 reports.

The oldest report not completed is from 2021, for Notts Pot. The reason for this is not clear. It could be the action has been taken and not reported as complete.

Some of the uncompleted actions relate to faults with non-CNCC anchors (eg Petzl anchors at Bull Pot of the Witches), requests for caves to be anchored (eg High Hull Pot), or other issues (such as access issues, or moving boulders). It is great that cavers are submitting reports, but it is probably time to have a review of the unsolved issues and have them dealt with and closed out, or reassigned.

All reports are automatically shared with the anchor team, and are reviewed for urgency. Users submitting reports usually receive a quick follow up. This seems to work well. I am unaware of any dissatisfaction with the scheme, but suggestions for improvement are always welcome.

Topo updates

Topos have been checked for numerous caves in the past year, including:

- Bull Pot of the Witches
- Cow Pot
- Lancaster Hole, Fall Pot, Stake Pot
- County Pot, Wretched Rabbit, Pool Sink, Top Sink
- Link Pot, Pippikin Pot
- Gavel Pot, Lost Johns, Notts Pot
- Alum Pot, Long Churns

Some of these have been in response to user queries and others have been undertaken as part of sport trips. Changes may be announced by PR news item but some topos are published without fanfare. Some changes are still in the pipeline and will be published in due course.

Users are encouraged to check the latest topo online. Please report errors or omissions.

Historic Records

A cache of historic anchor installation data has been made available on the CNCC website. This includes documents relating to the selection, testing, and installation of the DMM and other pre-IC anchors. The documents are currently hosted on the CNCC website for safe keeping.

<https://cncc.org.uk/equipment/documents/data-archive/>