

## OUTER ISLES

### **LEWIS, Butt of Lewis, Conspiracy Stack (NB 518 665):**

A 20m stack is easily viewed 100m west from the lighthouse. Access by abseil from rocks/stakes (not in situ) to a narrow channel that separates the stack from the mainland. A large step across and difficult moves are made to a platform and belay.

*Northern Conspiracy* 20m Hard Severe 4b. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 12th June 2004.

Climbs the landward (south) face by a left-slanting groove/ramp with an awkward step left at mid-height to easier ground. Good climbing on good rock.

### **Trojan Wall (NB 518 665, mainly west facing):**

Fifty metres south-west of the stack is a large geo which has a large landslip in its south end. Trojan Wall is on the east side of the geo and is split into two tiers by a large ledge that becomes a sloping ramp to the north-east and a tidal cave. The lower tier provides some excellent routes on good rock and with good protection. It is accessible between mid and low tide. Routes on the top tier are more limited and the rock is loose beyond the area where routes are recorded. The wall can be easily viewed from the cliff-top on the west side of the geo. The wall is split into four distinct sections (from left to right) Seaward Buttress, Three Corner Buttress, The Face and Right End Wall. Right of this the rock is loose and broken. Trojan Horse takes a line just right of the corner that splits Three Corner Buttress and The Face on the lower wall and the middle of wall of the upper tier.

*Trojan Horse* 24m Severe \*. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 12th June 2004.

1. 12m Climb a left-slanting crack 2m right of the right-facing corner.
2. 12m 4a Climb the middle of the wall on the upper tier directly through a bulge.

### **Upper Tier (non-tidal):**

*Hidden Agenda* 12m Severe. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 12th June 2004.

Climb the wall 2m right of Trojan Horse to a small overhang at mid-height. Pull out rightwards into a right-facing corner and climb to the top.

### **Lower Tier (tidal), Three Corner Buttress:**

Routes are described first leftwards then rightwards from the main corner beside Trojan Horse (the abseil line). This is the third corner of Three Corner Buttress when viewed from the west side of the geo.

*Odysseus* 12m VS 4c \*\*\*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 12th June 2004.

The middle corner. Excellent climbing up the slightly right-trending corner 3m to the left, with the crux saved for the last few moves.

*Helen's Chimney* 12m Hard Severe 4b \*. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 17th June 2004.

The first corner. Climb the corner-crack and chimney 3m left of Odysseus.

Left of Helen's Chimney is a 5m wide wall undercut on its left-hand side.

*Menelaus* 12m HVS 5a \*\*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 17th June 2004.

From the right side of the face, pull on to the wall and trend slightly left and then straight up on good holds.

*Agamemnon* 12m HVS 5a \*\*\*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 17th June 2004.

Two metres from the left of the wall, climb directly up on good holds and steep ground.

*Gneiss Achilles but not as we know it!* 12m Hard Severe 4a. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 17th June 2004.

Left of the wall is a large chimney. Climbs the left-hand corner of the chimney on adequate holds. Protection is poor.

### **Seaward Buttress:**

*Journey Over the Sea* 25m E1 5a/b \*\*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 17th June 2004.

An awesome route that takes a line out of the chimney and across the overhanging wall in a rising traverse to the Seaward Buttress. From the belay of Gneiss Achilles climb up 3m, then traverse leftwards on a hanging slab to an exposed position above the sea. Pull strenuously up and left on to the face and continue up a left-slanting crack-line on easier ground.

The following routes are to the right of Trojan Horse.

**The Wall:**

*Messing with the Achaeans* 12m HVS 5a \*\*\*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 17th June 2004.

Starts 2m right of Trojan Horse. Climb the centre of the wall direct through steep ground to a hanging niche. Pull through this on the left and to the top.

*Don't Look a Gift Horse in the Mouth* 12m E1 5b \*\*\*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 17th June 2004.

Start 1m to the right of Messing. Climb up and rightwards above a right-facing overhanging corner. Pull up and rightwards through steep ground and climb the wall direct, trending right of the orange wall to the top.

*Something About the Iliad* 12m HVS 5a \*\*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 12th June 2004.

Four metres right of Gift Horse. Climb the wall to an overhang at 5m. Take this on the right and move up to a hanging right-facing corner. Climb the corner and pull out left on to the wall above and then to the top.

**Right End Wall:**

*Who's Homer?* 12m VS 4c. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 17th June 2004.

Climb a short pillar in the centre of wall and step right on to the hanging slab. Follow good holds in a rising traverse. Pull up and right into a niche and then up to the top with care.

**BRAGAR, Ard Mhor Bhragair (NB 269 495):**

**Approach:** Turn off the A858 at North Shawbost (Siabost bho Thuath) at a sign for Fibhig and An Carnan. Park a few metres before the end of the road by the peat stack. Go through a gate by a ruin in front of the most northerly croft and down to the boulder beach, then follow the cliffs along to the Aird, 15mins.

A superb complex crag of fine Lewisian gneiss at an average height of 25-30m. As usual hereabouts, the more seaward rock is near perfect, though there is some deterioration towards the back of the geodh. The first landmark is a pile of rubbish tipped into the first geodh west of the crag; an abseil or scramble into this geodh gives access to some of the climbs. The next landmark is Stac nan Eun (Stack of the Birds) which is a series of three pinnacles on a narrow ridge running out into the sea. A very old piece of rope on the southerly-most pinnacle indicates an earlier ascent. To the east of Stac nan Eun, beyond a narrow inlet, are the Back Walls, a sweep of black rock 30m high and sporting some fine lines. To the north of the Back Walls is the Lagoon, a tidal pond at low tide, in a calm sea. Just to the north of this is the wonderful Folded Wall, with a clutch of excellent routes on perfect rock.

Fifty metres to the south of the rubbish heap are the first routes, on a promontory which has a fine little triangular witch's hat stack and small island off its northern end. The first climbs described are on the north-west tip of this promontory and are reached by abseil from a little grassy bay on the headland.

*Scrap Heap Challenge* 30m E1 5b. M. & K.Tighe. 25th June 2003.

A diagonal fault-line starts from the extreme north-west corner of the promontory, initially as a groove to a big ledge, then as a steep crack-line up the wall to the left of Rock Island Line. Start from a mid-way ledge if a big sea is running.

*Rock Island Line* 30m E1 5b \*. M. & K.Tighe. 25th June 2003.

Just around the corner (south) from Scrap Heap Challenge is a fine corner/groove-line, which runs the full height of the cliff.

*September Rain* 30m HVS 5a \*\*. M. & K.Tighe, H. & C.Clarke. 1st September 2002.

A few metres south again is another fine corner-crack. A tricky start leads to a mid-way ledge and interesting crack above. Fragile at the top.

*Western Rib* 20m E2 5b/c. M. & K.Tighe. 25th June 2003.

The next smaller promontory to the west has a fine route up the nose (north end). A gentle slab leads to a fierce little quartz wall and some big steps out right to finish. Descend down an easy gully to the west to get started.

Route descriptions continue now from the scrap heap, heading north, then east.

*Stac nan Eun (Stack of the Birds)* 300m Mild VS \*\*. M. & K.Tighe. July 2000.

Though not strictly stacks, these three pinnacles adorn a narrow ridge running north to south, joined to the mainland but with sea either side. Abseil from a fence post or scramble into Scrap Heap Bay and traverse along (150m) to below the lowest point on the ridge, between the northerly flat-topped pinnacle and the middle one (only possible at mid to low tide). Climb up into the col and bag the northern pinnacle, which is a big flat-topped affair. Return to the col and head south over the next two pinnacles. An abseil was made from the central pinnacle down the west side, to ledges from where a gully/groove line was ascended back to the cliff-top at about Very Difficult.

The next crop of routes is at the northern end of the Back Wall, which is to the east of Stac nan Eun, across the intervening channel. Difficult to identify from above, though a good reference is a small 'rectangular-topped' non-

stack almost opposite the northern end of Stac nan Eun, which, on closer inspection, has two arches underneath it; a bigish tidal pond, the 'Lagoon' lies to the north of here. There is a wee gap south of the non-stack followed by a wall, then another arched recess with a sloping Grey Rib at the south. Around the corner (south) on the Back Wall proper is a Pot Belly chimney come crack-line and two bottomless crack-lines. These are immediately opposite the northern end of the ridge holding Stac nan Eun.

*Sea Dog* E2 5b \*\*. M. & K.Tighe. 15th July 2000.

This is the most northerly and most feasible of the two bottomless groove-lines mentioned above. It does have a bottom but often greasy, so it was gained by an excellent traverse across the wall from the foot of Pot Belly, after which the groove is followed directly to the top.

*Pot Belly* E2 5b \*\*. M.Tighe, I.Lee, G.Anderson. 23rd May 2001.

The excellent pea-pod shaped chimney/groove line accessed by abseiling down the route or traversing around from the foot of the Grey Rib. Squirm up the pod with some difficulty, and squirm out of it with even more!

*Grey Rib* Severe. M. & K.Tighe. 15th July 2000.

A big bay/chasm with an arched overhang its back (east). This route takes the rib on the seaward side of the southern end. A little delicate at times.

*Arch Wall* VS 4c \*. M. & K.Tighe. 15th July 2000.

An arch just south of the non-stack, and an atmospheric ledge down by the sea underneath it. This route goes delicately out right (south) and on to the fine open wall, followed to the top.

*Children of the Sea* 30m E2 5b/c \*\*\*. M. & K.Tighe. 25th August 2004.

Abseil down to the sloping ledge, under the arch just south of the rectangular topped non-stack (as for Arch Wall). Go delicately up, and out right on to an exposed ledge at the bottom of the wall. Go right across the wall gently gaining height for 10-12m, then go more diagonally up right to a small ledge (guano) below the impending headwall. Climb the fabulous upper wall on big jugs and immaculate rock.

*High Teas* Mild VS. M. & K.Tighe. 15th July 2000.

Exits up the back wall from under the arch (out eastwards). Atmospheric climbing.

North is a tidal pond, the 'Lagoon', which has a fine 20m wall at the back (eastern side). There is a good ledge at the bottom of this wall, immediately opposite the outflow of the tidal pond. The following route starts from this ledge.

*White Magic* 20m VS 4c \*\*. M. & K.Tighe, J.Winter. 15th June 2004.

A broad diagonal quartz vein slopes left up the wall from the left side of the platform; follow it and the little wall to the top on improving holds.

North again is the fabulous Folded Wall, a sweep of perfect gneiss, climbable almost anywhere at VS/HVS. There are good ledges at the bottom, and a 'trench' runs below the face at the southern end. There is a Difficult descent at the southern end, between the Folded Wall and the Lagoon, and similar in a wee bay to the north, although an abseil is better. Routes from right to left (looking in).

*Number 3* 20m Severe \*\*. M. & K.Tighe, H.Clarke. 20th July 2000.

Near the right-hand side of the wall, at about one-third height, the rock has folded into a number 3 shape. Fall across the trench at the bottom of the wall and climb the wall directly through the 3 or a metre to the right.

*Goodbye Donella* 25m Hard Severe \*. M. & K.Tighe, H.Clarke. 20th July 2000.

Below and a few metres left of Number 3 is a small triangular calcified alcove. A curving fault-line runs through it, the full height of the cliff. Get across the trench and follow the fault all the way, getting out of the alcove being the crux.

*Black Recess* 25m Hard Severe \*\*. M. & K.Tighe, H.Clarke. 20th July 2000.

Slightly higher, and a few metres left of the calcified recess of Goodbye Donella, is a black recess with quartz veins in the black rock. Cross the trench below and head straight up through the recess to the top of the crag.

*Sleeping Dogs* 25m Mild VS \*\*\*. M. & K.Tighe, H.Clarke. 20th July 2000.

Start in the middle of the wall 5m left of the Black Recess and 5m right of Le Slot, below a small triangular groove and overhang at one-third height. Climb up into the alcove and pull over the small overhang on to the steep wall above on immaculate holds. Continue to the top trending slightly left, or right (better but harder).

*Le Slot* 25m HVS 5a \*\*\*. M. & K.Tighe, H.Clarke. 20th July 2000.

Almost in the middle of the main face, low down, is a 3-4m diagonal slot. Step across the trench onto the wall and climb the slot and the immaculate wall above directly to the top. An alternative start traverses into the slot from the right (easier at VS 4c).

*The Scoop* 25m HVS 5b \*. M. & K.Tighe. 10th June 2004.

There is a concave depression in the upper part of the wall just left of centre. Start below this, 2m left of Le Slot, and climb the fairly bold fingery wall past a small triangular niche to a half-way ledge. Finish up the scoop.

*Left Edge* 25m HVS 5a \*\*\*\*. M. & K.Tighe. 15th July 2000.

A few metres left again from The Scoop and a similar distance in from the left edge of the wall (Edge of Distinction). An intricate series of moves up the fine lower wall; the steep upper wall, just left of The Scoop, is easier.

*Edge of Distinction* 25m VS 4c \*. M. & K.Tighe, J.Winter. 10th June 2004.

The left edge of the main wall before it turns back into Kenny's Cavity. A bold move low down leads to an airy finish.

*Kenny's Cavity* 25m Mild VS \*\*\*. M. & K.Tighe. 11th July 2000.

The excellent corner/groove line around the corner.

*Octopod* 25m Severe \*\*. M. & K.Tighe. 11th July 2000.

Start at the base of Kenny's Cavity and follow the curving crack-line for a few metres before heading straight up the gently bulging wall above on excellent jugs. A possible exit right at two-thirds height is better avoided by taking the quartz wall directly above.

*Squid* 25m E1 5b \*. M. & K.Tighe, H.Clarke. 20th July 2000.

Start at the same place as Octopod but climb the much thinner curving crack below the main one to a ledge at half-height. Go up the wall into a shallow chimney and finish by a 3m flake-crack.

*Snake Dyke* 25m E2 5b/c \*\*\*. M. & K.Tighe. 11th July 2000.

The superb diagonal fault leads to a ledge at half-height, followed by easier climbing up a brown groove.

After Snake Dyke the wall falls back into another small bay with a Difficult ascent/descent in the back. Seaward (north) again is a smooth wall after which the crag peters out into the sea.

Around the corner from the Folded Wall, i.e. on the north side of Aird Mhor Bhragair, there is a series of sea inlets and promontories guarded by a similar series of low-lying islands/skerries in the sea to the north, which almost mirror their landward neighbours. The channels have been numbered from 0 to 4, and the four skerries 1 to 4. 0 is the first channel 20-30m east from the Folded Wall area. The following route is on the north-east tip of this channel and the next three around the corner, on the north wall opposite Skerry 1.

*Sgarbh Beag* 25m Mild Severe. M. & K.Tighe, J.Winter, N.McGoughan. 7th June 2004.

Abseil down to a good ledge at the north-east corner of Channel 0. Follow big flakes up and slightly left to a big ramp near the top. Finish up a groove in the wall above.

*Crack and Slab* 25m VS 4b. M. & K.Tighe. 7th June 2004.

Climb the short groove and crack above the belay ledge, the most westerly line on this wall, to a ledge/ramp at mid-height. A delicate poorly protected slab leads to the top.

*D Day* 25m HVS 5a/b \*\*\*. M. & K.Tighe. 7th June 2004.

Almost in the middle of the wall is a crack-line which runs up into a groove guarded by a short overhanging section (awaits an ascent). Follow the fine crack for a few metres and go left into the corner. Pull out and left under an overhang to a little pedestal below the final tricky wall. Sustained, well protected but a touch fragile.

Next is Channel 1 with Skerry 2 off the north-east side and a big sloping black slab on the west side at the mouth. On the east is a diagonal fault-line, starting at the seaward end and sloping up from left to right.

*Frigate* 25m E1 5b \*\*. M. & K.Tighe, Y.Colwell. 29th May 2001.

Abseil down to the bottom of the route or approach down a series of ledges around the corner on the north side of the promontory. The excellent little corner is tricky low down, but eases a little after half-way.

On the north wall of the promontory (opposite Skerry 2) is a fine broken corner-line about a third of the way along and opposite Channel 2:

*Ken's Route* 25m VS 4c. K.Colwell, R.McLachlan. 29th May 2001.

This corner is rather more tricky than it looks, though the protection is good.

*Chanel* 25m Hard Severe. M.Tighe, T.McLachlan. 29th May 2001.

Going east from here, the crag starts to overhang. Climb up under the initial overhang before traversing out right to avoid it.

*Robertson's Jam* 25m E1 5b. H.Robertson, M.Tighe. 29th May 2001.

Follow the initial part of Chanel, but continue up the crack through the overhang.

There are fierce overhangs now at the eastern end of this promontory and opposite Skerry 3. The next two routes start around the corner on the west wall of Channel 3. Good view from the opposite (eastern side) of the channel. About 10m in from the seaward end of the wall is a vertical fault-line running the full height of the cliff. The following route starts at the bottom of the fault-line.

*Black Sabbath* 45m E2 5b. M.Tighe, H.Clarke. 1st September 2002.

Go out diagonally right across the wall fairly low down to a little platform on the corner. Go around the corner and follow a diagonal gently overhanging crack-line to the top.

*Plumb Line* 25m E1 5a. M. & K.Tighe. 16th June 2003.

Takes a fairly prominent line up the west wall (east facing) of Channel 3, 10m in from the seaward corner. Start at a notch below the fault just above the high tide mark. Go up and left a few metres to a prominent left-sloping ramp. Go straight up the groove above and exit left on slightly friable rock at 5a, or right up the steeper headwall on better rock at 5b.

The cliffs decrease in size to the east of Channel 4, which has a rusty van at its southern end. The first cliff east of Channel 4 is around 18m high, with a line of overhangs at the top. The three routes to date start from the extreme north-west corner of the promontory below an arête, on a wee ledge just below the high tide line (calm sea required).

*Seal Play* 20m HVS 5a. M.Tighe, J.Cargill. 23rd June 2001.

From the ledge below the arête, go up a metre or so then right into the bottom of a recess/bay. Climb up the wall and the small diagonal groove on the right.

*The Arête* (HVS 5a \*) has not been led. Protection is rather limited, making it a bold lead or a deep-water solo if the tide is in!

*The Sting* 20m HVS 5a \*\*\*. M.Tighe, J.Cargill. 23rd June 2001.

The excellent crack just left of the arête can have a damp start but great protection and a tricky finish.

### **SHAWBOST, Rubha Bratach, Orpheus Wall:**

(NB 240 473), Partly tidal, west facing.

**Note:** M.Garthwaite, R. & C.Anderson climbed around 10 routes in addition to these in 2004.

**Approach:** Park to the side of the road at the start of a track at NB 245 473. Follow the track to the west through a gate and after a few minutes leave the track and cross a fence using a stile or gate. Turn to the north and follow this around to the west to drop down to below the wall. 10mins.

The wall is characterised by a slightly overhanging 15m wall to the left of a corner, which is accessible at mid to low tide. To the left the wall is undercut and a short wall forms beneath this. The wall ends in a left-facing corner, which holds the crack-line of What Planet? Routes at this end are accessible at most states of the tide.

*Blowin' a Gale* 10m HVS 5a. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 13th June 2004.

Climb the large left-facing corner for 4m. Step left to a niche and then right to a platform. Pull up into the hanging niche on the left and to the top.

*What Planet Do You Live On?* 10m Very Difficult. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 13th June 2004.

Climb a large broken crack-line to the right of the left-facing corner.

*Stolen Moments* 10m Hard Severe 4b \*. J.Sanders, R.I.Jones. 13th June 2004.

Climb the arête to the right of What Planet to a hanging slab and crack.

*Sirens of the Sea* 12m HVS 4c/5a \*\*\*. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 13th June 2004.

The wall right of Stolen Moments. Climb the wall to a niche below a leaning wall with a hanging arête on its right above. From the niche step right and climb the arête and corner above.

The next route takes a spectacular rising traverse from the bottom right to the top left of the main wall.

*Orpheus* 30m E2/3 5c \*\*. R.I.Jones (unsec). 14th June 2004.

Start at an inverted hanging V-groove towards the right end of the main wall. Pull up right before traversing left up a left-slanting ramp. Just before the end climb the wall above for 2m before traversing leftwards including a step down and a pull across to a small left-facing niche. Pull up under a small overhang which is taken on the left.

**Rubha na Beirghe (NB 235 475):**

Another fine esoteric little crag in a wonderful setting, the great sea arch of Stac a' Phris being just to the south. Five minutes south of the previous crag. A good mixture of routes, most of which require low tide and a fairly calm sea.

**Approach:** Park near the end of the road at South Shawbost (approx NB 245 474). Follow a peat track and then the coast out to the headland, which in times past has been walled off to create a fort. A longer, but no less pleasant approach can be made from Dalbeg.

Walking out on to the headland the first feature to be seen is a little fin of rock (Murray's Rib) jutting north and creating a fine east-facing slab 10m high. A sea-arch running through the headland exits below. Scramble out along the rib above the slab and descend (tricky) to a wee platform at the north end. Traverse back along the bottom of the slab and take the central crack-line, *Duck Egg* Difficult \*\*, T.McLachlan, K.Tighe 29th May 2001; or the little corner, *Stowaway* Difficult \*\*, Y.Colwell, M.Morris, 29th May 2001. The slab between and to the right of these routes can be climbed just about anywhere at Very Difficult or Severe.

Continuing west the headland becomes almost square with walls facing north and west dropping straight into the sea. The main fault/crack-line on the north side gives a fabulous route.

*The Poacher* 25m E1 5b \*\*\*. M.Tighe, H.Robertson, K.Colwell, K.Tighe. 29th May 2001.

Abseil down the line of the route to a good ledge at half tide. Climb the excellent corner-crack to a sloping overhang at three-quarters height. Pull over this going right, and so to the top.

**Note:** M.Garthwaite, R. & C.Anderson climbed around 12 routes in addition to this in 2004.

**DALBEG BAY (Tidal):**

There are four 10-15m sea stacks in the bay, one to the north and three to the south, which are easily assessable an hour either side of low tide. The southern stack is an easy climb up the landward face. The west and east stack are joined at the high tide mark. The western stack can be climbed by an easy wall at Moderate from where the stacks join. The outing can be extended to take in the western pinnacle with a difficult down climb (Difficult) from the top of the stack. The eastern stack has a cairn on the top and can be accessed by a scramble up the east side (assumed to be the line of first ascent; difficulty not known but no more than Difficult). The western wall makes for an enjoyable outing and holds the following route.

*The Day the Whale Danced* 20m VS 4b. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 14th June 2004.

Climb the wall to a large perched block. Pull around this to its left and belay (10m). An easy scramble is made to the top and summit cairn. Descent is by abseil from the belay.

**GARENIN CRAGS:**

The best starting point for these sea-cliffs is the beautifully restored Black House Village at Garenin itself (NB 193 443).

**Tiumpan Head, Aird Mor (NB 192 453):**

This fine crag is characterized by striking pink and black banding in the near perfect gneiss.

**Approach:** Follow the green and yellow posts of the heritage trail northwards from Garenin village to the top of Aird Mor (NB 191 451). Leave the trail here and head north for a further 300m to arrive at the headland. A tiny rock islet, the Oyster Skerry, lies a few metres offshore. Routes are quite difficult to identify from above. The main feature is the big corner of Clais Mor, which is opposite the northern end of the Oyster Skerry and has a big smooth black boiler-plate slab on its south side. The following route is north of Clais Mor, the rest working south.

Clais Mor is in the back of a huge right-angled corner, the northern wall of which holds a chimney the shape of an elongated S. This gives the following route, which is best approached by abseil, though there is an approach from the north down black slabs (Difficult if dry).

*Sinuou Chimney* 30m E1 5b \*. M. & K.Tighe. 27th August 2002.

The deep S-shaped cleft a few metres left of Clais Mor. Make some steep moves up a rib on the right and layback around on to the face. This leads to somewhat easier climbing and better protection in the chimney proper.

*Clais Mor (Big Corner)* 40m E3 5b/c \*\*\*. M. & K.Tighe. 26th June 2003.

The big corner-line gives an excellent tussle with very wide bridging and excellent protection.

*Olive Oil* 45m HVS 5b \*\*. M. & K.Tighe. 27th August 2002.

Start a couple of metres up Clais Mor where a ramp goes out right across the black wall.

1. 15m Follow the ramp out right and make an airy move around the corner (difficult to protect the second).

2. 30m Go up and left into a leaning recess and climb delicately up the slab to a steep exit on the left.

Olive Oil finishes above another excellent corner (English Spinach) which is the next big feature of the cliff after Clais Mor. The following route starts from a fine ledge at the bottom of this corner, just above the high tide line; approach by abseil.

*Popeye* 30m HVS \*. M.Tighe, I.Lee. 24th May 2001.

Start from the ledge at the bottom of English Spinach. Step left around the corner and climb a rib for 15m before going delicately left over an overlap to reach the corner of Olive Oil, which is followed to the top.

*English Spinach* 30m E1 5b \*\*\*. M. & K.Tighe. 28th August 2000.

The fabulous corner.

There is another unclimbed slabby corner right (looking up) of English Spinach before the crag becomes more broken and the routes shorter. These routes are climbed from a big broken ledge system 8-10m above the sea, and are characterised by some striking white, orange and black vertical banding. Access by abseil.

*Orange & Black* 20m HVS 5a \*. M.Tighe, I.Lee, G.Anderson. 24th May 2001.

The fine jam crack at the left side of the wall (looking in), between the two very different colours of rock, leads to a mid-way platform. The continuation of the fault-line gives the crux right at the top.

*The Bay* 20m Mild VS. M.Tighe, I.Lee, G.Anderson. 24th May 2001.

Climb a shallow bay in the middle of the wall, then a tricky little black wall and short diagonal fault (with a brownish-white quartz vein on the left), followed by easier ground to the top.

*The Vein* 20m HVS 5a. M. & K.Tighe, J.Cargill. 21st June 2001.

The eroded white quartz vein in the upper part of the cliff, just right of centre.

*Black Honey* 20m Severe \*. M. & K.Tighe. 30th August 2000.

A few metres right of the vein is a fault-line containing unusual rough black honeycombed rock. Fine climbing on the unusual rock.

#### **A' Bheirigh (Berie) (NB 187 451):**

Several routes in the easier grades make it a good venue for the lower grade climber. Being only 500m south of Tiumpan Head, access is very similar. Once down a line of 8m bluffs just east of the headland, head up to the high point of the headland. The first route is a traverse line out on to the most north-westerly promontory. Scramble down on the north side until the traverse line can be seen 8-10m above the sea. The start is characterized by a bottomless chimney dropping into the sea.

*The Gunnel* 50m Very Difficult \*\*. M. & K.Tighe. 30th August 2000.

Follow the traverse line going gently downhill. Arrival is at the neck of a little promontory jutting out to sea, the North Landing. On a calm dry day at low tide it is possible to continue the traverse right around the headland by going down into a boulder choke and up right over a keystone (greasy) on to a diagonal ramp-line. At Very Difficult, return. Otherwise there is a fine crag overlooking the North Landing.

*Red Velvet* 30m E1 5b \*\*. M. & K.Tighe. 30th August 2000.

The central corner-crack line can be started via the following route (Ard Cuan) or by a short little wall immediately below the line.

*Ard Cuan* 50m VS 4c \*\*. M. & K.Tighe, J.Winter, N.McCougan. 8th June 2004.

The diagonal crack-line that goes out left from the North Landing, crossing Red Velvet low down. Fine, exciting and well protected.

On the south-west side of the headland the cliffs are more broken and there is a myriad of little walls, chimneys and corners down to the sea. Going down (west) from the high point over yellow lichenous rock, there are two diagonal ramp-lines running towards the North Landing, the upper of which is a continuation of The Gunnel. Both ramps can be scrambled down at Moderate to Difficult. Towards the bottom of the lower one is a tunnel under a boulder; the following route starts here.

*The Loom* 40m Very Difficult \*\*. K. & M.Tighe. 20th August 2000.

Go out on an exposed ledge on the wall above the tunnel and climb up to the second ramp-line. Finish by a chimney-corner line.

*The Weaver* 35m Very Difficult \*. K. & M.Tighe. 30th August 2000.

About 10m back up the ramp from the previous route zigzag up the wall and head for a chimney in the upper part of the crag.

**Creag Ruadh (NB 189 447):**

A crag best seen from the opposite side of Loch Garenin, when three small 8-10m stacks can be seen close in by the shore overlooked by the 20-30m cliffs. The stacks are a swimming, rather than climbing challenge, though the central one is joined to the mainland by a precarious bridge. Approach as for the previous two crags, but turn left after 500m and set off around the head of Geodh Ruadh to the cliffs. The three stacks are the best reference points.

*Gneiss Little Wall* 20m HVS 5b \*\*. M.Tighe, J.Armour. July 1999.

About 50m south of the south stack, this fine wall is reached by abseil into a little rocky alcove (possible to traverse in to here from Geodh Ruadh). Go out left under a grey rock platform and pull up on to the wall (good protection).

*Red Slab* 20m Very Difficult. M.Tighe, A.Gillespie. July 1999.

This is the diagonal slab overlooked by Gneiss Little Wall and just south of South Stack.

*Marine Exposure* 30m VS. M. & K.Tighe. 28th August 2000.

A diagonal abseil past an overhang leads to an alcove immediately opposite the northerly most rocks of North Stack. Climb diagonally up left to the left edge of the overhang. Pull through this (good protection) and climb the steep wall and slab above.

**Rubha Eacleit (NB 186 439):**

Short (15-20m) but worthwhile. There is a fine Hard Severe at the north-west end and an excellent E3 5c \*\*\* crack up the front face, gained by a traverse in from the north.

**Rubha Talanish (NB 179 437):**

**Approach:** Park at the Garenin road end. Walk down through the village and go south along the rocky coastline to the headland of Rubha Talanish cairn, 50mins. A slightly shorter but less attractive approach is from the road end at Borrowston (NB 189 424), 20mins.

*Doctor MacDonald's Farewell to Lewis* 60m Mild VS \*\*\*. M. & K.Tighe, H.Clarke. 21st July 2000.

The route lies on the fine black slab on the north-east side of the headland. Abseil down to a jumble of huge boulders at the bottom of the slab, just above the high tide line.

1. 30m. Make a tricky move up the little apron slab to gain a diagonal fault-line which heads up right to join the rib which delineates the north-east and north-west faces.
2. 30m. Follow the fine rib above via cracks and small corners to the top.

The following were sent by I.Small; the relationship to the above is unknown. Approach by abseil. Descriptions start from the right, seaward end. All routes climbed on 18th August 2001 by I.Small and A.Hume.

1. *Blackhouse Arête* 35m Hard Severe. The prominent arête running straight down into the sea. Abseil to a small ledge above high tide. Climb the left side of the arête.
2. *Stormy Slab* 35m VS 4c. Abseil to the same ledge as the previous route. Climb the slab to the right of the arête via grooves and a final overlap.
3. *Tigh Dubh* 25m VS 4c. The corner-line at the left end of Stormy Slab. Abseil to a ledge at the base of the corner.
4. *Tents Away* 25m E2 5b. The corner-line left again of the previous route. From the ledge climb a steep corner and transfer left to gain the main corner-line. At the final headwall, finish strenuously rightwards via a flake.
5. *Beached Whale* 30m HVS 5a. The next large corner-line to the left. Abseil to a boulder-covered platform. Climb a steep corner and awkward diagonal crack leading left to the main corner; ascend this directly.
6. *Thatch Top* 30m E2 5b. Climbs the prominent buttress with a double overlap at the landward end of the crag. Abseil to the platform. Climb a thin crack on the front of a large flake at the base of the buttress. Cross the overlap and gain a thin diagonal crack. Follow this through a second overlap, finishing up the fine headwall.

**GREAT BERNERA, Campaign:**

Campaign is one of a group of small islands off the north coast of Bearnaraigh Beag at the head of Loch Rog an Ear. No more than 500m long and 250m wide, it has a through tunnel at its narrowest point and a second tunnel close by to the south, known as Suilean Dubha (the black eyes). They are well seen from the east. There is no easy landing on the island and there is no water.

**Geodh' an Tuill area:**

The north side of the geo forms a very overhanging wall.

*Yo Heave Ho* 12m E2 6a. H.Cottam (unsec). 30th May 2004.  
Follows the most obvious weakness at the left end of the wall.

The next two routes are on the western end of the overhanging wall.

*Inchling* 12m VS 4c. J.Wright, H.Cottam. 30th May 2004.  
The right-hand crack direct.

*Friggin' in the Rigg'in'* 12m HVS 5a. A.Norton, K.Archer. 30th May 2004.  
The left-rising crack-line in the centre of the face to a precarious exit.

The next two routes are on The Pinnacle, well seen to the left and gained by following a dyke.

*Bruichladdich* 14m VS 4c. J.Wright, H.Cottam. 30th May 2004.  
Descend the dyke until below an overlapping block. Climb direct to this then traverse left into a groove. Up this until you can step left on the headwall to finish.

*Tide & Timing* 14m VS 4c. A.Norton, K.Archer. 30th May 2004.  
Named for the crossing of the dyke to reach the start! Climb the crack and wall direct.

The next two routes are on Wheeling Gull Wall, the west facing wall of the small geo, which runs into a cave on the south side of Geodh' an Tuill.

*Wee Restorative* 15m HVS 5a. K.Archer, A.Norton. 30th May 2004.

The first corner on the left when looking at the wall. Abseil down to ledges then climb the corner direct, nice.

*Crabwalk* 15m E2 5b. H.Cottam, J.Wright. 30th May 2004.

Abseil down Wee Restorative to a small triangular platform to the right. Climb up and right to join the hanging corner; follow this to finish.

#### **Platform Bay Area:**

On the north side of the island is a large bay with a low tide platform at the back. The following route lies in a corner at its right end, gained from the same area as The Pinnacle.

*Railsway* 12m E1 5c. H.Cottam, J.Wright. 30th May 2004.

The obvious clean hanging corner with a horizontal rail just above half-height.

The next routes are on the main, west-facing wall of Platform Bay; this was the only area where care was needed with exits because of loose rock at the top. The wall is divided into two distinct sides by a central corner. Access is by abseil down the corner.

*Heart of Oak* 18m E4 6a. H.Cottam (unsec). 31st May 2004.

Start from the big ramp below the big corner. Climb the corner with an overlap at two-thirds height.

*Gall, Wisdom & Guile* 30m E1 \*. A.Norton, K.Archer (alt). 31st May 2004.

1. 16m 5a Follow the corner formed by the ramp to where it meets the left wall of Wee Restorative, make a curious move to gain this and cross over to a ledge on the right.

2. 14m 5b Go right and around the arête to gain the corner. Follow this (poor protection), then traverse right just below the top to finish.

*Impacted Wisdom* 15m HVS 5a. H.Cottam, J.Wright. 31st May 2004.

The central corner and abseil line. Follow the corner direct.

#### **Caolas Cul Campaign Corners:**

This is the most extensive area of rock, with several distinct sections, starting from the north-east end of Platform Bay and extending to the north-east tip of the island.

#### **The West End:**

Abseil down the first obvious right-facing corner near the junction with Platform Bay.

*(The Famous) Sunshine Arête* 15m Severe \*\*\*. A.Norton, K.Archer. 31st May 2004.

Traverse left (facing in) from the abseil around two corners. Climb the superb arête.

*Dark Corner* 15m HVS 5a. H.Cottam, J.Wright. 31st May 2004.  
Pleasant climbing up the corner right of Sunshine Arête.

*No Toast on Campaign* 15m Severe. K.Archer, A.Norton. 31st May 2004.  
The well-cracked slabby face left of Sunshine Arête.

#### **Little Britain Wall:**

The next area eastwards. Abseil down the wall to a good ledge which runs its full length.

*Little Britain* 16m HVS 5a \*. A.Norton, K.Archer. 1st June 2004.  
Follow the obvious ramp rising from the right end of the ledge.

*Aberdoon Stookhoose* 16m HVS 5a \*. K.Archer, A.Norton. 1st June 2004.  
Follow the crack-line direct, easier and better protected than it looks.

*Swingback* 16m E2 5c. H.Cottam, J.Wright. 2nd June 2004.  
The left-facing corner around the left arête of Little Britain Wall. Climb the shallow corner, then continue direct.

*Sovay* 16m VS 4c. J.Wright, H.Cottam. 2nd June 2004.  
The corner at the right end of Little Britain Wall.

#### **The Middle East:**

The next section eastwards, reached by abseil down Swing Back.

*Northern Sky* 18m E2 5b \*\*. K.Archer, A.Norton. 2nd June 2004.  
From the bottom of the abseil, traverse left (facing in) to a line of shattered flakes. Climb these over a bulge to a short headwall; pull up and over to finish.

*And the Sea Smiled Back* 18m E1 5a. A.Norton, K.Archer. 2nd June 2004.  
Start 2m right (facing in) from the start of Northern Sky. Tenuous moves up a poorly protected ramp lead to a short headwall.

#### **Geo Mor Campaign:**

The eastern end of the main (northern) tunnel.

**Note:** *S(limy) Says it All* was a two pitch escape traverse from the entrance of the tunnel back to the right end of Suilean Dubha Wall. K.Archer, A.Norton, 2nd June 2004.

#### **Suilean Dubha Area, The Southern Tunnel:**

At its western and landward end the superb rock architecture can be seen forming a curving arch with a small return wall on the south side. A good place when tide or weather rule out other areas.

*The Eyes Have It* 22m HVS \*\*. A.Norton, K.Archer. 1st June 2004.  
1. 6m 5a. From a stance at the right end of the small southern wall, traverse left into the corner.  
2. 16m 5a. Traverse left along the lip of the cave using the breaks, to finish up a short corner.

*Green Door* 15m HVS 5a \*. J.Wright, H.Cottam. 1st June 2004.  
From the slab at the left end of the arch traverse rightwards to the centre, then finish direct avoiding a loose hold.

*Jonah Be Goode* 18m E2. H.Cottam, J.Wright (alt). 1st June 2004.  
1. 12m 5b. From the bottom of the cave traverse leftwards along the right wall just above sea-level (mid to low tide) by a series of cracks and small slabs to the first blowhole.  
2. 6m 5a. Finish by climbing out the blowhole.

*The No's to the Right* 12m HVS 5a. K.Archer, A.Norton. 3rd June 2004.  
From the right end of the return wall, climb the corner and overlaps to finish through a notch.

*Whale of a Time* 15m HVS 5a. A.Norton, K.Archer. 3rd June 2004.  
Traverse left from the starting moves of The No's... for 3m to below an overhanging nose. Pull through this and the next on good holds to the top.

*Sarcophagus with the Moves* 38m E3 5c, 5a \*\*. K.Archer, A.Norton. 4th June 2004.  
1. 18m 5c. From the slab at the western end (common with Green Door), traverse into the tunnel passing two corners until forced to make blind moves down (wet). Take a stance on a ledge directly below the first blow hole.

2. 20m 5a. Step right on to a slab and cross it to its right end. Descend a short wall and cross the easy but slippery slab to the exit. Not possible at high water or big swell.

**Suillean Dubha Wall:**

The wall between the seaward ends of the two tunnels.

*Oblivion Arête* (H.Cottam, J.Wright, 2nd June 2004). Climb the arête and grooves trending left, then back right to a worrying exit on big hanging blocks.

**CRULIVIG (NB 171 334) Note:**

R.I.Jones & J.Sanders climbed Lard of the Pies (SMCJ 2003) and agreed with the note that it is the crag referred to by Andy Macfarlane. The crag is lichenous in its top third and the only line that looks worth climbing is Lard of the Pies, HVS 5a \*\*\*, marred by the exit through thick reed grass.

**UIG SEA CLIFFS, AIRD UIG AREA, Gallen Head Stack (NB 052 387, tidal):**

A fine 25m fin shaped stack lies 400m north of Aird Uig. It is accessible at mid to low tide, by a 70m descent down a steep grassy slope which is best protected by abseil.

*Depth Charge* 25m HVS 4b. R.I.Jones, J.Sanders. 15th June 2004.

Climb a left-facing corner on the south fin pulling right 2m before the top of the corner to avoid a loose exit. Continue with care to the top. Descent is best by abseil down the route. The name came from the sound of rock being cleared by the leader during the first ascent as it thundered into the sea.

**Gallen Beag 1:**

These climbs precede those recorded in Gallen Beag 1 in SMCJ 194 p361. Working from the north (left looking in) side of the crag the first obvious corner gives:

*S'mad* 20m Severe. M. & K.Tighe. 24th June 2001.

The left bounding corner line of the main slab with a choice of corner or groove on the left to finish.

*Spanish Windlash* 20m Hard Severe \*. K. & M.Tighe. 24th June 2001.

The obvious diagonal fault-line running right to left up the face is good entertainment.

*The Ruby* 20m Mild VS \*\*. M. & K.Tighe. 24th June 2001.

Fabulous climbing up the right bounding arête of the main face. Traverse right from the bottom of Spanish Windlass to the arête. Excellent jugs lead to a ledge and tricky diagonal crack to finish.

*Further Adventures in Paradise* 20m E1 5b \*\*\*. M. & K.Tighe. 24th June 2001.

The immaculate stepped corner to the right/south end of the main wall.

*Grooved Arête* 20m Severe. M. & K.Tighe. 24th June 2001.

Go right from Further Adventures... Climb a squarish pillar to a ledge at half-height and the grooved arête above.

*Swirlpool* 20m Mild VS \*. M. & K.Tighe. 24th June 2001.

Just right of Grooved Arête is an open corner with a black slab to the right. Abseil down to sea-level and tackle a tricky sloping chimney, a broken corner and a slab-corner.

**Magic Geo:**

*The Crimebusters of the Sea* 35m E5 6a \*\*. P.Robins, B.Bransby. 11th June 2004.

A marvellous outing up the obvious weakness in the back of the geo. Starting at the back, climb the left wall to a flake leading into a pink cave. Shuffle and wriggle on outwards and upwards to an easier finish in the wider chimney.

*The Eagle Has Landed* 35m E6 6b \*\*. P.Robins, B.Bransby. 11th June 2004.

Another splendid journey up the back of the geo, climbing the obvious lower arête, then through the bulge and into the slim finishing groove. The arête is climbed direct and is bold. Going through the bulges is the crux (small cams useful), gaining a block ledge. Step right and go up the pleasant wall and into the finishing groove.

*Gimp Route* 35m E4 5c \*\*. B.Bransby, P.Robins. 11th June 2004.

Climb the initial corner of The Sorcerer to the ledges, then move left and pull through the bulge, using a flake. Traverse right along a thin seam to gain a ramp which soon becomes a crack, just left of The Alchemist? Go direct to the top.

**Screaming Geo:**

*Bothy House Crack* 25m E2 5b. P.Robins, B.Bransby. 12th June 2004.

The obvious off-width that finishes close to the bothy. Cam 5 useful.

*Hullabaloo Left-Foot* 20m E5 6a. B.Bransby, P.Robins. 10th June 2004.

A pitch based on Hullabaloo, quite how similar they are is uncertain. From directly below the main corner, climb up and left (fiddly gear) then back right into the corner. Follow this then step left into slim hanging ramp/groove leading leftwards to the top.

*Rats Don't Eat Sandwiches* 30m E4 6a \*\*\*. L.Houlding, J.Pickles. 9th June 2004.

A very good route which pulls out right from Salty Dog. Start as for that route but traverse right at about 10m to a ledge. Climb the slim groove above to a roof and pull through this to gain a ledge then on to the top.

*Damn Your Eyes!* 30m E4 5c. P.Robins, B.Bransby. 9th June 2004.

Starting 5m right of The Screaming Ab Dabs the following route takes a groove-line and provides a good starting pitch for Paranoid Slippers on the tier above. Climb a short corner to a sloping ledge and break. Step left and climb into the main groove, moving left to the vague arête which leads to the main horizontal break. Continue up the slanting groove above, climbing mainly on the left wall (no gear but only 5b).

#### **MINGULAY, Rubha Liath, Geirum Walls:**

*Seal Clubbing* 10m E1 5c \*. G.Latter. 19th August 2004

Start just right of Sealed with a Kiss. Climb up to the right end of the small overlap. Then direct up the wall to finish up the final section of the flake-crack.

#### **Guarsay Mor:**

*Direct Start to Swimming to America* 25m E2 5b \*. N. and P.Craig. 12th June 2004.

Climb up and left round the rib to the left of the belay at the top of the first pitch of Save Our Soles, into a shallow groove right of Lost Souls. Climb this and the wall above direct to a belay below the roof of Swimming to America.

#### **Cobweb Wall:**

*Unnamed* 105m HVS \*\*\*. G.Latter, C.Pulley. 15th August 2004.

Tackles a right-trending groove come ramp system at the right side of the pink veined wall. Start as for Cuan a' Bochan.

1. 50m 5a. From a small ledge below a small overhang, move up to the small overhang. Tackle it on its right-hand side and follow jugs up to a pink bay. Follow bulging rock and a crack on the right-hand side of the pink bay, to an obvious right-rising grey ramp-line. Follow jugs up this to its top.
2. 55m 4c. Follow a series of short corner systems and a broken slab to rejoin the first abseil ledge. Pleasant easy climbing on fragile rock leads to the top.

#### **The South Pillar:**

*Bill Oddie Eat Your Heart Out* 100m E1 5b \*. P.Hemmings, C.Stein. 8th June 2004.

Thirteen meters right of Stugeron on the south face (right of the crest of the point). Abseil 100m to high water level trending rightwards to an isolated section of projecting rock, under which lies a hidden ledge.

1. 25m 5b. From the ledge climb the immediate crack on the right to the top of the isolated rock feature. Climb corners trending rightwards and upwards to a ledge, below a steep wall.
2. 25m 5b. Climb the wall initially on the left, before pulling into the centre to climb flakes and flutes. Follow the natural weakness first rightwards till forced to move into a series of broken corners to a ledge. Traverse rightwards to small ledges and belay below a wall (enjoy the bird life!).
3. 15m 4c. Climb the face above the ledge, trending leftwards then back right up an obvious corner to a large platform. Excellent pitch.
4. 20m 5b. Climb the corner, moving left when the corner runs out (tricky) and pull on to a ledge. Ascend a small wall to a ledge.
5. 15m 4a. Climb pink felspar rock to the top.

Near Stugeron, a large ledge system runs across the cliff at about one-third height. The centre of this ledge supports a large left-facing corner directly below a roof with a prominent crack. The following route is located directly below the central corner of the ledge system.

*Unnamed* 95m E2 \*\*\*. C.Pulley, G.Latter. 16th August 2004.

This route starts on a good ledge, above the high-water mark, with a right-facing corner/chimney at its left hand end. Access is by a 100m abseil.

1 40m 5b. Follow the corner/chimney and its continuation crack over steep ground until a headwall impedes progress. At this point step airily left to a rib. Head more easily upwards, via a short layback crack, to the large ledge and belay below its central corner.

2 55m 5b. Climb the corner to join the roof above on its right-hand side. Move leftwards over the top of the roof and into a short crack/corner that leads to a bulge. From here, undercut leftwards into a prominent right-facing corner. Follow the corner steeply until easier rock leads to the top.

#### **Dun Mingulay, Sron An Duin:**

*Storm Warning* 70m E2 \*. R.Austin, R.Durran, G.Latter. 17th August 2004.

Start on tidal ledges at the base of an obvious flake-crack in a black bulge, below and right of the start of Fifteen Fathoms of Fear.

1. 40m 5c. Climb the black flake, move up to another curving flake and climb it to gain short twin cracks leading with difficulty to a good ledge.

2. 30m 4c. Trend leftwards to finish as for Fifteen Fathoms of Fear. A more direct finish should be possible.

#### **PABBAY, Bay Area:**

*Rebel without a Porpoise* 25m E5 6a \*\*. P. and N.Craig. 6th June 2004.

Start in a black groove just left of the blunt rib left of The Herbrudean (SMCJ 2001). Climb the groove for a few metres, then right on to the rib. Climb this to the slab under a band of overhangs. Step right into a bottomless groove, then climb strenuously up and right to a junction with The Herbrudean. Follow this to the top.

#### **Banded Geo:**

*Geomancer* 45m E7 6b \*\*\*. N.McNair, P.Newman. May 2003.

Takes a stupendous line to the left of Ship of Fools. Start up a black groove until an obvious traverse can be made out to the roof. Tackle the roof via pockets and a small right-facing flange (crux). Once on the headwall climb up trending slightly left to head for a large pod/flake. Attack the bulge directly above this to reach the capping roof/corner. Escape rightwards along this.

**Note:** A straightened-out version of The Fool of Ships (E6 6b) was created whilst trying Ship of Fools in 2002. No falls were taken and no pre-inspection.

#### **Allanish Peninsula, Hoofers Geo:**

*Brother Ray* 30m E5 6b \*\*. R.Campbell, P.Thorburn. 11th June 2004.

The wall right of Sugar Cane Country. Fine climbing though escapable from below the crux. High in the grade and bold. Climb SCC to the start of the crack, traverse right along a break to the centre of the wall before moving up to a pocketed break above (nut runner to the right). Ascend the middle of the wall with difficulty to a good slot (protection) and continue to a juggy flake shake-out on SCC. Stroll up the steep headwall above right end of flake with surprising ease.

*JA's Maelstrom* 20m E4 6a \*. N.McNair, P.Newman. May 2003.

Takes the flake system between The Fantastic Mr JA and Sugar Cane Country starting up The Fantastic and striking straight up where that route bends left to finish on an arête.

#### **The Poop Deck:**

*Damnations* 25m E7 6b \*\*\*\*. P.Thorburn, R.Campbell, G.Latter (redpointed). 10th June 2004.

Stupendous sustained climbing, tackling the twin hanging cracks up the centre of the wall. Start up the first few moves as for The Raven, then pull up and left on to the in-cut shelf above (skyhook in pocket). Make a hard move rocking over to gain the horizontal break above (good runners), and move left and follow the cracks, mainly following the right one to pull into a large break beneath the roof (Cams to 5). Move left to pull rightwards though the roof with very difficult moves to stand on the lip. Continue much more easily directly up the wall above.

#### **Rosinish Peninsula:**

**Note:** N.Morrison notes that Taxi for Tam was done in 2002 not 2003. The route Bouncing Bim, "on the island opposite the camping place" must surely be on the Rosinish Peninsula (which is not an island).

#### **Bay Area:**

N.Morrison was on the FA of Irish Rover along with W.Moir, P.Allen and M.Atkins.

#### **MULL, Scoor, Beach Wall:**

*The Reality Dysfunction* 15m E6 6a. N.McNair. May 2004.

Takes the arête to the left of Waves and White Water. Start on the arête and the drainpipe feature before moving on to the arête proper at half-height with the crux right at the top. Low in the grade but very serious at the top.

**Ardtun, Stirk Crag:**

*O.J.Killer* 12m HVS 5a \*. C.Moody, A.Soloist. 15th September 2004.

Right of Gribun Phone Box Vandals are two cracks above a big block. Climb the left-hand crack.

**Erraid, Lower Tier:**

*Fools Gold* 8m E2 6a. J.Lines, P.Thorburn. June 2004.

Start below a flying fin left of two main arêtes. Boulder up a seam on to a ledge on the right. Finish up an easy corner.

**Red Anvil Chasm (NM 287 195):**

Formed by the same dyke as Asteroid Chasm but a further 400m north-west. Probably climbable at high tide.

*Red Anvil* 15m E3 5c \*. J.Lines, P.Thorburn. June 2004.

On its north-east facing wall, climb cracks to the anvil, then take the easiest line out right.

The south-east facing wall has an obvious groove in the centre with a loose block at the top.

*Unnamed* 8m E3/4 6a \*. P.Thorburn, J.Lines. June 2004.

A thin crack starting off a block 4m left of the groove. Awkward to protect.

*Paz Irmao* 10m E1 5b \*. J.Lines, P.Thorburn. June 2004.

A crack 2m right of the groove.

*Unnamed* 10m HVS 5a \*. P.Thorburn, J.Lines. June 2004.

A crack 2m right of Paz Irmao.

**Karen's Slab (NM 297 197):**

An isolated clean south-west facing slab 300m north-east of the beach.

*Sophie* 12m E2 5b \*. J.Lines, P.Thorburn. June 2004.

The slab. Start up a crack, step right and go up to another crack.

*Holly* 12m E3 6a. J.Lines, P.Thorburn. June 2004.

A thin slab on left with a hard start.

## SKYE

**SGURR A'MHADAIDH, The Coir'-uisg Face:**

*Second-Third Gully/First-Second Gully Combination* 260m IV,5. D.Ritchie, M.Shaw, N.MacGougan. 17th January 2004.

1. 40m. Icy steps and chockstones lead under a huge chockstone followed by a short wall to a small cave.
2. 60m. The large cave avoided in summer was climbed direct (crux) followed by easy snow.
3. and 4. 80m. Traverse right over a rib and descend into First-Second Gully, following this to a narrowing.
5. 60m. Climb over several interesting chockstones until above the final difficulty.
6. 20m. Easy snow to the ridge.

**SGURR THEARLAICH, West Face:**

*BC Buttress* 110m IV,5. D.Ritchie, M.Shaw. 2nd January 2004.

Good icy mixed climbing taking the buttress between Gully B and Gully C. Start below a prominent groove midway between the gullies.

1. 25m. Climb the icy groove and move up to below a corner.
2. 35m. Climb the short corner above, step right then follow left-trending grooves to a point where a right traverse can be made to gain a prominent jutting block.
3. 50m. Climb straight up reaching easier ground and the main ridge crest.

*Vent Du Nord* 80m V,6. D.Ritchie, D.McEachan. 13th February 2005.

This route follows the obvious open groove on the right side of the buttress situated between Gully B and Gully C. Start right of the original route at the point where the base of the buttress turns into the foot of Gully C.

1. 15m. Climb the fault overlooking Gully C to gain a small ledge.
2. 30m. Continue up the open groove above stepping left at a small bulge to gain easier ground. A good pitch.
3. 35m. Move up and left, then back right climbing a short corner directly above the belay to finish up easier ground to the main ridge.

*CD Buttress* 110m V,6. D.Ritchie, M.Shaw. 29th January 2004.

A fine route taking the buttress between Gully C and Gully D. Start at the lowest rocks.

1. 40m. Climb broken rocks to gain the foot of an obvious off-width corner-crack. Climb this followed by a second similar corner-crack.
2. 40m. Move straight up for a few metres, then step right gaining a rightwards-rising snow ramp. Follow this to a point overlooking Gully D. Climb a short groove on the left followed by a traverse back right to below the obvious fault splitting the upper wall.
3. 30m. Follow the fine left-slanting crack-line to finish on the main ridge.

#### **Coir' An Lochain (Sgurr Thearlaich):**

*Aladdin's Route* 80m IV,6. D.Ritchie, D.McEachan, N.MacGougan. 12th February 2005.

By the summer route, found to be disappointingly short but worthwhile nevertheless. Start below and left of the chimney in a snowy alcove.

1. 35m. Climb an easy angled snowy slab and cross a snow ledge to gain a cave below the main difficulties.
2. 35m. Climb the chimney above with interest to below a huge chockstone.
3. 10m. Surmount the chockstone using the left wall (crux) and climb steeply to finish in the TD Gap.

#### **SRON NA CICHE, The Cioch:**

*The Gathering* 30m E8 6b \*\*\*\*. D.MacLeod. 8th June 2004.

A spectacular but very serious line climbing the dark underside of the Cioch. The line follows a faint seam leading to an obvious spike in the middle of the wall. Belay on large friends halfway up Slab Corner, at the base of the seam. Hard technical moves lead to a good crimp. Follow the seam for a few moves then break out right on pock-marks with a tenuous sequence leading to good edges and the spike (good rest and first protection). Continue rightwards past a diagonal crack to gain the easy upper slabs.

#### **NEIST, The Upper Crag, Financial Sector:**

Above and right of Waterfront (1998) a shorter clean-looking wall has a disjointed crack system on its right.

*Robbo's Truss Fund* 22m Severe. R.Brown, N.Bassnett, A.Holden. 30th August 2004.

Reach the bottom of the cracks by scrambling up and leftwards through broken rocks to a heathery ledge. Pleasant climbing leads to a large square bay above mid-height. Exit on the right up rock that requires careful treatment.

*Island Revenue* 25m HVS 5a. N.Bassnett, A.Holden, R.Brown. 30th August 2004.

The clean obvious right-facing corner just right of Robbo's is approached in a similar fashion. Sustained (some would add character-forming) in nature until the big ledge is reached just above the overlap. An easier groove leads to the top.

Immediately right of Terminal Bonus is an impressive right-facing corner.

*The Banks of Locharron* 30m VS 4c \*. R.Brown, N.Bassnett. 31st July 2004.

From the heather ledge climb the corner dodging right only to make use of the massive free standing flake.

Immediately right is a buttress with twin roofs at mid-height. A plethora of routes with alternative starts make good use of this section. Most easily identified is Black Scholes, which takes the dominant left-facing corner and crack straight through the roof. The first route is an eliminate between The Banks of Locharron and Midas Touch which, although offering only 50% independence, gives good climbing. Start just left of the lower continuation crack-line that is Black Scholes.

*Days of Gold* 30m E1 5a. R.Brown, N.Bassnett. 2nd Sept 2004.

Ascend the left side of a small alcove and continue up and right to a slight recess (joining Black Scholes). Pull over a bulge, then step up left on to slabby ramp. Continue up and then more easily left to gain the top of a large detached block. Move up into the short open book corner. Gain the crack above direct and/or by using the slab to its right. Continue straight up to the left end of the curving overhang, to join Midas Touch. Move diagonally right and up to finish on the highest block.

Immediately right of Shocks and Stares is a right-tilting crack leading into a V-groove.

*Redd Sales* 25m VS 4c \*. R.Brown, N.Bassnett. 31st August 2004.

Start as for Shocks and Stares but continue up and right to the grassy bank below the crack. Step into this from the right but after a couple of moves traverse right, at a flake, until almost in the chimney. Move up on hollow but secure flakes to regain the crack, which is abandoned when the crack widens to use small bolt-ons on the slab. Bridge up the groove to finish.

*Chic Hens for Free* 28m HVS 5b \*. N.Bassnett, R.Brown. 31st July 2004.

Start as for Bridging Interest but step leftwards along a ramp, climbing up to a triangulated jutting fin with a ledge below and on its right. Reach across the shattered cracks to gain the right arête (crux). Move up and back left into a short corner which gives access to fine twin cracks and easier climbing.

The buttress to the right of Shining Path (SMCJ 2000) holds clean walls of rock higher up, above an untidy lower section. The next route gains and climbs a clean right-facing corner in the higher section which is not immediately visible from directly below, but is easily seen from Poverty Point.

*Doppelganger* 45m Hard Severe 4b. M.Hudson, J.Sutton, A.Holden. 28th July 2004.

Start 15m right of Shining Path below two small roofs at 3m. Climb past the left end of the roofs and continue over broken columns before taking the front of the rib above to a heather ledge (possible belay). Follow the big corner above past a steepening of jammed blocks.

**Lower Tier Note (C. Moody):** The January storm has caused many new rock scars along the lower tier. One rock 25m up (over 100kg.) was ripped out of the cliff and left 3m higher up the hill. There are many turfed areas that are now bare rock. The 30m high arch below Wish you were Here (next to One Way Bottle, SMCJ 1999) has been washed away. A Type of Cooker (SMCJ 2001) has been washed away.

#### **Lower Tier, The Euro Zone:**

This is the sea-cliff below The Financial Sector. Fulmars might be a problem in the nesting season. Either go easily down the rib below Worm's Eye View and abseil from boulders, or go down steep grass below Terminal Bonus and scramble in. Around the centre of the cliff is a buttress; the traverse round the base of the buttress is tidal. There is a scrambling descent between Still Hot and the Original Descent. The first nine routes finish on a ledge below a 4m wall. A finish was made up this wall by the left side of the large flake, Very Difficult. Other finishes would be possible after removing loose holds.

*Still Wet* 18m VS 4c \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 20th March 2005.

The prominent right-facing corner.

*Frozen Turf* 18m Difficult. C.Moody. 26th February 2005.

Left of Yellow Flake is a prominent corner-crack, Still Wet. Climb a left-facing corner crack just right.

*Yellow Flake* 18m Severe. C.Moody. 26th February 2005.

Round left of Stormer is a wide crack. Just left of this climb a crack, then a rib. Climb a flake-crack in the yellow rock to a rock scar and easier ground.

*Stormer* 18m VS 4c. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 20th March 2005.

Start at the left end of the slabby bay on a barnacle ledge. Climb a crack in brown rock to gain the right side of the rock scar, then continue up the crack-line. Step right below a bulge and finish steeply.

*Summer in the City* 18m HVS 5a \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 20th March 2005.

Good varied climbing. Climb the crack right of Stormer and pull out right. Continue up the slot and pull out right. Move left and finish up the rib on big holds.

*Risk of Ice* 16m Very Difficult. C.Moody. 26th February 2005.

Start up and right from Stormer. Climb a short crack, then step left and climb a short corner. Step left again and finish up a bulge.

*Summer Time Blues* 16m VS 4b. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 20th March 2005.

Just right of Risk of Ice, climb the crack through bulges to a shelf. Step up left and finish up twin cracks in the corner.

*Spindrift* 18m Difficult \*. C.Moody. 26th February 2005.

Start 4m right of Risk of Ice. Climb corner-cracks, then traverse left above a steep slab and finish up a corner.

*Icefall* 16m Moderate. C.Moody. 26th February 2005.

Start 5m right of Spindrift. Climb a short crack up right, then move left up a corner and right up a shelf.

*Staircase Left-Hand Start* 12m Severe. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 20th March 2005.

Start below and left of Staircase at the right side of the pillar, well right of Icefall. Climb a corner-crack to join the original route halfway up.

*Staircase* 14m Easy. C.Moody. 29th January 2005.

Start left of the descent. Move up left on huge holds, then move right to finish.

*Still Hot* 12m Severe. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 20th March 2005.

Above Staircase are three short cracks. Climb the right-hand crack with a little help from the middle crack.

*Original Descent* 10m Moderate.

The crack left of The Banister.

*The Banister* 12m Difficult \*. B.Taylor. 28th November 2004.

Climb the prominent crack just left of the front of the buttress and continue up.

*Wet Soles* 14m Severe. C.Moody. 26th February 2005.

Start at the low point of the traverse at low tide. Follow a barnacle crack and finish up the crack above the block.

*Powder* 14m Very Difficult. C.Moody. 26th February 2005.

Start just right of Wet Soles at low tide. Go up twin cracks, then move left to a ledge. Climb a short steep crack right of the block.

*Rope Gripper* 10m Difficult. C. Moody. 28th November 2004.

On the right side of the buttress are two parallel cracks. Climb the left-hand one.

*Rope Jammer* 12m Very Difficult. C.Moody, B.Taylor. 28th November 2004.

The right-hand crack is 8mm wide.

#### **Poverty Point:**

*Fifty-fifty* 20m E1 5a \*. M.Hudson (unseconded). 4th May 2004.

A prominent rib facing north towards Destitution Point and 10m right of the shaley cave. If the front of the rib is strictly followed, then protection is very spaced. Take the crest of the rib on exposed blocky ledges and follow a tapering flake above in a fine position. Leave the top of the flake (crux) for the final wall.

*Fifty-Fifty Left-Hand* 20m HVS 5a \*. M.Hudson, B.Birkett. 1st June 2004.

A left-hand variation start reaching the final flake less drastically by cracks on the left of the arête.

Immediately south of Fifty-fifty is a tall bay of dark-brown rock. Several fine, non-tidal routes lead from here to a stake belay. A smooth wall with a dark triangular slot at 3m forms the very left end of the bay.

*Black Eye* 20m E1 5b \*\*. M.Hudson, A.Holden, J.Sutton. 27th July 2004.

Pull up the left edge of the wall, with committing moves to reach the dark triangle. Continue up the wall to a hand-traverse right to reach a crack leading back left to the top of the tapering flake. Finish as for Fifty-fifty or up a short crack immediately right.

*American Football is Dangerous* 20m E2 5b \*. J.Sutton, A.Holden, M.Hudson. 27th July 2004.

Three metres right is a crack-line which steepens to provide a fine layback and jamming finale.

*Thank God for Roger's Aliens* 20m E2 5b \*. B.Birkett, M.Hudson. 1st June 2004.

Two metres right again is a leaning left-facing corner with a bulge at half-height. Climb the corner with a sustained section to pass the bulge.

*Flower Power* 20m E3 5c. L.Jones, J.Sutton (yo-yoed). August 2004.

The crack 3m right again, passing a small in-situ flower high up.

*Plates of Wood* 20m VS 4c. A.Holden, J.Sutton, M.Hudson. 27th July 2004.

The big dark corner at the back of the bay gives a solid and straightforward line.

*Italian Job* 18m E1 5b \*\*. R.Brown. N.Bassnett. 30th October 2004.

This climbs the smooth wall just right of Shelter using cracks on its left edge. A bold route still awaiting a direct start. Start in the Shelter corner and step up on to the arête, moving round right to get established on the front face. Sustained wall climbing leads to a ledge. A left-facing corner above is followed to easy ground.

**Note:** C. Moody notes that The Man from Ankle (SMCJ 2004, p615) is on an obvious pillar. The pillar is right of Golden Shower (not left) as you face the cliff. The pillar is well above high tide.

#### **Destitution Point:**

The following routes lie in the short westward facing bay to the north of the Prow, running from north to south.

*Yellow Crack* 10m VS 4c \*. D.MacAulay & party. 2003.

Climb the layback crack.

The bay features three shallow corners in the north wall, mentioned but not named in SMCJ 2003.

*Haggis* 10m VS 4b \*. W. & L.Gordon-Canning. 1999.  
The leftmost of the three shallow corners.

*Neeps* 10m VS 5a \*. W. & L.Gordon-Canning. 1999.  
The central corner 3m to the right.

*Wee Dram* 10m VS 5a \*. W. & L.Gordon-Canning. 1999.  
The wall and thin cracks right of Neeps, requiring commitment to start before following an obvious higher crack more easily.

*Tatties* 10m Severe \*. W. & L.Gordon-Canning. 1999.  
Follow cracks just left of the clean rightmost corner. The corner itself is unclimbed.

The corner is bounded on the other side by a rectangular cutaway buttress, which gives good climbing on excellent rock up its blunt undercut arête.

*Alien Territory* 10m E2 5c \*\*. R.Brown, J.Holden. 25th September 2004.  
Balance up the inverted V-slab and grasp the lip of the buttress. Hand and tiptoe traverse rightwards to good handholds on the right-hand edge. A narrow-width pocket in the bottom corner of the face is vital for protection here. Committing moves gain a ledge above. The wall and slab above are easier but equally fine.

*Steaming Entrails* 12m Very Difficult \*. W. & L.Gordon-Canning. 1999.  
The open black chimney to the right in the corner of the bay.

*Pennywhistle* 8m Severe 4c \*. N.Bassnett, R.Brown. May 2004. (This line was probably also climbed before but not claimed, by D.MacAulay & party, 2003).  
The slab 2m right gives an excellent short route or solo. Keep central for maximum enjoyment.

A short crack just right again is climbed at 5a. Two short broken corners further right are climbed at Mild Severe and Very Difficult. The easiest scramble descent through this area is made down a diagonal ramp line across the top of the Pennywhistle slab.

*Long Way Home* 8m Severe 4b. N.Bassnett, R.Brown. May 2004.  
The broken juggy arête several metres right on the southern walls of the bay.

*Black Chimney* 10m Very Difficult. D.MacAulay & party. 2003.  
A tall black groove with a steep finish just right again.

*Flea de Wean* 14m HVS 5a \*. M.Hudson, J.Sutton. 29th October 2004.  
A series of sharp grooves immediately right of the arête. Reachy climbing with minimal gear placements.

*Cogless Direct* 16m HVS 5b \*\*. J.Sutton, M.Hudson. 29th October 2004.  
Start at sea-level directly below the final corner of Cogless (1998), up the sharp hanging groove immediately to the right of the normal start. An athletic and well-protected combination.

The following lines are grouped around the huge dark sea-chimney visible from the approach, which can be inspected from the landward slopes. Approach by abseil from blocks well back on top of the Prow to small foot-ledges beneath the chimney, and belay on the same blocks.

*Squeenius* 20m VS 4c \*\*. M.Hudson, J.Sutton. 29th October 2004.  
Start on a dark foot ledge on the left wall of the big chimney. Move up and swing out left over the water onto the front face. Move up on blocky holds and finish up a crack on the right.

*Cave Monster* 20m E1 5b \*\*\*. J.Sutton, B.Wear. September 2004.  
From the same platform as Squeenius, climb the left side of the cave up to a right-facing corner. Good laybacks in the crack lead to a big roof. Pull around this on the left side to good holds. This route may share ground with True Colours (previous SMCJ).

*Bleed In Beige* 20m E3 6a/b. D.MacAulay (unsec). May 2003.

Climbs through the triple roofs to the right of True Colours. Start as for Man of Straw but move left on the initial slab at a loose flake, to a blind move left under the first overlap (place awkward protection in the cracks here). Climb through the hanging corners direct.

Across the small cove from Destitution Point is an area of broken pillars accessed by a low-tide scramble or an abseil from above. A short line has been recorded here.

*L'Americano* 20m Very Difficult. D.MacAulay, F.McCormick. 8th April 2003.

Climb a forgettable groove / chimney through broken rock.

#### **Foghorn Cove:**

The following line lies 10m left of the two deep-water solo lines below the lighthouse climbed by G.Latter in 1999 (SMCJ 2000). It was also suggested by J.Sutton that the existing cracks could be upped a grade to VS and HVS.

*Hypertension* 15m E1 5c \*\*\*. J.Sutton, L.Jones (both solo). August 2004.

The first line of thin cracks on the steep north-west facing wall. Traverse in from the left to below a small roof. Pull over the roof and follow the steep crack on improving holds.

#### **Baywatch Area:**

The next line lies south of the lighthouse steps.

*Don't Leave Your Dad in the Rain* 20m Severe 4b \*. M.Hudson, A.Holden. 27th July 2004.

Immediately right of Keeping the BOFS.. (1997) is a narrow slab. Pad up the right edge with enjoyable run-out moves higher up.

#### **The Lower Crag, Yellow Walls:**

**Note:** C.Moody notes that for Senora (SMCJ 2004, p616), turn left to Supercharger not right.

#### **TROTTERNISH:**

*Pop Out Gully* 100m V. M.Fowler, P.Watts. 31st January 2004.

The right-hand gully behind the Old Man of Storr. Deep, atmospheric and rewarding with the crux at the top. The last of the major gully lines behind the Old Man to be climbed.

1. 30m. Two short steps, the second being hard, lead to snow and a pitch in the depths of the gully.
2. 30m. Fine climbing to snow and a large chockstone belay.
3. 40m. A steep ice step followed by difficult climbing on thin ice trending up left to exit on the top by squirming under a chockstone.

#### **FLODIGARRY:**

This route is found 5m south of A First for Murdo (SMCJ 2003). Abseil from two boulders half-way down the arête to a massive block in the mouth of a huge recess. This point is about 50m north of Buoy Racer. The route takes a line up the south edge of the clean slab just north of the recess.

*Milk Tray Man* 30m Severe \*. M.Hudson, M.Price, D.N.Williams. 6th June 2004.

Step off the block and climb through a steep scoop to gain the slab above. Climb close to the left edge of the slab, nicely poised at moments over the recess, to regain the two boulders.

#### **RUBHA HUNISH:**

There is a fine series of 30m cliffs along the north-east side of Rubha Hunish, and despite the appearance from above, the routes to date are on immaculate rock with generally good protection. The climbing is similar to Flodigarry, but better.

#### **Middle Stack Area:**

This is the clean wall immediately opposite the Middle Stack. Near perfect rock and protection. Abseils and belay are from metal stakes (not in situ). A good reference point is the black ledge used to start the swim to the Middle Stack; the first two routes start from here. The only access to all the routes is by abseil.

*The Exit* 30m Severe \*\*\*. M.Tighe & party. 18th August 2000.

Probably climbed before by parties returning from the Middle Stack. From the left-hand end of the ledge follow a crack come fault-line directly to the top.

*Stage Right* 30m VS 4c \*\*. M.Tighe & party. 18th August 2000.

Climb up to a spike at the highest point of the ledge on the right and make an airy move up and right on to the wall - good flake. Either go diagonally right up the wall a little way, or hard right a metre or two to gain the vague groove come crack-line which leads to the top.

Looking down the wall from the top of the cliff there are two rocks visible (black topped) above the high tide mark, the one nearest the stack being roughly square with a sloping top and split in the middle while the other looks like a big black rock crystal. There is a triangular ledge with a wee kelp-filled pool opposite the bigger rock, which is dry for all but an hour either side of high tide. Some 10m south from this ledge is a small U-shaped recess with a ledge above the tide line and an immaculate black corner up the left-hand side.

*The Planning Department* 30m VS 4c \*\*\*. M. & K.Tighe, S.Fraser. 20th August 2000.

Climb the perfect corner in the back left-hand side of the bay to exit left at the top on to a rib - a groove come fault line now leads to the top of the crag.

*Summer Wine* 30m VS 4b \*\*\*. M. & K.Tighe, S.Fraser. 20th August 2000.

Climb a short chimney from the left (south) side of the triangular ledge. Go down and left a couple of metres to gain a crack-line which goes up through a beautiful gabbro-like wall to the top.

*Clais Dubh* 30m HVS 5a \*\*. M. & K.Tighe, S.Fraser. 20th August 2000.

The fine black cleft at the back of the triangular ledge is a struggle to gain. Continue up the chimney until forced out on to the right wall which leads, rather deviously, to the top.

A few metres further north, and almost opposite the black crystal rock, is a large chimney come cave with various ledges around the tide line. The following route takes the left (facing in) exit out of the chimney come cave.

*Blue Men of the Minch* 30m E1 5b \*\*\*. M.Tighe, S.Fraser, A.Wadsworth, I.Lee, J.McClenaghan. 3rd September 2000.

Climb the shallow chimney in the back left-hand corner of the recess. Exit at half-height by a good spike. Avoid the smooth groove above by going left a metre or so where a fault-line leads to the top.

#### **Split Stack Area:**

The next crop of routes lie in a rock bay immediately opposite the southerly section of the Split Stack. Access is either by scrambling down a broken gully from the south or by abseiling down the line of the routes - there are good rock belays at the top. There is a huge flat boulder at the southern end of the bay which is lapped by the tide; some bright green lichen lives on top of it. The routes are described from left to right (south to north) starting from the big flat boulder.

*The Splits* 25m HVS 5b \*. M.Tighe, J.McClenaghan. 3rd September 2000.

This takes the left-hand of the two corner come groove lines that are capped by small overhangs and starts just left (south) of the big flat stone. Climb the right-facing corner to the overhang. Pull through on the left (well protected crux) to an easier finish.

*Workout* 25m VS 4c \*\*\*. M. & K.Tighe, J.Cargill. 3rd September 2000.

Start opposite the big flat stone where a narrow chimney come crack line leads to the first overhang. Climb up the outside of the deep crack and overcome the overhang by wide bridging. A smaller overhang above continues the entertainment.

*Delicasse* 25m VS 4b \*\*. M.Tighe, J.McClenaghan, S.Fraser, J.Cargill. 3rd September 2000.

The route takes a depression just right of the centre of the bay and immediately opposite the south split stack. Pad up the smooth slabby start and a tricky little wall to finish up more broken rocks.

*The Narrows* 25m HVS 5a \*\*. M.Tighe, J.McClenaghan, I.Lee. 3rd September 2000.

A few metres in from the right-hand side of the bay is a narrow chimney which becomes a crack after quarter height. It gives a classic little tussle.

*Bay Back Crack* 25m VS 4c \*\*. M.Tighe, J.McClenaghan. 3rd September 2000.

The right-hand corner-crack is guarded by an overhung recess. Climb this, the ramp-line on the right wall, or a combination of the two to reach the upper crack and so to the top.

**Note:** This is the same route and predates Big Breakfast (SMCJ 2003).

#### **The Non-Stack:**

This is a south continuation of the split stacks and is reached by climbing down a few metres into the neck (as for the approach to Split Stack) and back up the other side. The seaward (NE) side of this feature offers a fine crop of well protected climbs on immaculate rock. All routes accessed by abseil to good ledges.

Having climbed out of the neck, walk southwards the few metres to the top of the cliff. Immediately opposite the neck is a square recess at the top of a chimney come corner-line (Sea Lum). Another corner come chimney approximately 10m to the right is The Prison, and another 10m to the left is Wye Aye Chimney.

*Sea Lum* 20m Very Difficult \*. M. & K.Tighe, P.Rosher, J.Cargill. May 2002.  
The big corner come chimney-line gives a fine little route.

*Pods* 20m HVS 5a/b \*\*. M.Tighe, D.Fraser. 19th May 2004.  
The excellent wall to the left (looking up) of Sea Lum has an obvious peapod crack-line.

*Red Buoy* 20m HVS 5a/b \*\*. M.Tighe, D.Fraser. 19th May 2004.  
South around the corner from Pods, on the seaward face, is an immaculate shallow square-cut chimney with a crack in the back. Sustained and well protected.

*Jailbreak* 20m Mild VS 4b \*\*\*. M.Tighe, D.Fraser. 19th May 2004.  
A few metres south of the Red Buoy a crack-line runs through the full height of the face.

*Great Escape* 20m VS 4b \*. M. & K.Tighe, P.Rosher, J.McClenaghan. May 2002.  
Just a few metres south again from Jailbreak a big defile runs the full height of the cliff, narrow at the top but a big sea cave below. Wide bridging is followed by a little wall on the left to a half-way ledge. Continue up the narrower crack above or the groove-line on the left (harder).

*Skraa* 20m Mild VS 4b \*\*. M. & K.Tighe, J.Cargill, J.McClenaghan. May 2002.  
This and the following routes are to the north of Sea Lum. Starting from the bottom of Sea Lum, Skraa takes a diagonal line up and right across the face to finish at the top of Wye Aye Chimney.

*Wye Aye Chimney* 20m Severe \*. M. & K.Tighe, P.Rosher. May 2002.  
The improbable looking chimney gives a thought-provoking struggle with spaced protection.

#### **Yellow Walls:**

North of Wye Aye Chimney is a wall with yellow lichen at the top, and a rounded ledge at about half-height. Two short routes have been done from here taking leisurely crack-lines from the ledge (Yellow Walls left and right, Severe, 2002). The next route starts from a smaller footledge just below the northern end of the rounded ledge, and climbs the seaward arête.

*Promptu* 20m Mild VS 4b \*. M.Hudson, A.Holden. May 2004.  
Traverse 3m right to a shallow groove in the arête. Pad up the arête past a yellow ramp to the final steepening with good positions throughout.

Around the corner from here is a claustrophobic gap between the Non-Stack and the Split Stack. A steep and brooding wall forms the north end of the Non-Stack. The next route takes a line of cracks 2m in from the seaward arête. Abseil down the line of the route from the north end of the Non-Stack.

*Émigré* 20m VS 4c \*. M.Hudson, D.MacAulay. August 2004.  
From the seaward end of the ledges, thoughtful zigzagging (crux) reaches a projecting block at 5m. Follow the cracks above past an open V-groove just right of the arête.

There is a fine chimney-crack up the north end of the Non-Stack.

*One o'Clock Crack* 20m HVS 5a/b \*. M. & K.Tighe. May 2002.  
Abseil down the line of the route from the north end of the Non-Stack or, much better, traverse in from the top of the big flat stone – see next section.

*Father's Day* 20m Severe. M. & K.Tighe, S.Fraser, J.Armour. 15th June 2003.  
Climbs a chimney in the wall to the south of the North Stack. There is a little wedged chockstone at two-thirds height.

*Hoodie Groove* 20m VS 4c. M.Tighe, J.Armour. 15th June 2003.  
A few metres in from the left edge of the wall is a wee ledge just on the high tide line but with no belay (abseil rope used). Climb up the groove until it overhangs. Bridge wide and go for the left-hand crack to the top.

*Minke* 20m HVS 5a/b \*\*. M. & K.Tighe. 15th June 2003.  
Start from the ledge at the bottom of Hoodie Groove. Swing out right and climb an immaculate crack in the wall.

## NORTHERN HIGHLANDS NORTH

### **BEINN DEARG, Coire Ghranda:**

*Final Destination* 130m VIII,7 \*. G.Robertson, A.Robertson. 23rd January 2005.

A bold and complex mixed route taking on the challenge of the huge unclimbed wall left of Ice Bomb. Should become icier but may then be even bolder. Start about 20m right of an obvious deep recess/fault immediately right of Ticked Rib.

1. 20m. Climb a diminishing groove up left towards and then round an edge to a perch overlooking the fault, then continue over a couple of steps to a good but cramped belay.
2. 30m. Traverse a slab rightwards on thin ice, then move up and across right again to a delicate step down into a groove. Climb this up to below an obvious black corner with blank slabs on the right. Step left on to the rib, then up directly for a couple of metres before a precarious step left leads to a good belay.
3. 30m. Climb directly up the bulging wall above into an obvious deep groove, then take a crack on the right before stepping back left into the groove above. Follow the groove until strenuous moves lead out left.
4. 30m. Climb straight up slabs for a few metres, then make tricky moves left and up on tufts to an overlap. Climb straight over the overlap and up again into a blind groove (obvious flake runner up on right), then swing across and right into a groove system. Follow the groove system steeply without much in the way of protection to thick ice that leads to a ledge and belay.
5. 20m. Step down and across left into a fault which leads to easier ground and the top.

**Note:** P.Robertson was also on the first ascent of Cold War.

### **SEANA BHRAIGH, Luchd Coire, An Sgurr:**

*Corriemulzie Rib* 300m II. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 18th December 2004.

The fourth from the right of the six ribs (the rib left of Nether Rib). More continuous than the others and with a steeper central step climbed direct at about grade III, although avoidable.

### **SEANA BHRAIGH, Luchd Coire:**

Three parallel ice lines in the centre of the buttress between The Chute and Query Cleft, climbed by B.Davison and D.McGimpsey on 17th February 2005:

*Brassica* 90m III,4.

Climbs an icy chimney, grooves and short walls left of a dyke-like feature.

*Rondo* 90m II.

The middle ice line, immediately right of the dyke feature. Surprisingly easy climbing.

*White Lady* 90m III.

The right-hand line.

### **BEINN LICE:**

**Note:** A.Bailey & R.McKeddie climbed a frozen waterfall, marked on the 1:50000 map at NC 336 354. About 40m with a 20m vertical section, IV,5 (1990). 10mins approach, visible from the road. A good combination with Meall an Leithreach (5mins drive away).

### **RHUE:**

**Note (I.Taylor):** The notorious wide slot on Rhue Morgue takes a Camalot 4.5 or 5. An excellent route at E4 5c \*\*.

### **ARDMAIR:**

*Little Toe* 30m E4 5c \*. I.Taylor, T.Fryer. 21st July 2004.

A left hand finish to Big Foot. From half-way up the upper wall of Big Foot, swing left and go up a strenuous curving crack to gain the left side of the foot shaped block. Finish straight up Iguana Direct (the crack-line above) or up the right-slanting corner of Big Foot.

**Note:** I.Taylor notes that Neart nan Gaidheal is described as being right of Unleash the Beast, but is actually to its left. And Friends Retrieval is a right-facing (rather than a left-facing) corner.

### **CAMAS MOR:**

*Pirate King* 40m E2 5c. I.Small, A.Hume. 21st May 2004.

Climb the obvious roof slot and arête between Buccaneer and Grapeshot. Start up the arête between Buccaneer and Grapeshot to gain a flake/ramp line and ledge. Move right across the wall above to below the roof. Gain the offwidth

slot in the roof (very large Friend useful) and climb it with holds on the right edge. From the ledge above climb final cracked arête initially on the right.

*T.W.O.C.* 30m E3 6a. I.Small, A.Hume. 21st May 2004.

Climbs the centre of the steep wall to the right of Hit and Run by a series of diagonal cracks and breaks. Start down and right from the corner of Hit and Run. Follow a thin crack past a wide break, then transfer right to another crack. Go up this on pockets, then right to a further crack. Where this ends, climb directly up breaks to the top.

#### **BEN MORE COIGEACH, Cona' Mheall, Crucifix Buttress:**

The Right-Hand Buttress re-named.

*Hooded Crack* 25m E3 5c \*\*. J.R.Mackenzie, R.Brown. 30th April 2004.

To the right of Anarchist Crack is a steep slabby wall with twin cracks and an overhung hood, just to the left of the most prominent feature of the crag, a cross-shaped crack. Climb the twin cracks to the hood which provides the strenuous crux. Continue up the short wide crack above to finish. Excellent climbing and good protection.

*Crucifixion Crack* 25m E4 6a \*\*. J.R.Mackenzie, A.Nisbet. 9th September 2004.

The centrepiece of the buttress is the straight cross-shaped crack. It provides a splendid exercise in technical jamming. Belay well to the right of the crack. Climb the lower corner, past 'The Guillotine', a mechanically sound but alarming block, to reach and jam up the overhanging crack to the top. Excellent cam protection, several Friends 3 or similar useful. Possibly three stars and E3 if brushed clear of powdery lichen.

#### **CUL MOR, Creag nan Calman:**

*Threadmor* 120m E1 5b. I.Small, A.Hume. 22nd August 2004.

This route climbs a prominent flake-corner on the buttress right of the foot of the slanting East Gully. Start about 25m right of the gully and immediately of a large black recess.

1. 15m. Move up left on heathery ledges to directly below a left-facing corner.
  2. 30m 5b. Move up to the corner and climb directly to a perched pinnacle. From its top pull steeply up a large flake to land on a heathery ledge. Belay to the right at a wide crack.
  3. 15m 5a. Climb the wide crack past the grassy pod to easier ground.
  4. 30m. Move diagonally right and climb the right edge of a monster flake to a corner below roofs.
  5. 35m 5a. Traverse left on a slab below the roofs, then directly up by cracks to easier ground.
- Scramble up for 80m to a more level bench. Descent is down the grassy East Gully.

#### **CUL BEAG, West Face:**

*Kveldro Ridge* 200m III,5. E.Brunskill, D.Morris. 26th December 2004.

A winter ascent of the summer route.

*Curving Chimney* 105m IV,5. E.Brunskill, G.Macfie, D.Morris. 18th January 2005.

Start at the lowest point of the buttress and climb a narrow icy gully up to a terrace leading left to below the Stags Wall (35m). The summer route route was then followed in two pitches without the deviation to the pulpit, mainly up steep turfy grooves and chimneys.

*Beagbie* 120m V,6 \*. E.Brunskill, G.Macfie, D.Morris. 18th January 2005.

This route follows the prominent turfy groove system on the right side of the Lurgainn Edge tower. Start just right of the bottom of the tower and climb up gradually steepening turfy ground and walls to a belay about 5m below where the groove starts to narrow (35m). Climb the sustained and poorly protected groove (50m). Continue up to join Lurgainn Edge and follow this to the top (35m).

#### **REIFF, Pinnacle Area:**

*Salt Pans* 10m E3 6b \*. I.Taylor. July 2004.

Climb the wall just left of Earth Shaker to a sloping ledge. Step right and finish up a short hanging corner.

#### **Bouldering Cliff:**

*Rampant Groove* E4 5c \*\*. S.Crowe, K.Magog. 31st May 2004.

Climb The Ramp to near its top, place good cams in the large break, then step left and boldly continue up the hanging groove.

**Note:** M.Barnard climbed the following on 8th June 2004. The crack immediately left of The Ramp, rising in a series of short steps. Upon reaching the bottom of the last step veer left up a short chimney, leading to the top. It seems very close to The Ramp, but might be a variation finish.

**Spaced Out Rockers Cliff:**

*Misha* 35m E6 6b \*\*\*. G.Latter, K.Magog. 26th May 2004.

The central line up the wall, midway between Headlong and Culach. Very sustained. Start 6m right of the arête of Headlong, directly beneath an obvious thin diagonal hanging crack. Weave up first left, then rightwards along breaks to pull back left and move up to the vague crack. Climb this leading to undercut flakes and follow these to gain the break on Spaced Out Rockers... Make hard moves up the wall above (crux) to better holds and a good break. Move out right along this and pull up onto a ledge in the recess (junction with Culach – possible belay). Move out left and continue more easily past large spike to finish. Well-protected – three sets of cams required!

**Rubha Ploytach:**

*The Evil of Spuds* 12m Very Difficult \*. C.Angus, O.Gray. 22nd July 2004.

Pull on to the left side of the slab immediately right of The Slide. Trend up and right and finish in a prominent notch.

*Rodney's Ramble* 12m Severe \*\*. O.Gray, C.Angus. 22nd July 2004.

Start just left of Touchdown Montana and climb the steep wall to the overhang. Traverse left on good holds to finish as for the previous route.

**LOCHINVER CRAGS, Loch Braigh Crag (Ardroe):**

*Skid Roe* 25m E4 6a. P.Craig N.Craig. 7th April 2004.

Start at an embedded flake, 3m right of the lowest point of the crag. Climb straight up the wall to the left end of the diagonal break that crosses the crag from bottom right to top left. Pull over the overlap via a broken crack system and follow a lichenous shallow gangway right to a pale groove just left of the main roof. Climb the groove to the top.

**ACHMELVICH, Middle Tier Crag:**

Right of Loch Dubh Slab and close to the loch shore is Waterfall Buttress with an obvious waterfall dropping down its left side. Directly above this and partially hidden from view is Middle Tier Crag while up and slightly right is Ardroe Slab.

**Approach:** The easiest approach to Loch Dubh Slab and Middle Tier Crag is to go back down the road from the parking spot for 50m and then take the track to the right. This leads round behind Loch Dubh Crag and back to the loch shore at a small bay just to the left of Loch Dubh Slab. Take a grassy boggy gully on the left to the top of Middle Tier Crag, 20mins.

The crag consists of a 20m tier of excellent gneiss with an overhung base shrouded by birch trees. To right of the overhung section is a blunt arête above some blocks and right again an overhung arrow shaped recess with a hand crack running out to the right.

*Windy Ridge* 20m Severe. S.R. and K.E.Charlton. August 2004.

Follow the hand crack up and right for 5m, then move left on to the slab and climb to the top.

*Bracken's Dilemma* 20m HVS 5a \*. S.R. and K.E.Charlton. August 2004.

From the block below the blunt arête swing up and left on to a small ledge. Step right and follow the obvious crack and slabs.

**INCHNADAMPH LIMESTONE CRAGS:**

*Death Rattle* 70m E2 5b. J.R.Mackenzie, R.Brown. 6th August 2004.

About 20m left of Acid Rock is a small rowan tree belay. Climb steeply up the wall to its right, past a hole and undercut section. Continue straight up on good grey rock to below a square overhang; step left then back right above it to big holds and the end of the technical climbing which has well spaced protection. Dangerous loose steep ground leads up grass and broken rock to a shallow 'gully' to the right (50m). Continue up easy loose rock up and left to the top (20m).

**LOCH GLENDHU, Sundowner Crag:**

**Note:** Sundance Buttress is similar to Until the Fat Lady Sings, as suggested in the new guide, but the second half of the route was further left.

*Strictly Ballroom* 100m Severe. J.Gillespie, A.Currie. July 2004.

Start 15m to the right of Sundance Buttress. Climb slabs to the bottom of a large overhanging corner, in three pitches. Finish last pitch up wall to right of corner.

The next four climbs start across the river from Sundowner Crag.

*River Dance* 50m Moderate. D.Jessiman, A.Currie. July 2004.  
From the river climb the arête in two pitches.

*Dannsa nam Mara* 40m Very Difficult. D.Jessiman, K.Bolger, J.Gillespie, A.Currie. July 2004.  
Start 10m right of River Dance. Climb cracks to top of wall in two pitches.

*Moon Dance* 55m Severe. K.Bolger, D.Jessiman, J.Gillespie, A.Currie. July 2004.  
Start 15m right of Dannsa nam Mara at red rocks. Trend left for 15m, then straight to top of the wall in two pitches.

*Rain Dance* 25m Very Difficult. D.Jessiman, A.Currie. July 2004.  
Start at buttress 100m to the left of River Dance. Climb the centre of the buttress.

The following climb can be found at NC 288 335, on a small buttress near the bothy, overlooking the river.

*Ya Dancer* 20m VS 5a. W.Gorman, J.Gillespie, A.Currie. July 2004.

Climb an overhanging wall (hard), then up to a square-cut corner (protection) and on to the top.

### **FAR NORTH WEST CRAGS, Tarbet Sea Cliffs, Onion Slab:**

(NC 161 494). Non-tidal. South-West facing.

A sunny slab, but with some loose rock before cleaning. There are smaller slabby walls farther out, but tidal.

**Approach:** Park at Tarbet and head north-west through a field and gate. Go up over a knoll to meet a fence, followed to a gate at the top of a gully which leads down to the base of the slab.

*Onion Rock* 30m E2 5b \*\*. A.Nisbet, R.Brown, J.R.Mackenzie. 10th September 2004.

The left side of the slab is composed of smooth white rock. Climb the leftmost crack-line, which is just right of the white rock until a delicate traverse leads left to the edge. Place poor RP's and move up left on to a sloping shelf. Climb a fine finger crack to the top.

*Red Chilli* 25m E2 5b \*. J.R.Mackenzie, R.Brown, A.Nisbet. 10th September 2004.

A right-slanting line of weakness on the right side of the slab; the rock is not as good but the protection better. Start about 3m right of Onion Rock. Climb upwards to a steepening, then follow a line of handholds rightwards through a bulge to an easier finish.

### **Tarbet Sea Cliffs, Raven's Crag:**

*Deep Water Blues, Direct Finish* 15m E1 5b \*\*\*. J.R.Mackenzie, R.Brown. 6th August 2004.

From the stance above the first pitch an overhanging crack continues straight up the headwall. Climb up to a ledge then climb the crack on generous holds (including a mechanically sound but wobbly jug), jams and protection to the top. A finely positioned and enjoyable stretch of climbing.

### **Rock Garden Crags, Rockery Wall:**

*Dianthus* 15m Very Difficult \*. B. & A.Evans. June 2004.

Seen from the top of Rock Garden Slab there is an obvious pink slab about 100m right, on Rockery Wall. Climb this at its cleanest part, crossing two diagonal cracks.

*Flower Power* 15m Hard Severe 4b \*. G. & K.Latter. 11th April 2004.

Start right of Stone Flowers. Climb right side of the slab to a hanging crack.

### **Creag Cnoc Thull:**

*Cnoc Cnoc* 20m HVS 4c/5a \*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 11th April 2004.

A parallel line to Drop 'Em Low. Climb to the left end of the lower overhang and pull up right across this into a groove, which is climbed to the roof. Pull over rightwards onto the slab and climb cracks to the top.

### **Ridgeway View Crag:**

*Starry Saxifrage* 14m Severe 4a \*\*. K. & G.Latter. 10th April 2004.

The rightmost crack in the slab, just left of shallow groove.

*The Silk Glove Memorial Route* 12m Severe \*\*. C.Angus, O.Gray. 25th July 2004.

Climb the prominent crack line 4m right of Row the Boat Ashore, with a slight kink leftwards at half-height.

*Rodney's Gneiss Route* 10m Severe \*. O.Gray, C.Angus. 25th July 2004.

Climb a left-facing corner 2m right again until it is possible to pull on to the arête at half-height. Follow cracks to the top.

*C Weed* 10m E1 5b \*\*. P.Armitage, M.Stubbs. 13th July 2004.

Start about 8m right of Row The Boat Ashore up the descent slope. A thin crack runs up through a break at 4m. Climb up through this on small edges, continue up to ledges and finish going left to the top.

*Club Moss* 15m Difficult \*\*. K. & G.Latter. 10th April 2004.

The fine blunt rib just above the base of the descent gully at the left end of the main crag.

*C Dogs* 20m VS 4b \*. M.Stubbs, P.Armitage. 13th July 2004.

Fifty metres left of the main crag is a mossy slab capped by a large roof. Further left of this is a large ledge. Scramble up this to below another small capped roof with a hanging small chimney to its right edge. Climb the slab beneath this roof. Hand traverse right under the roof and pull up into the chimney via a jammed flake. Climb a crack to the top.

#### **Ardmore View Crag (NC 229 519):**

The north-west flank of the little knoll to the north-west of Ridgeway View Crag is lined with small slabs and walls. Park off the road in a convenient parking spot just beyond, or before a small stream and walk up and around the shoulder to gain the first rocks in 5mins.

*Two Bit Crack* 15m Very Difficult. R. & C.Anderson. 10th April 2004.

This lies on the first slab, starting just left of a V-slot crack a short way above the ground to climbs a vague line of cracks up and leftwards to the highest point.

Moving left and up is a short wall seamed with cracks and then up and left in a corner is a nice pink slab with a thin crack running up it.

*Around the Block* 15m VS 4c. R. & C.Anderson. 10th April 2004.

Climb the crack up the left side of the slab, then go up and left around a block into a groove which leads to the top.

*Ardmore Crack* 15m E3 5c \*. R. & C.Anderson. 10th April 2004.

The thin crack up the slab. Climb Sign of Weakness to the horizontal Friend slot, then move up a short way and place a wire. Return to the horizontal Friend slot and move left to gain the base of the crack. Climb the crack, useful Friend just above the horizontal break.

*Sign of Weakness* 15m VS 4c \*. R. & C.Anderson. 10th April 2004.

The line of weakness running up the right side of the slab. Climb to a horizontal Friend slot and continue to the top.

*Wavy Crack* 15m VS 4c. R. & C.Anderson. 10th April 2004.

The right-slanting crack up the slab just left of the corner.

#### **The Balcony:**

A short way to the left is a steep slabby wall with a pleasant heather balcony running along its base. Two waterworn streaks (often wet) with cracks running up them are prominent on the left-hand section of the wall. Although the routes are very close together the climbing is excellent. Routes are described from right to left.

*Space and Time* 15m E2 5b \*. R. & C.Anderson. 15th April 2004.

Start just to the left of the obvious crack-line running up the left side of the wall. Climb a mixture of the clean rock to the left of the crack-line and the crack-line itself. The climbing and the rock is better 1m to the left but the gear is in the crack. Move left to the bulge and surmount this rightwards around the nose.

*The Sky's the Limit* 15m E3 5b \*\*. R. & C.Anderson. 15th April 2004.

Start just to the right of the grassy ledge which sits just above the ground in the middle of the wall. Climb directly into a shallow scoop, then move right along a horizontal break to step up on to this. A tiny hole is located on the wall above. A skyhook can be placed in this to protect the moves directly past it to reach holds where a step left gains a good horizontal break. Step up right, surmount the bulge and finish leftwards around the nose.

*Little Star* 15m E3 5c \*\*\*. R. & C.Anderson. 15th April 2004.

The thin crack-line in the centre of the wall. Immediately left of The Sky's the Limit. Climb to the left end of the ledge just above the ground. Go up left on to a small ledge at the start of the crack. Climb the crack and the bulge to finish.

*Starstreak Enterprise* 15m E3 5c \*\*\*. R. & C.Anderson. 13th August 2004.

The thin crack up the waterworn orange streak in the centre of the crag is often wet but when dry it provides a fine little route. Start to the right of the crack and climb it to the top. A step left just below the upper crack allows good gear to be placed in the diagonal crack of Gallactica.

*Galactica* 15m E3 5c \*\*. R. & C.Anderson. 1st May 2004.

A line based around the thin crack-line up the waterworn orange streak in the centre of the crag. Climb the left side of the crack until it is possible to reach a short diagonal slot and go left to more diagonal slots and a diagonal break. Step left across the arching groove and delicately move up to a small slot, then finish directly.

*Solar Gain* 15m E3 5c \*\*. R. & C.Anderson. 1st May 2004.

A line based around the arched groove toward the left side of the crag. The streak on the left is slow drying and this is a fine alternative. Climb to the base of the groove, then go left to a good slanting slot before going up and slightly right to a horizontal break at the apex of the arch. Climb the thin crack-line above and finish just left of the widening crack at the top of the crag.

The final two routes take lines up the waterworn pink streak at the left end of the wall, often wet.

*Moondust* 15m E2/3 5c \*\*\*. R. & C.Anderson. 13th August 2004.

Start at a small flange and climb directly to the slanting slot of Solar Gain before moving up and slightly left to the horizontal break. Step left, then climb directly to the top.

*Outer Space* 15m E2 5c \*. R. & C.Anderson. 13th August 2004.

Start at the extreme left end of the wall. Attain a standing position in a horizontal slot, step left and climb a thin crack to a ledge on the edge. Climb the right side of the edge to the top.

#### **Oldshoremore:**

Seen from the rocks in the middle of Oldshoremore Sands the headland on the south side of the sands consists of a short wall of gneiss leading from the shore to a break about halfway along. From here a black gabbroic intrusion starts from sea-level and increases in height to the right until it forms the full height of the crag before fading into gneiss at the end of the headland. Routes are described from the tip of the headland and the base of the crag can be traversed at low to mid water. After this time, routes can either be reached by abseil or by traversing shorewards from the headland for routes up to and including those on the Black Wall or from an easy descent about 50m from the break halfway along the headland. This descent leads to sea-level and after an initial 'bad step' at the start round an arête, a traverse can be made across the base of a juggy black wall to just before the chimney at the left of the Black Wall itself.

From the tip of the headland a good ledge runs for about 10m below a short bouldering wall to a west facing slab (The Ochre Slab). The right crack is Difficult, the centre of the wall Severe and the left arête Very Difficult. About 10m left of the Ochre Slab is a deep black square-cut chimney (the end of the gabbroic intrusion). Just before the chimney is the Golden Wall which starts from a ledge about 3m above the traverse. On this wall, Stepover (Mild VS 4b) starts from the ledge and then follows the shallow groove/corner leading slightly right. The Arête takes the left arête of the Golden Wall (the right arête of the chimney) at HVS 5a starting from the base of the chimney or VS 4c by traversing in from the chimney above the initial overhang. The left, west-facing wall of the chimney has a Difficult crack and a Very Difficult wall climb up the black rock, starting from the gneiss base. Around the arête to the left is a steep black wall (The Black Wall) starting from a sea-washed ledge. The right arête is Hard Severe (4a), the central crack to the ledge followed by a thin crack/groove is E1 5b, while moving left from the ledge into the shallow groove is HVS 5a (the groove can be reached from below 5b). At the left of the Black Wall is another deep black chimney which marks the end of the low to mid water traverse. This chimney forms the right end of the juggy, black wall leading from the easy descent. The juggy, black wall above the traverse gives a number of routes between Difficult and Mild Severe. Just before the deep chimney there is an obvious overlap about 3m above sea level. The traverse and then the ascent of the overlap and the wall above gives an excellent Mild VS 4b. Routes by S.R. & K.E.Charlton in Summer 2003 and 2004.

#### **Slab above the Road:**

Park just before the gate at NC 204 582 and contour the hillside seawards for 80m to reach the base of the slab. The slab is defined by a broken chimney on the left and runs up and right to merge into the hillside. There is a crack running up the centre of the slab which fades towards the top.

*Springbank* HVS 5a \*. S.R. & K.E.Charlton. May 2004.

Start just right of the broken chimney at a short wall. This leads onto the slab which is followed up and right to about 5m below the top. Climb up an left to gain the top of the crag.

*Central Crack* HVS 5a \*\*. S.R. & K.E.Charlton. August 2004.

The central crack is followed to a junction with Springbank about 5m from the top.

*Puppy Dog Blues* E1 5b \*. S.R. & K.E.Charlton. August 2004.

Starts just right of Central Crack and takes the shallow left-facing corner above. Both holds and protection are at a premium until the corner itself is reached after which the climbing eases considerably.

**CREAG AN FHITHICH, Triangular Buttress:**

About 60m directly above Russet Wall is Triangular Buttress and right at roughly the same level is a massive gneiss block. Directly above and behind this block is Back Stage. The main face of Triangular Buttress is above a rock ledge above a clear shallow pool and is bounded on the right by a blunt arête starting at about 3m and by a crack on the left. Between these features is another vertical crack which starts just above the rock ledge and runs out on to the upper slab.

*Just a Tease* 15m HVS 5a \*\*. S.R. and K.E.Charlton. August 2004.

Gain the hanging arête either direct or from the right and the climb directly to the top.

*Straight Crack* 15m VS 4c \*. S.R. and K.E.Charlton. August 2004.

The central crack.

*Flaming June Crack* 15m VS 4c. S.R. and K.E.Charlton. August 2004.

The leftmost crack

**Back Stage:**

The main feature is a deep chimney in the centre of the crag. About 5m left of the deep chimney is a short wall below a ledge with a crack running up and left from the right end of the ledge. At the left of the short wall is a shallow wet gully.

*Midsummer Sun* 20m Hard Severe 4a \*. S.R. and K.E.Charlton. August 2002.

Start up the short wall just to the right of the base of the slanting crack. Climb direct to the ledge, then move slightly right up a faint arête and the follow a shallow groove to the top.

*Easy Option* 20m Hard Severe 4a \*. S. R. and K.E.Charlton. August 2002.

Start up the short wall directly below the left-slanting crack. Gain this and follow it to its end, then go straight up the arête.

**Sandwood Bay:**

The following route lies on Crag Two and takes a direct line just right of Marram.

*Beach Wall* 60m VS \*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 16th April 2004.

Start on the first rocks at the extreme right side of the sandy beach at bottom of the wall.

1. 35m 4c/5a. Climb directly up compact rocks and thin cracks heading for a shallow corner and thin crack some halfway up the wall. Move up the corner a short way, then out right into the crack, then up right to gain ledges below a small roof. Move up left and around the edge of the steepening to gain large ledges.
2. 25m. Scramble to the top.

The next route lies on Crag One, the first one encountered at the northern end of the beach.

*Sandwood Bay Crack* 15m E2 5c \*\*. R.Anderson, C.Anderson. 16th April 2004.

A great little route in a stunning setting. Start off the beach at the right side of the crag just left of a steep area of perfect rock. Climb the steep crack past a horizontal break. Scramble down leftwards to descend.

**Note:** In May 2004 A.Perry climbed a steep juggy 10m crack and the wall to its left, both situated about 50m left of the mini geo mentioned in the new guide, on the wall just to the left of the large overhang.

**FOINAVEN, Fourth Dionard Buttress:**

There is a mistake in the new guide, in that the route descriptions for Gritstoners Revenge and Badile are the same. This is because they would seem to be the same route given two names. The Fourth Buttress is the most likely location but the line has not been found. The following route is a direct line on excellent clean rock and does not fit their description.

*Triskaidekaphobia* 130m VS \*\*. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 13th August 2004.

Climbs clean pale rock in the centre of the buttress. Start at the lowest point of the pale rock.

1. 55m 4c. Climb the pale rock trending slightly right to below steeper rock at a corner with a roof at the base of its right wall.

2. 30m 4c. Climb a shallow groove 5m to the left and continue up walls (well protected) to the base of a ramp (small tree here, well seen from below the cliff).
3. 45m 4c. The ramp is not pleasant so make a tricky move up the wall on the left and finish up slabby ground.

#### **CAITHNESS EAST COAST, Duncansby Stacks:**

*Little Stack, Seaward Face* 12m Mild VS 4b. M.Dent, R.I.Jones. 4th July 2004.

From the left end of the seaward platform climb the wall to the left of an overhang to a ledge at 5m. Traverse right and climb the corner-crack to the top (same as the original route).

#### **Bucholly Castle Stacks, Black Score North Stack (ND 38071 65401):**

*South East Face Route* 30m VS 4b \*\*. M.Robson, S.M.Richardson. 30th May 2004.

The northerly of the two fine-looking stacks 600m south of Bucholly Castle. Approach by abseiling from fence posts to reach a sea-washed platform below the stack (exposed two hours either side of low tide). Climb the arête on the south-west edge of the stack for 4m, then traverse left along the foot ledge running across the west (landward) face to reach the prominent crack which is followed to the summit. Large cams useful. Abseil descent.

#### **Black Score South Stack (ND 38064 65372):**

*North East Arête* 30m VS 4c. S.M.Richardson, M.Robson. 30th May 2004.

Approach as for the North Stack and walk across the sea-washed platform to below the north edge of the stack. Climb easily up ledges and the obvious wide open corner to a spacious ledge at the base of a fine black wall. Climb the left-slanting crack for 8m to reach a large ledge on the arête - possible belay (25m, 4c). Tackle the short overhanging wall and mantleshelf on to the mud summit (5m, 4b). Descent: Reverse finishing moves (sling threaded around summit cairn offers some protection) to the ledge on the arête and abseil from a spike and in-situ wire.

#### **North Stack of Martin's Sclaite (ND 38000 65084):**

*Golden Brown* 25m HVS 4c \*. M.Robson, S.M.Richardson. 25th September 2004.

This difficult-looking stack lies 300m south of the Black Score stacks. Approach by abseiling from a fence post just north of a drainage channel to reach a small boulder beach, then swim 15m across the channel to reach the long platform below the stack. Start in the centre of the steep concave south-east face. Climb up on big horizontal bands, pass a roof at one-third height, and finish up the corner above. Descent: From the north-east end of the summit climb down a wide crack on the south-east face for 5m and abseil from in-situ peg belay.

#### **South Stack of Martin's Sclaite (ND 37966 65011):**

*With Friends Like These* 25m E2 \*\*. M.Robson, S.M.Richardson. 25th September 2004.

Approximately 70m south of the North Stack is another challenging stack. Approach by walking along the platform from the North Stack (exposed two hours either side of low tide). Start in the wide alcove-slot on the north side of the stack.

1. 10m 5a. Climb the left side of the alcove and make an awkward exit to reach a good ledge on the left. Move left to the north-east arête. Friend 4 belay.
  2. 5m 5c. Move round the arête and climb the steep wall above (bold) to gain a good ledge.
  3. 10m 4c. Climb up and right from the right end of the ledge and climb the north edge to the top.
- Descent: Reverse the top pitch for 3m and abseil off in-situ pegs.

#### **AUCKENGILL, Overhang Wall:**

*Fishy Fingers* 9m VS 4c. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 5th July 2004.

From the 1m step, climb the left-facing corner.

*Fishy Surprise* 8m VS 4c. R.Wallace (unsec). 2nd July 2004.

Climb the shallow groove between the 1m step and Traction Control.

#### **NOSS HEAD, Pow Feet Stack (ND 37560 54840):**

*East Face Route* 20m VS. S.M.Richardson, M.Robson. 30th May 2004.

The prominent offshore stack in the bay well seen from Castle Sinclair. Approach by descending the cliff to sea-washed platforms (accessible three hours either side of low tide) and swimming a 10m channel to a spacious ledge at the base of the stack. Climb the wall and prominent left-slanting crack on the east face to exit on to a tottering pillar on the south-east arête. Continue up grass and dubious rock to the summit. Abseil from tat around the summit.

#### **Impossible Stack (ND 37460 54790):**

*A Few Feet Short* 25m VSL (Very Severely Loose). M.Robson, S.M.Richardson. 30th May 2004.

The difficult-looking stack 120m west of Sinclair's Bay Stack. Approach at low tide by traversing sea-washed platforms to gain a large flat rock at the north-west corner of the stack. Step across to the stack and climb good rock until a swing leftwards can be made to a ledge. Climb the short wide crack above (large cam useful) and then up steep grass to the summit block. Climb the crack in the west side of the summit block to finish on a rounded mound of mud

and bird debris. Descent: Downclimb a few metres and abseil the south-west ridge. (Note, an easier line is possible up the south-west ridge – rotten rock with minimal protection).

**WICK SEA CLIFFS, Stack of Old Wick (ND 36890 48540):**

*Lord Oliphant's Bicycle* 40m VS 4b \*\*\*. M.Robson, S.M.Richardson. 11th April 2004.

A superb stack 100m south-east of the Castle of Old Wick. Approach by abseiling from fence posts and making a pendulum to ledges at the foot of the landward side of the stack. Traverse right along easy but greasy ledges before moving up to a large ledge on the right arête. Climb a crack and swing left to a large ledge on the arête. Climb up easily until it is possible to move back right to the south-west face. Climb cracks in the middle of the south-west face to the summit. Descent: Abseil from an *in-situ* peg and wire on the landward face.

*Salt Water Accelerator Escape Route* 40m VS. S.M.Richardson, M.Robson. 11th April 2004.

Takes a line back up the main cliff following the approximate line of the abseil. Climb a short corner to a ledge then climb a left trending line to a large ledge at 20m - possible belay (4c). Continue up a series of short steep walls interspaced with good ledges and move leftwards along the ledge system to top out at the initial abseil point (4b).

**SOUTH HEAD OF WICK:**

The crag is curiously described and while the rock is different the two walls with the routes described in the guide do give some superb powerful climbing. Routes are described from right to left looking in. Comments on routes in the guide are from N.Morrison.

*Chewin' The Fat* 8m E4 6a \*\*. N.Morrison, W.Moir. 8th July 2004.

The rightmost crack-line on the wall with a small white niche at half-height leading to a step in the cliff-top. Technical but with adequate gear. Abseil inspected and practised.

*Whiteout* 9m E3 6a. It looks nearer E4 5c (limited gear and flakey rock).

*Riding The Waves* 9m E3 6a \*\*. W.Moir, N.Morrison. 8th July 2004.

The 'square wave' crack-line mentioned in the guide. An initial wall gains the left-hand crack. Transfer to the right-hand crack, then back to the left-hand crack at the top. Well protected. Abseil Inspected.

*Freeride* 9m E2 5b \*. Looks more like E3 5b.

The walls are now broken by the slabby corner of the easy central descent. The next section of wall is short to start with and gains in height after a step at the cliff-top. The shorter section is seamed with cracks and will provide further lines of a samey nature to Wick and Feeble (described below).

*Wick and Feeble* 9m E2 5b. N.Morrison, W.Moir. 5th July 2004.

A small ledge juts out at the base of the cliff. Climb cracks directly above the left edge of this to surmount an overlap into an area of more flakey rock split by vertical cracks. Yo-yoed while cleaning on sight.

*The Lightness of Being Right-hand* 12m E3 6a \*\*\*. W.Moir, N.Morrison. 6th July 2004.

Start up the original line then move right at half-height into the strikingly obvious cracks. Abseil inspected.

*The Lightness of Being* 12m E4 6a \*\*\*. An excellent route with an awkward top out but surely E4 rather than E3.

*The Darkness of Lard* 12m E4 6a \*\*\*. N.Morrison, W.Moir. 6th July 2004.

Left of the previous route is an alcove with a corner crack-line running from its left-hand side on to a wall with a hanging right-facing corner above. Powerful moves up the bulging left edge of the alcove access the wall and corner. Abseil inspected and redpointed.

Left of the above route is a vicious overhanging roof crack before the platform drops down a level to a small tidal zone. Across the tidal zone the platform gradually rises up below impressive steep walls, unfortunately formed of poorer rock and lacking significant cracks. At the far end of these walls is a black north-east facing wall with a left-trending diagonal crack on its left-hand side and two left-trending grooves to the right. The routes are described from left to right. They are usually easily reached from the seaward end but, if the small tidal zone is awash, an abseil down the north-east facing wall gives access.

*Cheeky Minke* 9m HVS 5a. R.Wallace, G.Richard. 22nd August 2004.

The left trending diagonal crack. Four metres left of Rooh-The-Pooh, Part II, make awkward moves up the diagonal crack to a ledge, then continue straight up the slab above.

*Roo-the-Pooh, Part II* 10m E1 5b. J.Malcolm, R.Wallace. 25th June 2004.

Climb up the middle groove through two small roofs to a ledge. Move up left over two ledges and by a shallow groove to the top.

*Second Craic* 11m HVS 5a. R.Wallace, J.Malcolm. 25th June 2004.

Start at the base of the right-hand groove and climb a wall to a crack. Climb the groove by a ledge on the right to finish steeply up the wall.

*Minke Magic* 16m E1 5b. R.Wallace, G.Richard. 22nd August 2004.

The south-west end of the impressive overhanging walls has a 2m high ledge which ends with an overhanging corner at its left end. Make difficult moves up the steepening corner using the crack in its rear to a rest below a small roof. Move left to a ledge on the arête, then continue up a slab and over a ledge to the top.

### **SARCLET, Tilted Ledge:**

South of Fishnet Necklace around the arête is another slabby groove.

*Fishpaste Breakfast* 15m Very Difficult. R.Christie, R.Wallace. 13th July 2004.

Climb the groove to a nose which is passed on the left.

*Oblimov* 15m Severe 4b. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 13th July 2004.

Climb the wall 2m to the left of Yawn to a not so obvious slabby groove which leads to a large flake. Make airy moves by a jug and on to the top.

*Hare of the Dowg* 15m Difficult. R.Wallace, L.More, G.Richard. 25th July 2004.

Climb a left-facing ledgy corner 2m left of Bobble to a large ledge. Follow the brown streaks above to a notch in the top edge.

*Suckin' on Divids* 15m HVS 5a. G.Richard, R.Wallace, L.More. 25th July 2004.

Starting at the base of Wicker Man, move up a right-trending broken ramp to a ledge at two-thirds height. Head up leftwards to join a faint crack-line that runs through a small roof and follow this to the top.

North from the Tilted Ledge is a 100m wide bay with a jutting headland in the middle.

*Lithium Fry-up* 35m HVS 5a \*\*. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 29th July 2004.

The third black corner from the north end of the tilted ledge has a deep black crack at its rear. From a platform at the base of the corner, climb the corner to a steep narrowing. Pull through this to easier ground and continue up the groove to a hanging spike. Move on to the left-hand wall and continue to the top of the corner.

*Hats off to the Catman* 35m HVS 5a \*\*. R.Christie, R.Wallace. 5th August 2004.

Start from the platform at the base of Lithium Fry-up. Follow the rising line of right-trending undercut flakes that steepen as they approach a roof. Make awkward moves around the right of the roof to move into a narrow corner, then climb the slab on the right to reach a stance below two corners. Go up the left corner to easier ground.

Directly landward from the north end of the Tilted Ledge is a grey slabby pillar with corners on either side (ND 341 418). Access by abseil.

*The Sad Lives of the Rabbit People* 35m VS 4c. R.Christie, R.Wallace. 22nd July 2004.

Start immediately right of the grey slabby pillar from a non-tidal platform. Climb a short narrow chimney to a slab and follow the crack up its left-hand side. Continue up the right-facing corner to a notch at the top.

*Chasmic Farce* 35m Severe 4b. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 26th July 2004.

Immediately right of The Sad Lives of the Rabbit People, easily climb a broken slab and groove to a narrow ramp, then continue up the cracked corner.

*Harvestmen are not Spiders* 35m Very Difficult. J.Stevenson, R.Christie. 1st August 2004.

A deep chimney to the right of Chasmic Farce.

At the north end of the bay is a 40m wide, 35m high south facing cliff with an overlap running along its left half at mid-height (ND 342 419). The non-tidal ledge at its base can be reached by abseil. In the middle of the cliff is a stunning left-facing overlapping flake/groove system with a generous crack running up its rear.

*Silver Surfer* 35m E1 5b \*\*\*. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 14th July 2004.

Scramble up an open blocky chimney to reach the base of the flake system. Use the flake to overcome a steep wall, then continue up and left until under a roof. Turn this to the left, then surmount the hollow sounding blocks to finish up the final square corner.

**Notes from N.Morrison:** For Big Buttress and the bulk of the crags (all barring First Bay and Second Bay) the approach from Sarclet Haven is unnecessarily long. It is possible to drive much closer on the minor road leading to Mains of Ulbster Farm and park level with the south end of the Loch. A direct line south-east to the coast then leads in about 0.5km to the coast at Big Buttress and the natural Arch south of it. The other way is about 1.5km and awkward terrain.

With regard to Big Buttress a full 50m of rope is needed to get through the stakes and reach the bottom. Walking on Water and Crypt Robber are superb routes.

The location of Djapana Buttress is wrongly described in that the guide says it can be seen by looking south-east from the top of the headland with the natural arch (which is immediately south of Big Buttress). Djapana Buttress is the NE corner of the headland with the natural Arch and can actually be seen from the top of Big Buttress by looking south-east. There is nothing other than air south-east of the headland with the arch.

**ULBSTER, Little Stack of Ulbster (ND 33528 41462):**

*Combined Operations* 20m Very Difficult. S.M.Richardson, M.Robson. 27th September 2004.

This twin-summitted stack lies 700m west of the Stack of Ulbster and is easily approached by following the valley southwards from the Mains of Ulbster to the cliff-top and downclimbing a ramp that leads to base of the stack (Difficult). Step across the 1.5m wide channel and climb easy slabs on west side to below a notch separating the summits. Climb a short steep corner up to the notch then continue left up large loose holds to the higher north summit. Descend by simultaneous abseil from the notch.

**WESTER WHALE GEO, The Shark's Fin (ND 31980 39960):**

*Harpoon at a Venture* 20m VS 4c \*. M.Robson, S.M.Richardson. 27th September 2004.

Approach by descending easy walls and shelves to the south of Wester Whale Geo and swimming 80m around headland to gain east end of stack. Start at the left (west) end of the south face. Climb a short steep wall to a ledge and continue up to the right slanting stepped crack-line that parallels the west ridge to reach the flat elongated summit. Descend by abseiling from large block on summit ridge.

**MID CLYTH, Lighthouse Wall:**

*Son in my Eyes* 25m HVS 5a \*. D.Porter, D.Moy. 3rd August 2003.

This route starts approximately 4m left of Aqualung where the rock turns darker. Climb the thin left-hand crack to a good platform and niche. Continue direct to an overhang above on the left, and surmount this on the left. Traverse right along the ledge and choose the easiest line up and right.

North of the descent into Lighthouse Wall, there are also a series of short easy routes, which may have been done before. They provide enjoyable soloing. The first three are described left (south) to right (north):

*Baby Yella* 10m Very Difficult. D.Moy, D.Porter. 3rd August 2003.

The second corner (yellow with lichen) to the right/north of the descent corner.

*Black Cleft* 10m Severe. D.Porter. 3rd August 2003.

The deep black cleft above a large green puddle.

*Don't Give up on me Baby* 10m Hard Severe. D.Porter, D.Moy. 3rd August 2003.

Approx 10m north of previous route, very near to the right end of the platform before it drops again to the final section. An easy blocky start leads to a final shallow V-groove with a thin crack at the back.

There is then some scrapper ground, and the following routes are now described from right (north) to left (south):

*Tartan Rug* 10m Severe. D.Moy, D.Porter. 3rd August 2003.

At the far right end of the access stepped platform system, traverse right along a wee ledge for 6m. Climb a corner-crack system, with a steep corner finish.

*Sweetie Wifie* 10m Very Difficult. D.Porter, D.Moy. 3rd August 2003.

The stepped left-facing corner at the end of the access platform.

*Old Git* 10m Very Difficult. D.Porter, D.Moy. 3rd August 2003.

The next corner-crack (3-4m from the last route).

*Whipper Snapper* 10m Severe. D.Porter, D.Moy. 3rd August 2003.

Just left again, twin cracks in the top half of a short wall. Start beneath a small black overhang and finish up the right-hand crack.

*Stolen Arête* 10m Hard Severe. D.Porter, D.Moy. 3rd August 2003.

The left-hand arête of that wall. Stick to the arête all the way, except to finish on the right. No gear.

*Fader* 8m Very Difficult. D.Porter, D.Moy. 3rd August 2003.

Two metres left of the arête, move up broken thin cracks to a right-slanting groove just to the left of the arête.

**Notes from N.Morrison:** An abb rope is needed for the main (Stack) area. Also the approach via the Lighthouse makes for a long circuitous walk when a walk south-east through the fields is quicker. The North Wall including battle of the Bulge and The Fearful Void looks like it needs a good dry spell as there was a small burn flowing over it July 2004.

*Two Lost Souls* (E1 5b) only gets one star but deserves two or even three.

*Silverfish* (E1 5b) deserves no stars as it has a nasty start with poor rock and the ground too close for the gear.

### **Skerry Mor Stack (ND 288 361):**

This is the stack referred to in the guide. The stack runs parallel to the cliff face for approximately 50m. Its base is 8m wide and is separated from the cliff by a narrow channel of water for nearly all states of the tide. Access for the daring can be made by a 2.5m jump on to the summit from the cliff at the closest point to the cliff face, however access is more safely gained by abseiling from a block on the cliff top at the south end of the stack to the base of the stack, which is accessible 2hrs either side of low tide.

*No More Marlon* 18m HVS 4c. R.I.Jones, M.Dent. 3rd July 2004.

A good exposed route up the south arête. From a tidal ledge on the south end of the stack, climb a short wall to a small terrace, followed by a short section of solid horizontal bands of rock below a vertical wall just right of the arête (Friend 3.5). Pull up this on to the arête in an exposed position, before pulling around this on to the landward wall to climb the arête to the top.

*Coulda been a Contender* 25m Severe. M.Dent, R.I.Jones. 3rd July 2004.

From the south end of the stack scramble along ledges on the seaward side to drop down on to the north end of the stack.

1. 12m. Climb the north wall right to a wide ledge at 6m and traverse to a crack-line in the west wall.

2. 13m. Climb the crack-line.

### **Stack Area - Skerry Mor:**

*Ron to the Hills* 15m E2 5b. D.Porter, S.Ritchie. 1st May 2004.

Between Freak Power and John's Peel. Gain the top of the Very Large Block via a thin crack left of centre on its face. Continue up the thin disappearing crack-line above, finishing into the right side of a niche where the angle and difficulty eases. Finish easily out of the niche.

### **Inset Wall:**

**N.Morrison notes:** *Mug's Game* should be described before *Susan* not after it.

*Susan* is probably E3 5c rather than E2 and is worth stars.

W.Moir climbed a new route left of Theatre of Cruelty at E2 5c.

*Frogstroker* HVS 5a is overstarred and merits one not three.

*Stage Fright* 15m E2 5c. W.Moir, N.Morrison. July 2004.

Climb Bloodhunt to the first ledge. Move right and continue up the thin crack-line and slot/groove to a ledge. Short corner to the top.

### **Over the Water:**

From Crispy Aromatic Duck, traverse left around the arête and up on to a triangular platform above the high tide mark.

*Mid Clyth Crisis* 10m HVS 5a. R.Christie, G.Richard, R.Wallace. 8th July 2004.

Climb the open overhanging corner to a large ledge on the left. Make an airy step across to the right-hand ledge, then mantelshelf and stretch to the top of the overhanging wall.

Left from Mid Clyth Crisis around a jutting arête is the last corner before the undercut pillar.

*World Wide Ebb* 10m E1 5a. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 7th July 2004.

From a platform above the high tide mark, climb a corner until it is split by an arête, then move up the short overhanging chimney to the left.

*Basking Seal* 10m E1 5b. R.Wallace, R.Christie, G.Richard. 8th July 2004.

From the left end of the platform, climb the bulging crack-line using the ledge and arête on the left, then continue leftwards and finish up a groove in the front of the pillar.

**South Bay:**

*PFB* 10m VS 4c. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 25th August 2004.

Climb the blank looking corner at the back right of the bay. Not as blank as it looks.

*Super Furry Animal* 10m VS 4c. R.Wallace, S.Ross, R.Christie. 25th August 2004.

Start as for Small North European Mammal to reach a small triangular niche at 3m. Now continue up the left-trending crack with increasingly difficult moves towards the top.

**LATHERONWHEEL, South Corner:**

*Bedpost* 10m VS 4c. R.Wallace, R.Christie. 24th May 2004.

Climb the arête left of Night Shift directly from the rock pool.

*Night Moves* 10m VS 4c. R.Christie, R.Wallace. 24th May 2004.

One metre left of Bedpost, towards the descent, step across the rock pool and climb the crack.

*No Coping Out* 8m VS 4c. R.Benton, R.I.Jones. 15th February 2004.

The right, less distinct crack-line left of the deep chimney and right of The Morning Line. High in the grade (but easy to cop out using the arête to the right!).

*Winter Blues* 8m VS 4c. R.I.Jones, R.Benton. 15th February 2004.

The crack-line left of The Morning Line. High in the grade.

*Sunstroked* 8m VS 4c \*. R.I.Jones, R.Benton. 15th February 2004.

Climb the wall 3m left of Shearwater to exit up a V-groove.

**Latheron Stacks, Niandt Stack (ND 21255 33075):**

*Three Step Corner* 20m Severe 4a. M.Robson, S.M.Richardson. 26th September 2004.

Gain the east face of the stack at low tide. Climb three giant steps in the centre of the face and finish up the corner above. Simultaneous abseil descent.

**Cleit Thighearn Latheron (ND 20150 32715):**

*Rosehip Ridge* 25m Moderate. M.Robson, S.M.Richardson. 26th September 2004.

Approach at low tide and climb the south (seaward) ridge to the top. Descend by down-climbing the route.

**Cleit a'Chail (ND 19465 32331):**

*Neptune's Love Funnel* 25m VSL (Very Severely Loose). S.M.Richardson, M.Robson. 26th September 2004.

On the right side of the landward face (accessible at high tide) is a pronounced pillar that is undercut at its base. Climb the left defining crack for 5m, traverse right on to the front face of the pillar. Climb this for 5m then move back left into the crack. Continue up this and the chimney above to easier ground and the top. A challenging route on unstable rock. Simultaneous abseil descent.

**ORKNEY, Yesnaby, The Black Dyke:**

(HY 221 163). Very Tidal. North-West facing.

Walk to the North end of the car park at the old Military buildings, at the north end of the last building turn and walk west towards the sea. On the cliff top is an unusual black wall separated slightly from the land by a shallow 'trench'. This is The Black Dyke, a 25m high, 30m long headland of black volcanic rock. This is the only example of this rock type on Orkney and gives completely different climbing from the rest of Yesnaby. When dry, this rock gives excellent climbing on big friction holds and at times sparse protection.

*Gable End (North)* 20m Severe \*. I.Miller, H.Clarke. 26th May 2004.

From the non-tidal platform at the base of the north end of the wall, climb the north facing arête. An escape from above two-thirds height reduces the grade to Very Difficult.

*Gable End (South)* 14m VS 4b \*. I.Miller, H.Clarke. 2nd March 2004.

From the tidal platform at the base of the south end of the wall, climb the south facing arête of the Black Dyke. Excellent climbing through big bulges with perfect protection.

The recessed bay to the north holds the continuation of the Black Dyke, where it runs into the land. This small bay gives the following routes.

*Steps* 20m Difficult. I.Miller. 28th May 2004.

Climb up big steps through a small recess, leading up from the seaward end of the north wall of this bay.

*Bigger Steps* 20m Very Difficult. I.Miller. 24th August 2004.

At the right end of the north wall, climb up the bigger steps to an open book groove, climb this to the top.

*Escaping the Rage* 22m VS 4b \*\*. I.Miller, H.Clarke. 26th May 2004.

Climb a very obvious black arête following twin finger cracks which run directly up the centre of this feature. Beware of the heaving pit, which sits below!!!

*Pit Stop* 22m Severe. I.Miller, H.Clarke. 26th May 2004.

An atmospheric route. Starting on the non-tidal platform as for Gable End (North), traverse towards the black arête to another platform at the base of a cracked slab. Climb the slab to the top.

#### **The Car Park Buttress:**

*The Numbtease Dance* 20m Very Difficult. I. & M.Miller, C. & H.Clarke. 3rd March 2004.

Approx. 8m left of Old Man's Folly, climb a right-trending, left-facing fault on big holds/small ledges. Finish either direct or continue on the fault to a small niche and the top.

#### **Brough of Bigging:**

The south face of The Brough of Bigging is composed of loose fragile rock. The first route below climbs the arête at the eastern end of the face, where the rock steps back to form the broad walkway on to the Brough. Access to the bottom is by abseil, either into the wee bay to the east followed by some nice sea level traversing, or by an abseil down the face. Belay points are few on the summit and a spare 60m rigging rope is required.

*Preserve of the Few* 20m XS 5a. D.Sargent, H.Clarke, I.Miller. 5th March 2004.

Climb the very obvious arête at the eastern end of the main face. Climb initially through an exposed roof and up poor rock to a grassy ledge. Climb directly up from the ledge on big sandy holds and exit to the right of the jutting nose to the summit.

At the west end of the south face of the Brough of Bigging sits a recessed bay of much better rock. The base of this end of the crag is very prone to big seas and should be approached with caution.

*Wall of Sound* 35m E1 5b. D.Sargent, H.Clarke. 5th March 2004.

1. 15m 5b. Climb the steep crack-line immediately to the left of the huge crack running into the roof of the cave, on good holds and perfect pockets to the huge ledge at half-height. Strenuous!
2. 20m. From this ledge climb the very obvious open book corner-crack to the summit. On poorer rock unfortunately.

#### **Qui Ayre Point, Point Wall:**

*Deep Blue* 10m E3 5c \*\*. N.Morrison, C.Webb. 22nd July 2004 .

The fine crack-line immediately right of The Cog. On sight. It is worth noting that a calm sea and low tide are needed for many of the routes hereabouts. The walls farther into the bay are a bit more sheltered.

#### **Tower Area:**

*The Forgotten* 18m E1 5b \*. I.Miller, H.Clarke. 4th March 2004.

Climb the thin full-height groove/crack immediately to the left of Bobbin's Groove. Easy at first to a ledge, followed by crimping though a black slab, then strenuous jug pulling up the last steep 6m. Excellent rock and adequate protection.

**Note:** N.Morrison says The Quarryman is a superb route but E2 5c not E1 5b.

#### **Arch Wall:**

*Mack the Knife* 20m E5 6a \*\*. T.Rankin, I.Miller. 2nd May 2004.

Climbs through the right end of the roof by an obvious little niche just left of Hajj. Climb the lower wall to the ledge, cross the roof at the apex of the niche and continue up the sustained wall to finish up a thin crack. Ronnie the Axe joins this line just below the thin crack. Another excellent sustained route. Low in the grade. This route could also be started from the ledge and climbed in a big sea.

**Note:** T.Rankin repeated Ronnie the Axe, agreed with grade and stars, but the indirect line was disappointing. Also repeated Summers End on the False Stack, agreed with grade and quality.

*The Langer Huddauf* 25m Difficult \*. I.Miller. 24th August 2004.

Start at the extreme right-hand end of the tidal platform at the base of Arch Wall (as for the starts of Wee Lum and Vision Quest.) Climb directly up on perfect rock to gain a sloping ledge, follow the ledge and step up at its highest point. Follow the big hand crack to the top.

*Lum Crack* 20m E3 5c \*\*. I.Miller, H.Clarke. 1st October 2004.

Climb the perfect steep hand/finger crack 3m right of the Wee Lum chimney. Access at low tide is by a short traverse to gain Wee Lum. At high tide, abseil in and take a stance on the non-tidal ledge at the base of Wee Lum.

#### **Moss Ghyll Geo:**

The geo into which runs the Moss Ghyll stream has a very broken appearance but the north wall holds the following two routes on sound rock and good gear.

*Easy Beginings* 10m Difficult. C.Webb, H.Clarke. 25th April 2004.

Climb the full height left-hand crack-line, starting at the seaward end of the pool under the waterfall.

*The Limpet Pool* 10m Very Difficult. I.Miller, H.Clarke. 25th April 2004.

Starting to the left of the waterfall, climb the full height crack come fault.

#### **False Stack Area:**

*A Grand Day Out* 10m VS 4c. N.Morrison, L.Gorham. 18th July 2004.

Immediately right of Wriggle and Grin is a right-slanting groove. This leads pleasantly on to ledges below cracks in an upper wall right of the previous route. Climb the cracks with interest.

**Note:** Summers Over on The False Stack itself is as good as its 3 stars suggest.

#### **Deerness, Gearsan Walls:**

Park at the car park for The Gloop (HY 589 078). Walk down the signposted path to The Gloop. Follow the path past The Gloop and through a stile. Follow the path nearest the sea, north towards The Brough of Deerness. Follow the path closest to the sea for about 400m to several small stone wall shelters and cairns on the cliff-top. The largest of these cairns at HY 596 076 marks the most northerly of the routes. The routes are described travelling south back towards The Gloop. Immediately in front of the large cairn is a small headland cut by big grooves either side. The smaller right-hand groove (south) holds the following two routes.

*Whales @ Hand* 18m Very Difficult \*. I.Miller, C.Webb. 12th July 2004.

Climb the steep full-height crack running up the right-hand side of the groove.

*Darkness Descends* 18m Very Difficult. I.Miller, C.Webb. 28th June 2004.

Climb a big corner-crack running up the left-hand side of the groove.

*The Art of Grovel* 18m Very Difficult \*. I.Miller, C.Webb. 22nd August 2004.

Climb a prominent left-trending ramp, running full-height up the cliffs to the south of the above groove. Nice steep juggy climbing on unusual rock!

From the above cairn walk back along the cliff-top for about 50m to a very damp and green geo. Immediately to the north of this geo, there are two very prominent left-facing corners running full crag height.

*Rough and Tumble* 18m VS 4c. I.Miller, C.Webb. 18th May 2004.

This route climbs the larger (left-hand) and more prominent corner.

Immediately to the south of the damp geo the cliff turns 90° to face north. This face is immaculate black rock with four main full crag height cracks. This wall can be easily seen looking back from the cliff tops to the north of the damp geo.

*Good Heavens* 18m HVS 5a. C.Webb, I.Miller. 1st May 2004.

Climb the most obvious left-trending hand crack in the centre of the wall. It turns into an open groove in the top half. Strenuous climbing to start.

*Joe's Route* 18m E1 5b \*. J.Alexander, I.Miller, C.Webb. 17th June 2004.

In the centre of the wall climb a prominent V-groove to a ledge at 14m. Follow a ramp on the left to the top.

*Malaise* 18m E1 5b \*\*\*. I.Miller, H.Clarke. 10th April 2004.

At the seaward end of the black walls the cliff turns another 90° to face the sea. This face holds a steep full crag height chimney with an excellent crack running its full length. Climb this chimney from the non-tidal ledge at its base. Strenuous and excellent climbing with some sustained moves on the upper half.

A few metres south the cliff turns another 90° to face south. At the landward end of this face there is a stepped recess around which the following routes lie.

*Blackened* 16m HVS 5a \*\*. I.Miller, C.Webb. 28th June 2004.  
Climb an excellent steep corner, well protected with excellent jamming.

*Crimp for the Big* 16m E1 5a \*. I. Miller, C. Webb. 17th June, 2004.  
Three metres to the left, climb up the centre of a slab to a square stance. Follow the holds to another stance below a groove and roof. Pull through the roof and follow a crack to the top. Devious protection.

*Whales @ 20ft* 18m VS 4b. I.Miller, H.Clarke 12th July 2004.  
Climb a prominent right-leaning chimney in the centre of the south face on the black headland.

At the southern end of this recess, the following route climbs the ominous off-width crack.

*No More Pies* 20m Very Difficult. I.Miller, C.Webb. 18th May 2004.  
The most prominent feature on this part of the crag is an off-width groove in the upper half of the wall. Climb up the big steps from the right, climb the off-width groove and continue up the steps to the top. A bold route.

A farther 50m to the south, just past a further damp geo, is another black north facing wall with two prominent full crag height grooves.

*Gash Bag* 18m Hard Severe \*. I.Miller. 30th June 2004.  
The larger seaward groove is tidal and rarely dry.

*Melange* 18m VS 4b \*\*\*. I.Miller, C.Webb. 28th June 2004.  
The smaller groove has perfect compact rock with just enough gear (small wires essential).

*Wetted* 18m Very Difficult. C.Webb, I.Miller. 28th June 2004.  
Starting at the bottom of an arête to the right of the above, follow good holds and small steps trending right to the top.

A farther 50m to the south is a narrow north facing black wall, again with two prominent full crag height grooves. Access to the base is by abseil to a large non-tidal triangular ledge at the bottom of the seaward groove. Alternative access at low tide is by walking down the slabs immediately to the south and traversing along sea-level platforms.

*Flying Friends* 16m HVS 5b. C.Webb, I.Miller. 28th August 2004.  
Climb the left-hand (seaward) skyline arête.

*Climb on, Hope!* 16m VS 4b \*\*. I.Miller, J.Skene. 2nd July 2004.  
From the back of the triangular ledge climb the open-book groove to a small ledge and up through a small roof. At the top of the groove traverse right on a steep wall and pull on jugs past twin roofs to the recess just below the top. Scramble to the top.

*Grey to Life* 16m Hard Severe \*. I.Miller, D.Husband, D.Fox. 2nd July 2004.  
From the landward end of the triangular ledge, step around the arête and climb up to a small ledge. Follow the groove to the recess and the top.

#### **South Ronaldsay, Tomb of the Eagles, Old Head (HY 470 834):**

The general approach is as for Tomb of the Eagles to Liddel Farm. After which follow the faint coastal path out along the south side of Ham Geo, before turning south for a farther 400 to 500m to the cliffs, which show as three fins of rock running approximately east/west with the climbing on the south side of each one. Climbing is on the usual Rousay Flag that predominates hereabouts. Improbable looking lines and Friend protection are the order of the day. Climbing is good on the North Fin, fine on the Centre and excellent on the South. Routes on the North and Middle Fin were climbed by various Nevis Guides parties during the summer of 2004.

#### **North Fin (15m):**

The first major fin encountered when approaching from the north is an island at high tide with access over some slabs below the south face from mid to low tide. *The Giant Steps* (Difficult) run up or down the cliff from here. Just right (east) of the access there are two crack come groove-lines running up the striated wall and forming a V; the left-hand one is *Hook* (Difficult), the right *Line* (Difficult). A few metres right again a plumb vertical crack runs the full height of the cliff – *Sinker* (Very Difficult \*). Right again the sea runs under the cliff and the best way to utilize the cliff is to traverse out seawards. *Limbo Dancer* 60m Mild Severe \*: choose whichever set of eroded out grooves you prefer and head seawards – helmet mirror handy for watching the feet. Finish up the arête at the far end, or go round the corner at the seaward end where there's an excellent little corner above a triangular tidal pool, *Tri* (Difficult).

**Middle Fin:**

At 10m this is the lowest of the trilogy, though the climbing is very good. A tidal pond below most of the cliff makes access tricky and the seaward end is best tackled in a calm sea, low tide, or both. For the landward end scramble down a little chimney to the base of a short corner; *Forgotten Friend* (10m Severe \*). A few metres right is another, shallower left-facing corner; *Venner* (10m VS+ \*). Follow the horizontal fault-line for the next route, which crosses Venner at a one-third height. Keep going right above the pool, then head for the top about 5m; *Rogered* (VS+ \*\*). The next two routes start from the seaward end; *Genser* (10m Very Difficult \*). Start from the only bit of clear ledge at the seaward end. A choice of cracks lead to the upper wall end and a finish left or right of a wee beak.

*Gansey* 10m Mild Severe \*\*

Start from the ledge (as above) and tiptoe left beside the pool to a small foot ledge in the middle of the face. Climb straight up the middle of the face from here on excellent holds.

**South Fin (Saga Wall):**

The highest (20m) of the three offers the most extensive climbing on the south and improbable wall, also a spectacular route through the overhangs on the seaward end. Access is by abseil or scrambling down ledges from the south-east side, which brings you to more extensive ledges below the cliff. The most prominent feature of the cliff is easily seen from here, a spectacular stepped overhang with a crack-line running up through the middle.

*Rattus Rattus* 20m E2 5c \*\*\*(?).

The crack-line has been led all bar the last 4m when a top-rope was taken. Still awaits a clean ascent.

*Youthful Enthusiasm* 22m VS 5a \*\*. I.Miller, H.Clarke. 29th September 2004.

Climb the arête (a few metres left of *Rattus Rattus*) to a left-trending thin crack. Follow the crack to below a small roof and traverse left. Pull up to a good stance and climb direct through a seemingly blank section to a continuous crack and the top.

Left of here is a recessed bay with crack-lines left and right, which both give pleasant Diff's. Around the corner is the main south facing cliff and just as the cliff turns the corner there's a square overhang at three-quarters height.

*Over the Hill* 20m VS 4b \*. M.Tighe, J.Armour. 28th August 2004.

Climb up the groove system immediately below the overhang and make an exciting move to exit out right on to a little foot ledge below the final little wall.

*And More* 22m VS 4c \*. I.Miller, H.Clarke. 29th September 2004.

Follow *Over the Hill* until beneath the large roof, then traverse out left and around the corner to climb a left-trending crack to the top.

*50/50* 20m VS 4c \*\*. M.Tighe, H.Clarke. 8th May 2004.

Below and left of the overhang mentioned in the previous route is another of similar size and shape. Climb up beneath the overhang trending out leftwards and using a very prominent 3m vertical slot if required. Pull out on to the face and go up a shallow left-facing corner for a few metres, passing a tiny overhang just before the top.

*Holding Back the Years* 20m HVS 5a \*\*. M.Tighe, H.Clarke. 9th May 2004.

Just left of the 3m slot, two converging crack-lines create an inverted V. Climb a groove off the floor, then the striations on up through the V and crack-lines in the upper wall.

*Age Concern* 20m VS 4c \*\*. M.Tighe, H. & C.Clarke, R.Robertson. 15th September 2004.

A few metres left of the previous route is another slot at half-height. Gain this from below, climb the slot and the wall above.

*Senior Moments* 15m VS 4b/c. M.Tighe, J.Armour. 28th August 2004.

Start from a ledge at the left hand side of the face, 5m higher than the previous routes. Step out on to the wall from the right-hand side of the ledge and climb up the wall to a diagonal crack just right of the arch.

*Life Begins* 15m Severe. M.Tighe, J.Armour. 28th August 2004.

Climb the left-hand side of the wall from the ledge.

**South Ronaldsay, Hesta Rock:**

Hesta Rock is the large headland to the east of The Clett of Crura (ND 466 876). The easiest approach is as for The Clett of Crura. The Hesta rock headland is a rotting mass of extremely loose rock with some steep vegetation. The

highest part of the crag is approx. 60m. Running up the centre of the main headland and starting at half-height is a very prominent black chimney. The following route tried to climb this chimney and is recorded as a warning to future explorers. Access to the bottom is by a steep scramble down the grassy slopes to the east followed by a very pleasant sea-level traverse along easy angled slabs to below a large overhanging wall.

*Wriggle and Die* 120m XS 5a. I.Miller, H.Clarke. 26th April 2004.

1. 30m 4a. From the sea-level slab below the overhanging wall, climb a left-trending ramp on good rock crossing a drainage line and some very greasy rock. Negotiate the drainage line to a nasty step down to a large sloping ledge.
2. 30m 4a. Make a tricky move up on shocking rock to a further ledge and scramble up thick vegetation trending left to a crack-line in the wall at the base of the Black Chimney.
3. 35m 4c. Climb the chimney (insanely loose). After 20m make a terrifying traverse left on to a grassy ramp to a large tottering pillar some 10m up.
4. 25m. Scramble easily up the grassy ramp to the summit.

#### **Clett of Crura:**

*Ode to my Friend* 25m Hard Severe 4b. I.Miller, L.Gorham. 28th July 2004.

Approx. 4m to the left/west of the large groove in the upper centre of the seaward face, climb a faint full height groove up to and through a smaller groove. Top out at the summit cairn.

#### **The Clett:**

This small stack is found between The Clett of Crura and the view point at the car park on the main road. Access is by boulder hop at low tide followed by a swim to its seaward face. The stack is an almost exact replica (in miniature) of the Clett of Crura.

*Unnamed* 12m Severe. L.Gorham, I.Miller. 28th July 2004.

Climb the deep hand crack up the west side of the seaward face, step right at its top to a good stance. Climb the wall directly above on good holds to the top.

**Note:** Les Gorham was killed during the abseil from this route.

#### **Stronsay, The Vat of Kirbuster:**

On the main wall to the right of the three routes in the guide are the following three routes.

*Step 2 Arête* 14m HVS 5a. I.Miller, H.Clarke. 1st June 2003.

Start at the bottom of the open book corner to the right of the arête. Climb the corner for a few metres, then traverse left to a small ledge to the right of the roof on the arête. Surmount the roof to a better ledge and follow the arête more easily to the top.

*Bleach Blond* 14m VS 4c. S.Herd, K.Kelley. August 2003.

Climb the open book corner to the right of the above route.

*Hairdresser* 14m Severe. S.Herd, K.Kelley. August 2003.

The full height crack-line a few metres to the right.

#### **Hoy, Rora Head, Gully 1:**

*Hewins' Route* 35m E2 5c \*\*. T.Spreyer, A.Hein. 7th July 2004.

Climb the initial finger crack of Mater, then step left and climb between horizontal breaks (crux) to the base of a prominent right-diagonal crack in the centre of the upper wall. Climb this in its entirety, then step right to finish direct.

*Banana Transfer Theory* 45m E1 5b \*\*\*. A.Hein, T.Spreyer, O.Metheril. 7th July 2004.

Start at the same place as Craa'nest then traverse right along a ledge for 4m to the base of a steep crack. Climb the crack for 5m to a horizontal break, then step right on to a ledge. Go up and right to join Hewins' Route at the bottom of the diagonal crack. Traverse right along a small ledge into the corner of Mater. Climb this until possible to step right on to the arête. Hand traverse right until a deep corner is reached (by Paneer) and finish up this.

#### **St. John's Head:**

The headland of St John's terminates as a huge steep stepped arête at its southern end (about 400m from the left arête). This is the largest and most obvious feature on the headland and is easily seen from the Orkney to Scrabster ferry. Access to the route is gained by a scramble from the descent gully along the beach below the main face. A short section below the step main face is only accessible at low tide. Alternatively access by boat in calm seas. The route was climbed in a single 26 hour push with a short bivvy during darkness. A 8m leader fall was taken on pitch 8 and one point of aid used on lead (freed by the second at 5b). Rock quality is in general poor but the location and the atmosphere is truly outstanding, an adventurous and serious route.

*Testament to the Insane* 475m XS 5b. D.Fox, R.I.Jones, I.Miller (alt), L.Gorham. 23rd-24th July 2004.

1. 30m. To the left of the boulder beach, directly below the arête, climb a steep grassy slope to the boulder on the horizon.
2. 35m. Scramble easily up the grass to cracks at the right end of a rock band.
3. 40m. Continue up the steepening grass to the base of the wall of the towering arête and a big chimney/groove.
4. 40m 4c. Climb the chimney/groove and pull out left at its top to a sloping grassy stance. Climb up steep grass to another groove, pull out left at its top and follow a short loose corner to a small stance with a peg.
5. 10m. Follow the grassy arête on the right to a bigger ledge at the bottom of a slabby right-facing corner.
6. 40m 4a. From the right-hand end of the ledge, climb the corner to even steeper vegetation, ascend this swiftly to a second right-facing corner and climb this to a good stance.
7. 40m 4c. Climb up trending slightly left to the base of a steep red wall below a huge precarious capping boulder. Traverse right and ascend the steep ramp on better rock to a steep and extremely loose vegetated slope. Climb this delicately to the landward side of another massive perched boulder. Belay in the twin cracks on the wall below it.
8. 45m 5b. Traverse along the grassy ledge to the bottom of the prominent arête, which bounds the right-hand end of the huge slabby wall. Pull around the arête on good holds in an exposed position to gain the base of a left-facing corner. Climb the corner steeply to a grotty ledge (several pegs) below a wide groove.
9. 10m 4a. Climb the wide groove and up grass to a good stance with in situ peg.
10. 45m 5a. Climb the steep right-trending corner through a wee roof to further steep vegetation. Carefully climb the vegetation to a crumbling recess on the left. Climb the centre of the recess to a huge boulder (bivvy on first ascent).
11. 50m. Scramble through deep vegetation to the bottom of the headwall. Belay on the high point of vegetation directly below the huge central fault-line.
12. 25m 4b. Climb the left-facing corner on the left into a cave with a huge block on the floor. Climb through a niche in the roof of the cave to the bottom of a big left-facing corner.
13. 20m 5a. Climb the hand crack 3m to the left of the vegetated open book corner to a good triangular niche. At the back of the niche climb steep hand cracks to a good stance on the left.
14. 45m 5a. Continue up the chimney to a wide grassy ledge above. Traverse along this narrowing ledge delicately to a loose recess. Ascend the recess to the summit.

#### **SHETLAND, Da Grind o' da Navir:**

**Notes from G.Latter:** Many of the routes are much better than the star ratings suggested in the guide, with almost all the routes deserving at least one star. The approach along the coast from the lighthouse takes around 30mins (not 20), and a much shorter approach can be made by taking the turn-off north (signposted Leascole), then turning off left after 0.9 miles/1.4 km to follow an unmetalled road which leads down, through a gate (ignore no unauthorised entry sign) then left again round the back of the cottage to park at the back of the abandoned Fish Hatchery. From here head north crossing three fences (stick to a ridge marked with pipes); then west along the fence to arrive at the crag in less than 10mins.

The South Descent Gully is very straight-forward (not V.Diff.) – about Moderate, with only a short tricky 3m step at the base.

6. *Tenderness on the Block* worth 1\*. Replace “block bay to a loose finish” with “move left to finish over ledges up shallow open groove.” (Final loose holds removed).
7. *Barnacle Bill* – crux is well protected (small rocks). Positions of this and route 8 should be transposed on the wee map (starts on north-west edge of the prow).
8. *The Raven Banner* worth E1 5b (not HVS), with crux low down moving up from the first cluster of protection. Instead of moving out left at the protruding block, the fine grooves directly above were followed, pulling out left over bulge at top to finish up final easy slab.
11. *The Grindstone* worth 2\* excellent rock in fine position. Maybe V.Diff.?
14. *Darklands* worth 1\*
17. *The Groove of the Navir* - 15m (not 10m)
18. *Navir Navir Land* – 20m (not 25). Top crack is very steady and not that sustained. Might only be E4 6b – very well protected?
20. *Da Droiltin Tree* worth E1 5b, particularly for final section. Very well-protected, with plenty of good rests.
21. *Nibbek* stunning climbing, possibly worth 4\*!??
26. *The Ramp* worth 2\*. Crosses some impressive terrain at the grade, on great rock.

*Snippe* 20m E1 5b \*\*. G.Latter, K.Finlayson. 9th May 2004.

Good climbing, starting up the right-facing corner round right the edge right of The Ramp. Climb up on to a ledge 3m above the right end of the shelf to belay on glaxis just left of the base of the corner. After a short steep start, follow easier upper corners to a large ledge on the left. Step right above a roof and climb direct up thin cracks in the slab on good holds to a short hanging groove. Step right to finish up good breaks.

**Eshaness:**

Directly beneath the car park is an extensive west-facing overhanging wall above a sloping platform just above high tide level. Head due west from the car park and scramble down easily to a large platform along the cliff top. Abseil from a point just north of a slimy recessed area, at an obvious notch.

*Third Stone from the Sun* 35m HVS 5a \*\*\*\*. S.Williams, G.Latter. 5th August 2004.

South of the big corner (abseil point), the most prominent feature is a series of right-facing corners capped by a hanging crack in the headwall. Climb direct to the corner, up this and the next corner to a roof. Pull left through this and continue up the "overhanging potato field" above. Well protected on superb rock throughout.

*Solan* 35m E1 5b \*\*. G.Latter, S.Williams. 7th August 2004.

The hanging flake up the centre of the south facing wall just north of the blowhole. Abseil from the south end of the platform to a hanging belay just above the green slime. Climb direct on good holds up to the flake, and up this joyously to meander up the headwall on sharper slightly fragile rock.

*Achilles Last Stand* 45m E1 5a \*\*. S.Williams, G.Latter. 9th August 2004.

The huge chimney in the corner right (east) of Solan. Abseil down the right edge of the south-facing wall to a good ledge at the base of the obvious crack. Climb this a short way, then move into the chimney and follow this with interest, stepping left about 10m from the top to finish up an easier groove.

*The Wind Cries...* 40m VS 4b \*\*\*\*. S.Williams, G.Latter. 20th April 2004.

Superb steady climbing up the blunt rib and shallow hanging groove immediately west of the blowhole. Abseil down to a good small ledge beneath the groove. Step out left and climb a shallow rib directly, trending up rightwards to gain the groove. Follow this on superb holds.

*Scooty Alan* 40m HVS 5a \*\*\*\*. G.Latter, L.Fleming. 3rd August 2004.

Another stunning pitch, giving spectacular climbing up the rightmost, most continuous crack system at the right side of the wall. Abseil as for the above route. Move up and climb a short way up the left crack, then move out rightwards on good pockets to the base of the right crack, just above the initial roof. Follow this on fine jams, then directly up the wall above on good pockets to a ledge just short of the top. Pull over a bulge above on to a further ledge, then easily up a final short corner.

*No Tern Unstoned* 20m HVS 5a \*\*. G.Latter, S.Williams. 22nd April 2004.

The short right-facing corner in the upper half of the large recess just south-west of the blowhole in front of the lighthouse (i.e. just north of the new fence). Abseil down the wall to the right of the corner to a large ledge at the base. Climb the corner, easing in its upper section.

*Not Necessarily Stoned, but Beautiful...* 45m E1 5c \*\*. S.Williams, G.Latter. 23rd June 2004.

The left-facing corner bounding the left side of the overhanging north wall of the promontory just south of the fence. Climb the corner easily until an impasse just below half-height. Either move out left and follow the crack before returning to the corner, or continue up the corner throughout. At the top, use the flake out right to pull up left, finishing with a difficult mantelshelf.

*Cave Crack* 40m E5 6a \*\*\*. A.Cave, A.Wainwright. 28th May 2004.

The overhanging crack splitting the north facing wall just south of the lighthouse boundary fence (just south of Cruel Sea) is a quality challenge. Abseil to ledges 3-4m above sea-level. Reach the crack by a rising traverse from the left (bold), then climb it to the top.

**Note:** on an attempt at a repeat by G.Latter (failed due to dampness), a direct start was climbed from the ledge directly beneath the route, gained by direct abseil. Better protected.

The next routes are on the projecting west-facing pillar immediately south of the lighthouse boundary fence.

*Perfect Groove* 45m HVS 5a \*\*\*\*. D.Turnbull, I.Butler. 28th May 2004.

The obvious slim groove and crack in the pillar could pass for E3 but is in fact low in the grade! Top quality. Abseil to ledges a few metres above sea-level. Climb the blank looking wall for 10m to the base of the crack. Follow this to the top.

*Near Perfect Arête* 45m HVS 5a \*\*. I.Butler, D.Turnbull. 28th May 2004.

Abseil to slightly higher ledge on the south side of the pillar. Climb up to the arête and follow it to finish up the left wall.

*Hanging Crack* 35m E1 5a \*. A.Wainwright, A.Cave. 28th May 2004.

Start as for Black Watch. The route climbs the hanging corner in the left arête of the wall. Move up left and pull through a roof into the hanging corner. Follow this to a 'riglos' style finish on surprisingly solid rock.

*Saandiloo* 35m HVS 5a \*\*. G.Latter, M.Davidson, C.Nicol, A.Watt. 4th August 2004.

About 100m south of the last described routes in the guide (Atlantic City etc.) is an easy-angled south facing wall (just west of an obvious gravelly area on the cliff-top). The slab at the left side of the crag, breaching the right side of the roof. Abseil down just west of the deep central chimney fault to a small ledge just above high tide. Climb easily leftwards up the slab, then veer right to an obvious deep groove near the right end of the roofs. Climb this to step right to a small ledge and good pockets, then directly more easily up a crack in the final slab.

*Tirricks* 35m HVS 4c \*\*. G.Latter, S.Williams, L.Fleming. 30th July 2004.

Abseil down the right side of the wall to a small ledge 6m above the sea and belay to the abseil rope. Follow a slightly left-trending line aiming for an easy hanging groove/flake system leading up to the left side of the capping roofs. Step left to finish up the easy cracked groove.

#### **Pobie Skeo:**

The following routes lie on the main south facing wall of the crag and take the obvious main challenges.

*The Eyes* 18m E2 5c \*\*. D.Turnbull, I.Butler. 29th May 2004.

Climb the hanging corner to the twin 'Eyes' and an amazing thread. Start just left of the arête as for Stars on 45. Swing right at half-height and make committing moves up and rightwards to an obvious hand slot in the hanging corner. Continue direct to the 'Eyes' then up leftwards to a well-positioned finish on the arête.

*Roof Crack Direct* 18m E4 6b \*\*. A.Cave, I.Butler. 29th May 2004.

A tough little number starting in the back of the square-cut cave below the obvious central crack-line. Climb leftwards out of the cave move up to the bulging crack. Hard moves lead to good holds and an easier finish up the crack.

#### **FOULA, Mucklabrek:**

*Magnus the Brave* 75m E4 \*\*. D.Turnbull, I.Butler. 1st June 2004.

An excellent direct line up the clean white wall near the pinnacle. Start as for Eric the Dead.

1. 27m 5c. Gain the grassy ledge at 4m, then climb direct via a slim left-facing corner to a second ledge. Weave up left, then back right on edges and breaks to a rounded crack. Move up left and go up the clean white wall before being forced rightwards along a break to belay in Eric the Dead.
2. 28m 5c. Climb direct bearing first left to a crack, then back rightwards to the ledge below bubbly rock in the steep wall. Pluck up courage, then take a rising leftwards line through the bulge to a mantel on to a ledge on the right.
3. 20m 5b. Step left, then climb more or less direct to the top finishing up a left-trending flake and a grim pull on to the grass terrace.

*Maillie Grooves* 85m E4. I.Butler, D.Turnbull. 30th May 2004.

A grim experience which is harder and much worse than it appears. Start below a series of right-facing corners about 120m from the top of the western descent track.

1. 30m 6a. Climb direct to the base of the first corner via a flared crack (bold). Climb corners and steep cracks to a hard leftwards grovel on to a ledge.
2. 20m 5b. Climb easily leftwards, then up scooped rock before being forced to traverse 6m rightwards to a groove below a steep wall.
3. 25m 6a. Climb up and then bare leftwards via some steep cracks and short corners to another grim thrutch on a belay ledge. Fulmars.
4. 10m 4c. Climb more easily to the top and a block.

## **NORTHERN HIGHLANDS SOUTH**

#### **SOUTH GLEN SHIEL, Creag Coire an t-Slugain:**

*Hong Kong* 140m IV,5 \*\*. H.Chan, A.Nisbet. 16th February 2005.

Climb the direct start to Tipperary (SMCJ 2004) but cross this route and go straight up a groove to an overhung recess (30m). Pass the recess by the rib on the right, then go up left under a steep wall until it is crossed more easily (30m). Follow grooves until the crest of the ridge is joined.

**SGURR CHOINNICH (Strathcarron):**

**Note:** The buttress between Chemical Alley and The Bow (see SMCJ 2003, p382), starting just up and right of the base at a steep left-slanting groove was climbed by B.Davison and D.McGimpsey on 18th February 2005. 100m, Grade II.

**BEINN BHAN, Coire na Feola:**

*Weakest Link* 150m III. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 21st December 2004.

This route is on a left continuation of Suspense Buttress, with its base slightly higher. The only obvious break in a steep lower tier is a groove left of centre on the buttress. Climb a groove through the lowest tier to reach the main groove. This was entered from the left over flakes and followed (45m). Continue up the groove to easier ground (40m). Continue in the same line (45m) to a finish on the left (20m).

**Suspense Buttress:**

*Skinflint* 190m VI,6. A.Nisbet, J.Preston; D.McGimpsey, I.Small. 24th February 2005.

A spectacular line up a groove in the front face of the central lower buttress. Avoid the steep but minor lower tier and start about 15m from the left end of the next tier (this tier is also optional).

1. 10m. Climb a fault with turf leading to a cracked wall. Walk left about 10m to twin cracks in a corner, the only sensible break in the right half of the next tier.
2. 25m. Climb the cracks and their right-slanting continuation, passing the last crack on the right. Walk 5m right to below the main groove.
3. 15m. Climb the initial overhanging section by chimneying and bridging, then go up and right to a ledge on the right of another overhanging section.
4. 30m. Return to the groove and climb it to the final bulge. Move left and back right above this. A final wall is climbed by another move left and back right. Cross the terrace to an embedded flake.
5. 40m. Start up the big groove on the left (the harder version of Suspense Buttress goes up this), then walk right along a ledge (direct may be possible). Climb the buttress above to a ledge.
6. 25m. Climb a groove with a steep finish.
7. 25m. The final groove of Cliffhanger is on the right. Climb a steeper smaller groove to the flat top of the buttress.

**Coire na Poite:**

*Gryphon* 130m V,7. I.Small, D.McGimpsey. 22nd February 2005.

Climbs the front face of the buttress on which Teapot (SMCJ 1994) takes grooves up the left side. Start 5m right of the small cave.

1. 30m. Go up a turfy groove, traverse left and then climb a short hard groove above (crux) to a terrace below a slabby wall.
2. 40m. Climb a right-trending groove, then move out right to a spike. Go up short steps, then traverse back left before climbing up and back right to easier ground leading to a short tower.
3. 30m. Climb a ramp on the right side of the tower to gain its top.
4. 30m. Escape left to easy ground is possible, but continue up the ridge above via short turfy steps.

**FUAR THOLL:** Note: An impressive route, Sandblaster (VIII,7) was recorded by B.Wilkinson and R.Thomas in March 2005. It was thought to be left of Sandstorm, but this needs checking.

**BEN SHIELDAIG (NG 825 525):**

The largest and cleanest of the crags containing some prominent overhangs situated on the south-west slopes of Ben Shildaig. Well seen from the road and situated just above the tree line. Park about 100m south of the Applecross turn off. The best approach is by way of a clearance on the left but is somewhat unpleasant (about 35mins). The crag is split into three sections. The left section has two large overhangs and is bounded on the right by a groove. The middle section is bounded on the right by another groove with an overhang on the right.

*Gateway* 35m HVS 5a \*. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 23rd May 2004.

Weaves a line between the two large overhangs on the left section. Scramble up steep heather to the lowest point, directly below the right end of the upper overhang. Climb a steep crack to some small trees then traverse away left directly below the upper overhang to the exposed left edge. Finish up the easier slab on the left.

*Prawn Man* 30m HVS 5a \*. R.Hamilton, S.Kennedy. 23rd May 2004.

The prominent groove to the right of the left section. Start in a large recess below the groove, a few metres right of Gateway. Climb a short wall then a slab to a bulge at the base of the groove. Surmount the bulge (crux), continue up the groove and finish up slabs.

**BEN DAMPH, Creagan Dubh Toll nam Biast:**

*Fraoch Groove* 450m IV,4. A.Nisbet (backroped). 14th March 2005

A better and more direct ascent of Erica's Ridge by a line of grooves overlooking the gully on the left (Calluna). Start close to Calluna and go up right to reach the grooves. Climb close to these for three pitches before moving right below the last steep tier to another turfy line. Finish up the easy crest and final chimney as for Erica's Ridge.

*Lingo* 400m IV,4. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 25th February 2005.

The buttress to the left of Calluna. Start just inside Calluna and traverse on to the buttress above the first wall. Go up to a steep band (15m). Climb this and the next band by corners on their right side. Go up and traverse left on to the crest (45m). Continue up the crest for two long pitches to easier ground. Finish up the crest which merges into slopes.

**BEN DAMPH FOREST, Kinlochdamph Crag:**

*War of Attrition* 25m E4 6a \*. M.E.Moran, A.J.Moran (on-sight). 30th March 2005.

Climbs the crack/groove line 2m right of the corner with a bird's nest to the right of Ivy League. Very much harder and better than it looks. Go up to a block, swing right into the groove and climb it with sustained interest to an exit on suspect flakes. Finish up an easier flake-crack in the right side of the final arête.

**Note:** M.E.Moran and J.Preston climbed a direct finish to Hasta la Bista on 13th May 2004. Go up into the recess just left of the prow and make an exciting swing and mantel over a roof to a ledge, then the top (10m, 5c).

*Sleeping Dog Climb, Poshpaws Start* 14m Severe. M.E. & A.J.Moran. 4th May 2004.

Makes a pleasant start to Sleeping Dog Climb and routes in the headwall. Climb cracks on the buttress just left of the chimney, moving up and left to block belays below the headwall.

*Tiberian Sun* 40m E2 6a \*. M.E.Moran, J.Preston. 13th May 2004 .

Climbs a brief but memorable overhanging wall to gain the vice-like groove in the left side of the headwall; protection is good.

1. 14m. As for Poshpaws Start to S.Dog Climb

2. 26m 6a. Gain the wall below the groove from the left and layback boldly into the slot. Bridge leftwards up the groove and finish up a right-facing corner

**BEINN EIGHE, Eastern Ramparts:**

*Tainted Galahad Direct Finish* 30m E3 6a. I.Small, A.Hume, J.Walker. 7th August 2004.

4a. 30m 6a Climb the corner, exit right, then move back left and go directly up to a long narrow ledge with a flake-corner at the right end. Climb a bulging crack in the wall above to the top.

**West Buttress:**

G.Robertson & E.Tressider climbed West Buttress Diretissima on 27th February 2005, climbing the corner of Senior direct. This gave two more hard pitches, "one of quite goey icy 7 and another of safe torquy 8".

**Coire Ruadh-Staca (Pineapple Cliff):**

*Jambo* 120m V,7 \*. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 19th December 2004.

Right of Midge Ridge is a bay enclosed by overhanging walls. This route takes a right-slanting corner through the walls and leading to a right diagonal line of chimneys. Start on the right side of the bay and climb cracks leading to the corner. Climb the corner and traverse right to a ledge (20m). Climb two successive chimneys leading right (30m). Climb a flake-chimney and a short wall to easier ground. Go up this to a final wall (45m). Traverse right and finish up steep turf.

*Chocked* 100m IV,6 \*. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 8th February 2005.

A crack-line just right of Smilodon. Rather close, but the middle pitch is superb.

1. 30m. Climb the initial section of the right of the three chimney systems, then take a slab leading left to below the crack-line.

2. 35m. Climb the crack-line, which leads into the easy gully of Smilodon.

3. 35m. Finish up this.

*Quickstep* 120m IV,5. A.Nisbet, D.Preston. 28th November 2004.

The buttress at the far right end of the 'Pineapple Cliff', right of the right chimney system. Five short pitches. Start up a prominent narrow chimney on the left side, facing the rest of the cliff. Staying on the left side, climbs short walls to a corner below a thin pinnacle. From the top of the pinnacle, step left into a steep groove which leads to easier ground. Go down behind a bigger pinnacle and climb a wall on the left before returning right to thread a way amongst finishing short walls.

High on the right (south-west) of the face with the Spidean Lochans, starting at a height of about 780m and finishing on the ridge about 500m west of the top of Spidean Coire nan Clach, is the following route on a dome shaped buttress at NG 961 596.

*Bartlett's Dilemma* 90m IV,4. J.Sutherland, A.Gorman. 30th December 2003.

1. 40m. Start just right of the toe of the buttress and go up an icy or turfy gully trending slightly right.
2. 30m. At this point the gully continues easily up and right, but step left and continue up mixed ground until a smooth wall forces a step right around a flake, continue up until below an open chimney.
3. 20m. Continue up towards the chimney and climb it to the top.

#### **Spidean Coire nan Clach:**

*North Ridge* 100m III,4. V.Chelton, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 19th November 2004.

The base of the ridge forms an overhanging wall (NG 968 602). Heading up right (west) the right side of the ridge becomes progressively easier. The route takes an obvious line of weakness leading diagonally left with one steep section (potentially very loose) to reach a pinnacle on the crest. The crest soon becomes easy scrambling and walking.

#### **LIATHACH, Path Crag.**

(NG 936 573) Alt. 400m. South facing.

These sandstone crags have fine views over to the Achnashellach hills. Follow the path to the corrie, then go west to the crags, about 40mins.

#### **Lower Tier:**

*Unnamed* 15m VS 4c \*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 7th August 2004.

At the left end of the crag is a shallow gully. Climb a corner-crack right of the gully formed by the left side of a huge block. Step left and finish up an arête.

*Foxglove Crack* 15m VS 4c \*\*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 7th August 2004.

Start just right of centre. Climb a right-slanting flake-crack and finish past a small overhang. The wall to the left is black.

#### **Upper Tier:**

*Unnamed* 22m HVS 5a \*\*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 7th August 2004.

Left of centre are two recessed corner-cracks facing each other. Start under the left-hand corner-crack. Move up then right to a ledge, continue up then move left on to a heather ledge. Climb the left-hand corner-crack.

*Swirl* 20m VS 4c \*\*. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 7th August 2004.

Start towards the right side of the crag. Climb up right to gain and follow a left-facing corner-crack formed by a huge block. Follow an easy slab up right.

#### **DIABAIG PENINSULA, Rolling Wall:**

*Rolling Baba* 20m E2 6a \*. M.E. & A.J.Moran. 12th June 2004.

Climbs the walls right of The Ice Bulge; dries quickly after rain. Start as for Beside the Point. Traverse a hand-crack across a steep wall to gain a ramp, then move up and left across an impending wall to good holds and gain a sloping terrace. From a horizontal crack, climb through the bulging wall above on orange quartz rock with a hard crux sequence.

#### **INVERALLIGIN:**

Many short routes have been climbed in this area. Descriptions are available if requested. New crags include:

##### **Discovery Rock: (NG 810 570), Alt. 90m. South facing.**

A clean outcrop, 15m to 20m high, sited on the Rubha na h-Airde Glaise peninsula above the narrows of Loch Torridon with an interesting variety of routes, ideal for novices.

##### **Big Bill's Crag: (NG 811 568), Partly tidal. South-south-east facing.**

A fierce crag, viciously undercut and dipping into the sea, well seen from A896 on the south side of loch.

**The Inveralligin Crags: (NG 841 572).** comprises of eight distinct buttress features, seven of which are concentrated within a 100m stretch.

## **CAIRNGORMS**

#### **LOCHNAGAR, Black Spout Pinnacle:**

*The Inhospitable Crack* 20m E2 5b. R.Archbold, R.Ross, G.Strange. 24th August 2003.

The prominent crack mentioned in the guidebook description of Black Spout Wall. From a belay at top of Route 2 chimney, climb the obvious left-slanting crack to overhangs. Move left into a recess, then climb a corner and finish over the final bulges of The Link Direct.

**Note:** N.Morrison notes that the combination of the first pitch of Nihilist and the second pitch of the Extremist gives a very good and sustained way up the cliff with the additional benefit of being just about the fastest drying line on the pinnacle. Probably E2 5b,5b \*\*, 70m.

**EAGLES ROCK, The Mid-East Buttress:**

*Cold Flush* 150m II. G.Strange. 23rd January 2005. Start below Shiver and go up rightwards on easy ramps to gain and climb prominent ice runnel through break in upper rocks.

**BEINN A' BHUIRD, Coire na Ciche, The Cioch:**

*Chioch Buttress* 100m II. S.M.Richardson. 16th January 2005.

This route climbs the east ridge of The Cioch. Start left of the crest and move up a narrowing snow slope that trends right into a tight V-chimney. Climb this past a constriction and continue up easier ground to the crest. Follow this easily to the top.

**Coire nan Clach, Black Crag:**

*Hombre* 40m E2 5c. M.Uceta, G.Strange. 29th June 2003.

A climb on the south end of the crag, well right of Abdel Wahab. Start at a hollow flake above a pointed bollard on an upper grass ledge. Climb up slightly right, then follow a flake-crack to below a slab ramp. Move right, go up past a big spike and continue to a recess below overhangs. Climb up left to a resting position, then make a difficult move to reach easier cracks leading to the top.

**BEN AVON, East Meur Gorm Craig:**

Near the middle of this half kilometre long west facing broken cliff there are three short compact buttresses. The rightmost is squarish, the centre is steep with a forking crack system and the left has a roof low down on its right.

*Backslash* 50m VS 4b. R.Archbold, B.Findlay, G.Strange. 1st August 2004.

Takes the prominent crack on the squarish buttress. Climb a short corner, flakes, then the fine crack to a ledge. Continue up the crest by an obvious groove.

*Fox Crack* 50m VS 4c. R.Archbold, B.Findlay, G.Strange. 1st August 2004.

The crack-line immediately left of the roof on the left-hand buttress.

**CREAGAN A' CHOIRE ETCHACHAN:**

*Scabbard, Direct Finish* 50m HVS 5a. S.M.Richardson, A.S.Robertson. 5th September 2004.

A prominent inverted stepped corner-line directly above the huge spike belay at the top of pitch 2. Pull into the groove above the belay and climb up to a roof. Step left around this and pull into the groove above using holds on the right wall. Continue up the crack above to a good ledge (30m). Finish up easy ground just right of the Dagger corner to the terrace.

**STACAN DUBHA:**

*The Shuttle* 150m V,7 \*. D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet. 19th January 2005.

Good climbing but a disproportionately hard crux. Largely by the summer line. Climb the lower tier left of the summer central crack, then scramble to the main climbing. Go rightwards on large flakes, then up to a chimney on the right which leads back left to a terrace below the steepest band. Climb this on its right end; climb up over blocks to gain the gully wall of the buttress and traverse right above the gully until a short V-chimney topped by a flake (crux) cuts back to the crest. Climb this up smooth slabs to an easier upper section.

**CARN ETCHACHAN, Upper Tier:**

*Malicious Midget* 80m E2 5c. I.Small, J.Walker. 2nd August 2003.

This route climbs a series of corners and an arête cutting across Poison Dwarf, then crosses the Rock Window to finish up the wall to the left of Crevasse Route.

1. 35m 5b. Start at the foot of the Equinox gully. Follow a left-slanting ramp-line passing below a perched boulder to gain an obvious corner. Climb to a triangular roof, move right on to an arête, then gain the corner on the right. Follow it past a niche to a ledge, then take the corner above to exit left to a large ledge (this final corner is common with Poison Dwarf).

2. 40m 5c. Arrange a side runner in the wide crack of Poison Dwarf, then traverse rightwards above a roof (exposed) to gain the arête. Climb this on the left side to a short groove leading to ledges by the Rock Window. Gain a standing position on the block that forms the Window and step left on to the wall above. Finish by cracks and ledges.

**SHELTERSTONE CRAG, Central Slabs:**

**Note:** Icon of Lust (SMCJ 2004) was climbed on 30th June 2003.

**COIRE AN T-SNEACHDA, Aladdin's Buttress:**

*Babes in the Wood* 35m VIII,8 \*\*. D.MacLeod, S.Muir. 1st December 2004.

Follow the summer line with increasing difficulty, culminating in a thin crux section at the top of the crack.

*Earwig* 60m IV,6. J.Lyall, A.Nisbet. 13th January, 2005.

Climbs the right edge of Pygmy Ridge, breaking through the overhanging sidewall behind an ear of rock. Start 8m right of Saturation Point. Climb close under the sidewall (left of a chimney) and through a bulge with a spike. Move left to gain the base of the ear and climb the crack behind it. Move up on flakes to just below a ledge which is on Saturation Point (25m). Step right and climb slabby ground trending right to reach the right end of an overhanging wall (30m). Gain the crest of Pygmy Ridge (5m) and either finish up this or escape right.

**Fiacail Buttress:**

*The Hurting* 35m XI,11 \*\*\*\*. D.MacLeod. 19th February 2005.

Follow the summer line with very sustained hard and serious climbing. There is groundfall potential on the lower half. M9+ or M10 standard climbing but very tenuous and blind. FA style: Second attempt following abseil inspection. Gear placed on lead but no pegs were used and the grade reflects this. Possibly the hardest single pitch traditional mixed climb in the world?

## NORTH EAST OUTCROPS

**BOLTSHEUGH, Lower South (NEO p189):**

*Trouble Monkey* 15m F7a+ \*. T.Rankin. 25th April 2004.

The bolt line through the 3m roof of the cave. Climb a fine boulder problem past the first bolt on to the ramp. From here it is advisable to clip the next three bolts in the roof to prevent a possible knee capping on the ramp (long reach or cunning required). Climb the roof left of the bolts on good but spaced holds to the break at the lip. Finish up right then left to the lower-off carefully using a jammed block below the final roof. A fine roof problem on surprisingly solid rock although foot holds are still friable at present.

**PASS OF BALLATER, Western Section, Upper Tier:**

*Idiot Nation* E5 6b \*. A.Robertson, R.Goolden. 12th September 2004.

An artificial but well protected line up the left wall of Little Cenotaph. Start off the block and climb the thin crack (good microwires) to the break with an awkward move to enter a niche. From cams in the break, mantel it (crux) using an obvious sidepull up right to gain a good hold higher up on the arête. Continue up the hairline crack/flake by another hard balancy move to reach jugs over the top. The rest on Smith's Arête and the crack of Little Cenotaph are off route.

**REDHYTHE POINT, The Gully Buttress (NJ 576 672):**

Near the south-east end of the plateau headland, a wide slanting gully with two enormous chokestones defines a separate buttress. Some good wee climbs on superb clean rock with good protection. Sections described from south to north.

**Bird Poo Wall:**

South from the head of the gully, there is an easy scrambling descent with a slabby buttress just south. This is quite near the mouth of the Tea Cleft, and there is potential for more easy (and possibly harder) routes, with tricky traverses in at the base.

*Bird Poo Wall* 12m Moderate. N.Everett. 14th September 2003.

Traverse left (facing in) from near the base of the descent into an easy line up jugs and a crack, stepping left over an overlap near the top. Guano is avoidable.

**South-East Face:**

*High Tide Traverse* 25m 4b \*\*. N.Everett. 14th September 2003.

Excellent rock and best with a calm high tide. Cross the groove at the base of the Bird Poo descent; continue to a slab. Move up a few metres, then swing down on to an overhanging wall. More good climbing leads round to the base of Rampage on the East Face.

*Wibble* 10m Moderate. S.Muir. 14th August 2003.

Climb the fine slab from the high-tide traverse, then grooves and shelves above.

**North-East Face:**

Split by Rampage into two halves. Access down Rampage, or via High Tide Traverse, to good sloping rock at the foot of Rampage.

*Break Out* 10m Hard Severe \*. N.Everett, I.Martin. 17th April 2004.

Above the foot of Rampage a scroffly overlap looms over the wall. Climb slightly left, then up onto a crack-laced wall, to cross the overlap just left of its widest point.

*Clean Break* 10m Severe \*. N.Everett, S.Muir. 14th September 2003.

From the foot of Rampage, straight up through the thinner part of the overlap and the wall above.

*Rampage* 12m Moderate \*. N.Everett, S.Muir. 14th September 2003.

The obvious fine ramp, which in descent is OK but exposed.

*Lobster Line* 12m Severe \*. N.Everett, S.Muir. 14th September 2003.

Well protected. From the lowest point of Rampage, traverse delicately right, then up to the obvious crack-line, crossing a shelf (escape possible). Stay in the crack for a good exposed finish out right.

#### **Gully Wall:**

Overhanging the eager chasm, and surprisingly steep. Quite sheltered from showers but best in good drying weather. Easy scrambling approach down the gully's northern slabs.

*The Deep* 12m Hard Severe 4b \*\*. N.Everett, I.Martin. 17th April 2004.

From the seaward chokestone, place high runners and cross the obvious small hanging slab to superb positions on the arête. Go up the left side of the arête with more exposure to the last move of Lobster Line.

*Nailbiter* 8m E3 6a. P.Mather. 14th September 2003.

Climb Purple Turtle and place a high side runner. Traverse left into the middle of the overhanging wall with feet in the big break, hands on low crimps and sidepulls aiming for a slot in the central crack. Continue direct to the top.

*Purple Turtle* 8m Very Difficult. P. & R.Mather. 14th September 2003.

The big overhanging crack climbed largely on its right-hand side. Provides good steep jug pulling.

*What Became of the Monkey?* 6m Very Difficult 4b \*. N.Everett, I.Martin. 17th April 2004.

The entertaining steep flakey line right of Purple Turtle.

#### **Overhanging Wall (NJ 575 672):**

This is the obvious overhanging buttress marked on the map in the guide as "overhanging wall". Access is either via a scramble along the ravine (with a very awkward move on to the belay shelf below the wall) or by abseil.

*Zebedee* 10m E3 6a \*\*\*. P.Mather (unsec). 17th April 2004.

This takes the steep flakey crack-line on the right-hand side of the buttress. Use underclings to pull up into a very small niche. Pull up and left through this aiming for a great flake hold (crux). Continue up the line of flakes until it is possible to reach right for yet another fantastic flake. Pull through the top blocky bulge using underclings.

*Rachel's Rescue* 20m Difficult. P. & R.Mather. 17th April 2004.

Follow a traverse line of flakes right off the belay ledge to a narrow ledge. Follow this (slight descent) until below an open Y-shaped groove; climb the left-hand branch.

#### **HEAD OF GARNESS (NJ 746 650):**

A nice setting on this double headland with easy access, but badly birded in season and prone to dampness. The grades might be lower with drier rock. Access by an easy short walk through fields from Mains of Melrose, but ask permission from the farmer first. Follow a wee path through gorse to a salmon bothy on the east of the headland. There are good views of the crags from a bit farther on at the top of the east headland.

#### **East Head of Garness:**

Access to this narrow ridge is by the zigzag path down from the bothy, then via an offshoot on to the slightly loose eastern flanks of the ridge. There is also a steep rough descent just back from the top of the headland. The rock is good but superficial looseness remains near the top.

#### **The Black Slab:**

The first sizeable face, with the obvious Drainpipe Gully on its south side, and dominated by a blocky overlap. Scrambling access down rock steps just south of the gully, to a wee tidal rock bay. The longer routes are inaccessible around high tide.

*The Garnest* 14m Very Difficult. N.Everett, H.Watson. 28th September 2003.

The well protected curving corner bounding the left side of the slab.

*Boggle* 14m Hard Severe 4b. P.Mather, S.Muir. 28th September 2003.

Up the middle of the slabby wall starting just right of the base of The Garnest.

*Slab 'n' Tickle* 14m VS 4b \*. R.Goodier, N.Everett. 28th September 2003.

From the base of the gully, pull on to the right edge of the slab on good holds (crux). Go straight up the wall left of the arête, crossing slightly dubious blocks after the overlap.

*Woggle* 10m Very Difficult. P.Mather, S.Muir. 28th September 2003.

From several metres up the gully, up the left-hand corner.

*Shougle* 8m Difficult. S.Muir, P.Mather. 28th September 2003.

From several metres up the gully, up the short inset corner.

*Drainpipe Gully* 12m Difficult. R.Goodier. 28th September 2003.

Get mean and dirty in the squirmy chasm.

#### **West Head of Garness:**

Access is a scramble along the narrowing west headland, then a Difficult down-climb on the east side to the foot of The Rock Cake. More tricky scrambling across to the seaward headland of The Gateau. Good rock.

#### **The Gateau:**

The obvious headland overhangs to the west. can be covered with birds.

*A Dream of White Ledges* 60m Very Difficult. R.Goodier. 28th September 2003.

Gingerly girdle the Gateau via the guano at mid-height.

#### **GLEN CLOVA, Upper Doonie:**

*Puffin Bear* 7m Very Difficult. S.Holmes, L.Clifton. 31st March 2005.

Start on the left side of a stack of perched boulders. Using a vertical left-slanting crack, climb up and right to the arête. Using a large flake swing round and finish up the front face.

#### **Lower Doonie:**

*Special Brew, Death Niche Finish* 25m E3 6a. I.Small, S.Campbell, C.Cartwright. 6th June 2004.

From the second belay on Special Brew, climb the Furstenburg variation to below the 'death niche'. Enter this precariously (small wires), then exit and climb the blocky arête to finish.

## **HIGHLAND OUTCROPS**

#### **GLEN NEVIS, Polldubh Crag, Pandora's Buttress:**

*Misadventure* 30m E7 6c \*\*\*. D.MacLeod. 28th July 2004.

This hard route takes the striking arête below the diagonal cracks of Tomag. Climb up the corner until it is possible to span across to a diagonal crack which comes in from the right on the arête (good protection). Launch up the overhanging arête with increasingly hard and technical moves, culminating in a bold slap for the sloping crack of Tomag. Once established in this, continue up the arête with much easier climbing to the top. Top-rope practice used prior to first ascent, F7c+ difficulty, high in the grade.

#### **Car Park Area:**

**Notes from C.Moody:** *Choke Chimney*, Car Park Crag was missed out of the guide.

*Ex-Lax:* I.Taylor was on the first ascent.

*Bog Crack* was climbed by G.Szuca, C.Moody on 18th June 1988.

#### **GORGE CRAG:**

**Note:** A direct finish to All our Yesterdays or Conscripton at the same grade, by C.Pettigrew and A.Mackay, 16th May 2004. After climbing to the ledge, instead of traversing the giant flake right to the end of the original route, continue direct up a left-slanting cracked groove above the ledge to the tree belay of Travellin' Man.

**CREAG DUBH, Lower Central Wall:**

*Big Jugs* 20m E2 5c \*\*. C.Pettigrew, E.Currie. 21st May 2004.

A few metres to the right of Man on Fire there is a compact wall capped by a blocky overhang. This climbs the obvious groove through the overhang near its left side. Start directly below the groove. Climb the compact wall to a stance directly below the overhang. Climb the overhang near the left direct using big jugs.

*Wee Fried Eggs* 20m E3 6a. C.Pettigrew, E.Currie. 22nd May 2004.

This takes the second cracked groove to the right side of the overhang. Climb the compact wall on the right where the rock is more fractured (still good rock) direct to below the groove. Climb the groove with difficulty and continue to the top.

**STRATHNAIRN, Tynrich Slabs, Upper Tier:**

*Fly Agaric* E2 5b \*\*. S.Clark, B.Sparham, D.Porter. 3rd June 2004.

Between Chanterelle and Scorpion. Start just right of the niche below the right end of the big ledge. Go straight up until level with the ledge and move left on to the end of this. Climb past some weird erosion features and take a faint in-cut crack diagonally rightwards across the bald convex wall to join Scorpion near the top.

**CRAIG A' BARNS, Upper Cave Crag:**

*Could it be Forever* 15m E4 5c \*\*. N.McNair (unsec). July 2004.

Follow Gotterdamerung and the traverse of Voi d'Lamie for 3m to good nuts approx 4m after the junction of those routes. Then trend left over the bulge to a stonking in-cut jug. Strike up the wall and step left to finish.

*Tiggy McGregor's Moist Adventure* 20m E5 6b \*. N.McNair (unsec). July 2004.

Climb Hang Out to the massive runner spike. Traverse 2m left over the slopy ledge immediately up and left of the spike and gain the wall above via a seam to the left of the ledge and a hard move. Bomb up the wall on excellent pockets to gain a pod just below the top and step right to finish.

**GLEN OGLE, Dark Side, Concave Wall:**

*Snipe Shadow* 10m F8b \*\*. D.MacLeod. 27th April 2004.

The central blank concave wall. Technical climbing on finger pockets leads to a desperate crux section near the top.

## BEN NEVIS, AONACHS, CREAG MEAGHAIDH

**BEN NEVIS, Douglas Boulder:**

*Right-Hand Chimney* VI,7. O.Metherell, G.Hughes. 19th December 2004.

As for the summer route except for pitch 3.

3. 50-55m. Continue up the chimney, turn an overhang on the right rib, and climb up to a recess. Exit left and climb slabs to belay above a second large recess.

4. An exposed rightwards traverse was made to finish up the SW ridge.

**Secondary Tower Ridge:**

*Watery Fowls* 150m V,7. S.M.Richardson, I.Parnell. 20th November 2004.

A mixed line between Douglas Gap West Gully and Fawltly Towers. Start 20m left of the icy gully of Fawltly Towers below a steep cracked wall (about 10m right of a steep flake-chimney).

1. 50m. Climb the wall by a series of cracked corners, then move up easier ground.

2. 50m. Move up and left and follow a vague chimney-groove over a steep bulge.

3. 50m. Continue up the groove-line to the crest of Tower Ridge.

**The Comb, Note:** The Good Groove (VII,7), received its second ascent by S.Halstead and J.Kuczera of Poland who eliminated the rest point used on the first ascent.

**Creag Coire na Ciste:**

*Archangel* 110m VIII,7. S.M.Richardson, C.Cartwright. 6th February 2005.

The line of impending corners to the right of Darth Vader. Very sustained and strenuous.

1. 15m. Start 15m right of Darth Vader and climb a steep right-facing corner to a ledge.

2. 20m. Move up and right to a steep corner. Climb this then move right and up to a good stance below the continuation corner.
3. 20m. Climb the right of two grooves to reach a good ledge with a spike on the left. Climb the overhanging wall above (bold) and make a difficult exit on to a narrow ledge. Move up and right across the impending right wall to reach a large ledge system.
4. 30m. Move right 5m and enter an inverted V-slot. Climb this and continue up the contorted chimney-crack above to exit left on to a sloping square ledge.
5. 25m. Climb the overhanging chimney-crack directly behind the belay to reach where the ground eases. Continue easily up snow to the cornice.

*Unnamed* 110m VII,7. S.M.Richardson, C.Cartwright. 27th February 2005.

A steep mixed climb up the right edge of the wall taken by South Sea Bubble.

1. 30m. Climb the initial ramp of South Gully and belay below a steep groove on the right edge of the wall.
2. 40m. Climb the groove (sustained and strenuous) for 25m to where it fades. Move right on to the arête and move up to a small stance below a short steep wall (and just left of South Gully).
3. 40m. Climb the wall on the left and continue up a short icy gully to exit up the left side of the great snow bowl at the head of South Gully.

#### **South Trident Buttress:**

*Rattled* 100m IV,5. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 2nd December 2004.

An attempt on The Rattler, but forced left on to easy ground which will bank out later in the season. Start as for The Rattler, which starts up the big corner left of The Groove Climb. Climb a turf groove right of the corner, then enter the corner where it becomes a chimney and climb this to a ledge (35m). Traverse the ledge up left and climb grooves rather close to easy ground to a steep wall (40m). Climb the wall by a tricky move to a ramp leading right to the crest of the ridge above the middle tier (25m).

*Rattling* 115m V,5. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 28th January 2005.

A much better version of The Rattler. Climb the big corner of The Rattler, as for Rattled (35m). Go left until the wall above is broken by a ramp leading to a long narrow ledge (10m). Gain the ledge and traverse it back right until above the chimney of The Groove Climb (30m). Cross this route and go up a turf tunnel until a shallow groove leads rightwards through a steep wall into Sidewinder above its corners (15m). Climb a prominent narrow chimney and its continuation leading slightly left to the upper crest of the buttress (25m).

*Sidewinder* 100m VII,8. I.Small, S.M.Richardson. 8th April 2005.

As for the summer route except the initial chimney was avoided by climbing easy ground from the left (as for Strident Edge) - the obvious winter way. The finish may have been close to Rattling. A fine line, strenuous but well protected.

*Strident Edge* VI,7. E.Brunskill, G.Hughes. 13th January 2005.

A sensational but surprisingly amenable climb. As for the summer line except that pitch 2 was split by belaying on a small ledge at 15m. The overhang above was turned via a spike and cracks on the left wall leading to a break to regain the groove above. The final pitch was as for Spartacus, the groove right of the arête.

#### **Carn Dearg Buttress:**

*Trajan's Column* 305m E6 \*\*\*. R.Campbell, G.Latter. 7th September 2004.

Fantastic varied climbing up the front face of the pillar right of King Kong's main pitch.

1. 35m 5a. As for King Kong to the large perched block belay.
2. 25m 6a. Move left, up, then back right to a position above the belay. Continue right and up to a perch at base of main slab and ascend straight up until possible to pull round an arête on right on to a sloping ledge in a recess (spike belay on King Kong 5m higher).
3. 30m 6b. A fantastic wildly-positioned pitch, with devious wandering climbing and spaced protection. Step down right then make hard fingery moves to gain good holds in the huge 'boot flake' and more easily up this to small overlap. Make committing moves out right and up rightwards to a good incut jug, then straight up past a small useful flake to a rest on the right arête below a smooth uninviting groove. Traverse hard left into a parallel groove which is followed to a long thin overlap. Commit right (scary) into the right groove (gear at last!) and make a hard stretch up right to a good hold on the arête. Continue back left to below the left side of final overlap, and pull through this keeping close to the left rib leading to easier ground and the belay common to King Kong and The Bat.
4. 40m 6a. Traverse out left along the obvious fault-line (Bullroar), 10m beyond the crack of King Kong to the crack splitting the slab. Pull over the overlap and climb the slab to a slim smooth hanging groove in the steep wall. Lean out rightwards (crux) to gain two good incut jugs, then directly up the fairly sustained groove above, belaying just above the final capping roof.
5. 15m. Climb easily up slightly left to the base of a small right-facing corner near the right end of the big roof system.
6. 30m 5c. Climb the corner, then move out left into a slim groove and up this, then the fine rib to a good ledge above.

7. 50m 4c. Move out right and up over vegetated ledges to a loose wet corner. Climb this to pull out right on to clean solid rock at a wide blocky crack. Move up left and scramble up leftwards to block belay on ledge.
8. & 9. 80m. Move out right and climb cracks up a slabby corner, then progressively easier scrambling leads up leftwards to the top of the buttress.

#### **The Castle:**

*Godspell* 215m VII,8. S.M.Richardson, K.Cordes. 6th March 2005.

The prominent line of chimneys cutting the headwall of The Castle. Excellent steep mixed climbing.

1. 50m. Start as for The Castle and climb easy snow up the centre of the buttress.
2. 50m. Move left on to easy mixed ground and follow this to a terrace.
3. 50m. The right side of the steep wall above is cut by a short steep icy gully. Climb the gully and continuation corner above to reach the terrace below the headwall.
4. 15m. Climb the chimney past a chokestone in a square-cut recess. A good pitch.
5. 45m. Climb the right side of the recess via an offwidth and steep left-facing corner to a small ledge. Pull over the wall above with difficulty to a terrace (possible belay). Back and foot up the continuation chimney past a chockstone to the top of the headwall. Another excellent pitch!
6. 15m. Finish easily up snow to the top.

#### **STOB BAN (Mamores), South Buttress:**

*Banjo* 200m IV,4. V.Chelton, D.McGimpsey, A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 20th November 2004.

Start at the foot of the fault marked on the diagram in the Ben Nevis guide (p222) as North Ridge Route. The route should be marked farther right. Start up the fault but soon move right to reach steeper ground (35m). Go right and back left to break through a steep wall by a short V-groove about 6m right of the fault (30m). There is now a long smooth V-groove on the right. Climb mixed ground on its right, finishing up the groove or its right rib to reach the North Ridge (45m). Finish easily up this.

*Eag Blanc* 100m II. V.Chelton, D.McGimpsey. 25th February 2005.

The big groove on the left side of the East Wing. Mostly Grade I with a couple of short, steeper sections.

*Ollie* 45m IV,4. D.McGimpsey, V.Chelton. 25th February 2005.

The hanging turfy ramp down and left of Eag Blanc. Poorly protected with an awkward wee leaning chimney near the top.

#### **Central Buttress:**

*Stertor* 200m IV,4. B.Davison, D.McGimpsey. 19th February 2005.

The buttress between No Toddy and Central Gully. Follows a line of twisting grooves up the centre which are guarded by a band of slabs at one-third height. Start at the bottom left of the buttress and climb turf leading up and right below steeper ground to a short right-facing groove near the right edge (60m). Go up the groove to a ledge, move left and continue over poorly protected slabs to gain the base of the groove above. Go up this for 10m (40m). Continue up the groove to a terrace, and then gain the next groove by a short nippy corner on the left (30m). The ice in this groove was poor, so a traverse out right to an airy arête led to easier ground (30m). Follow the buttress above to the top (40m).

#### **AONACH BEAG, An Ghaidh Garbh:**

*The Prisoner* 125m V,5 \*\*. A.Nisbet, J.Preston. 30th January 2005.

The fine buttress right of Goblet of Fire. Start at the lowest rocks.

1. 35m. Climb icy steps and blocky grooves in the centre before moving left to below a steep corner.
2. 35m. Climb the corner (crux) and a turfy ramp leading on to the face overlooking Goblet of Fire.
3. 45m. Move left on to a ledge about 10m above Goblet, then climb a turfy crack directly up the face. Where this blanks out, traverse right and return left to continue up the line to the upper crest (joining The Chamber of Secrets?).
4. 10m. A short pitch leads to the upper slopes.

#### **Stob Coire Bhealaich:**

*Next Janeration* 125m IV,4 \*. S.Kennedy, A.MacDonald. 27th February 2005.

The buttress approx. 30m left of The Clare Effect contains an open icy gully/groove. Climb the groove via two short icefalls for 40m then pull out right on to a narrow snow ledge beneath a bulging rock wall (45m). Traverse the ledge rightwards into a groove which leads to an overhung recess. Pull steeply out left into another groove which is followed to the easier upper snow slopes (40m). Steep snow and an awkward cornice (may be avoidable away to the left) leads to the top (30m).

*Limbo* 95m II/III. S.Kennedy. 6th March 2005.

The easier left hand branch of Next Janeration. Climb the initial icy groove for 40m then take the snow ramp leading out left from the point where Next Janeration pulls out right. Steep snow leads to below the cornice which was outflanked by a long left traverse.

*Drive-in Movie* 75m III. S.Kennedy, A.MacDonald. 13th March 2005.

The small buttress left of Next Janeration is crossed by a large terrace. Start up a vague recess to reach the left end of the terrace which is followed rightwards to the buttress edge (30m). Step right into the snow ramp of Limbo which is followed until it peters out. Take a direct line up to the problematic cornice (crux) (45m).

**SGURR INNSE (NN 290 748):**

On the north-west side of Sgurr Innse there is a conspicuous crag visible on the approach from the north.

*Precarious Wander* 55m III,4. J.Thacker, J.McClaren. 18th December 2004.

Start just to the left of the large steep wall at a left-trending ramp.

1. 40m. Follow the ramp-line leftwards with a precarious move, continue up the leftmost of two corner come groove-lines.
2. 15m. Continue easily up right to scramble up easy ground (ice on the first ascent).

*Mojo* 70m II. D.Goodwin. 18th December 2004.

Climb an open gully line to the right of the large steep wall. A short ice step at half-height. Scramble easily to the top.

**MEALL GARBH, Creagan Coire nam Cnamh:**

*Quiet Running* 225m V,6. I.Small, J.Walker. 20th February 2005

Climbs the obvious turfy ramp then right-trending groove bounding the left side of the Inspiration buttress. Start at a steep narrow chimney directly below the ramp-line and to the right of Southern Route.

1. 50m. Climb the narrow chimney on ice to a wide ledge and follow the flake-crack of Inspiration to exit left on turf to reach a belay on the left.
2. 45m. Move back right and go up to a steep crack and bulge on the ramp. Climb this and the continuation ramp to a block on the left.
3. 55m. Move diagonally right over icy slabs to a snowy bay. Take a narrowing icy ramp on the left to a steep wall. Go up this on thin ice to gain a right-trending gully that forms a prominent V-groove. At the top of the groove step right around bulge to a block. A good long pitch which requires ice on the ramp and wall.
4. and 5. 90m. Climb snow slopes to a cornice finish.

*Runs With Deer* 230m V,6. I.Small, S.Jensen. 12th March 2005.

Climbs a counter-diagonal line to North Buttress Left Edge, crossing this route at the large ledge to gain the prominent corner above the huge detached flake.

1. 55m. Start a few meters left of Ledge Route and climb an obvious turfy chimney, with helpful cracks, to easier ground and belay at the base of the huge detached flake.
2. 35m. Move left along a ledge and up an icy wall, then step right to gain a V-groove. At its top bridge right to gain a ramp-line leading to a ledge below the obvious corner.
3. 50m. Climb the corner to its top and easier ground.
4. and 5. 90m. Climb easier slopes to the cornice.

**CREAG MEAGHAIDH, Bellevue Buttress:**

*Crow Road* 200m V,5. S.M.Richardson, I.Parnell. 19th November 2004.

The steep groove-line in the centre of the buttress. Start 90m right of the start of The Scene at a prominent vegetated ramp that runs up right into steep walls in the centre of the buttress.

1. 50m. Climb the ramp up and right to below a steep icy groove.
2. 30m. Climb the groove reach a large terrace. Belay by a large rock pinnacle on the right.
3. 50m. Move up and left and climb a steep icefall to reach an icy groove. Climb this to its top.
- 4 and 5. 70m. Move left up mixed ground to gain easy ground and the top.

**Pinnacle Buttress:**

*Eye Candy* 200m VII,7 \*\*\*. P.Hostnik, G.Robertson, E.Tressider. 6th March 2005.

A superb route, predominantly on ice, taking the obvious inset corner in the right wall of Smith's Gully.

1. 50m. Follow the first pitch of Smith's Gully, then break out right up a short groove to belay comfortably at the base of the line.
2. 40m. Step left and climb an ice-choked groove then thinly iced slabs to an overhang, Move left again and follow the continuation corner on thin ice to step right to a good belay.
3. 30m. Continue straight up over thinly iced walls, passing a short ice pillar, to belay on Appolyon Ledge.
4. 40m. Above and slightly left is an obvious deep groove. Take the first groove right of this, turning the overhang on the right, then move horizontally right to pull over the bulge at an obvious foothold. Continue straight up turfy walls until an easy snow ramp leads up and left to an icefall overlooking Smith's Gully.
5. 40m. Climb the short but very steep icefall to gain easier ground that leads up and left to a final step and the top (40m).

*Extasy* 245m VIII,8. D.Hesleden, B.Sourzac. 4th March 2005.

Start 30m to the left of the Fly Direct at an overhung niche.

1. 30m. Traverse right across a steep slab to a traverse line under a hanging slab. Traverse right to a left-facing corner, then go up this to a small spike 5m to the left of the big flake belay on Fly Direct.
2. 25m. Trend diagonally up and left across a steep wall, go up shallow groove to a ledge, then traverse 4m left to belay on Friends in a roof.
3. 30m. Move left 4m and climb a steep icy stepped groove to exit right up a slab to a large flake.
4. 50m. Climb directly above the belay on ice to a roof. Climb this and pull through a bulge into a left-facing corner; follow this until forced left by a roof up a turf icicle. Climb an easy shallow groove to a flake on Appolon ledge.
5. 30m. Trend right up easy ground to belay 5m to the left of Fly Direct at a large thread, below steep groove.
6. 50m. Pull through a bulge and go left across a steep wall to a flake on the left side of a groove. Climb to the top of the groove (in-situ blade peg), then go left for 5m up a ramp. Traverse diagonally back right above the groove to the left edge of the final snow slope (junction with Fly Direct).
7. 30m. Climb easy snow to the top.

*The Moth* 380m VII,8 \*. G.Robertson, E.Tresidder. 14th March 2005.

A complex mixed route up the huge wall right of The Fly Direct. On this ascent, the obvious icy line through the headwall (the first natural break right of the Fly Direct/Midge fault) was avoided due to a combination of darkness and very poor conditions on the upper part of the face. Instead, a long and rather unsatisfactory traverse right then back left gained the summit of the Pinnacle. The direct finish would be logical and more in keeping with the rest of the route. Start roughly 50m down and right of The Fly Direct where an obvious terrace leads right on to the face.

1. 30m. Move along the terrace and where it ends step delicately down and traverse the 'turf moustache' strenuously right and then up to the foot of the obvious hooded groove.
2. 40m. Climb the groove to the overhang then traverse left on thin ice to gain turf and then more ice that leads up into an overhanging corner. Bridge up the corner then swing out onto the right wall to a hard mantelshelf. Step back left, move up then follow steep turf rightwards to a sloping ledge system which is traversed hard left to a good flake.
3. 30m. Continue leftwards to gain and follow an iced groove which leads back up right to a small pedestal.
4. 50m. Step right again then gain and follow the obvious line leading up the rib forming left edge of the corner of The Midge.
5. 60m. Follow The Midge to where it goes left to join The Fly Direct.
6. 60m. Move back right, then take a direct line up steep walls and bulges, heading straight for the obvious icy line cutting through the headwall.
7. 110m. Follow the line of least resistance along rightwards, then back up left to the summit of the Pinnacle.

#### **BEN ALDER, Maiden Crag:**

*Icicles by Bicycle* 315m III,4 \*. C.Wells, S.Reid (alt). 24th February 2005.

The obvious gully line 15m left of the gully start to Ice Maiden. It lies directly above a long snow runnel and is the centre right of four gullies on this section of the crag, with the Ice Maiden being the right-hand one.

1. 35m. The narrow gully. Belay below a steep icefall on the right.
2. 30m. The icefall (crux) to an excavated belay in the snow scoop above.
3. 50m. Continue up the gully to belay below steeper ice. Warthog turf belay.
4. 50m. Mixed icy climbing gives access to easy ground. Run the rope out to a block belay.
- 5 & 6. 70m. Easy ground to a gully in the headwall above.
7. 30m. Climb the gully to a stance on the left just before the narrows.
8. 50m. Follow the gully to the plateau.

The top half of this climb is possibly as for Melting Maiden. It would have been possible to climb an alternative finish to the left of the upper gully, but the gully felt like the true line.

*The Snow Queen* 300m V,5. S.M.Richardson, C.Cartwright. 23rd January 2005.

A long mixed route based on the pillar between Ice Maiden and Witchwhite. Start below the centre of the pillar beneath an obvious groove system.

1. 60m. Climb the groove passing two roofs to a large niche.
2. 30m. Exit right and move up flakes and spikes to reach the start of a prominent left-facing ramp that cuts left across the face.
3. 60m. Follow the ramp to its end where it joins the easy central gully of Ice Maiden. Follow this to a large alcove on the left wall.
4. 50m. Move up for 10m, then move left along a narrow turfy ledge on to the crest of the buttress defining the left side of the face. Follow this, steep and exposed, to a small stance just before the ground eases.
- 5 and 6. 100m. Continue up the shallow gully above to where it merges with easy mixed ground and follow this to the top.

**CREAG DUBH (Drumochter):**

*I Scream* 150m V,4 \*. S.Reid, C.Wells. 25th February 2005.

The narrow icy gully between Swordfish/Neopolitan and The Hex Factor (some 70m left of Swordfish) may be in condition when these big icefalls are not. It gives sustained technical climbing with a minimum of runners.

1. 45m. Climb the right-hand (main) iceline to a big scoop. Continue up the main line above (crux) to an easing under a frightening fringe of poised boulders. Avoid these via the turfy wall on the right.
2. 30m. Scramble to a terrace.
3. 25m. The continuation gully is not without interest – belay on reaching easy ground.
4. 50m. Easy ground, followed by a short icefall on the left.

*Choc Ice* 60m II. S.Reid, C.Wells. 25th February 2005.

The ice-filled gully just right of the descent ramp right of Swordfish. Either branch can be taken.

## GLEN COE

**BUACHAILLE ETIVE MOR, Cuneiform Buttress:**

*Cuneiform Buttress Direttissima* 220m VII,6. E.Brunskill, S.McFarlane 12th December 2002.

The route recorded in SMCJ 2003 as Long Chimney Direct is independent of Long Chimney (which is farther left). A new description:

A serious and direct line taking in the prominent shelf system running up the full length of the West Face. Climb Ordinary Route to the first big ledge (60m). Climb out right from the ledge into a steep groove and continue straight up (Ordinary Route goes up and left) to a prominent cave recess formed by a blocky undercut groove (30m). Climb up right on to a small rocky ledge and step delicately down and right to another capped groove. Climb this for 5m and step right into another groove and continue up this to a ledge (35m). Above is a very narrow chimney, climb this until a flat easy section of the shelf is reached (45m). Continue in the same line up an awkward wide corner-crack and above this make a desperate traverse right for 10m to the obvious ledge below two large detached flakes (35m, a very serious pitch). Climb the flakes and wall above to easy ground beside the descent path to Great Gully (15m).

**Broad Buttress West Face, Upper Tier:**

M.Dunn notes that scrambling up Great Gully Buttress is an alternative approach, leading directly to Great Gully Upper Buttress, which backs fairly directly on to Broad Buttress West Face. A visit here may allow climbing in the sun all day! For descent, it is better to abseil; there are good anchors just below a small pile of rocks, directly above the Quark routes. The routes are 30m long, including Meson, which is the obvious line about 5m left of the overhang. It is a good line, VS 4c \*.

*No Meson* HVS 5a \*\*. K.Brookman, M.H.Dunn. 25th August 2002.

Takes the line which runs immediately left of the overhang at 20m (mistaken for Meson). Climb to a fine steep wall. Take a thin crack (crux) to a ledge. Ascend the corner above.

*Strange Quark* E1 5c \*\*. M.H.Dunn, K.Brookman. 31st July 2004.

Start just right of the previous route, aiming for the weakness in the overhang. The crack directly below the overhang is often damp but does not adversely affect the climbing. Pull through the overhang with difficulty and layback to the top.

*Charm Quark* VS 4c \*. M.H.Dunn, G.Campbell. 28th September 2002.

Climb directly to the right end of the overhang. Follow a right-facing corner, stepping left on to the arête at the earliest opportunity. Take steep cracks to the top.

**Lower Tier:** Approach from below is not advisable. Walk about 35m north along the terrace from Meson to another pile of rocks which indicate possible anchors to an abseil roughly down the line of Paladin. Paladin is a good route and takes the obvious line at VS 4c \*\*. Hawkers Crack is also worth climbing at Severe. The rock to the right of Paladin has scope for new routes but is steeper and rather dirty.

**Creag a' Bhancair:**

**Note:** The FFA of Carnivore Original Finish should be credited to S.Wilson, T.Marr, Easter 1969.

**Tunnel Wall:**

*The Third Eye* 25m F7b+ \*\*\*. D.MacLeod. 30th May 2004.

An excellent new line at the left end of Tunnel Wall, taking the pale wall and bulge above. Some difficult moves lead to a boss at the third bolt (rest). A sustained fingery section leads to easier climbing on good holds through the bulge. Another thin move gains the big horizontal and lower-off.

*Axiom* 30m F7c+ \*\*\*. D.MacLeod. 29th May 2004.

A brilliant route taking a parallel line to Admission. Start up The Third Eye to the second bolt. Break off rightwards with increasing difficulty to a hard section on sidepulls to gain good edges in a faint niche (technical crux). More sustained climbing leads through the bulge to a rest. Move up, then rightwards to another difficult section. The finishing section is slightly easier.

#### **Stob Coire Altruim:**

*Dog Day Monday* 100m VI,7 \*\*. M.Bass, S.Yearsley. 21st February 2005.

A fine route which takes the line of hanging chimneys to the right of Cerberus. Start as for Cerberus.

1. 25m. Climb the first pitch of Cerberus to the poor stance, then move rightwards to below an obvious steep slot. Climb this, strenuous, to a peg runner, then move right in an excellent position onto the arête and then up to an obvious and comfortable cave.
2. 25m. Climb the right side of the cave, pull back left into the superb icy chimney line (well protected) which is followed to the start of easier ground.
3. 50m. Follow easier, but very pleasant ground to below the summit.

#### **DIAMOND BUTTRESS:**

*Koh-i-nor* 185m V,7 \*. R.Anderson, R.Milne. 20th February 2005.

A line up the right side of the face.

Start at the entrance to the left branch of Central Gully, a short way up from Direct Route (winter).

1. 30m. Climb the obvious slabby looking line up left to belay on the edge right of Direct Route, just below a small crest.
2. 30m. Go up right and climb a stepped turf corner to just below its top, then go up and left around the edge to gain ledges leading to a belay at the end of the girdling ledge.
3. 50m. Climb up behind the belay and step up right onto a ledge, then enter a recess and swing out right. Go right again into a groove and follow this to ledges. Continue up the obvious wide chimney and move up to a ledge.
4. 50m. Climb the obvious line up and right onto the edge, then continue above by a line of turf iced grooves passing the right side of a narrow, short chimney – presumably taken by one of the three easier routes that comes up from Central Gully.
5. 25m. Easily to the top of the buttress.

#### **CHURCH DOOR BUTTRESS:**

*Flake Route, Right-Hand* 190m V,7 \*\*. R.Anderson, R.Milne. 26th February 2005.

Climbs the right-hand side of the huge flake, starting directly from low down. Start at the entrance to the right-hand branch of Central Gully.

1. 40m. Climb a short way up the gully and just below the chockstone climb a series of short, stepped corners on the right wall to snow ledges. Continue to a belay in the wide chimney where it forks..
2. 25m. Climb the widening left fork over chockstones, then go beneath the huge jammed blocks into the chimney to emerge on the other side. Belay on the top of the jammed blocks as for Flake Route.
3. 25m. As for Flake Route, step up right awkwardly, then go up rightwards across the top of a groove to gain easy ground. Belay on the right as for West Chimney where it emerges from the hole.
4. 30m. As for Flake Route, up left then take the crack in the sidewall and climb to the jammed blocks at the start of the Arch. Negotiate the blocks and step down to belay on the Arch, either at the start or in the centre of the span as for Un Poco Loco.
5. 30m. As for Flake Route & West Chimney. Traverse the Arch and climb the shallow chimney with difficulty and continue to ledges. Move left and belay.
6. 40m. Climb the shallow grooves above the belay to reach easy ground.

**Note:** E.Tressider and I.Lewis climbed a variation to Un Poco Loco on 14th February 2005. Climb Un Poco Loco crux pitch to where that branches left to go around the left side of the arch. Instead, follow the obvious shallow right-facing corner to thread the hole of the arch as the final move! Pumpy and quite hard to get gear on the crux section, but with good gear before. Hard VII,7.

*Crusade* 115m VII,8. S.Chinnery, S.House. March 2005.

Climbs the wall above the start to West Chimney. Very steep and sustained but good gear. Start about 15m right of West Chimney (about 5m left of Kingpin).

1. 15m. Go diagonally left up snowy ramps to a large square chockstone in the crack formed by the right side of a large blocky pinnacle. This is directly below an obvious steep, right-facing flake/crack-line and straight above the start of West Chimney.

2. 50m. Climb the flake-line for 25m (crux), then step left at the top to climb steep grooves until a step back right gains a good grassy ledge on the crest of the buttress.
3. 50m. Pull through a bluge to the left and trend up and right on easier ground to reach a steep open corner just to the left of the buttress crest. Finish up this.

**Note:** Dark Mass probably joins this route during the easy ground on pitch 3.

#### **GEARR AONACH, North Face:**

*Previous Conviction* 160m VS 4b. J.Bankhead, N.Seal. 1st September 2004.

To the left of the long black corner of Preamble is an area of redder rock. This route takes a faint groove-system up this and continues up the rib to the right of Chimney and Face Route above the slabby ledge. Quick drying.

1. 50m. From a tree belay in the heathery gully underneath the big roof, scramble rightwards on to broken ground and ascend via a short chimney to a stance at the right end of the big roof (might be the same as pitches 1 and 2 of Preamble).
2. 25m. 4a. Move right and step up above the overlap at the first opportunity. Go up a little, then trend right to gain a faint groove and awkward belay in small recess.
3. 25m 4b. Climb straight up on good holds for 10m to small ledge. Step right with difficulty on to a short steep wall, then continue boldly to a slabby ledge.
4. 25m 4a. Avoid the chimney of Chimney and Face Route by the rib to its right to reach a broad grassy terrace.
5. 35m. Trend left through unpleasant terrain to exit via a short chimney. Various other exits appeared feasible, but all were wet, vegetated and loose.

#### **STOB COIRE NAN LOCHAIN, Summit Buttress:**

*Spectre - Direct Start* E.Brunskill, M.Evans. February 1995.

Below the original traverse in from Scabbard, the Spectre groove-line continues straight down to the bottom of the buttress. This logical direct start climbs straight into the groove-line which is followed up to the original route. Grade is unchanged.

**Note:** P.Benson and G.Robertson climbed the initial chimney of the original East Face Route direct all the way to the headwall, then continued straight up the obvious clean-cut corner-crack. An outstanding and very sustained icy mixed route, one of the best of its type in Scotland. VII,8 \*\*\*\* given.

#### **North Buttress:**

*Black Box* 100m IV,5 \*. S.Kennedy, A.MacDonald. 19th February 2005.

To the right of Tuberculosis is a large recessed area. North Face follows the groove up the left side of the recess. Dress Circle takes the left-slanting line high on the right overlooking the recess. This route follows a line close to the corner on the right side of the recess joining Dress Circle near the top. To the right of Tuberculosis climb the broken buttress below the recess to a large snow ledge (North Face goes left into the groove from here). Continue up cracks and steep slabs just left of the corner on the right, passing a large flake, to a ledge. Belay on the left at a flake crack below a smooth right-facing corner (55m). Climb the corner and join the final groove of Dress Circle to finish (45m).

#### **AONACH DUBH, Far Eastern Buttress:**

*The Wong Way* 60m Very Difficult. I.Forrest, S.MacFarlane. August 2001.

Climb the first pitch of Yen to reach a grassy ledge. Move right to below a crack-line which lies just left of the chimney-groove which lies left of Turkish Delight. Stiff initial moves quickly yield to good holds and protection as a crack system is gained. Climb steeply until the angle relents and the crack system becomes a deepening groove. Finish up the rib on its left (30m).

*Hentai* 15m Severe. I.Forrest, J.Lingenhult. 7th August 2004.

On the wall above the buttress, up a slanting groove directly above the start of the descent across to Hole and Corner Gully. Scramble up a few metres from the grassy ledge above the gully then climb left to the left-sloping groove. Climb this to gain a ledge under a small overhang. Step right and pull up on jugs to finish.

#### **GLEN ETIVE, Trilleachan Slabs:**

*Bumble in the Savannah* 195m Severe \*. R.Salisbury, J.Hearne, C.Cairney, D.Jackman. 18th April 2004.

A logical route taking the easiest left to right line through some steep and potentially difficult ground, worthwhile despite being climbed in the rain. Good clean rough granite between the grassy bits. Start at the extreme lowest point at the left end of the slabs immediately before the prominent left-hand gully proper. This is about 30m right of Penguin's Paradise.

1. 40m. Climb a slabby wall with two tricky mantelshelf moves, then faint grooves to a small overlap. Climb this and up the cracked slab to a small sloping ledge.
2. 35m. Continue up the cracked slab and trend right on steep grass to good cracks and tree below a prominent rib.
3. 30m. Climb up and on to the rib and follow it without difficulty to a grassy niche.

4. 60m. Move right on to exposed hanging slabs; follow these trending right to gain a short corner. An exposed and poorly protected pitch.

5. 30m. Continue up the slab and then on steep grass to belay below the headwall. Traverse off to the left to gain the left-hand descent gully.

A possible continuation in a superb position is to traverse right across easy vegetated slabs to an arête overlooking the main slabs (near top of Jaywalk?).

*Ticked Off* 70m VS. S.Kennedy, R.Hamilton. 7th May 2004.

Start below the prominent recess about 15m down and left of the large tree at the foot of Bitten by the Bug.

1. 40m 4c. Pull into the recess which is climbed on the left on gritty red rock to a bulge. Move right to gain an easy ramp which leads up rightwards to below a steepening. Traverse horizontally left along a grassy ledge to reach two short, stepped corners.

2. 35m 4c. Climb the stepped corners, making a delicate move onto the upper slab. Finish up slabs. Descend on the left.

**Note:** The final corner (pitch 8) of Long Wait Direct was originally climbed as a Direct Finish to the normal route by J.McLean in early 1967 using 1peg for aid. This was freed by T.Marr, T.Sullivan and M.Hosted in late May 1967.

**GARBH BHEINN (ARDGOUR), Bealach Buttress:**

*Right-Hand Gully* 100m III. D.Ritchie, M.Shaw. 28th January 2004.

Takes the obvious deep grassy fault to the right of Bealach Buttress Ordinary route.

*Bealach Buttress Ordinary Route* 100m V,6. D.Ritchie, M.Shaw. 28th January 2004.

A fine route with sustained interest climbed in two long pitches. Start just right of the lowest rocks below the steep slabby front face of the buttress.

1. 50m. Follow grassy tufts rising leftwards then rightwards reaching a smooth slab at half-height. Traverse a few metres delicately left to reach better turf then directly up to some cracked blocks.

2. 50m. Climb the turf groove on the right to reach the arête and follow this to finish.

**Note:** Repeated by E.Brunskill and G.Macfie on 1st March 2005 and graded IV,4.

**South Wall:**

**Note:** J.Lyall thinks Bodkin (which should be E1) and Poniard share a start. A.Nisbet thinks that Chib is the same as the upper tier of Scimitar. Brogue is probably the same also, because for those who have not done Scimitar, the line appears to be an obvious gap.

**Maol Odhar (Creach Bheinn), Coire nam Frithallt.**

(NM 882 578), Alt 700m, East facing:

The prominent cliff below the main summit is characterised by two steep buttresses separated by a deep and narrow gully. The following route climbs the larger left-hand buttress.

*Voodoo Buttress* 110m V,6. E.Brunskill, G.Macfie. 2nd March 2005.

Start about 3m up the gully below an obvious turf groove breaking out left towards the crest of the buttress. Make poorly protected and thin moves to enter the groove and climb it to a recess formed by huge jammed blocks on the crest (45m). Climb the poorly protected and very steep corner directly above (crux) to a large ledge (10m). Continue straight up a wall on to the exposed crest and continue until another sharp saddle of the crest is reached below a steep impasse. Climb on to the small turf ledge formed by a very loose block and make an exposed traverse rightwards along a foot ledge for about 5m to reach a steep bottomless groove. Climb this to a ledge below a steep wall with a small turf undercut groove. Climb this continue up and trend left to another recess formed by large jammed blocks (45m). Climb easy ground to the top (10m).

**ARDNAMURCHAN, Sgurr nan Gabhar:**

*Dance of the Psychedelic Lounge Lizards* 40m Very Difficult. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 22nd May 2004.

Start at the base of Thor. Climb the rib on the right and continue to the heather ledge. Climb the bold rib on the right.

*Smacks of Euphoric Hysteria* 30m Very Difficult. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 22nd May 2004.

Climb the slab right of Dance of the Psychedelic Lounge Lizards with a bulge to start. When the slab changes to a wall follow a crack up right.

**Note:** High Plains Drifter and Solar Wind are the same route.

**Creag an Fhir-eoin:**

*Remember the Sixties?* 25m Severe. C.Moody. 25th April 2004.

Climb Claude to the start of the crack, then follow the fault horizontally to the right.

**Meall an Fhir-Eoin:**

*Raging Bull* 30m Very Difficult. C.Moody, C.Grindley. 23rd May 2004.

This is on the buttress left of the second pitch of Vulcan. It is split in two by a heather corner-crack. Climb up grass left of Vulcan, then move left to the start of the route. Climb up the middle of the right half of the buttress; there is a bulge at the start.

**Meall an Fhir-Eoin, Summit Buttresses:**

Note: Barbarella (SMCJ 2003, p418) was done in June 2001, not 2002.

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

**LOCH SLOY CRAGS:**

The following routes were soloed by G.Szuca during the last three years, the harder ones after practice. Approach as for Sub-Station Crag but follow the track uphill for a few hundred metres until at a quarried section next to the road.

*Stiff Wellies* Severe.

Start at a slabby arête at the right-hand side of the crag. Follow this until possible to move on to the slab on the left. Follow it to a belay on the right (large gear).

*Zorg* VS 4c.

Start as for the previous route but traverse left past a mossy section into a short groove with a loose block. Bridge upwards and move right on to the slab to finish.

*Wee Freebie* VS 4c.

At the right-hand side of the crag is an obvious ramp-line running up and left. Follow this past a massive thread, past a bulge and into a corner. Exit using the lower of two traverse lines rightwards past a bulge (crux) and on to the slabby wall. Move left to finish up an easy rib.

*Extorsion* E1/2 5b.

Start centrally at an obvious black corner. Climb the corner (unprotected) to a move rightwards to exit (Friend#\_). Go up and left until at a good flake in the corner. Move right to the higher traverse line to the arête. Go past a bulge and finish up the easier slab.

*Katanga* E2 5c \*.

The black wall on the left.. Start centrally and using a pinch, follow a line of small but positive holds up and slightly leftwards, finishing on to a slab in a corner. Continue up the small headwall past a shallow borehole.

*Fred* E1 5b/c.

The short green-looking groove at the extreme left-hand end of the crag. Move up to an amazing borehole thread. Go up then right to crux moves traversing to the slab of Katanga. Move down and left to finish at a tree. Poorly protected.

The following routes are on the largest area of slabby rock seen from the approach road, right of and slightly higher than Sub-Station Crag. A large white quartz patch is visible from below but this is on a higher crag. On the right-hand section of the slab of the lower crag are two routes, starting at an obvious white quartz block below the right arête.

*Marquee Moon* HVS 5a.

Start at the quartz block and surmount the bulge to gain the slab. Using a one finger pocket, move up on to the easier angled slab, which is followed to the top using an arête.

*Television* E1 5a/b \*.

Start just left of the previous route and pull over the bulge (crux) to a good hold (Friend 1). Go up and follow the easier slab to a steepening at the top. Climb this right to left to finish.

The wall right of Marquee Moon is overhanging. Follow this up to the next routes. The rightmost route is Mark of Zoro.

*Mark of Zoro* 12m E3/4 6a

Start right of Signs of Things to Come. Go up the slab, then move rightwards at the bottom of a crack to a hard move to gain a blocky small foothold on the right-hand end of the slab (crux). Move up to good handholds at quartz, then

rightwards to a good sidepull (Friend 1.5). Move left to a good foothold next to a small sapling, then follow the slab and crack rightwards. Unprotected on the lower crux section.

*Signs of Things to Come* E2 5b \*\*.

The brushed streak up a pocketed slabby wall gives the best route on the wall. Start centrally and follow quartz holds to halfway, then move left. Hard to protect and a high crux.

*Magazine* E1 5c.

The wall left of the previous route. Pull over a small overlap and follow quartz holds to a no hands rest at a block (gear). Pull straight up and slightly leftwards (crux) to finish up the arête.

*Bluto* Very Difficult.

Start left of Magazine in a shallow corner. Go up the corner to a faint crack-line, then move left on to the slab. Go up this, then follow easy ground to the final steepening (crux). Hard to protect.

*Ten Thousand Light Years from Home* 8m E3 5c \*\*.

Right of the slabby wall of Signs of Things to Come is a small slabby buttress with a slabby right arête. This route takes an obvious cleaned line up its centre. Climb up to the obvious horizontal break at 3m. Move right and reach up with the right hand to a good two finger pocket. Gain the niche up and left, then finish slightly rightwards. Good climbing, poor gear.

#### **Sub-Station Crag:**

*Silence of the Lambs* E3 6a. G.Szuca, P.Hyde. 1991.

Follows the wall right of Wired for Sound, using protection in that route. Start 5m right of Wired for Sound. Go up to the right-hand side of a ledge. Hard moves up and right lead to a pocket. Layback this on the left, then go and slightly rightwards to undercuts on a small overlap. Go straight up to a horizontal break, then left and slightly down to the in situ belay on Wired for Sound.

#### **BEN VORLICH:**

**Note:** D.MacLeod made a ground up, flashed 2nd ascent of Logical Progression (M10), thinking it was more like M9 given the adjustments in the modern M scale. The gear is still in place from the first ascent in 1999 but is in a poor state.

#### **THE BRACK, Upper Tier:**

**Note:** S.Hall, J.Blackford & M.W.Holland climbed a gully between January Buttress and May Route at Grade III on 23rd January 2005 as a continuation of Inglis Clark Arête. Good old snow in the lower section of the gully led to where the gully narrows and steepens to a short chimney. A short iced wall on left, then a good short but steep ice pitch and an easy angled gully led to the top.

#### **BEINN A' CHREACHAIN, Coire an Lochain:**

*So Where Is The Door And Window Buttress* 275m III,4. E.Brunskill, N.Muir. 22nd January 2005.

This route takes the buttress crest to the right of the main icefall. Start at the next recess down and right of the icefall. Climb the icy right-trending gully for 10m, then break left on to a thinly iced slab and continue up and left to the crest of the buttress (45m). Climb up the steep crest for two pitches (70m) and continue up snowy grooves trending right to easy ground and the top (160m).

*Chicken Run* 305m IV,4. E.Brunskill, G.Macfie. 23rd February 2005.

This climbs the prominent icefall (mentioned as unclimbed in the guide) but avoids the hanging pencil of ice. Climb the icefall to a ledge and belay below the pencil of ice (25m). Traverse to the left edge of the ledge and step up and left round the edge on to the steep face. Make a steep and exposed rising leftward traverse to a recess at the right end of a prominent

ledge (30m). Climb straight up into a right-trending shallow gully and climb to the top of this (50m). Continue straight up via icy grooves and steep snow to the top (200m).

*The Bells* 155m V,5. E.Brunskill, D.Johnson, G.Macfie. 24th February 2005.

The second last buttress up the gully (about 50m up from the top of the rock island) is very steep and rocky. Start at the toe of the buttress and climb shallow grooves on the left of the sharp crest, passing a small snow ledge running rightwards towards the crest. Continue up the grooves until a steep wide ramp runs right to the crest. Climb up this and step right round the crest on to the exposed front face below some large overhangs (40m). Step down rightwards to turfy ledges and go back up trending right to a small sloping ledge with a large jammed block. Climb on to the ledge and make awkward moves round the crest to a small ledge (15m). Continue up the steep turfy groove directly above and continue up turfy grooves and walls (50m). Climb easy snow to the top (50m).

**Note:** The face to the right of Leucocyte Buttress was climbed at an undistinguished Grade II, with a good finish up the buttress crest right of the central gully. It has been climbed before.

#### **BEINN UDLAIDH:**

*Fontinalia* 70m VIII,9 \*\*. D.MacLeod, S.Muir (both led). February 2005.

An unusual and interesting continental style mixed route with roof climbing leading to a hanging ice fang. Climb pitch 1 of Cut Throat belaying on the right. Follow the thin seam right of the main Cut Throat icicle (strenuous with hard won protection). Continue through the roof above (crux) to swing on to the short hanging fang on the left. Finish as for Cut Throat.

#### **BEN CRUACHAN, Stob Garbh, Coire Chat, Noe Buttress:**

*Fat Lip Fandango* 70m VII,7. I.Small, C.Cartwright. 28th December 2004.

The right-hand of the three parallel crack-lines. Start at the same point as Double Chaser at the right-slanting crack.

1. 35m. Follow the crack rightwards to reach a ledge. From the left side of the ledge step down and around a shield of rock to enter the continuation crack. Climb the crack boldly into a slight niche, then a tenuous exit to a stance.
2. 35m. Follow the icy continuation crack and easier ground into a recess, then pull through a steep wide crack/chimney to the top.

*Hats Off* 110m V,6. I.Small, J.Walker. 19th December 2004.

A counter diagonal line to Noe Buttress Direct. Start from ledges on the left of and diagonally above that route.

1. 30m. Gain an ice smear. Exit right at its top, cross a small roof to a ledge and from its right end, climb another ice smear. Mixed ground leads to a tricky entry into a flake-groove. Belay at its top.
2. 35m. Climb a flake and gain a wide crack formed by a monster block (common with Noe Buttress Direct). At its top move right to ledges and climb a steep wall to a cramped recess below an overhang. Pull through to a ledge.
3. 40m. Climb short grooves and more broken ground to the top.

*Pussy Galore* 85m VII,8. D.Hesleden, C.Cartwright. 19th February 2005.

The right to left slanting line cutting through Dr Noe. The main feature is a wide crack splitting an overhanging right-facing corner high on the crag. Start at the short left-facing corner right of Dr Noe.

1. 25m. Climb the deceptively steep corner and exit to belay in Dr Noe.
2. 30m. Climb a crack through the left wall to gain then follow the right-facing corner. Exit on to a slab and climb to below the main overhanging corner. Swing right into a higher recess.
3. 30m. Surmount the bulge and continue by a right-trending crack to below the final wall. Cut sharply back left via a flake and continue left to the top.

*Cooper Cleft* 100m IV,4. S.Richardson, C.Cartwright. 30th January 2005.

Right of Noe Buttress Direct is an undercut bulging wall slanting upwards and leading into a gully.

1. 50m. Follow the gully up to where it steepens and narrows. Climb the chimney and exit rightwards, then follow the continuation groove.
2. 50m. Climb easily upwards to enter a broad easy-angled scoop. Head rightwards for a col.

*Yes Gully (left-hand)* 50m IV,4. S.Richardson, C.Cartwright. 30th January 2005.

The right-hand side of Noe Buttress is bounded by a double gully system divided by a rock fin, similar to though less impressive than the Noe fin. Access to the left-hand gully is barred by a short wall split by a crack. Enter the crack from the right and pull over to enter gully. Continue up the gully to a short steep chimney on the left. Climb this and belay below the top.

**Summit Buttress Note:** C.Cartwright and S.Richardson climbed three short routes in January 2005.

#### **Drochaid Ghlas:**

The following two good routes lie on the slabby left flank of Stonethrowers Buttress.

*The Glasscutter* 125m IV,5. D.Ritchie, M.Shaw. 21st December 2004.

Start 25m up and left from the start of Stonethrowers Buttress below a vague rib well right of an obvious offwidth flake-crack.

1. 40m. Climb the fault right of the rib to a point next to the gully of Stonethrowers Buttress, step left, then follow a snow ramp to a steepening.
2. 35m. Climb the short wall (crux) to gain a hanging slab. Climb the slab trending left, then continue up the snowy ramp line above to below a deep chimney.
3. 50m. Continue more easily trending left up the snowy ramp below a prominent jutting block to gain the summit cairn.

*The Boxer* 100m IV,5. D.Ritchie, N.MacGougan. 26th December 2004.

Start 10m left of the obvious offwidth crack formed by a huge flake, well left from the start of The Glasscutter.

1. 25m. Climb the open fault up then rightwards to gain the top of the flake-crack. Continue straight up avoiding easy ledges on the left to a cracked wall.

2. 25m. Climb the cracked wall and right-trending corner above to join The Glasscutter above the hanging slab and follow this route for 10m to below the deep chimney

3. 50m. Climb the obvious deep chimney back and footing past a small roof, then follow corners on the ridge crest to the summit cairn. A fine pitch.

**Beinn a' Bhuiridh, Coire Ghlais:**

*Rodgers' Ridge* 200m III. E.Brunskill, G.Macfie. 6th February 2005.

The ridge running up the right-hand edge of the coire. Start at the bottom toe of the buttress and climb the left edge up steep grooves (35m). Continue up turf grooves on the left side of the tower into a steep rocky chimney groove capped by a large block. Swing out left on to an exposed spike and continue straight up the steep blocky wall above (20m). Continue up the crest and scramble up easy ground to the top (145m).

*Mush Mush* 50m III,5. E.Brunskill, G.Macfie. 6th February 2005.

This route climbs the chimney-groove system in the middle of the upper left-hand buttress. Climb a steep rocky corner to enter the main groove (crux) and continue up the chimney and groove to the top.

## LOWLAND OUTCROPS

**CLIFTON CRAG, Dirl Chimney Area:**

*Last Post* 8m Very Difficult. S.Reid, W.Hurford. 14th November 2004 .

The off-width crack-line 1m left of the main crack system of Gramercy makes a good finish to any of the routes on Hollowstones Buttress. Probably done before. Climbed on Remembrance Sunday - hence the name.

**Twin Cracks Buttress:**

*Wiggle Direct* E1 5b. C.King, S.Reid. 2nd December 2004.

Follow Wiggle to the junction with Crawl Wall, and then make a long reach up the arête above to a flake. A second long reach out left across a slab gains a good pocket, above which a mossy jug enables a pull to the top.

**The Slab:**

*Napoleon* 10m Severe 4a. C.King, S.Reid. 9th December 2004.

The short but stubborn off-width in the right wall of The Corner. Start via The Corner.

*Gorsica* 10m Hard Severe. S.Reid, C.King. 9th December 2004.

The steep juggy arête of the right-bounding buttress of The Slab, finishing left of the gorse cornice. Start via The Corner.

**GALLOWAY SEA-CLIFFS, Balcary Bay:**

S.Reid repeated the following route and suggests a new description:

*The Cave Traverse* 80m Very Difficult

An interesting traverse, but not without its share of worrying rock. Start in the large bay at the west end of the main cliffs, immediately under a kissing gate in the cliff-top path. The peninsula on the east side of the bay is reached by easy traversing from caves at the back of the bay, then a 10m loose climb leads to the saddle in the peninsula (30m). Cross to the east side of the peninsula and, traverse round the corner to the top of a chimney (40m). Descend the chimney to the cathedral-like cave (10m). The tantalising but water-filled tunnel exiting the cave is unclimbed, and so a return journey by the same route is necessary, with the loose rock section being bypassed by abseil off a pinnacle. Be sure to allow enough time to accomplish the return journey before the tide comes in!

**DUMBARTON ROCK:**

*Negative Creep* 10m F8b \* D.MacLeod. 14th November 2004.

Start up Appliance but break out left after the crux to gain a good sidepull. A long reach gains another big sidepull leading to a desperate crimping sequence to the finishing holds on the ledge. F7c to the last three moves, and the grade is definitely for clipping the belay rather than grabbing!

**BERWICKSHIRE COAST, Fast Castle Head:**

**Note:** Urinal Wall is suggested at VS 4c. Pitch 2 can be finished by trending right up the centre of the slab.

*The Anchor* 45m HVS \*. C.Lesenger, I.Collins. 20th February 1988.

1. 30m 5a. Gain and climb the obvious left-trending fault midway between Atlanta and East Arête to a ledge.
2. 15m 4b. Follow the Atlanta corner direct to the top

*Further East Arête* 45m Severe. C.Lesenger, I.Collins. 20th February 1988.

1. 30m 4b. Climb the slab and arête as for East Arête to easy ground but instead of trending left climb a groove directly above to an exposed ledge with a poor block belay.
2. 15m 4b. A ramp on the right leads to the top via a short awkward wall.

*Fool's Gold* 40m E1 5a. C.Lesenger, I.Collins. 12th March 1989.

The big left bounding corner of Castle Wall is poorly protected except at the crux near the top.

**FIFE, Limekilns, Sentinal Block:**

*Slow Handclap* 12m E7 6c \*. D.MacLeod. 4th Jan 2005.

This serious route takes the smooth and blank looking wall right of Iron Fist. Move easily up to a good hold (poor skyhook possible). Hard and sustained climbing leads directly up the wall to eventually gain better holds near the top. FA headpoint style, F7c climbing.