

**fixed aids news – Columns pitch**

Back in August, a request arose for the bolts on the Columns pitch to be replaced with resin anchors and adopted as official SWCC maintained fixed aids. In its previous configuration there was a big lump of rock forming a natural belay from which a short traverse leg to one big ring bolt gave access to a calcite slide sloping a few metres down to a second big ring bolt with a big delta maillon stuck on it.

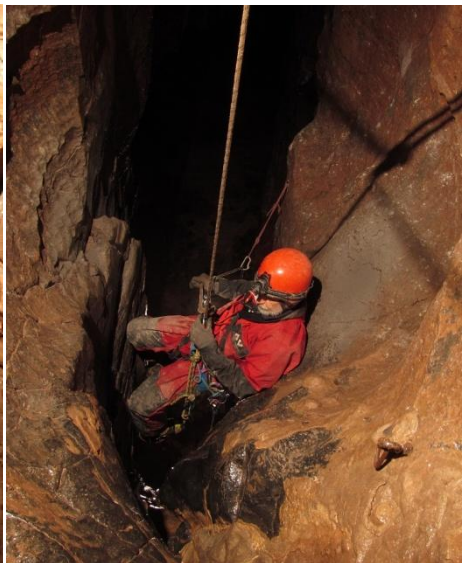


**upper ring bolt**



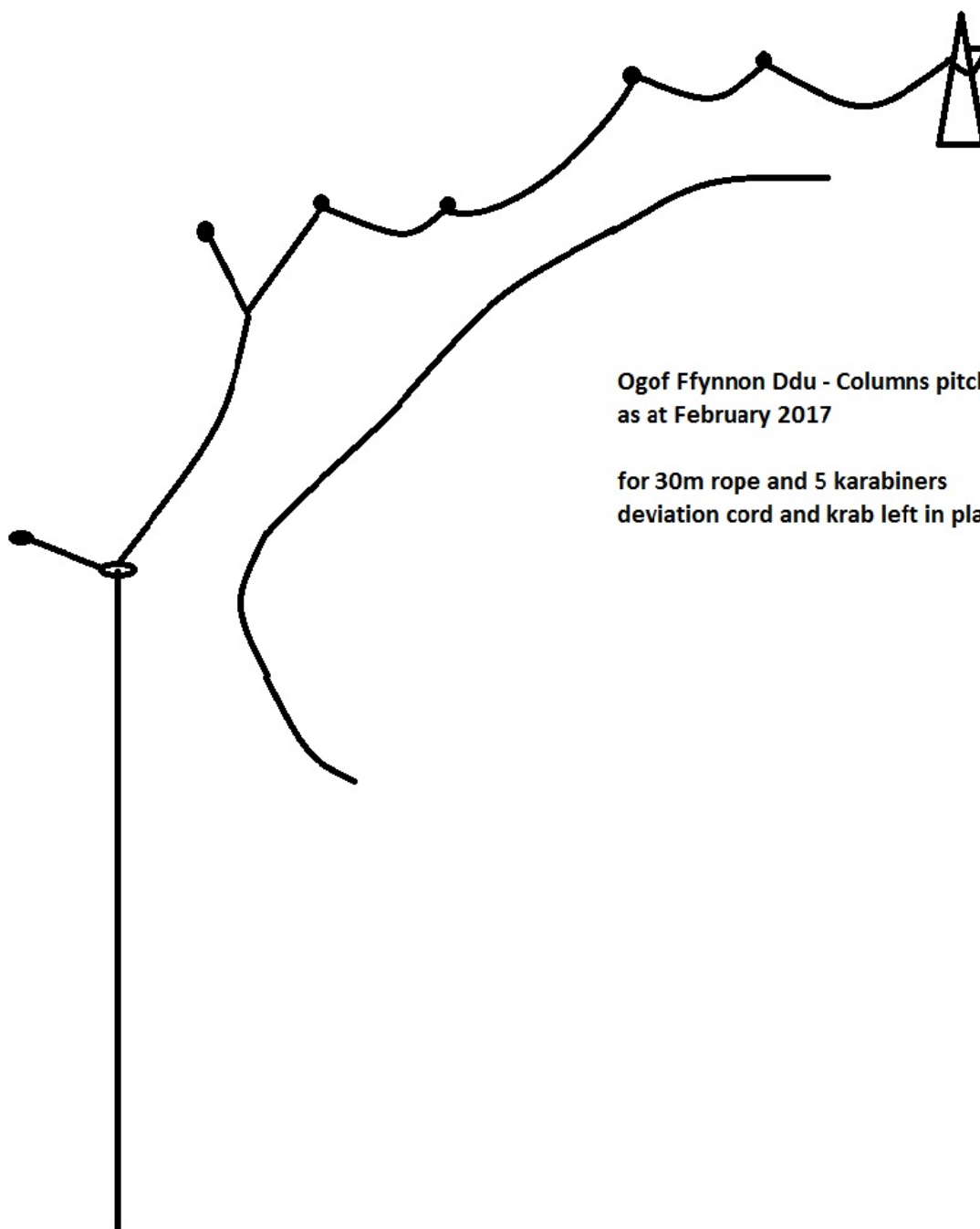
**calcite slope, caver's left hand on lower ring bolt**

A small handful of trips later, a number of resin anchors had been installed, mostly down the right hand wall and then a single one in the left wall to better enable a nice Y-hang across the top of the vertical section. A deviation is available a little way down the pitch to enable the caver to hang clear of the small amounts of water which sometimes come down the crack line beneath the original lower ring bolt. The deviation cord and karabiner are fitted to stay there – just as with the deviation on the first pitch at The Nave.



**traverse line, Y-hang and upper pitch, deviation visible behind caver**

A rudimentary topo is provided below for those minded to rig it for themselves, subject to the usual restrictions to access to the Columns, which remain unchanged.



Ogof Ffynnon Ddu - Columns pitch  
as at February 2017

for 30m rope and 5 karabiners  
deviation cord and krab left in place