



**Organ pipes fixed anchor guidance statements
Formed through a community forum
Autumn 2022.**

Photo: Simon Bischoff

Section 1: the guidance statements

The need for guidance statements

The quorum present at the meeting unanimously supported the publication of the guidance statements here-in, and encouraged community members to consider greater consultation in the contemporary era. A number of working group members wrote in support when they were unable to attend. A small minority (1 person) objected to the consultation proceeding.

The guidance statements are intended to enable ongoing maintenance of the existing cliff character, where quality trad and sport routes coexist.

The Consultation framework

Climbers are encouraged to seek input from crag stewards (TBA), rather than their own friends, prior to placing anchors that contravene the recommendations here-in. The crag stewards will, where appropriate, assist in contacting the first ascensionists and/or other current experienced community members as necessary.

How to record consultation

If after consultation a decision is made not to place fixed anchors on a potential new climb, then the climber or guide editor should record the route as a TR problem if worthwhile (or trad route if applicable), or record a comment on the adjacent climb so that future parties do not reiterate the process repeatedly.

Notes on the application of the guidance statements

- The guidance statements should in general be used to guide future developments rather than revise existing climbs.
- The style of new climbs continues to be the prerogative of the first ascent team, as long as they fall within statements published herein and within other, unwritten, community standards (e.g. not chipped, etc).
- Removal of fixed anchors without consultation with the FA party and/or the broader climbing community should be avoided.
- Community members with concerns about the application of these statements should approach the first ascensionist party, if possible, and the broader community in a respectful fashion, rather than initiate an online debate.
 - In some historic instances FA parties have removed such anchors themselves in recognition of the community reaction.
 - The working group supports this as the ideal mode of resolution where community reaction is clearly against
 - Flagrant disrespect for existing ethical standards will result in the removal of anchors by a third party

Organ Pipes Anchor Guidance Statements:

1. Fixed anchor belays

Fixed anchors for belays should not be placed on or near existing routes without consultation.

- Rationale: Currently the organ pipes have a good number of available anchors. If you feel new ones are required, consider consultation. While abseil anchors are generally useful, they should be used in moderation on this crag to maintain the mixed style character of the crag.
- Placement tips:
 - Fixed anchor belays should not facilitate top-roping of certain routes to the expense of other parties' capacity to lead adjacent routes.

- In general 60m intervals for abseil anchors servicing long traditional routes is adequate.
- Please respect the fact that a significant portion of community members highly rate trad belays part-way up trad routes that are not impacted by the presence of fixed anchor belays.

2. Fixed anchors installed for new routes should not be placed where good natural protection exists, except in instances where the majority of the climb is protected with fixed anchors

3. Preservation of existing climbs: weighing of impacts and quality

Fixed anchors placed for two and three star new routes should be positioned at a sufficient distance from existing climbs so they cannot be clipped from stances on nearby quality existing routes (sport, mixed or naturally protected), nor provide easy escape from existing routes, nor detract from the ambiance of existing routes.

Application of these considerations will in practice depend on the position of other features and holds.

1. If you are considering the quality of your route and balancing this against the impacts on an existing route, you should consult carefully.
2. High quality new routes may have impacts that are justified if the impacts are limited and apply to lower quality existing routes.

4. Preservation of the cliff character

It is recommended that climbers do not over-crowd the cliff with fixed anchors on climbs of one star or less in the post 2022 period.

- Rationale: the cliff's character is of well-spaced, high-quality climbs, with areas of unclimbed rock in between.
- Seek consultation if you are considering adding fixed anchors to a new route that is likely to be one star or less.
 - In general, other climbers will be a better judge of quality than yourself.
 - Things to consider that **may** detract from the quality of a new route:
 - <10m long
 - Escapable to easier ground
 - Positioned such that it has 'no beginning and no end' (i.e. a section of rock part way up the cliff not accessible without abseil in and abseil out)
 - Dirty
 - Loose
 - Inconsistent in grade (very hard and very easy sections)
 - One star routes utilizing fixed anchors may be appropriate if they do not impact the amenity of existing routes.

Section 2: How the Working group was formed - to be published separately