

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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Minutes of The Peak Area Meeting Wednesday 19th November, 2014. The Maynard, Grindleford.

1. **Present and Apologies:** – same as for the AGM.
2. **Actions from the last meeting (held on 10th September 2014)**
None.

3. **Update from Access Reps**

Neil gave an overview of the background as to why access issues are still of paramount importance in the Peak Area. The Asset Review undertaken by the Peak Park Authority has meant that the management/ownership of some of the Peak has changed hands over the past few years. The BMC and the volunteer access reps are present on the relevant groups. Also, an important shift is that the power and influence of this Area meeting is recognised by the relevant bodies, and they ask if they can come to the meetings to give updates/consult with us.

Access to the Peak Limestone areas continues to be a worry and a threat and climbers and walkers need to keep on top of this issues.

Henry gave a summary of the main access issues. A more detailed report can be found in the November 2014 newsletter, which can be found here:

<http://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?view=report&id=3130>

Limestone

Staden – This is owned by people who don't want climbers there, but local people are perfectly happy. We are waiting to see how the outstanding planning application for construction of a water bottling plant is affected by the recent death of the quarry owner and (previous) driving force behind those plans.

Horseshoe – Owned by the BMC. They are interested in another person to oversee the quarry, and as it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) the role should be of interest to anyone with a particular experience in conservation.

Aldery – Owned by the BMC. Buxton Mountaineering Club oversee the management of this quarry.

Dark Peak

Stanage – recently 11 fridges have been dumped and 74 sheep have been stolen from John Elliot. If anyone sees anything suspicious then ring the police on 101 and report it.

Stanage Forum feedback can be found here: <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/stanage-northlees>

Eastern Moors – a Stakeholder Forum is scheduled for early December. It has been reported the latest deer count is now at 263, way above the agreed limit of 200.

General

BMC Members Forum – “The BMC's Hill Walking Future” is taking place in Hayfield on the 29th November.

25th April - Spirit of Kinder Day plus 50th Anniversary Pennine Way at Edale.

Access Reps - Henry is continuing to work as access rep for the gritstone areas, but more limestone reps are required. Also someone to coordinate all the access reps is required. Contact Henry if interested.

4. **Northern Peak Access Rep**

Rick Gibbon was standing down as the Northern Peak Access Rep. He gave an insightful summary of his observations and why access continues to be of utmost importance. Even though the CRoW Act gives us free access to the moors, more and more fences are being built, with not enough stiles, which

restricts this access. There is now talk of a fence across the moorland behind Stanage. If this is built people may start to develop fences as off-shoots from it.

Rick emphasised that access is everyone's issue who uses the Peak Park and if we don't continue to fight for it, then it will disappear.

5. Area Youth Coordinator

Jim Watkin is standing down as Area Youth Coordinator after the Youth Climbing Series final which is taking place in April 2015. If anyone is interested in finding out more about this role, then please contact Lynn or the BMC Office for more information.

6. National Council Report

Neil gave an overview of the role of National Council Representative. Each Area field two representatives. They meet five times a year on a Saturday morning, leaving time for climbing or walking. Each rep. gives an overview of what is happening in their area. Issues and topics can be raised through this Forum. Proposals from the BMC Office are also discussed.

A current issue that was raised by the Lake District reps is the increase in ferns and bracken. Not only is this affecting paths, but they harbour ticks, which has led to an increase in Lyme's Disease. This can be very serious and debilitating if not spotted and treated early. The links below will take you to some informative publications on Ticks that have been produced by the BMC:

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/hill-skills-tick-alert>

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/get-ready-to-tackle-ticks>

The spraying of bracken at Stanage has proved to be very effective.

7. Peak Area Newsletter

Anyone can contribute - and people are encouraged to write articles, send it photos. It is our newsletter to communicate what we think are the important issues.

Deadline for articles for the next edition is 25th December. Please send directly to Martin: peakarea@gmail.com

8. Any other business

Stanage Festival – to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the BMC. Many thanks to Will Harris for organising this and for all the volunteers who contributed to the success of the day.

BMC / Sherpa Autumn Lecture – Being hosted by the Bassetlaw Hill and Mountain Club on the 2nd December. Tickets still available at: sites.google.com/site/bassetlawhmc/lecture

Caving Access – Adam reported a big change in caving access. Cavers are currently being consulted. It may result in caves being included in the CRoW Act.

Mountain Bike Forum – Chris Moor reported the next forum is taking place on Monday night at the Lescar Pub.

9. Date, time and venue of the next meeting

28th January, 2015 at 7.30pm, The Maynard, Grindleford.

Post Meeting Note

Burbage Valley - The felling work at the Great Britain Plantation site, funded by the Dark Peak Nature Improvement Area, is now completed, though contractors are still on site tidying up.

Thanks to all who volunteered in marshalling duties to help bring this major initiative to fruition.

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Many thanks to Neil and Graham for the time and effort you put into producing an entertaining quiz.

Congratulations to the winning team and cheers to Chris Taylor who has volunteered to do the quiz next year.

Also a very big **THANKYOU** to the following people/companies who kindly donated prizes – as always everyone was incredibly generous and all donations were very much appreciated - the quiz just wouldn't be the same without them:

Alpkit, Awesome Walls, BMC, Cordee, Cotswold Outdoor, Dan Lane,
Heason Events, Outside, Rab/EquipUK, Rockfax, Robin Mueller,
The Climbing Works, The Depot Nottingham,
The Foundry and Vertebrate Publishing.

NEWSLETTER REMINDER

We are always looking for items for the newsletter, to put alongside the usual access issues.
Please send articles/photos to the newsletter editor, Martin Wass at peakarea@gmail.com

The deadline for the next newsletter is 25th December 2014.

AS ALWAYS:

- Chair of the Peak Area is Neil Foster – neil.foster@bmcvolunteers.org.uk
- Access issues/access volunteer work please contact Henry Folkard – henry.folkard@bmcvolunteers.org.uk
- With regard to the meetings, agenda items or any other issues please contact Lynn Robinson, Peak Area Secretary – lynn.robinson@bmcvolunteers.org.uk
- Check out the Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/bmcpeakarea> and 'like' us if you can.