

Proposed Fixed Gear Policy on North West Crag and Quarries

1. There should be no fixed gear of any kind placed on any of the North West's natural grit crags (Blackstone Edge, Cadshaw Rocks, Coldstone or Thorn Crag).
2. If any landowner makes access conditional upon any specific approach to the use of fixed gear on their property, their requirements must be complied with.
3. No **new** fixed protection or lower-offs must be installed on existing routes without prior discussion and agreement at a BMC NW Area meeting.
4. Where shorter single pitch routes are done as boulder problems with mats, such that this becomes the accepted style, any fixed gear should not be replaced. Consider removal.
5. If fixed gear has deteriorated or is dangerous, it should only be replaced if there are no suitable nearby points where modern leader-placed protection could be used.
6. Where a peg or bolt is deteriorating and doing the route without fixed protection would result in a significant increase in grade, the policy should be to replace the fixed gear, with the new gear sited as close as possible to the existing placement to maintain the character of the route.
7. Pegs are now much more expensive than bolts and are also more prone to corrosion. However, before a peg is replaced by a bolt this must be discussed and agreed by an NW Area meeting or by a delegated group.
8. Wherever existing bolts are to be replaced or it has been agreed by the BMC NW Area that bolts are to be installed, this installation must only be undertaken by climbers designated by the BMC NW Area who will use the correct materials and who have the necessary skills and experience to comply with the safety standards required.