

BMC South West Area 2020-21 report

Since last year's AGM we have held 3 regular area meetings (1st March, 29th April and 19th July) and 1 special meeting (27th January). All the meetings were held on-line using "Zoom". Attendance continues to be significantly higher than physical meetings (typically 30 -40 attendees, but 90+ for the special meeting). The main focus has been access issues:

Anstey's

The special meeting of 27th January was called because members raised concerns about path "improvements" at Anstey's Cove and worries that this might impact access as the landowner had not been properly consulted. A locally based group has been set up to work with the landowner and look after Anstey's.

Dartmoor

Bovey Woods – concerns were raised by The Woodland Trust (landowner) about the impact of bouldering in the area, a code of conduct has been agreed and publicised by the BMC.

Bonehill – the parking area here had significantly deteriorated, concerns were raised with Dartmoor National Park (DNP), they have undertaken improvements with help towards the costs from the BMC.

Wild Camping – nuisance camping and accompanying litter etc. has continued to be a problem on the moor. DNP is consulting on restricting the areas where camping is allowed – more on this and our response in the main meeting.

Cornwall

English Heritage is no longer allowing climbing on Tintagel Head (Il Duce etc.) Our National Access officers are talking to EH trying to resolve this.

Isle of Wight

The National Trust have stopped allowing access to Skeleton Ridge. Marti Hallett is working to resolve this with support from the National Access officers.

Cheddar

After a poor start at Easter and Whitsun with some flagrant transgressions jeopardising access, the rest of the season has been, dare I say - exemplary. No observed breaches of our agreement. I hope that it's the signs and bolt tags that have helped, in which case next year should be good too. (Mark Courtiour).

Not access, but related, Wye Valley – a local group of climbers has been set up to work on replacing the fixed protection on Wintour's Leap. (Working along the same lines as the "Climb Bristol" project).

Youth – after a long covid hiatus, the Youth Climbing series has started up again this autumn.

Mark Kemball, Area Chair