

CUL BEAG, Red Slab (p114):

Pebbledash and Pink Panther (the existing routes on p114) are effectively the same route although starting either side of the crack (but this is easy). Pink Panther uses a runner on the right whereas Pebbledash doesn't.

CUL BEAG note (p112-113):

Cul of the Wild is to the Right of Lurgainn Edge, not right of Kveldro Ridge as stated in the Northern Highlands North guide.

STAC POLLAIDH:

(new description from John Mackenzie):

November Grooves – Stac Pollaidh

The current description is a bit terse and does not do the route justice. It is also a bit short on length, as are the other adjacent routes on the Western Buttress.

November Grooves 100m VS 4c **

A fine traditional VS giving a good muscular outing. The groove contains classic chimney and groove climbing in a series of short vertical pitches separated by scenic stances. Start right of the foot of the prominent wide crack at the base of the southern face of the buttress.

1. 20m 4b Climb up to a curving layback crack right of the wide crack and belay in the wide crack behind a short 'pinnacle'.
2. 15m 4a Climb the juggy wall behind the stance and climb either of two cracks to reach a ledge at the foot of the main groove.
3. 25m 4b/c Avoid any grass on the right and climb a recessed chimney to the right side of the overhang. Climb this strenuously on good holds to a good stance.
4. 20m 4c Climb the chimney and the tricky entrance to the groove above, followed by a chockstone groove and good stance.
5. 20m 4b/c Continue up the groove to level with the large ledge below the Direct Finish and directly below a wide crack. Move right by a bulge to below another crack and climb this to thread belays. Scramble to finish.

Note from Jonathan Preston:

Jack the Ripper should be described as climbing cracks and corners up the clean wall immediately right of November Grooves. The rib is pretty indistinct and it is possible to traverse left into November Grooves on numerous occasions. It appears from the current description to be way right of November Grooves. Lots of people seem to have gone wrong, as evidenced by the abseil tat further right.

REIFF, Minch Wall:

Dunskiing has had a rockfall. It has been climbed since (thought HVS 5a) but not thought worth any stars as the rock is a little hollow.

Faultless was thought to be HVS 5b (not VS 4c) by John Mackenzie & Andy Nisbet.

Note from Mark Gear:

KEANCHULISH SEA-CLIFFS - Camas an Lochain Crag - The Prow - Keachulish Crack - grade and quality confirmed. Low in the E1 grade, crux bulge is short and the route well protected throughout, mainly with wires. Most of it is steady VS climbing. Top 5m could use an hour's work with a wire brush to remove black moss; no great problem when dry, but could be nasty in the wet. Two rusted belay stakes in place at the top of the route. Slotting a Eunich - grade and quality confirmed. Sufficiently independent from previous route to be well worth doing. Unfortunately, the aforementioned moss extends down to the handholds above the short

wide crack through the roof.

Note from Jonathan Preston:

CAMAS MOR - Dreadnought can be done in two pitches, one or two *. Possibly E1 5c, one short awkward bit where you can step up and out right then back left. Pieces of Eight could be done in one pitch.

Notes from Mark Gear:

Ardmair - Still Waters - page 85 - pretty filthy above the boulder problem start, particularly the narrow chimney. Is there an alternative - perhaps better - finish going up R from the vegetated ledge after the corner crack?

Note from Martin Holland:

Ardmair - We Can't Dance on the Dancing Buttress; I thought worthy of a star. (Good 5a pitch to start, quite bold with some excellent moves and then a very good, easier, corner-crack pitch above).

Note from Michael Barnard:

STAC POLLAIDH:

Vlad the Impaler - 1st pitch is 30m (route is 65m overall) and on its own is superb, worth *** (the 2nd pitch does not add much to the route). Myself and others I climb with have always regarded this route as HVS 5a (the grade in the current guide).

Baird's Pinnacle - the crack up this tower is only 10m, but is a good line and climbing the pinnacle is definitely worth **. This is strenuous and if anything harder than the above (so definitely HVS 5a).

Jack the Ripper - 2nd pitch is not 5a, more like 4b/4c.

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof - like Vlad the 1st pitch is 30m and a fine E2 pitch in its own right. I may have read the description wrong, but if (as I assumed it did) the 2nd pitch moves away from the crack and onto the left arete then the route may still be E3, but instead of being "well protected" has some serious fall potential (at this realisation I downclimbed to the gear and lowered off)!

A better description from John Mackenzie:

Vlad the Impaler 75m HVS 5a **

A pleasant route that just scrapes into the HVS grade, well protected provided big gear is taken. Follows the central crack and top corner of the east facing slab of No 2 Buttress at its lowest point.

1. 30m 5a Either take the guarding block direct (crux if done but wobbly at top) or move in from the right above it. Take the steep bulge then the easier crack to where the crack moves right into the corner. Follow the wide crack to the pinnacled top of the slab, step right up the flake to the platform, belays near the edge. It is possible to walk off right from here.
2. 20m 4b 'The Harry Potter pitch'. At the back of the platform is a lightning-shaped crack to the left of a shallow corner. Climb the lower crack for 7m to a traverse left to the upper chimney/crack to a platform and block belay.
3. 25m Climb the corner on the right to gain the easy crest. Follow this and climb the (optional but good view point) 'pancake' pinnacle to a descent into Pinnacle Gully.

Notes from Mark Gear:

Sheigra - Treasure Island Walls - Rapture - p280 - we didn't do the route, but the suggestion that you can traverse to it on the Na Stacain Side of the tidal pool seemed wrong. The only easy way to reach the far side of the pool from the gully descent would be to wade!

Sheigra - Treasure Island Walls - After Dark - grade and quality confirmed. Good climbing, but the weird flake is composed of very brittle rock. It provides the holds and the gear...

Deserves a black spot.

Sheigra - Na Stacain Side - p280 - the statement that the base of the fine gnarled wall is awash (only) at high tides is misleading. Admittedly, there was a bit of a swell running when we were there, but the base of the The Green Channel was only free of the sea from mid tide onwards, and the boulder at the base of Rough Trade was only going to be dry at low tide.

Creag Mhor - p251 - Park at the tarmac road end, as loose gravel further on is for 4WD's only. The road end is a turning area with a "no parking" sign, but it is possible to get a few vehicles off on the verge. Added 10mins to the walk in. We did both Harbour Wall and Nutcracker, and felt the routes were easy for their grades but these were about right; the rock (particularly the quartz) is a bit friable, the gear a bit sketchy, and it would not be a good place for someone who was climbing at their limit. We left a Rock 6 and a sacrificial krab in situ for the abseil descent; there was a tatty bit of faded line half jammed into the crack, but this was not a safe anchor. On Nutcracker we started up a short quartz flake just right of the heather patch; seemed the obvious way to go.

Rhiconich Crag - Moral Turpentine - p252 - pitch lengths using the Short but Beautiful finish are probably 25m and 15m. On pitch 1 the obvious way to go seemed to be to head up to the right end of the belay ledge from about two-thirds of the way up the crack, as this was where the holds led, and at this point the crack appeared to change from enjoyable to mean, becoming blind, and devoid of holds on the walls to either side.

Creag Garbh Mhor - Red Wall - Rhicorner - certainly E2, but possibly worth 5c rather than 5b.

FAR NORTH, Culfern Crag (page 345) should have a separate heading, as it is not part of Indian Chiefs.

CAITHNESS Notes from Ian Taylor:

South Head of Wick:

Riding the Waves Direct 10m E3/4 6a **. Ian Taylor, Tess Fryer. 1st August 2009.

Climb directly up the left-hand cracks avoiding the dogleg to the right.

King Tubby and the Fat Boys of Lard (SMCJ 2006) Possibly E3 5c.

Another vote for The Lightness of Being at E4 6a.

Sarclet:

Walking on Water and Northern Alliance are both worth ***.

A Paddler's Tale was thought to be E4 6a and definitely ***.

The initial bold wall of Time Bandits is easily avoided by pleasant grooves just to the left. E4 6a but perhaps only **

Latheronwheel:

The Lama is probably E4 6b **.

Latheronwheel (page 491):

Out of Reach wrongly credited to Simon Clark. Actually done by Roddy Gunn (then a pupil at Wick High School). There are incorrect lines on the right side of the Big Flat Wall diagram (the text descriptions are correct).

ORKNEY, Rora Head

1997 Jul 23 Paternoster A.Evans, C.Rolfe, R.Carter, **D.MOSS**

1997 Jul 23 Fulmar Cavity A.Evans, C.Rolfe, R.Carter, **D.MOSS**