

MCBARG Climb Report

Date : 19th July 2026

Climbers : Kevin M0BFB, Ian G1JXP

Ground Crew : Paul G6NMJ, Alan G3XPY

Report by : Ian G1JXP

OBJECTIVE

To remove the corroded outer Structural member immediately below the first platform at approximately 18m and fabricate a temporary Angle Iron replacement and fit as a temporary replacement whilst a new Structural member is manufactured.

WORKS

Crew assembled around 8:45 on site and Climbing commenced just after 9:30am.

Due to the particular Health and Safety issues surrounding this type of structural Tower work, a significant amount of time was spent discussing the plan of attack and making sure all safety equipment was in place and ready should it be needed. Thankfully, none of it was needed on this climb.

The expected seized Bolts on the Tower member never materialised and actually were removed without issue. The construction of the Tower and the way the Bolts are positioned, meant that the adjoining Member had to have it's top Bolt removed first to allow the Bolt on the corroded member to be removed.

The lower Bolt on the corroded Member had suffered significant corrosion itself and will need to be replaced, but it was removed without issue.

The Platform weight was supported by lashing to the Tower structure higher up and this allowed the easy removal and refitting of the Top Bolt.

The corroded member came away completely after the top bolt was removed as it had completely corroded through at the bottom end.

After measurements were taken of the removed part, the Ground Crew fabricated the ¼ inch Thick Angle Iron into a temporary replacement Member which was installed in place of the one removed.

OBSERVATIONS

The Temporary Member is fitted with Bolts smaller than those that were removed. The permanent replacement, when it's available should have Bolts of the original specification installed with it.

The following observations remain in place from previous Climbs:

The Central Top Pole holding the GB3NC Antenna requires the Retaining Bolts replaced.
Several of the Tower Members towards the top are showing signs of advanced Surface Rust.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Another significantly corroded member needs replacing immediately below the first platforms Grid Iron between the outer lattice structure and the central ladder frame. It poses no immediate threat to the safety of the Tower or its climbers, but will need replacing.
- 2) The Central Top Pole hosting the GB3NC Antenna should have the Retaining Bolts replaced.
- 3) Certain parts of the Tower, mostly towards the top, should be Rust treated and sprayed with galvanizing paint or similar.
- 4) It would be prudent at this time to start to plan in future replacement strategies for Feeders, cables ect, together with associated routing and labelling of said Feeders.
- 5) The GB3NC Antenna Feeder should be periodically monitored for advanced warning of any further deterioration.
- 6) Many of the Feeder Cables on the Tower are now reaching an advanced age, so may require replacement in the not so distant future.

~~The structural member damaged by corrosion need to be removed and replaced by a temporary Strut whilst a replacement is fabricated.~~