



Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association

www.csccl.org.uk

Extraordinary General Meeting - Saturday 6th September 2014

1 Attendance

Voting Attendees

Alan Gray	ACG Rep	AG	Regional Registry Officer
Dave Cooke	Cheddar Rep	DC	Treasurer
Richard Neal	MNRC Rep	RN	
Faye Litherland	BEC Rep	FL	Equipment Officer
Graham Mullan	UBSS Rep	GM	
Keith Batten	SMCC Rep	KB	
Les Williams	WCC Rep	LW	C&A Officer
Hayley Clark	MCG Rep	HC	

Non Voting

Kate Lawrence	BEC	KL	Chair
Frank Tully	WCC	FT	Secretary
Alan Butcher	SMCC	AB	Training Officer
James Begley	SMCC	JB	BCA Rep
Aubrey Newport	WCC	AN	Webmaster
Linda Wilson	CCC Ltd Conservation Officer	LiW	Observer
Ed Waters	Independent	EW	Observer
Bob Mehew	SMCC	BM	Observer

2 Apologies for Absence

Idris Williams	Shropshire Scouts Caving Team	
Alan Dempster	Avon Scouts Rep	AD
Chris Binding	SCG	CB

3 Conservation & access officer's report

Les Williams

3.1 Report to CSCC regarding meeting of the BCA's C&A committee meeting 16 August 2014.

See minutes of meeting for minutes of meeting;

http://british-caving.org.uk/wiki3/doku.php?id=conservation_access:meetings

(If this link does not function correctly please search BCA's website for minutes of the C&A committee.)

Actions on CSCC taken from this meeting.

If Natural England change their interpretation of how CRoW act affects caving, the various caving bodies, including CSCC will need move fast to protect various caves on conservation grounds (Section 26).

The various bodies therefore need to formulate plans for this eventuality.

- CSCC therefore needs to generate a list of caves which would be affected by CRoW.
- From this list we need to determine which caves need protection on conservation grounds.

Provisional list of caves affected:

St Cuthbert's SSSI
Upper Flood SSSI
Grebe Swallet Scheduled ancient monument
Bone Hole Scheduled ancient monument

- Clubs who are managing access to these caves need to develop **justifications** as to **why** the access to the caves needs to be controlled.



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CSCC Mandate for James Begley CSCC (BCA Rep) to take to BCA council meeting

If DEFRA/Natural England decides that CRoW applies to caving – We will re-consider access arrangements.

If DEFRA/Natural England decides that CRoW does not apply to caving – No change.

Lobbying of DEFRA/Natural England by CSCC

GM Proposed a vote and FL Seconded a vote:-

Should CSCC directly lobby DEFRA & Natural England to keep their current interpretation of the CRoW act. Namely that CRoW does not apply to caving.

4 clubs voted for, 4 clubs abstained, 0 clubs voted against.

The abstentions were because the club rep's did not feel they had a mandate from their members to make a decision regarding this.

The committee decided that this vote was not carried because it was not part of the agenda for the meeting.

Contacts for natural England.

Open.access@naturalengland.org.uk

Hannah.townley@naturalengland.org.uk

Clubs or individuals who feel strongly about this issue can lobby natural England directly.

Application for restriction of access to caves on conservation grounds (Section 26)

If any club or member of CSCC wants to apply to Natural England using section 26 of the act to restrict public access to a cave, if Natural England decide that CRoW applies to caves. Could they keep CSCC informed by contacting LW.

4 Date of next meetings:

Saturday 8th November 2014 10:00 Hunters

Saturday 31st January 2015 10:00 Hunters

Saturday 9th May 2015 (AGM) 10:00 Hunters