

Equipment & Techniques Meeting
19.05.2007

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| <p>Attendees: Andy Pryke, Nick Williams, Charles Milton, Dave Ludlam, Dave Cowley, Linda Wilson, Andy Atkinson, Bob Dearman, Bob Mehew, Glenn Jones, Les Sykes.</p> | |
| <p>Apologies: Les Williams</p> | |
| <p>Nick Williams offered to chair the meeting to allow AP to take the minutes</p> | <p>Action</p> |
| <p>1. Andy ran through minutes of the previous minutes</p> | <p>Info</p> |
| <p>2. Bob gave a presentation on the Preliminary work in Mendip, after the Rhino Rift anchor failure report.</p> | <p>Info</p> |
| <p>Thanks where pass to Bob for all the hard work carried out.</p> | |
| <p>Learning points</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no known failures of the 'P' anchor system. • The committee does not consider it to be reasonably foreseeable that an anchor placed under the BCA scheme will fail in a manor likely to cause injury to a user. • Bolts that have been replaced in the past have been replaced for PR purpose only, not due any issue of safety. • It is believed that the mode of failure to the RR 05 anchor is due to failure of the substrate. | <p>Statement</p> |
| <p>Actions</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been agreed that Mendip can Re-open the closed caves as the anchors are deemed safe to use, and the anchors pulled to 10kn should be prudently replaced for PR purpose in Mendip on a timescale agreed by CSCC. | <p>CSCC to action</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The E&T committee agreed the wording of a statement relating to the Mendip anchor issue, AP to publish | <p>AP to action</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob and a member of Mendip to speak with the owner of hunters hole, to re-assure him, and re-open the cave | <p>BM & CSCC</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | |
| <p>Anchor records</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy Pryke gave an overview of Anchor database design, with the offer of converting existing records in excel, prior to upload onto the BCA website, where they would be managed on a regional level, but audited by the E&T committee. | <p>Info</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that central records are required • Agreed that there should be central version control, for documentation of the anchor system, and any training material relating to this | <p>Action AP And region</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that we should publish on the BCA website what the user inspection should look for, with Pictures of cracks in the feathered resin area, this should clarify certain circumstances, to help the user can understand what they are looking for. | <p>AP to upload</p> |

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| <p>Anchor Pullers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulling anchors with the Pullers is deemed as no longer required due to the following factors. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed mountaineering standard does not require testing with a puller 2. Not all anchors can be tested due to location in the cave and rock around the anchor preventing placement of the puller, which would pose the question of the validity of an anchor if it could not be pulled. 3. Possible cosmetic damage to the anchor, which will lead to spurious reports of failed anchors. 4. Batch testing of a known test bed will produce all the required results. 5. The repeatability of testing with a puller is questionable due to placement of the puller, and will give us no further useful information than that proved by the test bed. | |
| <p>Agreed, current guidelines need reworking to form instructions, and that any anchors placed outside of instructions, are required to have justification as to why the anchors have been installed outside of instructions.</p> <p>Agreed that there are more detailed instructions/ Manual for E&T inspection and use of pullers.</p> <p>Agreed that the E&T committee should audit aspects of the anchor scheme in the regions, this is work to be taken forward. In principle you should not be auditing your own work.</p> | <p>Action</p> <p>Action</p> <p>Action</p> |
| <p>Agreed to Nicks offer of having 100 anchors made specially for BCA in China, for testing purposes. Nick to ensure that the specifications are met.</p> | <p>Action NW</p> |