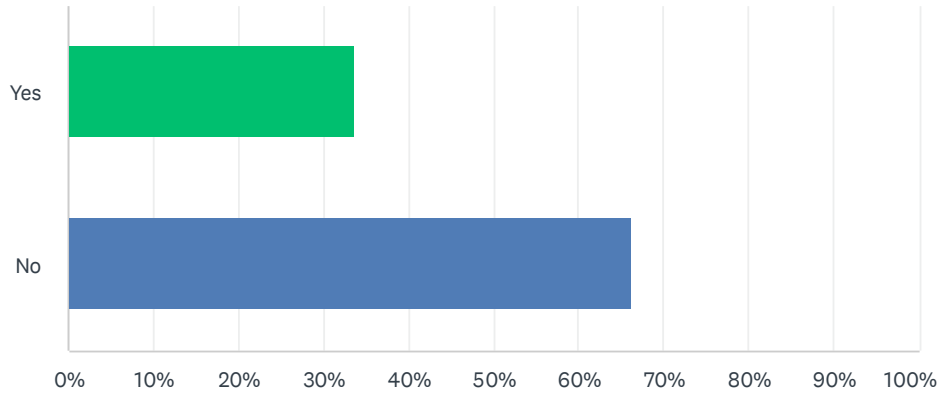


Q1 Have you climbed the stack?

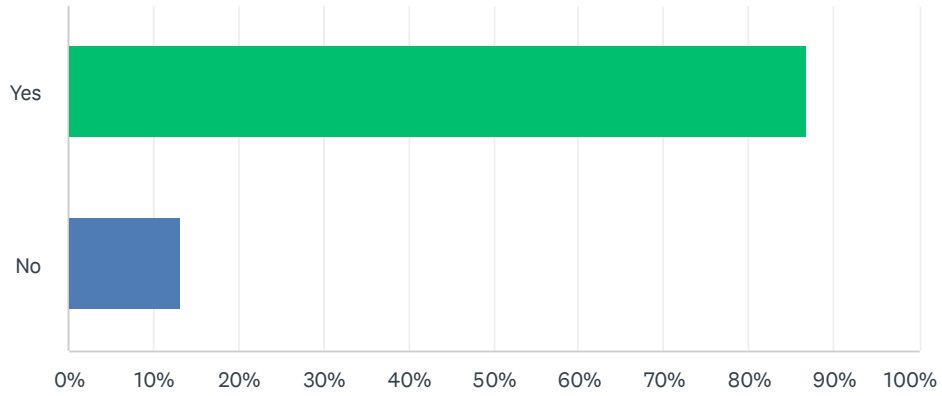
Answered: 937 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	33.72%	316
No	66.28%	621
TOTAL		937

Q2 Do you have an aspiration to climb the stack?

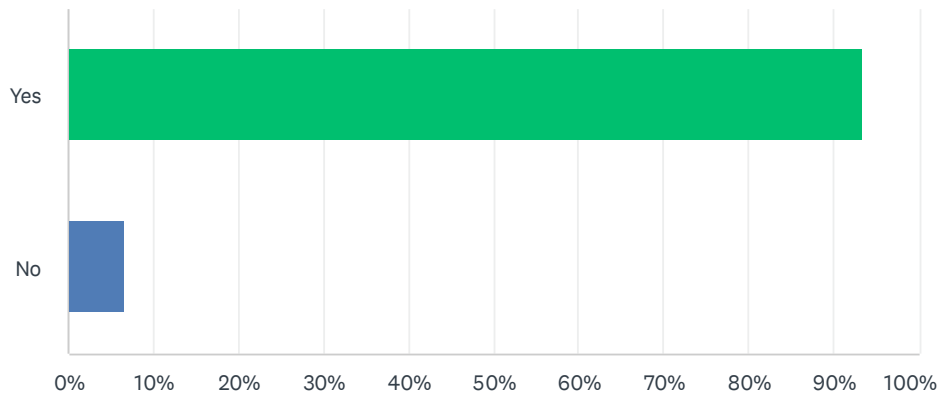
Answered: 611 Skipped: 326



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	86.74%	530
No	13.26%	81
TOTAL		611

Q3 Do you agree with this proposal to clean up the Old Man of Hoy?

Answered: 906 Skipped: 31



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	93.38%	846
No	6.62%	60
TOTAL		906

Q4 If YES - do you have any comments on the proposed project?

Answered: 457 Skipped: 480

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Retro bolt the tat	10/21/2023 3:02 PM
2	No additional comments, proposal looks good, Thank you.	10/21/2023 2:35 PM
3	I do not agree with the suggestion of installing bolts at the abseil stations. It seem like the thin edge of the wedge why not start installing bolts at all places where abseiling takes place if it is being regarded as a safety issue. It is a traditional route ie no bolts. The next stage will be bolts at the belays etc etc.	10/21/2023 12:23 PM
4	Seems like a good proposal	10/21/2023 8:06 AM
5	No but I think it is a brilliant idea!	10/20/2023 6:59 PM
6	Whilst I climbed in my youth I no longer do so. However, I am an RSPB member and believe that conservation of the natural environment is fundamental to human health and survival. From the description in the accompanying article it is apparent the the Old Man is in something of a mess and is therefore departing from these conservation ideals. The proposed changes seem a very sensible solution that balances continued access to a classic climb (I'm old enough to have watched the live BBC coverage in the late 60s) with preserving the natural environment of the stac as much as possible. Therefore the proposal has my full support.	10/20/2023 6:09 PM
7	If to be done please replace all in-situ ab tat/ pitons with bolts. I hope this can serve as a watershed for how UK crags can be preserved and also made safer. Bolts should be used sparingly and only where needed for safety	10/20/2023 2:55 PM
8	Seems very sensible. Garbage (potentially dangerous) would be removed.	10/20/2023 12:03 AM
9	Safer and cleaner go for it	10/19/2023 10:27 PM
10	No objection to placing bolts at abseil stations and belays where no other alternative exists	10/19/2023 9:52 PM
11	I fully support this project as the existing tat and old equipment is not only unsightly but unsafe. It would be better for it to be safe.	10/19/2023 8:54 PM
12	I think it's a brilliant idea	10/19/2023 4:49 PM
13	Do not expand it into manicuring the descent from the mainland cliff top, making it 'safe' etc. It is what it is and if it freaks people they should not be there.	10/19/2023 11:48 AM
14	It's a good idea.	10/18/2023 7:00 PM
15	I think this is a fantastic idea. We have similar issues here in N Wales. Tat is constantly added to old tat, creating an eyesore, crag litter and a mixture of old rope with unknown provenance. After climbing in Europe my attitude towards fixed protection at high use abseil stations has softened. Whilst I still believe in the British trad climbing ethic, I think it is far safer and better for the environment to place permanent protection. I hope to climb the stack one day, so am grateful for you and your team pushing this issue forward.	10/18/2023 5:53 PM
16	Care will have to be taken in future to replace maillions when they become worn/rusted otherwise the situation will devolve into the current one again	10/18/2023 11:55 AM
17	I agree with replacing tat with strops. I do not agree with leaving bolts for historical reasons - why not leave the 'rotting tat' for historical reasons if that is a rationale? If the stack is being cleaned up it should be done thoroughly. I only agree with replacing old bolts, I do not agree with adding new bolts.	10/18/2023 10:38 AM
18	It needs tidying. The abs need to be totally reliable. A few bolts are ok here. It always had them and it's unsafe without leaving nuts to back up.	10/18/2023 10:35 AM
19	Improved safety for climbers, safer environment for nesting bird, fewer microplastics being released into environment. Responsible climbing. Prevent erosion of the Stack.	10/18/2023 10:18 AM
20	I fully support it.	10/17/2023 6:08 PM
21	Do whatever it takes to tidy it up and install good, stainless bolts for abseils	10/17/2023 6:05 PM

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22	No - these proposals are sensitive and pragmatic.	10/17/2023 6:02 PM
23	Clean Bolt Anchors	10/17/2023 5:07 PM
24	The proposal appears sensible, proportionate and in keeping with the adventurous nature of the location	10/17/2023 4:43 PM
25	I have a feeling even if suitable abseil stations are put in place people will still back them up, seems to be human nature and the Old Man does have that certain atmosphere. There aren't many places in the UK where the only option to get off a climb is by multiple abseils, the grade as well means it is climbable by people who may not have had the traditional apprenticeships of the past to gain the experience required. I have nothing against the installation of bolted belays / abseils , but I still think there will remain the problem of people backing these up. I have climbed the Old Man 3 x by the Original Route, each time we did strip out old ropes, slings and hard wear at the abseil points as it had just become a confusing cluster.	10/17/2023 4:14 PM
26	Important to ascertain who will be responsible for upkeep of the new hardware. With bolts in particular, this should be kept to the absolute minimum necessary to replace the existing rusted options.	10/17/2023 1:28 PM
27	Only the Anchors for Belaying and Abseiling but not more	10/17/2023 1:18 PM
28	Get some good bolted anchors placed.	10/17/2023 1:09 PM
29	The clean up has been needed for some time. Perhaps we as climbers should strip out any old tat when abbing off. Bolted anchors should NOT be placed.	10/17/2023 12:41 PM
30	Very good idea, just ensure that material choice is correct (i.e. right grade of steel for the environment so that they don't need premature replacement) and that any metal hardware won't damage the sandstone	10/17/2023 11:35 AM
31	A natural feature like the Hoy should not be littered with semi-permanent climbing hardware. John Muir Trust cleaned up Ben Nevis a few years back of all the litter, memorials and abseiling posts, so the Hoy should also have a clean up, we just can not abuse nature in this manner.	10/17/2023 10:08 AM
32	I support the approach being taken	10/17/2023 9:55 AM
33	I agree with the clean up. Old tat doesn't mean it's a classic the route itself does.	10/17/2023 9:21 AM
34	Although I've voted to clean up the stack, I was in two minds. The collection of tat on the big natural thread at the top of the crux pitch is both unsightly and comforting at the same time. Just about everyone who climbs the original route will have added to it - it's a little bit of history. Get some guidance on the quality of 'marine grade' material. A lot of stainless steel that is categorised as 'marine grade' is 13% Cr. This is OK - it will slow, but not stop corrosion in an environment like Hoy (very wet and salty). Better would be the use of high chrome austenitic stainless steel or nickel alloys.	10/17/2023 9:17 AM
35	Makes sense on safety and environmental grounds.	10/17/2023 7:30 AM
36	Make the descent safe with what ever is required.	10/17/2023 4:32 AM
37	It's a great idea	10/16/2023 11:12 PM
38	I think it's a very worthwhile project	10/16/2023 9:13 PM
39	Go for it, don't let the fogeys stop you from having bolted rap stations	10/16/2023 8:42 PM
40	Great idea and long overdue.	10/16/2023 8:15 PM
41	please no bolts drilled into the stack, just clean up	10/16/2023 7:03 PM
42	The sooner the better.	10/16/2023 6:48 PM
43	Placing titanium bolts both on the rappels and belay stations would be ideal. Less trash and more safe than now	10/16/2023 6:39 PM
44	Bolted abseil points and clear everything else	10/16/2023 6:09 PM
45	Thank you for the work	10/16/2023 5:46 PM
46	Sounds like a great idea. Although climbers should be able to assess risk and safety for themselves, removing rotted and old tat can only be a good thing.	10/16/2023 5:30 PM
47	I climbed the stac in 2021. To be honest I didn't think the tat was that bad compared with	10/16/2023 5:17 PM

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some similar climbs, and by self-selection anyone up there ought to be qualified to work out what to trust and what not to trust (frequently by clipping in to the whole lot!). However I can see a good argument for modernising the abseil anchors.

48	I think stainless Hardware is a long term solution. It leaves less mess and is a better long term solution. It also makes the abseil stations safer and easier to inspect	10/16/2023 5:00 PM
49	Why on earth is it in this state? Whatever happened to the ethos 'leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but memories' etc?	10/16/2023 4:34 PM
50	To continually replace dubious gear with similar gear with a short life expectancy is a poor choice. Your proposals make perfect sense and will not reduce the adventure of the ascent, they will increase the safety of the descent.	10/16/2023 4:15 PM
51	I think it would protect the stack from being tarnished by the old gear as well as ensuring safer use for future climbers. It looks cluttered from the view point on the cliffs.	10/16/2023 4:04 PM
52	Stainless steel anchors for abseiling but not necessarily for belays which trad gear is adequate for.	10/16/2023 3:43 PM
53	Leaving old unsafe items in place seems to me indefensible. There will be less damage in the long term if modern safe belays are installed.	10/16/2023 3:41 PM
54	What's there is a mess. This is the equivalent of a litter pick and path restoration on the Ben.	10/16/2023 3:38 PM
55	Great idea.	10/16/2023 3:38 PM
56	Stainless steel points where suitable perhaps?	10/16/2023 3:36 PM
57	Over due	10/16/2023 3:25 PM
58	Support it whole heartedly. There is a chain on the Inn Pinn and there should be bolts at other locations to make safe where there is a lot of traffic and poor anchor options	10/16/2023 3:24 PM
59	For the proposed belay bolts at the top of pitch 4, I would suggest that these should be the minimum equipment required for safety, but with the least visual impact, i.e. 2 bolts, each with a maillon, rather than 2 bolts linked with a chain to a single ring.	10/16/2023 3:24 PM
60	Asking and listening is a great way forward for looking after iconic routes and locations. Well done!	10/16/2023 3:22 PM
61	Permanent lower offs like fixed rings would be less of visually displeasing than loads of tatty ropes	10/16/2023 3:11 PM
62	Installation of known & safe belay point(s) would benefit the climbing community.	10/16/2023 3:09 PM
63	I thought this would be a great idea a few years ago. Completely agree with the project, for the visual pollution and safety as it is so easy to assume that tat is safe	10/16/2023 3:08 PM
64	i feel that bolts should not added to any of the stances where they aren't already present	10/16/2023 1:33 PM
65	All sounds good and very sensible to me.	10/16/2023 1:16 PM
66	Most of your suggestions seem reasonable. I support the removal of most of the tat, rusty nuts, old rusted-through pitons, etc. And I support the installation of new equalised static (a date tag for this would be a good idea to help discourage people backing it up repeatedly). I don't much like the idea of putting in metal cables but this might be the only realistic way to limit the constant adding of new slings and static by teams doing the route so I can probably make my peace with it on such a popular route. I do not agree with the idea of placing new bolts, quite aside from creating a general precedent of bolts on sea cliffs, let alone sea stacks, it creates a specific precedent where climbers on the Old Man will see new bolts and assume there is tacit approval for placing additional bolts either at other belay stances or possibly even on the pitches. It has been a while since I last climbed the route so I don't have a clear memory of the pitch 4 belay but I would be surprised if there isn't sufficient trad gear available with a little questing up, down, left and right to locate it (I certainly don't remember just clipping a moldy pile of garbage and blindly trusting it), I believe it is better left as a trad belay, particularly as it is not needed as an abseil point for the descent. Whilst the team is there with a general cleaning vibe, it would be great if they could do a bit of a clean of lichen and loose rock on A Fistful of Dollars, The Orkneying Saga, Ancient Mariner and GMB please!	10/16/2023 12:36 PM
67	THANKS: NEEDS DOING< ESPECIALLY SUMMIT	10/16/2023 11:34 AM
68	i dont have a problem with the use of modern kit to replace like for like (i.e. old shite pegs being replaced with bolts etc). however, if modern trad gear (like small cams etc) can	10/16/2023 11:00 AM

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reasonably make the pegs defunct then probs best not use bolts in this case. for anchor and abseils I think its a good idea. 2 discreet bolts is a hell of a lot less intrusive than nests of tat. Generally im in favour of sensible and practical discussions around bolting- which can often be a pretty charged argument. Lets keep things trad in spirit, but not to the point of idiocy- and the odd bolt can be a good thing. consultation with the community is always a good idea

69	It is extremely short sighted and indeed arrogant for yourselves to decide that this consultation is and should be solely for the climbing community. As you state in response to the BBC "This is why we are consulting [the climbing community] on this high-profile project, and look forward to hearing the views of those climbers with an interest in this nationally important sea stack.". Those of us who do not, nor have any wish to, climb the seastack have just as much authority to be consulted on the disgusting state climbers have left the amazing natural beauty and significant breeding environment, of the seastack,in. Please rethink your approach and recognise your responsibility to consult those who have done nothing to destroy the beauty and environment of the seastack but have substantial ownership in how the impacts on the environment and wildlife of the seastack are resolved. My view is that if you can't climb it without having to place fixed bolts etc then it should not be allowed to be climbed.	10/16/2023 8:53 AM
70	I'm of the opinion that well placed and durable titanium or marine grade steel bolts and anchors are a better option in the long run than lots of tat and carabiners of various quality being left at the top of difficult to access/protect abseils and belays.	10/16/2023 8:07 AM
71	I would like to see some of the first ascent party hardware left intact for historical and nostalgic reasons. The TAT is a mess though. SS hardware will be much better.	10/16/2023 12:57 AM
72	Just get rid!	10/15/2023 10:57 PM
73	No comment, just well done.	10/15/2023 6:56 PM
74	If something is going to be left behind do it properly.	10/15/2023 6:47 PM
75	I think that sounds fantastic, the equipment on the stack is tired and dangerous. I think it will encourage people to think about what they are leaving out on the climbs whilst also making this safer for future climbers to enjoy!	10/15/2023 4:47 PM
76	This seems to me to be a balanced proposal which aims to balance safety with minimising impact	10/15/2023 4:36 PM
77	All sound like good, sensible ideas!	10/15/2023 3:50 PM
78	Just make sure you don't remove the wooden stemples. They are iconic.	10/15/2023 2:14 PM
79	Clean is okay, replacement of bolts is okay. Do not add extra bolts that are unnecessary	10/15/2023 1:55 PM
80	Get rid of everything. If it cannot be climbed with out bolts or pegs, then it cannot be climbed. Though a top anchor for abseiling makes sense.	10/15/2023 12:58 PM
81	It sounds like this 'clean up' is going to make the stack an easier climb for the less experienced and will therefore lead to an increase in the number of climbers tackling it each summer season. The next logical step surely would be a kiosk at the top and a toilet block at the base. It's a unique yet small part of the landscape and is currently being over used. I would only support this latest effort to install new equipment if limits were placed on the allowed number of climbs per week because there's damage to wildlife occurring and there's nothing more unsightly than people in bright clothing hanging off the stack.	10/15/2023 11:09 AM
82	Bolt the entire route. Proper belay stations throughout and do away with the preposterous gatekeeping by the trad snobs that goes on in this country. Rock climbing in the UK is seriously held back in the UK by both the financial tariff of obtaining trad gear and higher risk imposed by these boring old timers. Incident, I've climbed upto E4,so this isn't sour grapes.	10/15/2023 10:59 AM
83	I hear that the old wooden chocks in the route add historical character, can be slung as runners. Can these be left in situ	10/15/2023 10:57 AM
84	The old wooden chock in the crack on pitch 2 is historically significant. It's also a significant point of aid (at least it was for me).	10/15/2023 9:39 AM
85	I would suggest the new in-situ anchors were somehow made to blend with the aesthetic of the rock. I would wonder if a bright shiny object would deter or scare the birds.	10/15/2023 9:20 AM
86	Think it's a great idea. Such a classic climb and an iconic part of the Scottish coastal landscape. Deserves care and attention to preserve.	10/15/2023 9:09 AM

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87	I Think it's a great idea. The fixed gear currently on the route is a nightmare.	10/15/2023 9:09 AM
88	Quite simply; a few bolted belay or ab stations will be far more discreet (and much safer) than ever increasing tat. I don't like bolted routes as a rule and am very much a trad climber but there's definitely a time and place for bolts with this situation being one of them.	10/15/2023 8:27 AM
89	Nope, bolted abseil sections sound great!	10/15/2023 7:23 AM
90	Replace with titanium glue-in bolts.	10/14/2023 10:15 PM
91	Great idea! It sounds like you have thoroughly thought through how to keep it adventurous but also remove the tons of ugly rubbish hanging off it. It would be definitely a shame to loose the wildness of the stack, but I think the plan balances that and the question of litter/safety well. Thank you!	10/14/2023 8:56 PM
92	In accordance with current guidance, all bolts placed should be glue ins of minimum 316 stainless. Do it right the first time.	10/14/2023 7:58 PM
93	It is very sensible and fully support	10/14/2023 7:27 PM
94	no	10/14/2023 7:12 PM
95	Fantastic idea, needs doing from what I can see from photos and have heard from those involved.	10/14/2023 6:49 PM
96	No bolts please, leave it traditional	10/14/2023 6:24 PM
97	No	10/14/2023 5:01 PM
98	Keep the belays clean if you are fixing equipment. Fixed equipment must be protected against salt.	10/14/2023 4:38 PM
99	I've heard it's a mess	10/14/2023 3:25 PM
100	Bolt. Tatt is a disgrace	10/14/2023 1:39 PM
101	In verdon, the abseil points had 2 bolts and 2 chains to a single ring ab off the ring pulling the rope through the ring. If either of the bolts failed, the other would still hold the ring in stainless steel this would work really well on Hoy. Also ... I hear that the cleft at the top is getting wider ... are there any plans to stop this? (it was less than a foot wide when I climbed it in 1987)	10/14/2023 12:03 PM
102	Rather than steel for fixed gear, would titanium not be more appropriate?	10/14/2023 11:23 AM
103	This sounds like a great project that is much needed	10/14/2023 10:23 AM
104	With increase in traffic due to increased popularity could we be inviting increased likelihood of need for rescue	10/14/2023 10:14 AM
105	In full agreement. First & foremost the stack is a feature of nature that requires our care & protection. Whilst completing the climb is a sound achievement I wonder how many completists actually look back and reflect on the 'impact' of their solitary or multiple visits for that of conquering the 'climb' itself.	10/14/2023 10:05 AM
106	Kudos to the volunteers. They're good people.	10/14/2023 9:36 AM
107	In this instance, bolted ab stations make sense and I support this idea.	10/14/2023 9:35 AM
108	No additional comments, just a great idea, thanks for proposing it, and good luck on the campaign.	10/14/2023 9:10 AM
109	Completely agree with the need for new bolts where existing ones sit for abseiling purposes. I would also potentially suggest some additional abseils throughout the route (if not already there) to facilitate any bail offs that may be required on such unpredictable climbing!	10/14/2023 8:57 AM
110	About bloody time!	10/14/2023 8:41 AM
111	Sounds like a sensible plan. When I did it in 2007, the ab stations were overrun with crap tat and corroding biners. We didn't add to it, but we did take some risk when the second lighter person down took out the passive gear clipped to the rope. Your pics in comparison looks like it's been cleaned up since then. Don't really want to see bolts if it can be avoided, but your detailed proposals seem sensible to me. Ps. We removed stuck 50m ab ropes when we did it from after the hard pitch plus the spare rope tied to the top of the first pitch they'd had to abandon too, which obviously highlights the need to plan these replacement anchors carefully.	10/14/2023 8:35 AM
112	Cut the tat off and place TI bolts and rings from Martin on the top of the stack to rap off	10/14/2023 8:20 AM

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113	Remove the "4 reasonable condition pegs" and install 2 marine grade bolts. Pegs are unlikely to last and usually a very poor anchor choice.	10/14/2023 8:10 AM
114	I would be tempted to remove optional abseil stations too so there is as little fixed gear as possible and teams abseiling are all doing the same thing	10/14/2023 8:08 AM
115	Would love to help. Like the idea of using the strops and to protect the rock. My background is rope access.	10/14/2023 5:17 AM
116	Put new, ss bolt stations in. Paint colour of rock. No problems	10/14/2023 4:42 AM
117	Am a guide in Blue Mountains Australia - this sort of stuff is classed as litter here. This proposal is very considerate, however it just would never have been allowed to get to that state here. Good luck!	10/14/2023 3:07 AM
118	No new bolts	10/14/2023 12:23 AM
119	It's a great idea. Masses of tat is unsightly and, in my experience, does not provide a sense of security.	10/14/2023 12:21 AM
120	I don't have the knowledge to comment on specific details, however, removing ageing metal and tat, which can become duplicated/redundant/dangerous is good - generically, without necessarily understanding every detail, I support plans to clean it up.	10/13/2023 10:13 PM
121	Remove all the old tat and replace as appropriate. Place abseil stations for decent.	10/13/2023 10:12 PM
122	Good to remove the old unsafe tat. Thank you for consulting. I have only climbed once, but recently. This is Britains top adventure route and should stay as such. I would prefer 3 abseil points with steel strops and minimal bolts. Top to bottom of crack. Bottom of crack to top p2 (diagonal). Top p2 to beach. Any other belays to be natural.	10/13/2023 10:08 PM
123	Sounds measured, appropriate, and exactly what the stack needs.	10/13/2023 9:40 PM
124	Fixed abseil gear, whatever it is, should be as minimal, tidy unobtrusive and durable as possible.	10/13/2023 9:38 PM
125	Removing tat and replacing with longer lasting alternative (ie stainless steel strop) a very good idea. But I'm extremely worried about the proposal to drill and glue in bolts, to the extent that I would seriously consider removing them.	10/13/2023 8:56 PM
126	I don't think you should re bolt anything. We managed to make safe belays and abs without the need for any use of in situ metal work. With this in mind I lean towards not removing metal work which is very, very old and has historical importance. Others should try to avoid in situ pegs and bolts in Scotland as much as is possible and it is possible to do this on the stack with the right rack.	10/13/2023 8:10 PM
127	Alas.....one cannot turn back the clock! The old man is no longer a "Wilderness Climb".....mainly natural. It is no longer a pristine place BUT, as the proposal proposes, it can still be a wonderful climbing experience.....especially if it is reasonably safe and unlettered, as the proposal indicates. if anyone is upset that this "dumbs down" the adventure too much, they can possibly be reassured by the possibility that the stack may collapse at any moment.....	10/13/2023 7:05 PM
128	Delighted that you are proposing almost entirely natural anchors using spikes and threads, but replacing dangerous tat with reliable steel.	10/13/2023 7:01 PM
129	No but I am much more likely to take this challenge on knowing there are safe abseiling stations where mistakes are harder to make.	10/13/2023 7:00 PM
130	In agreeance it is usually a mess. After the last time I climbed it I cut out the worst station and replaced tat. My view is that the route itself should not have any bolts or in situ strops due to the history and adventure. I do also agree however that it needs cleaning up periodically and some of the anchors are a mess. My preference if bolts/strops are to be added, is that an alternative abseil line is established, most likely the South Face which is actually shorter and might be possible (?) with 60m ropes, to be completed in 2 abseils as the ground is closer on that face. Additionally the steeper line would hopefully reduce ropes getting hung up when being pulled through anchors, and ease congestion when multiple parties are ascending the classic route on a given day avoiding ropes being pulled on to leaders climbing. It would also help reduce potential epics, with a typical South Westerley wind, the abseil can be exciting pushing climbers out as if a kit flying on a line over the sea. In short - A clean up is much needed I'm not anti bolts, but feel bolts/strops on a route of such importance would be the wrong move A separate abseil line, with fixed equipment might be a compromise with the added benefit of easing congestion, minimising the amount	10/13/2023 6:53 PM

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of fixed gear needing to be placed, and actually providing a safer abseil line that is easier for ropes to pull through.

131	When reading the article on the BBC I originally thought all the abseil points were to be bolted. However reading the consultation this is not the case and the equipment is basically like for like. So I fully support this.	10/13/2023 6:40 PM
132	No	10/13/2023 6:34 PM
133	I climbed the Old Man in a gang of four women one late afternoon / evening in late June this past year. I grew up in Scotland but moved to the US in my early 20s and brought three friends back to the old stomping ground to see if the tales were true. We had been told that it was a grand adventure at what felt like the end of the Earth. It was certainly that. We had a full value experience, getting puked on multiple times by the same fulmar. - Firstly, I was surprised that there were no seasonal climbing restrictions for the birds. I hoped we weren't disturbing the birds when we were up there, but they did seem a bit distressed. I live in Boulder Colorado, where they relatively successfully implement climbing restrictions on various cliffs during raptor nesting season. - Secondly, I would question the necessity of the handline connecting the end of the first pitch to the second. Note: we had two ropes for the descent (so it was just in the way on the ascent). The climbing was straightforward and that traverse felt safe. If the handline is there to allow a descent with a 60 meter rope, then I suppose that makes sense; although, climbing on doubles or with a tagline doesn't feel like too much to ask if that allows the community to avoid leaving gear that is subject to a lot of wear and might require continuous replacement / monitoring. - Thirdly, I like the proposal to replace lots of the stations with permanent fixed hardware (3/8" bolt connected with chains feels safe and luxurious). I understand that where natural threads are present, they should be used to avoid drilling into such a special rock. However, I think that a sign or some post on the commonly used forums or a small note in the guidebook suggesting that climbers should bring extra tat and a knife to prevent the build-up of a ton of questionable tat at those stations would be awesome. I think that it would be cool if the community that is psyched on that special sea stack were encouraged to be better stewards of the land.	10/13/2023 4:43 PM
134	Good idea!	10/13/2023 4:06 PM
135	Sounds good to me	10/13/2023 3:55 PM
136	Looks like the sensible thing to do	10/13/2023 3:52 PM
137	Consider using titanium anchors instead of any grade of marine steel. Granted, you don't have tropical conditions that are likely to cause SCC as in places like Thailand, any public works bolting project should aim for maximum longevity and titanium anchors will last longer before needing to be replaced. This reduces cost over the long term, in addition to the issue of performing all of the labour at more frequent intervals.	10/13/2023 3:37 PM
138	Think bolted ab/belay stations and/or Metal strop rap points are a good forward thinking idea to reduce the clutter. They don't remove the adventure, as people rely on the insitu anyway, its just a tidier and more sustainable version. They always have the option not to in any case. I like the way this is being consulted via this questionnaire	10/13/2023 3:18 PM
139	Remove all the gear and leave the Old Man pristine. Don't put in any Mountaineering Scotland fixed points - massive liability issues. This is not a climbing wall but a natural feature.	10/13/2023 2:57 PM
140	I am in support of making the belays safe. One of the great joys of climbing this route was the feeling of "climbing through history" as I climbed past different eras of fixed protection from wooden wedges to different styles of pitons, etc. It would be nice to retain some of this "history" .	10/13/2023 2:54 PM
141	I think all this sounds sensible. Should the remaining peg belay be addressed too? Given the limited lifespan on these in marine environments?	10/13/2023 2:44 PM
142	Not sure if I agree with strops or static. Just bolt it all.	10/13/2023 2:34 PM
143	No. just happy to support the clean up.	10/13/2023 2:29 PM
144	I think that replacing old tat with abseil stations is a fantastic idea. The most dangerous part of the climb shouldnt be the descent, I agree that cleaning up and reequipping the descent will improve safety and reduce the damage to the rock and environment.	10/13/2023 2:14 PM
145	Good idea, supportive of it. Maybe consider some of the wooden chok blocks inside the crack just for history sake?	10/13/2023 2:09 PM
146	Go to town. Should be more of this on other classic climbs frankly	10/13/2023 1:51 PM

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147	Bolt more belay and abseil stations. Begin to reduce the cost gateway to proper climbing	10/13/2023 1:39 PM
148	Makes a lot of sense. Support it.	10/13/2023 1:33 PM
149	Completely agree that replacing unreliable/unsightly gear is the way ahead.	10/13/2023 1:31 PM
150	Sounds like a good proposal to clean things up and make it safer.	10/13/2023 1:25 PM
151	The proposals sound great, however, it would be better still if bolts could be avoided on established routes - does an alternative abseil descent exist which could utilise bolts which don't impinge on existing routes?	10/13/2023 1:24 PM
152	A sail bolts should stop that reappearing. The rest should be left for trading climbing.	10/13/2023 1:12 PM
153	No bolts should be placed. Steel strops are a good alternative to rope as long as they are shown to be suitable with the deadline environment	10/13/2023 1:05 PM
154	It sounds reasonable and the bolts and fixed gear sound minimal and proportional	10/13/2023 12:44 PM
155	Remove all tat and bolt the abseil points	10/13/2023 12:28 PM
156	This sounds like the right thing to do from various standpoints of safety, sustainability and environmental and wildlife issues.	10/13/2023 12:17 PM
157	Removal of old rope makes complete sense as this is no use to anyone, has little to no historical value, and pollutes the natural environment. It is good to see that some pegs (maybe bolts) will be left for their historical value. Use of bolted abseil stations should be kept to an absolute but safe minimum for (climbing) ethical reasons that I would guess don't need to be restated. I would guess that some would oppose this given the precedent it sets. There is a definite potential for increased erosion from metal strops over that which is caused by rope (see the abseil station on The Brant on Clogwyn y Grochan in the Llanberis Pass for an example).	10/13/2023 12:14 PM
158	I climbed it just over a year ago, and was really disappointed by the mess, but also didn't want to be the one to cut off the massive amounts of left rope. I agree with any left gear being removed, except any classic gear from the first ascent, which should be left for historic reasons, even if it is unsafe, though I imagine there isn't much of it left. I agree with the bolted abseil points (max 3 to minimise bolting) but don't think every belay should be bolted as each belay has more than adequate protection for climbers. whilst on the route I really thought the quantity of crap left really went against the leave no trace ethics.	10/13/2023 12:03 PM
159	No	10/13/2023 11:54 AM
160	Been needed for a while, for ethical and safety grounds	10/13/2023 11:47 AM
161	No Brainer...the issue will continue until proper bolted abseil stations are used. Clean it and within a year it will be back to square one. As to the numbers the route will have multiple teams from early spring to Autumn...probably several hundred individual ascents every year. From a safety point of few a rescue would be problematic at best and every year see's several close calls.	10/13/2023 11:46 AM
162	Excellent project I would be in favour of minimising the placing of new bolts unless absolutely necessary. Your detailed proposal sounds like it has taken this into account.	10/13/2023 11:42 AM
163	Bolts to be a last resort. Would be nice to keep historical gear from first or early ascents where safe and applicable.	10/13/2023 11:39 AM
164	removal of rusty metalwork and unreliable tat has no downsides.	10/13/2023 11:32 AM
165	As I haven't climbed it I don't have much to input. But some friends have done so and mentioned a lot of old tat and rusted pegs etc. I would like to climb it next year and any improvements on the unsafe pegs and lanyards would be great.	10/13/2023 11:30 AM
166	Great idea to clean up the stack. Will help to clean it up, actually make it safer and keep the adventurous nature of the climb intact. Could set a good example too for other very popular and cherished routes.	10/13/2023 11:29 AM
167	I think this is a sensible project, and I agree with its aims.	10/13/2023 11:27 AM
168	Use titanium.	10/13/2023 11:24 AM
169	I feel that bolts and drilled threads used for abseils and belays are a great thing. They will keep people safe without really taking anything away from the climbing experience	10/13/2023 11:18 AM
170	I agree wholly with the project. In-Situ gear needs to become more of a part of UK climbing a whole in my opinion - in appropriate situations like this of course.	10/13/2023 11:16 AM

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171	Excellent idea. I personally removed several kg of old ropes and slings on my ascent in 2007 and fully support the plans.	10/13/2023 10:51 AM
172	It'll improve safety of climbers in the future, ensure it is safe for the nesting birds & protect damage [erosion] of the stack.	10/13/2023 10:50 AM
173	It seems that the vast amount of old gear has actually made it more dangerous than in its pristine condition, so cleaning it up wouldn't ruin the route by "sportifying" it.	10/13/2023 10:48 AM
174	It's just improving what is already there so it's great!	10/13/2023 10:45 AM
175	I'm in favour of all belay/abseil stations being bolted or made of similarly "permanent", redundant systems on the original route. In my opinion this would not detract from the trad climbing on each pitch, but would keep the climb clean and save this problem building up again in future.	10/13/2023 10:40 AM
176	We should leave NO TRACE, I appreciate, as a novice climber, that it may not always be easy or feasible to remove gear all the time, but leaving rusty gear can cause a safety and ecological as well as moral issue.	10/13/2023 10:18 AM
177	Clean it up and impose an honesty policy that climbers are to remove any old gear that has been left behind (this should really end up being immediately previous climbers abseil gear) . In that way everyone knows they'll need full gear and hopefully limits need for future cleanups.	10/13/2023 10:15 AM
178	No all seems like a reasonable and sensible step to make the climb better for future ascents and repeats	10/13/2023 10:12 AM
179	This sounds like a good initiative. An attempt seems to have been made to consider making minimal changes, whilst also addressing the need for a long-term solution, and I think this is the correct approach. If I understand correctly, there is only one place where bolts would be installed, and that is a belay with no natural protection that has used (now decaying) bolt belays since the FA. I think the installation of bolts to replace these is proportionate, without undermining the trad-ethic. I wonder how the 4 pegs mentioned on one abseil station are judged to be "adequate" and whether they are a long-term solution. Thanks for your efforts and for doing your best to consult the community and gain a range of opinions.	10/13/2023 9:52 AM
180	Titanium boots at absail stations	10/13/2023 9:46 AM
181	Having climbed a lot in England, Alps, etc, but little in Scotland - I fully support the intention to retain leader placed protection and not to bolt the whole climb. Important it remains a 'trad' route. Agree with protecting the abseil descent.	10/13/2023 9:35 AM
182	great idea	10/13/2023 9:19 AM
183	Minimise use of soft materials like static rope where possible. If it's being done, do it properly - glue in bolts and wire strops.	10/13/2023 9:17 AM
184	Looks good. Anything in proposal for fumar pitch??	10/13/2023 8:57 AM
185	Incredibly valuable work. The current state, particularly of fixed and necessary abseil points, is frankly both a disgrace and a danger. Thank you for this work. Old Man of Stoer next!	10/13/2023 8:55 AM
186	Suggest leaving the wooden blocks in situ on pitch 2. Agree there is natural gear near them but they are part of the history of the route and save carrying extra very large cams. Replacing the rotten abseil gear is very worthwhile, the abseils were the most frightening part of my 2 ascents. Not sure you should install a fixed anchor at top of pitch 1. Although it was traditional to fix a rope on pitch 2 to allow you to abseil down pitch 2 and get to the top of pitch 1, almost everyone does a partly free 60m ab from top of pitch 2 to the ground. The disadvantage of having fixed gear at top of pitch 1 and allowing climbers to do shorter abs, is that you are much more likely to get your ropes stuck abseiling down pitch 2. I have seen the Old Man with stuck ropes festooned on pitch 2 and had to retrieve them. Simpler to just tell everyone to climb with 60m ropes and ab straight off to the ground. The fixed belay at top of pitch 1 also tends to result in various fixed handlines to do the short down climb and traverse at start of pitch 2 which are unsightly. If you need a backrope on this part of pitch 2, climb as a 3 and go second, with the 3rd belaying the 2nd down and across.	10/13/2023 8:55 AM
187	When I climbed the route in the mid '80s there was very little in the way of usable fixed gear except on pitch 2 where we left an abseil rope fixed at both ends, I don't remember any of the other pitches needing anything other than care with the rock. The summit abseil needs the fixed gear as I do remember some anxiety descending!	10/13/2023 8:50 AM
188	Safe is always preferable over aesthetics. There is nothing of beauty if there is no perceiver!	10/13/2023 8:47 AM

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189	Sounds like a great plan!	10/13/2023 8:46 AM
190	If at all possible to avoid placing bolts, through adoption of alternative pitch lengths/abseil points considering modern 50m ropes, that should be done in preference to placing any bolts. Using cable to tidy up tat at abseil point threads is a good idea, as is removal of old hand placed gear. Thanks.	10/13/2023 8:34 AM
191	It all sounds well thought out, sustainable & fit for purpose. The entire project has my full & unconditional support.	10/13/2023 8:31 AM
192	We need to clean the environment.	10/13/2023 8:25 AM
193	No it looks very well thought out	10/13/2023 8:22 AM
194	Any fixed equipment used to replace existing tat should comply with very latest guidance - when it comes to bolts UIAA now appears to be stating that only titanium bolts should be used in a high corrosion environment like Hoy, not stainless steel. Similarly there have been failures of fixed cables reported in UK and the design of any strops should take into account any lessons learned.	10/13/2023 8:21 AM
195	Yes, I wholeheartedly agree for the need to remove the tatt, and I feel strongly that there is a need for fixed gear. Bolts and strops make total sense - good job folks!	10/13/2023 8:20 AM
196	Given the purpose of the exercise I'm not convinced of the benefit of leaving a few old bolts for historical value	10/13/2023 8:16 AM
197	Vey excited this is being discussed.	10/13/2023 8:14 AM
198	Degradation of stainless steel in proximity to the sea is a huge problem. Places like Sardinia use Titanium bolts and similar!	10/13/2023 8:10 AM
199	Long overdue. It's a great climb and a spectacular place but the top is a dangerous mess	10/13/2023 8:08 AM
200	Everything proposed sounds excellent	10/13/2023 7:59 AM
201	100% agree with this project. I have climbed all over the world and it always shocks me the amount of tat left in British crags. In this case, it makes sense to clean and make the climb safer for everyone, not just climbers but also for the birds.	10/13/2023 7:42 AM
202	The prospect of a hairy descent is off-putting for me when contemplating a route, and I'm sure I'm not alone. The proposed improvements to this situation are likely to result in increased traffic on the stack, whether that is likely to be a problem should be	10/13/2023 7:36 AM
203	Although I don't climb, I think this is a really lovely idea and I didn't know that the old man had so many old ropes etc. it's raised awareness from my perspective. Thank you!	10/13/2023 7:29 AM
204	Permanent abseil anchors would be welcome by climbers and wildlife alike. Get it done.	10/13/2023 7:24 AM
205	Personally I'd say thather than leave pegs in, which will no doubt become unsafe at some point replace with marine grade whilst you are doing it at the other points.	10/13/2023 7:12 AM
206	As long as it done sensitively and with respect for the rock environment and wildlife then it makes sense. The abseil station on the In Pin is a good example of what can be done.	10/13/2023 7:09 AM
207	Sounds like a good pragmatic solution.	10/13/2023 7:02 AM
208	There's a couple of holes in the rock on the descent in, which would be good to fill in with natural soil at same time to make it safer. Totally the right thing to do	10/13/2023 6:28 AM
209	Sounds a sympathetic and well thought out scheme.	10/13/2023 6:23 AM
210	Make it as safe as possible with fixed gear to prevent the need for trash to be left	10/13/2023 6:15 AM
211	You would be doing the climbing community a favour	10/13/2023 5:49 AM
212	It's easy to be nostalgic about the 'character' of old gear and be closer to those earlier ascents. However, if any equipment placed by climbers and could possibly be used by climbers is considered to be beyond its safe useful life , then it should be removed. This should apply to any in situ gear!	10/13/2023 3:56 AM
213	Ongoing info encouragement for climbers to not remove their equipment.	10/13/2023 3:48 AM
214	It's an obvious, pragmatic and completely reasonable thing to do. There is no reason to stick with this rather backward attitude that abseiling off a load of rotten shite is a great "character building" thing. Well done to you for getting this moving.	10/13/2023 1:22 AM
215	Having read the proposal - I think it's a good idea to clean it up and provide decent ab points	10/13/2023 12:22 AM

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	etc and the odd bolt if needed	
216	I think it all makes perfect sense and is hard to argue against	10/12/2023 11:35 PM
217	I would prefer to see all the old bolts removed, i dont think any of them have true historical value. In terms of placing stainless maillons on pegs, i would avoid this since it mixes metal types and can lead to corrosion. Better to either use non stainless maillons or to replace completely with marine grade bolts.	10/12/2023 11:32 PM
218	I agree with all your proposals.	10/12/2023 11:07 PM
219	I approve of removal of old rope and most of the placed gear but would prefer if some of the historic gear is left in situ if safe to do so.	10/12/2023 11:05 PM
220	Having to make a judgement on gear that has been exposed to the elements and deteriorated to some unknown extent is a disaster waiting to happen. Or a reason to proliferate more tat on the route as people try to minimise risk. Whilst I have and will make such judgements when circumstances dictate it necessary , given the choice I would rather the risk were removed and old gear replaced.	10/12/2023 10:55 PM
221	Marine grade wire strops, with wear protection, where possible. I feel just bolting everything definitely loses a bit of the Scottish trad ethics. Marine grade bolted anchors only when absolutely necessary, over dodgy existing bolts/anchors. Please don't just make it a series of bolted anchors like it Europe. It will definitely take away from Scottish trad climbing.	10/12/2023 10:42 PM
222	Consider metal types and galvanic corrosion when replacing peg maillons. I assume the pegs are mild steel, stainless could cause an issue. Galvanised steel maillions replaced frequently may be an option. Consider continuous 12mm rings for the abseils reducing point wearing. I have some lovely 300cm polished stainless twisted leg bolts for St Bees that could work here?	10/12/2023 10:37 PM
223	Safety is paramount	10/12/2023 10:25 PM
224	Great idea, I wasn't previously aware quite how messy it had got.	10/12/2023 10:21 PM
225	Take care that the materials used will resist the corrosion	10/12/2023 10:18 PM
226	Use glue in P bolts at the abseil stations	10/12/2023 10:05 PM
227	Sounds very sensible	10/12/2023 10:00 PM
228	The old man is an adventure climb. My only concern is to maintain that ethic.	10/12/2023 9:54 PM
229	Great idea - part of the challenge is the freedom of choice of route not just here's a point (already proved) and the next. Keep the challenge.	10/12/2023 9:46 PM
230	Excellent idea. Old tat is unsightly and unsafe	10/12/2023 9:45 PM
231	No	10/12/2023 9:40 PM
232	I think that the stack would look better and cleaner with less tat on it. I think the new options suggested are the best for each situation.	10/12/2023 9:34 PM
233	This seems like a really sensible idea. We removed a whole rucksack of tat when we climbed it a few years ago, and having a much smaller amount of much safer gear would be great. Has thought gone in to ongoing maintenance and inspection?	10/12/2023 9:27 PM
234	No	10/12/2023 9:24 PM
235	I've done it twice, once in 1985 and again in 2015. Part of the challenge back then was planning and executing a safe descent. There is a danger that if people know the descent anchors are all in place and 100 percent safe then it might attract less experienced climbers who although have the technical ability to climb the grade may not realise that climbing it is much more than doing the moves but a major undertaking with some dubious rock, vomiting fulmars and massive exposure. More people may get into difficulties.	10/12/2023 9:11 PM
236	It seems well thought through.	10/12/2023 8:53 PM
237	Properly installed ab points are a brilliant idea and about time - they should be the norm... the amount of rotting 'tat' littering the majority of British mountain crags and sea cliffs is just plain dumb... its definitely a yes from me...	10/12/2023 8:29 PM
238	It's currently a mess, an embarrassment to climbers	10/12/2023 8:25 PM
239	Just do it .terrifying descent as it is .far harder than the original	10/12/2023 8:23 PM
240	All sounds good. The current situation would put me off it	10/12/2023 8:12 PM

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241	Well thought out and appropriately minimal	10/12/2023 8:03 PM
242	I like the idea of stainless slings to avoid the dragging of rope through fixed anchors.	10/12/2023 8:00 PM
243	Replace all tat/fixed nylon rope belays abd anchors with marine grade bolts and chain.	10/12/2023 7:49 PM
244	Educate people that it's unnecessary to endlessly back already adequate 'tat' No bolts. Are the original bolts necessary? Watch the recent video of adam ondra and pete whittaker 'lords of trad' for inspiration of the ethics to aspire to.	10/12/2023 7:49 PM
245	Bolts/chains are a great idea. Tat is a lot more destructive long term than placing bolts	10/12/2023 7:35 PM
246	Why would you not don't? Other climbs wouldn't be left in this state with lots of old dangerous gear in place.	10/12/2023 7:33 PM
247	Great that you are taking the initiative and consulting too. Thank You.	10/12/2023 7:18 PM
248	Bolt it	10/12/2023 7:14 PM
249	NA	10/12/2023 6:51 PM
250	Yes/no doesnt allow you to give a proper answer! Agree with the principle of clearing some of the old tat off the belay stations. Disagree that there is any such thing as in situ gear for belay stations so entirely disagree with bolting for belay. Everyone should be belaying off their own gear, noone should be belaying iff abseil stations or need bolts. Which would undermine the adventure considerably. Silly idea. Would really strongly disagree with anyone trying to take out the wooden chick going into the off width on the coffin pitch as its part if the history. Also, if the old number 3 cam is still stuck in that pitch leave it there, why not? Extra backup for those passing by	10/12/2023 6:46 PM
251	It's far less impact to cut away all current tat and rusty fixtures and replace with modern, properly placed belay stations. These will be less unsightly, safer and given the location, exposure, severity of the pitches in between etc etc hardly detract from the overall "experience" and traditional ethics. The stances cannot be descended by pull through spikes alone and therefore some form of "risky tat trust" or "leave it behind" approach is necessary. Given the prestige, fame, classic rock etc nature of the climb it WILL be climbed. Surely we should make sure the impact of climbers is minimised and that climbing the stack is not unnecessarily dangerous, regardless of skill/experience.	10/12/2023 6:35 PM
252	Sensible	10/12/2023 6:33 PM
253	Thankyou for carrying this out	10/12/2023 6:31 PM
254	No. Having read the proposal it sounds reasonable	10/12/2023 6:21 PM
255	Please use bolts that will last a lifetime (titanium).	10/12/2023 6:20 PM
256	Belay/abseil stations only. Preference for titanium bolts or similar to maximise longevity.	10/12/2023 6:12 PM
257	I would go further and put bolted abseil points (e.g. twin bolts and chains with rings to thread rope through). I found the large amount of rubbish on the various abseil points very unsightly and potentially dangerous	10/12/2023 6:12 PM
258	Bolted belays would look to have less trace than a metal sling.	10/12/2023 6:06 PM
259	The clean up should be thorough and permanent fixed anchors established to prevent this becoming a problem again.	10/12/2023 6:06 PM
260	Chains to replace slings, no drilled bolts	10/12/2023 5:56 PM
261	Why use static? Surely 1 or 2 titanium ring bolts would be much longer lasting?	10/12/2023 5:41 PM
262	What about the other routes, which may also have rotted gear?	10/12/2023 5:27 PM
263	Having climbed the Old Man of Stoer, the accumulation of rusted metal and disheveled slings is unsightly, unsafe, and unreasonable. Clean, durable fixed hardware is the only reasonable way moving forward.	10/12/2023 5:07 PM
264	About time. The bundles of old rope, not just on this stack but the other notable stacks and crags around Scotland are an an eyesore and safety risk. Stainless steel bolts/chain/wire strops, where all gear is retrievable, is long overdue. I fully support the equipping of old man of hoy	10/12/2023 4:55 PM
265	I support putting bolts at the belays, routes don't need to be dangerous when they can be made safe with modern technology. I do feel that people may not trust the strops in a few	10/12/2023 4:53 PM

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years time, maybe large bolts with rings that can easily be replaced would be much more long lasting and discreet.

266	Many British trad ethics fanatics are opposed to bolts, often on the basis of; "where does it end once one bolt is placed" or "it's a slippery slope". As long as the climbing is unaffected I don't see any issues. Great proposal, go ahead and make it safer/cleaner, and don't worry about the opinions of a few dinosaurs.	10/12/2023 4:46 PM
267	This is much needed, and the details of the proposal seem to minimise the potential impact while providing a safe way of ascending and descending the stack. I am in full agreement with the proposed solution.	10/12/2023 4:45 PM
268	In favour of stainless steel strops and titanium bolts. Remove the pegs too and bolt if necessary for descent. Don't add stainless steel mallions to the pegs. This will cause the pegs to rust faster through galvanic corrosion. This will just be a problem for future years that will require another visit to sort out. As mountaineering scotland is installing these stainless steel strops - should you be inspecting these periodically? Or have some means of reporting when these are rusting? Stainless steel will not last forever in this environment.	10/12/2023 4:42 PM
269	I agree with all of the proposals, and think they are well-measured and have the right priorities.	10/12/2023 4:31 PM
270	Minimal intervention as possible. Avoid placing new pegs if possible. Modern corrosion resistant chains. Double chain and loops for multiple parties to abseil off and avoid waiting at congested times if possible. No bolts please.	10/12/2023 4:04 PM
271	Great idea	10/12/2023 4:02 PM
272	Replace existing anchors with new tat. Where there is no reasonable natural anchor, add two bolts. Don't add bolts where there alternatives.	10/12/2023 4:02 PM
273	Be careful with plastic covers on marine graded stainless. I don't think they work so well in a sea cliff in environment, damp condensation and sea spray can get in behind the protective casing and rot the stainless. If the casing is black you then have no idea if it's safe. Unlike tatt that is easy to inspect. Clear casing would be better, but still not a perfect solution.	10/12/2023 3:50 PM
274	I feel like the sea stacks of Scotland are becoming more popular and the issue of tat is becoming much more of a problem.	10/12/2023 3:16 PM
275	I would replace the optional abseil at yhe top of pitch 5. You say the pegs are in reasonable condition but how long will they be in this condition for? Surely the marine stainless maillons that will be added will last significantly longer? Just remove the pegs and replace with bolt and chain anchor	10/12/2023 3:09 PM
276	I'd bolt and chain the abseil statuons	10/12/2023 2:59 PM
277	Although I agree with a lot people that UK trad should be kept as it is and there is very limited cases for in situ and bolted protection in does in places limited the safety and accessibility as some routes and the OMoH is on of these due to the compulsory ab descent so it definitely should be left in good condition for each party the use regardless of time of year/popularity/condition of gear. So yes make it tidy	10/12/2023 2:49 PM
278	I like the proposal.	10/12/2023 2:48 PM
279	You should make the belays a bolted solution - a lot like the rings and bolts found in the alps	10/12/2023 2:22 PM
280	Leave historical context but remove the rest, having been part of the party that cleaned in 2007 agree that each climber should try and leave no trace. If you find tat remove old prior to placing your own.	10/12/2023 2:15 PM
281	Long overdue	10/12/2023 2:10 PM
282	no	10/12/2023 2:07 PM
283	End of pitch 4 rusted bolts should also be removed	10/12/2023 1:54 PM
284	No comments	10/12/2023 1:53 PM
285	No	10/12/2023 1:48 PM
286	please keep the addition of new hardware to an absolute minimum while maintaining just enough to remove the need for climbers to leave anything behind in the future. Whilst this isn't the 'purist' it presents a half way house that hopefully everyone can support	10/12/2023 1:38 PM

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287	100% agree with removing dubious old tat & rusty bolts on abseil stations, and replacing with stainless modern options. Would much rather see a pair of discreet brown/grey bolts than piles of old slings and rope.	10/12/2023 1:36 PM
288	I think two bolts would be cleaner than the mess of rotting gear	10/12/2023 1:07 PM
289	Having read the proposal I think you are taking a very appropriate stance on necessary maintenance to make the stack suitably for those who climb it. In particular the phrase "absail roulette" captures the spirit of the plan for me. This will always be a serious undertaking for any climber, and will always have many and varied hazards. The mess of tat left by those who came before should not be one of these hazards. Thank you for planning and I wish you luck in a successful execution.	10/12/2023 1:01 PM
290	If anything I'd like to see no pegs/static being used. Either leave the stack as is but remove as much junk as possible, or make everything marine grade steel strops for threads and titanium bolts where the pegs were. Leaving pegs and static defeats the whole point as it will be as big a mess in 3 yrs time, and I would not be in support of this.	10/12/2023 12:54 PM
291	I wonder - do the abseil stations need to follow the route if the East Face Original - or could it be left clean, perhaps descending south or west face? Agree with simple durable solutions in general, steel threads with mallions , would rather keep bolts to minimum, and preferably only at abseil stations, no for belays if possible.tricky one, not going to please everyone! Good luck.	10/12/2023 12:46 PM
292	All suggestions seem to make sense.	10/12/2023 12:32 PM
293	I think it is very well thought through and sounds excellent.	10/12/2023 12:29 PM
294	Sounds sensible, better for the rock, and safer for my future ascent!	10/12/2023 12:23 PM
295	Good idea	10/12/2023 12:10 PM
296	Great idea to clean up. The old man is an iconic British adventure climb that is a benchmark climb for many aspiring climbers, like myself. In Europe, abseils and belays are often bolted which doesn't take from the experience in my opinion. A great example in the UK of this, is the In Pinn. Insitu chains are there for the ab, which doesn't just make for slick and safe climbing, it preserves the rock where traffic is inevitable. No need to fiddle in wires or find threads for some tat that will erode and ultimately pollute the environment. I love the British ethic towards trad climbing and I am a supporter, however where tat and pegs lie rusting into oblivion, I support metalwork whole heartedly.	10/12/2023 12:07 PM
297	Replacement in-situ gear would have to be compatible with the environment i.e. not rust or degrade, or at least have sufficient longevity before requiring replaced.	10/12/2023 12:04 PM
298	Makes sense to me	10/12/2023 11:27 AM
299	Titanium resin bolts with titanium rings for the abseil stations remove al the rest of the tat and rusty pegs and bolts	10/12/2023 11:27 AM
300	Excellent idea	10/12/2023 11:16 AM
301	Do not upgrade the optional station which relies in pegs with new maillons Either remove the pegs and leave it clean, or remove the pegs and replace with a bolted station.	10/12/2023 11:11 AM
302	No doubt some will whinge about ethics, but the old gear is a dangerous mess. Both of the times I have been their, other climbers were being dragged up by guides so they should be contributing to this.	10/12/2023 11:05 AM
303	Put titanium bolts and/or a chain in for the abseil points. It would be much safer and have less of an environmental impact than having climbers add to the ever growing pile of tat at the top. Having bolted abseil points would not change the adventurous nature of climbing on the stack. The climbing community in Scotland has largely moved on from viewing all bolts as inappropriate. A nuanced approach is needed to find the right balance between maintaining our heritage of adventurous, traditional climbing and adapting our culture to allow for the use of modern gear where appropriate. It's great to see surveys like this. Good work, Mountaineering Scotland!	10/12/2023 11:02 AM
304	It's common place in the Alps to install fixed gear for lower offs, belays and abseil points. It doesn't take away from the adventure of the routes and indeed improves safety and environmental impact.	10/12/2023 11:00 AM
305	I think this is a very pragmatic approach, and the end result will end up looking much tidier and safer than the mess that is there at the moment. More areas should learn from this.	10/12/2023 10:59 AM
306	Titanium glue in bolts need to be used, stainless is not sufficient for a marine environment.	10/12/2023 10:55 AM

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In the name of sustainability we need to use hardware that will last for as long as possible		
307	Agree with removing all the old tat. Agree with using stainless steel strops where solid threads exist and presumably glue in anchors where they do not. If placing bolts no expense should be spared on cost of materials and the placement locations checked to ensure the ropes will pull to minimise the risk of replacement and unsightly grinding/chopping.	10/12/2023 10:54 AM
308	Good luck	10/12/2023 10:42 AM
309	Leave original bolts/hardware as its historically important	10/12/2023 10:37 AM
310	To place titanium bolts both for rappels and belay stations, so the climb its safer and more enjoyable. This should also be done on the other two classic stacs: Am Buachaille and the Old Man of Stoer. Stacs would be way cleaner and climbs safer.	10/12/2023 10:37 AM
311	A great initiative	10/12/2023 10:33 AM
312	Seems sensible.	10/12/2023 10:31 AM
313	I have climbed the old man of stoer and I imagine hoy is a similar situation. The damage that was done by rusted nuts and superfluous tat far exceeded the impact that two titanium bolts and a chain would have, particularly for the Tyrolean traverse anchor. I don't think on these sorts of busy routes that there is a reasonable case to be made that the impact of bolts is greater than the impact of tat. There is also the danger of the tat which is that eventually it will fail and one or two people will die. However if every anchor and abseil anchor is bolted the route may lose its traditional and adventurous feeling. I think where there are anchors that can be easily assembled with nuts/cams etc, those should be left without bolts, except in cases where the erosion caused by constant placements could cause some other impact.	10/12/2023 10:26 AM
314	The proposal would seem to be sensitive to the history of climbing the Old Man and most importantly does not include the random and unnecessary addition of bolts or other fixed gear at all abseil stations. Marine strops to replace rope slings for threads, spikes etc. is a good option.	10/12/2023 10:03 AM
315	Metal strops and titanium resin in ab station.	10/12/2023 10:02 AM
316	Do not remove the wooden checks on P2, they are historic. I would welcome a decent abseil from the summit as was just a cantilever block when I did it.	10/12/2023 9:51 AM
317	Very good idea and very well thought out- including leaving the historical bits	10/12/2023 9:44 AM
318	I would not like any new bolts added, only like-for-like replacement where required. I approve of replacement of tat with steel ropes.	10/12/2023 9:44 AM
319	Although the introduction to the proposal is badly phrased and full of non-sequiturs, the general principle is sound and it is very much appreciated that you actually go through a consultation unlike the arseholes on North Wales Limestone retro-bolting trad cracks. Further, looking at the proposals, you seem to be aiming for the maximum of "like for like" in terms of replacing slings with cables, and the minimum of actual bolting, so it's clearly a sensible course of action.	10/12/2023 9:28 AM
320	Two stainless bolts and a chain whilst not what we're used to in the uk are considerably less of an eyesore than a sea of tat on mystery gear	10/12/2023 9:19 AM
321	You seem to be taking a sound approach, but I would say it's worth carefully considering how/if/when you feel that any result applies elsewhere too. It's quite unusual for such a consultation to be run, so the results could be quite far-reaching. I would favour a bare minimum intervention.	10/12/2023 9:14 AM
322	Eminently sensible approach to remove a mess of (semi)rotten tat and unsafe bolts, and replace with modern (glue-in?) bolts.	10/12/2023 9:13 AM
323	Remove everything for a clean start and agree a new fixed quality belay of maybe stainless steel chain at the top wouls be good.	10/12/2023 9:05 AM
324	Well done on grasping this nettle. My suggestion: remove *all* pegs and old bolts, including the peg belay at the top of p5. These are never reliable on sea cliffs. Avoid the use of fixed rope at *any* belay: evidence from the top anchors is that even when new static rope is in-situ that a birds nest of rope proliferates rapidly. Strops are a good idea, static at the top of p1 is unnecessary.	10/12/2023 9:03 AM
325	The sooner the better.	10/12/2023 8:58 AM
326	It is difficult to balance the traditional approach that the climber should place his own belays	10/12/2023 8:54 AM

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with the alternative of in situ anchors that bring responsibility to those who installed them. I left slings in 1979 and they still looked good when back in 1981. The summit abseil was traditionally from the steel cable the BBC fitted, but it broke in August 1981, fortunately in a casual test before the abseil. That is why I left my own slings again; it is my choice and responsibility to get a secure belay. I suppose all climbers who add a new sling should always remove the ones no longer trusted.

327	Agree with long term solution of using stainless steel strops with rubber covers to replace static rope threads. Also feel that any old bolts and pegs should be replaced by high quality glue in bolts (if no trad belay is available).	10/12/2023 8:42 AM
328	It all sounds very sensible and has been thought through well.	10/12/2023 8:37 AM
329	I don't like the idea of drilling new bolts so if that could be avoided by use of e.g. in situ gear that can be backed up and periodically replaced then that would be my preference. But I don't know what's at the end of p4.	10/12/2023 8:33 AM
330	Thanks Sam.	10/12/2023 8:32 AM
331	Obviously it must be tread carefully but removing tat and rusty old bolts/pegs that are a danger is no bad thing	10/12/2023 8:15 AM
332	I think it's important to keep the Scottish style of not bolting/ adding chains to hills as much possible. I think this is a specific case and it's good that it is being dealt with through many discussions and this survey	10/12/2023 8:15 AM
333	Why go to the effort of cleaning everything except the end of P5? Why not just upgrade this now instead of waiting? Is there another option that would be more durable and not just of 'reasonable' condition?	10/12/2023 8:15 AM
334	Absolutely NO BOLTS	10/12/2023 8:13 AM
335	Looks good	10/12/2023 8:10 AM
336	Great idea!	10/12/2023 8:10 AM
337	Please do make the abseils safe! I loved climbing the stack, but the rotten gear you have to trust on the way down currently will eventually kill someone, and it's just not worth it!	10/12/2023 8:10 AM
338	I did not use bolts on the ordinary route and question their necessity	10/12/2023 8:08 AM
339	Fixed, long lasting abseil and belay points are sensible, but no fixed protection	10/12/2023 8:07 AM
340	Sounds like a great plan!	10/12/2023 8:03 AM
341	Please, no Bolts Try to encourage the climbers to replace the old gear - like in the Dolomites	10/12/2023 7:58 AM
342	I think this represents a very balanced and considered approach to this problem of accumulation of waste. It is probably unhelpful but there was an interesting Climbing Gold episode recently talking about rebolting old routes, this often pertained to routes in the US where the bolting had been limited due to to available funds of the the original climber. I have tremendous affection for the UK trad climbing ethic, I don't view this as project-driven to reduce risk (though it's a happy side effect) it's more a response to unsightly objects left behind. I guess if everyone who topped out cleared the old tat there would be less of an issue? I for one am very happy with technical progress in the sport, I wouldn't leave my rack of cams at the bottom of the climb to preserve the true nature of the climb :) strong work, I'm grateful people are willing to give their time and take the undoubted heat on the web, will this be crowd funded?	10/12/2023 7:55 AM
343	The sensible replacement of life critical equipment is sensible, especially in the context of there being no alternative to descend the stack.	10/12/2023 7:48 AM
344	It's a modern solution and it's a shame that you have to consult on this. You're doing it for the good of the current climbing community and to make it accessible to the future climbing community too.	10/12/2023 7:47 AM
345	Use long life glue ins	10/12/2023 7:44 AM
346	Sounds good	10/12/2023 7:36 AM
347	Great to clear old gear.	10/12/2023 7:27 AM
348	Fully support. Long overdue.	10/12/2023 7:17 AM
349	Great to see you folks applying common sense to major routes.	10/12/2023 7:13 AM

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350	Excellent idea - both in terms of tidying the old gear away (safety of climbers and preserving the rock) and the future preservation of the rock (installing appropriate modern abseiling points therefore reducing the need for climbers to install / use their own gear which could in a small number of instances damage the rock).	10/12/2023 7:12 AM
351	The plan seems a logical and low impact solution	10/12/2023 6:54 AM
352	All the suggested measures seem proportionate and a good balance between maintaining the adventure of the stack and clearing up the mess. Thanks	10/12/2023 6:14 AM
353	I agree with the clean up, when I commit to an abseil I like to know what I am clipped on to. A mess of old tat is not that inspiring.	10/12/2023 6:08 AM
354	Excellent idea. Its a mess as it is. Bolt belay and abb stations is the way forward and far safer.	10/12/2023 5:18 AM
355	In future who has the responsibility to evaluate and maintain / replace the bolted ab stations? Does this remove the 'adventure' of sea cliff / stack climbing and how do we avoid the spread to other stacks etc?	10/12/2023 5:02 AM
356	I don't agree with adding new bolts. Alternatives are possible. Otherwise, the proposals make sense.	10/12/2023 4:40 AM
357	1) You MUST use titanium anchors. That is the worldwide standard for marine environment. No form of stainless steel is as good or long lasting as titanium. Contact [REDACTED]	10/12/2023 1:55 AM
358	To be absolutely honest I think that trad is great, it opens anywhere up to climbing. I also think Sport is great, it opens up outdoor climbing to people without requiring them to invest so much time into learning how trad works. People claim Sport is unsightly, but they clearly haven't done enough sport, if they had they would have spent plenty of time hunting for the elusive next bolt.... I think that at some point there should be a discussion as to whether we should consider bolting routes that see a large amount of traffic. It would make them safer and more accessible for more climbers. It would allow groups to move more quickly also which would ease the congestion that some popular routes can experience.	10/12/2023 1:45 AM
359	I'm not appeared to bolting if it makes the situation safer.	10/12/2023 1:33 AM
360	Get rid of the tat, use glue in bolts sparingly	10/12/2023 12:54 AM
361	Where plastic sheathing is used consider sourcing an opaque or translucent sand/tan colouring to blend better with sandstone.	10/12/2023 12:37 AM
362	I agree with all proposed and think it is very sustainable	10/12/2023 12:20 AM
363	I would be far more likely to want to climb it if the stack was cleaned up and made less sketchy.	10/12/2023 12:15 AM
364	The old stuff should be removed, and new safer stuff should be installed. Don't want anyone having to risk their life, and people can't practice "leave no trace" if they are leaving climbing gear behind. Safer route also means nobody else has to sacrifice their time or safety trying to rescue people!	10/12/2023 12:02 AM
365	I think it is an excellent, carefully thought out, and well balanced proposal . Thank you for the time and work.	10/11/2023 11:52 PM
366	Other coastal climbing locations opt to use titanium bolts (search Dave MacLeod Oban crags for information on what was used here) as even marine steel will rust in a *relatively* short amount of time.	10/11/2023 11:25 PM
367	Sounds sympathetic and will halt an increase in impacts	10/11/2023 11:06 PM
368	Two chains, one at the top, one at the top of pitch 2. Bolted belays at the rest.	10/11/2023 11:02 PM
369	I believe every belay station should be cleaned but not replaced. Natural protection from the leader should be enough. The abseil points (threads) should only be replaced by other threads, but not static rope. Instead using those steel threads covered in rubber (unassuming they are marine compatible), as seen in Upper Cave, Ballater, etc.	10/11/2023 10:57 PM
370	Great idea, sounds like a very sensible plan of attack which will still retain the adventurous trad feel	10/11/2023 10:39 PM
371	I agree with replacing all threads with sheathed strops and replaceable mallions. I think it would be better to have no static and use strops for all these belays. Rather than leaving the 4 reasonable pegs, I think it would be better to either remove these and either leave nothing or make another bolt anchor. Would titanium bolts not be a better option than steel	10/11/2023 10:39 PM

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in this location. Titan Climbing make a good anchor system with a beefy but easily replaceable mullion ring.

372	Proposal is well considered and offers a balanced response in proportion to current use of the stack	10/11/2023 10:37 PM
373	It's a good idea. It is a mess and it's hard not to add stuff to it when try to justify safety so more tat appears.	10/11/2023 10:37 PM
374	no	10/11/2023 10:35 PM
375	Great!! Long overdue. Prefer anything (even semi-permanent, threads, chains, etc) over any drilling of new bolts. But appreciate someone taking the initiative as always thought about going back and doing a (much lesser!) version of this.	10/11/2023 10:31 PM
376	Only that gear shouldn't be made more sparse. Get rid of the rubbish but don't lean lean.	10/11/2023 10:23 PM
377	People are gonna climb it, might as well make it safe and reduce waste.	10/11/2023 10:21 PM
378	I think it's a great idea. There's a lot of old tat that is used I see. This is not very safe and especially when it's a free hanging abseil	10/11/2023 10:17 PM
379	None	10/11/2023 10:15 PM
380	Great Idea	10/11/2023 10:11 PM
381	A clean up is wise and beneficial to all	10/11/2023 10:00 PM
382	Great work!!	10/11/2023 10:00 PM
383	The survey mentions using maritime/stainless steel bolts. It is well-documented, however, that the best bolts for maritime environments are titanium glue-in bolts. Any bolts place on the Old Man of Hoy should be of the highest quality, to avoid any controversy.	10/11/2023 9:58 PM
384	Minimise the placing of permanent gear/bolts	10/11/2023 9:49 PM
385	Great idea. Get rid of the rubbish. The nature of the climb won't be affected in the slightest.	10/11/2023 9:47 PM
386	I think good fixed abseil points are much more environmentally friendly than the tat that normally gets left	10/11/2023 9:44 PM
387	Love the initiative!	10/11/2023 9:42 PM
388	I am pro bolted abseil stations. Having not climbed it I do not feel my opinion on the belay ledges is overly valid but I would be wary of bolted belay stations.	10/11/2023 9:41 PM
389	I think bolts should be avoided if possible, but fully on board with the addition of marine steel strops to replace any current static	10/11/2023 9:40 PM
390	Yes but as long as it doesn't set a precedent for doing this on other poorly protected trad climbs	10/11/2023 9:38 PM
391	At points where there is a high likelihood of "new" fixed tat being put in by users, just go ahead and put in something minimal, clean, and long lasting.	10/11/2023 9:36 PM
392	Get it done!	10/11/2023 9:32 PM
393	I completely agree with the reasoning and think this is a safer, less unsightly option	10/11/2023 9:31 PM
394	Surely this opens the question of The Old Man of Store?	10/11/2023 9:18 PM
395	"Ethics" should never get in the way of keeping people alive. If your actions make it "safer" then I support your proposal.	10/11/2023 9:18 PM
396	When I climbed it, there were still some Bonington wooden wedges on P2. These have history and character, and don't block the cam placements above and below, so should be allowed to stay IMHO.	10/11/2023 9:17 PM
397	Very well thought out	10/11/2023 9:12 PM
398	Removal of the rats nest of rusty bolts, gear and rotten rope and replacement with something durable/safe that won't result in each person adding another loop of tat is a good idea. I am in full support of this suggestion.	10/11/2023 9:12 PM
399	Not sure why you feel the need to ask? It's each of our responsibilities as a human being to take our waste out of natural environments. By asking you suggest that you don't carry that responsibility.	10/11/2023 9:11 PM

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400	Great idea	10/11/2023 9:05 PM
401	Some metal abseil anchors would be good to see	10/11/2023 9:04 PM
402	Stainless steel or other material which will last due to salty environment Really important to reduce tangled / stuck ropes at top of pitch 2	10/11/2023 9:02 PM
403	Good idea, there were lots of old tat around. The worst was old rope swinging around in the wind causing dangerous conditions	10/11/2023 9:01 PM
404	Minimize potential damage to the sandstone	10/11/2023 8:59 PM
405	The pegs currently used as an abseil anchor will inevitably degrade. I suggest it is safest if they are preemptively replaced, rather than the risk of them subsequently failing. Adventurous climbing is not about rolling dice on abseils.	10/11/2023 8:58 PM
406	Ironic, given the FB statements of a certain MCoS representative, but this is indeed the way forward, just as a few cemented stainless steel pegs are a positive step towards sustainability for trad climbing on some parts of Gogarath	10/11/2023 8:57 PM
407	It needs doing so best it is done properly	10/11/2023 8:56 PM
408	Go ahead	10/11/2023 8:55 PM
409	Worth placing some bolts at the end of pitch 5?	10/11/2023 8:54 PM
410	A great, pragmatic approach to improving both safety and enjoyment of this classic climb	10/11/2023 8:52 PM
411	Nope - do what's best to make it safe.	10/11/2023 8:49 PM
412	Needs to be safe. Rotten tat is unsafe and ugly.	10/11/2023 8:42 PM
413	Great idea	10/11/2023 8:39 PM
414	No comments as what is proposed makes sense.	10/11/2023 8:38 PM
415	It would be great for the stack to have only what is needed to support the climb	10/11/2023 8:32 PM
416	Use marine steel cables where possible in place of static cords/ropes as more durable.	10/11/2023 8:32 PM
417	It is long overdue project - a cleaner and safer stack is most desirable	10/11/2023 8:27 PM
418	Attention to the coastal nature is needed to make sure things don't rust or get weathered beyond safe standards. Regular inspection might be required.	10/11/2023 8:22 PM
419	Try to recycle as much of the gear taken off as possible. A good option would be to give it to a local artist to make something with that can be either displayed publicly or raffled/sold off to raise funds for the RSPB or a bolt fund.	10/11/2023 8:22 PM
420	Removal of the nylon and rope tat would be good. We cut away a few bits and removed some corroded crabs when we climbed it but that was in 2013 - a long time ago and I'm sure more has been added since. We didn't use any already fixed ropes because what was there was questionable at best, so it would be good to clean up and remove it.	10/11/2023 8:20 PM
421	I have reservations about anything being added other than an abseil station from the top. Adding belays and hand lines is, for me, outwith the current tradition of climbing in Scotland	10/11/2023 8:19 PM
422	Not before time- it's a shameful mess, and as the bolts are historic, the precedent of using them at anchors has been set. I believe environmental considerations should outweigh any conservative, traditionalist approach to creating anchors. Also, as stated, the anchors are needed in descent.	10/11/2023 8:16 PM
423	Makes sent. I cleaned a lot of in-situ tag etc from The Old Man of Stoer when I did it.	10/11/2023 8:12 PM
424	This is a great idea, in keeping with the ethic of British Trad, whilst being safety-conscious, modern and common-sensical. This is a great idea, and hopefully will lead the way for the future on other iconic routes.	10/11/2023 8:09 PM
425	Please leave the old wooden wedges from the original ascent!	10/11/2023 8:08 PM
426	A Clean up should be done to remove all unsaved climbing materials. Removed the risk of someone using the unsaved material	10/11/2023 8:05 PM
427	Sounds sensible	10/11/2023 8:02 PM
428	All sound reasonable	10/11/2023 8:00 PM
429	Sounds sensible	10/11/2023 7:52 PM

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430	I feel this sort of thing could be done on a lot sea stacks and it wouldn't detract from them at all. Good effort!	10/11/2023 7:46 PM
431	Is it wise to attempt to extend this to other similar areas like the old man of stoer?	10/11/2023 7:41 PM
432	Happy to assist if hands are needed - [REDACTED]	10/11/2023 7:38 PM
433	All sounds reasonable. After all, there's a chain and bolts on the summit of the In Pinn to make that descent safer!	10/11/2023 7:38 PM
434	Will removed bolts be replaced?	10/11/2023 7:34 PM
435	No all sounds like a good idea	10/11/2023 7:34 PM
436	Clear off the crap and fix some sustainable ab options. No other fixed gear except for the abseils	10/11/2023 7:30 PM
437	I am pro the use of metal chain/ strops in a similar manner to the existing set up on the inaccessible pinnacle on Skye. I am also pro the renewal of threads with static as required. I have some reservations about the use of drilled / glued bolts and I was unaware of their previous presence on the Old Man. It was not something obvious from reading Hard Rock or from the first ascensionists. Happy to be corrected though! Is it not possible to run pitches together in a more modern style and therefore render the bolts redundant and then they can be removed and the bolt holes concealed?	10/11/2023 7:30 PM
438	Go ahead - clean it all, and put in the stainless as required. It's the only way to keep it safe and viable for future climbers	10/11/2023 7:28 PM
439	What is the life expectancy of the marine hardware ? Is there a similar proposal for other stacks like the old man of stoer? Will there be a fund to donate to or is it from general MS funding?	10/11/2023 7:27 PM
440	The tat should definitely be cleaned up and anchors set in place as it should hopefully help keep it cleaner also reduce the risk of can I trust any of this issues. Will also look a lot nicer with out all the tat on it, yesnaby Castle while not as popular is getting as bad on top.	10/11/2023 7:26 PM
441	Bolted anchors are the sensible option	10/11/2023 7:20 PM
442	Leave any old wood blocks in cracks. Would it be possible to install an abseil line outside the climbing route. That way it may avoid putting in permanent bolts for belays on trad gear used on the ascent?	10/11/2023 7:19 PM
443	Makes sence	10/11/2023 7:18 PM
444	Completely agree with the proposal as it cleans up the site & makes it safer for generations to come	10/11/2023 7:17 PM
445	Sounds great. We should be doing this on more crags with insitu tat	10/11/2023 7:15 PM
446	Use all the old material removed to crest an art sculpture in homage to climbers/heritage/nature	10/11/2023 7:14 PM
447	It needs doing.	10/11/2023 7:13 PM
448	Seems very sensible it is not in a traditional condition at the moment. The old equipment is not natural and by adding some permanent bolts at only certain locations should detract from challenge and make safer if someone uses one of these old attachements	10/11/2023 7:10 PM
449	All of the proposals sound very reasonable.	10/11/2023 4:42 PM
450	Ok with abseil stations being bolted but not belay stances on the route.	10/11/2023 3:36 PM
451	Hopefully it may set a precedent for other stacks. The soutar in East Lothian in particular is a mess. Would love to help too	10/11/2023 3:04 PM
452	No	10/11/2023 2:52 PM
453	I support all efforts to make climbing safer and cleaner, I do not agree with those who would be against installing decent bolts.	10/11/2023 2:46 PM
454	I'm unconvinced about the longevity of the static rope proposed at the start of the route but appreciate options are limited.	10/11/2023 9:31 AM
455	Can you do the Old Man of Stoer as well? Bolts or thread for the tyrolean rather than disgusting pegs. The current ones are an embarrassment when viewed by international visitors...	10/11/2023 8:54 AM

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456	Yes - the current levels of tat detract from the experience. I would support the clean up and removal. Wire strops are great. Bolts at the top of pitch two would be preferable to strops/ tat. They should placed slightly to the side of the existing belay. This would reduce the potential for snagging and also keep abseiling parties clear of climbers accessing the belay stance.	10/11/2023 8:52 AM
457	The proposal seems like the least intrusive but most sustainable option.	10/9/2023 5:03 PM

Q5 If NO – what do you propose instead?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 881

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Clean up the decaying slings and rope and encourage ("signage" may be required here) climbers to take away 1 piece of material for every one they add i.e. one in then one out	10/18/2023 1:27 PM
2	Where would this end? Every stac in Scotland in scope? Every climb/pitch. Think Pinnacle ridge on Skye, Aonach Eagach? This needs leaving to the climbing community at large, who are responsible enough to manage this themselves. What happens when one day when MS disappears or morphs into another entity, who will take over the maintenance? Best just leave alone, one to bring up at the AGM I think	10/18/2023 12:12 PM
3	<p>[REDACTED] I specialise in the design and manufacture of Titanium climbing equipment. [REDACTED] I have no agenda as to how the clean-up should or should not be done. I think the decision should be made by local climbers. Several people have emailed me to make me aware of this clean-up on the Old Man of Hoy. If you wish, I can make up Titanium chain that I believe will solve some problems. All stainless is susceptible to corrosion, especially right by the sea. This is regardless of the grade of stainless, whether 304, 316(L), duplex or even the 6 Moly alloys. The more expensive alloys will last longer, but none as long as Titanium. Only Titanium will not rust at all. I can also supply you with glue-in Titanium bolts, if you need any. F [REDACTED]</p>	10/18/2023 10:19 AM
4	replace tat/rope with some static rope and stainless rings, then monitor and replace regularly.	10/16/2023 7:09 PM
5	Massive clean up, yes. Metal bolts, no. A regular triannual cleaclean up will solve the tat problem. No drilling should be done. Metal strops could be considered, and who's gonna go regularly down the years to check they're not being corroded?	10/16/2023 4:43 PM
6	Education of people to take away old "tat" if replacing it with new slings. The Old Man of Hoy is one of the ultimate traditional multi pitch climbs in Scotland and should only be attempted by those who are experienced and happy enough to accept the challenge with no fixed gear with the exception of single or double layers of tat around existing anchorages. The climb including the descent should not be dumbed down.	10/16/2023 3:56 PM
7	Do nothing. It is only climbers who place ab tat and only climbers who see it up close. It is up to us to leave the environment tidier than when we found it. It is up to us to ensure that we can safely return from the route, which is half the point of sea stack climbing. The (unintentional?) effect of cleaning up the tat is to make the descent of the route simpler and thereby remove some of the challenge.	10/16/2023 1:42 PM
8	Yes/no seems a bit too simple! Personally I'm in favour of cleaning it up, however I would do so with rope and wires. If there was then a place where the information on wires sizes and rope could be (e.g.ukc) people should be encouraged to replace and remove. I realise there are many opinions though, I'm not averse to proper removable wire strops like those suggested and would much prefer them to all bolted. I'm not in favour of the hand line suggestion. I'm not really in favour of bolts, I feel there is a gradual increase in bolts as lower offs (Creag Dubh, Binnean Shaus, Ceannabeinne, etc) and I feel it would be a loss to the trad adventure of our crags to have loads of bolted belays/anchors. I do however really appreciate an attempt to ask the climbing community about bolting/cleaning trad venues, think it's a great step in the right direction.	10/16/2023 8:49 AM
9	Certainly leave the rusted bolts, that's history. The tat tells it's own story, not to trust 1 UV exposed rope on it's own. Please leave it as a traditionall route, not everything needs intervention, just because you can does not mean you should.	10/15/2023 8:24 PM
10	Leave alone. I strongly object to fixed gear and 'making' it safe.	10/15/2023 11:30 AM
11	unnecessary and sanitising a perfectly safe climb if you have the right skill set. Sure clear some tat, but please don't bolt the Old Man	10/14/2023 11:11 PM
12	With regards to descent anchors. Rather than	10/14/2023 7:56 PM
13	Clean the normal route of all tat and historic fixed gear. Regrade the route to the level of	10/14/2023 4:41 PM

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natural protection available. On an independent line, provide titanium bolted abseil stations from the top to the ground.

14	Please do not bolt any belays. I have climbed the stack three times (guided it twice) and there are options of where to safely belay without any fixed gear. Please don't degrade this great climb, and make it into a quasi-sport route. Abseiling is a different issue. Of course gear has to be left in place, but this shouldn't be conflated into also making the case for fixed belay stations. The question on the Mountaineering Scotland proposal is very binary; gear or no gear. There should also be an option of fixed abseil points and NO fixed belay stations.	10/14/2023 1:17 PM
15	This is not a safety issue. There is a problem now, as the accumulation of tat over so many years is too big of a job for a team to resolve single handedly. Restart from zero - remove all the old tat and replace with new static and ring. When tat becomes old and it starts to get messy with newly added one, repeat the process before it becomes unmanageable again. Simple. No bolts or metal strops on sea stacks please, thank you.	10/13/2023 11:20 PM
16	Replace threads with strops but do not place bolts.	10/13/2023 9:46 PM
17	Ad hoc replacement of the tat. This iconic symbol of adventure climbing should not be retro-bolted.	10/13/2023 9:39 PM
18	Yes - remove the old tat Yes - put in new bolts to replace old protection. In addition - fully bolt several routes to enable safe and accessible climbing for more people. Climbing should be safe and enjoyable and accessible. Not just for the few who are willing to put their faith in traditional equipment. Adding bolts will encourage more climbers and does not prevent traditional climbers from doing it their way.	10/13/2023 7:29 PM
19	I agree with everything - except the placement of bolts in the rock. If pegs are not possible, and natural gear is not possible, then it is not a belay station! Please do not bolt the Old Man (by all means remove to old ones)	10/13/2023 5:18 PM
20	Either a continuing of the current situation, or for those that feel strongly enough about making things clean, they could do an annual clean up. Or just educate climbers better about taking a pen knife with them to replace poor tat if they find it.	10/13/2023 3:08 PM
21	Clean up the tat regularly, no need for bolts, its an adventure climb so keep it so.	10/13/2023 2:25 PM
22	A tidy up and removal of the worst slings/ropes etc would be fine, being carried out every so often. However the idea of new shinny abseil stations on what is a true classic adventure climb with a long history seems somehow out of character and changes the adventure feel of the climb. I can see how logically it might present as the right answer; Safer, less of an eye saw (who sees it other than climbers?), better for birds (how often have they become entangled?) etc... But then we could bolt all the climbs in Britain under the same notion of safety! For me the memory of abseiling of each pitch, not quite knowing how sound the anchors are was a big part of the fun and adventure. Climbers continue to remove the worst of the tat and add new sections of rope all the time, I think this process is adequate. Perhaps this being carried out on a semi regular basis and more intentionally would be good. Seeing an old blown out bolt that might have been from the FA is a pleasurable thought, while a broken nut wasting a good nut placement is not. ()	10/13/2023 2:13 PM
23	I agree with much of the proposal - the removal of tat and corroded fixed anchors, and installation of more durable threads, but I think it is naive to suggest that the installation of a few stainless strops and bolts will solve the issue going forward. For many people climbing the stack is a big deal and the descent on of the most intimidating abseils they will undertake. It is human nature and entirely understandable to back up any anchor you are not 100% confident in. Few climbers have the competence necessary to inspect a wire strop, and there is no sure way to inspect a bolt without a pull-test. Anyone competent enough to climb the stack will be competent to place a backup piece. So a few years down the line, as soon as any rust begins to appear, or the strop sleeves become clouded by UV, people will become unsure and begin backing them up. You will have the same problem and have taken an ethical step backward by placing more bolts. I suspect this would be the case even if you installed a full series of all-titanium abseil stations top to bottom. Any proper trad climber will have the capability to back them up, and plenty will find themselves sufficiently intimidated to do so. So in summary, I agree with removing as much fixed gear as possible, and adding more durable alternatives to threads. I don't support placing any additional drilled anchors. Going forward, I suggest either an annual cleanup or local guides who visit regularly keeping on top of it. For what it's worth, I didn't find the tat particularly memorable, it certainly didn't detract from the experience. Whereas new bolts certainly would have done.	10/13/2023 1:09 PM
24	Bolts should not be used here. Lots of the justification is from instructors who need a safe option for there guided clients. This is not trad climbing. Is climbers were educated to	10/13/2023 12:56 PM

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	remove tat when they add some it wouldn't be a problem.	
25	I don't think that this survey gives adequate options - it almost feels like a way to sneak adding in bolts across the line. I agree with removing old tat and useless fixed gear. I don't agree with adding in new bolts.	10/13/2023 9:09 AM
26	I agree with cleaning up the tat, and don't have a problem with chains and strops etc. I do think that bolts should only be placed if no other alternative e.g. altering position of belay stances/pitch lengths, even if this means longer ropes need to be used. I don't think this survey is fit for purpose, not enough detail. Would I use the bolts if installed, of course yes. But gradually this removes the adventure and knowledge required for trad climbing. I am amazed that people would not take tat and a knife on a big climb as a routine. If the stack cannot be climbed without bolts, well maybe leave it to the bird-life, we have thousands of other climbs.	10/13/2023 8:33 AM
27	remove old tat, do not add bolts!	10/12/2023 10:42 PM
28	"If on belay stations there is no natural protection available and they relied on poor old bolts and pegs, then in-situ bolts may be the only option." - there are literally no non-protectable abseil points on the old man, unless you planning to bolt the second last pitch (but not belay since again, protectable), it's all protectable by trad gear and / slings. so yes absolutely replace those slings with chains or whatever is more durable but no bolted anchors are needed. also atm people climb it with the expectation that they may have to build and leave an anchor on the abseils, they come prepared for such and its part of the experiance. This will remove that. It's like how the cairngorm platoe bothy got removed because people were relying on it being there. and then it would be buried in snow and they'd be unprepared for that and need rescued/die.	10/12/2023 9:51 PM
29	This will change the route.	10/12/2023 9:30 PM
30	What's suggested is basically good - removing the tat and a general clean. However, I' go for complete removal of everything, not replacement.	10/12/2023 8:51 PM
31	Leave well alone - climbers (and guides!!) Should be encouraged to cut away and remove old tat, replacing it with fresh as they feel is necessary. Each Climber is responsible for their own safety - they should not be reliant on bolts and things put in by other people to look after them. I quite enjoyed looking at all the old bits and Bobs on my ascent - adds to the history of it. Now I'm thinking about it, I remember thinking that the hand rail was a bit much when we climbed it - perhaps we could remove that?	10/12/2023 8:39 PM
32	Leave it as it is, it is all part of the fun / adventure. I'm surprised the stack is still standing, there didn't seem to be much supporting the top third when I climbed it.	10/12/2023 8:13 PM
33	No bolts. Change pitch lengths or belay in different places to avoid placing any bolts. I agree with the use of longer life materials such as wire rope or beefy protected cord for thread anchors to remove the piles of decaying tat, and with the removal of rusting gear that is blocking placements. Perhaps any particularly historic examples could be left. I don't know what is up there, but finding wooden wedges on Bow wall, machine nuts on Glyder Fach, and hand placed pebbles at the Roaches have added to my experience of those routes.	10/12/2023 5:05 PM
34	clean up without adding extra bolts. Replacing	10/12/2023 3:30 PM
35	Either leave it alone or replace with titanium. All steel in a marine environment will eventually rust	10/12/2023 1:57 PM
36	Thin end of the wedge for sure.	10/12/2023 1:45 PM
37	Tidy up the tat by all means but no thanks to bolts.	10/12/2023 12:50 PM
38	I think it should remain as is, particularly as you suggest you would wish to leave old bolts for historical reasons. I removed some old highly corroded items on my ascent, and if the tat is kept to a minimum there's nothing wrong with it, the suggestion is just sanitising the route and experience of climbing it.	10/12/2023 11:51 AM
39	Tidy the tat. Tidy it again when necessary. People making money out of the stack, such as guides, could do it.	10/12/2023 10:24 AM
40	Encouragement of an ethic of self dependance and removal/replacement of tat. If you can climb the old man of hoy you should know to bring replacement tat, clean up and make safe your abseil points, and assess/adjust anchor points on the way down. This proposal mostly benefits guides, those not prepared, and the lazy who cant be bothered to clean up. Lowest common denominator stuff. RSPB gain little. If anything it will increase traffic and bird disturbance throughout the season. It shouldnt be mountaineering scotlands job to facilitate	10/12/2023 9:16 AM

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the sanitisation of climbs. If it is the direction mountaineering scotland are going, can i suggest an equally biased survey for bolts at the top of Dun Mingulay? Because I didnt enjoy that abseil either, and the guides would save time, and the visiting german wads wouldnt get scared. This answer doesnt capture half the nuance of the actual discussion, but the tone of the survey pissed me off. Whoever wrote the article and this survey has clearly made up their minds already and hasnt been able to hide the fact. That doesnt make for an honest open discussion. What is the point.

41	I don't agree with the proposal to place new bolts! There are loads of routes around the country which would be made easier and safer by installing lower off bolts. Setting a precedent like this will lend weight to the proliferation of bolts in other locations. (This year I've noticed new bolted lower offs at Creag Dubh and Diabaig, so proliferation is a risk imo). I don't want to be 100% assured of my safety when I go out climbing. Please promote self sufficiency (i.e. bring tat with you when attempting these types of climbs) and clean up tactics (i.e. remove old tat when you leave new stuff.) Don't dumb down the experience please. We're at risk of developing a tradition where climbers expect safety and convenience on popular routes outside. This would be a great shame for those who want the sport to provide committed mini-adventures on our wee island. (I sound like an out of date trad fart but I'm in my mid-20s and don't want to see the UK's ethics watered down!) Other than that, I fully agree with the proposal to remove rotting hardware and redundant tat.	10/12/2023 8:45 AM
42	I don't see a problem- this is adventure climbing	10/12/2023 8:44 AM
43	Clean up rusting dangerous fixed gear, but do not replace. Ascent belays can all be made on natural gear. There are ample natural alternatives. Leave thread/tat for the 'organic' removal and replacement that has happened for years. Threads/slings off natural features are sufficient to descend safely in two sixty metre abseils. No new fixed gear is required.	10/12/2023 8:20 AM
44	Remove old and worn tat, nuts and pegs. Encourage future ascensionists to do likewise.	10/12/2023 8:07 AM
45	This is a very poorly constructed survey - how can you reduce the discussion down to a single 'yes/no'? Clean away the old tat if you want. But please do not start drilling and bolting it. Let it remain a challenge and adventure rather than bringing it down to what you deem to be a safe level for guides and their clients. It is ok for climbing to require judgement and experience, and for it to remain with a level of risk. Bolts remove all of that. Please, please don't bolt it.	10/12/2023 7:59 AM
46	Clean up old tat... Climbers really ought to be replacing this as they go as standard...i have always worked on the basis that if tat needs backing up you remove and takeaway at least what you replace if not more... Leave old rusted ironmongery/wooden wedges... these are historical...climbers can make their own judgement on how unsafe they are. Certainly no steel cables....trad climbing in Scotland is about self-sufficiency and independence.... especially on the likes of the Old Man the retreat is as much part of the adventure as the ascent. I also believe once "official" looking gear is in place a lot of people will stop taking personal responsibility for assessing it....so consequently there becomes an argument that the official gear has to be idiot proof/checked continuously....who then decides what is a sufficient level of risk mitigation ? Slippery slope potentially. And on a final note I am certain that in a well intentioned move to manage the impact of increased traffic, that "official" abseil/belay points will have the opposite effect. Please let people have their own adventures!	10/12/2023 5:54 AM
47	I agree removing the tat of the ropes from the stations is a fantastic idea making it safer for the people who go up there to climb. However removing the pegs and pitons would be shame. When climbing these routes it vital that we as climbers understand the history of these ascents. The feeling of being part of a long line of climbers that have climbed the stack and knowing that each peg has a story behind it, I feel adds to a community and the sense that we as climbers share the same aspirations to climb shit.	10/12/2023 12:05 AM
48	Do not expose MS to the lawsuits which will follow when your abseil points, etc. fail.	10/11/2023 11:15 PM
49	Agree with all aspects apart from an institu hand line at top of p1.	10/11/2023 10:20 PM
50	There should be no replacement by drilling fixed pro at all. The other suggestions for cleaning and installing stainless strops make sense.	10/11/2023 10:17 PM
51	I object to the placement of modern bolts. I did not use any bolts or pegs on my ascent/descent.	10/11/2023 10:13 PM
52	The use of fixed bolts	10/11/2023 9:23 PM
53	Stop guiding it, people should be cutting tat off as they climb and replacing when it gets too bad.	10/11/2023 8:05 PM
54	Leave as is, let climbers clean as they go up and down as they have since the first ascent.	10/11/2023 8:03 PM

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It's remote and adventurous, the proposals remove a lot of the adventure. As I have done on Skye, the Ben and elsewhere across Scotland I will make sure an abseil is safe and remove unsightly and rotting gear, carrying it back to the car.

55	It appears from this proposal to replace one of the possible belay stances with bolts on the grounds that this belay needs to be made safe. I propose that this belay is eliminated entirely and people run the pitches together. Since this route was first climbed the standard pitch length and amount of equipment owned by climbers has increased. People typically come equipped with sixty metre ropes to abseil off in three abseils yet the route is described as a six pitch route. Eliminating the belay will be the best, safest, longest term sustainable option.	10/11/2023 5:18 PM
56	No new bolts should be installed on the Old Man of Hoy.	10/11/2023 1:34 PM