

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

British Caving Association

CNCC Anchor Scheme: 19th May 2017

At the Council of Northern Caving Clubs (CNCC) Annual General Meeting on the 11th March 2017 the CNCC membership agreed to create and run an anchor scheme in our region. The aim of this scheme is to encourage and support the controlled installation of resin anchors in caves to improve safety.

This scheme is owned by the CNCC and run on behalf of the CNCC by an anchor coordinator.

No individual may profit from anchor installation under the CNCC scheme.

The anchor coordinator will be considered a co-opted Officer position, and the individual will be appointed annually by the CNCC Committee or membership, and will report to the CNCC Committee.

Roles of the CNCC anchor coordinator:

- Overseeing all aspects of the CNCC anchor scheme.
- Plan/coordinate anchor installation projects and keep appropriate records.
- Plan/coordinate the training of anchor installers and keep appropriate records.
- Ensuring all relevant records are passed onto the BCA E&T at least annually.
- Ensuring compliance with BCA anchor policy.

The wording over the following pages presents the BCA anchor policy document. Throughout this document, responses *(shown indented and in red/italics text)* have been added to detail how the CNCC anchor policy will aim to achieve compliance with that particular section of the BCA anchor policy.

British Caving Association: Equipment and Techniques Committee

Association scheme for the placement of designated anchors ('Anchor Policy')

1. Scope

This scheme shall cover the use of designated anchors for any purpose, including for ladder and line, SRT and other fixed aids. It does not cover, prohibit or endorse the use of any other type of anchors for the same purposes.

2. Selection of designated anchor systems

From time to time, the Equipment & Techniques (E&T) Committee shall make recommendations on the choice of designated anchor system to be placed for various purposes in UK caves and mines.

Regional Councils shall be free to use alternative anchors, but they must take responsibility for gathering the evidence required to demonstrate the safety of any system which they choose.

The results of any tests shall be reported to the E&T Committee.

***The CNCC anchor scheme shall use predominantly the IC anchor as the preferred choice.
This anchor was adopted by the BCA E&T Committee on 15th March 2015.***

3. Funding

BCA will reimburse Regional Councils' expenses necessarily incurred in the placing of designated anchors in their region.

Applications for re-imbursement of expenses must be made via the E&T Committee.

In general, the E&T Committee will fund the direct costs of placing designated anchors, i.e. the purchase of designated anchors, resin, drills and similar equipment, travel, training and other directly related expenses.

From time to time, the E&T Committee may commit funds in support of testing programmes and other activities undertaken by Regional Councils and others on its behalf.

The CNCC anchor coordinator will pass records and receipts for all anchor expenditure to the CNCC Treasurer who will seek to reclaim relevant costs from the BCA E&T.

4. Location and use of designated anchors

Regional Councils shall establish a procedure to consider and approve the choice of locations for the placing of designated anchors within their regions.

The CNCC anchor coordinator will be entrusted by the CNCC Committee to make decisions on anchor placement (based on need, conservation, safety and relevant parameters).

5. Training of installers

Regional Councils shall ensure that all persons placing designated anchors on their behalf are appropriately trained and experienced to ensure that:

- Designated anchors are placed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions;
- The choice of location of the designated anchor is appropriate for the caving techniques it is expected to support;
- The persons placing the designated anchor are able to ensure their own safety while placing the designated anchor;
- Records of the placement are made in accordance with this scheme.

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.

A list of approved installers will be maintained by the CNCC anchor coordinator. Only those individuals who have been trained to install IC anchors by a BCA E&T approved IC anchor trainer will be approved to install IC anchors under the CNCC anchor scheme.

Regional Councils shall take responsibility for the training of persons who will be authorized to place designated anchors on their behalf. The delivery of training and assessment will be undertaken by individuals authorized by the E&T Committee.

All CNCC anchor scheme installers will have been trained by a BCA-approved trainer.

Training shall be undertaken in an organized manner against a written syllabus which shall be supplied to the E&T Committee.

A written syllabus for the training on the installation of IC anchors will be provided to the BCA E&T by the anchor coordinator.

The E&T Committee shall regularly review the information at its disposal and inform Regional Councils of any identified need for retraining or changes in procedure.

6. Record keeping and reporting

Regional Councils shall establish a procedure for recording the details of designated anchor placements, including at least:

- The location of the designated anchor;
- Who placed it;
- When it was placed;
- The type of designated anchor; and
- Batch and/or serial numbers of the designated anchor and resin.

Records shall be kept by the Regional Council and a copy shall be given to the E&T Committee.

These records will be maintained on behalf of the CNCC by the anchor coordinator, who will collect them from all installers. Records for installation of anchors will be passed onto the BCA E&T on an annual basis (at least).

7. Inspection of designated anchors and reporting of defects

Cavers using anchors shall be responsible for checking each anchor prior to use on each and every occasion.

The CNCC website contains pages relating to fixed aids including anchors. Here (and elsewhere) cavers are reminded that they must inspect every anchor prior to use and to never use an unsatisfactory anchor. Guidance on the safe use of anchors is also provided.

Designated anchors placed under this scheme shall not be subjected to regular periodic inspection.

Regional Councils must have in place a reporting mechanism which permits cavers to report unsatisfactory designated anchors. The mechanism must be publicized so that it is widely known about and easy to use.

The CNCC website contains a 'report defective anchor' function which submits a report to the CNCC executive to alert them to possible unsatisfactory designated anchors. All reports will be passed to the anchor coordinator.

Regional Councils shall investigate reports of unsatisfactory designated anchors within a reasonable time period and shall take action to decommission and/or replace any designated anchors which are found to be unsafe.

The CNCC anchor coordinator will evaluate all reports of unsatisfactory designated anchors received. The nature of any action will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Regional Councils shall provide a report on each such investigation to the E&T Committee.

This will be performed by the CNCC anchor coordinator.