

Current Access and Guidebook Issues

Les Ainsworth

Unwarranted Bolting

I am getting a bit brassed off about unwarranted bolting in our quarries and must remind everyone about the agreed NW bolting policy, which is that bolts are not to be used at established routes with only three exceptions:

1. To replace existing bolts when there is no alternative,
2. Where specifically agreed after discussion at an area meeting,
3. Where required in order to secure access.

So if anyone feels that an existing route merits retrobolting they should first try to discuss this with the first ascensionist and then bring it up at an Area Meeting. **It really should not be necessary for someone to have to undo the damage with an angle grinder.**

However, at the NW Area meeting in April I had to report that 3 bolts had appeared at Cow's Mouth, and there were 3 more at Noggarth on **Tiny Triangle** (incidentally installed incorrectly). All these have now been angle ground off, which all takes time, effort and leaves scars.

I now have to report that a lower off and 4 protection bolts have recently appeared on Zanadu at Deeply Vale, which was first done way back in 1981 with just one peg for pro. **Really!? If you can't lead a climb, top rope it, but don't desecrate it.**

Montcliffe

I am pleased to be able to report that the access difficulties at Montcliffe have now been resolved. The access agreement has the following two special conditions which all climbers must adhere to:

1. The quarry must be entered via the old quarry entrance. So, from Georges Lane follow the public footpath parallel to the quarry to the junction with another path at the foot of the slope, then turn left and enter the quarry on the left after about 80m. Climbers **MUST NOT** cross the open land on the left of the initial footpath.
2. Climbers **MUST NOT TOP OUT** on the routes between *Wanderers Return* (1) and *Aye Lad* (20), but must use the available lower-offs. In time there may also be lower-offs for the remaining routes.

Thirteen lower-off bolts and one strop around a tree have now been provided, installed and tested by Stuart Holmes and I must thank him for doing a very professional job. It is great to have climbers like Stuart who are willing to give their time to support climbing in our area and everyone who climbs at Montcliffe in future owes a lot to him. Dave Chron, Gordon Mason and I returned to Montcliffe last weekend to install some signs and Stuart turned up to finish the bolting.

Silverdale Sea Crag

At Silverdale the small sea crags spread northwards from the south end of Silverdale village just past the Silverdale Hotel as far as Far Arnside. The climbing is generally short, bolted and spread out on small outcrops with three different land owners. The bulk of the climbing is on the section that ends about 500m north at The Cove and is on land owned by the National Trust, which has agreed to permit climbing on their property. A response is still awaited about a section just past The Cove which known as **Cueva** which has 4 routes 6a+ to 6c. However, the owner of the rock further north at Far Arnside (**La Republica**) where the climbs are very slightly longer is currently unwilling to allow climbing, stating that he is “*horrified at the prospect*”. I am working with Andy Hyslop to try to resolve the outstanding issues.

Andy has done a great job bolting the climbing and though it is relatively limited, it makes a useful addition to the other climbing in the area. Andy will be updating his topo guide and if you go there please keep to the guidance, especially about parking. Also, be careful about the tides, which can come in quick and do catch many people unawares.

Hoghton

The peregrines were successful at Hoghton and have three chicks. Climbing started on Friday, July 2nd and extends until Sunday August 29th.

Please note that any visitors will need to know the access code to get past a locked gate.

I would also like to have a clean up at Hoghton and am suggesting Saturday July 10th from 10,00 until about 13,00. I know that we only have limited access, but it is a great quarry and we do need to maintain the climbing there. I suspect that there will be a quite a few rhododendrons to cut down, but perhaps the biggest problem will be moss on Hoghton Wall (Boadicea etc.) so secateurs and stiff brushes or wire brushes will be required, so **only come if you are ready for cleaning on abseils**, but bring some gear and do a route (or more) afterwards. *Mandarin* is waiting for you and it is the tick that you need to become a proper Lancs climber.

Wilton One

The Wilton Management Group would like to ask climbers to support a clean up session at Wilton One. Whilst there is always a need for some specific routes to be cleaned, perhaps the main requirement is to cut down some of the trees that have self seeded close to and on the rock, so bow saws will be useful. The clean up is to be held on Saturday July 24th from 10,00 meeting at the memorial. Expect about 3hrs for cleaning and then get your ropes out.

Sadly, I have to report that there has been some damage to the memorial. This will require some minor rebuilding of the surrounding walling and the central 'table'.

Wilton Three

The Wilton Management Group have asked me to look into some concerns at Wilton Three. These include clay pigeon debris; rock damage on the rock right of Rappel Wall and a fence repair.

Wilton Two

Sadly, I have to report the death of Jim, the groundsman for the Rifle and Pistol Gun Club. Many climbers will remember Jim as a great guy, who was always very friendly and helpful to climbers.

Other Access Bits

Warton Main Qy

Unfortunately, the peregrines were not successful this year.

Climbing can now restart in the quarry.

It is likely that some of the Lakes folk will be undertaking a bit of agreed bolting as mentioned in the Wired guide to Lakes Sport.

Troy Qy

The car park at Troy is no longer available for climbers and there are signs about clamping. Please park sensitively in the lane (i.e. not in front of houses or entrances). The locals like climbers, so let's keep it that way.

Brownstones

There are still problems with flooding at the Pool. The valve to control the level cannot be found, so there is a question about how to proceed.

Noggarth

Besides the removal of bolts on Tiny Triangle, there has been further cleaning at Noggarth by Dave Chron, Gordon Mason and Andy Barnes. This has given about 7 new climbs on rock to the right of Girls Slab and the rock at the left side of the Main Area has also been cleaned. The new climbs should be obvious from little white arrows on the rock and the grades are generally VS and below.

Guidebooks

Northern Rock

Work on this guide is progressing very well and this weekend Paul Evans has conscripted some climbers to visit quarries in the Bolton Area for action photographs. The guide will cover Lancs, Yorks Grit, Yorks Limestone, North York Moors and Northumberland.

Lancs Definitives

In light of the BMC's possible move out of guidebook publication, a small group of Lancs activists has been set up to ensure that we can maintain publication of definitive guidebooks to the area covered in Lancashire Rock (2016). The aim is to produce a set of low cost definitive guidebooks that will cover the area. Initially there will be three volumes and the first volume will cover the Bolton Area plus Cadshaw and Round Barn. The proposal is to produce limited print runs that will be mainly sold direct to climbers. These will then be kept up to date and reprinted more regularly than previously. **All** profits will go back into future guidebooks and also to support Lancs climbing in other ways.

Selected Climbs and Bouldering in Wilton Quarries

Dave Price has just published a '*guidebook*' to Wilton. It comprises several drawings by Malc Baxter and is published as a tribute to Malc for his considerable work over about sixty years supporting Peak District and Lancs guidebooks. It is too good to take to the crag, but for any Lancs climbers who appreciate the line drawings that used to be so important before phototopos became so cheap to produce, it is a great coffee table book.

I have known Malc for years and he is a really great lad. All his diagrams have been provided to guidewriters at no cost, though the work has been considerable and of very high quality. In recognition of all this work he was quite rightly made a Honorary Member of the BMC. I will also take this opportunity to record our thanks to Geoff Hibbert for his crag drawings (some of which adorn my walls).

Copies of the book can be obtained from [www.cockerelbooks .com](http://www.cockerelbooks.com).

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