

Conservation & Access Report to CSCC Meeting 15 February 2020 - Graham Price

I have dealt with / am dealing with the following (numbers refer to agenda items)

6.1 Maesbury Swallet

A response from Dinder Estates is awaited pending a Trustees meeting. It has not been possible to complete the surface works due to the bad weather and this will have to wait until things dry up in the summer.

6.2 Loxton Cavern

Pending. No change from last meeting.

6.3 Ubley Warren

Work on the roof of the main chamber pending confirmation that funding is available. In the meantime the cave remains closed.

6.4 Cow Hole

Stabilisation work etc progressing. Bolting pending and dependant on Hon Sec's discussion with Equipment Officer and availability of bolts etc.

6.5 Elm Cave

Nothing to report at present..

6.6 CSCC Locks / keys

As reported previously most sites have been fitted with the new locks although I am awaiting confirmation from certain 'helpers' that sites they volunteered to do have been done. A CSCC key with a distinctive tag was recently found on Priddy Green. I have emailed all clubs but no one has yet claimed it. A second email has been sent. Speleo Rhal have requested a key and this has been supplied.

6.7 Access Database

Cookie has provided the facility for me to add sites. Updating the database is ongoing. Please notify me of any incorrect or missing information.

Stoke Lane / Brownes Hole Access

Somerset County Council not very helpful about the pull-in but it would appear to be part of the highway and therefore quarry owner has no right to stop people parking there. I have queried if he was given permission to place the large boulders there but not yet received a response. The

hope is that if he is approached by SCC and he won't be aware of our involvement to avoid raising the profile of the caves. The position of the land boundary on the ground is still to be confirmed. I have not received any reports of any issues involving cavers, but some walkers recently had a problem with his security guards.

Heale Farm Cave

Reopening and lock change pending.

Ubley Warren Reserve

Bat survey in progress.

Blackmoor Reserve

Meeting with ANOB Manager arranged.

Pressure Washers

The pressure washers have been purchased. Peli cases have been donated by Peli UK and I should have these in next few days. When I have the cases I will prepare some guidance notes on use etc with a view to making them available for loan.

Cave Fest

I have been talking to the organisers of Cave Fest and it has been agreed that in future any profits will be split equally between CSCC (for conservation work) and Rescue (previously the sole beneficiaries). They have suggested that we might like to give a presentation on cave conservation during the weekend and I have provisionally accepted this invitation.

Hobnail Hole (Thrupe Lane Swallet)

Due to an unstable boulder in Black Pot, Hobnail Hole is closed until further notice. When the weather improves ATLAS will stabilise the offending boulder before reopening the cave. This may well coincide with a working weekend and BBQ with a plan to clear the Hobnail stream channel and other surface tasks to ensure that Thrupe Lane Swallet and Hobnail Hole can remain accessible in the future. ATLAS will send out an invitation to help when a date is fixed.

I have updated the Access Database with this information.

Graham Price
Feb 2020