

BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

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South West Area Meeting

A meeting of the South West Area will be held at **19:30 on Saturday 2nd Oct 2010** at the Count House, Bosigran.

Refreshments (curry meal) provided afterwards

If anything to be discussed on this agenda gives rise to a conflict of interest for anyone, please declare it at the start of the meeting.

Agenda

1. Minutes of last meeting – matters arising
 2. Feedback from National Council
 3. Regional Development and Activities
 - a) Area endorsement for Lands End Climbing Club fixed protection statement (see below)
 - b) Area endorsement for Penwith and Cornish climbers' fixed protection statement (see below)
 4. Any other Business
- Close and refreshments

Next Meeting Dates and Venues

November, in Gloucester - date to be confirmed.

Lands End Climbing Club fixed protection statement

On 15th September the Lands End Climbing Club committee met to discuss the forthcoming BMC Area Meeting in Penwith. The club's policy on fixed protection has now been summarised into the following statement after receiving unanimous support:

In line with agreed BMC policy and overwhelming local and national consensus, the Lands End Climbing Club opposes the placement of fixed protection on Cornish sea cliffs and natural inland outcrops. Furthermore, the club proposes that existing fixed protection is removed and damage to rock repaired where possible.

In light of the recent chipping and drilling debacle at Lands End, the continued presence of bolted routes at Carn Vellan and many historical bolts and drilled pegs currently rotting away, the club would like endorsement for our policy on fixed gear from the BMC Area Meeting.

Penwith and Cornish climbers' fixed protection statement

Following discussions and careful consideration of all the issues over the past several years Penwith and Cornish climbers have formed a policy in relation to sport climbing. The policy is driven by certain simple overriding truths, such as:

1. Cornwall as a region should be treated with parity with any other regional climbing area in the UK (especially in so far as sport climbing is concerned).
2. Penwith and Cornish climbers who wish to develop sport climbing in Cornwall should have the same opportunity to develop crags in their local areas just like the rest of the UK.

The policy has the support of Penwith and Cornish climbers; is consistent with agreed BMC policy and is supported on a national basis. The policy is as follows:

- Penwith and Cornish climbers may develop sport climbing at certain specific Cornish venue/s excluding all natural granite cliffs/outcrops;
- The selection of those venue/s will be based upon a coherent, rational and logical basis, relevant factors may include whether-
 - there are verified and repeated existing trad lines;
 - whether there has been a history of sport climbing;
 - the BMC's approval of the use of the venue in question; and
 - its suitability for sport climbing by comparison to other national sport climbing venues.

The policy is not to be construed as an approval or tacit acceptance of the chipping or manufacture of protection/holds that has taken place recently or historically in connection with trad climbing. This policy for sport climbing, therefore, should not be conflated with any other aspect of climbing.