

BMC Specialist Committee: 2018 Report and 2019 Forward Plans

Committee name	Access Management Group		
No. of meetings in 2018	2	Average attendance	8

Changes required to Terms of Reference & Membership

- No changes to the Terms of Reference & Membership are required

Summary of key achievements & outputs (2018)

Policy / National Issues

- Glover review of N Parks & AONBs (working in partnership / meetings etc.) & pulling together response for current DEFRA consultation 'Landscapes Review: Call for evidence'.
- Submitted a response to the DEFRA consultation paper on 'Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit'.
- Agriculture Bill - monitoring the progress of the Bill through the House of Commons. Helped shape and sign up to Wildlife and Countryside Link / Greener UK briefing papers (this will continue through the passage of the Bill) & developing BMC briefing paper when Bill goes to Report Stage.
- Responded to Welsh Government consultation on "Brexit and our Land" inc. attendance at Cross Party Environment Committee.
- Obtained assurance from Welsh Environment Minister that core aims, purpose and function of Welsh National Parks would not change.
- Involved with creation of a "Welsh Outdoor Alliance" of outdoor groups to lobby and campaign for better access and influence in Wales.
- Hill Walking Symposium – arranged programme, speakers, accommodation, walks and publicity. Event is planned for 24th and 25th November at Castleton, Peak District - over 50 people will be attending.
- Letter of objection to A628 extension (Peak District) / Thirlmere zip wire (Lakes).
- Parliamentary / Westminster liaison – 2 x APPG meetings, APPG newsletters, walk with Angela Smith MP in the Peak District, meeting with labour policy team to discuss manifesto content, wrote to new 2015 / 2017 intake of MPs introducing APPG Mountaineering & wrote to all MPs in whose constituency there is a MOM project.
- Supporting ACT & MOM campaign (5 meetings throughout year) and have advertised and in process of recruiting 2 new Trustees.

Wales

- Responded to more planning applications for hydros in Snowdonia.
- Craig y Forwyn access and negotiate and prepare plans for lease/acquisition.
- Significant amount of Wales Access officer time spent in supporting area meetings and Wales specific (but non access) issues.
- Numerous local access issues and agreeing site specific access restrictions e.g. Gower, Pembroke, Gogarth, Ormes, etc.
- Support for Wales element of Mend our Mountains.

England

- Development of a formal BMC climbing restrictions policy following problems dealing with Natural England NNR staff at Ravensdale.

- Following a number of technical problems with the two Lake District winter monitoring systems through the year, co-ordinating repairs to get the systems back up and running.
- Wrote good practice articles for a new Summit 'Respect the Rock' series, targeting behavioural problems currently occurring in climbing and encouraging best practice. Also a number of education/information articles for the BMC website.
- Following feedback from Lakes Area about Fix the Fells work, worked alongside Lakes volunteers and FTF staff to help improve the understanding of the local walking and climbing community about the work FTF carry out. Alongside communicating the constraints FTF have to work to, we also discussed the views expressed by the local area with FTF with a view and are currently exploring ways to work together in future.
- Worked with Natural England teams to advise on access for the rollout of the England Coast Path, particularly in the south west.
- Responding to many site specific access issues from negotiating new access to warning about rockfall, encouraging good practice to prevent loss of existing access, negotiating climbing restrictions for nesting birds and more.

Was there anything you hoped to achieve in 2018, but didn't / couldn't? If so, why not?

- Complete the Snowdon Weather conditions information project – technical issues regarding fabric of the Snowdon summit building, which will be resolved by spring 2019.

Summary of key projects for 2019

- Acquiring/leasing Craig y Forwyn, Llanddulas.
- Tremfest 2019.
- Support for development of BMC identity/role in Wales post ORG.
- Work to secure access to some key (quarried) sites in South Wales notably Llandarcy & Pant.
- Follow up on pursuing Welsh Government to implement findings and proposal of Green Paper consultation on access.
- In partnership with other outdoor groups and the Allianc, setting up a cross party Senedd (National Assembly) group on outdoor recreation.
- Organise and staff, a joint BMC/Ciwb Mynydda Cymru stand and events at National Eisteddfod in the Conwy Valley in summer 2019.
- Formalise the currently advanced draft of the BMC climbing restrictions for nesting birds policy.
- Develop an updated new access reps pack, role description and induction process.
- Work with partners to encourage climbers and walkers to help in monitoring of cliff and moorland nesting birds.
- Create a film for BMCTV focussing on the work of Fix The Fells, why it's needed, what methods are used in path repair and how walkers and climbers can help.
- Complete Mountain Training E module.
- Monitor progress of Agriculture Bill and lobby when / where appropriate
- Update Green Guide to the Uplands.
- Develop BMC Sustainability / Climate Change interest and better communicate with membership.
- Organise the BMC bi-annual access conference.
- Regenerate interest in the APPG Mountaineering (post Brexit).

Update on UIAA / IFSC representatives (if applicable)

- Communication with the UIAA access team has been very poor this year, despite CF emailing them to ask that she is kept up to date with issues. CF to pursue further.

Additional comments

- None.

Completed by	Cath Flitcroft, Rob Dyer and Elfyn Jones
Date	19 November 2018
Agreed by Board	1 December 2018