

## Cheddar Gorge Climbers' Code of Conduct

The permission to climb in Cheddar Gorge is subject to climbers abiding by a Code of Conduct, which has been agreed (April 2005) with Cheddar Caves & Gorge, the owners of the South Side, and The National Trust, the owners of the North Side.

### KEY MESSAGES

- Think '**public safety**' all the time. Climbing has the potential to harm innocent bystanders particularly by dislodging rock or dropping kit. Please climb here with the utmost care and vigilance, and carry civil liability insurance.
- Think about your own safety too, including the ever-present risk of stonefall, especially when there is someone climbing above you. Wearing a **helmet** is strongly advised.
- Come prepared: know when and where you can climb before you arrive. And stick to the agreed ways on and off. Contact the BMC (tel: 0161 445 6111) and use its web-site ([www.thebmc.co.uk](http://www.thebmc.co.uk)) if in any doubt.
- If you see a climber doing something that he shouldn't, let him know straight away.
- Members of the public will always be nearby or within earshot: please behave accordingly.
- The landowners welcome comments or enquiries, including about anything you come across on the cliffs that gives you cause for concern; contact Cheddar Caves & Gorge (01934 742343) or The National Trust (01934 844518), as appropriate.

### THE FULL CODE

1. It is the responsibility of individual climbers to ensure that before climbing here they check which crags they can climb on and when. (Log on to the BMC's web-site [www.thebmc.co.uk](http://www.thebmc.co.uk) and check the Regional Access Database (RAD), or contact the BMC by telephone: 0161 445 6111).
2. Adhere to the climbs and periods strictly as specified.
3. Use the approaches and descents strictly as specified, and don't stray from them.
4. Be covered by civil liability insurance, and carry or have available to show upon request by an authorized person evidence of same (e.g. BMC-affiliated Club Membership card).
5. Behave responsibly in relation to the safety of all other people and their property, since pedestrians and motorists may approach a climbing zone from time to time. In particular: a) on road-level crags, advise any pedestrian who may wish to walk close to the cliff base or loiter below the crag when climbing is taking place to move back; and b) request any motorist who manages to pull under a cliff being climbed on to park in another place. On restored climbs on any road-level crag there should be sufficient room for pedestrians to pass without placing themselves under any climber or in the road.
6. Act with the greatest consideration for the comfort and well-being of other persons since this is a very public place and many of the climbs will be on open view to scores or even hundreds of people at the busiest times.
7. It is strongly advised that helmets are worn.
8. Climbers wishing to establish new routes or restore established routes should first contact the landowner (the BMC's RAD also provides advice).
9. Do not park other than in the proper car-parks, pull-ins, and lay-bys.
10. Climbing access is prohibited to all 'commercial users', this being circumstances in which anyone involved either has to make a payment or is receiving a payment, including a wage or salary, for engaging in the activity. This restriction applies to all the cliffs in the gorge, on both Cheddar Caves & Gorge land and National Trust land.
11. Do not interfere with the styles of established climbs.
12. Any matter that gives climbers cause for serious concern should, if it is likely to have an immediate impact, be reported to the office of Cheddar Caves & Gorge above Gough's Cave (tel 01934 742343), or to The National Trust (01934 844518), as applicable. Otherwise contact the BMC head office or the Local Access Representative of the BMC.