Council for the Northern Caving Community

Supporting underground exploration across northern England and Scotland since 1963

cncc.org.uk

Proudly funded by the British Caving Association

CONSERVATION

Since 2020, we have supported numerous safety and conservation projects.

Sell Gill Holes
Replacement of stockproof fencing around the entrance.

Alum Pot
Rebuilding of sections of the drystone wall around Alum Pot and replacement of stiles.

Great Douk Cave
The remediation of a partially collapsed shakehole which was posing a hazard to livestock and walkers on nearby paths.

Scoska Cave
Installing barrier tape to protect an area within the entrance with a scientifically interesting variety of flora and fauna.

White Scar Cave
A Craven PC project with CNCC support to restore access beyond the show-cave following a substantial collapse.

Death's Head Hole
Pruning of the dying rowan tree in the shakehole, installation of new ground-spike anchors and planting of new trees.

Lancaster Hole
A Red Rose CPC project with CNCC support to stabilise and fill a void behind the entrance pipe following a collapse.

Ash Dieback
Hazardous dead trees removed at five separate pothole entrances.

Knacker Trapper Hole
Rebuilding of the entrance.

Starting Handle Hole
Clearing of rubbish.

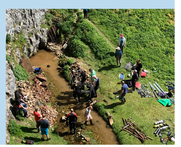
Wretched Rabbit
A Red Rose CPC project with CNCC support to regain access following a major collapse of the entrance and cliff face.

Grassington Mines
Sponsoring a team of local enthusiasts to make safe and preserve future access to the mines of Grassington Moor.

Buttertubs Pots
A Craven PC initiative with CNCC support to remove litter from this iconic Yorkshire beauty spot.

Beck Head Stream Cave
Opening of the blocked entrance.

Stump Cross remediation
Supporting a team to landscape and make safe several dig sites around Stump Cross Caverns.



TRAINING

Since 2021 we have run and subsidised a programme of regular workshops.

Ropework
Workshops for all abilities including general SRT skills, rigging, rescue, ladder and lifelining and pull-through.

First aid for cavers
For recreational cavers to learn relevant first aid skills.

Geology and photography
Our popular geology tours and photographic workshops.

Digital surveying
Use of electronic surveying equipment for real-time data capture and drawing up using modern software.

Leadership
To help develop skills for those new to leading trips.

For more information on upcoming workshops:
cncc.org.uk/training

ACCESS

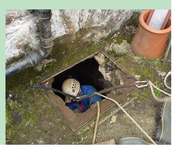
After removing access restrictions on Ingleborough, Leck and Casterton Fells, since 2022 we have focused elsewhere.

Birks Fell Cave
Through engagement with National Trust while exploiting the benefits of CRoW access land, open access was finally announced in 2022 without compromising relations.

Mongo Gill Hole
A simple online alternative to the historic permit system was agreed in 2023 with Stump Cross Caverns.

Robinsons' Pot
Modernisation of the access agreement in 2024 so that all BCA members (individuals and clubs) can gain access.

Ongoing issues at High Birkwith
Engaging with cavers and kindred organisations to raise awareness of our loss of access to several popular caves and exploring all options to regain consented access.



ENGAGEMENT

Promoting and supporting caving to increase participation and awareness.

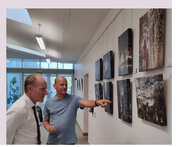
Our new name
After 61 years of being the Council of Northern Caving Clubs we changed our name in 2024 to the one you see above to reflect the wider community we now represent.

New to caving sessions
Our new-to-caving initiative launched in 2023 involves us partnering with local cavers to run introductory events to make caving more accessible for enthusiastic novices.

Photography and leaflet displays
At the National Park Authority and other local venues.

Caver engagement
UKCaving, social media, our newsletter and mailing list.

Improving inclusivity
Recruiting new volunteers through 2023-2024 to support youth engagement and to foster inclusivity in caving.



ANCHORS

Anchor initiatives across our region.

Online catalogue of topos and descriptions
Over 90 topos plus route descriptions for over 100 caves bespokely written and free to download on our website.

Since 2020, full anchoring and new topos for:

- Scanty Lardos Pot
- Curtain Pot
- Broken Finger Pot
- F'ing Hopeless Pot
- Five Ways Pot
- Fossil Pot
- Growling Hole
- Newby Moss Cave
- Pasture Gill Pot
- Mayday Hole
- Valley Entrance (Toyland)
- North by North End Pot

Replacing defective anchors
Replacement of unsatisfactory anchors at numerous sites. Recent projects include Diccan Pot (2021), Swinsto Hole (2023), Simpson Pot (2024) and Marilyn (2024).

Bringing installers together nationally
Taking a leading role in developing anchoring techniques and equipment and sharing knowledge across regions.