

Cambrian Caving Council
Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held in person and by Zoom at 12:00 noon on Sunday 10th March in the Visitor Centre at the Rheidol Power Station, Cwm Rheidol, near Aberystwyth, SY23 3NB.

Minutes

1. Chair's Welcome

Adrian Fawcett welcomed everyone for attending.

2. Attendance

Present: Stuart France, Allan Richardson (SCMC), Martin Laverty, Richard Hill (Gagendor), Vince Allkins (SWCC), Mary Rogers, Adrian Fawcett (CSS), Roy Fellows (CMT), Jack Randall (Hades), Dave Tyson (UCET), Mark Tringham (GSS), Pete Mason (GCRG).

Apologies for absence: John Sheehy, Jennie Lawrence, Dan Thorne, Sue Mabbett.

3. Minutes of the 2023 AGM

Accuracy: no comments received by the Secretary or coming from the meeting.

Proposal to accept: Allan Richardson, seconded: Vince Allkins. Voting 8 in favour, 1 abstention, 0 against.

Matters arising: none.

4. Applications for Membership

None.

5. Officers' Reports

a) Chair - Adrian Fawcett

A quiet year for the Council, access difficulties have arisen which have reduced cave and mine access; these are being addressed. The potential name change to Caving Wales may help with these discussions.

b) Secretary - Allan Richardson

Another quiet year with nothing of note to report.

I am also the BCA Secretary and have attended most of the meetings as the Cambrian representative. I am willing to stand again for the position of Cambrian Secretary.

c) Treasurer - Mary Rogers

The CCC audited accounts for 2023 show an increase in funds of £195.31 and a bank balance of £6398.68 at 31/12/2023. Our BCA grant for 2022 was greater than that for 2021, with a small profit again from seven popular training courses. The main expenditure item was towards fixed aids for OFD. Many thanks again to Richard Hill and John Sheehy for their help, and to Ian Adams again for prompt auditing.

Cambrian Caving Council				
Accounts				
Year Ended 31 December 2023				
<u>Income and Expenditure Account</u>				
	2023		2022	
<u>Income</u>	£	£	£	£
BCA Grant	529.79		181.03	
Training Events	1,920.00		2,435.00	
Keys	50.00		70.00	
Total Income		2,499.79		2,686.03
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Training Events	1,878.60		2,414.60	
Equipment and Techniques	266.37		50.98	
Conservation and Access	142.33		458.41	
Print, Postage and Stationery	17.18		0.00	
Total Expenditure		2,304.48		2,923.99
Excess of Income over Expenditure		195.31		(237.96)
<u>Balance Sheet</u>				
Barclays Current Account	6,398.68		6,203.37	
		6,398.68		6,203.37
Reserves at 31st December 2023 and 2022	6,203.37		6,441.33	
Add : Surplus income over expenditure	195.31		(237.96)	
		6,398.68		6,203.37
(Signed) Mary Rogers Treasurer Date : 05-02-2024				
Honorary Scrutineer's Report				
The above accounts of Cambrian Caving Council showing a surplus of £195.31 and capital of £6,398.68 have been prepared by us from the books, records, information and explanations provided to us by the above and we certify that the same is in accordance therewith				
(Signed) Ian L Adams FFA FFTA AIAB (For Abacus Accountants) Date: 07-02-2022				

There were no questions for the Treasurer.

d) Conservation and Access Officer – Stuart France

COVID

The problem is still widespread but in less dangerous forms, so during the past year a lot of normality has returned to caving activities and to life in general with Covid no longer much in the news now.

NATURAL RESOURCES WALES

There has been little contact with NRW over the past year. NRW continues to email agendas and supporting documents for its National Access Forum for Wales meetings which I read but find there is little or nothing relevant to caving amongst it. NAFW is a non-statutory committee created and chaired by NRW to discuss open access matters at national level. In practice it is not a discussion forum at all and acts mainly as a platform for NRW to burnish its credentials and relate its own activities and ideas.

So long as NRW holds to its cherished position that caving is not an open-air recreation, to impute that caving has no statutory access rights, there seems little point to engaging further with NRW on the matter of open-air recreation. So I have not attended, nor do I plan to attend, any NAFW meetings. I have told them so. NRW's response was to threaten myself, our chair and secretary, with termination of CCC's membership of NAFW for lack of recent attendance at meetings. We have not replied to this empty threat because NRW does not have the power to admit or expel NAFW members. It would require a majority vote amongst the existing NAFW members - which includes bodies like the YHA, National Trust, National Park Authority and Local Authority reps, Open Spaces Society (OSS), other outdoors groups like the Ramblers, BMC and equestrians. Such organisations would not line up to expel another national sports representative body of which NRW simply wished to rid itself.

The Dartmoor Camping judicial review case against the local National Park Authority, where a large landowner attempted to outlaw camping on Dartmoor, was lost by the NPA at the first hearing which effectively banned camping on the Dartmoor Commons. The OSS took over the legal case, appealed and won. This was very useful for caving as the Court of Appeal ruled that being enclosed inside a tent for hours, using a sleeping bag etc, was still a valid form of open-air recreation and that 'being enclosed' does not convert open-air recreation into the opposite. Thus the NRW/Defra position that caving is not open-air recreation because cavers are to some extent enclosed was overturned. The judges also ruled unanimously that being asleep during the course of recreational activities does not convert recreation into non-recreation whether the person is asleep inside a tent or anywhere else.

The late-breaking news is that the landowner has succeeded in obtaining leave to appeal to the Supreme Court. So it seems sometime during 2024 we will get the ultimate legal answer the mighty questions of what 'open-air' means and whether sleeping in the course of an activity is 'recreational'.

CAVING JUDICIAL REVIEW CASE

The case ended two years ago with a compromise where the Welsh Government would look again at cave access rights following a written submission from BCA. WG did a review and decided to take no action to improve cave access due to lack of resources, now not being the right time, and so on. BCA seems to have returned to the idea of lobbying MPs etc about access, with no obvious results.

The caving case was never heard in court, so had no outcome, unlike the Dartmoor case related above. But it is interesting to witness the power struggle that the Dartmoor case is revealing. The Dartmoor NPA went to Defra (of all people!) to ask for legal and financial support to protect recreation, but it was the OSS which stepped in and won the 2023 Court of Appeal case. Obviously the outcome of the upcoming Supreme Court case during 2024 about Dartmoor camping rights will also have a direct bearing on the interpretation of legislation in the CROW-caving context. It also demonstrates the lengths and costs to which BCA might have had to go to in its own attempts to

obtain a clear legal ruling on open-air recreation in the face of such resolute opposition to an 'unwanted' activity.

My position now is that we should just sit and wait for the time when NRW etc acknowledge that we have a right to exist and to carry out recreational caving *parri passu* other outdoors activities.

CAVE ACCESS LTD

The CAL mine scheme is not currently running, but we have submitted a fresh application to NRW concerning a new permissive access system for all the original mines plus a few new ones. This was well-received at the 'officer level' in NRW. I am told informally that the mine access scheme will be renewed and the paperwork is currently with NRW's legal department. They have not agreed to every site that we requested, and some of those agreed on will have seasonal restrictions due to various wildlife concerns. The detail is yet to emerge.

BRITISH CAVING ASSOCIATION

I leave it to Allan Richardson to report on BCA in his dual role as secretary for BCA and CCC.

UNESCO DESIGNATED AREAS

Cambrian has been invited to join the management group for the UNESCO Geopark in South Wales which operates under the auspices of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. It generally holds two meetings per year which I have attended. Its UNESCO charter comes up for renewal each 4 years and that process is underway now. The land area covered is roughly the entire NPA west of a line from Merthyr to Brecon including the main Beacons summits, and of course OFD and DYO etc. They plan to extend it southwards by about 10% in terms of land area to bring in parts of the Rhondda and Powys with coal mining heritage.

The 2021 Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales UNESCO World Heritage Site (as distinct from a UNESCO Geopark) comprises a number of old slate mines in North Wales of interest to cavers and explorers such as Bryneglwys. If this WHS has a management committee at all then caving is not, to my knowledge, represented on it. Likewise the 1999 Blaenavon World Heritage Site which overlays much of Ogof Draenen.

MLCMAC

The Mynydd Llangatock caves continue to be run by MLCMAC now acting as a CCC subcommittee. Several new club keys were issued for the £10 fee in the past year. No operational issues have been reported other than padlocks requiring cleaning and the replacement of cave logbooks. The latter are now spiral bound volumes of pre-printed forms on 'plastic paper' along with tough waterproof pencils.

There have been no further meetings with the landowners (Beaufort Estate) in the past 12 months. They have taken on the task of drafting a new cave access agreement following the withdrawal of NRW from direct involvement in managing cave access generally. We are awaiting proposals but in the meanwhile the Estate seems to be happy with the approach that Cambrian has been taking.

OFD

SWCC is continuing with its post-covid system for cavers to apply in advance for a code to open a key safe to get a cave key for a particular date. This has been working well. See SWCC website.

DYO

The £5 per visit charge system for cavers towards conservation and access also seems to be working well too. The system depends on the goodwill of the cave owners and nominated cave leaders taking in groups of BCA-insured cavers (or the equivalent) that request access.

The online telemetry project to send near live rainfall and cave river depth data to a public webpage (viewable on a smartphone etc) was tested at a concept level last summer, then returned indoors for further development over the winter following a massive flood event in the cave during September which likely damaged the equipment at Pot Sump by submerging it under excess pressure. I have not been back in the cave to look due to the persistently wet autumn. A new sensor with a greater depth range will be installed in the cave during the spring of 2024 with the online results feed shortly after. Once proven, this software and the circuits will be made open-source and could be cloned for use in other active-river caves to advise intending cavers as to current and recent rain and river levels.

OGOF DRAENEN

I attended PDCMG's meetings over the past year. The group is trying to become a limited company along the lines of the long-standing Charterhouse Caving Company on Mendip to overcome the problem of finding trustees willing to act under its present access terms. The new company would need a new agreement in its own name with the present landowner of the one gated entrance. This landowner has already rejected the idea of the PDCMG managing any other cave entrances on their land, and refused access to carry out bat surveys, and has not agreed either to access from their gated entrance for the training of caving instructors.

There has been no progress with the Grade 5 survey publication nor its coverage. One of the main contributors to the survey, Arthur Millet, passed away in February 2023. His Will has recently been published in which he gifts his averred 80% share in the copyright of the survey to a family member. It is understood (by me) that John Stevens owns the rest. The PDCMG replaced John Stevens as its survey officer last summer and the new officer has said he intends to create a new Grade 5 survey *ab initio* using modern rapid technology to put an end to the suppression of the earlier Grade 5 survey.

OGOF GOFAN / CASTLEMARTIN RANGE WEST

There have been light but steady visits to this small but spectacular cave over the past year with good feedback from visiting groups. Book visits to Ogof Gofan through me please. Also call the Range's answerphone on 01646 662367 on the day before your visit to confirm the route to the cave will be open. This link also provides the expected firing schedule for the next couple of months: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/castlemartin-firing-notice--2/>

A different system applies for access to Range West to explore for new caves. You need to attend a briefing meeting **at the range and in person** to get onto their annual permission list which enables you to acquire a day badge on the date of your visit from the guard room subject to various T&Cs. The dates for the 2024 briefing meetings are on the Events page of the CCC website.

I attended the recreational users' AGM held at Castlemartin Range in the autumn. This is a key event to strengthen relations with landowner personnel and interested parties like the PCNPA and their Ranger. It is obvious they appreciate user groups making the effort to maintain direct contact.

NAME CHANGE FOR CCC AND NEW CONSTITUTION

This past year CCC has been working hard on a new modern constitution and rebranding itself as Caving Wales / Ogofa Cymru to make its purpose as a national sport representative body clear to other bodies with whom we need to interact – ranging in scale from MoD to local landowners. Most outsiders have no idea what “Cambrian” means nor the organisation’s *raison d’être* with some of them thinking we are just another small caving club. The present constitution, last modified in 2015, largely dates from the 1960s: the world has moved on, our role has evolved, and we need to reflect that.

I am putting forward motions at the 2024 AGM to bring in these changes. We ran a consultation over the last summer and autumn which drew only helpful comments on the draft. We have taken all that feedback on board in the final version of the new constitution proposal which has been circulating.

GOING FORWARD

I am willing to stand again in the same role.

There were no questions for the Conservation and Access Officer.

Stuart then added that SWCC had recently received a letter from NRW which they asked to be sent to all SWCC members. This letter recited Schedule 2 of the CRoW Act which lists the activities banned on Access Land when caving is **not** in that list. The letter implied that people wanting to do an activity banned on Access Land would need landowner permission, i.e. from NRW concerning the land in its ownership. This is at odds with NRW’s previous line of attack which revolves around what the words “land” and “open-air recreation” might mean, as used in Sections 1-2 of that Act.

e) Training Officer – Richard Hill

The last year has seen the usual workshops: several SRT workshops, geology walks, photography and surveying. All have run successfully with some being oversubscribed.

SRT workshops are planned for April, June and July 2024 and I am trying to get volunteers to front other workshops. Rich noted that guided walks tend to sell out very quickly and the April SRT course is already full.

As an aside, although CCC have 3 SRT kits, Gagendor club provide much of the rope and rigging kit for the SRT workshops and I wonder if a donation could be given to them. It is my club! I don’t want CCC to buy this kit as it would not be worthwhile.

I am happy to stand again.

f) Equipment and Techniques Officer – Vince Allkins

Another fairly quiet year with little to report, but dominated once again by resin bonded anchors. The region now has eight approved installers.

There is a current bolting programme (using resin-bonded “P” anchors) in progress at OFD after an agreement to carry out this type of installation in the SSSI was granted by the NRW.

We have recently installed anchors in Wills Hole both for training and assessment purposes but also for general use by cavers wishing to improve their rigging and SRT skills. We are currently

running short of the BP anchor and I am trying to obtain more and awaiting the return of some issued to North Wales in excess to their requirements, but this is proving taxing. The region may have to resort to an alternative anchor but this will be an approved tested replacement possibly the "IC" anchor but this may require additional training. There should be rigging guides appearing in the CCC website in due course. There has been issues and statements relating to suspension trauma, harnesses and other kit, circulars and notices from the BCA regarding these matters are available on line.

I am happy to stand again.

There were no questions for the E & T Officer.

g) Cave Registrar – Martin Laverty

The last year has been reasonably quiet for the CCR.

There have been around 25 new entries and a few amendments to data. Several mapping sources have had to be changed as old links ceased to work. No major discoveries (or surveys) have been notified. There has been no input at all from North Wales, or in relation to mines.

I have added a facility to display biological records for caves which links to more information on the species involved. The Biological Records link appears if any data has been recorded. The initial data is populated from the BCRA *Hazelton* spreadsheet, plus other records in books such as *Limestones and Caves of Wales* and *A Caver's View of the Clydach River*, and various club, BCRA, regional and biological journals and schemes.

Additional contributions (and corrections) will be welcome. Several regular correspondents have continued to help and I am happy to have been able to welcome several new (and young!) ones: my thanks to all.

I am willing to continue as Registrar.

h) Webmaster – John Sheehy

A relatively quiet year again, with routine changes being made to the website throughout the year to publicise training courses, geological walks and other newsworthy events.

I have added a new web page to set out the topos for the newly installed hangers in OFD, and updated references to Covid and where there have been changes to access arrangements for certain caves. I have also co-ordinated mailshots to member clubs using the Cambrian account to bring the availability of training courses to member clubs' attention.

I am happy to continue in the role in 2024.

There were no questions but Stuart commented to the meeting that Topos will be added to the website as they become available.

i) Newsletter Editor – Vacant Post

No Newsletters had been produced for some time as we have no editor. Stuart volunteered in the meeting to produce a Newsletter during the coming summer.

j) Recreational Mine Exploration Officer – Roy Fellows

I have no activity in the last year to report related to my position within CCC, however I obviously get correspondence concerning Cwmystwyth and Dinas.

I am happy to continue in this position.

6. Consider the financial statement, decide on any annual subscription, and appoint a scrutineer for the forthcoming year.

The financial statement was accepted. There was a motion that we do not set an annual subscription for the coming year proposed by Allan Richardson and seconded by Mary Rogers which was passed nem con.

Our scrutineer, Ian Adams is willing to carry on, and it was agreed by all that he should.

7. Proposed amendments to the Constitution received by the Secretary

a) *“To change the organisation name from Cambrian Caving Council / Cynghor Ogofeydd Cymreig to Caving Wales / Ogofa Cymru with immediate effect”*

Proposed by Stuart France, C&A Officer, seconded by Mark Tringham. All were in favour, passed nem con. The Welsh and English versions of the name will be used in official communications.

b) *“To adopt the proposed constitution dated 26/01/2024 as circulated to member bodies by the Secretary”*

An amendment to the proposed new constitution to make it gender neutral throughout was proposed by Mark Tringham and seconded by Mary Rogers. All were in favour, passed nem con.

The adoption of the new Constitution as amended was proposed by Stuart France, C&A Officer, and seconded by Dave Tyson. All were in favour, passed nem con.

Thanks were expressed to Stuart for his work on the new Constitution.

8. Consider any other formal motions received by the Secretary

None received.

9. Receive reports from other groups

a) BCA – Allan Richardson (Secretary)

BCA seeks a new chair. Other than that, nothing of great note.

b) FODCCAG - John Hine (Secretary) and Paul Taylor (Chair)

The agreement from Forestry England to access the Crown Minerals continues to be a success. The purchase of the land around the Wetsink and Drysink by FoDCCAG Ltd continues, with the support of the BCA – documentation has been received and we hope the end is nigh! The purchase will not affect access for cavers. The RFDCC have now passed access control over to FoDCCAG.

Sewage pollution continues at Wetsink, but meetings & email exchanges with Welsh Water and the installation of new pumps and control gear will be leading to improvements in the situation.

Many digs are underway at many cave sites.

It is hoped that we can hold Forest Cave Symposium 6 in June 2026. Discussions are on-going.

The FoDCCAG AGM is being held on March 14th.

c) Welsh Mines Society

No report received.

d) NWCRO

No report received.

e) SMWCRT - Sue Goodhead (Secretary)

In 2023 SMWCRT was involved in 9 Rescue incidents, one more than in the previous year. These are detailed in the table below. The rescues in 2024 will be reported after the year end.

Date	Location	Details
28/01/23	OFD	2 people - Two cavers planned an ambitious trip going in via OFD2 top entrance to visit OFD3 and then exit via the lower entrance in OFD1. However route finding problems were encountered towards OFD3, resulted in the two cavers then embarking on exiting via OFD1. They were spotted in the Marble Showers streamway section at around 15:00hrs but failed to surface at their arranged callout time of 18:30 and Dyfed Powys police were contacted at around 19:00 who then contacted an SMWCRT warden. Callout was initiated at 19:36hrs. Initial search teams were quickly dispatched using team members on site. Meanwhile SARCALL was used to alert all team members to a possible incident and to organise further team members to scale up the search if required. Fortunately the two cavers were located in the Cwm Dwr section of the cave safe and well. They had been unable to find the route through to OFD1 and had begun to retrace their steps. The two cavers exited with the search teams via Cwm Dwr. 12 team members (TM) deployed, 8 on Standby.
11/04/23	OFD II	1 person - Report of caver trapped by leg near Corkscrew area of the 'Top Entrance' area of cave. Initial attempts to free the person had not been successful thus call out was initiated. Sufficient team members on site for initial response, whilst rest of team was placed on standby via SARCALL. Just as underground team was about to depart the message was received that the trapped caver had managed to free themselves. Team stood down when the caver was back at SWCC HQ and deemed safe and well. 10 TM deployed , 4 on Standby
09/05/23	OFD NNR	Sheep stuck in small shakehole, unable to escape thick mud at bottom

		of hole. 2 x SMWCRT Team Members deployed to dig the sheep out the following morning. Successful outcome. Farmer was notified post rescue and agreed to conduct a welfare check on the sheep as well as covering the shake hole in a more robust manner. Notification the day before - 8th, but action happened on 9th. 2 TM deployed, 0 on Standby
28/05/23	Tunnel Cave	2 Persons Exit gate from cave failed to open from the inside. 4 TM deployed , 2 on Standby
23/07/23	Cowbridge area	Mis-routed call to SMWCRT. Police were looking for surface search. Handed over to MR. Call on 24/07 was a repeat request made in error. 0 TM deployed, 0 on Standby
30/07/23	Daren Cilau /Ogof Cnwc	2 People - Overdue on through trip from Daren Cilau to Ogof Cnwc. Trip took longer than expected. 5 TM deployed, 4 on Standby
02/09/23	Sgwd y Pannwr	1 person - Callout from DPP on request of Central Beacons MRT to recover the body of a 28 yr old Male from the deep pool below Sgwd y Pannwr Waterfall in the River Mellte. 3 Cave Rescue Cave Divers and a Team Warden attended the scene and recovered the body which was at the bottom of the pool below the usual jumping ledge.- 4 TM deployed, 1 on Standby
07/10/23	Treherbert	Dog (a spaniel) had fallen into slip rift on hilltop above Treherbert. Seven SMWCRT team members attended, alongside South Wales Fire & Rescue Service. The dog could be seen approx 10m down the narrow rift, which was 2ft wide at the top but narrowed significantly below. Using a combination of SMWCRT and SWFRS equipment, the dog was able to be caught using a noose on a long pole and was brought safely to the surface. Note: Incident was initially routed to Central Beacons MR by South Wales Police. CBMRT then forwarded to SMWCRT via SARCALL. 7 TM deployed, 0 on Standby
30/12/23	Ogof Draenen	Two people – overdue on a trip in Ogof Draenen. Callout out left with parent for 16:30 but not initiated by them until 20:30. Whilst information was being gathered the lost party had surfaced – no reason for being so overdue was given. Note: Initial 999 call was routed to Central Beacons MRT, despite it being in Longtown MRT's area and it being a cave rescue. 5 TM deployed, 0 on Standby

BCRC now ask Teams to record their training hours as well as Rescue incidents on their new platform and I regularly update this site as Rescues occur. In 2021 we totalled 2070 training hours; in 2022 -2351, in 2023 - 2409 (see our Training Officer's report for the details).

f) GCRG

Nothing to report, no rescue callouts in the last 12 months.

g) OFDCAG – Vince Allkins

The OFDCAG is working well. Agreement is now in place following discussions with NRW over minor works and installation of the Via Ferrata steps at the climb out of the streamway in Low's passage.

h) DYOCAP - David Eason (Secretary)

There is nothing substantial to report from the DYOCAP itself. The access system appears to be working well and there have been no major issues reported. We have seen some very high water levels in the cave during the past year.

i) PDCMG

No report received.

j) CMT

Written report requested.

k) MLCMAC – Adrian Fawcett (Secretary)

No changes to or issues with access to the gated caves on Mynydd Llangatwg, but we are getting an increasing number of groups wanting to borrow keys on the day. It is planned to have another local keyholder (in Brynmawr) which will help.

Two fixed aids in Daren Cilau have recently been renewed - hopefully to be funded by BCA. These are the ladder beyond the Restaurant at the End of the Universe and the lifeline on the Preliminary Passage ladder pitch.

l) Ogof Marros - Phil Knight

I was hoping to be able to deliver better news on the choke failure at Ogof Marros, but instead I have to report that it is still blocked. A lot of stabilization has taken place over many trips and one more is planned for opening the cave back up, if the plan goes well. Weather and life has understandably slowed us down.

A handful of trips have been requested this year and the interested parties have understood and appreciated the situation and communication.

Hopefully we can stop the choke from moving and carry on with the explorations at the cave's terminus.

10. Election of Officers

POSITION	CANDIDATE	PROPOSER	SECONDER
Chair	Adrian Fawcett	Allan Richardson	Rich Hill
Secretary	Allan Richardson	Adrian Fawcett	Mark Tringham
Treasurer	Mary Rogers	Adrian Fawcett	Rich Hill
C&A Officer	Stuart France	Rich Hill	Allan Richardson
E&T Officer	Vince Allkins	Rich Hill	Adrian Fawcett
Training Officer	Richard Hill	Allan Richardson	Mary Rogers
Recreational Mines Exploration Officer	Roy Fellows	Vince Allkins	Dave Tyson
Cave Registrar	Martin Laverty	Mary Rogers	Rich Hill
Information Officer	John Sheehy	Allan Richardson	Vince Allkins

As no posts were being contested, there was a proposal to confirm the above officers as in post. All were in favour, passed nem con.

10. AOB, including any matters of general concern

Roy reported that the 2024 annual field meet of NAMHO will be in Cornwall in late June to early July. See the NAMHO website at namho.org for details.

The Buddle Pit forum, which is the replacement website for Aditnow, is now up and running at buddlepit.co.uk/community/index.php

11. Date and location for the next AGM

Allan requested that the next AGM should be held mid-week using Zoom. The meeting, however, was in favour of another hybrid meeting on a Sunday in March 2025 with a date and location yet to be decided. Stuart noted that the BBNPA has a well-equipped teleconference room in their Brecon HQ building and were in the process of building another in the Craig-y-Nos Country Park visitor centre which is conveniently close to Penwyllt for accommodation and the large caves nearby.