

COUNCIL FOR THE NORTHERN CAVING COMMUNITY

Reports for Committee Meeting 13th June 2026, Clapham Village Hall, 9:30am

Chair – Todd Rye

***** VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR THIS ROLE FOR MARCH 2027 AGM *****

It has been a relatively quiet few months in this role, with a little behind the scenes work on the representation review, a big thanks to Matt with help looking at the potential constitutional changes.

Since the last meeting I have attended two BCA council meetings, where business to keep caving moving forward is always chugging along. The Forest of Dean is now its own regional council.

The BPC have held a successful winch meet, with some filming occurring for an upcoming documentary about the free climb out of the main shaft, which I helped out with. While up there it was noted that Small Mammal needs a new cover, as the wooden boards are falling apart. I believe this has been raised with our Projects Officer.

I have also had some chats with The Leck Fell Chums regarding a farmer on Leck Fell raising concerns about stock falling down caves, which I believe has also been passed onto our Projects Officer as a potential outreach project, to keep cavers in the farmer's good books.

Secretary – Matt Ewles

***** VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR THIS ROLE FOR MARCH 2027 AGM *****

Since the last meeting there has been one online poll of Committee to approve anchors for the additionally discovered pitches in Scanty Lardos Pot. I requested eight votes in favour to ensure a majority. Thank you (in order of reply) to YCC, EPC, IC-rep, RRCPC, KCC, GSG, NB, NPC, YUCPC, YSS, CPC and WRPC who all voted in favour between 1st and 9th May. No reply was received from BPC or ULSA. I'd like to express my gratitude to the Committee for accommodating these out-of-meeting requests every now and again.

I attended the first Anchor Installer re-verification meeting organised by Ian Walker, which was an extremely useful day. This saw Gary Douthwaite, Ian Patrick and Toby Buxton re-validated as CNCC anchor installers, but also lots of great discussions about how the anchor scheme can be made to work better in future. I am sure Ian will be providing more details in his report. As usual, my only useful contribution to proceedings was taking minutes, and they can be found in the anchor documents section of our website for anyone interested.

I have been engaging with Katie Eavis regarding ongoing discussions BCA are having with their insurers, regarding CNCC's liability cover for running workshops (see Agenda Item #6). As of 4th June I have received verbal reassurance that CNCC will in fact remain covered for our training activities, but we are waiting on written confirmation.

I have provided some assistance to the ongoing representation review by trying to bring the discussions from the AGM into some draft constitutional changes. The main take-home I got from the AGM was broad support for most of the measures suggested, except there was a fair bit of discontent about giving CNCC's Officers a vote on Committee. This has been removed, although I believe there may be some discussion on this in the meeting (Agenda item #5). I am happy to provide support to get something ready to present to the October meeting.

The Secretary role is much less laborious now than my first tenure, thanks to my fellow Officers and volunteers, and the fact that many of our functions and processes are running fairly smoothly. The CNCC has a really strong team.

As I have already stated, I will not be re-standing as Secretary next year, and I will not be offering to 'stand in' on a temporary basis if nobody comes forward. A new volunteer is needed, and I am happy to work with them.

Treasurer – Jill Bolton

ACCOUNTS FOR Q1

(January - March 2026)

	£	£	£
TRAINING			
Student fees - gross	4 000.00		
Less: Paypal commission	<u>(133.15)</u>		
		3 866.85	
Less: Trainers fees	3 470.00		
Venue hire	482.50		
Kit hire	48.00		
First Aid course costs	<u>229.55</u>		
		<u>(4 230.05)</u>	
			363.20
 CONSERVATION & ACCESS			
Keldshead (Tarmac mileage)		30.60	
Yordas Wall Mileage		118.80	
Ireby Fell Materials	845.66		
YDMT grant	<u>(845.66)</u>		
Mileage	<u>71.10</u>		
		71.10	
Yordas Fence Materials	399.50		
Mileage	<u>332.10</u>		
		<u>731.60</u>	
			952.10
 ADMINISTRATION			240.20
 MISCELLANEOUS			
Kit store at YSS	115.00		
Trailer lock	96.00		
Resin for anchors	105.30		
Moderation Day mileage	30.00		
Bank interest	<u>(33.85)</u>		
			<u>312.45</u>
 TOTAL DEFICIT FOR Q1			<u>£ 1 867.95</u>

It's taken quite a bit of effort to get properly up-to-speed with my new role as CNCC Treasurer, but I'm nearly there (I hope). Updating the details on the Barclays accounts and Paypal is an ongoing process. Mike Appleton has kindly agreed to be an authorised signatory (along with the current Secretary and Treasurer).

Rather than reporting on bank receipts and payments, I intend to present Quarterly Accounts, which reflect the activity taking place in each period. Previous reports have been distorted by, for example people paying for spring workshops in December. Also trainers being paid late, after the year-end. Hopefully this will now give a clearer picture of CNCC's activities.

This Quarterly Account for the period January to March 2026 shows an overall deficit of £1868. Whilst it's over a third of this year's agreed budget of £5100, that is not really a concern, since half of this is a result of very worthwhile conservation work. If the new grant application to the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust is successful, this will cover much of the costs of future conservation projects (and if not, we could apply to the C&A Working Group for more funding).

Subsequent payments (in April and May) have been fairly routine, with the exception of £1247 to replace the stolen SRT kit (which will be refunded by the BCA in due course).

In the interests of openness and transparency, I must mention an unusual payment. Last summer, one of the workshop providers requested that their fee be paid directly to a church restoration fund. Having established that this was for genuine reasons (definitely not tax avoidance), and after consulting with fellow officers, I was able to finally authorise this payment.

The bank balances at 25 May are:

Current account	£777
Deposit account	£13406

During 2025, the minimum balance in the Deposit account was £9361 on 26 March, shortly before the BCA grant for 2024 was received. That leaves a substantial amount available for any non-BCA projects or expenses. Having said that, it's quite difficult to think of any worthwhile projects which could not be reimbursed by the BCA. Serious suggestions are very welcome!

In May, I took part in the online meeting of the BCA Finance Working Group, which approved the 2025 grants to the five Regional Committees (including £4991 for CNCC). The agenda included discussion on the document "BCA Funding of Regional Councils 2024", which needs updating.

Finally, I'd like to remind volunteers that they are entitled to claim mileage for travel **exclusively** on CNCC business. This applies to the Anchor Team, as well as Officers (elected or co-opted) and Conservation volunteers. We appreciate you devoting your time to the CNCC, without ending up out-of-pocket as well.

Conservation Officer – Kay Easton

See Project Coordinator's report

Access Officer – Mike Appleton

Firstly, I'd like to express my thanks to you all for allowing me to step up into the Access Officer role for 2026/27 at the recent AGM.

I am currently working on a variety of issues as presented below.

Whitewell

Tony Brown and I had a rather pleasant Teams call with a representative of the Duchy of Lancaster about the current agreement to access caves on their land. We jointly agreed to continue the current access agreement – cavers should contact Tony for a permit – and the representative of the Duchy will draw up an agreement. We also sent lots of details about the caves on Duchy land and offered to take the representative out caving with us.

I have no doubt Tony will provide more information in his report, and I thank him for his work.

Skirwith Cave

At the last meeting, I said that the new access agreement at Skirwith – emailing access@cncc.org.uk – was working well, with no reported issues from the landowner. We have had three visit requests to date, 12 cavers in total. All good things come to an end; however, I did receive an email from the landowner that stated:

"Hi Mike. Well that 2 more sets of trespassers thinking they can go down the cave, One 80 year old man! One adult and several children in shorts and tee shirts been stopped today. We are having more problems since you took over."

I did reply, noting that cavers would adhere to the access agreement, and this would likely be a member of the public, and I'm yet to receive a reply. I also asked for evidence of 'more problems' but have not yet received a reply.

Wizard's Chasm

I received a message saying a caver to Wizards' Chasm couldn't enter the cave because 'a large quantity of rancid sheep wool and fleeces had been dumped on the entrance'. The contact said 'The timing (just over a month since a topo was published for the cave) seems suspicious; perhaps the farmer saw more groups going down the cave?'

Thanks to Alan Speight, I have details of the farmer who farms the land there, and I will in contact with him once I have been up to the cave to check the current situation.

Hartley Quarry Cave Access

Sadly, access to this cave is now closed for the foreseeable future, as the quarry where it is located is now fully operational. I have had a note from the directors of the site, and 'due to health and safety rules the hole will be permanently blocked off, and there will be no access onto the site.

We hope the cave will remain undamaged during the workings.

Fairy Holes

The access agreement for Fairy Holes has now expired. Thanks to Dinny Davies (access officer for the cave) and Andrew Hinde, it was agreed that Adele would contact Mark Tellwright of Weardale Quarry Ltd to talk about an MOU. I will be in contact with Adele in due course.

Training Officer – Ian Patrick

Spring / Summer Training Programme:

Workshops are running smoothly with positive feedback being received

Replacement SRT kits:

The stolen SRT kits have now been replaced, Thanks to all who offered support and help in this matter. The total cost was £1247.51

Funding from BCA:

I have recently been made aware that the BCA financial working group has indicated that they would like the CNCC training to increase costs to ensure they only need to provide minimal financial support.

Our current "model" works on a "dual subsidy", whereby financial support is provided both by the BCA and individual trainers who work for below market rates. This model allows us to provide professional training at a very reasonable cost to participants.

I am currently working on gaining more information to enable me to decide what options are open to me. I will report back when I have this information.

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.

Individual Caver Rep – Tim Allen

I have continued to engage in the representation review with ideas and comment. I try to keep an eye across the caving media for anything of relevance to CNCC. This year has already seen some significant new discoveries in the Dales and I think we are going to need to order some more stainless steel Pig Tail Risers!

Anchor Coordinator – Ian Walker

There is a lot going on in the world of anchors at the moment, and so this report is quite lengthy. My intention is to bring items to the Committee's attention so that they may be resolved. When we reach business-as-usual I will be pleased to present shorter reports.

Installers

Installers workshop and attracting new installers

This was held on 2nd May and attended by 3 installers (including one assessor). Everyone engaged positively and we had lots of constructive ideas. Two installers were formally revalidated, and we agreed to hold another event in September or October for the remaining installers.

It was accepted that we need more team members, and we plan to advertise for new volunteers from the community. An up-to-date prospectus, technical manual and assessment syllabus is in production and nearly complete. We have two trainees already active on trips with Sam. It was suggested to use the autumn refresher/assessment day as a yearly focus for new attendees. A PR release will be needed to advertise for volunteers to come forward from the community.

We created a new email group for the installer team, including trainees, to simplify coordination. We agreed that the CNCC should hold a stock of the specialist tools and consumables, rather than individual volunteers finding and buying their own.

Regarding maintenance replacements, it was agreed that with the current resin it is difficult to achieve an aesthetically-pleasing repair, and this requires improvement. Two additional suggestions for improving our methods of maintenance replacements were received, with volunteers to investigate. This is a great addition to the investigations Sam has been conducting in recent years.

We only have one active assessor, which we agreed was insufficient. It was agreed that any installer can be a trainer. This will share the training among all the installers, and give trainees a wider experience base.

→ Committee is requested to approve Ian Patrick as Assessor

Anchors and resin

Supply of anchors

I now hold the BCA's stock of IC anchors, of which there are 52 remaining. I have been in communication with Johnny Latimer (Lima Engineering), and am expecting a quote back soon. The lead time was reported to be around 4 weeks. The BCA agreed to pay directly for the order.

Resin

There is a need for clarity regarding the list of approved resins. Fischer FIS EM Plus was approved by Committee in Jan 2019 at Simon Wilson's request as designer of the anchor system, to replace the previous resin (Fischer FIS V) which was determined to be causing loose anchors due to shrinkage. FIS V was not formally disapproved at the time as there were ongoing projects using it.

→ Committee is requested to disapprove the old resin, Fischer FIS V, and confirm that Fischer FIS EM Plus is the only approved resin.

Maintenance

Loose anchors

I noted 10 defective anchors on trip along Kingsdale Master Cave CRO Traverse. An installer inspection at Walrus Pitch, Top Sink, revealed that 4 out of 6 anchors were loose. These are probably all early/mid 90s anchors, which further supports my special report to the AGM.

The AGM accepted my report on loose anchors and confirmed an expectation that the CNCC will actively plan for dealing with increasing numbers of loose anchors.

There may be approximately 600 anchors exceeding 30 years old and in the group of anchors becoming loose. Carefully inspecting, removing and replacing these anchors may take up to one hour each (say), and cost £1000s. The anchor scheme was created at a time when no caves had P-hangers, and the emphasis was therefore on going round existing caves installing new anchors. The scheme has now been running for 30 to 40 years, and the context has changed.

I suggest a positive change would be for the CNCC to revise its image of itself
from
“we install new anchors and occasionally do a bit of maintenance”
to
“we *actively* maintain the regions’ anchor installations, and also install new ones”.

New and outstanding defect reports

Summary of anchor user reports received 17th Jan to 27th May inclusive

- 18 new reports, of which 6 are duplicates or not for CNCC anchors
- 12 new reports for CNCC anchors, directly mentioning 26 anchors
- 22 outstanding reports (up from 21). 5 in progress **and 17 pending***

* “Pending” means there is no installer on the case. Of the 16 new reports received since the last meeting, 13 have no volunteer to inspect. The scheme relies on the community making reports, and the CNCC requires itself to act upon those reports within a timely fashion.

As an example, anchor 63 in Rowten Pot was reported in February. It has 8mm of lateral movement and also moves in and out axially. It is a rebelay anchor. No installer is assigned to visit it.

→ Committee is invited to confirm:
(1) that having so many anchors awaiting inspection is unacceptable to the community
(2) precisely what additional resources, guidance and direction Committee will provide.

Anchors decommissioned

Anchors removed includes the following;

- Lost Johns; DMMs replaced in Lost Johns
- Top Sink; 4 loose DMMs removed, two worn close to limit (three replaced, not in table)
- County Pot; 2 non-CNCC Raumer glue-ins (suspect glass vial resin not mixed properly)
- Numerous spits removed and placements re-used in Jean Pot, Pay Sank, Sylvester Pot

Anchor wear

Two of the loose DMM Eco anchors removed from Top Sink Walrus Pitch were worn in the eye, near to the 10% diameter loss limit recommended by DMM for replacement (7.2mm). This is further evidence that caver pre-use inspection and reporting is not a perfect mechanism for managing worn anchors.

UKCaving users reported 23 trips involving pull-throughs on CNCC anchors:

<https://ukcaving.com/board/index.php?threads/list-of-pull-through-descents-on-cncc-anchors.34337>

Stu Weston of the YSS has created a prototype pass/fail gauge with 7.2mm jaws for easy checking of 8mm-bar DMM anchors (these are the oldest and most likely to be worn). Once tested, the gauge can be sent out with volunteers to check anchors in those 23 caves.

PECO anchors still to be removed (since 2011!)

Ref: <https://cncc.org.uk/equipment/documents/data-archive/files/DistributionofPrototypePECOAnchors.pdf>

- Disappointment Pot (5) – recently confirmed that 1 PECO at Pitch 3 and 4 at Pitch 5.
- Rowten Pot (1) – one on surface approach to Eyehole.
- Roaring Hole (zero) – entrance anchors inspected and confirmed to be DMMs.

Recent installations and new projects

Anchors installed

Summary of anchors in the database with an installed date of January to March inclusive

Cave	Anchors (total 52)	Notes
County Pot	3	New installation (Mancunian Way)
Excalibur Pot	7	New installation
Jean Pot	12	New installation
Lost Johns' Cave	7	Maintenance, and one new anchor on Monastery
Pay Sank	12	New installation
Strangle Pot	6	New installation
Sylvester Pot	4	New installation
Yordas Cave	1	Maintenance

Progress of approved projects

I have begun to track the progress of the projects that the Committee has approved in recent years. There are a large number outstanding (24) – see table below:

CNCC anchor projects

(Maintenance replacements are tracked via anchor reports page for time being)
Revised by Ian Walker on 2/6/26

Cave	Route/pitch	Volunteer	Date approved	NOTES	Physical anchors completed	Anchor records submitted	Topo received
Aardvark Country		SA		Done	Done	Done	Done
Lost Johns' Cave	Monastery Route	GD	January2026		Done	Done	Done
High Hull Pot		JP	October2024		Done	Done	Done
Grand Cascade		SA		Done	Done	Done	Done
Deaths Dead Hole	Bottom pitches to the Lost Johns streamway				Done	Done	Done
North End Pot	original EPC route, recently stabilised	SA	Jun2025	No NorthbyNorthEnd Pot	Done	Done	Done
Excalibur Pot	Entrance pitch and climb to streamway	GD	October2025		Done	Done	Done
Wizard's Chasm	Two pitches currently from very poor non-CNCC anchors.	GC	June2025		Done	Done	Done
County Pot	Numerous handlines including Brown and Smelly Chamber, Cadbury Traverse, Clough Passage, Mancunian Way	SA	January2025	Cadbury anchors not needed	Done	Done	Manc Way recd not online
Jingling Pot	Final pitch	SA		Refers to dig climb. Inspected by SA and IW and agreed no resin anchors needed.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Scanty Lardos		SA			Done	Done	Online but correction needed
Jean Pot		SA	March2024		Done	Done	Recd not online
Sylvester Pot	First pitch and climb	SA			Done	Done	Recd not online
Link Pot	Traverse to reach Tiger's Inlet	SA			Done.	Done	Recd not online
Pay Sank		SA			Done	Online but dates suspect	Recd not online
Bull Pot of the Witches	Replacing non-CNCC anchors at the top of Chimney Route	SA/GC			Done	Done	
Gaping Gill (Main Hang)	Far Country ladder replacement	SA			Done (anchors installed)		
AKA Hole	Escalator Rift around Jupiter Cavern (numerous short pitches and traverses) - Cripple Creek pitches	SA	Jan2025		Done	Esc rift done.	
Simpson Pot			29/10/22		Done		
(Get Down) Shep Pot	First pitch anchored 2024 - Remaining sections to do						
Car Pot	Climb into Craven Passage	SA					
Flood Entrance (Wades)	Lost River Series (South East Pot)						
Marble Pot	To be confirmed after digging work complete.						
MARBLE STEPS POT	at the Lost Inlet and Steps Pot area. This is a new	Phil Parker (WRF)	March2025				
Mayday Hole	Lungs Pitch (an alternative route to the currently anchored route)		Jan2025				
OBJ Hole		SA					
Old Ing	Waterfall anchors on route to Dismal Hill	GC					
Providence Pot	Replacing non-CNCC anchors only where absolutely required (no addition of non-essential anchors)	SA					
Stream Passage Pot	Final pitch (Mud Pitch)						
Thunder Pot	current dig likely to yield 70m pitch to Brown Hill Streamway		June2025				
Turbary Pot		GC?					
Echo Pot		SA					
P5		SA					
Strangle		SA					
Strans Gill		SA					
Swan Dike		SA					
Scanty Lardos	New pitches	SA	Email 7/5/25				
Craftsman's Pot		SA		Remove following collapse?			
Greenwood Pot				(remove pending access query?)			

→ SA suggests that:

- (1) Craftsman's Pot be removed, as a major collapse blocks much of the cave
- (2) Greenwood Pot be removed pending access query.

Anchor requests received

→ Hensler's High Aven – addition of an extra deviation – Josh from BPC, via SA.

Other business

Topo updates

- Alum Pot and Lost Johns (two of our most downloaded topos) have had significant updates.
- A topo was released for Pippikin Pot as this installation previously did not have one.

BCA Anchors Working Group

- BCA guidance on anchor recognition and pre-use inspection is soon to be released.
- I aim to attend DCA's anchor inspection/replacement seminar in June.

Archaeology Coordinator – Tony Brown

Stump Cross Wolverine Bone: The Context (from material provided by Tom Thompson of CPC).

The wolverine jaw bone discovered in January this year came about as part of a massive operation to remove infill from earlier digging and create a new circular tourist route.

Extension and access of the caverns over 150 years has resulted in the placement of previously undisturbed sediments and flowstone in a section of the cave close to, but deep below the current entrance to the system. These deposits, amounting to over 200 tonnes of material, now out of their original context, are blocking public access to a part of the system which, when opened up, will add to the varied educational and inspirational experience for visitors.

Because of the importance of the sediments and the potential for further archaeological discoveries, Stump Cross Caverns are trialling a new activity called "The Ice Age Dig". It has two iterations.

Primarily, all the important sediments recovered from the New C Chamber Show Cave Route can soon be sieved, washed, and exposed by children and families who engage in the project, for a moderate fee. Most of the infrastructure has been acquired and trialled. It is essentially a community palaeontology/ archaeology project, inspected and approved by Lancashire University.

The second iteration of the Ice Age Dig is an invitation for students, from any relevant science, to become involved. We are curating large amounts of speleothem previously broken in the pursuit of visitor access.

This is an unprecedented opportunity to unearth new knowledge on the extraordinary changes to the flora, fauna and the physical landscape of the north of England going back beyond the Holocene to the Eemian interglacial. The leads for this initiative are a Yorkshire based fossil specialist and a West Midlands based freelance Palaeontology expert.

This project is being conducted by the Angels of the North Cave Diggers, with support from members of the Black Sheep Diggers of Nidderdale, also CPC, CNCC, and of course the staff and managers at Stump Cross Caverns.

Assistant Access Officer – James Alderson

No report provided – see Access Officer report

Assistant Training Officer – Mark Richards

No report provided – See Training Officer report

Inclusivity Coordinator – Josh White

No report provided

PR and Comms – Matt Ewles

News articles have been shared by all usual social media platforms (now minus X). This has included news spanning most of our major working areas including new training workshops and the Trainer's moderation day, revalidation of some of our anchor installers, an update on our AGM, and one of the most engaged-with news stories in many years, the announcement that CaveMaps is to be redeveloped and taken on by CNCC's web services. It has also been a particularly strong year for conservation news with four stories published since January.

I continue to communicate with our mailing list to share news. This has slipped a little from the usual monthly frequency, but not sufficiently that our subscribers are likely to notice.

I have assisted RRCPC by blocking out the Ease Gill Caves on the CNCC's booking system for the duration of their Open House event and communicating the event by all our major platforms (UK Caving, mailing list and Facebook).

I'd like to thank Chris Curry who delivered a talk on local caves for Preston Under Scar Women's Group in early March. They got in touch with CNCC to enquire about a presentation after hearing about our opposition to the Wensley Quarry development which threatens Keldheads Cave.

I am starting to compile the summer newsletter, and this will be hopefully published in July (sadly this meeting and holidays will prevent me getting it finalised for June as originally hoped).

I will be setting up the CNCC's Hidden Earth stall as usual in September. I am unlikely to have time to produce a new banner so we shall squeeze one more year out of the current one. I would welcome help ensuring the stall is staffed as much as possible during the conference; Last year Ian Patrick and Mark Richards did a sterling job.

I continue to keep CNCC's cave descriptions up to date and support Ian/Gary in updating topos in response to reports of errors, as well as responding to safety alerts.

Projects Coordinator – Andrew Hinde

YDMT Community Grant 2025/26:

This grant has now been spent on 6 separate conservation projects and an end of project report submitted to YDMT. The final project was fencing repairs to Little Pot, Kail Pot and Turbary Pot in April /May 2026.

YDMT Community Grant 2026/27:

I have made an application for another grant of £3103 plus a CNCC contribution of £1500, making a total of £4603. If this application is successful it will contribute to making safe historic digging sites on Leck Fell. YDMT are keen to support projects in the Westmoreland Dales area this year.

Yordas Cave Wood:

The Craven PC have completed a major restoration of fencing and walling at Yordas Wood this Spring. Details are on the CNCC website.

Fume Pot:

The archaeological interest at this dig above Clapham Bottoms has now concluded. The entrance will be fitted with a 600mm twin wall pipe (left over from Stream Passage restoration) and landscaped over the next few months. I would like to thank Ingleborough Estate staff for their assistance and cooperation during this project.

Web Administrator – Gary Douthwaite

Mostly my time has been focused on the regeneration of CaveMaps under the CNCC name. Transferring the data has been a rather mammoth task with over 1200 full survey images and over 2600 database entries. With assistance from Matt Ewles and others, the data has also been painstakingly checked to add some missing information to make searches work better and create consistency.

I can report that the site is pretty much done and ready to be made live, and I expect it to become so in the next week or two. I'm currently just waiting for transfer to complete on the original domain name - cavemaps.org. The new site will reside at a new domain – cavemaps.uk – which I thought was more appropriate as .org is an international domain. The original domain will also point to the same place, but the transfer is important so as not to have both the old and new site online at the same time and create confusion.

More data has already been added thanks to some great contributions, most notably by Chris Curry who has submitted the entire collection of surveys by the Moldywarps Speleological Group. Also, by Becca Lawson on behalf of University of Leeds Speleological Association and the Yorkshire Ramblers Club.

The archive will no doubt grow over time and the functionality will be improved following user feedback. I would like to thank Andy Powell who originally created the site and who has been very helpful during the transfer. His original work was a labour of love over many years and has created the groundwork for this new version.

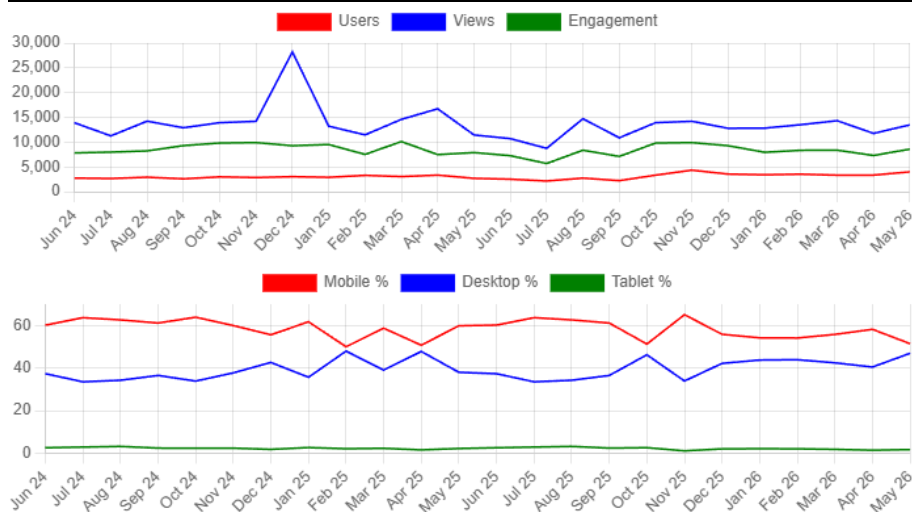
Most importantly CaveMaps will generate some more exciting statistics for the usual analytical section of my reports. Maybe, another graph!

Following the decision at the last meeting, the X (Twitter) account has been removed.

Analytics

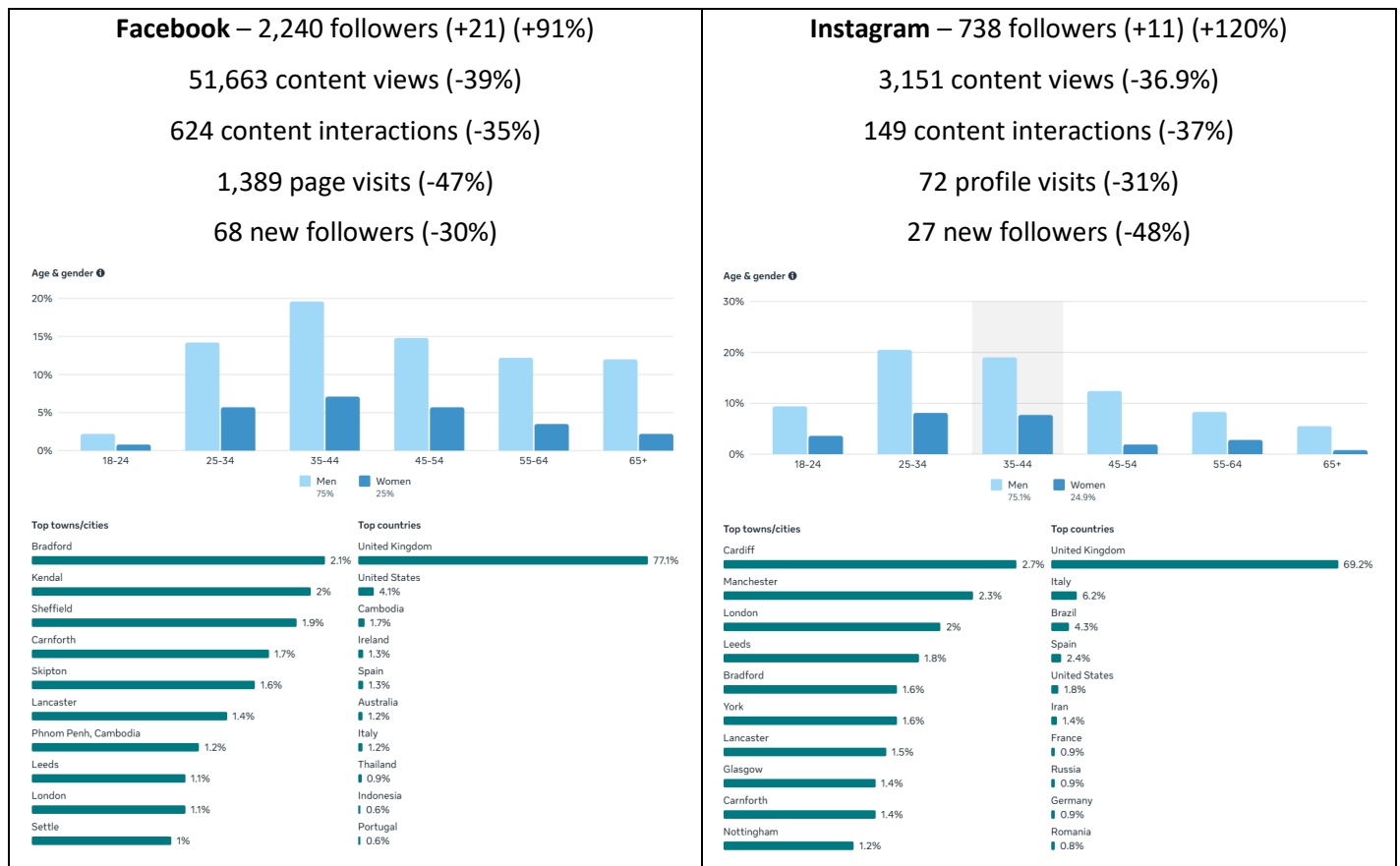
Site visitors

	Jun 25	Jul 25	Aug 25	Sep 25	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	Apr 26	May 26
Users	2,540	2,178	2,759	2,250	3,355	4,361	3,567	3,436	3,547	3,351	3,362	4,023
Views	10,723	8,764	14,730	10,896	13,940	14,219	12,803	12,841	13,533	14,342	11,779	13,495
Eng.	7,281	5,706	8,390	7,133	9,834	9,923	9,292	7,968	8,368	8,391	7,327	8,599

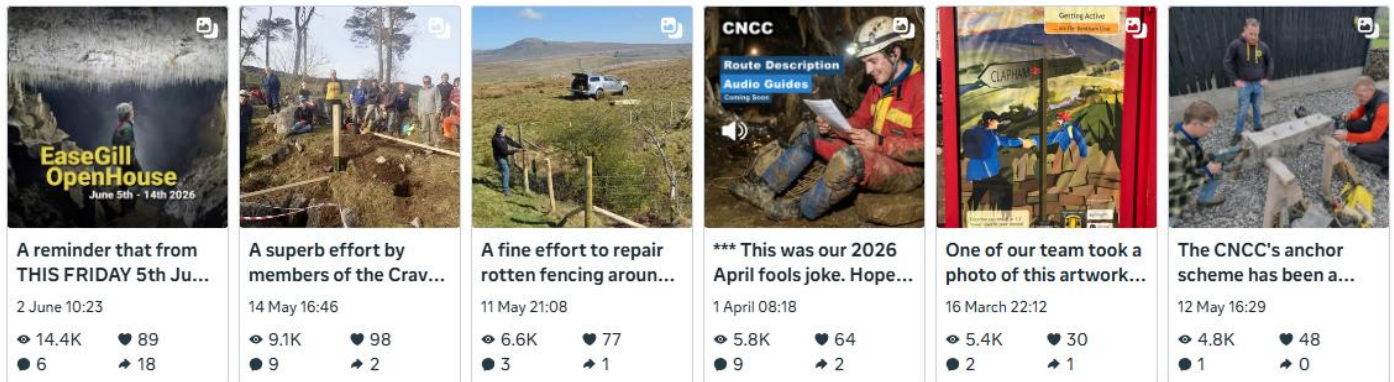


Social Media

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



Top recent Facebook posts (90 days):

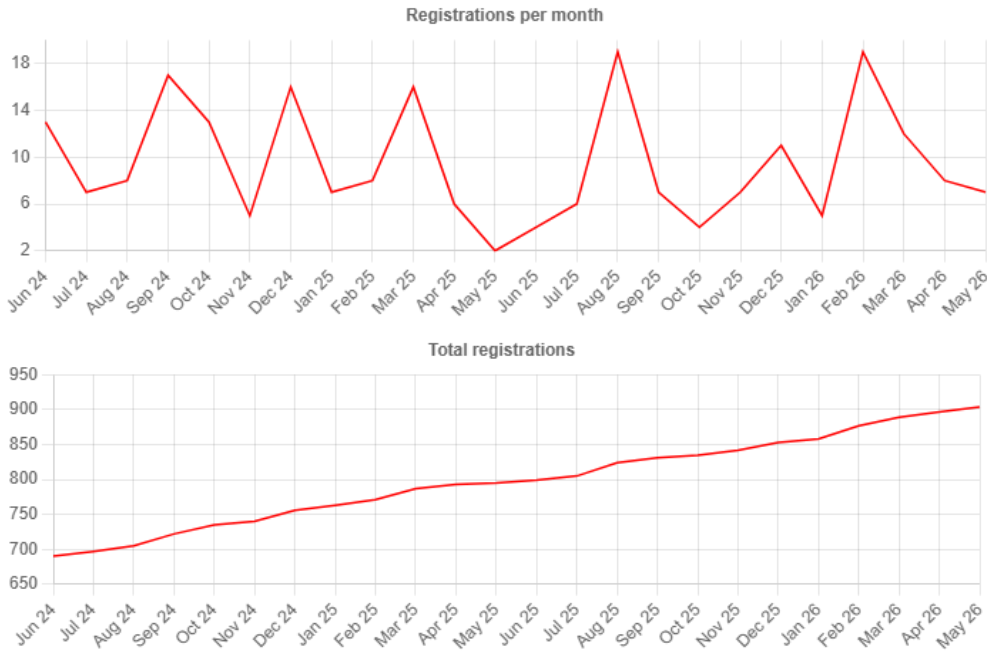


Social media followers' comparison:

	CNCC	DCA	CSCC	CCC	DCUC	BCA	UK Caving
Facebook	2240	907	729	--	--	3700	4500
Instagram	738	--	--	--	--	--	1061
Bluesky	45	--	--	--	--	--	--
X	Deleted	555	--	--	--	241	--
Threads	79	--	--	--	--	--	--
YouTube	29	--	--	--	--	--	--

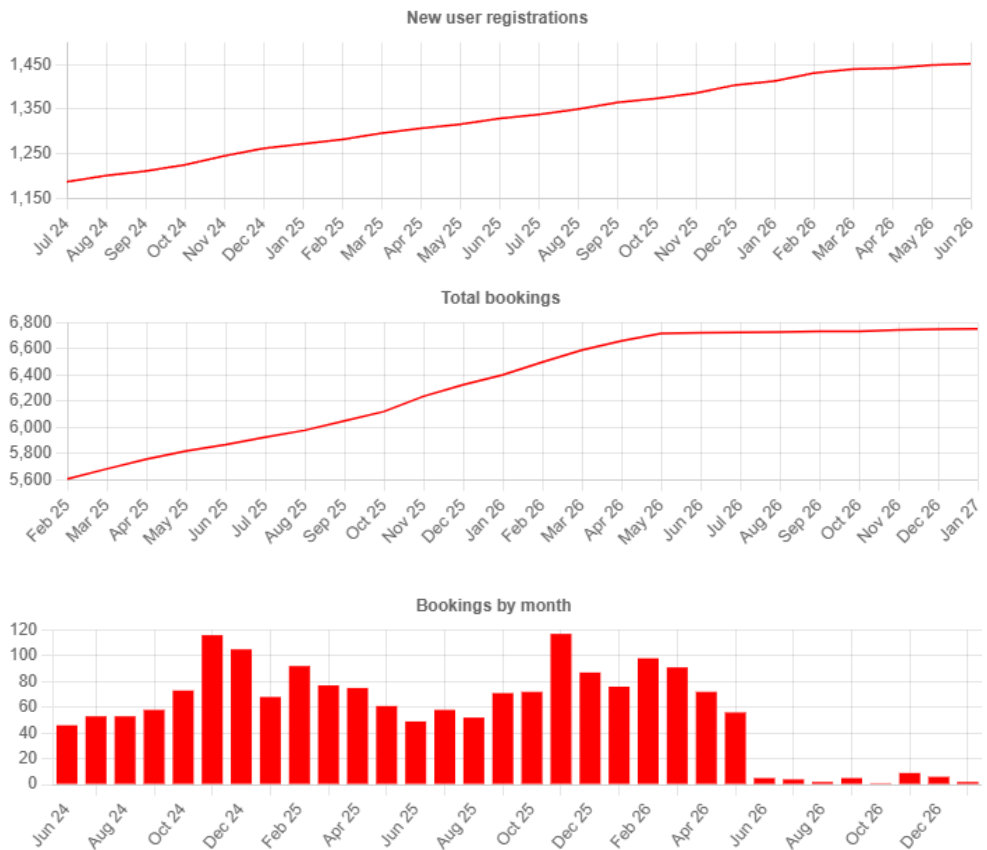
Mailing List

- The mailing list contains **905** people (**22** have requested to be unsubscribed).



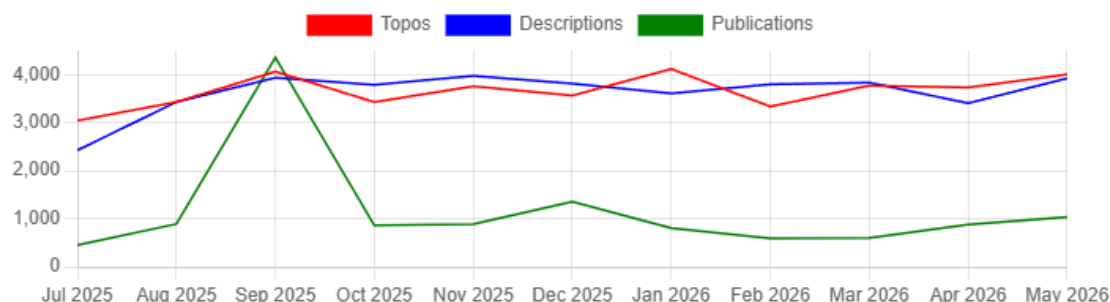
Online Booking System

- 1452 registered users
- 7679 individual bookings made. This number includes 6752 approved bookings and 926 cancelled bookings.
- 329 (23%) made a positive statement that they are NOT BCA members.
- 993 (68%) said they are members of a club.
- Of the users who specified gender there are 268 female (19.2%), 1030 male (73.8%) and 4 other (0.3%).
- The average age is 51 with the youngest 18 and oldest 85.



Media Downloads

	Topos	Descriptions	Publications
May 2026	4003	3922	1036
Apr 2026	3732	3404	881
Mar 2026	3770	3832	605
12 Month Average	3353	3327	1061



Top media downloads (last 3 months)

Topos	Descriptions	Publications
359 - Lost Johns' Cave 355 - Alum Pot 311 - Sell Gill Holes 246 - Gaping Gill and Dihedral 242 - Yordas Pot and Cave	482 - Gaping Gill 477 - Ease Gill Caverns 384 - The Leck Fell Master Cave System 344 - Alum Pot and Long Churn Caves 243 - Yordas Cave and Pot	195 - Great Douk Cave - A Guide to Hidden Gems 171 - New to Caving Leaflet 169 - Shuttleworth Pot (Witches Cave) Conservation Guide 129 - CNCC Newsletter Issue 13 - May 2023 121 - GDPR for Caving Clubs - April 2018

Report data snapshots taken 04 June 2026.

Youth Development Rep – Position Vacant

No report as position currently vacant

BCA Representatives - Various

See Chair report regarding general representation to BCA Council.

BCA Conservation and Access – Mike Appleton

As the current co-opted officer for this group, I attended the meeting on May 6, where I presented some highlights from the CNCC's year and AGM. Full minutes should be available via the BCA website, but there was discussion about cleaning caves that I felt was relevant for this report.

It was noted that a photographic survey should be conducted before commencing any cleaning in caves, with the aim of highlighting and preserving historic graffiti. Thanks to Andrew Hinde, I provided Linda Wilson (who raised this point) with photos of historic graffiti in Yordas and linked her up with Luke Barker, who is one of the heritage officers at YDNPA.

I said that there is potential for a funded project looking into historic graffiti, hopefully in partnership with Yorkshire-based caving clubs. Linda noted that she is currently recording historic graffiti in Kent's cavern, has expertise in this area and would be happy to assist CNCC if that is of interest.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, September 16 at 7:30pm on Zoom.

Area Access Coordinators - Various

Nothing to report for any area