

MCBARG Climb Report

Date : 21st March 2026

Climbers : Kevin M0BFB, Ian G1JXP

Ground Crew : Alan G3XPY, Nick G7KFQ, Keith G8IXN

Report : Ian G1JXP

OBJECTIVE

To remove the Temporary Diamond X200 currently being used for GB3NC and replace with a New Radio Structures FVC6 antenna.

WORKS

The Diamond X200 was successfully removed from the Tower and lowered to the ground for storage.

A Dummy load was placed on the end of the Feeder allowing the Ground Crew to carry out Feeder checks. The Cable was given the all clear.

Whilst hoisting the New Antenna up the Tower the Ground Crew requested the Top Feeder Connector be opened and inspected for water ingress or corrosion due to potential RF leakage although the VSWR was fine.

The Connector was unable to be opened, because the Brass parts seem seized solid and rather than risk damage it was left as it was due to having no available spare connector.

Due to the excessively long connecting cable on the New Antenna, a fairly large Service Loop has been fashioned at its Base.

As an additional safety measure, a Scaffold Bracket has been placed below the Base of the New Antenna to act as a Pole Clamp. This means the Central Pole cannot fall out of the bottom of its housing Tube should the retaining Bolts fail.

A small amount of tidying up and securing of existing Cables and Feeders was carried out.

OBSERVATIONS

The Central Top Pole requires the Retaining Bolts replaced.

Several of the Tower Members towards the top are showing signs of advanced Surface Rust.

The Tower Member damaged by corrosion approximately 15m up still needs to be removed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The top Feeder Connector for GB3NC should be replaced at a convenient future time.

Certain parts of the Tower, should be Rust treated and sprayed with galvanizing paint.

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