

October '22

Update on the use of Drilled/Glued Pegs on Trad Routes in North Wales

1. Background

- a. In Nov 2020 a UKC article highlighted the spread of drilled and glued pegs at Gogarth.
- b. After much consultation an updated Fixed Gear guideline was produced by a BMC Cymru (North) working group in June 2021.
- c. More examples of drilled/glued eco-pegs continue to be placed (or at least are being identified as placed previously) on trad routes in N. Wales including more on sea-cliffs and also on mountain crags.



Ecopeg aka pegbolt.
Generally drilled and glued into a previous peg placement.

2. Known Examples To Date

- a. **Rhoscolyn: Painted Wall:**
 - Easel-ee, E7 (3 or 4 glued pegs on the lower half before joining Surreal Appeal).
Some rock damage from chipping around one of the glued peg placements on Easel-ee to allow access to clip the eye.
 - Painted Groove, E6 (2 or 3 glued pegs).
- b. **Trearddur Bay: Face of Adversity:** Chicama, E9
- c. **Moelwyns: Clogwyn Yr Adar:** Blood Bank E4, Genericon Limits E3 (and others)?
The crag had become rarely visited prior to publication of the 2021 guide and confirmation of new access arrangements.
- d. **Castell Cidwm:** Central Wall (plus possibly others)

e. Craig y Forwyn

This is historically a trad crag which seems to be receiving a creeping number of glued bolts. There have always been one or two old bolts. Will all old fixed gear be gradually replaced by drilled/glued pegs?

f. Llanymynech Quarry: Black Is Beautiful. Glued peg added 2020, replacing a previous bolt removed in 2008.

g. Gogarth Upper Tier: (as previously highlighted in the Nov 2020 UKC article)

- The Cruise
- 15 Men on a Dead Man's Chest
- Horrorshow
- Barbarossa

h. Gogarth Main Cliff: Citadel (as previously highlighted in the Nov 2020 UKC article)

Latest estimate of total placements (considered a minimum): **25-30**.

3. Concerns

- a. The scale of use of drilled and glued pegs is understood now to be significantly greater than when the updated Fixed Gear guideline document was produced. This increasing use appears to be with limited consultation (none documented), so decisions are apparently being made opaquely by a small number of unaccountable individuals. This does not appear to be in line with the spirit of the Fixed Gear guideline.
- b. Each glued pegbolt placement changes the nature of the route and makes it more of a hybrid route with less judgement and trad skill required. Thus the experience is not being preserved, it is being changed and arguably being diminished.
- c. As per the guideline, when an old peg becomes poor and unreliable, the key questions should be:
 - Does the old peg need to be replaced at all once removed?
 - Are there other adequate leader-placed options?The most sustainable option is clean hand-placed/hand-removed protection.
- d. This drilled/glued peg trend with limited consultation could lead to proliferation beyond N Wales and sets an example of unilateral action.

4. Questions for the BMC Area Meeting

1. Could the North Wales Area keep an up-to-date list of all the routes on which the drilled/glued peg/bolts have been placed in order that members can make informed judgements about their usage in N Wales, both on a case-by-case basis and also taking account of the total numbers installed over time?

2.

- a. Has BMC money, via the North Wales Bolt Fund, been used to pay for re-equipping any crags such as Clogwyn yr Adar (Moelwyns) with eco-bolts?
- b. What consultation process was followed before that re-equipping took place?