

MCBARG Climb Report

Date : 25th January 2026

Climbers : Kevin M0BFB, Ian G1JXP

Ground Crew : Alan G3XPY, Nick G7KFQ, Paul G6MNJ, Keith G8IXN

Report : Ian G1JXP

OBJECTIVE

To remove the GB3DT Antenna at the 20m level on the first platform and replace with a brand new antenna due to the continuing problem of a high VSWR measured at 1.4:1 Tx and 1.8:1 Rx.

WORKS

Antenna was successfully removed without problem and replaced with a brand new Diamond X200.

The Antenna system was found to still exhibit a high VSWR after replacement and this was finally tracked down to water ingress in a connector joining the main Helix coax feed to the RG8 tail.

A new 5m Tail section was made up by the ground crew on site and the original Tail section was replaced. The Tail section Co-ax was found to be waterlogged.

Antenna system was tested again and found to be Ok. All connections were weatherproofed with Denso only.

OBSERVATIONS

A cable join, seemingly well protected with self amalgamating Tape and Denso had failed during the heavy storm rains. It was also observed that the connector had come loose and the cables had begun to separate.

It is unclear if self amalgamating tape is giving a satisfactory weather seal where it meets the plastic coaxial sheath. Today it was clear that Rainwater had undermined the Amalgamated Rubber.

Denso must be smoothed and molded to Cable and Connectors to be effective.

A pair of Stilsons make a suitable Pole Clamp/Handle tool, such that a Horizontal Boom can be easily rotated into position.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Ensure Denso is Smoothed and molded round Cables and Connectors when used.