

CCC Cave Registrar's Report for 2017 AGM

The Cambrian Cave Register has had a quiet year, with 9 'new' entries in 2016. However, there have already been 28 additions in 2017, prompted largely by a correspondent pointing out a reference to lots of sites in Pembrokeshire, which led to finding a few more old references.

There were a couple of enquiries about individual sites, but the major request was from Prof. John Gunn for information on the number, and length, of (karst) caves in Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for comparison with figures he wrote up in 1989. He used this in a presentation on cave conservation in the UK at Eurospeleo in August. These are some figures I came up with (the precision of which is highly suspect!): (figure in brackets from Gunn, 1989)

Region	No. of caves	No. of caves in SSSI	Percentage caves in SSSI	Total Length (km)	Total length in SSSI (km)
North Wales	199 (44)	87 (6)	44 (13.6)	16.18 (9.88)	12.34 (3.48)
South Wales	745 (148)	490 (30)	66 (17.9)	314.35 (159.48)	200.67 (138.80)

I also gave calculated figures for caves referred to in the karst interest section of the Geological Conservation Review (GCR) which was intended to identify sites which should become SSSI's for their cave and karst, rather than geological or biological, value. This more closely represents what John classed as SSSIs in 1989, but little action resulted from this in Wales, so the numbers are quite different:

Region	No. of caves	Caves in GCR	Percentage caves in GCR	Total length (km)	Total length in GCR (km)
North Wales	199 (44)	5	3	16.18 (9.88)	8.35
South Wales	745 (148)	35	5	314.35 (159.48)	240.07

As I wrote in the January newsletter, discussion initiated on the UKCaving.com web forum led to me developing prototype (JSON) data feeds for use in 'mashups' - web pages incorporating live data from one or more different sources. The initiator quickly produced some maps which suggested to me further modifications to the content and working existing Registry maps.

Soon after the JSON interface became available (on request) an academic archaeologist asked for access to the data so as to analyse whether there was any correlation between caves and archaeological finds - we await any developments...

There has been no correspondence relating to the Cambrian Mine Register.

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