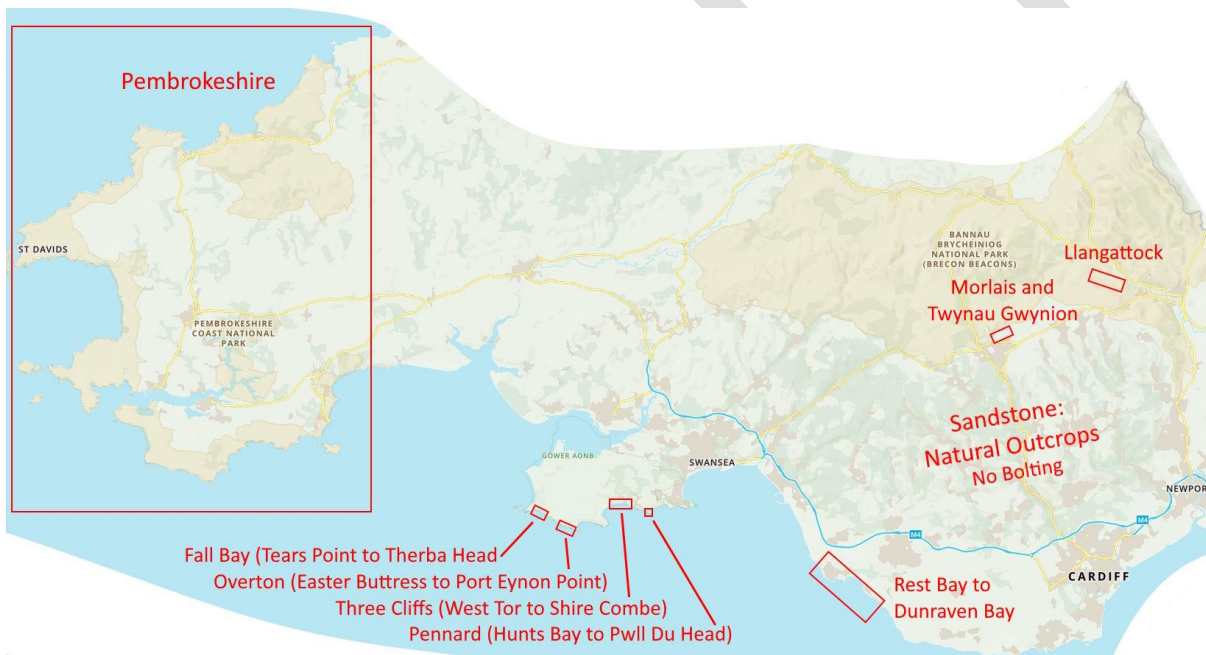


DRAFT BMC South Wales Area Bolt Policy

1. Guidance on placing of bolts and preservation of trad routes

- A) When developing new crags or routes climbers should use their judgement to evaluate the character of the area, crag and route before placing bolts. If the rock provides suitable natural protection then fixed gear should be avoided.
- B) When developing new sport routes on a crag with Trad climbs recorded, bolts should not be placed without consideration of the views of the local climbing community.
- C) New Sport routes should avoid interfering with existing traditional routes recorded in the public domain.
- D) No bolts to be placed in areas designated as a Trad Protection (Red) Zones on the map below.

“Red Zone” Map (For the purpose of this policy, South Wales is defined as Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Gower and SE Wales, excluding the Wye Valley and areas covered by the Central Wales Guidebook)



2. Retro-bolting of Trad routes

- A) This may be **considered** when that route is not climbed due to dependence on deteriorated in-situ protection, or the nature of the rock means that traditional protection is unreliable.
- B) The First Ascensionist of the traditional route should be consulted. If the First Ascensionist is not contactable, it should be raised at an Area Meeting.

3. Bolting

- A) Bolting is defined as 'the placement of any drilled gear', assumed to be bolts.
- B) Bolting should only take place with the appropriate permissions from The Landowner and Conservation Bodies. Failure to do so can jeopardise current or future access. The Area Access Representatives are available to assist with this aspect.
- C) Bolting must be in accordance with the recommendations within the current version of the BMC Bolt Installers Guide.
- D) Replacing worn placements with bolts should be on the basis of providing appropriate protection for the grade of the climb.
- E) If there are any issues surrounding access or bolting etiquette, they should be made known to a BMC Access Representative or at an Area Meeting, before action is taken by individuals without discussion.

4. Bolt Fund

- A) The South Wales Bolt Fund finances the replacement of old, worn or damaged bolts in South Wales, and relies entirely on donations from climbers to fund this important work within the area. Without donations, the goodwill and hard work from local Volunteers, many crags would not be equipped as they are.
- B) The BMC South Wales Area asks that if you sport climb in South Wales, please make a donation to The South Wales Bolt Fund to enable the work to continue.