

THE BEER QUARRY CAVES

The caves were first excavated by the Romans in around 47 AD. The earliest workings were carried out in open quarries, during which time the estuary of the River Axe provided a safe harbour for the removal of the stone by boat.

Extraction was particularly intense during the Norman and Middle Ages, by which time it was necessary to quarry into the side of the hill because of other rock strata above. Quarry men worked long hours by candlelight with hand tools such as picks and saws. The quarrymen were also often supported by child labour. Skilled stonemasons would then work on the stone in the caves because it became harder to carve when exposed to the air. The stone blocks would then be lifted by hand-operated cranes after the connection of Lewis lifting devices to be loaded onto horse-drawn wagons. They would then usually be taken to barges which would sail from Beer Beach.

Beer stone - a creamy-grey, fine-textured limestone from the Middle Cretaceous period - was particularly favoured for cathedral and church features such as door and window surrounds because of its colour and workability for carving. Stone from the quarry was used in the construction of several of southern England's ancient cathedrals and a number of other important buildings as well as for many town and village churches. Most notably it was used to construct Exeter Cathedral, London Bridge, St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and Windsor Castle.

After the Reformation, one of the uses of the caves was as



a secret Catholic church. In the 19th century, the caves were also used to store contraband, including by the smuggler Jack Rattenbury.

Quarrying at the site ceased in the early 20th century when a new quarry was opened nearby. Some caves were then used to cultivate mushrooms and others were used to dump waste from the new quarry.

As well as being open as a tourist attraction, the caves provide a haven for hibernating bats in winter. The presence of the bats, along with the opportunities to see the geological profiles that quarry faces allow, caused the old and new quarries to be declared a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The very rare Bechstein's bat and the greater and lesser horseshoe bats along with five other bat species are all found in the caves.

Just 100 meters from the cave entrance commences the largest Stone Age cemetery in the west of England - Farway - second only to Stonehenge. One day this huge burial ground will be part of the visitor experience at Beer Quarry Caves.



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INVITATION TO THE CLA DEVON BRANCH AGM 2023

*TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER AT 11.30AM
Registration, Tea and Coffee from 11.00am*

BRANOC HALL, LOCKSEYS LANE, BRANSCOMBE, DEVON, EX12 3DB
FOLLOWED BY TOURS AT THE BEER QUARRY CAVES

By kind permission of Kevin Cahill
Followed by two course lunch, drinks and tour



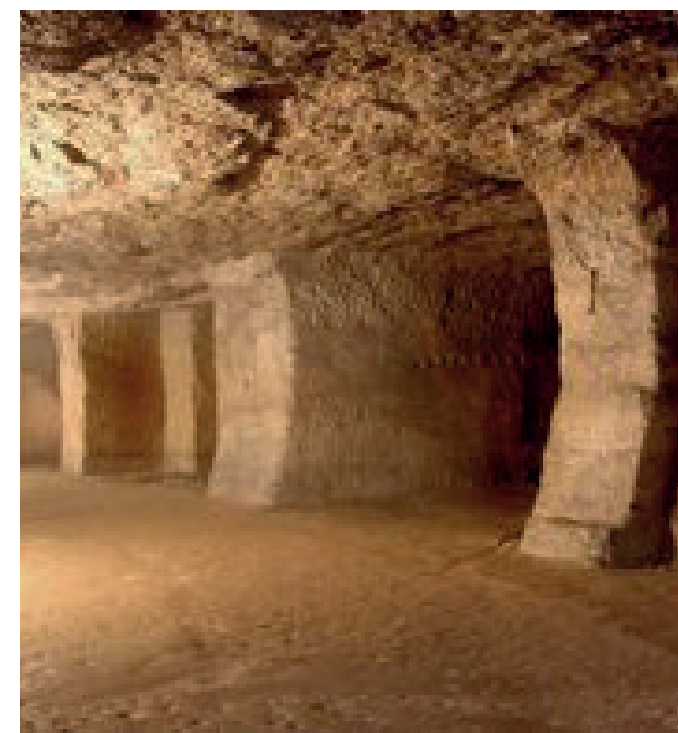
WWW.CLA.ORG.UK



We are extremely fortunate to be able to hold the 2023 Devon AGM at the Beer Quarry Caves. The AGM is generously supported by our partner PKF-Francis Clark.

PROGRAMME

11.00am	Registration, tea and coffee
11.30am	AGM
11.50am	CLA Update
12.30pm	Two-Course Buffet Lunch
2.00pm	Tour of the Beer Quarry Caves
4.00pm	Refreshments
5.00pm	Depart



BOOKING YOUR PLACE AT THE AGM

To book and pay online for the AGM please register or log in to MyCLA at <https://www.cla.org.uk/> Tickets cost £40.00pp inc VAT (AGM only free) Payment can also be made by cheque and sent to: CLA South West, Manor Farm Stables, Biddestone, Chippenham, SN14 7DH.

Please include names of all attendees, and state if you wish to attend AGM only or the AGM and Tour.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT CASH ON THE DAY.

Deadline for booking is Tuesday 10 October 2023.

Please ensure that appropriate clothing and footwear is worn for the tour.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Directions: The main road down through the village from the A3052 begins near the Donkey Sanctuary (for people coming from west of Branscombe) What3words for this junction is lively.thatched.pillows. For people travelling from the east of Branscombe probably the best route you can use is to leave the A3052 directly onto Lockseys Lane (straddled.splints.coats) but this route is not advisable for people who aren't too confident driving in reverse as it's a little narrower than the main route into Branscombe with less passing places

What 3 Words: pioneered.glance.shortens



IMPORTANT: The AGM will be held at Branoc Hall. Please ensure to where sensible clothing and footwear for the tour of the caves as it can be cold. We will be taken by coach to the caves.

CLA REGIONAL CONTACTS

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - DEVON BRANCH



As summer rolls into Autumn it is often that time of year when we reflect on the past twelve months and make plans for the future. Whilst we are experiencing some political stability within England at least, there have been challenges for us all, particularly energy prices, input costs and

rising interest rates. There is a sense that these pressures are beginning to ease but it is impossible to predict whether it will be a sustained downward trend or a short-term valley. We have such limited impact on these external forces that all we can do is ensure that our businesses are in the best possible position to cope with inevitable volatility.

To that end, it is pleasing to see that Defra and the RPA has taken note of the CLA's feedback regarding the Agricultural Transition Plan and particularly the Sustainable Farming Incentive. Whilst not perfect, the 2023 SFI offer is beginning to deliver a scheme which is practical for landowners to access, has straight forward objectives and can be stacked on top of existing agri-environment agreements. It is hoped that as this scheme develops over the next 12 months it will start to replace some of the lost BPS income, particularly in the uplands which has historically been let down by previous schemes. In time it is anticipated that these 'conventional' sources of environmental income will be supplemented by private finance such

as carbon credits and Biodiversity Net Gain but we are not quite there yet. The CLA are continually issuing updates, guidance notes and webinars for these opportunities and so please do keep an eye out for them as these markets start to open up.

As competing demands for land become ever stronger it is likely that future funding sources will be linked to a type of land use matrix, either through Local Nature Recovery Plans or the Land Use Framework. There will be positives and negatives with this approach and so it is vitally important that CLA members engage with any consultations or calls for evidence from the national team to ensure that the diverse views and requirements of Devon's rural businesses are fully represented.

It has been a busy year for the Devon committee members who have reviewed, researched and debated on a wide range of papers from SSSI designations, coastal sea level rise to renewable energy and rural housing. For each topic the members have brought forward their own knowledge, experience and the experience of their neighbours to make sure that the issues affecting Devon are represented at Council. I thank them for the enthusiasm with which they have approached these papers and most importantly their time. I would also like to thank the regional CLA team for their hard work over the last year, particularly delivering another exceptional topical debate at the Devon County Show breakfast. There has been a number of staff changes and I would like to pass on my best wishes to those who have moved on and welcome the new members.

Craig Hodgson

The Annual General Meeting of the Devon AGM will be held at Branoc Hall, Lockseys Lane, Branscombe, Devon EX12 3DB at Tuesday 17 October at 11.30am

AGENDA

1. Opening by Branch President
2. To receive apologies for absence
3. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting, held on Friday 7 October 2022
4. Matters Arising from Minutes
5. To receive and adopt the Annual Report

6. To elect Branch Officers and Council Representative
7. To elect new committee members
8. Any other business

Nominations for the offices of President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Council Representatives and for membership of the Committee, or any motion that a member may wish to propose, must reach the Director South West in writing not less than seven days prior to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE 2022 DEVON BRANCH AGM

MINUTES OF THE DEVON BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2022 AT CLOVELLY, NR. BIDEFORD, DEVON. EX39 5TA

Present: Mark Tufnell (CLA National National President) and approximately 85 attendees.

The Branch President, James Whilding welcomed members.

1. Apologies were received from David Fursdon, Christopher Darwin and four members of the Association.

2. The minutes of the AGM held on 21 September 2021, were signed as being a true and correct record.

Proposed by James Whilding
Seconded by Mary Alford

3. Matters Arising

There were none

4. Annual Report

The Chairman thanked his fellow officers, committee members and CLA South West Team. The Chairman proposed the adoption of his report.

Proposed by James Whilding
Seconded by Craig Hodgson

5. Election of Branch Officers

The following were elected unanimously for the coming year.

President: James Whilding
Proposed by Craig Hodgson
Seconded by Mary Alford

Chairman: Craig Hodgson
Proposed by James Whilding
Seconded by Charles Eden

Vice Chairman: Mary Alford
Proposed by James Whilding
Seconded by Leigh Rix

Council Representatives:

Proposed by Craig Hodgson & Mary Alford
Seconded by James Whilding
James Dennis

Mary - Jane Campbell retired after her term on committee. President thanked her for her time and valuable input.

There were no nominations for elected Committee members, however Matt Lobley (University of Exeter) was co-opted.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 11.50am

DEVON BRANCH COMMITTEE 2023/24

PRESIDENT

J Whilding MRICS MBIAC

CHAIRMAN

C Hodgson Esq

VICE CHAIRMAN

M Alford

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT

E D Fursdon

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Hon A Clifford

M Cotton

R Cotton

J Coyte

C Eden

A Handyside

K Hawke

Kerslake Esq

J Lascelles

J Logan

C Murray Esq

G Page-Turner

H Parker

R Rayner

G Sayers

A Willcocks

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Earl of Devon, C Courtenay

Professor M Lobley

T Stratton BSc (Hons) MRICS

Anne Marie Morris MP

R Milton

Alex Raeder MRICS

L Rix

