

The Registry has continued to expand, increase its accuracy, and be of use to organisations outside the usual caving world. It also includes an increasing number of bibliographic references which help confirm details and illuminate a site's history of exploration and use.

A major task has been to start work to extend coverage to the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley caves. This began with seeing in a 2008 document from Mike McCombe laying down the Committee roles, of which I was previously unaware, that "The Cave Registrar maintains records of caves, mines and related sites in Wales and the Forest of Dean." The Committee agreed that I should sound out some well-connected people there, which I did in late December, to be quickly told 'it seems like a good idea' and that 'Your proposal seems logical to me', with no warnings against going ahead with my proposals. A more detailed response was promised but did not appear, which I took as acquiescence, so I released location and bibliographic data I had gathered on the evening 26th February. This evinced an apoplectic demand to remove it all early on 28th. Not wishing to inflame matters, I have thus redacted the Forest of Dean caves, but hope that the FoDCCAG will want to sanction, and collaborate on, their reinstatement in the future, a course which in no way precludes them from opening their own records to public view via their own proposed Cave and Mine Registry.

Much detail on Gower caves has been refined, sites added (and a couple amalgamated), for which I thank the previous Registrar, Brendan Marris, who now concentrates on his Caves of South Wales website [ogof.org.uk], and has been especially active recently in extending its detailed coverage of Gower and little-known areas such as Crwbin.

There have been only a few new sites notified but, overall, there are some 125 additional sites in Wales, and a few in Herefordshire. There would have been somewhat over 100 in the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley, but for the setback noted above.

As reported in October's Cambrian newsletter, I supplied the Dyfed Archaeological Trust with an extract of caves in their area (Pembrokeshire, Cerdigion, Carmarthenshire) for their Cadw-funded 'Caves in south-west Wales' project to audit and enhance their Historic Environment Records.

The presentation of site data has been changed to show the location on a map, together with an outline survey plan, where available (I found enough to redraw and georeference all caves over a km except for Ogof yr Ardd, together with many shorter caves), and information on any known designations such as SSSI's and the various types of archaeological scheduling, prompted not least by the unfortunate location of Twll Du. The overview map now has provision to overlay SSSI and SAM data layers from the bodies responsible (thanks to NRW, Cadw, and the Welsh Government's advances in Geographic Information System (GIS) data provision).

Should I be retained as Registrar, I propose to continue responding appropriately to queries, new, and corrected site information; adding to the bibliography; and enhancing the map and data interfaces on the web. I would also like to add a survey

repository to the CCR, maybe along the lines of cavemaps.org in Yorkshire or the Mendip survey archive [<http://www.mcra.org.uk/wiki/doku.php?id=surveys>]. I think that the Peak District is also developing a similar historic survey archive (the DCA's SSSI cave monitoring scheme [<https://thedca.org.uk/sssi-monitoring/sssi>] already includes surveys), so Wales (and the Forest of Dean) would do well, in my opinion, to catch up with increasing open access to cave surveys.

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Cambrian Cave Registrar
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