

Is the funicular at Cairn Gorm safe?

Description

I was pleased to receive this photo and comment at the weekend from a parkswatch reader who has been following the funicular story for several years and has experience of health and safety on North Sea oil rigs.



Photo credit parkswatch reader

"I finally made it up the hill to the Cairngorm Ski Area. I think it would be fair to say I was appalled by the so called 'repairs' to the Funicular. More of a bodge than anything else, held together by screwed rods which I doubt are high tensile."



The steel rods as previously featured on parkswatch

It would be interesting to see the stress calculations for these and how they are affected by extremes of temperature. Did they actually do stress calculations?

It was the end of operations when I was there and the last car came down as I watched. The support beam above me visibly flexed as the empty car passed over it, moving perhaps 5cm, the other side did not.

Closer inspection revealed what appeared to be numerous cracks in the underside of the beam flange, marked by lines of moisture. That is bad enough but what happens when this moisture freezes and expands making the crack worse? It can only further degrade the integrity of the beam and hence its strength. All the other beams I could see seemed to have the same problem. Also moisture entering a reinforced concrete beam will corrode the reinforcing leading to premature failure.

I will not be travelling on the Funicular ever again!

Category

1. Cairngorms

Tags

1. Cairn Gorm
2. funicular

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