

Cambrian Caving Council Equipment & Techniques officer annual report.

Yet again the year has been largely dominated by bolts.

There has been extensive testing by Gethin Thomas with a large array of different type of anchors installed, exercised and pulled, all in slate. The results (raw data) can be found at www.train4underground.co.uk. This stage of the testing has been funded by the BCA. Thanks to Gethin and his team for all the hard work and in sharing the information.

There has also been another test programme in South Wales. Testing an alternative resin which bonds the current BCA Bolt products “P” anchors currently used throughout the UK within the BCA bolt placement scheme. Council have been concerned with possible air bubbles within both resin cartridge chambers and the styrene content of the current make of resin.

The first stage has been completed with the results and a report published in the latest, to date, Cambrian Caving Council newsletter. Due to weather conditions the last stage of this programme is still outstanding but we have now set a date for the 18/19th April 2015 at Penwyllt party quarry. Anyone is welcome to join us.

BCA Equipment & Techniques “Fixed Aids Policy Document” has almost certainly died a death. I think probably just as well as this seems to put too much liability onto the installer or the regional/access bodies and next to no responsibility upon the end users.

The BCA E&T committee have been researching other bolts, particularly with an emphasis on conservation and ease of replacement in the event of extractions.

The Cambrian currently has 5 BCA approved bolt installers and all our certificates are in date. These are:

Paul Taylor and Dave Appling both in the Forest of Dean.

Gethin Thomas and Dewi loyd in North Wales

Vince Allkins. South Wales.

I as an assessor am working on either a bolt installation demonstration and possibly an induction course with a view to train up more installers if there is the interest in the coming year.

I am willing to stand as E&T officer next year if elected.

Vince Allkins.

Cambrian Council Equipment and Techniques Officer.

March 2015