

British Mountaineering Council

South West Area Meeting

The Meeting will take place virtually via Zoom on Thursday 29 April 2021, starting at 7.00 pm.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of 1/03/2021 Meeting - Link to BMC Site
3. Bovey Woods
4. Bonehill Rocks Parking Area
5. Wintours Leap: See 'proposal' document
 - a) Presentation
 - b) Approvals
6. Ansteys Cove
7. Fairy Cave Quarry: See Appendices
8. Youth Area Co-ordinators Report
9. AOB
10. Date of next meeting

Tony Bird
Gloucestershire MC

Appendices

Fairy Cave Quarry Access Update.

From the beginning of May 2021, the gate combination will be available from the BMC RAD in a similar way to Wintour's Leap. It is intended to change the combination around New Year every year so it will be important to check the RAD each Spring. Those people who have requested the combination from Ian Butterworth will be emailed informing them of the changes. A new sign will be placed on the gate and local social media climbing groups will be informed.

With two serious accidents involving the air ambulance within 3 weeks continuing access to climb at Fairy Cave is not guaranteed. Many of the climbers using the quarry this Spring have been new and/or inexperienced trad climbers attracted to the quarry by the large number of relatively low grade routes. Unfortunately, many of these routes involve loose and unstable ground which is potentially dangerous. Please will experienced climbers offer advice and guidance to any climbers they see venturing on to obviously loose routes or using dangerous practice.

A Fixed Gear Warning.

Recently a 5-year-old galvanised wire strop placed as an abseil point at Fairy Cave Quarry failed. Fortunately, it was not being loaded at the time so a potentially serious accident was avoided. Inspection revealed that the plastic cable sleeve had been heat sealed around the ferrule at one end. This had allowed water to enter and cause corrosion.

If plastic sleeves are left on cable strops any water ingress or condensation must be free to run out.

The golden rule is to always check fixed gear in any situation before using.

Ian Butterworth

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BMC Access Rep for Fairy Cave Quarry