

SMT Guidance on Grants for Bolting

SUMMARY

- Grant to assist with cost of consumable materials (e.g. bolts, glue, chains etc) only.
- Descriptions of routes must be submitted to SMC's New Routes publication system.
- Proposal must follow Mountaineering Scotland bolting guidelines including;
 - application of best practice
 - financial contributions to project from local climbers
 - opportunities for wide range of climbers.
- SMT may consult others in evaluation of an application.
- SMT does not involve itself in project management and does not accept liability for any claims resulting from the project.

FULL GUIDANCE

The Scottish Mountaineering Trust is from time to time asked to provide financial assistance in bolting and re-bolting on new and established sport-climbing crags in Scotland.

In addition to the general conditions set out in the 'Application Guidance Notes' the Trust will generally apply the following rules when considering the applications for bolting: -

- Grants are provided to assist with the cost of consumable materials (e.g. bolts, glue, chains etc) - the Trust will not assist in the purchase of capital equipment (e.g. drills) for organisations or individuals, nor will the Trust pay for labour.
- To ensure that the climbing community in general benefits from this grant, it is important that the routes are publicised. This grant is awarded on the assumption that the descriptions of the routes will be submitted to the SMC's New Routes publication system, which ensures rapid public dissemination of the information. We therefore request that you do so as soon as is practical. This request does not preclude parallel publication by other means.
- The Trust will consider whether the proposal is consistent with the guidelines on bolting published by Mountaineering Scotland (see attached Appendix 1) including, but not limited to;
 - application of best practice,
 - the extent to which local climbers have made financial contributions to the project and
 - the extent to which the proposal maximises the opportunity for the widest possible range of climbers.
- Trust may consult with others to assist in its evaluation of the application.
- The Trust does not involve itself in project management and does not accept liability for any claims resulting from the project.

Appendix 2 shows some examples of the Trust might apply this guidance in practice.

Appendix 1 - Extract from - Mountaineering Scotland, Climbing in Scotland Statement: An Explanation of How Climbing is Conducted. Revised following a review by the M C of S Board
17 October 2013

Climbers developing Sport Climbs may have a personal connection to the crag which allows for informal checking of bolt quality. This can be backed up by feedback from visiting climbers. A small number of local 'bolt funds' have been set up to help pay for the replacement of old bolts and Mountaineering Scotland supports this informal system and encourages climbers to support any local bolt fund.

Assessing suitable venues for sport climbing development in Scotland

Mountaineering Scotland, as a representative body, has conducted extensive consultation with climbers over many years and endorses the widely accepted view that adventurous bolt-free climbing remains the primary ethic for all Scottish climbs, but that there is a place for sports style climbing.

Established Climbing Venues:

- Sport climbing development in Scotland is considered as an integral part of the diverse range of climbing styles available.
- Bolts are unacceptable to the majority of Scottish climbers on established (documented) mountain cliffs and sea cliffs, in both summer and winter.
- Established (documented) 'traditional' and sport venues would be expected to remain in their documented style. If a change in style is to be considered in the future (bearing in mind the above guideline on mountain and sea cliff venues) then generally:
 - Retro-bolting (the addition of bolts to established climbs without them) would only be considered with the agreement of the first ascensionist and after wide consultation with interested climbers at local and national level.
 - Retro-trad (the removal of existing bolts) would only be considered with the agreement of the first ascensionist and after wide consultation with interested climbers at local and national level.

New Sport Venues:

- The development of sport climbs is welcomed within the context of a clear overall ethical Framework.
- Mountain and sea cliffs with a wild, remote character (also reflected in their surrounding environment) and adventurous nature are not suitable locations for bolts, either for the development of routes or their limited use in order to facilitate easy retreat: self-rescue and descent without fixed equipment are all part of the adventurous nature of traditional climbs.
- Craggs with good or adequate quality protection within strong natural lines (obvious routes) would be regarded as traditional venues. Craggs where an overall lack of natural cracks for protection together with a lack of strong natural lines may be suitable venues for sport climb development as long as they could not be classed as wild mountain or sea cliff venues.
- Sport mixed climbing (and dry-tooling i.e. climbing with ice axes on rock) has an important role to play in the future of Scottish winter climbing, but should not be at odds with these guidelines. Those seeking to develop new sport mixed venues should

enter into consultation with interested climbers at local or national level before taking action.

- Bolts should be placed using current best practices.

These guidelines allow climbers to make informed decisions about sport development and allow the climbing world to self-regulate. If there are any doubts, or 'grey areas', an informal approach to gaining opinion is best at local level. Mountaineering Scotland will offer assistance (through awareness / distribution of information / debate / mediation) to aid consultation when required.

Appendix 2 – Some Examples on how these guidelines might be applied

1. Applicant applies to bolt a holdless wall in the Cairngorms – rejected as it falls foul of MS guidelines.
2. Applicant applies to bolt hard new lines at an existing venue – rejected as it is not of general public benefit.
3. Applicant applies to bolt new lowland quarry venue, wide range of grades, but no local funding in place – considered depending on perceived number of local climbers (eg Glasgow area, rejected; Scourie possibly).
4. Applicant applies for funds for state-of-the-art glue-ins and installs cheaper expansion bolts. SMT made clear in award letter that funding is for state-of-the-art, so seeks refund.