

**CNCC COMMITTEE MEETING  
REPORTS & ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**JUNE 2025**

**ELECTED OFFICER REPORTS**

Chair  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Conservation Officer  
Training Officer  
Access Officer

**CO-OPTED OFFICER REPORTS** (optional)

Access Co-ordinators  
    Bowland  
    Excalibur  
    Robinsons & Fairy Holes  
BCA Council Representative  
BCA Conservation & Access Representative  
BCA Training & Equipment Representative  
BCA Youth & Development Representative  
Inclusivity Co-ordinator  
Individual Caver Representative  
Anchor Team Co-ordinator  
Web Administrator  
PR & Communications

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Anchoring Projects *(For approval)*  
- North End Pot  
- Wizards Chasm

New Co-opted officer roles *(For approval)*  
- Assistant Access Officer  
- Archaeology Co-ordinator  
- Projects Officer

Grant Application - Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust *(For information)*

Dartmoor Wild Camping *(For information)*

Anchor issues *(For discussion)*  
- Comments from Ian Walker

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

(Todd Rye)

The wheels of the CNCC have been turning away as usual, thanks to all the wonderful people volunteering their time and effort to keep it all going. A special thanks to Jill for helping me ease into the role, and for her sterling work on some issues arising recently.

Andrew Hinde has put in an application for a grant from the YDMT, which should help aid conservation projects should we be awarded it. Andrew has also expressed an interest in being nominated as a "Projects officer", a role he is incredibly qualified for, and would be a true asset to the organisation in. A big thanks to him.

There have been some conservation issues in Yordas, and also some in Wensleydale, which I'm sure will be covered in more detail in the Conservation Officers report. Conservation work has been completed by the merry men in North End Pot, a big thanks to the team.

The Bradford PC winch meet has been progressing well, I only include this as the issues with the estate were raised at the last meeting.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

(Kath Davis)

Following on from the AGM some amendments were made to the final accounts for 2024 and the new summary was submitted by Pete.

The Exploration Grant for £155.81 was taken out of C&A and put in it's own column, not included in BCA Claim.

Travel expenses to Surveying Training Workshop were included in Training Course fees.

Mileage claims for travel to meetings all included in CNCC accounts but some not allowable in BCA Claim.

The final amount for the BCA Claim could then be determined and was submitted by Pete. The amount claimable was £6572.00, which was paid in to CNCC bank account on May 7.

The usual expenses have been paid out, mostly fees to Training Instructors. Ian Patrick also purchased some Training Kit for £322.30 and some M Rapides and chain for Simpsons Pot for £255.51.

Mileage for Conservation work at Foxholes has been paid. Tim Allen has been paid £441.81 for materials for North End Pot, no travel expenses etc were claimed.

Thank you to Pete for his help in handing the job over to me and still being available to help if necessary. Also, apologies for the lack of smoothness in the transition when Pete was no longer getting Treasurer emails but I wasn't getting them either.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

(Jill Bolton)

After a slow start following the election of new officers at the AGM, I hope everything will soon be running smoothly. Recent issues highlight the need for robust succession planning, particularly ensuring the Manual of Operations is more detailed and represents current practice. This process can be done by CNCC Officers, and will not require committee oversight.

The new Constitution, even though it's reduced from six to three pages, would still benefit from a bit more streamlining, and Phil Parker (CNCC Secretary 1988-92) has offered to assist with this.

In addition to three new elected officers, I'm delighted to report that we have several new volunteers to assist the CNCC with various aspects of our work, and the committee is invited to co-opt them:

**Ian Walker** has been persuaded to formally take on the role of Anchor Team Co-ordinator, after working hard behind the scenes for several months.

**Mike Appleton** has agreed to join the Access team as Assistant Access Officer, and his expertise will be invaluable, complementing the skills of other team members.

**Tony Brown** has offered to take on the new role of Archaeology Co-ordinator, and provided an interesting report on how he sees this developing.

**Andrew Hinde** has suggested we create a new position of Projects Officer (and appoint him to the role). We are particularly pleased (and relieved) to keep Andrew "on board" with his wealth of experience, including eight years as CNCC Chair and five years as Conservation Officer. A Job Description is included with these reports, and can be added to the Manual of Operations

**Pat Halliwell** has been persuaded to act as accounts "scrutineer" for the current financial year. Pat and Ric carried out this role for several years, so it's very helpful that Pat is able to take this on until the next AGM.

A couple of other snippets:

ULSA asked to borrow the CNCC display boards for their 60th Anniversary celebrations in the YDG barn on June 13-15. It's always pleasing to see clubs promoting the CNCC.

Aila Taylor has been working with the Campaign for National Parks on a "zine" titled "Parks in the Dark", focused on highlighting underground spaces across our national parks, and requested permission to include the CNCC logo. Because this needed a very quick response, I immediately agreed (reassured by the CNCC Chair and the BCA Secretary featuring in the zine). So far, I've only seen a draft, and look forward to seeing the final version.

I'm disappointed that I'm not able to join you in Clapham, especially for Todd's first meeting in the chair - but very confident he'll make an excellent job of keeping you all under control!

There's been a bad attack of graffiti at Yordas, names scratched on to the rock on both sides of the entrance and extending round into the cave. This was covered with mud by persons unknown, but has been added to within the last week. Andrew Hinde and Jenny Hack have carried out an assessment visit, and consider the graffiti can be removed with a nylon brush, but it will be a long and painstaking job - a call for volunteers will go out shortly.

The collapse in Shuttleworth has been stabilised by a team led by Russ Brook. The rotten fence post at Rumbling hole has been replaced. Andrew Hinde led a large team of volunteers in clearing the boulder collapse blocking the entrance to Foxholes. We have agreed funding for John Helm to repair the stock proof fencing at Pasture Gill.

A number of projects are in various stages of preparation, including work on the shaft top at Aquamole, and stock proofing and attention to scaffolding at Swan Dike Pot.

If anyone would like to take one of these on, leading the work on the day (I'll do most of the admin for you) please let me know.

A list of equipment available for CNCC members to borrow for conservation projects is on the CNCC website:

<https://cncc.org.uk/about/>

(It's under the "about" heading rather than "conservation" because the list also includes publicity and anchor placement items.)

Those who are planning conservation works are reminded that Sam Allshorn has money donated by Mike Cooper from sales of "Not for the Faint Hearted" which is available for conservation work on caves featured in the book.

The Spring / Summer training workshops are progressing well. Uptake has been good and we only have a few spaces left on the rest of the workshops still to run. The majority of these workshops have been run from the YSS and underground.

**New to Caving events**

The Red Rose kindly ran a successful 'New to Caving' event in April. This was fully booked within a short time of it going onto the website, proving there is good demand for these kind of events.

We put a 'CNCC Trainer Led' 'New to caving' day on in August and as this quickly filled up, we have just added an additional day to help with demand. As always, if any club is willing to run one of these events please contact me.

**Pull Through workshop using Swinsto**

This was a new type of workshop added to the current library. We ran the first one in April and it proved very popular and went really well. We had attendees from as far as Plymouth and Cornwall. We looked at generic pull through skills and more specifically tips and techniques unique to Swinsto. I expect this workshop will become a regular on the programme.

**Surface Geology walk**

Another new addition to the programme is a surface Geology Walk hosted by none other than John Cordingley. This is in August and currently there are a couple of spaces available.

**Photography Workshop**

After a chance meeting with a renowned cave photographer whilst I was on holiday in Scotland, I managed to gently persuade them to run a photography workshop in Autumn - watch this space!

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any aspect of caver training.

As always I would like to express my gratitude to all the CNCC trainers for their continued support and delivery of quality caver training. Thanks also to other CNCC members for their support behind the scenes.

## **ACCESS OFFICER'S REPORT**

(James Alderson)

A brief report as I'm still very much finding my feet in the access officer role!

A number of reports have been received via the website regarding either the need to ask permissions or around parking arrangements for Keldheads Cave, Pasture Gill Cave, Hagg Gill Pot, Nick Pot and Cherry Tree Hole.

In the case of Hagg Gill the requirement was a historic one which no longer applies and a brief conversation with the farmer at Beckermonds indicated a certain amount of mystification as to what cavers who had called in were talking about. These have been suitably amended on the website thanks to Gary to reflect the changes.

I plan to speak to the farmer at Beckermonds to try to remove the requirement to call for permission for Pasture Gill entirely and also at Yockenthwaite for Hagg Gill Pot (The owner at Raisgill no longer requires anyone to call in and ask).

The Bowland agreement I am hoping will be taken up by Mike when hopefully he is co-opted as assistant access officer at the next meeting.

I'm now fully up and running on the email system and hoping to have sat in on a BCA Conservation & Access meeting by the time of the next meeting and will be happy to update the meeting on anything relevant which comes up.

## **ACCESS CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS**

### **Bowland**

(Tony Brown)

Since the last report there has been one permit given to Northern Boggarts for Whitewell Cave, Hell Hole and a surface tour of the Hall Hill area.

A 10 feet pit next to Hell Hole which now takes the water that used to flow down Hell Hole has attracted our attention and we expect a team of Northern Boggarts and RRCPC will do a preliminary investigation prior to seeking permission from the Estate Office for a full scale dig.

A visit to Whitewell Cave confirmed that the LUSS extension is open but it is via a constricted hole which some cavers will have difficulty negotiating. The cave is unstable and care is needed.

### **Excalibur**

(Matt Ewles)

Only one permit issued so far for 2025, and there is ample availability.  
No problems to report.

### **Robinsons & Fairy Holes**

(Dinny Davies)

We have two bookings for Robinson's Pot so far this year (thanks to Morley and the Craven). Plenty of opportunities left for booking Robinson's and Fairy Holes.  
If you're interested, please get in touch.

## **BCA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

(Todd Rye)

Verbal report to committee, on BCA Council meetings and AGM

## **BCA CONSERVATION & ACCESS REP'S REPORT**

(James Alderson)

Verbal report to committee on C&A Working Group

## **BCA TRAINING & EQUIPMENT REP'S REPORT**

(Mark Richards - Equipment Rep)

Nothing to report (which is not the same as "No report received")

## **BCA YOUTH & DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

(Aila Taylor)

At the time of the CNCC AGM I was at Northern CHECC running cave navigation training for students in a complex part of the Easegill system which continues to be a rescue hotspot.

Some of you will already be aware that I am working as a Caving Guide in Banff, Canada over the summer so I may be more distant (although I am getting lots of new ideas to benefit the caving community, and pretty much acting as a caving tourist board by pressuring large numbers of Canadian cavers to visit the Dales!).

However, on my return I would like to prioritise working with CHECC, CRO and RRCPC (the latter of which, I am also on the committee of) to reduce student rescues in the Easegill system. This idea has been floated by other RRCPC members in the past, and could include Easegill navigation training to coincide with the student training weekends that usually happen in autumn.

At Northern CHECC, I was also able to provide support to a struggling student club, helping to create a plan for them to keep going and hopefully keep the club afloat. Unfortunately, their request for funding was rejected by BCA Y&D, although I believe there are more nuanced factors (a lack of initiative on behalf of students when it comes to politely & coherently requesting funding) influencing this.

Streamlining the system of requesting support from Y&D is something that needs improvement, and that I hope we can work on once the BCA Y&D officer re-starts the Y&D working group.

## **INCLUSIVITY CO-ORDINATOR**

(Josh White)

Since my last report I've had very little in the way of queries coming in from our membership. Please do keep reaching out to me with any questions or projects you have going on that I may be able to help with at [inclusivity@cncc.org.uk](mailto:inclusivity@cncc.org.uk)

I have a new installment in my inclusivity series coming in the next instalment of the CNCC Newsletter. Keep your eyes open!

If you need a fix of inclusivity information on a fortnightly basis, my blog The Inaccessible Outdoors aims to chip away at little issues in the outdoors. This can be found at:  
<https://theinaccessibleoutdoors.substack.com/>

## **INDIVIDUAL CAVER REPRESENTATIVE**

(Tim Allen)

I have little to report on individual caver business. However, as part of my role, I have offered to assist on the soon-to-be formed Working Group on Representation and associated constitutional issues. To that end, as the proposer, I have drawn up a discussion document to kick things off, which was included in the June meeting agenda.

Perhaps, also of note by the meeting, myself and the Space Miners (a group of mostly individuals) have started the project to re-open North End Pot. This work was sanctioned by CNCC last year. The shoring work is expected to be completed by the time of the meeting and has been detailed on Ukcaving:

<https://ukcaving.com/board/index.php?threads/new-work-at-north-end-pot.33118/>

However, the route will need new anchors to replace the 40 year old exploration anchors. I am not sure this has been specifically approved. Could the meeting take the opportunity to approve this work?

## **ANCHOR CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT**

(Ian Walker)

The detailed and informative Anchor Co-ordinator's report is uploaded separately on the CNCC website, to allow for updates. It includes anchors installed and decommissioned, reports of defects, and updated topos. Also a suggestion for a workshop to re-validate members of the anchor team.

# WEB ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

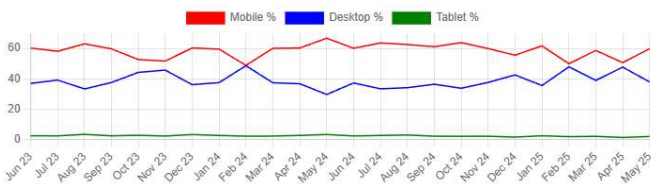
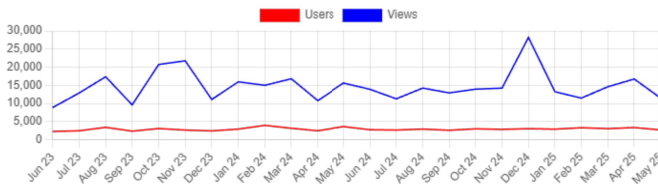
(Gary Douthwaite)

buG Issue resolved	Issue with uploading of new files failing in the admin centre. Cause was found to be the software that is used to count the pages in PDF files and generate a first page thumbnail image. Due to a version change it is no longer compatible. Now using Poppler Utilities instead of ImageMagick.
WRENCH Functionality improved	Updated the social media icons that appear at the bottom of CNCC emails. Replaced Twitter with X and added Threads, Bluesky, Instagram and UK Caving.
WRENCH Functionality improved	Updated the group email system to allow adding of custom groups.
Square-plus New feature	Added the ability to edit the Manual of Operations in the Admin Center and made the document public on the 'about' page.
WRENCH Functionality improved	New anti-SPAM measures installed on the server. This should reduce the SPAM emails on CNCC accounts.
buG Issue resolved	Bug fixed relating to the recent addition of custom email groups. When sending a new group message, the email system showed as if it had not been sent when in fact it had resulting in multiple messages due to re-tries.
WRENCH Functionality improved	Marked a cave as being updated if a new topo file is added/changed. Previously the cave was only marked as updated if the text was changed but not the topo file. On the cave list, it also shows a 'new topo' badge.

## Analytics

### Site visitors

	Jun 24	Jul 24	Aug 24	Sep 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25	Apr 25	May 25
Users	2,763	2,678	2,941	2,615	3,009	2,869	3,049	2,921	3,315	3,067	3,362	2,712
Views	13,916	11,285	14,244	12,916	13,940	14,219	28,205	13,234	11,481	14,605	16,742	11,465



## Social Media

Meta statistics for the last 90 days. Percentage is comparison to previous 90 days.

**Facebook** – 2055 followers  
 10799 content views (-22%)  
 2847 post reach (-21%)  
 851 page visits (-22%)  
 11 new followers (-48%)

**Instagram** – 642 followers  
 4379 content views (+59%)  
 822 post reach (+33%)  
 145 profile visits (+11%)  
 33 new followers (-6%)

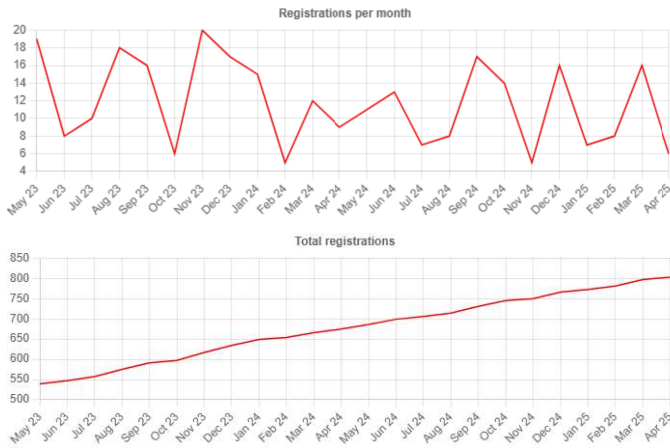
### Social media followers comparison:

	CNCC	DCA	CSCC	CCC	DCUC	BCA	UK Caving
Facebook	2055	850	725	--	--	2900	4300
Instagram	642	--	--	--	--	--	1040
Bluesky	34	--	--	--	--	--	--
X	543*	562*	--	--	--	243*	-- (account removed)
Threads	72	--	--	--	--	--	--
YouTube	25	--	--	--	--	--	--

\*Followers have gone down since the last report.

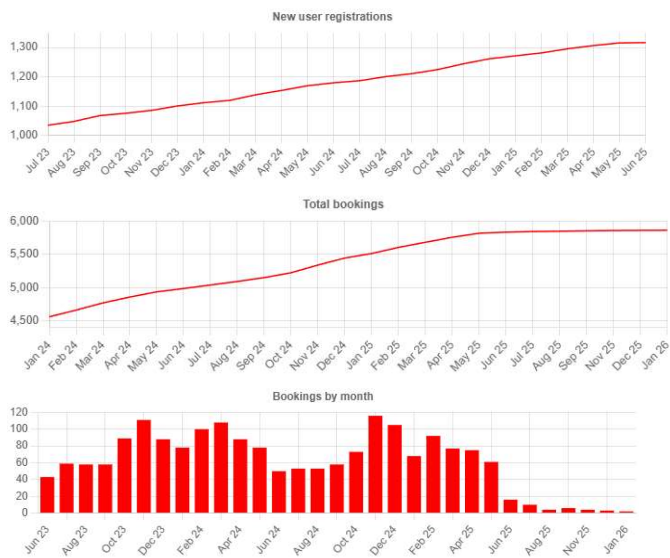
## Mailing List

- The mailing list contains **805** people (**11** have requested to be unsubscribed).



## Online Booking System

- 1317 registered users
- 6676 individual bookings have been made. This number includes 5864 approved bookings and 811 cancelled bookings.
- 295 (22%) made a positive statement that they are **NOT** BCA members.
- 901 (68%) said they are members of a club.
- Of the users who specified gender there are 236 female (18.5%), 942 male (73.9%) and 3 other (0.2%).
- The average age is 50 with the youngest 17 and oldest 84.



## Media Downloads

	Topos	Descriptions	Publications
May 2025	2688	2410	397
Apr 2025	2605	2495	556
Mar 2025	2878	3121	373
12 Month Average	2983	3029	755



## Top media downloads (last 3 months)

Topos	Descriptions	Publications
244 - Alum Pot	404 - Ease Gill Caverns	153 - Shuttleworth Pot (Witches Cave) Conservation Guide
243 - Lost Johns' Cave	396 - The Leck Fell Master Cave System	131 - Great Douk Cave - A Guide to Hidden Gems
212 - Gaping Gill and Dihedral	375 - Gaping Gill	110 - CNCC Newsletter Issue 16 - December 2024
193 - Sell Gill Holes	329 - Caves of Scotland	74 - CNCC banner from Hidden Earth 2024
182 - Lancaster Hole	324 - Alum Pot and Long Churn Caves	73 - New to Caving Leaflet

Report data snapshots taken 03 June 2025.

Since the last Committee meeting in January, things have plodded along nicely with PR/Comms including the usual array of stories covering conservation, training, anchoring, access, and topos/descriptions. As always, stories are shared via our website, our roughly monthly mailshot (to which we now have over 800 subscribers), UK Caving, Descent, Facebook, and our other social media accounts as appropriate (Threads, X, Instagram, Youtube).

The short video made by Ian and his team of the anchor remedial work at Rumbling Hole represents a great new way for us to interact with cavers, and I look forward to more video content in the coming years.

I will soon be publishing the summer newsletter, which has plenty of good content. The December newsletter has received about 450 unique downloads and of course will have been available for paper-viewing at all caving huts who choose to put a copy out for visitors. This 'old fashioned' media still has a part to play in our engagement with cavers by ensuring a physical presence at key caving locations, as well as providing a nice compilation and formal record of all our achievements.

A reminder to all cavers to please come along and support Hidden Earth this year (September 26-28 in Llangollen). It's an absolutely cracking venue, I understand that about a dozen talks have already been submitted several months early, and CNCC will be there.

I submitted the CNCC's response to the YDNP consultation. We were the only caving organisation or club to do so. I also have to admit my disappointment in the number of individuals who participated. Despite using multiple media to appeal to people to participate and almost spoon-feeding some suggested responses, it looks like only a dozen or so individuals could be bothered. On a positive note, this is still a good proportion of the total, meaning caving was well represented. Still, I had really hoped for more.

There are opportunities for anyone wanting to get involved in supporting CNCC's PR/Comms 'machine' to help promote caving. In particular there are opportunities to partner with other organisations such as the YDNP to get caving featured on their website and in their media. These 'bigger' jobs are more than I can take on and would benefit from a dedicated volunteer if we are to fully take advantage of all the opportunities open to us to promote caving.

Other than PR stuff, I continue to manage our cave descriptions, topos, warnings, and support other Officers whenever asked.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **ANCHORING PROJECT - NORTH END POT**

*(For approval)*

As mentioned by Tim Allen in his IC Rep's Report, a group have been working to re-open North End Pot.

However, the two 20m pitches need new anchors to replace the 40-year-old exploration anchors, which are mostly home-made plates and now very rusty. There are a few other through bolts and drop-ins but none are in good condition. It requires a complete re-bolt of around 10-12 resin anchors.

### **ANCHORING PROJECT – WIZARDS CHASM**

*(For approval)*

The hangers in Wizards Chasm (Attermire) are in a poor condition, and need replacing with around ten new anchors. Graham Coates and Kieran Hodgson (members of the CNCC Anchor Team) along with Gaz Wood (YSS) have volunteered to carry out this work, once it receives approval. They estimate it's just one day's work.

### **NEW CO-OPTED OFFICER ROLES**

*(For approval)*

#### **ASSISTANT ACCESS OFFICER**

As mentioned in the Secretary's Report, Mike Appleton has kindly agreed to join the Access Team. He brings a range of very useful knowledge and experience, which complements other skills within the wider team. The Committee is invited to create a new position of Assistant Access Officer, and to appoint Mike to this role.

#### **ARCHAEOLOGY CO-ORDINATOR**

Tony Brown has agreed to be co-opted onto CNCC as Archaeology Coordinator. The role does not imply that Tony has any special qualifications and he will rely on input from those who have, to feed him information on discoveries and ongoing work.

Rick Peterson of UCLAN will shortly be furnishing Tony with an update on the finds at Hening Wood Bone Cave with more to follow as UCLAN continues their work.

There is currently ongoing excavation at Fume Pot above Clapham Bottoms which will feature in the newsletter when everything of archaeological interest has been extracted.

Tony asks that you keep him informed of anything else of note for the CNCC newsletter. He will also be involved in coordinating and promoting cave archaeology events.

*[From BCRA Newsletter: The Cave Archaeology Group has been moribund for several years but Rick Peterson has now volunteered to lead efforts to reinvigorate the group.]*

## PROJECTS OFFICER

The Committee is invited to create a new position of Projects Officer, and to appoint Andrew Hinde to this role.

### PROJECTS OFFICER

(Co-opted role)

#### Job Description

To assist the Conservation Officer with site-based conservation works  
Prepare, cost and deliver conservation projects on the ground with the approval of the Conservation Officer  
Supervise cave conservation volunteers whilst on site  
Prepare risk assessments for all projects with sign off by the Conservation Officer  
Encourage cavers to join the CNCC Conservation Volunteers  
Develop a group of experienced and trained conservation task team leaders  
Manage any external funding for cave conservation works and report to Conservation Officer prior to committee meetings  
Ensure all volunteers and task leaders are suitably trained in the use of vehicles and equipment provided  
Ensure first aid qualified volunteers are present on all working parties

#### Requirements

Good organisational and communication skills  
Familiarity with the intricacies of cave and countryside conservation  
A passion for conservation, so that you find the role rewarding  
Attendance to meetings is desirable, but not mandatory  
Regular checking and responding to emails

The Projects Officer role requires 1-3 hours/week, depending on the proactivity of the volunteer.

All our Officers are encouraged to work to help CNCC achieve our Mission Statement and to proactively bring new ideas for how we could be better supporting northern cavers and caving.

## **GRANT APPLICATION - YORKSHIRE DALES MILLENNIUM TRUST**

*(For information)*

In his Chair's report to the January committee, Andrew Hinde announced that he was in discussions with Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, with a view to applying for a Community Grant to fund conservation and access work, in order to protect and enhance the underground landscape,

In his new role as Projects Officer (if co-opted), Andrew has now submitted the application, with the approval of the CNCC elected officers.

The project will deliver sixty volunteer days of cave conservation activity across six to ten sites throughout the National Park. This will include fencing, stile repairs, tree planting and removal of farm waste from shafts.

Provisional cave sites are:

- Yordas Cave in Kingsdale
- Aquamole Pot in West Kingsdale
- Sweetwater Hole in Chaple le Dale
- Pasturegill Pot in Langstrothdale
- Fume Pot in Clapdale

The total grant applied for is £4183, which includes £2760 for fencing and other construction materials. The CNCC is able to contribute £1500 of match funding to cover volunteer travel expenses. This is the budget already agreed with the BCA, and is equivalent to travel of £25 per day.

Currently, there is a regular group of about twenty-five experienced and qualified conservation volunteers, and it is hoped to expand this number during the project.

## **DARTMOOR WILD CAMPING**

*(For discussion)*

The long-running battle about the legal right to wild camp on Dartmoor has now been upheld by the Supreme Court in a decision that may well reignite the debate over public access to land in England. Judges rejected an appeal by landowners Alexander and Diana Darwall who claimed people should not be able to camp without specific permission from landowners.

In England there is no general right to wild camp on most private land but Dartmoor National Park in Devon is a rare exception. The judgement centred on the interpretation of the 1985 Dartmoor Commons Act that states "the public shall have a right of access to the commons on foot and horseback for the purpose of open-air recreation". Judges stated that open-air recreation includes wild camping. Although this case relates specifically to Dartmoor, the clarification of open-air recreation as including wild camping may have implications for underground recreation (aka caving).

Tim Allen (as IC Rep) would like the committee's support to discuss this with Sir Julian Smith, MP for Skipton & Ripon, and the Local Access Forum.

### IW's comments on IC anchors and insurance

**From Item 5.8 Training & Equipment Rep's Report**

*MR added that for IC anchors to be covered by BCA insurance, their policy must still align with the BCA Anchor Policy.*

Is this the current position as supported by the BCA Insurance Manager? It is my understanding that the BCA liability insurance covers any BCA member installer and any anchor, whether or not they are approved installers, or designated anchors, or compliant with a scheme. This was confirmed by Nick Williams to the CNCC in a letter when the IC anchor was being brought into use.

If this refers to insuring the CNCC as a group for its decisions and actions on the scheme: this was raised at the 2017 AGM as a pre-requisite for running an anchor scheme. If so, I would urge the Council to consider not just whether the CNCC policy aligns with the BCA policy, but also whether the Council is compliant with those policies.

### IW's comments on Anchor placement

**From Item 5.13 Anchor Coordinator report**

*ME added that IW had also done a lot of work on updating various topos. JH asked whether, in future, anchor placements could take account of shorter cavers. JMB added that Aila had forwarded the same request from the Speleo Sisters group.*

Shorter cavers and bolting: Historically, bolts were placed high (possibly unnecessarily so). I regularly hear about the issue of difficulty reaching CNCC anchors from female (often young adult/student) cavers. It is noted that the average female height is 5ft 4in (so about 25% of the population might be expected to be less than 5ft 4in). Bolting for - say - a user height of 5ft 2in could be a reasonable aim. Some of our most prolific bolters are approaching or exceeding 6ft. The difference in arm-extended reach is even greater (this is something that I have investigated informally in the past).

I recognise that caves come in different shapes and sizes, and rock quality varies, and that this sometimes dictates or limits where bolts can or are best located. However, it is my understanding that many - perhaps a majority of - installations could be safely and conveniently be made at a slightly lower height, so that the man-made aspects of caving are not made needlessly inaccessible to a sizeable proportion of the active population.

Related to this issue, I am occasionally asked whether there are any female bolters. It would be notable if a community with so many active female cavers has no female bolters.

If I were to become Anchor Coordinator, I would be glad to accept suggestions on improving this aspect of our work.

### IW's comments on Anchor Policy

**From Item 5.13 Anchor Coordinator report**

*The suggestion about updating the CNCC Anchor Policy was supported, and ME thought that IW may be prepared to take a lead on this. MR agreed that any update should be overseen by the Anchor Team Co-ordinator, and was not the responsibility of the CNCC Equipment Rep.*

*MR pointed out that policy should not dictate what installers did underground, but conversely the policy should reflect good practice.*

Updating Anchor Policy: Yes I would be willing to lead a review. I would welcome input from ME and MR, and others.