

MCBARG Climb Report

Date : 17th January 2026
Climbers : Kevin M0BFB, Ian G1JXP
Ground Crew : Alan, Nick G7KFQ, Paul G6MNJ
Report : Ian G1JXP

OBJECTIVE

To remove and replace the broken GB3NC Transmit Antenna situated at the very top of the Tower in the central position.

To remove and replace the GB3DT Antenna at the 20m level on the first platform.

Both Antennas sustained damage during the storm on the 8th January. GB3NC antenna had snapped off at it's base and GB3DT had sustained a high VSWR for reasons currently unknown. Official Wind speeds were recorded as reaching 99mph in Cornwall on the day.

WORKS

Both Antennas were removed without problems. The top replacement antenna for GB3NC was installed and tested OK. Service was restored to almost the same as the pre Storm level, although there maybe a small reduction in coverage area due to the replacement Antenna but is still to be confirmed.

The replacement Antenna for GB3DT appears to have its own problem and will likely need to be scheduled to be changed out again subject to further investigation.

OBSERVATIONS

The top mounting pole runs through a tube which is integral to the Tower Structure and is secured by use of Six Bolts in two groups of three approximately 500mm apart. The Tube holes are threaded and the Bolts have an extra lock nut fitted. On arriving, it was clear, Two Bolts and Lock Nuts were missing, meaning only Two Bolts per group of three were present. One remaining Bolt and Lock nut on the higher level was very corroded. Although two per group is probably more than satisfactory.

On slackening the Pole from the Tube in order to adjust its height, there is a tendency for the heavy pole to fall straight down and exit the Tube if no retaining clamp or antenna is fitted at the top. The Pole is heavy and potentially dangerous whilst being adjusted, extreme caution is needed.

When moving the long Horizontal cross Boom to access the GB3DT Antenna, there is a tendency for the Boom to rotate under the weight of the Yagi antenna sticking out horizontally. This would likely be the same issue for any Boom carrying a Beam antenna depending on its weight and length..

RECOMMENDATIONS

Fit new Bolts and Lock Nuts to the top Antenna Pole. (Believed to be 8mm or 10mm).
Make a Pole Clamp/Handle tool, such that a Horizontal Boom can be easily rotated into position.