

CCC Cave Registrars Report for 2015 AGM

On being unexpectedly recruited as Cambrian Cave Registrar, the outgoing registrar gave me a Microsoft Access database and very brief instructions as to how it had been used to create a file to update an SQL database on the CCR website via a third party. The Cambrian webmaster provided me with full access to the relevant part of the CCR website. There was nothing else handed over, so I have revised the data in line with my own interpretation of the rationale for a cave registry. In line with this I have:

- Revised and, where necessary, corrected the classification of sites
- Removed duplicated sites
- Added new sites which I either knew of or was informed about
- Revised and, where necessary, corrected the content about sites
- Added (but not necessarily populated) a depth field for sites
- Separated out hydrological details
- Begun to standardise the bibliographic references, and link to online sources where available
- Begun to classify the different types of access control applicable to sites
- Modified the web search interface to search just on cave name, which now covers alternative names and spellings
- Added a map interface to display key content
- Refreshed the 'Underground Wales' web page
- Reported on developments in the 'Wales Underground' newsletter
- Updated the data available online several times.

I have implemented the above from a database maintained in plain text XML using open-source software rather than using commercial software. I have also loaded all the data, together with official maps delimiting areas covered by particular access, conservation, or other bodies, into QGIS (a Geographical Information System), which greatly simplified tasks such as determining whether sites were within SSSI's, and counting sites in CRoW-designated land.

If elected to continue as Registrar I would intend to continue the above and look at:

- separating the access details out as the responsibility of the Access Officer
- expanding the coverage of surveys, including possibly displaying thumbnails and/or scanned surveys online (cf cavemaps.org for Northern England)

- giving online access to view 3D survey viewing (DYO, OFD, LNRC, Draenen all have data which might be used)
- adding photos of cave entrances (a capability partly built in to the system which the previous registrar apparently intended to use, but not implemented)
- Be open to suggestions for any other improvements

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