

Conservation & Access Report - CSCC Meeting 16th August 2023 - Interim

Please find below the Conservation & Access Officer's Report. This covers the period since the last meeting in April 2023.

Singing River Mine

The landowner has agreed an outline access agreement. This includes a minimum 12 month access duration and the return of the lid if the agreement is subsequently cancelled. The lid has been fabricated by Phil Candy (Blacksmith and caver) and collected. I am currently arranging to get it installed.



Swildon's Changing Barn

The planned work to replace the floor in the Swildon's changing barn has been out on hold. The owner is considering their future options and the barn may be redeveloped and no longer available to cavers. The situation is being monitored.

Longleat

Following some encouragement by Tom Chapman, the management team at Cheddar Show Cave indicated they are willing to re-commence talks about caver access. Linda Wilson and I met with them (the Show Cave Manager and Facilities Manager) and discussed the options available. Subsequently we have submitted an outline proposal and are currently awaiting their response.

Fairy Cave Quarry

The padlock code for access gate to Fairy Cave Quarry has changed. Please contact me if you need the new code.

Compton Martin Ochre Mine

The land containing Compton Martin Ochre Mine was recently sold at auction. Once the sale has completed, I will contact the new landowner to confirm they are happy to continue the existing access arrangement.

Waterwheel Swallet

Following a report that the gate on Waterwheel Swallet was difficult open, the hinges and lock mechanism have been re-greased. The gate opens and closes fine but it is rather heavy.

Future Priorities

In the coming months I will be concentrating on the following priorities:-

- 1) Continue negotiations with Longleat.
- 2) Progress the access and leadership arrangements for Loxton Cavern
- 3) Progress the items listed in this report.

If anyone has anything else they would like progressing then please let me know.

Wayne Starsmore
C&A Officer
CSCC