



BMC North West Area

Online (Zoom) meeting

Monday 26th April 2021 19:00

- Slides - on BMC Communities site
 - <https://community.thebmc.co.uk/>
- Recorded
- Microphones - off
- Chat - questions, issues

Welcome

- New to Zoom?
- New to BMC meetings?
- Ask questions, give comments
- Keep it concise (if you can)
- Civilised - new ideas
- Not a SPAG test
- Problem? message in chat
- Bear with us - give us feedback

**Lovely to
see you**



Area Meeting Agenda

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Informal chat – Zoom rooms | 30 mins |
| 2. Welcome and apologies for absence | 3 mins |
| 3. Minutes of previous (Mar 2021) area meeting | 5 mins |
| 4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere | 2 mins |
| 5. BMC's response to COVID-19, status re access, and lockdown | 10 mins |
| 6. Reports from area representatives | 30 mins |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access• Clubs• Hill Walking• Youth & Walls• Social media and comms | |
| 7. NW Events calendar 2021 | 5 mins |
| 8. Report from most recent National Council | 15mins |
| 9. 2021 AGM | 15 mins |
| 10. Any other business | 5 mins |
| | 120 mins |

Items 2 - 4

2. Apologies for absence – Steve Riley

3. Minutes of previous area meeting

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere



Item 5: BMC's response to COVID-19 - access & lockdown

Update from UK Gov – England remains on track to hit step 3 by 17th May. Vaccinations proceeding well ,cases continue to fall. However several variants being tracked.

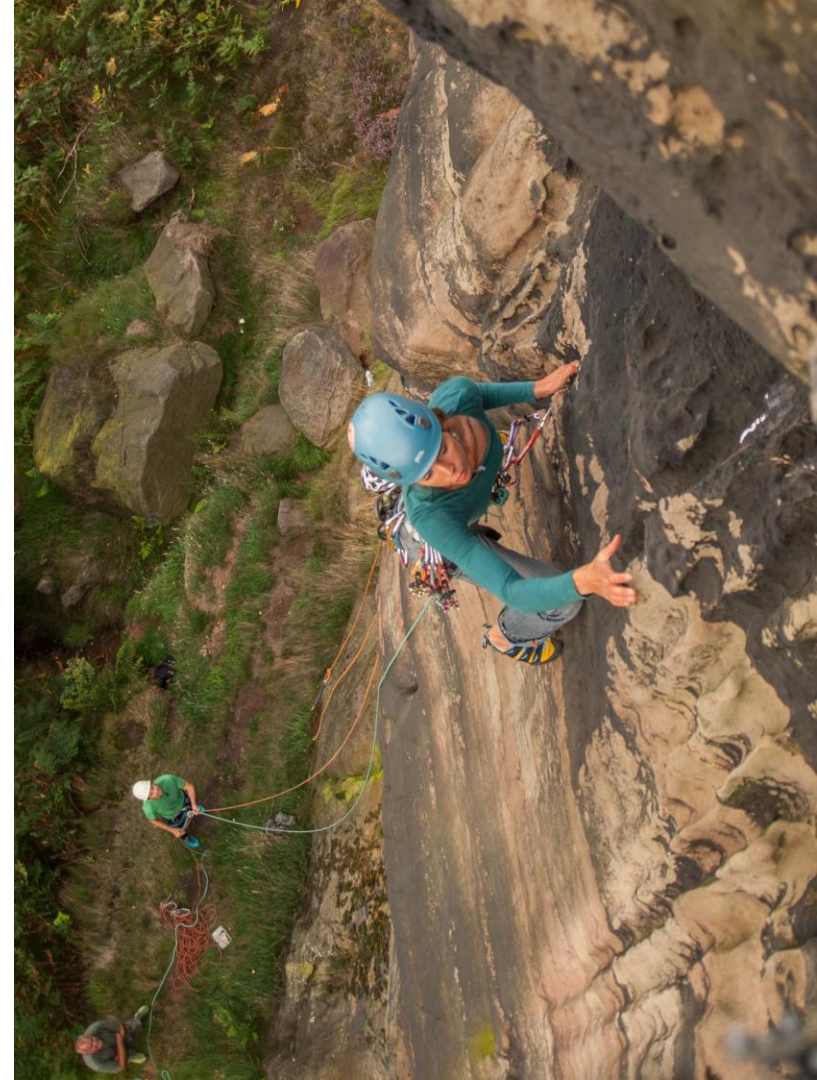
Updated guidance from BMC for England –

- All forms of outdoor sport and physical activity (including climbing and walking) have been allowed since 8th March and this continues to be the case.
- Groups of up to 6 individuals from different households or an unlimited number of people from two households can meet outdoors (see also clubs).
- No social mixing is allowed indoors.
- Currently government advice is to "minimise the amount you travel wherever possible". However, there is no legal limit on travel distance at this time.
- There are still restrictions on sharing transport in England, but at the time of writing the government guidance has not been updated.

Wales – As at 14/04 Travel into or out of Wales from other UK countries is unrestricted

Scotland – As at 14/04 Non-essential travel between Scotland and the rest of the UK remains restricted

Covid related access issues in the North West – none noted. However overcrowding at honeypots (e.g. Dovestones) continues to be a problem and the long spell of dry weather means moorland fires are now becoming a real issue.



In all cases the emphasis is on **compliance with the law**,
with recommendations to **keep yourself and others safe**,
to **avoid “honeypots”** and **stay local**,
not to assume Mountain Rescue Teams will operate as normal,
and to **respect** the sensitivities of
local communities.



Agenda Item 6

Area Reps Reports

The volunteers who make the magic happen

Access & Guides

Les Ainsworth & Mark Hounslea

Clubs

Dominic Oughton

Hill Walking

Steve Charles & Dave Robinson

Youth & Walls

Stuart Holmes

Social media & comms

Roberta Spagnul, Dominic Oughton, Joe Green

Current Access Issues

Les Ainsworth

Unwarranted Bolting

Cow's Mouth

Above the slab at the far left side of Cow's Mouth three bolts have recently appeared. There were plenty of belay points above these slabs and so there was no justifiable reason for inserting them. It has been suggested that they may have been installed by an Outdoor Ed group for abseiling practice. If so, I must also stress that routes on this slab are already showing signs of overuse, which has rounded previously sharp handholds so much that at least two of the routes now need upgrading.

The bolts have now be angle ground off, so if the bolt installers read this, please do not re-install them.

Noggarth

On Cyclone Slab at Noggarth three protection bolts have recently appeared on Tiny Triangle. These have now been cut off. Will the bolt installers please note that normal climbing etiquette in Lancs is for the first ascensionists to be asked before any retrobolting, and as it is one of mine and Karl Adderley's routes I can confirm that bolts are not needed. Furthermore, non-stainless bolts were fitted with stainless hangers, which would have soon led to corrosion, meking the bolts unsafe and damaging the rock.

In Progress

Silverdale Sea Crag

Earlier this week Andy Hyslop and myself represented climbers at a site meeting with several concerned organisations. I am pleased to say that there was much agreement and the National Trust have provisionally accepted an agreement about climbing on their land. This needs to be confirmed by the NT management, so could climbers please avoid this area for the next few weeks. When the agreement is finalised climbers will be informed and Andy's guide to the climbing will be amended to explain the arrangements for parking and climbing.

Montcliffe

We now have an agreement in principle, which will require climbers to use lower-offs. However, could climbers still avoid the quarry until the agreement has been finalised and the lower-offs are in place.

Parking

Troy Quarry

The usual car park at Troy Quarry is owned by the quarry company and after some anti-social behaviour at the quarry (this is certainly not attributed to climbers) they have decided to close off the parking at approximately 15,30. for parking and climbing.

The locals are still very supportive of climbers and United Utilities are going to give me contact details so that I can discuss this issue with the quarry owners. My view is that ideally the car park should remain open, but if it is to be closed, appropriate signage should be installed. Meanwhile, if climbers visiting Troy are not anticipating returning to the car park before 15,00 they should park on the lane. However, please think about the locals and do not park in front of houses or entrances.

Stanworth

Parking on the A675 for visits to Stanworth has been giving residents problems because it blocks their view of traffic from Bolton. I am proposing to visit the residents to try to re-instate the previous parking arrangements.

Definitive Guidebooks

A group of local activists are to go ahead with definitive coverage of trad climbing in area covered by Lancs Rock as three smaller volumes. The first volume is to cover everything in the Bolton Area of the 2016 definitive plus Cadshaw and Round Barn. Expected publication is within about 12 to 15 months. Initially this will be financed from sales of the 2020 Lancs Amendments etc. and most copies will be sold direct to climbers to keep price down.

For anyone wishing to support this work there are two areas at Egerton that need route checking and a bit of cleaning. These are: the left side of Grooved Wall (up to Black Arm) and there has been a rockfall on Spindrift, so it would also be good to know whether it is still viable.

Pinfold – Problem Solved...



Cheshire Crag Access – Mark Hounslea



On the “Friends of Pex Hill” facebook page there has recently been a proposal to place a memorial plaque at Pex Hill to the recently deceased Phil Davidson, who was held in very high regard by many locals. This would be similar to the plaque placed at The Breck in memory of Al Rouse.

Note that the FOPH Facebook page is a vibrant local community of Cheshire Sandstone enthusiasts, where details of cleanups and other local news can be found.

There is lots to do while still staying local!

There are dozens of venues and thousands of routes in the North West.

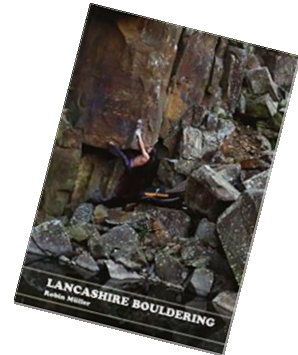
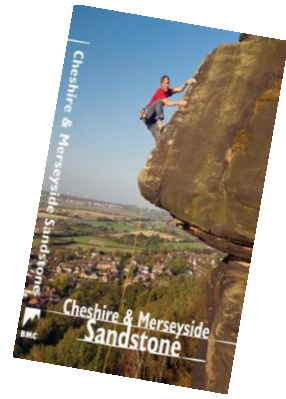
Lancashire has new routes – talk to Les – get the Supplement!

Check out the 2020 Posts on the NW area facebook page for lots of suggestions for NW area walks.

For those who live on the borders of the Peak or Yorkshire, check out these newsletters –

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/peak-area-newsletter-november-2020?s=5>

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/yorkshire-area-newsletter-february-2021?s=5>





ROCKAROUNDTHEWORLD

It's a climber's life.



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CATEGORIES

- Austria
- BeNeLux
- Campervan Stopover
- Canada
- Eastern Europe
 - Bulgaria
 - Croatia
 - Hungary
 - Romania



THE RUINS

Hello – I'm your BMC NW Area Club Coordinator

Dominic Oughton
dominic@oughton.uk.com



Get involved

- We had the 3rd episode of the NW Clubs chat in March, with around a dozen clubs represented, and the sessions have been invaluable in helping keep up to date with the changing situation around meets and huts. A huge thank you to Jane Thomas of the BMC for guiding us all through the complexities.
- Hopefully your clubs are starting to take advantage of the "rule of six", "organised meets of up to 30" and day-trips to Wales - check the website for the latest guidance.
- The next session is planned for Monday 28th June at 7pm - get in touch if you would like to be added to the invitation.
- In a significant development in the NW Clubs landscape, around 70 members of the Anabasis Club (founded 60 years ago) have been welcomed into membership of The Rucksack Club - there's a great piece on the history of the Anabasis here: <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/the-anabasis-tribute-to-mountaineering-club>
- The Clubs Committee is working with The BMC on a campaign to encourage Club membership. There's a launch event planned for 4th May - keep an eye on the website or get in touch for details.



Hillwalking Report, April 2021



Steve Charles

NATIONAL EVENTS

For Earth Day..... Purchase of Sphagnum for MftF



Get ready for your hiking adventures

Hiking Essentials

22 APRIL



The background of the image is a scenic landscape of rolling hills and valleys under a sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow. In the foreground, a rocky mountain peak is visible, with a small orange tent pitched on its summit. The text 'WILD HORIZONS' is overlaid on the center of the image. 'WILD' is in large, white, distressed block letters. 'HORIZONS' is in yellow, outlined block letters. Below this, a black banner contains the text 'THE BMC HILLWALKING PODCAST' in white, sans-serif capital letters.

WILD HORIZONS

THE BMC HILLWALKING PODCAST



Hot off the press.....15th to 23rd May.....

LOCAL EVENTS



2000 sphagnum moss plugs planted on Holcombe Moor

.....now the nesting season

Plans for 2021

- Upland Restoration Projects

- Moss Planting (after nesting)
- Footpath repairs
- Drystone wall repairs
- Clean up (Dave Robinson)
- All depend on Govt Restrictions

- Walks

- South (Steve) May small group combined with Clean up
- Central (Dave)
- North (Volunteer?) Autumn

Please contact: stevecharles25@gmail.com

if you want to get involved in hillwalking events, or just vaguely interested!

Clean-ups

Upland restoration projects

Walks

Organise a walk



Youth and Walls

Over to Stuart....

Social Media & Area Communications

- Scheduling - Thinking Ahead
- Engaging Members
- Promoting Events
- Analysing Data

Why is this important?

- c.10,000 BMC members in the NW Area.
- Only a tiny percentage of the most dedicated & involved attend area meetings.
- Social media and email are a vital tool for communicating and engaging with our wider area community.
- No update for this meeting – stay tuned for next meeting,



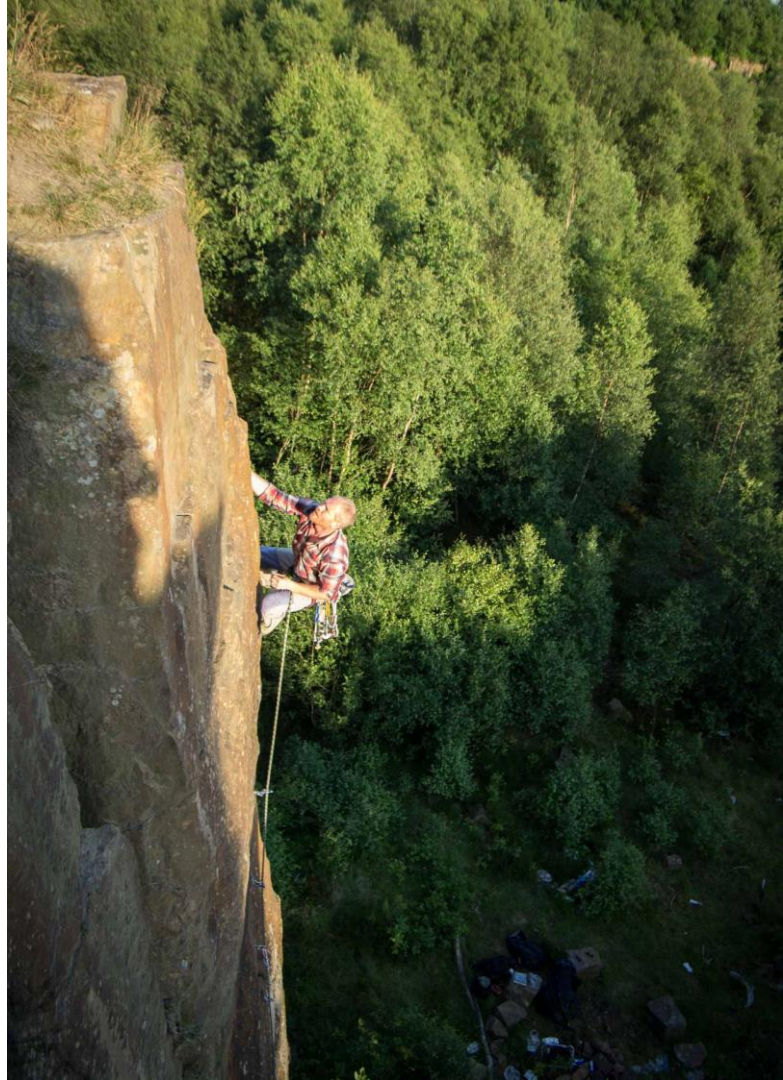
Final Agenda Items

7. NW Events calendar 2021

8. Report from National Council - CS & BB

9. Prep for BMC 2021 National AGM – use your vote!

10. Any other business?



Thanks

How was it?

Please pop comments in chat:

What went well?

What could be better?

What was missing that you'd like to see?