

BMC Drilled Equipment Policy, May 1992

The BMC's drilled equipment policy is essentially a statement of the organisation's position regarding the placement of drilled equipment. This policy was drafted after wide ranging and high profile consultation and unanimously agreed at the 1992 AGM, held in late April at the Royal Victoria Hotel in Llanberis. The policy could be modified or replaced at a future AGM. The policy is that:

'The BMC strongly supports the approach to climbing based on leader-placed protection which makes use of natural rock features. The BMC believes that care and concern for the crag and mountain environments is of paramount importance.

The BMC accepts that in exceptional circumstances, agreed by the BMC, fixed equipment may be utilised for lower-off or abseil points to avoid environmental damage or maintain access.

It is the policy of the BMC that the use of bolts and other drilled equipment is only legitimate on certain agreed quarried crags and agreed sections of certain limestone crag. Lists of agreed locations will be maintained by the local area committees.

The BMC is firmly opposed to retrospective bolting (i.e. changing the character of a route by placing fixed equipment where none was previously used). Climbs should only be re-equipped on a basis of common consent established at open forums.'

This policy does not attempt to dictate exactly where bolting should or should not take place. Such a decision inevitably rests with the individual and it is up to the individual to take account of the consensus view when making a judgement. It is vital that the consensus view is publicly agreed and accepted and this is where the open meetings come in, and it is within the guidelines agreed at such meetings that the consensus view is encapsulated.

Ref: BMC AGM, 1992